

South Ender Chair in Youth in Government

Ryan Ridolfo of the South End, a sophomore at Boston College High School, was one of the twenty-one BC High students who participated at the annual YMCA Youth in Government Conference from March 3 to 5 at the Massachusetts State House on Beacon Hill. Ridolfo was a Committee Chairman. The young men were delighted that Governor Baker was the keynote speaker and



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L to R Thomas Hamblet of Milton, Colman Gillis of Quincy, Bill Donoso of Weymouth and Ryan Ridolfo of the South End

St. Patrick's Day at the Cathedral

Archbishop of Boston Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley and

parishioners at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross celebrated Mass on St.

Patrick's Day last Sunday. Visitors from Ireland were welcomed.



Parishioners decked out in green for the occasion

More Photos on page 4

Upcoming caucuses help shape Dems' future

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Since the inauguration of the new president barely two months ago, the heads of many residents Massachusetts, of the city of Boston and of the South End have been spinning in disbelief. Many are angry and shocked at executive orders, legislative proposals, nomi-

nees and plans for the future that they see as hostile to civil rights, immigrants, the environment, and the financially vulnerable, but feel that with a Republican majority in Congress, there is a trajectory that will be difficult to stop.

Blue voters will have an oppor-

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Celtics' Marcus Smart debuts Smart Center

At Boston Medical Center

Last week, Celtics' Marcus Smart unveiled his first Smart Center, sponsored by Gilbane Building Company, Eliassen Group and Enterprise Holdings, at Boston Medical Center.

The Smart Center, a program of Marcus Smart's YounGameChanger Foundation, is a portable cart that will move between BMC's pediatric inpatient units and outpatient clinics, as well as the pediatric emergency department. The Smart

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BMC pediatric patients flank Dave MacKeen, CEO, Eliassen Group, Ryan Hutchins, Senior VP/ Regional Manager, Gilbane Building Company, Dr. Robert Vinci, chief of pediatrics, Boston Medical Center, Marcus Smart, and Andrew Dolloph, Regional Vice President Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

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ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on April 12, 2017, at 9:00 AM, in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 694, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend "Map 1P, South End Neighborhood District," and "Map 1S, Stuart Street District" by rezoning approximately 320 square feet of land located along Clarendon Street from "CC," indicating a Community Commercial Subdistrict within the South End Neighborhood District to "Area 4," within the Stuart Street District.

A copy of the petition and a map of the area involved may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 916, Boston City Hall, between 9 AM and 5 PM any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission,
Kathleen R. Pedersen
Executive Secretary

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on April 12, 2017, at 9:15 AM, in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 695 and a petition for the approval of the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 110, Harrison Albany Block Development, South End ("Development Plan"), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend "Map 1P, South End Neighborhood District," by adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development Area ("PDA") overlay district to approximately 135,160 square feet of land (approximately 3.1 acres) generally bounded by East Dedham Street, Harrison Avenue, East Canton Street and Albany Street. Said Development Plan would allow for the demolition of three existing vacant buildings that currently occupy the site (75 East Canton, 100 East Canton and 123 East Dedham Streets), the demolition of an addition attaching 575 Albany Street and 123 East Dedham Street, the renovation and expansion of the two remaining buildings that currently occupy the site (Gambro Building and 575 Albany Street), the construction of two mixed-use buildings and the construction of a below grade parking garage.

A copy of the petition, a map of the area involved and the Development Plan may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 916, Boston City Hall, between 9 AM and 5 PM any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission,
Kathleen R. Pedersen
Executive Secretary

Celtics

Continued from page 1

Center is filled with electronics to provide patients and their families access to technology and other resources as a means for relaxation, communication and therapy during their hospital stays.

"It's important for kids and their families to have outlets like these, especially in a hospital—it will serve as a welcomed distraction and form of entertainment. I am looking

forward to making Smart Centers available in more Boston area hospitals," said Marcus Smart during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Adding to the excitement of the donation, Marcus Smart visited young patients in their rooms and met a group of kids who received presents from him during the holidays.

One of the primary focus of Marcus Smart's YounGameChanger Foundation is to provide families of seriously or chronically ill children with encouragement and life-changing experiences.



Marcus Smart and BMC's Chief of Pediatrics Dr. Robert Vinci discuss The Smart Center, a portable cart filled with electronics that will move between BMC's pediatric inpatient units and outpatient clinics to provide patients and their families access to technology and other resources.

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on April 12, 2017, at 9:30 AM, in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 696 and a petition for the approval of the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 111, 370-380 Harrison Avenue Development, South End ("Development Plan"), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend "Map 1P, South End Neighborhood District," by adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development Area ("PDA") overlay district to approximately 44,570 square feet of land located at 370-380 Harrison Avenue, South End. Said Development Plan would allow for the demolition of the two existing structures on the site and the construction of an up to 356,500 square foot mixed-use building consisting of up to 324 residential units, up to 8,500 square feet of ground floor retail, restaurant, and existing or start-up business or not-for-profit affordable cultural space and up to approximately 180 parking spaces.

A copy of the petition, a map of the area involved and the Development Plan may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 916, Boston City Hall, between 9 AM and 5 PM any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission,
Kathleen R. Pedersen
Executive Secretary

Youth Government

Continued from page 1

that many state Representatives and Senators joined them at the opening ceremonies.

The BC High team had a most successful year: Stephen DeMatteo 2018 of Scituate, Dan Gordon 2018 of Natick and Matt Brandi 2019 of Quincy all had their bills passed and signed into law.

Nine BC High students were singled out for honors among the many participants: Delano Franklin 2017 of Chelsea served as this year's Youth Governor, Deen Haleem 2017 of Milton served as the Youth Lt. Governor, Carlos Tamayo 2017 of Brookline as Senate President.

DeMatteo and Dan Gordon 2018 of Natick served in the Governor's Cabinet.

Tim Lynch 2018 of South Boston and Ridolfo were committee chairs. Jack Michalski 2017 of Milton served as a justice and won the Outstanding Justice award. Ryan Golemme 2019 of Norwell received the Outstanding Senator award.

Bill Donoso 2019 of Weymouth was selected to represent Massachusetts at the

National Judicial Conference in Chicago on August 1 to 4th. Tim Smyth 2018 of South Boston, Ryan Golemme, Deen Haleem, and Carlos Tamayo were selected to represent Massachusetts at the Conference on National Affairs at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina at the beginning of July 2017. Th

The Youth in Government Club, moderated by faculty members Elise Wilson and Michael Chapman, both of Braintree, is part of a Greater Boston YMCA program which allows high school students to learn about state government and participate in the process of the State House with other students from throughout Massachusetts. Students take on various roles in the state government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches as well as lobbyists and the press corps.

Youth & Government is one of the YMCA's oldest programs established in 1936. The program teaches young people about state government, while at the same time helps them to develop their own character through learning values stressed by the YMCA: caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility.



Third step L-R: George Carney '18 Hanover; Billy Donoso '19 Weymouth; Robert Graf '19 Revere; Thomas Hamblet '20 Milton; James Burke '17 Braintree; Deen Haleem Jr '17 Milton; Delano Franklin '17, Chelsea; Jack Rindini '18 Bridgewater; Dan Gordon '18; Natick; Ryan Golemme '19 Norwell; Matt Brandi '19 Quincy. On 2nd step then down to the right: Salem Metri '19 Hanover; Carlos Tamayo '17 Brookline; Tim Lynch '18 South Boston; Dennis Lacourt '18 Weymouth; Ryan Ridolfo '19 South End; Jack Michalski '17 Milton; Tim Smyth '18 South Boston; Colman Gillis '19 Quincy; Berenger Dufrense '20 Dorchester; Stephen DeMatteo '18 Scituate.

Dems

Continued from page 1

tunity to plan the future of their party in the upcoming Democratic Party caucuses taking place in the neighborhood and throughout the state from now through April 2. Although Ward 3's caucus took place on February 25, registered Democrats in Wards 4, 8 and 9 still have a chance to run for delegate to the state Democratic Convention, which will take place on Saturday, June 3 at the DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, where the

party charts its course. Neighbors who are not ready to commit to running for delegate but who are interested in hearing from elected officials and some of this fall's candidates for city council and the state legislature can attend the caucuses as observers.

Massachusetts Democratic Party chairman Gus Bickford said recently, "Our caucuses are a great opportunity to strengthen our Party's organization and to welcome new participants who are interested in getting involved in our Party. Delegates will be vot-

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Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.

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St. Patrick's Day

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(Top Left) Bishop Mark O'Connell giving the homily (Top Right) Cardinal O'Malley blessing the shamrocks (Bottom) Cardinal Sean and visitors from Ireland after the Mass.

Dems

Continued from page 3

ing on our party platform in Worcester, and we want to make sure that every Democrat has a voice in this process. This is a time for all of us to come together and speak to our shared Democratic values."

The Ward 8 Democratic Committee will hold its caucus on Saturday, March 25 at 11:00 AM at the Boston Police Department District B-2 station, 2400 Washington Street.

Any registered Democratic voter can register to run for one of the 15 delegate and 4 alternate spots. Ward 8 Democratic Committee chairperson Joy DePina said via e-mail that elected officials usually attend the annual caucus to meet attendees. Asked to explain how involvement in the caucus commented, "Municipal engagement is the closest you can get to affecting every day challenges."

Following Ward 8 is the Ward 4 Democratic Committee caucus to be held promptly at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 29 at the

South End Branch Library, 685 Tremont Street. According to Ward 4 Democratic Committee chairperson Andrea Olmstead, registration to run as a delegate closes at 6:15 PM sharp and there are 16 delegate posts, 8 for men and 8 for women, as well as 4 alternate posts to be filled. State representative Chynah Tyler (D-7th Suffolk), is scheduled to speak, and representatives Byron Rushing (D-9th Suffolk), Jay Livingstone (D-8th Suffolk) and Will

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Letters policy

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com



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A Winning Season for Cathedral

PATRICK O'CONNOR

The Cathedral High boys basketball team had plans to battle with St. Mary at TD Garden on Tuesday, March 21. The one day winter storm last Tuesday cancelled the game. The boys showed up on Monday,

March 20 to watch other state play-off games and joined together for a team pic at center court. Regrettably, the boys lost to St. Mary at Woburn High School on Thursday, March 16 by a score of 74-68 and end the season at 18-5.



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Dems

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Brownsberger (D-2nd Suffolk and Middlesex) plan to appear at the caucus as well.

Once the voting is over, attendees will have a chance to meet and greet hopefuls for the City Council District 2 and District 7 races, both of which represent the South End. Deejo Jibril, candidate for Tito Jackson's District 7 City Council seat and Corey Dinopoulos, who is running to succeed Bill Linehan as city councilor for District 2, also plan to attend. Olmstead added that the Ward 4 Democratic Committee meets every third Tuesday at 6:00 at the South End Library and all Ward 4 residents are welcome to attend.

Ward 9 Democratic Committee Secretary/Clerk Richard Shibley reported that the Ward 9 Democrats will hold their caucus on Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 AM at the South End Community Health Center, 1601 Washington Street, in the WIC conference room

on the second floor. Registration for the 9 male and 9 female delegate slots plus four alternates closes at 11:15 AM, at which time the caucus convenes.

Shibley, who served as Deputy Secretary of State from 1987-1995, explained that the state conventions in odd numbered years such as 2017 are issue-oriented, and there is less competition for delegate seats in those years. "I hope that people will be motivated," he said. Shibley feels that the caucus offers voters a chance at increased empowerment. "The thing that's nice about a neighborhood caucus is that it's accessible," he observed in a telephone interview. "Sometimes people feel like they can't make a difference. At your ward caucus, you can make a difference. If you don't like what's going on in Washington, the most effective thing to do is organize. It might not have immediate effect, but you will have a lasting effect."

For more information on the Democratic State Committee and its caucuses, visit www.massdems.org.

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Soup for the soul

Grand Concourse,
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BY JULES BECKER

The Bronx ecumenical soup kitchen in the 2014 drama "Grand Concourse" looks like something from today's headlines. Christian and Jewish New Yorkers come together with the guidance of a very caring kitchen-running nun named Shelley. Playwright Heidi Schreck, who worked in soup kitchens herself while growing up, sees the title not only as the pivotal Bronx street but also as the term for a grand meeting. The disarmingly mundane 'grand meeting' in her engaging Off-Broadway effort calls into question such big issues as faith, individual commitment and forgiveness for four very different characters—a meeting vividly evoked in the play's New England premiere (through April 1 at the Calderwood Pavilion) by SpeakEasy Stage Company.

"Grand Concourse" finds Shelley, maintenance man and security guard Oscar, homeless Jewish veteran Frog and young (19) volunteer Emma returning daily to the soup kitchen in question much as the movie theater workers and a patron come

together in the similarly structured 2013 Annie Baker play "The Flick" (Schreck not surprisingly familiar with Baker's work as an actress in one of her plays). All four deal with unresolved issues and seek real validation as human beings. Sister Shelley, having a crisis of faith, struggles to complete a personal prayer to God "for all people," one that calls for "justice for immigrants." Oscar, who once studied dentistry for a year in his native Dominican Republic, now studies towards a degree at a community college but wonders whether he and (unseen) girlfriend Rosa can make a life together. Frog, good-natured but paranoid and volatile when off medication, sells joke books and craves attention—especially networking to find a job.

Serving as a catalyst for resolving their respective issues as well as her own is kitchen newcomer Emma. Kicked out of college and seeking direction, the seemingly aimless young volunteer tells Shelley she wishes her mother would treat her like a normal person and eventually looks to the empathetic nun for emotional support and understanding. Flirting with Oscar and crossing the proverbial line (in a scene that makes the play appropriate for adults), she leads him to question his feelings for her and for Rosa. At the same time, her positive interaction with Frog involves finding him interviews for work and job possibilities—one which turns into a real receptionist position



Thomas Derrah as Frog and Alejandro Simoes as Oscar in "Grand Concourse" (Glenn Perry Photo)

and more self-respect. Her own formidable challenges appear to be a mother-daughter conflict, leukemia and chemotherapy.

Ultimately, a stunning revelation forces Shelley, Oscar and Frog to re-examine their respective relationships with Emma. Has she been honest with each of them? Has she been honest with herself? Is she worthy of sympathy and forgiveness? Schreck makes their individual confrontations with her dramatically satisfying. That is particularly the case with Shelley's last scene actions which the playwright intriguingly labels "a kind of benediction."

For her part, pains-taking director Bridget Kathleen O'Leary is blessed with a cast that strongly evokes the characters' respective ups and downs and evolving fortunes. Melinda Lopez captures Shelley's world-weariness and self-doubts regarding her beliefs. Her last scene evocation of the conflicted nun's growing elation and joy as she makes a life-changing decision is the kind of seamless acting that all theater students should carefully examine. Alejandro Simoes has all of Oscar's charisma, great energy and

emotional impulsiveness. Thomas Derrah catches Frog's likeability and elusiveness as well as his vulnerability—the last most notably when a missed medication leads to a visceral outburst. Ally Dawson does well with the tricky role of alternately diligent and derelict Emma. Her properly complex characterization means that individual audience members may ultimately find themselves debating Emma's real intentions.

Jenna McFarland Lord's soup kitchen design has remarkable authenticity—complete with a full complement of industrial kitchen appliances, utensils and pots. Her vivid set also includes stained glass arcs above to evoke the church. Karen Perlow's expressive lighting finds the alternate brightness and shadow of the kitchen quartet's fortunes.

"Grand Concourse" may not provide breakthrough insight about its characters' priorities and beliefs or reach the visual epiphany and cumulative insight of Baker's "The Flick." Still, SpeakEasy Stage takes theatergoers on an exhilarating ride in Schreck's heartfelt play.

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Please note the format of this meeting will include a 90-minute Open House, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session for those who wish to participate.

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