

South End Political forum explores local, citywide issues

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Perhaps inspired by the increasing intensity of political interest inspired by the presidential primary season, The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association (ESENA) hosted a South End Political Forum at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts on January 26 as an opportunity for elected officials to inform constituents of what they are working on and



Attendees of the South End Political Forum's meeting on January 26. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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Feb. 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

BY ERIC BRUS

The 16th annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is being observed on Sunday, February 8. As has been the case for the past several years, the theme for NBHAAD in 2015 is: "I am

My Brother's/Sister's Keeper: FIGHT HIV/AIDS!" According to NBHAAD organizers, the primary purpose of the event is to encourage Black Americans to:

- get educated about HIV and AIDS;
- get involved in community prevention efforts;

- get tested to know their status; and
- get treated to receive the continuum of care needed to live with HIV/AIDS.

To help you and your patients or clients prepare for and mark NBHAAD,

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Mayor Walsh Announces \$1 Million Renovation for Ramsay Park

Community Efforts in 2015 Inspire Change

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.

It started in the snowy winter months of 2015 when area stakeholders gathered together in St. Augustine and St. Martin's Church basement to talk about current conditions of the park and what could be done to bring positive activity to Ramsay Park. Many children who lived right next to the

park were not allowed by their parents to play there due to prior gun violence and current drug and alcohol use. Representatives from area non-profits, the D4 police, city and state officials, local churches and tenant associations developed a pages long list of activities big and small that would get children and families out to the park and hopefully deter the more negative behavior.

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Call for Shots Fired Lands One in Police Custody

SUBMITTED BY BPD

At about 10:40pm, on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, officers from District B-2 (Roxbury) were on patrol in the area of Melnea Cass Blvd and Washington Street when they observed a

motor vehicle travelling in a restricted travel lane designated for MBTA bus traffic only. Upon seeing the vehicle travelling in the restricted lane, officers activated their emergency equipment (lights and sirens) in an effort to stop

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Weapon recovered on 1/26. Photo courtesy BPD.

B/FSNA shows it's Heart of Gold

Feb. 11 college scholarships fundraiser

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The fun-loving folks of the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood

Association hope to chase away your winter doldrums with wine and chocolate, music and prizes at this year's Heart of Gold fundraiser on Thursday, February 11 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the gallery@ArtBlock, 725 Harrison Avenue.

Tickets cost \$25 and proceeds

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Image courtesy of Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association

Shots Fired

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the motor vehicle. Prior to stopping the car, it should be noted that officers had been advised of and were aware of a call for shots fired that had happened minutes earlier in close proximity to the area of the motor vehicle stop. Specifically, there had been a call for shots fired in the area of 1400 Washington Street involving three suspects. One of the suspects was described as a black male wearing a red-hooded sweatshirt while another was described as a black male wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt. With the car stopped in the area of Melnea Cass and Shawmut Ave, officers approached the vehicle.

While approaching the vehicle, officers noted that the passenger was wearing red-colored clothing while the operator was wearing a black jacket with a hood. Officers noted that both the operator and passenger appeared to be nervous given the fact that both appeared to be breathing heavily and reluctant to make eye contact with the officers. When officers asked the individuals where they were coming from, both individuals gave conflicting answers. In light of the conflicting answers, nervous behavior, proximity to the earlier call for shots fired and descriptions similar to those wanted in connection to that call, officers feared the presence of a weapon. Consequently, officers asked and instructed both individuals to

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

My family has a small adorable dog who will be eight-years-old in April. We all love her to bits but she seems to love my mom the most, which is no problem. I feed her, give her plenty of attention and walk her. But, for some reason, she's been going after my things she finds on the floor when my room door is open. It's never anyone else's things on the floor either. The things she chews are always specifically mine and this has been going on for about a year at least. I have no clue why but is she trying to tell me something? She's also been going into a specific room that the family doesn't use often and she pees and vomits in there. What is she doing and how can I help her feel less of a need to chew my possessions? She does have toys to chew and plays with them every day.

—Sophia

Dear Sophia,

You don't provide the name of your small, adorable dog so Dog Lady will call her "Miss Munch" or Miss M. for short. Anyway, Miss M. chews your things because you provide her the opportunity by leaving your room door open. Also, since you're the one who feeds her, your smell is probably particularly tempting. Close your door. Pick your things off the floor. You should see some results. Remember, Miss C. does not chew your things because she's mad at you. And, yes, she's trying to tell you something: Keep your room clean and your door closed.

About her peeing and vomiting in the rarely used room, well, that's a little more troubling. Make sure she has been checked by the veterinarian. Also, make sure she is walked outside enough so she doesn't feel the need to pee in the house. Clean up her indoor messes with a bio-enzyme cleaner -- Nature's Miracle is one, Simple Solution is another. These cleaners not only take away the stain but the smell so Miss M. won't return to the scene of the crime.

Dear Dog Lady,

We got Harley, a rescue dog (Yorkshire terrier) whom we think is four-years-old. He's a male dog that was never neutered and was obviously abused by a man because he hates my husband. When my husband tries to get in bed the dog barks and goes to attack him. He becomes vicious. I don't know what to do,

and my husband wants to give the dog away. I also have to have him wear a diaper because although he is potty trained he marks his territory randomly. Please help me. I know none of this is his fault.

—Cheryl

Dear Cheryl,

Your last sentence is so poignant. Harley has done nothing wrong. Is he neutered now? If not, he should be snipped immediately. This is a very easy veterinary process. And it should be inexpensive because no reputable vet charges steeply for this necessary procedure. After Harley is neutered, he should stop the piddle marking behavior. Also, after neutering, he should be calmer and more amenable to your hubby and others.

And, please, do one very important thing -- ban him from your bed. Harley is still learning about what's his and what's yours. Your bed belongs to you and your husband, not Harley. Buy Harley his own cozy bed and place it in the same room. For the first few nights, direct him to his nest. You can sweeten the deal by including some small pieces of cooked chicken on his pillow.

Dear Dog Lady,

On dating website, I had been writing back and forth with a man who described himself as a 57-year-old lawyer. In his photo, he had a nice smile. In his emails, he mentioned grown children, an ex-wife, but no pets. I finally asked him if he had any animals at home and he wrote me back a startling reply: "No, I don't have pets and I don't want to date a woman with a dog. I can barely stand cats. I have no allergies, except to women with dogs. Hope you don't have one."

I do have a dog I love very much so I didn't write this guy back. But I wonder about someone who has an aggressive dislike of women with dogs. Do you think this sort of thing will be a problem as I start dating? (I'm a divorced 54-year-old woman who hasn't dated for 30 years.)

—Ellen

Dear Ellen,

You have to meet in person to determine if there's any chemistry. When a man really likes you and desires to know you better, he won't care if you harbor a dog, a zebra, or an aardvark. The lawyer sounds like a man with rigid standards. Maybe he's been burned by an ex with a Rex. Or maybe he believes a single woman with a dog will give him less attention. You don't need such selfish thinking in your life. You were right to write him off without an argument. In the digital meet market, nothing is real until you actually meet face-to-face.

Go to www.askdoglady.com to read chapters from "Book of Shorty: A Little White Dog Leads Me Home" on the new blog.

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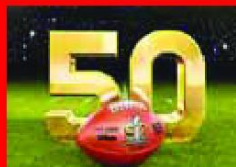
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B/FSNA

Continued from page 1

from admission and raffle ticket sales will fund B/FSNA's book and supply scholarships awarded to college students living in the South End. Urban Grape will provide wine for tasting and Taza Chocolate will supply the chocolate tasting supplemented with refreshments courtesy of Estragon and Foodie's Urban Market.

The Factory Trio, featuring former B/FSNA scholarship recipient and Berklee College of Music alumnus Matt Hull, will return to warm up the winter night with swinging jazz.

B/FSNA board members Lisa Jenks and Andrew Parthum are the co-chairs of this year's event, which offers a different atmosphere and format this year to keep things fresh. Former Heart of Gold co-chair David Wisholek explained, "This time, we are having a more casual event and we lowered the price point for tickets. It is our thought to alternate years with a formal

event followed by a more casual event. We are hoping that the lower ticket price on the casual years helps to engage neighbors that might find it harder to come to the more formal event."

This year, a raffle takes the place of the silent and live auction, still offering a wide array of items and experiences, including a week at Wisholek's and partner Christopher McBride's Provincetown getaway. B/FSNA will also offer guests the opportunity to sponsor scholarships at various monetary levels.

In the ten years since the scholarship program began with a 2006 fundraiser in founder Andrew Parthum's apartment, the number of \$1,000-\$2,500 scholarships awarded has grown exponentially. Wisholek and schoolteacher McBride moved from the South End to the suburbs last year but continue their involvement with the scholarship program that means so much to them.

Wisholek explained, "Even though we don't live in the South End, we are lucky enough to still own a condo in the B/FSNA neighborhood asso-

ciation. Since we still have ties in the B/FSNA area, Christopher and I didn't think twice about continuing our participation in the scholarship program. We are very passionate about helping local students. This program allows all involved to make a difference in the lives of our local South End recipients directly by offering not only the scholarships, but also a network of caring neighbors that work together to make a positive impact."

Jenks commented via e-mail, "Raising funds to support our very own south end youth to help send them off to college or trade school with money in their pockets for the never ending expenses of books and school supplies gives students confidence and strength needed to begin a very new life away from the community where they grew up."

Please visit blackstonefranklin.org to purchase tickets or e-mail BFSNA@blackstonefranklin.org for further details.

Awareness

Continued from page 1

we have compiled an annotated list of online resources focusing on HIV/AIDS in the Black/African American community.

Fact Sheets and Reports

HIV Among African Americans. Fact sheet from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/racial-ethnic/africanamericans/index.html

HIV in the United States: At a Glance. This CDC report discusses the high rates of HIV infection seen among African Americans. www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/ata glance.html

Diagnoses of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2014. This 123-page CDC report includes detailed information about HIV and AIDS cases and deaths among Blacks/African Americans and other racial/ethnic groups. Breakdowns are also provided by age, gender, HIV transmission category, and geographic region. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-us.pdf>

Black Americans and HIV/AIDS. This three-page fact sheet from the Kaiser Family Foundation was last updated in 2014. It provides detailed information on HIV/AIDS among Black Americans in the following topic areas: snapshot of the epidemic, key trends and current cases, women and young people, gay and bisexual men, HIV transmission, geographic distribution of cases, access to and use of health care, HIV testing, and opinions about HIV/AIDS.

<http://kff.org/disparities-policy/fact-sheet/black-americans-and-hiv-aids>

Selected Organizations and Websites

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Website: This site provides background information about the awareness day, links to resources, a facility to register for NBHAAD events, and information about the Historically Black Colleges and Universities HIV/AIDS awareness initiative. You can also order or download PDFs of posters and postcards to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Black community. <http://national-blackaidsday.org/>

NMAC: The NMAC website has extensive resources in support of its mission to develop leadership in communities of color to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. <http://www.nmac.org/>

HIV/AIDS Resource Center for African Americans: This section on TheBody.com website has links to numerous resources about HIV/AIDS in the Black community, as well as links to recent news articles, opinion pieces, and personal stories. <http://www.thebody.com/content/46201/hiv-aids-resource-center-for-african-americans.html>

Eric Brus is the Director of Health Information at AIDS Action Committee. This report is produced by the Health Library of the AIDS Action Committee in collaboration with the New England AIDS Education and Training Center Minority AIDS Initiative Project. The full version is available online.

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Reports of Door-to-Door Scams

Mayor Martin J. Walsh reminded Boston residents today to be cautious of consumer scams. There have been recent reports of people going door-to-door throughout Boston neighborhoods asking residents to show electric bills, claiming to be with the company Eversource, and sometimes pressuring residents to pay electric bills or face shut-off.

If residents encounter the above, it's possible that it is a scam.

Call 911 and report any incidents to the Boston Police Department.

A legitimate utility company typically will not go door-to-door except in the case of an emergency.

Utilities also will not demand that

residents pay with a prepaid credit card or be shut-off, or ask to meet at a store that sells such cards, or demand bank information, or use other scare tactics of this type.

Residents are encouraged to never show a utility bill to an unknown party, or reveal private information, as this info can be used maliciously.

Who Pulled Off the Greatest Art Heist?

Author Stephen Kurkjian at SE Library

On Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 PM, the Pulitzer-prize-winning Boston Globe veteran and Spotlight reporter, Stephen Kurkjian, will be at the South End library. He will give you the latest update on what happened since he wrote *Master Thieves: The Boston Gangsters Who Pulled Off the Greatest Art Heist in the World*, the hair-raising account of the half-billion-dollar theft of irreplaceable works of art in 1990. Seating is limited.

Pulitzer-prize-winning editor and investigative reporter Stephen Kurkjian didn't just write a book about the mind-boggling (and unresolved) theft of priceless art from the Isabella Stewart Gardner in 1990 and leave it at that: He keeps writing updates about it

in the Boston Globe, his home base for 45 years. On Tuesday, February 9, Kurkjian will be at the South End library to discuss *Master Thieves: The Boston Gangsters Who Pulled Off the World's Greatest Art Heist*. He is likely to bring along the details of the latest twists and turns of this tale of profound cultural loss, carelessness and tragedy. He will be introduced by his former Boston Globe colleague, M.E. Malone.

To date, the 13 irreplaceable works of art by Rembrandt, Degas, Manet and Vermeer, among others, have not been found despite the offer of a \$5 million reward for the treasure, estimated at half a billion dollars. Kurkjian's continued reporting about the theft, describing a September raid by the FBI on the Suffolk Downs Race Track, and, in January, the unusual sentence reduction by a judge of one of the suspects in the theft, might lead one

to speculate some denouement may yet be coming. One of the founding members of the Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, Kurkjian joined their investigation of the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandals shortly after the first articles on that subject were published.

A graduate of Suffolk Law School, Kurkjian has been the Boston Globe's Washington bureau chief. Of Armenian descent, the award-winning journalist has written numerous articles about the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The South End Library is fully handicapped accessible. The authors books will be available for sale, signing and borrowing. Refreshments are served. Seating is limited. South End Library is located at 685 Tremont Street, Boston. www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org/

Shots Fired

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exit the vehicle. Upon looking inside the vehicle, officers observed a loaded black firearm (see

photo) in the middle console. When asked to produce a License to Carry, neither were able to do so.

Officers arrested Lasana Harper, 22, of Boston, the owner of the vehicle, and charged him with

the Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device and Armed Career Criminal.

Honor Roll

UMass Lowell Names local students to Dean's List

Local residents were recently named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Lowell

Among those recognized for achieving academic distinction for the fall 2015 semester at UMass Lowell are:

David Zhong, majoring in chemical engineering
Zihui Chen, majoring in psychology
Maya Chin, majoring in public health
Merismar Isabel-Baez, majoring in philosophy
Zoe Turner, majoring in psychology
Shaquilla Terry, majoring in public health
Huan Ngo, majoring in electrical engineering
Genesis Perez, majoring in political

science
Meihua Cao, majoring in business administration
Chester Ob, majoring in electrical engineering

To qualify for the dean's list at UMass Lowell, a student must have completed no fewer than 12 graded credits for the semester and earned at least a 3.25 grade point average with no grade lower than C and without any incompletes.

Framingham State University Announces President's List and Dean's List Students

The following local Framingham State University students were named to the Dean's List or the President's list for the Fall 2015 semester.

President's List:

Xiaofu Lin, Cassandra Bernabel, Lindsay Walsh

Dean's List:

Benni Arias-Gonzalez, Ekaterina Hartman, Courtney Patterson, Alexandra Valdez

To be selected for the Dean's List, a student must earn a Quality Point Average (Q.P.A.) of 3.25 or higher. To be selected for the President's list, a student must have been named to the Dean's List for three consecutive semesters.

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Ramsay

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Over the months more people joined the meetings and ideas turned into action. A group signed up for Boston Shines in April and organized a celebration afterwards. Then in the summer twice-weekly tennis and basketball clinics were held in the evenings. There were more cleanup days and barbecues with music. A group of teens painted a peace mural on the ground where there was once a fountain and decorated tiles to hang on a deteriorating chain-link fence. In the fall volunteers raked leaves and planted daffodil bulbs. And as the fall turned to winter there continued to be talk of adding a flag football league and volleyball for girls. An artist received a grant for a dance performance in the summer 2016.

The community surrounding Ramsay Park has come together around this common space to make a change and the City noticed and heard. Mayor Walsh thanked the B. Peace for Jorge teen organizers from St. Stephen's Church Youth Programs for their work and there are many more people and groups that also deserve applause. The Community Service Officers from the D4 police have been at every event to make sure participants feel safe and to be part of organizing. The Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin has hosted many meetings and events. Vibrant Boston, run out of the new Lenox/Camden youth and family center

organized summer camp activities in Ramsay and made sure that youth and families attended every event. Teens from Youth Build Designery across the street from the park created a modular Ramsay so that the public can create their own design of the park. Northeastern University helped fund summer youth jobs, sponsored a movie night and sent volunteers from their facilities department to clean and fix things twice in 2015. South End Neighborhood Church, The Black Ministerial Alliance, NAFI, St. Cyprian Church, The Jewish Community Relations Council, Tropical Foods, Pizzatalia, Roxbury Youth Soccer all helped too. There are so many other individuals, elected officials, city departments and organizations to thank, but the point is to show that when a community comes together they really can make a positive change.

"We are so grateful that the City of Boston is making these funds possible to rejuvenate this integral space," said Jenny Effron, Executive Director of Washington Gateway Main Street. "Watching various groups from within the community band together to promote a positive change at Ramsay Park has been inspiring, and we are all looking forward to contributing to the future vision of this great park."

Follow Ramsay Park on Facebook and @RamsayPark on Twitter

Forum

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hoping to address as well as hear questions and concerns from South Enders. Sue O'Connell, editor and co-publisher of the South End News and Bay Windows and host of NECN's Broadside program moderated, with a panel consisting of state senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, chair of the joint committee on education; state representative Aaron Michlewitz, chair of the joint committee on financial services; state representative Byron Rushing, assistant majority leader; and former City Council president Bill Linehan. About 40 people attended the meeting, which dealt with topics in economic development, education, taxes and quality of life issues.

Rushing observed in his opening remarks, "For most us [on the panel], this is a big turnout!" Welcoming the audience and participants, David Crowley of ESENA said, "In addition to

great restaurants and neighborhood associations, the South End is blessed with a great team of representatives working for us day in and day out in City Hall and on Beacon Hill."

O'Connell posed a question about the future of Widett Circle following its role in the rejected 2024 Olympics bid. True to his nature as an academic and historian, Rushing approached the question with an explanation of the area's history as the site chosen for relocation of a number of food businesses forced out of Quincy Market in order to make way for its redevelopment as a commercial and tourist center. Rushing used the anecdote to make the point that relocating current businesses should only occur for a "good reason" and stressed engagement with the community in planning such a move.

Linehan mentioned it as a component in the Mayor's Boston 2030 strategic plan and a potential site for new residential development. Linehan

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Forum

Continued from page 5

remarked, "There's a lot of opportunity there. People from South Boston and the South End need to get in this together. There need to be big public infrastructure changes." Michlewitz admitted he was not very familiar with the area before the Boston 2024 discussion. "I was disappointed when Boston 2024 was talking about displacing businesses using eminent domain. It is a great opportunity for the city to explore, but I think we have to make sure we don't displace those businesses along the way because those are jobs that are very valuable to the city. You may not see them, you may not know them but they are important to how the city works."

O'Connell read an audience question concerning FAA flight paths and airplane noise over the South End. "The FAA has come up with a way to conserve fuel by finding most direct way for airplanes to land. Can we get more monitors to check the sound over the SE? Can we get curfews for larger carriers? What can we do about airplane noise in SE?" Michlewitz explained that the FAA has an advisory board that MassPort controls which includes a South End seat, but the South End representative moved from the neighborhood. Rushing said that the flight route plan for Logan conceived in the 1990s with input by surrounding communities has since been changed without community involvement. "There is a very strange thing that happens around community involvement that probably goes to being too successful, too good at it; a community being completely ignored. The basics of civic education: it's never over. They will wait until you die. You have to plan to come back to the issue. We need volunteers to represent us who show up."

On the subject of improving the Boston Public Schools (BPS) in light of current funding challenges, the panelists acknowledged Chang-Diaz's expertise in that realm. Chang-Diaz expressed the view that charter schools are a part of the solution to improving overall quality of education, but not a panacea. "Charters do not have a monopoly on innovation; we see innovation in our traditional school system as well," she said. Chang-Diaz also stated that charter schools have not performed as well in serving non-white students, while BPS district schools have a majority non-white student population. Chang-Diaz would like to see focus on increasing access to early childhood

education and engaging with community partners to improve public schools as well.

In his response, Michlewitz recounted growing up in the North End in the aftermath of busing, where the local public school, the Eliot School, was avoided by families such as his that could afford private or parochial school. "Now that has changed, completely 180 and everyone is trying to get their kid into the Eliot School. I attribute much of that to the growth of charter schools and the competition they provided, forcing the Eliot School to adapt and become a much better public school. Without that push, I don't think that would have happened." He continued, "I am also very blessed to have two public schools in my district, the Eliot and the Josiah Quincy, that are doing very well and have the resources to continue to grow. That is not the case in every public school in the city of Boston. The charter schools are not the be-all and end-all, but they aren't the devil, either." Linehan said, "I know that people think that the charter schools are a panacea, but every time funding is transferred to the charter schools, it takes the district schools down. We spend \$19,000 per student and we have a \$1 billion budget for the Boston public schools." Linehan mentioned Boston schools superintendent Tommy Chang, who moved from Los Angeles to become BPS schools superintendent last summer. Linehan asked that Chang be given the chance and the power to do his job improving BPS.

A senior and longtime homeowner spoke of increasing property taxes and the difficulty that older residents face since their property taxes are based on comparison to recent purchases by younger, more affluent homebuyers. She called the current tax-deferral legislation for over-55 homeowners "cynical, like a reverse mortgage idea" with a 4 per cent interest per year on the property imposed at the time of sale. "It's mean-spirited. If we've owned our homes and paid taxes for 25 years, why not give us a break?" She suggested tax relief tied to homeowners' income and longevity, noting that General Electric received a \$25 million property tax abatement for moving its headquarters to Boston. Linehan cited a steep increase in tax on his South Boston home with a one bedroom rental unit, noting that "everything is based on comparables." Chang-Diaz pointed to rising spending pressures on municipalities including increased funding for public schools as the state's contribution decreases, and the fact that Massachusetts has a flat income tax.

"We need to have some hard, hard con-

versations about the structure of our tax code. We are in a structural deficit year after year and it's not going to get better for property taxpayers until we confront that at the state level," she said. Chang-Diaz proposes legislation that would increase both tax rates and standard deductions at each tier. Linehan added that state aid to cities has fallen from over 30 per cent in 2007 to 15 per cent currently, and past programs that funded city programs have "dried up". Since 2007, the city has added \$40 million in new revenue every year through economic development. "I agree with the senator, we need to have a serious discussion on this. Instead of just, 'No new taxes', we need to have a new, better way of taxing." He told the homeowner that he is over 60 and said, "I agree with you. We need to do something for seniors."

An audience member posed the final question about pedestrian safety issues such as slippery brick sidewalks and traffic lights timed to have turning cars competing with pedestrians crossing the street. "I did not agree with it and I think there are certain intersections at which we should not have it, but it's a fundamental of transportation policy throughout America." Linehan added that because Massachusetts is a home rule state, changes to this policy have to be approved by the state government. Rushing said that most of the major pedestrian safety changes have been made at the request of the community, noting that the pedestrian crossing signs came as the result of discussions between neighbors and the police. He also observed that in order to get the speed limit lowered on city streets, as many South Enders desire, support would be needed from state legislators across the city, but West Roxbury residents think it is unnecessary.

An audience member asked about the continuation of urban renewal. Michlewitz replied that it has been effective in certain areas and should be decided on a district-by-district basis whether to continue urban renewal and in which areas it should end. Linehan said the Boston Redevelopment Authority must do its due diligence to get community input before submitting a proposal to the City Council.

Commenting on the event via e-mail, ESENA president Betsy Hall wrote, "Regarding the recent evening, we were pleased to see so many neighbors attend and participate in the forum and thought the broad range of topics was well covered by knowledgeable legislators."

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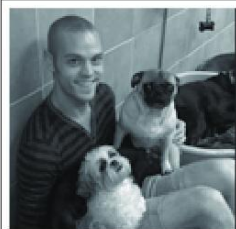
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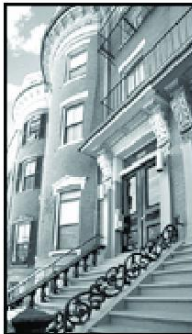
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