Bikes Not Fights promotes peace in O’Day

BY MICHELLE D. MARCHALCO

Approximately 60 people of all ages came together in O’Day Playground, 55 West Newton Street, on Saturday, May 6, to play basketball and games, receive bike maintenance, and grab a bite of free ice cream at the Friends of O’Day Park’s Bikes Not Fights event.

The mission of the Friends group, which formed last year, is to promote different ways of enjoying the park. “The atmosphere was so peaceful,” Bikes Not Fights organizer Michelle D. Marchalco said.

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Local historian previews South End history timeline

BY MICHELLE D. MARCHALCO

Surrounded by copies of her previous books, “South End Character” and “Street Dogs,” historian, author and South End News founding editor Alison Barnett introduced her current work in progress, a timeline of South End history to about 10 residents, mostly longtime South Enders, at the South End Branch Library, 687 Tremont Street, on the afternoon of Thursday, April 20.

Barnett hopes to publish the timeline, which spans from the 1650s to the present, but has not yet decided on the exact format or projected release date. “I really shouldn’t call it a timeline. It really should be a book,” she said of the project, which currently numbers about 300 pages. Barnett discussed the scope and areas of interest of her timeline, her research methods and resources and some of the challenges she has faced as a result of requisite listeners. The setting for the late afternoon event was arranged in a circle around the second-floor room of the library rather than in front-facing rows.

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Play Ball!
SEBA Opening Day Saturday

This Saturday is South End Baseball’s Opening Day! Come out and cheer for the season’s players – among them the SEBS A’s and their families as they march from the Villa Victoria to Peters Park for the 50th Opening Day ceremony.

Mayor Marty Walsh, Red Sox President Sam Kennedy and other VIPs are expected to visit. Kids will be able to enjoy pony rides, face painting, the pony house, hot dogs, cotton candy and other treats. The march begins at 10AM and the festivities at Peters Park on Washington Street at 11AM.

Continued on page 2

SoWa Celebrates Local Artists with Annual Art Walk

SUBMITTED BY SOWA

SoWa’s Art & Design District, Boston’s leading arts destination, is celebrating the talents of some of its most innovative artisans on Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th, 2017 at the annual SoWa Art Walk. From 11:00AM to 5:00PM, guests in attendance can explore and meet the artists behind the various contemporary galleries, open artist studios and boutique shops.

All are welcome to join and experience Boston’s vibrant artistic community free of charge. The SoWa Art Walk tour includes the following locations: 450 Harrison Ave., 460 Harrison Ave., 46 Walnut St., 500 Harrison Ave., 59 Warren St., 75 Warren St., and 49 Warren St. The SoWa Art & Design District seeks to support and preserve small businesses and entrepreneurs dedicated to crafting and curating exceptional artwork, products and experiences. The SoWa Art Walk is made possible by the very 100,000 square feet of residential studio rentals offered by OTI Properties.

The SoWa Open Market kicks off its 14th season on Saturday, April 8th.

Guest Opinion
Investing in Bay Village and the South End

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

This month, I am proud to put forth a budget for the City of Boston that will make Boston a better place to work, live, and raise a family. At City Hall, we’ve created a plan for our City that will keep Boston financially sound, while making targeted investments towards achieving a thriving, healthy and innovative Boston. Boston’s operating budget totals $5.14 billion, which represents an increase of $544.7 million (or about five percent) over last year’s budget.

What does this mean for you, your friends and family? When we proposed the City’s budget, we did so knowing many in our City rely on the services we provide, whether it’s senior lunches, homebuying workshops, recovery services or after-school programs for kids. We’ve also funded projects to enhance our culture and identity such as increasing literacy services in neighborhoods and the Boston Arts Initiative Residency programs, which brings us to an unprecedented consensus throughout Boston. Our budget continues to invest in Boston’s strongest assets: our people. The City’s budget is big – that’s why. I want to explain how it will affect your neighborhood.

Open spaces and parks are some of the greatest assets we have in our communities. They provide a space to gather, for children to play and a

Love Your Block
Neighborhood Clean-up Saturday morning, May 6

Formerly "Boston Shines," now re-named "Love Your Block," it’s a citizen-driven, city-wide clean up program.

Join your neighbors and clean up our neighborhood.

- Peters Park at the Shawmut Avenue section of the park, behind the baseball area.
- Blackstone Square, 755 Washington Street
- Franklin Square, Washington Street between W. Brookline and W. Newton Streets
- Bay Village, at Church & Melrose Street.
Guest Opinion

Continued from page 1

chance to admire nature away from our busy streets. After meeting with youth groups who advocated for park improvements, we allocated $2 million for the renovation of Rosemary Park, including the playground, basketball courts, tennis courts, plaza, passive area, and lighting. We’ve also allocated $1.98 million for improvements to Triton Pines Park, while the South End Library Branch will receive a $1.5 million renovation, and we’ll invest another $100,000 in Peters Park.

The South End Library Branch is getting a $1.5 million interior renovation project that includes major electrical, telephone, paint, and carpet upgrades. $797,673 is allocated in fiscal year 2018 for the renovation and design of the South End Fitness Center Pool, which will include a rain screen wall, add ventilation, replace doors and exterior windows, and repair the pool.

Our streets and roadways are always a major priority when we consider investments in our city. This year, we will be investing $20 million for road reconstruction improvements to Harrison Avenue, a street essential to economic development along the corridor between East Berkeley Street and Herald Street. $1.75 million will fund a major project in the community to address traffic signals.

The city budget will also contribute to the South End neighborhood’s goal of improving the city’s reputation. The budget includes $5 million to improve City Hall, which includes the City Hall building, the City Hall plaza, and the City Hall parking garage. The budget also includes $100,000 to replace the City Hall clock, which has been a symbol of our city’s history and pride for many years.

What’s the next step for the budget? This month, the City Council will review the proposed budget. Once the budget is approved, it will go into effect. The budget will help prioritize the city’s goals for the next fiscal year.

I hope you’ll take a few minutes to look through the budget proposal online at boston.gov. Together, we can work to make our neighborhoods safer and more welcoming for all.

Can’t wait until Thursday for the next issue of the South End News?

Head over to MySouthEnd.com
Bikes
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Bikes Not Fights co-chairs Barbara Collins and Nicola Trappe were joined by members of the Backstone/ Franklin Square and Pilgrim Block neighborhood associations (B/FSA and FSNA), IRA (Inequities Taskforce on Action), the Boston Police Department's (BPD) D4 community service team and St. Stephen's Youth Program in setting up the event, greeting guests and guiding activities.

The South End Community Health Center and several local businesses donated money, supplies and services for the event.

The BPD's ice cream truck was parked near the entrance to the playground with a police bait, assisted by a small boy, performed the BPD's sweetest detail: handing out complimentary Khloe's Bars and popsicles to visitors. Former B/FSA president and "School's Out" founder Andrew Parthuml offered a smile, a bicycle light and a helmet upon entry to the playground, while IRA CEO Vincente Calderón-Benito and senior program director Rafael Medina circulated among guests and volunteers to ensure that everything was running smoothly.

The helmets and lights were contributed by the city's Boston Bikes program and community service officers John Dias and Javier Pagan on behalf of the BPD. At the bike registration station, Boston Biker's Xinal Williams was joined by FSNA's Alastair Penn and others in fixing flat tires and doing other maintenance, and Megan D contributed bicycle volunteers with St. Stephen's Youth Program, engaged with guests in addition to helping organize on-site.

With sidewalk chalk provided at the craft table, parents and children drew pictures of pets and creative designs and former B/FSA and IRA member Nancy Wall Farrington drew a hedgehog on a bicycle frame.

After the event, co-chair Trappe proclaimed Bikes Not Fights a success. In a follow-up email, she wrote, "Bikes Not Fights is the first of what we hope will be a number of events during the year and our objective was to bring neighborhood families who live on the streets surrounding the park together for fun, safe gathering with the purpose of turning up and cleaning up their bicycles for spring and summer riding. We met our objectives!"

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The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announce the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Section 4(f) Determination on the SOUTH STATION EXPANSION PROJECT.

This project is an effort to expand Boston’s South Station terminal and related layover capacity to meet future demand. FRA and MassDOT invite the public to comment on the Draft EA, prepared in compliance with the Federal National Environmental Policy Act, and Draft Section 4(f) Determination for the South Station Expansion project. The document summarizes the project’s environmental benefits and impacts, and includes information similar to the DEIR (2014) and FEIR (2016), prepared in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. To read the report and to learn how to make formal comments, please visit the project website listed below. Comments are due by May 27, 2017.

www.mass.gov/MassDOT/SouthStationExpansion

If you have questions about the project, please contact Steve Woofiel, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, at Steve.Woofiel@massturnpike.com or at 617-208-8819.

For more information and to sign up for project updates, visit us online at the project website shown above. To request language services, please contact MassDOT’s Director of Civil Rights by phone at (857) 566-8350, TDD/TTY at (617) 566-8002, or by email to MADCivilRights@MassDOT.com.
Meet Author Ali Noorani

"There Goes the Neighborhood"

What really drives America's ongoing immigration debate? To answer this question, the National Immigration Forum's Ali Noorani interviewed nearly sixty local and national leaders across the nation, finding voices in faith, law enforcement, and business communities to paint a nuanced picture of America that looks beyond the blaring headlines to understand how communities across the country are confronting immigration and the changing nature of the American identity.

In this book, Noorani reaches across the political spectrum to offer a new approach to politics, one that depoliticizes problems and pushes all parties outside of their comfort zone in order to reach solutions. In the process, he helps readers realize that America's immigration debate is not about politics but about the cultures and values that shape and define America. Especially now, when we feel our identity, culture, and values changing shape, the collective voices from all the diverse voices in this important book is one of hope for the future.

Ali Noorani will present at the health center in Q&A format with CBO Bill Walczak on Monday, May 8 from 6pm to 7:30pm, South End Community Health Center, 1601 Washington St., Boston.

SoWa

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South End Neighbors

Please join us for Boston's annual spring cleanups!

FRIDAY, MAY 5 & SATURDAY, MAY 6

Register as a volunteer at: bit.ly/2017-sign-up

Questions? Contact the Love Your Block team.

South End News on Twitter

goto twitter.com/SouthEndNews

JUNE 1, 2017

Bay Windows is the best known gay and lesbian weekly LGBT newspaper in New England. The A-Z Guide is a must-read for the area's LGBT community and its regional focus will keep it at the community's finger tips for months.

Ad Deadlines:
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Place your ad today:
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Crime Update

(continued from pg. 2)

Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-1470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word “TIP” to CRIME (27463).

The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to help this investigation in an anonymous manner.

BPD Auto Theft Unit Continues to Take Illegal Off-Road Vehicles Off the Roads

Submitted by BPD

In the morning hours of Thursday, April 11, 2017, members of the Boston Police Auto Theft Unit, with the assistance of the Boston Housing Authority Police, MA Environmental Police, Boston Code Enforcement, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau executed the first phase of an ongoing enforcement operation focused on illegal off-road vehicles. This particular phase was focused on the improper and dangerous storage of these vehicles in Boston housing developments throughout the city. These vehicles have come to represent a constant annoyance in the city’s neighborhoods because individuals operate them dangerously throughout public ways and parks.

As a result of the ongoing investigation, officers seized several violations and seized a total of 16 off-road vehicles that were observed to be stored in manners that presented fire, health, and safety hazards and in violation of City Ordinances, Boston Housing Regulations, and/or Mass General Laws. These seizures occurred at the West Broadway Housing Development (South Boston), the Mary Ellen McCormick Housing Development (South Boston), the Park Hill Field Housing Development (Dorchester), Devens Housing Development (Mattapan), and Fairmount Housing Development (Hyde Park). The officers, as well as Code Enforcement officers, spoke with the residents to educate them on the hazardous conditions presented by the improper storage of these vehicles.

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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, letters should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com
fax: 617.464.7286

Mayors Martin J. Walsh

Thursday, May 6, 2017 • 12:00 p.m.
PRINCE HALL
24 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts

RSVP online at http://bit.ly/May6community
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Seniors & Kids free

Tickets $20

You’re invited to a timely talk by award-winning foreign correspondent and former NYTimes bureau chief Stephen Kinzer about his widely reviewed latest book, “True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire.”

With an Introduction by WBUR Open Source radio host, Christopher Lydon.

Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 PM
South End Branch, BPL
Seating is limited. Refreshments served. The event is free.

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The South End Branch is fully handicapped accessible.
For more information, visit www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org
History
Continued from page 1

which served to inspire more interaction among attendees, some of whom contributed their own experiences and expertise on certain subjects.

Barnett handed out a brief sample of the timeline, titled "Once Upon a Neighborhood," to inform the discussion and whet neighbors' appetites. The title was inspired by a line from Francisca Roberson, whom Barnett called "the poet laureate of the South End." At the end of the talk, she opened the South End History Collection, located in a small room off the main meeting room, and showed some volumes of the archival, bound editions of the early South End News.

Barnett explained that the timeline began approximately two years ago when she and the other members of the library's South End History Collection Committee decided they each would write brief historical timelines of the neighborhood. Once they did that, Barnett collected and merged them, adding material from her own research.

"I don't know what happened. I became obsessed. I just kept going," she said. "I didn't do it in chronological order. I added items as I found out about them or thought of them, often in the middle of the night. I woke up thinking: Should I add brickmaking in the Neck?" I always had to have paper and a pencil by my bed," she quipped.

Describing her parameters of subject matter, Barnett explained, "There are certain things that are not in there because they don't interest me or the dates are hard to pin down. I didn't want to get into very complex church history. I didn't want this to be a social services directory or a who's who. The timeline ends in 2015 because to me, after that it's all pretty much the same; more luxury condos, more high-rises.

Barnett described her various sources of information, including her personal library of hundreds of books as well as 65 notebooks she compiled herself from the resources such as The Neck, settlement houses, social services, transportation and other topics filled with photos, clippings and her own notes about people, places and period. Barnett also had a considerable trove of interviews she has conducted with South End residents past and present since 2005.

If she can't find what she needs at home, she heads to libraries and archives, and external resources such as libraries. "People ask where I do my research. I start with what I have at home, which is just enormous. I have just about every book ever written that has even a paragraph about the South End. Upon exhaustively examining her own resources on a given topic, Barnett jot down the questions she wants to answer and heads to the Boston Athenaeum at 10 1/2 Beacon Street. "It's a break for me. The days when I work at home, it's a nightmare. I get so tired!" Barnett enthused the virtue of our neighborhood as a living repository of history, where people can easily go out and check the location of former Mayor James Michael Curley and other sites of interest.

"I can't imagine living somewhere like Ohio and having to guess what these places looked like in the 1950s," Barnett exclaimed, going to see the home of Henry Hampton, founder of Blackside Productions which produced the acclaimed documentary series, "Eyes on the Prize" and many others. Blackside's main office was near Shawmut Avenue and Worcester Street, Barnett said.

Subjects that sparked particularly lively give and take were the location of the colonial-era and early American galloons and the borders of the South End sparked a particularly lively discussion. Barnett said the location of the local galloons was hard to pinpoint, by some accounts in the Boston Common, later moved to the current site of the Franklin Square apartments. The latter location would concur with accounts of a gallows within the original expanse of the historic South Burying Ground on Washington Street, which originally encompassed the current site of the Franklin Square apartments before part of it was purchased and developed as a piano factory in the late 1860s.

The discussion also touched on a 17th century gallows located in the vicinity of Perry Street where people considered to have heretical religious beliefs were hanged. A query from the audience led to a brief recollection of Barnett's role as the first editor of the South End News, which began in 1980 and ended the following year due to her rocky working relationship with publisher Skip Rosenfeld.

Local author Jean Gibran's question about the boundaries of the South End ignited lively debate. One man recounted hearing from historian and state representative Byron Rushing that the on diagonal bent of Columbus Avenue, Roxbury ended and the South End began around Dartmouth Street in the 1860s. Another neighbor weakly observed, "They call St. Botolph Street the South End when there is a crime there."
The TAKE with Sue O'Connell
She has A LOT TO SAY...
SO DO HER GUESTS
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