

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE



Berklee College of Music graduate Brennan Hepler performs during his audition on an episode of American Idol that will be broadcast Sunday, March 7 on ABC TV.

Santiago logs major fundraising for Feb. in mayoral race

By Seth Daniel

With just one week of campaigning under his belt, South End State Rep. Jon Santiago stepped out strong in the fundraising realm, announcing the second largest monthly fundraising total of any candidate in the mayoral race so far.

Santiago's campaign announced that he raised more than \$274,000 in the month of February, even with having announced his campaign towards the end of the month. That figure was just \$1,000 behind the record so far, which belongs to Councilor Andrea Campbell, who announced her candidacy last fall and raised a 2021 record of \$275,000 in January.

At the close of the February reporting period, the monthly mayoral fundraising figure brought Santiago to having a cash on hand figure of more than \$400,000. Santiago entered the race for mayor just six days prior to the deadline.

"We are so proud and excited to have earned the support of so many from across Boston

and beyond who share in Jon's commitment to unify the city and bring us back from this pandemic, stronger than ever," said Santiago Campaign Manager Victoria Williams. "Jon's call for neighbors to join him in writing the next chapter of our Boston story is clearly resonating and we can't wait to keep building this movement."

Santiago's campaign plans to use the early fundraising success to organize citywide and bring his message directly to voters.

"These campaign funds are going to be invested directly into community organizing," said Williams. "We know the path to victory lies in building a powerful organization, fueled by volunteers and community leaders from every background who share in our vision. We started that work on day one."

The second largest fundraising figure came from Councilor Anissa Essaibi George, who raised \$192,142 according to filings at the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). She now has \$270,294 cash

(SANTIAGO, Pg. 2)

EBNA hears from mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell; Otto Pizza coming to Harrison Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) met virtually on March 2, where members and residents heard from mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell about her campaign and issues that are important to her.

Eight Streets Neighborhood Association (ESNA) was also invited to the meeting to hear from the councilor and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Andrea Campbell has served as the District Four City Councilor for the past six years, and announced her candidacy for mayor last September.

She said on Tuesday evening that she is "always pushing for systems to be more transparent, more equitable, more accountable for citizens, and more just."

Campbell was born and raised in Boston, growing up in Roxbury and the South End, and graduated from Boston Public

(EBNA, Pg. 4)

HOLLYWOOD IN HIS FUTURE

Berklee graduate Brennan Hepler will audition on American Idol Sunday

By Cary Shuman

Brennan Hepler hails from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, home each year to the Little League World Series, an international showcase for baseball.

And while Hepler - whose stage name is "Beane" - did play Little League baseball growing up in central Pennsylvania, it's his superlative musical talents that could soon catapult him into international fame.

A 23-year-old graduate of the world renowned Berklee College of Music and a resident of Brighton, Hepler will be auditioning on the popular show, American Idol, on ABC-TV Sunday, March 7.

Hepler will perform at the audition in front of celebrity judges Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, and Luke Bryan. Hepler's goal is to receive the coveted "Golden Ticket" that would send him on to Idol's Hollywood Week.

Hepler is already generating sizable chatter in the American Idol sphere and those who have seen him perform at Boston venues are predicting that he will not only ace his Idol audition, but he will be a big-time contender for one of the most significant titles and springboards in the music industry: American Idol. Such current superstars as Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer

(HELPER, Pg. 5)

Council holds hearing on implementation of Police Reform Task Force recommendations

Councilors upset with lack of presence from administration

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, chaired by Councilor Andrea Campbell, held a hearing

on March 2 regarding the implementation of recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

Several councilors expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that no representatives from the Boston Police Department (BPD) or the administration were present at the hearing to provide

information or answer questions.

Campbell said that "late in the day" on March 1, the administration told the City Council that no one from the administration would attend the hearing, and provided a letter that included "general updates" regarding the

(POLICE REFORM TASK FORCE, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

WE MUST BE WARY OF THE VIRUS

With the arrival of the vaccines and the spring season, it is clear that there is a light at the end of the tunnel from our year-long battle with COVID-19.

However, the good news that has been seen in the past month across the country, in terms of dramatic reductions in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, by no means should make any of us think that we can let our guard down against this shape-shifting, deadly virus.

The variants of COVID-19 that are working their way through our population are more contagious and thought to be deadlier than the original, and may even present a challenge to the efficacy of the vaccines.

In addition, very few of us actually have been vaccinated. Although the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine was approved for use this past weekend, the company will not be able to begin distributing its vaccine in large numbers until the end of March.

While it may be true that we are winning the war against COVID, every American must realize that COVID-19 is a hunter and we are its prey. Until each of us can get vaccinated over the next two months, we must remain vigilant and practice all of the things we have been doing to stay safe for the past year -- wearing a mask, avoiding large groups, washing our hands frequently, and staying six feet apart from others.

The finish line is in sight -- let's go strong to the end.

A FUTURE WITH MASKS?

There has been one positive piece of news during the otherwise tragic COVID-19 pandemic, and that is this: The number of deaths and severe illness caused by the ordinary flu is down dramatically from a typical flu season.

Epidemiologists credit this downturn to a number of factors: International travel is virtually non-existent, people are not gathering in large groups, people are working from home (and therefore not going into their offices while sick), more people got their flu shots than ever, and most of us are wearing masks.

Although the reduction in the number of deaths from the regular flu by no means offsets the increase in the deaths from COVID-19 -- COVID is estimated to be 5-10 times deadlier than the seasonal flu -- the substantial reduction in deaths from the ordinary flu gives us some hope that the lessons we have learned during this year of COVID-19 may enlighten us as to how to combat less-deadly viruses in the future.

In addition, there is no doubt that the incredible effort by the scientific community to develop an effective vaccine against COVID-19 in such a short time will pay fruits in terms of our understanding of other illnesses and our ability to fight them.

CORRECTION: Due to a reporting error by Dan Murphy in last week's front-page story, "Kenmore Square's restaurant scene remains unclear," Ryan Jones, vice president of the Lyons Group, was misidentified.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM



OPENING SCHOOLS... FOLLOW THE RULES

City Community Preservation Committee announces funding recommendation in the Back Bay

By John Lynds

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh and the City of Boston Community Preservation Committee (CPC) announced their recommendation to fund five projects in the Back Bay through the latest round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding.

The projects in the Back Bay join nearly 70 other projects city-wide totaling over \$25.5 million in grants through the current funding round.

Under Historic Preservation \$150,000 will go to preserving elements of the historic 1873 building of the Old South Church tower to make extraordinary repairs to critically failed masonry.

There is \$200,000 for rehabilitation and restoration of the historic 1861 Arlington Street Church to make critical improvements to the exterior north and south stairs.

CPA funding of \$250,000 will go to preserving the elements of the historic 1872 First Baptist Church building for masonry and carpentry repairs to the loggia roof, west transept elevation, and belfry level of the tower.

A recommendation was made for \$30,000 for rehabilitation and restoration of the historic 1899 Ayer Mansion to restore damaged and missing elements of the inset door columns and copper-clad doors.

Finally \$100,000 in CPA funding was recommended to preserve elements of the historic 1884 Guild of Boston Artists building to repair and repoint brick and limestone masonry, replace flashing, and restore and rehabilitate character-defining exterior architectural features.

Walsh's CPA Back Bay recommendations have been filed with the Boston City Council for a vote of approval. Projects sup-

ported with Community Preservation Act funding must create or preserve affordable housing, historic sites, or open space and recreation.

"Projects supported by funding through the Community Preservation Act are a reflection of the needs and voices of the residents in our neighborhoods. Because proposals are developed and created by Bostonians, each project directly serves each of our communities," said Mayor Walsh. "I want to thank everyone who submitted a project proposal to improve and preserve open spaces, affordable housing or historic spaces throughout the City of Boston."

Once approved by the City Council, Boston will have awarded over \$92 million to support 198 projects across the City since residents voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2016.

SANTIAGO (from pg. 1)

on hand two months since her announcement.

Santiago's filing with OCPF was lower than \$274,000, at \$233,719, but campaign officials said that number did not contain donations received on Feb. 28, as it was a Sunday. Figuring in two large bank deposits from contributions on Sunday, they were able to eclipse the \$274,000 mark.

Campbell continued her brisk fundraising efforts in February, logging \$157,307 for the month of February. That, however, was a follow up to a very impressive

January number when she set a record for the race.

Her campaign reported it was the most that any Black candidate had ever raised in a month for Boston mayor, and she included that it came from around 900 donors.

Her cash on hand figure was at \$841,341 after February and that put her in the lead with the most money headed into the spring.

However, not far behind her is Councilor Michelle Wu, who also had a very good month in January, raising just more than

\$267,000, according to her campaign. That, however, came from 1,800 donors -- which was double the number of donors compared to Campbell. In January, the Wu Campaign said it also recruited 300 new volunteers and had 23 campaign events.

In February, Wu raised the least amount of money as any candidate, coming in at \$136,357. However, she still had the second largest war chest at \$833,367, which was only slightly behind Campbell and far ahead of Santiago and Essaibi George.

POLICE REFORM TASK FORCE (from pg. 1)

implementation of the police reform bill.

"The letter does not provide any specifics regarding a timeline of implementation," she said, nor does it provide an "opportunity" for specific questions to be asked or any specific information about whether or not any Boston Police officers participated in the insurrection at the US Capitol in January, which she said the council has received many questions about.

"Residents are counting on us to act with urgency and attention," Campbell said.

She said that "just a few months ago," legislation creating the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) was passed and, the Council and others "celebrated the mayor's commitment to adopt all of the recommendations."

Campbell said there is a "big difference between commitments and action," and the purpose of this hearing was to learn about the city's plans to implement the recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

"These last and latest police reforms should be an opportunity for the city to do things differently," Campbell said, "since we know that the City has not effectively delivered on its commitments to police reform in the past."

She said that there were "lots of questions" from the Council and residents for the BPD and members of the administration.

This hearing was co-sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Ricardo Arroyo, who agreed that not having the administration present was a severe detriment.

Mejia said that it shows a "lack of regard for the community and the process," and "shows a lack of care for our constituents."

Arroyo said that the administration's "lack of presence does not shield them from accountability," and assured residents that the Council will get the answers everyone is looking for as well as ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Boston resident Carrie Mays testified about her experience as a Black woman in Boston.

"One thing I do not love is the abusive domestic relationship I'm in with America as a Black woman," she said, adding that it

is "no surprise that police brutality does exist here in Boston."

She shared her story about a 2018 encounter with the BPD where she feared for her life.

"I had never seen a gun before, let alone seen one pointed at my face," she said. It was the day before her 18th birthday, and Mays said she was standing with her mother and her grandmother in their driveway when five officers "pulled a gun out" on the three women.

She said that it was a case of "mistaken identity," and said that the officers were "completely skipping all the proper police protocol; just guns aimed at our faces."

Mays said that once the officers "realized they had the wrong people" they lowered their guns and left.

"I thought they were going to kill us," she said. "I thought I wasn't going to make it to 18. As a City, we must do better, and include youth like me in the conversation."

Harrison Clark, a 21-year-old college student, also shared a story about an encounter with police. He said that last year, he was meeting a friend for burgers after work, and when he got to his friend's car, he saw that he was "visibly shaken up."

When he asked his friend what had happened, the friend said that he was stopped on the highway in Boston on his way in from Brockton and was "surrounded by at least four or five police cars with weapons drawn and he was forcibly taken out of the car and put into the backseat." Clark said that the car was a rental, as his friend had an electrical issue with his own car, and the rental car "was involved in some criminal activity that he had no affiliation with."

He said that the police were looking for two Black males, and added that he couldn't help but wonder what would have happened if he had been in the car with his friend, as that would have further "affirmed their assumptions that we were the guilty party."

Clark said that things like this unfortunately happen "all the time," and he said he wants to "see more done from the administration. I always see that people acknowledge problems, but I want to see implementation of real policies. This is the real

world; these have real consequences for people."

Larry Calderone, a representative from the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA), said that the association represents "1600 odd patrol officers that answer the 911 calls on the street daily, and without a doubt I believe that we should have been involved at the beginning, and every invitation that you extend, I'll do my best to have a seat at the table and a voice and try to clear up issues that people are experiencing out in the City of Boston."

He added that "it's awful to hear these stories, but I also have to say publicly that I think my membership; the men and women out there daily are doing a great job. It's not to say people aren't experiencing what they say they're experiencing on the street, but I don't read about Boston Police officers in the paper being accused of things that may happen in other parts of the country."

Councilor Mejia brought up the relationship between the police department and immigration enforcement, and Ivan Espinoza-Madriral, the Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, said that "there is a deep intersection between law enforcement and immigration enforcement. That is an entanglement that is incredibly dangerous. If witnesses and victims of crime think that they will be turned over to immigration if their immigration status is discovered, that chills their ability to come forward to report crime and to help resolve crime."

He said that "any connection" between the two "must cease," adding that "It is really critical that we stand by our values as a sanctuary city to make sure that immigrants are never asked about their immigration status and that information is not shared with ICE so that police officers can continue to serve with trust and confidence in the community and without raising the specter of deportation as they are encountering victims and witnesses of crimes."

Councilor Mejia also asked for some clarification surrounding what might happen should it be discovered that a BPD officer was participating in the insurrection at the Capitol.

Jeff Feuer, Chair of the Massa-

chusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said that it a police officer "participated in criminal acts" that move beyond attending a rally or speech, such as what happened at the Capitol, including "trespassing, destroying property, attempting to injure other police officers, attempting to interfere with Congress, and so forth, they can face consequences up to and including termination from their job."

He said that Massachusetts' new police reform bill "directly addresses this, laying out that officers are to be held to a higher standard" and that they "should lose certification as police officers."

Feuer said that "we obviously at this point don't have answers as to whether or not there were Boston Police officers participating and if there were Boston Police officers or other police officers from Massachusetts participating down there; whether they broke the law, whether they were engaged in the types of criminal activity that we all witnessed."

He said that police officers in "Massachusetts and elsewhere are held to a standard of conduct that is above and beyond that which private citizens are held to," as private citizens cannot arrest others or carry guns and clubs.

"If they're going to have that kind of power and that kind of responsibility," Feuer said of police, "then they have that obligation to conduct themselves in a way that is completely within the law, both legally and morally, and ethically as well."

Campbell said that the testimony provided at this hearing was a good example of why the city "need[s]" to get the OPAT

and Civilian Review Board in place "immediately" and "funded appropriately," she said "so folks have a place to go to truly get some sense of accountability."

Rahsaan Hall, Director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said that "the task force recommendations, the creation of the OPAT are an important opportunity to really transform the way that policing happens in the City of Boston. I still think that the City needs to really reckon with the growing demand for alternatives to policing."

He said this could include having more counselors in schools, as well as a "greater investment in the underlying needs that our young people and the residents of Boston are dealing with, and those demands aren't going to go anywhere."

Campbell said that there will be more hearings to come regarding implementation of the recommendations and "to get updates on the status of things," where she said she hopes the administration will be present.

"I do specifically plan on filing a 17F [order] with respect to the investigations that are happening as to whether an officer or officers participated in the insurrection on the capital, because we continue to get questions about that," Campbell said. The 17F order is a request for specific information from the Mayor, a week after which the Mayor must answer. "There was a suggestion or a comment at some point that the department was actually doing an investigation, but no one knows anything else."

The full hearing can be viewed on the Boston City Council YouTube channel.



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Sally Brewster	Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz	Toni Doggett

EBNA (from pg. 1)

Schools.

She said she began her legal career at a nonprofit in Roxbury, where she represented education cases. She also worked for Governor Deval Patrick, and now lives in Mattapan with her husband and two sons.

Campbell has spoken publicly about the death of her twin brother Andre when he was 29 years old. As a pre-trial detainee, he had a disease and “received inadequate health care while in that system.”

She said she asked herself how did twins, both born and raised in Boston, “have such different outcomes?” She said this is what helped lead her to run for the Boston City Council and

informed her work.

Campbell said that if elected mayor, her goal is to work towards eliminating inequalities in the city, as she said that the city needs “leadership that is bold and courageous.”

She said that last year, more than 70 percent of stops made by the Boston Police Department (BPD) were for Black residents, even though Black people make up only quarter of the city’s population.

She also said that she wants children to have equal access to education, for all neighborhoods to be safe, and for “monies to be spent on programming and initiatives.”

A huge issue for South End

residents is what can be done to help the homeless population and get them the resources they need.

Campbell has put out a plan responding to the issues at Mass and Cass, and she said that one of the major problems has been that there is “no one in the City who is exclusively owning this issue.” She said that having a “Mass and Cass Chief” is a step in the right direction for addressing the issue, as is hiring a public health professional to help out with the response.

Campbell also said that a responder unit with first responders and mental health clinicians—people who are experienced with helping those with substance abuse disorder get into supportive housing—is imperative.

“How do we de-centralize services?” she asked. “I’m pushing the current mayor and the incoming to adopt some of these plans,” and also encouraged residents to read the plan, which she said is “less than 10 pages” and can be found at <https://andreampbell.org/mass-and-cass/>.

When asked about the Long Island Bridge issue, Campbell said that “Long Island needs to come back online,” as it is a “safe space for recovery.”

However, she said that people “can’t keep talking about a bridge,” as the issues surrounding that are delaying the ability to provide people with the support they need.

Instead, “ferry service is an idea that we absolutely need to explore,” Campbell said.

Campbell said that if elected mayor, her goal is to work towards eliminating inequalities in the city

Someone else asked Campbell about her plans to bring revenue in to the city. She said that she believes it’s important to spend money “where the issues [and] values are.” She continued, “for me, it is really looking at the inefficiencies in our city already.”

She said that the Boston Police Department overtime budget “keeps going up unchecked.” She said a percentage of that overtime budget should be allocated for things like mental and public health.

Partnering with the “philanthropic sector” and the “business community” is also something that Boston has the ability to do, and she believes that “all of these sectors have a role to play.”

She added that she “never will accept that there’s not enough resources,” but the “question is: how do we in government maximize the opportunities for partnerships?”

Campbell encouraged residents to reach out to her with any questions or concerns, as she would be happy to chat and address them.

OTTO PIZZA

EBNA also heard a proposal from Sean Ryan, COO of Otto Pizza, and attorney Nick Zozula to open an Otto pizza shop at 345 Harrison Ave.

Zozula said that Otto Pizza is requesting a common victualer license for the location, and they are not requesting a liquor license.

He briefly showed the menu,

which consists of specialty pizzas, appetizers, salads, and desserts. He said the “space is relatively small,” but will offer some outdoor seating.

The restaurant is expected to open in April, and will also feature external trash receptacles for customers, but the restaurant trash will be stored internally.

He said that they are requesting a 3am closing hour, though they would likely not be closing that late at the start. Several residents expressed their concern with this closing hour, as they felt it was not necessary in this part of the neighborhood for a pizza shop to be open that late.

Resident Jeffrey Gates said “the whole area seems very quiet late at night,” and as a restaurant owner himself, he said he has “never really seen business that late.” Gates said he has had restaurants with 2am licenses that have closed earlier than that on a regular basis because the demand was not there for food at that hour.

Ryan responded by saying that Otto Pizza probably wouldn’t close that late on weeknights, but Fridays and Saturdays are when they would typically stay open later. “We need to see how it fluctuates seasonally,” he said, and wants the 3am license as “more of an option that we’d like to have as that area grows.”

EBNA Vice President Leslie Fine said that the issue in the neighborhood with businesses closing that late is not typically with the businesses themselves, but with noise coming from people’s cars when they are going to the restaurant.

Ryan said they could consider just having delivery during the late night hours and not having any car or foot traffic besides the delivery vehicles.

EBNA President Ken Smith suggested an earlier closing hour at first to see how that goes, and another person said that there is “no need for pizza at three in the morning.”

Aside from the issue of the closing hour, several residents expressed their excitement for the restaurant to be coming to the area, as many said they enjoy Otto’s other locations in the Boston area.

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Virtual Public Meeting

Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2NZgDyH
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 829 2496

Project Description:

Please join Boston Planning & Development planning for a virtual meeting to develop Design and Use Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront. The Guidelines will inform new development and establish uniform requirements for Harborwalk, the public realm, open space resources and public use facilities. We are looking to hear your thoughts on how to better activate the Downtown Waterfront, ensure the area is welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors, and create an improved sense of place and clarity.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to chris.busch@boston.gov

mail to: **Chris Busch**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4451
email: chris.busch@boston.gov

Baker-Polito administration announces K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff eligible for vaccine appointments starting March 11

Staff Report

On March 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff will be eligible to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments starting March 11th.

This group of workers will join the current eligible groups (including 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions).

The Administration also released details on available appointments for the upcoming week.

“Very few states are administering as many doses every day as we’re administering here in Massachusetts,” Baker said, “and it’s paying off, and case rates are dropping.”

Baker added, “we are putting every dose we get to work, and doing it quickly.”

He said that “right now, even with the approval of the

Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the numbers of doses coming into Massachusetts will remain relatively consistent over the course of the next three or four weeks, which are obviously not enough to vaccinate everybody who would like to be vaccinated today.”

Though the rollout of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be slow at first, Baker said that “there’s a lot of excitement about the J&J vaccine...and having a third manufacturer in the process over time will make a really big difference.”

Teacher Vaccines

Beginning March 11th, all K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff will be eligible to schedule appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. Educators may book appointments at all 170 sites currently open to eligible residents in Massachusetts by visiting www.mass.gov/covid-

vaccinemap .

Additionally, the Command Center will work to designate specific days at the seven mass vaccination sites for educators to get their shots. More details will be released soon.

There are approximately 400,000 K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff in Massachusetts. Due to a severely constrained federal supply and the existing population that is currently eligible for vaccines, it is estimated that it will take a month for all eligible individuals to secure a first appointment. This timeframe is only subject to change if federal supply increases dramatically, including the recently authorized Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Vaccine Appointments

This week, we anticipate over 250,000 doses will be administered between first and second doses across all providers throughout the Common-

wealth.

On Thursday, March 4, 12,000 new first appointments for mass vaccination sites will be made available to eligible groups. Over 45,000 new second dose appointments have also been scheduled at mass vaccination sites.

The number of new appointments (first dose appointments) is less than previous weeks due to the volume of second dose appointments. 7,500 appointments have also been booked by the call center (211) for older adults who were unable to use a computer to book an appointment and required assistance.

As more individuals have received a first vaccine dose across the Commonwealth, there is a greater need to book second appointments, so the mass vaccination sites have fewer first dose appointments available on a weekly basis.

Later next week, a new Regional Collaboration will go live: the Lower Merrimack Valley regional collaboration,

to include the City of Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury. Details on this collaborative will be on the website at mass.gov/covidvac next week.

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The COVID-19 Command Center was notified that Massachusetts is receiving only one shipment of 58,000 doses for the month of March. These doses have been allocated – primarily to hospitals and health systems.

Based on information the Commonwealth has received from the federal government, the Administration does not expect to be able to order more J&J doses until the end of March or early April.

While the Commonwealth is receiving limited doses of the J&J vaccine in March, the Administration is continuing to plan for eventual widespread distribution of the J&J vaccine.

HELPERS (from pg. 1)

Hudson, and Adam Lambert launched their amazing careers via American Idol.

One interesting question that Idol fans are conversing about is: How tall is Brennan Hepler? Those who have seen his official American Idol audition photo believe the handsome singer and songwriter is 6 feet, 3 inches tall.

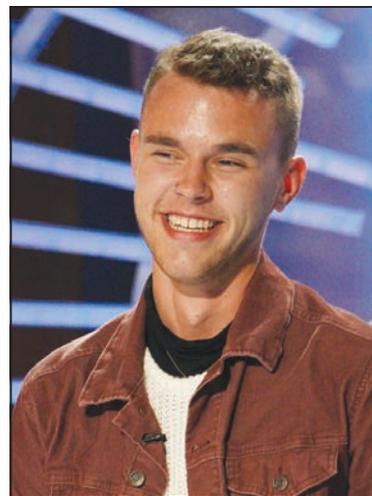
“That photo does me justice - it really does make me look tall,” said Hepler approvingly. “I am 5-11 and I look like I’m 6-3 in that photo. But we’re working with we’ve got.”

An early love of music

Hepler said he used to sing songs at home as a child, but it was at a small local school, the Uptown Music Collective in Williamsport, where he developed his passion for music.

“That is kind of what ignited the flame and fire, if you will,” said Hepler. “I took lessons there for the last few years of high school, but I was always singing and performing. The way that we were taught at the school was really just by performing like the greats. So we did a ton of tributes to the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Prince, Michael Jackson – we learned by example.”

A straight A-student at the top



Berklee College of Music graduate Brennan Hepler, who performs under the stage name, “Beane,” is pictured at his audition on the popular music show, American Idol.

of his class in high school, Hepler applied only to Berklee College of Music. He attended Berklee for four years and received his degree in Music Business/Management in 2019.

“Berklee was wonderful,” said Hepler. “I’m sure my teachers will attest that I might not have been the best student, but I was always happy to be there and I definitely shined on stage, not so much in the classroom.”

He offered high praise for the esteemed faculty at Berklee, notably Professors John Stein

and Peter Eldridge. Hepler and Eldridge graduated from the same high school 20 years apart and Eldridge was a director of Hepler’s all-state jazz choir.

Hepler performed in shows at Berklee and after becoming “Beane,” he did a number of successful gigs in the Boston area. In February, 2020, he received rave reviews for his show at the Great Scott, a well-known venue on Commonwealth Avenue. But the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of his performance schedule for the remainder of the year.

Hepler will play the piano and sing during his American Idol audition.

“Meeting the judges was a larger-than-life experience,” said Hepler. “Being from a small town, and to see them [the judges] only on screen your whole life, and then to see them in person, you kind of pinch yourself and you’re like, ‘Is this real?’”

Hepler is one of several Berklee students who are auditioning on American Idol’s 2021 season. Current Berklee students Anilie List and Grace Kinstler earned their “Golden Ticket” to Idol Hollywood Week after stellar auditions on American Idol episodes in February.

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BPD investigating another murder on Mass/Cass

Staff Report

Boston Police this week have identified 40-year-old Jamal Chin-Clarke as the victim of a murder in the area of Mass/Cass last Saturday morning.

At about 5:45 a.m. on Saturday February 27, officers assigned to District C-6 (South Boston) responded to a radio call for a person stabbed in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. On arrival, officers located an adult male victim suffering from a stab wound. The victim was transported by Boston EMS to a local area hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. The victim has since been identified as Chin-Clarke.

The Boston Police Department continues to actively review the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is asking anyone with information relative to this investigation to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

•DRUG ARREST ON NORTHAMPTON

At about 1:20 a.m. on Sunday February 28, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) arrested Robert Sparks, 30, of South Boston, on drug related charges following a traffic stop in the area of Northampton Street and Parmalee Street. The officers had stopped a motor vehicle for an equipment violation when they learned that the operator did not possess a valid driver's license. While removing the operator and the passenger, later identified as Sparks, the officers observed a folding knife along with evidence consistent with the street level packaging and selling of illegal drugs inside the vehicle. Officers then conducted a pat frisk of both parties which led to the recovery of a second knife from the pants pocket of Sparks as well as 29 plastic bags containing approximately 49 grams of crack cocaine and \$596 in cash in various denominations.

The suspect was placed in custody on scene without incident

and faces charges of Trafficking Class B Drugs and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon. The operator will be summonsed to appear on charges of Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

•TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO FIREARM ARREST

About 1:36 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) made an on-site firearm arrest following a traffic stop in the area of 721 Shawmut Ave.

While on patrol in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Tremont Street, an officer observed a gray motor vehicle speed through the intersection of Camden Street and Tremont Street, continuing on Camden Street towards Shawmut Avenue. The vehicle came to a stop at a red light at the intersection of Shawmut Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. An inquiry into the motor vehicle revealed that it did not have a valid inspection sticker. The officer activated his emergency lights and sirens and conducted a traffic stop in front

725 Shawmut Avenue.

The officer approached the vehicle and requested the operator's license and registration. The operator, later identified as Terrell Jackson, 26, of Dorchester, provided the officer with a MA Learners Permit. The officer also requested identification from the two passengers in the vehicle, who were not wearing seatbelts.

Further inquiry revealed that none of the individuals had a valid driver's license. As the officers were explaining the situation to the occupants, one of the officers observed what appeared to be a firearm underneath the driver's seat. The officers immediately removed the occupants, and placed all three in handcuffs. The firearm, a Springfield Armory XD, was loaded with (14) rounds of ammunition in the magazine and (1) round in the chamber.

Jackson was placed under arrest and charged with Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Possession of Large Capacity Firearm, Carrying a Loaded

Firearm without a License (2nd Offense), Carrying a Firearm without a License (2nd Offense) and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition. Jackson was also issued a MA Uniform Citation for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

The front passenger, Leo Farrier, 30, of Dorchester, was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Large Capacity Firearm, Carrying a Loaded Firearm without a License, Carrying a Firearm without a License and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

The rear passenger, Elijah Carvalho, 18, of Dorchester, was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Large Capacity Firearm, Carrying a Loaded Firearm without a License, Carrying a Firearm without a License and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

The registered owner of the motor vehicle was issued a MA Uniform Citation for No Inspection Sticker and Allowing Unlicensed Operation.

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Weekly positive test rate up for COVID-19

By John Lynds

Last week, Back Bay's cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate remained the same but the weekly positive test rate increased.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 45,460 Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6 percent of those tested were COVID positive--this was the same percentage reported two weeks ago by the BPHC.

However, last week 2,867 residents were tested and 2.1 percent were positive--a 10.5 percent decrease from the 1.9 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 26,561 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--a 6.25 percent decrease from the 3.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of nearly 3,800 Boston residents were tested for COVID each day last week.

"The 7-day average for daily positive tests was 161 and the average daily positive rate was 3.5 percent," said Walsh. "The City's case metrics have levelled off and even ticked upward in the last few days of data. This is not a cause for concern, but it's a good reminder not to take this positive trend for granted."

The Mayor urged everyone to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and our communities against the virus.

"That includes wearing a mask with a good fit (whether you wear one mask or two masks, make sure there is a tight

fit on the sides of your face); washing your hands frequently, with soap and warm water; continuing to socially distance and avoid gatherings; and getting tested regularly," he said.

The Mayor also encouraged seniors and everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine to get it as soon as they can. Boston residents 65 and older can call 3-1-1 and get connected to the City's Age Strong Commission for help in multiple languages. Veterans 55 or older, enrolled in VA Healthcare, can get vaccinated at any VA health facility in Boston.

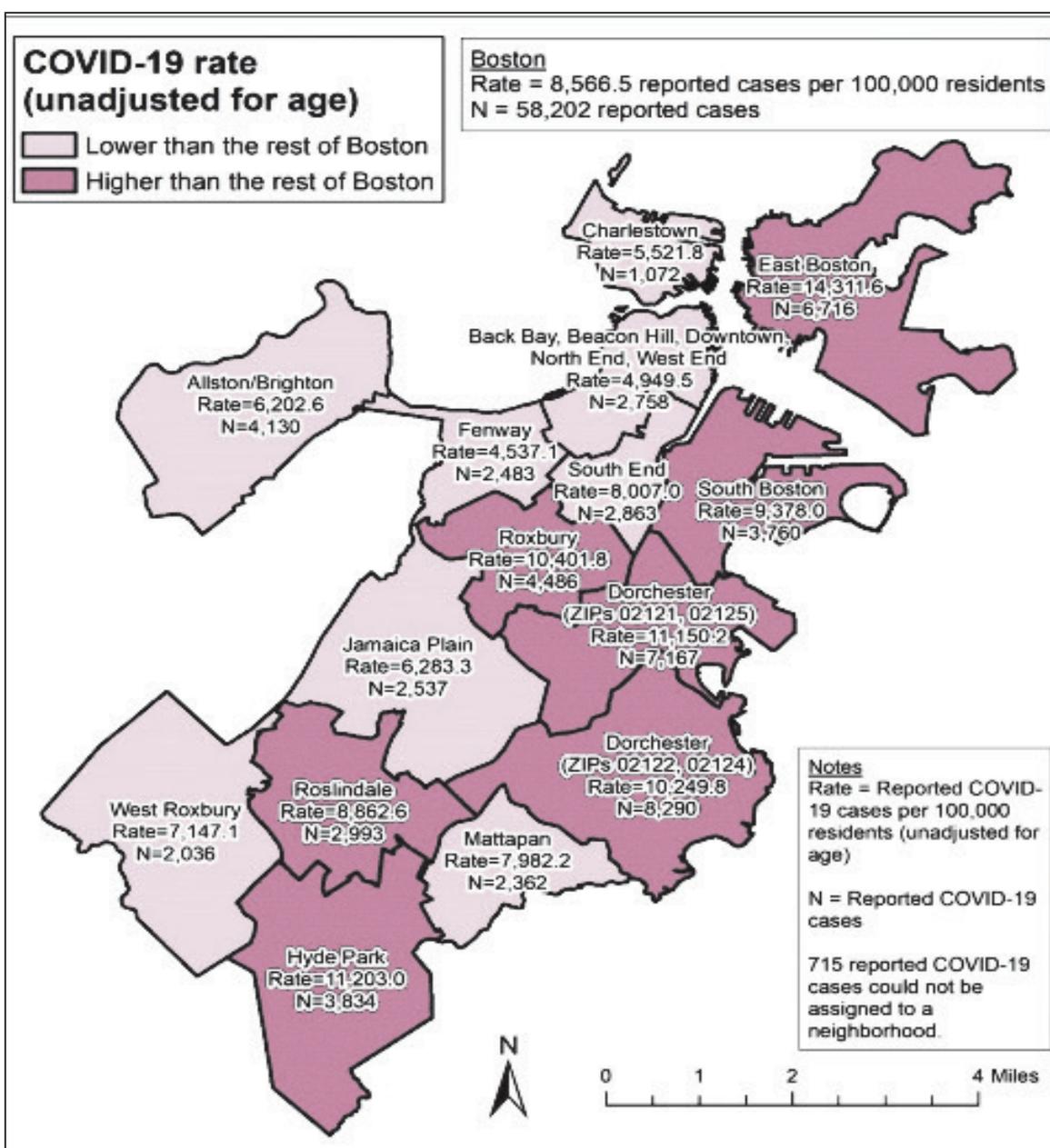
"The full schedule for vaccine eligibility is at Mass.gov/Covid-Vaccine," said Walsh. "And the State has a Vaccine Scheduling Resource available by calling 2-1-1."

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 494.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2.9 percent from 480.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 78 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,680 cases to 2,758 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.

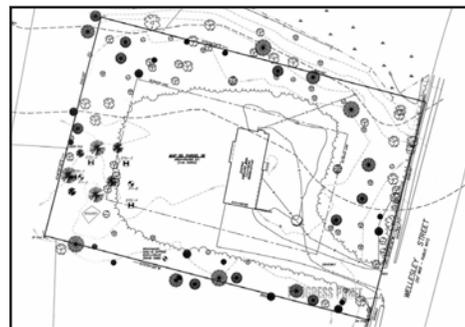
Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.1 percent last week and went from 57,675 cases to 58,917 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-six additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,274 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

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Third Time's a Charm:

Reilinger returns for potential marijuana store on Stanhope Street

By Seth Daniel

Numerous neighborhood associations, and one Friends group, on the South End/Back Bay line are reporting that Geoff Reilinger has approached them with a potential proposal to locate a marijuana shop at 29 Stanhope St. — directly across the street from Freida Garcia Park.

Stanhope Street is in disputed territory, with some in the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association claiming it as their catchment area, and some in the Back Bay indicating it's on their turf. So far, Reilinger has been meeting with several South End leaders to pitch the idea of having a

recreational marijuana shop at that location — a venture he calls Redemption Boston.

"Redemption BOSTON will be the only locally owned and operated dispensary in Boston, leading to a commitment to the community and the customers whom we serve," read a presentation prepared for neighborhood leaders. "We will provide preference in hiring for locals and those from protected classes in Massachusetts, and we will strive to maintain staff as diverse as the community which we serve."

Reilinger lives in the Back Bay with his family, and has previously attempted to open

two other marijuana operations. The first was on Newbury Street where he permitted the facility, but couldn't get it to opening and eventually sold it off his rights and leased it to another operator. The second venture was at 633 Tremont St. in the South End where he went head-to-head with what is now Affinity Medical Marijuana — which prevailed in the competition and opened its doors in December on Albany Street.

Reilinger's presentation stressed that it was a discreet location and there was no school in the immediate vicinity, very little pedestrian traffic, few immediate neighbors and no traffic

congestion.

One point of contention right away is the Frieda Garcia Park across the street, which is constructed with a playground for children. Many neighbors in the early discussions have brought that up, and Reilinger's presentation addressed protections for the park and a pledge to join the Board of the Friends group.

Some of the park protections cited included:

- Any customer violating regulations for marijuana consumption in the park would be forever banned from the facility.
- Police details that would enforce no public consumption.
- Cameras could be posted in

the park if the neighbors would want that.

• A 24-hour e-mail and phone line to contact with concerns.

In addition to Reilinger, the team includes Security Consultant Dan Linskey, and Attorney William Luzier. The Advisory Board includes Dr. Liz Reilinger and Dr. Richard Atkinson.

Those close to the discussions indicated there is no formal application yet from Reilinger to the City's Cannabis Board. However, those privy to the conversations indicated he would like to go before the Board by the end of the month, and that he hoped to have neighborhood support, or not, by that time as well.

'Tech-enabled' inn proposed for Newbury Street location

By Dan Murphy

A 12-room inn proposed for the Newbury Street building occupied by Shake Shack would be a game-changer in the city for what the would-be proprietor describes as "tech-enabled hospitality."

Sonder, a hospitality company that operates in 30 cities worldwide, including three properties in Boston, is seeking an Innkeepers License from for 234-36 Newbury St., according to representatives for the applicant on hand virtually for the March 1 meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay License and Building Use Committee.

There are no plans for on-site parking or exterior changes to the building, they said, although a new, dedicated entrance would be created for the proposed inn.

Besides not providing alcohol, the new inn also has no plans for a new restaurant, said Matt Eckel, the applicant's attorney.

The Shack Shake isn't involved in the proposal, but would stay as a ground-floor tenant in the building, Eckel added, while the inn would take over the currently unoccupied second to fourth floors, which were previously used as executive suites.

Once the inn opens, a manager would be on site from Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to

6 p.m., Eckel said, and management would be on call the rest of the time.

During non-business hours, non-emergency requests would be handled through the Sonder Guest App, which, said Eckel, would also offer one-stop convenience for guests by providing them with an overview of the property; allowing them to check in and out of their rooms; and directing them on who to contact with specific questions during their stays, as well as offering them recommendation from locals on restaurants and other nearby attractions.

"We took a lot of time and effort building an operating model that can leverage the phone that sits in everyone's pocket," said Gregg Klein, general manager for Sonder Inc., as well as a Back Bay resident. "We're able to really able to produce a ton of content in the app that gets filtered to the guests."

Elliot Laffer, NABB's chair, said, "It's nice that you're on Newbury Street and not on a residential street, which is what the zoning calls for. That puts you where you should be, and that's a positive."

Martyn Roetter, a member of NABB's executive committee, said, "We recommend you apply for an Innkeepers License. We're generally opposed to executive suites, especially at the moment, but we very much appreciate you getting an Innkeepers License."

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THE BOSTON SUN

BPDA holds public meeting regarding 601 Newbury St.

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held a public meeting on March 1 regarding the proposal to erect a four story addition on top of the existing three story building at 601 Newbury St. in the Fenway.

Attorney Jeff Drago said that the original proposal for the site was to create “a mix” of compact living apartments and executive suites, but “in hearing some of the comments through the BPDA and from the neighbors, the development team looked at that and has been willing to change that.”

The current proposal now is for 82 residential compact living units, with no executive suites. The proposed addition would make the building more than 90 feet tall.

“This area is pretty liberal with the zoning code,” he said, as it is “built for larger buildings.”

The existing three story building at 601 Newbury will stay and some restoration work will be done on the facade. He said the only new variance required is for Floor Area Ratio, and other variances needed, including insufficient front, side, and rear yard, are all existing conditions

of the building that is there now.

The building will feature several amenity spaces for residents, but the site does not offer a lot of green space. He said that there will be a short term parking area with three spaces, as well as an area for rideshare and deliveries to occur, but other parking will not be offered.

Architect Tanya Carriere said that there will be 12 units per floor, except for the first floor, which will have 10 units. The basement will feature a gym, tenant storage, bike storage with a repair station, mechanical rooms, a sprinkler room, other storage, and elevators.

The first floor will be home to a vestibule, the lobby, a mail room, an office, a package room, a trash room, and 10 units.

The other floors will each feature the 12 units plus a different amenity space, ranging from a dining room to a lounge to a yoga studio to a remote workstation to a theater/media room. The spaces will be flexible in their use depending on resident needs and wants.

The roof will house mechanical equipment for the building.

When asked about a timeline for the project, Drago said that “obviously we still have a ways to go, even if this were to get approved through permitting.” He said that construction permits are “running slower” due to the pandemic,

and “for permitting purposes,” it “would take us probably through the summer” to receive approval.

Attorney Anthony Rossi, who represents the development team, Thibeault Development, said that typically about four months is needed to complete construction documents, and “a project of this size and staging” would take “probably between 15 to 18 months from start to finish.”

Overall, Fenway residents seemed glad to see the removal of the executive suites from the proposal, though there were still some concerns that remained about the project.

Alex Sawczynec of the Fenway Civic Association said that he believes the “Fenway neighborhood needs more long-term housing and ability for residents to stay and grow and build a life in this neighborhood.”

He said that the size of the units makes them “still basically a hotel room,” and “I have a hard time seeing this as a viable, desirable thing for the Fenway neighborhood.”

He asked if there could be “assurances” made that this building will not end up as an Airbnb or other short term rental use.

Drago said that “right now, the City has really cracked down on short term rental,” and added that “we’re finding that more of the young professionals, single professionals are looking for smaller

units” and are looking for the type of “amenity space” that this building proposes.

He said he can “certainly put that into any of the rental agreements,” speaking about the prohibition of the use of the units for short term rentals.

John Bookston, also of the Fenway Civic Association, said that he does not want to see undergraduates renting these units.

“We certainly don’t want any more undergraduates living as neighbors,” he said. “They should be on the university Camus. There should be none in residential housing.”

Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association, said he appreciates the removal of the executive suites, but he wondered what these compact living units would be priced at.

“I don’t know where the market’s going to be in a few years,” Rossi said, but he added that in “today’s world,” they would be rented for “anywhere between \$1700 and \$2100” per unit, though it could change within the next few years.

BPDA Project Manager Michael Sinatra said that this project “does trigger [Inclusion-

ary Development Policy] (IDP),” though he did not have specific details about how many units or the pricing at the meeting.

Someone also asked what other mitigation this project would offer the community, and Drago said that the BPDA will “get a feel for what the community wants,” whether it be “transportation updates, roadway improvements,” or something similar.

“We are open to suggestions,” Sinatra said. Though the amount of mitigation offered might be less in this Small Project Review versus an Article 80 Large Project Review, some public realm community benefits can be discussed and residents are encouraged to send their ideas to the BPDA.

The comment period for this project ends on March 12, and Sinatra said that the BPDA wants to see any comments or suggestions regarding the project or ideas for community benefits, and he will be “in touch with next steps once we get comments.”

More information about this project can be found at bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/601-newbury-street.

‘Lights in the Necklace’ extended until March 31

Staff Report

Due to popular demand, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy is announcing the extension “Lights in the Necklace” until March 31, 2021. Perfect for St. Patrick’s Day celebrations to complement the green lights on Longfellow and Zakim Bridges in Boston as well!

Don’t miss the select bridges

in the Emerald Necklace awash with an emerald glow – thanks to battery-powered LED lights. “Lights in the Necklace” celebrates the power of Boston and Brookline’s urban parks to bring visitors together, inspire and light the way in challenging times. Free and open to the public, enjoy the lighting on a series of iconic Emerald Necklace bridges, daily from dusk to 9pm.

In addition, we ask everyone to share images online and enter the Conservancy’s social media contest to win an Emerald Necklace Conservancy branded baseball cap. Choose to enter from any or all of these 3 categories – Best Selfie, Best Pet, and Best Creative Picture – follow @EmeraldNecklaceConservancy on IG and use the hashtag #NecklaceLights-PhotoContest to enter.

HUD awards more than \$92.4 million to improve, preserve public housing

Staff report

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded more than \$92.4 million in funding to Massachusetts public housing authorities to make capital investments in their public housing units.

This funding is part of \$2.7 billion in funding awarded nationally to 2,900 public housing authorities (PHAs) in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S.

Virgin Islands.

The grants are provided through HUD’s Capital Fund Program, which offers annual funding to all public housing authorities to build, renovate, and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. Housing authorities can use the funding to complete large-scale improvements such as replacing roofs or making energy-efficient upgrades to heating system and installing water conservation measures.

For more than 80 years, the federal government has been investing billions of dollars in developing and maintaining public housing, including providing critical support through the Capital Fund grants announced.

The local recipients include:

- Boston Housing Authority - \$30,296,108
- Chelsea Housing Authority - \$1,017,464
- Revere Housing Authority - \$430,125

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ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The steps in the last clue are in front of 17 Hereford Street. These steps have been transformed by adding the look of the stone on the steps to the risers which were formally painted to match the brownstone.

The next clue will be found in the Kenmore/Fenway neighborhood.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



SELDC approves minor changes to 321 Harrison design; EBNA discusses new lab use for the building

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on March 2, where Commissioners approved modifications to the previously approved design of the building at 321 Harrison Ave. that includes the installation of new mechanical equipment on the roof, the construction of a new pedestrian bridge, and the enlargement of a canopy.

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association also heard from members of the team for this building at its meeting on March 3.

Salvatore Zinno, Vice President of Development at BioMed Realty Trust, said that BioMed is “super excited to be able to plant a larger flag here in Boston.” The original intended use for the building was office space, but the proposal is now to use it as a life science building with a Bio Safety Level of Two, which Zinno said is “similar to what happens in most healthcare facilities, but just on a commercial level.”

He added, “what everyone would see, feel, and hear would be very similar to an office.”

Joe Imperato of BioMed Realty explained at the SELDC hearing that BioMed is a “life science real estate company” that has around 6 million square feet of such office space in Boston and Cambridge, and “maintains everything to the highest stan-

dards” of safety and cleanliness.

As far as traffic impacts, Zinno said that “lab in general has lower occupancy; lower head count,” and there will be fewer people per square foot than a traditional office space.

Though the building has yet to be leased, he said there would be approximately 700 employees for a lab space like this. He said there is no change to the previously approved parking plan.

“We’ve already seen significant interest in the building,” Zinno said.

Erin Doherty of Epsilon Associates said at the SELDC hearing that the SELDC had originally approved this project in 2016, and explained that construction has since begun and will be finished later on this year. The building at 321 Harrison is being built on top of the existing garage at the location.

Doherty said that BioMed Realty now owns the building, which is within the landmark district protection area.

She said that the “exterior building design remains largely unchanged,” and “minor changes related to the building’s new use are not expected to be visible” from the landmark district. She said that the “project team has worked to make the changes to be within the guidelines of the protection area.”

Mark Spaulding of SMMA said that the team has been

working with the Boston Planning and Development Agency regarding the design of the building, and their feedback has been incorporated into the proposal.

He explained the revised design of the bridge, which includes metal paneling to match the facade on Harrison Ave., as well as cross bracing and glass sides. According to a slide presented, the “canopy extension mimics the similar folding geometry of the main facade.”

The minimal changes were shown from various angles through images that can be viewed on the SELDC public hearing notice page for March 3, where more detail is also provided.

He then talked about the approved roof plan and the enclosed penthouse, above which was a screen wall that enclosed the cooling tower and other equipment. He said the idea is to “expand the penthouse towards Harrison Ave.” and extend the roof screen to enclose the larger units needed for the laboratory space.

“I think this has no impact on the district and the changes are minimal,” said Commissioner John Freeman.

The SELDC voted to approve the proposal as presented.

“It’s great to see what that’s going to look like, especially along Harrison Ave.,” said Commissioner Catherine Hunt, “so thank you.”

Real Estate Transfers

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James L Gilbert T	122 Commonwealth Ave LLC	122 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$5,725,000
Lake Comm 192-9 NT	Marshall, Jane W	192 Commonwealth Ave #9	\$2,942,000
Litt, Jonathan S	Purdum, Emily R	71 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,240,000
Ophir, Yaniv	520 Beacon Street NT	520 Beacon St #6B	\$725,000
433 Marlborough LLC	Papesch Barbara G Est	433 Marlborough St	\$3,625,000
Lei, Rong	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #502	\$1,225,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Johnsrud, Jennifer	Stewart, Richard F	130 Appleton St #5A	\$920,000
Norfleet, Charles C	Durando, Antonio R	8 Melrose St #1	\$850,000
Beaulieu-Jones, Brendin R	Mansker, Gregory E	60 Rutland St #4	\$623,000
Killian, James M	15 Taylor Street RT	15 Taylor St	\$2,075,000
Nardo, Virginia	Hanneman, Nicolas P	192 W Brookline St #2	\$1,730,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Reese, Julia A	Makela, Nicole E	717 Atlantic Ave #8A	\$1,225,000
Finley, Timothy J	Munroe, Gregory P	220 Commercial St #2	\$2,175,000

Former Mass. Representative and progressive hero Byron Rushing endorses Michelle Wu For Mayor

Special to the Sun

Legendary 36-year veteran of the State House, former Representative for the South End, Roxbury, Fenway and Back Bay Byron Rushing, endorsed Boston City Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu's campaign for Mayor of Boston. In his endorsement, former Representative Rushing cited Wu's commitment to stand up for equal justice and opportunity for all Bostonians and to tackle Boston's most pressing challenges head-on. A pioneering advocate for the civil rights of Black and LGBTQ+ Bay Staters, Rushing represented the Ninth Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House of Repre-

sentatives from 1983-2018. He rose to become Assistant Majority Leader, the highest-ranking leadership role ever held by a person of color in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

"Michelle is the leader we need in this moment. She has the vision and the ability to take on the crises we face and help people move forward and recover. From accessible and reliable public transportation to quality schools for all our children, she has lived the stakes of our challenges and is ready to deliver structural change. She has committed her office from early on to discussing race in Boston and supporting anti-racist policy making. She is going to use every lever she has

to make Boston more equitable, more innovative, and more livable for every person. That is why I will work hard to get her elected as Boston's next Mayor," said Representative Byron Rushing.

"I am honored to have the support of my friend and mentor Byron Rushing, a groundbreaking leader and impactful advocate for justice whose work has transformed our city and our state. Throughout his career, he has always fought on behalf of those whose voices have gone unheard by many of those in power. As we take on our city's urgent challenges both arising from and exacerbated by the pandemic, I will continue to part-

ner with him to lift up all of our communities," said Councilor Michelle Wu.

Prior to joining the legislature, Rushing was active in the civil rights movement and worked for the Congress of Racial Equity (CORE) and the Northern Student Movement before becoming President of Boston's Museum of African American History. As a State Representative, he helped pass the landmark law to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, championed marriage equality, led Massachusetts' fight against apartheid in South Africa, sponsored the law to end refusal of health insurance coverage for those with pre-existing conditions and worked to

combat racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

Former Representative Byron Rushing's endorsement adds to the Michelle for Mayor campaign's enthusiastic coalition of multigenerational, multicultural grassroots supporters including community activists and leaders such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, Sunrise Boston, and fellow municipal elected officials from across Greater Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For all of Michelle for Boston's endorsements, visit michelleforboston.com/endorsements.

For the Record

C O R O N A V I R U S
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 March 3 License Board meeting, 1 p.m., online:

•1040 Washington Street Southern Point Hospitality, LLC.; 1040 WASHINGTON St., South End. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Pizza restaurant all on the ground floor. The seating area is an eat-in counter of 8 seats and 2 tables of 2 seats each. The kitchen is on the ground floor. The space is only 1620SF but with an additional 305SF of storage space in storage units G-18 and G-19 on the first floor of the building.

•PETIT ROBERT, INC. D/B/A: PETIT ROBERT BISTRO, 480 COLUMBUS Avenue, South End. Holder of a Common Victualler 7-Day Wines and Malt Beverages w/ Liqueurs License has petitioned for a change in Officers/Directors of the corporation. Lastly, has petitioned for a change of Stock Ownership/Interest.

•HOUSE OF SIAM INC. D/B/A: HOUSE OF SIAM ON TREMONT; 592A - 592 TREMONT St., South End.

Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day Wines and Malt Beverages License has petitioned for a change of Officers/Directors of the Corporation. Secondly, has petitioned for a change of Stock/Owner-

ship Interest. Lastly, has petitioned to change the manager of the licensed business - From: James Rodgers To: Patchara Srisuk.

From the March 3 Conservation Commission hearing, 6 p.m., online:

•Request for a Determination of Applicability from VHB on behalf of Landmark Center Owner Limited Partnership for a determination whether the site located at 401 Park Drive, Boston, MA is subject to the Jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and Boston Wetlands Ordinance.

From the March 4 Parks & Rec Animal Care and Control meeting, 5 p.m., Online:

•The agenda will be general discussion of the impact of Covid-19 on the Division's public facing programming, spay/neuter assistance and a campaign to increase dog licensure.

From the March 8, 3 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION: Order for a hearing to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors and long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID-19. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn. It was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

From the March 9, 1:30 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEARING: Order for a hearing regarding the Boston Police Department's gang database. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Andrea Campbell and Ricardo Arroyo, and was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

From the March 9 Bay Village Historic District Commission, 4 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81800711958):

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL

•46 Melrose Street: At front facade install fire bell and beacon inside entry area.

From the March 10 Back Bay Architectural Commission, 5 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87150426860):

DESIGN REVIEW

•299-301 Newbury Street: Combination of both parcels into single parcel. Re-point masonry, replace windows in-kind, replace cooper gutters and downspouts in-kind; at front facade enlarge lower level and first story front windows, create accessible at grade entrance at 299 Newbury Street, and redesign front garden to create patio and entry to lower level with copper canopy; at roof install deck and penthouse; and at rear elevation construct addition with roof deck, install rear balcony, install deck on top of rear bay, alter rear window openings for doors, and install brick pavers at rear yard area.

•180 Newbury Street: Replace existing stainless steel storefront with dark blue aluminum storefront; and expand were masonry wall six feet into parking area to accommodate an interior access lift.

•885 Boylston Street: Replace existing storefront.

•314 Dartmouth Street: At roof install wood trellis to screen existing headhouse.

•217 Commonwealth Avenue: At front facade installation of signage.

•348 Beacon Street: Relocate

HVAC units to roof of penthouse and install copper screen; and enlarge window at penthouse.

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables - March 1-4 - Students in K0-Grade 3 (Groups A and B); March 15-18 - Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 - Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).

•BPS Priority Registration - Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31. Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28. There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

•P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at www.MAP-EBT.org or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

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. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM 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.

BEACON HILL PENTHOUSE



52 BEACON STREET #PH
4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 5,438 SQFT
\$9,500,000



305 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #2
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 4,253 SQFT
\$10,900,000



100 BELVIDERE STREET #11A
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,306 SQFT
\$5,790,000



OPEN SUNDAY
12:00 - 1:00

401 BEACON STREET #4
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,877 SQFT
\$5,990,000



333 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE 22/24
4 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 2,796 SQFT
\$4,750,000

