

Blackstone School community mobilizes to fight \$500,000 budget shortfall

Rally, speeches, and an art exhibit boost their campaign to stop staff cuts

SUBMITTED BY ARIEL BRANZ

One hundred parents, students, and teachers from the Blackstone Elementary School in the South End marched on Boston Public Schools headquarters this week to demand that staff cuts slated for next year be cancelled.

The BPS budget is scheduled for release at a School Committee meeting on February 6, but parents at several schools have already learned of painful staff cuts. More parents are expected to converge on the School Committee February 6.

In a taste of things to come, Blackstone community members holding banners and signs marched through the elegant Bolling Building lobby last Wednesday and set up an exhibit of student art and letters op-



Photo by Ariel Branz, courtesy St. Stephen's Youth Programs

posing the cuts outside the School Committee chambers. More than 20 spoke at the School Committee meeting, telling personal stories about staff who changed students' lives.

Fifth grader Joshua Greenaway testified: "I don't understand why my school keeps losing the things that mean the most to me, while other

Continued on page 4

News from...

Friends of the South End Library

SUBMITTED MARLEEN NIENHUIS

South End Writes Update

Tuesday, February 26

Zeitgeist Stage Company, a resident theater company at the Boston Center for the Arts, will present how a play goes From Page to Stage. Trigger Warning, by playwright Jacques Lamarre, was commissioned by Zeitgeist Stage, and will be in the BCA theatre starting April 4. The play examines the impact of a school shooting from the perspective of the

shooter's family. Playwright Lamarre will join Zeitgeist's award-winning Artistic Director David Miller for the event at the library, as will some of the actors. Seating is limited.

Tuesday, March 12

A talk about the architectural design of the South End library by Dan Kelley, a principal in the Philadelphia firm affiliated with the original architects, Mitchell/Giurgola.

Tuesday March 19

Award-winning author Suzanne Beme will read from her suspense novel, The Dogs of Littlefield.

Note: Additional bookings are in process, depending on the timeline for the library's planned closing.

Library Park Update

The back-ordered furniture in Library Park finally arrived. The initial placement caused some concern but the Parks Department graciously changed the configurations to create

Continued on page 6

Crime

Death Investigation

In the area of 186 Northampton Street

SUBMITTED BY BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

At about 12:35 PM on Monday February 4, 2019, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for a person shot in the area of 186 Northampton Street in Lower Roxbury. On arrival, officers located an adult male victim suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. The victim, suffering life-threatening injuries was transported to an area hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this

incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to help this investigation in an anonymous manner.

If you find yourself in need of emotional support or needing to talk to someone about distressing events in your community, the Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team (NTT) provides free, private support 24/7 at (617) 431-0125 or by visiting BPHC.org/trauma.

Honor Roll

South End Students Earn Boston College High School Honors

The following South End achieved Honors for the Second Quarter at Boston College High School:

Naod Zacharias, 2019 High Honors
Dylan Mullin, 2020 High Honors
Aldo Noury-Ello, 2021 Honors
John Mullin, 2022 High Honors
Lucas Rimmer, 2022 Honors

For High Honors an upperclass-

man needs a 3.8 QPA and all grades "C+" or higher.

A Freshman needs a 3.6 QPA and all grades C+ or higher.

For Honors an upperclassman needs a 3.2 QPA and all grades "C-" or higher. A Freshman needs a 3.16 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.

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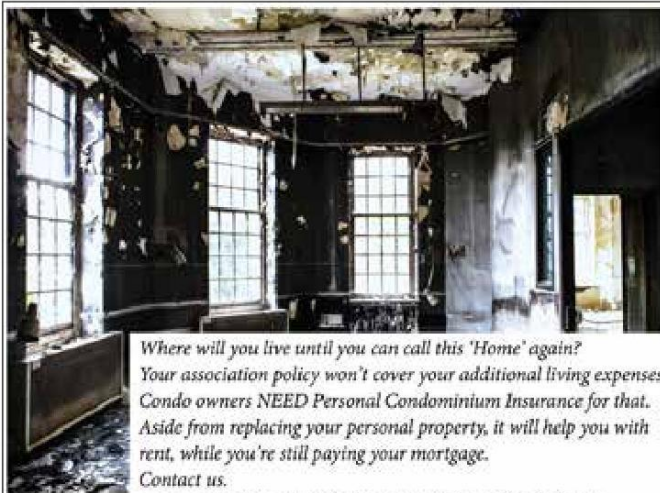
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Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz Announces Winter Neighborhood Office Hours

SUBMITTED BY SEN. CHANG-DÍAZ

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz has announced neighborhood office hours for February 2019. Office Hours, held by Sen. Chang-Díaz and her staff, will take place within each of the neighborhoods of the Second Suffolk District.

These office hours are a great opportunity to discuss any community or statewide issues and hear about what's going on at the State House. Office hours will be held at the following times and locations. Please note that there are both morning and evening office hours.

Jamaica Plain – Tuesday, February 5, 5-6PM, Jamaica Plain Library, 30 South Street. Description: Grab your weekend page turner and talk about issues in the neighborhood with Senator Chang-Díaz and Legislative Aide Ethan Smith.

Mattapan – Wednesday, February 6, 4:30-6PM, Mattapan Library, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue. Description: Take your library card along and meet with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor to talk about issues in the neighborhood & State House.

Hyde Park – Thursday, February 7, 5-6PM, Hyde Park Library, 35 Harvard Ave. Description: Refresh your reading list and sit down with Legislative Aide Ethan Smith to discuss what is going on in the neighborhood.

Mission Hill – Tuesday, February 12,

8:30-9:30AM, Mike's Donuts, 1524 Tremont St. Description: Pick up a delicious donut and then join Communications Director Joshua Wolfsun to talk local updates and upcoming legislation.

Dorchester – Tuesday, February 12, 1:30-3:30PM, Grove Hall Senior Center, 51 Geneva Ave. Description: Sit down with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor and talk about what's been happening at the State House.

South End – Tuesday, February 12, 6:45-7:45PM, South End Community Health Center, 1601 Washington Street. Description: Join Sen. Chang-Díaz and Legislative Director Ernesto Reyes Hernández to discuss local issues and the upcoming legislation.

Roxbury – Thursday, February 14, 5:30-7:00PM, Cory Johnson Program for Post-Traumatic Healing at RPC Social Impact Center, 328 Warren Street. Description: Learn about post-traumatic healing and catch up with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor for all the latest updates.

Those who cannot attend these office hours can contact Sen. Chang-Díaz's office at 617-722-1673, email Sonia.Chang-Diaz@masenate.gov, or stop by her State House office, located in Room 111 on the first floor of the State House for assistance.

Any questions regarding the Senator's office hours can be directed to her Communications Director, Joshua Wolfsun, at 617-722-1673 or Joshua.Wolfsun@masenate.gov.

February is Career Education Month

Come Celebrate at **Madison Park Technical Vocational High School**

SUBMITTED BY MPTVHS

Boston Public Schools will be celebrating Career Technical Education Month. Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (MPTVHS) is the only Vocational High School in Boston and offers nineteen specialized Vocational Programs under one rooftop to Boston Public Schools students. We will be opening our doors to the community and celebrating our students' achievements on Monday, February 4 through Friday, February 8, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

With over nine major development projects transforming Boston landscape, MPTVHS is working to prepare students for careers across the City of Boston and beyond. Our classroom laboratories are state-of-the-art with the latest and most relevant equipment and software. Students experience hands-on, project based learning opportunities that

help prepare them for career and college opportunities.

Kevin McCaskill, the Executive Director says, "We are building Boston's workforce. Our students will be a part of transforming the city and the neighborhoods they reside in."

Over the past three years more than 100 students have graduated from five of MPTVHS Civic Infrastructure Trades (Metal Fabrication, Plumbing, Carpentry, Electricity and Facility and Property Management). MPTVHS will continue to be a force with creating a pipeline for young people to have sustainable careers.

Madison Park's mission is to provide our diverse student body with the opportunity to acquire an integrated career and academic education. Individualized instruction, applied learning and work site experience prepare all students to succeed in technologically advanced careers, as well as post-secondary education. Students who meet all graduation requirements may receive both a BPS Diploma and a Certificate of Competency in their technical program.

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Blackstone

Continued from page 1

schools get more. Some schools, like charter schools, are getting a second building, while we lose swim class. Others schools are learning in updated classrooms, when most of us are learning in classrooms that don't have walls or doors. We are losing teachers, mentors, and resources. What is next? Taking money away from our school needs to stop."

Parent Rafaela Polanco described her first day at the school, newly arrived from the Dominican Republic with her young son. Neither of them spoke English and her son was afraid to be left alone. But staff took care of them. Soon, her son began telling her how they were teaching him English, and how one

particular staff member "makes me feel I am important here at school."

With staff cuts looming, Polanco said, "I'm wondering, how many parents are going to arrive at the Blackstone School with my story? Perhaps we're no longer going to have that incredible and wonderful body of teachers that we have here today."

The planned reductions at the Blackstone are especially concentrated in special education for students with disabilities, with a loss of four positions.

According to state statistics, 24 percent of Blackstone students have disabilities, 47 percent are English learners, and 76 percent come from low-income families.

"The Blackstone has become a refuge for high needs students who have been pushed

out and marginalized by nearby 'level one' schools," said teacher Crystal Collier. "We're busting at the seams to treat them and help them. We're at capacity. We're doing the best we can to give them a 21st century education."

"Last year," said teacher Alex Sullivan, "we serviced our hundreds of English language learners with one ESL teacher. Next year, thanks to a lawsuit from the Department of Justice, we will have over six ESL teachers. What a disgrace that it took a lawsuit to bring those resources to our students."

"So I ask you, with one [special education] resource teacher next year, down from five this year, are we just waiting for a lawsuit that protects our students with special needs, so that we might meet their needs?"

40 / 5

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Photos by Ariel Branz, courtesy St. Stephen's Youth Programs

Events

Black History Month

Black History Month Marketplace

February 11 - February 14

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Community Support is at the Core our Black History Marketplace! This vendor fair brings some of Boston's most respected small businesses and artisans together, on campus, each year. Attendees will find jewelry, clothing, handcrafted knits, scents, soaps and oils; and many other gifts for yourself and your loved ones!

We invite you to enjoy a fun experience shopping where you can find unique/ one of

a kind gifts while connecting with crafters and artisans. Visit daily 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM from February 11 2019 through February 14th Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Building 3; Student Commons, Roxbury Crossing

Untold American Stories: Black History Month

February School Vacation Week Programming

Tuesday, February 19 to Friday, February 22

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled week of educational programming, as we explore true and inspiring stories of achievement. In collaboration with Sweet Blackberry® and local artists, the Library will offer morning and afternoon activities centered on aviation, invention, dance, and art-making. These will complement short film screenings. And don't forget to explore the Mapparium®—it's free all day for everyone 17 and younger!

Continued on page 5



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 PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,
 Help! After having found a wonderful guy, we moved in together along with my standard poodle and his two Maltese. His boys had never been housebroken, ever. They also had never

been socialized. We discussed hiring a pro to train us and the dogs.

When he moved here I made it clear I would not live in a house where dogs peed and marked at will—not to mention their incessant barking at all hours. I asked and asked and he never made the effort to find a trainer. So I found one. He paid up front and never followed through on any of the lessons.

Fast forward two years later. The dogs are now crated and not allowed to run free, but they still bark and, if I am not home, he doesn't watch them. I come home to find pee on furniture and wood floors that now have ugly permanent stains.

I love this man dearly, but I don't know how long I can actually endure this behavior from him. What is up? Why his reluctance to provide structure and rules for his dogs? He is absolutely nuts about dogs. What gives?
 —Desperate in Paradise

Dear Desperate in Paradise,
 Is he really nuts about dogs? Or just nuts? If he truly loved and honored his dogs, he would

have trained them when he first got them before you were part of the picture. He would have done this for his pets because a trained dog is a happier, healthier dog. A chaotic canine, peeing on everything and barking willy-nilly is not a contented creature. So, please, abandon your misconceptions about the guy's devotion to animals.

And maybe you've got to abandon your misconceptions about the guy's devotion to you. It seems as if he shirks responsibility to you and your home. This is harsh but Dog Lady would point him toward the door and tell him to come back when he's figured out how to care for you and his dogs.

Dear Dog Lady,
 My nine-year-old shih tzu has been becoming increasingly sensitive to certain noises, such as buzzers or bells on TV and some instruments in music, or any sounds from a cell phone. When he hears the tick of a warming oven or the beeping of the turn-on buttons of appliances, he runs for the door and scratches and growls to go out of the house.

This weird and annoying quirk began about a year ago and is getting progressively worse. Any ideas?

—Joanne

Dear Joanne,
 Ooh, the poor guy. At nine years, your shih tzu is becoming a senior member of the pack. As dogs become elders, things can change in their bodies and minds. You should first go to your veterinarian for an examination. Ask your vet to examine your dog's ears. Tell her (or him) what is happening, how your little guy is more sensitive to certain sounds. This could be a biological issue. On the other hand, if the vet believes the cause is behavioral, seek a referral to a dog behaviorist/trainer who could help you. Maybe some modification coaching would be good for both of you so you could become more aware of the sounds bothering your dog and your dog could become less bothered.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com

Black History Month

Continued from page 4

The Mary Baker Eddy Library, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston

Black History Spoken Word: People, Politics & Power

February 12
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Everyday is Black History, but the month of February is a month that allows us to come together to celebrate and reflect with our community and friends on the importance of knowing our Black History. Come join candidate Julia Mejia, running for Boston City Councilor at-large, as she MC's a night with the Boston community and also with Award winning Poet Ashley Rose. Ashley Rose will be sharing some of her poetry along with all other poets out there who want to share with

the audience that night. There will be room to add your name to a list the day of.

MC: Julia Mejia
 Artists: Ashley Rose
 Other Artists: maybe you?

We want to make this an engaging night filled with powerful words, people, and thought. If you have a poem share it. Tell your friends and family to come out.

Community Space in Jamaica Plain, 376 Centre Street, Boston

Celebrating Black History: Entrepreneurship, Authenticity, Self-Love

February 14
 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

In Collaboration with Wework, Consciously Exposed Present:

Celebrating Black History: Entrepreneurship, Authenticity, Self-Love

"America is currently forgoing an estimated 1.1 million businesses owned by

people of color because of past and present discrimination," writes Algemon Austin, author of this new report from the Center for Global Policy Solutions.

Businesses owned by people of color are playing an important part in restoring the health of the American economy after the Great Recession – The Color of Entrepreneurship: Why The Racial Gap Among Firms Costs The U.S. Billions

Wework, 31 Saint James Avenue, 6th Floor, Boston

Black Student Union's Black and White Affair

February 22, 8:00 PM

Come and Celebrate Black History Month with Suffolk's BSU! Dress to the Nines and enjoy your Friday Night with us. It is Semi Formal (preferably Black and White Attire) and we are giving away prizes for Best Dressed.

Hyatt Regency Boston, 1 Avenue de Lafayette, Boston

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|--|--|--|--|
| CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §§5-304 | | Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court | |
| | | Docket No. SU19P0033GD | |
| In the matter of: Clinton Peterson Of: Boston, MA | | RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person | |
| To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health (Boston) of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Clinton Peterson is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Department of Mental Health (Boston) of Westborough, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. | | Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 | |
| The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. | | | |
| You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 1:00 P.M. on the return date of 02/21/2019. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. | | | |
| IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. | | | |
| WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 29, 2019 <i>Terri Klug Caffazzo, Register of Probate</i> | | | |

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The people depicted here are models. Their image is being used for illustrative purposes only.

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Meetings

Alexandra Hotel

Thursday, February 7, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
The Proponent proposes to retain and restore the façade of the existing Hotel Alexandra, and construct a new, approximately 150 room, twelve story boutique hotel with ground floor restaurant and café space, and a rooftop level bar/restaurant.
St. Augustine’s and St Martin’s Church
29-33 Lenox Street

Sale of Harriet Tubman House

Monday, February 25, 6:30 PM
United South End Settlements invite you a community meeting to learn about the sale of the Harriet Tubman House.
48 Rutland Street

FOSEL

Continued from page 1

seating arrangements that might work better. Now all we need is warm weather to bring out color and fragrances of spring.

Local/Focus

In the next week or so, we will be installing a display and video screen about a beloved Boston institution, now located in the South End, the Boston Center for Adult Education. When the BCAE was established in 1933, founder Dorothy Hewitt envisioned a place where people would meet to learn, discuss, and create for the sheer pleasure of it. More than 85 years later, the BCAE enriches lives and creates community in a dynamic facility located at the heart of Boston that serves more than

10,000 students each year. It offers more than 1,200 exciting classes across a wide range of disciplines, including technology, languages, creative writing, arts, crafts, photography and food & wine. In addition, the BCAE regularly presents exhibits, lectures, and special events that draw new audiences and ensure our organization’s enduring relevance.

The Twelfth Annual Library Park Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 21, 11:00 AM. The Easter bunny will be there with many eggs filled with chocolates, poems and knock-knock jokes.

More information at www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org. The South End Branch of the Boston Public Library is located at 685 Tremont Street.

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CECILE RICHARDS

Author of *Make Trouble: Standing Up,
Speaking Out and Finding the Courage to Lead*

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