## South End News

June 6, 2019 [Vol. 40, No. 18]

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

### Haley House benefit rocks the block

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Haley House threw a fundraising party on Saturday, June 1, cordoning off Montgomery Street between Dartmouth and Clarendon Streets for an afternoon of music and dance performances, snacks, a wide array of auction items, children's activities and information and demonstrations of Haley House activities.

The festivities began with a performance by the JP Honks band, followed by introductory remarks



Silent auction. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Continued on page 4

## Meet the At-Large City Council Candidates

There are 22 candidates vying for four at-large seats on the Boston City Council. On Tuesday Evening, June 18 at 6:30 pm at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology 41 Berkeley Street, Boston there will be a community conversation with the At-Large City Council Candidates. The conversation will be moder-

ated by Michael Jonas, Executive Editor, CommonWealth. Doors open at 6 pm.

This is a free event, but registration is required: bit.ly/BostonAL-Forum

Primary Municipal City Councilor Election: Tuesday, September 24, 7am-8pm. Municipal Elections: Tuesday, November 5, 7am-8pm.

Sponsored by Greater Boston Young Democrats, Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee, Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Ellis Neighborhood Association.

## **Health Centers to Merge**

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, South End Community Health Announce Intent

SUBMITTED BY SECHC

In one of the first mergers of its kind in Massachusetts, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) and South End Community Health Center (SECHC) amounced their intent to merge after signing a definitive merger agreement. Pending federal and

state regulatory approvals, SECHC will become a part of EBNHC with Manny Lopes remaining as President & CEO. The merger will add SECHC's 180+ employees and 19,000 patients to the largest community health center in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the country. SECHC will continue to provide comprehensive health care services in the South End.

"As SECHC celebrates 50 years of service to the South End, we also look to the future. Our number one goal is to strengthen high-quality care

for this community in an increasingly complex and volatile health care system that favors economies of scale," said Bill Walczak, CEO & President of SECHC. "We have strategically considered many pathways to achieving this goal over the past several years and are delighted to have reached an agreement with EBNHC that positions community-based care to thrive."

Manny Lopes, President & CEO of EBNHC, adds "our orga-

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#### **Honor Roll**



Photo courtesy Roxbury Prep

### Roxbury Prep Graduates from South End Headed to College

SUBMITTED BY ROXBURY PREP

Roxbury Prep announced today that two of its graduates from the South End neighborhood are headed to college in the fall.

The two students, Shalandra Smalls and Alicia Troncoso, were among the 71 seniors from Roxbury Prep who graduated from the public charter high school on June 4. Nearly 97 percent of the school's first graduating class is headed to college.

"Roxbury Prep provided me with an outstanding academic experience which led me to endless opportunities," said state Rep. Chynah Tyler, (D-Boston), a Roxbury Prep alum who gave the commencement address. "I am truly honored to have the opportunity to share my experiences with the first graduating class and look forward their success in

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#### Pride is now

BY SUE O'CONNELL

The South End will host thousands on Saturday

Check street closures and parking bans

Although celebrations of LGBT Pride happen throughout the

month, the big event is the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8 at noon. Organizers estimate 35,000 will participate in various celebrations in the neighborhood.

If you're new to the South

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Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I agree there are many people, myself included, who are guilty of anthropomorphizing their dogs. But you go too far in the other direction by writing: "Dogs do not have emotions like humans." Dogs most certainly do feel "guilt, love, remorse" and many other emotions we share. You "cover" yourself (not well enough, I think by adding "on a human scale." Not your best column.

-Brian

Dear Brian

Sorry "Ask Dog Lady" let you down. And your point is well taken. Dog emotions can be breathtaking in how much they mirror human thoughts and feelings. However, Dog Lady does insist dog emotions and moods contain none of the nuance or guile of human sentiments. Dogs are unabashedly honest. They want what they want now. There is no disguise. Such is not the human way. Humans have many calibrations of emotions; dogs just have one speed, which is why we love their simplicity and straightforwardness.

Even if you were calling Dog Lady out, she did enjoy your letter because it's so nice to know someone believes utterly in the power of dogs.

Dear Dog Lady,

During what should be the happiest time of our lives, after the birth of our healthy newborn first child, we are reeling with grief. A few short weeks after the birth, we were picking out an urn to contain the ashes of Zuri, our beloved four-year-old four pound Maltese/Yorkshire terrier mix. Our sweet dog was attacked and killed by a 30-pound bulldog at \*\*\* Doggy Day Care. The two dogs, with a 26-pound weight difference between them, were enclosed in an area of the day care reserved for small dogs.

While \*\*\* Doggy Day Care says they are changing policies due to the death, I think this exposes a larger problem: The dog day care industry in Massachusetts is wholly unregulated, meaning each establishment can instill their own rules and policies, with no baseline of accountability. Although the Animal Control officer investigated the incident, we are left bereft.

-Casey & Justin

Dear Casey & Justin,

You did write the name and location of the day care to "Ask Dog Lady" and Dog Lady chose to withhold the name. Certainly, the owners and the patrons of the day care must be keenly aware of the demise of Zuri. Dog Lady sends her deepest sympathies. The death of a cherished pet is hard at any time but under the circumstances you describe, the loss must be unbearable.

For anyone whose dog has been attacked by another dog, we know it can happen suddenly and lethally for no discernible reason. There is no guarantee the workers at the day care could have prevented the mauling. Of course, they shouldn't have placed the two dogs together, especially if the larger dog was known to be aggressive. However, maybe this was a surprise from a bulldog that had never before shown killer instincts. The bulldog's owner might also be grieving the loss of a pet if Animal Control mandated the dog be put down. There are many variables, which comes back to the stark reality: We are dealing with dogs.

Legislating dog business – beyond leash laws, rabies prevention and waste disposal – is tricky for animalswe try to understand but often work in mysterious ways. When we send our pets to day care, away from our supervision, we take a leap of faith. So sorry your faith was broken.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com

#### **Health Centers**

Continued from page 1

nizations have shared a common mission for decades and there is a lot we can learn from one another. As health centers, it is our duty to innovate and grow in financially sustainable ways to ensure we are preserving and advancing affordable, accessible, high-quality care in communities that need it most. We believe that welcoming SECHC into our organization will benefit patients, staff, and our communities."

Post-merger, EBNHC will support approximately 1,200 employees and over 100,000 patients per year with an operating budget of \$165M, providing high-quality services and programs in neighborhoods on both sides of Boston Harbor.

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) has been a vital part of its community for more than 40 years, providing easily accessible, high-quality health care to all who live and work in East Boston and the surrounding communities of Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Winthrop. EBNHC supports over 1,000 employees and handles 300,000 visits per year – more than any other ambulatory care center in New England. For more information, please visitwww.ebnhc.org.

South End Community Health Center (SECHC) is a comprehensive health care organization for all residents of the South End and surrounding communities. Founded in 1969, SECHC is committed to providing the highest quality, coordinated health care that is both culturally and linguistically sensitive to every patient, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, and/or income. SECHC's multicultural and highly trained staff of 180+ serves over 19,000 patients with an operating budget of \$16.5M. For additional information, please visit www.sechc.org.

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#### **Haley House**

Continued from page 1

and performances by the band JP Honk and Lil Phunk, a youth dance squad that performs at Boston Celtics games, followed by music throughout the afternoon by DJ Troy Anthony of Platinum Music Group, who spun a mix of soul, R & B and jazz classics for the rest of the afternoon.

Haley House urban farm coordinator Anna Pierce-Slive handed out flower and vegetable seedlings and talked to guests about Haley House's farm on Thornton Street near Dudley Square.

Pierce-Slive said that school and neighborhood groups do much of the work at the farm, learning about urban farming as they cultivate the crops. Produce from the farm is used in the soup kitchen and in the café. A few tables away, Elizabeth "Zizzy" Murphy, a Haley House "live-in" worker from Cleveland, had the crowd-pleasing job of dispensing free FoMu ice cream to guests.

Haley House director of development Mary Lou Bozza, approximately 40 400 guests attended, at which the suggested donation was \$10.00 for adults with free admission for children. The proceeds were still being tallied at press time, but Bozza said in a follow-up email, "We are hopeful that we hit our goal thanks to the generosity of local businesses who sponsored and donated prizes, food,

drinks, etc. and our neighbors who attended."

Bozza added that funds come from a mix of business donors, including Above and Beyond Catering, Kings Bowl America, Union Park Pizza, Suffolk Construction, The Wine Emporium, Metropolis, and many more, the auctions and the suggested donation from guests, which was \$10.00 for adults and free for children. Bids in the silent auction, comprising an art auction and an auction featuring a variety of items and experiences, were accepted on-line and in-person.

Artwork to be auctioned off including paintings, serigraphs, sculpture and textiles were on display at the block party, and Haley House staff provided iPads to facilitate on-line bids. Awide array of imaginative auction items included a basket of produce and tour of Haley House farm in Roxbury; a jewelry set from Second Sun Creatives; a gift card and basket from South End Formaggio; a cashmere poncho from Sara Campbell; tickets to an A.R.T theater performance and a gift certificate to Delux Café; an "artsy stay-cation" comprising an overnight stay at Revere Hotel, gift card for the Beehive and passes to the Institute for Contemporary Art.

Proceeds from the event will support Haley House's Soup Kitchen, urban farm, education and training programs, affordable housing, and the re-launch of Haley House Bakery Café in Dudley Square, expected to open this fall. Among the guests were longtime community activists and colorful personalities Jovita Fontanez, a cofounder of South End Community Health Center who also helped organize Casa Esperanza's Latinas y Niños Center; Chris Cato of Youth Build Boston and the Eagle Eye Institute; and David Kay, a co-founder of One Hood Peace Basketball League.

A long-time South Ender named Robert, whose six-month old black Great Dane puppy, Riley, drew a lot of attention, shared his experiences as human services director at Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) under legendary director Jorge Hernandez. Robert recalled the renovation of the former church at 85 West Newton Street that was converted to the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, now Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, and the efforts of the Broom Brigade, a group of residents concerned about the litter and other effects of a liquor store adjacent to the Blackstone School who cleaned up discarded bottles and other trash around the liquor store daily.

After the event, Bozza wrote, "The block party is always one of the most fun events of the year for the Haley House community. We love seeing so many friends, old and new, gathered together, enjoying each other's company, good food, entertainment, and helping to support our daily work. It's a true team effort!"

40/18

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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 dayfune telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thusday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOXE 14, Boston, MAO2 127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com











## South Ender Wiecek Wins Award from Knights Templar

Massachusetts Grand Officers of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation traveled to Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School to present a \$65,000 Career Starter grant to Emily Wiecek, OD, PhD, Optometrist and Researcher in the Ophthalmology Department. Dr. Wiecek will be focusing her research on discovering the difference between amblyopia caused by poor focus and amblyopia caused by misalignment of the two eyes

Dr. Wiecek's study, "Peripheral Visual Function in Anisometropic and Strabismic Amblyopia," will test three measures of visual function in patients in the two basic types of amblyopia and in healthy volunteers. The measures to be tested include contrast sensitivity (like vision on a foggy day), stereoacuity (3-D vision or depth perception), and ocular dominance (which eve is favored by the brain), using peripheral as well as central vision. The hope is to discover that the two types of amblyopia have important differences in their responses and that this will one day allow us to customize treatment in each type of amblyopia.

Emily Wiecek, a South End resident, was appointed as Harvard Ophthalmology Instructor in late 2018. She is a pediatric op-

tometrist with a background in clinically-based psychophysical assessment. Her research aims to improve the assessment and quantification of binocular and accommodative function in pediatric and adolescent patients.

The Knights Templar is a Masonic fraternal organization founded in the 11th century. Originally, they were laymen who protected and defended Christians travelling to Jerusalem, and were renowned for their fierceness and courage. Today, the Knights display their courage and goodwill in other ways, raising millions of dollars for medical research and educational assistance. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is a charity sponsored by the (US) Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and founded in 1956. Its mission is "To improve vision through research education, and supporting access to care.

Each year the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. invites eligible investigators to submit applications for pediatric ophthalmology research grants. Clinical and basic research on conditions that may be potentially preventable or correctable is encouraged. Career-Starter Research Grant recipients must be at the beginning of their academic careers and must have received M.D., Ph.D., or an equivalent degree.

Boston Children's Hospital is a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, one of the largest academic pediatric facilities in the world, and home to the world's largest and most active research enterprise at a pediatric center. The Department of Ophthalmology at Boston Children's Hospital is the largest pediatric ophthalmology service in the world.

For more information about Boston Children's Hospital Ophthalmology Dept, please visit http://www.childrenshospital.org/ centers-and-services/departments-and-divisions/department-of-ophthalmology/overview



(Left to Right) Sir Knight Mark Kay, David Hunter, Emily Wiecek, Sir Knight Stuart Drost

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#### **Community Meeting**

#### **PLAN: Dudley Square**

#### Nawn Factory, Parcel 8, and Blair Lot Discussion

Monday, June 17 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM 980 Harrison Ave

Boston Water & Sewer Commission, 2nd Floor Roxbury, MA 02119

#### **Event Description**

The June PLAN: Dudley Square discussion will build on the past workshops to The June PLAN: Dudley Square discussion will build on the past workshops to review draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Nawn Factory, Parcel 8, and Blair Lot. Throughout the evening there will be opportunity for attendees to engage in productive dialogue with City/BPDA team members and each other on elements of RFPs. As with all previous workshops, feedback provided will be reviewed and taken into consideration for incorporation into the final RFP documents. PLAN: Dudley Square revisits the visions presented in both the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and Dudley Vision to evaluate if they still align with current community goals. The goals of this process are to create an updated community vision, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of RFPs for publicly-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

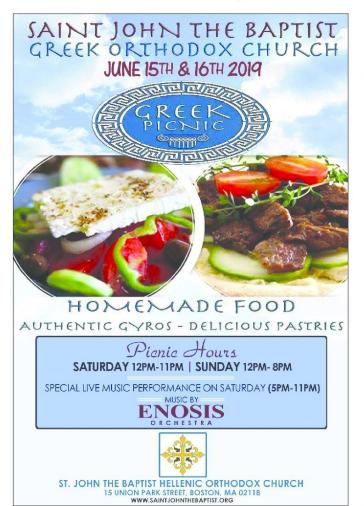
We look forward to having you join us at the workshop. For more information please visit: http://bit.ly/PlanDudley

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



#### Pride

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End, get ready. Our neighborhood's history as a "gay mecca" makes it the premier spot to view the parade.

The Boston Pride Parade Saturday kicks off at noon, 12 noon, rain or shine. The parade starts at Boylston Street at Clarendon Street, turns right onto Clarendon Street, left onto Tremont Street in the South End, then turn left onto Berkeley Street back to Boylston.

The Annual Chandler Street Block Party happens on Saturday from 1:30 - 7 pm at the The Trophy Room/ Chandler Inn on Chandler Street, between Berkley Street and Tremont Street. It's a benefit for AIDS Action Committee of MA. 21+, positive ID required for entry, Donation \$20 - cash only. Event entrances located on both Berkley Street and Tremont Street. The rain or shine.

There will be parking bans and street closings, so look carefully before you park and plan your day accordingly. You can find a full calendar of Pride Events and a map of the parade route at mysouthend.com. Download the Boston Pride app at itunes.apple.com.

To accommodate the parade, temporary "Tow Zone, No Stopping, Parade Saturday" parking regulations will be in effect at the following South End locations. Visit www.cityofboston.gov/ for a full listing.

- Tremont Street, both sides, from Cambridge Street to Beacon Street
- Tremont Street, both sides, from Union Park Street to East Berkeley Street
- Staniford Street, East Side, from Cambridge Street to opposite Cardinal O'Connell
- In addition, temporary "Tow Zone, No Stopping, Friday and Saturday" parking regulations will be in effect at the following location.
- Tremont Street, North Side, at #585-595 on parking meters CG077-CG080.

For a full list of Boston Pride events, visit our sister-publication Bay Windows at www. baywindows.com

#### **Honor Roll**

Continued from page 1

continuing the schools legacy."

Smalls is headed to the Massachusetts College of Art and Design while Alicia Troncoso is attending Worchester State University. Last week, the seniors celebrated their college acceptances at a senior signing day event at the Strand Theatre. The raucous rally was similar to a senior signing day for college-bound athletes, except the focus was on student academic achievement.

Roxbury Prepserves 1,500 predominantly low-income black and Latino students in grades 5-12.

Shradha Patel, founder and principal of Roxbury Prep High School, said it's a remarkable feat for a school that started just four years ago in makeshift buildings now spread on two separate campuses. Roxbury Prep High School is seeking to build a permanent home in Roslindale.

"Our scholars have not only built a level of resilience, confidence, and community in their high school careers; they have paved a way for political and economic equity by pursuing their college educations as acts of justice," Patel said. "Our scholars and their families have put their faith in Roxbury Prep and we are honored to have delivered on our college placement promise."

Roxbury Prep's mission is to get students to get into, succeed in and graduate from college. From the time students join Roxbury Prep as fifth graders, they enteran environment where college is the goal. Each classroom is named after a college and trips to college campuses start in middle school.

To ensure students can perform at a college level, every student is encouraged to take at least one AP course. Most take more than one and 62 percentpassed at least one AP exam last year (2018) compared with 32.1 percent for students overall in Massachusetts in 2017.

The class of 2019 outperformed collegegoing students nationwide on the SAT in the percentage of students meeting the college readiness benchmark in both math and English.

Roxbury Prep is part of Uncommon Schools, a network of high-performing charter schools whose mission is to ensure students not only enter college, but graduate from college. The network serves 19,000 students in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

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