

South End News

February 8, 2018 [Vol. 39, No. 5]

Single Copies Free: Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the South End News business office.

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

ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

We have two yellow Labrador retrievers, Chansey is 12, blind and diabetic for the past three years, and Maizey, 2, is still acting like a puppy. Chansey's internal food clock has started going off every morning between 4 and 5 a.m. She barks and becomes disoriented, wandering around the first floor, bumping into

things. Our veterinarian says this behavior could be the beginning of dementia. After we walk and feed her, she quiets down and goes back to sleep.

We are exhausted, and feel as though we have a baby in the house. Any ideas on how to change her internal food clock?

—Betsy

Dear Betsy,

Your vet should advise you about your dog's internal food clock. Ask the medical professional if you can put out a bowl of food on the first floor when you go to bed. Chansey's eyes don't work anymore but her nose will surely lead her to the grub.

You do have a baby in the house—an elderly dog baby. She has given you many years of love and happiness. Now, it's your turn to pay her back. Old dogs deserve all the respect and care we can muster.

Dear Dog Lady,

My wife and I got our first dog six years ago, Jax was a rescued Pitbull/boxer mix. He was found tied to a tree in Kentucky and brought north by a local shelter group. He was 35-pounds when we got him and eventually grew to 45-pounds. A couple years later we got a "rescue Amish puppy" from a group near Akron, Ohio named Gemma. She is also a Pitbull mix and grew to 90-pounds. Both were great with our new baby. The two used to run laps chasing each other. They would spend hours outside together on nice days.

Last fall, we had to put our Jax down. Ever since, Gemma has seemed sad and desperate for attention and companionship. She now only spends minutes outside at a

Continued on page 3

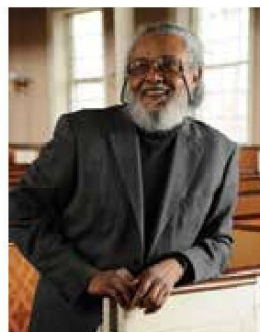
State Rep. Rushing could face primary challenge

BY SUE O'CONNELL

WGBH's Mike Deehan reports that State Representative Byron Rushing, who has represented the South End and part of Roxbury since being elected in 1983, could face a challenge in the Democratic primary from Jon Santiago, a Boston Medical Center doctor.

Santiago, a Ward 4 committee member, filed to run for the Ninth Suffolk seat Monday, according to WGBH.

Jon Santiago, a Boston Medical Center emergency medicine resident and Ward 4 committee member, filed to run for the Ninth Suffolk seat Monday.



State Rep. Byron Rushing

February School Vacation Ideas

BCYF Blackstone
Blackstone Connects School Vacation Program

Tuesday, February 20 - Friday, February 23 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ages: 8-12, cost: \$60.00 Snack and lunch will be provided.

BCYF Swim For Safety Free
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Tuesday, February 20 - Friday, February 23

Contact BCYF Blackston for more information.

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For the city-wide BCYF vacation week listings, visit www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families



Photo by Michele D. Maniscalco

LandWave crashes

Neighbors seek removal of damaged Peters Park sculpture

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Less than seven years since it was dedicated in the spring of 2011, the long, sloping, blue LandWave sculpture on Washington Street at Peters Park is being eyed for removal.

The approximately 100 foot long sculpture commemorates the Boston Neck, a narrow strip of land that connected downtown Boston and Roxbury before the South End was filled in and developed in the 19th century, with an inscription details its history.

Neighbors of the park say the sculpture is becoming increasingly unsafe and unsightly as a result of its

Continued on page 4

South End Calendar

Heart of Gold Scholarship Event 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Estragon, 700 Harrison Ave, Boston

The B/FSNA is having its annual fundraiser for its South End Scholarship. This is our 11th year. Last year we raised over \$40,000 and awarded over \$32,000 to 15 recipients. For the last 10 years, our neighborhood association has awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to over 45 South End high school graduates to cover

textbooks, computers, or supplies for college or trade school.

Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$75 at the door.

This year we will be enjoying delicious Spanish tapas, wine, beer and cocktails, courtesy of Estragon Tapas Bar. Enjoy live music and bid on lots of exciting items at our live and silent auctions. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund of BFSNA.

<http://www.blackstonefranklin.org/>

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Online

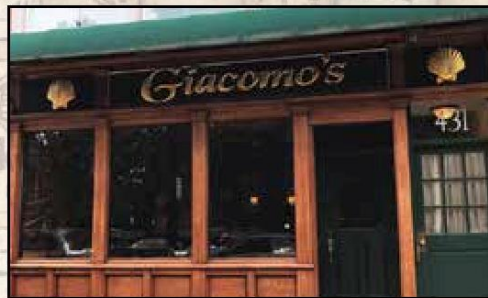
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Online

Giacomo's Ristorante

COME BACK TO GIACOMO'S!

After extensive renovations this South End favorite has reopened and serving the neighborhood. Serving dinner nightly at 5pm. Looking forward to seeing all of our old friends again soon!



431 Columbus Ave, Boston • 617-563-5723

Opinion

Pimping King

REV. IRENE MONROE

With 2018 being the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination commemorations honoring the man will be taking place across the country. But who would think a Super Bowl ad with a King voiceover would be used to sell pickup trucks? The pitch for Dodge Ram trucks' "Built To Serve" Volunteer Program did just that and provoked a fast and furious backlash on Twitter and a rebuke from the King Center.

Adding insult to injury the commercial's narrative arch from beginning to end misappropriated MLK's essential message in his 1968 speech, "The Drum Major Instinct." The speech rails against materialism using cars as a classic example.

"Do you ever see people buy cars that they can't even begin to buy in terms of their income? You've seen people riding around in Cadillacs and Chryslers who don't earn enough to have a good T-Model Ford," King said in his sermon.

Black misrepresentation in commercial advertising, however, is not new. The exploitation of black talent and the objectification of black bodies and images to pad the pockets of profit-making corporations under the guise

of helping underserved populations and communities is also not new.

For example, we all remember the 2017 Pepsi commercial fiasco starring Kendall Jenner. The ad preyed on racial and ethnic stereotypes in its attempt to expand the brand to a multicultural consumer base. Also, it misappropriated the iconic and viral photo of Ieshia Evans, the 28-year-old African American mother who in 2016 during a Black Lives Matter protest in Baton Rouge stunned the nation as well as the world when she silently walked to the front line of heavily-armed police and offered her hands to be arrested. Jenner, however, with the reenactment of the white hero/rescuer trope thwarts a possible riot in the commercial simply by offering a white cop a Pepsi.

The Dodge Ram trucks commercial is not so egregious. Ram Nation Volunteer Program's mission is "supposedly" not to sell their trucks but rather to highlight how its "Ram Truck owners are a special breed" serving all of humanity "from disaster relief to blood drives or even just cutting a neighbor's grass." Its web page uses MLK's quote "Everybody can be great because everybody

Continued on page 5



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KORBEL (ALL VARIETALS) 750ML...	\$9.99

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Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

time. Our neighbor has a young dog similar to Jax, but he is a puppy and Gemma is uncomfortable when he tries to play with her. We are interested in getting a new dog, but are unsure how to find the right fit. Gemma is very nervous around new dogs. Do you have any advice for finding a new companion for our young family and Gemma? We don't think our current situation allows for the time and work necessary for a puppy. We need to feel comfortable that Gemma and our baby will get along.

—Dan

Dear Dan,

Greatest admiration to you for adopting

shelter dogs. You know how to handle them and keep watch over them so Dog Lady's best advice is to rescue another orphan. This column never advises about what dog would be best in a family with a baby. Since you've done it successfully, you know what is best for you.

In the meantime, socialize Gemma and get her out more. You're rather vague about her interactions with the next door puppy but surely any playtime for her is better than sitting alone in the house. Also, investigate whether there is a neighborhood walker who can exercise her with other dogs or if there's a doggy day-care group where she can go three or four days a week. When you're busy, you want your dog to be busy too. Gemma should be given the opportunity to run with the hounds.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com.

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Calendar

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BCYF Free Family Gym

Saturday, February 10 - April 14, 2018
10:00 - 11:30 am

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Drop in, no pre-registration required.
www.neu.edu/healthykids/for-families

South End Forum Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 pm

South End Library, 685 Tremont Street, Boston

facebook.com/SouthEndForum

Peters Park Community Meeting

Thursday, February 15

6:30 - 8 pm

Project Place

1145 Washington Street, Boston

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to the first in a series of meetings to discuss upcoming improvements to Peters Park. We look forward to sharing the project scope, including timeline and hearing what you have to say.

For more information, please call Cathy Baker-Eclipse at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617) 961-3058 or email Cathy.Baker-Eclipse@boston.gov.

Old Dover Neighborhood Association Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Project Place, 1145 Washington Street

SEBA Coffee Morning

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

9:30 - 11:00 am

South End Buttery, 314 Shawmut Avenue, Boston

www.sebaboston.com/

LandWave

Continued from page 1

glass tiles falling off and breaking into bits on the ground, and have petitioned city officials to request decommissioning of the installation.

Approximately 40 people, mostly from the Old Dover Neighborhood Association (ODNA) and Friends of Peters Park (FoPP), met with representatives of the Boston Art Commission (BAC) and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) to air their views and present a petition with 38 signatures for the artwork to be de-accessioned and removed to make way for improvements to the park.

In June of last year, ODNA and FoPP wrote a joint letter to the Chantal Charles of the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, which funded the creation of the outdoor art piece, asking for the work's removal and describing in detail its state of disrepair and factors contributing to its deterioration, some rooted in the initial fabrication and some resulting from vandalism and unintended use.

The letter noted the LandWave's initial beauty, and noted that the eventual deterioration of the sculpture occurred "despite the best efforts of the artist, the city and its neighbors," citing its location, design, and materials as factors that contributed to the damage to the sculpture. The sculpture also incurred damage through use as a perch for ballplayers to watch games at the adjacent Peters Park ballfield.

An October, 2017 condition report by public art conservators Rika Smith McNally pointed to errors in LandWave's fabrication by Unicorn Fine Arts of New York. Plantings surrounding the sculpture never took hold, and inferior concrete led to the failure of the lighting system.

One of the two sections, or berms, of the installation has sizable areas of missing glass tiles, which are cited in the neighborhood groups' letter as a safety concern that has already caused cuts and minor injuries.

The letter further states that the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, which is administered by the City of Boston, was a major donor to LandWave's creation but is not responsible for providing maintenance and repair, and repair and restoration of the LandWave would be too expensive for neighbors and the city to undertake.

This is not the first public art installation that met with problems for LandWave landscape architect Shauna Gillies-Smith, founding principal of Somerville-based ground, Inc. Gillies-Smith created another aquatically-inspired outdoor work called "Tracing the Fore" for the city of Portland, Maine that was dedicated in 2006 and de-acquisitioned in 2011. "Tracing the Fore" consisted of two metal panels with tall grass intended to billow above the panels, suggesting waves.

Instead, weeds overtook the site, youth on bicycles raced between the panels and the



Photos by Michele D. Maniscalco

installation became an eyesore.

Smith reported that at the meeting with the Art Commission, almost all of the neighbors in attendance spoke in favor of removing the LandWave. "The group took a straw vote and it was near unanimous to remove LandWave, although a couple of people expressed regret that the piece was falling apart and couldn't be repaired," he said via e-mail.

Despite the near-consensus from neighbors, the Art Commission expressed reservation. "The comments at the meeting by the Art Commission were not encouraging and seemed to indicate that there is a longer road ahead to determine next steps and eventual outcome. This is disappointing considering the overwhelming community support for removal," Smith wrote.

It is an unusual step for the Art Commission to deaccession, or move to decommission, an installation, although the October 2017 conservation report states that LandWave

meets many of the criteria for deaccession. In the meantime, ODNA and the Friends group eagerly hope for approval to remove the ill-starred sculpture. "...neither Old Dover nor Friends of Peters Park has received any acknowledgement or guidance from the Art Commission outlining the steps they will be taking to create a Deaccession Policy or how they will be working with the neighborhood to stabilize LandWave until something is decided, even though it is a safety hazard and the materials are deteriorating. However, we are optimistic that communication will become more streamlined and we will hear from the city in the near future as we have typically enjoyed a strong relationship with the city around public opinion and doing what is best for the safety and well-being of the neighborhood we represent," Smith said. The Art Commission could not be reached by press time.

39/5

Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Michele D. Maniscalco
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

secalendar@southendnews.com

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PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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THE TAKE
WITH SUE O'CONNELL

SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY...
SO DO HER GUESTS

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weekdays @ 7 & 8 pm

necn

Monroe

Continued from page 2

can serve," to bolster its claim. While the ad was not only tone deaf in mixing King's speech with its product promotion the Ram Nation Volunteer Program's ill-conceived ambitious project, however, didn't undermine its goals, and that's to sell trucks.

The use of revered dead historical figures to pitch products has become a popular adver-

tising strategy to instantly attract consumers' attention given their high level of recognition even if there's a backlash. In a 30 to 60-second television spot, like the Super Bowl that draws annually one of the largest viewership, revered dead historical figures make the sale for commercial products because their iconic stature in society if not throughout the world and the story behind their images easily resonate with viewers. For example, the 2012 Red Bull commercial mocking Jesus's miracle of walking on water received an outcry from Christians across

the country, myself included. The energy drink maker, however, dropped the ad immediately but its sales soared, nonetheless.

While I find Dodge Ram truck commercial disrespectful and dangerous in this political era of fake news, alternative facts and revisionist history, the commercialization of King suggest that the money that can be made from King is more important than the message of King. Sadly, however, the Ram Dodge Truck ad is not the first time King is repackaged to sell a product. In 2001 King's world-renown "I Have a Dream" speech was used in print and TV for Alcatel Americas, a telecommunications and networking equipment company. Alcatel

wanted to co-opt the speech to give it a "Forrest Gump"-like spin. Can you imagine?

When it comes to pimping a profit from the King's legacy, however, the dilemma is aided by King's youngest son, Dexter. He treats his father's speeches as commercial literary works charging license fees for their use. Regrettably, Dexter runs the Intellectual Properties Management arm of the King Center, which appears not to distinguish between commercializing King from communicating King to younger and wider audiences. Its aim is for revenue maximization, by any means that presents itself. This time it was the Dodge Ram truck ad.

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Photo courtesy of Haley House

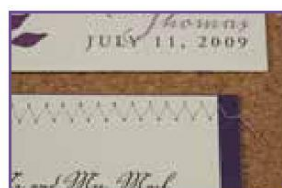
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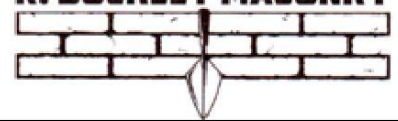
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