

South End News

May 17, 2018 [Vol. 39, No. 19]

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Youth Make Art, Bring Change to Ramsay Park

SUBMITTED BY ST. STEPHEN'S
YOUTH PROGRAMS JCITS;
WITH BELLA VIDANA, ABBY THOMPSON

On Tuesday May 1, the ninth grader leaders of St. Stephen's Youth Programs, known as the JCIT's (Junior Counselors in Training), unveiled a community art piece in

Continued on page 2



South Enders gather for the Gardens

SUBMITTED BY FRIENDS OF THE
PUBLIC GARDEN

On Friday, April 27, 2018, Boston's most anticipated springtime gala, the Friends of the Public Garden's Green and White Ball, raised \$650,000 for the care of the Boston Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Nearly 300 guests enjoyed the

Continued on page 5



Photo courtesy Friends of the Public Garden

ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I have adopted a dog from a shelter on the North Shore. Not

much is known about her except she was rescued from a puppy breeding farm somewhere in the South and she is about a year old.

I want to call her Skitters (her real name is Snickers) because she is a very nervous dog and behaves somewhat like a cat because she hides all the time. Her favorite place is under the bed. When I look for her, I crouch down and pull up the dust ruffle to see her frightened eyes staring at me. She does come out to go for walks and to eat. She is house-trained and never makes a peep. I just feel so bad for her. How can I let her know I'm one of the good guys?

—Millie

Dear Millie,

Every day you let her know you're a good guy because you feed her and walk her. You are also patient with her. You could coo to her because soft sounds soothe. You might also place little high-test food treats around the perimeter of the bed skirt (pieces of chicken or freeze-dried liver chunks) so she understands snacking is good on "the other side." When dog-friendly people come over, leave the bedroom door open to see if Miss Snickers comes out to socialize a little. If she does, reward her with a tidbit or two but ignore her, acting as if it is perfectly

Continued on page 5

Local news
for and about Boston's
best neighborhood



Mayor Walsh speaks. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Flowers, harmony at Mayor's SE coffee

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

After two contentious years in which hot-button issues dominated the annual Mayor's Coffee Hour in the South End, this year's event, which took place on Tuesday, May 1 at Titus Sparrow Park, resumed its usual upbeat atmosphere, with Mayor Martin J. Walsh touting improvements to the South End Branch Library and other public works; discussing his plan to rebuild the Long Island Bridge; and, along with many of his department chiefs, mingling with approximately 100 residents to hear their thoughts and ideas.

Boston Transportation Department commissioner Gina Fiandaca, Inspectional Services Department head Buddy Christopher, Chief of Streets Christopher Osgood and Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) commissioner

Christopher Cook were on hand to talk to neighbors. Cook was joined by his director of external affairs, Ryan Woods, and other BPRD staff as organizers of the coffee hour, with BPRD employees providing literature on BPRD's work and its summer events schedule; serving coffee, donut holes and fruit cups and giving away potted marigolds as well as colorful, pin-on felt flowers that they hand-crafted.

Former South End liaison, now citywide LGBTQ liaison and public information officer Sam Chambers made a welcome return, joined by current South End/Bay Village liaison Faiza Sharif. Elected officials and hopefuls also came to sound out the crowd, including state representative and longtime South Enders Byron Rushing and the challenger for

Continued on page 4

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Youth

Continued from page 1

Ramsay Park near their Lenox Street program location.

The team of JCIT's were inspired by gallery walks and videos that depicted politically-charged installation artworks by artists such as Ai Wei-Wei and Jean Michel Basquiat. The students decided they wanted to create their own work that would make viewers stop and think.

Adult staff from St. Stephen's Youth Programs, along with a Tufts Tisch Scholar, and a Lesley University graduate art therapy intern worked alongside the students to make the art installation happen.

The young people debated and then determined that their artwork would address gun violence around Lenox Street. "You don't hear anything about [gun violence] unless it happens above Mass Ave. I think if more people knew how much it happened they would be more encouraged to make changes," said JCIT Evelyn Pimentel, who attends Cathedral High School.

Another artist, JCIT Bryanna Rodriguez, stated, "I don't hear about it in the news. I only hear it from the people around here. My friend's brother was shot and the next day the window was fixed and you never even knew it happened."

The student group used flagging tape, as the main medium of their artwork, weaving it into an isolated chain link fence to create an image in Ramsay Park. Flagging tape is a

material typically used to mark off borders and boundaries, to. The image read, "Change Will Come," a phrase the young artists adapted from a speech they heard on gun violence. In the speech, President Barack Obama said, "If Americans of every background stand up and say, 'Enough! We have suffered too much pain, and care too much about our children to allow this to continue!' Then, change will come."

All of the student artists wrote their hopes, dreams, experiences, lyrics, and hashtags on pieces of the flagging tape and added each to the fence in order to contribute to the larger whole image of words.

Ramsay Park, where the art is installed, is a Lower Roxbury-South End park where positive change is coming. The progress is quite visible, thanks to the efforts of SSYP, other Lenox-area teen groups, and the City of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department.

In the summer of 2015, a coalition of organizers brought in positive programming to Ramsay Park, including a basketball league, tennis lessons, mural painting, and flower-planting. This led to a commitment from the City of Boston to improve the park.

At the State of the City in January 2016, Mayor Marty Walsh announced \$2.4 million toward a full renovation of the park.

The JCIT's of St. Stephen's Youth Programs continue to create positive change, this time with art. Community members—children and families—gathered in Ramsay Park to celebrate the art installation with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Continued on page 3





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Youth

Continued from page 2

Two JCITs spoke movingly about their creative experience and the purpose of the artwork. Then, all the JCITs encouraged community members to participate in the process of creating art by adding their own thoughts on neighborhood violence to the installation.

Under sunny skies, people enjoyed the springtime weather; children played and a neighbors hugged. Passers-by stopped to inquire about the bold and black words, "Change Will Come." The JCITs wanted their art installation to create joy and inspire conversations. They achieved their goals and felt empowered and seen in the process.

As with all installation art, the JCITs were aware that their artwork was temporary.

Still, they were surprised that it took only two days for workers from the City of Boston to cut down the art. A JCIT staff member asked one worker what was happening.

With regret, he said, "I knew [the artwork] was something good but had to do what I was told." The conversation took place next to a pile of hypodermic needles that have yet to be removed.

The words of the art installation took on even more meaning and urgency in the presence of this seeming contradiction. How could beauty be removed while danger remained? Nevertheless, the JCITs believe that even ephemeral art has the power to influence viewers and may still bring change to a neighborhood. The creative process certainly brought transformation for the young artists.



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Harmony

Continued from page 1

his seat, emergency medicine physician Jon Santiago; District 2 city councilor Ed Flynn; District 7 councilor Kim Janey; and at large city councilor Anissa Essaibi-George.

This year's event marked a return to the customarily sociable tone of the coffee hour. Last year's coffee hour, which occurred in July rather than the usual early-May date, was held in conjunction with the reopening

of the newly-renovated Monsignor Reynolds Playground.

Mayor Walsh, then running for reelection, was met by approximately 40-50 residents, mostly from the area near Massachusetts Avenue and the so-called "Methadone Mile", who detailed their concerns and dismay with rising theft, car break-ins, unconscious and overdosing persons on their front steps, carjacking, public elimination on front steps and in alleys, shooting up and the proliferation of needles. Many spoke with palpable frustra-

tion, some saying they were trying to sell their homes and move.

The May, 2016 Mayor's Coffee Hour in Peters Park was met with a student protest, the young people carrying signs and chanting for an end to racism in the Boston Public Schools and elsewhere in light of racially-charged incidents that led to the resignation of the BLS headmaster. In contrast, the mood of the crowd was light and the Mayor's message was well-received at this year's Coffee Hour.



(Top) Mayor Walsh speaks with residents (Center Left) Community Service Officer Richard Litto, center: (Center Right) Sam Chambers, Marleen Nienhuis. Photo by Michele Maniscalco (Bottom Left) Jean Gibrán, left; BPRD commissioner Chris Cook, right. All photos by Michele Maniscalco.

39/19

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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 PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Gardens

Continued from page 1

Friends' largest fundraiser of the year, which was led by Co-Chairs Tamar Frieze (Back Bay), Ashley Harmon (Beacon Hill), Jackie McCabe (Beacon Hill) and Jessica Schmitz (Beacon Hill). Blossoming at a new venue, Four Seasons Hotel Boston, the event's new partners Marc Hall Design, Frost Productions and PEAK Event Services, delighted guests with a stunning design deeply rooted in the history of the parks.

The Ball honored Honorary Co-Chairs Julie and Ronald Druker, and The Druker Company, LTD was a generous Underwriter sponsor of the event. Party-goers, which included the Young Friends of the Public Gar-

den, donned fashion-forward floral gowns and dapper tuxedos and enjoyed a lively cocktail reception, a three-course dinner and dancing with the band Night Shift.

Over the past 21 years, the Green and White Ball has raised over \$6 million to renew, care and advocate for the Boston Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which has been the mission of the Friends since its inception 48 years ago.

Proceeds from the events have provided critical funds for annual care and maintenance in the parks, including the care of 1,700 trees and 42 pieces of public art. For more information about the Friends of the Public Garden and its work, visit www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org.



Photos courtesy Friends of the Public Garden

Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

normal for her to be part of the crowd.

Basically, let her be her. Your kindly aura will change her daily. You just must be patient and give her opportunities to socialize without forcing her. Dog Lady adopted a Mr. Skitters. He didn't hide under the bed; he hid behind her legs. After two years of cowering, he's finally stepping out on his own.

Dear Dog Lady,

My mom's boyfriend has a Doberman pinscher. The Doberman sleeps in the living room usually. But when my mom was there visiting, the Doberman slept outside her room every night and even followed her if she went to the bathroom. The dog was very loving and friendly. Both my mom and her gentleman friend are elderly.

My mom wonders if you think the dog was protecting her or if he was protecting the owner from my mom. My mom is 88 and

reads your column faithfully. This is driving her crazy. If you could shed some light we all would be grateful.

— Paula

Dear Paula,

The doting Doberman pinscher chaperones both parties, with a particular allegiance to your mom's gentleman friend. How thoughtful for the dog to escort your mother to the bathroom in the middle of the night. But let's not kid ourselves; Dobermans are muscle-bound, jaw-ready watchdogs. This guy stands sentry on the home front.

Dogs pick up cues and signals in amazingly short order. In this case, the Doberman has a clear indication from its human (the gentleman friend) that your mom is welcome. However, the dog knows its duties and has sharp instincts to guard and protect. The dear beast can't help but keep a watchful eye on the proceedings. Mom has every right to feel protected – and warned not to try any funny business.

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CITY OF BOSTON

To the Public Safety Commission
Committee on Licenses
Building Department

B D 26
April 17, 2018
Boston

APPLICATION

For the lawful use of the herein-described building and other structure, application is hereby made for a permit to erect a private-public-business-garage (22 vehicle parking garage) and also for a license to use the land on which such building or structure is situated for the KEEPING - STORAGE of: 22 vehicle parking garage, 440 gallons of gas in the tanks of vehicles.

Location of Land: 190 Warren Ave/201 W. Brookline Street
Owner of Land: Peter Zagonanakis
Address: 181 Dudley Road, Newton, MA 02459
Dimensions of land: Ft. front: 104 Ft. deep: 85 Area sq. ft.: 8,840
Number of buildings or structures on land, the use of which requires land to be licensed: ONE
Manner of keeping: in the tanks of 22 vehicles

City of Boston. In Public Safety Commission May 30, 2018.

In the foregoing petition, it is hereby ORDERED, that notice be given by the petitioner to all persons interested that this Committee will on Wednesday, the 30th day of May at 10:00 a.m., consider the expediency of granting the prayer of said petition when any person objecting thereto may appear and be heard; said notice to be given by the publication of a copy of said petition with this order of notice thereon in the *South End News* and by mailing by prepaid registered mail, not less than 7 days prior to such hearing, a copy to every owner of record of each parcel of land abutting on the parcel of land on which the building proposed to be erected for, or maintained as, a garage is to be or is situated. Hearing to be held at 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

Sean C. Lydon, Chairman
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News from...

Friends of the South End Library

SUBMITTED BY MARLEEN NIENHUIS,
NICK ALTSCHULER

Acclaimed writer, Allegra Goodman, will read from her recent novel *The Chalk Artist*, on Tuesday, May 22nd, at 6:30 PM for South End Writes. Her earlier novels include *Intuition*, *The Cookbook Collector*, *Paradise Park*, and *Kaaterskill Falls*, which was a National Book Award finalist. Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary magazines, including a recent one in *The New Yorker*, called *F.A.Q.'s*. In an interview about the story, Goodman explained it is part of a larger project about a multigenerational family called the Rubinstains.

"The first story I wrote about the Rubinstains is called *Apple Cake* and was published

in *The New Yorker* a few years ago. Since that time, I've been writing about different members of the family and their relationships. Each character interests me, and each stage of life interests me, but what fascinates me the most is the way that characters and stages rub off on each other," she said.

Goodman's previous short stories have been anthologized in *The O. Henry Awards* and *Best American Short Stories*. Other collections include *The Family Markowitz*, *Total Immersion*, and a novel for younger readers, *The Other Side of the Island*. Her essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The American Scholar*.

Starting in June, the South End Writes

author series will host: David Hernenway (*Private Guns, Public Health*), with an introduction by Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans on June 5; Karen Day (*I'll Stay*) on June 26; Iory Allison (*Glamour Galore Trilogy: The Family Jewels; Naughty Astronauts; The Mermaid and the Sailor*) on September 11; Randy Susan Meyers (*The Widow of Wall Street*) on September 25; playwright Melinda Lopez (*Mala; Sonia Flew*) on October 30, and Jessica Keener (*Strangers in Budapest*) on November 13. For details, click on Upcoming Events on our website.



The planned renovation of Library Park is on track for late spring/early summer, according to Boston Parks Commissioner Chris Cook and project manager Lauren Bryant. The bids by contractors for the job are due around this

time. The selection process and the scheduling will take place after that. The bulk of the work will be on infrastructure, including whatever ancient oil tanks, brick walls, skeletons or refrigerators may be hidden underneath the surface, as the site never appears to have been properly excavated.

Depending on the weather, it may only take a few months. The job includes trimming the five oaks, and making sure their roots remain protected. Stay tuned. For further details, www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org.

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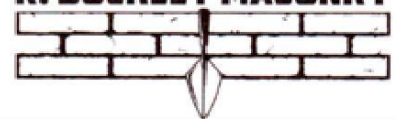
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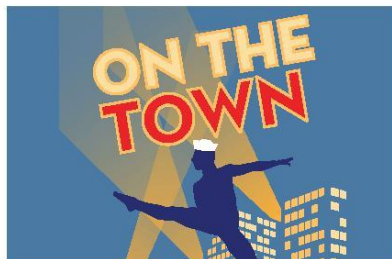
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Friday, May 25, 8pm



ON THE TOWN

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Kathleen Marshall, director
and choreographer
David Chase, music director
Thursday, May 31, 8pm
Friday, June 1, 8pm

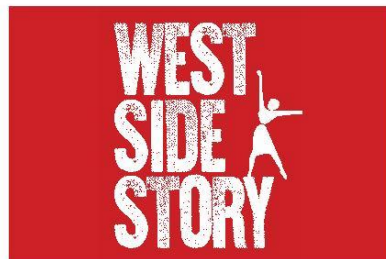


A BROADWAY CELEBRATION WITH SUTTON FOSTER

Keith Lockhart, conductor
Wednesday,
June 6*, 8pm
Thursday,
June 7, 8pm



*Featuring the Winners of the
2018 Young Artists Competition



WEST SIDE STORY IN CONCERT

Keith Lockhart, conductor
Ali Ewoldt, Maria
Matthew Hydzik, Tony
Friday, June 15, 8pm
Saturday, June 16, 3pm*
Saturday, June 16, 8pm

888-266-1200
bostonpops.org

*3pm matinees are 50% off tickets for kids 17 and younger.



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