

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## NAAB HOSTS MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION



Photo by Derek Kouyoumjian

Anne Swanson, who edited and proofread 'Back Bay: A Loving Portrait,' has recently edited another book, this time about the history of Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB). 'Back Bay: A Miracle of Preservation' came out just last year. She had the book available to everyone during the NABB Membership Reception at the Park Plaza Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 27.

## South End Community Health Center in merger talks

By Seth Daniel

What was a typical annual meeting for the South End Community Health Center (SECHC) Tuesday night suddenly erupted into the atypical when an SECHC founder grabbed the mic and forced an announcement that merger talks with East Boston Neighborhood

Health Center have started.

Nearly an hour had gone by in the meeting as Health Center Director Bill Walczak and Board Chair David Gleason delivered mostly good news about the programs that are in place and growing, as well as a possible new child care center in the Hass building.

However, Dr. Gerald Hass –

founder of the health center – was there on a mission, and towards the end of the meeting he made that point known.

“We’ve heard our health center needs to merge and that there is a merger coming with East Boston Neighborhood Health Center,” he

(SECHC, Pg. 4)

## City Council holds hearing on early voting in municipal elections

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Councilor Michael Flaherty, held a hearing on Jan. 28 concerning a petition for a special law regarding an act authorizing the City of Boston to offer early voting in municipal elections. Flaherty said that if passed the hope would be to start this for the 2019 election. Support from the City Council

members at the hearing was very positive.

“I want to make sure that Boston is leading on this,” said Councilor Josh Zakim. He spoke highly of the early voting that is currently offered for state and federal elections in Massachusetts, and said that adding municipal elections “is an opportunity to continue moving forward.”

“We see voter suppression in other parts of our country and it’s

important that Boston be a leader on this front,” Councilor Kim Janey said. “It’s high time that we look at our city election.”

Councilor Ed Flynn said this was a civil rights issue in his opinion and he is interested in what kind of positive impact this early voting would have on veterans and those in the disability community.

Councilor Matt O’Malley said

(EARLY VOTING, Pg. 5)

## Ellis vote to support Compassionate Organics surprises, frustrates some

By Seth Daniel

Popular sentiment suggests marijuana mellows the populace, but the struggle for marijuana stores in the South End has been anything but a smooth trip, particularly after a controversial vote came down from the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association last week.

That vote featured a decision of the executive board of the Ellis to support the Compassionate Organics proposal at 633 Tremont

St. a few weeks after a raucously negative public meeting seemed to sink the proposal. It also came in the face of the host neighborhood, Pilot Block, which has been against the plan for many months.

At the moment, the South End neighborhood associations are trying to forge unity on marijuana by creating a standard document to assess any marijuana business – then using that document to decide what to support and what not to support. Most every association

(ELLIS, Pg. 1)



Chef and Pitmaster Andy Husbands.

## WINGIN’ IT FOR SUPER BOWL LIII: Chef Husbands talks the perfect wing

By Seth Daniel

There is no shortage of Super Bowl parties going on in Boston this weekend, but if one wants their party to score high, they better know how to prepare a proper chicken wing.

Chef/Pitmaster Andy Husbands of The Smoke Shop (formerly the owner/operator of Tremont 647 and Sister Sorel in the South End) said that if hosts think getting a good wing on the table for the Super Bowl is as easy as popping them in a hot oven, they would be flapping wrong.

In fact, he said, the key to a good Super Bowl spread is preparation and thinking ahead.

“Wings are so subjective,” he said. “Do you like the small ones or the big roaster wings? I go for

the big roasting ones. You want the big, roaster wings. I’d also advise everyone to go early. Don’t go to the store to buy your wings on Saturday. They’ll all be sold out and you’ll get stuck with the small wings...Most everything you serve for the Super Bowl except for ribs can be done on Saturday. That makes it so much easier. You want it to be enough food for everybody, but you want it to be easy for you too. You don’t want to be in the kitchen saucing wings when the Pats are scoring.”

Husbands said the centerpiece of a Super Bowl spread always has to be the wings, so getting them right is important.

Husbands suggests doing what is called a confit.

(HUSBANDS, Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## THANK YOU, BOB DELEO

It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since Winthrop/Revere State Rep. Bob DeLeo was elected the Speaker of the House by his colleagues. (Yes, time flies.)

We wish to make note of the 10th anniversary of Speaker DeLeo's ascension to that post because it was marked by two significant events that occurred in January, 2009.

First, Bob was chosen by his colleagues after a succession of House Speakers had been forced to resign because of various scandals, the last having been Sal DiMasi, who was indicted on corruption charges by federal prosecutors for which DiMasi eventually was convicted and sentenced to time in federal prison.

The second was that Bob assumed the Speakership amidst the greatest economic downturn to face not only Massachusetts, but the entire country (and the world) since the Great Depression.

Needless to say, January of 2009 was a difficult period for anyone to become Speaker of the House, given the history of the House during the previous decade and the enormity of the challenges that the state was facing.

However, from the perspective of looking back over the past 10 years, it is fair to say that Bob DeLeo has been more responsible both for restoring the people's faith in our legislature and for guiding our state through an incredibly-difficult fiscal period than any other person in state government.

Governors have come and gone, as have State Senate presidents, but the one constant has been the steady hand of Bob DeLeo at the helm of the House of Representatives.

Not only has Bob DeLeo been the principal architect of a state budget process that has been both prudent and forward-looking, but he, more than any other person on Beacon Hill, has been able to bring together disparate groups and has worked with both the Senate and Republican administrations to create an atmosphere of collegiality that is unparalleled in our nation today.

The achievements in our state over the past decade under the Speakership of Bob DeLeo are a testament to the ability of one person to have a profound effect upon the lives of the people he serves -- and Massachusetts unquestionably is a better place thanks to Bob DeLeo's tenure as Speaker of the House for the past 10 years.



HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup>

## GUEST OP-ED

### The state of our City is strong

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Earlier this month, I gave my State of the City address at Symphony Hall. It's one of my favorite events because it's a chance to speak directly to the people of Boston about the progress we've made, the challenges that remain, and where we'll go from here. It's also a time to talk about how Boston's leadership is needed now more than ever.

Right now is a pivotal time for our country: too many people, in too many communities, are being left out. But here in Boston, we remain committed to moving our city forward, expanding our progress, and throwing open the doors of opportunity for all. In our first five years together, we've made great strides toward building a strong future for our city.

We are committed to leaving no one behind. In Boston we've created more affordable homes than in any other five-year period on record. And in the next five years we'll create 1,000 new homeowners by building more affordable homes and providing more financial help. We've gotten more than 1,600 chronically homeless people into safe, supportive housing. To build on this success, last year we launched the Boston's Way Home Fund and set a goal of raising \$10 million over four years for supportive housing. After just one year, we have already raised \$5 million.

We are committed to lifting people up, not locking people up. Over the last five years, our police officers have taken more than 4,100 guns off the street. Through partnerships with the communi-

ty, we've put thousands of young people on pathways to opportunity. As a result, we've seen arrests come down by 25 percent, and crime has gone down by 25 percent as well.

We are making sure that social progress and middle class opportunity grow together. That's why we're creating a Mobile Economic Development Center designed to strategically engage with residents on economic development policy around job training, business development, placemaking, and community economic development.

We are welcoming more voices and expanding our democracy. We're reactivating the Human Rights Commission to provide a forum for Bostonians to address discrimination and secure the promise of equality. I've also appointed a Census Liaison to make sure that every resident of Boston is counted, because every resident of Boston counts. We will also lead the way on addressing inequities in our city: later this month, I'll sign an executive order that requires all City employees be trained on how to recognize and correct disparities in city services.

We are a community for every generation. "Elderly" isn't the right word to describe the thousands of vibrant, active, and hard-working older residents who call Boston home. That's why we're renaming Boston's Elderly Commission. It will now be known as the Age Strong Commission. The new name better reflects our commitment to making Boston more inclusive and accessible for people as they age. The Commission will serve our seniors' needs and draw

on their tremendous strength.

We are not just surviving -- we are thriving. Boston is rebuilding roads and bridges, making our streets work for bikes and buses, opening parks, and investing over \$100 million in libraries all across our city. Smart fiscal management has unlocked these historic investments -- while keeping homeowner taxes the lowest in the state. We're investing \$28 million in Boston Common and \$28 million in Franklin Park. In addition, we have more than doubled the building budget for schools -- with over \$300 million already spent on brand new schools, major renovations, energy efficient roofs, boilers, windows, and modern furniture. Another \$800 million is on the way through BuildBPS, our 10-year, \$1 billion investment in Boston's schools and students.

Today, Boston is stronger than ever because we are drawing on more of our people's strength than ever. Our city's success is our motivation to aim higher, work harder and make sure every single person in our city gets a full, fair shot at the opportunities we are creating. At a time when gridlock and division is holding our country back, Boston is showing a better way forward.

Serving as your Mayor is the honor of my life. I will continue to work hard each and every day to serve the city I love. Let's never lose sight of how far we've come; how far-reaching our leadership has been; and how deep our obligation is now, to stand together, and keep leading.

*Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

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# Mayor Walsh evolving his position on safe injection facilities after Canada trip

By Seth Daniel

After taking a trip last week to Montreal and Toronto to see multiple safe injection sites (SIF) and taking a ride-along with Canadian police, Mayor Martin Walsh said this week he was impressed with the safe injection operations he saw in those two major Canadian cities.

The trip was largely unannounced, but came as part of Walsh's membership on the state's new Harm Reduction Commission – which was created by the State Legislature last summer to study safe injection sites when it passed sweeping opioid legislation.

In the South End and Fenway – in particular – residents have been wary of any type of SIF in their neighborhood due to the large volume of services that already exist there. Putting any new services there so close to the epicenter of the opioid epidemic, many believe, could create a congregation of more people with drug problems – a type of “clubhouse” effect. That battle has been waged with elected officials for more than a year, as neighbors prod electeds for their positions – which seem to morph and change.

That is the case for Mayor Walsh, who told the Sun he was impressed with what he saw there, and said he wasn't afraid to say his position is evolving on the matter. He was once adamantly against such SIFs in Boston, particularly locating any in the South End.

“In recovery, I'm not afraid to

say I took a wrong position on something or I'm in the wrong place,” he said. “I'm open to it. That's what people should do; they should evolve. When you're talking about harm reduction it's very complicated and very challenging. It's not a simple fix and not like we're building a building that's going to be controversial for being too big or too dense. Here, we're talking about human beings' lives... I'm impressed with them. Anything that can be used to reduce deaths, I think, is important. It's an option we're looking at.”

Walsh wasn't as strongly against siting a SIF in the South End, however, as just last September he said that would never be an option. However, he also said he wanted to meet people where they are at.

“I think we have to think about where do we put them,” he said. “I think what they do in Montreal and Toronto is they meet people where they live and what happens at Mass and Cass is people who don't live there come there for services. I think there is an opportunity there to think about where are people coming from and is there an opportunity for a lot of people to get treatment around where they live. That's where I'm evolving to.”

The Canadian visit was also attended by Jen Tracey of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services and Jess Gaeta of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless (and also a member of the Harm Reduction Commission). Both detailed their observations with the mayor at Tuesday's meeting of the South End Forum Opiate Working Group.

Tracey said they spent two days on the trip, visiting three safe consumption sites (as they're known in Canada) and a mobile service van in Toronto. In Montreal, they did a police ride along, visited four sites and looked in on a mobile safe consumption site van.

“We saw quite a few different models,” she said. “We saw sites integrated into a health center. We saw large sites run by the Public Health, and smaller ones as well. We saw some where they have hundreds of visits a day and some that have 30 or fewer a day. The changes in Montreal and Toronto came in the 1990s with the AIDS epidemic as they embraced harm reduction as a strategy. The culture of harm reduction is part of the culture of the communities in the cities. I don't think it's something we quite have here in the U.S.”

Gaeta said the typical site model includes a check-in area, a consumption area, and then a “chill out” room – which is supervised by a qualified nurse. She said a typical visit will last between one and two hours.

Both said they didn't see an open drug market outside of any of the sites, or homeless encampments that are typical on the Mass/Cass corridor.

Some neighbors, however, have been disturbed by the increased wading into the waters of SIFs by City officials.

At the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) on Jan. 22, the matter came up and many were wary about where the City and its lead-

ers were headed with the investigation.

That sentiment was also shared at the Working Group on Tuesday, with many residents from the South End quite riled by the fact that the Harm Reduction Commission is made up of providers and politicians – with no neighbors.

“This whole idea is being shoved down the South End's throat by the Harm Reduction Commission that has no representation from the neighborhoods,” said Bob Minnoccio, vice president of WSANA.

“If they are spread out regionally, I think we're a lot more sympathetic,” said WSANA President George Stergios. “Our fear is something like Vancouver...If you put a SIF in Mass/Cass, it will be a huge one because there are a lot of addicts there. It will look like Vancouver. If you have one in Beacon Hill, the Back Bay, Central Square (Cambridge) and in other places spread out across the state it is a better approach. Having five, 10 or 12 across the state is more palatable...But starting out and piloting a massive one here in the South End is not palatable.”

South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox said there is quite a worry that those using in the Mass/Cass area would shoot up an average of five or six times a day – leaving no time to leave. That, he said, could create a culture of “hanging around.”

“There is a sustained concern in the South End about the fact that this giving a single person the opportunity to use it several times,” he said. “Is there a club-

house effect to SIFs? If you put one of these in a certain, specific geography and then you could create a clubhouse effect because people stay near the facility.”

Tracey said no one is trying to shove anything down anyone's throat, but rather they are trying look at all options.

“I don't think anything is being shoved down anyone's throat,” she said. “In Boston, we are looking at every initiative and service. I think it would be egregious not to...We want to save lives and at the same time create a better quality of life for neighbors.”

One major hurdle is the fact that SIFs are illegal in American, and the U.S. Attorney for Boston has routinely said they would prosecute anyone opening an unauthorized SIF in Boston.

Gaeta said there is a pathway, though, by changing state laws and deeming it part of the opiate crisis emergency declaration.

“There is a pathway in Massachusetts, but it won't happen quickly and it's not without risk,” she said. “There has to be political will and there has to be public buy-in. It won't be easy, but it is possible.”

Meanwhile, Gaeta also stated that BHCH would not get involved in any potential siting discussions – even though they advocate for the concept.

“We are not going to be discussing location,” she said. “Location is something we have no interest in weighing in on.”

## HUSBANDS (from pg. 1)

“You want the best wings, and even though it's a bit complicated, I would look up how to confit wings,” he said.

When he pulls it off, Husbands said he starts by seasoning the raw wings the day before with salt and other flavorings. Many make the mistake, he said, of putting the sauce – whether buffalo or teriyaki sauce – on before cooking the wings. One should not do that, he said.

“That will hamper the wings,” he said. “Sugars burn quickly, and you don't want that burnt taste on the wings.”

Once seasoned, Husbands coats the wings in oil and chicken or goose fat. Then they go into a 205-degree oven until cooked. Then, take them out, let them cool and remove the fat. The next day, before the big game, take them out of the refrigerator and use the fat from the previous day on a sheet pan. Put the wings in the fat and

cook them in an oven at 350 degrees until crispy.

“They become crispy and rich and then you apply the sauce, whether Frank's Red Hot or Szechuan – whatever you want,” he said. “That's a fun way to do it.”

There are, of course, other ways to wing it for the big game.

Home frying, however, is not something Husbands recommends. Most people don't have the right equipment and it uses a ton of fat for just one dish.

Cooking them in the oven after seasoning is another option, but it has to be on low heat. A common mistake, he said, is putting the wings in the oven raw at a high temperature to get them crispy. However, that leads to a dry and bony wing – perhaps even raw.

“You want to put them on very low heat and continuously turning them gets them crispy on the outside and keeps them juicy on the inside,” he said. “After they're

cooked (150 degree temperature inside), you can crank up the oven to 450 degrees and flash them in until really crispy. Then you sauce them up. That way you get them fully cooked and crispy. No one wants raw chicken.”

Yet another way goes to the diehards, who will take the opportunity to do some arctic grilling. Husbands said the cold weather won't stop him from grilling wings and smoking ribs for his Super Bowl party.

“I'm absolutely going to be outside,” he said. “My neighbors all know me well. They don't look at me like I'm crazy. It's more like they want to know if they can have some. It's a passion, and if you know it love it, you want to do it all the time in any weather. I have a Traeger grill and a Big Green Egg grill and they work in all types of weather. I might use both of them this time.”

Beyond the meat of the matter,

though, Husbands has some good ideas for buffet style options.

One of those ideas is a chili bar. He usually cooks a pot of chili and leaves it on low in the Crock Pot, setting up a chili fixin's salad bar next to it.

“What's cool about chili is you can keep it in the Crock Pot, keep it hot and put out a bunch of toppings – like crushed Fritos, crushed tortilla chips, scallions, sour cream and anything else you like,” he said. “People can come back and forth to that during the entire game.”

At halftime, he rolls out a hot dog bar, too.

Either grilled or boiled, he selects quality hot dogs and two different kinds of buns. From there, the sky is the limit on the kinds of toppings one can offer to guests. Husbands suggests kimchee, several different types of mustard, cheese sauce, unique pickle relishes and even his own favorite, sriracha ketchup.

“Guests can have fun making

their own hot dog,” he said. “You can wheel that out at halftime for something new. All of it can be prepared ahead of time too.”

For the beer lovers, Husbands suggests not going all lawnmower and not going all high-brow either. In his ice chest, he said he offers everything from Miller High Life to selections from Trillium Brewery.

“It's important to have something for everyone,” he said. “I don't want to push my passion for craft beer on someone who wants a High Life. A High Life can be just as enjoyable as a craft beer.”

Super Bowl LIII official coverage starts at 6 p.m. on CBS.

*Andy Husbands is an award-winning chef and pitmaster at The Smoke House, which has locations in Assembly Row, the Seaport and Cambridge. Just this year he closed down his longtime South End restaurants Tremont 647 and Sister Sorel – which were neighborhood staples for decades.*

# Beacon Communities, BHA and City partner on \$23 million redevelopment of Lenox-Camden

By Seth Daniel

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Director Bill McGonagle has said repeatedly that the Authority will do everything in its power not to lose one deeply affordable public-housing unit despite the pressures of the hot real estate market, and on Tuesday morning, several partners joined him in keeping that promise at the

Lenox-Camden development in the South End.

"We can't afford to lose one unit of affordable housing in the city," said McGonagle on Tuesday. "At the BHA, we have drawn a line in the sand. We will not lose one unit of deeply affordable housing in the city. That is critical."

And not only were they not losing anything at Lenox-Camden, but they are now also improving them with another in a series of public-private partnerships. This time, Beacon Communities has partnered with the BHA, and just

down the street, IBA has partnered with them to take on BHA units as well.

On Tuesday, Mayor Martin Walsh and McGonagle kicked off the \$23 million redevelopment of 367 affordable housing units at the Lenox/Camden Housing Development. In Phase One, Beacon Communities will improve and preserve 72 units of affordable public housing on Camden Street. Phase Two will include the renovation of the adjacent Lenox site, which is slated to begin next year.

"This renovation marks an

important new chapter for this historic development, and I am proud to begin our work together today to make his neighborhood stronger than ever," said Mayor Walsh. "This redevelopment will not only modernize these buildings to make them more energy efficient, safe and accessible, but will help us continue to set a national standard for quality public housing."

He also said it would create more "real" green space.

"Most of the green space is concrete and hot top," he said. "It might have worked in the 1970s, but not now. We will get that grey space up and replace it with real green space."

The Camden development will undergo substantial renovations to all 72 of its apartment units, including new kitchens, bathrooms, paint, flooring, and windows. The project will modernize the building, bring energy-efficiency improvements, improve accessibility throughout the site, and create four fully handicap accessible units, as well as landscaping improvements. The Camden project is expected to create more than 60 full-time jobs by the time of the project's completion in June 2020.

"Beacon is proud of our long partnership with the Boston Hous-

ing Authority and grateful to the many city and state and federal agencies and other partners who made this transaction possible," said Beacon Communities CEO Dara Kovel. "The rehabilitation will allow for Camden Apartments to serve as a quality affordable housing resource for many years to come."

Camden was one of the first city projects authorized under the Commonwealth Veterans Assistance program, allocated to support returning veterans after World War II, and the only housing development of its kind built in Lower Roxbury. Camden's history helped the site secure federal and state historic tax credits through the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the National Park Service.

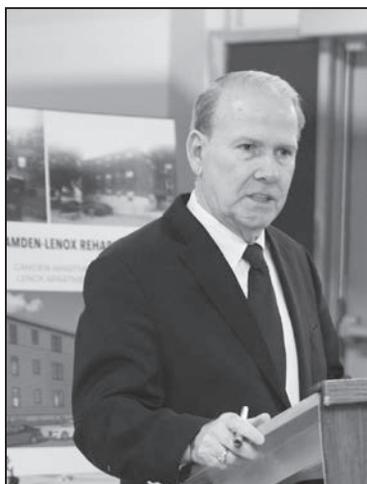
The planned renovations represent an investment of more than \$23 million that will preserve Camden's long-term affordability through new operating subsidies and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. The state public housing subsidy will be replaced by 48 federal Project-Based Vouchers for low-income residents, and 24 subsidized vouchers that will be funded through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.



Camden-Lenox residents Julita Lopez and Willie Dixon spoke about the need to update their housing development, and were glad to see the investment in a public-private partnership.



Mayor Martin Walsh was on hand to kick off Phase 1 of Camden.



BHA Director Bill McGonagle said they cannot afford to lose one unit of public housing in the City.

## SECHC (from pg. 1)

said.

"We've had to watch two directors that failed to manage our health center and a passive board that has watched it happen," he continued. "Since 2009, the health center has lost \$3.4 million. The South End Community Health Center should and could do better."

And with that, the leaders of the health center were left to respond.

Gleason took the opportunity to do so, and said they had expected the question when seeing Hass and some of the other founding members at the meeting.

"It is sad Gerry; it is sad we can't support locally," he said. "But calling us a passive board...I'm not going to respond directly to that."

And he also said that the talk of a merger is true, but very preliminary now. He said East Boston lines up with SECHC's mission almost perfectly, and if it were to happen, it would be a good fit.

"This is very, very, very preliminary," he said. "We do not have anything in writing, any kind of agreement or any substantive plan to merge with East Boston. What we are doing is entering into discussions with members of the health care community that are extremely successful and East Boston has emerged as a very promising partner."

Gleason, who is a patient at SECHC with his family, said it would be a very good fit for the South End.

"Our mission are extremely aligned with each other," he said. "We will see if it turns into something substantive. If it does, it would be very beneficial to the health center."

He also defended Walczak, whom Hass and other founding members have routinely criticized over the years – including in a Boston Sun article last summer that examined the health of the health center.

"If it wasn't for Bill Walczak the health center would have been in big trouble," he said. "We were in really bad financial difficulties three years ago. The Board has been excellent."

Earlier in the presentation, Gleason had discussed the fact that health centers don't get reimbursed at the same rate as hospitals. Last summer, Walczak told the Sun that they had lost important grants, and that health care had changed drastically. Those changes, he said then, have affected the finances of the health center tremendously.

"As a health center we have constantly adapted to the tectonic shifts in health care policy," Gleason said Tuesday. "At the same time, our reimbursement revenue

dollars have stagnated. It is a systemic problem. It's a known fact that hospitals in Boston get twice as much per visit as we do. That's not ok...We will continue to adapt and be resilient for our patients and the community."

The SECHC is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year in existence, as it was started by a group of active, mostly Puerto Rican, community members who were upset with the poor care they were getting at Boston City Hospital.

•The night was also punctuated by a keynote address by State Rep. Jon Santiago, who is a board member of the SECHC. While it was overshadowed by Dr. Hass's surprise revelation, Santiago delivered a very interesting keynote address regarding the opiate epidemic.

He started by telling a story of a woman he met in the emergency room (he is an ER doctor at Boston Medical Center) on New Year's Eve. After talking with her, he had learned the trajectory of her addiction – which started with pills in her South Shore community when she was 15.

That woman's story was emblematic, and Santiago said

it's one reason he is really hoping to use his new position in the State House to expand Suboxone prescriptions. Unlike Methadone or some other medically assisted treatments for addiction, Suboxone can be taken at home.

"I can prescribe you all the opiates you want," he said. "You can come to me with a broken arm and I can prescribe you Percocet or anything like that and get you addicted to drugs. But to prescribe Suboxone, I have to take a special test and meet other requirements. There is too much regulatory control...I think we need to expand Suboxone for certain across the Commonwealth. If we had more Suboxone in Boston, my guess is we wouldn't have people walking around Melnea Cass like they do."

He said the waiting period to get on Suboxone now is two to 24 weeks, which he said is far too long for a person in desperation.

Some other priorities included launching a study to find out the ratio of detox beds to the rest of the recovery bed process, and to push for medication-assisted treatment in all jails.

## DID YOU KNOW? Recycled newspapers can be made into

cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!



# NEWS BRIEFS

## ZBA GRANTS RELIEF TO CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING CENTER ON HAMPDEN ST.

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on Tuesday granted relief to a proposed cannabis establishment at 100-114 Hampden St. The proposed project will be operated by Green Line Boston Cannabis, and has the following violations: cannabis establishment is conditional, and off street parking is insufficient. Attorney Richard Lynds said this project “is the first of its kind in the City of Boston that we’re aware of, and Green Line’s goal here is to create a brand that would be unique to Boston and that would compete with large publicly traded out of state compa-

nies that are likely to get involved in this emerging industry here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Lynds said that this facility would create at least 30 full time jobs for Boston residents, as well as generate revenue for the surrounding community. It will also “substantially improve the property value, security and safety of the land and surrounding area, and will not result in a detrimental impact to the neighborhood.”

The lot where this facility would sit is currently vacant and used for vehicle and material storage. Lynds said that the site is surrounded by a number of industrial manufacturing uses, including a trash transfer facility, as well as storage and other light industrial uses. Lynds

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 10)

## A SLIPIN’ AND A SLIDIN’

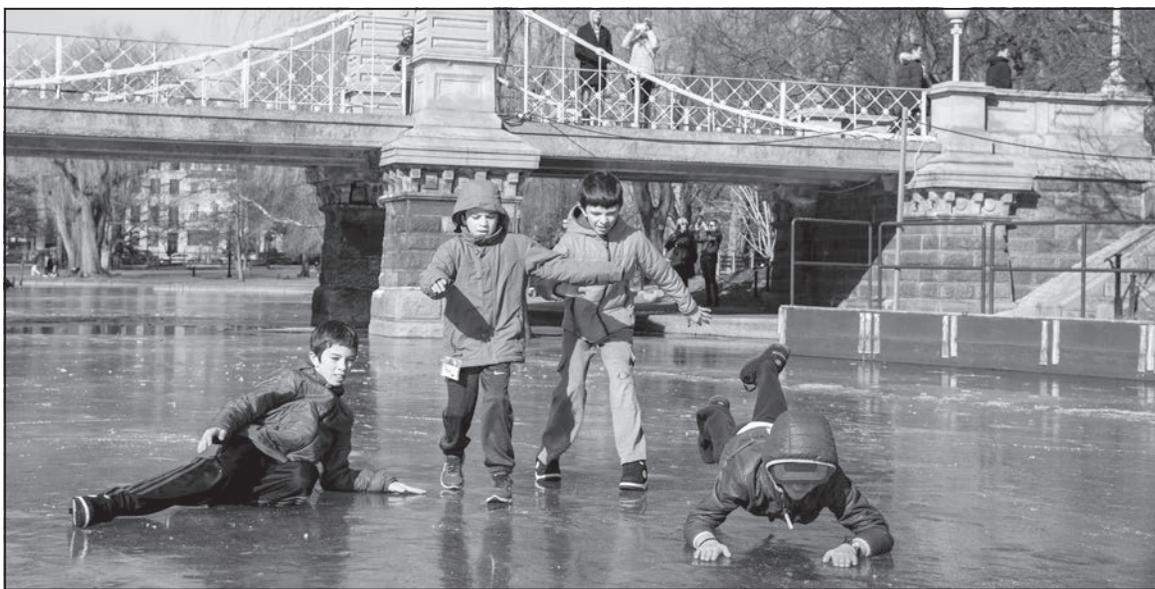


Photo by Marianne Salze

Matthew, Kevin, Timothy, and Brendan, taking a break from visiting their father’s office in the Old John Hancock Building on January 26, slip and slide on the frozen Boston Public Garden pond.

## EARLY VOTING (from pg. 1)

that “anything we can do to make it easier for folks to vote earlier is a step in the right direction.”

Election Department Commissioner Dion Irish said that 28,000 people took advantage of early voting for the 2018 election, and it was only the second time that the city held early voting.

“We are in support [of adding municipal elections],” Irish said, but he added that there were things he wanted to bring to the attention of the City Council.

He said that the municipal election cycle is more of a condensed cycle than other elections, and the preliminary election is later in September which leaves a shorter window, “but we can make necessary adjustments for that,” he said. He also said that while the current proposal being put forth calls for it to be effective immediately upon passage, the Election Department would need at least six months to secure locations and make logistical arrangements for early voting for this year’s election.

To answer Councilor Flynn’s concerns about how this will impact people with disabilities, Irish said that they are constantly getting input and advice out to educate and inform people about the opportunities that are available to them. In addition, the department “make(s) sure all poll workers are understand how we can properly serve people with disabilities,” Irish said.

Irish said they are already securing polling places for the 2019 general election, and need to secure poll workers and identify training sites, among other logistical items. “If it was passed tomorrow, it would give us sufficient lead time

to prepare,” Irish told the City Council.

Irish said that the early voting cost citywide for one election is \$380,000, and closer to \$400,000 if a central tabulation location is factored in, which is something the city wants to have. He said that city election ballots have to be printed by the city, while state and federal elections are printed by those governments. This raises the cost for the city slightly as they would have to foot the bill for printing and postage throughout the city.

When approaching siting for early voting, he said that they look at City Council districts and the different neighborhoods, then put together schedules that offer early voting location opportunities across the city. The locations also need to be ADA compliant, have parking, and be close to public transportation, Irish said. They also need to make “sure that we’re in every part of the city,” he added.

He said that they have learned a lot from the 2016 and 2018 elections that offered early voting, and a lot of the challenges they are trying to overcome are not visible to the public, but rather how the Election Department can make the elections more efficient and effective. Overall, he said that he thinks early voting in Boston has “worked well.”

Irish also said that they want new voting machines that would increase the capability to designate the central tabulation facility.

Councilor Janey asked what could be done to engage people in communities that had lower voter turnouts.

“We looked at which precincts did participate more in early vot-

ing,” Irish said. He said that a lot of people used early voting as a convenience so they did not have to wait in long lines on Election Day.

“The way we’ve always approached it is to make it as convenient as possible,” Irish said. He said it just provides more options for people.

Jonathan Cohn, Chair of the Issues Committee with Progressive Massachusetts, said that there is “no better way to strengthen our democracy to increase access to voting,” said Jonathan Cohn, Chair of the Issues Committee with Progressive Massachusetts. “The benefits of early voting are clear,” he said, with shorter lines, improved poll worker performance, and increased voter satisfaction, to name a few.

Ian Kea, Policy Director for MassVOTE, said that Massachusetts is “being looked at continually as being the leader in modern-day elections. We are very much behind unfortunately but the city does have a good leadership role.” He said that it is up to the city to promote these ideas so that Boston can be helpful at the local and federal levels.

“We have dates set for 2019 voting,” Councilor Zakim said. “I want to make sure that we do have enough time to do this for this election. I want to be realistic and make sure you and folks in your department have time to get this set up.”

Councilor Matt O’Malley said that “the benefits of early voting are too many to list and we’ve seen twice now what a success it can be.”

“The easier we make it for folks

to vote, the more participation we will see,” he added. No one present at the hearing spoke in opposition of the proposal, and Councilor Flaherty ended the hearing by say-

ing to the members of the Election Department, “I look forward to working with you as we move forward.”

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# NAAB MEMBERS RECEPTION AT PARK PLAZA HOTEL

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Neighborhood Association of Back Bay, or NABB, held their annual membership reception at the Park Plaza Hotel. It was a mixer intended to connect fellow NABB members and to feature the various committees and their objectives in the neighborhood association. Food, drink, and fun were had by all.



Jim Hill and Rob Wright.



NABB President Paula Griswold and Committee Director Charlotte DeWitt.



Mine Cestroni, Leigh Anne Dempsey, Stephen Baker, and State Rep. Jay Livingstone with Mary Ann and Michael Mimmo.



Suzanne Koorse and Pat Evans.



Jennifer Hill and Gordon Richardson.



Mike George at the table representing Condominium Management Friends and Neighbors Group.



Marilyn Levitt, Keith Brickhouse, and Margaret Anteblian.



State Rep. Jay Livingstone, raffle winner Paula Neckyfarow - holding her new bottle of wine - and Charlotte DeWitt.

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## SECOND ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION FOR CHARLESGATE ALLIANCE

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The second annual silent auction for the Charlesgate Alliance was held to raise money to restore the Charlesgate Park to link up to the Emerald Necklace as Olmstead originally intended. Items were donated by 55 benefactors and brought many neighbors together to get to know each other better. It was community building as well as fundraising.



Rachael Bakish and Jenny Hoenig.



John, Hunter, Christa, and Debbie Perry (Charlesgate Alliance committee member and organizer).



Charlesgate Alliance co-founder Pam Beale, Evan Bradley with Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and Charlesgate Alliance board member Randall Albright.



George Lewis, Charlesgate Alliance co-founder Pam Beale, and Maddy Segal, who organized the event with Lewis.



Paula Daher, Designer at Daher Interior Designer (donated pillows), Bob Oppenheim (member of Charlesgate Alliance), and Dan Adams (architect of the Charlesgate Plan).



Charlesgate Alliance member Jennifer Carter and Frank Muniz kept the festivities under control.



Magdalena Taber and Una McMahon

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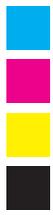
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# ZBA grants GCOD relief to 260 Newbury St.

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on Tuesday granted Groundwater Conservation District Overlay (GCOD) relief to 260 Newbury St. The proposed project at this address was recently approved by the Back Bay Architectural Commission, after several

hearings and iterations of the proposal. The proposed project will include a restaurant in a dig-out below the first floor of retail, with a hotel above. It will also include a penthouse addition and roof decks.

The project went before the ZBA on Jan. 29 with violations of the restaurant and outdoor seating being conditional uses, and the

project sits within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District.

Though all three of these violations were supposed to be heard, the attorney for the project told the ZBA that they would like to withdraw without prejudice the applications for the restaurant conditional use at this time. “We had a meeting with the Neighborhood

Association of the Back Bay and we don’t have a restaurant operator at this time, so we will come back at a later time when we do,” he said.

That left only the GCOD application to be heard before the board. Christian Simonelli from the Boston Groundwater Trust, who said he has received the letter

of approval from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, as well as a stamped no harm letter from the proponent’s engineer.

The ZBA voted to grant the GCOD relief, and the applicants will return to the ZBA when they have secured a restaurant operator.

## ELLIS (from pg. 1)

was on board with that approach, and the Ellis representatives attended those meetings and agreed in principle to the idea.

However, the Jan. 22 vote of the Board seemed to step out from that agreement, and, as some say, disrupt the unity of the neighborhood groups.

Ellis President Ellen Sheets said it was a vote that stands on its own. She said there are 23 board members and there was far more than a quorum that voted. The vote was to support the store – which is in direct competition with another proposal on Albany Street – and to begin working on a Good Neighbor Agreement with Compassionate.

“It’s always nice when neighborhoods align,” she said. “It’s not always the case though. It’s not the case in this situation and it hasn’t been the case in the past either. People were well-informed to vote on this. It’s not like they were uninformed...Everyone on the Board is aware of the zoning and zoning variances asked for. It mirrors the South End’s support of cannabis in general...Would it be nice if the South End were aligned? Yes. Has it always happened? No. It’s important to work with Compassionate Organics to give us something to dictate how they behave in the neighborhood. That’s important to us.”

For the Pilot Block neighborhood, the vote was a surprise and a bit of a slap in the face – given that they believe the proposal to be firmly in their territory. Most neighborhood associations have deferred to the host on any support or opposition. The Mayor’s Office boundaries list the site in Pilot Block.

Etta Rosen said there was no indication Ellis would break off from the unified voice that had formed on the issue.

“It’s not surprising that we were all surprised,” said Rosen, of Pilot Block. “We knew their Zoning Committee was unanimously opposed and they went against that. We knew many abutters in the Ellis have been clear in their opposition to this...They didn’t follow the guidelines that formed a good consensus of every South End neighborhood association to support current zoning laws. It’s not what I expected. It’s not what anyone expected.”

“Despite their participation in and acceptance of the guideline document by their representative, they decided not to honor that or abide by it,” she continued.

South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox said he thinks such an important decision should go outside of the normal structure of a Board vote. He said on an item as contentious as marijuana siting, everyone should have a voice.

“As we look at these decisions, I think every neighborhood association should open the process up to the entire membership so all voices are heard,” he said. “It goes beyond the typical governance structure on an issue where there are lots of opinions people want to express. Maybe it goes beyond the relegating it to the typical governance structures like a board vote.”

Rosen said Pilot Block leadership is meeting to decide what the next steps are for them now that there isn’t unity in the impending decision between Compassionate Organics and the competing proposal on Albany Street by Liberty Compassionates.

## Joanne Chang: ‘Bake the World a Better Place’

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Having grown up in a traditional Taiwanese household, Joanne Chang ate a nutritious orange after every meal.

She knew nothing about American desserts until she was 7-years-old, when she visited her friend, Linda’s, house for dinner: meatloaf, potatoes, and peas – no rice or fruit. After Linda’s mother served chocolate cake for dessert, Chang became obsessed with pastry.

Now Chang’s greatest joy is feeding people – and she does it quite well at her celebrated Flour bakeries throughout Boston and at Myers + Chang Restaurant in the South End, among other eateries.

The award-winning baker, chef, and restaurant owner shared her journey in the culinary industry (and her recipe for chocolate chunk cookies) with more than 100 listeners during the Jan. 8 Beacon Hill Women’s Forum at the Hampshire House.

“I love making sticky buns and dumplings, but the real thrill I have is giving back to my team and the communities who have welcomed us,” said Chang.

Chang graduated with honors from Harvard College with a degree in Applied Mathematics and Economics. She worked as a management consultant in Boston for two years; but her passion for cooking perpetually inspired her to invite the whole company to her home for dinner parties.

Chang fantasized about owning her own bakery, that is, if she ever won the lottery.

“I gave up my pumps and suits for clogs and a chef’s knife,” Chang affirmatively said. “I had incredible experiences cooking in Boston and New York.”

She began with her own catering business and as a cook at Boston’s renowned Biba restaurant. In September 2000, Chang founded Flour Bakery on Washington Street in the South End; and two months ago, opened her eighth location in



American chef and baker, Joanne Chang, presenting, “Bake the World a Better Place,” during the Jan. 8 Beacon Hill Women’s Forum at the Hampshire House.

The Innovation and Design Building in the Seaport District.

Chang explained the challenges she experienced in being overworked, and having the desire to move forward in her ventures. Once she started sharing her vision of Flour with staff, which included having cookie tastings, and the importance of being grateful and hospitable, Flour was able to take the next step as a company.

“I found this invaluable in trying to make sure the teams understand what we hope every guest experiences,” said Chang.

She and business partner and now-husband, Christopher, have developed a team and strong community at Flour and Myers + Chang, a Chinese restaurant the pair opened in the South End in 2007.

“Myers + Chang is our kid in

a way. We view all our employees as our kids,” described Chang of her staff, which consists of predominantly 19-24-year-olds. “We feel honored and responsible for making them into better adults, equipped to deal with the world around us.”

Visit Flour Bakery’s fourth branch on Clarendon Street in the Back Bay, and read one of Joanne Chang’s four cookbooks: “Flour, Spectacular Recipes from Boston’s Flour Bakery + Café”; “Flour, Too, Indispensable Recipes for the Chef’s Most Loved Sweets and Savories”; “Baking with Less Sugar: Recipes for Dessert using Natural Sweeteners and Little-to-No White Sugar”; and “Myers + Chang at Home: Recipes from the Beloved Boston Eatery.”

Chang is currently working on her fifth book, “Pastry Love.”

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# Text 9-1-1 service now available in Massachusetts

Staff Report

The Massachusetts State 9-1-1 Department is pleased to announce that Text to 911 is now available throughout the Commonwealth. All Massachusetts 9-1-1 call centers now have ability to receive a text message through their 9-1-1 system. The Baker-Polito Administration has supported making these system enhancements since 2015.

Text to 9-1-1 allows those in need of emergency services to use their cellular device to contact 9-1-1 when they are unable to place a voice call.

"This is a significant improvement to our 9-1-1 system that will save lives," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Tom Turco. "By giving those requiring emergency services this option we are great-

ly expanding the ability of first responders to provide critical assistance to those in need."

To contact emergency services by text message, simply enter 9-1-1 in the "To" field of your mobile device and then type your message into the message field. It is the same process that is used for sending a regular text message from your mobile device. It is important to make every effort to begin the text message indicating the town you are in and provide the best location information that you can.

"Having the ability to contact a 9-1-1 call center by text could help those being held against their will or victims of domestic violence unable to make a voice call," said Frank Pozniak, Executive Director of the State 9-1-1 Department.

"Text to 9-1-1 also provides direct access to 9-1-1 emergency services for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired, which is a service that these communities did not have access to until now."

It is important to note that the 9-1-1 call center may not always have your exact location when they receive your text. For this reason, when sending a Text to 9-1-1 it is important to make every effort to begin the text message indicating the town you are in and provide the best location information that you can.

The State 9-1-1 Department encourages citizens to Text to 9-1-1 only when a voice call is not possible.

Remember: "Call if you can, text if you can't."

## BCDC and South End Landmarks still reviewing Hotel Alexandra proposal

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Civic Design and the South End Landmark District Commission met for a presentation of the 12-story Hotel Alexandra proposal on Jan. 22. The Sun reported last week that reviews and comments on the project need to be completed by the end of February, so it can potentially be voted on at the Boston Planning and Development Agency meeting on March 14. There are also several expedited community meetings scheduled for the coming weeks regarding design, noise, and mitigation efforts.

David Nagahiro, a principal at CBT Architects, presented the proposal to the group, explaining the things they'd done in response to a previous hearing at South End Landmarks. Nagahiro said the current elevations show that the design picks up on certain elements in the current facade of the building, and the new tower needs to be kept "as clean and simple as possible." They have also removed the originally proposed structure on the top of the building to try and bring the height down.

"I appreciate a lot of the decisions you've made," said BCDC Commissioner Andrea Leers. She said her main concern was the

setback, especially on Washington Street, as it is "dangerously shallow." She said that a 6½-foot setback is "not enough to have a sense that the hotel has life inside."

"It needs to have a sense of lived space behind that wall," she said. "I understand that's a tremendous pressure." She added, however, that she believes the tower itself is "crafted well."

Nagahiro responded by saying that they have actually been pressured to push it the other way to make room for what is happening inside the hotel so the rooms are large enough.

John Freeman of the South End Landmark District Commission said that the Hotel Alexandra "is the gateway to the South End," and the blank facade that was presented for one side of the tower is "not the right way to do it." He said it needed more articulation, but it doesn't necessarily have to be more windows. He agreed with Leers that more of a setback on the Washington Street facade is important. He also said that the newly proposed entrances are better than they were before, and that the architects have chosen the right massing for the lower portion of the buildings.

"I'd rather see one more floor if you could do that setback," Leers said. Others agreed with her, even

though they said they weren't the biggest fans of the height to begin with. She also agreed with Freeman that the back wall should be presented as another face of the building and not a blank wall.

"You've done a lot of nice things here," said BCDC Commissioner David Manfredi. "The tower is quite elegant."

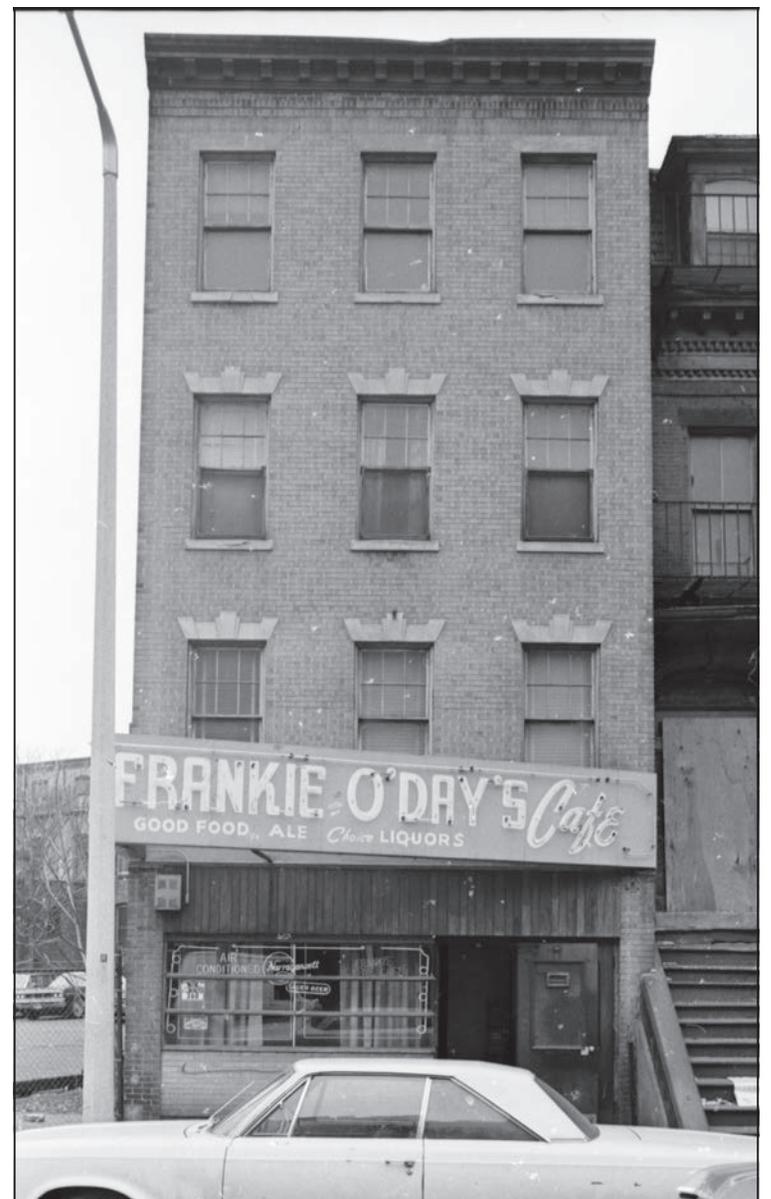
South End Landmarks Commissioner John Amodeo was concerned about the danger this building has of setting a difficult precedent in the district. "If that is the case then we have to work at it being a proper tower from all sides; not a clear front, back, side," he said. He also said that the hotel entrance and the restaurant facade are details that are "desperately in need of attention."

"From some views, the Alexandra looks like an accessory to the tower and not the building we are looking at," Amodeo added. "I think again, I am not a fan of the height of this, I agree with Andrea to add a floor and give us a full-room depth."

He said that this was especially important for the Landmarks Commission, as they are "not concerned about what goes on inside." Amodeo said that their job is to make sure that the original Alexandra is preserved.

## LOOKING BACK AT BOSTON

COURTESY OF THE SOUTH END HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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.



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## NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 5)

also said that the proposed project would be in excess of 500 feet from the Orchard Gardens K-8 school, which is the nearest educational facility. This is a requirement of both the zoning code, as well as state regulations regarding cannabis establishments.

"We are not aware of any facility that's been approved by this board that would be within a half mile radius of this site," Lynds said, which is another regulation in the zoning code for the City of Boston.

Lynds told the ZBA that the violation of insufficient off-street parking is no longer relevant, as that was a violation from an earlier iteration of the building when it was a much larger space. "Throughout the process, we have worked to downsize the size of this building to below 20,000 square feet," he said. Many people spoke in support of this proposal, and no one spoke in opposition to. The ZBA approved a motion to grant the conditional use permit with the proviso that there is ongoing BPDA design review.

## ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES FROST FIT WINTER SERIES

A new outdoor fitness series encourages people to venture outside and experience the beauty of the Esplanade in winter while kicking off the new year with regular workouts. All are welcome to warm up, score cool swag, and get their blood pumping at the Frost Fit Winter Series Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts with the support of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

This is a first-of-its kind fitness series on the Esplanade! First, every Saturday in February (Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, with snow dates on March 2 and 9), instructors from the November Project will lead participants through running loops, body-weight exercises, and other fun, energetic activities designed to keep them moving (and therefore warm). Anyone who attends these workouts, which run from 10 to 11 a.m. in front of the DCR Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, will receive a Frost Fit Winter Series fleece headband, bagels, coffee, and hot

chocolate. Headbands are limited to the first 450 participants.

Then, to finish the series strong, the Esplanade Association is planning an outdoor celebration event in March (Date: TBD). This will be a heart-pounding, energetic, and fun workout, with more information to be released soon. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will serve as the Presenting Sponsor of all events in the series, demonstrating the company's commitment to helping the people of Massachusetts stay active and healthy all year long. Interested participants can find more information and register for the series at [Esplanade.org/Fitness](http://Esplanade.org/Fitness).

## BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•'Shades of Light' recital at Trinity Church - Katherine Growdon, mezzo-soprano performs Respighi's "Il Tramonto" and Barber's "Dover Beach" with the Arneis Quartet and Debussy's "Chansons de Bilitis" and Dutilleux's bluesy "San Francisco Night" with pianist Linda Osborn in St. Andrew's Hall on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Parish

House of Trinity Church, Copley Square. The performance will be followed by a reception to meet and chat with the artists.

Tickets are \$20 each at the door, and admission is without charge for those 18 and under.

•The Boston Public Library holds lightly facilitated conversations once a month in partnership with Living Room Conversations. The conversations are meant to increase understanding and discuss different viewpoints. The next conversation will be on Feb. 13 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Community Learning Center Classroom in the Johnson Building at the Central Library in Copley Square. The topic is "Relationships over Politics: Connecting with Friends and Family."

## SOUTH END DATES

•The Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association canceled its January meeting this week due to conflicts with other City events and meetings. However, they will resume meeting in March on the third Tuesday of the month.

•Eight Streets Neighborhood Association did cancel its January meeting, but will be back in action

on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

•The next Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) General Meeting open to all will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Community Center located at 346 Shawmut Ave. (across from Upton St.). The agenda will be sent out in advance of the meeting and will include, among other items, the election of the 2018 UPNA Board. Anyone interested in being placed on the ballot should contact Jamie Fox.

•The South End Forum Opiate Working Group has released its meeting schedule for Winter/Spring 2019. The group will meet at 4 p.m. in the Crosstown Hilton on Feb. 19, March 19, April 23, and May 21.

•The Friends of the South End Library will hold their annual members meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. The audience will elect the proposed slate of directors and there will be an update about fundraising efforts for library renovations.

•The Chester Square Neighbors will meet on Weds., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Hampton House, 155 Northampton St. The meeting (NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 11)

# For the Record

### From the Jan. 29 Zoning Board meeting, City Hall:

- 1120-1130 Boylston St. Applicant: MBH Associates Limited Partnership

Purpose: Renovate existing egress stairs at basement and sub-basement levels. Add one interconnecting convenience stair between the two levels with related structural work. Build common corridor walls. Base building core and shell work in basement and sub-basement levels in preparation for tenant fit-up (by others) including new HVAC units, electric service brought to space, rough plumbing for bathrooms, and reconfigured sprinkler to accommodate new layout. See attached architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, and fire protection documents.

- 100-114 Hampden St. Applicant: Kemble/Hampden, LLC

Purpose: Erect a four story and one half story commercial structure containing 39,589 s.f. to be used as a Cannabis Establishment.

- 28 Commonwealth Ave. Applicant: Adam Gilmore

Purpose: The proposed project includes the construction of a new roof deck with a new stair and hatch from the existing fifth floor.

- 260 Newbury St. Applicant: Maison Newbury LLC

Purpose: Change occupancy to mercantile/retail use at the ground and first floors with R-1 Transient Use Dwelling 17 Units on the floors above. The proposal includes new MEPP systems, sprinkler and installation of groundwater mitigation system, an elevator, floors, walls, ceilings, doors, windows, bathrooms, kitchens and insulation. The proposed project also includes the construction of a new penthouse addition/roof deck and rear addition with roof deck. In addition, a new recessed entry terrace is proposed on Newbury Street.

- 8 Rutland Square Applicant: Eben Kunz

Purpose: Construct 1 rear deck off parlor level and a roof deck with hatch access.

- 200-202 Ipswich St. Applicant: 1241 Boylston, LLC

Purpose: Erect a 184-room hotel with a ground floor restaurant. Project will include approximately 105,000 square feet of building area and will be eight (8) stories with maximum height of ninety feet (90), there will be approximately 82 parking spaces in one below-grade level. Existing building to be removed by other permit.

- 18 Yarmouth St. Applicant: Eben Kunz

Purpose: Construct 2 decks off rear wall and related doors.

### From the Feb. 5 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall, 10 a.m.:

- Creative Restaurant Concepts, Inc., d/b/a Whisky Saigon

116 Boylston St., Back Bay.

Date: 11/10/2018 - Indecent assault and battery patron vs patron, and assault and battery patron and patron.

- Oliver Twist Inc, d/b/a Cask and Flagon, 62 Brookline Ave., Fenway.

Date: 11/21/2018 - Assault and battery patron on employee.

- Bhc Corporation General Partner, d/b/a: Club Café

209 Columbus Ave., Back Bay. Date: 11/30/2018 - Patron on patron assault and

battery abutting licensed premise at closing.

### From the Feb. 5 South End Landmarks Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall:

#### VIOLATIONS

- 177 Warren Ave.: Ratification of unapproved painted slate on front mansard.
- 172 West Brookline St.: Ratification of unapproved brownstone paint color.
- 119 Pembroke St.: Ratification of unapproved work on windows on the front façade.

#### DESIGN REVIEW HEARING

•45 West Newton St. Proposed Work: (Continuation From 1/2019) at rear elevation dormer level, reduce the size of the existing dormer and construct a roof deck.

- 73 Rutland St. Proposed Work: Rebuild roof deck.

•29 Rutland Sq. (Previously Heard on 11/2018) Proposed Work: At front façade levels G,1,2,3 replace 8 original (6 curved, 4 straight sash) wood, two over two windows and 2 non-original (Fl. G & 1) two over two, wood windows with wood, two over two windows (8 curved and 2 straight sash).

- 615 Massachusetts Ave. Proposed Work: Install roof deck.

•17 Claremont Pk. #2 Proposed Work: Alter existing roof deck. (Pending Additional Information Request)

•439-441 Tremont St. Proposed Work: At front façade street level, replace 4 existing signs and 2 awnings.

•484 Tremont St. Proposed Work: At front façade penthouse, replace 3 existing antennas, additional 3 surge arrestors and concealment shroud.

•715 Tremont St. Proposed Work: At front façade penthouse, install three additional panel antennas for a total of 12 antennas (including 9 that currently exist). Remove 3 remote radio units and replace with 12 units for a total of 21 (including 12 existing).

•41 Worcester Sq. Proposed Work: At rear of the structure, install exhaust vent that rises above the mansard.

- 205 W. Newton St. Proposed Work: Install roof deck.

•17 Cazenove St. Proposed Work: At front façade level one, replace two, wood, 1 over 1 windows with two, wood 2 over 2 windows.

- 40 Dartmouth St. Proposed Work: At front façade steps, install railing.

#### ADVISORY REVIEW

•1767-1769 Washington St (Alexandra Hotel) Proposed Work: Restore façade of original structure; construct a new tower at the rear of the structure.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CITY, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS WORKING SESSION, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.

Order for a hearing regarding the issues related to stray voltage in the City of Boston.

This matter is sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn.

# EBNA stays neutral on Liberty Compassionates

By Seth Daniel

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) has voted to write a neutral letter regarding the Liberty Compassionates medical marijuana store proposal for Albany Street – just beyond their boundaries.

President Ken Smith said the Jan. 15 meeting of the Association was pretty much consumed with discussion about Liberty, which had presented to the group at the December meeting.

Smith said the proposal is just outside their boundaries, officially in the Blackstone Franklin Neigh-

borhood Association, but many had opinions and concerns.

None were strong enough though to officially oppose the store.

“We are going to write a letter, but it’s not going to be a letter of opposition or a letter of support,” he said. “It will mostly be a neutral-type letter with our concerns outlined.”

Smith said they would defer to Blackstone when it comes to taking a position down the road, letting them decide on the matter which is in their neighborhood boundary.

Some of the concerns at EBNA were traffic and congestion, with

many worrying that traffic on Albany Street is already very congested.

There was also some worry about the few metered spaces in the area, and whether parking could also become an issue.

Another issue was changing from a medical to recreational marijuana shop.

“They affirmed that if they were to switch, they would have to come back for a new license,” Smith said.

•In other news, the EBNA Board has brought on three new members this year – two from the New York Streets area and one from the Harrison Avenue area.

## D - 4 POLICE NEWS

### ‘PIN’ PEDDLER

On Friday, Jan. 18, at about 11:14 a.m., plainclothes officers were on routine patrol in the vicinity of Albany Street and Massachusetts Avenue – an area police have been monitoring due to frequent drug-related activity.

At this time, police observed two male suspects walk towards each other and have a brief conversation. Officers in an unmarked car, who believed they had just witnessed a hand-to-hand drug transaction, then approached the suspects.

Police neared the first suspect, who was observed to have a closed fist, and identified themselves as officers, at which time the suspect opened his hand to reveal he was holding a handful of loose, blue pills. The suspect told police as he walking past the second suspect he asked him if he had any “pins,” and when the second suspect confirmed that was in possession of the aforementioned drugs, then first suspect negotiated to buy 10 pills from him for \$30.

When police asked the second suspect how he knew the other man, he replied that he just sold him some pills. Officers then placed the second suspect under arrest, and a search of him person revealed an empty bottle of Clonazepam, as well as the \$30 he was allegedly given in exchange for the pills.

The second suspect was subsequently charged with distribution of a Class C drug while the first suspect was charged with possession of said substance.

### THREE STOOGES

On Saturday, Jan. 19, at approximately 4:50 p.m., police responded to a radio call for a robbery in the vicinity of Camden Street and Columbus Avenue.

On arrival, officers spoke to the female victim, who said three male suspects knocked her to the ground before stealing her iPhone and \$11 cash. She added that the suspects had followed her from the Massachusetts Avenue MBTA station and watched her use the ATM at the Bank of America branch on Huntington Avenue. The suspect then followed her across the bridge

before confronting her on Camden Street near Carter Park.

At this time, the victim said one of the suspects yelled out to her, and when she didn’t respond, he kicked her legs out from under her, causing her to fall to the ground. The suspects told the victim they didn’t want to hurt her and were only after her cash and phone. After the victim relinquished the requested items, the suspects fled down Columbus Avenue and onto Massachusetts Avenue.

Northeastern University police were on the scene and told Boston Police that the suspects had been spotted the suspects in the area of Hemenway Street, and that they had a surveillance video of the suspects.

The victim declined medical attention at the scene, and police searched the area for the suspects to no avail.

### DRIVING MAD

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, at around 4:10 p.m., officers responded to 9 Ablemarle St. for a reported road rage incident.

On arrival, police spoke to the victim, who said he was driving his Dodge 1500 home from work when the suspect, who was driving a newer-model BMW sedan, cut him off. The victim said he then beeped his horn at the suspect, who continued to drive in front of the victim.

Rather than driving further up, the suspect kept hitting the brakes to keep pace with the victim’s vehicle. The suspect got out of his vehicle when both vehicles were stopped at an intersection and walked towards the victim’s car. The victim then observed that the suspect was holding a black handgun in his left hand down by his side. When the suspect saw oncoming traffic, he got back in his car and drove away.

The victim said the suspect then cut down Westland Street to Massachusetts Avenue and got directly behind the victim’s vehicle on Tremont Street. The victim said he made a quick left onto West Newton Street and, fearing for his safety, made his way home to call police.

## NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 10)

will discuss a proposed expansion of 770 Tremont St. (South End Grille) to 14,840 sq. ft. on four floors to have office, restaurant and six apartments. There will also be discussion of the group’s official comment on the Hotel Alexandra development, and a possible winter social event.

•The BPDA will host a general meeting about the Hotel Alexandra on Feb. 7, at 6 p.m., in the St. Augustine-St. Martin Church, 29-33 Lenox St.

## FENWAY TIMES

•The Fenway Community Center is hosting a Super Bowl watch party and potluck on February 3. See the FCC website for more details.

•BILLY JOEL RETURNS TO FENWAY PARK

The Boston Red Sox announced that Billy Joel will return to Fenway Park on Sept. 14. He will also be the first artist to be inducted into a Music Hall of Fame display being created this offseason depicting the artists who have had multiple successful shows at Fenway Park. Tickets will go on sale to the public on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m..

--Phish will also be playing

at Fenway Park on July 5 and 6. Tickets will go on sale to the public beginning Friday, February 1 at 10 a.m.

--The Who will take the stage at Fenway Park on Friday, September 13. Tickets are already on sale to the general public.

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

•The BPDA will hold an Impact Advisory Group meeting for the proposed project at 1241 Boylston St. on Jan. 31 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center. The proposed project consists of a 184-room hotel with a ground-floor restaurant. It will include approximately 105,000 square feet of building area and will be eight stories with a maximum height of 90 feet. There will be approximately 82 parking spaces in one below-grade level, and the project will include an existing Shell gas station. Please note that the purpose of this meeting is different than that of a traditional community meeting. IAG meetings prioritize discussion between the project proponent and IAG members

• There will be a Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting regarding the MassDOT Air Rights Parcel 12

project on Feb. 5 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish, 18 Belvidere St.

•LEGACY WORKSHOP SERIES AT THE FCC

The Fenway Community Center will be hosting a series of thought-provoking, creative conversations to celebrate our uniquely lived lives. Three unique sessions will encompass aspects of personalized storytelling, bucket list building, expressions of gratitude, and open contemplation of our own “last words.” The sessions are from 7-9 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: Jan. 16, 30, and Feb. 13, and cost of admission is \$105 per person and includes a personal copy of Youlo Pages, the award-winning legacy planner/workbook/journal. To register, go to [fcclegacyworkshopseries.eventbrite.com](http://fcclegacyworkshopseries.eventbrite.com).

•Fenway Community Center is hiring! The community center is looking to hire a Program Coordinator. Visit [fenwaycommunitycenter.org/jobs](http://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/jobs) for more information.

•The Peterborough Senior Center holds bingo at 12:30 p.m. and a Tech Café at 11 a.m. every Wednesday. Come play bingo and meet new people, or can get help with your phone or tablet/computer.

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