

2016: A Year in Review (part 1)

January

Michelle Wu becomes City Council president

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
FRIDAY JAN 15, 2016

City Councilor at Large and until fairly recently, South End resident Michelle Wu has seen a sea change in her life in just over a year. In December, she became a mother for the first time and last year, she and her family moved from the South End to Roslindale. When the City Council swore in members last week, Wu rose to President of the City Council. Wu, a Harvard Law School grad and former restaurateur who has been heavily involved in caregiving for various members of her family, is no stranger to multi-tasking while rising to new challenges and heights.



SECHC receives BPHC funds

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
FRIDAY JAN 15, 2016

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recently awarded a total of \$100,000 in grant money distributed among four community health centers including \$25,000 to the South End Community Health Center (SECHC) to augment and upgrade services to Boston Housing Authority (BHA) residents. BPHC set forth a series of objectives surrounding access to healthful food and improving residents' eating habits, and each health center will choose the goals and strategies that suit their respective neighborhoods.

Medical marijuana dispensary proposed

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
THURSDAY JAN 21, 2016

Wellesley based Natural Healthcare Inc. filed an application of intent with the Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH) in June 2015 for a certificate to operate a medical marijuana dispensary. Natural Healthcare listed Stephen Barber as its chief executive officer and provided a certificate of incorporation in Massachusetts dated June 2015 in its application. Natural Healthcare spoke to the Old Dover Neighborhood Association about its proposal in December and the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) at its January 19 meeting.



(Left) Michelle Wu (Right) Bob Minnocci at January 12 South End Forum meeting. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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February

Mayor Walsh Announces \$1 Million Renovation for Ramsay Park

WEDNESDAY FEB 3, 2016

Mayor Marty Walsh announced at the State of the City Address on January 19th

held at the Boston Symphony Orchestra that the City would invest \$1 million into renovating Ramsay Park on the border of the South End and Roxbury. The money will be used to upgrade the tennis and basketball courts and the playground and also to add a water feature and more to the park.

colored lights on a metal frame fashioned to emulate the flow of water from the fountain, was erected in December along with colored

lights affixed to the trees, with a similar light display in Franklin Square.

March

History talk tackles today's hot-button topic

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
FRIDAY MAR 11, 2016

Having presented his fourth and latest book, "Boston's South End: The Clash of Ideas in a Historic Neighborhood" at the South End Historical Society and the South End Branch Library last fall, South End-based author and academic Russell Lopez gave his March 6 book talk at a venue that resonates deeply with its subject More Than Words at 242 East Berkeley Street, located in the former footprint of the New York Streets, a long-lost South End residential enclave whose demolition under urban renewal figured prominently in Lopez's talk. More Than Words, a non-profit book and media store headquartered in Waltham, provides youth who are homeless, in foster care or involved with the courts and family services with employment, career development and

life-skills training. South End denizens of all ages and lengths of residency filled the seats, listening with rapt attention as Lopez shared excerpts from his book, anecdotes and additional background on Boston's post World War II urban renewal program at this pivotal moment when reauthorization of urban renewal zones is being discussed among the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the City Council and concerned residents.

Up in smoke

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
THURSDAY MAR 24, 2016

Careless disposal of smoking material caused a fire on Saturday night that destroyed the light installation that brightened the fountain in Blackstone Square throughout the winter, according to a spokesman for the Boston Fire Department (BFD). The sculpture, which consisted of tinsel and multi-



(Above) Photos of Blackstone Park courtesy of Michele Maniscalco

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April

Bye Bye Boston?

BY SUE O'CONNELL
THURSDAY APR. 14, 2016

The journal Nature published a new study showing that by 2116 sea levels could rise six feet or more. That's the worst case scenario, if nothing is done to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases trap radiation from the sun and warm the planet's surface, including oceans. The major greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO2). Almost all CO2 comes from fossil fuels and land-use change.

The best case scenario? Every country abides by the The Paris Agreement (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which deals with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance, starting in the year 2020), no further damage is done, and we'll have a sea level rise of about a foot-along with more frequent, huge hurricanes (worse than 2012's Hurricane Sandy).

Either way, most of Boston will be underwater.

What you can do to reduce climate change

THURSDAY APR. 14, 2016

By taking climate action at home, at work, and in your community, you will help Boston achieve its sustainability goals set forth in Boston's Climate Action Plan. You will also be helping to strengthen our neighborhoods, fuel our economy, and drive innovation. Visit www.GreenovateBoston.org to learn more and show your commitment by pledging to take climate action.

May

Get on Board: The Legacy of Harriet Tubman

BY GARY BAILEY
THURSDAY MAY 5, 2016

Every summer, several people gather in a park located in a small triangular park at Columbus Avenue between West Newton and Pembroke Streets in Boston's picturesque and historic South End neighborhood in front of a 10-foot bronze statue of famed abolitionist and freedom-fighter Harriet Tubman, by artist Fern Cunningham. Important to note is that this particular statue was the first statue on city-owned property honoring a woman in Boston.

Tubman, who had spent the first 28 years of her life toiling in the household and fields of the Maryland plantation where she had been born, she escaped when the plantation's owner died, following the North Star and stopping at various Underground

Continued on page 4

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May

Continued from page 3

Railroad 'stations' along the 90-mile journey to Pennsylvania.

For her efforts freeing other enslaved people famed Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison called her "Moses" for she, like the Moses of the Old Testament, returned to lead numbers of other people out of bondage, to freedom and the "promised land". 'Mother Moses' is depicted standing erect and out in front of a small group of people of African descent who appear tired and frightened. While she appears steadfast, resolute, and unafraid with a Bible clutched in one hand and her other hand extended outwards gesture in a gesture as if she is pointing the way to freedom to those who surround her.

As I sat in the park last Wednesday afternoon the 20th April, after Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury announced to the nation that this same Harriet Tubman, the woman who had escaped her captivity and who time after time would then risk her new found freedom to liberate other enslaved people would replace former President, Andrew Jackson, himself a holder of slaves, on the front of the \$20 bill, making her the first American woman to adorn US paper currency in more than a century. I was reminded of the words of another great

foot soldier for justice and freedom Nelson Mandela who once said "There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires."

As I sat there in the park I recalled watching Viola Davis, when she won Outstanding Lead Actress In A Drama Series for her role in "How to Get Away with Murder" at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards show, making her the first black woman to win the award begin her remarks with the following quote by Harriet Tubman:

"In my dreams and visions, I seemed to see a line, and on the other side of that line were green fields, and lovely flowers, and beautiful white ladies, who stretched out their arms to me over the line, but I couldn't reach them no-how. I always fell before I got to the line"

As a member of the board of Park, whose president is renowned Boston activist Frieda Garcia and as the great grandchild of people who were themselves enslaved, this yearly ritual of reverently and gently washing, waxing and buffing the statue, both in an effort to protect it from the harsh elements of city life, and to also ensure that its majesty is not diminished. The significance of the contribution made by 'Mother Moses' to so many by during her lifetime, and beyond, is certainly not lost

on me. I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I wash her feet and outstretched hands and as I gently wash her face find myself saying softly into her ear "thank you"; and that I along with many others remember and are grateful because you dared to take your freedom from those who held you captive and also worked to free so many others as well.

Over the course of the past week anonymous individuals have visited the park and placed bouquets of flowers at the base of the statue. Someone even placed a dozen long stem roses in Tubman's hand, held high as in a triumphant gesture. As a nation and as a society do we still have much work before us to do - without question, we do - but that Wednesday, for a brief moment Tubman's words echoed in my head as I sat in a park in Boston, dedicated to her legacy of courage and steadfastness: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

The decision announced on Wednesday to add Harriet Tubman's face to our nation's most traded piece of currency to some, might seem a mere gesture to some, but to others of us it holds very special meaning and significance.

Thank you 'Mother Moses' for once again, leading the way!

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

June

Runaway weekend

By MICHELE D. MANISCALCO
JUN 30, 2016

Cherie Currie, lead singer of the legendary band The Runaways, chatted with fans while signing copies of her memoir and her latest CD at Spectacle Eyewear.

Summer program aims to combat learning loss for South End youth

JUNE 30, 2016

Even though the school year is coming to an end, learning is only just beginning. Thanks to programs like the Community Music Center of Boston, South End Boston youth will avoid the summer slide.

South End schools receive arts education funding

JUNE 30, 2016

McKinley South End Academy, Blackstone Elementary School get BPS Arts Expansion Fund Grants.



Continued on page 5 BPSNA's 2016 Scholarship recipients. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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June

Continued from page 4

The Theater Offensive awarded \$100,000
JUNE 30, 2016

The organization's youth program, True Colors: OutYouth Theater, was selected from a pool of 479 applicants through a competitive review process.

Pine Street Inn receives \$100,000 grant from Cummings Foundation
JUNE 30, 2016

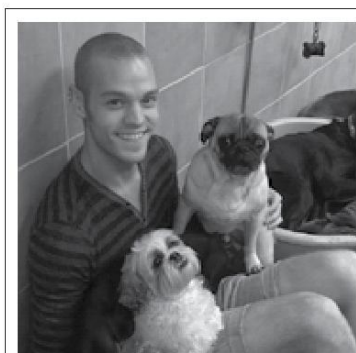
Pine Street is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants through Cummings Foundation's "\$100K for 100" program.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program honors Gov. Baker
JUNE 30, 2016

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) honored Governor Charlie Baker with its Dr. Jim O'Connell Award on May 16. For almost 25 years, the governor has been BHCHP's ally and advocate, helping to ensure that its patients receive the top quality health care the state is known for.

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July

South End Community Walgreens Pharmacy Supports Organ and Tissue Donation

July 7, 2016

The Walgreens Community Pharmacy has teamed up with the New England Organ Bank (NEOB) to help educate the public about the importance of registering as an organ donor.

Honest cabby turns in backpack stuffed with \$187,000

July 7, 2016

STORY COURTESY OF
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

Boston Police report that when a man who got into a cab at Mass. Ave. and Tremont Street Friday afternoon left his backpack behind, the driver opened it up to see if there

was any ID inside.

There was \$187,000 in cash in it. Police say the driver drove down to BPD headquarters and handed in the backpack. And not long after, police say, a man called in to report his backpack and money missing.

Can the South End bear another liquor store?

July 7, 2016

STORY COURTESY OF
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

A family that's run a liquor store in Providence for three years wants to branch out to the South End, but is already running into opposition from neighbors who say enough's enough.

The Boston Licensing Board had a hearing scheduled for today on Vikesh Patel's request for permission to buy the liquor license from JR's Liquors on American Legion Highway in Roslindale so his family could open Bullfinch Liquors at 1721 Washington St., at Mass. Ave.

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Public Meeting

ROXBURY STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

65 WARREN STREET
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Roxbury, MA 02119

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) will meet and present updates on PLAN: Dudley Square and projects under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. RSMPOC public meetings are held every first Monday, each month, at the Dudley Branch Library, at 65 Warren Street for updates and community input.

Unless otherwise noted, PLAN: Dudley Square workshops will be held every third Monday, each month, at the Bruce Bolling Municipal Building, at 2300 Washington Street in Roxbury to update current visions and plans for Dudley Square. Please join your neighbors and the City of Boston at the workshops to help make the neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play. All meetings are open to the public.

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Pet of the Week



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Also, be sure to check out our:
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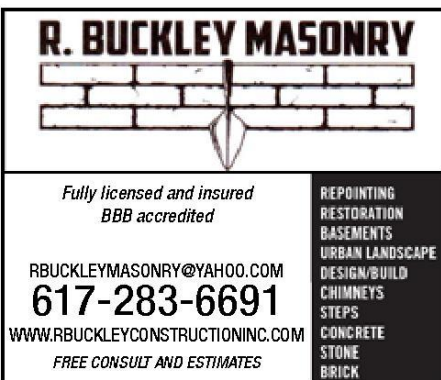


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