# STOL SUN SUN Por - South End - Fi THE S Serving Back Bay - South End - Fenway - Kenmore

# Walsh, Fenway Sports Group break ground on MGM Music Hall

#### By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh, along with Fenway Sports Group, broke ground on the MGM Music Hall on Nov. 22, which is set to open in 2021. The music hall will be operated in partnership with Live Nation, and will be located on the parcel of land at the corner of Landsdowne and Ispwich streets. Remarks were heard from Mayor Walsh, as well as executives with stakes in the venue.

The theater, which will be an indoor, four-story venue, will accommodate up to 5,000 patrons within 91,000 square feet.

"This is going to be one heck of

a rock-and-roll venue," said Sam Kennedy, President and CEO of the Red Sox. "Today's groundbreaking signals an important new era in Fenway's history, one where our group promises to apply the same thoughtfulness, care, collaboration, and we've tried to demonstrate in saving Fenway over these past two decades."

Kennedy said that the vision for what he called "Fenway 3.0" is to make Fenway a destination for both visitors and residents across the city. Aside from providing entertainment, the MGM Music Hall "will also be a resource to

(MGM MUSIC HALL, Pg. 11)

## **REP. SANTIAGO HOLDS FUNDRAISER AT STELLA**



State Rep. Jon Santiago addressed the audience during his fundraiser at Stella Restaurant on Thursday, Nov. 21. See more photos on Page 7.

## FRIENDSGIVING IN FENWAY



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROM Richie Dunshee sporting his turkey hat during Fenway Community Development Corporation Friendsgiving Thanksgiving meal at Morville House in the Fenway on Saturday, Nov. 23. More than 70 people attended the event, and everyone got their fill of turkey. See more photos on Page 6.

# 'Once Upon a Neighborhood' details the South End from beginning to end

#### By Seth Daniel

Open up any page in Alison Barnet's newest book 'Once Upon a Neighborhood,' and one will be amazed at the snippets of South End history contained in small vignettes on each page - sometime inconvenient pieces of history telling of how rich the South End community was even in the times that people often call the "bad davs.

Barnet's book is the fourth in

her writing career - not counting the many years she spent writing articles and columns for the South End News - but is one of the most unique books she has come out with so far. Staring in the 1600s, she progresses with a timeline that includes rich and interesting facts that go from pirate hangings to mafia hits to tenant strikes to the closing of the last bathhouse.

Some of the entries include one from June 4, 1956 where six years after the Brink's robbery, agents acting on a tip enter Wimpy Bennett's key shop at 617 Tremont St. and tear away a piece of the wall to find a green cooler with more than \$50,000 in it.

Then, on July 10, 1976, there is an entry about Peters Park being dedicated to the memory of George and Sadie Peters. Their son, Jimmy Peters, owner of Union Park Spa on Shawmut Avenue says it's the first park in the U.S. named for Lebanese immigrants.

And those are just two of

(SOUTH END BOOK, Pg. 3)

## Council discusses impact of ride-share companies

#### By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council held a hearing on Nov. 19 regarding the discussion of of transportation network companies (TNC), such as Uber and Lyft, that operate in Boston.

"We're all aware that TNCs such as Uber and Lyft have now become a part of the overall transportation network," said City

Councilor Ed Flynn at the start of the hearing. "They provide convenience to many boston residents and visitors. At the same time, I think we need to have a discussion about the impact they have on traffic and congestion, public safety, Vision Zero, the environment, sustainability, consumer protection, and how we can better leverage TNC to improve our transportation infrastructure."

Flynn, who is a major proponent of public safety, said that many of his constituents have brought to his attention concerns surrounding TNCs speeding through neighborhoods, as well as a lack of pickup/ dropoff areas in the city. There was a pilot pickup/dropoff area in the Fenway, which taught the city a lot about what these designated areas

# EDITORIAL

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back almost 400 years to the Pilgrims, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America.

Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

It's a day for schoolboy football, family gatherings, and not much else to do other than enjoy a great dinner with those whom we love and care about.

It is the only day on the calendar when we have no obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

Even in this time of divisiveness in our country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of what we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be where we are. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and inevitably -- at least for some of us -- a post-dinner nap or early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.

## **ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SAFELY**

We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

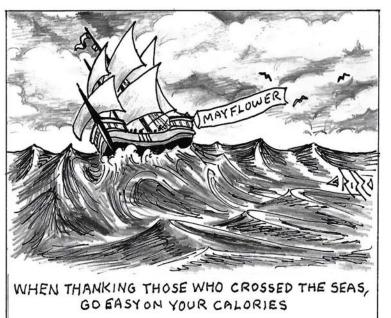
And specifically, we really mean only one thing: Do not drink and drive, nor allow friends and family members to do so.

The vast majority of Americans will have wonderful family get-togethers that will create memories that will last a lifetime.

However, for some, the stresses of the holiday season often express themselves in drinking too much, which in turn can lead to tragedies. Alcohol abuse by a family member by far is the biggest problem faced by many families, whether it is a son or daughter, mother or father, or brother or sister.

Intoxicated driving rates as one of the leading causes of accidental death in our society. More than 10,000 Americans die -- and tens of thousands more are seriously injured -- in auto accidents caused by impaired drivers every year.

All of us have a role not only in ensuring that we ourselves do not become one of those statistics, but also in preventing a friend or family member from becoming one.



HAPPY THANKS GIVING DAY ... NOV. 28, 2019

## Guest Op-Ed

## The Spirit of Giving in Boston

## By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Happy Thanksgiving, Boston! This is a special time to show gratitude for all the things and people that make our lives full. It's a time for surrounding ourselves with loved ones (and watching football, of course). This uniquely American tradition brings together people, families, and communities, and deepens our connections to one another as fellow Bostonians and people.

It's also a time to come together as a City to give back to those in need. Thanksgiving and the holidays can be difficult times for people and families who struggle to make ends meet. They may not have a permanent place to call home, or be able to put food on the table. So as we celebrate in our own ways, we must also remember to look out for one another—and show what it means to be a City of neighbors helping neighbors.

This Thanksgiving, I'm excited to continue my tradition of volunteering with local shelters. It's heartwarming to see so many individuals, food banks, and shelters open their doors to people and families, so that everyone can take part in a Thanksgiving celebration. To the compassionate volunteers who lend a hand on this holiday, your help is greatly appreciated. A hot meal, a place to escape the cold, and a gesture of kindness go a long way in providing comfort to someone in need. And you should take pride in knowing you're part of a citywide effort to reach out to and support Bostonians experiencing homelessness.

I also want to thank our many dedicated city partners who connect people to shelters and vital services. They are out on our streets, every day, making sure people know where they can find assistance if they need it. And as a City, we are always working toward our ultimate goal of getting people on the path to supportive and permanent housing. So far, we've housed nearly 2,000 chronically homeless individuals, including 1,000 veterans. We've ended chronic veteran homelessness, and we're on our way to ending all chronic homelessness in Boston. We've got more work to do, but we're making progress



Mayor Martin Walsh, Police Commissioner William Gross and District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn prepare Thanksgiving turkeys.

#### every day.

Our work is more than about getting people into housing. It's about building a strong and resilient City, where all of our residents can succeed. It's about our fundamental belief that every single person in our City deserves a chance to build a better life for themselves and their families—and to follow their dreams. And it's about the day to day actions we can take to make even one person's day a little brighter.

I continue to be inspired by Bostonians who, every single day, who set an example on how to give back to their communities. I want to thank everyone who helps make Boston a stronger, more vibrant, and connected city. The spirit of giving is especially alive during the holidays, and that makes me incredibly proud to be Mayor of this great city.

I hope you all enjoy Thanksgiving, however you celebrate. And if you have a chance, take time to volunteer at a food bank or homeless shelter, especially as we head into the cold winter months. Our city is at our strongest when we look out for one another as neighbors, friends, and fellow Bostonians. Let's keep the spirit of giving going every day, in our communities and in our hearts.

Martin Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## SOUTH END BOOK (from pg. 1)

thousands of gems in the book, which goes up to 2015.

"This book is extremely different in a way because it's completely by time," she said. "I don't go into my history about the Franklin Square House. You could say this is impersonal – just the facts, ma'am...You can open any page and see something very interesting you didn't know before. It's pretty amazing to read these anecdotes of what the South End used to be. I don't think a lot of people really want to know this stuff, but it's documented. I documented it."

She said she stopped in 2015 because there isn't much of interest that happened afterward.

"The book starts in the 1600s and people ask me all the time where I start," she said. "I started there because it's as far back as I could go and I ended at 2015. It probably shouldn't even go that far because after that it's just all the same – luxury condo after luxury condo."

Part of the mission of the book is to set the record straight, Barnet said in no uncertain terms.

"I am passionate about the history of the South End," she said. "It's a personal insult when people say the neighborhood was terrible until they arrived. I hate it when they call it a slum and skid row and it couldn't have been nice until they arrived. That offends me. This was a wonderful neighborhood in the `30s, `40s, `50s and `60s.

"There is also the full-circle theory that needs to be dispelled," she continued. "A lot of the new people think that in the 1850s and 1860s the South End was built by wealthy white people and then it went into a slump for decades. Now, that they're here, it's coming back to what it was. That's nonsense. They think everything was terrible until the came on the scene."

It was with that in mind that Barnet and some friends at the South End Library got together four or five years ago and began assembling little stories in chronological order. After a little while, Barnet took all of the pieces and began putting them in a form to read. Then she realized she needed to fact-check them.

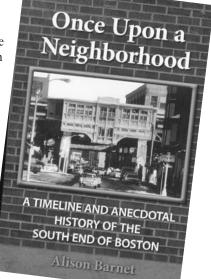
Then she realized she had created a project.

"I became obsessed," she said. "I said that there's a lot more to this. The group was supportive of me throughout. They did some editing for me and were very supportive of it."

Now that she's completed the book, she said – with a laugh – that she has a lot of time on her hands and not much to do. That will surely change soon, but she does keep occupied with book talks throughout the neighborhood.

Since releasing the book three months ago, she's had several appearances, including two jam-packed talks at the South End Library before it closed for renovations.

"It was a on overflow crowd and there were people who couldn't get in at all," she said. "It seems to be received really well."



Long-time Southender Alison Barnet has just penned her fourth book, but this time it's a timeline of interesting history of the South End. 'Once Upon a Neighborhood' chronicles the stories, history and character of the neighborhood from 1600 to 2015.

## **RIDESHARE** (from pg. 1)

can do to help.

Another concern of Flynn's and many other city councilors is the effect these vehicles have on sustainability.

"TNC rides in Massachusetts have increased 25 percent from 2017 to 2018," according to City Councilor Matt O'Malley. He also cited a study that was jointly funded by Uber and Lyft that said that about 8 percent of all Boston traffic was coming from a ride share, that he said that the number is probably closer to 10 or 12 percent. "That's a real impact," he said.

Patricia Bellfield, a Boston resident who said she owned a TNC company for about five years but was recently dissolved due to not being able to afford the filing fees, said that the council should take a look at other companies like UberEats, Instacart, and Door-Dash, as they are also a large portion of the traffic on city streets.

"I also do DoorDash part of the time," she said, adding that in the central part of the city, people who live in high rises want drivers to come all the way up to their apartment with their food, so that presents challenges when trying to find a place to park briefly when making the delivery.

She suggested to the council that they might want to consider allowing city delivery spaces to be used for dropoff/pickup areas, as she said "those don't seem to be used as much."

Additionally, she was concerned with the potential cap that would be placed on TNC drivers, as she said that when she re-starts her ride share company, she fears a monopoly from Uber and Lyft and would have to compete with them. Councilor Annissa EssaibiGeorge asked if the city has been able to capture or increase fees from the food delivery services, but she was told that they fit the definition of a delivery service vehicle and therefore do not fall under the same regulations as a TNC.

Several City Councilors also had questions around how TNC's affect the Disability community. Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Vice Chair of the Boston disability Commission Advisory Board, said that "These TNCs serve an important need for the disability community in a number of levels, both having the same level of access other people have to an on-demand, sameday service." Though she was not speaking in an official capacity, she said that there are definitely things that come up on a short notice, such as a shopping trip or a last minute doctor's appointment, that cannot be scheduled by 5 p.m. the night before, as the MBTA's The Ride service requires.

She also spoke of the importance of a pooled drop off and pickup location, but stressed that they need to be accessible for all members of the disability community.

Chief of Streets Chris Osgood provided some statistics on ride share services both in the City of Boston and throughout the Commonwealth. He said that there were 81 million ride share trips across the state in 2018, and 42.2 million of those trips originated in Boston. That boils down to 115,000 trips per day.

"Without question, TNCs are a huge way in which people within the city, within this region, within the commonwealth are moving and that is...a number which is growing," Osgood said. According to a report from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), TNCs add about 291 million vehicle miles traveled to roads across Massachusetts, Osgood said, about 15 percent of which are happening during rush hour. Additionally, TNCs have also contributed about half a percent to the state's total carbon emissions.

"Right now, TNCs are managed through the Department of Public Utilities at the state level," Osgood said. He said that for every trip, a 20 cent assessment is currently charged; 10 cents goes to the municipality where the trip began, five cents goes to a commonwealth transportation fund, and the remaining 5 cents goes into a taxi and livery assistance and support fund. "MAPC identified that for every trip that is happening by TNCs, the MBTA is posting 35 cents in revenue," Osgood added.

Osgood said that many have called for an update to the way TNCs are managed and assessed in the state, including to encourage more shared trips that would have a higher charge for a solo trip and a lower cost for a shared trip, and "a shift from a flat fee to a percentage of the overall fare." The current proposal is to have a three percent charge for a shared trip and a 6.25 percent charge for a solo trip, he said.

Additionally, in the legislative proposal is a rush hour assessment in which TNC companies would be charged 20 cents for every vehicle mile traveled during rush hour when there are no customers in the car. It also encourages more TNCs to switch to zero emission vehicles, and these vehicles would be exempt from the 20 cent charge as an incentive to switch.

Osgood also talked about what has been done with the revenue that was collected last year from the existing assessment, which garnered around \$3.5 million. He said that \$1 million was invested into sidewalks to improve accessibility, over \$1 million unto roadway safety, including \$500,000 for the repainting of crosswalks, \$500,000 for crosswalks along the Southwest Corridor and the redesign of the Massachusetts Avenue/Melnea Cass Boulevard intersection, and \$100,000 each for improving signage across the city and improving signal timings.

Another \$500,000 was used for a BlueBikes expansion to reach areas of the city that had not previously been reachable, and about \$250,000 was invested in the public realm.

#### Fenway Pilot Program

Osgood also spoke about the pilot program created by the Boston Transportation Department and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics for a pickup/dropoff area on Boylston St. in the Fenway.

"We ran that pilot for three for four months," Osgood said. He said they learned that creating such a zone can lead to "a huge increase in curb productivity. We saw a 350 percent increase in the utilization of that curb."

Osgood also said they saw an 8 percent reduction in the overall parking citations issued and illegal parking in the area, "in part, we believe, because we had a better option for some of the people who may have been violating in the past." They also saw a 38 percent reduction in pickup and drop-offs in the travel lane. "This is incredibly important from a safety perspective," Osgood said. "It's also important from a congestion perspective."

City Councilor Josh Zakim said that the Fenway pilot "has been welcome by both visitors and residents." He also said that "from a congestion standpoint, I think it's great that these companies are working to make this feasible. We need to have a thoughtful process."

Osgood said there were lessons learned about ways in which the city "needs to sign and manage those spots," and they are expanding the pilot to other locations in the city.

"We think that through this work on managing the curb and the broader advocacy at the state level around improving the way in which we as a Commonwealth oversee TNCs, we're going to make some good progress on all the issues..." Osgood said.

Councilor Flynn said that it's important to interact with Uber and Lyft, and "they need to be at the table" so the council can gather more information from them.

The TNC companies were invited to the hearing, but "they chose not to come for various reasons," according to Flynn. "So I'm not happy with them and I'd like us to have a better dialogue and discussion with TNC and getting the data that we need so our residents can be as safe as possible," he said.

Councilor Michelle Wu ended the hearing by saying that the conversation's focus was on traffic impact and accessibility, as well as the impact of the economics that Uber and Lyft have."We'll wait to hear the progress on the legislation at the state level," she said, "as well as further reports and follow-up from you all."

# **Cranberries:** Authentically American treat on the turkey table since 1621

#### By Seth Daniel

It's the only red thing on the table at Thanksgiving, but the superfruit that is authentically American has a lot more going for it than it's bright red color on Thanksgiving.

Cranberries are a great resource for New England, and are the largest cash crop in Massachusetts. Though Wisconsin grows the most cranberries in the country by number, the superfruit is vitally important to this state's agricultural industry. With cranberry sauce being such a vital part of the Thanksgiving table, that means the season is vitally important to the cranberry industry here – an industry that booms in the fall months mostly on the South Shore and towards Cape Cod.

Ocean Spray officials, who are based in Carver on the South Shore, said Thanksgiving accounts for 37 percent of annual cranberry sales – basically between September and November.

There are any number of things that the cranberry can provide for the Thanksgiving table. Obviously, the cranberry sauce is the most common, but Ocean Spray officials said other popular Thanksgiving uses are brussels sprouts with cranberries, cranberries in salads, cranberry cocktails, and cranberry sweet potato casserole.

The oddest cranberry recipe,

they said: "Cranberry turkey chili leftovers."

Aside from the common or the bizarre, cranberries were known to have many other uses in the past – particularly among Native Americans in New England.

"Cranberries are native to North America, including the Northeast, and are one of only three cultivated fruits that are indigenous to this continent," said an Ocean Spray spokesperson. "They are authentically American, and the superfruit has been used for many purposes throughout history. Native Americans used cranberries for food, medicine, dyes for clothes and blankets, to cure meat, and to draw poison from arrow wounds, as early as 1550. For this reason, legend has it that cranberries were included in the first Thanksgiving meal, which was in 1621."

Another reason they are most popular on Thanksgiving is because of their harvest season, which falls from mid-September to mid-November. Ocean Spray farmers harvest billions of cranberries during that period in bogs where they grow. The bogs are soft, marshy ground with acidic peat soil – and are most commonly found near wetlands. Cranberries grow on long, running vines, and don't grow underwater as many tend to think.

Like flower bulbs, they are a



Cranberry farmers harvesting a fresh crop of the berries on the South Shore earlier this fall, just in time for Thanksgiving. The popular superfruit is one of only three cultivated fruits native to North America, and was used heavily by the Native Americans of the northeast. That is one reason that cranberries were believed to be on the first Thanksgiving table, and why they remain there to this day.

perennial crop and grow on vines that are hundreds of years old.

"When cranberries are ready for harvest, the bogs are flooded with water," said the Ocean Spray spokesperson. "Farmers then use water reels, nicknamed "eggbeaters," to churn the water and loosen the cranberries from the vine. Each berry has a tiny pocket of air that allows it to float to the surface of the water. From there, they're corralled together to be harvested and become delicious food and drinks for family tables worldwide."

Ocean Spray officials said cranberries weren't always called "cranberries." For Eastern Native Americans, they were called "sassamanesh." Cape Cod Pequots and South Jersey Leni-Lenape tribes called them "ibimi," or bitter berry. And the Algonquins of modern-day Wisconsin dubbed the superfruit "atoqua."

It was the German and Dutch settlers who started calling the cranberry a "crane berry" because of the flower's resemblance to the head and bill of a crane. Interestingly, that name stuck, and gave us the modern cranberry terminology.

More recently, cranberries have become not only an annual Thanksgiving staple, but also a popular staple of the health food gurus. Cranberries are actually very nutritional and are considered a superfruit in the same vein as the once-maligned pomegranate. They are rich in antioxidants, polyphenols, prebiotic fibers, vitamins, and minerals. Among the cranberry's many benefits include raising good cholesterol, improving blood pressure, maintaining cardiovascular health, and even protecting the body against inflammation that may lead to certain cancers. The strong antioxidant capacity of cranberries is also associated with the prevention of some diseases and improved digestion.

So, whether its sauce out of a can, or an hours-long boil of fresh berries, this Thanksgiving, make sure to break bread with a little red on the table.

## Baker signs bill on hands-free use of electronic devices while driving

## Staff Report

Gov. Charlie Baker signed legislation to improve road safety in the Commonwealth Monday, which stipulates that no motor vehicle operator may use electronic devices while driving unless the technology is being used handsfree.

The legislation, which adopts recommendations from the Commonwealth's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, also sets forth penalties for violating the law and requires that law enforcement officers report data on violations so the information can be shared with the public.

Gov. Baker was joined at the signing ceremony by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, state leaders, officials with the National Transportation Safety Board, and representatives from advocacy groups, including, the Vision Zero Coalition, Safe Roads Alliance, LiveableStreets Alliance, WalkBoston, MassBike and Boston Cyclists Union. The Governor acknowledged the work of stakeholders for efforts to get hands-free legislation passed and thanked the families of victims for sharing their personal stories during legislative hearings.

"Our Administration is committed to keeping the Commonwealth's network of roads safe, and this legislation will substantially reduce distracted driving and hold operators accountable when they are looking at an electronic device instead of looking at the road ahead," said Gov. Baker. "We are especially grateful for the many advocates and families that passionately fought to bring this bill to fruition, are thankful for the Legislature's collaboration on this bill and look forward to continued efforts to improve road safety in Massachusetts."

Under the new law, titled An Act requiring the hands-free use of mobile telephones while driving, operators of motor vehicles and bicycles cannot use an electronic device unless the device is being used in hands-free mode. Operators cannot read or view text or look at images or video, unless what is being viewed on the device is helping with navigation and the device is mounted in an appropriate location. They also cannot make phone calls unless they are able to do so without holding the phone, utilizing technology such as Bluetooth. The new law permits the use of electronic devices if they are being used in response to an emergency, necessary for first responders to do their jobs. It also permits use if operators are stationary and not in active lanes of travel. Punishment for violating the handsfree law includes a \$100 fine for a first offense, \$250 fine for a second offense and \$500 fine for a third or subsequent offense. A third or subsequent offense will count as a surchargeable incident. Operators who commit a second or subsequent offense are required to complete an educational program focused on distracted driving prevention.

"The hands-free legislation is now law in Massachusetts thanks to the tireless work of advocates and victims' families," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "Legislators were moved to action after hearing the personal stories of people who have lost loved ones in traffic crashes. Advocacy groups were with the families every step of the way and marshaled support for this bill. I would like to thank the Vision Zero Coalition, Safe Roads Alliance, LiveableStreets, Walk-Boston and many other pedestrian and bicycle advocacy groups for their efforts and I look forward to continuing our collaboration to get additional road safety bills passed during the next legislative session."

Said Stacy Thompson, LivableStreets Alliance Executive director, "We are grateful for the leadership and partnership of the Baker-Polito Administration in moving this life-saving law forward. This is an important step toward achieving Vision Zero in Massachusetts and we look forward to working with the Administration and Legislature to advance several other critical road safety bills in the new year."

The hands-free law takes effect 90 days after passage and has reporting requirements for law enforcement officers who make traffic stops. They must make note of data, including the age, race and gender of individuals issued a warning or citation. NOVEMBER 27, 2019

Y

# SoWa Winter Festival

460 & 500 Harrison Ave DECEMBER 6 – 8

> FRI 6pm – 10pm SAT 10am – 8pm SUN 10am – 6pm

sowaboston.com

## FENWAY CDC KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON

#### Photos by Keiko Hiromi

Fenway Community Development Corporation (Fenway CDC) kicked off the holiday season with a

Friendsgiving Thanksgiving meal at Morville House on Nov. 23. About 70 people enjoyed and shared the delicious Thanksgiving meal with friends and family.



Helen Murphy, Jasmine Vargas and Madison Lambert.



Sean McFarson and Lucy Hoffman at Friendsgiving.



*Ella Debnam was ready to serve some tasty mac and cheese.* 



Sharon, David and James enjoyed the Friendsgiving meal.



Lenwood Powells, Jaqueline Evans, Lynaia Evans and Jayda Evans get ready to eat at Friendsgiving.



Angela Stewart, with Maria and Andrian Medrano.



Mo Braingiforte, Berklee student, singing during Friendsgiving.



# **BMC Institutional Master Plan**

**Wednesday, December 11** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

#### 850 Harrison Ave

Yawkey Center A/B Conference Room Boston, MA 02118

**Project Proponent:** Boston Medical Center

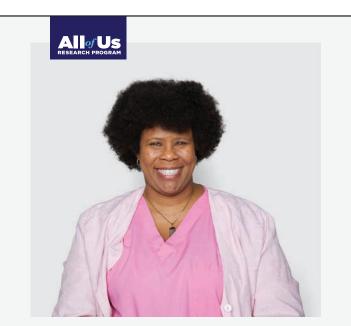
#### **Project Description:**

Boston Medical Center is proposing a new, ten-year Institutional Master Plan for the 2020-2030 term. This includes proposed future development projects, renovations, and consolidations to their campus. Please note: the first half of the meeting will be devoted to public discussion, while the second half will focus on discussion among the BMC Community Task Force. The meeting will be held in the Yawkey Center A/B Conference Room. Attendees should enter via the 850 Harrison Avenue lobby and take the elevators to the basement. Turn right out of the elevator and the conference room will be on the left as you continue down the hallway.

mail to: Edward Carmody Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4422 email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period: 12/20/2019

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recision Medicine Initiative, PMI, All of Us, the All of Us logo, and "The Future of Health Begins with You re service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



AllofUs

## FUNDRAISER HELD FOR STATE REP. JON SANTIAGO



Doug Chavez and Aaron Jones, of the Ward 9 Democratic Committee.



Worcester Square's Bob Minnocci (center) introducing State Rep. Jon Santiago (L) at the fundraiser.



Milton Vasquez and Arthur "Bud" Larievy of Washington Gateway Main Street.



Jane and Bill Wolff.



Kathleen Enright, Lorraine Steele, State Rep. Jon Santiago and Tony Piccolo.

goods and furnishings. Curtis M.

Babine unit #300; David Melendez

unit #302; Kristen Bransfield unit

#349; Ian Corbin unit #625; Teddy

Figueroa unit #636. All property

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apply. See manager for details.

notice. Certain terms and conditions

11/21/19, 11/28/19

BS

is being stored at the above

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**LEGAL NOTICE** Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 12/9/2019 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Prime Storage -Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 12/9/2019 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Darcelle L. Lavalley unit #3054; Angel R. Serrano unit #4140; Alexander Mosher unit #4313. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

11/21/19, 11/28/19 RS

## Photos by Keiko Hiromi

A fundraiser for State Rep. Jon Santiago took place at Stella Restaurant in the South End on Nov. 21. The fundraiser was organized by Bob Minnocci and Desmond Murphy of Worcester Square. More than 70 people came to the fundraiser, according to his campaign.



Jim Feldman, Janet and Gil Slovin and Alex Santiago.



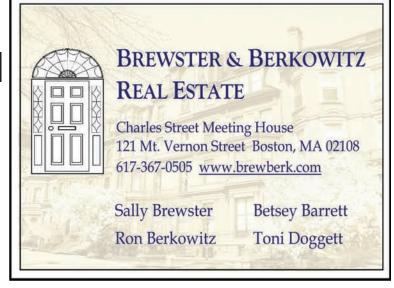
Karen Parker, Dorothy and Jim Keeney and Dr. Robert Beazley.

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# Meetings to resume on Harriet Tubman House project

### By Seth Daniel

After a long pause following two wild meetings earlier this fall on the Harriet Tubman House project, the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for the Harriet Tubman House will resume meeting on Dec. 9 in 566 Columbus Ave.

The Proposed Project will redevelop the building, which is being sold by United South End Settlements to New Boston Ventures. The current building will be demolished for a new, six-story mixed-use commercial and residential building. The proposed project will feature a community oriented ground floor with

approximately 5,000 square-feet live/work spaces, and 42 belowof commercial space, including a social enterprise café with outdoor seating, an art exhibit gallery open to the public, and new, improved and modern community space for the United South End Settlements. The Proposed Project will contain 66 residential home-ownership units, 11 of which will be artist

grade parking spaces.

The meetings on the project took a contentious course earlier this year in two meetings that stretched more than two hours each and featured a great deal of screaming, yelling and scrapping.

Most of the animus has to do with non-profits being displaced

from the building to another location, as well as the historical aspect of USES in the building.

Reportedly there have been a number of meetings privately on both sides with Mayor Martin Walsh and others in the administration, but that could not be confirmed.

## Boston Medical files Master Plan with City, carries over building projects

#### By Seth Daniel

Boston Medical Center (BMC) filed notice of its 10-year Institutional Master Plan (IMP) and has started the public vetting of the outlined program - with a first City meeting on Dec. 11.

Although many of the projects in the IMP are carryovers from the previous IMP - project that never came to be - the plan still raises eyebrows in that it calls for the construction of more than 600,000 square-feet of space. An IMP filing is required every 10 years by institutions like BMC.

"A lot of that 600,000 squarefeet is carryover and there are two carry-over buildings," said Bob Biggio, senior vice president of facilities. "One is an administrative building by the Power Plant site on Albany Street. The other is the phase two in creating additional capacity at the Dowling Building (on the corner of Albany and Mass Ave). The vast majority of

the 600,000 square-feet is carryover that is already approved with planning done previously."

Another big emphasis will be on bringing services into owned buildings and eliminating leases wherever possible.

"Some of the new project in the IMP are designed to replace leases we have currently," Biggio said. "We would like to get into ownership and out of leasing. We anticipated these new projects will be on the back end of the 10-year plan."

The previous 10-year IMP focused on consolidating the campus further towards Mass. Ave, and with some success in building the Shapiro Building, realigning the emergency department - while selling off the Doctors Office Building and 85 E. Newton St.

"For the last 10 years, the focus has been consolidation of duplicative services, centralization of clinical services, and alignment of complementary use adjacencies," read the IMP.

"The next 10 years will build upon these successful strategies with a continued focus on its facilities to support BMC's mission and its new accountable care model," it continued. "As a result, campus modifications will be necessary over the next 10 years, including but not limited to, constructing new facilities, leveraging underutilized real estate assets, managing expiring leases, demolishing obsolete buildings, renovating existing structures, and improving infrastructure for energy efficiency and resiliency."

Within that, there are two new buildings that come as part of an analysis of the old and aging buildings on the campus. Many of the buildings are underutilized and in need of repair, such as Vose Hall and the Preston Family Building on East Newton Street and Stoughton.

"That is a very old facility and really not situated to be used for much of anything," Biggio said.

"That building would be torn down and replaced with a building of about 100,000 sq. ft. Part of that building will be used for leases that we will eliminate. It would mostly be used for growth in administrative and dry lab space."

Dry lab space is research space that focuses on analytics and data research, rather than the traditional chemistry lab with experimentation.

A second proposed new building in the plan comes on Albany Street behind the BU Dental School. Biggio explained when the state bought the Newton Pavilion, it came on a 99-year ground lease and BMC retained the right to take bank the "ramp space" behind the dental school if it wanted to build a building. That would be an approximately 207,000 squarefoot administrative and clinical building that would help to coordinate services with the Shattuck Hospital when it takes over the Newton Pavilion.

"We believe we might want to do that within the 10-year plan," he said. "We anticipate there could be associated work that might make sense to be located adjacent to the Shattuck program."

Other rehabilitation projects: •Sixth floor addition to the Yawkey Building. Approximately 15,500 square-feet for women's

health services. •Menino and Yawkey Lobby Addition. Construct approximately 6,000 square-foot foot entry and lobby addition to improve circulation to ant through the buildings. It would expand the ground level retail and the cafeteria. BMC will study whether or not to reconfigure the vehicle operations on BMC Drive.

•Menino ninth Floor addition. Construct 37,000 square-feet vertical addition to support inpatient volumes and the homeless population.

•Collamore/Old Evans Building. Renovate 102,000 square-feet of obsolete administrative space.

Biggio said the approach for this IMP would be within the same vein as the last, improving the streetscape and making things more presentable for the community.

"We want to work very hard to create a plan that not only meets the needs of BMC, but also that of the community," he said.

"I think we did a good job on that with Albany Street," he continued. "I think 10 years ago Albany Street was uninviting and unwelcoming. I think that's changed and we want to continue that philosophy with this Master Plan.

<u>bp</u>da **Public Meeting** 

# **566 Columbus Avenue**

Monday, December 9 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**United South End Settlements** 566 Columbus Avenue Boston, MA 02118

**Project Proponent:** New Boston Ventures

#### Project Description:

IAG/Public Meeting BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO SOUTH END URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, PROJECT NO, MASS, R-56, FOR PARCEL 17: PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO SOUTH END URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, PROJECT NO. MASS. R-56, LOCATED AT 566 COLUMBUS AVENUE, SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD, BOSTON

The Proposed Project will redevelop the Project Site with a new, six-story vibrant mixed use commercial and residential building. The Proposed Project will feature a community oriented ground floor with approximately 5,000 sf of commercial space, including a social enterprise café with outdoor seating, an art exhibit gallery open to the public, and new. improved and modern community space for the United South End Settlements. the Proposed Project will contain 66 residential home ownership units, 11 of which will be artist live/work spaces, and 42 below-grade parking spaces.

#### mail to: Michael Sinatra

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617 918 4280 michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov email:

> BostonPlans.org | (1) @BostonPlans Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



D-4 POLICE NEWS

## HANDS OFF

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, at about 2:03 a.m., police responded to a radio call for fight at 867 Boylston St.

On arrival, the officer spoke to a witness, who said an unknown male suspect had grabbed his girlfriend, and that he had to grab the suspect to get him off of his girlfriend.

The witness' girlfriend told police that the suspect said something to her, but she ignored him. She then went to car and sat down while waiting for her boyfriend. When the suspect approached her car, she asked him to leave her alone. The suspect ignored her request,

however, and then grabbed her boyfriend by his clothing, pushed him back and slapped his face. All parties were separated

before police arrived. The female victim said she wasn't hurt and didn't want to press charges.

## BAD CALL

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, offi-

cers responded to a radio call for an armed robbery at T-Mobile at 1180 Washington St.

While en route, police were notified two masked suspects had robbed two female of approximately 20 cell phones at gunpoint, and that one of phones had a tracking devise inside the box.

Officers then responded to 15 Holyoke St. – the location to where the phone had been tracked. During a search of the Southwest Corridor that runs parallel to Holyoke Street, police observed an individual matching the description of one of the suspects.

When officers attempted to speak to this individual he took off running down Public Alley 541, which runs behind Holyoke Street, and discarded a pair of Nike sneakers behind 30 Holyoke St.

Police continued to chase the suspect before they were able to stop him at the corner of Pembroke Street and Warren Avenue. Police also located a brush, white gloves and a receipt from Jerk Chicken in the vicinity. Police couldn't positively identify the individual as one of the suspects, however, so they released him after conducting a Field Intelligence Observation

Meanwhile, officers searching the Southwest Corridor observed an individual, who was later identified as the suspect who brandished the firearm. He was then charged with armed robbery while masked and transported to District 4 headquarters for booking.

# For the Record

From the Nov. 26 Boston Landmarks Commission meeting, City Hall Rm. 900, 4 p.m.:

•Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street: Re-paint plaster walls and woodwork at current Tea Room (former Boylston Street Driveway/Periodical Room).

•Christian Science Center Complex, 175-235 Huntington Ave.: Installation of five safety bollards at top of spiral ramp at garage exit.

•Christian Science Center Complex, 250 Massachusetts Ave.: Complete final phases of restoration work at church dome, drum and cupola; and portico and west façade.

From the 10 a.m. Dec. 2 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: A hearing regarding classification and the residential exemption for Fiscal Year 2020. The Chair of the Committee and Sponsor of the Docket is Councilor Ciommo. (Preparing to set the tax rate).

## From the Dec. 3 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, City Hall Rm. 801, 9:30 a.m.:

•121 Saint Stephen St., South End. Applicant: Timothy Burke

Purpose: Foundation & Structural repairs as per Structural Engineers plans, Pointing & Repairs to Exterior Masonry, New Roof, Upgrade Electrical & Plumbing systems to code, Sprinkler System, Fire & Security System, Insulation, Sheetrock, Carpentry, Upgrade Kitchens/Bathrooms per Architects plans, Painting.

•411 Shawmut Ave., South End. Applicant: Adam Grassi

Add new roof deck w/spiral staircase, frame new skylight openings, replace roofing and renovated bathroom.

•131 Appleton St., South End. Applicant: Lan Ho

Original two apartments and two stores on the ground floor. Ground floor was previously two commercial uses. The ground floor was altered prior to purchase to accommodate three commercial uses. These uses are a hair salon, attorney office and art gallery. No changes to exterior elevation, change occupancy to include a third commercial space.

•32 Appleton St., South End. Applicant: Eric Seitz

Add rear balcony and roof deck - to amend permit.

From the Dec. 3 Josiah Quincy Upper School Building Committee, 26 Court St., 3 p.m.

This meeting is to review and take a vote to approve the Preliminary Design Program (PDP) in accordance with the Massachusetts School Building Authority school construction process.

City of Boston's Architect, HMFH will present the PDP for the Future Josiah Quincy Upper School. Following the presentation the School Building Committee will then vote to Approve and Authorize the City's Owners Project Manager to submit the PDP to the MSBA

From the Dec. 3 South End Landmarks Commission hearing, City Hall Piemonte Room, 5:30 p.m.:

DESIGN REVIEW

•44 Dartmouth St. (Continued from 11/05/2019 Public Hearing). Reconstruct a roof deck with railings visible from a public way.

•25 Milford St. Replace historic double-leaf entry doors in kind.

•198 West Springfield St. #4. Modify the roof deck to comply with SELDC Standards and Criteria.

•96 Chandler St. Reconstruct a roof deck visible from a public way.

•2 Clarendon St. At the Montgomery Street elevation, install a gutter, splashguards, and downspout

•29 Upton St. #3. Construct a roof deck.

•143-145 Warren Ave. At the mansard level, construct two new dormers, one

at each facade; modify the openings at the existing dormers and replace windows.

•48 Union PK. At the stoop, install a decorative metal handrail.•123 Appleton St. At the Appleton Street facade, enlarge an existing masonry

opening and install new windows; replace awnings; replace and install new wall sconces; paint the Dartmouth Street sign band and return install new graphics and replace gooseneck style light fixtures; install moveable flower boxes and planters.

•45 West Newton St. At the roof level of a rear addition, construct a deck.

•169 Warren Ave. Erect a roof deck, visible from a public way.

•686 Massachusetts Ave. At the roof, remove a head house and install a hatch and condenser units. At the front façade parlor and garden levels, remove conduits and install Fire Department beacon in flush box.

•180 West Canton St. At the roof level, remove a rear chimney.

•65-109 Camden St. Replace Aeriata-style light pole in kind with attached small cell node equipment and antennae.

•1144-1146 Washington St. Replace double-acorn light pole in kind with attached small cell node equipment and antennae.

•156 Worcester St. Rebuild a roof deck, visible from a public way.

•1 Appleton St./ 439-441 Tremont St. At the Appleton Street storefront install new signage, new planters, seating, and umbrellas associated with a sidewalk café; modify the main entry and paint metal doors and trim.

•1313 Washington St. At the Washington Street facade, replace resident garage doors; at the Waltham Street facade, replace service garage door.

•32 Appleton St. Replace historic windows at the front façade.

•62-64 Rutland St. Replace historic entry doors in kind.

•79 Rutland St. Replace historic entry doors in kind.

•85 West Newton St.(Continued) Demolish the existing former church and parish house (Villa Victoria Center for the Arts/ IBA Preschool).

ADVISORY REVIEW

•40 East Berkeley Street. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck

•115 Worcester Street. Proposed Work: Construct a new building.

From the Dec. 5 Back Bay Architectural Subcommittee, City Hall Rm. 709, 10 a.m.: •A sub-committee of the Commission will hold a public meeting to continue its discussion with Back Bay stakeholders regarding signage guidelines in the Commercial area of the Back Bay Architectural District.

From the Dec. 5 Back Bay Tree Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass. Ave., 10 a.m.: The request is for the removal of five honey locust trees each measuring from 5 to 7 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) as part of the proposed Parcel 12 air rights project over the Massachusetts Turnpike and MBTA rail lines comprising most of a city block bounded by Boylston Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Newbury Street.

A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing.

From the Dec. 5 Fenway Tree Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass. Ave., 10:40 a.m.: •The request is for the removal of one ornamental cherry tree measuring 7 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) due to a proposed tree relocation as part of a pedestrian easement plan for the Fenway Theater Project at 175 Ipswich Street in the Fenway. A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing.

A Dec. 5, 12:30 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION. A working session regarding a home rule petition authorizing the City of Boston to establish an investor and commercial properties transfer fee. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Flaherty. The sponsors of the docket are Councilors Edwards and Janey. **BUYER 1** 

**BACK BAY** 

30 Comm Ave LLC 30

**BEACON HILL** 

\$2,900,000

\$575,000 \$3,600,000

\$3,600,000

\$5,665,000

\$455,000

\$700,000

\$760,000

\$2,640,000

\$505,000

\$612,000

\$865,000

\$420,000

\$640,000

\$604,000

\$687,059

\$2,900,000

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL BY PENNY CHERUBINO

**THIS WEEK'S ANSWER** 



The brickwork in the last clue is on 195 Marlborough Street built in 1883. According to the website backbayhouses.org it was, " ... designed by architect Francis Ward Chandler, of the firm of Cabot and Chandler, as his own home." This might account for the simple elegance of the brickwork that leads your eye up along the front facade.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# **Real Estate Transfers**

cal Estate Transfers			
SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE	
Degiaomo, James R	30 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$2,249,000	
Motta Janice C Est	21 Beacon St #4L	\$476,750	
KFT Boston LLC	45-1/2 Garden St #45H	\$505,000	

17 Hancock St #2

46-48 Irving St

52-54 Irving St

9 Hawthorne Pl #6A

39-41 Mount Vernon St

6 Whittier Pl #17P

Gormley, Melissa N Hoffman, Lindsey D Gulliver, John A Spencer, Samantha **R&O Irving Properties LLC R&O Irving Properties LLC IB LLC** Xu, De B Su, George

## SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE

Eardensohn, Sara Z Toupin, David Dicarlo, James Beha, Ann Liu, Tzu-Yu 3Li, Zong X Madan, Pradip Crisp, Kelley A Schlobohm RET **GPT Properties T** Smith, Denver **Cicada Heavy Industries** Grandguillotte, Bruno Card, Fatima B Stoddard, Kathryn Dicarlo, James Beha, Ann Macneill, Scott S Butlin, Anthony J

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

## Location Wise LLC Plachy, Cynthia Pilar T&G D Keyes RET Wall, Thomas C Hanley, Stephen J G&M Caldwell FT 2011 Warren, Katherine E **Giannone**, Salvatore **Bunnell**, Bruce North Washington Dev LLC Stella, Michael 31 New Chardon Street Hyslop, David B Wu, Qiong **Highline Union LLC** Pilar T&G D Keyes RET Wall, Thomas C Pellegrino, Jason Stein, Garth

17 Hancock Street LLC

Montouris Vasiliki B

Irving&Revere Streets

Irving&Maple Streets LLC

**Mount Vernon Partners** 

French, Donald D

Wu, Jeff

8 Whittier Pl #12K 19 Cortes St #8 28 Melrose St 105 Warren Ave #2 49 Warren Ave #G1 4 Charlesgate E #105 74 Fenway #22 80-82 Fenwood Rd #616 95 Gainsborough St #302 363 Huntington Ave #2 181-183 N Washington St 90-92 N Washington St #2 31 New Chardon St 120 Norway St #4 200 Saint Botolph St #3 48 Union Park #2 105 Warren Ave #2 49 Warren Ave #G1 1 Worcester Sq #5 71 Worcester St #3

90-92 N Washington St #2 31 New Chardon St	\$1,275,000 \$11,200,000
120 Norway St #4	\$585,000
200 Saint Botolph St #3	\$839,000
48 Union Park #2	\$3,299,000
105 Warren Ave #2	\$505,000
49 Warren Ave #G1	\$612,000
1 Worcester Sq #5	\$1,100,000
71 Worcester St #3	\$785,000
90 Commercial St #4B	\$1,140,000
53 Commercial Wharf #53	\$2,250,000
85 E India Row #15D	\$1,800,000

\$2,940,000

\$2,940,000

\$640,000

\$1,700,000

\$1,700,000

COMPASS

Talieri, Peter	Wallraff, Barbara J
Kelly, Michael	Sosebee, Ryan K
Cahill, Sue	<b>Charles Harbor Towers</b>
B&D Harbor RT	HT LLC
B&D Harbor RT	HT LLC
Gossage, Arturo D	Moore Hudson Street T
Chinatown Cmnty Lnd T Inc	JB Capital LLC
Row House Investments Inc	Chinatown Cmnty Lnd T

coco&april



April Callahan april.callahan@compass.com 847.971.7273

29 Oak St

29 Oak St

85 E India Row #20A

85 E India Row #20B

5-9 Hudson St #4S

# News Briefs

## PHOTO ESSAY CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SHOW US WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT

Now + There wants to see more of the Boston community through your eyes. Become a Now + There photo essay contributor to share what inspires you. They are seeking community supporters, amateur and professional artists, photographers, and content creators to be a part of this new blog series for the Now + There Journal. No need to have professional training or to use fancy equipment, anyone with original photos to share is welcome to submit. Creators of accepted photo essays will receive a \$50 stipend and full byline and credit in recognition of their contribution. Chosen submissions will be shared with Now + There's digital network of over 5,000 public art supporters. ten original photos that focus on ONE Boston neighborhood (at least three of public art). \*\*We are specifying Boston neighborhoods as any area Mayor Marty Walsh represents. Show us what makes and what makes the neighborhood you choose to feature a unique part of Boston. Each submission should also answer the question "what is your connection to the neighborhood you photographed?" with a short 250 to 400 word mini-essay. Creators of accepted submissions will receive

a \$50 stipend. Visit nowandthere. org to submit your photo essay.

## BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•NABB NNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE:

The NABB Annual Christmas Tree Sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Clarendon Street Playground and will feature freshly cut Balsam Fir trees from Maine. Local delivery will be available. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Friends of the Clarendon Street Playground and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. For more information, visit www.nabbonline.com or call 617-247-3961.

•Copley Tree Lighting Dec. 2

## MGM MUSIC HALL (from pg. 1)

our neighbors, and a space where our community can gather," he said.

Mayor Walsh said that the venue will be a "welcome addition to the Boston music scene," and reiterated that it will be a resource for people across the city, but especially for students and other young people. With the \$124 million Boston Arts Academy rebuild happening right across the street, this venue will provide many opportunities for students in performing arts, he said.

"We want to make arts more accessible for everyone," Mayor Walsh said. "We wanted to make sure that Boston's a place where artists can thrive, stay here, live here, and work here. And we're raising Boston's national profile as a leader in music, theater, and all kinds of creative expression."

Mayor Walsh spoke about his Boston Creates plan, which was devised to bring arts to neighborhoods across the city. Walsh thanked Fenway Sports Group for their "extensive community engagement," and for their commitment to being good neighbors throughout the construction process and beyond. "To the residents of the neighborhood that are in this room, thank you very much as well for working this process through," Walsh added. "We were able to have a great process, have a lot of conversations about it, and it's something that we should look at as something enhancing this particular part of the neighborhood."

Walsh said that the theater will create 200 new construction jobs, 500 permanent full-and-part time jobs, "and the benefits will be felt in the city and beyond for years to



Mayor Walsh joined executives from Fenway Sports Group, the Red Sox, Live Nation, and MGM to break ground on the 5,000-seat MGM Music Hall, which is set to open in 2021.

come." b Tom Werner, Chairman of the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Sports Group, said that the goal ir was to "create a space that could be of service to our neighbors. Su With many renowned performing arts institutions in our neighbor-

ing vicinity, we knew an indoor, small-scale venue would not only be able to serve as a great live performance center, but also as a resource and gathering place for the many performing arts institutions in our city."

Don Law, President of Live Nation New England, and Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts, expressed their excitement to be partners in this project. "There is little doubt that this will absolutely be the best venue of its kind in the country and I think it will win a number of awards," Law said." He added that he believes its close proximity to the House of Blues (also partnered with Live Nation) will be

#### beneficial as well.

Murren said that MGM "believes strongly that we need to invest in the communities in which we operate. We believe that our success and the community's success are inextricably linked to one another." He said that MGM's goal is to "entertain the human race," and it does so around the world through venues large and small.

"It's projects like this that mean so much to us...," Murren said. "to be able to add to the storied history of Fenway and to also continue to invest in the Commonwealth."

Work on the venue will begin very soon, with construction vehicles expected to increase in the area. "Early phases of the project involves work inside the existing Garage Building itself, with trucks mostly making deliveries and removing debris," according to a community newsletter from the Red Sox.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and The Friends of Copley Square welcome the holidays with the annual Copley Square Tree Lighting on Monday, December 2, starting at 5 p.m. This free event will feature appearances by NECN's Jenny Johnson, Santa Claus, and Rudolph along with musical performances by vocalist Alexus Lee, the Voices Boston Children's Chorus, the Boston Pops Brass Quintet, a duet featuring Boston Police Officers Kim Tavares and Stephen McNulty, and Berklee College of Music's own Sam Robbins. Light refreshments will be provided by Drake's Cakes, HP Hood LLC, and attendees are invited to stop by the Fios Treat Truck to enjoy baked goods compliments of Verizon Fios. The Fairmont Copley Plaza will host a family reception immediately following for all in attendance. The reception will include cookie decorating, photos with Santa and treats from the Fairmont Copley Plaza. For more information, call (617) 635-4505 or go to www. boston.gov/parks.

•2019 Lighting of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Thursday, Dec. 5 — 8 p.m. Where: Commonwealth Ave-

Where: Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Approx. Location: 15 Commonwealth Avenue, Back Bay. Please join the City of Boston as we hit the switch and celebrate the lighting of trees up and down Commonwealth Avenue.

## SOUTH END DATES

•Banjongyuvayong Yuvayongdee, owner of two House of Siam locations and known in the community as Joe Thailand-America, passed away on November 24 after having a stroke. The wake and funeral will take place at the Wing Fook Funeral Home, 13 Gerard St. The wake will be on Wednesday, November 27 and Friday, November 29 from 6-8 p.m., and the funeral will be on Saturday, November 30 from 10-11 a.m., Both restaurants will be closed Wednesday through Friday, and will reopen at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Joe's nephews, Kai and Ped, will be taking over the business.

THE VINTAGE GARDEN PRE-MIERE NEW SHOPS IN SOWA

Stitch and Tickle, a shop focused on handmade leather goods and accessories, and The Vintage Garden, a garden boutique and gallery, are pleased to announce their new shop locations in SoWa. Stitch and Tickle StudiolStore features handmade leather goods, designed by artist Sophie Truong, made oneby-one in her studio using only the highest quality leather. Her shop also offers a curated collection of distinctive home accessories and fine fashions. Every item Truong features is selected and made with a concern for quality, limited waste and sustainability. Her process of creating bags is approached in the same way she approaches her artwork: intuitive and tactile. The leather dictates what the final product will be, yet all possess the same qualities of being simple, beautiful, functional and timeless. The Vintage Garden, a garden boutique and art and gift gallery by renowned floral designer Cristina Lupica is where modern and vintage come together in a warm and beautiful environment. In addition to offering beautiful garden design, installations and events, The Vintage Garden recently introduced an exquisite line of hand-crafted pottery and home décor. Unique, hands-on workshops led by Cristina, include Brunch and Blooms; Orchids for Beginners, Terrarium Workshop and many holiday inspired workshop events.

•Union Park Neighborhood Association Never Too Early to Celebrate Holiday Party

Join your neighbors for an evening of friendship and celebration in advance of the holidays. Enjoy delicious tapas, paella, churros, and much more prepared by the Masa chef as well as beer, wine, and of course, margaritas. The party will take place on Thursday, December 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Masa Restaurant, 439 Tremont St. This party is open to all neighborhood residents, businesses, as well as guests.

•STITCH AND TICKLE AND





Exclusive Marketing Agent for Four Seasons Private Residences, One Dalton Street, Boston









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