

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE FUNDRAISER



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Jessica Corbett speaking during the Junior League Little Black Dress Initiative closing celebration at the Lion's Tail in the South End on Saturday, March 2. The Little Black Dress Initiative is a fundraising campaign to bring awareness to the distresses of poverty and violence against women, and the impacts they can have on a woman's access to resources, her confidence and professional opportunities. All proceeds from the brunch supported the Junior League's partner in the Little Black Dress Initiative, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

## BPS panel presents statistics and solutions to disproportionality in Boston's exam schools

By Lauren Bennett

With decisions for Boston's Exam Schools coming up, the City Council Committee on Education held a timely hearing on March 5 regarding equity in Boston's three exam schools: Boston Latin

School, Boston Latin Academy, and John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.

Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George, Chair of the Committee on Education, said the hearing was to discuss what can be done to make sure students from all back-

grounds can have a seat at one of the exam schools.

"All BPS students deserve an excellent, rigorous education," said Councilor Kim Janey. Currently, the admissions policy for the exam schools includes a student's grades

(EXAM SCHOOLS, Pg. 5)

## South End/Roxbury communities need more time for Hotel Alexandra mitigation package; time running out on purchase and sale agreement

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Planning and Development Agency held an Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting on Feb. 27, focusing on mitigation and community benefits. The meeting was very well attended and included City Councilor Kim Janey, neighborhood liaison Faisa Sharif, and Senior Preservation

Planner Nick Armata. The consensus from the community after the meeting was that more time was needed to create a mitigation package, but the developers were uneasy as their purchase and sale agreement expiration date for the building is looming.

David Nagahiro of CBT Architects gave a presentation regarding the design approach to the hotel,

to refresh both the IAG members and the public. He separated the presentation into three parts: public realm and traffic, historic restoration of the Alexandra, and the new addition.

Under public realm and traffic, Nagahiro discussed five different configurations of the sidewalk in

(HOTEL ALEXANDRA, Pg. 3)

## BVNA Executive Committee votes not to oppose all-liquor license for Mooncusser

By Dan Murphy

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association Executive Committee voted not to oppose Mooncusser Fish House's application for an all-liquor license during its monthly meeting Monday night at the South Cove apartments.

The committee voted not to oppose granting the license, which was transferred from the

now-shuttered L'Espalier restaurant, for the restaurant's current location at 304 Stuart St. or for the former site of Flash's restaurant at adjacent 310 Stuart St., subject to the applicant entering into a "good neighbor" agreement with the BVNA. (Mooncusser currently has only a beer-and-wine license.)

On a related note, Mooncusser only intends to move to 310 Tremont  
(BVNA, Pg. 3)

## Dartmouth Street intersection critical in Tremont re-design

By Seth Daniel

Marie Roberts of the Gifted store, as well as other small business owners in the area, at the corner of Dartmouth/W. Dedham and Tremont Street have witnessed the dangers of the complicated intersection – and in Roberts' case, they have even felt it.

"I did get bumped there by a car once when I was crossing Dartmouth," she said. "I was alrighty, it was a love tap, but I did get

bumped onto the ground. There is just so much to look at there. I actually wasn't upset with the driver because I had been in her shoes...There are definitely a lot of issues with people getting hurt. It's hard. You want to blame each other, but it's such a confusing intersection."

Philip Saul of Sault New England, and Sofi Madison, of Olives & Grace, both agreed with Roberts that the intersection has

(DARTMOUTH STREET, Pg. 9)

## IT'S A SNOW DAY

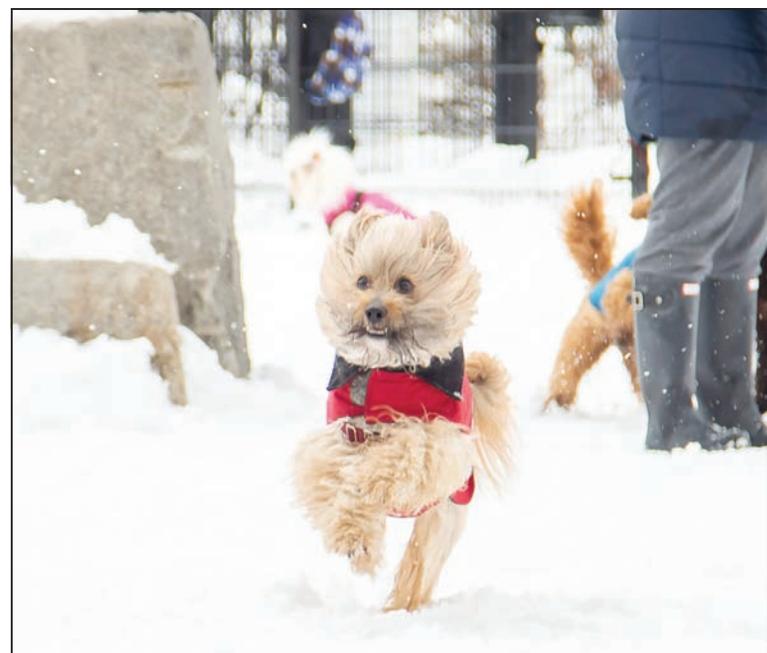


PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Bandit (Tibetan terrier) enjoying the snow day with friends in Peters Park on Monday. More than 11 inches fell on the neighborhoods Sunday night and into Monday, leaving a winter wonderland for kids, adults and canines.

# EDITORIAL

## LET'S CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE IN STATE LAW TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The recent national news stories concerning a massage parlor in Jupiter, Fla., have brought to light what is nothing less than a national abomination: The trafficking of women that reaches into every corner of the United States.

The news stories about this 21st century version of human bondage have made it clear that huge numbers of women, mostly Asian, are being trafficked in a multi-billion dollar sex trade operation under the guise of legitimate massage parlors.

Here in Massachusetts, it is estimated that there are 200-300 of these illicit "business" entities -- almost one for every city and town in the Commonwealth. Just this past week, police in the well-to-do community of Norwell came upon one of these places (which was located in an otherwise-ordinary mall) and, upon executing a search warrant, discovered conditions almost identical to what authorities found in Jupiter.

There were mattresses on the floor and other indicia of living that made it clear that those who worked there also were residing on the premises as prisoners of the operators of this establishment.

How can this situation -- sex slavery in which women from all around the world are being trafficked in our hometowns -- exist so openly in America in 2019?

It seems to us there is a fairly simple solution to the problem that can be accomplished with a small change in the law, at least here in Massachusetts, which is as follows:

The signage on the front window of the Jupiter establishment lists the following services: "Massage therapy, facials, waxing, table showers", and this one: "Body treatments."

Massachusetts tightly regulates the massage therapy business pursuant to chapter 112, section 228, which requires massage therapists to receive training and obtain a license.

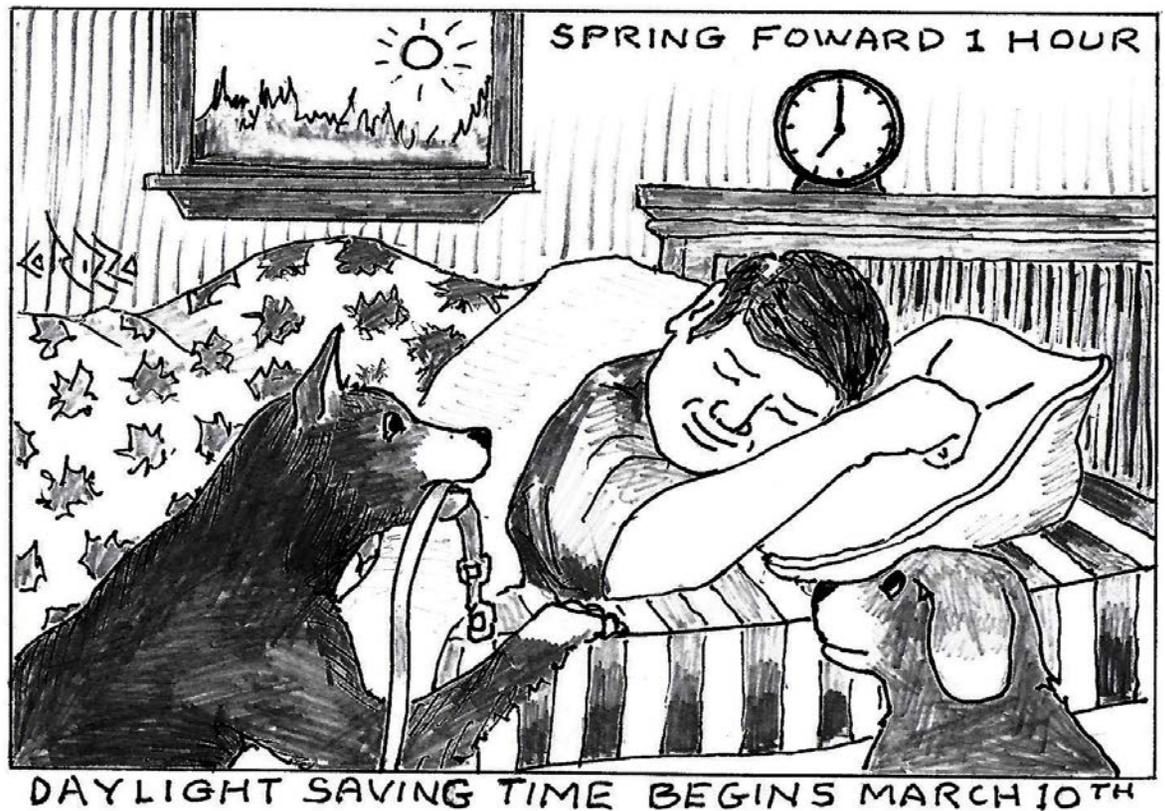
However, the last line of this statute exempts from the licensing requirements "those who use the terms 'bodywork', 'bodyworker', and 'bodywork therapist'."

It's as if the traffickers themselves wrote this loophole into the law. The women who were found in the Norwell establishment (who, similar to the women in Jupiter, were Chinese citizens and spoke no English) when the police conducted the raid identified themselves as "bodyworkers" and as such did not require any licensing requirements either from the state or local authorities. It's as if they did not exist.

In our view, the solution is straightforward: Require every person (including receptionists) who works in these establishments to obtain a permit (as opposed to a license) in order to work there. Such persons would be required to register at the local Board of Health where they would have to appear in person, produce a valid ID, and provide their place of residence in order to get their permit.

Routine spot checks by the local boards would ensure that everyone working there has a valid permit from the local authority. If anyone is found working there without a permit, the business would be ordered closed forthwith and the managers, as well as the owners, would be subject to arrest and criminal penalties for employing persons without permits.

In our view, this small change in Massachusetts law, if emulated across the country, could go a long way toward ending the human trafficking business that is a national disgrace.



GUEST OP-ED

## A way forward for the Hotel Alexandra that does not clash with or diminish its historic and visual integrity

By Steve Jerome

How would you like to find yourself living next to an oversized glass tower, when you thought zoning and historic district laws protected your property and your neighborhood? The Hotel Alexandra, a High Victorian Gothic apartment house on the South End/Roxbury border, has been owned by the Church of Scientology for 11 years. The Church currently holds an option to sell it and an adjoining vacant lot to a developer proposing to build a 14-story hotel/restaurant - over twice the 70-foot height limit. Other formerly dilapidated South End buildings, including Allen House and the St. Cloud Hotel also presented serious preservation challenges, but in every case were restored in full compliance with Landmark District laws.

Over many decades, the Alexandra has suffered deferred maintenance, but a local retail business currently occupies the first floor. In 2011, bricks fell from the cornice of the adjoining bow-fronted row house. Rather than undertaking repairs, the Church asserted the row house was structurally unsound and the City granted

permission to tear it down despite widespread community outrage. A vacant lot since, it is slated to become part of the base of the controversial tower.

Last week's Alexandra Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting to discuss "community benefits and mitigation" became a circus when members of the IAG and the project team sparred over the simple question of relocating the Silver Line stop away from the front of the proposed hotel. Some Roxbury residents objected that the project is being pitched as a South End development when it stands in Roxbury, and that they have been left out of the discussions until now.

What mitigation is there for degrading a historic building by planting a soulless glass tower over it? In its 35 year history, the South End Landmark District Commission has never approved something so out of step with its rules. Will future generations ponder WHY was a tower built over this jewel? Beware as it may happen to you when big real estate and government officials blatantly manipulate zoning and landmark laws. Today, despite understandable concern over the lack of proper stewardship of the Alexandra, the Com-

munity Preservation Act (CPA) and historic tax credits can facilitate its restoration.

Development should not be done through an ad hoc set of planning proposals, which take no account of context and are delivered in a huge rush to meet a deadline set by the Church. Make no mistake, restoring the Alexandra is no walk in the park, but the current misguided proposal should be rejected. An addition to the Alexandra is possible, but it should be made with caution and sparingly. Help ensure plans conform to the height limit and zoning by attending the next public meeting on the Alexandra proposal on Monday, March 11, 6-8 p.m., St. Augustine's and St. Martin's Church, 29-33 Lenox St., Roxbury, and by contacting your elected officials about this issue.

Public comments may be submitted until March 14 to Michael Sinatra, BPDA Project Planner via email:

michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov  
Steve Jerome, served as the first executive secretary of the South End Landmark District Commission after its establishment in 1983 under the statute creating the Boston Landmarks Commission.

## 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.

## HOTEL ALEXANDRA (from pg. 1)

front of the hotel. Currently, the silver line bus stop is on the corner of Washington Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The developers want to create a place for drop-off in the front of the building, and the different options presented included moving the bus shelter to various different places in front of the hotel, taking the bump out of the corner, and shifting the parking around.

Option number five, which would move the bus shelter further down the street and moving the parking further down in front of the bus for valet, is the option that the “MBTA is more likely to accept,” according to BPDA Project Manager Michael Sinatra. While the different options are for the IAG to discuss, one of the IAG members said that the city and the MBTA need to decide where the bus gets moved to.

IAG member Quanda Burrell said that it makes more sense to move the bus further down the street, as she takes it often with her kids and the buses end up stacking and blocking the street.

For historic restoration of the Alexandra, Nagahiro said that portions of the finials, cornices, and cast iron columns will be brought back to their original state. He said that the bays on the Massachusetts Avenue side of the building currently have no protection for water penetration, so they will be completely rebuilt. They are also looking at stair thresholds that need to be replaced, and pieces of the limestone are also currently missing. The “intention is to bring it back to its original grandeur,” Nagahiro said.

For the new addition, Nagahiro said they are looking to have 150 keys in the building, which adds a lot of height. Their goal, he said, was to create a “simple massing that can act as the backdrop for the Alexandra,” using a color palette and material that would provide emphasis to the original structure and create details that “complement the craft of the Alexandra.”

Nagahiro said that there would be no parking for this building, as there an expectation that people will come by public transportation, ridesharing services, or cab.

After Nagahiro’s presentation, Councilor Kim Janey gave one of her own. She stood up and spoke of the importance of hiring the community to work on and in this hotel. “I just want to out that out there very clearly,” she said. She said that diversity and inclusion are “always at the top of my list,”

and wants to see the workers who build the hotel and the permanent employees to be from diverse backgrounds—“that’s where the wealth is created,” she said. She said she would also like to see “clear plans around transportation” for people who walk and take the bus, as well as green space.

Another comment Janey made to the development team was that she wants to make sure that they will be “good neighbors”—“everyone needs access,” she said. She also said that it is important that guests at this hotel are directed to businesses in Dudley Square.

The IAG members then began their discussion of mitigation and community benefits.

“I agree with the community voices that have spoken out about a transparent mitigation process and it really needs to benefit the community,” said IAG member Nina LaNegra.

“We need to do outreach to the larger community to make sure that everybody is being represented,” said IAG member Steve Fox.

Carol Blair of the Chester Square Neighbors said that “this whole process has been very rushed. This project has not allowed for back and forth between development team and community,” she said. She provided the room with a list of specific concerns that the Chester Square Neighbors created.

Quanda Burrell said that the hotel should provide some opportunities for tweens on site, such as culinary classes or classes that teach basic home skills like making beds. Janey built off of this comment by saying that there needs to be an investment in Madison Park through opportunities for young people to gain experience, building raltionsuops, and give them some money while they are still in school.

Janey said she wants a commitment for these community benefits before moving forward with the BPDA vote. The group also discussed having another meeting to discuss community benefits further, because they were not ready to settle on a set list.

In addition to that, there were several arguments made that this project has been “misclassified.” There was a public comment saying that the BPDA has not notified Roxbury residents of this project, as it is classified as being in the South End.

“I think there is agreement that this process should be extended,” Janey said, but she said that people need to be careful about how

things are phrased. “Certainly there should be more engagement,” she said. “I keep hearing people saying Roxbury residents haven’t been engaged or notified. That is not true,” she said. “Let’s not pit Roxbury neighbors against each other or Roxbury against South End,” she said. “Let’s cast the net wide so that we can have the engagement.”

Sinatra added that he has changed the classification of the project on the BPDA website so that people who are signed up for Roxbury notifications will now receive information regarding the Hotel Alexandra. “The South End and Roxbury should both be notified,” he said.

Luther Pinckney of Dudley Square Main Streets said that “the developers need to know that they are developing in Roxbury.”

“We are somewhat involved and are trying to be more involved,” he said. “We need to feel comfortable that our new neighbors are like our current neighbors.”

“I think it’s premature for us to talk about a [mitigation] package,” said Steve Fox. We haven’t done the necessary outreach to the community to say what it is you’re going to get impacted by.” He said there are impacts on local stores and other parts of the neighborhood that need to be considered. “And for us to try to decide tonight, it does a disservice to everybody.”

There was a general consensus that things were being rushed and needed to be slowed down so the community could get a better grasp on mitigation and make logical decisions.

The expiration on the purchase and sale agreement for the building is at the end of March. A member of the development team said that the Church of Scientology (who currently owns the hotel) needs the money and will not agree to extend the project past the end of the month. “We’ve had this property in limbo since June,” he said.

There were other comments surrounding parking and the fact that if everyone works together, the issues can be solved. “Give us not what we want but what we deserve,” someone said.

“I appreciate everybody’s feedback,” Sinatra said to wrap up the meeting. “Feel free to send comments over.”

There is another public meeting scheduled for March 11 from 6 - 8 p.m. at St. Augustine’s and St. Martin’s Church at 29-33 Lenox St.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## REP. SANTIAGO, CITY TO HOST OPIATE TOWN HALL

Rep. Jon Santiago, in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services, is hosting a Town Hall forum to discuss the opioid epidemic from 6-8 p.m. on March 7 at the McKinley Elementary School auditorium. This Town Hall aims to bring together local government officials, service providers, and residents to listen, learn about, and explore solutions to the opioid epidemic at Mass/

Cass. Everyone is invited to help kick off this new and innovative approach to community engagement. Opening remarks will be made by Rep. Santiago, with City Health and Human Services Director Marty Martinez discussing the City’s approach to the epidemic.

## BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET MEETING

Boston Public Schools families and teachers, including St. Ste-

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 9)

## BVNA (from pg. 1)

ont St. if the city allows the Patriot Care marijuana dispensary to move from its current Milk Street site to 310 Tremont St., said Sarah Herlihy of the BVNA Licensing and Planning committees. (Patriot Care, which currently sells only medical marijuana, intends to offer recreational marijuana as well at the new location.)

Another would-be dispensary operator, Compassionate Organics, is proposing opening a cannabis store at 253 Tremont St. in the current location of Abby Lane restaurant and bar, although only one of the two proposed establishments would get the green light, since city ordinances dictate no two dispensaries can operate within a half-mile radius of each other.

The Executive Committee is slated to weigh in on both proposals at its April 1 meeting, Herlihy said.

In another matter, Herlihy said the applicant had withdrawn its proposal to redevelop the church at 19 Isabella St. into a 36-unit res-

idential building, with 22 on-site parking spaces.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, who was recently named chair of the House Ways and Means Committee by Speaker Robert DeLeo, was on hand to discuss his legislative proposals for the 2019-2020 session.

Michlewitz cited a bill a re-precincting bill that would require cities and towns to assess the boundaries of wards and precincts in every city and town after each census, including the upcoming Census 2020. The bill would also apply to Boston, which has been exempt from re-precincting since 1921.

With another bill, Michlewitz intends to take aim at traffic scofflaws, particularly those who “block the box,” and even suggested that Boston follow New York City’s example by reporting infractions to offenders’ insurance companies, thereby affecting their rates.

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# FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES 'LE MOIS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE'

Photo by Keiko Hiromi

The French Cultural Center in the Back Bay hosted a kick-off event of a month-long celebration of the French language and Francophone cultures on March 5. March is *Le mois de la Francophonie*, a global celebration of the diversity of those who speak French. Many came celebrate the festivities.

Among the guests were Consul General of France Arnaud Mentre, Consul General of Haiti Stephanie Jean and Marie-Josée Duquette, Québec delegation office of Boston.



Mitchell Thomas and Emanuel Kayembe.



Tracy Alumbaugh and Keith Bowen.



Stephanie Jean, Consul General of Haiti; Barbara Bouquegneau, executive director of French Cultural Center; Arnaud Mentre, Consul General of France; and Marie-Josée Duquette: Québec delegation office.



Joseph Blair and Jonathan Pfefer.



Natalie Collet, Amand McGuire, Adrien Argentero and Elizabeth Karnoub of French Cultural Center.



Sheba King and Hollandra Berube.



Above, Susan, Andrew and Ed Lynch.



To the left, Myrlene Myrtl and Lourdie Bidonne.

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**EXAM SCHOOLS** (from pg. 1)

from the last year and a half, as well as their score on the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE). Janey said that currently, there is a disadvantage for people from Boston public elementary schools, and the student body at the exam schools is “wildly different” from the BPS student population. She said 41 percent of white students were admitted to exam schools compared with 8 percent of black students and 9.8 percent of Latinx students.

She said that the issues with the ISEE exam “have been discussed extensively,” and the test includes concepts not covered by the BPS curriculum by sixth grade. Over 60 percent of white students took the test compared with 26 percent black and Latino students, she added.

“We should not be establishing a system that de-incentivizes parents from sending their students to our elementary schools,” Janey said. “The issue of access is very important if we are to eliminate the opportunity gaps in the City of Boston.”

City Council President Andrea Campbell said she went to five BPS schools herself, including Boston Latin School. She said that 75 percent of Boston student age population is black and Latinx, but only 40 percent of these students are represented at the exam schools. “This should not be a space where we blame the school leaders, the teachers, the principals,” she said. “This is a system issue.”

Much of the hearing focused

on a panel of BPS administrators, including Interim Superintendent Laura Perille, Director of Networks Support and Training in the Office of Engagement Monica Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Colin Rose, Assistant Superintendent of Equity Becky Shuster, and Ombudsperson Carolyn MacNeil. Also present were the headmasters of all three exam schools.

Monica Roberts said that there has been an increase in the number of black and Latinx students who are applying to the exam schools. Since 2014, there has been an increase in black enrollment from 16 percent to 20 percent, an increase in Latinx enrollment from 21 to 22 percent, a decrease in Asian enrollment from 24 percent to 22 percent, and a decrease in white enrollment from 38 to 37 percent.

“When we look at the data as a whole, our enrollment trends demonstrate that black and Latinx students are underrepresented,” said Becky Shuster. She said that BPS’ strategy is to “eliminate barriers by applying aggressive innovative interventions at every stage of the application,” and they must understand the data better in order to do this. She said that this year, students are given a much longer list of choices to identify their race.

“We have identified and begun to address systemic barriers at every phase of the admissions process,” she added.

Roberts said one of the challenges they’ve noticed is making

sure that families are aware of the opportunity to attend these exam schools. “A lot of work has been done around this,” including more “high touch outreach,” which involves individual calls to potential students. This “seems to be providing some movement in the right direction,” Roberts said.

Boston Latin Academy Headmaster Chimdi Uchendu said that BLA does neighborhood meetings as outreach to the greater communities. Boston Latin School Headmaster Rachel Skeritt said that their approach to outreach is to offer 15 tours annually with over 100 trained student tour guides who speak over 16 languages. They also distribute flyers about the school. O’Bryant School Headmaster Tanya Freeman-Wisdom said that they hold school preview sessions, as well as student-led tours and a Q+A session. They also have a summer orientation for students who have been admitted and she said by doing this, “we haven’t gotten a couple more students to

attend the O’Bryant.”

Colin Rose talked about the issues with the registration process for the ISEE. He said that the white percentages outweigh the black and Latinx registration. He said a solution is to pre-register around 1,000 students based on GPA and either their English Language Arts or math MCAS score. Shuster said that this year, the ISEE will be administered during the day at every BPS school with a sixth grade in order to maximize the number of students who take the test.

Rose also talked about the disproportionality in those who are preparing for the test. Boston has a free preparation program, the Exam School Initiative program, and he said that only 25 percent of those taking advantage of that program are black and Latinx. “We set upon a path to dramatically expand the access and change the demographics of that program,” he said, and extended recruitment to all elementary schools. He also

discussed disparities in the grading system across and outside of BPS schools.

Shuster said that another disproportionality is that some black and Latinx students opt to not attend even though they are admitted. She said that the “challenges regarding the racial climate in the Boston Latin School” would maybe cause students to opt out, as well as “invitations to highly competitive independent schools.”

Perille said that this conversation is important to have to better increase access. “A number of these steps are practically underway,” she said. It’s “a hopeful sign that the broader community engages in a conversation about how do we want to approach our exam schools.” She said they will be “putting a lot of energy” into rolling out the ISEE in schools this fall “to make sure we get it right” and there are no unintended consequences. “We welcome the conversation and question,” Perille said.

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# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOSTON LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE FUNDRAISER FOR WOMEN

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The Junior League of Boston hosted a celebration brunch for the closing of the Little Black Dress Initiative at Lion's Tail Restaurant and Cocktail Bar in the South End on March 2.

The Little Black Dress Initiative is a fundraising campaign to bring awareness to the distresses of poverty and violence against women, and the impacts they can have on a woman's access to resources, her confidence and professional opportunities. All proceeds from the brunch will support the Junior League's partner in the Little Black Dress Initiative, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.



Michelle Lentz, president of Junior League of Boston, and Sophia Gildesgame, of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.



Kristi Perreault and Maggie Mcvitzh.



Lindsay Farrell, co-chair of Little Black Dress Initiative 2019, and Michelle Lentz, president of Junior League of Boston.



Madlene Hamilton, Love Unoh and Elizabeth Rolli.



Sara Louis and Jessica Sblendorio.



Marisa Roman, Alex Lindahl and Tori Hay.



Becky Garber, Janna Erickson and Maria Casella.



Lyn Huckabee and Grace DaFonseca celebrating their raffle winnings.



Emily McGrath and Cailly Carroll.




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### FUN IN THE SNOW IN THE HUB

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

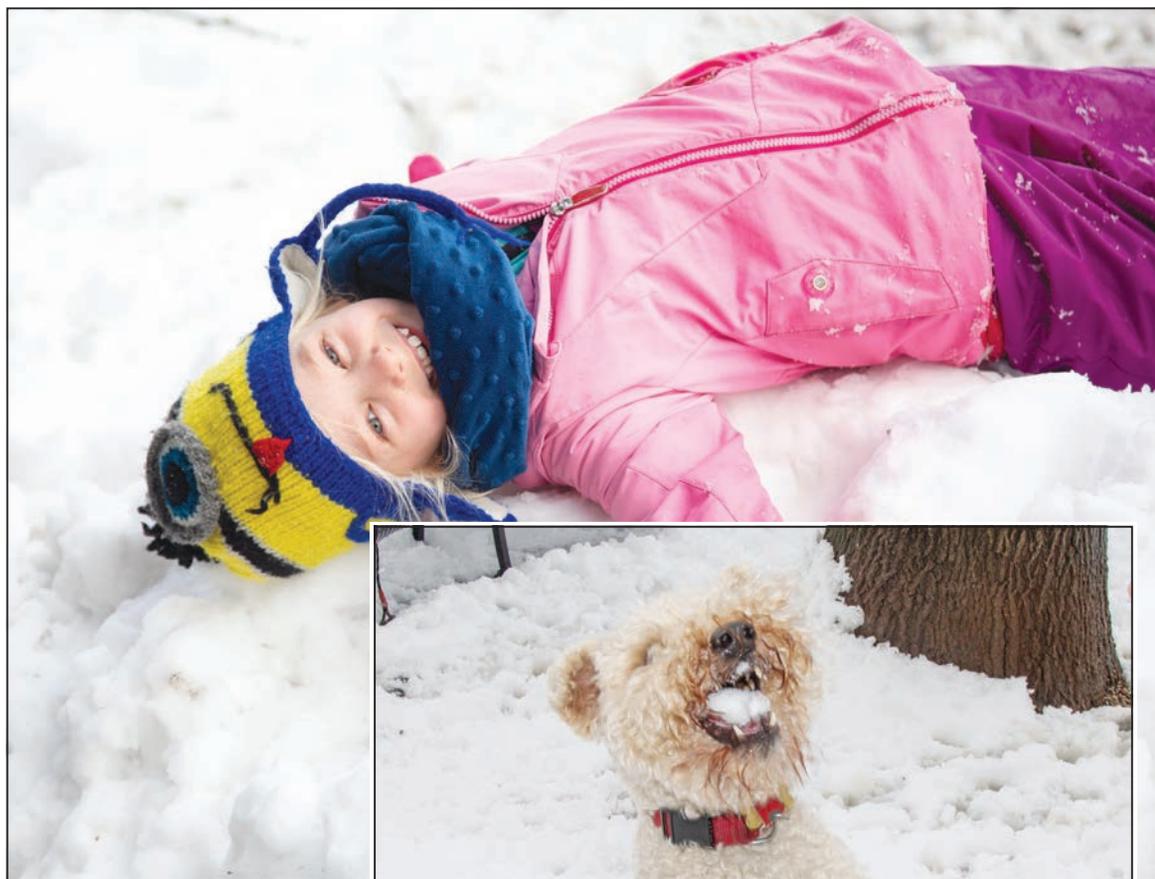
Boston was hit with heavy snow-fall from Sunday night through Monday morning this

week, producing a winter wonderland for residents Monday morning. The National Weather Service posted a winter storm warning for 7 p.m. Sunday through 10 a.m.

Monday morning. Many schools were canceled on Monday, leading to a day of shoveling and sledding for many residents in the neighborhoods.



Lexi Jurassic (5) enjoying an impromptu snow slide near Casa Cuong on Tremont Street in South End.



Above, Kasha Jurassic enjoying snow day in the South End. To the right, Sadie (Wheaten terrier) catching snow with her mouth at dog park in Peters Park.



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# Emerald Necklace Conservancy & Fenway Garden Society Partner to Protect Trees, Educate Public

Staff Report

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy, at the request of the Fenway Garden Society (FGS) and in consultation with the City of Boston, has contracted Maltby & Company to complete tree work in the Fenway Victory Gardens. The work is helping to address tree health and safety concerns in the Victory Gardens area and consists of pruning and other tree maintenance on approximately 50 trees, including lindens, oaks and maples.

The Fenway Victory Gardens' mature tree canopy provides the Emerald Necklace parks and greater Boston with valuable animal habitat, stormwater absorption,

mitigation of the city's heat island effect, shade and other benefits. The Conservancy, FGS and City of Boston Arborists have worked in close partnership to align this tree work with the Conservancy's Emerald Necklace Tree Inventory, Conditions Assessment and Master Plan and the Olmsted Tree Society (OTS), which was founded in 2013 as the 10th Anniversary project of the Conservancy's annual Party in the Park. OTS's mission is to preserve and maintain the Emerald Necklace tree canopy and the benefits it brings to the region.

"The Emerald Necklace's tree canopy is one of the best tools Boston has to protect itself against climate change and extreme weather," said Conservancy Field Oper-

ations Manager and ISA Certified Arborist Ellen Arnstein. "We're thrilled to work with the Fenway Garden Society, Maltby & Company and the City of Boston to maintain and improve the health of this valuable resource."

The tree work also provides a valuable opportunity to educate the Fenway Victory Gardens' many stakeholders—including gardeners, park visitors and neighborhood residents—on how to prune trees and the importance of pruning and tree care.

"Ellen [Arnstein] has been extremely helpful to the Fenway Garden Society's Tree Committee and the community regarding tree care and the importance of keeping trees healthy," said Elizabeth

Bertolozzi, President of the Fenway Garden Society. "Yes, pruning helps trees look better, but, done right, it also benefits their health."

"Our core mission in the Victory Gardens is teaching members and visitors about gardening, and our underlying tenet is stewardship of this unique space in the Back Bay Fens," continued Bertolozzi. "When we talk about pollinators and their place in a healthy ecosystem, most people think about bees and other insects, but birds and bats are also important pollinators—and they need healthy trees to provide food, shelter and nesting sites. Partnering with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has been a great opportunity to

demonstrate to our stakeholders the important link between tree health and a healthy ecosystem in the Gardens."

Marie Fukuda and Susan Povak, co-chairs of the FGS Tree Committee, added: "We are extremely grateful to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy for responding to our call for help. Without their support and the expertise of Maltby, we could not provide needed care to the trees in our historic community gardens and parkland. We look forward to building on our goals for tree health and park improvements in the Back Bay Fens."





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**DARTMOUTH STREET** (from pg. 1)

so much energy to overcome for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians – and it’s a gateway to the Tremont Street business district and on a cut-through route from the highway.

“There was a day I was walking to the post office and I saw a woman just lying on the ground at the West Dedham side,” said Madison. “She was lying on the ground and was asking for us to call her mother. She got hit and was on the ground. I didn’t know whether she was going to die. You never know what will happen there. I’ve actually seen dogs get hit and killed there too.”

Saul said that cars simply go

too fast in order to beat the lights and get out of the congestion and dysfunction of an intersection that is angled, heavily traveled and improperly signaled.

“You definitely need to be a very on-top-of-it driver,” he said. “You have to know the intersection, and many don’t. The cars are going so fast. I think that’s the biggest thing from my perspective. I’m a walker and a driver. With the crosswalk there, everything is going super, super fast...There just isn’t a lot of rhythm there and it’s not predictable.”

As part of the Tremont Street re-design, which is underway now, the infamous Dartmouth intersection

is being examined and several ideas are being put forth.

Stefanie Seskin, active transportation director for the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), said they are well aware that Dartmouth is a dangerous intersection.

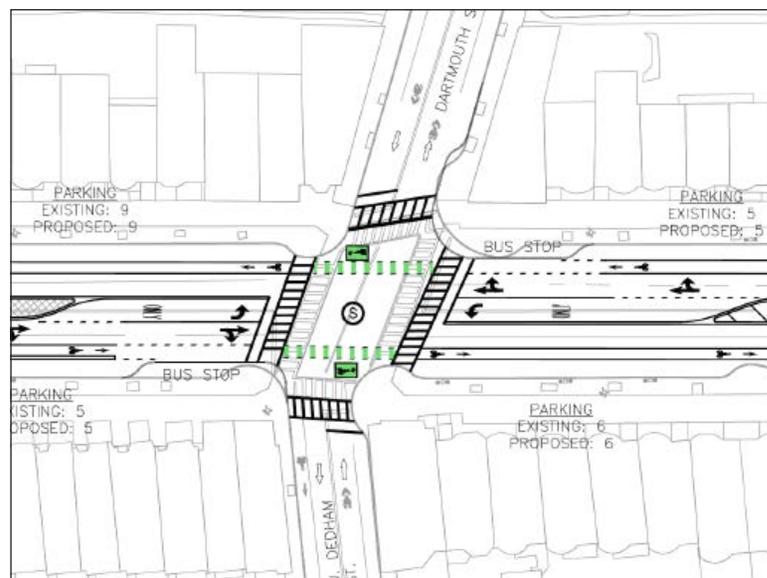
“The pedestrian signals release at the same time as the southbound light,” she said. “That leads to confusion and uncertainty when you are in the crosswalk if there is heavy traffic on Dartmouth. We’re looking at that intersection for pedestrians to start first and then release the vehicles.”

The purpose of the Tremont re-design, she said, is to enhance the safety of the pedestrian experience. Having pedestrians cross before cars are let go would help to fulfill that mission, and keep walkers safe as well.

A second piece of that puzzle is the possibility of two left-turn lanes on Tremont Street – one northbound and one southbound. Currently, with four lanes of traffic, those turning simply block a straight-ahead lane – adding to the confusion for everyone.

Seskin, however, said the Dartmouth intersection is really just another of many tough intersections on the corridor that they have studies.

“To be fair to everyone on the corridor, I think this is one of



One plan by the City shows left-hand turn lanes in either direction on Tremont, while at the same time pedestrians get a head start before the lights turn.



A photo of the Dartmouth/Tremont intersection last week shows just how complicated the intersection can be – an intersection whose enhanced safety will be critical to the overall Tremont re-design proposal.

many,” she said. “This is a tough intersection. The intersection at the library is another sensitive intersection, as is the one at Berkeley Street.

She said they will have a final design, with one preferred concept, in the late spring or early summer to share with the public.

“I think the energy of that intersection frustrates people,” said Madison. “When you finally get

through that cluster of a situation, you start to speed up. That’s when you see people up at Union Park not stopping. It almost encourages people to go faster because there isn’t a good rhythm for the driving and walking perspective. I hope they can address that.”

The next meeting for input on the plan is March 14 at the People’s Baptist Church on Camden Street at 7 p.m.

**NEWS BRIEFS** (from pg. 3)

phens Youth, will set up a dramatic crime scene Thursday at a School Committee budget hearing to make it clear that they consider the current budget, with harmful cuts at many Boston schools, a crime against children.

The demonstration is being organized by the St. Stephen’s Youth Programs and the Boston Education Justice Alliance. The hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 7 at the Josiah Quincy School, 885 Washington St. Many St. Stephen’s parents have children at the Blackstone School where the proposed budget for next school year cuts six staff members, mostly among those who work with vulnerable students with disabilities.

“The current budget is crime against the kids,” said Blackstone parent Alexandra Olivero. “They won’t have everything they need in order to learn, even the basics that are essential for them to follow their dreams.”

The parents will mark off part of the audience space with caution tape, signs, and other props. Parents and teachers will also testify

about the harm to students when valuable staff and programs are cut.

**CONVERSATIONS WITH CAREGIVERS: AN EDUCATION SERIES**

The Dementia Caregiver Support Program of the MGH Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine is sponsoring its next seminar called “Conversations with Caregivers: An Education Series” on Tuesday, March 19, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Mass. General in the O’Keefe Auditorium. These seminars are for caregivers and people with dementia and focus on topics related to Dementia. The guest speaker will be Ann M. Hollis, OTR/L, DriveWise occupational therapist in the Cognitive Neurology Unit at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and her talk will focus on driving safety as it relates to individuals with dementia. Seating is limited, so call 617-724-0406 to R.S.V.P. Light refreshments will be served, and parking vouchers will be available. There is no charge for this event.

**CRADLES TO CRAYONS BRINGS FORTH ISSUE OF CHILDHOOD POVERTY WITH VISIT TO MA STATE HOUSE**

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Cradles to Crayons’ Founder and CEO Lynn Margherio was joined by State Representatives, partners and supporters for a briefing at the State House. Co-presented by Rep. Marjorie Decker and Representative Michael Moran, the goal of the visit was to educate legislature on the issue of Clothing Insecurity, that being the lack of access to affordable, appropriate, and adequate clothing and other everyday essential items. Boston-based Cradles to Crayons (C2C) is driven by a focused and all-important goal: to make life better for children in need. More than 268,000 children ages 12 and younger in the Commonwealth are at risk of Clothing Insecurity, and C2C is working to fill this basic need gap by supplying these children with the items

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 10)

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## NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 9)

needed to grow and thrive. It is the only organization that mitigates Clothing Insecurity on a large scale across Massachusetts, with an annual state-wide distribution of more than 145,000 packages of clothing and essential items while working with a network of 140 social service partners. The briefing kicks off a month-long clothing and diaper collection at the State House. From Feb. 28 to March 28, the internal drive will collect new and gently used clothing (2T – Adult M) and new diapers at the C2C donation bins available.

## BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•Commonwealth Avenue Mall Lighting: Dark stretches of Commonwealth Avenue Mall will stay bright year round, thanks to the launch of a plan to design and install permanent lighting of the statues on each block of the Mall. The first project will be the Morison statue in the Spring of 2019, followed by the Garrison and Collins statues. We are currently rais-

ing funds for the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Statue Lighting. If you'd like to help, you can donate online at [friendsofthepublicgarden.org](http://friendsofthepublicgarden.org) or by sending a check in the mail. For more information, email Margaret Pokorny at [mpok384@gmail.com](mailto:mpok384@gmail.com), or call 617-723-8144.

•Friends of the Public Garden Annual Meeting: Save the date for our 49th Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 28, featuring a presentation by Chris Cook, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space. The meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Omni-Parker House, 60 School St. R.S.V.P. to [friendsofthepublicgarden.org](mailto:friendsofthepublicgarden.org).

• 261 FEARLESS SEEKS COACHES WHO WANT TO HELP WOMEN CHANGE THEIR LIVES THROUGH RUNNING IN BOSTON As the cornerstone of its "Tell Her She Can" campaign to celebrate International Women's Day, 261 Fearless will conduct an information session for women who want to learn more what it means to be a 261 Coach. Certified 261 Coaches help

other women become empowered through participation in a non-competitive, nonjudgmental running program, usually in their own town or neighborhood. The session, which is free, will be held at on March 5 in the Commonwealth Salon of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square, 700 Boylston St. It will begin at 6 p.m. Established in 2015, 261 Fearless Inc. was founded by Kathrine Switzer, who – wearing bib number 261 – became the first woman to officially run the Boston Marathon, in 1967. In 2017, Switzer again finished the marathon, directly in front of the library, to mark the 50th anniversary of her fearless and ground-breaking run. Almost three dozen runners will run Boston this year as part of 261 Fearless Team Boston, to raise funds for the organization. The global non-profit organization, with a chapter in Greater Boston, uses running as a vehicle to empower and unite women through the creation of local running clubs, education programs, communication platforms,

and social running events. For more information, visit [261fearless.org/tellhershecan](http://261fearless.org/tellhershecan).

## SOUTH END DATES

•Boston Center for Youth and Families has brought back its free, Family Gym time to the Blackstone Community Center. The program is a weekly activity for children ages 3-8. It runs on Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m. This session of Family Gym will run through April 13. In the fall the program will expand to additional BCYF community centers. For updated information or program cancellations follow @BCYFCenters.

•Eight Streets Neighborhood Association will meet on Tuesday, March 12, at Project Place, 6:45 p.m. Officers Richie Litto and Brett Loycano of the Boston Police will be on hand to talk about crime and priorities in Eight Streets. There will also be a discussion about trash management. Next meeting April 9.

•The Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association will

resume meeting on March 19.

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will meet on Tuesday, March 19, at Project Place. Agenda to be announced later.

•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 March 19, April 23, and May 21.

•The South End Forum will have its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m. at the AC Hotel, 225 Albany St. Other meetings will be May 7 and June 11.

•Tuesday, March 19: The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will be meeting at 6 p.m. at the South End Library for a Q&A session with State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and State Reps. Jay Livingstone, Aaron Michlewitz, and Chynah Tyler, followed by a panel discussion with transit experts Chris Dempsey for Transportation for Massachusetts, Stacy

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 11)

## For the Record

## From the March 7 Tree Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass. Ave., 11:30 a.m.:

- Request to remove 12 public shade trees in the Fenway/Kenmore area:

The request is for the removal of the following 12 trees in the vicinity of Kenmore Square due to redesign of the streetscape as part of a retail and office redevelopment project: one London plane tree measuring 6" dbh (diameter at breast height) located at 648 Beacon Street; one honey locust tree measuring 7" dbh located at 650 Beacon Street; one honey locust tree measuring 6" dbh located at 652 Beacon Street; four red maple trees measuring 4" dbh each located at 660 Beacon Street; two London plane trees measuring 3" dbh each located at 533 Commonwealth Avenue; one London plane tree measuring 8" dbh located at 535 Commonwealth Avenue; one sweet gum tree measuring 9" dbh located at 541 Commonwealth Avenue; and one sweet gum tree measuring 10" dbh located at 19 Deerfield Street.

Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, or may be provided prior to the hearing in writing to the Tree Warden, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02118, or by emailing [parks@boston.gov](mailto:parks@boston.gov) with "Fenway/Kenmore Tree Hearing" in the subject line. A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing. For further information, please contact the Tree Warden at 617-635-7275.

## COMMUNITY MEETING FOR PROPOSED BAY VILLAGE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT (129-133 Columbus Ave. – old Flash's location):

There will be a community outreach meeting for a proposed marijuana establishment on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Boston Park Plaza, 50 Park Plaza.

## From the March 7 License Board One-Day Amendment hearing, 10 a.m., City Hall:

•Who's on First inc, d/b/a The Bullpen Kitchen + Tap 19-23 Jersey St. Fenway have applied for and extension of licensed premise to include a portion of the privately owned alley to the rear of establishment, 4 hours before start time until 2 hours after the event conclusion at Fenway but no later than 11 p.m. on home Red Sox games and events at Fenway Park.

## BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE FY20 BUDGET HEARING

The Boston School Committee will hold an FY20 Budget Hearing on March 7 at 6 p.m.

- Review of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget Proposal with Focus on Central Budgets

## From the March 12 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall, 10 a.m.:

- The Boston Leco Corp., 71 79 Warrenton St., South End.

Date: 12/24/2018, Call from management for patron down outside 275 Tremont St. The victim was found on sidewalk with head injury from hitting head on sidewalk. Victim said he was a patron of Candibar and he was punched by unknown patron while leaving the club. Other patrons stated the victim fell on his own hit his head. Management cooperative.

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEARING:

A hearing on March 12, 3 p.m. in City Hall, to discuss the possibility of creating a traffic enforcement unit within the Boston Police Department, and exploring the pros and cons of installing traffic enforcement cameras. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Tim McCarthy, and the Sponsor is Councilor Andrea Campbell.

## From the March 12 Bay Village Historic District Commission, City Hall, 4 p.m.:

Design Review

- 100 Broadway (aka 100 Charles Street South): Redesign window fenestration, replace entry doors and install gates, and install entrance canopy.

Administrative Review/Approval

- 41 Melrose Street: Replace slate roof in-kind

## From the March 13 Back Bay Architectural Commission meeting, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.:

Violations Committee - 4:30 p.m.

- 205 Newbury St.: Unapproved umbrellas at lower level patio.
- 130 Newbury St.: Unapproved neon lighting at lower level retail space windows.
- 244 Newbury St.: Unapproved umbrellas attached to railing.
- 335 Newbury St.: Unapproved electronic window signage.

Design Review - 5 p.m.

- DAS Node Installation - Eight Back Bay Locations: Replace seven single-acorn street lights and one double-acorn street lights with double-acorn street lights with antenna and elevated base for related communications equipment. Specific locations include: 699 Boylston Street; 48 Commonwealth Avenue; 65 Commonwealth Avenue; 306 Dartmouth Street; 192 Commonwealth Avenue; 239 Commonwealth Avenue; 280 Commonwealth Avenue; and 311 Commonwealth Avenue.

- 163 Newbury St.: At roof install mechanical equipment and safety guardrail.

- 67 Newbury St.: Install metal sign to existing wrought iron railing that will extend eight (8") inches above railing.

- 97-101 Newbury St.: Installation of two exhibit signs in front garden as part of a proposed Signage Master Plan.

- 348 Newbury St.: At front façade install two blade signs, two awnings at first-story windows, and install entrance canopy with signage above.

- 12-14 Commonwealth Ave.: At roof install standing-seam metal siding at existing elevator head houses, remove access ladder and platform, and replace access door and access panels in-kind; at rear and side elevations replace all windows with one-over-one aluminum-clad windows; at light wells replace all windows with one-over-one aluminum-clad windows and install thirty-two wall vents.

- 142 Beacon St.: At rear elevation reduce width of previously approved first floor bay and roof deck.

- 28 Commonwealth Ave.: At roof install roof deck and access hatch, and relocate condenser units.

- 15 Arlington St.: At Newbury Street elevation paint and clean marquee and remove signage valance, remove wall signage and restore masonry, replace revolving door with automatic doors, replace sloped sidewalk with raised plaza with ramp, replace curved storefront with square storefront, replace entry door and transom with new entry door, and install new lighting and window awnings; at Arlington Street façade restore marquee, revolving doors and masonry, install new lighting and window awnings, replace and relocate planters, at Commonwealth Building replace entrance canopy with awning, install window awnings, remove signage and restore masonry, and add planters; at Public Alley 437 clean wall surfaces, re-paint ceiling, remove door and infill with brick, replace signage, add exhaust vent, clean and replace exhaust grills, relocate recycling bins into combination unit; and at roof replace existing rooftop enclosure and HVAC equipment.

# LOOKING BACK AT BOSTON

COURTESY OF THE SOUTH END HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This week's featured image is of the corner of Massachusetts and Columbus avenues in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Located on the corner was Magullion & Company, a local liquor and grocery store. The company formed in 1894 and owned several businesses in the South End, including a liquor store and bar at the corner of Dover (now E. Berkeley) and Tremont streets. The original building no longer exists and is now the location of the Harriet Tubman House.

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.

## NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 9)

Thompson of Livable Streets Alliance, and Lee Matsueda of Alternatives for Community & Environment. Email any questions to ward4dems@gmail.com.

- The Grayken Center at BMC will hold naloxone training sessions on March 14th (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and May 8 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in the Menino Lobby of Boston Medical Center.

Attendees will learn how to respond to an opioid overdose and fill out a request for naloxone.

- South End Writes: Dan Kelly, principal architect of the firm that began as Mitchell/Giurgola, which designed the South End library in the late 1960s, will be at the library Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m., to talk about the Philadelphia architects whose vision informed the building's dynamic, angular profile. Mitchell/Giorgola became a prominent firm, with Romaldo Giurgola the chair of the Department of Architecture at Columbia University, before he left for Canberra, Australia, where he won the award to design the Australian Parliament building.

## FENWAY TIMES

- Emmanuel College will be holding a public meeting on March 11 at 6:30 in the Fenway Room on the second floor of the Administra-

tion Building at Emmanuel College, 400 Fenway, to discuss their upcoming plans to replace the artificial turf and track at Clemente Field in the Back Bay Fens. Proposed plans will be presented and public comments will be addressed by the project architect, Emmanuel College officials, and the Boston Parks and Recreation department.

- 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.

- The 44th Annual Gardeners Gathering - On Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Northeastern University Shillman Hall & The Egan Center, Join local and regional gardeners at this annual event hosted by The Trustees of the Reservations--all free and open to the public! \*Over two dozen gardening, urban home-steading, and community organizing workshops\*\*Keynote address and presentation of the Community Garden Awards by Mayor Walsh\*\*Special guest speaker Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director of New York City Community Garden Coalition\*\*Exhibitors' gallery: Boston-area agriculture, gardening, and environmental organi-

zations\* A detailed itinerary will be available at a later date.

- There will be a public meeting regarding the proposed Fenway Theater at 12-28 Lansdowne St. on March 12 from 6-8 p.m. at the State Street Pavilion, 20 Jersey St.

- Fenway Park Demonstration Project Community Benefits Application: The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) today announced that up to \$100,000 is available in community benefits for the Fenway neighborhood for temporary or permanent beautification projects. Applicants are required to submit to the BPDA a plan that describes how the proposed project will utilize the funding to produce the greatest measurable impact on the community. Projects must be fully accessible to the public. Applicants are required to submit a detailed budget and comprehensive plan describing their objectives and goals if they are to receive funding. All awards will be subject to BPDA Board authorization and chosen applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the BPDA. As part of the Fenway Park Demonstration Project in 2013, the Red Sox agreed to contribute \$1 million over 10 years to be used towards beautification efforts in the Fenway Neighborhood.

## D-4 POLICE NEWS

### OUTRAGEOUS COVER CHARGE

On Thursday, Feb. 28, at about 1:55 a.m., a victim was allegedly robbed inside Storyville nightclub at 90 Exeter St.

The victim said he was inside a bathroom stall when a male suspect approached him from behind and blocked the stall door before asking for the victim's identification.

Believing the suspect was a bouncer, the victim complied, at which time the suspect stated: "There is going to be a problem if you don't give me \$200."

Then victim replied that he only had \$60 on his person, which he handed over to the suspect, who responded: "That's not enough, and we're going to an ATM."

The suspect then walked the victim to an ATM located inside the establishment, where the victim withdrew \$140 and handed it over to the suspect. The suspect then handed the victim his identification back and walked over to talk to security.

When the victim returned to his friend and told him what happened, his friend reported the incident to a member of the bar's security staff, who said the suspect had been ejected from the bar.

it was only her husband returning home. Upon calling him, however, the victim confirmed her husband had not just entered their home. She then realized that the key FOB to her vehicle was missing, and that her vehicle was no longer where she parked it.

Using a tracking app, police were able to trace the vehicle to 261 Columbus St., where they located it with no suspects on the scene. The vehicle had all its door locked, and no items were reported missing from it, although the key FOB couldn't be located anywhere in the vicinity.

The victim's husband arrived on the scene, where he identified the vehicle and claimed it as theirs.

The victim told police she would park the car in the garage at her place of work until the car dealership could replace the stolen FOB.

### LONG-DISTANCE CALL

On Monday, March 4, at about 5:30 p.m., an officer responded to a radio call for a robbery at McDonald's at 540 Commonwealth Ave.

Upon arrival, the officer spoke to the victim, who said he and a friend were sitting inside the restaurant when an unknown male suspect walked over and sat beside them. At this time, the victim set his iPhone 8 down on the table beside him.

The victim said the suspect smelled and was making his friend and himself uncomfortable so they decided to sit at another table. The suspect then stood up, placed his hand on the adjacent table and walked away.

A few minutes later, the victim realized her phone was missing and concluded that the suspect stole just her phone.

### GHOST RIDE

On Friday, March 1, at approximately 6:35 a.m., police responded to a radio call for a breaking and entering at 6 Durham St.

Upon arrival, officers met with the victim, who said unknown person(s) came into the entryway of her home and removed the key to her 2019 Mercedes SUV from the wall. At this time, the victim heard the doorbell chime, but assumed

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