By Lauren Bennett

A forum for At-Large City Council candidates was hosted by the Ward 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 19, and 20 Democratic Committees on October 19, where seven of the eight candidates attended (Althea Garrison was not in attendance).

Incumbent councilors Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia, along with David Halbert, Ruthzee Louijeune, Carla Monteiro, Erin Murphy, and Bridget Nee-Walsh all tackled questions ranging from education to mental health and substance abuse to racial equity and justice.

Candidates were asked whether or not they support an elected school committee, which is also one of the ballot questions in the upcoming November 2 election.

Flaherty, Nee-Walsh, Mejia, and Murphy all said they support an elected committee, while Halbert said he supports a hybrid model of both elected and appointed members, and Monteiro and Louijeune said they...
BE SURE TO VOTE THIS TUESDAY

The historic election in the City of Boston is set for this coming Tuesday, November 2, with the main event being the mayoral contest between Annissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu. Boston voters for the first time will be electing a woman as mayor, and both candidates are the children of immigrants.

However, as much as they may have in common, Wu and Essaibi George have presented very different visions of how they intend to govern, both in style and in substance, for the voters’ consideration.

In addition, there is a full slate of City Councillors at Large seats, with eight candidates vying for the four slots. Among the nine district council seats, six are contested.

There is a lot on the line for every Boston resident in Tuesday’s election. The future direction of our city will be determined by the choices we make on Tuesday.

We urge all of our readers who are eligible voters to get out and vote.

REMEMBERING THE PERFECT STORM

It was 30 years ago this week when the Perfect Storm struck the East Coast of the United States, bringing powerful winds and gargantuan waves that pummeled the Massachusetts coastline on Wednesday, October 30, and continued into the next day.

Although the storm eventually affected the entire East Coast from Canada to Florida, the most-costly damage occurred in Massachusetts, with more than 100 homes destroyed, especially along the South Shore in Marshfield.

The damage would have been much greater, given the 30-foot waves that ravaged the coastline, but the storm struck during a neap tide, the time of the month when the high tides are at their lowest.

If it had occurred during one of those King Tides -- we can only imagine the devastation.

The storm originally was called the No-Name Storm or the Halloween Storm, but eventually became known as the Perfect Storm, after the book by journalist Sebastian Junger and subsequent movie (starring George Clooney) that chronicled the fate of the crew of the Gloucester fishing vessel, Andrea Gale, which sunk amidst the storm and its 100-foot waves.

Junger got that name from a Boston meteorologist, who told Junger that the storm was formed from the convergence of the remnants of Hurricane Grace and two other weather systems, which then combined into one powerful storm -- the Perfect Storm -- a few hundred miles out to sea and then made a beeline westward for a direct hit on Massachusetts.

The mission of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau (BMRB) is to be the City’s fiscal watchdog, and on Question 1, the BMRB wants to get the facts to voters. In the past, we have sounded the alarm many times on what we believed were unwise fiscal measures, and now we are doing that on Question 1 and asking that residents make sure to vote ‘No on 1’ after they cast their votes for mayor and city council.

Question 1 looks to shift some budgeting powers away from the mayor and allow 13 City Councilors to write and override the mayor’s budget. Question 1 will also introduce more meetings, resources going to the lowest constitu-

ENTERTAINMENT

Question 1 will exchange a proven budgeting process for uncertain chaos

Enjoy a Safe Halloween

Yes, we all want to party and enjoy this Halloween season as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, especially after Halloween essentially was cancelled last year. But we urge all of our readers not to overdo it and to enjoy the holiday responsibly with their friends and loved ones.

Excessive drinking never makes sense and there never is a good excuse for it.

So let’s dress up in our Squid Games costumes -- but remember that the winner of the game had to keep his head (literally and figuratively) to survive. He never would have made it if he had been under the influence.

Guest Op-Ed

Hiding underneath the spotlighted races for Mayor and City Council on the Nov. 2 ballot is Question 1, which is a binding initiative that will change the City Charter and allow a budgeting power grab by the City Council.

We believe this change will bring chaos to a strong budgeting system that currently works well.

The big issue in Question 1 is not participatory budgeting, as the City already does that. It was introduced many years ago under the Menino Administration.

• Finally, the measure is unnec-

The Boston Municipal Research Bureau (BMRB) wants to reach the neediest.

Our city works because our budgeting process keeps people employed, programs funded and services reaching the neediest.

Our city works because our budget works. Vote ‘No on 1’ to make sure we continue making prudent financial decisions in our city. For more detailed information, log on to No1boston.com and make sure to get the facts on Question 1.

Pam Kocher is the President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau and Boston Resident.
Halloween in the City

By Dan Murphy

This Halloween promises to be a bona fide treat with numerous events and activities planned for trick-or-treaters in Boston on and around All Hallows Eve.

On Beacon Hill, the Liberty Hotel presents a “Child’s Play”-themed costume party for ages 21 and up on Saturday, Oct. 30, kicking off at 9 p.m., with specialty cocktails, dancing, and live music from DJ Frank White and DJ Joshua Carl. Ticket options include $65 general admission, $115 for a themed dinner at Clink plus party entry, $1,200 for VIP table packages, and overnight hotel packages. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit https://www.showclix.com/event/libertyhalloween21.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association has arranged for the following streets to be closed from 4:00-8:00 PM on Halloween:
- Branch Street (blocked from Charles Street)
- Chestnut Street (blocked from Charles Street to Walnut Street)
- Mount Vernon Street (blocked from Charles Street to Joy Street)
- Pinckney Street (blocked from Joy Street to Charles Street)
- West Cedar Street (blocked from Revere Street to Chestnut Street)
- Myrtle Street (blocked at Revere Street, Grove Street, and Irving Street)

In the Back Bay, the city will close Marlborough Street between Berkeley and Fairfield streets to traffic Sunday, Oct. 31, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. for the return of the Neighborhood of the Back Bay’s Halloween Celebration.

Those who live in the area are encouraged to decorate their house or yard, or get involved in any other way they choose, and they should also plan to have goodies on hand to distribute to the young trick-or-treaters who will be arriving at their doors.

But the traditional party at the Clarendon Street Playground won’t be held this year due to concerns about social distancing amid the ongoing pandemic.

Residents at 21 Commonwealth Ave. got in the Halloween spirit. In Copley Square, the City of Boston closed streets.
Reparations (from pg. 1)

ing Armani White, cofounder of Reclaim Roxbury who also works at the Center for Economic Democracy, Tammy Tai of King Boston, Aziza Robinson-Goodnight, Dr. Atiya Martin, Yvette Modestin, Dr. Kevin Peterson, Chief of the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Celina Barrios-Milmer, and others spoke about the importance of reparations in the City of Boston and offered ways in which they could be delivered, as well as the ways in which history has wronged Black residents, leading to systemic inequity.

“What is important to King Boston is how we change the mindset of individuals that this is not a zero-sum game,” King Boston Executive Director Imari Paris Jeffries said in a statement. “That the repayment of past wrongs for some does not have to negatively impact others. Reparations on the municipal level, the state level and the federal level are needed for a true reconciliation around racism. It is important to understand how racism has negatively impacted all of us who are residents of this country. The state responsible for wrongful injury is obligated to compensate for their damage. Compensation for past racist injustices could come in the form of financial compensation, housing opportunities, scholarships, or educational opportunities. King Boston is seeking pathways to healing and joining with other Black leaders across Massachusetts.”

Tanisha Sullivan, President of NAACP Boston, said that while the City of Boston has made some progress, the work is not done. “Families should not have to leave this city to find better economic opportunity,” she said. Sullivan also talked about health equity in the city, and praised the Boston Public Health Commission for its “tremendous work in this space.”

She continued, “I do think that as we move forward in this work, it would be critically important for us to hear from many of the experts, may of them are here in Boston on the topic of public health, specifically, social determinants of health.”

Dr. Atiya Martin, who was born and raised in the city and also raised her five children here, said that she “struggles through the mixed signals that we get from our city.” She said that a “community-wide process” is the way to go when it comes to reparations.

“It’s not a handout,” she said, but rather a way to even the playing field for Black residents, “I hope that we are able to open the door for Black Bostonians,” Martin said.

After hearing from activists, experts, and other leaders, and the public in a nearly three and a half hour hearing, Tanisha Sullivan said that she wanted to “recognize the importance of bringing all of us into what hopefully will be an inflection point in our city’s history of finally getting to a point where we are ready to understand our history, confront our truth, move toward justice, and achieve repair in the city so all of us can move forward.”

Sullivan added that she “looks forward” to continuing the conversation at the community level, but “we need to move with a sense of urgency,” she said, and waiting another year or even six months is not an option. “We need to get this done,” she said, “to formalize the structure through which we will do this work. I, for one, am going to be pushing us to take action swiftly on this matter so we can get on the continuum to that repair.”

The full hearing is available for viewing on the Boston City Council YouTube page.

Symphony Station (from pg. 1)

the station safer and more accessible as part of the T’s Green Line Transformation (GLT) project, which will make modifications to 20 Green Line stations over the next five years.

Desiree Patrice, GLT senior director, said the new elevators would take commuters from the street to the platform level, while the platforms in the station would be raised 8 inches and improvements would be made to the stairs, egress, and “areas of refuge.” Accessible bathrooms would also be built in the station and new accessible ramps would be constructed to the lower plaza as well.

Glass headhouses for the elevators would also be built at all four corners of the intersection of Huntington and Massachusetts avenues, added Patrice, surrounded by bollards, which would be removable to allow for the potential installation of bike lanes, as well as wire-cut pavers running alongside Horticultural Hall.

A signal box would also be moved from Massachusetts Avenue to Huntington Avenue, she said, in an effort to reduce congestion on sidewalks. New bike racks would be installed outside the station as well.

Angel Pena, chief of the GLT project, said besides the accelerated construction timeline for the project that was ultimately selected, the T also considered a traditional scenario, which would’ve required shutting the station down early on weekends and entirely on weekends for three years to complete the job by 2026.

For the duration of the approximately 18-month-long construction timeline for the accelerated scenario, trains will pass through Symphony, even though the station will remain closed. The T will also implement shuttle service to the supplement the 39 bus line at this time.

“There’s a crucial need for this station to be accessible, so I’m glad the team is working on this,” said City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who requested that information on the shuttle service be posted in the Symphony Plaza Towers in multiple languages, including Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. “Some of those folks will be very much impacted,” she said.

“As thrilled as we are about the accelerated timeline, then we need to be ready for the city to close down the intersection right [at the site],” said Councilor Bok, who asked the T to coordinate with the city on this as soon as possible.

Councilor Bok also said the project would provide an opportunity to “bump out” the curb to allow for the installation of bike lanes.

Matt Moran, transit director for the Boston Transportation Department, said the city is looking into creating a north-bound-southbound bike connection at Massachusetts Avenue and had already been in contact with the T regarding this matter.

Moran also said building bike lanes as part of the Symphony project, as opposed to installing them on their own, would greatly reduce not only the cost, but also the disruption it would cause.

Nancy Farrell of the GLT team said they would work with the city on the proposed bike lanes, and that they would also disseminate information on the project to everyone affected via flyers and other forms of communication.

Judd Galloway, a project consultant, said 11 trees would be removed to accommodate for their project, while nine new trees would be planted in their place.

The next step for the project is utility work at the station, which is expected to get underway in 2022, and to take around a year to complete, said Pena.

Another public meeting will also be scheduled after the construction contactor has been selected, she added.

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(617) 768-8300
Everyone could enter together. A proposal to create an accessible entry at the Christian Science Church’s Mother Church came before the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) for a third time on October 26, where the Commission voted to remand the final review of the entry to a subcommittee after Design Review commissioners reached an impasse with which design would be best.

In July, the project team was asked to come back with more information about different options for the accessible entry. At this hearing, architect Regan Shields Ives presented two versions of the opening: one that enclosed just the elevator portion for the leftmost entry arch and left the other two arches and their staircases as-is, and one that enclosed all three arches in glass to create one common vestibule where everyone could enter together.

Both options were shown using a stainless steel frame as well as a bronze colored frame as choices. Commissioner David Berarducci said he doesn’t like the stainless steel option, and would prefer to see the bronze instead. He also asked, “Why can’t the doors themselves be seamless? Why do they have to have a frame around them? It’s more in keeping with the invisibility of the glass.”

Architect Christopher Lane said that due to the automatic closer needed for the door and to create a “true airlock” to keep inclement weather out of the vestibule, some framing is required. However, Shields Ives said that “we can certainly continue to push that with the manufacturers,” in reference to lessening the thickness of the framing. She said they “can see how minimal we can go without compromising the purpose of the vestibule.”

Berarducci said that he would prefer to have just the elevator arch enclosed with glass to create the vestibule for the elevator, and leave the other two arches as they are now. “I think that’s the least invasive,” he said.

Commissioner Brad Walker agreed that the bronze finish is the way to go, but disagreed with Berarducci about the best option for the entry as a whole. “Treating all of them at once is less jarring to me,” he said, adding, that it “calls less attention” to the fact that changes have been made to the building’s exterior.

Shields Ives said that the architects’ preferred option is also to enclose all three arches, because enclosing just the one would present challenges such as cutting stone from the building, and the team is also “trying to have as few touchpoints as possible for the historic tile” that is on the ceiling behind the arches.

Lane added that enclosing just the single arch “doesn’t provide the access that the church is looking for,” as enclosing all three to create one large vestibule is inclusive to everyone entering the building, and those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices wouldn’t have to use a separate door for entry.

“I hear that,” Berarducci said, but “our charge” is to do what would be most “minimally invasive to the building.” He said that taking out all of the existing stairways is “hugely invasive.” I’m very disappointed. I think what looks best is keeping the two stairways intact and only altering the elevator end of the archway.” He also suggested an alternate way to attach the glass enclosure with a metal framing.

“At the end of the way, we still have to attach metal to this wall,” Shields Ives said, adding that there will be “things that are impacting the stone detail work.” Walker said, “I think everyone’s got the same goal,” which is to “have accessibility in the way that’s the most generous” and that’s “least calling attention to itself and also in the least minimally invasive way.”

Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, suggested that a subcommittee be formed to get more opinions on the final design choice.

“If we could do that, I think it would be the best option,” Berarducci said, and Walker agreed.

“I appreciate the patience of the applicant,” Berarducci added.

The full commission voted to remand all details and the final decision to a subcommittee so that the applicant will not have to come back before the full Commission for an approval. That hearing or hearings will be open to the public and posted on boston.gov/publicnotices when scheduled.
Halloween (from pg. 1)

Boston’s fourth annual Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration takes place, with the altar open for visitors between Sunday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to sunset, and Monday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to sunset.

In the Fenway, the Fenway CDC is holding a Halloween celebration on Friday, Oct. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., at 72 Burbank St., where goodie bags will be distributed to guests.

In the South End, the first annual South End Dog Costume Halloween Party is set for Saturday, Oct. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Joe Wex Dog Recreation Space on Washington Street at Peters Park.

The event will feature a JB Doggie Delights ice cream truck selling delicious homemade and dog-safe ice cream treats; prizes for best dog costume and best dog owner costume; and Halloween cuteness and dog treats galore.

In Charlestown, the 36th Annual Halloween at Monument Square is coming on Sunday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. to the Bunker Hill Monument.

A gathering at the Monument steps will be followed by a brief program, with entertainment by Urbanity Dance, as well as the beloved Trick or Treat poem by the Monument Square Wizard. The Tony Barry Marching Band will lead the Parade around the Bunker Hill Monument.

Additionally, fun displays around the Monument are planned, plus Baby Sharks, The Bubble Guy and ALLO Playspace on the Bunker Hill ground to accommodate little ones. Dance with a disc jockey at Monument Street. Paul Revere, Mother Goose and many more characters will also be on hand, and Monument area neighbors will provide treats.

The Charlestown Mothers Association sponsors the festive decorations and glow-in-the-dark necklaces to keep children safe. Many other generous donors make this event possible. Participation and donations to make this the best Halloween yet, and for safety purposes, social distance and wear masks.

A Harvest on Vine table will also be set for residents and friends to bring canned food, cereal, other items, and financial donations for their neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

A patio at 85 Marlborough St. features some Halloween flair.
Mayor Janey encourages residents to have a fun and safe Halloween

Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Public Health Commission today released guidance on celebrating Halloween safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, urging residents to take extra precautions to keep themselves and others safe. The City offered practical tips to have a fun Halloween, avoid injuries and to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

“Enjoy the fun tricks and treats of Halloween, while taking precautions to stay safe,” said Mayor Janey. “I encourage everyone to practice social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand washing. And remember to carry a flashlight and use crosswalks. I hope everyone has a happy and safe Halloween.”

“We are thrilled that vaccination rates in Boston are high but remember that children under 12 still can’t be vaccinated against COVID-19 and some neighborhoods of Boston have much lower vaccination rates than the overall Boston rate,” said Dr. Jennifer Lo, Medical Director of Boston Public Health Commission.

To prevent the transmission of COVID-19, BPHC encourages residents to:
• Get vaccinated
• Keep all activities outdoors
• Wear masks and encourage your children to wear masks underneath their Halloween masks. This will protect your children without getting in the way of their costumes.
• Wash hands regularly and use hand sanitizers as much as possible
• Consider individually wrapped goodie bags that are lined up so children can grab-and-go, while continuing to social distance.
• Consume food and treats outdoors.

candidates forum (from pg. 1)

Candiates Forum

support an elected model that includes students.

When asked about addressing the “childcare crisis” in the city, many candidates called for Universal Pre-K. Halbert called for “adequate funding” for childcare programs like Universal Pre-K and ensuring that there is understanding of different cultural backgrounds.

Louijeune said that aside from the expansion of Universal Pre-K, she would like to see more after school programming and to make childcare “more affordable for working families.”

Monteiro said that “changing the requirements for childcare vouchers” is something she is interested in. She said that he believes “rethinking existing spaces” to provide more opportunities for childcare is a good idea, as well as use COVID-19 relief funds to “grow” the city’s Childcare Entrepreneur Fund.

Murphy agreed that the expansion of after school programming is necessary, and also called for “fully funding community centers.”

Mejia said that childcare needs to be expanded to accommodate parents who work late nights and that the city should partner more with nonprofit organizations and create more “quality childcare” such as Montessori schools.

Nee-Walsh said that as a construction worker, she has had trouble finding childcare early in the morning, so she also supports expanding hours.

Candidates were also asked about preventing displacement of Bostonians, to which Louijeune said that federal funds should be used to “make housing more affordable” and to build more of it.

Nee-Walsh said that there should be more “rent to own” scenarios, as well as “more housing all around.”

Mejia said that the council needs to be “more aggressive with holding the administration accountable to this work.” Murphy said that there should be a “moratorium on private development,” and Flaherty also said that using “funds to keep people in their homes” is a top priority for him, as he grew up in public housing.

Monteiro said that she was “fortunate to use the homebuyers programs and purchase a house at the age of 27,” but she also called for an increase in the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) so more units per new housing development are affordable units.

Halbert said that eviction protections should be strengthened to keep people from being forced out of their homes.

In a similar vein, candidates were asked how they will “address the lack of affordable and appropriately sized housing for families.”

Mejia said that “our office is leading in this,” and she said that she wants to “hold the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the City accountable.” She said that a “pause” should be put on “building luxury housing and condos focus more of our energy on housing that families can live in here in the City of Boston.”

Nee-Walsh said that “I think we need to build more affordable housing. We just don’t have enough of it.” She also said that there is a “surplus of studios and one bedrooms,” and more family and senior housing is needed.

Murphy said that she is a “strong supporter of the linkage program,” and that she has spoken to many people who work more than one job, so they need affordable places to live.

Halbert has supported a “breakup of the BPDA,” he said. He said that having a planning process that is separate from the development process will allow more affordable housing to be built. He also said that the city has to “have more investment in [the Boston Housing Authority].”

Flaherty talked about furthering the fair housing laws in Boston, and also the creation of bigger units.

Monteiro said it “starts with the BPDA,” and said that “more transparency and open meetings” are needed, and the process “needs to be more community centered, not developer centered,” she said.

Louijeune also said that in Boston, there needs to be “planning that informs development” as well as “appropriately sized housing” for those who need it.

When it comes to mental health and substance use, candidates were asked about the issues at Mass and Cass.

Monteiro called for the reactivation of the Long Island Bridge so people can once again receive recovery services there, and “making sure people have safety and security to focus on their sobriety.” She said that the “opiate epidemic” is worsening in the Mass/Cass area, and HIV and Hepatitis C are spreading.

“A lot of people come for healing but it’s a place of harm,” Louijeune said of the Mass/Cass area. She said it is “unfair for a lot of folks,” and a “housing first model” is what is needed to get folks the help they need. She also called for other cities across the state to “invest in their own social infrastructure,” and the construction of “supportive housing with wraparound services.”

Flaherty called for an increase in the city’s operating budget for public health, as it currently stands at three percent. He said that funding for public health needs to be increased to tackle the issues at Mass/Cass and elsewhere in the city.

“We have to take a regional approach,” Halbert said. “It’s unfair that Roxbury and the South End are shouldering o much of this burden.” He also said that the problems experienced at Mass and Cass are “not limited to Mass/Cass,” adding that although this conversation may be “uncomfortable,” it needs to be had and things like safe consumption sites need to be discussed.

Murphy said that she has had a “loved on on Long Island in detox,” and said that a goal of her is to “fight the stigma associated with mental health and recovery. I know firsthand how mental health is so closely related to substance use disorder.”

Mejia said that there is “ten- sion between ‘us versus them’” and that all city councilors should be invested in this issue. “We need all hands on deck,” she said, and “create a table for everyone.”

Nee-Walsh said of Mass and Cass that “it’s been made way too comfortable for people residing there,” and she suggested that the services offered to people in that area should be spread out throughout the city so they are not concentrated in one place.

When asked about “advancing the struggle for racial equity and justice” as well as “addressing the wealth ad health gap in the City of Boston,” Murphy said that “every child; every family” should have “access to a high quality or tool in their neighborhood.” She also called for more funding for school health centers, and “ensure that when our children graduate, they are ready for the workforce.”

Halbert said that things like funding community health centers with “culturally responsive interventions” and “expanding access to home ownership opportunities” would help advance racial equity in the city.

Flaherty also said that investing in home ownership and small businesses is a step in the right direction, as well as ensuring that Boston Public Schools offers a curriculum “that matches Boston’s economy. CEOs are moving their companies to Boston on a regular basis to tap into that strength.”

Louijeune said that “Black and Latinx residents have been ignored,” and “equity is about corrective actions.” She said that “we obviously have a lot of work to do to close the gaps.” She talked about providing “resources for down payment and closing costs for first generation homebuyers,” as home ownership is a way to help with “correcting for past wrongs.”

Monteiro also said that “home ownership is a critical way to close the racial gap.” She also talked about the “climate crisis” and “involving communities of color in the climate movement.”

She also spoke about investing in the urban canopy to keep residents healthy.

Mejia spoke about some of the work her office has done during her time as a City Councilor, including creating an ordinance that allows residents to use residential kitchens to sell certain food items, as well as creating a “line item in the budget” for youth ages 19-24 to have access to employment coming out of Madison Park High School, the Department of Youth Services, and foster care. Mejia also said she held a “hearing to ensure Black and Brown businesses are able to thrive” in neighborhoods across the city. Additionally, the Commission on Black Men & Boys has been created, and Mejia said that barber shops and hair salons are also being trained to address mental health with clients.

Nee-Walsh spoke about unions, as well as “bringing vocations back into schools” and “linking them up with the appropriate unions,” so that once students graduate from high school, they can enter right into the workforce into a career that will allow them to “make a sustainable living” in the city, she said.

Councillors were asked other questions relating to equity and “democracy” as it relates to the city.

The full recording of this forum can be found on the Ward 19 Democratic Committee’s Facebook page.
WLP HOSTS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Women’s Lunch Place (WLP) hosted a public watch party of their annual fundraiser “Spaghetti Dinner” at Fairmount Copley Plaza on October 22. It was a three-part hybrid event: Public Watch Party at the hotel, private watch parties, catered by the WLP kitchen and a virtual streaming option which included a takeout voucher to a local Italian restaurant. The event was aiming to raise over $500,000 for Women’s Lunch Place and honored long-time corporate supporter, Sanofi Genzyme.

Women’s Lunch Place was founded in 1982 with a goal to create a community for women who are experiencing homelessness, living in poverty, could find refuges and a good meal, and provide support and nourishment in an at home like environment. Today WLP kitchen serves healthy meals 6 days a week, and provide direct care, advocacy, creative expression programs, and on site free medical service through a partnership of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless program. The virtual program of the fundraiser is available on their website (womenlunchplace.org) for the next couple months.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

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WLP HOSTS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Nancy Armstrong, Wendy Richards, Duane Clark, Rachel Sha, Shannon Resetch, Miriam Clark, Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, and Jennifer Culhane during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Roni Boyles and Olivia Martin during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Milton Manousaridis and Wendy Bradley during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

WLP Board Chair, Mary Carty, speaks during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Louis Chorney and Suzanne Schultz during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. (L-R)
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 11/10/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. 

David N Brooks unit #1013; Joso Torres unit #3099; Chanel Smith unit #3170; Harry Coburn unit #4305. 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.

10/21/21, 10/28/21 BS

LEGAL NOTICE

WLP HOSTS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Melissa Furtado, Marian Killian, Jennifer DiTommaso, Matteo DiTommaso, Paula White, Shannon Resetich, Brian and Mary Carty during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Melissa Furtado, Marian Killian, Jennifer DiTommaso, Matteo DiTommaso, Paula White, Shannon Resetich, Brian and Mary Carty during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTE for Erin Murphy
Boston City Council At-Large

Mother, Teacher, Community Advocate, Problem Solver

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David N Brooks unit #1013; Joso Torres unit #3099; Chanel Smith unit #3170; Harry Coburn unit #4305. 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.

10/21/21, 10/28/21 BS

LEGAL NOTICE

WLP HOSTS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Melissa Furtado, Marian Killian, Jennifer DiTommaso, Matteo DiTommaso, Paula White, Shannon Resetich, Brian and Mary Carty during Women’s Lunch Place annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

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VOTE for Erin Murphy
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Parks Department completes first street tree inventory as part of city’s Urban Forest plan

Releases results of Back Bay’s tree inventory

By John Lynds

Earlier this year, the City of Boston launched its first ever Urban Forest Plan with the hope it will help the city prioritize, preserve, and grow the tree canopy throughout Boston for decades to come. “The Boston Urban Forest Plan is a year-long effort made up of several phases,” said the Parks Department in a statement on the program. “The first part of our work was the urban forest street tree inventory — an assessment of the existing conditions of the public street trees throughout Boston.”

The data collected during this tree inventory provides an important snapshot in time of the condition of Boston’s street trees.

“Now that the inventory is complete, we’ll be diving into the data to see what it tells us about this piece of the urban forest,” the statement continued.

According to the report the top 10 most-common trees in the Back Bay include honeylocust at 34.8%, Gallery pear at 16.7%, littleleaf linden at 15.4%, Norway maple at 6.5%, ginkgo at 6.3%, red maple at 5.9%, Japanese zelkova at 4.0%, American elm at 3.8%, acacia elm at 3.6%, and the pin oak at 2.9%.

In October 2020 the Boston Parks and Recreation Department announced the city would partner with local groups in Back Bay and across the city to help create an equitable vision for the protection and expansion of the City’s tree canopy.

Street trees naturally absorb pollution and reduce urban noise by 6 to 15 decibels.

Alongside the City, Back Bay partners and other stakeholders will apply an environmental justice lens throughout the entire process of creating a 20 year “Urban Forest Plan” in Boston. Understanding where canopy loss is happening is the first step in addressing these issues through policy, including guidelines for tree canopy protection on public, private, and institutional property.

In addition to the $500,000 budgeted for the Urban Forest Plan, historic investments in public spaces this year will also support the hiring of a new arborist and the planting of an additional 1,000 trees, doubling the yearly total to 2,000 trees planted per year.

South End Dog Costume Halloween Party Set for Oct. 30 at Peters Park

All dogs and dog owners are invited to the first annual South End Dog Costume Halloween Party on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Joe Wex Dog Recreation Space on Washington Street at Peters Park.

The event will feature a JB Doggie Delights ice cream truck selling delicious homemade and dog-safe ice cream treats; prizes for best dog costume and best dog owner costume; and Halloween cuteness and dog treats galore.

South End Walking Tour

Do you want to learn more about the fascinating history of our neighborhood? Would you like to find out more about the architecture that shaped our South End streets? Do you want to meet some neighbors as we investigate local lore?

The Ellis Neighborhood Association invites you to join a walking exploration of our area streets with a knowledgeable tour guide from Boston By Foot on Saturday, October 30 from 1:00-2:30 PM.

The South End was Boston’s first big land-making project designed for new housing for Boston’s growing upper class. It was based on an English plan, with lovely parks and squares framed by rows of houses. The layout and our South End homes were inspired by Charles Bulfinch, the great architect of the Massachusetts State House.

To join the tour, register at https://bostonbyfoot.app.ncrm.com/np/clients/bostonbyfoot.event.jsp?event=35714&.
Back Bay, surrounding area’s COVID cases remain the same

By John Lynds

After increasing two weeks ago the Back Bay and the surrounding area’s COVID weekly positive test rate remained the same last week. According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,319 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.3 percent were positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC between October 11 and October 18.

The citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week. According to the BPHC 23,877 residents were tested and 2.3 percent were COVID positive—this was a 11.5 percent decrease from the 2.6 percent reported by the BPHC on October 18.

Fifty-three additional residents have been infected with the virus between October 18 and October 25 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,440 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 0.9 percent since October 18 and went from 82,255 cases to 82,996 confirmed cases in a week. There were six additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,450.

STEM opportunities in the Commonwealth are greater than ever

STEM-heavy industries are leading Massachusetts’ recent economic growth according to a study released by Commonwealth Corporation in partnership with the Executive Office of Education (EOE), and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) for the fourth annual Massachusetts STEM Week 2021. STEM Week takes place from October 18 – 22 and is organized by EOE and the STEM Advisory Council in partnership with the state’s nine Regional STEM Networks. It is a statewide effort to boost the interest, awareness, and ability for all learners to envision themselves in STEM education and employment opportunities.

“Studying STEM creates endless opportunities, and we hope more students can see themselves in STEM,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Co-Chair of the STEM Advisory Council. “STEM jobs and industries are vital to the Massachusetts economy, so we want to inspire young learners to get involved, be inspired, and picture themselves in a STEM career.”

Massachusetts’ economy grew at an annual rate of 6.9%, according to Growth Domestic Product data released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis covering fourth quarter 2020 through first quarter 2021 (October 2020 – March 2021). This growth was led by the professional, scientific, and services industry, which has the highest concentration of STEM jobs across all industries. Looking forward, the demand for STEM jobs is increasing and expected to account for 40% of the increase in total employment in Massachusetts through 2028.

“To meet the needs of job growth projections in STEM, the Baker-Polito Administration is committed to upskilling workers for long-lasting careers in technology, manufacturing, health care, and biotech,” said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta. “One proven pathway is Apprenticeships, and we are expanding this program to include more training opportunities for software developers, cybersecurity analysts, and IT business analysts.”

One in five workers in Massachusetts work in the STEM field. Though often associated with science and technology, STEM jobs encompass a broad range of industry sectors. For example, one in five manufacturing jobs in Massachusetts is a STEM job; one in seven management jobs is STEM; and one out of every seven post-secondary teaching jobs is a STEM job.

“Our Administration, through the leadership of Lt. Governor Polito and the STEM Advisory Council, has worked hard for the past several years to help Massachusetts students gain experience in STEM fields,” said Education Secretary James Peyser. “We have expanded career and college pathways for young people to pursue industry-recognized credentials, and we deepened partnerships with employers and higher education institutions to offer more work-based learning experiences in STEM fields.”

STEM occupations are found in almost every industry in Massachusetts, racial minority representation in STEM continues to be low. Data from 2020 estimates that 27% of STEM workers are non-white, compared to the 2018 report of 24%. Black/African Americans make up 5% of the Massachusetts STEM workforce, most concentrated in healthcare. Hispanic/Latinx workers compose 6% of the STEM workforce. Asians are at 15% working in STEM. Though STEM jobs appear evenly distributed among men and women, women tend to work in lower-paying STEM industries. Excluding healthcare, women hold 29% of STEM occupations.

At CommCorp, we are working to create a pipeline,” said Christine Abrams, President & CEO of Commonwealth Corporation. “For example, YouthWorks, in its recent grant cycle, supported youth placements in STEM jobs across information technology, healthcare, manufacturing, science, and engineering. This type of connection with employers is crucial as it can provide students with work-based learning opportunities as well as show them that they have many options for the future.”

The healthcare sector holds the greatest number of STEM jobs at 212,340, while the professional, scientific, and technical services sector has the highest concentration of STEM jobs at 43%. Massachusetts continues to be among the states with the highest demand for STEM occupations, adjusted for population, across the U.S.

“The findings in this report reinforce the importance of our efforts to continue raising awareness of key career paths among STEM fields, which are playing a leading role in the Commonwealth’s economic recovery,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “By focusing on the pipeline to develop talent, we can ensure STEM industries can continue to leverage a strong workforce in Massachusetts to strengthen their position in our economy and also expand STEM career opportunities to even more communities that traditionally have been underrepresented.”

HALEY HOUSE CLOTHING DRIVE

Join us for the Ellis Neighborhood Association’s Clothing Drive supporting Haley House!

Please help support our neighbors at Haley House by contributing to the clothing room at Haley House for the month of November. During the pandemic, there was an increase in the need for socks, underwear, and undershirts to be redistributed to the community.

Donations sought include new men’s undershirts (sizes L + XL), new men’s socks, and new men’s underwear (sizes L+XL).

Donations can be dropped off at the BCA Plaza during the Pumpkin Patch on October 23rd from 3-4pm or at the Hingham Savings Bank on Tremont St. from October 25 to November 15.
We recently acquired a copy of Clifford A. Wright's book, “Real Stew,” and decided that we should cook our way through it this fall and winter. The full title of this delicious tome is “Real Stew: 300 Recipes for Authentic Home-Cooked Cassoulet, Gumbo, Chili, Curry, Minestrone, Bouillabaise, Stroganoff, Goulash, Chowder, and Much More.”

We agree that all these dishes fit the “New Food Lover's Companion” definition of a stew or to stew. “Any dish that is prepared by stewing. The term is most often applied to dishes that contain meat, vegetables and a thick soup-like broth resulting from a combination of the stewing liquid and the natural juices of the food being stewed. stew v. A method of cooking by which food is barely covered with liquid and simmered slowly for a long period of time in a tightly covered pot.”

Stews from Everywhere for Every Eater

Wright has chapters on various meats from beef and lamb to goat and rabbit. He explores how diverse foodways have used their native pantry to produce an appropriate stewed dish for their taste.

He also has a range of seafood and vegetable stews. Some of these are vegetarian, while others contain meat products. For example, bacon or salt pork is common in chowders, while some vegetable stews call for chicken broth. If you want a fully vegetarian or vegan meal you can easily adapt any stew recipe by using alternative ingredients that fit your preference.

The freedom to make changes to use what you have or what you want is a hallmark of stew evolution. One of the most ubiquitous examples is Biga or Hunter's Stew. This dish uses whatever is on hand and might be cooked on a stove or over an open fire.

Hunter’s stew may have evolved from the Medieval tradition of the perpetual stew pot. That meal is called a compotticium by Wikipedia. They defined it as “That which goes with bread.”

Our Stew Tips

When shopping for meat for our stews, we head straight for the least expensive cuts. For example, beef shanks cost us $4.99 a pound.

Bone-in meat with plenty of connective tissue is ideal for a rich textured stew broth. After shredding the meat from the shanks, Penny mashes the bone marrow and returns it to the pot.

Stewed or braised dishes are usually better the next day, so these are great make-ahead meals.

In a beef stew, mushrooms add umami flavor and fool the eye to make it look to the eater like the pot contains more meat than it does.

In place of salt, we often add umami-rich salty ingredients like Worcestershire sauce for depth of flavor.

It’s Stew Time

Stews are perfect autumn and winter meals. We love stewy dishes because you cook once and eat for days.

A pot of stew can also use the food you might waste. Wright’s last recipe in the book is for Cliff’s No Name Stew. He created a feast he made in a 22-quart pot of stew and mushrooms were the only items we shopped for to make a great stew. Once home, we gathered the rest of the ingredients from what we had on hand.
### Real Estate Transfers

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### Attention to Detail

**By Penny Cherubino**

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The ladder in the last clue leads to the Kenmore Square Air Quality Monitoring Station managed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. It is located on a triangle between Beacon and Commonwealth Avenues across from the former Hotel Buckminster.

You’ll find the next clue in the South End.

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

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

---

**Fresh and Local** *(from pg. 14)*

pot with what he had in his freezer, refrigerator, and a trip to the farmers’ market. He enjoyed it with a gathering of friends.

Sharing is our final reason for loving stew. It’s a perfect meal to share with people you enjoy. Be generous, make a big pot of stew and share away, in-person if that is within your comfort zone, or as takeaway containers and a Zoom meal if not.
146 WEST NEWTON STREET
5 Beds | 3F 1H Baths | 4,535 SQFT
$6,795,000

333 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, UNIT 4
2 Beds | 3 Baths | 1,552 SQFT
$1,950,000

308 COMMONWEALTH AVE, UNIT C
3 Beds | 2 Full Baths | 1,940 SQFT
$2,250,000

400 STUART STREET, UNIT 26D
2 Beds | 2F 1H Baths | 1,502 SQFT
$2,925,000

3 JOY STREET, PENTHOUSE
4 Beds | 3F 1H Baths | 3,752 SQFT
$5,999,999