The Blackstone, St. Stephen's & Dr. Seuss
A Great Partnership!

By Maureen Burns

On Friday, March 3, the Blackstone Innovation School and St. Stephen's Youth Programs celebrated reading and literacy with the Seventh Annual Read Across America Day. This is a nationwide event and is timed to fall near the birthday of many young readers' favorite author, Dr. Seuss. Here in the South End, volunteers from non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and corporate partners gathered in Books for RAAD.

Continued on page 2

Jackson tries again to block biolab

By Adam Gaffin

Councillor Tito Jackson (Roslindale) last week called on the council to try to prevent Boston University from beginning work on a biolab, which he fears could expose students to illness-producing microorganisms. The facility is currently awaiting approval from the Boston Public Health Commission.

Continued on page 2

Again, an end of an era

Family owned
Tremont Drug
closes its doors

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Snow shovel and fireplace logs stood by the front window of Tremont Drug, 610 Tremont Street, during a visit earlier this week, but

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News from...

The Friends of the South End Library

On Tuesday, March 14, award-winning foreign-policy journalist Stephen Kinzer, will be at the South End library to discuss his latest book, True Flag. Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire. The South End resident will be introduced by

Continued on page 2

974 apartments, condos approved for Harrison Ave

By Adam Gaffin

The BPDA board yesterday approved two projects that would mean hundreds of new residential units and retail space on Harrison Avenue.

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Check us out online at www.mysouthend.com
South End Library
Continued from page 1

WBUR radio host, Christopher Lydon, who interviewed Kiner last month on his show, OpenSource. Kiner’s widely reviewed book focuses on an old question hotly debated again today under the Trump Administration, the push and pull of American isolationist and expansionist impulses.

The acclaimed novelist Gish Jen will present her latest book of non-fiction, The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East West Culture Gap on Tuesday, March 28. Jen examines the different ideas Easterners and Westerners have about self and society, as she did in her 2013 Tiger Writing: Art, Culture, and the Interdependent Self. Her widely praised works of fiction include Typical American, The Love Wife, Town and Country, and Who Is Irish. Jen is a New York Times bestselling author of some of those Who Save Us and The Stormchasers, will talk on Tuesday April 6 about her novel, The Lucky One, part of the story collection Gould’s Central. Ruhl, whose perspective treatment of Holocaust-based stories won her a Rialto Prize adjourned by Elia Wiesel, will also provide a sneak preview of her new novel, The Lost Family, which will be out in early 2018.

Harvard University’s famous sociologist and South End Library’s beloved speaker and patron Sue Lawrence Lightfoot will be back in April. She will read from her 2016 work, Growing Each Other Up: When Our Children Become Our Teachers, on Tuesday, April 19. This week, as part of the PONEL Local Focus program, the Tremont Street window of the South End Library will feature an installation by Gemmae Goe of her project, Language: Together Stories That Bring Language to Life. The installation demonstrates how story-based immersion learning of foreign languages (including French, Spanish, and Chinese) can be fun for kids.

The extraordinary painter and long-time South End resident Paul Goodnight will have an installation in both windows of the library in April, accompanied by an artist talk at a yet-to-be-determined date. Goodnight’s award-winning work has been on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of the National Center of African-American Artists and The Smithsonian.

Good news for South End birders: on Tuesday, May 17, WCBH and WCRB radio host Ray Brown will return to the South End Library, this time to introduce the Smithsonian Journeys export birders and naturalist David Clapp for a slide-enhanced program about the Galapagos Islands. Clapp is a gifted photographer, lecturer and researcher who has brought to Americans and has worked with conservation organizations worldwide for thirty years. South End resident Ray Brown, the radio host of Talks Bird has organized a tour of the Galapagos for September with the Mid-State Birder nature expeditions company, and will have information available for anyone who might want to join.

And last but not least the Ninth Annual South End Library Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, April 16. The bunny has been booked. The eggs have been ordered. The poems and knock-knock jokes are being copied for Easter egg inclusion, with the chocolates. It starts at 11:00 AM, it will be over at 11:05 AM. More information at www.friendsofsothendlibrary.org. The South End Library is at 655 Tremont Street, Boston.

Biolab
Continued from page 1

the busiest bus depot in New England—and the impact on neighboring Bostons Medical Center should it be forced to treat a biolab researcher infected with a deadly communicable disease.

Jackson, who has tried before to block deadly germs from Boston, asked his fellow councilors to imagine a UPS truck picking up a package of chokes and delivering it to Albany Street, which is one of the most densely populated areas of the City of Boston.”

Rather than working on potential bio-terror weapons, Jackson said, BU—and the Boston Public Health Commission—should be working on trying to help the people who are sick, he said, such as the addicts along Albury Street.

Councilor Bill Lhinehan (South Boston, South End, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village) proposed Jackson’s bill. He said that the facility in America has undergone more regulatory oversight than the BU facility and that the research it will do could save “millions of lives.”

The measure now goes before a Council committee for a hearing before the council votes on it.

Harrison
Continued from page 1

East Berkeley.

Leggett McCall’s Harrison Alliance project would involve construction of new 11-story buildings and reuse of two buildings left over from when the site was owned by Boston Medical Center. The company had initially proposed 710 units in two buildings, one of which would have risen 19 stories.

The BPD said the project will need $30 million in new animal tax revenue for Boston as a non-profit organization, BMC paid no taxes on the land. Leggett McCall says about 65 of the units will be marketed as affordable—was designated specifically for working artists. The company will pay into a BPD fund to purchase or subsidize another 65 units someplace else.

Related Beat’s 370-380 Harrison project would include 92 condos and 232 apartments in a 14-story building on the site of the former Quinsault’s Bakery and Ho-Kong Bean Sprouts. At least 20% of the units will be marketed as affordable, the company says.

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**South End Forum**

Spring Meeting, Wednesday, March 15, at South End Branch Library, 655 Tremont Street, Boston.

Intro of new Forum representatives, association announcements of upcoming events, invitations, fund-raisers, and special interest notices. Reminder: dates for 2017 remaining Forum meetings are May 2, June 6, Sept 5, and Nov. 7 (all at SE Branch Library at 6 PM).

Brief Forum Announcements and Initiative Updates:

- Upcoming meeting with Chief of Streets and Boston Water and Sewer Commission on public spaces, private alley inactivity in maintenance, and request for shared main sewer lines.
- Brief announcement from Blackstone Community Center Board members (Anne, Katherine, Nancy) on June fundraiser and Center plans/outreach.

- Announcement of Forum Working Group on Addiction, Recovery, and Homelessness. South End-wide public meeting on Tuesday, April 18, to discuss Working Group progress and offer Southenders an opportunity to offer constructive suggestions, ideas, and thoughts to help guide the mission and effectiveness of the Group.

- Forum decision on joint "Safe Streets" proposal. While some NAs plan to submit proposals independently, there is agreement on one site supported by Forum membership.

- Brief introductory discussion on how the South End neighborhood wishes to be involved in South End-wide, collaborative building of recreation facilities in the neighborhood. Does the Forum support a Task Force/Working Group to look at the issue and provide a recommended approach.

- Brief report on introductory discussions with City and City Councilors on a regulatory framework for the shared lodging industry (airbnb, etc.).

- Brief announcement on next steps for the Forum Working Group (following meeting with Congressman Capuano) on Logan Airport sustained early morning flight departures.

- Brief Discussion of "Good Neighbor" Policy Proposal. George Stegison and Andrew Brand will discuss proposal to help provide landlords guides to foster cooperation and set expectations among providers, institutions, government, and commercial and residential neighbors, and other SE entities.

- South End Community Health Center Update: CEO Bill Walczak will provide a brief update on progress/developments in implementation of addiction treatment services at the Health Center since community meeting in September and other updates from the Health Center.

- Update on Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: "Love Your Block!" Kaiya Fox, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

- Brief Report on Progress of Working Group on Addiction, Recovery, and Homelessness at Melina Casa/Max Axe; Michele Lewkowitz, Special Advisor to the Mayor.

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**Tremont Drug**

Continued from page 1

perhaps more representative of Gary and Joyce Einstein's family-owned, independent pharmacy, school children often stood inside the front windows of the pharmacy, taking refuge from the cold as they waited for the bus on many winter mornings.

Above the cash register, trophies from local athletic teams the Einsteins sponsored lined the walls, and the pharmacy area was now a place of photos from AIDS Action, IRA, and local youth programs honoring the Einsteins for their support. Sadly, on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM, Tremont Drug became one of the most recent casualties in a dying breed.

On Tuesday afternoon, customers streamed in to get their on the closing before others called in to get the drug, which helped them maintain their health for almost 20 years.

The widespread theory of what precipitated the closing is the soaring cost of rents in the South End, but Einstein blamed his business's end on the escalating costs and decreasing return faced in filling prescriptions and dealing with third-party insurers. "It's sad to leave, but it's circumstances beyond my control. Rent did go up, but that was only a contributing factor, not the main reason. Third party insurance is the main factor. Some insurance companies are charging me $5,000 per front, Einstein said with frustration in a telephone interview.

Last month, Einstein sold his business, including prescriptions and inventory to CVS, and all prescriptions that were transferred before closing were on file at CVS at 285 Columbus Avenue, and upon Tremont Drug's closing, its phone number, (617) 266-5150, Tremont Drug's space hasn't yet been rented.

Gary and Ellen Einstein graduated from MCPHS in 1994, and Gary Einstein went to work at Tremont Drugs with his former owner, Ernest Wantman, eventually purchasing the business in 1998. "It was difficult. You had to fight your way through to learn the business. Since 1995, everything I do has gone up in price, but reimbursements have gone down," Einstein observed.

While it has been a challenge, the Einsteins look back happily at their years running Tremont Drug. "I was 25% when I started working here and now I am in my 30s. I bought the store, I should be able to buy a house. I've had kids. It's been here too long. I've known people who have grown up and now they are grandparents," he said.

"It really was like being born with the people. It was so much more than the pharmacy with a little bit of everything," Gary Einstein said. Ellen Einstein commented, "Pharmacy is good for raising a family, with access to kids. Gary and I would watch off days off after the first day one, I'd have the kids the next." Last May, daughter Ellen Einstein graduated from MCPHS with her Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and joined the family business. In addition to the pharmacy section, Tremont Drug was a small, general store, with snacks and groceries including a sizable

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**Suspect Arrested after Violent Assault**

Submitted by Boston Police Department

At about 1:45 AM on Thursday, March 2, 2017, officers from District D-4 (South End) were flagged down by a victim assault in the area of 26 Chaloner Street.

While on patrol, an officer observed a victim bleeding from the head and yelling for help in the area. After contacting EMS for the victim, the officer was informed that the victim had been struck with a metal pole and a ceramic vase several times by the suspect. Later identified as 31-year-old Michael Perry of Malden, before escaping the assault via fire escape from the third-floor room where the suspect remained.

After responding, officers observed Perry smashing the window of that room and throwing furniture and other objects out of the window. BPD Tactical units responded, and after several failed attempts to negotiate with Perry, they made entry into the room. When Perry continued to be erratic and uncooperative with police, officers deployed a taser to no avail. Perry then jumped from the window onto an awning, fell to the ground where he continued in a violent struggle with officers. Officers took the suspect once more before he was finally taken into custody. Perry was arrested and immediately transported to Boston Medical Center for evaluation and treatment.

Perry will be charged with Assault and Battery by Means of Dangerous Weapon, Kidnapping, Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Willful/Malicious Destruction of Property, and Resisting Arrest.

"This was clearly a very disturbed, violent person we were dealing with," said Commissioner Egan. "My officers used a lot of restraint with a suspect who had proved himself to be reckless and dangerous. Thankfully, the officers were able to rely on their training and experience to deescalate the situation enough to take him into custody."

**Firearm Recovered**

At about 5:40 PM on Friday, February 9th, the victim of an assault was observed with a firearm, prompting a search and recovery of a firearm by officers.

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Continued on page 5
Tremont Drug
Continued from page 3

Gone are the days
of Saturday morning
compliments from
the old druggist

Correspondence
Penelope

son, home goods, winter hats and
in a nod to the tradition of the old druggists
ice cream, fountain, Tremont Drug had a

some degree of comfort

When word spread on Facebook's South
End Community Board of Tremont Drug's
demise, individual customers and fellow
business owners alike lamented the loss of
the family business.

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Penelope

Penelope, who has been a customer of
Tremont Drug for over ten years, recalled
the druggist's camaraderie with customers.

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Guest Opinion

Don’t Drape our Iconic Public Parks in Shadows

BY ELIZABETH VIEIRA

One of the world’s most livable cities, Boston is known for the iconic parks that comprise its heart, providing welcome open space in our urban environment while contributing to the physical and mental well-being of our residents and acting as a tourist hub to support our local economy. Boston Common and the Public Garden are parks for the entire city, roughed-in destinations for thousands of Bostonians every day of the year. The Garden, with its Swan Boats, is world-renowned, and the Common has served Boston as the center stage of its civic life for centuries. Since 1900, two state laws designed to prevent “shadow creep” from high-rise buildings have worked as intended — successfully protecting the Common and the Garden, while allowing robust development to continue downtown. Now, 23 years later, our landmark parks face a new challenge as the City of Boston seeks one-time exemption to allow for a 775-foot luxury condominium and office high-rise that will violate both shadow laws. Millennium Partners’ proposed building at Winthrop Square is poised to cast a morning shadow that is 20 feet greater than what would stretch almost a mile from the Financial District down the middle of Boston Common through the heart of the Public Garden and onto the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The City’s proposal to amend the state laws in order to allow this building to be built is sighted and creates a dangerous precedent.

Legislation that allows a one-time pass to the laws in exchange for one-time revenue will create a blueprint for future developers to entice the City to sell more shadow on our landmark parks.

Over the last 25 years, a tremendous amount of development throughout downtown Boston has occurred within the restrictions established by these laws without the creation of new shadows. This developer’s own townhouse in Downtown Crossing and the Kimpton development are both examples of new buildings that have incorporated our city while conforming to existing shadow laws.

The proposed 55-story luxury tower-taller than any other residential building in Boston — would violate the shadow laws on days of the year on the Boston Common and 120 days on the Public Garden. No amount of fertiliser and water can correct for lost sunlight — an asset that is important not just for horticulture, but for the thousands of people who use these parks daily at they commute to work, relax and recreate, and join with others to celebrate or exercise their rights of free speech.

There is no ignoring the millions promised to come to the City in one-time revenue as part of the sale of the city-owned Winthrop Square garage — money that the Mayor has said would support public housing and several city parks, including the Common and Franklin Park. But citizens of Boston should not have to choose between protecting our iconic parks on one hand and supporting needy citizens or critical funding for our green spaces on the other. Let’s not pit neighbors and needs against each other.

One reason Boston is growing at a record pace is the quality of life, and the ability to care and enjoy these parks is key to what makes Boston livable and desirable.

The Common and Public Garden are, after all, the people’s parks, and the people deserve a voice in deciding their future. We need to work collaboratively and think innovatively about how we can revitalize an old garage site and reap financial benefits for the City while strengthening and protecting our signature parks. With the talent and resources we have in Boston, we should be able to find a solution to this challenge. Let’s preserve these parks that we all enjoy, now and for generations to come.

Elizabeth Viera is the Executive Director of the Friends of the Public Garden, which works to protect and improve Boston’s first public parks — the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.


Crime

Continued from page 3

any 24, 2017, members of the District D-4 (South End) Neighborhood Drug Control Unit officers were monitoring the area of Leonard Street looking for drug activity. While patrolling, officers observed a possible drug transaction take place between two men, later identified as 44-year-old Donald Badgett of Roxbury, and a man inside a vehicle. When officers stopped Badgett, he continued reaching inside his pockets and ignored officers’ orders to keep his hand inside where they could see them. For fear of a weapon, officers attempted to pat frisk Badgett, and after a brief struggle, recovered a loaded Beretta P3 Storm 9mm semi-automatic firearm (see photo above) reported stolen out of Hampton, NH in 2010 from his waistband. Officers arrested Badgett and charged him with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, Unlawfully Carrying a Loaded Firearm, and Receiving Stolen Property.

Can’t wait until Thursday for the next issue of the South End News? Head over to MySouthEnd.com

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News Analysis
Here we go again.

Allied Vets unpack old grievances, reject OUTVETS

By Sue O’Connell

Editor’s note: As South End News went to press, Allied War Veterans Council member and Boston City Council candidate Edwad Flynn released this statement:

“I am calling for an emergency meeting of the Allied War Veterans Council to hold a new vote to correct this terrible injustice. I am also reaching out to city and state officials, as well as like-minded veterans and members of OUTVETS, to find a way to overturn this vote and support equality in the South Boston St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The OUTVETS are a proud group of military veterans who have marched the past two years, and there is no reason that should change. As a 25-year United States Navy Veteran, I will continue to stand with them in this fight and pledge not to march if this situation is not rectified immediately.”

After two unsuccessful appearances by the LGBTQ+ veterans group OUTVETS, the Allied War Veterans Council, which organizes the annual South Boston Saint Patrick’s Day parade, rejected the group’s application to march in this year’s parade.

The parade is scheduled for Sunday, March 19 in South Boston.

Two years ago, it seemed the Allied War Veterans Council was ready to join the 21st century and accept both OUTVETS and Boston Pride’s application to march. Sources said the Boston Pride application was a mistake—the Council thought it was a “Boston Strong” group, but both groups marched. The Council quickly made a “no rainbows” rule regarding signage for both groups during the parade, and one parade official became angry on the route when Boston Pride marchers opened rainbow umbrellas as it began to rain. Really.

By all reports, crowds along the parade route enthusiastically greeted both OUTVETS and Boston Pride.

Way back in the late 1990s of the last century, 1992, The Allied War Veterans Council rejected the application to march by the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Biennial Group of Boston (IGLB), eventually the Council took their case to the US Supreme Court in 1995, and won. Over the following decades many elected officials refused to march in the parade if IGLB groups were excluded.

Then, in 2015, LGBTQ groups joined the spokespeople from a tax service, people dressed like Dian Wells Stormtroopers, pirates, and others to take to the streets to celebrate veterans and St. Patrick.

All of the good will and progress came to a screeching halt on Tuesday when the Council voted 9-4 against allowing OUTVETS to march.

“It will not tolerate discrimination in our city of any form. We are one Boston, which means we are a fully inclusive city,” Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said in a statement. “I will not be marching in the parade unless this is resolved. Anyone who values what our City stands for should do the same.”

Dan Magogon, who heads an organization to honor and support Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families, Massachusetts Fallen Heroes, posted his decision to step down as honorary chief marshal.

“I have worked hard over the years to support returning Veterans and their families. We have fought battles across this City, State and Country in regards to Veterans rights, benefits, employment, mental health, discriminatory practices, and many other significant areas important to our Veterans. To be a part of a parade excluding OutVets does not coincide with the work I am advocating for all Veterans.

The severity that this decision weight not only negatively impacts OutVets, but also the families of Veterans, thus creating a ripple effect across our community.

I wish the parade success. The freedoms that we possess to hold such an event are due to the men and women who have spilled their blood in defense of this greatness, regardless of where they come from, what they look like, or who they have relations with.

Governor Charlie Baker told the Boston Globe, “Veterans groups aren’t allowed to march in that parade for whatever reason, then I will probably find something else to do that day.”

“It’s veteran parade. Veterans groups should be allowed to march in this parade.” Baker said at a press conference.

OUTVETS posted this to their Facebook page:

“While four members of the council advocated for our organization, the majority ruled against having OUTVETS in the parade. While the reason for our denial is unclear, one can only assume it’s because we are LGBTQ.”

“This is a sad day for the LGBTQ+ community but also a terrible day for Veterans. We served our country with honor and distinction. But even after successfully participating in this parade and bringing honor to those who have served, we are still fighting for the respect that comes with serving our country.”

As South End News went to press Wednesday night activists were posting contact information for the parade’s corporate sponsors.
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