

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

ANNUAL SOUTH END/BAY VILLAGE CLEAN UP



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

Sarah Woolverton took a quick break from planting bulbs in Peters Park last Saturday morning, Nov. 21. The annual South End/Bay Village Clean Up brought out several volunteers to clean up the neighborhood spots – including a good amount of help at Peters Park in the South End.

Charlesgate Alliance, ENC provide update on Charlesgate Park Revitalization project

By Lauren Bennett

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) and the Charlesgate Alliance held a public meeting on November 19 regarding the Charlesgate Park Revitalization project. Nearly 100 people tuned into the virtual meeting to learn about some proposed updates to the project and the vision for the space as a whole, including the daylighting of the Muddy River along with the restoration

of the Fens Pond Bridge, and the daylighting of the mouth of the Muddy River to connect it with the Esplanade.

ENC President Karen Mauney-Brodek said that the ENC and the Charlesgate Alliance are thinking about this project on three different scales: “on the ground, day-to-day stewardship, the park design, [and], big picture vision.” The vision for Charlesgate Park is to activate the space and bring

(CHARLESGATE PROJECT, Pg. 9)

USES, New Boston Ventures close sale on Tubman House building

By Seth Daniel

The United South End Settlements (USES) and New Boston Ventures passed papers recently to close on the sale of Tubman House at 566 Columbus Ave. – paving the way for the re-development of the marquee property.

The sale went through for

\$13.25 million recently, which was a healthy amount that will keep USES solvent for years to come, but also was not as much as they had believed they would get due to the fact that the process took so much longer than anticipated, USES officials said. “It was a big milestone and long-anticipated,” said USES Director Maicharia Weir-Ly-

tle. “The sale took longer than was anticipated so it ended up being about 13 months longer than anticipated. Our tenants continued to stay and because of that we had more expenses incurred because of the tenants. Because of that the proceeds were less than we expected –

(TUBMAN HOUSE, Pg. 6)

USES shifts to providing families with food

By Seth Daniel

United South End Settlements (USES) has never really been in the food distribution business, but COVID-19 has ripped apart the mission statement of about every human

services organization, and this week USES has embraced that new mission in providing Thanksgiving dinners to more than 100 families in the neighborhood.

“We’re really committed to

servicing the whole family,” said Melody Valdes, USES program manager. “We never been in the business of food, but we realized we needed to be in the business of food because our

(USES, Pg. 3)

ELLIS AND VOLUNTEERS DECORATE NEIGHBORHOOD



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

Wreathed up and ready to go! In what was an amazingly unique delivery vehicle for the hundreds of wreaths, Frank Hamm broke out his 1960 Land Rover 109. He could be seen all morning cruising the streets of the Ellis South End neighborhood delivering wreaths to be hung on the posts. Some 71 volunteers hung 425 wreaths on Saturday morning in the neighborhood around Tremont and Clarendon Streets.

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 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 amidst this time of a raging pandemic 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

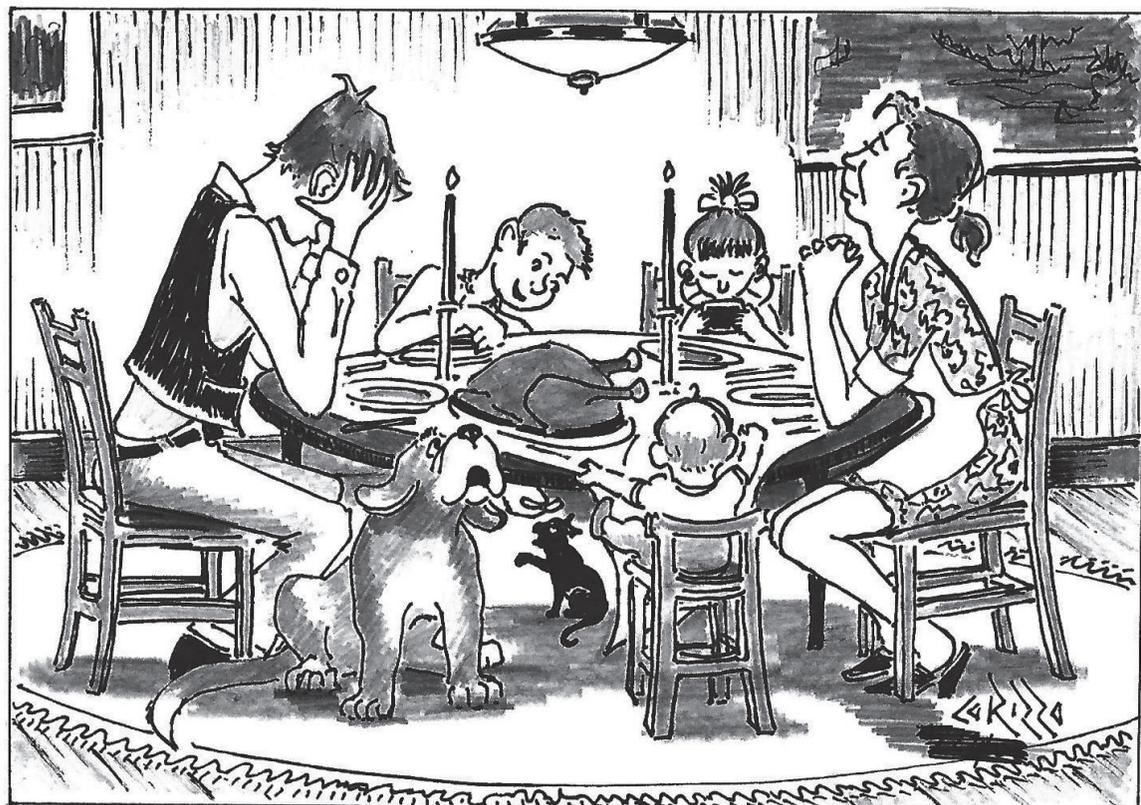
We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

The pandemic is spreading like wildfire across our nation, shattering previous records of infection on a daily basis and requiring all of us to take every precaution to ensure that we do not spread the coronavirus among our friends and family members.

The virus does not take a holiday -- and each of us must act accordingly.



**The Independent
Newspaper Offices
will be closed
Thanksgiving Day,
Nov. 26th and
Friday, Nov. 27th**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Crime is down 7-percent in Back Bay and South End

By John Lynds

In what will be the Boston Police Department's last crime stats report before the end of the year, the report shows overall crime is down in D-4, which includes the Back Bay and South End. However, larcenies from motor vehicles and commercial burglaries are up 32 percent and 166 percent respectively.

Part One Crimes, the more serious crimes the Boston Police track, are down 7 percent overall in the area when comparing Jan. 1 2020 through Nov. 8 2020 with the same time period last year.

By this time in 2019 there were only 346 reported car breaks but that number has increased to 458. It seems the number of motor vehicle larcenies, an opportunistic crime that only takes seconds to pull off, is up all over Boston. Citywide the number has gone from 2,332 in 2019 to 2,932

so far in 2020, a 25.7 percent increase.

"The Department obviously takes great pride in the fact that arrests were made in all three incidents, we would, nevertheless, like to take this opportunity to remind community members to employ common sense preventative measures to protect items of value when exiting their vehicles," said the statement. "As simple as it may sound, protecting your motor vehicle from a break-in starts with locking the doors and closing windows. Simple? Yes. But, highly effective."

In fact, simple steps can often spell the difference between your car being broken into and the would-be thief moving on to another, more desirable target.

"More than anything else, thieves look for the easy score," said the police. "So, don't make it easy. If you have items of value, be it a cell phone, charger, money or iPad, take them

with you when you exit your car. Because if a thief can see it, you can be sure he or she will do everything they can to steal it."

Commercial burglaries, which shot up 166 percent went from 54 cases in 2019 to 144 cases so far this year.

As for other Part One Crimes in A-1 there have been 2 reported Homicides for 2020, down from 3 last year; Rape or Attempted Rape is down from 21 to 17; Robbery or Attempted Robbery is down from 128 to 119; Domestic Aggravated Assault is down from 53 to 44; Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault is up from 196 to 241; Residential Burglaries are down from 131 to 123; other Larcenies are down from 1,749 to 1,372; and Auto Theft is down from 131 to 124.

So far this year there have been a total of 2,644 Part One Crimes, down from the 2,829 reported during the same time period in 2019.

Baker announces #GetBackMass campaign

Gov. urges residents to 'keep it small' for holiday

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Monday announced a new campaign called #GetBackMass, which emphasizes the need to continue to follow guidelines so residents can get back to the activities they haven't been able to do during the pandemic, such as go to concerts and gather with large groups of family members and friends.

He also addressed the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and stressed the importance of not hosting or attending traditional Thanksgiving gatherings this year.

Baker said that as of Sunday,

there were 2,721 new cases of COVID-19, and the seven day average positive test rate is "just over three percent." He said that there are 893 people currently hospitalized with the virus, which is down from last week, and 192 people are in the ICU.

"I don't think it's any surprise or secret to anyone... Thanksgiving clearly represents a big potential risk of the spread of COVID-19," Baker said. He said Canada saw a spike in cases following its Thanksgiving holiday in October, and the US could see the same if people don't follow the guidelines.

Baker said he is "urging" people to celebrate Thanksgiving with only the members of their own household. If people choose to gather with those outside their households, he said

everyone should wear a mask, maintain distance, and "keep it short." He reminded residents of the state indoor gathering limit of 10 people, and that college students should be tested prior to returning home.

"Think about how your actions affect relatives," Baker said. "If you plan to spend time with these folks, please take the proper precautions. The bottom line here is to do everything you can to keep it small."

Baker said that the "biggest single driver of spread in MA is household spread." He said that since many people who have the virus may not have any symptoms and therefore do not know they are contagious, they are able to spread the virus to many people very easily.

#GETBACKMASS CAMPAIGN

Baker said that the state needs to "continue to fight so we can get back," so the new campaign features television ads in both English and Spanish "featuring real people's testimony" from throughout the state who talk about the things they "want to get back to," he said, such as concerts and other large gatherings.

Previous COVID-19 campaigns included passed out fliers, print media, cell phone alerts, and more to spread the message to people who need to see it most.

"This campaign makes it clear that we can, in fact, get back to the things we want to do" if people wear masks, social distance, wash their hands, and staying home if they feel sick," he said.

The campaign will run

through February, Baker said, and posters will also be distributed to stores across the state.

Secretary Marylou Sudders said that from data collected as part of research for this campaign, "the most receptive messages indicated concern for the health and safety of loved ones and the desire" to put these before their own health and safety."

The campaign also includes animated videos in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and both traditional and simplified Chinese.

Sudders also said that people need to make "short term sacrifices" as the holidays approach.

For more information on the campaign and to see the videos and posters, visit mass.gov/get-back.

USES (from pg. 1)

families need it. Our programs have become more of what our families need right now. We listen to them and respond to what they need now."

Said USES Director Maicharia Weir-Lytle, "We don't think of ourselves being in the food business, but we do provide breakfast, lunch and snack every day. That was no longer available when we closed our programs for COVID-19, but we heard from families it was a clear need. Everything has shifted. Everything we once thought about ourselves has changed."

That change has come no more so than with the Thanksgiving meal, and USES has expanded their weekly food distribution - which has been ongoing during the pandemic - to include a turkey and a box of Thanksgiving "fixin's."

"We wanted to make sure to provide this to families so they could have a nice, home-cooked meal without having to worry about not being able to

provide that meal during these difficult times."

On Monday, more than 100 families in the South End and surrounding neighborhoods were delivered or picked up their Thanksgiving boxes. That was not as easy as in the past, Valdes said, because the need is so great this year and many of the resources they used to get donations from were not available. Using some community members and other partners, they were able to fill that entire need though, Valdes said.

At Rutland Street, USES runs a no-contact food distribution system, and that is also how the Thanksgiving distribution went. However, for those that couldn't get to the Rutland Street, there is a network of volunteers that make the deliveries every week, including Monday's Thanksgiving delivery.

Tim and Kate Chanoux are two of those volunteers, who brought their young daughter with them as they traversed the

map they've been using since September to deliver food.

The family lives in the South End near USES, and their daughter attends the Early Childhood program there. They said they chose USES for their daughter because it was so ingrained in the community, and they wanted to have more of a connection to the wider community rather than just a center to drop off their kids.

"We wanted to be part of the program to be more connected to the community and to serve the community," Tim said.

Since September, that idea of serving has meant delivering the food staples to USES families and other partners in the area. Now, with Thanksgiving, it is an even more poignant delivery, Kate said.

"This year is a tough year, but there are a lot of people for whom it is tough every year," she said. "This year is a little more special though. We wanted to help out and get people

the things they need to hopefully have a great day on Thanksgiving. We feel very fortunate we're in a position where we don't need this service right now, but we're in a position to get it to people that do need it, and that's a great thing."

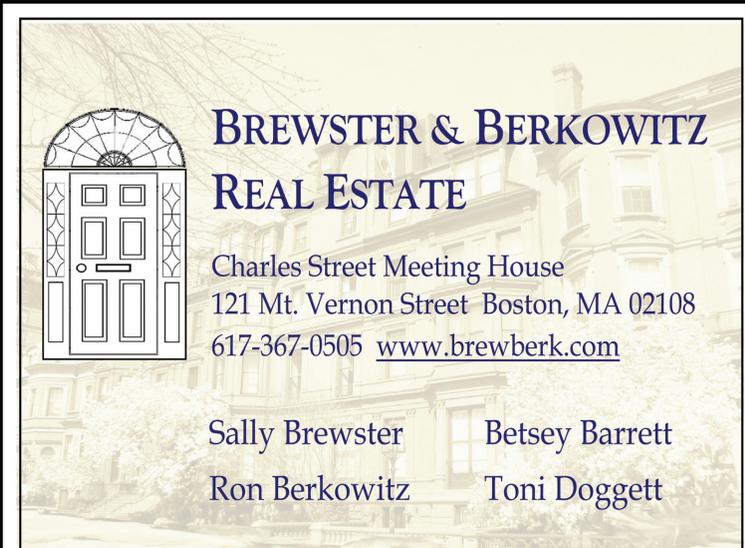
Tim said their route is pretty much the same each week, so they see a lot of familiar faces along the way. Being able to arrive with a Thanksgiving turkey and other staples will be a little extra twist to the usual route.

Meanwhile, Valdes said they are announcing their 'Give a Box' campaign for funding boxes of food after Thanksgiv-

ing. To date, they have handed out 4,000 boxes in the 10 weeks the food program has operated. Now, they want to fund another 6,000 boxes. To do so, they're hoping the neighborhood can help out, and at \$22 a box, it's something that many can help out with.

"We serve more than 200 boxes a week to our families and our other partners, like IBA and others," she said. "This campaign is really to engage our neighbors. People can participate for as little as \$22 and know they are providing a family with a nutritious meal."

To donate, go to uses.org/giveabox.



BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE

Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com

Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

FIND US ONLINE AT
WWW.THEBOSTONSUN.COM

Six months in, several Healthy Streets projects completed

By Lauren Bennett

On November 18, Chief of Streets Chris Osgood provided a six month update to Mayor Walsh's Healthy Streets initiative, which was launched on May 28 as a way to support the safe travel of residents, especially essential workers, to and from their jobs.

Another goal of the project was "making sure we were advancing the long term goals of Go Boston 2030," Osgood told reporters last Wednesday.

Osgood reported that over the last six months, several projects have been completed. More than 6.4 miles of new protected bike lanes were built in the downtown area, Mattapan, and Roslindale, three major roadways were redesigned, and

three new dedicated bus lanes were created, he said. New bike lanes include "cones, barrels, and water-filled barriers that provided more space for physically-distanced activity and connection to jobs," according to a press release from the City.

"A huge priority for us and the mayor is the goal of having zero fatalities and serious crashes on our streets," Osgood said. He said this can be done by reducing speeds on roads, and traffic calming measures have been implemented on American Legion Highway, Columbus Avenue, and Cummins Highway. On American Legion Highway and other streets, walk signals, modular curbs, and posts have been added to create the new bike lane.

Additionally, updated street crossing and increased accessibility for pedestrians with disabilities have been implemented to make streets safer, Osgood said.

According to the release from the City, the Connect Downtown project adjusted street layouts and traffic and walk signals on streets such as Tremont, Boylston, Charles, Beacon, and Arlington St., among others to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

New bus lanes on Columbus Ave. "creates the first center-running bus lane in the northeast," Osgood said, and new bus lanes on Washington St. in Roslindale "provides the outbound match to the inbound lane," he added.

He also talked about new targeted programs, such as discounts on bike share memberships for essential workers, new parking policies for hospital staff, and curbside pickup for restaurants.

Osgood said that other outcomes after the first six months have included "new materials for piloting, new approaches for communicating, [and]

new platforms for engaging," according to a presentation.

"There is more work in front of us," Osgood said, as the City continues to consider things like transit reliability and bike safety.

"These changes to City streets improve safety and keep drivers' speeds in check, as well as provide safe and reliable commutes for those commuting by bike or bus," the release states. "More space to walk and to bike help our residents improve their mental and physical well-being during a trying year."

Osgood said that the next phase of projects for the spring include building out the bike network even more, looking at other "key bus corridors," and he said there is funding in the capital budget to make bike lanes granite and concrete instead of flex posts and painted asphalt.

He said other projects related to Mass. Ave. South and connecting Melnea Cass Blvd. to Columbia Road with a protected bike lane are also in the works.

Osgood also addressed the

recently announced proposed service cuts on the MBTA, and said that "we have voiced our strong concerns" about "cutting short the E line at Brigham Circle." He said that "in the middle of the pandemic" is not a good time to reduce cut back on service on a line that serves the VA hospital and other healthcare needs. He said that directing people to a potentially crowded bus for alternative service is a poor choice during the pandemic as well.

"The Healthy Streets initiative outlines our goals to support a safe, reopening and equitable recovery in Boston, and I'm pleased to see substantial progress made on these important projects," Mayor Walsh said in a statement. "Safe and reliable transportation, especially for our essential workers and commuters, is one of our top priorities as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic."

For more information about the downtown design changes, visit boston.gov/departments/transportation/connect-downtown#design-changes.

City releases guidance for safe Thanksgiving celebrations

By Lauren Bennett

Thanksgiving is typically a time for friends and family to gather together and share food, laughter, and each other's company. But these are all activities that are strongly advised against this year due to COVID-19, so Thanksgiving should look very different in households across the city, state, and country.

Mayor Martin Walsh and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released guidelines last week to help people celebrate the holiday safely.

The City advises those who are not feeling well, who have been exposed to COVID-19, or who are at "increased risk for serious illness," to stay at home and away from others.

"Thanksgiving is normally a time when many families travel long distances to celebrate together. We know these aren't normal times, so we're asking everyone to take the necessary steps to prevent the further transmission of COVID-19 as we enter a critical period in this pandemic," Mayor Walsh said in a statement. "We can keep the spirit of thankfulness alive without putting yourself and your loved ones at risk. As always, I want to thank Bostonians for their cooperation during this difficult year."

The City said that any-

one who plans on hosting or attending a Thanksgiving celebration should limit it to 10 people or less in Boston, per the gathering limit. Guests should also wear masks when not eating or drinking, and six feet should be maintained whenever possible. Food, drink, and utensils should not be shared, and windows and doors should be opened if possible for better ventilation.

The City also put out guidelines for travel, reminding residents that the Massachusetts travel order requires returning residents to quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID-19 test from up to 72 hours before arriving back in the state. Face coverings are required at all times in public, and a flu shot is also recommended before traveling.

The City said that holding a Thanksgiving celebration with just the people in your household is a much safer alternative, as well as hosting a virtual dinner. Other suggestions include going for a socially distanced walk with family members or delivering family dishes to relatives contact-free.

For more information and the full list of guidelines, visit boston.gov/news/guidance-offered-how-safely-celebrate-thanksgiving-during-covid-19.



Virtual Public Meeting

BU Medical Campus Institutional Master Plan

Thursday, December 3
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2IEeOnR
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 301 2349

Project Proponent:
Boston University

Project Description:

BU Medical Campus is proposing a new, ten-year Institutional Master Plan for their campus in the South End. We will discuss the plan at this meeting with the Community Task Force.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate.

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:
12/21/2020

ANNUAL BAY VILLAGE/ SOUTH END FALL CLEAN-UP

Photos by Seth Daniel

The annual Bay Village/South End Fall Clean-up event went off in a socially-distant fashion with neighbors working to clean up the leaves and debris from the fall and get ready for winter in the neighborhood. Residents raked leaves and cleaned off catch basins, while others planted bulbs to prepare for a beautiful spring in 2021. Here's to that!

Mayoral Liaisons Kim Cruciola and Faisa Sharif coordinated the event.



Canh Vu digs holes for some great bulbs, which are going to really brighten up Peters Park next spring.



Cynthia Curtis spruces up the beds at the Washington Street entrance.



John McLachlan and Jeff Oskwarek bagging leaves in Peters Park.



Ted Pietras put a full day's work in to get rid of the leaves on the Shawmut Avenue entrance.



Shown above, Neighborhood Services Deputy Director Faisa Sharif and new South End Mayoral Liaison Kim Cruciola getting all the materials ready for volunteers to arrive at the BCA plaza. Shown to the right, Shawmut Avenue resident Vera Mastin wasn't part of the clean-up officially, but she was sure enjoying the wonderful fall day in Peters Park.



Councilor Ed Flynn joined resident volunteers on Tremont Street to clean up areas of the neighborhood.



THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

lower your property taxes.

You may be eligible for tax exemptions that can save you money. For more information about this and other resources you may qualify for, visit www.boston.gov/benefits or call 311.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

TUBMAN HOUSE *(from pg. 1)*

that being because of COVID-19 and the 13-month delay. We have to protect these funds..."

Weir-Lytle, however, said it is a new day for USES financially because of the sale, and keeps them from having to absorb exorbitant maintenance costs on the Tubman House — which was said to cost around \$40,000 per month just to maintain.

"I think the decision to sell 566 Columbus Avenue was made as our best effort to save the future of USES," she said. "Really what it means is we are positioned to have an impact on children and families for generations to come...It was a major, major milestone for the organization and super important for us."

USES was financially on the edge it had reported when beginning to explore its real estate options in 2018, noting it had financial troubles for many years before as well. The idea of selling the Tubman House surfaced in 2019 as a way to consolidate services at their Rutland Street property and use the proceeds of the sale to solidify the organization so that financ-

es are not a problem again.

"The proceeds from the sale are really set up to establish an endowment for the organization," she said. "The endowment will serve as a cushion to ensure financial longevity."

David Goldman of New Boston Ventures said they were happy to have closed on the building, even if it did take longer than expected.

"I think there are a lot of benefits to our being able to move forward and close on the building," he said. "Obviously first and foremost is that it keeps the services USES provides alive to 300-plus families in the neighborhood. South End and Lower Roxbury will continue to get the services for the families and children. This thing took so long there was some serious concern whether they would be able to survive or not. So it feels good to be able to do a project that has that kind of a public benefit to it."

For USES, Weir-Lytle said the next step would be planning the redevelopment of their Rutland Street building following COVID-19. None of the proceeds from the sale have

been slated now for use in that redevelopment. At this point, the pandemic is still weighing heavy on USES, she said, and the families they serve. In the future, that plan will emerge, but she said right now the job is listening to the families they serve and the community, and trying to meet needs.

"Right now we're not focusing on the renovations in that way, but we're looking at how to expand our programs and services...and utilize our space in a way to serve children and families now."

For New Boston, they have already begun the demolition process for 566 Columbus Ave. on the interior and will move quickly to the exterior.

"The building has been decommissioned," he said. "There are no utilities that run into the building any longer... It's essentially a shell without heat, running water or electricity. There are a number of different ways to approach demolition and because it's in such a dense neighborhood we've chosen to go a more surgical route where it will be demolished piece by piece rather than

coming in with a wrecking ball. That's underway. The interior demo is well underway."

He predicted an 18 to 24 month construction process, and they would move quickly from demolition to construction. Some of the exciting changes to the residential project include more community space, he said.

"We have gone from originally planning on doing 2,300 sq. ft. of community space, but through the community process we've actually more than doubled the community space we were originally planning on doing," he said. "It will be approximately 4,500 sq. ft. that goes back to the community at no charge. The original 2,300 sq. ft. will go back to USES and the balance will be decided through a community process and that's still being figured out. It will likely be some kind of RFP process the City will be overseeing...We won't be involved with that."

There are a number of changes that also have been made to make the building a COVID-19 safe spot. A new trend in building is to design more pri-

vate outdoor spaces, and to use techniques and materials that are healthier.

For instance, copper and brass metals are more virus resistant than other metals, and Goldman said they would be implementing that change. There are also UV air purifiers incorporated into common open spaces, as well as a re-design of community space.

"There's going to be a lot more new outdoor space," he said. "All of these buildings will have a small gym amenity and we're trying to figure out how to make ours and indoor/outdoor facility...We're also looking at creating as much independent outdoor space so most of the units will have their own outdoor space if not attached to their unit, somewhere else. We've done that by creating fewer common area decks for private ones to give people a place to go and be outside."

The building will be marketed by Ricardo Rodriguez, a well-known Realtor who has been a staple of the New Boston team for many years.

I WANT TO WISH ALL BOSTONIANS A HEALTHY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING.

While this year the holidays will look different than what we are used to and our gatherings will be smaller than usual, we are all still in this together. This has been a year that gives us a new perspective on gratitude, and I am more grateful than ever for this City's ability to come together even while keeping our distance in the battle against COVID-19. Today, let's all take time to honor the frontline workers who have fought to keep our City safe and moving forward through this pandemic. Let's show them thanks by wearing our masks, practicing social distancing, washing our hands, and getting tested. I know that if we stay vigilant this holiday season, we'll be able to fit all of our loved ones around the table at this time next year. I wish everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for our everyone who has kept Bostonians safe during this pandemic. Together, we will get through this stronger and more grateful than ever before.



ITS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Photos by Seth Daniel



Wendy Hamm, Julie Arnheiter, Patty Brennan and Director Stacy Koepfel.

Pandemic or not, the Ellis has decked the halls – or rather the lampposts.

The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association utilized 71 volunteers in a socially distant way to hang 425 wreaths on lampposts and streetlights throughout the neighborhood on Saturday.

Director Stacy Koepfel said

they were grateful for all the help and everyone was excited to give some traditional cheer to the neighborhood in what is a year that is anything but traditional. Volunteers were excited to be out on a gorgeous day where temperatures reached into the high 60s.

The event was sponsored by Larry Rideout of Gibson Sothebys and 7-Eleven on Berkeley Street.



Will McClements was covered in jolly.



Barry Hayes is 79 years old, and that's exactly how long he's lived in the South End. The life-long resident of the neighborhood joined his wife, Angie, to hang wreaths and bows throughout the Ellis.



Jessica Yang and Nathan Lee on Dartmouth Street.



From the YMCA Liz Aiello, Will McClements, Kylie McCartney and AJ Maestes.



Susan Collings and Regina Pyle on Clarendon Street keeping distant and getting the job done.



Larry and Patty Rideout on Tremont Street. Rideout, of Gibson Sothebys, was a sponsor of the event.



Ken Girvin and Mark Carrig.

Positive COVID test rate continues to climb

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 44 percent increase two weeks ago, the positive test rate in Back Bay and surrounding neighborhoods increased by 25 percent according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday.

Last week the BPHC reported that 29,862 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.9 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 25 percent increase from the 5.5 percent testing positive as reported two weeks ago. The citywide positive test rate average was 10.2 percent--a 6.25 percent increase from the 9.6 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

Overall since the pandemic began 3.3 percent of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents

were found to be COVID positive.

At an emergency ZOOM meeting with healthcare providers and the BPHC thanked the city's partners for their continued partnership, especially in these difficult times.

"I know they're working long hours and making personal sacrifices, and I can't thank them enough for all of their dedicated service and what they've done," said Walsh. "In Massachusetts as of yesterday (last Wednesday), there were 189,518 cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic and 2,744 cases were recorded Wednesday. That's a pretty significant number for one day. We haven't really seen numbers like that since back in April and May. So as you know, this is a very serious, serious virus in Boston. We're seeing increases here in COVID and we are entering another critical point in this pandemic. We're seeing significant and concern-

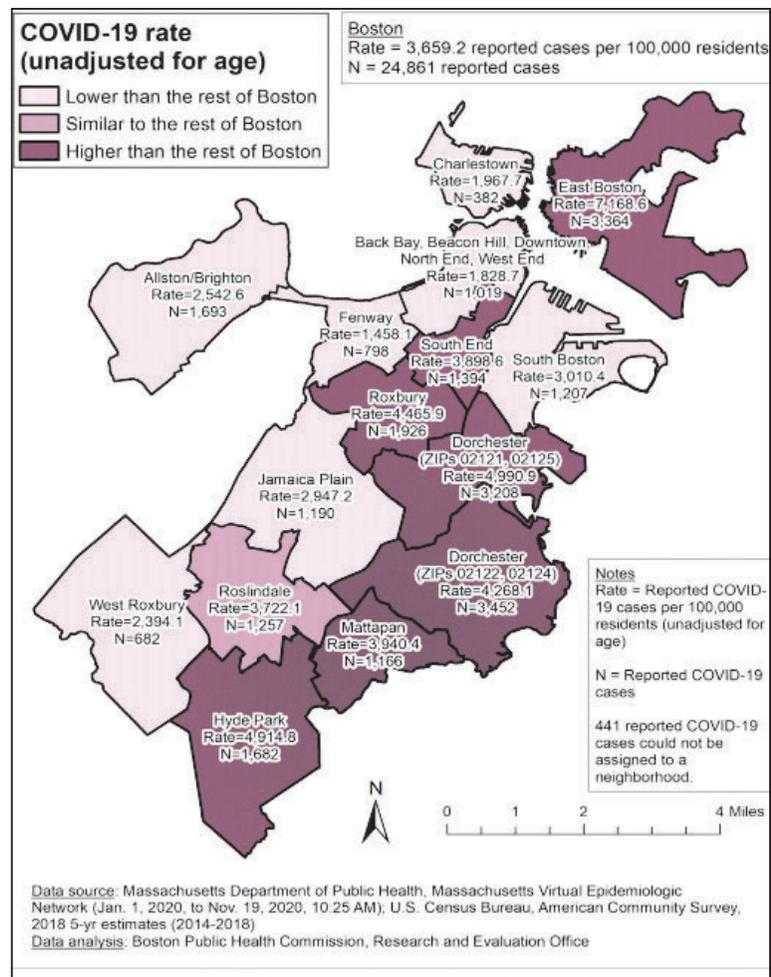
ing increases of COVID-19. In our city, the daily cases are starting to look like the numbers that are around the peak in April and May. Hospital admissions are not at that level, however, they've increased over time. And we need to stay focused on turning this trend around."

Walsh said one strategy to combat the rising numbers is testing.

"We're encouraging everyone to get tested, and to make testing part of your regular routine," he said. "We have 30 other testing sites across the city. We're not maximizing our testing capacity. So we really need to make sure that we do everything we can to get people tested. We need to make sure we get an accurate number with the virus on what the tests really are in the city."

Walsh said that if these numbers continue to go up the city will unfortunately have to pose more restriction.

"And I think that's the last thing we want to do for our businesses and our communities," said Walsh. "But unfortunately, if we have to, we will always put public health first in our communities, and we also understand the impacts on our business and our economy. So



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

we need to do whatever we can to bring down the spread."

The infection rate in Back Bay and surrounding neighborhoods increased 10.25 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released

last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 182.8 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 165.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

Ninety-six additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 923 cases to 1,019 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.9 percent last week and went from 24,393 cases to 25,105 confirmed cases. Ten more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 899 total deaths in the city from COVID.

COVID-19 Testing

Safe, fast, easy, free

Walk-thru testing is available in the South End at the Dr. Gerald Hass Center, 400 Shawmut Avenue. Pre-registration required: 617-569-5800.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30am to 11:00am

South End
Community Health Center

Visit ebnhc.org/covid19 for other testing sites around Boston

BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Virtual Open House
November 2nd 6:30-8pm

- Ages 2 - 6
- Play-based learning
- Two onsite playscapes

74 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02114
617.227.0822 • www.bhns.net

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CHARLESGATE PARK (from pg. 1)

it to life, creating amenities that will draw people to the area.

Parker James of the Charlesgate Alliance gave an update on some recent meetings and progress related to the revitalization project. Among others, there was a meeting in March regarding the design of the playground portion of the park, and in April there was a meeting regarding the proposed dog park area.

James said that also in March was a homelessness resources meeting with city and state officials that brought together Boston Police, state police, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the office of City Councilor Kenzie Bok to work out ways to provide resources to homeless folks who have been setting up camp in Charlesgate Park. "It turned out to be a really pivotal meeting," he said.

He also said that the ENC has provided social distancing signage throughout the Emerald Necklace Parks, and the Charlesgate Alliance has used funds for Project Place to help clean up and take care of the park, which he said they hope to resume in the spring.

Several Muddy River projects have also taken place, including a summer water surface clean-up as well as one on November 16 and the launching of the Water Goat trash net pilot by the Muddy Water Initiative.

Additionally, part of the proposal for the park includes the removal of some non-structural walls to open up the area, and the Charlesgate Alliance hopes to be a recipient of a matching grant from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to help fund the removal of the walls, James said.

PARK DESIGN UPDATES

Marie Law Adams of Landing Studio, the architecture firm designing the project, presented some design updates. The north field is where the playground area will be located, and the south field will be home to the dog park. She said the project also includes a "shared use pathway that will link up to a project from MassDOT."

Additionally, areas designated as "The Grove" and "The Patio" will be updated to

"make it a little more inviting and usable for the neighborhood," she said.

"Something we've been working really hard on is how to manage drainage on the site through green stormwater infrastructure," Law Adams said, using plants and other methods to better manage stormwater.

She said this site presents a challenge because the property is managed by three different entities and drainage comes from multiple locations: MassDOT from the Bowker overpass, the DCR from Charlesgate East and West, and the City of Boston from Commonwealth Ave. west of Charlesgate.

She said that by creating separate treatment plans for each of these entities, maintenance will be "simplified" after the project is completed, and the Charlesgate Alliance will also be participating in some of the maintenance as well.

"One of our next steps is to do some preliminary meetings with permitting authorities," Law Adams said, which will "have an impact on the time it takes to complete the design." She said that right now, the project might be ready to go out for bid and construction in the spring of 2022, but that could be pushed back closer to the fall.

She said that a conceptual soil management study has been done, and it was determined that any soil dug up on the site as part of the project can be kept on the site. That was the hope, as it is "less expensive and more environmentally friendly to keep as much of the soil that you dig up on the site" as possible, Law Adams said, rather than taking it to a landfill, as it reduces trucking.

She said that the park currently dips and slopes in certain areas, and a goal of the project is to raise the grade for accessibility purposes, so the soil can be put to use in that regard.

BIG PICTURE VISION

Margaret Pokorny of the Charlesgate Alliance gave some updates on the bigger picture vision for the park, which includes daylighting the Muddy River at the Fens Pond Bridge, which would also be restored. A path system would also be

created, including landscaping at the river's edge and the creation of habitat for wildlife.

Daylighting at the mouth of the Muddy River would also allow for a connection between the Esplanade and the Emerald Necklace with a new bridge, Pokorny said.

She said that the daylighting of the Muddy River "would help the Muddy River and the whole situation at the junction of the Charles and the Muddy."

Pam Beale of the Charlesgate Alliance said that letters to Governor Baker and Rep. Aaron Michlewitz have been sent out in support of the MassDOT projects, including the Storrow Drive Eastbound Bridge replacement and the Bowker Overpass Bridge, as well as the Charlesgate Park project to "advocate for the best possible project outcomes" so all of the projects can work together. She said that there is support from Mayor Walsh, Councilor Bok, State Senator Will Brownsberger and State Reps. Jay Livingstone and Jon Santiago, among others.

"To me, Charlesgate is such a transformative potential project," City Councilor Kenzie Bok said, adding that she has been walking in the area often recently and "thinking a lot about how much I would appreciate the opportunity to wander through Charlesgate and the fens" without using the "clunky" footbridges that exist now.

She said she is an "ally from the city side" of the project, and hopes that the state will get on board with this process.

MassDOT is in the process of designing part one of the bridge replacement projects, according to Karen Mauney-Brodek, which she said "will add momentum and could support some of the elements of the project that we're working towards in the heart of Charlesgate."

She said the first portion of the MassDOT bridge projects is expected to begin construction in 2023. "They are on a road and we would like to make sure it's the road we like," she added.

Mauney-Brodek said that she was "excited about the fact that we can explain in pictures" the daylighting proposal and that



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF LANDING STUDIO

The daylighting of the mouth of the Muddy River at its interface with the Charles River and a new people-powered transportation bridge for connecting the Esplanade over the Muddy River.

MassDOT "is already essentially committed to moving the road so there can be connections." She added that "DOT said they wouldn't do anything to prevent daylighting," so she said those involved in the project believe that now is a good time to do the daylighting.

Many people at the meeting said they would be willing to advocate on behalf of this entire project and volunteer their time as well as donate money towards the cause. Overall, the project is well-received by the community and it is evident that many residents want to be as active as possible in making it happen.

Mauney-Brodek said that people can become involved in this effort by telling their neighbors about the project, joining the Charlesgate Alliance, following the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Charlesgate

Alliance on social media, coming to events and meetings, reaching out to elected officials expressing support, and considering a tax deductible donation.

Parker James said that the Charlesgate Alliance needs to find out about the matching grants fund, and if funds are received, how the organization will raise the matching funds. Additionally, further work on the dog park and playground design will continue, and spring cleanups are planned for next year as well.

Mauney-Brodek added that other next steps include coming back to the community in the spring with an update on the progress of the project, as well as how MassDOT has "found ways to do the things discussed," and "how to bring different energies and funding opportunities to do right by the park here."



The daylighting of the Muddy River and the restoration of the historic Fens Pond Bridge as well as new people-powered transportation paths between the Emerald Necklace and the Charles River Esplanade.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The casement windows in the last clue are on 248 Marlborough Street. In the answer today, you see a rebricked space on the right side of the building. The website www.BackBayHouses.org has photos of this building when it had two doors. The one used today was the entrance to the residence of the dentist who lived there, the other was numbered 250 and was the doorway to his office. 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

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Spirou, Costas	GMB Prop Management LLC	141 Arlington St #C	\$930,000
Oneil, John D	Divaio, Giovanni	9 Gloucester St #3	\$1,237,500
Greene, Mark J	Ford, Dennis F	402 Marlborough St #4	\$1,250,000
BEACON HILL			
Holahan, Richard J	John Littman-Quinn LT	21 Beacon St #6K	\$369,000
Immobilliare Santa Per Az	Parade RT	32 Hancock St #5B	\$865,000
Ioven, Mary C	Daly Pension RT	2 Hawthorne Pl #10B	\$406,000
Aske, Sara I	T Ann Smith T	425 Newbury St #N88	\$126,000
Mckenna, Karen A	Gouchie, Donald S	15 River St #603	\$697,350
DeRiva, Daniel A	51 Rutland Square 1	51 Rutland Sq #1	\$2,392,575
Oconnell, Barbara C	Chen, Mae	25 Temple St #3	\$550,000
Stansky, Michael	JDMD Owner LLC	45 Temple St #611	\$4,800,000
Deforest, Liliias S	20 Jway LLC	6 Whittier Pl #120	\$585,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Xue, Shidong	Gilmartin, Caleb J	5 Appleton St #3D	\$888,000
Scape Boylston LLC	Roofdeck LLC	1270-A Boylston St	\$5,455,000
Carey, Katrina L	Yang, Catherine S	4 Charlesgate E #702	\$790,000
Schanne, Elizabeth C	Wheeler, Brian H	496 Columbus Ave #4	\$829,000
Diskin, Adam	Do, Minh	22 Medfield St #1	\$1,305,000
Herman, David J	Shippey, Barbara A	221 W Springfield St #1	\$1,700,000
Rossi, Alexandra	Chernak, Travis	1313 Washington St #503	\$1,145,000
HG RT	Cinar, Janet	333 Washington St #338	\$80,000
Golub, Rayna	Yethon, Jeremy	141 Worcester St #2	\$813,500
Lichi, Daniel	21 Worcester St Assoc	21 Worcester St #3	\$1,700,000
Gaston, Jeffrey	Go, Julian	43 Worcester St #1	\$1,350,000
Policastro, Erin M	Mckenna, Karen A	90 Worcester St #3	\$750,000



PLAN: Nubian Square

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, December 7
6:00 PM - 7:45PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3jZ22xs
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 689 4331

Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

Upcoming meetings/Próximias reuniones/Dat pwochen rankont yo se:

December/ Diciembre/ Desanm 7
January/ Enero/ Janvy 4
February/ Febrero/ Fevriye 1

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.

Si w bezwen sèvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

Contact:

Kelly Sherman
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4593 | kelly.sherman@boston.gov

For the Record

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING:

Order for a hearing to review the Melnea Cass Blvd Design Project. The Boston City Council's Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 4:30pm. This hearing will be held virtually. The subject of the hearing is: Order for a hearing to review the Melnea Cass Blvd Design Project. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Kim Janey and Julia Mejia.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION:

A working session regarding an ordinance establishing a Civilian Review Board in Boston. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Andrea Campbell, Ricardo Arroyo, and Julia Mejia. It was referred to the Committee on July 29, 2020.

From the Dec. 1 South End Landmarks Commission, 5:30 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82030706047);

DESIGN REVIEW HEARING

•11 East Newton Street. Continued from 8/04/2020 and 11/05/2020 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed work: At the roof install solar collectors and associated safety railings; at the side elevation install associated piping.

•34 Clarendon Street. Continued from 3/03/2020 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed work: At the front and rear façade which faces a public street, replace six-over-six wood windows.

•1 St. Charles Street. Proposed work: At the front stoop and entrance, install steel railings and wood columns; and relocate downspout. See additional items under Administrative Review.

•3 St. Charles Street. Proposed work: At the front stoop and entrance, install steel railings and wood columns; and relocate downspout. See additional items under Administrative Review.

•30 Holyoke Street. Proposed work: At the front façade parlor level, replace one (1) non-historic one-over-one window in kind. Moved to Administrative Review.

•55 Clarendon

Street. Proposed work: At the front façade garden level, enlarge a window well.

•43 Union Park. Proposed work: At the front façade mansard level, replace three (3) non-historic windows and one (1) door; at the rear façade mansard level, remove three (3) casement windows, modify the openings, and install windows and doors; and install composite trim. See additional items under Administrative Review.

•26 Braddock Park. Proposed work: Enlarge a previously approved roof deck; construct wood privacy walls and glass railing.

•187 Warren Avenue. Proposed work: Construct a roof deck.

•794 Massachusetts Avenue. Proposed work: Demolish a portion of the existing five story building and construct a three-story addition.

•East Berkeley Neighborhood Association meeting, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m., online via Zoom. Check website for details of the Zoom link.

•115 Worcester St./Concord Houses – City BPDA, Abutters and Developer discussion on LISC project, Dec. 1, 2 p.m.

From the Dec. 2 License Board Hearing, 1 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87184178172?PWD=Y2ZZVU1LYXHOU2JMS0JXK-0TZWWDHUT09):

•818 HUNTINGTON, INC. D/B/A: HUNTINGTON MARKET, 818-820 HUNTINGTON AVE., Fenway. Holder of a Retail Package Store Malt and Wine License has petitioned to transfer the license above - To: Huntington Avenue Market, Inc. d/b/a Huntington Market (at the same location). The premise at 818 Huntington Avenue is located on the first floor of a one story building and the premise at 820 Huntington Avenue is located on the first floor of a three story building. One room for retail with basement for storage containing 1,535 square feet with 1 entrance in the front and 1 exit in the rear. Charvak P. Karpe, Manager. Closing hour is at 11:00 PM. Lastly, has petitioned to pledge the license and inventory to Rockland Trust Company.

•220 Huntington Ave. Virtual Development meeting, Dec. 3, 6 p.m. This is the first public meeting for the proposed redevelopment of the Midtown Hotel at 220 Huntington Avenue in the Back Bay neighborhood. It will provide an opportunity for the National Development team to share their vision for the project and hear community feedback. The meeting will begin with a presentation by the development team followed by an open Q&A session with the development team and BPDA staff.

•Bay Village Monthly meeting, Monday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Online via Zoom. Check website for more details.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING:

The Committee will hold a Dec. 3, 10 a.m., hearing for a special law re: Preference for Boston High School Graduates for the Position of Police Officers in the City of Boston. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Lydia Edwards. The sponsor of the docket is Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

OUTDOOR DINING EXTENSION

The Mayor announced an extension of the Outdoor Dining Program beyond its original end date of October 31. Restaurants using private outdoor space can continue to do so for the duration of the public health emergency. And restaurants using public space on streets and sidewalks can continue until December 1. The City will also waive application fees for the use of outdoor propane heaters in dining areas. Restaurants will still need a permit from the Fire Department, and safety regulations around their use will remain in place. Restaurants can use electric heaters without a permit, as long as no cords are crossing sidewalks.

FIRST THURSDAYS AT THE GARDNER MUSEUM

First Thursdays are back at the Gardner Museum! Entry is free on the first Thursday of each month from 3-9 p.m., however, timed ticket reservations are required and guests must adhere to all safety protocols once inside. Visit the museum's ticket website to reserve now.

FREE BPS BREAKFAST IN SOUTH END/FENWAY

Students who wish to get a free breakfast Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 am.,

have three sites to choose from in the South End and Fenway. This is the BPS initiative,

but other organizations are also serving meals in the area as well.

•Blackstone Elementary School – 380 Shawmut Ave. (South End).

•Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, 120 Shawmut Ave. (Monday, Weds., and Friday only – South End).

•Boston Latin School – 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur (Fenway).

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465.

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.storage-treasures.com on 12/14/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Elmore Lawrence unit #3053; Chanel Smith unit #3170; Shuang Yang unit #3252; Jaclyn Walsh unit #4037; Danny Mccoy unit

#4046; Mary-Kate Jurek unit #4053; Evelyn Simpkins unit #5044. 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.

11/24/20, 12/3/20 BS

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.storage-treasures.com on 12/14/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Joseph Floyd Twombly unit #210; Gregory McNeil unit #323; Claudia Camerino unit #652. 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.

11/26/20, 12/3/20 BS

SERVICE DIRECTORY

HELP WANTED

Director of Engineering, Pocket Coach Corporation dba AVA, Boston, MA: As a hands-on developer, the Director of Engineering will work on the design, development, & implementation of the company's web-based products, mobile applications & backend services. Daily use of Java EE, Javascript, React-Native, AngularJS, React, JMS, SQL, PostgreSQL, HTML, CSS, jQuery, AWS. Min Req: Bachelor's degree in CE, CS, or closely rel field (for equiv accepted). Must have 2 years exp developing scalable online solutions for web-based complex consumer quality products. Spec reqs: Must have any level dem kldge of 1) Backend & frontend technologies for scalability 2) AWS iOS & Android based dev tools. Qualified applicants email resumes to ihsan@eatwithava.com with reference to Job Code: PCDE20.

PAINTING

JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

YOUR AD

HERE
CALL

781-485-0588

The City of Boston reminds you:

The legal drinking age is 21.



Thanks for not providing alcohol to teens.

Proudly sponsored by The Patrón Spirits Company.

WWW.DONTSERVETEENS.GOV

EPITOME OF LUXURY



122 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #PH
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 4,144 SQFT
\$13,200,000



20 ROWES WHARF #707
2 BEDS | 2F BATHS | 1,188 SQFT
\$1,899,000



17 LOUISBURG SQUARE
5 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 7,610 SQFT
\$15,990,000



4 STRONG PLACE
4 BEDS | 4F BATH | 2,380 SQFT
\$3,400,000



492 BEACON STREET #13
1 BED | 1F BATH | 870 SQFT
\$945,000

