May 3, 2017

Bikes Not Fights promotes peace in O’Day
by Michele D. Maniscalco

Approximately 60 people of all ages came together in O’Day Playground, 85 West Newton Street, to play basketball and games, receive free bike maintenance and gear and to hear the balmy weather with 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 replace illicit activities in O’Day Playground with all ages harmony, and Saturday’s event met that goal. Bikes Not Fights co-chairs Barbara Collins and Nicola Truppis were joined by members of the Blackstone

May 11, 2017

A South End creative dynasty
by Michele D. Maniscalco

While she comes across as articulate and affable, Jean Gilman, a longtime resident of West Canton Street who taught in the Boston Public Schools for 35 years, has a down-to-earth manner that one might not expect from the matriarch of an accomplished and creative dynasty. Her late husband, the internationally renowned sculptor, luminary and inventor Kahill Gilman, with whom she shared a 50-year marriage lovingly and lovingly chronicled in her 2014 book, "Love Made Visible," was the younger cousin of the poet Kahill Gilman, author of "The Prophet," a perennial favorite among college students and young adults for decades.

The younger Kahill’s artistic legacy is represented with hisichal sculptures of children in two South End Parks: "West Canton Street Child," in Hayes Park and "Ad Astra" in Childs-Hassam Park. Jean and Kahill collaborated on "Kahill Gilman: His Life and World," widely considered a definitive biography of the poet. Jean’s recent revision of the biography, "Kahill Gilman: Beyond Borders," was published in December 2016. Jean presented on the new book at last fall’s South End Authors Book Festival and at a book talk late last month at Barnes and Noble at the Prudential Center.

June 1, 2017

USES forges ahead at Neighborhood Gala
by Michele D. Maniscalco

This year’s United South End Settlements Neighborhood Gala, which transformed the Harriet Tubman House at 566 Columbus Avenue into a fine-dining bazaar and glitzy dance club, celebrated the organization’s 125 years of service to the community, unveiled a new direction for its future, and surpassed the fundraising total of the previous year’s Gala by an impressive margin while showcasing the South End’s rich diversity of cuisine and providing a festive evening for guests.

New beginnings often come with growing pains, and those were manifested in a demonstration that greeted guests to this year’s gala, in which 18 people carrying cards and chanting "Save Our Seniors" protested the closing of USES’s well-loved senior activities and services effective June 30, pointing out that there is another senior center or program in the South End.

Seniors protest program closing at USES Neighborhood Gala

by Michele D. Maniscalco

Guests arriving at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Avenue, for the United South End Settlements Neighborhood Gala beginning at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24, had to cross a picket line to enter the event, as participants in the USES senior programs, their friends and relatives protested the end of senior services there, which is scheduled for June 30.

Guests greeted friends on the picket line warmly, as the protesters carried signs reading "Save Our Seniors," "Seniors Lives Matter" and "Seniors are the roots of the Harriet Tubman Center community" and chanted similar slogans. The closure of the senior programs is part of a shift in focus stemming from Vision 125, a new strategic plan that has been in development since the fall of last year. USES will concentrate its focus on helping families with children to "disrupt the cycle of poverty," according to a blog post on the plan by USES president and CEO Maicharia Weir-Lytle.
June 8, 2017
"From Beirut to Boston"

by Michele D. Maniscalco

In addition to being wildly popular among the locals, chef/owner Hayri Hajjâ’s Mike’s City Diner has been named best diner in Massachusetts by MSN and one of the best in the country by USA Today’s 10Best.com, and the diner’s signature Pilgrim Sandwich was honored on a Thanksgiving-themed episode of the Food Network’s Top 5 Restaurants.

Since Hajjâ came to the US as a child from war-torn Lebanon, without a word of English and with dyslexia, he has tirelessly tried to straighten himself. As a boy, he struggled to learn his new language and make friends; as a teen, he strove to establish himself as a tough guy not to be trifled with; and since early adulthood, he has driven toward success with indomitable hard work and a commitment to serving fresh, delicious, home-made food.

June 13, 2017
Foodie’s named Business of the Year

by Michele D. Maniscalco

As part of the Boston Main Streets Awards program, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Office of Economic Development joined Washington Gateway Main Street (WMGS) in honoring Foodie’s Urban Market, 142 Washington Street, with the Business of the Year Award on Wednesday, June 28. The Mayor’s stop at Foodie’s was part of a multi-day tour of the Main Street business districts at which he recognized outstanding businesses in neighborhoods across the city.

Foodie’s owner Fred García has received a much-needed sprucing up in the form of some repainting and refurbishing. This refurbishing could not have happened at a better time. Visitors to the park have increased significantly since the announcement that Tufts’ face will be on the twenty dollar bill. This was followed by the discovery of a rare and unknown portrait of the famed abolitionist that was sold at an auction in March 2017 and then was announced that the portrait would be shared by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress.

June 15, 2017
Cathedral goes to Beacon Hill

Six Cathedral High School students competed for and were selected to be interns at the Massachusetts State House this summer. They are among only 120 students selected from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

They are participating in a 6 to 8 week program in which they will observe, learn, and practice the skills associated with providing historical information, create their own tours, and be fully functioning tour guides by the end of the summer.

August 3, 2017
Hotel Alexandra Finds a Buyer

by Sue O’Connell

The dilapidated Hotel Alexandra, a five-story structure at the corner of Washington Street and Massachusetts Avenue, may have a buyer.

Currently owned by The Church of Scientology, it is now under agreement for sale to Common Management.

“Common Management is delighted to have the opportunity to redevelop the iconic Alexandria building,” the company said in a statement. “Like so many of the residents who have patiently waited for this building to be brought back to life, we see its beauty and promise, and we are looking forward to engaging with our neighbors and other stakeholders to ensure this property.”

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MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH
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980 HARRISON AVE
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since last year’s launch of PLAN: Dudley Square the RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on the initiative. All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. RSMPOC meetings are held in the evening the first Monday of the month at the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) in the 2nd Floor Training Room. Free parking is available in the BWSC parking lot. PLAN: Dudley Square workshops are typically every third Monday of the month, location varies.

Please come join your neighbors and the City of Boston to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

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Blackstone Lifeguard Killed

Blackstone Community Center has set up a condolence book in honor and memory of Nakieka “Kiki” Taylor. Nakieka was a lifeguard at the center for almost 5 years.

On the night of Sunday, August 20, Taylor, 30, was on the patio of her family’s home on Walnut Avenue, Roxbury, when she was shot and killed by what family members report was a stray bullet, according to the Boston Herald.

September 14, 2017

Alleged South End Gang Member Sentenced For Cocaine Distribution

Submitted by the office of Acting United States Attorney William D. Weinreb, District of Massachusetts

An alleged member of the Villa Victoria Pirates street gang was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Boston for distributing cocaine.

Anthony Nunez, 26, of Boston, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge William G. Young to time served of 16 months in prison and six years of supervised release. During the first three years of supervised release, Nunez is precluded from entering certain parts of Boston’s South End, and for the entirety of his term of supervised release, Nunez is precluded from associating with 12 gang associates. In June 2017, Nunez pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine base.

September 27, 2017

Mega-Project: Exchange South End

By Gus O’Connell

Boston developer The Abbey Group has filed formal plans for its proposed $1 billion-plus redevelopment of the former Boston Flower Exchange (of Albany Street).

The development is now called Exchange South End and plans a full transformation into a life science research and technology campus.

Exchange South End will be nearly 1.6 million square feet and contain four new buildings with commercial, technology, and life science research space, a 50,000-square-foot, publicly accessible park. Building C would be the tallest of the project’s four buildings at 282 feet.

Developers plan 288 underground and 14 surface parking spots. The Exchange South End would contain a total of 1,159 parking spaces.
Again, low turnout at South End polls for preliminary election

by Michele D. Mariscalco

While ballot figures by ward and precinct were not available at press time, Tuesday’s preliminary election for mayor and City Council District 2 and 7 races to draw light turnout in the South End despite spirited races with a wide variety of candidates to choose from in each council race.

According to the unofficial election results posted on the Elections page of Boston.gov, Mayor Martin J. Walsh will face off with District 7 city councilor Tito Jackson on Tuesday, November 7, with Walsh netting 34,959 votes or 61.53 per cent over Jackson’s tally of 16,702 or 29.06 per cent and competitors Robert Capparelli with 5,735 or 9.70 per cent and Joseph Weyl with 529 or 0.97 per cent, with 100 per cent of precincts reporting. In the District 2 race, South Boston resident Edward M. Flynn, son of former mayor and ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn, led the race with 5,083 votes, or 56.41 per cent over...
November 16, 2017

Veterans honored at Puerto Rican SE memorial

By Sue O’Connell

On Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, a crowd of about 100 people attended the dedication of a plaque honoring Purple Heart recipients at Puerto Rican Veterans Monument Square, 1440 Washington Street.

US Senator Elizabeth Warren, Governor Charlie Baker, MA Veterans’ Services Secretary Francisco A. Ureña, State Representative Jeffrey Sanchez, City Council President Michelle Wu, City Councillor Aaron Promisel, City Councillor At-Large Ed Flynn, and other elected officials were in attendance.

In her remarks, Warren noted that, “tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans” defended the United States. “From Army Lieutenant Thelma Mazzuch, who ordered the firing of the first American shot in World War I, to the 55th Infantry Regi-

ment, the ‘Bohiqueiros’ to the more than 10,000 men and women who have volunteered to serve since 9/11...”

December 14, 2017

Dorchester man to get life for 1992 South End murder

By Richard D. Mariscalco

On Monday, a Suffolk Superior Court jury convicted James Wilkow, 59, of first-degree murder for the rape and suffocation of a 16-year-old girl in a South End apartment on July 12, 1992, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office reports.

The conviction means a mandatory sentence of life without parole.

After 15 year fight, BSL 4 studies approved at NEIDL

By Richard D. Mariscalco

After approximately 15 years of review, litigation, city council hearings and other forms of scrutiny at the local, state and federal level, Boston University’s (BU) National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory (NEIDL), also known as the BioLab, received approval from the Boston Public Health Commission for research on biosafety level (BSL) 4 research at its facility at 630 Albany Street, according to an announce ment released by BU on December 6.

While BSL 4 work is the majority of the NEIDL’s activity, the BSL 4 lab takes up only 13 per cent of the building’s space, and it has been barred for the most dangerous and controversial piece in opening the NEIDL at its full capacity, as BSL 4 research involves the world’s deadliest pathogens, those with neither curative vaccines, raising concerns among neighbors in Roxbury and the South End.
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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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