‘Operation Clean Sweep’ public meeting causes uproar

By Lauren Bennett

South End Library Park was packed full of Southenders and others on Aug. 7 for a contentious meeting held by the city in response to their “Operation Clean Sweep” effort, in which 34 individuals with outstanding warrants were arrested in the South End near what’s known as “Methadone Mile” as a result of an assault on a corrections officer two weeks ago.

The meeting was supposed to have taken place in the second-floor meeting room of the South End Library, but people were backed up on the staircase, in the library, and out the door, so city officials decided to take it outside to allow everyone to participate.

Special Advisor to the Mayor Buddy Christopher, Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez, and D-4 Police Captain Steven Sweeney were on hand to explain to the community what had happened, as well as address comments and questions. People with differing viewpoints began shouting over one another at certain points, and it appeared that several people were uncomfortable with the behavior at the meeting, further adding to the confusion.

DA Rollins, neighbors speak out on Clean Sweep

By Seth Daniel

DA Rachael Rollins told the Sun this week that she doesn’t think the complex situation at Mass/Cass can be “swept up,” but requires long-term investment – going so far as to call the Boston Police action two weeks ago “cruel.”

She also indicated that she may not prosecute all of the 34 individuals who were arrested in the two-night sweep of the area. Hers was one of many reactions to the situation that was inflamed by its current conflagration by the attack of two corrections officers from the Suffolk County House of Corrections on Aug. 1.

Resounding Sound! Cathedral pipe organ to ‘wow’ at September concert

By Seth Daniel

Towering above the newly renovated Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End is one of the most historic pipe organs in a region dotted with notably historic instruments, and next month, the newly restored organ in the newly restored Cathedral will provide a sound as historic as it will be melodic.

The 1875 E&GG Hook and Hastings Pipe Organ was the largest of its kind when installed in the Cathedral, and remains one of the most grand organs of its type in the world. It is, for those who know, one of the most impressive instruments in existence.

It has 5,300 pipes, a restored partially-electric console, special reed pipes made by Zimmerman in Paris, and a number of other intricacies – as well as being the largest extant pipe organ in the world.

However, it fell on really bad times over the years and became decrepit and non-working until Leo Abbott rescued it one piece at a time over his tenure of 33 years as the Cathedral’s director of music.

Now, with a further renovation of the organ by Andover Organ Company that started after the massive renovation of the Cathedral itself, the organ will provide a sound as historic as it will be melodic.

Music Director Richard Clark tests out the sound of the organ on Monday, as it’s about 80 percent renovated right now. He said the Sept. 15 concert will produce a sound that few have heard in their lifetime.

WHEEL’N AROUND OPENS AT VICTORY GARDENS

Antone Almeida playing percussion instruments repurposed from items found at yard sales during the grand opening of the Wheel’n Around installation in the Fenway Victory Gardens on Monday, Aug. 12. Creator Rob Barella used wheelbarrows and repurposed items to create a space where people can relax or have outdoor meetings. See more photos on Page 8.
OUR GLORIOUS SUMMER DAYS

When we think of the “dog days of summer,” what comes to mind are the languid and sultry days of early to mid-August, when the heat and humidity combine to make for a stew that can make even the most summer-loving among us long for the drier and cooler days of the impending fall season.

They were immortalized in Nat King Cole’s song from the early 1960s about “those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.”

The dog days are as much a state of mind as they are a physical fact, a time when all of us, young and old, grab some R&R to regenerate our minds and bodies before resuming the grind of our daily routines post-Labor Day.

Everyone, it seems, is on vacation. European cities are famously empty in August, as are our East Coast cities from Boston to Washington.

However, this past weekend brought us a large amount of relief from the usual torpor that we associate with the dog days.

It was the kind of weather that we’d like to put into a bottle and open up in January: Sunny and warm, but not too hot, with just enough humidity to give it that summer-like feel without being oppressive.

It was perfect for anything and everything outdoors, whether you were in the city, on the beach, in the mountains, or on your boat (especially a sailboat, thanks to the strong breeze).

You just wanted to inhale it and melt into it, and wish that the day would last forever.

Everyone, it seemed, was happy at the end of the day. If it is true that our moods are determined by the amount of negative ions in the air, then this weekend’s atmosphere was fully-charged with them.

Our good luck is continuing because the weatherman is promising us another run of similar weather for later this week and through the weekend.

So let’s take them one, glorious day at a time—and be thankful that we can enjoy these dog days of summer.

OPIIDS DEVASTATING IMPACTS

Dear Editor,

The Newmarket Square area is a painful reminder of the opioid crisis’ devastating impacts on our city, state and region.

It is the product of years of disgraceful overprescribing, and not enough funding or health insurance coverage for treatment and aftercare. There is now a concentration of vulnerable people without access to employment, housing, or healthcare who are continually victimized by our lack of a holistic response. Known locally as “Methadone Mile,” the area has become a dumpingground for the underlying problems of an entire region. This comes at the cost of public safety and quality of life for everyone who lives, works, attends school, or passes through the area. The need for a recovery campus has never been more evident.

want to preserve the legacy—both of Harriet Tubman and the house that bears her name—not being allowed to do so. The proverbial bone tossed to the community was to name these luxury condomi-niums “Tubman Place.” Harriet Tubman freed slaves, spied for the Union, fund-ed the creation of schools, and built settlements. What of that work speaks to lux-ury at the expense of others? That sounds more like slavery, to us.

Before this building named after the historic and iconic Harriet Tubman is de-stroyed, let those who truly love her get the chance to redeem her from the hands of the highest bidder. Let the community make a good faith attempt to buy this beacon of hope and refuge for so many. Let us make an effort to pre-serve what is good about Boston and great about the South End; its diversity socially, religiously, and economically.

• Displacement, Memories of Urban Renewal – With a Twist: Non-Profits

I Am Harriet! I am Lilly Marcelin, the Founder and Executive Director of the Re-silient South End Project (RSP). RSP has been a tenant at USES’ Harriet Tubman House since its inception in 2012. Our mission is to inform and empower wom-en of African descent around their reproductive health and rights.

As one of the tenants who was once welcomed in the past, and who is now being dis-placed by the pending sale, I am deeply unhappy about this unjust pros-pect. Such a displacement will create financial hardship to my small nonprofit on many levels and bring undue burden to the many women we serve. I will remain un deterred in my oppo-sition while voicing my public disapproval. I will con-tinue to raise my concerns about this sale—which had its genesis from a flawed and non-transparent process. I am painfully aware that those of us who do not sup-port this sale may not have the million-dollar marketing and political ma-chinery behind us.

Some of us have to fight to keep our homes while others, who are experiencing substance use disorder, are forced to pay our bills. I am afraid that these women are being forced to use the safety-net to maintain their homes while rationing food, and saving money to make a down-pay-ment while voicing my public disapproval. I will con-tinue to raise my concerns about this sale—which had its genesis from a flawed and non-transparent process. I am painfully aware that those of us who do not sup-port this sale may not have the million-dollar marketing and political ma-chinery behind us.

I and others from the community will not be silenced by people who want to dic-tate to us how we should wrestle with the loss of this building named the his-toric and iconic Harriet Tubman. We will use our emotions to let our ancestors know that we recognize their sacrifices and their spirits. We say, “Obuntu,” “I am because of you.” Through courage and tenacity, we will resist the tactics of microaggression that the homeless and other vulnerable people are subjected to on an everyday basis.

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 when submitting letters to the editor. We recognize their sacrifices and their spirits. We say, “Obuntu,” “I am because of you.” Through courage and tenacity, we will resist the tactics of microaggression that the homeless and other vulnerable people are subjected to on an everyday basis.

The City of Boston, through the Boston Public Health Commission and our partnerships with organizations throughout the metropolitan area, offers a number of services available to those experiencing homelessness or a substance use disorder.

Resources:

Boston City Councilor
At-Large Michael F. Flaherty
Fr. John Unni selected as 2019 Barr Fellow

By Lauren Bennett

Father John Unni, Pastor at St. Cecilia Parish on Belvidere Street, has been chosen as a 2019 Barr Fellow. “The Barr Foundation selects 12 exemplary civic leaders based on their personal qualities, organizational impact, and track record of collaboration to advance Greater Boston’s community and civic agendas,” according to a press release.

“The Barr Fellowship experience begins with a ten-day group learning journey outside the United States. Each journey is carefully designed to immerse Fellows in a collective growth experience; build deep relationships among Fellows; and offer a disruption from their day-to-day work,” according to the Barr Foundation website.

“Fellows then embark on a three-month personal sabbatical during which they are asked to disengage completely from their organizations. At the same time, organizations name an interim leader (or leadership team) who takes on increased responsibility during the Fellow’s absence. The Fellowship offers coaching and collaborative learning retreats for these interim leaders in order to strengthen the overall leadership within.

“At the end of the two-year Fellowship period, each class is integrated into the Barr Fellowship Network, a forum through which participating leaders continue to learn from each other, deepen relationships, and potentially create collaborations that benefit the city as well as their organizations. There are 68 alumni of the Barr Fellowship program since its inception in 2005. Investing in leadership is a core value of the Foundation that permeates all of our activities. We are thrilled to bring this value to life through the Barr Fellowship program. Please join us in congratulating and celebrating this group of 12 leaders for their significant contributions to the Greater Boston community.”

There is no application for the Barr Fellowship; Barr Fellows are nominated for the experience, and Unni told the Sun that when he got the call that he was chosen, it took him by surprise and he “quickly looked up everything about the foundation,” he said. “It feels like it’s quite the honor and also very humbling,” Aside from his work at the church, Unni is on the Board of Directors of Pine Street Inn, Nativiy Preparatory School in Jamaica Plain, St. Cecilia’s House, and St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, as well as on the Board of Advisors for Build Haiti International.

“I just have a tremendous sense of gratitude toward the foundation and the vision of its founders and to those who are in the nomination process and those who are making the whole thing go,” he said.

Unni said he’s looking forward to the 10-day learning journey, which will take place in the spring of next year. He’s also excited for the sabbatical. “I feel really good about it,” Unni said. “It’s supposed to be something that’s transformative, reflective, maybe even restorative.”

Additionally, each Barr Fellow’s organization receives a monetary award “to invest in leadership, organization development, and in exploratory projects.” Unni said that at this point in time, he’s not sure what the money will be used for, but it will be for the benefit of St. Cecilia Parish.

“I can’t believe I’d be nominated regarding leadership [and] future; that feels exciting,” Unni said. “It’s really an opportunity to grow.”

Aside from establishing relationships with parishioners, Unni said he’s been in the city a long time and has established connections with people all over the city, so he’s excited to use what he learns from this experience to strengthen those relationships.

“I’m hoping this helps me in my own leadership to grow, to listen to others, to interact with others on the journey to see how they’re doing in their organizations,” he said. “I’m very excited about meeting with and interacting with all the other Barr Fellows; it looks like it’s quite a group of accomplished people. I’m very psyched about that.”

**Guest Op-Ed**

We must be willing to make long-term investments to address underlying problems

Comment by DA Rachael Rollins regarding the recent Boston Police Clean Sweep at Mass/Cass in the South End

As I have previously stated, I reject the implication that public safety and public health are mutually exclusive. If we are truly committed to cleaning up our streets, we must also be willing to make the long-term investment in addressing the underlying problems. Substance use disorders, mental illness, and homelessness are not problems that can simply be “swept” away in order to create the illusion of safety.

These actions, however well-intentioned, have consequences that reverberate throughout our community. We cannot embrace a one-size-fits-all strategy, because the individuals arrested in these sweeps do not always share the same challenges. Some suffer from mental health issues; others are dealing with substance use disorders. Many are homeless. Our approaches cannot be short-sighted or reactionary because the costs – both financial and human – are too high.

It should not be illegal to exist. We are “sweeping” people away from the very areas they go to get services, treatment, and help. To me, that’s cruel.

To be clear, those who engaged in violence will be held accountable. But many of the people “swept” up did not assault the corrections officer.

I do not have all the answers, but I am committed to asking the right questions. Those directly impacted by the “sweep” need to have a seat at the table, along with our partners in law enforcement, public health, government, and non-profits. Let’s turn these conversations into action. I am proud that on Monday I met with approximately 15 such partners, none of whom were members of law enforcement, all of whom work directly with, or are, the impacted community.

Solving this “problem” will not be easy; this will not be resolved in one night; to suggest otherwise is irresponsible. I am committed to exploring complex solutions to these multi-pronged problems.

We need to be thoughtful and deliberate because it’s what the people of Suffolk County deserve.

**Op-Ed** (from pg. 2)

from those who are using class, race, and position of wealth as intimidation tropes.

- Alternatives and Survival For All

I Am Harriet! I am Rachel Goldberg, owner Goldberg Real Estate and Funding group and Artist/Artitude Collection, and I understand how the rich history of the Harriet Tubman house speaks loudly for itself in this year where Harriet is being acknowledged and attacked throughout the country. To lose unnecessarily a community asset, which has enriched so many lives, is not necessary. There are so many options and alternatives which exist for real estate assets, the last being demolition. There are many alternatives to allow the sacred home with Harriet, the non-profit agencies and United South End Settlements to continue by manifesting other viable alternatives.

We have a plan, which is actively in play, and we hope that it can proceed. It is a travesty that the plan for a better more efficient facility is not being explored since they are viable and important to investigate rather than to add more luxury condos or work spaces which only provide opportunities to those who have financial resources to pur-chase. For all of us, the rich past that has embraced the South End as a melting pot allowed so many people of various ethnic backgrounds to live together and learn from the wisdom of diversity. More importantly, the loss of Harriet Tubman

**Solving this “problem” will not be easy; this will not be resolved in one night; to suggest otherwise is irresponsible. I am committed to exploring complex solutions to these multi-pronged problems. We need to be thoughtful and deliberate because it’s what the people of Suffolk County deserve.**

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Resounding Sound  (from pg. 1)
(which ended this past April), the music is ready to fill up the space like it hasn’t in more than a generation.  That will happen in grand fashion during a concert by Abbot and current director of music for the Archdiocese, Richard J. Clark, on Sept. 15 at 3 p.m.  “In one sense, you can blend the music with the history of the place,” said Clark this week from the choir loft of the Cathedral, where the restoration of the organ continues daily and is about 80 percent done.  “With the renovation of the Cathedral, when you change the materials inside, you change the sound. Any pipe organ, the building is wedded to the instrument. When you have stone and wood and other materials like you do now, it creates a whole new sound. What’s really remarkable is the instrument is going to be played in a way that nobody alive has heard in their lifetime.”  Many of the sounds that the amazing organ is capable of making have largely been unable to resonate for decades, Clark said. In addition to the new surroundings, there will also be an instrument once again at full capacity.  “No one in living memory has heard some of these sounds in tune,” he said. “You couldn’t do it until the dust blowing out had been done.”

John Morlock of Andover Organ said it is one of the pre-eminent examples of its kind, and having it restored is a great achievement.

“This is the E&GG Hook Co. (Continued on Next Page)
and chaos that the situation already created within the neighborhood. It was difficult to hear questions and answers at certain points, which also seemed to further agitate the crowd. There were people who were concerned for their own public safety in the neighborhood, as well as others who felt that the homeless people were not treated with proper respect.

Several elected officials or their representatives were at the meeting, including City Councillor Kim Janey, who led off the meeting by saying that it is “important that we do not vilify people who need help and services. This is an issue that impacts a lot of us.” She also reminded the community that this is something that they’re dealing with for a while, and it is important that neighborhoods and people are not pitted against each other.

“This is a crisis impacting the entire city,” Janey said. “We can’t just blindly push people along and hope for the best. We’ve got to have a real plan and a real strategy.”

Christopher said that it felt important to talk to the community about what has happened over the last few weeks, as he is aware that there are many concerns from the neighborhood. “Somebody got physically hurt; the police took the corresponding action they felt was appropriate,” he said. He said that the police have upped their responsibility of policing neighborhoods, but their “first concern is to try to get these people some help.”

“We are in the process of trying to get the homeless folks back to Atkinson Street,” Christopher said. He added that the “vast majority” of those arrested had “lengthy histories,” and “those were the pool we wanted off the street,” he said.

“The quality-of-life of your neighborhood is extremely important to the mayor,” Christopher stated. A comment was made that a resident witnessed people being rounded up and pushed off the street.

Christopher said that the police opening line when coming up to people is “can we help you? Can we get you to a shelter? People are not allowed to mill around and loot in such a way that compromises the quality of life of a neighborhood,” he said.

Marty Martinez said that the city is trying to balance public safety and quality of life issues with getting people the help and services they need. He said that there has been an increase in outreach workers into the South End, Roxbury, Dudley, and Fenway neighborhoods and the city has partnered with Pine Street Inn to increase resources for those who need them.

“Has it been perfect? Absolutely not,” Martinez said of what has been done. There’s things that I wish hadn’t happened. There’s no simple answer. We’re trying to piece it all together so that people can get the care they need.”

“Not perfect doesn’t cut it anymore,” someone commented. In response to the comment that people are being pushed off the streets in a group, Sweeney said that “It’s not the case that we’re just rounding people up.” He said that the police are working with city agencies to clean up from Harrison Ave. to Albany Street, as there are needles and feces on the ground.

“If someone has to be arrested, we try to defer them out first to one of the services to outreach workers,” Sweeney said. “We’re not going to allow them to prey on people and their properties out there. It’s both sides of the issue here.”

Martinez said 8,000 needles a month are picked up around the city, and there are more and more people being brought into shelters and treatment programs. “It is not perfect but it’s not true that the city isn’t investing resources, time, and energy into the city,” he said.

Several people were visibly upset about videos that have been circulated that show police throwing away wheelchairs that were being used by the homeless population, and demanded answers from city officials and police as to why that happened.

Christopher said the wheelchairs were in the way because they were covered in urine, feces, and blood. “We have never and will never kick anyone out of a wheelchair,” he said. “Wheelchair removal is not protocol,” Martinez added.

Jim Greene of the Department of Neighborhood Development stated that in the past five years, 1,000 homeless veterans have been housed, and “There are more acute addiction treatment and recovery beds than there were five years ago when the bridge shut down.”

“People come here from many places,” he said. “We are dealing with the opioid and housing affordability epidemic. I understand the outrage.”

Greene said that more supportive housing is coming to the city to house homeless people, and they are trying to increase the shelter capacity in other areas around the state. “We’re not going to let up until we get people the help they need. We’re going to stay at it.”

Jada Ricard, an 11-year-old Orchard Gardens student, has spoken at many different public spaces, such as the school committee, in front of the city councilors, and even to the presidential candidates in Washington D.C. about the opioid crisis and how it affects her.

“We have seen people shooting up in the streets,” she said. She said that on her way to school, she has seen multiple drug users on the streets, and she said that the playground at Orchard Gardens is not safe as people are sleeping under the slides and needles are still there.

“Now that a corrections officer has been assaulted, now you’re doing something,” she said. She said she fears for her safety and reminded officials that “we have been asking for a change at that spot; it’s not fair.”

Ricard’s mother said, “People shooting up in front of students is abuse as well. If I was doing it in my home, you would have taken my child away.”

Martinez said that there should not be a distinction between what happened to the corrections officer and what happens in the neighborhood. He also said that they are trying to work with Boston Public Schools on making schools safer.

“We’re proud of the needle exchange program,” Martinez said, which provides clean needles for drug users in exchange for their dirty ones. There was also a question about safe consumption sites, which Martinez said cannot be allowed because there are federal restrictions to them, and Gov. Baker is also not in favor. However, “we have been working to increase harm reduction services,” Martinez said.

“We’ve watched this for countless years,” local coach Dominique DaRosa said. “The needle exchange program does not work. We know these folks need help and we all want to help them.” Several of his players were at the meeting, and expressed their concern for their safety on the field, as they have seen several needles around.

“They come to the field to get away from the shootings in their community, not to add to their stress,” DaRosa said of the kids. “Please make the phone calls, please keep complaining.”

At 7:30 p.m., people’s questions and comments were cut off by the city officials. Several people expressed their frustration with not being heard or not getting their questions answered. Officials said that police presence would continue in the neighborhoods, and encouraged people to reach out with any comments or concerns they may still have.

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The Boston Red Sox and Red Sox Foundation introduced the newest class of Red Sox Scholars on Sunday, June 23, at Fenway Park in a ceremony before the Red Sox-Blue Jays game. Now in its 17th year, the Red Sox Scholars Program is presented by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), the Official Hospital and Official Health Care Provider of the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park.

This year’s induction of 13 new seventh-graders brings the total number of Red Sox Scholars to 301. In addition to the new scholars, the induction celebrated members of the program who are graduating high school and college. Scholars from each of the previous years were also in attendance.

16 years were also in attendance. Local scholars included:

- **WILSON VILLAFANE**
  - Age: 14
  - Neighborhood: South End
  - School: Hurley K-8 School
  - Achievements: Wilson enjoys drawing and playing video games and soccer. He is very service-oriented and is an active member at his church. His favorite subjects are math and art, and he dreams to be an architect and inspire others – just like his family has inspired him. Wilson received the ‘Hurley Hawk Award’ for being respectful and encouraging of his peers.

- **KARINA MELENDEZ**
  - Age: 13
  - Neighborhood: Kenmore/Fenway
  - School: UP Academy Charter School Boston
  - Achievements: Karina is a ‘Straight A’ Student and has received ‘Highest Honors,’ ‘Student of the Month,’ and ‘Student of the Quarter’ at her school for exceeding expectations and achieving academic excellence. In her free time, Karina enjoys playing basketball and swimming because it gives her the opportunity to meet new people, work as part of a team, and tackle new challenges.

Red Sox President Sam Kennedy congratulates one of the newest members of the Red Sox Scholars.

**News Briefs**

**MASSDOT: BOSTON I-90 WESTBOUND CLARENDON STREET ON-RAMP PERMANENTLY CLOSING EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced that the on-ramp which carries vehicles from Clarendon Street onto I-90 westbound in Boston will be permanently closed effective Sept. 3, 2019. There will be no impacts to the I-90 mainline as a result of this on-ramp closure.

This closure is being implemented following approval from the Federal Highway Administration and due to concerns over safety and effective travel at this location. There are low traffic volumes at this location, as the on-ramp is utilized by approximately 75-percent less vehicles per hour than nearby on-ramps at Arlington and Dartmouth Streets. Members of the public should note that the Dartmouth and Arlington Streets on-ramps onto I-90 west-bound will remain open. These on-ramps are each located within one-half mile of the Clarendon Street on-ramp. MassDOT has had informal conversations with community leaders and municipal officials regarding the future closure of this on-ramp for more than one year. The department is currently carrying out a comprehensive out-reach process in order to notify members of the public, motorists, residents, and businesses of this impact. A public meeting will be held on Aug. 27 in Boston on this topic and the scheduling details are as follows:

- 6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27
  - Central Library in Copley Square
  - 700 Boylston St., Back Bay.

**HAD A GUN IN BLACKSTONE**

At about 7:17 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 8, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) arrested a juvenile suspect after responding to a disturbance.

*News Briefs Pg. 7*
orders. Many are homeless. Our approaches cannot be short-sighted. I honestly believe we need to address the costs — both financial and human — are too high. It should not be illegal to exist. We are ‘sweeping’ people away from the very areas they go to get services, treatment, and help. To me, that’s cruel.

To be clear, those who engaged in violence will be held accountable. But many of the people ‘swept’ up did not assault the corrections officer.”

Boston Police officials, and Mayor Martin Walsh, said the sweep was focused on dangerous people who had migrated to the area, as well as drug dealers preying on vulnerable people.

“This is an epidemic,” he said. “We can’t have people shooting up on the streets. We can’t have that kind of devastation, people preying on others. We have prostituted that I’m hearing about — young people being prostituted for drugs. We have drug dealers coming down and preying on these folks. We need to do everything we can to keep them safe as best we can and get them into treatment. You can’t force someone into treatment. A lot aren’t ready or don’t want to go into treatment. It doesn’t matter if you’re on the street or in your living room, you have to be willing to go into treatment...

“When the police took that action last week, we got rid of a lot of drug dealers and people preying on the sick and suffering that are there,” he continued. “That’s really what it’s all about. We’re not going to stand for people preying on the sick and suffering.”

While we have had numerous opinions on the matter publicly, with some elected officials not supporting the clean sweep approach, and other supporting it, those in the neighborhood dealing with the results of the epidemic see it as a very complicated situation. However, virtually everyone agrees that the tactics used earlier this summer had gotten off-track, and the situation had to be quelled.

“Consensus from residents and businesses around WsANA is that the City’s attention at senior levels, beyond the public health department, was needed at Mass and Cass long ago,” said Desi Murphy, vice president of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA). “When I speak with community leaders from Newmarket, Roxbury, and Dorchester, I hear the same thing. We are grateful that the City assigned a full-time employee that reports directly to the mayor (via Christopher) to ensure that the Mayor is aware of what life is like here for patients, residents, guests, and employees across health care and industrial sectors. Moving forward, we want to see our elected officials, public health organizations, patients, guests, law enforcement, businesses, and residents come together to ensure that we have an environment that is safe and livable for everyone and that one can always be proud of — whether you are a resident, business, employee.”

Sue Sullivan, executive director of the Newmarket Business Association, said there had been a tactic used recently after many of the streets had been displaced from the Connector, Mass/Cass and Harrison Avenue. That tactic was essentially to pen everyone into Atkinson Street, and to an extent Bradston Street. While she said it was effective in allowing public health officials to stop overdoses — with some 90 overdoses reversed there in July — it also created a dense and chaotic situation.

“It was definitely open drug use and it was an increasing violation,” she said. “It was a different atmosphere with the mob mentality. I look at both sides. Having them all down there, we got less complaints from businesses and neighbors. It was devastating for businesses right there, but it allowed the health personnel to more readily take care of overdoses. There were 90 overdoses reversed in July on that street. It probably stopped people from dying...On the other hand, it did create a mob mentality and a situation where every drug dealer only had to go a few hundred yards. It was every pimp and every person looking to prop someone up. That’s a vulnerable population and they were being preyed upon.

“In my opinion, it was exactly right to get people out of there with serious warrants and who were causing havoc,” she continued.

Sheriff Steven Tompkins has also led a part of the charge after his deputies were attacked on Aug. 1, convening a meeting of City and state leaders on Aug. 8 to focus on long-term and short-term situations. That meeting was attended by DA Rollins, Police Commissioner Willie Gross and others, such as Mayoral Advisor Buddy Christopher.

“I am heartened by this first response to our call for action to protect the people who work in and visit this facility and those who work in and travel throughout the Newmarket Area,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “The key, of course, will be to continue to coordinate and work together across agencies and organizations to ensure that things don’t return to their former state.”

Additionally, Sheriff Tompkins committed the services and skills of his department to work with the Boston Public Health Commission Police to provide them with new skills and training to bolster their abilities to maintain the safety and security of the area while managing a population that has increased beyond the original scope of expectations. Sheriff Tompkins is also providing officials to assist the other members of law enforcement with the preservation of safety and security on the perimeter of the House of Correction and adjoining streets.

For most, the answer just isn’t an easy one, but Mayor Walsh said he did sympathize with the neighbors, who have been living a long time with a challenging situation that was getting worse.

“Residents have every right to be upset,” he said. “They’ve been putting up with this a long time. There’s a whole combination of issues here. There’s the public safety side of it; of drug dealing. There’s a ‘hanging-out’ side of it. There’s a human side of it. People in this neighborhood today are concerned about people sitting on their front porches and shooting up, people walking in the back alley and going to the bathroom. They’ve been living with this for a long time. This is something that was before Long Island Bridge even closed. This is not a new issue or a new creation. It’s gotten worse because the epidemic has gotten worse, no question about it.”

Rollins said she is committed to working on solutions, but only if those impacted by the ‘sweep’ have a seat at the table too.

“I do not have all the answers, but I am committed to asking the right questions,” she said. “Those directly impacted by the ‘sweep’ need to have a seat at the table, along with our partners in law enforcement, public health, government, and non-profits. Let’s turn these conversations into action. I am proud that on Monday I met with approximately 15 such partners, none of whom were members of law enforcement, all of whom work directly with, or are, the impacted community. Solving this ‘problem’ will not be easy; this will not be resolved in one night; to suggest otherwise is irresponsible.”
WHEEL’N AROUND GRAND OPENING AT THE VICTORY GARDENS

Gardener and landscape architect Rob Barella designs public projects throughout the City of Boston to generate conversation, encourage playfulness, and invite passers-by to pause from the business of urban life.

On Aug. 12, Barella celebrated the grand opening of his mobile installation, Wheel’n Around, at the Fenway Victory Gardens. Wheel’n Around transforms repurposed items into checkerboard tables, percussion instruments, and planters.

“The idea is to take what is used for labor, and turn them into something fun. It’s intended to be a distraction for people walking through the gardens,” explains Barella. “I try recycling as much as possible. The wheel barrels are new and sturdy. They remind me of popsicles.”

Barella hopes the vibrant chairs and gardening tools display will encourage commuters to relax and friends to utilize the space as a meeting spot. Wheel’n Around will be exhibited throughout the end of September, and will be traveling to local community gardens throughout the summer.

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Less than 1% of $664 million spent by the city last year went to minority and women-owned businesses.*

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*via Bay State Banner, “Few city contracts going to minorities.” May 8th, 2019

JENNIFER NASSOUR for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 8

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Andrea Rossa, Rob Barella, Siyu Xiao, Antone Almeida, and Kendall Sanson relax in the installation.

Rob Barella, creator of Wheel’n Around.

Antone Almeida, Ryan Kalla, Emily Hunt, and Alicia Gowoni mingling on the wheel barrels.

Rob Barella, Emily Sanchez, and Casey Hogan chatting by the herb garden.

Emily Sanchez speaking with Wheel’n Around creator, Rob Barella.

Kendall Sanson.

Wendy Moretta and Bob Barella, father of Wheel’n Around creator, Rob Barella.
Mary Longley, long a fixture in the South End, passed away in January 2008. Her legacy of community lives on in the Mary Longley’s National Night Out Block Party. Now in its 10th year, this event encourages residents of the South End to congregate in the Titus Sparrow Park on West Newton Street and celebrate with each other as a community in the spirit of the National Night Out.

Featuring BBQ, bounce houses, arts and crafts, live entertainment, and many more activities, this Block Party pays homage to the block parties that were held in the South End in the ’60s and ’70s.

Shown left, the TDC Dancers, a combination of the ballet and Hip Hop dance program, with the Donald Ward, TDC executive director, and Arness Brown, corporate relations manager.

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross speaks about Mary Longley, noting her great legacy as a wonderful woman who took care of the community: “She was about peace, family, and love.”

Mayor Martin Walsh speaks to the gathering. He addressed crime and mass shootings, noting that 73 percent of guns used in crimes in Boston have originated from out of state. He advocated allocating more money to combat addiction and more outreach to get addicts to treatment.

Mary Longley’s National Night Out Block Party

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Fenway gets Muddy River, 401 Park updates

By Lauren Bennett

The Fenway Civic Association held a Summer Meeting at the Fenway Community Center on Aug. 13 to update the Fenway neighborhood on important parks happenings. The community heard from both Margaret Dyson, Director of Historic Parks for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, about the Muddy River Project, as well as from Peter Sougarides of Samuels & Associates regarding the new green space outside of 401 Park Drive.

Muddy River Restoration
The Muddy River Project has been presented at several community meetings and previously reported on by the Sun, but Dyson came to this meeting to provide the most up-to-date information to the public, as this project is right in the back yard of many Fenwickians. Dyson said that the purpose of the Muddy River Project is to make improvements to protect against a flood, eradicate harmful Phragmites from the area, and preserve and restore the historic park shoreline and vegetation in construction areas.

Phase One of the project consisted of “daylighting” the river, which means opening the river and reconnecting a lost section of the Emerald Necklace. This section of the river is now where the parking lot in front of the old Sears building was. Opening it up also created significant benefits to wildlife habitats, Dyson said.

Phase Two is the Flood Damage Reduction part of the project, which Dyson said is currently out to bid and addresses both upstream and downstream of Phase One daylighting. Material under water will be removed, creating a deeper river, which is better for habitats. The Phragmites are also being mechanically removed. So far, an early summer cutting was done, and a late summer cutting is underway. “We were taken aback by how quickly they grow,” Dyson said of the Phragmites. They originally thought they would only have to do three-four cuttings per year to control the growth, but now they feel they may have to do five or six instead. However, Dyson said that during this second cutting, there has been less density in the Phragmites, “which is great.”

Another piece of the puzzle is the Ecological Restoration Pilot Project, of which the Federal government is covering 6 percent of the cost, Dyson said. The project will improve the quality and function of resource areas, as well as protect the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act, she said.

“Because of this project, we now have the opportunity to restore areas that have been degraded,” Dyson said. The project is limited under certain conditions, however, and can only be undertaken in areas that have been degraded and destroyed by human activity, she said. The project will improve habitat value, eliminate invasive species and increase diversity of vegetation and wildlife, among other things, Dyson said.

There was a comment made that some of the Phase One plantings is not looking up to par, and Dyson said that they did learn a lot with Phase One planning, and will have to go back and do some cleaning up and replanting. “We worked directly with a landscape architecture firm,” she said, which will allow for the much more rigorous upkeep that is required of these new plantings. She said the area on Brookline Avenue that looks towards the medical area where the berm for the water main is is one of the areas that will have to have some significant replanting. She said that due to the new trees that were planted there, there is not enough shade for the surrounding plants—the right plants for 15 years from now are planted there, she said, as full grown trees will be able to provide the shade they need but that is not the case just yet.

The project is out to bid now, and Dyson said her expectation for the earliest they will be on site will be spring or early summer of next year. Dyson also announced that she will not be continuing in her role as Director of Historic Parks, but she will be leaving a plant list with the Fenway Civic Association that lists what will be planted as part of the project.

401 Park Drive

Peter Sougarides said that the park space is “not 100 percent done, but we’re really pleased with the outcome of the park.” He said there is lots of open green space and flexibility in how it gets used, from outdoor exercise and gatherings in the warm weather to an ice skating rink in the winter.

Surrounding the large lawn in the middle of the space are stone benches, trees, and other landscaping. Cushions are available for people to borrow to sit on the benches or directly on the lawn, Sougarides said.

He also discussed the different types of programming that will be offered in the space. “Programming is meant to be all-inclusive, local, cultural, creative, collaborative,” he said.

Artist Nicole Eisenman was commissioned to create interactive sculptures for the park, called “Grouping of Works from Foun tain,” that welcome the public to play and interact with them, Sougarides said.

Programming can include hands-on art activities and unique seasonal programming. Fitness and Wellness has been a popular type of programming this summer, from yoga to boot camp. Other possibilities include bocce and corn hole leagues, as well as wellness, health, and meditation workshops.

Youth and family programming includes things like movie screenings, Red Sox away game activations, and other kids activities, and Entertainment programming can include local/regional talent, food and drink events, and the Fenway Fridays Series.

In the winter, the ice rink will open up and be used for open skate, themed nights, and lessons.

“We want to test out different things and what people like,” Sougarides said. “The first year will be sort of a test year to see what works and what people want to see the space used for, and then more programming will be figured out for next year.

“Our goal is to keep it active and test out different things,” Sougarides said. “Feel free to email us with different ideas.”

For event information, visit the fenway.com/events or 401park.com/events, or check Instagram @thefenway and Facebook @thefenwayneighborhood.
Obituary

Arnold Massirman
Feb. 13, 1921 — Aug. 12, 2019

Arnold Massirman of Florida, formerly of Chelsea, passed away on Monday, Aug. 12 peacefully in his sleep. He was 98 years old. We are all very grateful to have spent so much quality time with him for so long.

He was the beloved son of Joseph and Sarah Massirman from Kiev, Ukraine. He was born in Chelsea and attended Chelsea High School where he lettered in basketball. He then went to Northeastern Law School nights, but enlisted in the military before he could finish. Arnold served his country in World War II as a PT boat sub chaser in the Aleutian Islands and was a member of the SeaBees. He attended graduate school at Notre Dame University and retired to Boca Raton, Fla., to live and retired to Boca Raton, Fla., to live.

He was a Lieutenant. He attended graduate school at Notre Dame University and retired from the Navy as a lieutenant.

He worked in his family business Superior Column & Distributing from after the war until he sold the business in the early ’70s and retired to Boca Raton, Fla., to be with his family and the love of his life golf.

Arnold was a tall-strapping, handsome man. He was a leader, a fighter and advocate for safe vehicles on the highway. He communicated ideas and supported Ralph Nader in his book “Unsafe at Any Speed.” He formed an organization called SANE, Safe Automobile National Enlistment for which he tirelessly lobbied and wrote to politicians, NTSB, police departments, schools and offered materials for lectures on safe driving.

He loved his hometown of Chelsea and even donated police cars and jaws of life to local Police and Fire Departments when they could not afford them. What his family and friends will remember most is his incredible generosity, unrelenting sense of humor, professional joke telling ability, loving care and appreciation for his children. Arnold is survived by daughters: Karen and Janet, sons, Dana (Soraya) and Jay (Lisa); grandchildren: Drew, Jordan, Austin, Sarah, Emily, Rylan and Darin and several nieces, nephews and friends. He was predeceased by his sisters, Helen Gale and Pearl Foisy, Stefanie R

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Wild, Timothy J
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Solomon, Emma
Foisy, Stefanie R

LiHC to present Concord Square project to Claremont

The hotly-contested LiHC housing proposal on Concord Square will get another public airing tonight, Aug. 15, at the Claremont Neighborhood Association.

LiHC has been discussing the project with neighbors since early spring, proposing to put 60 market-rate units into a newly-constructed building on what is now open space fronting Worcester Street for the Concord Houses (715 and 725 Tremont St.), which it also owns. The project has been contested publicly by a group of neighbors, and supported vociferously by other neighbors.

The proposal hasn’t yet been filed with the City, but LiHC hopes to do so very soon, but not until neighbors in Claremont get another chance to review it.

CNA will hold a special meeting on August 15 (Thursday) at 7:00 pm with LiHC Investments. The meeting will be held at 48 Rutland St.

“The we’ve taken great care to listen to the community and tonight (Aug. 15) is another step in laying out our plan to bring much-needed housing to the South End,” said Marc Booch, CFO of LiHC Investment Group. “In addition to creating new homes, our proposal will ensure Concord Houses re-mains affordable far into the future by extending Section 8 protections there from 20 to 40 years. While we have not yet officially filed with the city, we look forward to doing so within the next few months.”

LiHC will review their plans for their development proposal on Worcester Street (between Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street) into approximately 60 market rate apartments. LiHC currently uses this space for parking and a locked gated open space for their residents at Concord Houses.

This informational session will allow residents to ask questions about their plans as well as raise concerns and suggestions.

Booth pointed out that there have been changes made to the project since its original unveiling. One of those changes includes taking it from six- to five-stories tall, and moving the 5th floor rooftop balconies to the rear of the building to reduce street height.

They have also pulled the building forward to align it with the existing block, and created a three-foot garden in front of the building. On the front, they have also enlarged the windows and made cornices more prominent to match the rest of the neighborhood.

The rear of the building has been altered at the request of abutters to use different materials, such as wood to cover the parking, making it look less institutional.

COMPASS IS A LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER AND ABIDES BY EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY LAWS.

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Alexandra Hotel proposal receives unanymous approval from Boston Zoning Board of Appeal

**Staff Report**

A proposal to save Boston’s historic Alexandra Hotel and redevelop the property into a boutique hotel received unanimous approval Tuesday from the Boston Zoning Board of Appeal. The Alexandra Partners, the development team, plans to rehabilitate the long-neglected structure, saving the historic façade and developing the property into a hotel with more than 150 guest rooms, a ground-floor restaurant and rooftop amenity space.

Completed in 1875, the Alexandra Hotel was built by James and Caleb Walworth of the Walworth Manufacturing Company. Exemplifying the richly decorated Ruskinian subtype of the High Victorian Gothic style, its original façades are ornamented with pointed arches and colonettes as well as dogtooth and rosette-carved banding. The historic stone façade still remains despite significant fire and water damage to the rest of the structure.

The proposal received mixed reviews from the community throughout the process, as well as at the ZBA hearing. Faisa Sharif from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services was in support, saying, “It’s currently a deteriorating building and vacant parcel. We believe that the new use would actually increase economic activity on this corner that’s much needed.” She said there was an “extensive” community process that involved neighbors, community groups, and the developer. “We expect them to hold up commitments they made to the neighbors related to construction management, rodent control, issues related to the alley behind the property, and in continued communication with the neighbors during the full construction process,” she added.

City Councilor Kim Janey was also in support of the project. “Despite the designation misstep early in the process, there has been engagement of Roxbury neighbors as well as South End neighbors,” she said, praising the development team for their willingness to listen and work with different stakeholders.

Several residents, including Luther Pinckney and owner of Prive Parking Boston Ricardo Louis, said that they are in support of the project as they would like to see something done with the deteriorating building and they believe that the project proponents have made a serious effort to work with the community on mitigating issues.

Others, like the Tenants’ Development Corporation and Connie Forbes, are not in favor of the project. A lawyer representing the Tenants’ Development Corporation said that the loading dock behind the hotel is a “serious safety issue” as it blocks handicapped access to the building at 63 Massachusetts Ave., which was opened by the Tenants’ Development Corporation. He also said there were concerns around traffic and parking, as well as height, density, and shadows.

Connie Forbes, a Roxbury resident, said she was concerned about the blank wall that faces Roxbury, and was upset that a mural was not allowed there. She also said that Roxbury has “intentionally” been left out of a lot of this process, and there have been “process and policies that have been violated to make this project happen.”

Brian O’Donnell, a Massachusetts Avenue resident, said he abuts the Hotel Alexandra and is concerned that not everyone affected has been properly informed throughout the process. “My concerns are even though I want to see the Alexandra Hotel renovated, I think the process is excessive,” he said. “It’s not really a boutique hotel. It’s got 156 rooms, three restaurants, and a roof-deck restaurant, which will create a lot of noise for the abutting neighbors.”

The plans previously received approval from the Board of Directors of the Boston Planning and Development Agency in March of 2019. Tuesday’s approval by the ZBA marks another important step forward in the public permitting process.

“This approval from the Boston ZBA reinforces what we have heard from Roxbury and South End neighbors and abutters at every stage of our planning process, that Boston wants to see a rebirth for a building that has been standing vacant for decades as a neighborhood eyesore,” added Thomas Calus, principal and founder of TRC Development. “We look forward to the Alexandra Hotel being a part of the Back Bay Architectural Commission or the South End Landmarks District Commission, respectively. The purpose of these Commissions is to preserve the historic character of these neighborhoods and make sure any work done in the public way adheres to guidelines set forth by the district.

“Existing historic iron-fences should be retained and maintained. If they are deteriorated beyond repair they should be replaced in-kind,” Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, told the Sun. If a historic fence is non-existent, he suggested looking for historic images at the South End Historical Society, backbayhouses.org, Historic New England, the Bostonian Society, Digital Commonwealth, and the City Archives.

“If the design of the historic fence is unknown then it will be important to find an appropriate black iron design that is appropriate for the scale and design of the building and that compliments the character of the district,” Cornish said.

Applicants for fence replacement or restoration work with their landmarks commission as well as companies like Cassidy Bros. Forge when figuring out what work needs to be done. After the design/restoration is agreed upon and approved by the Commission, it’s time to craft the fence and/or pieces that will be made.

When Cassidy Bros. Forge makes a wrought-iron fence for a client, they must first go to a foundry for cast iron. Here, iron is melted in crucibles and poured into sand molds to make the different parts of the fence.

To recreate a piece of fence that is too worn to be repaired, the piece of fence that is to be recreated is taken to a pattern maker, Cassidy said. The pattern maker will make an impression of the artwork that will be cast, and then it will be delivered to the foundry as a board with half an imprint on it. The imprint will be packed into a container called a “flask” and filled with dry, good quality sand before two flasks will be put together, Cassidy said. This creates a sand mold for that particular piece of the fence.

The molds are then brought over to where molten iron gets poured into them, the sand will fall away and the parts pulled out of the mold. They will then grind off any flashing, blast them, and deliver them to a business like Cassidy Bros. Forge, who will carry out the next steps.

The next steps are what Cassidy calls “fabrication mode,” as the foundry will make the parts of the fence but does not put them together.

“We will take raw casting and maybe drill holes, weld, take panels and blast them and prep them for paint,” Cassidy said, depending on the type of fence to be fabricated. Then, they will take the fence pieces to the site, drill into the concrete and finish assembling and installing the fence onsite.

“Cast iron is brittle like glass,” he said—“not a great material.”

Over time, it breaks and pieces fall off. In order to restore a historic fence, “you have to make copies and save enough of the historic material that you can make a copy of it,” Cassidy said. “You want to look at the product and find the best pieces to make copies from.”

Once it is determined which pieces will be remade, they must be cut and taken to the pattern maker, who knows to cast the molds larger so the pieces come out to be the same size. Cassidy said pattern makers have special rulers that compensate for the shrinkage that happens when cast iron is made. There is one-eighth-inch per foot of shrinkage, Cassidy said.

“We try to replace only pieces that appear missing or extremely corroded,” Cassidy said, and fill in and grind smooth pieces that only have minimal corrosion. “Some pieces are not touched, others are touched, and others are replaced,” he said of historic fences. “We are not trying to cover up the age, we’re trying to save it and preserve it and replace the missing pieces.”

Cassidy said that Cassidy Bros. Forge restores fences in the same way they were originally fabricated. “A lot of wrought-iron fences back 100 years ago, they would drill holes and put rivets in them, collar, mortise and tenon joint,” he said. “If you’re doing a high-quality restoration, the new pieces of fence will be installed in the same fashion—no gaping, ugly welds.” The pieces will be extracted and riveted together in the historic fashion.

Another important component of the restoration process is lead abatement and new paint. “In
The Alexandra Hotel (from pg. 12)

ward to moving ahead with a plan to restore the Alexandra Hotel’s historic facade in order to preserve a piece of Boston history while also activating a street corner as a positive economic driver.”

“The revitalization of the Alexandra Hotel is vital to both the South End and Lower Roxbury communities,” said A.F. “Bud” Larievy, President of Washington Gateway Main Streets. “It will re-establish the intersection of Massachusetts Ave and Washington Street as the original gateway to Boston, as well as bring resources and development in the form of businesses, jobs for residents and training for BPS students in the culinary field. WGMS continues to support this project and looks forward to many opportunities it has to offer our greater community.”

“For too long, this property has been a blight on the neighbor-

hood,” said Will Krause, a direct abutter of the project on Massachusetts Avenue. “I’m glad to see another step forward in approving the proposal for this site. My kids and I walk by here every day, and this project will improve both the safety and cleanliness of our block, benefiting our own family and all our neighbors.”

The Alexandra Hotel redevelopment project team includes CBT Architects, LaCasse Law, LLC, Epsilon Associates, Inc. and Howard Stein Hudson.

This story includes reporting contributions from Lauren Bennett.
Aug. 6, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) responded to a radio call for a breaking and entering in the area of 415 Commonwealth Ave. On arrival, officers spoke to the victim who stated an unknown white male had been following her as she walked to her residence on Aug. 5, at about 11:35 p.m. The victim stated she had entered her residence and proceeded through two doors, both of which require access, before entering the elevator.

The victim stated she had obtained surveillance footage which had shown an unknown white male enter the foyer of the residence after the victim had entered the elevator. The male is shown committing a lewd act while inside of the foyer. The male is then shown attempting to access the second door, before leaving the scene.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact District D-4 (South End) Detectives at (617) 343-5619.

COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY HEARING
SET FOR AUG. 20
The City of Boston will attend a public hearing on Aug. 20 at 2 p.m. at the MA Department of Public Utilities, One South Station to testify in support of its plan for a municipal aggregation program, also known as community choice energy, to serve Boston’s electricity customers. The hearing is hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) as part of its process to approve the City’s plan and is open to the public. The City submitted its plan to the DPU on June 20, 2019 to begin the regulatory review process. Approval by the DPU is needed to create an aggregation program in any city or town within the Commonwealth. As part of the review process, a public hearing and comment period is offered to hear feedback from the community impacted by the plan. The City of Boston will testify to support its plan to quickly advance a program for a district that will make clean energy more accessible for Boston customers. Municipal aggregation, also called community choice energy, is a program enabled by state law that allows cities and towns to aggregate the buying power of individual electricity customers in their communities. Under an aggregation program, cities and towns can automatically enroll residents who receive default electricity service from their utilities into a single, bulk buying group and can be used as a tool to provide cleaner, more accessible energy to customers. For more information on the City of Boston’s work to create an aggregation program, visit Bos-ton.gov/community-choice-energy.

FREE WALKING TOURS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN
Join the Friends of the Public Garden for Untold Stories of the Public Garden, free walking tours of the first public botanical garden in the United States. Led by a pair of expert volunteer guides, learn about the history, sculpture, and horticulture of the Garden on a tour through this treasured oasis. Tours head out Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. through Labor Day. Weather permitting. They run about an hour and start at the Make Way For Ducklings Statue.

SOUTH END LIBRARY ANNOUNCES CLOSING PLANS
The Friends of the South End Library announced closing plans for the library branch this fall in preparation for a partial renovation of the downtown.

The library will close on Friday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m., and work will begin on the children and adult areas. The upgrade includes new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, a few add-on electrical outlets, a reorganization of the space, new furniture and seating arrangements as well as a ceiling-mount ed movie projector and roll-down screen in the upstairs community room.

The upgrades are paid for by a $132,000 budget allocation and $50,000 raised by the Friends. The library is expected to re-open in February 2020. A larger renovation of the library is in the works, with a 2020 Programming Study determining the scope of that renovation.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION UPDATE
The Bay Village Historic District Commission met on Aug. 13 and unanimously approved a small change in the design for the previously approved 67-69 Church Street project. The change includes restoring the brick piers in a symmetrical manner and in alignment with the existing brick areas of the second story. “I think it’s fabulous,” Commissioner Stephen Dunwell said of the change. “I think it’s a really smart way to do it.”

Also on the agenda was a review and discussion of comments from the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) regarding the proposed changes to the Bay Village Historic District Commission Regulatory, but Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission Joe Cornish said that the BVNA was not yet ready to present their proposed changes, so it will be done at a later date.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS
• There will be no NABB Green Committee meetings in August.
• Newbury Street will be closed to traffic and become a pedestrian-only walkway from Arlington Street to Massachusetts Avenue on August 25 and September 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Open Newbury Street.

SOUTH END DATES
• SoWa First Friday—The artists of SoWa Artists Guild invite you to visit SoWa First Friday, free and open to the public! More than 80 artists’ studios at 450 Harrison Avenue in the SoWa Art + Design District in the South End of Boston will be open from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. You’ll meet artists and experience a wide variety of original contemporary art that is available for you to browse and buy. MBTA Orange line to New England Medical Center, then Silver line outbound to Union Park Street. Parking is available. For more information, please visit http://www.sowaaartists.com and http://facebook.com/SoWaArtists-Guild.
• The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) has ended its spring meetings. The EBNA has changed its meeting time for the fall, now occurring on the first Tuesday of the month instead of the third Tuesday. They will meet next on Sept. 3.

FENWAY TIMES
• The Fenway Victory Gardens annual FensFest will take place on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. at Central Meadow, 1200 Boylston St. There will be bar-be-cue food, games, live music, and a raffle. There will also be a “White Elephant” sale at the event, in which household items, garden extras, books, etc. can be sold and all proceeds will be donated to the Fenway Garden Society. Visit fenwaysun.org for more details.
• Come join Fenway Victory Gardens in celebrating the polli nation of Aug. 17 from 2-00- 5:00 pm! There will be games, food, butterflies, and caterpillars! Enjoy a tour of the gardens and meet some neighbors!
• The Peterbororough Senior Center hosts two events: 12:30 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.
• Summer Fitness Series at Symphony Park
Free, age-appropriate fitness classes at Symphony Park, located at 39 Edgerly Road in the Fenway.
Join your neighbors for these classes, sponsored by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, with support from the Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust. All classes take place in the park at 10 a.m.; in event of rain, classes will be held at 100 Norwood Street: 7:00 Yoga: Tuesdays, June 4 – September 24.

FENWAY PARK HAPPENINGS:
August 31 and September 1—
(News Briefs Pg. 15)
Exclusive Marketing Agent for Four Seasons Private Residences, One Dalton Street, Boston

1 DALTON ST, UNIT 2704
2 Beds | 3 Baths | 1,357 SQFT
$15,000 per month

20 PINCKNEY ST
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,348 SQFT
$3,350,000

35 COMM AVE PH
3 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 5,885 SQFT
$15,550,000

400 STUART ST, UNIT 25A
3 Beds | 4 Baths | 2,428 SQFT
$5,550,000

400 STUART ST PH2
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,545 SQFT
$8,900,000

CLARENDON PH2

CAMPION AND COMPANY
172 NEWBURY STREET • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS • 02116 • WWW.CAMPIONRE.COM • 617.236.0711
A CONCERT OF CAPTIVATING VOCAL GEMS

The Boston Society of the New Jerseyan Concert Series opens with a vocal recital on Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 (7:30 p.m.); featuring Carlton Doctor and Lisa Sheppard Hadley. Carlton J. Doctor, a native of Washington, D.C., has performed with the Opera Company of Boston, Vermont Opera Artists, New England Spiritual Ensemble, Boston Symphony Orchestra and most recently performed with the Boston Lyric Opera. Carlton is currently the music director at the Church on the Hill in Dedham. Lisa Sheppard Hadley, native of Haverhill, Massachusetts, Lisa sang the role of The Teacher in the world premiere reading of the Elena Rueh opera, “Crafting the Bonds”, performed at MIT, Cambridge; bridge performances with Cranberry Coast Concerts, alto solos in Mozart’s “Requiem”, Preludio of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Lisa performed the role of Dolores in the original musical “Always Remember” by Marilyn Mo-rales. Lisa continues to sing with Labyrinth Choir, Cambridge Chorus, Joyful Noise, Church On The Hill, and Temple-Emanuel. They will perform “What Can We Poor Females Do?” by Henry Purcell, “So Pretty” by Leonard Bernstein “Jo-hanna” by Stephen Sondheim, “None But The Lonely Heart” by Richard Rodgers and “Habanera” by Georges Bizet, “Who Could Ask For Anything More?” by George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin, “Alto’s Lament” by Zona Gill-drudr and others... This is a benefit concert; tickets are $10. There will be a re-ception to follow with savory and delicious treats for all (the concert site is hand-cap accessible). The concert is at 140 Bowdoin St (across the street from the state house). For more information and tickets call (617) 523-4573 or visit our website http://churchonthehillboston.org.

RED SOX HOME GAMES:
8/16 vs. Orioles at 7:10 p.m.
8/17 vs. Orioles at 7:10 p.m.
8/18 vs. Orioles at 1:05 p.m.
8/20 vs. Phillies at 7:10 p.m.
8/21 vs. Phillies at 7:10 p.m.
9/3 vs. Twins at 7:10 p.m.

For the Record

From the Aug. 14, 14 Zoning Board hearing, City Hall: GCOD:
• 7 Symphony Rd., Fenway. Applicant: James Hatfield
  Purpose: Change of occupancy from single family to single family dwelling. Started as kitchen and
  bathroom renovations, we found all framing structure un-wound and unsafe. Replaced all framing as
  same floor plan. Construct roof deck.
• 74 Marlborough St., Back Bay. Applicant: John Barry
  Purpose: Interior renovations and building code upgrade as per attached plans.
• 117 Saint Botoloph St. Applicant: Cody Pratt
  Purpose: New rear deck addition on steel structure 2nd floor unit #2 New doors to replace windows.
• 119 West Newton St., South End. Applicant: Joseph Holland
  Purpose: Change of occupancy from 4 units to a single family. Full gut interior remodel of sin-
gle-family residence w/ select structural re-framing. Single-story rear addition at garden level w/ roof
  deck above. Excavation of garden level to lower elevation. Install new groundwater recharge system.
  Install new fire-suppression sprinkler system throughout.
• 1739 Washington St., South End. Applicant: Alexandra Partners, LLC
  Purpose: Complete gut renovation of existing Alexandria Hotel to create new hotel and restaur-
ant, new steel floors behind existing masonry facade and construction of an 8 story addition above
  existing height of structure and infill of adjacent vacant parcel being combined with this lot under
  AL1923501.
• 45 West Newton St., South End. Applicant: Mark McLaughlin
  Purpose: Remove the existing dormer and replace per architectural and Landmarks approval.
  Install new exterior doors and exterior deck over architectural drawings and Landmarks approval.
  Replace all windows in the unit. Install new metal railings and attach to existing fire escape par-
cle.
• 77 Worcester St. Applicant: Brynn Jafry
  Purpose: Build new roof head and 10x19 ft deck as per plans attached.
From the Aug. 13 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall:
• 245 Newbury Street: At front façade install second blade sign.
• 28 Newbury Street: At front façade install two flag poles and commercial flags.
• 243 Newbury Street: At front façade install sudden blade sign.
• 179 Newbury Street: At rear elevation replace existing metal door with wood and glass door
  and infill later door and window openings, construct deck, convert window at bay into door, and
  replace lower level entry door, create new window opening at lower level, remove window grates and
  redesign patio area.
• 301 Beacon Street: At rear elevation remove fire escape and surface applied conduit, remove
  and refill later door and window openings, construct deck, convert window at bay into door, and
  redesign patio area.
• 143 Beacon Street: At roof construct deck, headhouse and relocate HVAC equipment.

From the Aug. 14 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall: VIOLATIONS
• 100 Beacon Street (CITY STREET LIGHT POLE): Replace existing CITY-owned light pole with
  and attach a wireless communications antenna system at top of pole with related equip-
  ment attached to the pole.
• 885 Boylston Street (CITY STREET LIGHT POLE): Replace existing CITY-owned light pole with
  and attach a wireless communications antenna system at top of pole with related equipment attached to
  the pole.
• 130 Beacon Street: At roof construct deck, headhouse and relocate HVAC equipment.
  At rear courtyard relocate air-conditioning condenser and install spiral stair-
case from ground to garage roof deck.
• 370-380 Harrison Ave 180 Vehicles 3,600 gallons of gas in the tanks of vehicles: Sou-
  thend 10, LLC.
• 179 Marlborough Street: At floor construct deck, headhouse and relocate HVAC equipment.

From the Aug. 14 Public Facilities Commission (BTD) meeting, 26 Court St.: AECOM, Order of Taking: Various property interests located in Roxbury for the Melnea Cass Boulevard Reconstruction project.
Property Address: 1115-1135 Tremont Street, South End.
Property Address: 775 Columbus Avenue, South End.
Property Address: 1125 Tremont Street and 835 Columbus Avenue, South End.
Property Address: Melnea Cass Boulevard and Tremont Street, South End.
Property Address: 1010 Harrison Avenue, South End.
Property Address: 450 Melnea Cass Boulevard, South End.
Property Address: Ball Street, South End.
Property Address: Columbus Avenue, South End.
Property Address: 980 Harrison Avenue, South End.
Property Address: Melnea Cass Boulevard, South End.
Property Address: 906 Albany Street, South End.
Property Address: Melnea Cass Boulevard, Harrison Avenue and Albany Street, South End.
From the Aug. 14, 14 License Board hearing, City Hall:
• Lanndows Boston Restaurant, LLC, doing business as: House Of Blues
  Purpose: Remove the existing dormer and replace per architectural and Landmarks approval.
  Install new exterior doors and exterior deck over architectural drawings and Landmarks approval.
  Replace all windows in the unit. Install new metal railings and attach to existing fire escape par-
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