

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

City Council holds hearing on potential buffer zone between marijuana dispensaries and recovery facilities

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation held a hearing on December 11 regarding City regulation of the proximity of certain businesses to recovery facilities.

Though there was no official proposal for one, the hearing centered around having a buffer zone between marijuana retailers and recovery facilities. Councilor Lydia Edwards, one of the spon-

sors of the hearing, said this was the “kickoff of conversation” on this topic, and through her role as a city councilor she has the most influence through zoning regulation. She added that she’d like to see people who are dealing with addiction and mental health services be part of the conversation to “influence how the regulation will be rolled out.”

Edwards said that both propo-

(BUFFER ZONE Pg. 3)

SANTA SPEEDO RUN



Photo by Keiko Hiroimi

SANTA STREAK: Runners, including this finely dressed gent, participated in the annual Santa Speedo Run through the Back Bay on Saturday, Dec. 7. The run is limited to the first 700 registrants, and raises money for the Play Ball! Foundation which funds sports in Boston middle schools. Afterward, everyone enjoyed libations at the Back Bay’s Lir Tavern.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING IN WEST FENWAY



Photo by Keiko Hiroimi

Wally the Green Monster and his sister Tessie rejoice as the tree is lit during the West Fenway Tree Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 6, outside the Rose Garden.

Cyan
Magenta
Yellow
Black

MET Back Bay’s ‘Hot Chocolate Experience’ returns

By Lauren Bennett

Chocolate lovers, this one’s for you. MET Back Bay on Dartmouth Street has rolled out its “Boston Hot Chocolate Experience” for another season. The experience consists of a flight of four different flavors of hot chocolate served in miniature glasses, all topped with fluffy whipped cream.

“It’s a very popular thing,” said

Justin Winters, Culinary Director at MET Back Bay. “We do it all day long.” The Hot Chocolate Experience starts at 10 am each day, and Winter said it’s hugely popular on the weekends. He said they have some people who come in solely for the hot chocolate, but a lot of people have been ordering it before or after lunch or brunch, or for dessert after dinner. He said over this past weekend, he made

20 flights himself in just a half hour.

Winters curated the four flavors himself this year. “Obviously, the classic’s the classic,” he said. The classic hot chocolate is an iconic crowd pleaser, and consists of a creamy vanilla chocolate topped with whipped cream and mini marshmallows.

(HOT CHOCOLATE Pg. 7)

Emmanuel Gospel Center to exit South End after 70 years

By Seth Daniel

The Emmanuel Gospel Center (EGC) has had a long presence in the South End, from a mobile church on wheels in the 1920s to its long-time building on San Juan Street and Shawmut Avenue, but that presence has come to an end as the organization has sold its property to IBA for an affordable housing project.

The EGC sold its property at 2 San Juan/Shawmut Ave for \$4 million.

EGC Director Jeff Bass said that while they have been trying to up their presence in the South End since 2012, they recently realized that – with a citywide mission – they didn’t need to be in the South End any longer. He said after some initial inquiries, the were able to find a “win-win” with IBA and will move to Codman Square in Dorchester.

“We’ve been here a long time so in our mind it’s a pretty big deal to be heading out,” said Bass this week. “We have a citywide

mission and not a South End only mission. We had gotten away from being locally active. We were very active during the formation of IBA and in the urban renewal days, but not as active in recent times... We had a decision to stay in the building or rent somewhere else. It really came down to what is best for us to do in seeking our mission. We felt it was time to go. However, the building never actually got onto the open market. We started

(EMMANUEL GOSPEL CENTER Pg. 6)

EDITORIAL

REMEMBER THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

With Christmas just two weeks away, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or online --- as we do our last-minute holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although the vast majority of Americans have much to be thankful for because of a strong economy and a record-low unemployment rate, there are many of our fellow citizens who have not shared in the general prosperity.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, have been left out of the new economy, often through no fault of their own. Too many Americans, including children, either live in shelters or temporary housing arrangements because the strong economy ironically has left them out in the cold -- literally -- thanks to high rents and soaring real estate values.

For these millions of Americans, the reality is that the holiday season brings little joy.

We would note that psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive that giving to others is the best gift that we can give to ourselves is indeed true.

So we hope that our readers will take the time and make the even the smallest effort to do something for those who are less fortunate. Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the bucket of the Salvation Army Santas, there is something each and every one of us can do to make the holidays brighter for others.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, REP. RUSHING FOR OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dear Editor:

As his term in office comes to a close, let us honor the remarkable legacy of State Rep. Byron Rushing. Byron has worked tirelessly for the people of his district since his election in 1982, giving more than three decades in committed service.

Ever since his days as a community organizer working for the Congress of Racial Equality during the Civil Rights Movement, Byron has been fighting for justice and standing up against racism, homophobia and all forms of discrimination in housing, education and employment. If you support the idea that insurance companies can't reject people for pre-existing conditions, you can thank Byron for his leadership on that issue. If you're grateful that

public schools can't discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, or if you oppose discrimination on the basis of body size, Byron deserves your gratitude. If you're proud to live in a state that doesn't allow the death penalty, you can give Byron credit. If you oppose racial profiling, or if you support gun reform, Byron has been your champion. If you believe in a compassionate response to those who have been caught up in the opiate crisis, Byron has stood up on your behalf.

A creative and innovative leader long before his days in elected office, Byron helped create the idea of a community development corporation (CDC). As president of the Museum of African American History, he put Boston on the map as a historically significant city, and has worked to preserve historic sites in Roxbury and beyond. His leadership in the African-American community

brought him to the State House, where he rose to become the highest ranking African-American elected official in the state, serving as Assistant Majority Leader. While his leadership and hard work will no doubt continue via other channels, the communities he serves have lost an important advocate and voice in state government.

Byron Rushing has been a friend and mentor to me for nearly 30 years, and over that time I have witnessed the passion and commitment with which he has served. He is an inspiration to all who care about justice and about those who have been forced to the margins of society. His generosity, integrity and intellect have been gifts to us all. Byron, I know I speak on behalf of people from across the state when I say, thank you.

Rev. Tim Crellin
St. Stephen's (South End)

GUEST OP-ED

Reducing disposable bags in Boston

By Martin J. Walsh

The City of Boston's new plastic bag ordinance is a big step forward in our work to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, and create a cleaner, greener city. When the new ordinance goes into effect on Dec. 14, 2018, stores in Boston will no longer provide plastic checkout bags to customers. Ahead of the change, we're making sure everyone has the information they need. We are answering questions and distributing reusable bags and signage throughout neighborhoods and main streets. And we're asking you to help by reminding neighbors and friends to bring a reusable bag when shopping in the city.

Here's why we're encouraging everyone to switch to reusable bags: It's an opportunity to be good environmental stewards and responsible neighbors. Single-use plastic bags have a big impact on the environment. Plastic bags often end up in our streets and gutters, vacant lots, and trees. They're harmful to our marine life and pollute our waterways. You can use reusable bags time and

time again without tossing them in the trash, which helps to reduce waste and carbon pollution. As a city committed to being carbon free and moving toward zero waste, this is a big step in the right direction.

So, how will you carry your groceries home? Moving forward, stores will provide recyclable paper, compostable, or reusable bags to customers, starting at 5 cents per bag. This charge goes back to the businesses to help them cover the cost of new sustainable checkout bags. As a customer, you can avoid the charge by remembering to bring a reusable bag whenever you shop. Businesses will be able to use their existing inventory of plastic bags by applying for an exemption to the City's Inspectional Services Department.

Switching to reusable bags is an important milestone, but it's just one of the ways that you can help reduce waste. You can also use the City's trash app. It allows you to check which materials are recyclable, and reminds you of your collection schedule, which means you may never miss your recycling or yard waste pick up day again. You can learn more about upcom-

ing hazardous waste drop-off days and composting in the city at boston.gov/trash-and-recycling-guide.

As a sustainable city, we're committed to reducing our waste and the carbon pollution that causes climate change. We're exploring ways to support waste reduction as well as increase opportunities for repair, reuse, recycling, composting and remanufacturing. Switching to reusable bags gets us closer to that goal. I'm proud of our progress and I know there's much more work to be done -- but first, let's all remember to bring our reusable bags this holiday season and remind our neighbors to do the same.

Our Office of Neighborhood Services will be distributing reusable bags to residents, and bags will also be available for pick up at Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) locations. Businesses and residents can learn more about the City's plastic bag ordinance at boston.gov/plastic-bags or by calling 311, our constituent hotline. For more information on our Climate Action Plan, please visit boston.gov/environment.



CAROLING IS FUN, BUT DO NOT WASSAIL AND DRIVE.

THE BOSTON SUN

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The Boston Sun reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Boston Sun publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Boston Sun.

BUFFER ZONE (from pg. 1)

nents and opponents have used “bad science” to make claims for their thoughts about the marijuana industry. But the question that remains is not one of whether or not there should be retail stores in Boston—“We are going to have recreational pot stores all throughout Boston,” she said. “The question is how and what is best for our neighborhoods.”

Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George, also a sponsor, said that she has “specific concerns about that proximity and the impact of different types of facilities have on someone who is working towards recovery.”

Will Luzier, a 43-year Allston-Brighton resident, said that he has found no studies that a substance abuse treatment facility is any less effective if it is located near a cannabis dispensary. He also raised the question of what constitutes a treatment facility—with places like sober homes and halfway houses, the definition of a treatment facility can be gray. Luzier believes that “this commerce can and should be incorporated into our society.”

A representative speaking on behalf of Robert Mellion, executive director of the Massachusetts Package Store Association, said that they have concerns about what this potential buffer would mean to current license holders and their businesses.

Edwards said that while the buffer would apply to liquor stores and bars, current businesses cannot be grandfathered into it—it would only apply to new businesses should it be put into place.

The first panel of experts included Marty Martinez, chief of health and human services. “We see overdoses, we see folks continuing to be impacted by the disease,” he said. He added that there are nearly 90 licensed treatment facilities in the City of Boston that help people recover from a variety of substances, but this number is not enough.

“We need folks to have the ability to access services in neighborhoods that will pull them away from triggers,” Martinez said. He added that this buffer could be detrimental both ways—he wondered what would happen if they wanted to put a treatment facility where there might be a recreational marijuana store or a liquor store. Neighborhoods often don’t want recovery facilities in their neighborhoods either, so he said that “stakeholder voice is critical to this process.” He said that he wants hospitals and facilities to have their voices heard.

Jerome Smith, chief of civic engagement said that community meetings regarding marijuana dispensaries are drawing in upwards

of 100 people, because communities are seeking as much information as they can get. He said that they are worried about getting the number of licenses they need out in the city. He said that they have “played with GPS mapping” and determined that they can fit about 51 licenses in the City of Boston.

“We will have to have a conversation about the length of the buffer zone,” Smith said, but they also need to see how the industry takes hold in the city and move from there. He said they’re seeing more interest in cannabis shops downtown because of the greater availability of space and less school zones.

With the potential new buffer, he added, “We would run the risk of the proponents of the industry going to the [Cannabis Control Commission] saying Boston created an undue burden. Both industries are having a tough time in Boston and we need both of them.”

Timothy Naimi, an internist at Boston Medical Center, said that he is concerned about having the dispensaries on Albany and Tremont streets that will “perpetuate these cycles of addiction” in the patients with substance abuse disorder that they treat, including triggering relapses and promoting new addictions. “The siting of these facilities have the real potential to exacerbate those problems,” Naimi said.

Naimi “respectfully requested” that there are no marijuana facilities licensed within a half mile of BMC’s campus, which he said “mirrors the current minimum distance required between each marijuana facility.” He added that distance makes it “less convenient” for people in recovery to be exposed to the signage promoting marijuana use.

Two people in recovery testified, which the City Council generally felt was the most impactful testimony at the hearing.

Both Jack Kelly and Katie O’Leary voted for the legalization of marijuana. Kelly said he’s seen a lot of people harmed by prohibition. Kelly also believes that people who are coming to Boston seeking licenses for marijuana establishments should give a real voice to people who were harmed by addiction and prohibition, so they have a “real equity stake” in the process.

Katie O’Leary once used North Suffolk Mental Health Association’s recovery program and now works as a Recovery Coach Manager at the facility. She said she is not opposed to marijuana dispensaries, but feels that they should be zoned appropriately.

“As someone who has utilized North Suffolk’s program, having a dispensary next to it would be

detrimental to my recovery at the time,” she said. “I am extremely concerned for the individuals who use North Suffolk who do not have the ability to realize that that is an unhealthy thought.”

She said that marijuana access could trigger relapse for those in recovery from mind-altering substances.

Kim Hanton, director of addiction services at North Suffolk Mental Health Association said she hopes that the City Council will take a look at the density of cannabis stores in the city, implement requirements for cannabis education and community engagement, limit hours of operation, and minimize signage to youth and vulnerable populations.

She said it will be easier to

prevent future harm by removing regulations in the future than by adding them later.

“We are particularly concerned about the vulnerable population we serve at North Suffolk—youth and young adults that are particularly vulnerable to the availability of substances such as cannabis,” Hanton said.

Naimi added that physical availability is the “key driver” of substance abuse. He cited research that shows that the number of locations of actual dispensaries is a key predictor for adult marijuana use disorders.

O’Leary said that people in recovery congregate outside North Suffolk before and after treatment and become close to each other. “That’s how I felt when I was

there,” she said. “Triggers vary—if I smoke a joint, I’m going to pick up a needle. If I have a drink, I’ll pick up a needle,” said O’Leary. People are triggered by different things, be it smells, tastes, or touches—anything can be a trigger for someone in recovery.

Councilor Edwards closed the hearing by saying “It’s necessary that we have this conversation now rather than after the fact.

“When we think about policy and moving forward, we need to think about the larger city impact.” She added that a balance needed to be struck between everyone involved on both sides of this argument, and she invites the public to contact her office with any questions or concerns they might have.

SOUTH END HOLIDAY STROLL ON DEC. 5

Photos by Seth Daniel

The South End Holiday Stroll took place on a brisk, Dec. 5 evening and drew crowds to each and every participating store from Tremont Street to Shawmut Avenue. Organizers and business owners said they were very pleased with the turnout and deemed it a success.



The crew at Third Piece, including owner Kristen Lambert (far right), had a busy night serving customers during the stroll.



Sofi Madison of Olives & Grace store takes a breather with a staff member at her store following a crowd of shoppers through the evening.



Megan Flynn (R) and staff Ivana Rodriguez of M.Flynn Jewelry were busy well into the evening as customers continued shopping past 9 p.m. during the stroll.

SANTA SPEEDO RUN DOWN BOYLSTON AND NEWBURY STREETS



Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The annual Santa Speedo Run, an approximate one-mile jog on Boylston and Newbury Streets in Back Bay, took place on a chilly Saturday morning, Dec. 8. The run is limited to the first 700 registrants, and raises money for the Play Ball! Foundation, which funds sports in Boston middle schools.

◀ It was a wild and cold run through the Back Bay for this year's Santa Speedo Run.



Nathan Doty (R) and Brian Willoughby at Lir Tavern after running the annual Santa Speedo Run.



Kyle Buyuksakayan, Sara Larnard, Jeff Larnard, Pat Dwyer, Jason Highland, Mark Bonin and John O'Connor at Lir Tavern after the annual Santa Speedo Run.

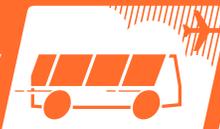


Ski gloves and a Speedo? Why not. It was just one scene from the Santa Speedo Run on Saturday.



Claire, Jay and Caroline (12) Esten at Santa Speedo Run.

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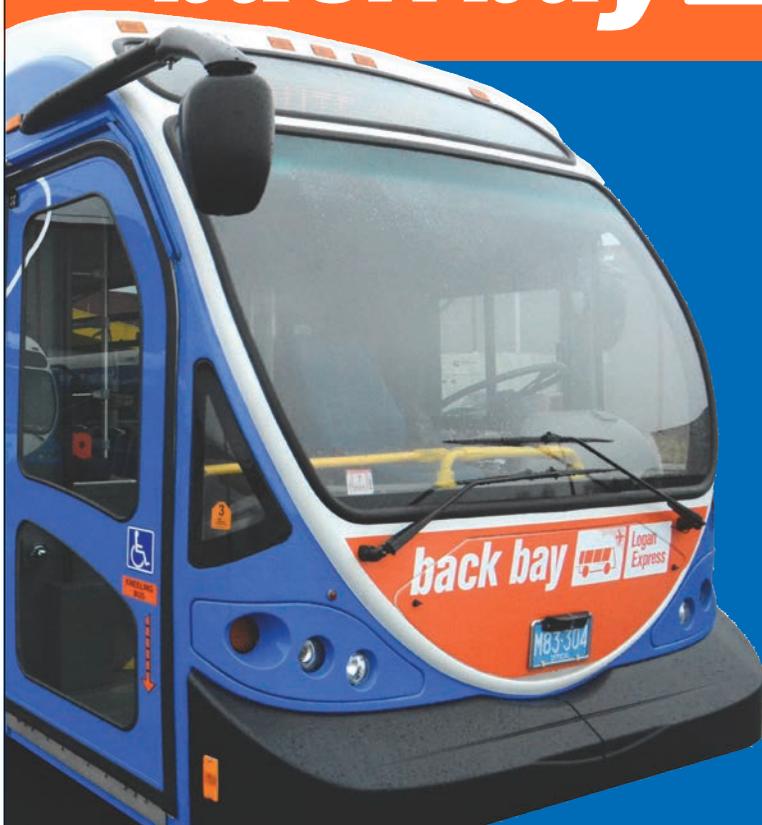
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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Back Bay Ringers celebrate 15th season of ringing, Dec. 14 date in Back Bay

Staff Report

The Back Bay Ringers, Boston's premier handbell ensemble, announces its 2018 holiday concert season, including five concerts of *Christmas with the Back Bay Ringers* throughout Massachusetts – one of them at the First Church Boston in the Back Bay.

This year's concert will feature music from A Charlie Brown Christmas. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors/students and may be purchased online at www.backbayringers.org and at the door.

2018 Back Bay Ringers Holiday Concert Season

•Saturday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m. - Melrose Highlands

Congregational, 355 Franklin St, Melrose.

•Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. - First Parish Church, 330 First Parish Road, Scituate.

•Sunday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. -- First Congregational Church, 76 Pierce St., Stoughton.

•Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. -- First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough St., Back Bay.

•Sunday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m.-- halin Liu Performance Center, 37 Main St, Rockport.

Over the last 15 years the Back Bay Ringers have been serenading Boston area audiences with their annual Christmas concert series, and it has become an annual holiday tradition for many music lovers. This year's iteration features

popular favorites including selections from Vince Guaraldi's score to A Charlie Brown Christmas and a new transcription of Barbra Streisand's *Jingle Bells* arranged exclusively for the Back Bay Ringers.

The Beacon Hill Times has noted, "Through artistically sensitive performances and innovative community and educational programs, the [Back Bay Ringers] continue to expose the unique musical art of handbell ringing to new audiences in Boston and beyond."

Join Back Bay Ringers for a special holiday treat.

Executive Director, Donna Matson of the South End, a ringer herself, writes, "It's been a fun trip down childhood memory lane as we prepare these pieces for you, along with familiar carols from the show, and a few special transcriptions of our own. I'm

not sure what gives me more pleasure - leading this organization of amazing musicians and outstanding supporters, or ringing such interesting music."

Southender Griff Gall, Artistic Director, commented, "I feel very fortunate to have had the privilege of conducting these musicians over the past 15 years. This year's holiday concert is an excellent representation of the dedication to musicality that this group has become known for, and the joyful spirit I see every week in rehearsal. I think audiences will delight in hearing the masterfully transcribed Charlie Brown classics, and will find joy in the new transcriptions of Barbra Streisand's *Jingle Bells* and Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas Is You*."

Meet the Back Bay Ringers

•Griff Gall, Artistic Director (Boston/South End)

•Donna Matson, Executive Director (Boston/South End)

•Lynne Batty (Wakefield)

•Peter Grossman (Somerville)

•Sarah Hayes-Skelton (Boston/Roslindale)

•Ashley Hedberg (Boston/Dorchester)

•Stephanie LaShoto (Medford)

•Sally Meredith (North Reading)

•Rachel Moore (Cambridge)

•Cade Murray (Cambridge)

•Matthew Polletto (Boston/South End)

•Anna Poplowski (Framingham)

•Emily Schlosnagle (Somerville)

•Susan Schultz (Boxford)

•Greg Urban (Malden)

•Adrienne Weir (Boston/South End)

•Kelsey Whiteside (Boston/Brighton)

BTD unveils latest plan for Melnea Cass Boulevard

By Dan Murphy

Boston Transportation Department officials unveiled their latest plans for the Melnea Cass Boulevard design project during a public meeting on Monday, Dec. 10, at Boston Water and Sewer Commission headquarters in Roxbury.

Project objectives include providing multimodal access and safety improvements; transforming Melnea Cass Boulevard into a neighborhood street; providing a gateway between the South End and Roxbury; balancing design goals for stakeholders; and serving regional traffic demand.

New design elements proposed to calm traffic and improve access and safety include separated bike lanes; a protected intersection to separate cyclists and pedestrians from vehicles; a raised crossing; and a floating bus stop, which would create a bike lane behind the boarding area for bus passengers.

Proposed tree care during construction includes erecting tem-

porary chain-link fencing in the construction areas; defining construction limits and implementing an air-spading trench; implementing root pruning for improved tree health during and after construction; and employing a certified arborist for tree-canopy trimming.

The project would also feature a public art component, with Washington Street and Melnea Cass Boulevard being eyed as a possible location and Albany Street and Melnea Cass Boulevard at the Orchard Garden mentioned as an alternate site. The city's Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, which was established to underwrite public art in the city, could provide a one-year capacity and planning grant, officials said.

"The City of Boston is fully committed to the long-term maintenance of a modernized Melnea Cass Boulevard, a complete street design that emphasizes safety and environmental stewardship" said Chris Osgood, chief of streets, transportation and sanitation.

Boston-based Howard Stein Hudson Engineering and Planners is the project engineer.

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MR. BOSTON

Synergy and discord in a day's time

By Phineas J. Stone



There are times you walk around this city and everything just falls in line.

The synergy of steps and time line up in perfect harmony.

You don't bump into people.

You see friends you want to see.

You don't see people you'd rather not see.

And no unforeseen problems arise.

One's timing on a day like that is just impeccable, almost without trying.

I've had days like that in the old Boston years ago when things moved slower. Likewise, I've had just such days in the new Boston where things move so much faster and I struggle to keep up, but here and there I catch a few days on the upswing.

I had one of those days on Sunday.

I began to notice as I walked to

the Back Bay in the morning that I was hitting every walk signal at the crosswalk. I blew through three key intersections and never slowed down my gait.

As I weaved in and out of the masses, everyone broke in the opposite direction like a well-practiced run up the middle in a football game. It felt good. I invested sometime in the Bruins game, painstakingly hoping the B's would pull it out.

It didn't look like they would, but they forced overtime, and in the extra period snatched a win.

Coincidentally, I didn't watch the Patriots game on Sunday as I had work to do, so I missed out on the biggest bummer of the football season so far.

I count that as a win for my day.

Later I went to the market, and as I walked through the door the cashier was fumbling some avo-

cadoes.

One fell off the counter.

There I was, and in one fell swoop snatched it out of its mid-air descent and tossed it right back at her.

She caught it.

To cap things off, as I stood in line for a sang-wich, I struck up a conversation with the other fella there next to me.

Same last name.

That doesn't happen without something workin' for ya.

But things have a way of evening out in the big city.

The next day was all wrong, disjointed and out of sync.

Right off the bat on Monday, two flat tires on the vehicle. Slashed, no doubt.

I got news that a friend was back in the hospital with pneumonia, and then my furnace started acting up.

No quarter.

Things hit a head in the wrong direction late that night when I went for a news-time snack.

I opened the fridge, and a glass bowl of beans that had been precariously perched on the egg shelf came crashing to the floor in the darkness of the kitchen at 11 p.m.

My reaction in stopping it resulted in a can of Readi-Whip (with lost cap, of course) getting lodged against a gallon of cider left over from Thanksgiving. It discharged its contents with gusto straight out of the fridge as I scrambled to stop it and not step on the glass shards at my feet.

Naturally the cider came crashing out too, landing on the floor and slowly beginning to seep out of its milk-jug top.

I decided the best approach for cleaning up that catastrophe was to start with a spoon, and so in

the dark of the kitchen I grabbed a large spoon and went back to the scene of the crime...at which point I slipped on the bean juice and went down.

That's when the light went on.

My wife observed me laid out on my side like Hugh Hefner in my bathrobe and jockey shorts, grasping a spoon that had dipped into a heaping helping of baked beans, glass chunks and whipped cream.

I had also grabbed the jug of cider in the midst of my fall, so as it appeared I was in the midst of some shameful, double-fisted late night gluttony.

It was perfect discord.

"Good Lord, don't you think you're too old for that?" she said. "Just come to bed."

"Yes dear" was all I could muster back.

The Boston Sun

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EMMANUEL GOSPEL (from pg. 1)

talking to people to get advice and had three offers instantly."

Given the mission of the Center and their ties to the original affordable housing fight in the neighborhood, Bass said they hoped to be able to get a good price and also a buyer that would be good for the community.

The first offer they had came from a developer and the second from a realtor. He said they reached out to their neighbor and historical-associate IBA about the situation, and within days the organization was able to provide a good price for the building - noting that it would be converted into affordable housing.

"This is really a lynchpin prop-

erty for them geographically," he said. "It's right in their main area and they told us they wanted to do affordable housing. Instead of taking a large sum and having it developed into luxury units, this was going to be something that we were really comfortable with. We feel like it's a win for the neighborhood by replacing an office building with affordable housing and we also didn't have to compromise on the dollar value of the building."

EGC is not a church, Bass said, but supports the mission of other churches citywide. They do, however, rent to the South End Community Church and to an Ethiopian Church. The Ethiopian

church has found another home, but the South End Community Church is still looking for a place in the neighborhood.

The Center began when Mrs. Morgan established a Church on Wheels in the South End in the 1920s, and then bought a building in 1938 on Columbus Avenue. Later they moved to West Dedham Street, and then in the mid-1960s they became very involved in the fight against urban renewal. They were actually part of the group that eventually formed IBA to preserve affordable housing in the South End. In 1971, the community helped the EGC to get the building they currently occupy.

"This is a bit sad for us as we have several staff that have been with us since the early IBA days and live in the South End and walk to work," he said. "There's going to be a big change for them. We also have a lot of younger staff who don't know about that. This is now going to be a new chapter for a new group of people to form the EGC's future. We didn't take this decision lightly."

The EGC will continue in their building until mid-2019, and then they will move to rent space from the Second Church in Dorchester at Codman Square. They will also do extensive renovations there in conjunction with the historic Second Church.

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BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PARTY

Photos by Seth Daniel

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association held its annual tree

lighting and holiday party on Sunday, Dec. 9. Neighbors gathered at Church Street Park to sing Christmas and Chanukah carols,

while greeting one another for the holidays.

After a quick countdown, the tree was lit with red, green and

white lights. Then it was back to caroling. Neighbors then proceeded to M.J. O'Connors for an evening of celebration.



Stephen Kelleher, Jo Corvetti, Candice Corvetti, Prithvi Shankar, Melissa Stone and Claire Corvetti.



Steve Vondron, Craig Davis, Jamie Brewer, and Nancy Cahn getting ready to sing carols.



The Bay Village Christmas tree in all its glory.



Paul and Susan Buta sing 'Frosty the Snowman.'



Leslie Colburn, Jo Campbell and Brian Boisvert.



Kelsey Creamer and her dog, Jamison in front of the Christmas tree.

HOT CHOCOLATE (from pg. 1)

The dulce de leche hot chocolate has a sweet, milky flavor and is topped with whipped cream, caramel sauce, and a crunchy, fresh-from-the-fryer churro.

The spiced Mexican hot chocolate is a break from the sweetness of the dulce de leche, with Mexican chocolate, chili, and topped with a fresh cinnamon stick.

Finally, the peppermint hot chocolate is the classic combo of mint and chocolate, topped with whipped cream and a mini candy cane, because, as Winters said, "Who doesn't want a peppermint hot chocolate?"

All four of these flavors are also available spiked with alcohol that individually complements each hot chocolate flavor, such as Bailey's, Galliano Ristretto, Caramel Vodka, and Peppermint Liqueur. Guests can also choose to get the flight of four flavors, or one individual flavor to sip on.

"I just figured what I would



The MET Back Bay is offering its Hot Chocolate Experience until Feb. 14, with a flight of four flavors: classic hot chocolate, dulce de leche, peppermint, and Mexican hot chocolate.

want to drink," Winters said of coming up with the flavors. "Nothing better on a cold day than coming in and drinking four, delicious hot chocolates, especially with a little booze in them to make you feel nice and warm before you go back out on your shopping adventures," he said.

Winters said that these decadent drinks pair well with the MET's warm chocolate chip cookies, as well as their dark chocolate cake or a cool, creamy caramel gelato. Though they can be enjoyed as a dessert after a meal, he does not recommend directly pairing them with savory food.

The Boston Hot Chocolate Experience is available at the MET Back Bay, 279 Dartmouth St, until Feb. 14.

"It's something to bring people in," Winters said. "Once it starts getting cold, you think of what's comforting for you, and hot chocolate is one of those things."

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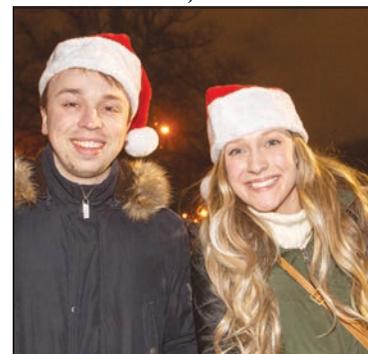
WEST FENWAY TREE LIGHTING OUTSIDE THE ROSE GARDENS



State Rep. Chynah Tyler, D-4 Capt. Steven Sweeney, Santa Claus, Syllas Brown, Tessie, Mayoral Liaison Yissel Guerrero, Officer Javier Pagan and Wally the Green Monster.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The West Fenway Tree lighting took place on Dec. 5 outside of the Rose Gardens. Wally and Tessie from Red Sox joined Santa and



Cohen Brown and Riley Sapp.

Berklee's 'Upper Structure' music group for holiday festivities in the Fenway.

About 150 attended the event.



Tim Horn, president of Fenway Civic Association, and "King of Record" at West Fenway Tree Lighting.



Berklee's 'Upper Structure' performs at the tree lighting.



Alex Sawczynec, Kim White, Kimberly Glass, Wally, Travis Pittman and Santa.



Yissel Guerrero, of the Mayor's Office, welcomes everyone to the lighting.



Lindy, Landon, Brentley and Boston Phillips.

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HOLIDAY RECYCLING AND TRASH UPDATES

For those sections of the City that have recycling and trash collections twice per week:

Tuesday, December 25: collection is **canceled**

Collections will resume as scheduled on Friday, December 28.

There is no delay on January 1, 2019.

CITY of BOSTON **BOSTON RECYCLING**

LIGHTING THE MENORAH IN COPLEY SQUARE

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

On the fifth night of Chanukah 2018, Dec. 6, Chabad Boston held a kindling of the largest Menorah in New England in Copley Square. Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim, Gov. Charlie Baker, and New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman were on hand to assist in the holiday celebration.



New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman takes a few minutes to say hello to some fans in the audience.



New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman lights a menorah torch.



Gov. Charlie Baker and New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman greet one other.



Gov. Charlie Baker is welcomed onstage by Rabbi Mayer Zarchi of Chabad Boston.



▲ Robbie Wulfsohn sings 'God Bless America' and 'Oseh Shalom Hebrew Song Of Peace.'

▼ Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim speaks to the gathering.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24 5:30 p.m.

Solstice Service...poetry & music

6:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 20

Special Guest
Aine Minogue



First Church in Boston,
Unitarian Universalist
66 Marlborough Street



Join us for a community conversation and update on the construction and future plans of Villa Victoria Center for the Arts.

► Monday, December 17 • 2018 | 6pm

BCYF Blackstone Community Center
Auditorium 2nd Floor
50 West Brookline Street,
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Bay Village HDC approves 18.5 story tower at 212-222 Stuart St.

By Lauren Bennett

The 18.5 story tower at 212-222 Stuart Street returned before the Bay Village Historic District Commission on December 11. This is not the first time the Commission has seen this project, nor is it the first time it has come before the community. Last fall, Weston Associates, owners of 230 Stuart Street, brought a lawsuit against the Zoning Board of Appeal after learning they passed variances for the tower, which will sit on what is now mostly vacant land.

The Bay Village community as a whole seems to like this latest proposal put forth by Howeler + Yoon Architecture. Eric Howeler of Howeler + Yoon said that over the course of this drawn out process, they have been trying to learn from the neighborhood to design a building that fits with the design of the rest of the buildings through-

out the historic district.

"There's a rhythm to Stuart Street, no uniformity," Howeler said. He said that there are buildings of various heights along the length of Stuart Street, and their 199 foot high building will fit in nicely with the array of existing buildings, as well as the proposed Motor Mart project, which is 310 feet high.

Howeler said that this building is "working harder" than Motor Mart to learn from the neighborhood as far as the materials go. The proposal includes Indiana limestone milled scallops on the facade of the building, incorporated with the glass windows so there isn't a wall of glass.

Howeler added that the previously proposed mechanical equipment has been moved to the north, and the lobby and retail orientations have been rotated as well so that all servicing is now coming off of Stuart Street.

Commissioner Anne Kilguss mentioned the two major townhouses that once existed not he site and were forced to be demolished, claiming that many are "still grieving" the loss of those buildings.

Howeler said that on the side where the front of those townhouses faced is now front doors to new units to pay homage to the buildings that were lost.

Feedback from Bay Village residents at the hearing was overwhelmingly positive. One mentioned that the current state of the lot "does not show off Bay Village the way it should," and he "loves" the new proposed building.

"I like the project more and more every time I see it," another said. "I wholeheartedly support this project."

Resident Mark Slater said that the "first project was brutally disrespectful of Bay Village," but he feels that the new one is just the opposite.

Commissioner Stephen Dunwell said that this proposal "gestures to the neighborhood around it," and called it "an excellent solution to a difficult problem."

Commissioner Ruth Knopf, who was originally adamantly against the original proposal, told Howeler that he has "created a very elegant building and you've converted me."

The Commission voted unanimously to approve this application as presented, with the proviso that it will not set a precedent for future construction in the district, and each new building must be considered on its own.

11 Isabella St.

Architect Guy Grassi also presented a proposal for 11 Isabella St. The scope of work includes repairing and restoring masonry at the front facade, replacement of all windows, and new brick pavers at front garden. But the most controversial piece of the proposal is the

removal of the existing headhouse and construction of a new headhouse, penthouse, terrace, and mechanical equipment.

Grassi said that they are "well under the FAR that's allowable here," and the deck is proposed to be set back to not be visible from Isabella St. It can be seen, however, from Arlington St. They have gone through the ZBA process and have received a letter of non-opposition from the Bay Village Neighborhood Association.

The Commission expressed their concern with the visibility of the new headhouse from the street. Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, asked Grassi if he has explored all options for visibility of the penthouse. Grassi agreed that more options can be considered, and the Commission approved the proposal with the proviso that Grassi work with staff on minimizing visibility.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

•TITUS SPARROW WINTER PARTY

The Friends of Titus Sparrow Park invite everyone to a Festive Winter Party on Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. There will be:

- Singing by the Very Merry Dickens Carolers.
- Small gifts for children who attend.
- Hot Chocolate and Coffee provided by the South End Food Emporium.
- Snacks provided by Pepsico.

Please consider bringing some food to share. For those interested, the Friends are supporting the Union United Methodist Church Christmas Gift Drive that provides gifts for children in need, including many in shelters. They asked for wrapped gifts, labeled with content/gender/age/size. For simplicity, we are focusing on books and games for children ages 2-12.

•THE GIVING TEA AT THE LENOX

Join The Lenox Hotel and First Lady Lauren Baker in giving joy to deserving children across Massachusetts. Every gift placed under the tree, every dollar spent at the tea goes directly to the children served by the Wonderfund. Create a tradition of giving to others at

the Giving Tea.

Adults can enjoy holiday teas, cocktails & savory sandwiches while children decorate cookies & gift tags which will be oriented toward sending messages of hope and joy, child to child, across the Commonwealth for all the presents under the Room in Your Heart tree and to take home.

Cookie & Gift Tag Decorating • Gift Bags • Live Music • Special Guest Appearances • Holiday Attire Suggested.

All attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped gift/gift card to be place in The Lenox's ROOM IN YOUR HEART, benefiting the annual holiday drive for the WONDERFUND

The Giving Tea takes place on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 2-4 p.m. in the Lenox Hotel, Back Bay.

• BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will be having its annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 18th, from 6 pm to 8 pm at Shun's Kitchen (520 Columbus Ave). Join local Democrats for an evening of good cheer to celebrate victories from 2018 and prepare for the new year. There is a suggested donation of \$15 to cover the cost of the buffet provided. For

more information, email ward-4dems@gmail.com.

•SOUTH END LIBRARY HOLIDAY CONCERT

The South End Library Holiday Concert with Pat Loomis and his Friends is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. This year, a Special Guest is being booked, as well, perhaps even a vocalist. Pat Loomis will be there on the sax; with Antonio Loomis, guitar; Jim Dower, piano; Colescott Rubin, bass; and Benny Benson on drums. A holiday dinner will be served, as always. This program is jointly funded by the staff of the library and FOSEL.

• HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE PRUDENTIAL CENTER

SANTA IN THE CITY: Now through December 24

Capture the magic of the holiday season and bring the kids for a special photo with Santa in his Winter Wonderland located in Belvidere Arcade. A variety of photo packages are available, starting at \$19.99.

31 NIGHTS OF LIGHT... 10TH ANNIVERSARY: Dec. 1-31

Celebrating 10 years of rais-

ing awareness for our community of nonprofit groups and the causes they tirelessly support, Prudential Center will shine a light on Boston nonprofit organizations this holiday season. Each night of December, the top of Prudential Tower is lit a different color in support of that night's partner. 31 Nights of Light was created to help community organizations gain key visibility during the holiday season. Participating groups will "flip the switch" each night, with a host of musical performances and speakers each night. From Rosies' Place, Boston Bruins Foundation and Cradles to Crayons there are some amazing organizations being highlighted.

•BACK BAY BALL (30+ EVENT)

Looking for an age appropriate upscale New Year's Eve option? All are welcome at this 5-star option overlooking the Boston Common, and for a good cause. The perfect way to usher in 2019 is by joining in and going to the Back Bay Ball. Obviously, there's more to New Year's Eve than just waiting for Ryan Seacrest to ball drop in Times Square. This year, Bostonian's can celebrate the arrival of 2019 at the Annual Back Bay Ball on December 31, 2018 at the

Westin Hotel.

Scrumptious dinner stations open at 7 p.m. and reception stations are available from 9-10:30 p.m. Entry into the celebration for socializing, midnight celebration, and party favors all included. There will be both Oskar Wylde live band and a DJ Peter from Club T to ensure an epic dance party. Silent Auction & Photos to benefit The Ellie Fund, whose mission is to provide essential support services for breast cancer patients to ease the stresses of everyday life, allowing the focus to be on family, recovery and healing. The event is Black Tie optional with a cash bar, 21+, and discounted hotel rooms are available until deadline. Tickets starting at \$75-\$150 use code NYE19 for \$100 off (full price = \$199 - \$299).

•EAST BERKELEY NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will host a winter social in the new year at the Lion's Tail in Ink Block on Thursday, Jan. 3, at 6:30 p.m. There will be complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. Put it on your calendar for the new year.

South End comes in with highest percentage of affordable housing

By Seth Daniel

The South End has taken a great amount of heat over the years for gentrification and the escalating cost of housing in the neighborhood, and that's why many were surprised to learn that the South End neighborhood had the highest percentage of affordable housing in the City.

The information came due to the Department of Neighborhood Development's (DND) first-ever inventory of all affordable housing, income-restricted, units in the City. That exhaustive inventory – which included traditional affordable housing, state public housing and federal public housing – found that of all the South End's housing stock, 48 percent of it was income-restricted housing units.

It was the highest percentage in the city, and was followed up by Roxbury with 45 percent and Jamaica Plain and Charlestown at 25 percent.

“Creating more affordable housing and preserving Boston's more than 54,000 income-restricted units are top priorities for my administration, and are a driving force behind our housing goals,” said Mayor Martin Walsh. “This report helps us understand how many income-restricted units there are, where they are, and to whom they are affordable, all important information as we work to increase affordable housing opportunities in our neighborhoods.”

DND Chief Sheila Dillon said they have had people in her office dedicated to the inventory project for nearly one year.

“The people that live in Boston have a growing interest in the creation of affordable housing in Boston, where it is and who it is affordable to,” she said. “We had neighborhood numbers, but we never had this level of specificity – the affordability of every neighbor-

hood and every part of Boston. It's good as a tool for planning. Where do we have affordable housing and where don't we. It's a great planning tool for us and also a great tool for the general public to know where affordable housing is when they need it.”

Dillon said it will be an exercise repeated every year, likely in the fall.

Analysis of the 54,247 income-restricted housing units shows that 66 percent of them are restricted to households earning less than 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), or \$43,150 for a two-person household. Of those units, 20,746 units or 38 percent are restricted for households making between 31-50 percent of AMI, which ranges from \$25,900 to \$43,000 for a two-person household. Many of those households may also be utilizing a mobile voucher, or a tenant-based voucher.

“This report documents the hard work done by housing advocates and members of the community over decades, much of it in partnership with the City of Boston,” said Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO of IBA and co-chair of the Mayor's Housing Task Force. “We're proud that 48 percent of all the housing in the South End and Lower Roxbury is income-restricted, and are committed to maintaining and increasing that percentage. The positive effects that living in income-restricted housing has had on generations of Bostonians is real and long-lasting, and must be available in the future.”

Of the affordable housing in the South End, some of it was quite obvious, while others were less obvious – long-forgotten covenants that still exist and provide handfuls of units here and there across the neighborhood.

For instance, there are 24 affordable home ownership units

at the Bates School, 75 rental units at the Brownstone Apartments, 102 at Camfield Gardens, and 10 ownership units at Clarendon-Warren Condos.

Meanwhile, large quantities of public housing units are also represented, including things like Cathedral's 414 units and the hundreds of units in Camden-Lenox.

Meanwhile, other large amounts of affordable housing exist at the Villa Victoria, and there are 500 units at Castle Square.

All of it comes together to paint a radically different picture of the South End than exists in the minds of many residents, and even more people outside the neighborhood.

And Dillon said the South End likely wouldn't be part of the next-step conversation, which will be to focus on the communities that were discovered to have very low amounts of affordable housing.

“I think we have to have conversations with areas that have very, very low percentages of affordable housing now and talk about what they would like to see,” said Dillon. “There isn't a neighborhood in Boston that doesn't want affordable housing. They want their kids and older parents to be able to stay with them in the city. I think we do have to meet with neighborhoods that have low numbers to see what the next steps are.”

One thing that will be a focus of the South End and all over Boston is the discovery that there needs to be more affordable ownership opportunities, Dillon said.

“We have a lot of affordable rental units,” she said. “Some 27 percent of our rental units are deed restricted affordable. That is a very high number, but it also came out that we don't have a lot of affordable home ownership. We do want to increase the number of affordable home ownership opportunities in the City. We'll be working on that as a next step as well.”

LOOKING BACK AT BOSTON

COURTESY OF THE SOUTH END
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



St. George Syrian Orthodox Church: This week's featured image is of the St. George Syrian Orthodox Church, located on James Street (today known as St. George Street) in 1972. Newly arrived immigrants from the Middle East founded the parish in 1900 in the South End. The founding families of the church came from numerous Christian villages in the old Ottoman Empire. As the community grew and prospered, a new church was needed and in 1953, the congregation built a church complex on James Street (today's St. George Street). The new complex included a sanctuary, church school, social hall and living quarters for the pastor. In the mid-1970s, the community had shifted towards the suburbs and a new parish was built in West Roxbury. The South End Historical Society was formed in the 1966 and continues to advocate for the preservation and history in the neighborhood. The organization is located on Chester Square and holds many treasures of the South End's distant and near past.

Black

Council passes Edwards-Flynn ordinance to help low-income elders repay back taxes

Staff Report

On Wednesday, Nov. 7, the Boston City Council voted unanimously to support a tax repayment ordinance filed by Lydia Edwards (District 1) and Ed Flynn (District 2). The ordinance helps elders who have fallen behind on property taxes by extending the length of time for repayment from one year to five years and by forgiving up to 50-percent interest. The city will

consider expansion of the program to other resident taxpayers in the coming years.

“As a city, it's critical we take every step possible to keep our elders housed and support Bostonians in building and retaining wealth over generations,” said Councilor Edwards. “This ordinance is a win-win, helping economically vulnerable taxpayers keep their homes while meeting tax obligations to the city.”

Councilor Edwards originally

called a hearing in April on tax repayment based on her experience at the Office of Housing Stability and her former colleagues at Greater Boston Legal Services testimony about working to prevent seniors from losing their homes. During the hearing process, it became clear that the city could and must do more to offer flexibility in repayment of back taxes and to ensure all residents, regardless of what language they speak, are aware of their tax obli-

gations, exemptions and other programs.

Subsequently, Councilors Edwards and Flynn filed an ordinance to create a tax repayment plan. Cities like New Bedford, Springfield and Pittsfield have opted into similar tax repayment initiatives. Boston's tax arrears repayment program will begin with a limited pool of residents, elder property owners, and the city will evaluate program expansion in 2020 and 2021.

“It is great to work with the Walsh administration to provide more tools for our elderly residents and increase accessibility for non-English speaking Bostonians,” said co-sponsor Ed Flynn, District 2 City Councilor, “Tax bills can be intimidating and this ordinance will make things easier for the taxpayers of Boston. I look forward to having this ordinance signed into law.”

NEWS BRIEFS

BLC APPROVES RELOCATION OF ROBERT BURNS STATUE

The Boston Landmarks Commission approved on Monday the relocation of the Robert Burns statue from its current location in Winthrop Square back to its original location in the West Fens. The statue was originally dedicated in the Fens on January 1, 1920, and several community members have expressed their dissatisfaction with its current location. They wanted it to be back in its original location in time to mark the centennial of its dedication. The original foundation for the statue in the Fens has been found, and it will be placed back on that. The BLC approved the relocation of the statue with the proviso that it is done in coordination with the Parks Department so as to not get in the way with all of the construction that will be occurring in the area.

Safety Committee will hold its next meeting on December 27 from 6:00-7:00pm in the sanctuary of the First Church of Boston, 66 Marlborough St. For more information, please feel free to email Charles Neckyfarow @publicsafety@nabbonline.com

SOUTH END DATES

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will meet on Dec. 18 at the AC Hotel. There will be a presentation on the cannabis establishment looking to site at 591 Albany St., and discussion of the January Board elections.

•Ellis South End Neighborhood Association will have a membership meeting on Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at 66 Berkeley St.

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association will NOT have a December meeting. They will start again in January.

•The Harrison Albany project (The Smith) will have a construction schedule/impacts meeting on Monday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the D-4 Station Community Room.

•The Villa Victoria will host a community conversation about the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts and its future plans. The Center met with challenges when doing some renovations earlier this year and will face costly structural repairs. The meeting will take place on Monday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m. in the Blackstone Community Center.

•Compassionate Organics will hold its official community engagement meeting on Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the AC Marriott Hotel, 225 Albany St. The proposal is to put a marijuana dispensary at 633 Tremont St. The public is invited to ask questions.

•The South End Forum Opiate Working Group has released its meeting schedule for Winter/

FIRE DISPLACES 29 ON COLUMBUS AVENUE



Photo courtesy Boston Fire Department

The Boston Fire Department fought a difficult fire in icy conditions on Tuesday afternoon at 534 Columbus Ave., home to the Cha Cha Cha Salon and several homes. The two-alarm fire did spread at one point, but crews were able to put it out. All residents and occupants were safely evacuated, but 29 people were displaced temporarily due to the fire.

Spring 2019. The group will meet at 4 p.m. in the Crosstown Hilton on Jan. 29, Feb. 19, March 19, April 23, and May 21.

•The South End Forum will meet for its first quarterly meeting of 2019 on Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. in the South End Library. One topic of conversation among many will be the re-design options for Tremont Street.

FENWAY TIMES

•Friday, 2/8/19 and Saturday, 2/9/19 - Red Bull Crashed Ice | 20,000 expected per day | TBA-

TBA.

•The entertainment license for the 2019 Fenway Park Concerts has been filed, and requests approval for a maximum of 12 concerts in 2019, which is the same number that the City authorized for 2018, according to Claire Durant, Director of Business & Government Affairs for the Red Sox. "For next year's concerts, we will implement all of the measures that we used this year to address and mitigate local impacts," she said in an email newsletter. "We hear your concerns and remain committed to open and candid communication on this and all topics." The licensing hearing is on Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30am.

•The 2018 World Series Trophy is coming to Fenway Community

Center! On Wednesday, December 19 from 2:30-3:30pm, stop by the Fenway Community Center to have your photo taken with the trophy. From 3:45-5:00, the trophy will be making a stop at Cornwall's at 654 Beacon St.

BAY VILLAGE UPDATES

•The Bay Village Neighborhood Association Planning/Licensing Committee will have their monthly meeting on December 17 at 7:00pm in the first floor community room at the South Cove Apartments, 230 Stuart St.

•The Bay Village Neighborhood Association will hold a public safety meeting on December 25 at 7:00pm in the first floor community room at the South Cove Apartments, 230 Stuart St.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•Carly Copley Birthday Party. Fairmont Copley Plaza will host a birthday party for its canine ambassador, Carly Copley, on Sun., Dec. 16, at 1p.m. Hosting Carly's 8th birthday will be Vanessa Welch, Anchor for Boston 25 News, who will be reading "Catie Copley" to guests. The reading will be followed by birthday cake (for humans) and special snacks for Carly's canine friends. This beloved Boston holiday tradition is free and open to the public.

In lieu of gifts for the hotel's pampered pooch, Fairmont Copley Plaza invites guests to bring a donation of towels, blankets or toys for the dogs and cats at the Animal Rescue League's Boston Shelter. This is a dog-friendly event.

•The NABB Police Panel/Public



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VILLA VICTORIA TREE LIGHTING AT PLAZA BETANCES



Officers Javier Pagan and Bernadette McCarthy, BPD District 4.



Sophia Speel with Santa ears.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The Villa Victoria Tree lighting took place on Dec. 5 at Plaza Betances. Mayor Martin Walsh, along with City officials, and Santa joined the holiday festivities with Puerto Rican music band JIbaro Soy.



City Councilor Ed Flynn.



Jullvic Marquez and Scarlett Collins looking at the lighted tree.



Mayor Martin Walsh with Jose Rodriguez and Nelsida Pena.



Mayor Martin Walsh counting down the tree lighting with Rosiris St. Victor, Santa Claus and IBA CEO Vanessa Calderon-Rosado at Villa Victoria Tree Lighting.



City Councilor Ammissa Essaibi George.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



- *Merry Christmas
- *Happy Hanukkah *Buon Natale
- *Joyeux Noel *Feliz Navidad
- *Froh Weihnachten *Feliz Natal
- *Merii Kurisumasu

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CELEBRATE

Christmas

at Saint Cecilia Church

Monday, December 24
The Eve of Christmas
4:00 p.m. | Family Mass
6:30 p.m. | Mass

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day
9:30 a.m. | Mass

Saint Cecilia Parish is a welcoming and vibrant Catholic faith community in the heart of the City of Boston. We are a diverse people united in our shared faith. We are concerned about our neighbors and are committed to issues of peace, justice, and service to those near and far. Above all, we are a community of prayer. We invite you to come and be a part of our life as we journey in God and toward God. You will receive a warm welcome here.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Chasing food memories

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The end of the year can be a time for food nostalgia, an opportunity for thinking about the very personal foods that bring you back to another time and place. It may be a family holiday recipe or something made by someone you love. It might be a regional food that you wish you could taste again or that meal you once adored at a now closed restaurant. (Perhaps, Hammersley's garlic lemon chicken for so many of us in this area.)

Special for Us

Penny has been chasing a food memory of a rice dessert her Uncle Al prepared for her whenever she, as a child, stayed with him and her aunt. She may have found it in recent research on his native

Filipino food. She'll be test cooking Bibingka Malagkit, a dessert traditionally eaten in the cooler season in the Philippines. This may show up on one of our menus before the season is over.

Ed's special food memory is of his grandmother's meatballs. Fortunately, while helping a friend find a recipe similar to her own mother's meatballs, Penny tried out the "Classic Italian American Tomato Sauce II" recipe in the 1990s edition of Joy of Cooking. The Italian American from Queens and the one from New Jersey agreed that this was the meatball they remembered. It has become the favorite meatball recipe at our home.

Regional and Ethnic Goodies

Perhaps you are a transplant

longing for San Francisco sourdough bread or New York pizza. People who leave this area often miss lobster rolls, clam chowder, or moon pies. As you can see, not all nostalgic food is homemade.

While you may serve latkes for your Hanukkah celebration, you may still long for a lost family version or prefer them with sour cream rather than applesauce because of a personal tradition.

Many of our friends say they must have a green bean casserole on the holiday table. British pals miss good mince pies and a Christmas pudding. Many an Italian family still cook the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve.

When you mention stuffing a turkey, everyone has some must-have in the recipe: oysters, sausage, cornbread, or chestnuts. Most

often they are seeking their taste of holidays past.

Keep Food Nostalgia Going

British Chef Alyn Williams, in a talk about food nostalgia, noted, "The thing about food is that it speaks to all five senses, especially the powerful memory triggers of smell and taste. There's that whole thing with Proust and his 'petite Madeleine'..." He added, "So here's the science bit: food is so fundamental to our survival that we seem primed to form strong memories about it. This means we tend to eat with our minds as much as our stomachs."

The complete topic of Chef William's talk gives all lovers of food and tradition something to think about. It was, "Nostalgia – How important are nostalgic

food memories in our innovative process and what happens to a generation where food nostalgia will be missing through lack of home cooking?"

When discussing this topic with our friend Carol, she mentioned a cake her family had always made. She has not had it since she was diagnosed with Celiac disease. This year, thanks to our conversation, she will try to create a gluten-free version. And, she will make the original recipe her mother made each year and present it to family members who have never tasted it. She hopes at least one of her guests asks for their Grandmother's recipe. a

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

Repeat offender gets 6-8 years for 2016 rape in the South End

Staff Report

As jury selection was set to begin this week in his Suffolk Superior Court rape trial, a man pleaded guilty to charges he sexually assaulted a female acquaintance in 2016 at a South End apartment.

Jerome Hairston, 49, who does not have a fixed address, pleaded guilty Monday to rape as a subse-

quent offense and strangulation in connection with the 2016 attack on a woman inside the Northampton Street home of Hairston's relative. Assistant District Attorney Jillian Hira recommended a term of 18 to 20 years in state prison. Judge Elizabeth Fahey sentenced Hairston to six to eight years in state prison followed by four years of probation during which he must have no contact with the victim,

maintain his sex offender registry status, and complete sex offender evaluation and treatment.

Had the case proceeded to trial, Assistant District Attorney Jillian Hira of the DA's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit would have presented evidence and testimony to prove that the victim was visiting a relative of Hairston at a Northampton Street apartment on the evening of Nov. 6, 2016.

Hairston was also present. After the relative left the apartment to go to the store, Hairston sexually assaulted and then strangled the victim, the evidence would have proven.

The victim was able escape the apartment and reported the assault to a security guard, who contacted Boston Police. Responding officers located Hairston inside the apartment and placed him under arrest.

Hairston was previously con-

victed of rape of a child in 1988.

In Suffolk County, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center offers a free and confidential 24-hour hotline at 800-841-8371. The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center provides medical accompaniment and many other free services to victims of rape and sexual assault.

For the Record

From the Dec. 11 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, City Hall:

- 54 East Springfield St., South End. Applicant: Carlos Alcantara

Roof removal & replacement including removing and replacing existing deck same size. In buildings of 4 or more stories above grade plane, one stairway shall extend to the roof. Where a stairway is provided to a roof, access to the roof shall be provided through a penthouse.

- 24 Union Park, South End. Applicant: 24 Union Park, LLC

Change occupancy from 4 dwelling units to 2 dwelling units; complete gut renovation of interior; add shed dormer on top floor; add two car garage in rear yard along Public Alley 701; add rear deck; add roof deck; new sprinkler system and install groundwater recharge system.

- 205 West Newton St., South End. Applicant: Costica Serban

Replace Deck on Roof.

- 255 Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Derric Small

Change of occupancy to include restaurant with take out to existing occupancy. Remove existing construction and Install new kitchen, prep-area, dining area for new restaurant.

- 794R Shawmut Ave., South End. Applicant: Jean P. Teleau

To proceed to ZBA to correct Violation v391790 per plans: 1) Approved roof deck enclosed with extended fire balcony; 2) Basement habitable spaces and other related works per plans filed. Change occupancy from a one to a two family.

- 28 Upton St., South End. Applicant: David Arrowsmith

Double 2x12 sleepers at all structural locations per plans. 60" x 60" opening for roof hatch per plans. 2x6 platform and salter spiral staircase per plans. Installation of structural steel beams per plans mechanically fastened. 2x12 deck frame per plans. Trex Decking and Railings. Exterior Alterations propose a 340sf roof deck to be accessed via spiral stair.

From the Dec. 11 Entertainment Administrative Hearings, City Hall:

•THE BASEBALL TAVERN, 1270 BOYLSTON ST., Back Bay, 9/7/18 PREMISE PROVIDING DISC JOCKEY ENTERTAINMENT FOR PATRONS ON FIRST FLOOR. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE REQUIRES DISC JOCKEY TO PERFORM ONLY IN BASEMENT OR SECOND FLOOR.

From the Dec. 12 License Board hearing, City Hall:

•B&T, LLC. D/B/A: PICCO, 530 TREMONT ST., South End. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day Wines and Malt Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license from the above - To: Malt, LLC d/b/a Picco (at the same location). Also known as 513 Tremont Street; First floor in one room, kitchen, restrooms, storage area with an entrance and exit to Tremont Street and to include outdoor seasonal patio from April-October for 24 patrons. DPW Land. Anthony Lawrence, Manager. 1 a.m. closing hour.

•BNV 5, INC., D/B/A: GRIDDLER'S, 134 BOYLSTON ST., Back Bay. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day Wines and Malt Beverages w/ Liqueurs License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above - To: Paris Seaport, Inc. d/b/a The Paris Creperie, 60 Seaport Boulevard, South Boston. In two rooms on the ground floor; cafe with seating and separate pantry area. In two rooms on the lower level; prep kitchen and walk in storage/cooler. Total sq. ft

700. Nicholas Mallia, Manager. 1 a.m. closing hour.

•MVC 40B, LLC. D/B/A: The Revolution Hotel, 40 BERKELEY St., South End. Has applied for an Innholder All Alcohol License to be exercised on the above - Seven-floor hotel with 32 rooms per floor, 2,500 SF year-round patio on private property, midnight closing hour, total floor area of 73,000 SF. Manager: Andrew Welch. Closing Time: 2 a.m.

From the Dec. 12 Entertainment Applications Hearing, City Hall:

•Boston Red Sox/Live Nation, 4 JERSEY WAY (Fenway Park), Fenway.

REQUEST: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND VOCAL MUSIC ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES (all times are 4-10:30 p.m.): SAT., JUNE 15, 2019; Sun., JUNE 16, 2019; MON., JUNE 17, 2019; Tues., JUNE 18, 2019; Weds., JUNE 19, 2019; Fri., JULY 5, 2019; Sat., JULY 6, 2019; Mon., JULY 8, 2019; Tues., JULY 9, 2019; Weds., JULY 10, 2019; Weds., AUGUST 28, 2019; Sat., AUGUST 31, 2019; Sun., SEPTEMBER 1, 2019; Fri., SEPTEMBER 13, 2019; Sat., SEPTEMBER 14, 2019; Sun., SEPTEMBER 15, 2019.

*PLEASE NOTE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SHOWS IN 2019 FROM PROVIDED DATES WILL NOT EXCEED 12 SHOWS TOTAL.

From the Dec. 13 Common Victualler Transactions, City Hall, 10 a.m.:

•Cocina Abreu 5 Inc. DBA: Chilacates Mexican Street Food, 275A Shawmut Ave., South End. Described as In one room on the first floor; kitchen & storage in the rear. Includes an outdoor (year-round, weather permitting) patio on private property. Capacity breakdown. 12 inside, 8 outside. Aleska Ramirez, manager. Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday – Sunday: 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

From the Dec. 19 St. Botolph Architectural, City Hall, 5 p.m.:

VIOLATION

•258 West Newton St.: Ratification of unapproved work at rear of the structure visible from a public way.

DESIGN REVIEW

•6-12 Blackwood St. Proposed Work: At rear of the structure replace existing windows with new fenestration. In all three light wells at the rear of the structure install decks and corresponding doors for each deck, repoint brick, and brick small windows.

•102 St. Botolph St. Proposed Work: At rear of the structure 1st floor, install 10'-0" wide glass door and 6'-0" deep deck. Install penthouse setback from St. Botolph Street.

•117 St. Botolph St. #1. Proposed Work: At rear of the structure construct 1 story carport over two existing parking spaces. Install roof deck on top of new carport. Replace two existing windows to create a door and sidelights for roof deck.

•17 St. Durham St. #5. Proposed Work: At front, sides and rear facades of the structure, all levels, remove non-historic aluminum windows and replace with one over one aluminum clad windows.

Storefront renovation, ventilation grille approved at South End Landmark District hearing

By Lauren Bennett

An application that was heard at the South End Landmark District Commission three years ago returned on Tuesday night, Dec. 4, because owner Brian Tierney never put his approval into use. Tierney owns the building at 48A Clarendon Street/69 Appleton Street, and is looking to renovate the store front, including windows, at the Appleton Street facade.

Tierney said that the facade “hasn’t been touched in about 40 years,” except for painting. He said it’s in pretty good overall condition, and there was originally an open window on the facade that is currently boarded up, and has been since the early 1950s or 1960s. He said he’d like to renovate that area of the building, including replacing the door and reinstalling the win-

dow on the side. The top of the ell has some rot on it and he would like to repair that as well, he said.

Tierney said he’s looking into having a retail tenant in that space, but could not disclose who it was at this time. Staff preservationist Nick Armata told him that any signage the tenant will want will have to be submitted to the staff, which Tierney agreed to.

Tierney asked the Commission what color he should use for the facade. Commissioner John Amodeo said that they recommend dark colors on wood, but the Commission cannot regulate paint on wood. There is, however, no painting allowed on brick and stone.

The Commission approved the proposal with the provisos that the details of the door, any signage, etc. be submitted to staff.

•At 599 Tremont Street, appli-

cant Tagore Hernandez of Group Design build proposed to replace existing two over two windows (which he said are currently a “1980s bad remodel”) with new two over two windows. The existing windows are aluminum, and he is looking to replace them with wood.

Hernandez is also looking to install a ventilation grille that will extract stale air, and it will be paired to match the existing entry panel. It will be located to the left of the front door on a wooden panel.

The Commission was concerned with the location of the vent and setting a precedent throughout the neighborhood, but ultimately decided to accept the application with the understanding that it is to serve as a case-by-case basis and not set a precedent for that location for the vent universally.

D-4 POLICE NEWS

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, at around 5 p.m., police were dispatched to the Shapiro Building at 725 Albany St. in response to a report of a person screaming in a third-floor bathroom, despite the fact that all Boston Medical Center buildings are affixed with visible signs stating: “No trespassing, per BMC trustees.” Employees, patients and visitors to the hospital have also made frequent complaint to police in regard to blatant drug usage and dealing, and drinking around this area.)

Upon arrival, officers located a man, whom they immediately recognized as being the cause of a call to service for someone loitering at the same location a day earlier. The male suspect had also been cited for trespassing in the area twice before during drug investigations in the last three months. Police observed that the man had fresh blood on his hand as well as bloody toilet paper and a tourniquet near his person.

The suspect told police he had an appointment on the ninth floor of the building, but had stopped to use the third-floor bathroom. While speaking with officers, the man reached down at one point to pick up the toilet paper and tourniquet. He subsequently denied that the objects were his, or that he had been using drugs.

When police pressed the suspect for information about his alleged appointment, he gave officers conflicting information before

admitting that he was an IV drug user who had a “cook it” in his backpack.

Police asked the suspect if he would consent to a search of his person and the backpack, at which time he became visibly nervous as his hand began trembling and he began speaking at faster pace.

The suspect then began backing away from officers and attempted to pull his arms away from officers, who proceeded to secure him in handcuffs and inform the suspect he was being detained, but not arrested.

Officers then located an uncapped hypodermic needle and “cook kit” with a significant amount of apparent heroin residue in the suspect’s sweatshirt pocket, as well as another “cook kit” with residue consistent with heroin in his backpack. All of these items were seized as evidence and disposed in a nearby “sharps” container by police.

Police determined that the suspect was wanted on a default warrant issued on Nov. 26 out of Barnstable District Court for larceny over \$1,200 and vandalism to property.

The suspect, who will additionally be charged with trespassing, was arrested by virtue of the default warrant and transported to District 4 headquarters for booking.

NO FREE MEALS

On Thursday, Dec. 6, at approximately 10 a.m., security at Shaw’s Market at 53 Huntington Ave. informed an officer working a paid

detail at the grocery store that an individual, who was barred from the store for past shoplifting incidents, had been observed near the a la carte section.

The officer approached the suspect, informed him he is no longer welcome in the store and advised the suspect to leave the premises.

The suspect ignored the officer’s request to leave the store and instead sat down at a table, where he continued to eat.

Additional officers responded to the scene and placed the suspect under arrest for trespassing. He was transported to District 4 headquarters for booking without further incident.

DRUGSTORE COWBOYS

On Friday, Dec. 7, at around 10:10 p.m., police responded to call for an unarmed robbery at CVS Pharmacy at 874 Harrison Ave.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to the victim, who said she was counting money in the parking lot when two men approached her.

The suspects then snatched \$124 from the victim’s hand as she attempted to hide it in her bra strap. They also stole her luggage, along with the clothing inside, before fleeing in a grey, four-door vehicle driven by a female suspect.

The victim then watched as the suspects’ vehicle drove down Harrison Avenue towards Melena Cass Boulevard.

Descriptions of the suspect and their getaway vehicle were subsequently broadcast via police radio.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The lovely curved seat in the last clue can be found in the courtyard next to 270 Bay State Road. The complex from 264 to 270 Bay State Road was built in 1913 and was designed by architect Frank Wilcox. It began life as an apartment house in the “French Flats” style. It was acquired by Boston University in 1920.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE





SEAPORT, BOSTON

22 LIBERTY DRIVE #10A
 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,756 SQFT
 \$7,500,000



49 MT VERNON ST #2
 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 4,617 SQFT
 \$7,775,000



288 COMM AVE #3
 3 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,774 SQFT
 \$8,750,000



390 COMM AVE #812
 2 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,226 SQFT
 \$1,300,000



36 PINCKNEY ST
 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 3,612 SQFT
 \$3,250,000

Cyan
Magenta
Yellow
Black

