South End News

March 9, 2017 [Vol. 38 , No. 9]

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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 youngsters' favorite author, Dr. Seuss. Here in the South End, volunteers from non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and corporate partners gathered in

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Books for RAAD.,

Jackson tries again to block biolab

By Adam Gaffin
Courtesy www.universalhub.com

Councilor Tito Jackson (Roxbury) last week called on the council to try to prevent Boston University from beginning work on particularly nasty microorganisms at its Albany Street biolab, by amending city ordinances to prohibit such research.

The facility is currently awaiting approval from the Boston Public Health Commission.

Jackson, also running for mayor this year, raised the spectre of deadly germs escaping the facility just a mile from Dudley Square, home to

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Again, an end of an era

Family owned Tremont Drug closes its doors

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Snow shovels 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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Photo by Michele Maniscalco

News from...

The Friends of the South End Library

On Tuesday, March 14, award-winnig 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

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Stephen Kinzer

974 apartments, condos approved for Harrison Ave

By Adam Gaffin
Courtesy www.universalhub.com

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

Winning board approval: A 650-apartment complex stretching from Harrison to Albany between East Canton and East Dedham streets and a 324-unit building with both apartments and condos on Harrison between Traveler and

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Harrison Albany Block rendering.

Online

Check us out online at www.mysouthend.com

Online

Blackstone

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the Blackstone Library.

Readers picked out books and then fanned out to every one of the thirty-five classrooms for an afternoon of reading. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade happily joined visitors to share books and discuss how reading helps them in their everyday life.

This year's event even had a twist! Blackstone students and staff alike dressed up as their favorite children's book character! Many popular stories were represented: Harry Potter, Arthur and Buster (from Marc Brown's Arthur series), and even Pigeon (from Mo Willems's beloved series). Pigeon tried but fortunately was thwarted from driving the bus. Phew!

Starting in 2011, the Blackstone Innovation School and St. Stephen's Youth Programs have worked together to create a fully-functional library in what was previously a dusty storage space. Thanks to the dedication of many volunteers as well as funding from Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, the school now has a top-notch library that is open and staffed (by volunteers) five days a week, boasts more than 12,000 volumes that are catalogued in an online database, has a subscription to EBSCO, hosts author visits several times a year, and celebrates Read Across America Day each year.

Every week, at least twenty classes full of smiling, excited students visit the library for read aloud time, the opportunity to borrow books, and the chance to travel the world thanks to the magic of reading. To learn more about the library and to explore volunteer opportunities, contact Maureen Burns at maureen@ssypboston.org or stop by the Blackstone School to ask a library volunteer for a tour.

(Left) Library for RAAD (Center) Principal Morrissey (Right) RAAD Volunteers

South End Library

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WBUR radio host, Christopher Lydon, who interviewed Kinzer last month on his show, OpenSource. Kinzer'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.

Jenna Blum, the New York Times bestselling author of Those Who Save Us and The Stormchasers, will talk on Tuesday April 6 about her novella The Lucky One, part of the story collection Grand Central. Blum, whose perceptive treatment of Holocaust-based stories won her a Ribalow Prize adjudged by Eli Wiesel, will also provide a sneak preview 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 Sara 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 18.

This week, as part of the FOSEL Local/Focus program, the Tremont Street window of the South End library will feature an installation by Germaine Choe 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, WGBH and WCRB radio host Ray Brown will return to the South End library, this time to introduce the Smithsonian Journeys expert birder and naturalist David Clapp for a slide-enhanced program about the Galapagos islands. Clapp is a gifted photographer, lecturer and researcher who has taught at Northeastern and has worked with conservation organizations worldwide for thirty years. South End resident Ray Brown, the radio host of Talkin'Birds has organized a tour of the Galapagos for September with the Sunrise Birding nature excursions 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.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org , The South End Library is at 685 Tremont Street, Boston.

Biolab

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the busiest bus depot in New England—and the impact on neighboring Boston 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 ebola and delivering it to Albany Street, which is one of the most densely parts 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 today, such as the addicts along Albany Street.

Councilor Bill Linehan (South Boston, South End, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village) opposed Jackson's bid. He said not facility in America has undergone more regulatory oversight than the BU facility and that the research it will do could save "millions and millions of lives."

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

Harrison

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East Berkeley.

Leggatt McCall's Harrison Albany Block would involve construction of two 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 BPDA says the project will mean $3 million in new annual tax revenue for Boston; as a non-profit organization, BMC paid no taxes on the land.

Leggatt McCall says about 65 of the units will be marketed as affordable - some designated specifically for working artists. The company will pay into a BPDA fund to purchase or subsidize another 65 units someplace else.

Related Beal's 370-380 Harrison project would include 92 condos and 232 apartments in a 14-story building on the site of the former Quinzani's Bakery and Ho Kong Bean Sprout.

At least 20% of the units will be marketed as affordable, the company says.

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News from...

South End Forum

Spring Meeting, Wednesday, March 15, at South End Branch Library, 685 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 v. private alley inequity in maintenance/repair responsibility 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, is there agreement on one site supported by Forum membership.

—Brief introductory discussion on how the South End neighborhood wishes to manage the legal requirements and introduction of retail recreational marijuana establishments within 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 Stergios and Andrew Brand will discuss proposal to help provide basic guidelines 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 Clean-Up "Love Your Block": Kaira Fox, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

Introduction, Remarks, Brief Q&A: Mike Shea, Roxbury Post Office Manager will discuss his service delivery goals and briefly respond to questions.

South End Public Safety Update: Review of key South End public safety issues: Officer Jorge Dias, CSO Staff.

Brief Report on Progress of Working Group on Addiction, Recovery, and Homelessness at Melnea Cass/Mass Ave:: Michele, Lewkowitz, Special Advisor to the Mayor, Jen Tracey, Director of Recovery Services, and Jim Greene, Homelessness Advisor, Department of Neighborhood Development.

Brief Presentation and Discussion of Pine Street Inn's Rapid Recovery Program and Strategic Direction: Donna Gladstein from PSI will provide a slide presentation with brief discussion on the focus of PSI's mission and progress.

A Conversation with Chris Osgood, Chief of Streets, City of Boston: Chris will be our guest to discuss the recently announced Vision 2030 strategic plan, reactions to the Forum's Task Force on Parking recommendations, and discussion of the crucial transportation challenges to the SE from aggressive current and planned development and growth. Followed by Q&A.

First Community Presentation on Abbey Group Initial Plans for The Flower Exchange Parcel with Comments/Reactions from the South End community: William Keravuori, Managing Partner for the Abbey Group. This will be Abbey Group's introductory presentation to the SE neighborhood of their initial thoughts/vision for development of the Flower Exchange parcel. While not cast in concrete, this will give Southenders their first opportunity to hear about the vision and offer their thoughts, ideas, recommendations in advance of the formal Article 80 process. Consistent with Abbey Group's commitment for a robust community engagement and listening process, this discussion will kick off their neighborhood outreach for development of the largest single parcel in modern South End history

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) was flagged down by an assault victim in the area of 26 Chandler Street.

While on patrol, an officer observed a victim bleeding from the head and yelling for help in the above area. After contacting EMS for the victim, the officer was informed that the victim had been struck with a metal pan and a ceramic vase several times by the suspect, later identified as 31-year-old Michael Perry of Malden, before escaping the assault via the fire escape from the third-floor room where the suspect remained. Additional responding officers then 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, then fell to the ground where he continued in a violent struggle with officers. Officers tased 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 Evans. "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, Febru-

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Tremont Drug

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perhaps more representative of Gary and Joyce Einsidler's family-owned, independent pharmacy, schoolchildren often stood inside the front window 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 Einsidlers sponsored lined the wall, and over the pharmacy area was a row of plaques from AIDS Action, IBA and local youth programs honoring the Einsidlers for their support. Sadly, on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 PM, Tremont Drug became one of the most recent casualties in a dying breed. On Tuesday afternoon, customers streamed in to get the scoop on the closing while others called in to greet the family who 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 Einsidler blamed his business's end on the escalating costs and decreasing returns he 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 insurances are the main factor. Some insurances are charging me to fill scripts," Einsidler said with frustration in a telephone interview.

Last month, Einsidler sold his business, including prescriptions and inventory to CVS, and all prescriptions that were not transferred before closing will be on file at CVS at 285 Columbus Avenue, and upon Tremont Drug's closing, its phone number, (617) 262-3389, will ring at the CVS. Tremont Drug's space has not yet been rented.

Gary and Ellen Einsidler graduated from MCPHS in 1984, and Gary Einsidler went to work at Tremont Drug in 1985 under 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 1985, everything I do has gone up in price, but reimbursements have gone down," Einsidler observed.

While it has been a challenge, the Einsidlers look back happily at their years running Tremont Drug. "I was 23½ when I started working here and now I am in my 50s. I bought the store, I was able to buy a house, I've had 2 children. I've been here so long I've known teens who have grown up and now they are grandparents," he mused. "I really like working here with the people. It's an old mom and pop type pharmacy with a little bit of everything,"

Gary Einsidler said. Ellen Einsidler commented, "Pharmacy is good for raising a family, with a flexible schedule. Gary and I would switch off days off; he would have the kids one day, I'd have them the next." Last May, daughter Ellen Einsidler graduated from MCHPS with her Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) and joined the family business. In addition to the apothecary section, Tremont Drug was like a small, general store, with snacks and groceries including a sizable

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Tremont Drug

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Goya section; home goods; winter hats and in a nod to the tradition of the old drugstore ice-cream fountain, Tremont Drug had about a dozen flavors of slush. Even in inventory, the Einsidlers offered a personal touch, going out of their way to obtain hard-to-find products that customers wanted.

"We tried to order specialty items that you couldn't get anywhere else over the years," Ellen Einsidler said.

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.

Patron Gustavo Pena recalled, "I started shopping there a decade ago after a car ran through their front door one Sunday morning. Started talking to them about it and became a customer. One thing that I loved was the fantastic way they treated everyone, and they had some doozies walk in the store. I've seen them help out junkies, treat drunks with respect, just be generally cool with all." Longtime customer Richard Kiley said, "I have been a patron for 15 years; they were always polite, helpful and good neighbors. You were not an anonymous number, you were a person. When stores like this close, the city loses part of its soul. These are people who cared about the neighborhood, delivered the scrips to your door, and they were always there; it was not like at CVS where every six months a new pharmacist is behind the counter. Also, for many people, like my parents, grandparents, and great grandparents a store was an economic means to middle class, you worked hard and long but you built a business that you passed along to your children."

Union Park Neighborhood Association president James Alan Fox also expressed his dismay at the loss of a long-time neighborhood institution.

"I am saddened by the closing of Tremont Drug, a fixture in this neighborhood for decades, and troubled that certain regulations and market conditions have made it nearly impossible for a local pharmacy to survive. Sure, I will miss the convenience that Tremont Drug offered. But, in this era of online purchasing and mega-chain stores, I will miss even more the personal connection that I enjoyed with owner Gary Einsidler and his staff," James Alan Fox, president of the Union Park Neighborhood Association, said via e-mail. Jennifer Effron, executive director of Washington Gateway Main Street (WGMS), said in a written statement, "We at Washington Gateway are always saddened to hear of a long standing locally owned business that closes. Small business is the heart and soul of the neighborhood and the owners always bring a personal touch to their customers. We will miss Tremont Drug in the South End."

Looking toward the future, Gary Einsidler anticipates taking a little time off before resuming work, while Ellen hopes to start working promptly. Gary reflected, "I don't want to go, but it's the best thing for my family to leave at this time. The thing I'll miss most is my customers. I won't miss the drive in to work, but I'll miss the people. I was the "piller" of the community," he quipped.

Photos by Michele Maniscalco

38/9

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Guest Opinion

Don't Drape our Iconic Public Parks in Shadows

BY ELIZABETH VIZZA

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, sought-after 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 1990, 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, 25 years later, our landmark parks face a new challenge as the City of Boston seeks a 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 at its greatest extent 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 is short-sighted and creates a dangerous precedent.

Legislation that allows a one-time pass to skirt the law 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 excessive shadows. This developer's own tower in Downtown Crossing and the Ritz Carlton development are both examples of new buildings that have invigorated 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 264 days of the year on the Boston Common and 120 days on the Public Garden. No amount of fertilizer 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 as 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 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 the one hand and supporting needy citizens or critical funding for our greenspaces on the other. Let's not pit neighbors and needs against each other.

One reason Boston is growing at a record pace is its quality of life, and the ability to use 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 Vizza 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

ary 24, 2017, members of the District D-4 (South End) Neighborhood Drug Control Unit officers were monitoring the area of Lenox Street Housing Development for drug activity. While patrolling, officers observed a possible drug transaction take place between a male on foot, later identified as 44-year-old Ronald Badgett of Roxbury, and a male inside a vehicle. When officers stopped Badgett, he continually reached inside his pockets and ignored officers' orders to keep his hands 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 Px4 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.

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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 Edward 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 uneventful appearances by the LGBTQ veterans groupo OUTVETS, The Allied War Veterans Council, which organizes the venerable 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 accepted 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 last gasp of the last century...1992, The Allied War Veterans Council rejected the application to march by the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston (GLIB), 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 LGBT groups were excluded.

Then, in 2015, LGBT groups joined the spokesperson from a tax service, people dressed like Star Wars 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.

"I 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 Magoon, 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 do advocating for all Veterans.

The severity that this decision weighs 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 is due to the men and women who have spilled their blood in defense to this great nation, regardless of where they come from, what they look like, or who they share relations with.

Governor Charlie Baker told the The Boston Globe, "If 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 a veterans parade. Veterans groups should be allowed to march in the parade," Baker said at a press conference.

St. Patrick's Day parade 2015, in Boston's South Boston neighborhood

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 horrible 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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