



South Boston Online

End of Summer Beach Party

By Rick Winterson



The “End of Summer Beach Party” is one of those events that passes by all too quickly. This year’s 2018 End of Summer Beach Party (Wednesday, August 15th) was no exception. It’s not only the beach on the M street side of Curley Community Center, as nice as that is. And it’s not just the air, the light, and the water as the sun sets, although that’s part of it. Nor is it just the open-air food ice cream from the police, popcorn, cold drinks, clam chowder from Sully’s, and delicious eats grilled by The Sausage Guy himself (David Littlefield)-- however good that all was



No, the End of Summer Beach Party is just a great community time free and open to all. It’s where friends, families, and their children get together, looking south across Old Harbor and Dorchester Bay, simply to enjoy each other’s company. And were you aware that the beach side weather (and it’s climate) were nearly perfect? The seagulls flocked around, hoping for snacks of potato chips, leftover sausage rolls, anything. One gray-and-white adult bird had a drooping wing, but had no trouble flying away with a scrap in his beak. Mark Rooney, 2018 candidate for Governor’s Council, greeted and competed to obtain the beach goer’s votes. MassPort and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay came up with key funding for the 2018 beach event.



Were you aware that some years ago, South Boston’s watercolorist Laureate Dan McCole painted a sort of mural on the side of the Curley’s M Street Beach dumpster? Dan and his artistic crew created an 8 x 15-foot seascape of fisherman launching their curragh, based upon a work by the Irish painter John Skeleton. Well, the mural’s still there, and in last week’s setting sun, it seemed to glow blue. Dan’s creative crew included Bill Frew, Deb Putnam, Paul Conley, and Susan Lee of them members of the SBAA- the South Boston Arts Association.



The six talented musicians who make up “The Second Set Sextet” provided two hours of lively, well-played music for the End of Summer



Beach Party, which spanned the last fifty+ years of pop, rock, and pop-rock. The group is so named because their second set always really, really swings, grooves, and/or rocks (depending upon the generation of the listener). The group's six musicians are Bill Linchan (lead vocals, guitar), Rich Linchan

(vocals, guitar), Leo Stapleton (lead guitar), Bobby Dunlap (vocals, guitar), Kathi Taylor (vocals, drums), and Ted O'Brien (bass + everything). They went back in time, stopping for a bit in the '80s for songs by the Eagles. After that (in their second set), earlier times were honored with songs of the Beatles, Elvis' "Heartbreak Hotel", and "Blue Sued Shoes", composed by Carl Perkins while he was on tour back in 1955. The adults present raptly listened; young folks danced in the sand. And we have to give credit to Paul, the soundman, who succeeded in holding the entire

two-set performance together.

It was a great end-of-summer evening and event! See you there next August.