

15 Blackstone Students Named Jr. Coaches

For Playworks Massachusetts

Fifteen fourth and fifth grade students at William Blackstone Elementary School have been named Playworks Massachusetts

Junior Coaches for the 2016-2017 school year.

Playworks Massachusetts is leading the recess revolution in New England. Entering its 11th year, the nonprofit, which is part of a national organization, brings play and youth

development programming into schools during recess as a means to improve the health and well-being of children and to enhance learning through the power of play.

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400 Thanksgiving Meals Distributed in the South End

United Way will joined Catholic Charities and partner agencies in 11 different communities across the region Saturday morning, November 19, and distributed 6,500 packages of Thanksgiving groceries, including turkey and the fixings, to families in the Greater Boston area. The meals are meant to not only provide the fixings for a celebratory meal, but also help struggling families get through the week without

having to stretch their food budget.

More than 500 volunteers are spending this week helping to organize and pack over 200,000 pounds of food into the 6,500 Thanksgiving meal packages.

The Thanksgiving Project distributed 400 meals in the South End.

Since the Thanksgiving Project began, United Way volunteers and

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The Thanksgiving Project

Clean Up!

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

On Saturday, November 19, a crisp, pleasant morning with bright sunshine enticed scores of South Enders out of their houses to rake, sweep and otherwise beautify the neighborhood's sidewalks and green spaces for the annual, city-sponsored

Fall Cleanup. The city distributed rakes, brooms and garbage bags and neighborhood groups provided treats for hard-working volunteers. The lovely weather was a boon for turnout and the cleanup was an opportunity to meet new neighbors and catch up

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Photo by Michele Maniscalco

New city law offers added protection after tragedy

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

In response to the October 21 water main break and ensuing flood

on Dartmouth Street that claimed the lives of two Atlantic Drain Services workers, Mayor Walsh filed a new city ordinance with the City

Council on Monday, November 14 that would give permitting authori-

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Cheers to Cathedral High



Cathedral High football team finished the season with 8 wins and 2 losses. The team will clash with TechBoston Academy on Thanksgiving morning at 10 a.m. at Roberts Field, facing the former Dorchester High building. Its the first game in a new rivalry between the two schools and all are welcome to come out and cheer on both teams.

SoWa Holidays

First Friday December 2, 5:00 pm - 9:00 PM
Winter Festival
Saturday & Sunday December 3-4, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

meet over 70 artists in their studios and experience a wide variety of contemporary art. SoWa First Friday is free and open to the public AND artists' studios will be OPEN EVERY DAY for SoWa Winter Festival at 450 Harrison Avenue.

Saturday & Sunday December 3 & 4, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Visit the studios of 70+ SoWa Artists Guild artists at 450 Harrison Avenue. See 100+ of New England's most creative artisans and specialty food

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Online

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Online

Clean up!

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with friends while disposing of the layers of fallen leaves and trash across the South End.

At Chester Square, volunteers from the Chester Square Area Neighborhood Association (CSANA) and Victory House at 566 Chester Square gathered leaves and garbage using rakes and brooms from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, but substituting paper yard-waste bags that CSANA member Mark Carrig purchased himself for the plastic bags provided by the city. Carrig also purchased coffee and donuts as treats for the cleanup crew. Carrig expressed appreciation for the assistance of the Victory House participants. "Things couldn't get done without them. They are really, really helpful," he said. "It works for them, too. They get to be out in the park, get some physical work done and they get to meet the neighbors. It's a win-win situation." Carrig was pleased with turnout overall. "It was better than I thought: some of the neighbors came out." Carrig pointed out a little girl named Maddie and her father Derek who live on Shawmut Avenue. "She comes out all the time and she is just delightful; very upbeat," he said. Carrig explained that Maddie had with her a "recycled" doll she made herself from found objects around the house, apropos of the day's ethos of caring for the environment.

The Ellis South End Neighborhood Asso-

ciation (ESENA), represented by board president Betsy Hall, board members Bill Gregor and Regina Pyle and several other stalwarts, were stationed at the Boston Center for the Arts Plaza at 539 Tremont Street stocked with brooms, rakes and trash bags courtesy of the BPRD and offered free treats from Dunkin' Donuts to encourage neighbors to clean up the sidewalks and the plaza, which in just over a week will welcome the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour with Santa Claus and his helpers. ESENA board president Hall explained, "We are providing tools for people to clean up the neighborhood, we are soliciting members, we are giving free coffee and donuts to passersby." Gregor chimed in, "We are also publicizing our wine group as a forum to help neighbors meet neighbors."

At Blackstone and Franklin Squares, a dedicated team of members and neighbors gathered leaves, branches and debris in both squares, with an added incentive for kids in Franklin Square: child-sized rakes for the little ones and fun and games as a reward. Dalia Abu Dayyeh of the Kingsley Cares community-service group at the Kingsley Montessori School in the Back Bay said that her group worked with Knucklebone, a group that promotes exercise for children to provide active entertainment as part of the cleanup. Abu Dayyeh said, "They cleaned up for an hour and a half and they did over 250 bags. Then we turned the bags into an obstacle course for the children to run through." Abu Dayyeh that the school has a

significant number of students from the South End and Kingsley Cares wanted to reach out in the South End. "We had good turnout: about 50 of our South End families participated," she observed. Knucklebones, a Boston and

Los Angeles-based company that creates play events and programs and rents and sells play and athletic equipment for youth supplied climbing bars, goalie nets and balls, balance balloons, and other apparatus for the children.



Photos by Michele Maniscalco

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Thanksgiving

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partners have come together to provide over 37,000 Thanksgiving meal packages to families in need in our community.

The Thanksgiving Project this year is made possible by support from Mass Convention Center Authority, who donated the space, Stop & Shop, UPS, Putnam, DDJ Capital Management, Federal Home Loan Bank and Falcon Investment Advisors.



The Thanksgiving Project

Blackstone

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As a Junior Coach, these students will lead peers through games during recess on the playground. Wearing a Junior Coach t-shirt and carrying a whistle, they will work with a Playworks coach to help classmates to engage with one another, develop teamwork, inclusion and conflict resolution skills, and have fun, while developing their own self-confidence and leadership skills.

The Junior Coach program gives selected 4th and 5th grade students the tools they need to navigate through school and through life. Past experiences show, that given the opportunity, a set of well-defined responsibilities, a supportive adult role model and the uniform to match, these students will typically turn their behavior around and become model students.

The results speak for themselves: 84 percent of Junior Coaches experience improvement in social and emotional skills that can be used in school and beyond. Elementary school students with strong social and emotional skills are 54 percent more likely to earn a high school diploma, two-times as likely to earn a college degree, and 46 percent more likely to have a full-time job by the age of 25.

"The Playworks Junior Coach program impacts young leaders and through them, the world," says Jonathan Gay, executive director of Playworks Massachusetts. "Junior coaches receive more than 100 hours of training during critical after school hours. Junior Coaches can

be found at recess every day of the school year. They help ensure that every student is having fun, remaining physically active, and resolving conflicts in a peaceful manner. Junior Coaches become agents of real change in their communities and, consequently, Playworks schools see less bullying, fewer disciplinary referrals, and more time spent learning."

Junior Coaches are identified by Playworks coaches and teachers at the beginning of each school year. Selected students are not necessarily the stars of the class, but rather they are shy and demonstrate limited communication skills or they are very active and may bully other children as they struggle to engage with peers.

Unique to Playworks, the Junior Coach program operates in partner low-income elementary schools every day and becomes infused into the school culture as Playworks staff work with school teachers and principals to incorporate leadership development activities into other aspects of the school day outside of recess.

Since its founding, Playworks Massachusetts has grown from seven to 75 elementary schools and serving 35,000 students across the Commonwealth. To date, the nonprofit has served 160,000 youth. For 10 years, the New Balance Foundation has helped to energize education alongside Playworks Massachusetts and is the nonprofit's premier movement building partner. For more information about Playworks' Junior Coach program, visit: <http://www.playworks.org/communities/massachusetts>.

City Law

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ties such as the Department of Public Works and the Inspectional Services Department the right to deny, revoke or suspend a work permit based on an applicant's work safety history.

Under current law, the city is not notified of either pending or unresolved Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) violations, but if the Mayor's ordinance is passed by the city council and becomes law, the city will be able to require individuals, companies and other entities applying for work permits to provide proof of their worker safety history and take them under consideration in the permitting process. In a statement announcing the ordinance, Mayor Walsh said, "We know how dangerous work sites can be, and in Boston we are committed to doing all we can to protect those working in our city."

I urge the City Council to move quickly on this proposal so Boston can put these changes into effect immediately."

Roslindale-based Atlantic Drain Services, which provides services for residential customers as well as hotels and other businesses, has been fined for OSHA violations several times in the past decade, including eight citations from March of this year, but did not have to disclose those incidents in applying for the permits needed for the work that resulted in the October 21 tragedy. According to an October 22, 2016 Boston Globe report, Atlantic Drain Services was cited for a number of infractions, some deemed "repeat" and some "willful" in the case of a work site on Harrison Avenue in the South End where workers were toiling in a trench with inadequate cave-in protection. Other violations have involved hazards such as lack of oxygen in a tunnel as well as failure to provide workers with adequate safety training.

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a great eight-year-old Airedale but after seven-and-one-half years, he has developed separation anxiety whenever we leave home. We have left him a Kong. We leave the TV on. He has been to the veterinarian and no physical problems. The vet has tried meds but the drugs really haven't worked. He is fine if we leave him at someone else's home alone because our friend also has a dog. He just can't handle being home alone and he's fine otherwise. Any ideas to get him over this.

—Greg

Dear Greg,

It's tough to get a dog over the hump of separation anxiety. And, obviously, you are employing many remedies. Yet, have you tried ignoring him? Do not make a big deal out of comings and goings. Just come

and go and disregard the Airedale. Do not greet him with great fanfare when you come home, nor should you say goodbye, merely walk out of the house.

Yes, this no-drama strategy will be hard to accomplish but you must try. From what Ask Dog Lady has learned, our canines are extremely keyed into us. If they sense any sort of anxiety on our part, it can cause them to be anxious too. Try to be completely chill around the Airedale whenever you're in transition.

Dear Dog Lady,

My divorce attorney has a small shaggy dog named Lilliput that sits in on meetings. When I first started seeing the lawyer, I resented this and thought it was very unprofessional. Now, I couldn't bear to be without Lilliput being somewhere in the room while I go over the grim details of my broken marriage and what kind of financial settlement I want. I am also thinking of getting a dog as I move in to a new place and begin my single life after 33 years of dog-less marriage. The kids are all grown. Can you recommend a kind of dog that would be a good match for a newly single 58-year-old woman?

—Colleen

Dear Colleen,

Consider the old expression that acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative. Fie on Ask Dog Lady to exert an opinion about what could be the most important choice in your post-divorce life. Only you can answer the questions and make the choice about your new roommate. Small or large? Purebred or mutt? Older dog or puppy? Shaggy or short hair? Shelter or rescue?

Know this: It will be a lot of work. There is no such thing as a dog that doesn't want to be walked. Some dogs need more exercise than others. Your dog will require you to get off the couch and put one foot in front of the other every day. This will greatly improve your social life at a time you need it most.

You also must train the dog to do everything you want your dog to do—from socializing with other

dogs, to walking on the leash, and maintaining proper potty manners. Have a ball.

Dear Dog Lady,

An uppity friend of my sister-in-law lives in our neighborhood. Army has two dogs and she doesn't pick up. My husband was home from work one morning and he saw both dogs squatting on a little patch of grass outside our house. After they did their business, Army didn't bother scooping. My husband was angry. Instead of confronting her, he wrote her this poem and left it in her mailbox wrapped in a baggie:

"I saw you walk/I saw you stop/I saw your dogs make a drop/I don't mind dew upon my grass/In fact, it's what it needs/But doo from dogs is bad for grass/In fact, it kills the seeds/So if you walk/And if you stop/A bag is what you need/Cause walking and dropping without stopping/Is un-neighborly and just plain mean/XO, Your neighbor, David."

She hasn't talked to us since and she's still seen walking in the neighborhood and not picking up. One of these days, I'll muster the energy to say something to her. Can you think of the perfect thing to say?

—Lisa

Dear Lisa,

Your husband said it all very cleverly. If this poem in a baggie didn't jar Army's conscience, nothing will. When she flouts her responsibility to do the right thing for her neighbors, her dogs and herself, the woman lacks an inner compassion compass. You might ask her if she'd like to receive another poem in her mailbox, but why bother. Any interaction with her might invite rage and bad feelings. If she continues to leave doo all over the neighborhood, call the local authorities, report her, and be done with it. And say a secret prayer so her dogs eventually soften her brittle nature.

Visit askdoglady.com and read the new blogs, "Shorty Knows" and "The Dexter Diaries."

Letters to the Editors

Viva Puerto Rico! Viva America!

As someone who hails from the South End/lower Roxbury neighborhood and grew up there in the 50s and 60s, I remember a time when the Puerto Rican community was near non-existent. As a teen I saw the area around Shawmut Avenue to Tremont Street turn into the first Puerto Rican community.

Back as a child the only Puerto Ricans I actually knew were my Uncle Joe Harrington's wife, my Aunt Blanca and my four first cousins who were Puerto Rican-Irish while I was Sicilian-Irish. We were all the Irish cousins

and joked about it. My favorite Puerto Rican city was Rio Piedras their hometown.

I was unable to get over to the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument on Veterans Day but I was there in spirit remembers all the members of the 65th Infantry Regiment, a unit of the US Army which has served in every US War since World War I.

State Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez spoke of his dad who served in WWII and Mayor Walsh brought greeting from the City and stated, "Those represented by this monument" are

an inspiration to us and show us the strength of a united community and the importance of throwing yourself into service for others. That's the meaning of bravery and sacrifice.

Jeff Sanchez grew up in Mission Hill and attended Mission School with my nephew Dominic. They were boyhood friends and I remember him and today Sanchez has become a great voice and vote for his constituents and for Boston's Puerto Rican community too.

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Mark my Words

Trump as easy as 1, 2, 3

BY MARK SEGAL

1. Trump is President-elect. If that angers or frightens you, don't get upset, get involved.

2. What are the signs we in the LGBT community should be looking for? Trump has already made the statement that marriage equality is already the law of the land (in a "60 Minutes" interview last Sunday). But how about the Equality Act so that members of our community are not discriminated against? The reality is that, unless the Republican Congress decides it's on their list, it will die — unless that organization I mentioned above begins to concentrate on those Republicans.

What about all those executive orders that President Obama signed to give our community what relief he could without the Equality Act? The President-elect had promised during the campaign to undo all of Obama's EOs on the first day. Does he actually do that, or

do he and his staff understand that some of the orders have value? The same holds true for department directives issued under the Obama administration. This is where whom he appoints affects all of us.

Will there be any LGBT appointments to high-level positions in a Trump administration? Or are we to be invisible again in government? And what about the small things like Pride? Will there be an LGBT Pride reception in June in the White House? That might sound silly, but I must admit as one who has been fighting against our community's invisibility for almost 50 years now and who has been at a number of those receptions, I almost felt like we were no longer invisible, as we were before our struggle gained momentum after Stonewall. Which brings me to:

3. The other day I went to pick up my lunch from a place I often visit and where I know the staff well. When I arrived, a staffer

said to me: "Last week [referring to the Trump election], I felt really sad for myself and my family. That's nothing compared to what your community must feel." The words just flowed out of my mouth: "Thank you, but we've been here before and we know how to fight back if necessary. We were here and fought back during Nixon, Reagan and Bush. We're stronger now and more organized."

Which led me to understand why I and I'm guessing all those in our community over 50 years of age and older look at this a little differently. We remember when we were invisible, we remember feeling helpless. We then organized, and we did it well. Powered with the new openness and visibility and more importantly the radicalization brought by Gay Liberation Front, the president no longer had our silence. Most important of these was Reagan, who during the early days of HIV/AIDS felt that sting of ACT UP and the organized

pressure of newly formed organizations to sustain that battle.

And that is the answer: Get involved. If this shock creates one thing, it might very well end the apathy of our community and the realization that our struggle is not simply having cocktail parties and chatting with office holders. It's doing what this community did well, but no longer does: Getting in their faces and not allowing them to forget us. That is the lesson of ending invisibility.

We are an incredible community. Have trust in each other, and get involved.

Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. His recently published memoir, "And Then I Danced," is available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or at your favorite bookseller.

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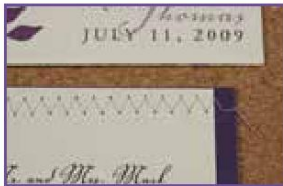
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Tree Removal Hearing

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 1, at 10 a.m. on a request to remove one public shade tree at 742 Columbus Avenue in the South End.

The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden (or designee) in the 3rd floor Conference Room of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Roxbury.

The proposal is for the removal of one elm tree measuring two inches dbh (diameter at breast height) due to construction of a Northeastern University dormitory at 742 Columbus Avenue.

Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, or may be provided prior to the hearing in writing to the Tree Warden, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02118 or by emailing parks@boston.gov with "NU Tree Hearing" in the subject line.

A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing. For further information, please contact the Tree Warden at (617) 635-7275.

SoWa

Continued from page 1

vendors at the SoWa Winter Festival Holiday Shopping Village in The Power Station 540 Harrison Avenue. Open to the public and free admission.

Saturday & Sunday December 3 & 4, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Taste and choose the wines you'll serve this holiday season and beyond at Winter Wine Land, Thayer Street @ 450 Harrison Avenue. Free wine tastings and food trucks stocked with tasty treats will be under a heated tent. Free admission.

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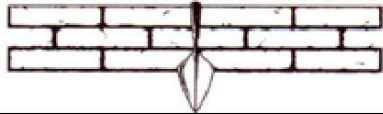
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