

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN
Imari Paris Jeffries, executive director of King Boston, sat down with Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden, for the first virtual "Conversations with Friends."

Ahead of 'The Embrace,' project partners discuss how to create new, inclusive destinations on the Common

By Dan Murphy

In anticipation of the arrival of "The Embrace" - the 22-foot bronze memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King - on the Boston Common next Martin Luther King Jr. King Day, the leaders of two organizations partnering on the project met up for a virtual conversation to discuss how creating new destinations like this can help promote equity and inclusivity in the park.

"We wanted to create more destinations on the Boston Common," said Liz Vizza, president of the nonprofit Friends of the Public Garden, which in partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, cares for and maintains the Common, as well as the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. "We did it about a dozen years ago with the Brewer Fountain, and it really has become a popular outdoor living room."

Likewise, Vizza said during

the first online "Conversations with Friends," she expects the 1965 Freedom Plaza, which will be home to "The Embrace," will also be an "incredible draw and destination for a whole new population of people that don't come to the Common so we're very excited about that."

Imari Paris Jeffries, executive director of King Boston, the nonprofit that has been working closely with the city and

(THE EMBRACE Pg. 2)

Senator-elect Lydia Edwards to be sworn in as senator today, looks to form community transition committee

By John Lynds

First Suffolk & Middlesex Senator-elect Lydia Edwards will be sworn into the state senate Thursday during a ceremony at the State House.

To mark the occasion Edwards and her team are hosting a watch party at Democracy Brewing, located at 35 Temple Pl, Boston on Thursday, January 20.

Due to COVID protocols the in-person swearing in at the State House will have extremely limited

attendance but Edwards supporters can attend the watch party at Democracy Brewing or live stream the swearing in on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/senator-edwards-inauguration-w/941179203428206/>.

The swearing in ceremony will be at noon Thursday with doors opening at Democracy Brewing at 11:30 am.

"I couldn't be more excited to get to work, and luckily, I will be getting started soon," said Edwards. "On Thursday I will

be sworn in as a State Senator at the State House. I couldn't have done this without you, so let's celebrate this momentous day together. We will be live-streaming the inauguration and having a watch party to celebrate. I will arrive at Democracy Brewing after the inauguration and join the festivities."

To RSVP to the watch party email Emma@LydiaEdwards.org.

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Remembering King

City, BU, New England Conservatory present Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration

By Lauren Bennett

The City of Boston, along with the New England Conservatory and Boston University, presented the 2022 celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King virtually on January 18. The event was live-streamed from the Boston University Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground.

Titled "A Celebration of the Lives and Legacies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King," the program included both live and pre-recorded remarks on topics ranging from democracy to honoring Dr. and Mrs. King to looking towards the

future from many different individuals, as well as musical performances from New England Conservatory students and Boston University's Inner Strength Gospel Choir.

Speakers for the program included:

- Brianna Bourne, Boston University Arts & Sciences '24, Boston Latin Academy '20

- Saida Grundy, Assistant Professor of Sociology, African American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies at Boston University

- Katherine Kennedy, Director, Boston University Howard

(MLK CELEBRATION Pg. 3)

High-capacity testing site opens at Bolling Building in Roxbury

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Michelle Wu held a press conference on Tuesday at the Bruce Bolling Building in Roxbury, the site of a new high-capacity COVID-19 testing site which also opened on the 18th.

Before getting into specifics about the testing site, Wu reported that as of 8am on Tuesday, 17,861 City of Boston employees were "in full compliance with vaccination policies." She also said that this includes 1000 additional employees who had become compliant since January 10.

Wu said that vaccination clinics continue to offer the vaccine at locations throughout the city, and the city will review compliance of employees throughout this week. After that, "employees will receive individual notifications" letting them know who needs to still upload proof of vaccination. Beginning on February 24, those not in compliance with the mandate will be placed on unpaid administrative leave,

Wu said.

The new testing site at the Bruce Bolling Building will offer free COVID-19 testing Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12pm to 8pm, and test results will typically be available within 24 hours. The site is run by CIC Health, which ran a number of vaccine clinics in the city and state last year, including the one at Fenway Park in early 2021.

Wu said that flyers in multiple languages will be distributed throughout neighborhoods letting residents know about this new site.

The need for additional testing sites in the city comes from long lines at sites like the Anna M. Cole Center in Jamaica Plain, where residents waited hours to get a test.

The Anna M. Cole Center has the capacity to test 11 individuals at once, Wu said, while the Bolling Building can test 20 people at the same time. It also allows for 50 people to be in line at one time. To ensure that peo-

(CONFERENCE Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

MAYOR MICHELLE WU: GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

The job of mayor of a large American city never has been easy, but these days the challenges facing our public officials who lead our major metropolitan areas are greater than ever.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a confluence of difficult circumstances, ranging from an epidemic of drug overdose deaths, a housing shortage that is exacerbating homelessness, exponentially-increasing firearm murder rates, school closures, public transportation issues, and unprecedented small business failures.

In addition, the political rancor that exists at the national level has spilled over to the local level in an unprecedented manner. The axiom that all politics is local, as the great Tip O'Neill famously said, no longer is true -- the political demagoguery that has poisoned our politics in Washington now has spread to every corner of the country.

Michelle Wu, the new mayor of Boston, is now at the center of a firestorm regarding her order to require Boston's city employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine. According to the Boston Globe, there is a small minority of those who oppose her order who are protesting loudly outside her house, disturbing her neighborhood, and some who are hurling racially-charged comments and threats toward Mayor Wu and her family.

So we wish to take this opportunity to express our support for the mayor and for her order requiring vaccinations for city employees. Unfortunately, she is taking on the burden of dealing with the small but vocal mob alone -- and we are grateful that she is showing the courage to do what is right for the city and its residents.

SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT

We were driving on the Expressway the other day and we heard on the radio that the Florida orange crop will be at its lowest output since the 1940s. "What? The 1940s?!" we thought to ourselves.

The point of the news report was that orange juice prices will be higher this coming winter because of the low crop output. But what the report didn't explain was why the crop will be so low.

We assumed that there must have been a frost or some other weather-related event, or perhaps there was a supply chain or labor shortage issue, as the cause for the shortfall.

But when we looked into it, we discovered that the Florida orange crop has been declining steadily for the past 20 years or so.

And the reason for the decline is something far more insidious than the weather or COVID. According to Inside Climate News, a respected environmental news web-site, the culprit is an invasive insect: "The Asian citrus psyllid fills its stomach by feeding on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. The tiny brown insects infect the trees with bacteria that cause citrus greening, a disease that makes the fruits inedible. Natives to Asia, the citrus psyllids were first found in the United States in Florida in 1998."

Invasive species have been causing all kinds of damage in our country and around the world for many years. The zebra mussel (which came from Russia) and the Asian carp have wreaked costly damage in the past few decades. However, their impact is largely unseen by the American public.

But the Asian citrus psyllid's damage strikes home for all of us. Oranges and other citrus fruits are a staple food item in every American household.

So now, amidst our winter of discontent, there is one more thing to add to the list -- the Asian citrus psyllid.

THE EMBRACE (from pg. 1)

very excited about that."

Imari Paris Jeffries, executive director of King Boston, the nonprofit that has been working closely with the city and the Friends on "The Embrace" since the project's inception in 2017, said in addition to the Dr. and Mrs. King, 65 other yet-to-be-identified Greater Bostonian individuals or organization active in the civil rights movement between 1950 and 1970, either living or deceased, would be honored by perhaps having their names emblazoned on or around the plaza grounds.

"We want to put as much into this space to make it feel special," said Paris Jeffries, who added they also don't want to transform the Common into a "sculpture garden."

The imagery of "The Embrace" by artist Hank Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group, which depicts several clasped arms, is particularly poignant amid the pandemic, said Paris Jeffries, at a time when people couldn't physically be with or hug their loved ones.

For Vizza, "The Embrace" is a roadmap for how to connect the Common with Nubian Square in Roxbury at a time when both the Friends group and the park are struggling to reflect Boston's diversity, as well as an expression of the new partnerships being forged between organizations citywide, as is the case with the Friends and King Boston.

But Paris Jeffries said he believes "The Embrace" is part of a larger dialogue on whether existing memorials accurately reflect the mores of contemporary society, or whether they instead belong in a museum or somewhere else "not in the public sphere."

To illustrate his point, Paris Jeffries pointed out that Abraham Lincoln has more monuments dedicated to him than anyone else in the country, but there are more monuments to Robert E. Lee in the U.S. than there are to Harriet Tubman.

"It's the idea of acknowledging and lifting up other folks in this country to tell story of our city and really our nation and redefining what monuments and memorials mean for public spaces," he said. "We can do the good and we can create the spaces, but we also need to tell a message that resonates outside the city. People come here to get their idea of America reinforced through the Freedom Trail and the sites they can see in the park. We need to do another job reinforcing their experience around equity."

One voice Vizza would like to see better represented on the Common are Native Americans, since the park was originally owned by the Massachusetts tribe before it was taken away from them by settlers.

"The Boston Common has an enormous amount of artifacts from the Native Americans who lived on the land so what can we do to honor and bring people's awareness to their history," Vizza told this reporter.

Paris Jeffries said their "charge" for the next decade leading up to the 400th anniversary of the founding of Boston in 2030 should be "to tell story of a different America -- a real story with a bright future."

With this in mind, Vizza said the Friends is now in the process of helping to convene, a new "Monument and Memory Task Force," which would include myriad voices, including the city's, to "find ways we can lift up the untold stories using a variety of innovative approaches."

Vizza told this reporter, "First, we need to critically examine the monuments in the park, then choose a couple of key examples and have the Task Force look at their impact on the community, and look at this through a broader perspective than we would have two or three years ago."

Vizza said "a lot of creative work has been done to bring awareness this issue in other cities," including Chicago, Philadel-

phia, and Cambridge -- all places that have convened groups to look at the role of monuments in their respective public squares.

"It's not only about what we have in the parks; it's about which voices are heard and which are not," said Vizza.

The Common also "shows the things not working in society," said Vizza, as a place frequented by people struggling with homelessness and addiction. "These places belong to them as well," she said.

The Master Plan for the Common, which the Boston Parks and Recreation Department is now developing in collaboration with the Friends and design consultants, Weston & Sampson, aims to ensure that "The Embrace" and the surrounding plaza are "integrated with the rest of the park in terms of topography and paths," said Vizza.

One new amenity proposed for the park in the Master Plan are basketball courts.

"It will be a powerful opportunity, a powerful magnet, to say that kids from other parts of the city who play basketball are welcome in the park," Vizza told this reporter.

Meanwhile, "What Do We Have in Common?" -- last fall's temporary art installation to mark the Friends of the Public Garden's 50th anniversary -- was well received by visitors to the Common and opened up new possibilities for the park.

Vizza believes the exhibit was so powerful because as opposed to permanent public art, which loses its impact as people see it and grow accustomed to seeing it over time, temporary art can be more impactful due to its unfamiliarity.

"We learned that temporary art can be a vehicle for sparking, dialogue, curiosity, and enhanced awareness," said Vizza.

Visit friendsofthepublicgarden.org to view the first virtual "Conversations with Friends," and to learn more about the Friends of the Public Garden.

THE BOSTON SUN

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Baker-Polito administration files \$5 billion general government bond bill

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration filed legislation seeking \$4.991 billion in capital funds to support core improvements that will enable the Commonwealth to continue delivering critical state services to the people of Massachusetts.

The proposal, titled An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth, includes \$4.15 billion to maintain, repair, and modernize assets that serve those most in need across the Commonwealth, help educate the future workforce, deliver on key environmental objectives, and keep the Commonwealth's communities and workers safe. It also includes \$841 million

to continue existing, successful grant programs that support Massachusetts communities, to improve cybersecurity and other technology infrastructure, and to acquire critical public safety equipment.

"This bill supports essential capital investments that will deliver long-lasting benefits to Massachusetts residents for years to come, with a focus on safety, resiliency and opportunity," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Legislature to make these important investments, which will pave the way for the continued efficient delivery of government services and economic growth."

"The proposed investments in this bill continue our Admin-

istration's work to improve a wide range of critical infrastructure and foster growth and development across Massachusetts," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "These funds will ensure the continuity of proven programs and enable impactful future economic, health and safety initiatives that will benefit the Commonwealth's communities, businesses and residents."

The bill filed today makes authorization available through Fiscal Year 2028 that would support \$2.4 billion in existing maintenance and resiliency projects through the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM). DCAMM maintains nearly 1,700 major buildings covering 60.8 million gross square feet

of property across the Commonwealth, including higher education buildings, health and human services facilities, public safety facilities, and trial courts. It also leads decarbonization and resiliency efforts in accordance with Executive Order 594, Leading by Example: Decarbonizing and Minimizing Environmental Impacts of State Government, which was issued by Governor Baker in April of 2021 and directs efforts to reduce gas emissions in Massachusetts facilities. The bond bill proposes \$400 million in energy efficiency initiatives at facilities statewide.

An additional \$1.8 million in DCAMM authorization is proposed to meet new facilities' needs and mitigate future risks. This includes an increased focus

on incorporating lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic related to the physical space and layout of facilities.

The bill also proposes \$185 million in authorization for the Executive Office of Technology Services and Services (EOTSS) to support a variety of cybersecurity, IT infrastructure, and application modernizations initiatives. This includes projects that would modernize the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Online system and build out an integrated eligibility and enrollment system to streamline the benefits application process across multiple state agencies. \$50 million is proposed to improve virtual and physical security infrastructure at the Trial Courts facilities, including intrusion detection and video

(BOND BILL Pg. 4)

MLK CELEBRATION (from pg. 1)

Thurman Center for Common Ground

• Jean Morrison, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Boston University

• Jean-Luc Pierite, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, President of the Board of The North American Indian Center of Boston

• Kelsey Russell, Boston University Arts & Sciences '22

• Tanisha Sullivan, President of the NAACP Boston Branch

• Andrea Taylor, Senior Diversity Officer, Boston University

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a graduate of Boston University, while Coretta Scott King graduated from the New England Conservatory.

"We are pleased to partner with the City of Boston and New England Conservatory to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King and the enduring work of Coretta Scott

King," Boston University President Robert A. Brown said in a press release sent out ahead of the event. "We pause in our busy lives to reflect on Dr. King's achievement and sacrifice so that we can renew our commitment to do all we can to make our society, our world, just and equitable."

During the program, Mayor Michelle Wu said, "Dr. King, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and so many activists, dedicated their

lives to fighting poverty, systemic racism, and oppression. In Dr. King's case, he both dedicated and lost his life in this fight. His legacy, his impact, endures. It is on this legacy, that of the civil rights movement, the legacy of the fight for racial equality, the legacy of these giants of history, that today's activists build a brighter future for us all."

New England Conservatory President Andrea Kalyn said in the press release, "We are so

pleased to join Boston University and the City of Boston in celebrating the work and contributions of Dr. and Mrs. King, and for the opportunity to reflect together on how their leadership inspires and informs our own responsibility to advance equity, justice, and community."

The full recording of the celebration can be found on the Boston City TV YouTube channel.

CONFERENCE (from pg. 1)

ple are not waiting hours for a test, CIC Health will offer time cards to any remaining people after the first 50 in line, which will allow them to come back for their test at a specific time so they are not standing and waiting.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), also said that the testing site does not require appointments.

"This is really a vital resource for the Roxbury community and nearby communities," Ojikutu said, adding that the city is "proud to open this site in the heart of Boston's Black and African American community."

The site will have the capacity to test 1,000 people each day, she added.

Wu also announced other clinics in Dorchester and Mattapan, and mentioned that hours have been expanded at the existing Anna M. Cole site, which has resulted in fewer people in line

waiting.

"We're really trying to open up this resource and make it easy for people to access testing," Ojikutu said.

Wu also spoke about small business relief, saying that the administration is working with the Boston City Council on "replenishment of the small business relief fund" in the amount of \$5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. She said this funding will support 300 small businesses, including those "who have already been applying through the existing fund."

New applicants will be able to apply for funding early in February, Wu said.

Ojikutu also touched on the surge caused by the omicron variant, saying that she is "cautiously optimistic" looking forward as the city's positivity rate is down 5.2 percentage points from last week. It is now at 26.5

percent, down from 32 percent last week.

"This is still very high," she said, but she added that reported positive cases in the city are down 33 percent from last week.

Also down are emergency room visits, by 23 percent, and she said that 81 percent of Boston residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. "As a city, we're almost 70 percent fully vaccinated," Ojikutu said.

However, hospitalizations have gone up—adult hospitalizations are up 35 percent, while pediatric hospitalizations are up 56 percent.

She urged residents to get vaccinated and boosted, wear masks that fit well, and get tested.

Rodrigo Martinez of CIC Health spoke a little bit about the testing process at the Bolling Building. He explained that the tests are self-administered PCR tests. individuals who show up to

get a test will receive a swab and a tube, and will stand in a specific area to perform the test. The completed tests will be brought to the Broad Institute and results will be reported "within 24 hours on average," Martinez said.

The CIC team said that surgical masks will be provided to all individuals who come for a test to put over their existing mask, and people will be placed six feet apart while waiting their turn. They also said that the lines are anticipated to move quickly, so as to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

A couple of Boston City Councilors also spoke at the conference, including District 7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson and At-Large Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune.

Fernandes Anderson said that it's important to assist small businesses during the pandemic, and to be "meeting people where they are." She encouraged busi-

ness owners to reach out to her office if they have any questions about the process for applying for grants.

Louijeune said that she is "encouraged to see a new testing site open up in Mattapan," and that vaccination efforts need to continue.

"We know that we have large immigrant populations," she said, and there is "a lot of work to do to meet people where they are."

She also spoke about dispelling misinformation about the vaccines. "In the Haitian community," she said, "we need to get the message out there that these vaccinations are safe."

These testing sites will be "open as long as they need to be open," Ojikutu said. She said that the contract is for three months, but the city is prepared to extend it beyond that if need be.

Baker administration announces new at-home testing option for schools

By Lauren Bennett

The Baker administration on January 18 announced a new testing program that will become an option for school districts across the state.

Baker said that more than 2000 Massachusetts schools have are “participating in at least one form of testing,” most of which use pooled testing. According to the state’s website, “Pooled testing involves mixing several test samples together in a “batch” or “pool,” and then testing the pooled sample with a diagnostic, PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-2.”

Baker said on Tuesday that “the data from over a year’s worth of pooled testing shows that school is an extremely safe

place for educators and kids,” He continued, “positivity rates in pooled tests are significantly below what you might see in the community overall.”

The other testing program offered by the state is the Test and Stay program.

“The way that program works is after someone has been identified as a close contact to somebody who has tested positive, those kids are given rapid tests every day for 5 days to determine if they test positive or not,” Baker said. “This avoids the extremely disruptive at-home quarantine period.”

Baker said that of the 503, 312 Test and Stay tests that have been conducted, 496,440 of them were negative, which is 99 percent.

He said that other states who have implemented similar programs have seen comparable results.

“Clearly, in-school spread is extremely rate,” Baker said.

However, “this program requires significant resources,” including tests and staff “to identify close contacts and then contact trace.”

Beginning next week, the state’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will “begin distributing millions of rapid tests to schools across the Commonwealth.”

Schools will be able to choose whether or not to participate in the new program instead of the Test and Stay program, “or they can stay with the program that’s been operating over the course of

the past year.”

This new program involves students and teachers taking a rapid test at home once per week, and the tests will come from the order of 26 million rapid antigen tests that Baker announced last week.

“Schools that choose to participate in the at home program, alongside symptomatic and/or pool testing will be able to discontinue contact tracing and the test and stay program,” Baker said. “That will allow schools to focus time and resources on identifying symptomatic individuals.”

Beginning this week, schools can choose to participate in the program and tests for staff will be distributed during the week of Jan. 24. Families will also “have

to tell their schools if they want their students to participate,” and tests for students will be available the week of Jan. 31.

“In-person learning has been proven to be the best option for students, which is why our administration’s worked so hard throughout the pandemic to provide supports to keep kids in school,” Baker said. “This new testing program, based on conversations with school districts, is just the latest way that we think we can help keep kids in school.”

Baker also said that “while testing is an important tool,” vaccination is the most important thing an individual can do to protect themselves and their community.

BOND BILL (from pg. 3)

monitoring. Further public safety investments include \$60 million for equipment for fire services, corrections, and communications towers, and \$100 million for the replacement of approximately 300 Massachusetts State Police vehicles per year, half of which will be hybrid vehicles.

“This \$5 billion bond bill reflects the Baker-Polito Administration’s dual commitment to supporting the Commonwealth’s assets and making sustainable, fiscally responsible capital investments,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. “The projects pro-

posed are key to maintaining core government operations and will keep the state moving forward, and we are looking forward to working with the Legislature to pass this bill into law.”

The bill seeks to support Massachusetts’ communities by authorizing \$496 million for established and successful grant and community programs that have a track record of providing valuable resources for workforce development, economic development, housing, and more to communities across the state. This includes the Workforce Skills Capital Grants Program, the

Community Compact IT Grants Program, the Cultural Facilities Fund, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the Housing Stabilization Fund and the Housing Choice Capital Grants Program.

In June 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration finalized its Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026, and the authorizations in this bond bill would support investments and initiatives in the upcoming annual update to the Capital Investment Plan, which will include capital spending for Fiscal Years 2023-2027.

Highlights of the bond bill include:

- \$185 million for various cybersecurity and IT infrastructure initiatives, including:
- \$100 million for cybersecurity investments and to support existing large business applications modernization projects
- \$50 million for virtual and physical security infrastructure at the Trial Courts facilities, such as intrusion detection, duress, physical screening, access control, video monitoring, and communications
- \$35 million to upgrade Lottery gaming systems, decommission end-of-life equipment, and address cybersecurity vulnerabilities
- \$160 million for public safety investments, including:
- \$100 million for the replacement of approximately 300+ vehicles per year, half of which will be hybrid
- \$60 million for public safety equipment for fire services, corrections, state police & parole vehicles, and communications towers
- \$100 million to continue support for the Workforce Skills capital grants program, which provides grants to high schools, community colleges, training programs, and non-profit organizations to purchase equipment that will help expand access to career technical education programs
- \$100 million for municipal grants to support a broad range of local infrastructure improvements and projects
- \$64 million to support the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund (SRF) – specifically, for the Commonwealth’s matching funds required to secure feder-

al dollars for the Fund, which helps cities and towns to improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety

- \$60 million for the Housing Stabilization Fund, which provides funding for municipalities, non-profit, for-profit developers and local housing authorities in support of affordable rental housing production and rehabilitation
- \$51 million for the continuation of the Food Security program, which improves food security for the people of the Commonwealth through grants aimed at enhancing access to and production of local food for the next two years at current funding level
- \$50 million for the Cultural Facilities Fund to continue providing grants for planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of cultural facilities administered through Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment
- \$30 million for the Community Compact IT competitive grant program aimed at driving innovation at the local level and available to any municipality that is part of Community Compact Cabinet Initiative
- \$25 million for Housing Choice grants to municipalities that receive a Housing Choice designation through high housing production and/or demonstration of best practices
- \$16 million for MassVentures START grants, which help businesses commercialize ideas that have been backed with federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding



Virtual Public Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

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

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2022FebRSMPOC
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 297 2609

Project Description:

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public.

For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

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

- Feb./Febrero/Fevriye 7
- March/Marzo/Mas 7
- April/Abril/Avril 4

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

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

Si w bezwen sêvis entêpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon

mail to: **Kelly Sherman**

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phone: 978.902.8030

email: kelly.sherman@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

BPDA approves plans to add housing above Abe & Louie's

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved plans to add 9 units of housing and office space above Abe & Louie's on Boylston Street.

The project at 761-793 Boylston St. will add nine new units of housing and 26,634 square feet of office space all while preserving the building's historic facades.

According to plans filed with the BPDA all existing facades will remain in place while a five-story, mixed use, building is constructed from the interior.

The widely popular Back Bay steakhouse, Abe & Louie's, as well as Atlantic Fish, both tenants of space inside the project boundary, will be preserved.

"The proposed development

program provides a mix of uses complementary to the fabric of the Back Bay," according to the BPDA. "The Project proposes an eight-story mixed use building, building upon the existing three-story building and adding five levels on top of 761-793 Boylston Street."

Overall the project proposes approximately 15,830 square feet of retail, 25,720 square feet of office/fitness and nine residential units within the top three stories totaling approximately 18,600 square feet.

Abe & Louie's and Atlantic Fish will still occupy the first level with additional retail on level two, followed by office space on levels three through five, and residential units on levels six through eight. A rooftop amenity for the residential units is also imagined. A lobby accessed



An artist rendering of the project at 761-793 Boylston St.

from an entrance on Boylston Street will lead to a compact vertical elevator and fire stair core located to the northern edge of

the floor plan. The core provides access to all upper levels.

"The project will preserve historic integrity while adding hous-

ing and office space," wrote the BPDA in its ruling.

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

Edwards also announced this week she's seeking residents to

advise her on constituent and public policy issues impacting



State Senator-Elect Lydia Edwards will be sworn in today, Jan. 20.

the Senate district as part of her Community Transition Committee.

Residents can apply for the committee by emailing info@lydiaedwards.org. Residents in the district are asked to send their name, city, and the topics they are interested in discussing with Edwards and she will respond with a series of dates and times to discuss each topic.

Edwards said the transition committee will meet with her to discuss specific topics. The committee will cover issues including housing, transportation, addiction and recovery, Massport, seniors, education/youth services, public safety, and environmental justice. The meetings will be organized by topic and will meet regularly during 2022, providing residents opportunity for input on budgetary and legislative matters as the state continues to respond to the pandemic.

"The wisdom and lived experience of district residents is invaluable and key to our communities' success," said Edwards. "Some of the best policies I have ever worked on came from everyday people such as the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights,

benefits from Suffolk Downs and the charter amendment for Boston. I believe so much of my job is amplifying the good hard work and ideas of the people I serve."

Edwards was officially elected to the Senate on Tuesday, January 11 during the state General Election. Edwards previously edged out Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio during the December 14 state Democratic Primary to fill the seat left vacant in the fall by Joe Boncore.

Edwards will represent Wards and Precincts in Bay Village,

Chinatown, the North End, the South End Winthrop, Revere, Beacon Hill, Eastie and Cambridgeport.

In 2017, Edwards won the election to the Boston City Council. As a councilor, she wrote and advanced legislation to protect low-income renters and elder homeowners, combat discrimination, divest from fossil fuels, and protect civil liberties. She also partnered with state leaders to introduce legislation and passed a new state law prohibiting the naming of minors in eviction proceedings.

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MBTA launches new online youth pass application

Staff Report

The MBTA announced the launch of the new digital Youth Pass application available online at mbta.com/youthpass/apply.

“Providing young adults with more convenient access to this secure, easy-to-use application is another step in providing broader access to the MBTA’s system through the Youth Pass’s discounted fares and monthly passes,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “We continue to be excited to expand the reach of the Youth Pass through our municipal and community partnerships, and we’re proud to see the official launch of this online application, which we aim to expand to other reduced fare programs in 2022.”

“With our industry-leading design and research process, we are able to deliver improvements like this to riders faster than ever – all while ensuring the tools we build are secure and accessible to everyone,” said MBTA Chief Digital Officer David Gerstle.

“Truly a collaborative effort,” said City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement &

Employment leadership. “As the largest Youth Pass municipal partner/administrator, we believe the development of the new MBTA online application could not have come at a more critical time for Boston’s eligible youth and young adult population. This new application allows us to streamline the Youth Pass application process and enhance our partnership with the MBTA to ensure we’re expanding our reach and always improving systems, processes and services for young people across the City of Boston to access this important resource.”

The Youth Pass is a card that can be used by eligible young adults with low incomes to purchase roughly 50% reduced one-way fares or \$30 monthly LinkPasses for the bus, subway, and Fairmount Line Zone 1A stations at MBTA Fare Vending Machines, the CharlieCard Store, fare boxes on buses and trolleys at street-level stops, or at retail sales locations. Youth Pass cards can also be used to purchase half-price one-way fares for Commuter Rail, Express Bus, and ferry.

Previously, young adults were required to complete the application process in-person at the location of their local Youth Pass office, including bringing their eligibility documents and submitting a paper application form. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MBTA prioritized and accelerated the creation and implementation of the online application process. Applicants can now apply to the program remotely and easily online from their home computer or mobile device without having to visit their local Youth Pass office in-person. Young adults residing in any participating municipalities can now simply visit mbta.com/youthpass/apply to complete the online application, which is available in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Portuguese. Applicants can use the online application to upload their eligibility documents and select to have their Youth Pass card mailed or picked up from their local Youth Pass office, if approved.

In collaboration with the MBTA’s Commercial Strategies

and Programs team, the MBTA’s Customer Technology Department accelerated the development of the online application, accomplishing the project’s design, user testing, and launch through the use of SimpliGov’s no-code, cloud-based platform.

“SimpliGov is proud to partner with MBTA to create a user-friendly customer experience and seamless online application process available to nearly 20 municipalities participating in this critical program for the community,” said SimpliGov CEO Gary Leiken. “This is the first of many processes we will be automating with MBTA to help serve local young adults eligible for free and reduced-fare transportation programs in Massachusetts, which is an incredibly important community mission and citizen service.”

Based on findings from multiple rounds of user tests with Youth Pass administrators and riders, and three pilot online applications, the Customer Technology team tailored the Youth Pass application for simplicity, ease of use, and security. The MBTA devised a single, stream-

lined process in the SimpliGov platform that allows Youth Pass administrators in participating municipalities to process, verify, and deliver Youth Pass CharlieCards within five business days with minimal error. The MBTA also anticipates launching similar online applications to the other free and reduced fare programs within the coming months.

The MBTA’s growing list of municipalities and community partners participating in the Youth Pass program includes Arlington, Attleboro, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Framingham, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, the North Shore, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Wakefield, Watertown, and Worcester. Cities or towns interested in joining the program are encouraged to email youthpass@mbta.com for information on how to begin the process.

For more information, visit mbta.com/youthpass-eligibility, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

Baker-Polito administration launches first-in-the-nation Commission on Clean Heat

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that the members of Massachusetts’ first-in-the-nation Commission on Clean Heat were sworn in, helping to advance the Commonwealth’s ambitious goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the buildings sector. The Commission, which was created via Executive Order 596, held its first meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and over the next year will advise the Administration as it works to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. The Commission membership, representing a wide range of backgrounds and expertise including affordable housing, energy efficient building design and construction, health care and real estate, will identify policies and strategies and recommend a framework to achieve emissions reductions that is well-balanced, affordable, and equitable.

“This Commission brings together a diverse, experienced and thoughtful group of experts and stakeholders to help our Administration develop the policies and strategies we will need

to meet the challenges associated with decarbonizing the buildings sector in Massachusetts,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The membership of the Commission on Clean Heat represents a variety of important perspectives that will be critical in the development of balanced, forward-thinking approaches to decarbonization that prioritize innovation, affordability, and equity as we make this transition.”

“We thank the new members of the Commission on Clean Heat for their willingness to take on this important work on behalf of the Commonwealth,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “As the Commission on Clean Heat begins this vital work, our Administration will also ensure ample opportunities for members of the public to fully participate and contribute in the process as we work to reduce emissions from heating fuels in a way that is both effective and affordable.”

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides has appointed EEA Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions Judy Chang

to serve as her designee and chair of the Commission, and its membership reflects a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds from outside stakeholders, including representatives from the fields of affordable housing, energy efficient building design and construction, healthcare, heating system design and technology, real estate, and heating fuel distribution.

“The Commission on Clean Heat will bring together stakeholders to take on our most pressing emissions reduction challenges in the building sector through a collaborative, inclusive approach,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Gathering these voices and perspectives from technical experts, the affordable housing community, business leaders, environmental organizations, and major industries in the Commonwealth, will enable our continued, nation-leading pursuit of the equitable, creative strategies we need to meet our ambitious climate targets.”

“This groundbreaking Commission begins its work with a membership that represents the

diversity of voices required to identify recommendations to achieve the Commonwealth’s emission reduction, housing, and economic development goals,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “We are grateful to the Commission members for investing the time necessary to do this important work and I look forward to the group’s recommendations.”

The Commission on Clean Heat is comprised of the following members:

Name:
Organization:
William Akley
President of Gas Business, Eversource
Lauren Baumann
Vice President, New Ecology
Kenan Bigby
Managing Director of Development, Trinity Financial
Harry Brett
UA Representative in New England, Plumbers and Gas Fitters UA Local 12
Alexander “Zan” Bross
Manager, Design & Construction, MassHousing
Andrew Brown

Assistant Project Manager, The HYM Investment Group
Emerson Clauss III
President, Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts (HBRAMA)
Rebecca Davis
Chief Operating Officer, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
Eric Dubin
Senior Director, Utilities and Performance Construction, Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC
Mike Duclos
Founder and Member of Board of Directors, Passive House New England
Madeline Fraser Cook
Director, Government Investments and Technical Assistance, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Eugenia Gibbons
Independent Consultant
Dharik Mallapragada
Research Scientist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Energy Initiative
Cameron Peterson
Director of Clean Energy, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

(CLEAN HEAT Pg. 7)

Proof of vaccine begins in Back Bay and across the city for indoor venues

By John Lynds

Indoor venues in the Back Bay like restaurants, bars and gyms began adjusting to Mayor Michelle Wu's new mandate that requires workers and patrons at all indoor venues to show proof of vaccination in order to bend the curve of the latest COVID-19 surge.

The "B Together" mandate officially went into effect Saturday across Boston with Mayor Wu saying the best way for Boston to stay healthy and support communities, businesses, and cultural institutions is for more people to get vaccinated and the B Together policy helps the city do just that.

On Saturday, people were required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 to enter certain indoor spaces in Boston that offer indoor dining

like bars and nightclubs, indoor fitness establishments and Indoor entertainment establishments. Employees working in those spaces are also required to now be vaccinated. Covered businesses are responsible for checking proof of vaccination and posting a notice about the COVID-19 vaccine requirement at their entrance.

However, some indoor venue owners have reported receiving hate mail and angry voicemail messages for following the city's new guidelines. These owners feel they are being targeted not by loyal patrons but by an outside group of agitators that are against vaccine mandates in any shape or form. A group of anti-vaxers also staked out Mayor Wu's home the other morning and shouted insults from the street calling the Mayor a 'facisits' for implementing the B

Together initiative.

Wu stood her ground Saturday when kicking off the new mandate.

"Today's launch of our B Together policy means that we are taking important steps on the policy side to close (vaccination rate) gaps and continue protections for our workforce and for our residents," said Wu. "I continue to hear from our partners in health care and in our health institutions, that the ongoing strain on our health care system overall is still being driven by gaps in vaccination rates. We are seeing the need to push back even more surgeries because of COVID. Unvaccinated patients who are suffering from severe illness because of COVID are squeezing out the capacity for needed procedures and other health treatments. Every bit of delay is creating ripple effects



Mayor Michelle Wu kicks off the B Strong proof of vaccination mandate for indoor venues Saturday.

later on for all of us. We all need a healthy and accessible healthcare system and that is very much tied up with preventable instances of severe illness and hospitalization

due to gaps in COVID-19 vaccination rates. Our policy is meant to be a strong support for our healthcare system and for residents at large."

CLEAN HEAT (from pg. 1)

Robert Rio
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Counsel, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)

Kimberly Robinson
Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Dorothy Savarese
President and CEO, Cape Cod Five

Tamara Small
CEO, NAIOP Massachusetts

Charles Uglietto
President, Cubby Oil & Energy

Dennis Villanueva
Senior Manager, Energy and Sustainability, Mass General Brigham

Jolette Westbrook
Director and Senior Attorney, Energy Markets and Regulation, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

The Commission on Clean Heat will meet regularly to work on developing policy recommendations, which are due to Governor Baker by Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The policies developed by the Commission will seek to sustainably reduce the use of heating fuels and minimize emissions from the building sector while ensuring costs and opportunities arising from such reductions are distributed equitably. The Commission on Clean Heat will also hold public stakeholder

meetings throughout the year, with the first to be scheduled in March, 2022. Dates and times for the public stakeholder meetings, as well as additional opportunities for public input, will be announced on the Commission on Clean Heat webpage.

"Climate leadership over the next decade will require a fundamental transition in how we heat and cool our homes and buildings," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. "While we move forward with accelerating the aggressive deployment of energy efficiency and heat pumps this first-in-the-nation commission on clean heat will identify the next generation of cost-effective and equitable policies that yield deep building sector decarbonization across the Commonwealth."

In March 2021, Governor Baker signed nation-leading climate legislation that commits the Commonwealth to reducing emissions below 1990 levels by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040, and to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. The Commission on Clean Heat's recommendations will aid the state in its efforts to meet these emissions targets. For more information on the Commission members, please visit the Commission on Clean Heat's webpage.

The Executive Order signed

by Governor Baker in September, 2021 also establishes an Inter-agency Building Decarbonization Task Force to support the work of the Commission. The Task Force will consist of subject-matter experts from across the Executive Branch, including the Department of Energy Resources and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

In October 2021, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council unanimously voted to approve the 2022-2024 statewide Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan. The plan represents a transformational shift of the Mass Save programs to better align with the Commonwealth's ambitious climate requirements and focus on increasing participation in environmental justice communities across the state. In July, EEA Secretary Theoharides set ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals for the 2022-2024 Mass Save Plan. In aggregate, the investments made through the electric and gas plans in 2022-2024 will need to deliver 845,000 tons of emissions reduction towards our 2030 GHG limit. It is anticipated that Mass Save will achieve the GHG emission reduction goals by increasing the number of buildings retrofitted and weatherized each year, making significant investment in electrification of existing buildings to

transition customers away from fossil fuels, reducing support for fossil-fuel heating incentives, phasing out LED light-bulb incentives, increasing equitable program investments in environmental justice communities and low-moderate income households, and increasing workforce

development investments to expand diversity in the workforce. It's estimated that this plan will provide an \$13 billion in benefits to the Commonwealth. This plan was submitted to the DPU on November 1, 2021 and can be approved by the Department as early as Jan. 31, 2022.

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Markey and Warren announce \$307.5 million in home energy funding

Staff Report

Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have announced that Massachusetts will receive a record \$307.5 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the 2022 fiscal year. The Biden administration reported that in addition to an annual appropriation of \$120.5 million for

Massachusetts, the state received an additional \$187.1 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan – more than double the state’s typical annual funding for the energy assistance program. LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months.

“This historic amount of funding to help households cover home energy costs in Massachusetts means no family or senior has to go cold this winter,” said Senators Markey and Warren. “Thousands of additional Massachusetts residents will qualify for vital fuel assistance, and we will once again ensure that our most vulnerable residents are taken care of – especially in the

midst of this pandemic. But as climate change makes seasons more extreme and supply chain disruptions continue to exacerbate energy burdens for families, LIHEAP funding must be allocated to not only give families the annual subsidies they need, but also to provide support for weatherization, which will help them reduce their energy burdens over time. We thank the Biden

administration for its efforts to distribute this funding and look forward to continuing to expand this home energy assistance program.”

As a part of the American Rescue Plan, Senators Markey and Warren advocated for \$20 billion in funding for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) and \$4.5 billion in additional funding to LIHEAP.

Back Bay, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test rate slows a bit

By John Lynds

The COVID 19 winter surge may be slowing down a bit in the

Back Bay and the surrounding area. With over 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week still turning out to be posi-

tive, the weekly positive test rate here did not increase dramatically last week and the citywide test rate declined for the first time in weeks. Deaths from the virus, which were rising at an alarming rate, have decreased dramatically last week.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,511 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 23.8 percent were positive. This was only an 8 percent increase from the 22 percent that tested positive between January 3 and January 10. The weekly positive test rate

spiked 46 percent two weeks ago and is up 58 percent in the area overall since January 3.

Eight hundred thirty six additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 3 and January 10 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 7,255 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 47,102 residents were tested and 31.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 1 percent decrease from the 31.9 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 10. The weekly positive test rate has

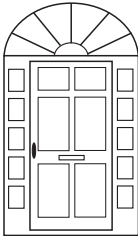
increased 74 percent in Boston since January 3.

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 6 percent last week and went from 133,501 cases to 141,491 confirmed cases in a week. There were 19 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,554. Deaths, which were up 257 percent two weeks ago, decreased 24 percent last week.

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Strike out your ex this Valentine's Day

Kings Dining and Entertainment locations hosting an Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Kings Dining and Entertainment is hosting an Anti-Valentine's Day Weekend where to get out some frustrations while over your ex. In addition to regular bowling and dining reservations, on Sunday the 13 and Monday the 14, guests can pay \$10 to "Strike Out Your Ex" while bowling- you'd receive a keepsake Kings pin to write your ex's name on and play with while you bowl, and then get to take it home afterwards as a memento! Please see photo attached.

They will also be offering a few fun, signature cocktails and dishes like the Sweetheart Sundae with vanilla ice cream, chocolate brownie, whipped cream, warm chocolate sauce, and conversation hearts and the Watermelon Sugar High with Ole Smoky Watermelon Whiskey, fresh lime, lemon and orange, Sprite, rhubarb bitters. Full menus by location can be found on their website.

On Sunday Feb. 13 and Monday, Feb. 14 from 3 - 11 p.m. at

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Esplanade Association's Frost Fit winter fitness series set to return to the park on Jan. 30

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association's Frost Fit winter fitness series, presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, returns on Sunday, Jan. 30, to the Esplanade.

Frost Fit Kickoff with REI Co-op and Lynx Fitness Club takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DCR Hatch Shell, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the REI Co-op will be stationed in the park between the Hatch Memorial Shell and Esplanade Playspace, where, in honor of National Hot Chocolate, free hot chocolate will be offered to the first 200 visitors.

Those in attendance will be able to pick up a printed version of the EA's Esplanade Winter Activity Guide, and after completing at least four items from the guide's checklist by March 6, they can redeem an REI mug and hot chocolate from March 3 to 7 at REI's Cambridge store. The online Winter Activity Guide will also go live Jan. 30 on the EA website at esplanade.org.

"The Activity Guide is an option we're trying out this year for the first time with family friendly activities that can also be done as self-guided options, including snow-person building, bicycling, and many others," said Samuel Englert, the Esplanade Association's programs and partnerships manager.

At 10 a.m. on Jan. 30, Lynx Fitness Club will make their 2022 Frost Fit debut at 10 a.m. at the Hatch Shell, where a Lynx Fitness Club instructor will lead class attendees through a 45-minute, high-intensity interval training class incorporating bodyweight strength training and cardio bursts set to fun and upbeat music.

Other Lynx Fitness Club Winter Workouts will also place in the park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, 12, and 26, and on March 10. (There is no Frost Fit classes or activities scheduled over Presidents Day Weekend.)

Register for Lynx's Workout Class at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-presented-by-bcbsma-lynx-fitness-club-winter-workouts-tickets-237800265997>.

Another ongoing Frost Fit activity, November Project Winter Workouts, take place on Mondays, Feb. 7, 14, and 28, and March 7 at 6:30 a.m. at the Arthur Fiedler Memorial. These 45-minute workouts, which will include a combination of bodyweight strength exercises and cardio activity, are interactive and open to individuals from all fitness levels and backgrounds. Register for November Project Winter Workouts at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-presented-by-bcbsma-november-project-winter-workouts-tickets-239424805037>.

Additionally, the 261 Fearless Winter Walks are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. and Tuesday March 1, at 4 p.m. at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell. Certified coaches from 261 – a global nonprofit that promotes the empowerment of women via running – will lead these 45-minute walks, which will include various speeds of walking to elevate the heart rate for optimal fitness. Both walks are open to all women-identifying individuals. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-presented-by-bcbsma-261-fearless-winter-walks-tickets-239478535747>.

The Frost Fit series will also include Winter Walks on the Esplanade on Tuesdays, Feb. 8 at


11 a.m., and on Feb. 15 and 22 at 1 p.m., with meeting locations to vary by week. For these three free, guided winter walks along the Esplanade, EA staff will join participants, who are welcome to go different distances at their own pace and on their own time. These walks are open to people of all ages and abilities. Register

at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-presented-by-bcbsma-esplanade-winter-walks-tickets-239539638507>.

"We're really excited to be partnering again with support from Blue Cross Blue Shield, who have been instrumental in our continued success of the Frost Fit programs over the years," said

Englert. "Their partnership and support have allowed us to continue offering fitness programs during the winter months, and to give park visitors something to look forward to."

Visit <https://esplanade.org/fitness/> at the Esplanade Association's website for additional information on Frost Fit.



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BBAC discusses signage proposals; approves electric vehicle charging-station

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) held a virtual hearing on January 12, where Commissioners discussed several proposals related to signage, as well as approved a design for an electric vehicle charging-station that had first presented at last month's hearing.

220 NEWBURY ST.

The Sill, a retailer of potted plants, occupies the second floor space at 220 Newbury St., and requested to install a double sided sign on the railing in front of the building.

"They've been struggling with foot traffic," said Paulette Mancuso, who represented The Sill at the hearing. While a blade sign is also in the works for the building, "most people aren't looking up to the second floor," she said.

The proposed sign is a green rectangular sign that says "plants" with two arrows pointing right towards the building. The bottom of the sign says "The Sill."

Mancuso said that "we are open to suggestions from the Commission as to how to bring more foot traffic into the upper floor."

Commissioner Robert Weintraub said that with the existing signs in the windows and the blade sign, "this would be a third sign." He asked Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, whether or not the railing sign could be considered temporary if it was brought out when the store opens each day and back inside when it closes.

Cornish said that such a sign "would have to be related to a sale or a special event for it to be considered temporary. This is certainly meant to be a permanent sign."

Mancuso said that the existing signs in the window could be removed in favor of this railing sign.

"I think it would be more important to have that railing sign, because when you're walking down the street on the sidewalk, you see that, and you see that we sell plants," she said.

When asked if she would consider a smaller railing sign, she said, "yes, definitely."

Other members of the commission asked if a different color may also be used for the sign.

"This is one of their brand colors," Mancuso said of the green, but added that "we can definitely do a black background with white lettering, which might also meld more into the black railing." She also said it could be made smaller, which was another request from the Commission.

"I think the tradeoff would be to either remove the window signage or the blade sign and have this as a revised plan instead," Cornish said.

Mancuso said that "we're working on that blade sign," but it hasn't been installed yet because repairs need to be made on the building facade. She said that the "coloration" of that sign should match that of the rail sign, and said that the current window signage could be removed.

The Commission voted to approve the sign with the provisos that it be reduced in size based on staff recommendations, to use a darker background color and have it match the blade sign, and to remove the logos from the window. All details were also remanded to staff.

286 NEWBURY ST.

At 286 Newbury St., two wall signs and a blade sign were proposed for Burrow House, a furniture store. The proposal also includes the removal of awning

hardware.

A representative for Burrow said that "we wanted to propose two backlit illuminated signs to kind of be visible on the street from each side. The blade sign has a yellow background, and the two wall signs will be located on either side of the door above the windows.

A suggestion was made to think about one sign for the building plus the blade sign, because the Commission generally felt that the three signs were too much.

The representative said that the idea is to imitate The Capital Burger, which also has the twin signs.

He said that the team believed the "symmetry would be a little off if we did not have it on both sides."

Joe Cornish said that "where there's an existing bracket then we allow them," referring to having multiple signs. "I can't find any evidence that this has ever had one; that's why I brought this to you as a Commission."

He said that the "wall signs are totally appropriate," as they "complement the lower signs very nicely. Adding an addition blade sign seems excessive," Cornish said, but told the Commission the decision was ultimately up to them.

The representative said that Allbirds on Newbury St. also has "two signs on each of their windows," plus a third sign on a bracket.

"Has the applicant considered using the awnings or replacing the awnings?" Cornish asked. "That might be a better option since they are existing," he said. "There's history of having them there."

The representative said that the team was "excited to remove the awnings," as they felt doing so "made the facade and the

building a little nicer."

After some further discussion, the Commission voted to approve both backlit signs with the scale of lettering "to match that of" Pavement Coffeehouse, but the blade sign was not approved.

273 BEACON ST.

273 Beacon St. owner Joshua Marantz returned before the Commission with an updated proposal for an electric vehicle charging station that he had proposed at last month's hearing. The proposal was continued at that hearing, and Marantz was asked to return with more information about different ways to run the conduit.

Updates have been made to the proposal since the December hearing, including changing the PVC enclosure for the charging station to a wooden enclosure, as well as changing the PVC conduit originally proposed to a metal one. As suggested by the Commission, the cabinet is now proposed to be recessed into the brick wall where Marantz's parking spot is located. Option number one includes running the conduit 12 inches from the ground.

He also said that two other options are on the table, one to run the conduit underneath the concrete wall cap, and one to run the conduit through the inside of the wall, though it is not certain that this is possible.

The conduit will be painted to match the brick as best as possible, Marantz said.

"Neither my contractor no electrician think it would be possible to do this," he said of running the conduit through the wall. "They believe that this brick wall is basically a facade around concrete and that routing through it will be impossible. We won't know for sure until we open it up, and we will open it up to put the cabinet in."

Marantz said that his electrician as well as the other unit

owners prefer the first option.

Commissioner Zsuzsanna Gaspar also brought up the location of the enclosure, which was proposed to be located to the left of the sign denoting Marantz's parking space. She said it might ultimately be better to locate the cabinet to the right of the sign, in between the sign and the reflector denoting the neighbor's parking space.

Commissioner John Christiansen said he agreed with this placement.

Marantz said that he would be open to moving the location, but he said the charger might be a little easier to use if it were on the left, as the plug for the car is on the driver's side.

Commissioner Robert Weintraub suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss base guidelines for electric vehicle chargers, because it is anticipated that many more proposals are forthcoming in the district.

"We're going to get flooded with these applications," he said.

Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) suggested that the back of the cabinet be made of PVC to prevent it from rotting. She said the front should still be wood. She also said that the NABB Architecture Committee has discussed some guidelines for electric chargers that she'd be happy to share with the Commission.

The Commission voted to approve the proposal with a wooden cabinet and for staff to look into using PVC for the back. The Commission would prefer if the conduit could be run through the wall, but if that is not possible, they accept "the lower option with a metal conduit that can be painted darker than this sample to be as matched to the brick as possible," John Christiansen said. The Commission also said the cabinet should be moved to the right of the parking spot sign.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston South-ampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 2/9/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the

description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. James Allegra unit #3035; Robert Bolduc unit #3104; Joseph Brown unit #3152; Ashley Woods unit #3158; Kimberly A Figueroa unit #3175; Derrick Barnett unit #3223; Reinaldo Riopadre-Rivera unit #3243; Carlo Cepeda unit #3308; Laura Man-nion unit #3315; Gerard Raduazzo unit #4047; Sonya Zene unit #4230;

Omar Ezzou unit #4247.

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.

1/20/22, 1/27/22

BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 2/9/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the

description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Branden Alexander Rose unit #253; Shauniece Perrin unit #336. 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.

1/20/22, 1/27/22

BS

NEED TO RUN A LEGAL NOTICE?

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK WITH THE COURTS TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER!

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY

Sobel, Eitan
Fidyk, Christopher S
Pups World LLC
Blue Sky RT
29 Comm Ave 7 RT
29 Comm Ave 7 RT
Haddon Hall 9 LLC
29 Comm Holdings LLC
Borsody FT
28 Dartmouth 1 LLC
Edward, Hult
Regal Holdings LLC
3 Jays T Inc

SELLER 1

Barbee, Mark D
210 Beacon LLC
Garden T
29 Hexagon LLC
29 Hexagon LLC
20 Hexagon LLC
29 Hexagon LLC
29 Hexagon LLC
29 Hexagon LLC
Fraga-Errecart, Gustavo
Crown Reach RT
Marlborough 126 LLC
3 Jays T Inc
Regal Holdings LLC

ADDRESS

195 Beacon St #4
210 Beacon St #4
220 Boylston St #1117
29 Commonwealth Ave #3
29 Commonwealth Ave #7
29 Commonwealth Ave #7
29 Commonwealth Ave #9
29 Commonwealth Ave #PH
265-275 Dartmouth St #1K
28 Dartmouth St #1
126 Marlborough St
114 Newbury St
128-130 Newbury St

PRICE

\$532,000
\$3,350,000
\$4,750,000
\$8,500,000
\$10,500,000
\$10,400,000
\$10,750,000
\$21,750,000
\$830,000
\$450,000
\$11,000,000
\$2,641,202
\$2,641,202

BEACON HILL

Delpapa, David
Whittier Beacon Hill LLC

Craig, David
S&Y Investments No 1 Ltd

42 Joy St #11
6 Whittier Pl #11R

\$925,000
\$415,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Spruill, Jeffrey A
Kulkarni, Samarth
Sobel, Eitan
Sobel, Vered
Santiago, Jonathan
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Columbus Condo LLC
Bissey, Jessica
Lozano, Aldo
Blank, Perry E
Sanborn RET
Clark, Michael R
Bruehlmann, Ryan
Boncarosky, Daniel
Izzo, Justin

Anderson, Charles
Highline 143-145 Warren
Lopez, Ernesto
Grossman, Gene M
Macneeley FT
Mag Hldg Co LLC
Mag Hldg Co LLC
Mag Hldg Co LLC
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
565-567 Columbus RT
J E Archambault T
Song, Meiyun
Misdrapi, Joseph
Sanborn RET
Fortunato, Anthony J
23 Upton Street LLC
Ridolfi, Edward P
Boscarino, Adam

16 Holyoke St #2
143-145 Warren Ave #PH145
10 Charlesgate E #202
4 Charlesgate E #102
3 Claremont St
563 Columbus Ave #1
563 Columbus Ave #2
563 Columbus Ave #3
565 Columbus Ave #1
565 Columbus Ave #2
565 Columbus Ave #3
567 Columbus Ave #1
567 Columbus Ave #2
567 Columbus Ave #3
604 Massachusetts Ave #1
108 Peterborough St #7F
7 Ringold St #2
133 Saint Botolph St #7
124 Saint Marys St #A
23 Upton St
140 W Newton St
131-133 Williams St #3

\$849,000
\$6,050,000
\$689,900
\$707,500
\$2,375,000
\$1,980,000
\$1,980,000
\$1,980,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$3,960,000
\$875,000
\$695,000
\$1,365,000
\$655,000
\$415,000
\$1,940,000
\$3,122,500
\$587,500

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Singh, Sunita
Chen, Charles W
Savita Thomke 2008 RET
Guan, De W
FPV Equity Partners LLC
FPV Equity Partners LLC
FPV Equity Partners LLC
Kwon, Young Min
Lynch, Sandra L
Grebing, Kathryn
RFM KTB CSQ Propco LLC
329 Beacon LLC
1 Franklin RT
Badolato, Stephen
RFM KTB CSQ Propco LLC

Reed, Michael T
Fay D E Fong T
K Reuther RET 2021
Macy Jonathan Est
MGE Hldg Co Inc
MGE Hldg Co Inc
MGE Hldg Co Inc
Walba, Gerald B
George, John P
Eisenhauer, Kristen
RFM Block On Congress 1
Denise Kidd LT
Legame Duplice LLC
Porto Azzurra T
RFM Block On Congress 1

85 E India Row #16F
1 Nassau St #2007
300 Pier 4 Blvd #3A
170 Tremont St #406
208-210 Friend St
212-218 Friend St
220 Friend St
2 Avery St #21H
2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4402
158-160 Commercial St #2
33-35 Congress St
65 E India Row #9E
1 Franklin St #5405
22-22A Hanover Ave
40 Water St

\$1,650,000
\$875,000
\$2,010,000
\$545,000
\$8,850,000
\$8,850,000
\$8,850,000
\$1,712,500
\$1,425,000
\$550,000
\$342,000,000
\$762,000
\$4,000,000
\$1,300,000
\$342,000,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The transom window in the last clue is on the front door of 214 Bay State Road. These windows are sometimes called "Borrowed Lights." In architecture, the term light is used to describe a window and these windows were used to borrow light from the outdoors in the days before electricity.

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



CAMPION AND COMPANY



282 BEACON STREET, UNIT 6
4 Beds | 4 Full Baths | 3,200 SQFT
\$5,525,000



142 CHESTNUT STREET, UNIT 8/9
2 Beds | 2F 1H | 2,077 SQFT
\$3,590,000



333 COMMONWEALTH AVE, UNIT 4
2 Beds | 2 Full Baths | 1,552 SQFT
\$1,899,000



31 CHESTNUT STREET
9 Beds | 6F 1H | 8,979 SQFT
\$9,950,000



410 BEACON STREET
8 Beds | 6F 2H | 10,200 SQFT
\$15,990,000