South End News
February 23, 2017 [Vol. 38, No. 7]

Being true to the work, and himself

South End singer-songwriter JJR debuts Tonic

BY CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

Boston singer-songwriter, JJR, just released his first album, Tonic. The 12 catchy songs tell a heartfelt tale of a relationship gone wrong. Across the twelve piano-driven, orchestrated songs, JJR musically tells the story of an infatuation, a deep love, infidelity, and finally, heartbreak.

Minnesota native, Jon Richardson (JJR), currently resides in the South End and is completing his Masters at the New England Conservatory. Richardson describes the first Tonic album cover by JJR

Obituary

A well-rounded life

Remembering Jeff Hull: artist, organizer, loving husband and father

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Fellow artist and veteran of the vibrant, independent Thayer Street art scene of the 1970s and 1980s Scott Hadfield called it “the end of an era” when his dear friend, painter, art educator, artist advocate and family man Jeffrey Hull Sr. passed away this month at age 65.

Hull is survived by his wife of 34 years, painter Deborah Kamy Hull; his children, potter Lucille Hull Nilsen, 32, of Tacoma, Wash.; software engineer Jeffrey, Jr., 29, of Brooklyn; and trumpeter/composer Matthew, 25 of Boston. Jeffrey, Jr.’s daughter, Kiyoko, 13 months, and

St. Stephen’s Youth Program

A Day of Sanctuary

Sanctuary...what does it mean to you? Is it a cozy school library where you can curl up with a good book and travel to foreign lands? If it is coming indoors after a cold day of skiing to share a cup of hot chocolate with a friend? Is it sitting in a church, synagogue, or mosque watching the light through the windows and listening to familiar stories? Is it the warmth of community, safety, a sense of belonging and peace? Who should have it? Who doesn’t have it yet?

On Monday, January 16, 2017, at our Seventh Annual Martin Luther King Day of Action we experienced and talked about sanctuary in its many forms: improving the learning environment of a school, including its library; skiing with middle schoolers and teens in New Hampshire; learning more about keeping our undocumented neighbors safe;

Editorial

Snow wars

Double standard for city property and walks?

BY SUE O’CONNELL

South Enders, veterans of many a winter, were shocked last week when city inspectors were quick to ticket almost-perfect privately-owned shoveled walks, while passing by city-owned unshoveled walks.

In my Fort Hill neighborhood, Marcella Street is home to several city-owned properties. None had the sidewalk in front of them cleared. None. Even as late as Monday of

Linehan won’t seek a sixth term

BY SUE O’CONNELL

Bill Linehan, District 2 City Councillor, announced February 15 that he will not seek a sixth term. “I’ve decided that I’m not going to seek reelection,” Linehan told The Boston Globe, who served on the council for a decade. “My intention is to finish the term.”

Linehan was elected to city council office in 2007 in a special election to fill a vacancy left by James Kelly.

District 2 includes South Boston, the South End, and parts of the Back Bay.

So far, South Enders Michael Kelley, a former senior aide to former Mayor Thomas Menino Michael and liaison to the South End and Bay Village, and Corey Dinopoulos, community organizer who co-founded the Olympics campaign Boston 2024, have declared they are running for the open council seat. Also running are Ed Flynn, son of former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, Frank Ulpis, who works at a software firm, and Peter Lusia, who runs a fitness startup company.

Check us out online at
www.mysouthend.com
Richardson
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song being conceptualized back in April of 2016 while enrolled in a music theory class.

"I'd use little melodies I made up as a kind of device to pass these tests that are called "harmonic progressions"... then, somehow, I had about 12 songs by the beginning of July.

While filming a movie out in Iowa, Richardson made significant progress on the album. The constant down time allowed him to focus on his craft and discover himself in greater depth.

I wrote maybe—five of the tunes out there," he says. "I had this little notebook and I would just write the lyrics while I was on the set of the movie and then when I wasn't filming I was basically at the piano for about four hours a day.

In that time, he was able to reflect on a recent break up he endured, and used that event to fuel his creative process.

"The relationship that had started back in April had just ended, so the whole album is sort of about that relationship but it's also kind of a kaleidoscope of a lot of past boyfriends, too.

The album features more than 22 musicians, most from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music, played on the album. The songs showcase a catchy brass and wind ensemble, string quartet, and virtuoso cellist Joey Cottone.

As Richardson discovered coordinating with so many musicians to find the right dynamics and space to record proved to be one of Post's most challenging tests.

"One of the biggest challenges was how these projects require an entire village of people," he said. "Most of it was 100% live—one day there was a 12-piece brass, drums, horns, piano these were, with one exception, all musicians from New England Conservatory here in Boston. All top-notch, brilliant players.

While the coordination and composition posed a huge workload, Richardson also explains that this value is in making it look easy.

"I think we tried to make it look effortless and we tried to hide it because I think hiding the work is what makes art great.

What he doesn't hide from is making sure his story is one that is true and transparent. His songs detail personal love and loss and, through this narrative, we hear his voice as he would say to himself in everyday life. He describes how he would write a song about losing a girlfriend, or singing to a female subject so audiences could relate, because he, in fact, never had one. An important part of this project for Richardson was establishing a reliable narrative that accurately and honestly depicted his story.

"Look—don’t be gay songs about gay relationships," he explained. "I don’t want things to happen in a home and my friends reflected in singing songs out there. There are plenty of gay artists, but they don’t use gay pronouns when they sing about love.

In a project that features such a wide range of musical composition and talent as well as a roller coaster of emotion, it is understandable why Richardson would want to hide the hard work that went into creating his art. What is for certain, however, is that the art he creates will never come at the expense of hiding who he is.

An album release party for Toth will be held on Wednesday March 1, 5pm-9pm at The Black Rose – 150 State Street Boston, MA. Tickets are available at iTunes.

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or email: sales@southendnews.com
St. Stephen's
Continued from page 1
from possible negative actions and staying in a circle of support with staff, local officials, and clergy.

9:00 a.m. - Gathering for a Day of Action

Are you open to new friends and reconstruction with old friends through their regular visits to Blackstone Square.

Indeed, Hull leaves an indelible influence on countless students, colleagues and art lovers who were touched by his work and his actions. A prolific painter and sculptor whose ateliers were visited with color and movement, Hull was the guiding light of the 1960s art movement, an independently-minded tradition the Thayer Street artists that blossomed into an ongoing series, mounted in different venues over a 10-year span, despite the fact that the ten participating artists gradually migrated to other neighborhoods and cities over the years. "Every couple of years he would come up with a plot to have some other vacation of X and he would organize it, find the venue and get everyone together. I always participate because I loved the camaraderie," Hasfield said.

Hull was also a founding and active member of Artists' Tenants of the South End, who chose to create affordable art lofts in the South End in the face of rising development and gentrification and was involved in the movement to organize adjacent professors. "He was one of the most important advocates for artists in South End. He had an amazing amount of energy and spirit and he was willing to get out and engage the world on behalf of the artists in the South End," Hasfield said in an interview.

In recent years, Jeff and Deborah Hull were active in the Blackstone/ Franklin Square Neighborhood Association and its college scholarship programs, which awarded a scholarship to Matthew during his Bachelor's studies at Berklee College of Music. Hull was devoted to loving his life and raising his family in the South End, despite the increasing pressure of rising housing prices.

"Where we have to move from, Albany Street in 1996, he refused to look anyplace but the South End," Deborah Hull said. While Hull beat the odds, living an active life for almost 40 years after a 1957 heart transplant, he lost his 10-year battle with colon cancer Monday, February 6, passing away peacefully at home with his family.

Jeff Hull was born on October 12, 1951 in St. Louis, Mo. Coincidentally, both he and wife Deborah, a Chicago native, earned bachelor's degrees in fine arts at Kansas City Art Institute, overlapping by 30 years or so, but didn't meet until the Boston to earn their Master's degrees at the Boston University of Fine Arts. Hull moved to Thayer Street in 1978, and married Deborah, also known professionally as D.K. Hull, in 1982.

Hasfield recalled that the stood out in the Thayer Street community as the only married couple. Their oldest child, Lucy, was born on Thayer Street. Hull paid the bills for her growing family as an assistant professor at the Art Institute of Boston, Emmanuel College, New England School of Art and Design and Northeastern University, also working as a house painter.

Hull undoubtedly left a mark on his students, evidenced by the fond inscription of one student's copy of the Vincent Van Gogh biography, "Lust for Life" that student gave to Hull. The student wrote that he was glad he wound up in Hull's class because he learned to think.
Snow wars
Continued from page 1

this week, one property—with the "owned by the city" white fence in front of it—remained
unshoveled.

How do inspectors know not to ticket
these properties?

Being a good citizen, I contacted
BOS111, both by phone and Twitter.

Within hours, one of the properties on
Marcella Street was shoveled. Just one.

Meanwhile on facebook...

I contacted BOS111 and Mayor Marty
Walsh and Councillor Tito Jackson. The
response:

"Hi @SuperNBOS111. While we don't
have plows to cover all of Boston, we'll look
into this right now. Thank you! @BOS111 @
titojackson"

How did I know what properties were
owned by the city? I googled it. Maybe
inspectors should google properties before they issue
tickets. Or maybe DPW should have a list
of city-owned properties and should dispatch
crews BEFORE ticketing citizens.

D/8/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO SOUTH END
URBAN RENEWAL PLAN,
PROJECT NO. MASS. R-56 FOR PARCELS 47, 54G, 54H, 56, AND 56A

Public Notice is hereby given that the Boston Redevelopment Authority
calls the Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BRA") will consider at
its scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2017, starting at 5:40 P.M.
in the Board Room — Room 900, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall, One City Hall
Square a proposed modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan
regarding Parcels 47, 54G, 54H, 56, and 56A. Said modifications will change
the Permitted Land Uses of Parcels 47, 54G, 54H, 56, and 56A to include
a combination of residential, commercial, office and parking. Parcels 47,
54G, 54H, 56, and 56A are located on portions of land that are currently
occupied by the Gambrill Building (660 Harrison Avenue), 100 East Canton
Street, and an open-air parking lot in the South End and commonly known
as "Harrison Albany Block." This Public Notice is being provided in
accordance with a certain "Conciliation Agreement" by and among the U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development, the BRA and others, dated

Teresa Pohlemus
Secretary, Boston Redevelopment Authority

WASHINGTON PARK
POTENTIAL HOUSING SITES

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
65 WARREN STREET
Dudley Branch Library
 Roxbury, MA 02119

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) will start a conversation with
the Roxbury community regarding the disposition of some BPDA-owned vacant
parcels of land as possible housing sites. The sites, located on Washington Ave.,
Cambridge St., Alfred St. and Alfred Pl., Dudley, Malcolm, Townsend and Banker Streets,
present an excellent opportunity to create housing in the Washington Park Urban
Renewal and surrounding area. We encourage residents to attend to learn about
the disposition process and give feedback to the BPDA.
Washington Street man assaulted, his car vandalized

Washington Street resident David Hedison was assaulted by four men at 10:00 AM on Sunday, February 19, as he attempted to back his SUV out of his parking spot in Alley 716, which runs between East Springfield Street and Massachusetts Avenue and between Washington Street and Harrison Avenue. Hedison opened his car door and tried to drag him out while another grabbed a brick from the ground, one assailant screaming, “We know your car; we are the police; we are the devil.” The suspects, whom Hedison described as thugs, turned on him and started assaulting him. Hedison felt pulled on his body and knocked to the ground, and the suspects fled. Hedison was taken to the hospital and later released. Hedison later filed a police report at Boston Police Department (BPD) District 4 at 650 Harrison Avenue.

The suspects were later identified as a 20-year-old male, who appeared very high and looked like death, and a 19-year-old male, who appeared very high and looked like death. The suspects fled the scene.

Hedison later filed a police report at Boston Police Department (BPD) District 4 at 650 Harrison Avenue. After the attack, Hedison stated in a press release that the attack had left him “very shaken up” and described the incident as “the worst event of my life.”

Jeff Hull
Continued from page 4

Jeff Hull learned about drawing the truth. Not only that, I learned about drawing the truth so that people could touch it, smell it, or believe it.

Both Deborah Hull and Jeff Hull described Hull as very involved in promoting other artists as lead organizer of X of the author in the side of the Beattie Book Shop at 71 West Street, collaboration featuring 20 artists. Deborah Hull and Hull also worked with galleries and shops to promote the work of artists by arranging and curating small drawing exhibits at venues such as A Street Frames and the Verdure Gallery at 71 Thayer Street.

Hullfield traveled to Hull's capacity to pursue his passion for art and devote himself to his family, noting that he and many other artists find it difficult to share themselves with another person while dedicating themselves to their work. At the same time, he began giving family to the world of music, and Hullfield always good about coming to people's openings and being part of social media. I can remember when the kids started making music at the time and a little toddler would pop up in the crowd, Hullfield recalled.

A proud dad as well as a jazz fan was partial to Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Gisele Baker. Hullfield liked to take in shows at Wally's Café at 427 Mass. Ave. when his son Matt was playing.

Deborah Hull attributed her husband's success to his creative talent for his work and to his dedication to his family. Hullfield shared his fondest memories and most important lessons from his father. "He taught us to work hard, be creative, and work with our hands. Work with your hands as much as your head and with your heart," Jeff, Jr. said. Lucy said her father taught her "to work hard and to be dedicated to what you love to do, and if there are obstacles, you can get past them." Matt chose to make a friend and funny memory of how his dad would send him out of bed on the occasional lazy morning. "If there was a particularly lazy day when I was sleeping late, I couldn't get up, my dad would stand outside my room with a coffee cup and take a funny nap. The sound of that stood out so much when there was no noise. It was so annoying, it was worse than a phone alarm, but at the same time, there was a lot of humor in that.

Jeff Hull's life was a life well-lived. He was a prolific artist, a creator of vivid experiences for others artists, a teacher, and an organizer. In the end, his finest creation was and is his remarkably loving and talented family.

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The Mayor's Office

Community Meetings

What: Back Bay South End Re-Development Community Meeting
When: Thursday, February 2 at 6:30 PM
Where: Boston Common Hotel Conference Room
40 Trinity Place, Back Bay

Two South End Programs Receive My Brother's Keeper Mini Grants

Mayor Marty Walsh, in partnership with The Boston Foundation, has announced the selection of 10 local organizations that will receive the first round of mini grant funding totaling $50,000 that is being awarded through the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Boston mini grant program, which launched last August. The program is designed to support local organizations and entities working to help maximize MBK's impact in improving outcomes for young people of color.

"We are proud of our national leadership in adopting My Brother's Keeper as a guide to how to work to increase opportunities in our neighborhood," said Mayor Walsh. "An important part of our success has been through partnerships with local organizations who work with our community every day to empower our young people to reach their potential. I thank The Boston Foundation for their collaboration on this effort, and congratulate all recipients on being recognized for their great work in expanding opportunities for young men of color."

The following organizations were selected to receive awards ranging from $500-$10,000:
- Castle Square Tenants Organization (South End)
- More Than Words (South End)
- NUBIA After School Program ( Roxbury)
- Young Empowerment & Advancing Mentoring program (YEM), Madison Park Development Corporation (Roxbury)
- BeaconPrep IV Brothers (Dorchester)
- Achievers Boston, Sociedad Latina, Mission Hill (Mission Hill)
- Diamond Educators, Boston Public Schools Department of Youth Services (Boston)
- BCYF Minuto Community Boys & Girls Club, STEM & Robotics Program (Roxie Park)
- Mattapan Tech, IT job training for youth in computers (Mattapan)

About MBK Boston

Mayor Marty Walsh launched MBK Boston in September 2014, accepting President Barack Obama's MBK Community Challenge as part of the White House My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative to create positive pathways for youth, especially boys and young men of color. Over the past two years, Mayor Walsh established the MBK Boston Advisory Committee which led engagement within the community and developed a set of guiding recommendations to support milestones across education, employment, public safety and second chances. To learn more about MBK Boston or to get involved, visit mbk.boston.gov/mbk.

SCREENAGERS!

On Thursday, March 2, from 7:30-9 p.m., St. Stephen's Youth Programs, a youth development organization located in the South End, invites you to a community screening of “SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age,” a documentary about one of the biggest family issues of our day: how we use, and how our screens affect, our family life, as well as our kids' development, social life and academics--and what we can do about it.

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a desire to support local organizations and entities working to help maximize MBK's impact in improving outcomes for young people of color?

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Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Biosafety Committee Members

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is seeking new community members for its Boston Biosafety Committee (BBC) from the South End/Roxbury, Fenway, and/or Chinatown neighborhoods. The BBC provides technical assistance and advice on issues related to regulation and permitting of biological research laboratories in the City of Boston. Community members should be able to commit to two years on the committee.

BPHC permits and regulates research laboratories in Boston and the BBC has a role in advising the Executive Director of BPHC. Community members of the BBC have a role in communicating information on biological safety to the public and providing input on community concerns.

The BBC meets when required for review of research projects, laboratory permit applications, or other times requested by the BPHC Executive Director. The time commitment will average five hours a month, with some months having no meetings and some months having meetings with materials to review in advance.

Community members interested in being on the BBC should contact Julien Farland, Boston Public Health Commission Director of Biological Safety, at jfarland@bphc.org or 617-534-2814.

BPDA Public Meeting

BACK BAY/SOUTH END GATEWAY PROJECT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
40 TRINITY PLACE
Boston Common Hotel & Conference Center, Room 201
Boston, MA 02116

PROJECT PROponent:
Boston Properties, LP

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The proposed project is conceived as a transformative, mixed-use, transit-oriented redevelopement, which will revitalize an underutilized urban site and transform the adjacent public realm, and integrate and connect the surrounding Back Bay, South End, and Bay Village historic neighborhoods. The proposed project is comprised of up to approximately 1.36 million square feet of mixed-use redevelopement, consisting of a new office building with ground floor retail, two new residential buildings, a one- to two-story vertical retail expansion of the existing Back Bay Station building, and the partial redevelopement of the existing 165 Dartmouth Street Garage.

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CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:
4/17/2017