

**BOARD INFO**

**12/19/14**

**From:** Mara Klein Collins <kleincollins@verizon.net>  
**To:** Undisclosed-recipients: <>;  
**Cc:** Susan Carp <scarp@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 12/16/2014 11:13 PM  
**Subject:** Council on Aging Invitation to Town Leadership Jan. 15, 2015

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Dear Town Leadership,

The Council on Aging invites you as part of a group of town leaders including Adam Chapdelaine, Christine Bongiorno, Doug Helm, Carol Kowalski, the Board of Selectmen, members of the Arlington Finance Committee, and the Arlington Redevelopment Board to a presentation to provide an understanding of how the Council on Aging meet the needs of Arlington seniors, how it is financed, and more. We will also offer a tour of the Senior Center so you can see the space used for the seniors.

The COA Board has been working on this informative presentation for months so we would like you to make time to come listen and talk with us.

We propose a Thursday when the Center has extended hours so you can see it in action. With the holidays coming we are waiting until January to set up the presentation. A few of our members work, as you likely do. Therefore we propose **Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 5 pm**. Is that time convenient for you? If that does not work for you please propose alternatives.

The COA Board members will be present as well as Executive Director Susan Carp. We look forward to sharing an overview of the COA with you. Please let me know if you and others in your department/committee will attend.

Respectfully,

**Mara Klein Collins**

Chair, Arlington Council on Aging

[Kleincollins@verizon.net](mailto:kleincollins@verizon.net)

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**Attachments:**

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# Massachusetts School Building Authority

Steven Grossman  
*Chairman, State Treasurer*

John K. McCarthy  
*Executive Director*

December 12, 2014

Mr. Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager  
Town of Arlington  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Town of Arlington FY2014 SOI Status

Dear Mr. Chapdelaine:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") would like to thank the Town of Arlington (the "District") for expressing an interest in the MSBA's program for school building construction, renovation, and repair grants through the Fiscal Year 2014 Statement of Interest (the "SOI") process.

Overall, the MSBA received 108 SOIs from 72 different school districts for consideration in Fiscal Year 2014. In reviewing SOIs, the MSBA identifies the school facilities that have the greatest and most urgent need based on an assessment of the entire cohort of SOIs that are received for consideration each fiscal year.

Through the MSBA's due diligence process and review of the 201 FY 2014 SOIs that were received, the MSBA has determined that the Arlington High School SOI will not be invited into the MSBA's Eligibility Period at this time.

If the District would like this school to be considered for future collaboration with the MSBA, the District should file an SOI in an upcoming fiscal year. The MSBA will be accepting SOIs for consideration in FY 2015 starting on January 9, 2015. There will be some minor changes to the FY 2015 SOI process with information to follow. If your District is planning on submitting an SOI in FY 2015 you may want to notify your school committee and other local governing board of your intentions, as both local governing bodies will vote to approve submission of an SOI prior to the following closing dates:

- The SOI closing date for districts submitting under the Accelerated Repair Program, which is primarily for the repair and/or replacement of windows, roofs, and/or boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility, will be February 13, 2015.

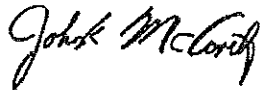
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FY2014 SOI Status Letter

- The SOI closing date for districts submitting under the Core Program, which is primarily for projects beyond the scope of Accelerated Repair, including extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction will be April 10, 2015.

The MSBA is proud to have collaborated with the Town of Arlington on the Thompson Elementary School project. The MSBA remains committed to collaborating and partnering with the District to better understand any other school facility issues in the District.

The MSBA will be sending more detailed information regarding the FY 2015 SOI process to Districts in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact me or Diane Sullivan at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John K. McCarthy  
Executive Director

Cc: Legislative Delegation  
William Hayner, Chair, Arlington School Committee  
Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools

# ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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November 2014

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Every year I am excited to review the progress we are making toward our goals to provide the resources, infrastructure and educational environment required for optimal teaching and learning. One of our focus areas is technology. We are completing the final year of the Technology Plan we created in 2011. The mission statement in this document includes the following:

"In order to successfully educate students in the Information Age to become members of our networked global society, we envision a school community of life-long learners, in which students are capable of defining problems, retrieving information with judgment, and solving problems creatively and flexibly. The learning process has progressed from the need to master topics and recall information to learning that is self directed and collaborative, and technology is key to this evolution."

The Technology Plan 2011-2015 which you can review [here](#), presents detailed plans for how we are going to change our hardware and network infrastructures and improve the technology literacy of our faculty and staff. Our goal has been to integrate technology into our core curriculum to promote 21st century student learning.

I am happy to report that we have made tremendous progress over the last three years. We have been assisted by generous funding from the Arlington Education Foundation and the Arlington Capital Planning Committee, and by dedicated teachers who are using technology in creative and meaningful ways. Last month I wrote about the Ottoson Technology & Engineering Program, which was just recognized as "Best of the Year" by MassTEC. This month you will find additional articles about technology integration efforts taking place in our schools. In the [District News](#) section, you will find information about the effect of iPads on learning that was gathered during last year's 1:1 Pilot in the sixth grade. You will also find an article that describes our exciting computer science classes, now offered at Ottoson and Arlington High School. In [Awards & Distinctions](#), you can learn more about what is happening in our classrooms as you read about the presentations our faculty members gave at the iPad summit. You also will not want to miss the article that updates you on the Ottoson Robotics Club and the SeaPerch launch in [Academic Highlights](#).

We are very pleased with how we are moving forward to make technology an integral part of our learning environment and increase our STEM classes. Assistant Superintendent Laura Chesson has already begun the collaborative process that will lead to the creation of an updated technology plan. You will hear more about that in the near future, and about the forums that will be held in 2015, at which you will learn more about the plan and will have the opportunity to provide your input. I urge you to take advantage of every opportunity to be part of this process.

As you read on in the newsletter, you will find more information about the achievements of our students and teachers, and the programs going on in our schools. After only three months, a great deal has happened academically, athletically and creatively, and I know you will enjoy learning about it.

Best regards,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D

## Townwide Announcement

### ***Your Input Requested as Arlington Master Plan Rounds the Bend to the Finish Line***

The Town of Arlington will be gathering input on the draft master plan during a public forum to be held on Monday, January 12. [Read more>](#)

## District News

### ***Grade Six 1:1 iPad Pilot Demonstrates Impact on Learning, Sets the Stage for the Future***

Increases in student engagement, improved organizational skills and increased time-on-learning in the classroom are just some of the positive impacts students, teachers and parents observed during last year's Pilot. [Learn more>](#)

### ***Strong Computer Science Curriculum Now Offered at Ottoson and Arlington High School***

Computer science instruction now begins in the sixth grade, and high school students can go from Introduction through Advanced Placement, and join the Computer Team if they choose. [Read more>](#)

## Grants

### ***Care Coordination Grant Drives Collaboration to Support Safety, Health and Learning***

Funding from the Massachusetts Department of Health has enabled the district to establish a Care Coordinator, increasing our ability to maximize positive outcomes for at-risk students. [Read more>](#)

## Awards & Distinctions

### ***CHPS Representative Presents Verified Leader Award to Town and Thompson***

Carolyn Sarno, Vice President of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools® (CHPS), visited Arlington on November 13 to recognize the Thompson Elementary School as a leader in the movement to build healthy, energy efficient schools. [Learn more>](#)

### ***Fourteen AHS Students Accepted into Northeastern District Ensembles***

Arlington is proud to have so many young performers accepted to be part of the Senior Music Festival happening in January. [Learn more>](#)

### ***Arlington-Belmont Crew Takes State Championship***

Congratulations to all the AHS students who contributed to the fantastic AB Crew finishes at the state championships last month. [Read more>](#)

### ***Teacher's Advocacy Trip Demonstrates That We All Have a Voice***

Her commitment to ending extreme poverty earned Stratton teacher Julie Barth a trip to Washington D.C. where she urged passage of the Energize Africa Act. [Read about the lessons she brings back to her classroom>](#)

### ***iPad Summit Presentations Feature APS Use of Technology to Promote 21st Century Learning***

Our vision and the way we use technology to enhance the learning environment in different grade levels was shared by our Assistant Superintendent and five of our teachers at a conference in Boston this month. [Read more>](#)

### ***Language Teachers Share Ideas, Gather Knowledge and Win Awards at MaFLA Conference***

Three of our faculty members kept their audiences enthused during 75-minute presentations, and two others were recognized for their excellence as new teachers, at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Conference in October. [Learn more>](#)

### **Academic Highlights**

#### ***British Author Nicola Davies Helps Students Develop Critical Writing Skills***

During workshops and assemblies, visiting author Nicola Davies helped our elementary students explore the writing process, emphasizing the skills required for critical nonfiction writing. [Learn more>](#)

#### ***Spy Pond SeaPerch ROV Launch Reveals Aquatic Life and Demonstrates Vehicle Performance***

As they controlled their vehicles, the members of the Ottoson Robotics club were able to study the bottom of Spy Pond and spot some fish. [Read more about the exciting launch>](#)

#### ***Visiting French Students Share American Daily Life with Host Families***

Arlington High School hosted 16 French students early this month, setting the stage for the visit our young people will make to France this April. [Learn about their experiences>](#)

### **Creative Highlights**

#### ***Exploring Barriers between People Is the Theme of First Fall Play Performed at Ottoson***

The theme of David Campton's play, *Us and Them*, sparked discussion, creativity and strong performances this month. [Read more>](#)

#### ***AHS Drama Guild's "Twelfth Night" Fills the Stage with Music, Laughter and Fun***

With cloche hats and a jazz band, the Drama Guild took Shakespeare's romantic comedy into the Roaring Twenties to the delight of the audience. [Learn more>](#)

### **Athletic Highlights**

#### ***AHS Fall Season Ends Strong, with Girls Soccer Competing for Division 2 State Title***

The fall season was marked by solid team and individual performances, with one cross country runner advancing to the state finals, and girls soccer achieving a level of tournament play not seen for 22 years. [Read more>](#)

### **Special Events**

#### ***Anti-bullying Champion and Author Jay Asher Visits Ottoson***

Seventh and eighth graders had the opportunity to hear from Jay Asher when he visited Ottoson as part of his "50 states against bullying" tour. [Read more>](#)

### **Continue to read the full November 2014 newsletter**

### **Townwide Announcement**

#### ***Your Input Requested as Arlington Master Plan Rounds the Bend to the Finish Line***

For the last two years, the Town of Arlington has been working on a Master Plan to guide its future physical growth. Part of this process is gathering the perspective of our many local families with school age children. A public hearing on the draft plan is scheduled for Monday January 12, 2015 at 7 pm in the Town Hall Auditorium (snow date is Jan. 15), and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Click [here](#) to see the draft Master Plan. If you would like to talk with a staff member about it, please call 781 316-3091.

### **District News**

#### ***Grade Six 1:1 iPad Pilot Demonstrates Impact on Learning, Sets the Stage for the Future***

In the Arlington Public Schools Technology Plan 2011-2015, we talk about technology as an instructional tool, one that "...opens up broad opportunities for teachers to customize instruction to engage and reach all learners..." and "...to expand the boundaries of the classroom walls." It is our belief that technology

supports the type of self-directed, collaborative and interactive learning that is required for success in the 21st century.

With these ideas in mind, we embarked upon a 1:1 iPad Pilot in the Ottoson 610s Cluster last year. We wanted to understand the different ways iPads can impact learning--both overall and in specific subjects such as mathematics, English, social studies, science and special education. I am pleased to report that teachers, students and parents all agreed that the iPads had a positive effect on learning. Student engagement and leadership in learning increased, and digital literacy and citizenship developed. Improvements in student organizational and research skills were observed, as well as the ability to evaluate sources. The writing process was facilitated, especially for students with learning differences, and teachers were able to provide more differentiated instruction based on student need.

One of the benefits of using the iPads is that students have all the information at hand that they need to do their work--from the calendars that spell out assignments, to the mathematics programs they are using to master skills, to the variety of applications they can use to present their projects according to their individual strengths. All assignments, readings and presentations can be shared electronically and each student can work at his or her own pace. Collaborative graphic organizers can be used to conduct group research, and members are able to critique each other's sources in order to establish the highest quality information. Reading is nurtured through the use of multimedia texts.

The Pilot illustrated how students with learning disabilities can particularly benefit. These young people are more engaged when they have their iPad, and will voluntarily seek out information they do not know. Many modalities of learning are available, from video to text to educational games and more, providing many ways for students to learn. Those with text disabilities can download almost any book from Book Share and the application Voice Dream will read it at the speed they choose, letting them practice pronunciation, comprehension, fluency and decoding.

I want to thank Ottoson 610s Cluster teachers Johanna Bunn, Julie Gallagher, Jessica Keweshan, Lillian O'Donnell and Alison Sancinito for spearheading this Pilot and for preparing their comprehensive report detailing the impact of iPads on learning. This information gives us a solid foundation on which to build an updated technology plan. I know that these teachers are already using what they learned last year to create an even more effective and creative learning environment that reaches all students.

### ***Strong Computer Science Curriculum Now Offered at Ottoson and Arlington High School***

Last year, with funding help from the Arlington Education Foundation (AEF), we were able to upgrade the AHS STEM Lab and offer the first computer science classes available in the district in four years. This curriculum is continuing, with more students involved than ever before. This year we received additional funding from AEF and we turned our attention to the Ottoson. We added equipment for our sixth graders and are offering an exciting Computer Science (CS) curriculum there.

In the new sixth grade class, *Digital Media & Literacy*, 300 students receive a full year of Computer Science. The curriculum does more than just teach students to code. Broader and deeper concepts such as decomposition, pattern recognition, algorithmic thinking and the engineering life cycle are also included.

Terry Dash, the leader at Ottoson who comes to us after a 25-year career in information systems, hopes that the students will apply programming skills to answer questions. There are plans to include cross-curricular problems that require "hands-on" approaches and appeal to a wide range of students, especially girls. The class is exploring forensic mysteries that can be solved by applying algorithms and procedures, as well as ways to create interactive artwork. The goal is to use projects like these to engage the students' imaginations and encourage them to continue in Computer Science in high school and beyond. You may learn about activities that have been going on in the *Digital Media & Literacy* class [here](#).



At AHS, we are offering three levels of Computer Science. The introductory course, *Exploring Computer Science (ECS)* focuses on human-computer interactions, problem solving, website development, programming, data analysis and robotics. *Honors Computer Science* is the next level of study, reinforcing the concepts taught in *ECS* with a focus on programming and learning Java. Those students wishing to continue their studies can take *AP Java*. Participants finishing this course take the AP exam, and with a score of three to five can earn college credit depending upon the college.

Our students are increasingly responding to these offerings. Last year there were 22 students in the program, and the classes were only recommended for juniors and seniors. This year, all levels are encouraged to take Computer Science and there are over 60 students participating.

Dan Sheldon, a graduate of AHS who holds a BS and MA in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering from MIT, leads the program. He believes that these classes benefit all those who to go on to pursue advanced education. Since computers are being used in many fields, it is Mr. Sheldon's opinion that those who understand computers at a more fundamental level have an advantage. He also believes that it is easy for young people to get discouraged in their first college-level computer science (CS) classes if they do not have high school experience. Being able to take CS classes in high school was instrumental to his success in the field in college. Computer scientists and programmers are in high demand in all industries, and with high school preparation, Mr. Sheldon hopes more students will continue in the field.

In addition to the CS courses, there is a Computer Team that competes in the American Computer Science League. Mr. Sheldon hopes to expand computer science opportunities further by taking on some civic technology projects, working with the Town or Arlington Public Schools to develop needed programs. He is also planning a new AP class called *CS Principles*. AHS will be one of the first schools to offer this new course.

We are delighted to be able to provide these classes to our young people, and to have a talented group of experienced professionals designing curriculum and teaching our students. At AHS, Mr. Sheldon is joined by Allison Schubert, who teaches *ECS*. At Ottoson, Johanna Bradley and Sara Toutounjian teach *Digital Literacy & Media* along with Ms. Dash. I want to thank all of them for the high quality courses they are bringing to our students, and also thank AEF for the support that has made these classes possible. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Arlington Education Foundation.

## Grants

### ***Care Coordination Grant Drives Collaboration to Support Safety, Health and Learning***

Creating and maintaining safe schools is a focus area in our district. Many of you have visited our website where we talk about the comprehensive program that includes safety and security audits, development of emergency plans and staff training. These are the areas that most often come to mind when we think about safety. In our schools today, however, safety goes beyond emergency management and preparedness. District Nurse Leader Susan Franchi thinks about safety and security in an additional way. She knows that safety includes having students feel that school is a place they want to be, and a place where they can learn and be included. Over the last few years, she has discovered that the problem of school adjustment is growing. Our nurses are seeing more and more students with anxiety and depression. Some have a desire to hurt themselves. More students are also presenting with concussions, as this condition is diagnosed more frequently today.

Students with these problems end up in a vicious cycle. As they try to manage school along with their health issues, their absence rate increases. This leads to more stress. Parents are often unsure what to do, and the medical professionals involved may not even know how many days their patients have missed.

It became clear to Ms. Franchi that our district needed a point person, or case manager, if we were going to be able to help these students succeed. When the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)

announced that they were thinking of awarding grants to support an innovative school care coordination pilot project, she jumped at the chance to apply.

The \$35,000 award that we received is enabling AHS nurse Sarah Lee to spend four days each week acting as a Care Coordinator. She services students with short and long-term acute disorders and injuries, and acts on mental health evaluation recommendations leading to necessary referrals and treatment. Having a Care Coordinator allows Nursing, Special Education, Guidance, Social Work and Primary Care providers to work collaboratively with parents and students to optimize positive health and academic outcomes. Communication is a large part of Ms. Lee's job. She is involved in multiple meetings and conversations with all the parties, does check-ins with at-risk students, visits them at home and manages all the data. She also works closely with Cindy Sheridan Curran, who serves our district in the roles of Diversion Coordinator, Court-Home Liaison Officer and Attendance Officer.

There is solid evidence across the state that nursing care and management makes a positive difference in school attendance. We also know that anxiety and school adjustment issues can begin as early as the elementary years. In an effort to start interventions and care sooner, we have expanded the current effort to a small cohort of students in one of our elementary schools and at the middle school.

Nurses in each of our schools spend increasing amounts of time collecting, documenting and reporting information. Data management is in addition to the immediate services they provide to the increasing number of students who walk through their doors. We are fortunate to also have a DPH Essential School Health grant that enables the district to hire per-diem nurses to cover offices when there is overload.

Today we have a greater understanding of the variety of needs that we must address in order for young people to have a successful school experience. When students are having trouble, it is often our nurses who see them first. I want to thank Ms. Franchi, Ms. Lee and our other school nurses for the vital role they play in recognizing and serving at-risk students. Ms. Franchi is inspired by a quote from historian Carter G. Woodson that I would like to share with you here: "Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better."

#### **Awards & Distinctions**



#### ***CHPS Representative Presents Verified Leader Award to Town and Thompson***

On November 13, the School Committee was honored to welcome Carolyn Sarno, Vice President of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools® (CHPS), to its meeting. Ms. Sarno attended to present the Town of Arlington and the Thompson Elementary School with the organization's Verified Leader Award. During her visit, Ms. Sarno had this to say:

"Your dedication to building and maintaining Thompson Elementary school as a healthy, energy efficient school shows you recognize the important role the building plays to create the best possible learning environment. CHPS acknowledges your contribution and welcomes Thompson Elementary School to a distinguished rank of educational facilities who are leading the movement to build healthy energy efficient schools."

Chris Vance, one of the architects from HMFH who worked on the Thompson project, HNFH's marketing manager Susan Elmore, and Arlington Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine joined me in accepting this prestigious award. This is a wonderful achievement, made possible by the many individuals who worked hard so that the school would meet the criteria for a cost-effective, environmentally friendly building. For more information about how the Thompson minimizes impact, conserves energy and increases student health and productivity, please see *Thompson Elementary School Cited for Creating a High Performance Learning Environment* in my October newsletter, which you can read by clicking [here](#).

#### ***Fourteen AHS Students Accepted into Northeastern District Ensembles***

I am happy to announce that 14 of our performing arts students are taking part in the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association (MMEA) Northeastern District Senior Music Festival in January. Eight of these young men and women have been recommended to audition for All-State ensembles.

Our musicians and vocalists were chosen from among over 1100 students who auditioned. Three students will be playing with the District Band, six will sing in the District Mixed Chorus, four will be taking part in the District Orchestra and one will play in the District Jazz Band. I congratulate each of them on this superb achievement. To learn more about the MMEA, please click [here](#).

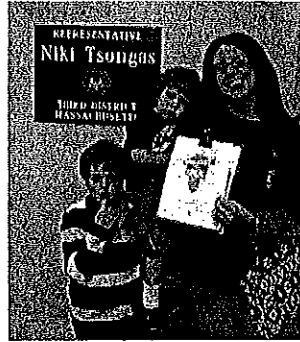
#### ***Arlington-Belmont Crew Takes State Championship***

Many of you know that we have several dedicated athletes who participate in Arlington-Belmont (AB) Crew, a club sport that offers interested young men and women the chance to compete in rowing. What you may not know is that the team just took home the overall trophy at the Massachusetts Public School Rowing Association Fall State Championships. In addition, the boys captured the team championship trophy for the third consecutive season, and the girls came in second in terms of points earned by the 15 competing teams.

There were 165 boats racing in the Championships overall, and the AB Crew finished almost 200 points ahead of second-place Wayland-Weston. This is a tremendous achievement for the young team, as the two communities only joined forces to pursue this sport in 2009.

This season has been particularly special for AB Crew, as Coach Mark Grinberg was named Junior Coach of the Year in the USRowing Fan's Choice Awards. Award winners are nominated and voted for based on their contributions and excellence in rowing, and this year close to 30,000 votes were cast.

Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches who make up AB Crew. Please click [here](#) to read more about the state championship. To learn more about the team, please click [here](#).



### ***Teacher's Advocacy Trip Demonstrates That We All Have a Voice***

Encouraging citizenship and leadership is an important part of the K-12 social studies curriculum, beginning in elementary school. We hope that our children will graduate with a strong belief in their ability to use their skills and strengths to benefit others. This message is not only transmitted to our students through their formal studies. They also are fortunate to have strong role models within our faculty-- individuals whose personal lives and experiences can help them understand that each of us has a voice.

One such person is Stratton second grade teacher Julie Barth. Ms. Barth has been active in the ONE campaign since it was founded in 2004. ONE is a non-partisan, nonprofit advocacy organization working to end extreme poverty. Ms. Barth's involvement has ranged from planning local gatherings and training sessions, to delivering petitions to legislator's offices, and becoming well-educated on global issues including poverty, infectious diseases, child and maternal health and energy. This past year, she became a ONE Congressional District Leader (CDL) in Massachusetts.

Over the summer, Ms. Barth took part in a contest created by ONE to bring awareness to the Energize Africa Act, a bill to help millions of people in Africa receive access to electricity for the first time. As one of the top five CDL's in the country recruiting letters from constituents to their Senators, Ms. Barth was awarded a trip to Washington D. C. where she put her advocacy skills into practice.

Her time in Washington was spent meeting with legislative staff members, taking part in a general session with Senator Elizabeth Warren, and attending the USAID Frontiers In Development Forum. The Forum was particularly inspiring as she was able to hear from a former president of Ghana, a former Chief of Staff to President Clinton, the Executive Director of Oxfam International and the Chair of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Developmental Assistance Committee.

Ms. Barth has always felt that social action and personal involvement is important. She is especially drawn to fighting for the lives of those affected by extreme poverty, and is inspired by ONE's goal of eradicating it by 2030. She was invigorated by the spirit among the other contest winners who joined her, including two high school students from New York. She brings this spirit and her belief that we all can be heard to make a difference back to her classroom.

Michael Hanna, Stratton Principal, and I were happy to lend our support to her September trip, which she describes as "...truly a once in a lifetime opportunity." To learn more about her time in Washington D.C., please click [here](#). Read about the other winners who joined her on the trip by clicking [here](#). Information about the activities of ONE can be found [here](#). I want to congratulate Ms. Barth for winning the trip, for her dedication to this issue and for bringing valuable lessons of citizenship back to her classroom.

### ***iPad Summit Presentations Feature APS Use of Technology to Promote 21st Century Learning***

Arlington's leadership in the use of technology was evident at this fall's EdTech Teacher iPad Summit, held in Boston on November 12-14. Assistant Superintendent Laura Chesson described our overall vision

to the audience, and spoke about the types of technology we have across the district and the goals we have for technology integration. Ms. Chesson was followed by several of our teachers, who shared their experiences at different grade levels.

Nicole Melnik, Thompson first grade teacher, has been delighted by the ways her classroom walls have been broken down with the use of iPads. She likes to have her students share their learning with the larger community using Kidblog. All of her students have a blog, and they really enjoy the fact that their posts are public. The group is part of a blogging community in which three other classes can view and comment on what they write. By receiving feedback and seeing what other young students post, Ms. Melnick's students are inspired to expand their writing.

Ottoson teacher Johanna Bradley, who currently teaches sixth grade *Digital Literacy & Media*, spoke about the iPad experiences her fifth graders had when she was teaching at Thompson. The 1:1 iPad rollout in the 610s Cluster at Ottoson was the subject of Lillian O'Donnell and Jessica Keweshan's remarks. Instructional Technology Specialist and Database Administrator Susan Blisson spoke to the group about technology professional development. Her presentation included a video that featured the Thompson Techsperts, fifth grade boys and girls who impacted the Thompson 1:1 iPad rollout by helping with device maintenance and planning, and by implementing technology initiatives.

It is gratifying to have our dedicated teachers tell their peers about the experiences we have had integrating technology into the classroom. Those who attended the Technology Showcase held on May 5, were able to speak with a variety of students (including Techsperts and members of the 610s Cluster) about how we are using technology to enhance learning. Whether they are producing an online magazine, creating websites, coding or collaborating using Google Docs, our students are displaying a level of creativity not possible in earlier years. We are proud of the way our faculty has embraced technology as a tool that prepares our students for success in the 21st century. To read blogs posted by Ms. Melnik's students, please click [here](#).

#### ***Language Teachers Share Ideas, Gather Knowledge and Win Awards at MaFLA Conference***

Arlington was well represented at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association (MaFLA) conference last month, chaired by Catherine Ritz, our Director of World Languages. Ottoson teacher Abbi Holt and AHS teachers Katia Haberman and Na Lu-Hogan each shared their creative classroom ideas in separate 75-minute sessions. They spoke about using fantasy tropes, country explorations and student-centered activities to engage their Latin, Spanish and Mandarin students, imparting their enthusiasm for teaching to their respective audiences.

Our teachers also took time to attend many of the different workshops that were available. Four language department members went to the 6-hour workshop on proficiency development, led by a recognized expert. This topic is aligned to our departmental goals of better understanding proficiency levels, setting targets for each level and ensuring that our assessments are valid and reliable. Others attended shorter sessions, and several teachers will be preparing materials to be shared with their peers during professional development days.

A highlight of the Conference for Arlington Public Schools was the Business & Awards Luncheon where Katia Haberman and Na Lu-Hogan each received a New Teacher Commendation. This award goes to instructors who have been teaching less than five years and have demonstrated excellence in foreign language education. Only four teachers per year receive this honor across our state, and I am proud to report that both Ms. Haberman and Ms. Lu-Hogan were recognized with this honor.

Ms. Ritz will be taking an even more active role within MaFLA when she assumes the Presidency in January. She will serve for two years in that role. That our teachers were able to attend the annual MaFLA conference, both to share the wonderful work going on in our district and to have the opportunity to learn from others, was a benefit to our students. I know that all participants have brought back many

ideas that will enrich our program and strengthen the learning environment for our students. Please click [here](#) to read Ms. Ritz's blog where you can learn more about our involvement and see pictures from the event.

### **Academic Highlights**



#### ***British Author Nicola Davies Helps Students Develop Critical Writing Skills***

The implementation of the Massachusetts Common Core State Standards has introduced a new emphasis on non-fiction writing. Last month we were fortunate to have British zoologist and author Nicola Davies spend time with our elementary students. Her workshops focused on skills that are needed for critical writing. She spoke about how to evaluate sources and determine what is true.

Ms. Davies spent five days at Bishop Elementary School, conducting workshops tailored to each grade level's curriculum. *Reader's Theater* was the focus in the Kindergarten, while in Grades 1 and 2, students worked on *Poetry Prose* about the natural world. *Writer's Workshop* for grades 3, 4 and 5 was designed to help students understand the revision process.

At Stratton Elementary School, Ms. Davies used her books as the focus for the assemblies she gave for grades K-4. *Bat Loves the Night* was the subject for the Kindergarten, and Grades 1 and 2 heard about *One Tiny Turtle*. Poetry was the focus for Grade 3 as they explored *Outside My Window* and Grade 4 heard about *Silver Street Farm*. During all the assemblies, the author shared how she came to write each book and discussed the writing process. Grade 5 classes were able to work with Ms. Davies during a writing workshop on nature poetry.

In her interview with the *Arlington Advocate*, Ms. Davies had this to say about the importance of nonfiction: "The skills children build by reading and writing nonfiction is [sic] transferrable across all areas of life: extracting information from one source, assimilating it and representing it in another form for an audience. I can't think of a more useful skill."

I want to thank the Arlington Education Foundation for awarding the grant that made this visit possible. The grant also funded the creation of text sets for Grades 3-5 at Bishop. A text set is a collection of books from different genres such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and picture books, that all deal with a single subject. Being able to read and compare such texts helps young people become engaged and develop as critical readers and writers. To learn more about Nicola Davies and her books, please click [here](#).



### ***Spy Pond SeaPerch ROV Launch Reveals Aquatic Life and Demonstrates Vehicle Performance***

Last year we followed the progress of the Ottoson Robotics Club's SeaPerch project, the culmination of an exciting year spent researching and doing hands-on engineering work. SeaPerch is an underwater robotics program that provides teachers and students with what they need to build a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Technology teacher Brandy Whitney introduced the project at Ottoson. The \$1,032 SeaPerch Foundation and Office of Naval Research Grant she obtained helped with funding.

At the end of last year, the Club did some in-water testing at Ottoson, and the group was able to assess the buoyancy of their vehicles and begin discussing how they might modify them to perform better. After this experience, everyone really wanted to see how the ROVs performed in open water, and on October 31, the group launched them into Spy Pond.

The successful launch enabled the students to control the vehicles and look under the surface of the water, studying the bottom of the pond and spotting some fish. Club members are now turning their attention toward the list of engineering changes they would like to make, and have begun to implement some of their ideas. The goal is to return to Spy Pond in the spring and launch the improved ROVs.

The popular Ottoson Robotics Club meets every Wednesday, and new students have been working on snap circuit, land-based rovers as they start to become familiar with basic circuitry and rover construction. They are also starting to assemble the body of a new SeaPerch. SeaPerch is an exciting project because it introduces students to the basic skills of ship and submarine design, along with teaching fundamental science and engineering concepts, tool safety and technical procedures. I am grateful to Ms. Whitney for her leadership of the Robotics Club and I congratulate all the members on their successful Spy Pond launch. Click [here](#) to see more pictures of the October launch. To learn about the SeaPerch underwater robotics program, please click [here](#).



### ***Visiting French Students Share American Daily Life with Host Families***

Experiencing typical American family life was the goal for the 16 students from Orleans, France, who visited us this month. Each one lived with an Arlington Family during their stay, enabling them to get to know the AHS student they will host when our young people travel to France in April.

The visit included both classes at AHS and sightseeing. The students attended sports and extracurricular activities, shared dinners, went apple picking, and some even visited New York City with their host families. The group was unanimous that they found the families extremely welcoming, and thought that the area was very beautiful. They were also impressed with how big things are here, from cars to houses to portions of food. The students were especially impressed with the:

- Historical wealth in Boston and the surrounding area
- Unbelievable view of Boston from the Observatory
- School system's ability to give more freedom to students than they have in France
- Shorter school days that enable students to participate in more extracurricular activities
- Importance of Halloween
- American stereotypes such as Starbucks, cheerleaders, squirrels, big cars, yellow buses and fast food
- Many brands of goods that do not exist in France.

In turn, our young people found the experience very rewarding, and had this to say about the visit:

"My exchange student and I became good friends, and I can't wait to see her again when we go to France in April."

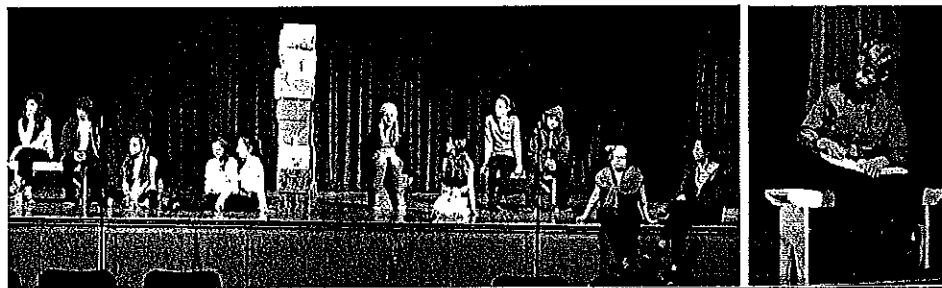
"Throughout the French exchange I grew not only as a French speaker but also was able to learn about another culture."

"We got to give others the chance to experience a new country ..."

The reciprocal trip to Orleans, a beautiful city situated in the Loire Valley, is planned for April 15-25, 2015. The trip will include visits to Paris and two amazing castles, Chambord and Blois. There will be plenty of opportunities for our students to practice their French, and learn about daily life with their host families. I want to thank AHS French teacher Veronique Lahey for her leadership of the French exchange program that provides such meaningful experiences for our students.



### Creative Highlights



### ***Exploring Barriers between People Is the Theme of First Fall Play Performed at Ottoson***

This month, a cast made up of Ottoson sixth, seventh and eighth graders performed David Campton's one act play, *Us and Them*. The story begins as two groups of wanderers look for a place to settle. They



find suitable spaces, and agree to mark the boundary. Over time, the wall between them inspires suspicion, mistrust and fear, leading to a bitter fight. Sadly, the survivors conclude that the wall caused the difficulties between them, and that all could have been avoided if only they had made it stronger.

Set in "any time, any place", Campton's play allows the performers and their audience to explore the effects of barriers and how they, even with the best of intentions, can cause us to lose sight of the humanity of those we call "other". The cast members discussed the play's theme at length, and used it to inform the set, costume, and lighting choices. The result was a powerful performance of what one student called "the most challenging play" she had ever done.

This is the first year of the Ottoson fall play, and there are plans to make this an annual event, expanding the choices available to our middle school students interested in theater. I am pleased that we are able to offer this additional opportunity to our students, and congratulate Director Jenna Fernandes and the talented cast on a fine performance. A spring musical, *Seussical, Jr.*, is currently getting underway, with performances scheduled for May 1 and 2.



#### **AHS Drama Guild's "Twelfth Night" Fills the Stage with Music, Laughter and Fun**

"If music be the food of love, play on," and the eight musicians did as requested, opening the delightful AHS performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* this month. Dressed in Roaring Twenties finery, the band treated Duke Orsino and his court to some great jazz, while he spoke of the complications created by his love for the beautiful Lady Olivia.

After this musical beginning, the characters and the laughs just kept coming as our talented thespians changed genders, played tricks on each other and helped an appreciative audience explore themes of love, loss, and ambition. It was evident from the start that the entire cast was having a wonderful time, whether they were acting the fool, watching the effects of a fake love letter or pretending to be someone else. The audience couldn't help but respond to the actors' comic timing and their willingness to use their entire bodies to convey the silliness of their characters.

Over 50 young people from all four grades came together as actors, stage managers, musicians and crew to create this splendid production. The costumes--tubular dresses, cloche hats and long beads on the women, and wide trousers and wide lapels on the suit jackets of the men--evoked the elegance, color and daring of the Roaring Twenties era. I want to congratulate AHS Drama teacher Michael Byrne, and all of the young people who took part in this dazzling display of talent and fun.

## Athletic Highlights



### ***AHS Fall Season Ends Strong, with Girls Soccer Competing for Division 2 State Title***

It is hard to believe that the fall sports season has ended at Arlington High. Our athletes distinguished themselves both on and off the field, and left us with many great moments to remember. Let me take a moment to review some of the highlights with you.

The football team ended their season with a solid win over Arlington Catholic in the annual Thanksgiving Day game. The Spy Ponders closed with an 8-3 overall record, and qualified for the state tournament. Boys soccer also made it to the state tournament, losing to Concord-Carlisle.

Boys cross country placed well within the Middlesex League, with senior Joe Hazelton qualifying for the State Finals. After finishing second in their region, the Arlington Cheerleaders went on to finish fourth in the state in the Large School-Coed category.

This year the girls soccer team did something that has not happened in 22 years--made it through the finals to compete against another team for the Division 2 state title. The team earned this berth after defeating Concord-Carlisle to win the North championship. The final game against Hingham was down to the wire, ending in defeat for Arlington in the last eleven seconds of regulation play. Click [here](#) to read about the North championship win, and [here](#) to read about the state title game.

I want to congratulate all our fall athletes and coaches for all their hard work and dedication. We are proud of each accomplishment, and now look forward to winter season competition.

## Special Events



### ***Anti-bullying Champion and Author Jay Asher Visits Ottoson***

On October 27, Jay Asher, author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, visited the Ottoson as part of his "50 states against bullying" tour. His book tells the story of a young man who discovers cassette tapes recorded by a

former classmate. The tapes reveal the thirteen reasons why the young woman had committed suicide two weeks earlier. The book has touched many lives, and caused its readers to reflect on how they treat others and the effects they can have on those around them. Mr. Asher's U.S. tour builds on the success of the book to stimulate conversations about bullying among young people.

The Ottoson Middle School was the only stop for Mr. Asher in Massachusetts. He spent two hours with the seventh and eighth grade students, talking about the book and what it has come to mean for the anti-bullying movement. He also spoke about the writing process and spent 45 minutes responding to audience questions. He signed #WhyYouMatter bracelets and books for interested students. The members of the Ottoson News Network had a special treat because they were able to interview the author, share lunch with him, and ask even more questions.

Combating bullying across the district is an important priority for Arlington Public Schools. We regularly hold special events designed to promote understanding of this issue. For example, Ottoson observes No Name Calling Week, a program originated by the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, every winter. The week features a variety of activities and special presentations to bring awareness to the problem of bullying. Last January, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan joined Arlington Police Officer Stephen Porciello and Assistant District Attorney David Solet at an assembly focused on how to safely and responsibly use the Internet and social media.

For more information on Mr. Asher and his powerful book, please click [here](#). To review the *APS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan*, you may click [here](#).

December 12, 2015

RECEIVED  
SELECTMAN  
ARLINGTON  
MAY 12 2015

Dear Selectman, Dear Public Memorial Committee,

Several weeks ago, I reached out to Mr. Al Salipante and discussed the criteria for memorializing citizens of Arlington, MA. As you have already heard from Dan Dunn, the Arlington Cycling Community is attempting to Memorialize our dear Coach and Trainer, Robert McMurray, known in Arlington and beyond as "Bobby Mac," who passed away in March. We, the members of Quad Cycles Bicycle Club, and members of the greater Boston Cycling Community feel that Bobby Mac fits the criteria described in the town documents.

Bobby volunteered his time every weekend and every holiday, (as long as it wasn't snowing or too dangerous to ride) training people on how to become a better, safer, friendlier cyclist. And he did for free. Every weekend. For 15 years. Until pancreatic cancer stole him from us in March.

As you read through the letters and articles you will find a remarkable story about a remarkable man who despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles in his own life, not only found courage and determination to overcome them, but passed his life lessons on to those of us lucky enough to know him with great conviction and spirit, believing in us when we did not believe in ourselves. Bobby's impact was far reaching as you will see.

Many of us showed up on the "Bobby Mac" ride for the first time intimidated, nervous, convinced we wouldn't fit in, never mind make it through a 16 mile round trip on the bike path. By the time Bobby was finished with us, usually by the end of a single season, we'd have a multi-day charity ride under our belts and were looking around to see who we could help, just as Bobby had helped us. His spirit was that infectious. His generosity of spirit didn't just end when we finished riding. Anyone who asked Bobby for help with anything, was sure to receive it

Our community has begun to raise money in the event that the Selectmen will grant our request. A memorial celebration and bike ride is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 which would have been Bobby's 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We are hoping to place a boulder on the bike path with brass plaque inscription on or before that date if possible.

Please see <http://www.gofundme.com/bobbymac> for more details.

We believe Bobby's spirit still rides the bikeway, singing songs, and dreaming dreams, and we hope to preserve his memory to inspire generations to come.

Anke C. Schafer  
978 758 5670  
Quad Cycles

Ten Devereaux Street  
Arlington, MA 02476  
December 10, 2014

Arlington Board of Selectmen,

I am writing in regard to a proposed memorial along the Minutemen Bikeway to honor Robert (Bobby Mac) MacMurray.

For background, I have lived in Arlington for more than 45 years, was an early President of the Arlington Youth Soccer Club (when it grew from two teams and handful of adult volunteers to over 840 players and 110 volunteers) and I have also served as co-chair of Vision 2020's Spy Pond Committee. My background is only relevant as a way of saying I have seen and worked with many people who have given enormous amounts of time and talent for the benefit of our town. It is with this perspective that I enthusiastically write on behalf of Bobby Mac for the outstanding example he served and the uplifting influence he had on so many.

The challenge in describing Bobby, the man, is that it seems to trivialize his accomplishment if one describes him merely as a developer of "wannabe" cyclists into competent, competitors and/or charity riders. This he did year after year, over untold hours, in summer heat and winter cold. Nor was it just the manner in which he coached, coaxed, and cheered his followers toward their goals. Closer to the mark is the good citizenship he preached. His real distinction was the example he set for finding joy in everyday experiences. His enthusiasm for people, song, and the joy of life always shone through whatever his personal challenges, especially as his eyesight and health declined.

I didn't meet Bobby until I was in my late fifties yet he made as lasting an impression on me as I know he did on many of the young people whom I saw him inspire. The Jesuits teach men to be "a man for others". Tolstoy claimed the "purpose of a life was to benefit humanity". Bobby Mac lived that life for others without fanfare, just lifting the spirits of all who encountered him. Since cycling was his passion and so many of those he touched will ride that path, a memorial along the Minuteman Bikeway is absolutely fitting.

Regards,  
Steve Ricci

From: **Anke** anke911@gmail.com  
Subject: **Fwd: Bobby Mac Memorial**  
Date: December 14, 2014 at 6:03 PM  
To:



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Elizabeth Blevins <elizabeth.a.blevins@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Bobby Mac Memorial

Dear Arlington Public Memorials Committee,

I am a former Arlington resident and was a frequent rider with Bobby Mac's Quad Cycles training rides prior to moving out of the state. I happened into Quad Cycles by accident a little over 10 years ago. I had a flat tire and Bobby helped me fix it for free since I was out for a short ride without money. He invited me to join the weekend training rides despite the fact that I had never ridden more than 5 miles at a time. I showed up that weekend in my shorts and tee shirt only to be cheered on by Bobby and his nylon clad army of cyclists. To my own amazement I rode 40 miles that day. And I was hooked. I bought the padded shorts (a must) and eventually bought a slimmer road bike and found myself turning up at Quad cycles every weekend for the rides. Each time I looked forward to Bobby's pre-ride speeches, including famous Bobby-isms like: "You can go fast and you can go long but you can't go fast for long!" or "Drink before you're thirsty, eat before you're hungry!" Bobby also reminded us to ride single file and to "be nice to the cars--they're bigger than you." After a year of riding, Bobby encouraged me to try a charity ride so that I could put my long distance cycling muscles to use for a good cause. I signed up for the Massachusetts Red Ribbon ride and began another thing I had never done before: fundraising. Both the long miles and the minimum fundraising amount were intimidating but it turned out that persistence and Bobby's encouragement allowed me to accomplish both.

However, there is a much more profound impact Bobby Mac had on me and so many others on those rides. We certainly got in shape, we learned every turn of the bike path and we raised lots of money for the Massachusetts AIDS coalition and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. However, these are not the reasons Bobby Mac has so deeply impacted us. Through his unwavering belief in us, Bobby helped us believe in ourselves. When I doubted my ability to make it to the next stop or grew agitated in the afternoon heat on mile 55, Bobby would remind me that the stop would indeed arrive. When I told Bobby I certainly could not ride 100 miles in a day, he reminded me about muscle memory and that he knew I could do it. Biking, it turned out, was just an instrument to learn patience and to learn that I could do so much more than I ever imagined. Bobby wasn't just a cycling leader, he became the voice in my ear telling me I would get there and that I was strong.

Bobby Mac is one of those mentors whose impact carries on in all of us that he inspired. Not only do I think of Bobby every time I get on a bike, I think of him when I doubt myself or get impatient with the path I'm on. And I know I'm not alone. Having a memorial for Bobby on the bike path would be an important way to honor the impact he had, through biking, on so many of us. Bobby was an incredible human being who not only gave back through charity but through his ability to inspire others to be better and to go farther than they thought was possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Blevins  
617-694-8162

From: **Cyndy** ccostey@yahoo.com  
Subject: **Bobby**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 6:23 PM**  
To: **Anke Schäfer** anke911@gmail.com



Dear Minuteman Committee

I used to rollerblade up and down the Minuteman Bike path. Miles and miles, mostly on my own, happily skating. On Saturdays and Sundays I'd see a group of cyclists, dressed in blue and green, pass me. That looked like way more fun!! So I went to the bike shop I saw on their jerseys and bought a new bike. (I thought you had to buy the bike from the shop to be included in this club.) I read about the group's typical route on the bike shop web site and was soooo intimidated by the length!! I went out riding on my own, vowing to myself that someday I'd be ready to join them for a ride. (I thought you had to be a really good cyclist.) I practiced and I practiced and did a ride with another cycling group in preparation. Finally I felt ready ish.

On my 1<sup>st</sup> ride (6 years ago, maybe 7) we rolled slowly from the shop on Mass Ave and down the bike path to the end in Bedford. That is where I remember meeting Bobby Mac. He always gives a little talk there to the entire group of cyclists. I remember him asking everyone to raise their hands if they were riding in the upcoming MS charity event. I slowly raised my hand, as did many others. Bobby loudly yelled, "Heroes!! All you!!!" Right there I felt the Bobby Mac magic for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. I was so proud and inspired to ride that day and then every day after that. I wanted to become a better cyclist and I wanted to make Bobby proud.

I didn't need to buy my bike at that particular shop. I didn't need to be a good cyclist on that 1st day. I just needed to show up and pedal. Bobby's grand personality and kindness took care of everything.

Since Bobby's passing this year, I've still had some good cycling days, mostly due to riding with others from the group that he inspired, but I miss him terribly. We all do.

I'd love to ride past a tribute to him on the bike path that he loved so much!

Thank you for your consideration!

Cyndy Costey

From: **Joe** joe.diveanu@yahoo.com  
Subject: **bobby**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 5:45 PM**  
To: **Anke Schäfer** anke911@gmail.com



dear sir/madam:

I met Bobby in 2003 and had no idea that this guy, who was legally blind, would teach me about biking, life, and help set a path for me that I enjoy living to this day.

Anyone who rides seriously and safely was taught how to do it by someone. For many of us in the Arlington/Lexington area it was Bobby. Riding a bike is easy, riding it safely in a group of 25+ people at 20 mph separated by inches takes tremendous skill and concentration. All new people literally have no idea what it takes to do this without losing your life.

Bobby broke it down to simple steps and thought processes that took into account the riders around you and the drivers and pedestrians who we were to encounter.

He has trained hundreds of riders who have gone on to be competitive riders, charity riders and just plain riders.

the charity riders have them gone on to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for a variety of charities. The MS Society, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Aids Action Committee, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, etc. have all benefitted from his generosity.

Sent from my iPhone



From: **Sharona Jacobs** sharonajacobs@gmail.com  
Subject: **Bobby Mac**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 3:41 PM**  
To: Anke911@gmail.com

Hi Anke - sorry, I've been laid out with flu and fever. Here's a a paragraph:

I would like to add my name in support of having a memorial for Bobby Mac on the Minuteman Trail in Arlington. My husband, Jeremy Kriegel, and I were trained by Bobby here in Arlington to ride in AIDS Rides both in the US and abroad. He was always a warm and inspirational presence, both to us and countless others. He never left a single newbie behind, and was extremely dedicated to training volunteers. I will always associate the Minuteman Trail with him, expecting to see him around the next bend in his Quad Cycles colors. It's only fitting that there be some lasting remembrance of him on the trail he loved.

Warmest wishes,  
Sharona Jacobs  
42 Grafton St. #2  
Arlington, MA

Anke, Feel free to address and edit this as needed. I hope this is along the lines of what you are looking for. - Tom.

\*\*\*\*\*

Very few people have had the profound impact on me as Robert McMurray, affectionally known as Bobby Mac. Bobby and I met at the Quad Cycles bike shop within weeks of my moving to Arlington in 2001. Not only was I looking to acquaint myself with the local cycling shop, but hoped to find a community or people to ride with. After a few conversations with shop owner Rustem Gode, we decided to start the Arlington Bicycle Club. Bobby Mac was one of the 4 founding members.

Bobby Mac was legally blind, but more importantly, blind to obstacles and excuses that would keep him off the bike. He was also blind to the obstacles that kept others in the Arlington cycling community from reaching their goals. Although he was a man worthy of charity, he instead championed the task of helping others. He not only trained hundreds of people for their charity events, he participated in multiple rides each year.

Bobby's approach to leadership was remarkable. He did the customary tasks of organizing people, providing advice, and motivating by unwavering commitment. However, when he was on the bike, he was not found at the front leading the charge. Bobby Mac led powerfully from the back of the group. He encouraged those that were struggling; refusing to leave their side until the last pedal stroke was completed.

One of my most memorable experiences with Bobby was in Turkey. In 2003, Quad Cycles owner, Rustem Gode, took us to enjoy some early season cycling in his homeland. I was simultaneously inspired and concerned that Bobby was joining us. Why? Because he didn't know the roads in Turkey. In Arlington, Lexington, Bedford, Concord, and surrounding towns, Bobby was responsible for marking the routes many of the bike clubs used. He painted strategic arrows on the road and also marked dangerous sections of pavement to keep cyclists safe. In Turkey, there would be no strategic arrows or markers. It was a humbling moment when Bobby asked if he could follow me on the rides. I was humbled by the trust he placed in me, but more inspired by courage this trust required.

To say that the passing of Bobby Mac has affected me is an understatement. I miss seeing him on the bike. I miss his voice. I miss watching Bobby, a blind man, lead others to their goals. I am truly encourage to learn that plans are being made to honor Bobby Mac in Arlington. I look forward to seeing the memory of Robert McMurray live on in the hearts of those who knew him, in those who will learn of his life, and in the community that he loved and supported.

Tom Scotto  
A Founder of the Arlington Bicycle Club  
A Founder of the Quad Cycles Racing Team  
Local Cycling Coach

17 Ashland Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

From: **Andi Genser** [andix@wecancenter.org](mailto:andix@wecancenter.org)  
Subject: **Bobby Mac**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 4:40 PM**  
To: [Andi@911@gmail.com](mailto:Andi@911@gmail.com)

I can't think of someone more deserving to be immortalized on the Bikeway than Bobby Mac. He always told the story of how as an overweight guy he saw people riding and then started himself....years later he became a one of a kind trainer and one man inspiration who was responsible for hundreds, no thousands of people getting on bikes, building their courage and stamina and loving to ride. If it were up to me, we would name the bikeway after him.

He also supported many different charities by riding in their events, but even more, by training hundreds of riders to do so. And he did this with a song in his heart and a smile on his face always. They broke the mold after the world made him and he leaves a huge gaping hole in the world of cycling in Boston and beyond.

Please find a way to memorialize Bobby on the Minuteman Trail. His story will inspire cyclists for years to come!

--  
**Andi Genser, Executive Director**  
WE CAN  
*Temporary Location* after 12.4.14  
710 Route 28, Harwich Port Ma  
**Mailing Address:**  
783 Route 28  
Harwich Port, MA 02646  
508-430-8111  
[www.wecancenter.org](http://www.wecancenter.org)

From: **Neil Gordon** [neilw@gordon.com](mailto:neilw@gordon.com)  
Subject: **Bobby Mac**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 3:46 PM**  
To: [Anke911@gmail.com](mailto:Anke911@gmail.com)

Thanks for asking!

When I registered for the next to last New York to Boston AIDS Ride, I hadn't seriously been on a bike since I was a kid, and I suspect my longest ever ride at that point was less than 10 miles. As Bobby did for hundreds of others, he coached me, urged me, cajoled me, and he motivated me.

Perhaps no other individual trained and motivated as many charity riders as Bobby. Perhaps no other individual is as responsible for the hundreds of thousands of dollars these novice riders raised.

I personally have 13,000 miles on my bike, and have raised tens of thousands of dollars, mostly for AIDS related charities. But for Bobby, I have my odometer would read three digits instead of five, and dollars raised would be zero.

Regards, Neil

Neil R. Gordon, President  
N.R. Gordon & Company, Inc.  
87 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446  
(508) 265-1362  
[www.liquiditymatters.com](http://www.liquiditymatters.com)

From: **JOHN DIRICO** johnd106@gmail.com  
Subject: **Bobby Mac**  
Date: **December 11, 2014 at 9:06 PM**  
To: **Anka** anka911@gmail.com

**Bobby Mac Memorial.**

When I met Bobby Mac I had been cycling for quite a few years. But I must say I was very impressed with the passion and determination he had for cycling, always there helping to train others cyclists to achieve what most people would think it's a daunting task, like riding 100 mile for a charity ride, Bobby would be there every weekend grinding the miles, encouraging anyone when they were ready to give up, always offering his advice and expertise whether you were a newbie or a seasoned rider you could always learn something from Bobby, whether about cycling or life itself, He would always have encouraging words, Over the years Bobby helped and inspired countless number of people achieve their cycling goals, always with a smile on his face and love in his heart.

**Bobby You're surely missed.**

**Bobby was a great inspiration to many people that is why I believe he should be remembered, and a memorial on the Minuteman Bikeway would be appropriate and appreciated.**

**Thank you**

**John Di Rico**

From: **Scott Miley** [photocratorlover@gmail.com](mailto:photocratorlover@gmail.com)  
Subject:  
Date: **December 12, 2014 at 12:47 AM**  
To: [Anne911@gmail.com](mailto:Anne911@gmail.com)

Most people can be defined in a fairly simple phrase, such as a doctor, actor, athlete and so on. Somehow the term "cyclist, cheerleader, role model, amateur singer, friend, philosopher and humorist" doesn't really roll off the tongue but that's how many would describe Bobby Mac. He wasn't all adjectives to all people but many people found something that got them on the bike and ride with Bobby. Ask anyone who spent time with him and the funny or insightful (or both) stories will come. No matter how well, or how long, someone spend time with Bobby, we all ride with love in our hearts and smiles on our faces.

Dear Arlington Public Memorials Committee,

It is rather a painful thing to write this letter to voice my support for a memorial monument in Arlington for my late friend Bobby Mac. It's been over a year since I was last able to ride with him and not even a year since he passed but I miss him every day. For the past ten years since I moved to Arlington, Bobby Mac and the Quad Cycles group has been like my family. I still look for Bobby in the face of passing cyclists and hear his voice imploring me to "be nice to everybody" whenever a car cuts me off.

I wasn't much of a cyclist when I started riding with Bobby. I had a nice enough bike and good enough fitness but I had no idea how to ride with other people. At the time, I was stuck in a miserable job and so new to the Arlington area that I was painfully lonely. On my first group ride with Bobby, I marveled not at how everyone was so fast on their bikes but at the easy camaraderie of how well everyone got along. The people who rode with Bobby were a diverse bunch, insanely diverse, but together they became a cohesive group on bikes. That's one of the things that always left me in awe about Bobby Mac: how he not only got along with everyone but could unite people into something bigger than the sum of their parts. Through singing songs, riding bikes, and sitting at Starbucks \*forever\* telling stories, Bobby crafted a group of bike riders into a group of people that united not just for bike rides on the weekends but for movie outings, charity rides and more.

Out of the people I met through Bobby's weekend rides, many have become my lifelong friends. Bobby created a sense of community on the Quad ride, a sense that you should care about mentoring the new riders as well as hanging out with your old friends. Bobby was always there for everyone who needed him from the aspiring charity rider to the "fast guys." Whether you needed some water, some food, or just encouragement, Bobby was there for you. And if you needed nothing at all, well, Bobby enjoyed just riding...often while singing at the top of his lungs.

Among the countless Bobby sayings, one of his most powerful was "There is no sin greater than apathy." He felt it important to give back to the community, both Arlington and the greater cycling community, and his dedication to charity rides was relentless. I think nearly anyone who has done a charity ride in New England has seen or heard of the Legendary Bobby Mac. He was there to support causes that ranged from getting kids bicycles, to cancer, to AIDS. The amount of money Bobby raised for charity was astounding as was his dedication to getting all those new riders and returning regulars on his weekend rides to give something back. I don't know that I ever would have done a charity ride if not for Bobby; I don't know that I would have prioritized in my life the importance of giving back.

Just yesterday, I opened my email to see the invite to the annual Ciclismo Classico Jingle Ride and there was Bobby Mac in the crowd of riders in the advertisement, happily beaming at the camera with reindeer horns strapped to his helmet. That was Bobby: he was everywhere. Every charity ride he could do, every weekend ride that the weather didn't wash out the roads themselves, Bobby was there. Even when his eyesight failed and he needed someone to ride in front of him as a guide, Bobby let nothing stop him from doing what he loved and bettering the world one bike ride at a time. He was a remarkable man, one who made a difference in my life by showing me just how strong I could be if I was

willing to do the work, one who showed me that family could be a community of people who came together to do something they loved.

I regret that more people won't get to know Bobby and hear his stories or experience his relentless optimism. I deeply hope that you committee members will see fit to dedicate a memorial to Bobby so that those who see it might have a glimpse into this remarkable man who changed so many lives.

"Ride with love in your hearts and a smile on your face," Bobby would always say at the beginning of the ride. It's a good way to live your life as well.

Kate Leppanen  
Arlington, MA



From: **Jeremy Kriegel** [jkriegel@redsox.com](mailto:jkriegel@redsox.com)  
Subject: **Letter for Bobby**  
Date: **December 12, 2014 at 5:43 PM**  
To: [Adrian.M.Liguori@redsox.com](mailto:Adrian.M.Liguori@redsox.com)



To whom it may concern,

There are few people in my life who have made as profound an impact on me as Bobby Mac. Not only has he changed my life, but he has helped me to change the lives of many others.

In college I had a scare. For a brief period of time, it seemed as if I might have been HIV+. In 1995, while it seemed as if HIV/AIDS was much more prominent in the media than it is today, there was still a stigma attached to getting tested. Not wanting to go to the campus health center, I found a public clinic that administered the tests and had it done.

In those days, you could call and get your results over the phone. When I did, the receptionist asked me to hold, and put the phone down on the desk while she went to fetch my records.

A few moments later, I clearly heard her say, "Oh, shit."

I blacked out, and fell over backwards onto my bed. The soft impact brought me back to consciousness. They had lost my results and I had to return to have the test done a second time.

I feel like I know what it is like when someone first learns that they are HIV+. During the two weeks I had to wait for the second set of test results, I sat with my mortality, trying to imagine how my life would change if the results came back positive. I was lucky. The results were negative, and it was still another six months before an additional test could conclusively prove it.

For me, it was a scare, but for others, it is just the beginning. Had things been different, someone else might be doing charity rides in memory of me.

When I first saw an ad for the Northeast AIDS Ride in a local Boston paper in 2001, it reminded me of my own HIV/AIDS experience and my now dormant love of biking. I decided to do it. I was out of shape. I didn't have the right gear. I really had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Luckily, I stumbled on Bobby Mac's training rides. Bobby did more than just teach the mechanics of riding. He taught us the rules of the road, how to be safe and respectful, and most importantly, how much we were doing to help others in need. Bobby built a community around charity riding and helped hundreds of people train and raise countless thousands of dollars for AIDS and other charities.

I can think of no one more deserving of a monument in Arlington to commemorate his selfless sacrifice and continue to inspire others to give to the world as he did.

Jeremy Kriegel  
42 Grafton St. #2  
Arlington, MA 02474

From: **Jen Perrin** relax2323@hotmail.com  
Subject: **Bobby Mac**  
Date: **December 12, 2014 at 6:00 PM**  
To: anke911@gmail.com

I met Bobby Mac originally while working for the Mass Red Ribbon Ride for the AIDS Action Committee back in 2003. I lived close by Quad, and he convinced me to go on group rides with them. Bobby used to warm my heart with his bluesy tunes he used to belt out as we would start riding and amuse me with stories of cooking for the MIT Frat boys and his amazing cooking. Bobby had a profound influence on many people's lives and could make just about anyone smile. He is forever in our hearts and missed. I am glad he came into my life, and know he will live on forever in our hearts.

Jen Perrin

From: **Rustem Gode** rustem.gode@gmail.com  
Subject: **Letter in support of the Bobby Mac Memorial**  
Date: **December 12, 2014 at 5:53 PM**  
To: **Anke Schafer** anke911@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

I am the owner of Quad Cycles, and I've had my shop in Arlington since 2000. I'm writing to support Anke Schafer's efforts to put a memorial to Robert "Bobby Mac" McMurray on the Minuteman Bikeway.

The Bikeway is one of the most popular cycling paths in the country; over 2 million people use the path every year. Bobby Mac was more than just another rider on the path: he was the organizer of group rides leaving from our shop every Saturday and Sunday. Our rides became famous for being the perfect environment for new cyclists to develop their skills, build their fitness, and learn how to prepare for charity rides they'd signed up for as, perhaps, the first thing they'd done on a bicycle since childhood - or ever.

Bobby made those rides perfect. He kept the pace moving - but never too fast that we'd lose everyone. He made sure that no matter how hard it was for you, you'd know where the route was taking you, and he'd be cheering you on the whole way. He had his own story of near self-destruction, and coming back to life through cycling, and he wanted others to have their own rebirths through the sport as well. I wanted to pay him for it, but he always refused. For him, it would have cheapened something sacred.

There are thousands of riders who've learned, directly or indirectly, how to ride like Bobby: with love in their hearts and smiles on their faces. And for the millions of riders out there on the Minuteman Bikeway who never got to meet him, I want them to have a memorial so that they can know what he meant to us, and so that more riders learn from Bobby what cycling - and moving through life's challenges - should be.

Rustem Gode  
Owner, Quad Cycles

From: **jphirtle** (jphirtle@quad.com)  
Subject: **Bobby Letter**  
Date: **December 12, 2014 at 5:48 PM**  
To: **Andy@117-quad.com**

Hey,

Here goes:

In 1999 I moved with my eleven-year-old daughter to my family home in Lexington from L.A. where I had lost my wife to cancer. I was not in the best of shape, emotionally or physically, and facing the prospect of moving back in with my parents after twenty years on my own was not the greatest of prospects either. In the midst of all this, I was in the process of changing careers.

I decided that I could improve both my mental and physical state by rekindling my enthusiasm for cycling which had served me well in my youth. I happened in to Quad Cycles in Arlington to upgrade my old bike, and it was there that I met Rustem Göde, the proprietor, and Robert MacMurray (Bobby Mac). Thus began my journey from novice/recreational cyclist to ride leader/racer.

I began joining the weekend group rides from the store with Bobby Mac, and we soon became good friends. Over the course of a few years, I rode thousands of miles with Bobby and my new friends in the fledgling Arlington Bicycle Club and Quad Cycles Racing Team. Bobby encouraged me to participate in my first charity bike ride, raising money to combat HIV/AIDS. Bobby had overcome some serious obstacles in his life through cycling, and wanted to share what he had learned with others by leading rides to train people for charity rides, or just to improve skills while having fun with others. We did many charity rides to raise funds for and awareness of not only HIV/AIDS, but also cystic fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, cancer and more. Bobby over the years became a fixture at the Quad Cycles bike shop, and as his job as a cook for a fraternity at MIT gave him summers off, during those months if he was not on the bicycle, he was in the shop, helping out in any way he could.

Even before I met Bobby, he had been diagnosed with macular degeneration. That did not deter him in the least. He got sport glasses with colored lenses that helped his fading vision on rides. His vision deficiency precluded his having a driver's license, but he was one of the safest riders I have known, having had in the more than twelve years I knew him, only a few minor scrapes.

Bobby was one of my closest and most trusted friends, and a truly exemplary person whose enthusiasm for life and cycling was contagious. He touched so many souls in a positive way, became known throughout the New England cycling community, and left a mark that won't fade any time soon. I consider it a great privilege to have had him call me his friend. He never stopped offering up wisdom and positive reinforcement, even as he lay dying from the pancreatic cancer that snatched him away from us far too soon.

A marker along the Minute Man Bikeway on which he became a ubiquitous feature, frequently greeting or giving advice to friends and strangers alike seems a fitting tribute to my friend, and a reminder to those who see it of the legacy he left us with.

Sent on a Samsung Galaxy S@4

December 12th, 2014

Dear Arlington Public Memorials Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for a public memorial to Bobby Mac on the Arlington bike path. Bobby took a handful of seemingly ordinary elements--a bicycle, a bike path, an outgoing personality, a cheerful disposition, a goofy sense of humor, and a commitment to thinking the best of everyone--and accomplished something extraordinary with them.

You've probably heard by now how Bobby brought himself back from the brink of death by riding back and forth on the bike path, sometimes up to 100 miles. Having experienced the good health effects of riding a bike, the general pleasure of being on a bike, and the camaraderie of doing it with others, Bobby dedicated his life to bringing others into the same experience.

In his hosting of Quad Cycles' weekend rides, Bobby welcomed everyone who came along, no matter what shape they or their bikes were in, making them feel like they belonged, and leading them to believe that they could accomplish what they never had before. Bobby used gentle but dogged, relentlessly positive encouragement to very successfully do what I've seen no one else do: coax hundreds of people toward regular exercise and good health.

Bobby didn't only get people to exercise; he led them to have fun themselves and to make the world a better place while doing it. Bobby personally raised many thousands of dollars for countless different causes, most especially curing AIDs and cystic fibrosis. He also recruited dozens of people every year to do the same.

Bobby also used his bike rides to be an ambassador for goodwill and civility. On his daily trips up and down the bike path, Bobby was kind and attentive to the people with whom he shared the path, with a wave and a friendly greeting for most everyone he passed. And he inspired that kindness, friendliness, and attention to the common good in the dozens of people with whom he rode and in a great many of the people he merely passed, starting every ride with the rallying cry, 'Be nice to everyone, and ride with smiles on your faces and love in your hearts.'

Bobby brought out the best in the people with whom he interacted, and he spread joy, good health, and good will wherever he went. I could not imagine a better way to celebrate Bobby's life than with a memorial to him on the bike path.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian Acker Housman

From: ikmalo@earthlink.net  
Subject: Bobby  
Date: December 13, 2014 at 1:44 PM  
To: anke911@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

This is a hard letter to write. I'm still grieving Bobby Mac, and encapsulating his gifts into a few sentences is an almost impossible task. But Bobby has done so much for the cycling community and the town of Arlington in general that I felt strongly about urging you to allow us to place a memorial for him along the bike path. This would be the perfect tribute.

Bobby led by example. Long before I met him, when I moved to Arlington, I bought a bike and would ride up and down the path. But I hesitated to attempt anything more serious because the hard-core cyclists, with their Spandex and bike shoes and ultra-fit physiques, were so intimidating. The first time I met Bobby, when I finally decided to try a weekend Quad Ride, he introduced himself with, "I'm Bobby Mac and I used to weigh three hundred pounds!" He made me feel like anything was possible, and I know he had the same effect on the the hundreds of new riders who came out to train for their first charity ride or just to try to get in shape. His message became all the more powerful when I discovered that he was legally blind. He was no natural athlete, and having overcome so much himself, he could take people who had never been fit, people recovering from illness or surgery, people who had never had reason to believe in themselves, and eventually coax them through the sixty-two mile group ride and into a 100-mile charity ride. I miss his presence on the road--his coaching, his singing, his pep talks. He told me once that sometimes the ride changed people's lives. It certainly changed mine, and I suspect that for countless others as well as myself, he was the actual agent of change.

When I met Bobby I was tentative and reserved, a work-a-colic unaccustomed to exercising outside of the gym. Bobby pushed and coaxed, urging me to ride with the "fast kids," convincing me to race, training me for my own first big charity ride, extolling my virtues to the group and ultimately whispering in my ear about how to be a good leader. Within a year I was one of his "road captains," leading groups of riders and happily spending each weekend on the bike. I found confidence and real joy on Bobby's ride; it made me more able to tackle challenges both on and off the road. I know other people learned similar lessons from Bobby Mac.

Bobby did so much for the town, and he himself learned to ride on the bike path, sometimes doing enough laps on it to total 100 miles. A memorial there would be such a fitting way to honor a man who did so much to teach people to honor themselves.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Zeuli  
25 Warren St., Arlington

From: **Michael Burstin** mikeb@cs.brandeis.edu  
Subject: **Bobby letter**  
Date: **December 13, 2014 at 4:48 PM**  
To: Anke911@gmail.com

Anke, hopefully I'm not too late!

I can't think of anyone who has been more influential in my cycling skills and enthusiasm than Bobby Mac. I never could have imagined doing a century without the leadership and knowledge Bobby shared. I spent nearly 10 years riding along with Bobby Mac and the Quadies and can't think of anyone with a more contagious enthusiasm for riding than Bobby. Throughout the years he was a fixture on the Minute Man Bike Path and beyond, recruiting new riders for various charity rides. A marker along the path would be very fitting for such an influential cyclist.

From: Jeffrey Ichikawa [jichikawa@gmail.com](mailto:jichikawa@gmail.com)  
Subject: Re: Bobby Mac Memorial  
Date: December 13, 2014 at 4:22 AM  
To: Anke Schäfer [anke011@gmail.com](mailto:anke011@gmail.com)



good luck!

Jeffrey K. Ichikawa, Ph.D.  
[jichikawa@gmail.com](mailto:jichikawa@gmail.com)

December 12, 2014

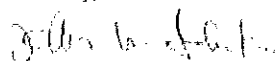
I moved to Boston in the Fall of 2000 to begin my post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. Being new to the area, I was anxious to find new social groups. As an avid cyclist already with several charity fundraising rides under my belt, I had heard about the Northeast AIDS ride, from New York to Boston, and registered to ride the event in 2001. Through colleagues at Harvard Medical School, I had heard about the Arlington Bicycle Club and was told that I had to meet the 'legendary' Bobby Mac (also a rider in the event). I quickly learned that Bobby Mac (aka Robert McMurray) was so much more than just an organizer and leader; he was a mentor, motivator and guru all in one. Every year, as the season began, new members would show up for their first ride in several years with an old mountain bike that had sat idle in the garage or basement wearing running shorts and sneakers. No matter how slow or wobbly they would be, Bobby would always motivate by telling his own story of being on a similar old bike, morbidly obese and barely being able to ride to the end of the Minuteman bikeway. Bobby would without a doubt wait for these new riders to catch up, giving positive feedback and tips to help keep them going. I have watched countless numbers of these riders transform into seasoned cyclists, completing century (100 mile) rides and multi-day charity rides, such as the Pan Mass Challenge. Through the Arlington Bicycle Club, Bobby Mac brought together people from all across the Boston-Cambridge area and all walks of life. He has inspired countless cyclists (both new and seasoned) to join one of the many charity rides in the New England Area. I also met my wife on the Bobby Mac ride, which she had heard was a good training group for the Pan Mass Challenge and that Bobby was a great mentor for this training.

On a personal note, Bobby Mac became my friend and inspiration whenever facing life's struggles and to always find the positive in a negative situation. I learned on that first Northeast AIDS ride that Bobby had macular degeneration, which was starting to affect his vision. Bobby always found a way to stay on his bike more or less all year round, even as his vision declined over the years.

Bobby Mac and the Arlington Bicycle Club became so much more to me than just a social group and really became a family for me. I also believe that the Minuteman Bikeway was his home, which he knew like the back of his hand. It represented his freedom and was usually where he would catch up with old friends, while rolling the ride out for the day and winding down from a long day on the bike.

I fully support the Bobby Mac memorial and cannot think of a more fitting location. I have no doubt his spirit lives on along the Minuteman Bikeway.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey K. Ichikawa Ph.D.



Good day!

*At our country store in Carlisle center, we get hundreds of bicyclists stopping by every weekend. Hundreds. Most are courteous and nice enough. But then there was Bobby Mac. Gregarious beyond comparison. Upbeat beyond the sun shining in the sky. Friendly as the day is long. Bobby Mac had a way with people. On each and every ride he led, he motivated when his fellow bikers were questioning their resolve. He'd tell stories that held meaningful lessons. He'd easily move from a soft conversation to a loud raucous song. But most importantly, he represented the cycling community as a sterling example of how you should behave as a cyclist. He taught the rules of the road to hundreds and hundreds of 'newbies' and his teachings created safer understandings on the road. Then there were the days when he'd travel out with a good friend on a slow, casual ride. The two of them would sit on the bench on our porch and just enjoy the day and their friendship. Bobby Mac was a good person. Our store is a different place without him stopping by. We miss him. We firmly believe that having a plaque dedicated to him on the Minuteman Bikeway would be a fitting tribute to a man who did more for the cycling community than anyone else we know. Without question, so, so many would pass it and cause them to remember his parting send off as they'd move on "Ride with love in your hearts and smiles on your faces."*

Larry & Robin Bearfield

Co-Proprietors

Ferns Country Store

To the Arlington Selectmen,  
From Joy Ahearn, 37 Benjamin Road, Arlington MA 02476 (resident since 1992)

Subject: Bobby Mac's influence

I hope to express the undeniably great and unique influence for the good that Bobby Mac had on my life, and from what I've witnessed, on the lives of EVERYONE he touched.

**Meeting Bobby Mac.** It was the spring of 2003 that I first walked into Quad Cycles on Mass. Ave. in Arlington Heights, the bike shop just a few blocks from my home. I was hoping to get a tune up because I had recovered from bunion surgery and quit my full-time job, and was ready to start cycling in earnest again. (I had ridden with the Charles River Wheelmen from 1992-2002.) The shop owner Rustem Gode greeted me warmly, looked at my bike, said I had a beautiful frame, but that I needed "new stuff". A minute later, another guy (Bobby) greeted me with exuberance and said, "Do you know the Bobby Mac story?!" I said no, and then Bobby Mac proceeded to tell me how he had been vastly overweight, in trouble with his health, and decided to just start riding on the Minuteman bike path, up and down, up and down, and the pounds came off. He decided he wanted to share his new found love of health-through-cycling, and teamed up with Rustem to be the bike shop's "ride master" and trainer of people for charity rides.

I couldn't quite figure out from where this EXTRA measure of exuberance came, that emanated from this man, but I was enticed to join him on a ride. So I showed up for a Saturday morning ride with Bobby and a handful of others. We had a great time, and I became a regular. It was nice to just ride my bike from my house to the ride start (with the Wheelmen, I always had to put my bike in the car and drive miles to the start).

When I rolled up on my bike at Quad, Bobby would always greet me with the warmest of greetings, as if his day just got a LOT better because I showed up. Midway through the rides, we'd stop in Carlisle for coffee and an energy snack, and Bobby would either listen raptly to someone's story, or fill any silence by regaling us with his stories, usually of feeding his 60 guys in the fraternity where he was the cook. He always made sure we stayed together, that no one got left behind or left out. Like a shepherd.

I had never ridden through the winter before – always holed up inside and rode my rollers. But Bobby showed me how to buy the best winter gear, and we kept riding outside whenever possible, always warmed by his good cheer. He had the spirit of Christmas all winter long.

**The Encourager.** Bobby was often in training mode, telling people who were new and not very fast that they could do it, they COULD train for this charity ride. He would coach them on their pedal stroke, and praise them for climbing every hill. One of my favorite moments of riding was cresting a hill with Bobby on my wheel and hearing him say, "Good work." He turned all of regulars into his training partners for the "Newbies," as he would call them. We were a team of shepherds under Bobby's charisma.

**Nobody quite like Bobby Mac.** When Bobby began to lose his sight from macular degeneration, he told us the news gently and only infrequently gave us updates. He started riding behind us and using us to help guide him on the road. He liked it when I wore bright socks, so I'd do that just for him. He NEVER complained about his loss of sight. He'd joke about going to "blind school," and about the cool audio machines he got to listen to books on CD. We all were sad and worried for him, but he never gave us cause to be sad in his presence! I have never in my life met anyone so uniquely inspiring and truly loving as Bobby Mac.

CONNECTIONS

# The lasting legacy of biking guru Bobby Mac

He picked up cycling in his 50s, rode through eyesight loss, and kept scores of us inspired.



GRACIA LAM

By **Cara Feinberg** | AUGUST 10, 2014

In the last 20 years of his life, Bobby Mac rode his bike nearly every day of summer and most days in winter, though he could see little more than a blur of colors. Early-onset macular degeneration had stolen most of his central vision and continued to claim pieces daily. No one could understand quite how he managed it. But we knew there was no telling him otherwise; Bobby was riding that bike.

Bobby Mac was actually Robert McMurray, the least likely bike guru there was. He began biking in his 50s after a doctor read him the riot act. At 300 pounds, he was “a gawnah,” he’d say in his thick North Shore accent — the famous first words of his “Fat Bobby” story. When a bike path was built through Arlington, Bobby had started riding an old knobby-tired bike back and forth, and kept at it as he met people to ride with. “I’m telling you, anyone can do this . . .” It was a story that got hundreds of people off the couch over the years, one that got me riding, too.

CONTINUE READING BELOW ▼

In the late '90s, I heard Bobby speak at an information session for the Boston-to-New York AIDS ride. Over the years, he rode in dozens of charity rides like this one and inspired scores of people to do the same. He made his recruits feel as if they’d walked into the right place. Whoever you were, you had just what this team needed.

The thing is, it wasn’t generic. Once you joined the team, Bobby got to know you. People became the “Amazing” so-and-so or the “World-Renowned” whoever-you-were. For me, I became “The Lovely Cara.” Which got shortened to LC, which eventually just became the name Elsie. And that’s what he called me for 15 years.

I rode two charity rides with him and trained with him for several summers, but, really, that’s only half the story. What began as a mentorship eventually became a treasured friendship — despite a three-decade age difference. Over the years, I heard many tales from The Great Bobby Mac, the leader who buoyed riders with bawdy jokes and well-timed songs to power up hills. But eventually I heard some of the more private Robert McMurray stories — the terror of losing his eyesight among them. A few years ago, when I made a short film about blind woodworkers — who’d lost their sight and then learned to use hammers and power saws — Bobby sat in the front row for the screening at a Boston film festival. The next day he e-mailed me: “Your film changes everything. If they can do that, I can do this. You have no idea.”

We had frank discussions after that about what it would be like to lose your sight — and I had the chance to reflect back what he’d given me. My response could have been written by anyone who knew him: “Bobby, you changed everything for me. If you can do that, I can do this. You have no idea.”

I think we all feared Bobby's near-blind riding would kill him . . . the road littered with unseen hazards. Instead, it was pancreatic cancer that stole him swiftly this past March. Before he died, I decided that this summer I'd bike one of his favorite charity rides along the coast of Maine. Only my real life took over and I never managed to train for it.

So instead of riding in the July event, I became a volunteer — wearing a T-shirt with his picture on it and handing out orange slices and water at one of the ride's pit stops. It wasn't the way I planned to honor him. But with Bobby, whatever you were good at, whatever your gift was, you had something to offer. That was his real talent: getting people to come as they were, yet to see themselves as they could be.

*Cara Feinberg is a freelance writer for print and documentary television. Send comments to [connections@globe.com](mailto:connections@globe.com).*

**TELL YOUR STORY.** E-mail your 650-word essay on a relationship to [connections@globe.com](mailto:connections@globe.com). Please note: We do not respond to submissions we won't pursue.

SHOW 1 COMMENT

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# Honoring Bobby Mac

## Local rider has served as an inspiration

By Jennifer Mann

Staff Writer

Bobby Mac found his calling, and eventually a band of faithful followers, by performing an act of self-preservation: He rode a bike.

It was 15 years ago, and Robert McMurray — called Bobby Mac by everyone — weighed 300 pounds. His doctors told him to drop his waistline for the sake of his health, so the Arlington resident picked up a 10-speed and began peddling. He traveled from Arlington Center to Lexington Center pedaling a little more than three miles.

When Bobby Mac arrived in Lexington, "I just sat under a tree — I was just completely out of it," he said.

But he repeated the trek, and gradually increased his distance. Eventually, the weight came off.

"I like to say there's an ounce of me up and down Massachusetts Avenue," he said last week with a chuckle.



Courtesy photo  
Arlingtonian Bobby Mac, front, who has inspired many bicyclists, will be honored during The Tour De Mac on Saturday.

Bobby Mac, Page 23

# Cyclists honoring one of

## Bobby Mac, from Page 1

The 57-year-old is now lean and toned, with gray hair and smile lines the only indicator of his age. He is satisfied with life, with bounding steps and axioms on how to approach your days, particularly if it starts or ends on a bike.

"I just can't imagine life without being on a bicycle," he said.

Bobby Mac works as a "house mother" and cook at the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at MIT, which leaves time in the afternoons, weekends and summer for his passion. Over the past 10 years, he has been leading free training sessions and group rides to share the joy of cycling with others.

His goal, he said, is "to take the mystique out of road riding."

From the Quad Cycles bike shop in Arlington Heights, where he volunteers his time, Bobby Mac leads bikers every Saturday and Sunday on a 54-mile loop through Lexington, Bedford, Concord, Carlisle, Chelmsford and Billerica, with stopping points where less experienced riders can cut back toward Arlington. He also has weeknight rides for teenagers and adults from Fitness First, further down on Mass. Ave.

"Bobby has touched hundreds of local cyclists through weekly training rides at Quad Cycles, individual sessions and his involvement in local events," said Jack Johnson, chairman of the Arlington Bicycle Committee.

Those who ride with Bobby Mac get tips on cycling, couched in praise, enthusiasm and opti-

mism — and all for free. "I would never, ever charge for this," he said, adding it is a way to give back "for the bicycle saving my life."

A community has formed around Bobby Mac, and on Saturday, those he has helped will give back. His riders and friends have organized the "Tour De Mac" — the same 54-mile loop, but in honor of their peddling prophet, and with extra surprises along the way.

"The Tour De Mac on June 17 will give us all an opportunity to give a little something back to the man who tirelessly devotes his life to others and to celebrate the life of Bobby Mac — trainer, mentor and friend," said Anke Schafer, who recently moved to Arlington.

He has been more than just leader of the pack, Quad Cycles riders say. He has motivated young and old, beginners to experts. There is Team Turtle, a group of women who join each weekend at the midway point in Carlisle Center, at Fern's restaurant. Or there is the 64-year-old woman who Bobby Mac coached to her first long-distance charity ride. Up to 50 to 60 people join the rides each weekend.

"I have watched people transform because they have an exercise outlet," Bobby Mac said. "I believe everyone can do it."

One of his favorite maxims is: "You can go fast, you can go long, but you can't go fast for long. You have to go at your own pace."

He also starts every ride with: "We're going to ride with love in

our hearts and smiles on our faces."

"There's just such a generosity of spirit with him — it's contagious," Schafer said.

"He's been very inspirational to so many people," added Rustem Gode, owner of Quad Cycles.

What is even more inspiring, his friends said, is that Bobby Mac is legally blind. Macular Degeneration has slowly reducing his eyesight to the point where he only sees general shapes and forms.

Yet he displays a determination not to let that keep him off the roads.

"The potholes sneak up, but I can still see the big picture," he said. "It's like life — whatever I get to, I know I'll be able to handle it."

### Riding for a cause

Bobby Mac's influence has spread beyond the streets of Arlington. Beginning in his early days of cycling, he has channeled the activity toward a good cause.

His first charity ride was 12 years ago, when he participated in a ride for AIDS awareness stretching from New York City to Boston. He recalled being amazed at the selflessness riders exhibited. A group called "Positive Peddlers" — HIV positive individuals who were riding — left a particularly poignant impression on him.

"Here were these vibrant, alive people biking with HIV, and that motivated me like you'll never believe," he said.

Bobby Mac is a well-known figure within the Mass Red Rib-

bon Ride, a two-day charity event that benefits eight AIDS organizations in the state.

"He has been a major mover and shaker with our ride since it started," said Andi Genser, manager of the Mass Red Ribbon Ride. She said it is volunteers like Bobby Mac who "are really the driving force behind the event."

Quad Cycles has its own team that participates in the ride, which last year included Schafer and Gode. Gode's wife, Tulin Ay, who had never ridden before, joined Bobby Mac on a 2001 AIDS ride that ran 375 miles.

"Whenever I was riding, he was singing behind me," she said. "And that is what I needed."

Charity riders, in fact, make up a large portion of the riders who join Bobby Mac on his weekend treks, whether it is for the Red Ribbon Ride or the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge.

"He's devoted his life basically, and it doesn't just stop with the weekend ride," Schafer said. Bobby Mac said, "There is a ride every single weekend for something."

Schafer remembered when she first showed up at Quad Cycles last April in gym shorts on an old mountain bike, unfamiliar with the rules of the road and doubtful she could ever complete an extensive cycling route.

Under Bobby Mac's tutelage, she was able to complete her first charity ride in August: the 175-mile Mass Red Ribbon Ride with the Quad Cycles team.

"He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself," she said. "The day I finished the ride



# f their own

ust took a step back — I couldn't believe it and I attribute it all to Bobby."

Schafer, who said she sees more such rides in her future, laughed with a laugh: "I went from newbie to a charity rider to be reckoned with."

*The Tour De Mac is on Saturday, June 17 with registration open to the public. Riders will meet at Quad Cycles, 1346*

*Mass. Ave., between 8:15 and 8:45 a.m. to depart at 9 a.m.*

*A donation of \$30 is requested for participation in the ride and lunch, with amounts after expenses donated to a charity of Bobby Mac's choice. To register and learn more, visit:*

*[www.bobbymac.org](http://www.bobbymac.org). More information on the Mass Red Ribbon Ride can be found at [www.massredribbonride.org](http://www.massredribbonride.org).*

# Calendar

## People

### DIANA BROWN



JUSTIN IDE

This Saturday's "Tour de Mac" will honor Arlington's Bobby Mac, bicycle trainer extraordinaire.

**MAN AT THE WHEEL:** Never mind that **Bobby Mac** is legally blind and slowly losing his sight to macular degeneration — the Arlington man is the volunteer trainer behind hundreds of novice cyclists who have joined charity bike rides over the years, seeking Mac's expertise before attempting to ride hundreds of miles. On Saturday, Mac's proteges are planning a special ride in his honor called "Tour de Mac," beginning at Quad Cycles in Arlington Heights. Mac started riding when he weighed 300 pounds and was physically out of shape. Many of Mac's trainees are preparing to ride in the Mass Red Ribbon Ride, a two-day, 175-mile ride that benefits eight AIDS organizations in Massachusetts on Aug. 12 and 13. The Tour de Mac will be a

support, since he has been a longtime patient at Children's Hospital in Boston for cerebral palsy. The Wad-dills will attend a dinner at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park along with pediatric doctors, researchers, and hospital staff. The group will also meet with the New England congressional delegation for breakfast as well as do some sight-seeing.

**THREE DAYS IN SERVICE:** Concord's **Ryan Bagley** was one of 20 Boston College High students who spent three days doing community service projects in and around Boston as part of the private Catholic high school's "Arrupe Challenge." On the first day, the students attended Mass at St. James Parish in Chriatown and





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# Q Factor

Official Newsletter of QuadCycles, the QuadCycles Race Team, and the Arlington Bicycle Club

Fall 2006



## "TOUR DE MAC" A GREAT SUCCESS

"With smiles on faces and love in hearts"

By John Hirtle

On Saturday June 17, QuadCycles hosted the "Tour de Mac" - a ride and party to honor our renowned endurance trainer, motivator and mentor, Robert MacMurray, a.k.a. Bobby Mac. The event was the culmination of the combined efforts of many enthusiastic volunteers and sponsors who pitched in to bring the brainchild of Arlington Bicycle Club member and friend of Bobby, Anke Schafer to fruition.

Anke joined ABC last year to train for the Mass Red Ribbon Ride ("MR3" - which benefits HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs in Massachusetts), a daunting task for a novice rider contemplating 175 hilly miles in two days. Under the tutelage of Bobby Mac, Anke purchased a new bike from QuadCycles, and participated

in most of our club's weekend training rides, in a short time showing she had "the stuff" to do the MR3 like a veteran. Like many of us who have done the ride, she signed up to do it again this year. As our training got under way in the spring, Anke proposed the idea of having the club do something to give back to Bobby a little of what he has done for so many. The plan for the benefit ride was hatched, tasks were delegated and the wheels began turning.

Rustem offered his home for the post-ride party, Red Bones Barbecue offered food for 50, and Fern's Country Store in Carlisle would provide free snacks and beverages at our lunch stop. Articles were published in the *Boston Globe* and *Arlington AdvoCate* as well as on line through the Mass Bike

newsletter about the coming Tour de Mac and Bobby. ABC member Tony Holowitz purchased the domain name [www.bobby-mac.org](http://www.bobby-mac.org), created and hosted the site promoting the ride and providing the means for on-line registration/donations. Scott Miley, John D and Elizabeth Blevins videotaped and edited interviews with many of us who had Bobby stories to tell. Jenn Kay Goodman collected "Bobby-isms" and incorporated them into tee shirts that she "ironed-on" herself. Yours truly, Johnny H, spray painted route-markings and warnings on the potholes. Fitness First Gym offered the use of showers and locker rooms after the ride.



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Committee offers advice in Arlington Superintendent's evaluation

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# Honoring Bobby Mac



Recommended 25

 Posted Jun. 15, 2006 @ 12:01 am  
 Updated Jun 15, 2006 at 3:00 PM

By Jennifer Mann

Arlington

Bobby Mac found his calling, and eventually a band of faithful followers, by performing an act of self-preservation: He rode a bike.

It was 15 years ago, and Robert McMurray - called Bobby Mac by everyone - weighed 300 pounds. His doctors told him to drop his waistline for the sake of his health, so the Arlington resident picked up a 10-speed and began peddling: He traveled from Arlington Center to Lexington Center pedaling a little more than three miles.

When Bobby Mac arrived in Lexington, "I just sat under a tree - I was just completely out of it," he said.

But he repeated the trek, and gradually increased his distance. Eventually, the weight came off.

"I like to say there's an ounce of me up and down Massachusetts Avenue," he said last week with a chuckle.

The 57-year-old is now lean and toned, with gray hair and smile lines the only indicator of his age. He is satisfied with life, with bounding steps and axioms on how to approach your days, particularly if it starts or ends on a bike.

"I just can't imagine life without being on a bicycle," he said.

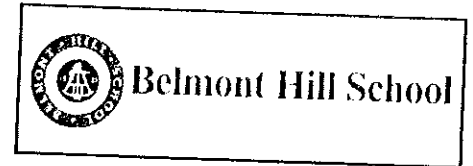
Bobby Mac works as a "house mother" and cook at the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at MIT, which leaves time in the afternoons, weekends and summer for his passion. Over the past 10 years, he has been leading free training sessions and group rides to share the joy of cycling with others.

His goal, he said, is "to take the mystique out of road riding."

From the Quad Cycles bike shop in Arlington Heights, where he volunteers his time, Bobby Mac leads bikers every Saturday and Sunday on a 54-mile loop through Lexington, Bedford, Concord, Carlisle, Chelmsford and Billerica, with stopping points where less experienced riders can cut back toward Arlington. He also has weeknight rides for teenagers and adults from Fitness First, further down on Mass. Ave.

"Bobby has touched hundreds of local cyclists through weekly training rides at Quad Cycles, individual sessions and his involvement in local events," said Jack Johnson, chairman of the Arlington Bicycle Committee.

Those who ride with Bobby Mac get tips on cycling, couched in praise, enthusiasm and optimism -



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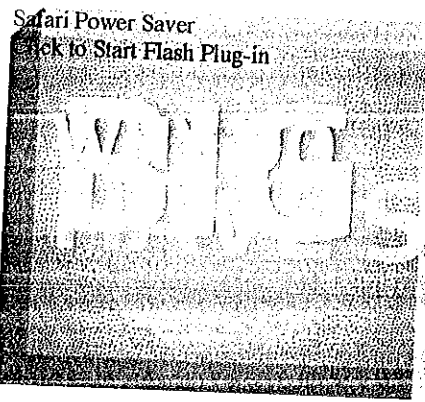
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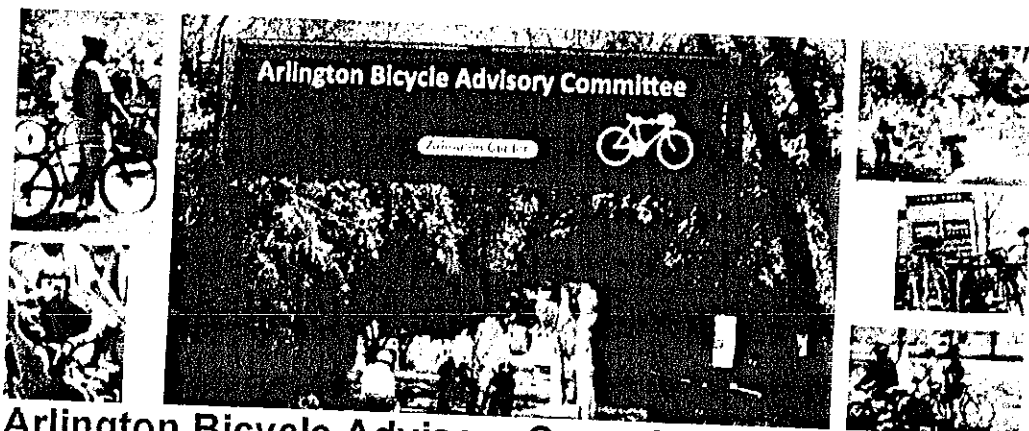
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## Remembering Bobby Mac (1949–2014)

— Jack Johnson, ABAC co-founder and board member

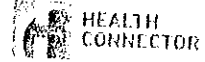
March 28, 2014



Bobby Mac passed away on March 23, 2014, from pancreatic cancer — less than a month after he was diagnosed. His given name was Robert McMurray, but nobody called him that — he was always Bobby Mac.

Bobby was legally blind and couldn't pass the vision test to drive a car. But that didn't stop him from riding a bike and leading popular training rides from [Quad Cycles](#) out of Arlington, although it wasn't always easy. He often needed to ride behind another cyclist to navigate safely. Several years ago, Bobby was knocked off his bike when he hit a fallen tree branch that he couldn't see in the road. Last fall, his vision declined even more, and he was mostly confined to riding in back of a tandem with his best cycling buddy, Johnny H. Those were the toughest rides he ever did, Bobby said. On his bike, Bobby Mac was a natural leader, so pedaling and balancing in back of a tandem was not his style.

Bobby Mac was one of those larger-than-life people, and he was always so relentlessly irrepressible that it's hard to believe that something like cancer could ever kill him. A natural bike advocate, he would start off by telling his story of how the [Minuteman Bikeway](#) saved his life. He went from overweight 300 pounds and unable to ride much more than a mile on the bike path to doing long-distance charity rides and sharing the joy of bicycling with everyone he encountered. One Arlington friend recalled that Bobby was a "generous and friendly man —



NEWS NOW

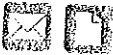
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# Arlington cyclist gets back on the road

Although Arlington resident Bobby Mac has been leading bike rides for 15 years, when he got back on two wheels a few months ago, it was a different experience.

Riding from Quad Cycles to Starbucks in Arlington Heights on the back of a tandem bicycle, Mac was recovering from a month in bed – not to mention he was legally blind.



Recommend 0



Zoom

Lexington resident John Hirtle and Arlington residents Bobby Mac and Kate Leppanen. Wicked Local staff photo / Monica Jimenez

**By Monica Jimenez / Wicked Local Arlington**  
Posted Apr. 27, 2013 @ 12:01 am  
Updated Apr 27, 2013 at 10:09 PM  
Arlington, Mass.

Although Arlington resident Bobby Mac has been leading bike rides for 15 years, when he got back on two wheels a few months ago, it was a different experience.

Riding from Quad Cycles to Starbucks in Arlington Heights on the back of a tandem bicycle, Mac was recovering from a month in bed – not to mention he was legally blind.

Already visually impaired, Mac received surgery last summer for an eye infection, which led to cataracts and near-total blindness. Another surgery in December restored some of his sight, but left him unable to see more than blurry outlines.

Determined to resume cycling, Mac got on a tandem bicycle with fellow rider John Hirtle of Lexington in January.

"I've jumped out of airplanes. Riding on the back of that bike was the scariest thing I've ever done," Mac said. "It felt like we were at sea."

It was tough, agreed Hirtle, one of the core group of cyclists who meet at Quad Cycles (called the Quaddies).

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"I dragged him around on the tandem and it was really, really fun, but very strange," Hirtle said. "We have two different riding styles. Bob tends to pedal more slowly with a lot of torque because he's bigger, but I'm lighter, so I tend to spin faster. We were working against each other in the beginning."

But Hirtle wasn't about to give up on Mac. When Hirtle himself got back into cycling after a break of three decades, fellow riders kept him going despite the challenges of getting in shape and learning his way around the modern bicycle, he said.

"You know people are going to miss you when you don't show up," Hirtle said.

Passion for riding forms strong bonds among members of the two-wheeled community, agreed Arlington resident Kate Leppanen, who began riding with the group shortly after moving to town eight years ago.

"The best conversations I've had have happened on a bike. My best friend, I met her on the bike," Leppanen said. "We're both pretty aggressive and we think suffering is fun. Bobby told me, 'The way she rides, you two are going to get along.'"

Another core member of the Quaddies, Leppanen's friend Jen Zeuli of Arlington, traveled to her first day of at her new job as a high school administrator with the Quaddies riding alongside her, Leppanen said.

While Mac was recovering from surgery, Zeuli took command of the group rides, delivering Mac's trademark safety reminders for cyclists: You have the same rights and responsibilities as cars. Stop for pedestrians. Share the road. Be nice to everyone.

"Jen was channeling Bobby Mac," Leppanen said. "She'd yell, 'Here's what we're going to do! We're going to respect the cars on the road! We're going to have a good day!'"

Prev 1 2 Next

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TVGUIDE



# Orny

## Off the Front: Bobby Mac

Off the Front: Bobby Mac

[Ornoth](#): 3/24/14 04:23 pm

How does one find the words to eulogize a true hero: a dear friend, a tireless mentor, a great benefactor, and a true inspiration?

When I did my first [Pan-Mass Challenge](#) charity ride back in 2001, my coworker Jeremy—who was doing the AIDS Ride—told me about a group training ride starting at [Quad Cycles](#) in Arlington. "It's run by this guy named Bobby Mac... You have to meet him!"

So one weekend I went out and rode with them. Bobby was a charismatic older guy who was the obvious center of the group. He'd bark out endless advice about how to ride, always interjecting a characteristic bit of self-deprecating humor or belting out snippets of songs from the 60s and 70s. He'd shamelessly (but harmlessly) flirt with the ladies, who all adored him. On the road, he always stayed with the slower riders, mentoring them and offering helpful advice for how to both survive and enjoy whatever charity rides they were training for.

### Bobby Mac made riding fun.

Like so many other neophyte riders, I started out wearing canvas cargo shorts and a tee shirt, riding a heavy, flat-handlebar "hybrid" bike. Over the course of thirteen years with him, Bobby sculpted me into a spandex-clad veteran roadie who rides 10,000 kilometers a year on his carbon-fiber road bike and has raised over \$100,000 for cancer research.

But I am just one person out of hundreds and hundreds of riders whom Bobby has encouraged over the years. Himself an inveterate charity rider, he and his team of "Quaddies" were often top fundraisers and volunteer crewmembers for several of the largest charity rides in the area. If you added up all the good works performed by Bobby Mac and the legions of riders he has encouraged, the sum total would be staggering.

As you can imagine, Bobby Mac was a huge part of the local community. He recorded several PSAs on behalf of charity rides and local cycling advocacy. No matter where we went, we'd always run into people who knew him. Whether you were a cyclist or not, it seemed everyone was friends with Bobby Mac. No matter who you were, he made it very easy to feel like you were his best friend.

We also loved Bobby for his idiosyncrasies. It was a mark of seniority if you could say that you'd seen him ingest anything other than [Cytomax sports drink](#). Back when the ride stopped at [Kimball Farm](#), Bobby proved that his popularity extended even to barnyard animals, as "Buff the Powerbar-Eating Goat" would run up to the fence to greet him and receive a treat.

As he aged, Bobby suffered from macular degeneration which gradually eroded his eyesight. I once watched him nearly ride straight into a sawhorse barrier that a road crew had put up when one of our regular roads was temporarily closed. It was a mark of real trust if Bobby let you lead him through a charity ride on unfamiliar roads he hadn't already memorized.

Due to his worsening eyesight, we all feared that Bobby would eventually be unable to ride. Knowing that his time was limited, in 2006 we organized the first Tour de Mac, a special ride in his honor, complete with tee shirts, rubber wristbands, and an award presentation for the guest of honor. In 2009 we held another ride to celebrate his 60th birthday, which I recorded with an emotional [writeup](#) and [video](#). Everyone loved Bobby, but despite repeated operations to maintain his vision, we all harbored silent fears about how much longer he would be able to ride.

However, Bobby wasn't destined to live long enough for his eyesight to fail him. Three weeks ago, Bobby went into the hospital, suffering from pancreatic cancer that had metastasized. It was terminal, and last night he passed away in his sleep at home.



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## Bobby Mac: Up Close and Personal

### Peddling for a Good Cause

Chef prepares cyclists for the AIDS Ride

BY WARREN RUDER

When I came to MIT, I expected to encounter men and women who would serve as examples of what mankind can achieve. As one of the greatest universities in the world, with some of the most accomplished faculty members anywhere, I was sure MIT would provide me with great role models and mentors. Indeed, I've met some wonderful and helpful faculty. But, most unexpectedly, one of the people whom I admire most is my fraternity's cook, Robert McMurray, or as he is popularly known, Bobby Mac. His story is one of compassion and life-altering change that can be universally respected.

As a fraternity house cook, Bobby Mac has the charisma and character you might expect from somebody who has to put up with the whims and idiosyncrasies of fifty MIT students every day. In the overworked, depressed world of MIT, he's always ready to greet you with a smile, salutation, and the offer of a free ear to hear your grievances. While I love his food, the most impressive thing about Bobby is what he does in his free time. During any given year, Bobby Mac cycles 6,000-7,000 miles while helping organize, recruit, and train about thirty novice riders for the Northeast AIDS Ride.

If you haven't heard of it, the Northeast AIDS Ride is a four-day, 350-mile ride from Bear Mountain, NY, to Boston, MA. Each rider provides his own bike and transportation in addition to a \$2,100 dollar minimum in donor pledges, the net proceeds of which directly benefit the New York City Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center and the Boston Fenway Community Health Center.

Since his first AIDS Ride, Bobby has become an accomplished competitive cyclist, known throughout the New England biking community for his work on behalf of the AIDS Ride, especially his training rides.

Bobby Mac's dedication and his training rides provide a special opportunity for dozens of people looking to challenge themselves in a new way. Most of his recruits are unsure about the Ride, but Bobby's own life story, coupled with his energy and magic, are enough to placate any self-doubt on the part of his riders.

To understand his uniqueness completely, you've got to understand the struggle this man faced in getting to this point in cycling. Bobby Mac was not always the ripped, lean, and super-fast cyclist he is today. In fact, his life was much different.

Thirteen years ago, Bobby Mac was so obese that doctors considered his condition life-threatening. At forty years old, he was told that if he didn't lose the weight, he would be dead in a few years. Instead of giving up hope, the then three-hundred pound cook pulled an old ten-speed out of his basement

notes clearly indicated the importance and purpose of the ride. I was  
... the company that organizes all the AIDSrides worldwide, Bob Bobby that  
... completed the AIDSride route. Thank you again for being ... such an  
... because of your wonderful, spirited attitude that I showed up every Saturday  
... to represent a small sampling of the fairly thoughtful riders who have believed  
... Bobby.

The work of Bobby Mac raises thousands of dollars for AIDS relief in the  
Boston area community. His dedication to the AIDSride and its participants  
crystallize an image of a caring man with a great purpose. To make a donation  
under Bobby's name, log into [www.bethepeople.com](http://www.bethepeople.com). Bobby Mac is rider  
#1055.

Warren Ruder MIT '02 ([wcruder@mit.edu](mailto:wcruder@mit.edu)) is racing  
in the Tour de France in 2012.



NEWS NOW ers advice in Arlington Superintendent's evaluation

Celebrating Janice Satlak-Mott, Arlington kindergarten teacher for 42 years

# Silent auction at Quad Cycles



0 Recommendations 1

Posted Jul. 11, 2014 @ 11:10 am

ARLINGTON

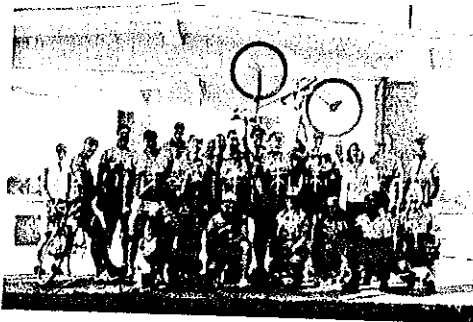
There will be a Silent Auction at Quad Cycles, 1043 Mass Ave, Arlington, on July 12, to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Come on in and get some great items for a great cause. The bidding begins at 10 a.m. at the shop and will stop promptly at 6 p.m. There is a special preview from 5 to 6 p.m. on Friday, July 11.

Quad Cycles is a proud supporter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, providing mechanical support for the yearly Seacoast Safari Ride to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

This year our team is dedicating the CFF ride to our beloved Ride Leader, Robert McMurray, aka Bobby Mac, who passed away in March.

Come on in to the shop, meet our team members and get some great stuff from our sponsors. Donations from local merchants gratefully accepted for the Silent Auction. For more information, contact Anke Schafer at 978-758-5670, and for more information about the foundation, go online to cff.org.



Zoom

Quad Cycles is a proud supporter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, providing mechanical support for the yearly Seacoast Safari Ride to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. It will hold a silent auction to benefit the foundation this Saturday, July 11, at the Mass. Ave. bike shop. Here is the Quad Cycle team, who is dedicating this year's CFF ride to our beloved Ride Leader, Robert McMurray, aka Bobby Mac, who passed away in March. Courtesy photo



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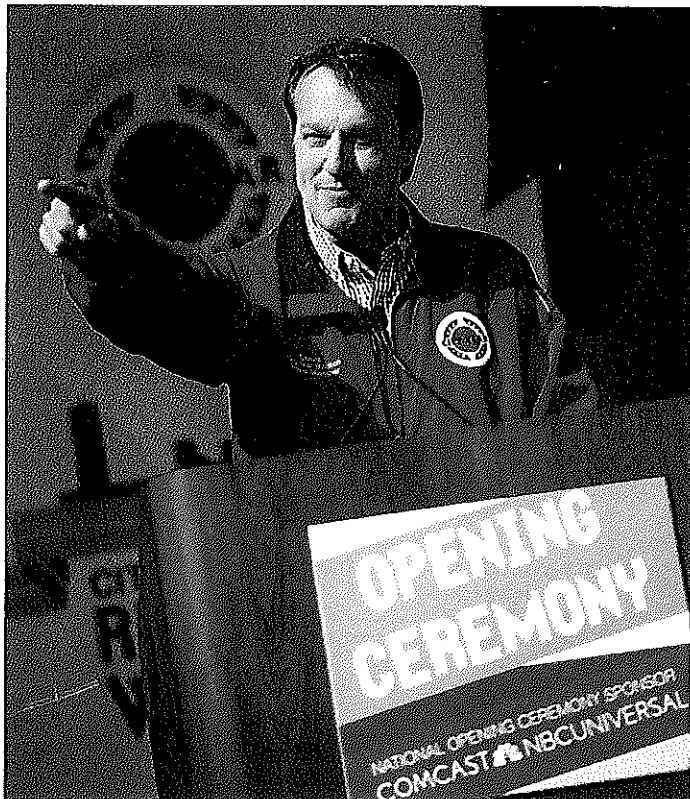
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City Year Corps Members enter the most at-risk schools to help bridge the gap between what their students need and what the schools are designed to provide. Comcast sponsors Opening Day for all City Year teams across the country as the Corps Members start their year of service in urban schools. Steve Hackley, Comcast Regional Senior Vice President and City Year Boston Advisory Board Member, spoke to 265 incoming City Year Corps Members about the year ahead, thanking them for their commitment to service and advising them to, "Serve well my friends."

*Steve Hackley, Comcast Regional Senior Vice President, gives remarks at City Year Boston's Opening Day.*



### Supporting Digital Literacy among Asian Resources

Supported by the Comcast Foundation, the Quincy Asian Resources Service Corps hosts a computer class that helps Chinese elders learn basic computer skills. This bilingual 5-week class is taught by youth volunteers who are developing community service, personal, and professional skills.

*Quincy Asian Resources Service Corps member instructing elder student on computer skills.*



## Alex's Place Continues to Bridge Digital Divide

Alex's Place at the Martha's Vineyard YMCA provides multifaceted events, programs and groups to teens that encourage not only digital literacy but offer them experiences that are specific to their interest areas and involve all things digital. Comcast has been thrilled to help this teen program grow from a "Y Without Walls" program to the vibrant center it is today. Comcast works with Alex's Place to create programs that reflect its mission as well as bridge digital deficiencies for families, teens, and elders in need. Monthly "Elder Tech Fairs," in which teens mentor elders, help elders demystify tech gear, and create new friendships between elders and teens.

Teens at Alex's Place talk about career development with Ellen Gaskill, local advertising consultant and social media manager.



## Computers and Comcast Create Healthy Connections

Comcast proudly supports Boys & Girls Clubs and refreshed the computers at Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester during Comcast Cares Day. Members are using this new equipment for homework, club projects, and educational enrichment activities, such as the healthy eating program.

Club members research healthy recipes for projects at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester.



## Using Power of Technology To Empower People with Disabilities

Rebecca Fracassa, Comcast Director of Community Investment, visited the Easter Seals of Massachusetts's Assistive Technology Lab to hear from about plans for enhancements to the lab's services via a Comcast Foundation Grant. Easter Seals and its Technology Lab offer support and assistive technology to improve the ability of individuals with significant disabilities to live independently. For someone with a disability, technology doesn't just make life more convenient; it is often the difference between independence and relying on others for the simplest of tasks.

Pictured L to R: Simon Escobar, Easter Seals Youth Leader, Rebecca Fracassa, Comcast Director of Community Investment, Will Fahey, Easter Seals Youth Leader, Kirk Joslin (standing) Easter Seals CEO, and Tiara Sergeant, Easter Seals Youth Leader.



## Comcast Receives Honor from Boston Technology School

Mattapan/Greater Boston School of Technology honored Comcast as Partner of the Year. This Boston school is an integral Internet Essentials Training Partner. Internet Essentials is the nation's largest and most comprehensive Internet adoption program.

Pictured L to R: Rebecca Fracassa, Comcast, Bukia Louis, Mattapan/Greater Boston School of Technology Board Member, Karrie Jean, Executive Director, Mattapan/Greater Boston School of Technology, and Mary Tuitt, Chief of Staff to State Representative Gloria Fox.



## United Way and Comcast "Stuff a Bus"

During their fourth annual "Stuff the Bus" campaign, the United Way of the Pioneer Valley and Comcast helped collect school supplies for youth who would not otherwise have the items they need for school. Dora Robinson, President and CEO of the United Way of the Pioneer Valley, said the effort would assist more than 1,000 area children. "They need the opportunity to start the school year right," Robinson said. "They need to arrive on the first day of school ready to learn." After the buses were "stuffed," volunteers distributed the filled backpacks to children in Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, and South Hadley.

*Pictured L to R: Melissa Picknelly, Vice President at Peter Pan Bus Lines, Dora Robinson, President and CEO, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Karen Perham-Lippman, Comcast Manager of Community Investment, Lynn Ostrowski, Director of Brand and Corporate Relations, Health New England, Jessica Velasquez, Comcast Direct Sales Manager, Aaron Saunders, Comcast Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Madeline Landrau, MassMutual Financial Group, Director of Marketing, Multicultural Market Development, and Kelly Horan, United Technologies Aerospace Systems, Director, Supply Chain Management Engineered Items*



## Strengthening STEM with \$60,000 Grant

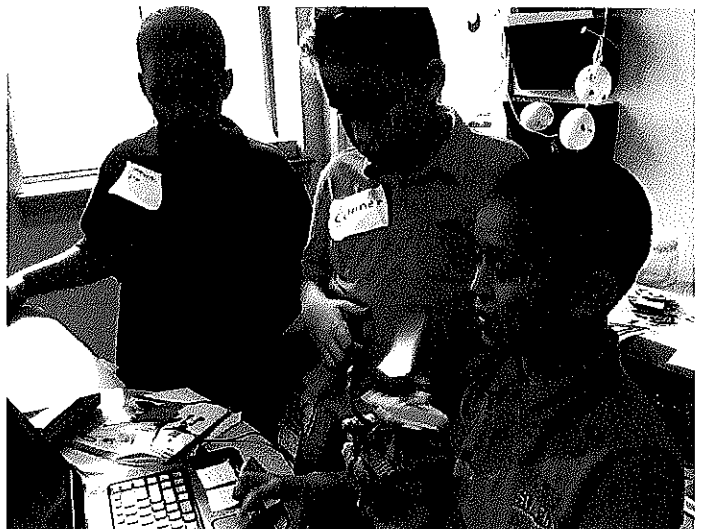
The Urban League of Springfield, Inc. received a \$60,000 grant from the Comcast Foundation to strengthen the League's Be the STEM: Academic and STEM Career Mentoring Program. The program works with 9th grade students to ease the transition to high school and expose them to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines and career opportunities to help ensure future success. Be the STEM encompasses academic performance, leadership, social, and communication skills, as well as increasing participants' personal, community, cultural, and global awareness.

*Pictured L to R: Kristen Roberts, Comcast Vice President of Public Relations and Community Investment, Ginger Solomon, Internet Essentials Beneficiary, Dan Glanville, Comcast Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Henry Thomas III, President and CEO of Urban League of Springfield, Inc., Sharon Codeanne, Comcast Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Aaron Saunders, Comcast Manager of Government and Community Relations, Anthony Moore, Urban League of Springfield Youth Coordinator with students of the "Be the STEM" program.*



## Comcast Builds Technology Programming with Lawrence CommunityWorks

Comcast is proud to support Lawrence CommunityWorks' (LCW) Movement City Youth Center's Creative Arts & Technology programming which helps youth to build self-esteem, self-confidence and a sense of influence over their environment, and to build job skills and explore careers. LCW offers five sessions of seven-week classes like video production, music production, graphic design, and inventors' workshop that culminate with an open house in which the kids share their talents/projects with parents and peers. By nature, activities are all hands-on and experiential allowing for personal exploration as well as dynamic collaboration. With an open model, youth explore, discover, and create using their new skills and existing talents. Instructors are experts and practitioners in their respective fields. LCW also hosts "visiting artists/makers" like the MIT Media Lab staff, a singer/songwriter from Berklee School of Music, Youth Jobs Coalition director, alumni, and others to highlight career opportunities. Additionally, they learn financial management and technical skills, and gain work experience.



*Movement City participants use software to create and fine-tune Lego robots.*

## TV and Movies to Every Screen for College and University Students



Comcast launched XFINITY On Campus, a service that lets college students watch live TV and On Demand content on their IP-enabled devices, including, laptops, tablets and smartphones while on campus. XFINITY On Campus is included with room and board for students living in on-campus housing and will be available this fall at Bridgewater College, Drexel University, Emerson College, Lasell College, and the University of Delaware. Several schools, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of New Hampshire, will also try out XFINITY On Campus this fall.

Drexel's Vice President and Chief Information Officer John A. Bielec said, "XFINITY On Campus is a leap into the future, leveraging Drexel's campus network to provide media content to our residential students at any time and any place. It's a perfect fit for today's student mobile lifestyle."

"XFINITY On Campus lets students watch TV on their own terms," said Marcien Jenckes, Comcast Executive Vice President of Consumer Services. "Whether it's *Game of Thrones*, *Scandal* or *The Daily Show*, XFINITY On Campus offers all the content they want – anytime, anywhere, on any device."

## Internet Essentials: Complimentary Internet Service and Bill Amnesty for Low-Income Families



For any qualified low-income family who has not yet applied for Internet Essentials, Comcast will include up to six months of complimentary service, expanding the reach of the nation's largest broadband adoption program. Qualified low-income families who

were approved for Internet Essentials between August 4th and September 30th, 2014 received up to six months of Internet service at no charge. Internet Essentials has connected more than 350,000 families, or about 1.4 million low-income Americans, to the power of the Internet for \$9.95 a month plus tax. The program is available in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

Comcast also announced an amnesty program for certain low-income families who could qualify for Internet Essentials, but have a past due balance. Customers who have an outstanding bill that is more than one-year old are now eligible for the program. Comcast will offer amnesty for that debt for the purpose of connecting to Internet Essentials, as long as the customer meets all other eligibility criteria.

"Internet Essentials is about transforming lives and inspiring a new generation of leaders to be digitally ready to access the information and tools all students need to succeed in the 21st century," said David L. Cohen, Comcast Executive Vice President. "By offering six months of free internet Essentials service, along with an amnesty program, we hope to convince even more families that there is no better school supply than having broadband Internet at home. With it, kids can do their homework and parents can be more connected to their children's teachers and schools."



## Growing Global: Connecting U.S. and European WiFi Networks

In a first-of-its-kind international partnership, Comcast and Liberty Global announced an agreement to allow users to access each other's WiFi networks, giving many XFINITY Internet and Liberty Global Internet customers access to millions of new WiFi access points in various countries by 2015.

"This is our first step in bringing global WiFi connectivity to our customers," said Tom Nagel, Comcast Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. Comcast has more than three million XFINITY WiFi hotspots in the U.S., while Liberty Global has more than 2.5 million WiFi hot spots in Europe. This agreement gives many of the

11 million Americans visiting Europe and the 12 million Europeans visiting the United States each year a free alternative to cellular data roaming.

"We are delighted to join forces with Comcast to begin building worldwide WiFi connectivity and we hope that this will create interest from other cable operators to join us," said Balan Nair, Liberty Global Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer.



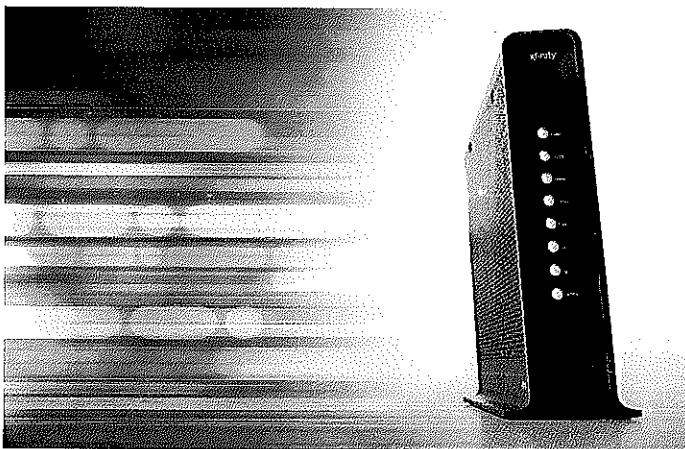
## XFINITY Freeview Latino Returns: Biggest Hispanic On Demand Event

XFINITY  
**FREEVIEW**  
LATINO

Comcast announced the return of XFINITY Freeview Latino, a two week all-access pass to discover and view the best Latino entertainment available in the U.S., totaling in excess of 3,500 programs and 2,500 hours of XFINITY On Demand content.

XFINITY Freeview Latino took place from September 22 through October 5 and was available to all XFINITY TV customers on XFINITY On Demand, [xfinity.com/Latino](http://xfinity.com/Latino) and on the XFINITY TV Go app. XFINITY Freeview Latino was the perfect opportunity for Latino customers to access their favorite On Demand content while discovering more content to love at home or on the go.

## Introducing the Industry's Fastest Wireless Gateway



The fastest in-home wireless network in the U.S. just got even faster. Comcast is launching its latest XFINITY Wireless Gateway, a new combination router and modem that ensures customers are able to get the fastest in-home WiFi possible. A recent analysis by Allion USA found this new device capable of delivering in-home WiFi speeds over 700 Mbps – that's more than 2X faster than Comcast's current router and 7X faster than similar devices available from Verizon and AT&T.

More than 90 percent of Comcast's Internet customers use home WiFi – and Comcast's new XFINITY Wireless Gateway not only offers faster speeds, but it also supports the Samsung Galaxy S4/S5, MacBook Pro, and the MacBook Air. The XFINITY Wireless Gateway translates into faster speeds and a better connection to stream HD video, download music, network multiple rooms, and connect lots of devices and gadgets simultaneously.

The new XFINITY Wireless Gateway will be available later this fall to customers in select markets and over time across Comcast's footprint.

## NASCAR and Comcast: Built for Speed... and Endurance



Beginning January 1, 2015, Comcast is proud to say that NASCAR fans will be watching the NASCAR XFINITY Series. NASCAR and Comcast recently announced a 10-year historic agreement that will make XFINITY the title sponsor of what is now known as the NASCAR Nationwide Series through 2024. The 10-year term is the longest entitlement sponsorship agreement in NASCAR series' history.

To further promote the series, Comcast's NBC Sports unit will begin broadcasting NASCAR races in July 2015. "We're proud to welcome XFINITY to the NASCAR community as title sponsor of the NASCAR XFINITY Series for the next decade," said Brian France, NASCAR Chairman & CEO. "NASCAR and XFINITY are each leader brands with much in common. Both are focused on innovation and have products built for speed. Together, we will work to take this series to new heights and elevate one of the most unique and powerful partnerships in all of sports."

## Comcast and NBCUniversal Executives among Top Influential Minorities

Cablefax magazine recently named 50 Comcast and NBCUniversal executives as the "Most Influential Minorities in Cable," recognizing the influence, power and reach of these top minority executives in cable. The following Comcast and NBCUniversal executives are being recognized for this prestigious award:

Maria G. Arias, Comcast Corporation,  
VP of Diversity and Inclusion

Elizabeth Asencio, NBCUniversal, SVP,  
Client Relations & Marketing Operations, Content Distribution

Makesha Benson, Comcast Cable, VP,  
Strategic Sales Alliances

Paul Biava, Comcast Cable,  
Regional VP of Technical Operations

Brie Bryant, Oxygen Media, VP, Development and Production

Adrienne Byrd, Sprout, SVP, Legal and Standard & Practices

Sherita Ceasar, Comcast Cable, VP,  
National Video Development Engineering

Sunil Chadda, NBCU Cable Entertainment, SVP, Finance

Cynthia Chu, USA Network, CFO

Cesar Conde, NBCUniversal, EVP

Wayne Davis, Comcast SVP, Human Resources

Maria Deluca, Bravo Media, SVP,  
Consumer and Trade Marketing

Henry "Hank" Fore,  
Comcast Regional SVP for the California Region

Tonie Garcia, Comcast Cable VP of Direct Sales,  
Business Services

Doug Gaston, Comcast Cable, SVP/General Counsel

Barbara Gee, Comcast Cable, VP, Strategic Sales Alliances

Kimberley Harris, NBCUniversal, EVP, General Counsel

Jacqueline Hernandez, Telemundo Media, COO

Lisa Hsia, Bravo & Oxygen Media, EVP, Digital

Marlon Jackson, SyFy, VP, Digital Content, SyFy Digital

Rich Jennings, Comcast, SVP, Mile High Region

Susan Jin Davis, Comcast Cable, SVP, Operations Compliance

Nancy Jo, Bravo and Oxygen Media, VP,  
Digital Strategy & Business Development

Aljit Joy, Comcast Cable, SVP Comcast Innovation Labs

Sree Kotay, Comcast Cable, SVP and Chief Software Architect

Ebony Lee, Comcast Cable, VP of Strategic Development

Charisse Lillie, Comcast Corporation,  
VP of Community Investment and President  
of Comcast Foundation

Rodrigo Lopez, Comcast, Region VP, Oregon/SW Washington

Lori Lynem, NBCUniversal, VP,  
Business Affairs NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment

Ralph Martinez, Comcast Cable, SVP,  
Comcast Houston Region

Dennis Mathew, Comcast Cable, VP,  
New Businesses, Design and Deployment for XFINITY Home

Rubén Mendiola Fernandez, mun2, President

Amalia O'Sullivan, Comcast Cable, VP,  
XFINITY Internet Product, Communications, Data and Mobility

Michael Parker, Comcast, VP of Operations

Leslie Pearce, Comcast Cable,  
VP of Sales/Retention Operations

Bret Perkins, Comcast Corporation, VP, External Affairs

Donna Rattley Washington, Comcast, VP,  
Government and Community Affairs

Sharmila Ravi, Comcast Cable,  
VP of Product Management for  
Communications and Data Services

Craig Robinson, NBCUniversal, EVP, Chief Diversity Officer

Marlene Sanchez Dooner, NBCUniversal,  
EVP Hispanic Enterprises & Content Unit

Luis Silberwasser, Telemundo, President

Rob Simmelkjaer, NBC Sports Group, SVP,  
Sports Ventures & International

Tina Simmons, Comcast Cable, SVP, Human Resources

Jeffrey Smith, Comcast Cable, VP and Deputy General Counsel

Myrna Soto, Comcast Cable,  
SVP and Chief Information and Infrastructure Security Officer

Holly Tang, Bravo & Oxygen Media, CFO

Kavita Vazirani, Comcast Cable, SVP,  
Media Strategy and Sciences

Andrew Wang, Bravo Media, VP,  
Scripted Development and Production

Steve White, Comcast, West Division President

Suejin Yang, Bravo Media, VP, Digital Media

## His Only Job Is Putting Customers First

### New Comcast Leader Devoted to Delighting Customers

Comcast recently announced that Charlie Herrin will be its new Senior Vice President, Customer Experience, a job focused on one thing: delighting customers at every touch point. From the moment a customer orders a new service, to the installation, to customer service calls, to online communication, and how Comcast responds to issues, Charlie Herrin's job is to ensure that Comcast improves each interaction. Charlie answers to Comcast Cable's President and CEO, Neil Smit, who states, "Put simply, customer service should be our best product...that is our goal and our number one priority...and that's what we are going to do."



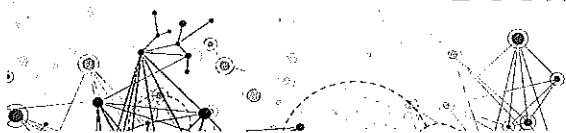
## EveryBlock: Your Neighborhood Online Community

Comcast is celebrating the relaunch of EveryBlock Philly, an online service and mobile app that keeps users up to date on what's happening near them – from local events and restaurant openings to community news – and enables discussion with neighbors, local businesses and elected officials. The hyper-local site aggregates news, reviews, events, local blogs and other web content, civic data (like crime reports and 311 requests), as well as user-generated questions and comments, and packages it into a personalized feed. EveryBlock aligns perfectly with Comcast's mission to invest in and strengthen the communities we serve.

EveryBlock also operates in Chicago, where it has enjoyed tremendous success. Comcast is thrilled to bring EveryBlock to Philadelphia and Chicago – and plans to roll it out to Houston, Denver, Medford, MA (Boston area), Hialeah, FL (Miami area), and Fresno, CA over the coming months.

## Helping Deliver a Great Guest Experience

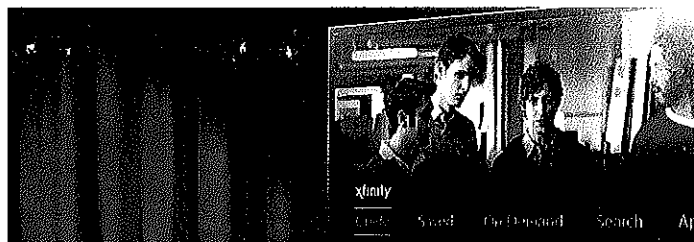
### COMCAST BUSINESS



Choice Hotels International recently selected Comcast Business as a Qualified Vendor for business data, video and voice services. More than 5,000 Choice Hotels properties across the U.S. can use Comcast Business services in their areas, including Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Cambria Hotels & Suites, MainStay Suites, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel, Econo Lodge, Rodeway Inn, and Ascend Hotels.

"In the hospitality industry, the key to building brand loyalty is to deliver a consistent, high-quality experience, especially in meeting guest expectations for reliable, high-speed Internet access and a robust HD solution," said Alex Sewell, Comcast Business Executive Director, Emerging Markets. "Choice Hotels has a rich history of implementing technological innovations for their guests, including offering the first global hotel application for the smart phone, and we look forward to working with their franchisees to provide our advanced technology solutions."

## Comcast Wins Emmy for X1's User Experience and Visual Design



Comcast was recently honored to receive an Emmy Award for the X1 Entertainment Operating System. The award is for *Outstanding Achievement in Interactive Media Program: User Experience and Visual Design for XFINITY TV On The X1 Platform*.

Speaking at the Interactive Media Peer Group's nominee reception, Tom Loretan, Comcast Vice President, Executive Creative Director, User Experience and Product Design, said, "Comcast is in a very unique position to take all the incredible programming all the talented people in this room are creating and develop an experience that brings all of that content to consumers in a personal, beautiful way: an experience that was simply made for television."

X1 continues to receive kudos for new features such as Common Sense Media ratings, now available in its On Demand library, on DVR and on live TV listings. Parents can easily evaluate positive messages, role models, violence/scariness, sex, language, consumerism and substance use before letting children watch movies and TV. In addition, new X1 DVR with Cloud technology enables customers to stream and download their recorded DVR programs to any internet-connected device, and, while in the home, turn any mobile device into a television with the ability to stream virtually the entire channel line-up and XFINITY On Demand catalog.



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### Comcast Connections

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Mark Reilly

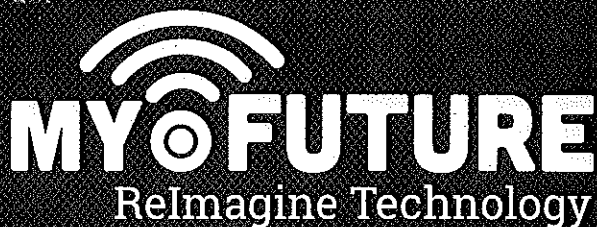
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## ReImagine Technology

Boys & Girls Clubs Team Up with Comcast NBCUniversal to Bring Technology to Local Kids Comcast NBCUniversal recently announced it is committing tens of millions of dollars in cash and in-kind support to Boys & Girls Clubs of America and local Clubs across the nation over the next five years. The highlight of the partnership is a new technology initiative called MyFuture, which aims to help youth embrace technology in our growing digital world – and ensure there is a place in it for them.

MyFuture is a cutting-edge technology education program designed to open the eyes of young people to what's possible for them to achieve through technology – from recording and editing their own music and videos, to learning robotics, coding and game design skills that can put them on the path to successful 21st century careers.

Comcast NBCUniversal is a longtime supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs, and has provided more than \$90 million in cash and in-kind services to Clubs since 2009 alone. MyFuture is part of a new campaign by Boys & Girls Clubs Great Futures Campaign, launched in July to call attention to the crisis facing kids and elevate the role of out-of-school time in reversing negative trends and empowering more youth toward success through enriching after-school and summer programs.

To learn more about MyFuture, contact your local Boys & Girls Club or visit [bgca.org/myfuture](http://bgca.org/myfuture).

