

South End News

March 22, 2018 [Vol. 39, No. 11]

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**Local news
for and about Boston's
best neighborhood**

ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

My gentleman friend owns a female golden retriever. He allows his dog to run free in the woods be-

hind his home twice a day, at least. Since he cannot be beside her every minute, she manages to roll in deer droppings. He bathes her outside in every kind of weather to remove it.

I understand this is primitive dog behavior which I find repulsive. Since I only walk my dog (female mini poodle) on a leash in the city, she is under control at all times. I feel he should only walk his dog on a leash or let her run in non-wooded areas like a vacant baseball field.

Also, we have put these two female dogs together twice (once with a trainer) and it is not a good situation. Both dislike other dogs, meaning they growl at each other. I would

like to make the relationship with my gentleman friend permanent, but the dogs hold us back. Any feedback would be appreciated.

—Muriel

Dear Muriel,

Remember that old song standard, "Something's Gotta Give?" Even if you don't recall the tune, take the title to heart. Something's got to give: You.

Your gentleman friend is merely being a responsible dog keeper to indulge his dog with a healthy run in the woods and a roll in deer scat. Dog

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A Celebration of Reading!

Blackstone Innovation School, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, and City Year

BY MAUREEN BURNS

On Friday, March 9, St. Stephen's Youth Programs and City Year hosted a literacy celebration—the Blackstone Innovation School's

Eighth Annual Read Across America Day! This is a nation-wide event and is timed to fall near the birthday of many youngsters' favorite author, Dr. Seuss. Here in the South End, forty volunteers from non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and corporate partners gathered in the Blackstone Library.

Reunion Christian Church, a congregation that meets in the

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Photo courtesy of St. Stephen's Youth Program.



Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

Celebrating St. Pat's at Cathedral

On Saturday, March 17 parishioners celebrated the Feast of the Principal Patron of the Archdiocese of Boston in Our Lady's Chapel. Mass included the blessing of sham-

rocks. A reception followed with entertainment, Irish bread and tea. The Cathedral of the Holy Cross is located at 1400 Washington Street.

Blackstone Franklin group discusses hot topics

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

About 20 residents and South End/Bay Village liaison Faiza Sharif attended the March 20 meeting of the Blackstone/Franklin Square Area Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) to learn more about

needle disposal efforts, the city's 311 public-service hotline, the sale of the Alexandra Hotel and other neighborhood concerns at D-4 station, 650 Harrison Avenue.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) director of recovery

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Guest Opinion

We've Made Great Strides, But There's Still Work to Do:

Celebrating Women's History Month in Boston

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

It's important to pause and celebrate the women who impact us

every day. Those we interact with on a daily basis, and those women who came before us that have made positive changes in the workplace and our world. Making sure all women and girls have equal opportunity is not only an important issue to myself and my administration, it is a priority in the City of Boston.

When I was first sworn in as Mayor of Boston, I created the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement. This office is the first of its kind in the country and my goal in creating it was to have a dedicated department to provide a needed perspective on

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JOVITA FONTANEZ

A graduate of UMass Boston, Fontanez is the first Latina woman to run the Boston Elections Commission and the first Latina woman member of the Electoral College of Massachusetts.

A legendary South Ender, Jovita found the South End Community Health Center and Casa Esperanza's Latinas y Niños Community Center, a treatment program that helps pregnant women and mothers recover from addiction.

Women's History Month 2018

Dog Lady

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Lady knows, on the surface, this is disgusting. Still, nothing could bring greater pleasure to a golden retriever. Dogs love to smear themselves in stinky stuff. Yes, it's primal. There's nothing we humans can do to control the canine urge.

You shouldn't interfere in the relationship between a man and his dog. It's a different breed of togetherness than your bond with your mini-poodle. And you shouldn't worry about whether the dogs get along because what is most important is the budding romance between you and your gentleman. The dogs shouldn't hold you back from enjoying a permanent relationship if it's meant to be. Don't try to control what you can't.

Dear Dog Lady,

When we adopted our now 13-year-old mixed breed pooch, Cindy, she started biting anyone who came to visit. Our veterinarian

thought she was trying to protect us because we were her new family. Here is what we decided to do: Train her. Every time she met a new person who came to our house, she had to sit down, lie down, roll over and let the new person scratch her belly. Then the new person gave her a treat. She very quickly stopped her aggressive behavior and did what was expected of her to get the treat. Any variation of this will work because it distracts the pooch from biting and gives her something pleasurable to do when she meets a new person.

—Phyllis

Dear Phyllis,

What great advice – for your dog and your guests. You're a belly rubber after Dog Lady's heart. With our dogs, after all, distraction is the mother of reinvention. If you want your pet to do differently, you must offer an alternative course of action – and a reward (ie. treats, glorious treats). Good work! Your patience paid off in a better-behaved dog.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com.

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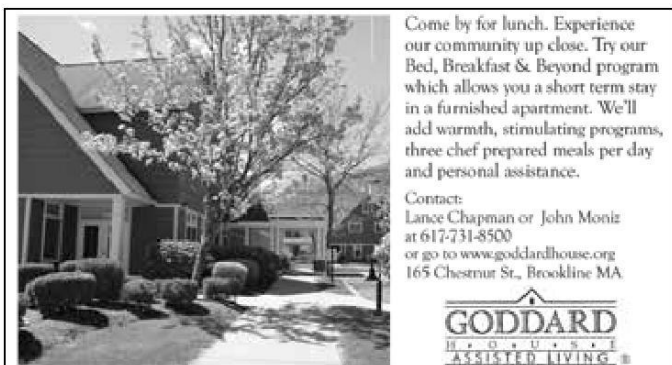
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Blackstone

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services Devin Larkin and director of harm reduction Sarah Mackin appeared at the meeting to explain BPHC's and mobile sharps program. Mackin told the group that the program gives out about 6,000 needles per week and takes in over 7,000. She said the greater intake number accounts for needles that were purchased at pharmacies.

One man commented that when he has used 311 to request needle disposal, they always arrive within an hour. He also asked the difference between the rigid plastic syringes with an orange cap and the flexible, blue ones. Mackin said the blue syringes are used for sterile water, not illegal drugs, and without the needle attached, they are not a biohazard.

Larkin said the program has five needle takeback kiosks across the city, including one at 35 Northampton Street. She added that in response to requests, the sharps program, with the Boston Public Schools and Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD), is considering adding two more kiosks in the South End. There is a kiosk at Clifford Park, across from the city administrative office building at 1010 Mass. Ave.

Larkin said that when health centers ask how they can help, BPHC suggests installing a needle kiosk in their lobby with 24-hour access. Asked about the benefit of the mobile sharps program, Larkin pointed to easier, safe disposal and noted that not all users of the program inject illicit drugs; some inject themselves with prescribed drugs for illness and cannot afford the mail-back process. Asked how the program is being publicized, Mackin said that containers are given out on request, and displayed two models of mobile sharps containers.

Larkin urged attendees to spread the word about the sharps collection program. "If you have ideas on how to get the word out locally, we are all ears," she said. Neighbors expressed their appreciation for the program. One man said, "You guys do great work."

Elizbeth Torres, staff assistant for Boston 311, addressed the group and fielded questions and comments on the city's 311 service. Torres said 311's communication platforms include calling 311, which is best used for asking how to request a permit or some other matter involving a series of questions and explanation; using the app, which is good for "structural" issues, as one can type in a detailed description and location; using the 311 webpage and reporting on 311's Twitter account.

Torres said that with the app, "Picture records are especially helpful for inspectional services and code enforcement as well as public works roadway issues, transportation and signage. Then we can physically see what the problem is." She said that the responding department often posts a picture of the resolution with its Case Closed notification. Torres said that residents can also use 311's Twitter account, but that is not monitored 24 hours a day. Users of boston.gov/311 can complete an on-line form with a detailed narrative of a more complex situation. Torres said that calling 311 offers a variety of languages for non-native English speakers.

Torres emphasized that 311 is a referral service inform the appropriate city department of service requests and it is for non-emergency matters. She said that if residents see a recurring adverse event, they can report that it to 311 for referral to the police. B/FSNA co-president Vadim Kuksin asked whether 311 is able to offer information on the number of calls per type of request, such as public safety, and Torres explained that some staff can provide that information. She said that 311 is staffed more lightly on weekends, so that is not a good time to make those requests. A resident asked about using the app to inquire about the estimated time of trash pickup, and Torres explained that because many residents do not realize the normal timeframe for trash pickup is anywhere from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, the app, and consequently, the Public Works department, were flooded with inquiries. It is now necessary to call to find out whether the trash truck has arrived at a specific block.

Kuksin said that overall, "95 per cent of the feedback I hear about 311 is positive. It is a great service," but "On the negative side, I keep hearing that a case will be marked closed, but the situation is unresolved." Torres said that the responding department, not 311, closes cases. As an example, Torres cited sidewalk repairs, which fall into two categories. A make-safe repair is a quick-drying tar patch to make the sidewalk ADA compliant, while a more major repair is referred to public works and a new case is opened. Requests for repairs on areas that do not belong to the city, but to the Commonwealth, are closed by 311 after being referred to the appropriate agency.

Updating the group on the March 6 South End Forum meeting, Kuksin said that the purchase and sale agreement for the Alexandra Hotel, 1759 Washington Street, has been canceled. Developer Eric Hoagland is consulting with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to try to resurrect the project, but the seller, the Church of Scientology, has put the property on the market. In other news, Kuksin said that on Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 PM, the South End Branch Library, 685 Tremont Street, is holding a public meeting to discuss its capital campaign to raise \$115,000 for repairs and renovation to the Library Park.

Kuksin urged residents to learn more about the renovation project and donate, adding that B/FSNA plans to donate to the campaign. Turning to the South End concern with airplane noise, Kuksin said the Massport Community Advisory Council recently proposed adding a seat for the South End representative, which will join the Fenway, South Boston, Roslindale, Roxbury and East Boston. Kuksin said the request for a South End representative passed the House and has gone to the Senate.

"From what I am told, there is no reason to believe it won't pass," Kuksin said.

B/FSNA Treasurer Matt Mues released a report that showing over \$37,000 raised by the Scholarship committee through the February Heart of Cold fundraiser. Scholarship winners will be announced on June 19. Before adjourning, Kuksin mentioned B/FSNA's upcoming Neighborhood Social, venue to be determined, and the May 5 Love Your Block cleanup, which will begin at 9:00 AM in Franklin Square for B/FSNA neighbors.

Reading

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Blackstone's auditorium, and Bain Capital, the Blackstone's City Year sponsor, were among the most well represented groups! Each adult reader picked out a book and then joined a classroom for an afternoon of reading. Students eagerly greeted volunteers, asked them questions about their jobs, listened to stories, and shared books.

Starting in 2011, the Blackstone In-

novation 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.

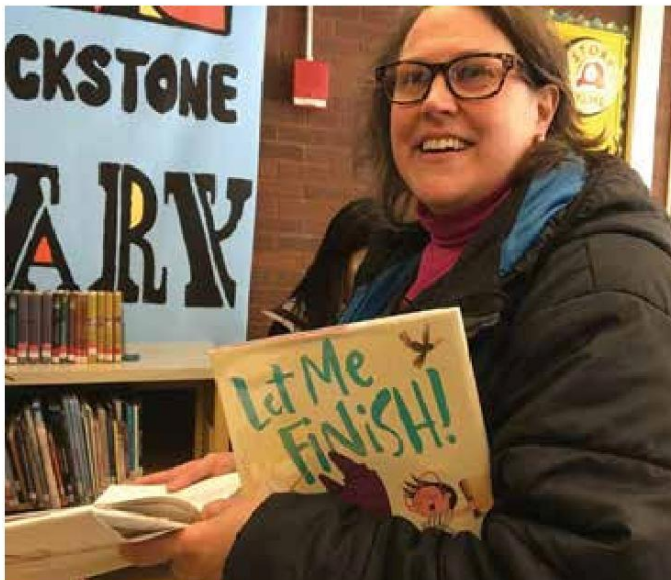
Blackstone's library boasts more than 12,000 volumes that are catalogued in an on-line database, has a subscription to EBSCO, hosts annual author visits, and celebrates this Read Across America Day each year! Every week, twenty-four classes full of smiling, ex-

cited students visit the library for read aloud time, the opportunity to borrow books, the chance to travel the world thanks to the magic of reading, and to build their literacy skills.

The Blackstone Library manages to do all this thanks to the resources of non-profit organizations and churches and the time of volunteers. The Blackstone Library is staffed solely by volunteers and yet it is one of the few public elementary schools in Boston that is open Monday through Friday. Currently, Boston Public Schools has only nine certified elementary schools librarians on staff,

serving about 75 schools with elementary age students.

This makes school partners, like St. Stephen's Youth Programs and City Year, all the more important. To support the Blackstone Library's growing collection, check out their book wish list at portersquarebooks.com/wishlist/280. To learn more about the library and to explore volunteer opportunities, contact Maureen Burns at maureen@sypboston.org or stop by the Blackstone School to ask a library volunteer for a tour.



(Bottom left) Amy Whitcomb Slemmer. Photos courtesy of St. Stephen's Youth Program.

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BPD Officers Arrest Ride-share Operator in Connection to Sexual Assault in the South End

SUBMITTED BY BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PD Officers Arrest Rideshare Operator in Connection to Sexual Assault in the South End: At about 1:03 AM on Sunday, March 18, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for a sexual assault in the area of Hemenway Street in Boston. On arrival, officers spoke to Northeastern University police officers who had stopped an individual who identified himself as a ride-share operator and had been tasked with transporting a female passenger to her home.

Observations made by the officers on the scene led them to believe that the female passenger, not only appeared to be in distress, but may have been the victim of a sexual assault.

The victim was transported to an area hospital for treatment. Follow-up investigation by the Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit enabled detectives to arrest and charge the operator. Officers arrested Ranjan Thapa, 26, of Everett and charged him with Rape. Thapa is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow, Monday, March 19, 2018 in Roxbury District Court.

The Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit continues to review the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with any information relative to this investigation is asked to contact detectives assigned to the Sexual Assault Unit at (617) 343-4400.

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 assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

If you're a victim of a sexual assault that has or has not been reported to police and would feel more comfortable seeking confidential advice from a non-law enforcement agency or representative, the Boston Police Department advises and encourages you to call the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) at 1 (800) 841-8371. BARCC provides free and confidential counseling, case management, legal and medical advocacy services to survivors in the greater Boston area.

To learn more about BARCC, please click on the enclosed link: www.barcc.org.

Support Marathon Fund Raisers

Spaulding Race for Rehab
Caroline Connolly, NBC 10 Boston

"I feel fortunate to have a career that often provides me with a view of life I would not otherwise get to see. Sometimes that can be tragic. On more rare occasions, it can be the kind of triumph we may not even realize we need. That was the case last year when I was paired with Spaulding Rehabilitation to cover the Boston Marathon.

From their watch party on Boylston Street, I encountered a room full of families, friends and volunteers who had all been touched one way or another by the work at Spaulding. For those who don't know, the center provides rehabilitation medicine to people who have suffered various illnesses or injuries—paralysis, cancer, burns, amputations.

For them, Marathon Monday is a moment to look past all that. This is about healing and hope.

There was the man paralyzed at the age of 29 during a basketball game; his girlfriend ran in his name. There was the car crash survivor who suffered a severe spinal cord injury; he raced in his wheelchair. There were also the

countless parents and siblings who traveled near and far just to witness this feat. As I spent the day interviewing all of them, I remember feeling there had to be more I could do to help.

So, this year I will be running 26.2 miles. Admittedly, this number seems a little daunting. But it pales in comparison to the challenges faced by the patients at Spaulding every single day. This is why I have committed to raising \$6,000 for Spaulding to continue their care and medical research. To reach that goal, I hope you will consider making a donation, big or small, that will go towards helping families who truly need it. Last year, they raised nearly \$700,000. This year, let's help them do more.

Since 2005, more than 400 athletes have made the historic journey from Hopkinton to Boston as members of Spaulding's Race for Rehab Team. Running for those who can't, these dedicated individuals have raised over \$4.2 million in honor of Spaulding's patients and caregivers. These funds support clinical care, promote medical education, and advance our many research initiatives to make a difference in the lives of our patients.

Every dollar raised by the Race for Rehab team will support Spaulding's mission to im-

prove the quality of life for persons recovering from or learning to live fully with illness, injury or disability. Your support and investment in our hospital will help our team reach the finish line and our patients find their strength."

<https://www.crowdfunder.com/en/campaign/spauldingrehabboston18/carolineconnolly2>

The Theater Offensive

Help The Theater Offensive (TTO) raise \$26.2k to support the True Colors Troupe.

TTO is launching a marathon effort to raise funds for True Colors OUT Youth Theater. During marathon season, our goal is to raise \$26.2k for True Colors as the youth prepare to embark on their first ever national tour in 2019.

We'll also celebrate LGBTQ runners at our (almost) famous Finish Line Party held at our offices on Boylston Street. Join us for drag performances, food, sing-a-longs, and more as we honor the LGBTQ runners of this fabulous event.

Here are some ways to help us reach our

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Boston Resident Lights Up Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness Month, a worldwide opportunity to encourage autism awareness and draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year. Here in Boston, the month kicks off with MassGeneral Hospital for Children's Aspire Spring Gala on Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Boston's Tim Sweeney is again co-chairing the 18th annual event, which hopes to raise more than \$2 million to support Aspire, a highly successful, therapeutically-based program of the Lurie Center for Autism.

This year's theme, "Light Up! Inspiring Knowledge + Illuminating Confidence,"

sheds light on living with autism. Longtime partner Rafanelli Events will bring the theme to life with a lightbulb lounge, where guests will experience "a-ha moments" about life on the autism spectrum through an interactive lighting installation.

Around 800 guests are expected to attend April's cocktail reception at Four Seasons Hotel Boston. Guests will enjoy dinner-by-the-bite and a luxury key game offering one-of-a-kind prize packages that include tickets to see Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran at Gillette Stadium and a VIP experience at the 2018 MLB All-Star game.

Aspire helps children, teens and adults with high cognitive autism spectrum disorder or a related social profile develop the skills necessary to live full, independent lives. Programs include a summer camp for children, an excursions and explorations group for teens and a young adult internship program. Aspire also consults area schools and conducts professional development workshops that train professionals and parents on meeting the complex needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.

Visit www.aspiregala.com to learn more.

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Guest Opinion

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important issues. Additionally, I wanted to ensure that we are able to give voice to those perspectives by working to provide a seat for women at every decision-making table in City Hall. Since its establishment in 2014, the Office has worked on issues surrounding child care affordability, paid parental leave, the gender wage gap and much more.

One issue the Office of Women's Advancement is targeting is the disproportional wage gap seen between genders and even amongst different groups of women. I am a strong proponent of Massachusetts' new pay equity law, which will go into effect this July. Yet, knowing that we have had a federal pay equity law since 1963, but we still don't have equal pay, I knew we had to do more. We partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to be the first city to bring free salary negotiation workshops to 85,000 women over five years, training over 6,000 women thus far. These workshops have showed us that women are using the information they learned to start conversations around fair and equal pay with their family, colleagues, supervisors, and friends. This helps our workforce move away from the silence and secrecy around pay and closer to parity.

The Boston Women's Workforce Council (BWWC), a public-private partnership between my administration and the Greater Boston business community, is a collaborative effort to close the gender gaps in wages and representation in our workforce. When employers sign on to the BWWC's 100% Talent Compact, they commit to identifying gaps that may exist within their company, taking actionable steps to close them using the BWWC network and resources, and submitting actual aggregate and anonymous wage data to measure the Greater Boston gender wage gap. Working with Boston University's Hariri Institute for Computing as our data partner, we're using a first-in-the-nation analysis to think differently about how to solve one of our nation's most persistent issues.

In March, we will amplify the amazing contributions remarkable women have made throughout our history. But it's crucial that we stay conscious of injustices that are still very much present around us and try to do more to strengthen the voice fighting for women's rights and equality here and now. Those that we honor during Women's History Month, would never want us to stop fighting for these critical changes.

Together, no matter your gender, let's channel the strength and resilience these women have shown, even in times of great defeat and hardship. Let's continue work to ensure our city is one of inclusiveness across all Boston neighborhoods and strive for a more equitable tomorrow.

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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Public Meeting

ROXBURY STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 2
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

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2nd Floor, Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

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!

MAIL TO: **COURTNEY SHARPE**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
PHONE: 617.918.4431
EMAIL: courtney.sharpe@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Marathon

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goal — some without even leaving your chair: Have a qualified time? Run for us! We'll help you set up a fundraising page, and we'll feature you on our website on Marathon Monday.

Make a gift give online to support one of the True Colors Troupe members, or donate to TTO's own founder Abe Rybeck's marathon run in Pittsburgh on May 6, 2018.

Come to the finish line party — featuring drag queens, restorative bananas, food and drink. We'll be asking guests to make a donation of any size as we help celebrate LGBTQ marathon runners.

<http://www.thetheateroffensive.org>

Boston Children's Hospital

Pat Foley

"On April 16th I will once again be running the Boston Marathon. This will be my 13th time doing it and my 10th year raising money. Over the last 9 years, because of the extreme generosity of so many, I have been able to raise \$221,000 for our troops and cancer patients. Looking at what we have accomplished and the amount of people we have helped, I am very excited about what we are going to accomplish this year.

This year all proceeds from the event will go to support Children's Hospital in Boston. It

was around the time of last year's event when one of my best friends Joe Holleran and his wife Nicole started to go to Children's when complications developed for their soon to be born daughter.

Hearing from them about this place and what they do for others and how ahead of things they are with technology, getting involved with this was a no brainer.

I will once again be hosting a fundraiser on March 24th, 2017 at JJ Foley's located at 117 East Berkley Street Boston MA. This is always a great night and lot of fun! We will have tons of raffles and silent auction items. We will also have food and a DJ. I know it will be tough to top all the previous years, but looking at how everyone steps up year in and year out with their extreme generosity I know we will.

All donations are greatly appreciated, even if you cannot attend. Feel free to share this event and pass it along to all your friends, we love growing the event and having others pass it along and inviting people is always the best way. We get a huge crowd every year but let's make this year the biggest! Thanks again for your continued support and I can't wait to see you all on 24th.

Thanks for your support, Marathon Fundraiser To Support Children's Hospital."

Marathon Fundraiser To Support Children's Hospital, JJ Foley's Cafe, 117 E. Berkeley Street, Boston, Saturday, March 24 at 7 PM <https://www.facebook.com/events/208088596403969/permalink/229628320916663>

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