THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

# STOSUN SUN THE SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

**New PBS** documentary shows the inner workings of Boston city government

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

By Lauren Bennett

Filmmaker Frederick Wiseman's 45th film takes a four and a half hour look into what makes Boston city government tick. Called City Hall, the documentary was filmed over 10 weeks in 2018 and 2019, and premiered on PBS stations across the country on Decem-

On December 18, GBH held a virtual public event called City Hall: A Look Behind the Scenes, where GBH president John Abbott spoke with Wiseman and Mayor Marty Walsh about the film.

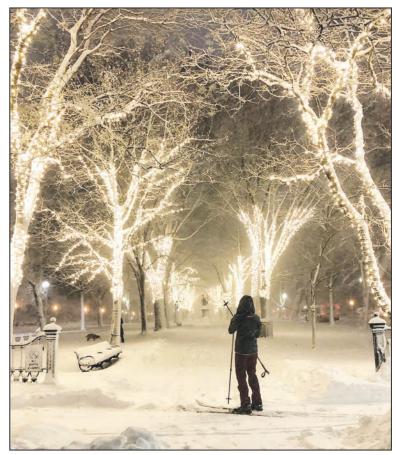
The film was recorded "... pre-pandemic and kind of looking at the way we used to govern," Walsh said. "What we're

(**PBS**, *Pg*. 3)





### **MALL SKIING**



Forget the slopes, Boston has the Comm Ave Mall to ski on. This neighbor took a cross country ski journey last Thursday night down the Commonwealth Avenue Mall with the holiday lighting all a-glow around them. Reader Hannah Wiley, a nurse, snapped the photo while on her way to work.

"I was passing by and saw the shot and thought, 'I can't pass that up," she said. Mayor Martin Walsh said all Boston neighborhoods had more than 13 inches of snow last Thursday in the year's first major storm of the season. There was, however, a pesky snow event at the end of October that was quite unwelcome and marked the beginning of the

### Fenway CDC proposes 100 percent affordable building with 27 units

By Lauren Bennett

The Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC) is proposing to build a six story, 100 percent affordable rental building with 27 units on the vacant land at 72 Burbank St. in the Fenway, just down the street from its own office.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held a public meeting o December 21 for the team to present the proposal, as well as provide

an opportunity for neighbors to make comments and ask questions.

Dana Whiteside of the BPDA said that this project is currently in Small Project Review under Article 80, and the comment period ends on January 3.

Suneeth John, Director of Real Estate at the Fenway CCDC, said that the parcel is currently under agreement, and will be the CDC's "first groundup development in decades."

# Groundbreaking

Vaccinations at South End Community Health seen as historic new beginning

By Seth Daniel

Registered Nurse Morgan Brister was the first employee of the South End Community Health Center (SECHC) to get the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, and she said the moment felt emotional, groundbreaking and like a new beginning.

Now, after that historic

moment for herself, the clinic and the community at-large, she said she also feels a duty to encourage others to take the

Like for many front-line health workers who were the first to receive the vaccine, they have taken on a dual role as history maker and ambassador.

(VACCINE, Pg. 6)

## SBNA wreath sale brings holiday joy to the neighborhood

By Lauren Bennett

After a two year hiatus, the St Botolph Neighborhood Association's (SBNA) annual wreath sale brought in over \$1,000 from a record 157 wreaths sold.

Lorraine Steele, SBNA treasurer and organizer of the wreath sale, said that though this is the eighth sale, it has been going on for 10 years. One year the sale was not held because

no wreaths could be found, and another year the SBNA was transitioning to a new board and did not hold a sale.

Steele said that over the years, the sale has "been very focused on the St. Botolph neighborhood," and the group distributes flyers to every door advertising the sale, as well as posts on their social media

(SBNA, Pg. 9)



Copley, the puppy, poses inside one of the holiday wreaths.

# EDITORIAL

### THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season usually is the most wonderful time of the year.

But Christmas, 2020, is anything but wonderful.

We are undergoing a degree of hardship unlike any that we have experienced in our lifetime. More Americans are dying each and every day from the coronavirus than perished in any of our wars or on 9/11. As the cumulative death toll inexorably continues to climb, the total number of Americans who will have been killed by the virus likely will exceed all of the combat deaths in all of our wars against a foreign enemy.

The death count from the pandemic only tells part of the story, however. Those who have survived a bout with the virus face an uncertain future because of the serious long-term health effects on their vital organs.

The burden that has been placed upon our doctors, nurses, and other front-line workers has been enormous and continues to grow as the virus relentlessly attacks our populace and fills our hospitals to overflowing.

In addition, the economic impact of the pandemic has been profound for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs, their businesses, and their homes. Millions of Americans, including one in five children, do not have enough to eat. The lines of cars at food banks stretch for miles.

For our nation's young people, the virus has disrupted their lives to such an extent that economists say the effects upon their education and future job prospects will linger for years to come.

The pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to the mental health and anxiety issues, especially for older Americans, that are a by-product of the constant stress in our lives.

But amidst all of the chaos and danger that society is facing, this holiday season has provided us with an opportunity to discover a new-found appreciation for the things that really matter in our

With the usual holiday frenzy of parties, gift-shopping, vacations, and other self-indulgent pursuits no longer viable, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on what is really important: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

If we do these things, we will come to a true understanding of what the Christmas season really is all about.

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### GUEST OP-ED

### Our Christmas Spirit

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Years ago, our church group was out Christmas caroling. We weren't far from the church and our leader led us out to the back of Mr. Castle's house to sing to he and his wife. His wife came to the door and greeted us with a smile and was gracious. We sang to her when suddenly through the window we saw her husband appear in the family room with a big towel around his body. He obviously had just gotten out of the shower. He came into his family room unknowing that 20 carolers had all eyes on him. Several of the women began to chuckle. I just knew we were all about to see something we had not planned on. Sitting down on his sofa he put his feet up and was preparing to relax. The volume of laughter from a couple of his adult friends grew louder when Mr. Castle looked up and saw us. He immediately made an "Oh no" expression while shaking his head a bit and jumped up and departed to another part of the house. We sang to his sweet wife and moved on down the street with a new visual that I still remember to this day. I'll

always remember what a good spirit he and his wife had and that we all left feeling uplifted by them.

This week I walked to the back of a local nursing home to look through a window to see a friend. Ms. Southard is 99. My wife and I visited in her home recently. She was agile, mentally sharp and dancing around like she always does. Her attitude always lifts us up. She did say on that very day we were there, "I don't want to end up in a nursing home. "I told my son I don't ever want to be in one," she said. Two weeks later while closing her curtains she made an awkward step, fell and broke her leg. Surgery was required and also rehabilitation. Her insurance plan would not pay for her to go to the local rehabilitation hospital but instead put her where she never wanted to be, a nursing home.

I found out from a nurse which room she was in and how to find the right window to look through. The nurse said she would meet me at the window and let Ms. Southard know I was there. I dreaded what I might see but wanted to wish her a Merry Christmas. Knocking on the window I was delighted that she was sitting up and started laughing and waving at me. We exchanged Merry Christmas the best we could velling through a window. While I almost wanted to cry seeing her there, I was so encouraged by her good spirit.

The spirit of Christmas is inside you. This spirit is greater than you and I and pulls us through the awkward and the very difficult times of life.

The Christmas season we celebrate is one of hope and celebration. The story of Jesus is the story of God's hope coming to us in the little baby a long time ago. 2020 has certainly been a year we've needed hope.

2021 is going to be a better year. Vaccines for Covid-19 are coming. May your spirit be rekindled. Share your spirit with others and may the year ahead be one of the best ever for us all.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

# Baker announces \$49 million in grants for over 1,000 small businesses

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker announced on Tuesday that 1,158 small businesses will be receiving a total of \$49 million in grants as part of the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program, operated by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

Baker said that in October, he announced a "\$774 million comprehensive economic recovery plan with a \$50.8 million Small Business Grant Program to be administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation."

These grants "prioritize businesses owned by underrepresented entrepreneurs and those that were unable to access the federal protection program or other federal or state aid," Baker said.

Additionally, "100 percent of the recipients are minority-owned, women owned, veteran owned, LGBTQ owned, or owned by individuals with disabilities," Baker said.

He said that overall, there were over 10,000 applicants who requested more than \$500 million in relief, so "the funds for the first round clearly didn't cover the ground associated with those who applied."

Baker also announced that the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation received "an additional \$17.5 million in small business relief for this year's budget that we just signed," and about \$9 million for small business technical assistance and grants. He also said that the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation will take another look at the "existing pool of applicants" to award a second round of funding, and no new businesses can apply.

Additionally, a \$107.4 million supplemental budget bill was recently filed by the Baker-Polito administration, calling for \$49.4 million "to fully fund the economic recovery and small business relief plan included in the Administration's revised FY21 budget proposal and support the unique needs of small and minorityand women-owned businesses across the Commonwealth," according to the state, and a bill currently before the Legislature would add additional substantial investments in small

businesses," the state said.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that "our small businesses have had a challenging, tough, complicated, and hard year, but through it all, they have demonstrated resilience and patience."

She said these grants will cover expenses related to "payroll and benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities."

Polito said that of the recipients, 94 percent of the businesses are minority owned and 76 percent are women-owned, and "more than one third operate in gateway cities" that have been hit especially hard, both economically and by the pandemic

"We're so pleased to be able to notify more than 1100 Massachusetts small businesses that they will be getting needed support to help them cover expenses, support their workers, keep their doors open, or, finally, help them reopen," said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy.

"As we've said before, those who are already at a disadvantage before the pandemic have suffered disproportionately as a result of this crisis," he continued. "Accordingly, today's awards are going to business owners that have faced higher barriers to accessing help from previous programs."

He said that 262 of the grant recipients are personal care providers, 217 are restaurants, and nearly 100 are retailers.

### PBS (from pg. 1)

doing now is a different type of government," he said, referring to the changes that came about following the pandemic.

The film shows various in-person meetings and scenes of people congregated together, but "all of that changed in March," Walsh said. "It all went to Zoom; it all went online." He said it's been important to his administration to "keep people connected to their city government," even though it now has to be done in non-conventional ways.

When making the film, Wiseman was given access to Boston City Hall for 10 weeks and shot over 100 hours of footage.

"Everything surprised me because I knew absolutely nothing about Boston city government," Wiseman said at the online event. He said that "visiting the various departments" and having access to meetings, among other things, "gave me a real sense of how the activities of City Hall, and the mayor, and the people who work at City Hall touch every aspect of our daily lives, much more so than any other form of government—state government or federal government..."

Wiseman added, "the film is the study of the contract between the citizens and the city."

As someone who does not typically know much about the subject matter of his films before he begins delving into the filming, Wiseman said that he takes an objective look at his subjects and tries not to "think about judgement or point of view." He said his films are a "combo of instinct, luck, and good judgment," and that he's "learned over the years to follow my instinct."

Abbott asked Walsh if having cameras inside City Hall for weeks affected his day-to-day activities and governing.

"It didn't really impact it at all," Walsh said, adding that "the first day might have been the only time that I recognized or was cognizant that Fred was in the room."

He said, "We didn't say certain things because he was there or not say certain things because he was there. I think you see the honesty throughout the film of people just talking and saying what they say...the movie being so genuine; that's what makes it unique."

Wiseman said that in making the film, "the shooting of the film is really the research. Really what I'm interested in is human behavior." He said he also worked to make sure he answered everyone's questions and "did whatever I could to de-mystify the process" to make himself seem like as much of a fly on the wall as possible during the filming.

Walsh also mentioned that the film was created prior to George Floyd's death.

eorge Floyd's death.
"After the murder of George

Floyd," Walsh said, there is "so much more to do as a nation but also as a city. In Boston, we're approaching it with the urgency it deserves. This is more than a moment."

He said he is going to use this film "as an opportunity to learn" about how the city operated before and how it should operate moving forward. "This is the time now; we have to do even more than we've done in the past," Walsh said. "When we talk about systemic racism, it's a systemic change in policies and that's really what we have to work on."

Wiseman said that he is "appreciative of the access I had," and "I began to have some appreciation of the complexity of the tasks. The mayor is like a conductor of the symphony orchestra," Wiseman said.

When asked by a viewer what one thing Mayor Walsh would change in the movie, he responded by saying that he wishes he could have added last week's nor'easter, as well as the national election.

He said he wanted to show the "public works department out there cleaning the streets" and working together while still being cautious of COVID-19. He also said that on Election Day, "we had everything counted by 9:00 [pm]. There was no recounts, and there was no waiting, and it was ready to go," Walsh said.

When asked about the length of the film, Wiseman responded, "the subjects I pick to make movies about are complicated subjects," and he said he wants to make it as "accurate" as possible. "My films come out at a length that I think appropriately reflects the material."

Walsh said that when he watched the film and how many meetings are included, including lots of internal meetings, he said he was surprised to see "one scene with Sheila Dillon in housing and she was at a table; people were talking. I initially thought it was an internal meeting of staff... As the camera spanned the crowd, I realized it was an activist meeting," he said.

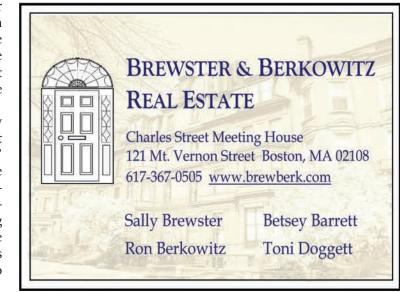
"...I knew that this was something special because there was no editing and cutting of so called potential 'controversial'...and that struck me."

Walsh thanked Wiseman for telling the story of Boston's government, and said that "more trust" in government is needed today.

Wiseman thanked Walsh for the access and said he has "great admiration" for all those who make City Hall operate.

On what he wants viewers to take away from the film, Wisemsan said, "I think a greater appreciation for the effort and complexity of the task and admiration for the people who are working the issues."

The film aired on GBH and other PBS stations on December 22, and will be streamed on the PBS app for four weeks following the premiere.



# Baker announces new capacity restrictions "for most industries" across the state

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday announced additional statewide restrictions following the increase in COVID-19 cases after the Thanksgiving holiday and the potential for another increase following the Christmas and New Years' holidays.

Baker said that these restrictions are in addition to his previously implemented restrictions, which include a stay at home advisory from 10p to 5am, and more restrictions for restaurants.

He said that prior to Thanksgiving, "acute hospital beds" were 67 percent occupied, but by December 15, they were 83 percent occupied and have "only recovered one percentage point since that peak."

Baker said that since "hospi-

tals are under significant pressure," the administration feels that it is "appropriate to take action now," and "do so in a way that we can avoid over running our hospital system."

The new restrictions announced will be in place for "at least two weeks," according to Lt Governor Karyn Polito, and will take effect on December 26.

"Together, the intent of these restrictions will be to pause activity and reduce mobility so we can reduce the spread of the virus without closing our schools or our businesses," Baker said.

The new restrictions include a lowering of capacity limits to 25 percent "for most industries," he said, and also includes new restrictions for both indoor and outdoor gathering limits. The new outdoor gathering limit is 25 people, and the new indoor limit is 10 people, which includes events.

"This is part of what we must do during this critical period when the vaccine is just a few months away to slow the spread," Baker said.

Nothing we're announcing today affects K-12 education," he continued. "As the science and medical data have made very clear, all school districts, even those with high infection rates, can and should bring students back into the classroom. In fact, these measures today will help districts bring students back, and bring them back soon."

He said that "the decision to restrict capacity at so may businesses is an enormously difficult decision," and that his administration recognizes the impact it has on people's "live-lihoods and families."

The Baker-Polito administration is "putting together a significant economic relief fund for the commonwealth's small businesses that will be the most negatively impacted by these decisions," Baker said.

Polito said of the new restrictions that "it is our goal to keep these measures temporary," and that the industries impacted by the restrictions include: restaurants, personal services, theaters, performance venues, casinos, office spaces, places of worship, retail, libraries, common areas in lodging, and more.

"Workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants, personal services, places of worship, and retail businesses such as grocery stores," Polito said.

She told residents to plan on purchasing gift cards from local restaurants and shops to continue to support them, as well as getting take out meals from local restaurants. "Do everything you can to support..." these businesses, she said.

"I know this pandemic has been hard for everyone, but here is light at the end of this tunnel," she said, with "thousands" of people in Massachusetts having already received their first dose of the vaccine and more on the way.

"We all know there are better, brighter, and healthier days ahead," Polito said.

For more information on the new restrictions, visit mass.gov/covid19.

# BBAC approves extension of mural banner on Boylston St.

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) met virtually on December 9, where two design review proposals were voted on. At 545 Boylston St., the Commission voted to extend the approval for a banner to June 30, 2021, and at 222 Commonwealth Avenue, the Commission voted to approve a scope of work on the front facade and the penthouse, with further review to come on other aspects of the building.

A project at 497 Beacon St. was also heard for some work on the facade and in the front yard of the building, but no work could be approved because it was discovered that the condo board had not signed off on the work before it came before the BBAC.

#### 545 BOYLSTON ST.

Applicant Katie Lampes came back before the BBAC last Wednesday to request a second extension of the Boston Marathon banner on the side of 545 Boylston St. The banner was previously approved for an extension on May 13 of this year to December 31.

Lampes said that some repairs had to be made to the banner, which "definitely masks some of the discoloration of the brick" on the side of the build-

ing. She said the banner is currently providing "some protection" to the building, and said that if it was removed, it would look worse.

"We are grateful for the extension of the permit into this year," Lampes said, but asked for an extension to December 31, 2021 to have time to plan for facade work to be done, which she said has been difficult to do during the pandemic. She said that while they prefer an extension through next December, June would suffice.

BBAC Chair Kathy Connor said that the proponents would be in the "same pickle" if the extension to December 31, 2021 was granted, because the weather will be the same as it is now, which might hinder work. She said that "June does seem to be a reasonable time frame."

Commissioner Jim Berkman said that he thought the proponents should have "more specific proposals" for the work they would like to do to the building, even though he understands it may be hard to execute at this time.

Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said she would support a six month extension of the banner.

The Commission ultimately voted to approve the extension through June 30, 2021.

# 222 COMMONWEALTH AVE.

At 222 Commonwealth Ave., architect Guy Grassi proposed to re-landscape the front and rear yards, replace windows, build steel balconies in the rear, and build a penthouse and roof deck. There was also a proposal for the construction of an addition at the rear, but that portion was under advisory review and no vote was taken by the Commission at this hearing.

Grassi explained that the "existing front yard has minimal landscaping" and "decorative iron balconies" that he said are "nicely detailed," but only one is required per egress code.

"The rest of the building is in decent shape," he said, though restoration work is needed in several areas, including the windows.

Grassi said that there is not currently a tree in the front yard because there is a vault underground, leaving only "10 or 12 inches of soil." He proposed to remove the vault "so we have an opportunity to landscape the front yard," as well as install a fence.

He said that the front stairs will need restoration as well, as they're "in pretty tough shape" and have been patched and painted.

Grassi said that the existing

condition in the rear is "unusual," as there's a walled garden with an asphalt parking area. He also said that the bay with a chimney stack is "unusual." He proposed to keep the chimney stack and fireplaces.

At the roof, he proposed a penthouse addition that is "sunken down well into the roofline," about four feet below the mansard. He said that the deck will be brought out all the way to the mansard, which isn't normally done, but he said he "thought it made sense to capture that space since there's no railing required." There was also discussion around HVAC equipment on the roof.

He also proposed heat pumps and a green roof system, as well as a large skylight along with a smaller one over the stair.

"As I mentioned in my letter to the Commission, this is a wonderful example of William Whitney Lewis' architecture," said Tom High of backbayhouses.org. Lewis was an architect who worked in the Back Bay, and High said that he thinks the "front and back facades and survived amazingly well" on this building.

"Talking about the front, I think the work that Guy has described makes sense," High said. "I think it's going to restore the front very nicely."

High said that he does wish

that the fire balconies added in 1967 "could be removed," and said that the proposed penthouse is "a little suburban looking from the drawings," and said the windows in the front need to be punched. He also said that the rear of the penthouse is "quite visible from the alley," and told Grassi to revisit the visibility from the rear.

Sue Prindle of NABB said that she believes "the fire escapes really detract from the bay," adding that she thinks it would be "great if those could be removed." She agreed with High that the mockup for the penthouse is visible from the rear sidewalk.

After further discussion, the Commission voted to approve the work on the front facade and the penthouse with the proviso that the openings in the facade be "either three or four openings with enough space that echo the vision between the lower levels as it becomes punched openings," according to Commissioner John Christiansen. The Commission also said that the proponent is to work with the staff architect to "come to a solution" on the railings around the HVAC units, and to line the condensers up with the chimney. All other work on the rear was continued to another hearing for a vote.

# South End Seasons calendar a hit and a help over the holidays

By Seth Daniel

Each season of the year in the South End has a separate and distinct endearing quality to it, and this holiday season Maria Dolorico and several contributing photographers from the area have pitched in to create a South End Seasons calendar – an effort to appreciate the beauty of the South End in 2021, and also to raise money for restaurant workers decimated by COVID-19 restrictions.

Dolorico said she has admired many of the great pictures of the South End online and on the South End Community Board page, and always thought someone should compile them into a seasonal calendar. As the holidays approached, it appeared the

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time was right, and she was the person.

"I said somebody should put together the photos in a calendar and sell them for COVID-19 relief this year," said Dolorico. "I heard about the Off Their Plate fundraising effort for restaurant workers, and the South End loves its restaurants, so that seemed like a good cause. As it turned out, the 'somebody' ended up being me and I put it all together."

All of the photos are from local photographers, and only two of them are professionals, she said. Most of the photos were taken by neighbors who posted them on their personal Facebook pages or on community boards. She said she tracked them all down and asked to use the images on the

THE STO SUN

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CHARLESTOWN

THE NORTH END

calendar. Everyone was more than accommodating, and having neighbors put neighborhood photos onto the calendar made it even more special.

Dolorico said the effort has been well-received, and she's sold several calendars online, and even in person in front of the South End Library.

The calendar was produced with the help of private donations and the Wine Emporium, where it is also being sold.

Last Friday, Joey Buot was in line to purchase his calendar.

"I saw the advertisement for it and really liked the idea," he said. "If not this, it would have been my usual cat calendar."

Danielle, of the South End, said she liked the cause and wanted to send the calendar to a neighbor who had to move after 25 years in the South End.

"I got it for one of my neighbors who had to move from her home in the South End after 25 years," she said. "It's been really hard on her leaving and I thought it would be a pick-meup for Christmas. It was something nice to send her and it's for a really good cause too."

Dolorico said the sales of the calendar will fund the Off Their Plate restaurant assistance fund, which started in Boston and has been very active in raising money for local eateries during the pandemic.

"The timing is right because Dec. 1 is the time when all the restaurants had to pull up their outside dining," she said. "Now a lot of them are going



John McLachlan, of the South End, was one of the featured photographers in the South End Seasons calendar and also purchased a copy last Friday. All proceeds go to the Off Their Plate restaurant relief fund.



Maria Dolorico selling a South End Seasons fundraising calendar to Joey Buot last week.

into their hibernation or they're closing. It's sad, and we want to help them."

She said they printed 500 calendars, so there is the potential to raise \$12,000 through the fundraiser.

To order a South End Seasons calendar, follow the link on the Boston Sun webpage (www.thebostonsun.com) or follow the link on the South End Community Forum Facebook page.



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### VACCINE (from pg. 1)

"It felt really encouraging and historic and the beginning of the end of this," she said. "It was encouraging every possible force in the country come together to try to make us safe. It will go down in history and will be a moment I never forget."

The SECHC, a division of the parent East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), received and administered the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to its first staff Monday morning just shorty after it arrived. That first group of employees included several from the East Boston facility, and Brister from the South End.

The Health Center will continue to vaccinate its staff beginning with those in the front lines treating COVID-19 patients and other clinical staff most at risk and hope to proceed with other staff as they receive more vaccine.

EBNHC said it is preparing for what it will take to vaccinate those most at risk in the community once the state enters into that phase, and eventually, they will be prepared to vaccinate all that they serve.

Brister, who works as a nurse in the Family Medicine Department, has been seeing patients daily throughout the pandemic. She said being on the frontlines in a health care setting, she was ready for the vaccine and had no doubts about it – though she understands some do have concerns.

"I was always planning on



Morgan Brister – the first staff member at South End Community Health Center to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine – prepares to be vaccinated on Monday morning. She said she feels like a history maker, and also like an ambassador to encourage others to take the vaccine.

getting the vaccine," she said. "It wasn't a question for me. I trust the science and the process and think it's too easy to complain that we've been in quarantine and we have restrictions on what we can and cannot do. I wanted to get it and be part of the solution."

Now, being part of the solution is also about being an ambassador for getting the vaccine, she said. It was a role she didn't expect, but is ready to embrace with patients who have natural concerns.

"I definitely do feel I'm kind of a representative as a health care worker and someone who has received the vaccine to

spread the message," he said. "This shouldn't be seen as political. COVID-19 shouldn't be political. The vaccine shouldn't be political. It is frustrating they get intertwined. For me as a health care worker, vaccines are so important. If they're there to help you, why not be protected? I think it's also a public safety consideration for those around you...It's not just for yourself, but also for the health and safety of everyone around you."

Brister, 23, said she was surprised to have been picked on Monday as the first from the SECHC to be vaccinated. She had expressed her interest for some time, and on Monday her manager said it was ready and she could be the first. She trav-



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center officials welcomed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to their network, which includes the South End Community Health Center, on Monday. Left to right Manny Lopes, President and CEO, Dr. Jackie Fantes, Chief Medical Officer and Family Medicine Doctor, Morgan Brister, Nurse for South End Community Health Center, Dr. Matusi Chilumi, Family Medicine Director, Karina Mendoza, Nurse, Testing, Dr. Jaime Gallegos-Salazar, Infectious Disease Director and Adult Medicine Doctor, and Courtney Senechal, Employee Health Nurse Manager.

eled to East Boston at the main clinic and got the vaccine along with several of high-priority workers.

The vaccine does require a second booster within a month or so, and she said they are told strictly that the immunity is not 100 percent (it's around 93 percent) and does not kick in for about three months. Brister said she would remain vigilant and continue all of the protocols that have been in place since March – whether in or out of work – despite having the vaccine.

However, she said having the vaccine now available does make her think about a work without masks and social distancing and quarantines.

"Everything changed for us very fast in March and we adapted quickly to wearing masks and it has become normal," she said. "It is interesting to think about a world without masks. You can't go anywhere without one. We have adjusted to that. It's like the phone or keys – you always need them. When we get to that point, it may feel like being naked when you don't have a mask. It will be a little while before we get to that point..."

She said mask wearing, in some respects, might not go away in the future – particularly for the cold and flu season in Boston. So many have become accustomed to it, that maybe it will become more normalized and help people stop the annual spread of the flu.

"I wonder if it will actually go away in total or if it's here to stay – especially during the flu season or in a healthcare setting," she said.

Brister said she is so glad the vaccine has arrived and it's rolling out in what appears to be a coordinated and efficient way for the most part.

"I feel more a part of the history making than I do part of a trial and error process," she concluded.

Happy Holidays!

Councilor
Kenzie Bok



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### Back Bay COVID update; Walsh addresses Boston's hospital capacity ahead of the holiday

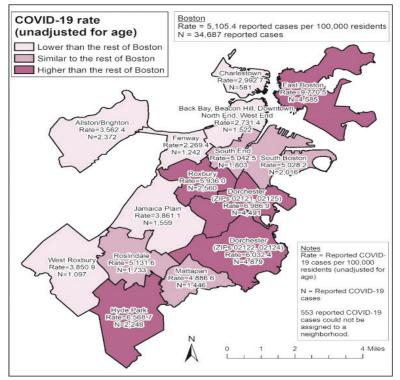
Thanksgiving The post COVID-19 surge across Boston has slowed a bit but Mayor Martin Walsh is urging citizens to be vigilant ahead of Christ-

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 35,934 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 12.5 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 38.8 percent increase from the 9 percent testing positive the week of Thanksgiving. The citywide positive test increased 17.2 percent last week and went from 17.3 percent of Boston residents testing positive for the virus to 20.3 percent.

Overall since the pandemic began 4.1 percent of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were found to be COVID pos-

At a press briefing last week the Mayor said that the number of COVID patients in Boston hospitals has continued to rise and the latest data has crossed our thresholds for concern on some metrics.

"Daily Emergency Room visits for COVID-19 have gone up for eight days in a row," said Walsh. "That's a concern. The number of available adult hospital beds has gone down, and that's a concern. Our hospitals are not in danger, at the moment, of being over-



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

whelmed, but the trend is concerning."

Walsh said this data confirms why Boston moved back into a temporary, modified Phase 2, Step 2 of the reopening plan, in coordination with other cities and towns.

"Our focus is to keep the people of Boston safe," he said. 'That's what every decision we make is about. We have to reduce opportunities for COVID transmission so fewer people get sick, and so hospitals can continue to treat everyone, whether they have COVID or any other serious condition. That's the path to a strong recovery for our city."

The Mayor said that this is, and must be, a collective effort.

"We need everyone to be part of this. We cannot let our guards down, even a little bit," said Walsh. "Everyone must keep wearing masks, handwashing, and avoiding crowds. When you go out, only go out for essential needs; and please follow this guidance while visiting any business."

He also asked everyone to make a decision to commit to safety over the holidays.

"We are living with what happened over Thanksgiving right now, and we can't let that happen again," said Walsh. "People should not be travel-

ing for Christmas or hosting or attending parties of any kind. Everyone must limit gatherings to their current households."

Walsh said the city's rollback to tighter restrictions is about making individual sacrifices for the greater good.

"That's how we have to approach the holidays as well," he said. "The holidays are a time of collective renewal during the dark winter months. That's what we're focused on this year, more than ever before, only in a different way."

The infection rate in Back Bay and surrounding neighborhoods increased 11.2 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 273.1 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 245.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred fifty-four additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 1,368 cases to 1,522 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 9.5 percent percent last week and went from 33,323 cases to 36,476 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-two more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 972 total deaths in the city from COVID.



EBNHC provides walk-thru COVID-19 testing to anyone who wants to be tested, six days a week at 79 Paris Street.

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# BPDA approves new development in Lower Roxbury

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board approved a 34-unit, seven-story new construction development on East Lenox Street in the Lower Roxbury area of the South End on Dec.

The development includes a mural that will be commissioned by the developer and will use local artists in its completion.

11 East Lenox will build a seven-story, residential building totalling approximately 43,564 square feet. The project will contain 34 rental units, four of which are income-re-

stricted affordable housing. The building will also contain eight parking spaces, and up to 37 bicycle storage spaces. In alignment with the City of Boston's Climate Action Plan, the project will be one of the first few mid-size multifamily buildings in Boston with columns, beams and floor assemblies constructed of cross-laminated timber.

Community benefits associated with the project include street trees along East Lenox Street, the commission of a rotating mural with an public RFP process, and contributions to a college scholarship

fund for residents, after-school

youth programming, and com-

munity center programming. •Notices of Project Change

The Board also approved a Notice of Project Change (NPC) to the Kenmore Square Redevelopment Project that would revise the programming of the Beacon Building, located at 660 Beacon St., to now include approximately 127,700 square feet of lab/research and development space. The NPC would also reduce the retail space in this building to approximately 8,560 square feet. The Kenmore Square Redevelopment project was originally approved by the BPDA in November 2018.

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

# Licensing Board discusses transfer of liquor licenses to South End restaurants

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Licensing Board met virtually on December 22, where the board and neighbors discussed the revival of South End restaurants like Gaslight Brasserie and Cinquecento, as well as the transfer of a seven-day all alcoholic beverages license from Dick's Last Resort, which closed its Faneuil Hall location, to The Power Station in the South End. All matters were expected to be voted on December 23, after the Sun's deadline.

### CINQUECENTO

Attorney Alec Bonelli said that the building at 490 Harrison Ave. where Italian restaurant Cinquecento was formerly located has "suffered duel setbacks" from both the pandemic and "extensive damage from the water main break along Harrison Avenue this year." Jeffrey Gates, a long time restaurateur in Boston, is the manager of record. The proposal is to transfer Cinquecento's restricted seven day all alcoholic beverages license to a new restaurant, Roma 500, at the same location.

Councilor Ed Flynn expressed support, and neighbor Debby Krim said she is "thrilled that Jeffrey Gates is going to come back" to the neighborhood. "SoWa desperately needs to have that Italian restaurant there so I'm thrilled that they're coming back."

Caroline Foscato, an abutter on Union Park Street, said she is also in support.

#### **GASLIGHT BRASSERIE**

Bonelli also proposed to transfer the seven-day all alcoholic beverages license from Gaslight Brasserie at 560 Harrison Ave., which has closed, to a new restaurant called Brasserie, which will operate at the same location.

Jeffrey Gates was again the manager of record, and Bonelli said that the "applicant is in the process of doing extensive restoration work."

Gates said that he is "looking forward to the renovations" and the opening of the restaurant. Councilor Flynn and neighbor Debby Krim were in support of the project.

"We need Jeff Gates in the neighborhood," Krim said.

#### THE POWER STATION

Neighbors came out to speak both in support and in opposition of the proposed transfer of a seven-day all alcoholic beverage license from Dick's Last Resort to the SoWa Power Station at 550 Harrison Ave. in the South End.

Once again, Jeffrey Gates is the manager of record and attorney Alec Bonelli said that the Power Station is the only event space of a large scale in the South End, and the liquor license would be used for large gatherings, conferences, and similar events.

He said that the team has "responded to concerns of noise, parking, traffic, and closing hours," and all events will be private and within the walls of the Power Station. All openings in the building will be closed up, and there will be no spillage of people outside of the building during events.

Bonelli also proposed to reduce the hours of operation and close earlier in response to concerns from neighbors.

Bonelli said that traffic was another concern raised by neighbors, and the applicant has met with the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) to discuss some of these concerns.

Licensing Board Chair Kathleen Joyce said that the board considers what the public need is in the neighborhood for this type of license, so she wondered who would be "in charge of the day-to-day managing" of the Power Station.

Gates said that he does have a hospitality group called SoWa Hospitality Group, but he will be "overseeing personally" this property to manage things like noise and traffic.

Kim Crucioli of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services said that the Mayor's Office is in support of the license transfer and said that there was an abutters meeting on December 10 which 70 abutters attended.

Ana Calderon from Councilor Ed Flynn's office said that the councilor was neither in support or opposed to the transfer, and that he has heard from East Berkeley neighbors regarding concerns. She asked the applicant "to please continue working with abutters on these concerns."

Many neighbors were very supportive of the project, saying that they believe Gates will follow through on his promises to the community.

Marc Levine said he was an "outspoken critic of this proposal as an abutter. We were very concerned about a lot of issues and we were pretty adamant about them," but "Jeff addressed every single one of them." He said he is "very satisfied with the answers."

Others, like Michael Ratty, said that "foot traffic and vibrancy" are needed in the neighborhood, and the transfer of this license will allow for that.

Some residents still had con-

John Connelly talked about the "impact on residential abutters," and said he believes that the "challenges imposed by an event venue of this size" are "not something our neighborhood can handle." He said that while he "fully acknowledge[s] the good intentions on the part of Jeff," he thinks that the Power Station should "utilize other methods" for serving alcohol at events and would like to see the venue prove itself before supporting a liquor

license for this location and use.

**DECEMBER 24, 2020** 

Mary Havern is an abutter who said she was concerned about her family living so close to the space and said that she wants to ensure that she can safely access her home during events at the Power Station. She said her young children are accustomed to sleeping through sirens and noise from restaurants, but "large events letting out late at night is a totally different thing" from sirens and restaurants.

Other neighbors also mentioned that they liked the "control" of the liquor license belonging to the Power Station because liquor sales can be controlled by that one entity rather than third party providers coming in for different events.

#### PHO ON THAYER

A proposal to transfer a seven-day all alcoholic beverages license and the location from Hungry at 71 1/2 Charles St. in Beacon Hill to Pho on Thayer at B-2 Thayer St. in the South End

The building is two floors; the lower level features a prep area, as well as five bathrooms, an office, a walk in cooler, a beer cooler, and storage. The upper floor features a dining room, a bar, a kitchen, and a seasonal outdoor patio.

Jeffrey Gates said that he is hoping to help the community start back up following the pandemic, as "Thayer St. has been a very quiet street." He said he is "looking to be that final cog in the engine to get things going there again."

Both the Mayor's Office and Councilor Ed Flynn were in support of this transfer, as was the EBNA.

Jane Bryton, who said she lives across the street from Thayer Street said that "Jeff is absolutely right—we need something like this cafe."

Harrison Avenue resident John Connelly said he "fully support[s] this license," as he believes it is an "appropriate use."

Resident Debby Krim said "it can't open soon enough."

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#### FENWAY (from pg. 1)

A 32-unit project at this site was already approved by the BPDA in February 2019 under developer Forest Properties, and John said that this proposal would amend that approval to make "all units affordable in perpetuity," as well as increasing the number of two bedroom units and reducing the total unit count to 27.

Both proposals follow the BPDA's compact living pilot, he said, but a big piece of the change is the affordability aspect and take away all market rate units. Fenway CDC will be the property managers of the building.

John said that other community benefits include an "updated unit mix" with a "greater range of household sizes and types." Additionally, there will be no parking onsite, which "encourages residents to use public transportation," according to the presentation. Residents will also receive free access to the BlueBikes system for at least five years, but that could be extended, John said.

The project proposal calls for eight studio units, seven one bedroom units, and 12 two bedroom units. Seven of the units will be at 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below, five will be at 50 percent AMI or below, and

15 will be at 60 percent AMI or below, according to the presentation.

Rob Del Savio of Embarc Studio, the architects for the project, went through the urban context for the area where the building will be, as well as explained each floor of the proposed building. He said that there will be bicycle storage at the garden level, and the team hopes to be able to put an indoor trash room here as well. The laundry room is also located on this floor.

State Rep. Jay Livingstone said that he likes the to 100-percent affordability aspect of this building, and he is "really pleased with what Fenway CDC has done with this project."

Several other neighbors voiced their support for the affordability aspect of the project, saying that affordable housing is needed in the neighborhood.

John Bookston, a board member of the Fenway Civic Association, said he was concerned about large families who are in need of affordable housing, and wondered if some of the studios could be made into larger apartments with more bedrooms.

"We are working within a project that's already approved," John said. "We are amending the particulars of the project to the extend that it is still economically feasible." He said a market study was done to see what the demand was, and it was determined that there is a demand for both one bedroom units and studios at deeply affordable levels.

Bookston also asked who wants the smaller units, but John said he does not have specific information about that, but said that they "do have the demand to justify..." the number of smaller units proposed.

Whiteside added "from the city's perspective" that this mix of units works because of the subsidies from the city and state and "all units will be subject" to fair housing requirements.

Bookston worried that undergraduate students would quality for the affordable units, but Fenway CDC Executive Director Leah Camhi said that "we do not rent to college students all across our portfolio," as the CDC is working to push students out of housing in the Fenway and back onto college campuses.

Another resident said she was "opposed to studios," as she does not think they are "comfortable." She said that there should be "more single bedrooms than studios," as it

could potentially generate more income if more than one person were to live in the unit.

"You should be living like a human being where you can at least say, 'I have a bedroom,'" she said, adding that some of the studios she has seen in the city are extremely small and do not eve have closets.

"There is demand for studios," John said. "Studios have a place in this world." He said that if a studio "is up to code" and has proper light coming in, then it should not be an issue for someone who wants to live in a studio unit.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok said that when she was campaigning last year and knocking doors in the Fenway, she "consistently heard from people" that they wanted to see more affordable units in the neighborhood, as well as "more units of a larger size for families," both of which she said this project includes.

"I'm sympathetic to the back and forth about studios," she

2 ADS/MONTH

1 AD/MONTH

2col x 5 in.

3.37" by 5" high

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Option

added, and if they're able to be made into one bedrooms that would be a positive thing.

"For me, I want to see a lot more affordability in the district," Bok said, and said that she's "really excited about this..." as "kind of a case study" about how more buildings like these can be built across the district and across the city. Bok added that she is also in favor of the "deep affordability" of the units, with many of them being about the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) requirements.

Whiteside said that this project does not have to go back before the Zoning Board, as the previous approval still stands.

The BPDA project page, which can be found at bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/burbank-terrace, has more information about the project, including the presentation from this meeting. Public comments can also be made on this page, and the public comment period ends on January 3.

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### SBNA (from pg. 1)

accounts. A newsletter is also sent out to members, which extends a little bit outside the neighborhood.

"This year...there was such a pent-up demand to do something joyful like decorate," Stele said, adding that some other neighborhoods "took the nice liberty of passing it along to their constituents," and there were some sales to South End residents, as well as the Southwest Corridor Park.

"We typically sell between 40 and 60 wreaths," Steele said, but this year 157 wreaths were sold. She said the group can only take pre-orders, as they "need to be able to place an order [from the nursery] based on how many we're going to sell. It was absolutely wonderful."

Volunteers went to a nursery to pick up the wreaths and

attached red holiday bows to all of them.

This year, masks and social distancing were required for volunteers and those picking up their wreaths, but "everybody carefully showed up the day of the pickup," Steele said, and listened to Christmas music while they safely chatted with neighbors in line while waiting for their wreaths.

"We did wreath pick-up in the alley between Durham and West Newton and many people brought their dogs with them," SBNA president Joan Carragher wrote in an email.

"We always have more volunteers than we need," Steele added. "It's very social; great fun."

The money raised from the wreath sale goes "towards funding to run the neighborhood association and what we

hope will be our social events this year," Steele said.

Each year, the SBNA holds a family barbecue as well as a winter social event, both of which had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. The group also holds neighborhood meetings for neighbors to chat with one another and a chance to meet new neighbors, but those have been moved to Zoom for the time being, Steele said.

"In the midst of this pandemic, as we've had to keep our physical distance from friends and neighbors, this year's wreath sale pick-up was truly wonderful," Carragher said. "It felt celebratory and normal and we've all been craving moments like that."

For more information on the SBNA and its meetings and events, visit stbotolph.org.



### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By Penny Cherubino

#### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The stair rail in the last clue is on 119 Appleton Street built circa 1900. Susan and Michael Southworth in their book "Ornamental Ironwork," note that because many South End houses were built in rows by developers, you'll find ironwork that architecturally unifies the streets since it is often of the same pattern.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

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



## - 1 Fatata Tuan afana

Real Estate Transfers				
BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE	
Chen, Chapmann	Gief RT	244 Beacon St #2B	\$680,000	
Matraji, Wassim	Otilia S Ferreira LT	255 Beacon St #2	\$663,000	
Demeter, Evangelia	290 Beacon LLC	290 Beacon St #2	\$560,000	
Burchfield, Jennifer G	Alkhereiji, Tarik A	53 Clarendon St #1	\$1,195,000	
Paradis, Jason	Greenblatt, Randy	70 Clarendon St #2	\$735,000	
Yang, Jing	Martinence LLC	160 Commonwealth Ave #216	\$480,000	
Adams, George W	Orourke, Doris	191 Commonwealth Ave #43	\$1,950,000	
Chen, Jiali C	Elissa S Singer RET	283 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$1,900,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$9,000,000	
Haney, William	Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$9,000,000	
nuncy, willium	Hey Dube LLC	313 Commonwedim Ave π7	37,000,000	
BEACON HILL				
Halterman, Ronald	Hartman-Mcdermott,	53 Grove St #4	\$1,820,000	
Dunton, Julia	Blatter, Nina J	20 Hancock St #3	\$980,000	
Thadhani, Ravi	Faxon, David P	56 Mount Vernon St	\$2,100,000	
Zeidman, Mark	Bennett, Martin	41-43 Phillips St #1	\$2,350,000	
Floyd, William H	Obrien, Erin K	15 River St #306	\$675,00	
Wayne, Nancy	Wolfson Joan G Est	8 Whittier Pl #12D	\$528,000	
DAV VIII AGE /COIITH E	ND /VENMADE			
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH E</b> Watson, Connor D	Nemiah, James C	12 Braddock Park #1	\$1,410,000	
		1 Charles St S #8H		
Snider, Andrew E	Shaer, Stephen B Holbrook RET		\$1,800,000	
Gilkey, Duncan A		16 Saint Charles St #1	\$1,151,000	
Sufi, Arshad H Winer Morle	Wu, Di	110 Stuart St #18B	\$1,812,400	
Winer, Merle	VanUmmersen, Scott D	110 Stuart St #18G	\$2,150,000	
SCD 380 Stuart Street LLC	John Hancock Life Ins Co	380 Stuart St	\$177,000,000	
Afshar, Roshi	Janowitsch, Melissa M	193 W Canton St #2	\$652,500	
Sheets, Ellen	Taylor, Jeremy	249 W Newton St #3	\$710,000	
Harris, Katelyn	Krotinger, Alexandra	37 E Springfield St #1	\$672,500	
Chan, Chin	Mutlu, Cem	35 Fay St #405	\$605,000	
Napcon Capital Mgmt LLC	FWI Dream LLC	31 Hanson St #5	\$770,000	
Shao, Mingzi	Sentas, Brianne M	416 Massachusetts Ave #2	\$705,000	
Smith, Claire E	Troost, Juan	258 Shawmut Ave #3	\$835,000	
Jacks Fenway Apt LLC	Boston Better Living LLC	12 Stoneholm St #621	\$670,000	
MTB Washington LLC	Mullen Timothy D Est	1111-1113 Washington St	\$1,500,000	
343 L&S Realty LLC	Bromfield Associates LP	333 Washington St #103A	\$1,050,000	
Janowitsch, Melissa M	Rowe, Garry	21 Worcester Sq #2	\$855,000	
WATERFRONT/DOWNTON	VN 10E Davanshira Ctraat	105 Davianskira C+ #M102	¢720 000	

Taylor Devin LLC	185 Devonshire Street	185 Devonshire St #M102	\$730,000
Massoni, Carol H	Pendergast, Peter R	85 E India Row #7D	\$700,000
Hidden Sky LLC	Tall, Caroline		\$2,600,000
Yao, Carl	Tkebuchava, Teymuraz	1 Franklin St #5403	\$4,925,000

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

#### **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 tenant at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.

storagetreasures.com on 1/11/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Adam Mizener unit #222. 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

12/23/20, 12/30/20

goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 1/11/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Sandra Thomas unit #3030; Marcella Tan Elagy unit #3117; Heather Davis

unit #3125. 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.

12/23/20, 12/30/20 BS

**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

# Walsh provides COVID update, holiday guidance

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh on Tuesday held a press conference where he discussed updates on COVID-19 in the city, as well as provided some tips for safely celebrating the holidays.

Walsh said that as of Tuesday, Boston had 253 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, and three people had died. He said the new positivity rate in the community is 8.8 percent, which is up from the previous week.

Walsh said that he and his administration are "staying closely connected to the hospitals," and will "continue to work with them on shared efforts."

There are more than 30 testing sites across the city, and mobile test sites in Hyde Park, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain. For more information on these testing sites, visit boston.gov/coronavirus.

Walsh also talked about Governor Baker's new capacity restrictions set to go into effect on December 26.

"I know these decisions are not easy," Walsh said, but "these numbers are going in the wrong direction." He added

that the additional restrictions will "prevent" the shutting down of hospitals to patients without COVID-19.

He also talked about the \$900 billion COVID relief bill passed by Congress, calling it "far from perfect," but saying that it is taking "necessary steps in the right direction," and will help protect jobs and extend the moratorium on eviction.

As for holiday guidance, Walsh first said that residents should be aware of the Boston Police Department's crime prevention tips, because "unfortunately this time of year," there is an "uptick in package theft and car break-ins," he said. He reminded people to not leave valuables within sight in their vehicles, and said that the postal service offers special delivery instructions to minimize package theft.

Walsh also said that residents need to "remain vigilant with COVID-19 precautions throughout the holiday." He said that people should only gather for the holidays with those they live with, and no in-person holiday parties should take place. He reminded residents of the indoor

gathering limit of 10 people in the city, and said that anyone who chooses to gather with those outside their immediate household should wear a mask except for when actively eating or drinking, and to maintain distance from others.

He said he understands that it is "hard to be away from people you love," and "hard to say no to our loved ones," but it is important to do so this year for the health and safety of every-

He said it is "the time to be creative and keep the holiday spirit alive."

# 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.

From the Dec. 22 License Board meeting, 1 p.m., online:

- •AHL Group, LLC; D/B/A: El Jefe's Taqueria of Northeastern; 269 HUNTINGTON Ave., Fenway. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above Prep kitchen, Cook line, serving line, dining room, 2 bathrooms: All on the first floor. Manager: John Schall. Hours of Operation: 8 AM to 2 AM.
- •SOUTH END JOINT VENTURE III, LLC.; D/B/A: CINQUECENTO, 490 HARRISON Ave., South End. Holder of a Restricted 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned for a change of Officer/Director/LLC Manager, and a change in Ownership Interest. Lastly, has petitioned for a change in the DBA From: Cinquecento To: Roma 500.
- •SOUTH END BERKELEY, LLC.; D/B/A: GASLIGHT BRAS-SERIE duCOIN, 560 HARRISON Ave., South End. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has peti-

tioned to transfer the license from the above - To: Brasserie 560 LLC. D/B/A Brasserie (at the same location). Jeffrey Gates, Manager. 2:00 AM Closing Hour.

•DICK'S LAST RESORT OF BOSTON, LLC. D/B/A: LAST RESORT, 100-134 FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverage License has petitioned to transfer the license and the location from the above - To: GTI Properties, Inc. D/B/A The Power Station 550 Harrison Avenue, South End. There will be 3 floors. On the Ground Level there are 6 rooms (kitchen, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, elevator/lobby area, and main event space). On the Second Floor there are 4 rooms (2 event rooms and 2 bathrooms). On the Third Floor there are 3 more rooms (2 offices and a bathroom). Jeffrey Gates, Manager. Closing hour 2:00AM. Lastly, has petitioned to change the License Type - From: Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcohol License To: General On Premises All Alcoholic Beverages.

es All Alcoholic Beverages.

BALLARIN, INC. D/B/A: HUNGRY I; 71 1/2 CHARLES St., Beacon Hill. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and the location from the above – To: Pho on Thayer, LLC. D/B/A Pho on Thayer, B-2 Thayer Street, South End. There are two floors. On the lower level there are 10 rooms (prep area, office, storage, walk in cooler, beer cooler, and

5 bathrooms). On the upper floor there is one dining room, kitchen, bar and an outdoor patio (on private property) is seasonal (April 1 - October 31) from 7 AM 2 AM. Jeffrey Gates, Manager.

From the Dec. 23 Public Improvement Commission hearing, 10 a.m., online:

- •On a petition by Huntington Theatre Company Inc. for the granting of an Earth Retention License for the installation of a temporary earth support system within Huntington Avenue (public way), Roxbury, on its southeasterly side at address nos. 256-264, generally southwest of Public Alley no. 820.
- •Citywide Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Composition of the Public Improvement Commission – Announcement by the PIC Chair.

# 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 Ave-

nue 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. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

#### •HOW TO REPORT A PROB-LEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority

in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing

is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean,

safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston

need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that

fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general

concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.







