Best Bees’ Mother’s Day workshop a family affair

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Best Bees Company, a beekeeping services company and bee research center located at 809 Albany Street, drew a fair amount of new buzz at its DIY Day at SoWa, 500 Harrison Avenue, on Sunday, May 13, educating approximately 20 registered participants and many more passersby on the lives, ecological importance and care of bees.

Best Bees exhibited some of its wares, including a decorated hive enclosure and a tabletop-size hive frame. Participants who registered

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Hot fun in the summertime

South End Summer Arts Preview

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Again this summer, the South End will enjoy an embarrassment of riches in free, outdoor and arts programs in our local green spaces. Neighborhood groups including the Friends of Ruggles Park, Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRED), BFA Arts and the Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB), Berklee College of Music and others.

The Titus Sparrow Park Summer Concert Series returns every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM with a varied menu of family-friendly party sounds. This season kicks off on Wednesday, May 30 with a fresh island of hip-hop, R & B and jazz.

Continued on page 2

Ellis’ Leo Delaney to retire

Submitted by Ellis Memorial

One of Boston’s foremost nonprofit leaders is stepping down this coming fall after leading the organization for 32 years. Leo J. Delaney, CEO of Ellis Memorial (Ellis), has announced his retirement and plans for his transition are underway. Ellis Board of Directors will begin an executive search in the coming weeks. For over 132 years, Ellis has been an iconic early education leader in Boston’s South End and has strengthened Boston’s inner-city working families with high-quality education and care for children, youth and vulnerable adults.

“Leo has been an incredible leader who has accomplished more than we could have imagined,” said Larry Hughes, Ellis Board Chair. “The retirement of such a strong leader is always challenging for a team.

Continued on page 6

Melnea Cass Day in The City of Boston

52 years ago on May 22, then-Mayor John Collins declared “Melnea Cass Day.” This year, Mayor Marty Walsh did the same to honor the late civil rights advocate.

The Proclamation reads: “Whereas Melnea Cass, through her contributions to the City of Boston and her courage in the face of adversity earned the nickname “The First Lady of Roxbury”; and,

Whereas Melnea Cass’s courage was fearlessly displayed through her advocacy for the elderly, the poor, women’s rights, and communities of color; and,

Whereas throughout her lifetime Melnea Cass was dedicated to her community. Her work reflected her passion. She held roles that engaged the community she loved, such as a Charter member of the Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), President of the Boston NAACP Branch, Chairwoman for the Massachusetts Advisory Committee for the Elderly, and as one of the founding members of a community pillar - Freedom House; and,

Whereas Melnea’s fight did not end with her roles. She was a community organizer having led the way in registering women of color to vote in 1920 after the Nineteenth Amendment was passed; and,

Whereas Melnea Cass is a Boston legend. Her name belongs amongst the historical figures with our city such as Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X, Bruce Bolling, and Mary Evans Wilson; now,

Therefore I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor for the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018 to be Melnea Cass Day in the City of Boston.

I urge all of my fellow Bostonians to join me in recognizing Melnea Cass’s everlasting contributions to our great City of Boston. Her work will live on, and so her dream of an equitable future will be realized.”
Summertime
Continued from page 1

Season from Pocket Radio, 5. Other performers include the Fifth Season Quartet, who present jazz with touches of classical and Bulgarian folk music on Wednesday, June 20, and Slim Jim and the Mad Cows, who bring their “country-dazed” metal to the park on August 22. Also returning is the Children’s Concert Series on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Shady Triangle in Truro Sparrow Park. The fun begins on Tuesday, July 10 with folk-rock by Sally Wheeler. The Titus Sparrow concerts are free, all-ages and open to the public. See http://titussparrowpark.org/events/several-events/summer-concert-series for full concert listings.

North Shore Music presents the Summertime系列 with performances in scenic, relaxing, outdoor spaces. The Summertime series on the third Thursday of each month, June 21, July 18, August 16 and September 20, features (and a festival) at the Shady Triangle in Truro Sparrow Park. The fun begins on Tuesday, June 21 from 7:00-9:00 PM. Bring a picnic, some cheese and a blanket and enjoy the sweet sounds with neighbors and friends. More information can be found at sandalsgreatmusic.com.


Celebrate the longest day of the year with music on Thursday, June 21 at Male Music Boston, a citywide all-ages afternoon of music of all genres. Visit www.malemusicboston.org.

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Liquorland

Summertime

Continued from page 2

Local artists will lead the children in creating take-home art and craft projects. The series is free, and materials will be provided. To register, email parks@cityofboston.gov.

Progress has its price. Due to upcoming renovations to the South End Branch Library and Library Park, the Concerts at Library Park series will not take place this summer.

Here’s looking at you, kid! The concert-series in the future when the library improvements are complete.

The Trio Pronteau Summer Concert Series is now taking applications from local Latin dance and music groups. The concerts are scheduled for three dates in O’Day Park, 83 West Newton Street, on Thursday nights in July. The fun begins on July 5 with a fusion of Latin, African and American music styles by singer/pianist Zaira Pola & SINTY. On July 12, Orquesta El Macabeo combines salsa with punk and other genres to forge a unique sound. On July 19, Egrie Castells y Orquesta Mar del Norte brings salsa of the '70s and '80s to the park. Wear your dancing shoes!

HSB Arts presents a special 50th anniversary edition of Festival of Beantown on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21 from 1:00-8:00 PM at Plaza Beantown, 100 West Dedham Street. The festivities begin with a parade including community marching groups, elected officials, neighborhood organizations and more, and continues with two afternoons filled with traditional and contemporary Latin music-style, Puerto Rican street food and tropical soft drinks; crafts and the traditional group/pole competitions on Sunday afternoon. Musical acts to be announced. Visit http://www.boston.gov for more information. Admission is free, but an RSVP is requested at http://www.eventbrite. com/e/forces-of-beantown-anniversary-anniversary-ticket-4448585628.

Sideline Kids’ sports

Rookie Rugby: Cheryl Brown 951-3005
BPRD’s Watercolor Painting Workshop continues to Blockhouse Square from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM on Saturday September 5, providing an opportunity for artists of all skill levels to express themselves with guidance from an instructor.

The Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival returns on Saturday, September 29 from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM with soul, rock, jazz, blues and more performed on three stages along Mass Ave., as well as music education activities, food and craft vendors and information tables from community organizations. Artists have not been booked yet, but details will become available at https://www.berklee.edu/beantownjazz.

Now that you are in the know, go out and enjoy the summer.
Bees
Continued from page 1

and paid $15 for the workshop so they could have their own bees. The first step was to learn about beekeeping.

After the workshop, the participants worked on their beekeeping projects. They learned how to maintain and care for the bees in their individual bee boxes. The next step was to find a suitable location to place the bee boxes. The participants were encouraged to choose a location that would provide the bees with the best chances for survival and growth.

The participants were also taught how to monitor the health of their bees. They were advised to check the bees regularly for signs of disease or parasites. The participants were also encouraged to monitor the nectar levels in their bee boxes to ensure that the bees had enough food to survive the winter.

The final step was to harvest the honey. The participants were taught how to collect the honey from their bee boxes using a gentle touch to avoid stressing the bees. The honey was then bottled and shared among the participants.

The participants were overall satisfied with the workshop and expressed their interest in continuing their beekeeping journey. They were also grateful for the opportunity to learn from experienced beekeepers and to network with other beekeepers in the area.

The participants were also provided with resources and contacts for further beekeeping education and support. They were encouraged to join local beekeeping groups and to attend beekeeping events to continue learning and growing their knowledge.

The participants left the workshop with a sense of accomplishment and a newfound appreciation for the importance of beekeeping and its role in the ecosystem.
Opportunity Fund Grantees Announced

South End Open Studios a recipient

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Boston Cultural Council, today announced over $939,500 has been awarded to 34 grantees in the second round of Opportunity Fund grants for 2018.

“This second round of the Opportunity Fund is truly exemplary. It is the diverse and talented array of artists whose work teaches every neighborhood of our City,” said Mayor Walsh. “I look forward to seeing these individuals excel in their art and enhance their communities with these grants.”

The Opportunity Fund was launched in August 2016 with the goal of supporting individual artists in activities that help them sustain their work in the public, teach others, continue their professional development and hone their skills. Through the Opportunity Fund, artists and educators are provided grants of up to $1,000 for meaningful, one-time opportunities. The Opportunity Fund reopened in November 2017 with a doubled amount of funding and a modified structure including grants that are separated into five different categories, each with a rolling deadline for applications and new guidelines to help focus investment on artists of limited means and in communities with less access to cultural events or artmaking. Including the latest round of funding, the Opportunity Fund has helped support 192 artists.

“A community arts organization, the Opportunity Fund allows us to offer programming we’ve been wanting to provide for years,” said Prachna Claywala, a part Opportunity Fund grantee. “With the grant we received, The House Slam allowed us to offer a writing workshop for the public, while also paying artists for their work. The experience and space to hone one’s craft under a practicing artist is a valuable resource that is imperative in the growth and transformation of individuals in our writing community.”

Below is a sampling of the grantees selected for the second round of the 2018 Opportunity Fund:

Community Arts Experience Grantees

- Nancy Maier, a visual artist from Jamaica Plain, will use the grant to build the Open Studio Project, a series of community-based workshops and art exhibitions that highlight the complex social narrative of addiction while giving space and voice to all those connected to the opioid epidemic, to several neighborhoods in Boston.
- Lauren Minihan, an artist from South Boston, will use the grant to hold an Allston-Brighton Pop-Up with Pride Day that will be free and open to children of all ages from the Allston-Brighton community.
- Piper Acord of Roxbury will use the grant to build an art and music performance with the experimental music ensemble Patchfix called “The Allegory of Breaking Light,” which will introduce the foundation of a one-day youth workshop in collaboration with Project Urbanity in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.
- Mia O’Malley of Allston will use the grant to support a one-day youth workshop in collaboration with Project Urbanity in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.
- Marina Finkelstein of Allston will use the grant to build a one-day youth workshop in collaboration with Project Urbanity in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.
- Mia O’Malley of Allston will use the grant to support the new LGBT+ community space at the Josephine A. Finzi Community Center in Lower Allston.

Field Trips

- Callum will use the grant to fund a field trip for fourth-grade students from the David A. Ellis elementary school in Roxbury to go to the Harvard Museum of Natural History.
- Erika Nerado will use the grant to fund a field trip for pre-kindergarten students at the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Dorchester to visit the Museum of Fine Arts.

Local Arts Events

- Allston's Michael of Mattapan will use the grant to support the Mattapan Open Studios in June.

Continued on page 6

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Funds
Continued from page 5

Artist Career Development
• Robert Green, a visual artist from East Boston, will use the grant to purchase materials so he can paint a series that pays tribute to famous faces from Boston’s past and present that will be displayed in downtown Boston.

Eliana Jones of Roxbury will use the grant to create a compelling short documentary series called The Force of Nature Project that provides local immigrants from different backgrounds a platform to speak and be heard by the community.

Zikohmade Sutton, a musician from Dorchester, will use the grant to support the creation of her first musical recording project, which will be a tribute to the African diaspora. Nicholas Silva of Dorchester will use the grant to support a cross-country bicycle trip, during which he will make art for a show that will happen at the end of the trip.

Eve Bolters, a violinist from Jamaica Plain, will use the grant to support a one-time professional development opportunity hosted further with master Suzuki violin teacher Edmond Spranger of the Oregon Suzuki Institute.

“The Opportunity Fund has allowed us to invest in individual artists while simultaneously bringing art opportunities to underserved communities,” said Julie Burns. “It’s great to see the goals of the Boston Creates cultural plan advanced in this way, and we look forward to seeing the new arts opportunities the third round brings.”

Applications for the Opportunity Fund are accepted on a rolling basis, and the review deadline for the next round of the Opportunity Fund is June 30, 2018.

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Cathedral High School graduates the Class of ‘18

Submitted by Patrick O’Connor

With the Cathedral closed for renovation, graduation exercises for the Class of 2018, the 87th in the school’s history, took place at the Mission Church in Roxbury on Saturday morning, May 12.

Welcoming all and serving as master of ceremonies was Dr. Helenam Givan, principal. The invocation was delivered by school chaplain, Fr. Kevin O’Leary. Delivering the salutatory address was Eliana Ezmat Jones and the valedictorian, Jeremy Toddika Budrow.

Jeremy was also presented the Viger In Arts Award for overall excellence in academics and school spirit. A large number of graduates from the Class of 1968 attended and were presented Golden Jubilee Diplomas. A 50th reunion is planned in the fall. Dr. Oscar Santos, head of the school, presented diplomas to 65 graduates. Following the commencement, graduates celebrated with their families outside the great church amid a light falling rain.

Delaney
Continued from page 1

organization such as Ellis. Thankfully, Lee has built a great team and has an engaged board to help us through the transition. While Lee will never be replaced, we are excited about a new generation of leadership to continue our mission of serving the working families of Boston’s South End and Lower Roxbury.

In 1996, Leo Delaney joined Ellis as Chief Executive Officer just one year after Ellis celebrated its 100th anniversary. The organization was enduring financial difficulties and Delaney was given two years to assess the situation and develop a plan for Ellis’ future. Delaney quickly turned Ellis into an anchor in the South End with continued services to the community and expanded its reach.

Under his leadership, the most dramatic improvements and expansion began a decade ago when Ellis embarked on a four-part Campaign for the Future. From creating the Ellis Children’s Park on Chandler Street, turning a vacant lot into a playground for very young children, to acquiring and renovating 58 Berkeley Street and renovating 66 Berkeley, ultimately taking two historic buildings and opening a state-of-the-art Early Education Center, expanding its footprint in the South End and increasing programmatic capacity for children aged two months to 5 years and space for its schoolage program and community focused events.

Delaney’s final phase includes the June 2018 opening of Ellis at Madison Park. Working with longtime partner Madison Park Development Corporation, Ellis has embarked on a project to expand its schoolage youth program site as part of Madison Park’s construction of a new multi-purpose facility, which will have a significant impact for the families residing in Lower Roxbury. Finally, during Delaney’s tenure at Ellis, he has successfully partnered with the Boston Public Schools by adding K-1 slots as part of Mayor Walsh’s Universal Pre-K program.

“It has been my great honor to serve an organization that is deeply rooted in this beautiful community. Ellis has a talented and dedicated staff who work to advance its mission each and every day,” said Delaney. “I am confident that the Board of Directors will choose a new leader who will maintain Ellis’ long-held values while taking the organization to new heights.”

For over 100 years, Leo has done so much more than reduce a high quality neighborhood program and historic buildings, he has restored hope to a community that needed the boost.

Through his creation of an Ellis campus in the South End and a satellite in Lower Roxbury, Ellis will continue to serve Boston’s working families for generations to come, said Hughes.
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