

Safety, parking and development

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Approximately a dozen people convened in the second-floor meeting room of the D-4 police station at 650 Harrison Avenue on Tuesday, May 16 to discuss public safety, alternate parking proposals, development plans by The Abbey Group for the Flower Market site and to meet former aide to Mayor Menino and District 2 city council candidate Michael Kelley at the Blackstone/



Continued on page 2

Photo by Michele Maniscalco

South End Briefs

Neighborhood Social Event May 22nd

The Pilot Block Neighborhood Association (PBNA) invites you to a neighborhood social.

Enjoy a night on the patio. Connect with your favorite neighbors and meet some new ones.

Monday May 22, 2017

6:30 - 8:30pm (Come for the entire time, or just stop by for a few

minutes)

Sister Sorel - 645 Tremont St Cash Bar. Light snacks.

Blackstone Square: The Paw-pular Place To Be!

As the weather warms and the days get longer, Blackstone Square promises to once again be the popular hangout for dogs and humans alike. It has been customary for the neigh-

borhood to "look the other way" on off-leash dogs in the park, but this has come under renewed scrutiny in light of recent incidents. The Parks Department has asked us to remind everyone that dogs should be kept on leash as required by law. We can all agree that every person has the right to enjoy the park undisturbed. If you have a complaint about dog activity (or any activity for that matter) in the park, you may call 311. For cases like

Continued on page 3

Be a summer Super Teen

Boston Youth Ages 13-14 invited to enroll

SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF
MAYOR WALSH

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has announced the start of enrollment for Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) annual citywide

BCYF SuperTeens Program this summer. Youth ages 13-14 in the SuperTeens program will have the opportunity to attend weekly leadership development workshops, gain work experience in BCYF community centers and participate in field trips to Boston's arts and cultural institutions.

"This program gives younger

teens real work experience that will prepare them for future education and employment," said Mayor Walsh. "They'll also have the opportunity to make new friends, visit a variety of places in their City and attend workshops designed to empower them with important life skills."

Continued on page 5

South End Baseball



Photo credit: Brad Solomon

Continued on page 6

Honor Roll

South End Students Earn Boston College High School Honors

Dylan Mullin 2020 of the South End achieved High Honors for the Third Quarter at Boston College High School. For High Honors Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher.

Noah Zacharias 2019 and Ryan Ridolfo 2019 achieved Honors. For Honors a student needs a 3.2 QPA

and all grades "C-" or higher.


Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men founded in 1863. The school enrolls approximately 1600 students from more than 100 communities in eastern Massachusetts.

Boston's new default speed limit is 25 mph.

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Development

Continued from page 1

Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) meeting.

Kelley, currently a Bay Village resident, fondly recalled living in “every corner of the South End.” Reminiscing on his upbringing in public housing in Revere, Kelley said that while his father worked days for US Airways and nights as a bartender, “My mother was the force that drove my family and still is today.” Kelley said his mother encouraged everyone in the family to work hard toward an upward trajectory.

“That gave me a strong sense of entrepreneurship,” Kelley said. Another trait Kelley attributed to his upbringing was his drive to community service. “I always wanted to give back to the community,” he said. “Having lived and worked in the neighborhood for over 20 years and having traveled all around the neighborhood talking to people over the past couple of months, I’ve learned that most people think we have nothing in common with people in other neighborhoods. In my experience, we have many things in common.”

Kelley cited neighborhood safety and support for the police, the cost of housing and maintaining good schools. “We all care about being able to afford to continue to live in our neighborhoods. The folks who have lived here a long time helped make the neighborhood what it is today,” Kelley said. “It’s important to make sure we have good schools so that all kids get a good education regardless of what school they end up in.” Kelley talked about the vital role of small businesses, citing his own experience. “I understand the struggles that small businesses have, and I also understand how important those businesses are to our city.”

Kelley noted that small business owners in the South End have told him that commercial rents make it very difficult for them to remain viable. “Small businesses support the neighborhood by supplying jobs and by contributing to the uniqueness of the neighborhood,” he observed. Kelley drew upon his experience with Menino, which familiarized him with many of the challenges facing the neighborhood and strategies for addressing them.

B/FSNA president Eric Huang recapped the Abbey Group’s presentation at the previous meeting on their plans for a mixed office, retail, cultural and open space that would operate on an 18 hour rather than 9 to 5 schedule. Huang told attendees that, having taken their plans to community groups around the South End, the Abbey Group told the South End Forum recently that they found the neighborhood “very receptive” to their plan.

According to Huang, the developers learned that neighborhood concerns center around traffic, transportation and the development being embraced by neighbors as an 18 hour, day and evening destination for neighbors, and the developers will take those thoughts into account when preparing their proposal to the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Boston Police Department (BPD) D-4 officer Chris Shoulla gave a public safety update, reporting that n activity is down in Villa Victoria and the Lenox Street area, but may rise again during the summer. He urged

neighbors with dogs to increase their presence in Franklin Square in order to stem crime and public drunkenness in the park.

Officer Shoulla announced also that D-4 community service officer Jorge Dias was transferred to the Schools Unit and D-4 hopes to have someone to replace him this summer, possibly from among the new recruits. Asked about patrols in Franklin Square, Shoulla said they mostly find older individuals rather than youth lingering in the park and drinking. Responding to a question, Shoulla observed that there are fewer needles in Franklin Square lately.

Huang, who has been working with the South End Forum Task Force on Parking on a plan to revamp parking in the South End, presented the task force’s recommendations, formulated in January of this year. The proposal would bring additional metered parking spaces to Washington Street in the Blackstone and Franklin Square area, overnight resident parking at several meters on Harrison Avenue and visitor and resident parking space, marked with signage, on unregulated areas of Shawmut Avenue.

Huang explained that the Forum’s aim was to come up with a parking plan that was less “piecemeal” and more “holistic” to the needs of various areas of the South End. He also said that while Washington Street was initially intended to be all metered parking for the benefit of businesses, the area of the Squares was changed to resident parking. The new plan would establish metered parking along the Squares from 8:00 AM-8:00 PM, with no restrictions overnight and move the 16 residential spots to Shawmut Avenue, which is more residential. Huang said that with the influx of new businesses to that area, it would be beneficial to re-establish metered parking there.

Addressing concerns about transparency and seeking public input, Huang said that the task force has been “transparent”, posting updates on social media. Despite the low attendance, Huang called for a vote to accept the parking plan and it was approved. Huang will present the plan to the Boston Transportation Department for consideration.

Andrew Parthum, founder of the B/FSNA college book and supply scholarship program, reported that this year’s Heart of Cold benefit raised an unprecedented \$46,000, and the group is now seeking applications from South End youth. The deadline for applications is May 19 and the ceremony honoring this year’s recipients will take place on June 20 at 7:00 PM at the Gallery at Art Block, 752 Harrison Avenue. Details on scholarship requirements and the application are available at www.blackstonefranklin.org.

In small-business news, Jenny Effron, executive director of Washington Gateway Main Street, said that Anoush’ella, the casual, Middle Eastern eatery under development at the corner of West Newton and Washington Streets, is expected to open in July. The owners of Anoush’ella requested a load-in parking space in front of its building during the morning hours at the previous meeting and neighbors were -

Shanon Heckethorn, director of development and communications for Hospitality

Continued on page 3

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Development

Continued from page 2

Homes, which seeks volunteers to host the families and friends visiting patients in local hospitals, explained the mission of the program and the parameters for volunteering. Hosts are expected to provide a place to sleep, bathroom access and linens, and if possible beverages and light breakfast for guests. Heckethorn that volunteer hosts can set schedule such as opting out during periods when they will be away, setting timeframes when guests can be in the home and determining their guest capacity.

"Since it's a volunteer opportunity, we've found that it's best that it always be directed

by the host." Heckethorn said that Hospitality Homes offers 24-hour staff support for hosts, check-ins with hosts and community building events for host households. Those who wish to support Hospitality Homes in other ways can join the Community Connections volunteer program, offering a meal or help visiting families in some other manner such as bringing snacks or get-well cards to families visiting patients. Heckethorn concluded, "I realize that space is limited in the South End, but this is a really fabulous way to build community within the community in a way that is unique and very special." Heckethorn urged residents who are interested in participating to visit the organization's web site, www.hosp.org.

South End Briefs

Continued from page 1

dog bites or unruly dogs, please call 911. To be more involved in the dog community, join The Square Dog Facebook group. The dog committee of Friends of Blackstone & Franklin Squares is working to create a set of guidelines for dog activity in the parks. To provide input, please email friends@blackstonefranklin.org.

South End Spring Stroll

Washington Gateway Main Street invites South End businesses to sign up to participate in the Spring Stroll, scheduled for Friday, May 12th, 4 - 9 PM!

Favorite local South End stores will

be open late and offering some great treats! Pop into one shop and you might find wine or cheese or other delights from a neighbor down the street.

The evening is sure to be a delight and something for everyone!

Youth Build Boston Job Fair

Youth Build Boston and Starbucks are joining forces for a day of service at Jim Rice Field on May 18th. Following YBB will host job skills coaching sessions and a job fair at the Mandela Houses Community Room. Businesses looking for staff this summer are welcome to table!

<http://www.youthbuildboston.org/>

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Pine Street Inn's Fundraising Breakfast a Success

Pine Street's Home Remedy Breakfast at the Copley Marriott drew over 600 business and community leaders and featured a welcome by Callie Crossley from WGBH/FM, and remarks by Pine Street President

Lyndia Downie.

Keynote speaker Paul English, philanthropist, entrepreneur, cofounder of KAYAK and CEO of Lola Travel, made a surprise pledge to match up to \$500,000 of any funds

raised through the breakfast! All money raised will help men and women move from homelessness to housing.



Pictured (l to r): Callie Crossley, Paul English, Lyndia Downie. Photo credit: John Rich

38 / 19

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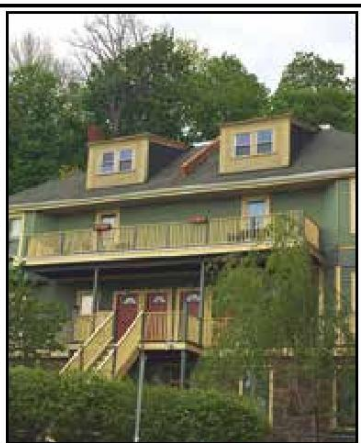
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Letters policy

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

News from...

Community Music Center

Lapin Fête de la Musique
Activities, music and entertainment!

Community Music Center's 5th annual Fête de la Musique is taking shape and is going to be an epic event filled with music, food and activities for all ages! Join us from 3:00–6:00 pm on June 17th for a memorable afternoon celebrating the summer solstice and the retirement on the Music Center's Executive Director, David Lapin.

Live music will be performed at Ringgold Park, Union Park, Frieda Garcia Park and Childe Hassam Park. At the same time, there will be a block party on Warren Avenue between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets with food, music, kid's games, face painting, balloon twisting and more!

Rain location: Blackstone Community Center

StringFest – Students from the Boston Public Schools who receive string music instruction through the Music Center will visit our South End location for a concert and extended learning opportunities. The day concludes with a pizza party!

May 26 at 11:30 am.

Early Childhood Music Celebrations

Join our early childhood students as they perform on their beginning instruments!

May 20 (2:00 pm), May 22 (5:00 pm), May 24 (5:00 pm)

New England Viola da Gamba Society

The New England Viola da Gamba Society will give a short presentation in Allen Hall from 1:00–2:00 PM. They will perform for our Intensive Study Project seminars as well as anyone in the Music Center Community who would like to hear some wonderful chamber music. The event will conclude with a short masterclass for a student trio. June 3 (1:00-2:00 pm)

John Kleshinski Concert Series

The French Connection Gramercy Trio
Thursday, May 18
7:00 pm, FREE

This concert will feature the connections and influences between teachers and students among French composers. Fauré, Saint-Saëns and Nadia Boulanger are among the great teachers whose works will be performed. Community Music Center of Boston's Artists-in-Residence, the Gramercy Trio, is comprised of Sharan Leventhal, violin; Jonathan Miller, cello; Randall Hodgkinson, piano.

www.gramercytrio.com
34 Warren Ave, Boston, MA 02116



Summer

Continued from page 1

Sponsored by Comcast, and The Foundation for BCYF, program goals include providing hands-on work experience and/or service experience for each youth, engaging youth in high-quality leadership development workshops based on BCYF's Youth Development Outcomes, and developing creative writing skills by teaching youth to share personal learning experiences in writing.

All SuperTeens applicants must complete an application and return it to the desired BCYF community center site listed below by Friday, May 26. Completed applications can also be returned to BCYF's Administrative Office, Attention Donna Reeves-Jackson, 1483 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120. The SUPERTeens Program will operate at the following local community centers:

BCYF Blackstone, 50 W. Brookline Street, South End;

BCYF Curtis Hall (Girls-only), 20 South Street, Jamaica Plain;

BCYF Hennigan, 200 Heath Street, Jamaica Plain;

BCYF Madison Park, 55 Malcolm X Boulevard, Roxbury;

BCYF Quincy, 885 Washington Street, Chinatown;

BCYF Shelburne, 2730 Washington Street, Roxbury;

BCYF Tobin, 1481 Tremont Street, Mission Hill;

BCYF Vine Street, 339 Dudley Street, Roxbury.

For a full list visit Boston.Gov/BCYF.

The SuperTeens program will run seven weeks beginning on Tuesday, July 5 and ending on Friday, August 18. The teens will work Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants must be at least thirteen years old on or before July 5 to participate and will receive a stipend at the end of the summer for successful completion of the program. The application and other information can be found on BCYF's website at Boston.Gov/BCYF.

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Community Workshop

PLAN: DUDLEY SQUARE

MONDAY, MAY 15
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

65 WARREN ST
Dudley Branch Public Library
Roxbury, MA 02119

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

May's workshop will ask participants to prioritize both housing and economic development goals for city-owned land in Dudley Square using benchmarks established by the community in previous engagement workshops. Feedback from the workshop will be reflected in the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for this land that will be produced later this year. Throughout the evening there will be opportunity for attendees to engage in productive dialogue with City/BPDA team members and each other on elements of the material being shared as part of the workshop.

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of RFPs for publicly-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

MAIL TO: COURTNEY SHARPE
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South End Baseball



South End Baseball is a non-profit organization that provides a comprehensive youth baseball program. More at www.southendbaseball.com
Photo credit: Brad Solomon

News from...

Friends of the South End Library

Next week, Tuesday, May 23rd, at 6:30 PM, Mel King, the iconic South End activist, former state legislator, poet and author, will talk about his life's work. He will be introduced by our esteemed State Rep., Byron Rushing. Mel King's recently re-issued book, Chain of Change, will be available for purchase and signing. Seating is limited. Details will be posted on our web site shortly.

The latest Local/Focus installation in the South End library's Tremont Street window features the South End Knitters. The remarkable urban artists have taken the domestic arts of knitting and crocheting into the streets, celebrating color and fiber, and transforming our streetscape with their artful and humorous creations.

Finally, the exhilarating talk by longtime South End resident and foreign-affairs expert Stephen Kinzer on May 9 was further enhanced by the gracious introduction by Kinzer's admirer and friend, WBUR's OpenSource radio host, Christopher Lydon. The local luminaries each talked about their personal heroes of that era (William James for Lydon and Carl Schurz for Kinzer), passionately detailed in Kinzer's book, The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain and the Birth of American Empire. For details, click here.

South End Branch of the Boston Public Library is located at 685 Tremont Street, Boston
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