

BPD Announce Mediation Program

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Evans announced the Boston Police Department Mediation Program. This program, done in partnership with the Harvard Media-

tion Program at Harvard Law School, has been created to provide a setting for Boston Police Officers and the citizens of Boston to meet and discuss grievances in a fair and respectful manner. Additionally, it allows the parties to improve communication and understanding between themselves while crafting mutual agreements and re-

solving conflict. Mediation reinforces the Community Policing philosophy of the Boston Police Department by encouraging communication and understanding between the police and the public.

This program is a voluntary alter-

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Gunfire, arrests on Monday

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Monday, January 26, 2016, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) made an onsite firearm arrest after two calls for shots fired at two different locations. At about 10:20 PM, officers responded to a radio call for a person with a gun with shots fired near the Taj Hotel at 15 Arlington Street in the Back Bay. On arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated that he had observed a patron, later identified as Andrew Flack, 34, of Orlando (FL),



Photo courtesy of the Boston Police Department

who had been drinking at the hotel bar attempt to leave the building with an alcoholic beverage in his hand.

When the employee informed the

man that he couldn't take his drink outside of the hotel, he became angry,

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Ellis Forum Draws Pols

About 50 people attended The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association Political Forum on Tuesday night at the Calderwood Pavillion. Attendees heard updates from and questioned Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Byron Rushing, Boston City Councilor Bill Linehan and State Representatives Aaron Michlewitz. Look for a full story next week in South End News



The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association's 1/26 Political Forum.

Charlie's Reborn

Charlie's Sandwich Shoppe, which closed in 2014 after 87 years in business, reopened on Friday, January 22.

Evan and Candice Deluty are the proud new owners. Evan is chef and owner of Stella Restaurant at 1525 Washington Street in the South End.

South Enders and fans expressed their joy on Twitter.



B/FSNA Tackles Crime, Drug Woes

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association's (B/FSNA) January 19 meeting agenda held a number of weighty topics including December's uptick in gun violence; Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program's (BHCHP) proposed "safe space" for drug users; and a proposed medical marijuana dispen-

sary at the site of the former Boston Flower Market. About 40 people filled the seats in the meeting room at District 4, 650 Harrison Avenue.

B/FSNA president Eric Huang described December as "a rough time for the neighborhood" with several shootings and one homicide culminating in the December 16 public meeting on gun violence held at United South End Settlements with Mayor's office staff,

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Steve Barber. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Violet a rewarding trip

Violet, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through February 7. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

Trips can sometimes lead to personal fulfillment as William Inge demonstrated in his acclaimed 1950's comedy "Bus Stop." So it goes for the title heroine in the 1997 Drama Critics Circle Award-winning Off-Broadway musical "Violet." Disfigured as a child in an accident on her family's Spruce Pine, North Carolina farm, Violet embarks on a Greyhound bus—as in the 1964—set Doris Betts short story "The Ugliest Pilgrim"—headed to Tulsa, Oklahoma in quest of the help of a popular televangelist to bring her facial beauty. The heroine and some of her fellow travelers may start out scarred in different ways, but SpeakEasy Stage artistic director Paul Daigneault imbues all of the stops along the way with visual and vocal beauty matching redeemed Violet herself in the wisely trimmed down Broadway edition (one no-intermission act in the 2014 revival).

As with the physically challenged title hero of the Tony Award-winning drama "The Elephant Man," the actual disfigurement here is never actually seen but rather suggested in performance. Where the actor playing John Merrick in the former evokes the hero's physical challenges in his body contortions, the actress playing Violet is called on repeatedly to conceal the (unseen) scar with her hair and make the heroine's discomfort and low self-image very apparent to both fellow travelers and audience members. Theatergoers effectively journey with Merrick and Violet as each respectively comes to terms with personal challenges and rises to inner beauty. An added element in the musical is the presence of a character identified as Young

Violet—the heroine in her relatively idyllic, pre-disfigurement childhood who provided contrast and back story along Violet's widower parent simply known as Father.

While Violet expects the Tulsa televangelist to serve as the catalyst for her transformation, the vulnerable North Carolinian actually finds inner peace with the help of one of two soldiers who board the bus at Kingsport Tennessee. Both white corporal Monty and African-American sergeant Flick—whose easy sparring and rough-housing demonstrate the depth of their male bonding—are headed to Fort Smith, Arkansas en route to Vietnam. Monty curiously reflects that things have been different between Flick and him since they met Violet and even very briefly alludes to a threesome but dismisses the scenario as potentially too crowded. If Monty's lack of insight about teasing women and treating them as sexual objects can be seen as a kind of personality scar, Flick's limited promotion in an era of prejudice and bigotry has proven a much more damaging one.

Eventually, two telling factors give Violet invaluable insight about how to achieve real beauty. The ostensibly manipulative preacher actually admits that he cannot take away her physical scar but advises importantly that transcending its impact is up to her. Flick, on eventually returning, unequivocally affirms the beauty inside Violet and convinces the finally self-empowered heroine that she truly belongs with him.

Daigneault sharply paces SpeakEasy Stage's strong cast, bringing real empowerment to Tesori's richly eclectic melodies and Crawley's vivid lyrics. Alison McCartan convincingly transitions from Violet's naiveté and insecurity to her growing self-esteem and spunkiness. Dan Belnavis sings with an excitingly big voice and rich resonance, particularly on Flick's solo "Let It Sing" and in a moving duet with McCartan on "Hard

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(Left to Right) Dan Belnavis, Alison McCartan, and Nile Scott Hawwer in "Violet".

News from...

United South End Settlements

Save the date for The Neighborhood Gala, a celebration of United South End Settlements' programs and our impact over the past year.

The evening will be filled with inspiration, friendship, and food from some of the South

End's best restaurants. Tuesday, April 26, 2016
6:00 - 9:00 pm

Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Avenue, Boston. www.uses.org

BPD

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native to the standard complaint intake and internal investigation process. Should the circumstances of a complaint be deemed appropriate, officers will be given the opportunity to opt into the program and review their cases with mediators independent of the Department. This opportunity can minimize the number of internal affairs complaints made against officers that often can be avoided or resolved through mutual understanding and conversation.

This program is being implemented while complaints against officers in Boston continue to decline. Since 2010, excessive force complaints against Boston officers have dropped nearly 65% and overall citizen complaints have declined 23%. "This program seeks to involve the public in the process of resolving complaints," said Commissioner Evans. "Bringing the public into the

Mediation

What is mediation?

Mediation is a process where an impartial third person facilitates discussion and possible resolution of a dispute between two or more disputing parties. Mediation is strictly voluntary for both parties.

How does mediation proceed?

The complainant, officer, and two mediators will meet at a designated location to discuss the incident in question. Both the complainant and the officer will be given an opportunity to explain their respective positions regarding the incident in question. The role of the mediators will be to assist the parties, explore various solutions, and develop a resolution that is mutually acceptable.

How long does mediation take?

The length of mediation varies from case to case, depending on the complexity of issues presented and the openness of the parties to resolution. Mediation will require sufficient time for the parties to discuss their respective positions and explore potential solutions to the dispute. As a general guideline, we recommend setting aside two hours.

How do the mediators make a decision?

The mediators do not make a decision about the outcome. Rather, it is the parties who voluntarily agree to a mutually acceptable resolution. The role of the mediators is simply to assist the parties with discussion.

Is mediation confidential?

Yes, provided that the communications (1) are made in the course of the mediation, (2) relate to the subject matter of the mediation, AND (3) are made in the presence of one of the mediators.

How can I be guaranteed that my statements will be kept confidential?

Massachusetts General Laws recognize the importance of confidentiality in mediations to

ensure candid communications between the parties in the hope of resolving disputes. As a result, communications during mediation are considered confidential. Parties will sign a consent to mediate form that states that they agree to keep the substance of the mediation confidential in order to proceed with mediation.

How can I be assured that the mediators are impartial?

Mediations will be handled by members of the Harvard Mediation Program (HMP). HMP mediators abide by ethical standards outlined in the Uniform Rules of Dispute Resolution that are "designed to promote honesty, integrity and impartiality by all neutrals". If you have concerns about your mediator's impartiality, you can inform the mediator(s) directly and/or you can bring it to the attention of the HMP office. If necessary, another mediator can be assigned to handle the case.

Once mediation commences, am I obligated to continue?

No. Mediation is a voluntary process meaning that either party may withdraw from mediation at any time. In the event that a party withdraws from mediation, the incident will proceed through the standard Internal Affairs procedure and the complaint will be investigated by an investigator assigned to the Internal Affairs Division.

What happens if the parties reach a resolution?

If the parties reach a resolution, the case is closed. The mediators will report to the Department that the mediation was successful, and no further investigation will take place.

What happens if the parties are unable to reach an agreement?

If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the mediators will report to the Department that the case was not resolved. The complaint will then proceed through the standard Internal Affairs procedure.

Will all of the complaints filed against me proceed to mediation?

No. It will be a case by case determination by the Police Commissioner based on the recommendation of the Chief of the Bureau of Professional Standards which complaints proceed to mediation versus which cases will be investigated by the Internal Affairs Division. Internal complaints will always be handled by the Internal Affairs Division.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Harvard Mediation Program?

The contact information for the program is:
Harvard Mediation Program
Harvard Law School
1563 Massachusetts Avenue
Pound Hall 521
Cambridge, MA 02138
www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/hmp
Phone: (617) 495-1854
Email: hmpintake@law.harvard.edu

News from...

Urbanity Dance

BY BETSI GRAVES, DIRECTOR

With the passing of the new year, we have seen winter officially arrive here at Urbanity. As a newsletter subscriber in our inner-circle, I wanted to give you a sneak peek at what I'm looking forward to the most in 2016.

I am so proud of the curriculum our school leadership has developed and the joy that I see radiating out of our South End school. Please note that the final deadline to register young dancers ages 3-16 for the 2015-2016 season is

February 1st.

Believe it or not, our minds are already on summer! I have been busy traveling to cities across the U.S. to scout talent for our fifth-anniversary Summer Intensive, and what talent I have found! There are still a few audition cities left, plus a video audition opportunity, all for dancers ages 11-24. For our younger dancing friends, our lineup of summer camps has arrived and registration is open!

In the Company, our professional dancers are switching to high gear over the next

few months. We have four-yes, four - major performances this spring! February 12th and 13th four of our very own dancers and one guest artist, mentored by veteran choreographers, will be debuting their own choreography at Green Street Studios. March brings a performance at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, April a unique collaboration with Emmanuel Music, and June our season ender, featuring choreography by Houston's Andy Noble and Minneapolis' Carl Flink. You do not want to miss a single show from Boston's Best this spring.

I so am grateful for you, who with your support and encouragement, give me and the

Urbanity family the courage and fortitude to keep dreaming the dream of empowering our community through dance. We are excited to open the doors to our community as we plan our first-ever Afternoon at Urbanity: An Insider's Look into our Company, School and Community. This hour-long event at our studios in March will give an intimate peek into who we are and what we do.

More details to come on all of the above.

Urbanity Dance, 1180 Washington St, #100, Boston www.urbanitydance.org

News from...

Old Dover Neighborhood Association

February meeting on February 2, 6:30 pm at Project Place.

This month, we will continue the conversations from the January meeting, in response to requests for support concerning:

- Medical Marijuana Dispensary on Albany Street
- Union Park Street closure Spring and Summer Sundays for Food Trucks

National Development will also attend to provide updates concerning construction (AC Hotel), proposed billboard changes, and Open Markets.

Board Elections and Call for Nominees:

This time of year is when the Board of Old Dover holds its elections (the Board is elected by the membership). Those current

members whose terms are up, as well as any new board members, will be elected in February. To vote in this election, you must be a current member (see below for membership/dues-paying link).

Now is the ideal time to consider taking a position on the Old Dover Board. As you know, the Neighborhood Association is 100% volunteer-based, and in need of neighborhood residents to get involved.

To run for a position, simply send an email to info@olddover.org. You will receive a response from a current board member, who will be available to answer any questions.

If you would like to do more than just attend and read about neighborhood issues, please consider joining the Old Dover board or a committee. There is much to do, and additional hands will lighten the load.

placed him in custody without incident.

Apparently, the suspect had gotten into a cab after discharging the firearm in the Back Bay and asked the taxi driver to take him to an undisclosed location. As the cab was driving out-bound on Massachusetts Avenue, the suspect fired his weapon while inside the vehicle, causing the driver to come to a sudden stop. There were no reported injuries as a result of the second discharge. As officers began to converge on the scene, the suspect exited the cab and fled on foot before being stopped near Massachusetts Avenue and Albany Street. Officers later recovered a loaded Jimenez Arms .380 caliber handgun from the rear passenger area of the taxi cab.

The suspect will appear in Boston Municipal Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition and Firearm Discharged within 500 Feet of a Dwelling.

Gunfire

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throwing his glass to the floor, causing it to break. The suspect then exited the hotel onto Arlington Street where witnesses stated he took out a firearm and fired a shot in an unknown direction. There were no injuries as a result of the discharge. The suspect then fled the area on foot prior to the arrival of responding officers. Officers recovered a credit card in the name of the suspect from the bar along with his unpaid tab and gave out a detailed description over the radio.

As officers were searching the area for the suspect, a second call came in for a person with a gun with shots fired on the other end of the district near 811 Massachusetts Avenue. Officers from District D-4 as well as Tactical Units from SWAT quickly arrived on scene and located the suspect from the initial incident at the Taj and

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News from...

Friends of the South End Library

Next week, Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30 PM, the Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) holds its Annual Meeting at the South End library to elect an exciting slate of board candidates, all of them South End residents, your neighbors. You, the audience, will vote yeah or nay (we hope yeah). After the formality, we will talk about our plans for the next year or two, specifically, the renovation of the library, the renovation of the park, and maintaining and establishing new programming. We have refreshments, of course.

For details on the proposed candidates and the upcoming reading, visit www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org.

[friendsofsouthendlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org).

Finally, the next public hearing about what your hopes and dreams might be for a new BPL president will take place Monday, February 1, at 6:30 PM at the East Boston branch, 365 Bremen Street, in East Boston. The Boston Public Library Presidential Search Committee is evaluating top candidates from around the country for the position of BPL president together with the executive search firm, Spencer Stuart.

So far, public comments on the attributes hoped for from the four previous sessions have ranged from someone comfortable with the

cutting edge of technology to someone who supports the basics of books and the culture of reading, to someone who will protect and defend the BPL's art and cultural collections to someone who raises a lot of money, knows how to navigate the political scene to someone who can inspire a demoralized staff and return respect and autonomy to the branch libraries. All good stuff. You can add your own comments by email or the BPL Twitter handle via @bplboston and at presidential search committee chair John Palfrey at @jpalfrey. In addition, comments may be submitted via SearchChair@bpl.org

B/FSNA

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Boston Police Department (BPD) commissioner Evans and other BPD officials, state representative Byron Rushing, city councilor Ayanna Pressley and leaders of South End community groups in attendance.

After the gun-violence meeting, Huang took a walk with councilor Frank Baker, visiting potential spots for security cameras. BPD community service officer Sgt. Lucas Taxter reported on the status of purchasing more cameras for the South End. "The plan to buy cameras will cost about \$25,000 but unfortunately, this year City Hall allocated zero dollars for cameras. They are quite expensive, as they have to be purchased, installed and maintained. Councilor Baker is trying very hard to get funding for 7 cameras for your neighborhood, the area around Villa Victoria and for Sparrow Park. He is trying to get funds both from private sources and from the city and he hasn't gotten them yet, but he is very confident he will succeed."

Taxter said the cameras will capture real-time video and will be tied in to D-4 officers including Taxter as well as BPD's Boston Regional Intelligence Center, where analysts, detectives and Homeland Security officers can view footage, rewind and review in order to respond quickly in the event of an incident. Taxter said that Maloney Properties, managers of Villa Victoria, have 17 cameras and have been "very cooperative", consulting with D-4 when buying and placing additional security cameras. Taxter also talked about BPD's citywide bicycle unit which patrols most of the city from 4:00 PM-midnight, stating that the South End is the only area of the city with daytime bicycle patrols. The South End bike patrol concentrates mainly on the Mass. Ave. and Albany Street area, the so-called "Methadone Mile". Taxter said the bicycle patrols have the advantages of being able to go places cruisers cannot and being quieter than cruisers.

Taxter distributed South End crime statistic sheets and pointed out that in 2015 compared to 2014, the South End's crime rate decreased in almost every category of FBI-designated Part 1 crimes including murder, rape, aggravated assault and larceny. The exceptions were burglary, which rose 10 per cent in 2015, and aggravated assault, which includes cases of domestic violence.

Taxter explained that while D-4 is the most densely populated district in the city, it has the

fewest officers per 10,000 persons and in the previous 7 days, D-4 responded to over 1,000 911 calls. Addressing anxiety over December's gun-related incidents, Taxter said the last shooting in the South End last year occurred on December 23 and there have been two shots-fired calls this year, although one was determined to be unfounded.

When Taxter mentioned that most of the shootings were gang-related, Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) president George Stergios asked what gangs do. Taxter said they sell drugs, with marijuana and heroin most sought-after in the South End.

Turning to BHCHP's plan for a medically supervised space for drug users under the influence, Huang noted that BHCHP did not reach out to community groups and South End Forum members learned of the plan on a WBUR radio report last fall. The Forum convened a task force that reported on the safe space at its January 12 meeting. Huang said that according to BHCHP, opioid overdose is the leading cause of death among its patients and it sees two to five overdoses each week at its 780 Albany Street facility.

In effort to prevent overdoses on its premises and on surrounding streets, BHCHP wants to provide a space in its facility where 8 to 10 opioid users under the influence can be monitored by a nurse and a public health advocate and treated for overdose as needed. The task force stressed that BHCHP will not tolerate drug use on its property and the public health advocate will offer addiction treatment. The safe space is intended for local users only, as it is intended to alleviate the effects of drug activity in the South End. Huang said the safe space is still in planning, and because it appears to be an "internal solution to an internal problem" for BHCHP, the South End Forum voted not to oppose it. Huang observed, "I think the reason it became a controversial issue is because there was a lack of community engagement in the first place. It was discovered through the media first. [BHCHP] realizes they could have done a better job on this one."

In the discussion of the proposed medical marijuana dispensary at 591 Albany Street, Natural



(Above) Meeting Attendees (Below) Randy LaMattina.
Photos by Michele Maniscalco

Healthcare Inc.'s (NHI) chief security officer (CSO) Randy LaMattina, a former BPD officer who worked with Capt. Paul Ivens on the Bomb Squad, opened the conversation, stating that NHI had already met with the Old Dover Neighborhood Association (ODNA) and declaring that "an informed public is the best thing in the world." LaMattina said that based on the ODNA meeting, NHI's principals felt it would be best to come to B/FSNA to offer information on NHI and medical marijuana and to solicit questions for a future B/FSNA presentation. LaMattina told the group that NHI's managing partners, including Steve Barber of Barber Foods, are "very, very good businessmen with career track records."

On security, LaMattina said that NHI plans to place security cameras in its dispensary and that he talked to Capt. Ivens about donating cameras for BPD's own use. "We believe that we can be a good partner to the community," LaMattina concluded. Next he introduced Barber, who recalled his experience in the food business and in

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Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

C.D. Hermelin
Michele D. Maniscalco
Jack Maypole, MD
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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South End Resident Set to Run

Part of YMCA's Boston Marathon Team

Max Alderman, 28, grew up off of Concord Rd. in Sudbury, MA. Every Patriot's Day, he would wake up to the sound of the fife and drum as the militiamen marched his home. He would run outside and join the other families in the neighborhood to wave and celebrate the historical significance of Patriot's Day. After which he'd head over to Framingham or Natick, where he would watch the Boston Marathon runners go by and hand out water with his friends. Over the years, Alderman has seen the marathon from every town along the route and still revels in its glory. It has been his lifelong goal to join the runners on the road.

Alderman's dream is about to be realized as he sets out to take on the 120th Boston Marathon on April 18 running alongside the YMCA of Greater Boston's Marathon team.

"I have always been in awe of the Marathon runners," said Alderman, who now resides in the South End, less than a mile from the finish line. "This year as I finally take on the challenge, it will be just like running home."

Alderman is running and raising money for the YMCA of Greater Boston, a cause that's close to his heart and an organization that he says is so much more than just a "gym and swim".

Alderman is a former Y employee who served as a coordinator for the Reach Grant and Diabetes Prevention Programs. He knows firsthand the impact that the Y makes on the community, and is inspired by the variety of chronic disease prevention programs that the Y offers.

"The YMCA is a mission-driven organization that is well-established, well-recognized, and trusted within many communities," said Alderman. "The extensive youth programming for teens also provides a safe place to interact with peers and be supported by positive role models and mentors."

All funds raised by the Y Marathon team members will support the YMCA of Greater Boston's teen programs. This past summer the YMCA of Greater Boston gave out 15,000 free three-month memberships to teens at the Y's 13 branches with unlimited access and held more than 900 community events. Programs like Safe Dating, Cyber Bullying, Job Readiness, Volunteerism, Leadership, SAT prep and mentoring programs empower and engage youth in productive ways.

By reaching out to his support network, along with local businesses in both Sudbury and the South End, Alderman has already hit his halfway point of his fundraising goal of \$8,000, with \$3,100 more to raise before the big race.

On March 10, Alderman will host a fundraising event at Paddy O's in Boston that is open to the public. The event will run from 7 to 10 p.m., and there is a suggested donation of \$20 at the door. There will be live music from his brother's band, the "1-4-5's," which covers songs from the 90s and 2000s and raffle, with prizes including gifts cards to Picco, Cinquecento, AMC Theatres, Recycle Studio, Liquid Hair Salon and more.

"The funds raised through our Boston Marathon team are crucial in helping to meet the growing demands of our teen population," says James O'S. Morton, CEO and President of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "This past summer was our busiest to date with each of our branches creating programming to fit the needs of the youth in their neighborhoods. YMCA of Greater Boston's teen programming is an invaluable resource for the youth of our city, keeping them off the streets, out of trouble, and engaged in productive and educational activities."

In addition to fundraising, Alderman has been busy training. "New shoes, a lot of cross-training, and the help from the Y team's running coach have been instrumental in keeping me on track," says Alderman. In



Max Alderman

case that there is another winter like 2015, Alderman says that the YMCA will help him prepare. "I am a member at the YMCA, so if it comes down to it, I will run inside on the treadmills, elliptical machines and take full advantage of the pool for water running exercises," says Alderman.

Runners who have qualified to receive a Boston Marathon bib and would like to experience the comradery of running with a team while supporting charity are welcome to join the YMCA of Greater Boston's Marathon team. Runners must raise a minimum of

\$1,500. For more information on how you can join the team or how to support the runners, email ymarathonteam@ymcaboston.org to learn more about YMCA's marathon runners visit, ymcaboston.org/boston-marathon-team. #RunYMCA

For more information Alderman, or to donate to his upcoming run in the Boston Marathon, visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/ymcaboston2016/fundraiser/maxalderman>.

B/FSNA

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establishing a casino in Oxford, Maine. Barber said his interest in opening a dispensary stems from the personal experiences of loved ones, his belief that medical marijuana is a better option than high-priced pharmaceuticals and a desire to create good jobs in the South End.

About safety concerns, Barber said, "Randy is going to work with the police and community groups on safety issues." LaMattina said that NHI approached the city first by contacting city councilor Bill Linehan, who was non-committal on the dispensary and urged him to contact the neighborhood organizations. He then called Capt. Ivens, who said the BPD cannot take a po-

sition on the issue.

Bob Minnoccio, who led a WSANA task force on an unsuccessful 2013 bid for a dispensary at 70 Southampton Street, recounted WSANA's opposition to that proposal and to any medical marijuana dispensary within ½ mile of Boston Medical Center, adding that in the three years since that bid, drug activity in the WSANA area has increased. "If you think drug dealers who are all over the neighborhood aren't going to find a way to get their hands on that product, you're fooling yourselves,"

Minnoccio told Barber. Barber's son Sam, who conducted preparatory research for NHI, replied that they are aware of that concern but feels the dispensary will be positive for the community, pointing to research supporting that claim. A local woman echoed Minnoccio's concern about hav-

ing yet another drug-related facility in the South End, calling the neighborhood "overwhelmed" with facilities already, while another neighbor claimed research shows that where drugs are legal, drug-related crime declines as there is no financial incentive for illegal drug sales. Responding to concern about increased traffic around the dispensary, LaMattina said that NHI anticipates more home delivery than patient visits and that many visitors will use public transit and The Ride.

When asked why they selected 591 Albany Street, Steve Barber replied, "It's a beautiful building" and the structure fit the requirements for the license. A couple pointed out its proximity to residential developments and to a playground ½ block away, and another homeowner wondered whether NHI had been in touch with the Leggat McCall group which is planning a large residen-

tial building near the dispensary site. NHI staff responded that they attended this meeting primarily to offer information and gather community response for a future presentation.

Huang asked why B/FSNA was not contacted earlier about the project. Steve Barber said it was suggested they approach ODNA first and LaMattina said, "If the neighborhood isn't in, If Old Dover says no to this, there is no point in coming back here."

The Barbers said that they were previously unaware of many of the concerns raised at the meeting and LaMattina said he did not know that a previous dispensary proposal had faced neighborhood opposition. To this, Minnoccio refuted the team's claim that they had "done their homework." Board member Michael Broderick asked NHI for a dedicated e-mail to which B/FSNA

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Resources

Boston Alliance for Community Health (BACH)

What: BACH's first Community Engagement and Membership workshop of 2016 to learn about a crucial yet often unrecognized comorbidity. Topic: "Stop the Stigma: The Intersection of Mental Health & Addiction"

When: Thursday, January 28th, 2016 from 6-8 pm.

Where: 5 Berkeley Street, Suite 208, Boston, MA 02116

Building trades exploration program

What: Information session taking place for students between the ages of 18 and 24 who are interested in the trades and need their high school equivalency diploma. Opportunity to receive a \$150 stipend dispersed every two weeks, OSHA 10, Lead Safe, First Aid/CPR and Hoisting Certifications, over 350 hours of HSET preparation, among other benefits. Successful graduates can be enrolled at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology and move on to advanced training or entry level in the construction field.

When: January 29th at 11:00 am

Where: At Boston Career Link in 1010 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02119

More info: Contact Luqman Abdur-Razzaq, call 617-541-1478 or email labdur-razzaq@bostoncareerlink.org or visit the website www.bostoncareerlink.org / www.goodwillmass.org

U.S. Attorney's Lecture Series "Restorative Justice"

What: Lecture series on restorative justice with Special Guest Speaker Karen Lischinsky, Ph.D., M.S.W. An opportunity to learn about restorative justice, a system of criminal justice that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

When: Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016 at 1-2 pm

Where: John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse
One Courthouse Way, Boston, MA
Jury Assembly Room

More info: Contact Martha Wyatt at martha.wyatt@usdoj.gov

Free Dental Services for Children: Annual Give Kids a Smile

What: Harvard School of Medicine offers an opportunity for free dental services for children ages 1-17 including dental cleanings, oral and orthodontic exams, referrals and more.

When: Saturday, February 6 2016

Where: 188 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA 02115

More info: To schedule an appointment call 617-432-1434, visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1024692340902223/> or email Chloe.A.Wong@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Financial Literacy Series (FREE)

What: Whether you've just started building your credit, are trying to repair bad credit, want to save to buy a home, or learn how to build wealth through investments, this 4-week free seminar series can provide you with the tools and knowledge to work towards your financial goals. Brought to you through a partnership between RCC, the Mandrell Company, and Urban Money Matters. RSVP here: <http://bit.ly/1WfDBHj>

When: Thursdays in February from 6:30 - 8:30 (February 4, 11, 18, & 25)

Where: Roxbury Community College | 1234 Columbus Ave | Roxbury, MA 02120; Academic Building #3, Room 121

More Info: Call (617) 933-7410 or email LHagen@rcc.mass.edu with any questions

Self-Advocacy Training and Support

What: How do you advocate for yourself? What do you need to better advocate for yourself? What goals are you working towards? Join members from Rosie's Place for this weekly, drop-in meeting to help build community, share resources, and learn problem-solving and self-advocacy skills. Light refreshments will be provided

When: Mondays from 9:00am-11:00am

Where: Rosie's Place Dining Room,

889 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118

More Info: Contact Adrianna at 617-318-0223 or arosembert@rosies-place.org

Hyde Park Community Service Agency System of Care Meetings

What: Join this coordinated network of community based services and supports that is organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with mental health needs and their families. The group is comprised of providers, state agencies, and community members of Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester communities. Come discuss ways to work more effectively to benefit the families needing help and support in the community.

When: The third Tuesday of every month from 10:00-11:30

Where: 780 American Legion Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131

More Info: Email rjoynr@the-home.org

The Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network Breakfast

What: The Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network is a professional homicide response network for service providers serving families and communities impacted by violence. The network was established to build trust and foster collaboration among services providers, to develop and maintain a clear homicide response process for all families and communities, and to provide a space for service providers to practice self-care and receive guidance and support from their peers.

When: The third Tuesday of every month from 10:00am-12:00pm

Where: Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, 15 Christopher St, Dorchester, MA 02122

More Info: Visit www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org

Violet

Continued from page 2

to Say Goodbye." He and Nile Scott Hawver as Monty are very believable as good buddies who are easygoing with each other at some moments and candidly critical of one another at others. Hawver's Monty is properly unrestrained with McCartan's initially tentative Violet during a night of sexual intimacy. John F. King captures Preacher's emotional complexity in speaking to Violet and his charismatic leadership of a strong

African-American choir—with Carolyn Saxon a dynamic Mahalia Jackson-like soloist during the gospel showstopper "Raise Me Up." Nods also go to David Connolly's spirited choreography here and elsewhere. Audree Hedequist, vibrantly hopeful and fetching as Young Violet, is a real find. Michael Mendiola has all of Father's alternating toughness and thoughtfulness.

Eric Levenson smartly turns the Wimberly stage into an evolving terrain of bus stops and stopover places, while Karen Perlow's nuanced lighting reflects the characters' changing fortunes.

Music director Matt Stern has spoken of being "a bit of a musical detective" who has to figure out "how does the music make these (the characters') emotional shifts happen." Conducting six talented musicians (four string, one keyboard and one percussion) and playing piano himself, he artfully takes them on a lively journey through a varied repertoire including bluegrass, blues, jazz and gospel. Stern calls "Violet" a "geographical journey." With his musical guidance and Daigneault's labor of love direction, SpeakEasy Stage's affecting staging is a trip very much worth taking.

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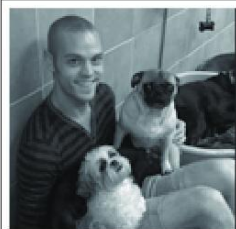
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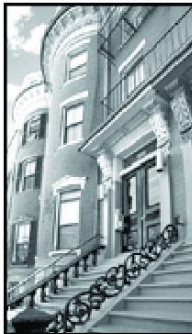
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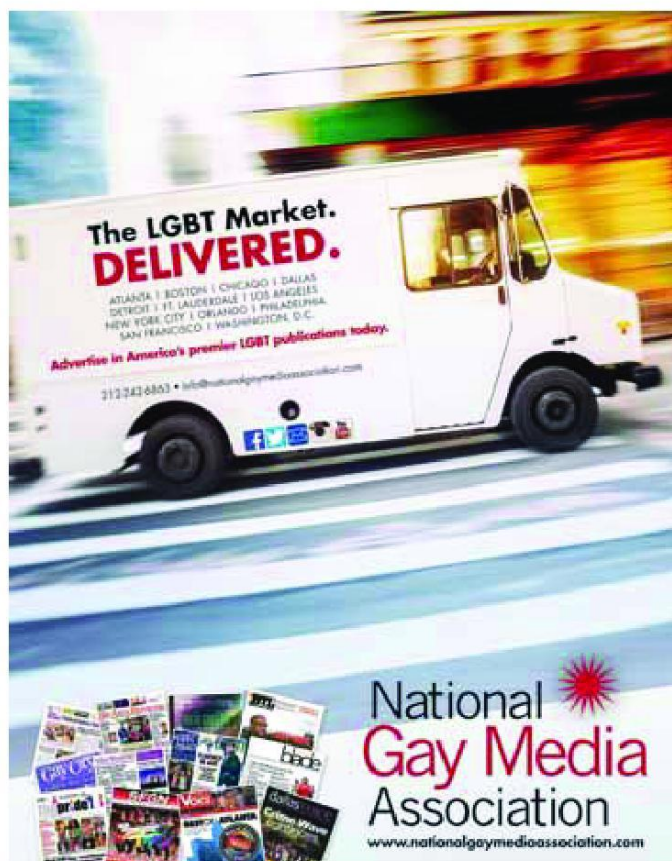
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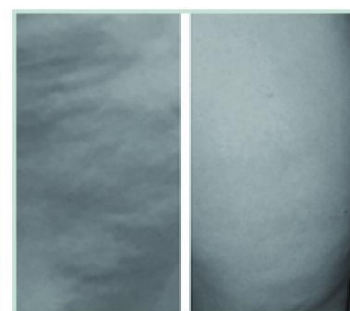
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