

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Herbal Power holds community meeting regarding dispensary proposed for 329 Columbus Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

Herbal Power, a social equity cannabis company, held a community meeting on March 16 regarding its proposed cannabis dispensary at 329 Columbus Ave., in the former Coda restaurant space.

This was not a city-sponsored meeting, but rather one hosted by Herbal Power to inform the community about its proposal as well as gain feedback from neighbors.

Brian Chavez, a member of the

Herbal Power team, explained that “securing real estate is one of the key barriers for equity applicants,” as well as spoke about other disparities equity applicants face.

He said that in Massachusetts, 22 percent of the population is Black and Latino, but they are about 57 percent of the people who are put in prison. Chavez said that the “collective knowledge and expertise” of the team has allowed them to overcome many of these barriers/

Desiree Franjul, co-owner and

founder of Herbal Power, talked a little bit about the proposed location at 329 Columbus Ave. Coda Bar + Kitchen closed in May 2020, and Herbal Power intends on taking over the space.

The proposed hours are from 9am-10pm, seven days a week, and is located near two parking garages, the Back Bay Orange line station, bus lines, and a Blue-bikes station.

“Our total square footage is 2,900 square feet,” Franjul

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MBTA details proposed changes to modernize and streamline its fare-collection system

By Dan Murphy

The MBTA outlined proposed changes to modernize and streamline its fare-collection system, including the introduction of a mandatory one-time \$3 fee for all CharlieCards riders, during a March 22 virtual meeting.

Steven Povich, the MBTA’s director of fare policy and analytics said the T intends to introduce new ways to pay for fares, including a contactless credit card, a mobile wallet, a temporary CharlieCard, and a mobile CharlieCard, as well as the newly issued permanent CharlieCards.

In the future, CharlieCards would be available at every fare vending machine; at retail locations, which would be expanded to include more convenience stores; over the phone; and via the T’s mobile phone app, said Povich, while the mandatory \$3 activation fee covers the cost of the card, as well as “one more trip protection,” which would prevent riders without cash from finding themselves stranded. (The one-time \$3 fee won’t apply to contactless-card or mobile-wallet transactions, however.)

The new system would credit each commuter’s card for a single subway or bus fare, which could

be paid for prior to their next trip through the myriad payment options offered; this would prevent the present possibility of riders finding themselves stranded, if they show up at a bus stop without a CharlieCard or cash on hand.

The T is creating programs to partner with local organizations in an effort to distribute CharlieCards at no cost to low-income riders, said Povich, and all reduced fare participants will receive a free CharlieCard. But several citizens on hand for the meeting expressed their concern that the new system would have the unintended consequence of making the T less accessible for the most financially vulnerable riders, especially those who don’t have bank accounts.

With the new system, which requires each commuter to have their own CharlieCard, card-sharing will be prevented, although children under 11 will still ride for free without a card.

Other service changes proposed by the T include permanent five-day FlexPasses on the

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Emerald Necklace Conservancy president Karen Mauney-Brodek shows off some renderings comparing existing park conditions to those proposed by Dan Adams and Marie Law Adams of Landing Studio.

Charlesgate Park Walking Tour shows residents the vision for the park’s future

Photos and story by Lauren Bennett

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy hosted a walking tour of Charlesgate Park on March 18 to provide residents with information and visuals about the existing park and its problems, as well as what is being envisioned for the space in the future. The tour was led by

Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek and Parker James of the Charlesgate Alliance.

Right now, the park is inaccessible in several areas and needs work to protect the water quality and river habitat. Additionally, there are narrow sidewalks and

(CHARLESGATE PARK Pg. 6)

Celebrating Women’s History Month with a profile of State Senator Lydia Edwards

By John Lynds

She became the first woman of color to be elected to the District 1 City Council seat when she won in 2017 and recently became the first woman elected to the First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senate seat, a seat historically occupied by Italian American men.

Senator Lydia Edwards has found herself at the epicenter of a political movement that has

seen more and more women and women of color being elected to political office in recent years.

“You don’t run on being “the first” you run for being effective, and I’m just very happy that we are at a point where we elect people based on their qualifications and their ability to serve people,” said Edwards. “I am honored. I’m honored to break through the glass ceiling and hopefully

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EDITORIAL

SPRING IS IN THE AIR FOR ALL THE SENSES

This past Sunday marked the vernal equinox, also known as the beginning of astrological spring. It's one of the two days of the year -- the other being the fall equinox -- when day and night are roughly equal in length around the globe.

We would note that "meteorological spring" began March 1, the date used by meteorologists and climatologists to mark the beginning of the spring season.

However, to paraphrase Bob Dylan and Sam Cooke, we don't need a weatherman (or a calendar) to be aware that a change is coming. Our senses have alerted us for the past few weeks to the impending arrival of spring.

We can see the crocuses that have been emerging, providing a burst of color through the barren ground.

Every morning right around sunrise, we can hear the chorus of birds in the trees, loudly chirping and tweeting after their winter of silence.

On clear days, the sun feels warm and strong, especially if we are on the leeward side of a wall or other structure, protected from the still-chilly March wind.

And even in the city, there is an earthy smell we have known since childhood that instinctively informs our brains that there is a change in the seasons.

To be sure, Mother Nature most likely will have some wintry surprises left for us. This April 1 will mark the 25th anniversary of the April Fool's snowstorm of 1997 (we'll write about that next week).

But our senses have told us that Ol' Man Winter is done and spring is here.

WHAT WILL WE DO IF (WHEN) PUTIN USES A NUCLEAR WEAPON?

With the news that Putin's Russian army at best is facing a stalemate in Ukraine, the odds that Putin might use a so-called tactical nuclear weapon are increasing daily.

The thing about autocrats is this: Just when you think they've gone as far (or as low) as they can go, they cross a new threshold of evil.

We were both surprised and dismayed to read that Russia has nuclear weapons that only are about two percent as powerful as the atom bombs that the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in WWII.

Both the Soviet Union and the U.S. have long-maintained nuclear arsenals with hydrogen bombs that are 2000-3000 times more powerful than the first A-bombs, but we were not aware that both sides also have developed these mini-nukes.

Indeed, Putin can look at our use of the A-bombs in WWII as an example of how to force an opponent into submission. Japan only surrendered after we used the bombs. With the Ukrainains defiantly resolved to fight to the last person, the use of a small nuclear weapon might be the only option left to Putin to win his war.

So what if Putin were to drop a small nuke over say, Kyiv? What will be the response of NATO and the U.S.?

The world as we know it is being threatened -- and thereby controlled -- by a sociopath.

The civilized world can impose all of the economic sanctions it wants upon a despot, but in the final analysis, nukes are what matter, which is why the No. Koreans are trying to get them.

We can only speculate about the future path that the war in Ukraine will take us.

We are entering a deep, dark cave with no light at the end of the tunnel.

Hopefully, that light, when it comes, will not be the flash of a nuclear bomb.

GUEST OP-ED

Utility bills, gasoline prices and Ukraine

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Most of us simply want peace in our lives, nation and world. We enjoy resting in a warm or cool house, with something to eat, free from worry and stress. Peace is not always easy. This winter, chances are that your heating bill was chomping on your checking account and taking a huge bite out of your income. You may have turned your thermostat down and wore extra layers hoping to cut back on literally burning up your money.

People have reported gas and electric bills from \$500 to over a \$1,000 for one month of trying to stay comfortable in their homes.

While you are attempting to stay warm or cool, you are wondering if you can afford to start your car. Americans are seeing gas prices dance between \$4.00 and over \$6.00 for one gallon of gas. Filling up my old truck is pushing toward \$150 at a time. When my wife goes to the grocery store the same staples seem

cost more every time she goes.

The current inflation is not only expensive but is chipping away at our peace. Peace? It's hard to have peace if you go into cardiac arrest every time your utility bill arrives, you buy gasoline or go to the grocery store. If you are renting a place in America then you have a further burden as some Americans are paying over \$2,000 a month to rent a house. If they can find one to rent.

Russia has destroyed Ukraine and has become a major player in driving up our cost of living. We were already experiencing inflation but the entire planet is reacting to what Russia is doing to Ukraine. Do you remember when we heard the news that Osama Bin Laden had been shot by one of our seal teams? When and how will the murderous rein of Vladimir Putin end? We must hope and pray for an end to this evil.

Unfortunately, the world is a difficult place for peace. The Bible assures us that in the last days

there will be wars and rumors of wars. There will be pestilence, famine, and our hearts will fail us from fear. Thus, our peace must come from God who is greater than our problems. There is an internal strength and peace that comes when we focus our minds on Him. Currently millions of Ukrainians have nothing left but the shirts on their backs and whatever internal resolve and fortitude that is keeping them going.

Our peace in America is very unsettling but compare your situation to millions of Ukrainians today. Pray for them and let us all give thanks for what we have.

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

DA Hayden urges MA Senate to fund Victim Services

Staff Report

As the Massachusetts Senate prepares to debate a supplemental budget bill, District Attorney Kevin Hayden urged legislators to support vital funding that will allow prosecutors and other victim serving agencies to continue delivering services to survivors of crime.

"Violent crime can have life altering impacts. My office employs a team of dedicated and compassionate victim witness advocates who provide support to victims of crime and survivors of homicide victims throughout

their interactions with the criminal legal system and beyond," District Attorney Hayden said. "We work with a network of victim service agencies and nonprofit partners who provide vital and often life-saving services to those who have experienced domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, gun violence and trauma. We cannot, in good conscience, allow funding for these services to be cut."

The Senate tomorrow takes up S.2776, which includes an amendment filed by Senator Joanne M. Comerford that would counteract impending

cuts in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. The funds available through VOCA were depleted in recent years, resulting in cuts in FY23. These cuts will hit approximately 161 Massachusetts victim-focused agencies that provide free services to victims of crime, including SCDAO and many other service providers working on behalf of crime victims in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

Last year, federal legislation was passed that will increase available VOCA funds in future

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THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY (STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM,

DAN MURPHY, DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM, JOHN LYNDY, JOHN@EASTIETIMES.COM

NEWS IN BRIEF

GOV. BAKER TO RE-START PROCESS FOR SELLING HYNES

Gov. Charlie Baker's administration is getting ready to re-ignite the process for selling the Hynes Convention Center, according to The Boston Globe.

An economic development bill that Gov. Baker is expected to file in the coming weeks will include a measure to put the six-acre Hynes site at the corner of Boylston and Dalton streets on the market for the purposes of redevelopment. The Globe reported on March 23.

In the fall of 2019, Gov. Baker filed a previous bill that paved the way for the sale of the Hynes site and said he hoped to use proceeds from it to help finance a \$500-million expansion of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston.

The plan wasn't received well by many Back Bay stakeholders at that time and was essentially moth-balled with the onset of the pandemic.

MAYOR WU ANNOUNCES 2022 OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the return of the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program, a collaboration of the Licensing Board, Boston Fire Department, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Transportation Department, Public Improvement Commission, Disabilities Commission, Public Works, Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. The Outdoor Dining Program is a citywide initiative that allows restaurants the use of expanded public spaces for outdoor dining. The applications for the 2022 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program are now open. Those interested can apply here. Visit boston.gov/outdoordining for more information and ongoing updates about the 2022 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program. Questions and concerns about the program can be sent to outdoordining@boston.gov.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AT THE ANNUAL MUDDY RIVER CLEANUP

Registration for the 2022 Muddy River Cleanup is now live! Each year since 2009, the Conservancy's largest annual volunteer event has brought hundreds together to pick up litter,

remove invasive plants and assist with park maintenance throughout all 1,100 acres of the Emerald Necklace. This year's cleanup takes place Saturday, April 23 in each park of the Necklace, from Franklin Park to Charlesgate Park. The Muddy River Cleanup is part of the larger Charles

River Cleanup, which was recognized nationally from 2016-2019 by American Rivers for the Most Pounds of Trash Collected and Most Volunteers Mobilized. Register at <https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/mrc2022/>

NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 3)

VICTIM SERVICES (from pg. 2)

years, but the funds will not be available in FY23, which begins July 1, 2022, resulting in significant cuts to victim service funding across the nation. The proposed supplemental state budget will bridge the gap in funding for impacted agencies in Massachusetts, allowing them to continue providing the level of services that crime victims require and deserve.

SCDAO receives more than \$269,000 in VOCA funding each year. The funds support the office's Victim Witness Assistance Program by allowing the office to maintain necessary

staffing and to provide emergency services – including housing assistance, transportation and basic necessities – to survivors of homicide and victims of gun violence. These services are available to victims and survivors at no cost and regardless of whether charges are filed in the case in which they were victimized.

The Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA), which administers VOCA funds in Massachusetts, reports that 22 agencies in Suffolk County alone face painful cuts to staffing and services if the supplemental budget bill is not passed.

"Victims are at the center of everything we do. Without funding to provide services, referrals, safety planning, and other outreach, we cannot fulfill our obligation to serve the victims, survivors and communities that rely on this office," District Attorney Hayden said. "The VOCA bridge funding will allow us to continue providing victims with the support and resources they deserve as they cope with the grief and trauma they experience in the aftermath of homicide and violence. This bill is vital to protecting and empowering victims and communities most impacted by crime."

HERBAL POWER (from pg. 1)

said, including 1400 square feet of retail space and 1500 square feet of administrative space on another floor.

The vault will be located on the second floor, while the first is dedicated to the retail space, which will also allow queuing. Customers will interact with security at the front door to prove they are 21+.

At the end of the day, the inventory will be placed in the master vault as required by the Cannabis

Control Commission, she said, and security cameras will be located "across the entire space"

as well. Additionally, deliveries will come through the access control vestibule at randomized times throughout the day.

Yomari Chavez, a member of the Herbal Power team, said that "we are focused on hiring locally and hope to provide jobs for the immediate community through a partnership with MassHire," and Herbal Power will donate to the South End Technology Center.

"We've also heard throughout this process a number of concerns about the intersection and traffic," she said, so a traffic

study will be commissioned.

While the proposed location is not within 500 feet of a school, it is within the buffer zone of another cannabis location in the Back Bay, Franjul said, so the project will require a zoning variance.

"Our process started with community engagement and is built on community feedback," Yomari Chavez said. She said that Herbal Power has met with local organizations, residents, and City Councilor Ed Flynn.

Attorney Lesley Delaney Hawkins said that Coda had a capacity of 70 people with a 1:00am

closing, but Herbal Power will close by 1:00pm and has a capacity of 30 to 40 people.

"We feel very strongly that this is actually a less intrusive use than what was there before," she said.

Abutter Todd Davis said that "my concerns are pretty much what you went over," adding that he likes that security cameras will be located in the alley. He said that "Coda was really never a terrible problem," and he doesn't think there is an issue with traffic.

Other residents said they support the use, but feel that this is not the appropriate location for

a dispensary. Several neighbors cited the fact that young children live in the area and brought up the concern of secondhand smoke and their belief for the need to enforce the illegality of public consumption of marijuana.

Others still said they support minority owned business in the South End and would welcome a dispensary in the area. The project team said that they are more than willing to speak with any and all residents who have comments or concerns about this proposal, and more meetings about this are to come.

MBTA (from pg. 1)

commuter rail; lower pricing for one-day LinkPasses; new seven-day LinkPass for reduced fare riders; expanded reduced fare monthly passes to all modes of transportation; and second transfers on bus and subway and transfers between Express Buses.

If approved by the full T board, changes would be implemented on bus and subway first, followed by changes to commuter rail service about a year later, said Lynsey Heffernan of the MBTA, who added that overall T fares wouldn't be raised as a result of these proposed changes.

Riders who now have CharlieCards would need to upgrade them once the new system has been implemented, and they would still be subject to the one-time \$3 fee, but any remaining balance on their old cards besides this would be transferred to their new cards.

The T will also be introducing new fare-evasion measures, including installing readers at the rear of all buses and Green Line trains, while a new fare-verification team would be deployed throughout the system, armed with devices that readers can tap

their cards on to show they've paid the correct fare for their trips.

Collique Williams, an organizer for Community Labor United, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and promoting the interests of 100,000 low- and middle-income working families in the Greater Boston area, said the proposed CharlieCard changes "add insult to injury" at a time when salaries are already outpacing the cost of living for many citizens. "Giving a fare break to people who have discounted rates already isn't a solution," she said.

Williams also suggested that the new CharlieCard surcharge is only necessary because of the \$500 million contract that the T entered into with Cubic Transportation Systems last year for a privatized collection system.

Sam Montano, director of organizing for GreenRoots, a Chelsea community-based nonprofit devoted to environmental justice, expressed his concern that while the new program would offer free passes to low-income individuals, it wouldn't help those just above the poverty line.

On the upside, one meet-

ing-goer lauded the new CharlieCard system as a way to eliminate the waste now caused by riders who discard their paper cards after a single trip on the T.

Meanwhile, Heffernan said the T would soon be overhauling its bus network, which will be the subject of many public meetings this spring.

The public can submit their comments to the MBTA on the proposed changes to its fare-collection system until March 31 at <https://www.mbta.com/fares/fare-transformation/get-involved>.

Mayor Wu announces members of the Special Commission to End Family Homelessness

Staff Report

In her ongoing efforts to address the issue of homelessness in Boston, on March 17 Mayor Michelle Wu announced the formation of a Special Commission to End Family Homelessness made up of non-profit leaders and experts from both city and state agencies. The commission will study local family homelessness and will be tasked with developing a plan to prevent and end family homelessness in Boston.

“Boston’s housing crisis has been pushing families out of our city,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to the members of this Commission and look forward to their work to prevent

and end family homelessness in Boston.”

In 2020, a city ordinance was passed to establish a Special Commission to End Family Homelessness. The purpose of the Special Commission is to develop an actionable and measurable plan to end family homelessness in Boston. The ordinance names members for the commission including the Mayor of Boston, the City’s Chief of Housing, the City’s Chief of Health and Human Services, the Boston Public Schools Superintendent, as well as state seats including the Governor of Massachusetts, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development, representatives from the Boston Legislative Delegation, homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity.

“As the Chair of Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery, I am proud to be a member of the Commission on Family Homelessness,” said Erin Murphy, Boston City Councilor At-Large. “I look forward to our work ahead as we collaborate together to create a coordinated plan to end family homelessness in Boston. There is such a negative impact on the health and educational progress of children who are homeless, so we need to

come up with a concrete action plan to end this crisis. I am ready to partner with the other members on this Commission to make ending family homelessness a reality.”

Boston currently works with nonprofit and community partners to coordinate housing and services for homeless individuals in Boston. It applies for and distributes grants, collects and reports data about homelessness in Boston, and sets system-wide policies and goals. Since 2015 the City of Boston has reduced individual chronic homelessness by 19 percent, reduced Veteran homelessness by 32 percent, and has transformed the homeless services system into a coordinated network focused on helping the most vulnerable households across our City. The City has helped to house over 15,000 people experiencing homelessness, housed over 1,000 chronically homeless individuals and more than 1,300 homeless veterans.

“Mayor Wu’s Special Commission is a tremendous leap forward for Boston in understanding, planning, and tackling the unique housing and support needs of homeless children and their parents,” said Larry Seamans, President of FamilyAid Boston. “As one of the city’s oldest and largest providers of housing supports for homeless families, we look forward to working

with the commission to further the goal of ending family homelessness in Boston.”

“During my time on the council, I was proud to pass the legislation to create the Special Commission to ensure our City always had an actionable plan to end family homelessness,” said former City Councilor Annisssa Essaibi-George. “I believe that this Commission is essential to tackling the racial, economic, and institutional barriers to supporting our most vulnerable families experiencing housing insecurity. I am so grateful for the members of this Commission for their dedication to Boston families and ending family homelessness.”

The City of Boston contributes significant resources to ending family homelessness, including BHA’s preference for homeless families, MOH’s homeless set-aside policy, and homelessness prevention programs managed by the Office of Housing Stability. The Massachusetts DHCD funds and manages a statewide shelter system for families and invests in short and long-term housing resources to house homeless families out of shelter. To execute the strategic plan that the commission recommends, Boston will need to collaborate with the state to build a well-coordinated system to ensure resources reach the households with the greatest needs. A coordinated system will promote a housing-centered response to family homelessness, strengthen housing pathways and expand eviction prevention partnerships to prevent and end family homelessness in Boston.

The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley agreed to convene the Commission, and the Mayor’s Office of Housing has hired the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to work with the Commission to develop a strategic plan to end homelessness among families in Boston on the following timeline.

February 2022: Preliminary Map of Resources and Respon-

sibilities

March 2022: Data analysis and Gaps Analysis

April 2022: Facilitate focus groups and planning meetings with core constituencies and stakeholders to review gaps analysis and use it to establish shared vision, goals, recommendations, and strategies to end family homelessness in Boston.

May 2022: Review draft recommendations with Commission or other decision-makers.

June 2022: Finalize feedback of recommendations and draft plan.

Commission Members

- City Councilor Erin Murphy
- Jim Greene, Assistant Director for Street Homelessness Initiatives, Mayor’s Office of Housing, City of Boston
- Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing, City of Boston
- Brian Marques, Senior Director of Opportunity Youth, Boston Public Schools
- Kate Bennett, Boston Housing Authority Administrator
- Alvina Brevard, Associate Director for Division of Housing Stabilization, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Kate Barrand, President and CEO, Horizons for Homeless Children
- Catherine D’Amato, President and CEO, Greater Boston Food Bank
- Shiela Moore, CEO, Hildebrand Family Self Help Center, Inc.
- Larry Seamans, President, Family Aid Boston
- Danielle Ferrier, CEO, Heading Home Inc.
- Linn Torto, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness
- State Senator Lydia Edwards
- State Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley

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Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: Nubian Square

Looking to get engaged in development in Nubian Square? Want to gain first hand experience guiding the built environment of Roxbury?

Apply to be on the P-10 or Bartlett Place Project Review Committee (PRC)/ Impact Advisory Group (IAG)! Visit bit.ly/BartlettAndP-10IAG

Bartlett Place and P-10 are large projects that are currently underway in Nubian Square located at 2656 Washington Street and 2085 Washington Street respectively. As an IAG/PRC member you’ll have the chance to work directly with developers to help refine their project and ensure that it will benefit the community. IAG/PRC members will provide developers and the BPDA with feedback on the project and advise the BPDA in both identifying the impacts and determining the appropriate mitigation for these upcoming developments.



To apply, or submit someone else for nomination, please complete the application. For a paper copy of the application or for more information, please email or call Kelly Sherman.

Applications are due April 8, 2022

mail to: **Kelly Sherman**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.5493
email: kelly.sherman@boston.gov

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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LYDIA EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

make sure that even more people of all different backgrounds have opportunities to serve.”

With the recent wave of women elected to powerful political offices like Mayor Michelle Wu, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Edwards argues politics and a woman’s place in politics has become more reflective of the populations they serve.

“I feel like our politicians are reflecting the people,” she said. “Half the population in Boston are women. So the fact that at least half of the City Councilors are women makes sense. It makes sense that our delegation in the House and Senate is including more and more women all the time. It makes sense that more women are running. I feel that there’s a real shift. More women are saying, more mothers are saying, more single mothers are saying ‘I want in and I’m running’ and I’m really happy about that. I think we should really be celebrating that because a lot of women are putting their hat in the ring and it’s great. This is not to say that men don’t have a place in politics—it’s just time for women to also be at the table.”

Growing up in the small rural town of Gwinn in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Edwards said there were plenty of strong

women in her life that shaped the person she eventually became.

The first of these women, of course, is Edwards’s mother Bridgett.

“I don’t know too many people who grew up with a single parent who aren’t inspired by them,” said Edwards. “My mother joined the military in the 1970s and to see my mother get up every day to put on military fatigues, put on combat boots and go to the base and then to also see her come home make dinner for me and my sister, Erica, help us pick out our prom dresses and help us with our school work gave me such a wonderful, well rounded view of power, grace and what it meant to be a real woman. That’s why I’m so inspired by my mom.”

And when her mom was busy serving in the Air Force there were other women in the small town of Gwinn that would step in to ensure Edwards’s success.

“I was blessed by having incredible public school teachers, who were sometimes single moms themselves, but they were mentors to me and helpful,” said Edwards. “I would give a shout out to Mrs. Deshambo who was always there for us when my mother couldn’t take the time off from work. This is a woman who got a substitute teacher for



State Sen. Lydia Edwards.

our history class, drove me nine hours to Detroit herself, got the hotel room herself and made sure I was there in person and available for my college scholarship interview—a scholarship that I was eventually awarded.”

There were also her women college professors that helped shape and inspire Edwards once she got to New York City.

“Dr. Ellen Silver gave me the advice that people don’t have to

like you but they should respect you,” said Edwards. “That changed my whole life and changed my whole perspective. I ended up becoming my class president. I ended up becoming the number one tutor in chemistry and math for a lot of the girls in my college. I ended up using what I was good at to help

keep other women in college. At the beginning I didn’t think they liked me because they were from New York and I was sort of a tomboy from the Midwest. I told Dr. Silver that I felt the girls didn’t like me and it was hurtful. That’s when she told me “Honey, they don’t have to like you but they have to respect you. In the end they respected me. I think that advice and that experience taught me that being liked is one thing but being respected is everything. So you use your talents to do what you can for people and that’s what I’ve tried to do ever since.”

In the end, Edwards said she hopes her role as a strong woman holding political office will inspire others to do the same.

“One of the greatest joys I get in this job is when moms or dads intentionally bring their little girls to me and say, ‘This is your State Senator’ and to see a little girl’s eyes light up brings a special honor because parents really want them to see what they can be,” said Edwards. “I didn’t have a Sen. Edwards or a local woman politician to look up to growing up. So I remind myself everyday that there might be a little girl watching and that makes me incredibly proud and honored.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 3

DEMOLITION DELAY: FENWAY/KENMORE

The Boston Landmarks Commission has received the following applications to demolish buildings in this neighborhood: 300 The Fenway, Fenway/Kenmore, 02115, parcel #0401842001, demo application date: 2/28/2022. If a building is determined to be historically significant, the Boston Landmarks Commission will schedule a public hearing. You can view notices about upcoming Boston Landmarks Commission public hearings online.

RETURN OF THE SWAN BOATS

The Swan Boats will once again glide through the lagoon beginning Saturday, April 16. However, Romeo and Juliet will not be joining the boats in the lagoon this season, per The Boston Parks & Recreation Department. The swans are a bonded pair and the male has begun demonstrating aggressive behavior to guard his mate. The Parks & Recreation Department looks forward to acquiring a new pair of swans next year.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS 2022

The Boston School Committee is looking to hire a new Superintendent to lead the Boston Public Schools by the end of this school year. To get involved in this process you can share feedback on the attributes, values, and experience you’d like to see in the next Superintendent by emailing superintendentsearch@boston-publicschools.org or via survey. The survey is available in mul-

NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 7)

VIVID

EXPRESSIONS OF
INTENSE COLOR

Artists Group of Charlestown
2022 Spring Exhibition
at the StoveFactory Gallery
March 25 – April 10

GALLERY HOURS:
Fri. March 25th 5:00 – 8:00 (no reception)
Sat | Sun
March 26/27 12:00 – 5:00
April 2/3 12:00 – 5:00
April 9/10 12:00 – 5:00

Gibson | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

stove
factory
gallery

AGC
Artists Group of
Charlestown

Back Bay, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test rate increases

By John Lynds

With the city's overall weekly COVID positive test rate steadily declining it's safe to say removing Boston's mask mandate and canceling proof of vaccination for indoor venues has not caused a huge spike in cases over the past month.

However, there was a slight uptick in positive cases last week in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill,

Downtown, the North End and the West End.

Last week, 1,198 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown, the North End and the West End residents were tested for the virus last week and 3.5 percent were positive--this was a 17 percent increase from the 3.3 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on March 14.

Forty two additional residents contracted the virus between March 14 and March 21 and there are now 9,268 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

According to the BPHC 12,982 residents were tested city-wide last week and 2.3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 4 percent decrease from the 2.4 percent that reportedly tested

positive for the week ending on March 14.

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 0.31 percent last week and went from

166,722 cases to 167,241 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,434. Deaths decreased 25 percent in Boston last week with one less death compared to the four deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

CHARLESGATE PARK (from pg. 1)

Emerald Necklace. Landing Studio has been working on some designs for the park, and the proposal includes a new children's playground as well as a dog park.

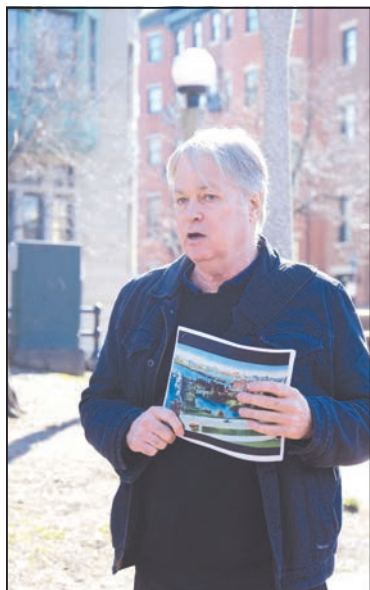
The project also aims to treat roadway runoff in the park, as well as daylight 250 of river that

has been buried. More than two miles of new pathways are proposed as well, and Charlesgate Park encompasses more than 13 acres of parkland that this project hopes to restore. Two bridges in the area are also structurally deficient and there are many unsafe crossings, which will be remedied as part of this project.

Other goals include planting trees, increasing storage for flood water, and removing the "flood choke-point" in the Muddy River, according to a PowerPoint presentation about the project. Additionally, the project aims to restore the Fens Pond Bridge, the Fens Pond Gatehouse, and the Shurcliff Bridges.

Work on this project is ongoing, is as gathering appropriate funds for its different pieces. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Charlesgate Alliance continue to work with city and state agencies as well as elected officials on making this vision a reality.

To learn more about the



Parker James of the Charlesgate Alliance led off the tour by explaining some history of the area.



Tour attendees listened to Emerald Necklace Conservancy president Karen Mauney-Brodek talk about proposed park improvements and were able to ask her questions.

Charlesgate Revitalization Project, visit charlesgatealliance.org and/or reach out to Veronika

Trufanova, Director of Development & External Relations at the Emerald Necklace Conservancy,

at vtrufanova@emeraldnecklace.org.



Parker James of the Charlesgate Alliance shows maps to tour attendees.



Attendees stand in the area of Charlesgate Park where a dog park has been proposed. The wall in the background has been proposed to be removed, as it is not load-bearing. A similar wall across the way will also be removed as part of the project.

MGC says new project needs not to be within its purview

By Stephen Quigley

The development project opposite the Encore casino on Lower Broadway cleared a major hurdle on March 14 when the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) voted that the new project does not need to be physically regulated by the MGC, but rather have several conditions added to the Gambling License that will address the commissioners' concerns.

The several conditions that will be added to the license will be as follows:

1) The number of seats that can be installed at one time for "live entertainment."

2) Radius restrictions so that the same entertainer can perform elsewhere in the area.

3) That the new development must follow the guidelines and rules of the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

4) There must be a security plan for the new garage at the

development, as well as for the present garage under the gambling establishment. The commissioners want to make sure that children are not left unattended in parked cars while their guardians are on the gambling floor of the casino.

5) Any future development proposed for the lower Broadway District Urban Renewal Plan that could be construed to be part of the gambling establishment would then need to be addressed by the MGC.

6) The employees at the garage, entertainment buildings, hotels, and restaurants of the new development are not subject to the MGC oversight. Likewise, these new employees cannot be on the gaming floor except as visitors.

7) The last concern centered on the pedestrian bridge that will span the six-lane highway. The commissioners wanted full architectural plans submitted within 90 days of an application. They

were concerned about the egress from the bridge as it neared the Encore buildings. This egress must be included in the final plans before construction can get underway. In addition, the security plans for the bridge must include checkpoints and surveillance cameras.

These concerns were first aired at the public hearing on February 28 and then discussed at the MGC meeting on March 10.

There was debate among the commissioners whether to wait to vote until a fully-written copy of conditions can be added to the Encore Gambling License. However, all commissioners eventually agreed that there was ample evidence in the notes and recordings to show the intentions of the commissioners and their wishes.

Jacqui Krum, who represents Encore, noted that all of the conditions that were discussed were "agreeable" to the company.

The final vote was 4-0.

WOODS HILL PIER 4 IN BOSTON'S SEAPORT DISTRICT LAUNCHES DOLLAR OYSTERS



The team at Woods Hill Pier 4 welcomes back the warmer weather with a special Dollar Oyster Deal every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. at their Seaport location in the lounge and bar area. Guests are invited to overlook the waterfront while enjoying oysters on the half shell for only one dollar each

Woods Hill Pier 4 is located at 300 Pier 4 Blvd., Boston, MA 02210 For more information, visit www.woodhillpier4.com or call (617) 981-4577.



A rendering of the pedestrian bridge and the new complex.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 5

multiple languages at bostonpublicschools.org/supt-search.

FENWAY CORNERS VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

On Wednesday, March 30, from 6-8pm, the BPDA will host an Article 80 Public Meeting in connection with the Draft Project Impact Report ("DPIR") submission for the newly renamed Fenway Corners project, which was filed with the BPDA by WS-Fenway-Twins Reality Venture LLC (the "Proponent") on Monday, February 7, 2022. Chinese Inter-

pretation will be provided for this meeting. Should you require interpretation in a language other than Chinese, please contact Aisling Kerr (Aisling.Kerr@boston.gov) and allow a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice. Please register in advance for this meeting through the following link: zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdu-oqzwpGp51a-gz-ZobyMg4nUcjzmtQ

APRIL FOOL'S BIKE RIDE SET FOR APRIL 2

Bike to the Sea's first ride of the year will be held on April 2,

starting along the car-free Northern Strand Community Trail at Bent Water Brewing, 180 Commercial Street, in Lynn.

The April Fools' ride is open to everyone and will start along the newest stretch of the trail before going on the bike lanes on Western Avenue, South Common Street, Market Street, and Broad Street. The 15-mile ride will also include a stretch on the East Coast Greenway in Swampscott before heading back to Lynn.

The ride is rated "easy/inter-

NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 9)

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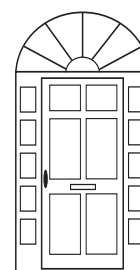
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Rentals

Newbury Street's 'Grand Tour' celebrates arrival of spring with special wine menu

Staff Report

Chef Michael Serpa and the Grand Tour team invite guests to join them in welcoming spring with wine from one of their favorite producers, Trimbach.

To celebrate the season, Chef Michael Serpa's Parisian-inspired restaurant, Grand Tour will be launching "Springtime in Alsace." The Parisian-inspired restaurant will serve a special wine menu featuring one of Michael's favorite wine producers – Trimbach – beginning on Friday, March 25 and available while supplies last.

A historic, family-owned winery in Ribeauvillé France, Trimbach has been making wine in Alsace since 1626. Among its many exceptional offerings, Trimbach is known for producing some of the world's best Riesling, with its Grand Cru Clos Ste. Hune regarded by many as the best of the best.

Grand Tour will be offering four Trimbach wines by

the glass – the easygoing Pinot Blanc, the benchmark Riesling, Michael's personal favorite the Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile, and the under-the-radar but bistro-friendly Pinot Noir. Alongside the by-the-glass offerings, Grand Tour will be showcasing additional Trimbach wines by the bottle including Pinot Gris reserve and three Grand Cru Rieslings – Geisberg, Scholssberg, and the iconic Clos Ste. Hune.

To pair with the delicious wines, Grand Tour will be serving up an Alsatian classic and quintessential bar snack, Tarte Flambée on the "Springtime in Alsace" menu. Also known as Flammenkuchen, it is a crisp flatbread with crème fraîche, bacon lardons, and onions.

Grand Tour is located at 314 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02115. For more information or to make reservations, please visit www.grandtouboston.com or contact (857) 277-0800.



The Grand Tour on Newbury Street.



Some of the art that will be on display during the exhibit hosted by the Artists' Group of Charlestown.

Artists' Group of Charlestown kicks off their 2022 Events with "Vivid: Expressions of Intense Color"

Staff Report

On March 25, the StoveFactory Gallery re-opens this spring with a bold and vibrant celebration of color entitled "Vivid: Expressions of Intense Color." According to the Gallery Chair, Julie Alailima and AGC President Dara Pannebaker, "Vivid" will include over eighty pieces of art from all forms of media. More than 160 submissions from 53 artists in an open and public call for art were considered – an AGC record!

"Vivid" also included a very special Guest Juror, Martha Starr. An AGC Member, Stove-

Factory Artist, and member of the Charlestown community, Martha aided in the difficult task of reviewing all of the art submissions, and helped ensure that the pieces in the exhibition fit in the theme of the show and were high quality.

"Vivid" opens on Friday, March 25 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM (no reception). It will continue to run the following Saturdays and Sundays (March 26 and 27, and April 2, 3 and 9 and 10) from 12:00 – 5:00 PM.

About the StoveFactory Gallery and Artists' Group of Charlestown:

The StoveFactory Gallery is

a 950-square foot space in a renovated 19th century factory building with exposed beam ceilings, white walls, and windows.

The Artists' Group of Charlestown (AGC), a non-profit organization, was founded in 1996. With grants, generous donors, and dedicated member volunteers, the AGC exists to fulfill its mission: to showcase artists' works and to promote high-quality cultural programming for the local community. The StoveFactory Gallery and Studios are the home of the Artists' Group of Charlestown, where almost all of their programming is held.

CITY PAWS

Garden Planning with Pets in Mind

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

"More than 20 million novice gardeners picked up a trowel for the first time swelling the ranks of American gardeners to more than 63 million according to Bonnie Plants CEO Mike Sutterer," so reported Pat Munts recently in Spokane, Washington's The Spokesman-Review.

Some of these are the same folks who added companion animals to their lives. Since this is the time of year when gardeners, new and old, begin to work on their plots and plans, we wanted to share some essential considerations on pet-friendly gardens.

Safety First

Insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, antifungals, and other garden chemicals are not the only pet dangers in a garden. For those, read the "Material Safety Data Sheets" available with each and decide what you find safe to use around your pets. Use care in storing these products in a pet-proof manner. Watch for mushrooms that grow in wood mulches. Those may be harmful.

Warnings from ER Veterinarians

Veterinarians in ER practices see dangers in a garden that most of us would never consider. Nat-

urally, they will warn you about plants that are poisonous to animals. Some are more dangerous than others but choosing plant material with your animals in mind can help you avoid a mildly sick pup or a trip to the emergency room.

The ASPCA's website has a list of plants that are toxic to dogs and cats. It includes some photos if you don't know the name of a plant that you might have inherited. Even those of us who don't garden may want to visit the site because we've spotted toxic flora along the edge of sidewalks and

Boston Children's Chorus announces 19th annual in-person tribute concert

Staff Report

Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) is thrilled to announce its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert featuring more than 250 BCC voices will return this year to Boston Symphony Hall.

The concert, "Can You See the Stars?", was originally scheduled for MLK Day 2022, but was moved to March 27, 2022, at 4 p.m. in accordance with local COVID recommendations for indoor gatherings. On March 27th the community gathers again in-person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic

Through song, BCC highlights the week leading up to the assassination of Dr. King as he marched arm in arm with the sanitation workers in Memphis on strike against the city for unsafe working conditions. Dr. King's work for labor and civil rights paved the way for the activism that is embodied in the modern-day environmental movement. BCC's singers take the stage and shine a light on how equity and justice are critical to the future of our environment.

This year's program will feature community leaders and soloists including:

- Reverend William Bodrick is the Senior Pastor of the Historic Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury. Rev. Bodrick leads with dynamic preaching and gospel-driven social engagement.

- Renese King is a nationally recognized instrumentalist, choral director and arranger whose musical talents have taken her

from gospel singing at the church podium to timpani playing on the Carnegie Hall stage. She brings her commitment to unifying and uplifting the community to BCC.

- Alysia Lee is a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist and Founder and Artistic Director of Sister Cities Girlchoir, the El Sistema-inspired, girl empowerment choral academy in Philadelphia, Camden, and Baltimore in its tenth season. She is also a policymaker for the Maryland State Department of Education across five arts disciplines: music, dance, visual art, theatre, and media arts. Alysia is the series editor of Hal Leonard's Exigence for Young Voices, the new choral series uplifting Black and Latino composers for young choir ensembles.

Climate justice is the central theme of all BCC's 2021-22 programming. As part of this year's programming, BCC singers took the stage back in the Fall for WILD: A Musical Becoming featuring Tony Award-winning performer Idina Menzel and actress YDE. BCC is simultaneously gearing up for the second season of Opus Nuovo, a project that commissions new work from composers of color revolving around a theme that resonates with BCC's youth singers. This year's theme, "Now Is the Time," features music focusing on the climate emergency.

More information about the event and tickets can be found at: <https://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/hear-us/19th-annual-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-tribute-concert-can-you-see-the-stars/>.

mediate" and will include off-road paved and unpaved trails, as well as on-road bike lanes.

Parking is available in the lot behind the brewery or on Alley Street.

All are welcome to join the ride for free, but everyone riding must fill out a waiver at least once every year. And if you don't have a Bike to the Sea Membership then you may only join one ride organized by Bike to the Sea per year. Basic memberships cost \$25/year and are available here.

If you're interesting in participating in this ride, please RSVP here.

For more information, contact Pete Sutton at beausutt@hotmail.com.

SJC ISSUES ORDER RELAXING MASK MANDATE IN STATE COURTHOUSES

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued a new order on Monday regarding access to Massachusetts state courthouses, which relaxes the requirements with respect to the wearing of masks, effective March 23, 2022.

The order continues to encourage the wearing of masks inside courthouses to protect against the transmission of COVID-19, especially by those who are at increased risk for severe disease or are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. Masks are no longer required, however, except under certain identified circumstances.

The order also continues to prohibit entry into courthouses by persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 5 days, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, are

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 7

not up to date on vaccinations and have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the last 5 days, are awaiting test results after experiencing symptoms, or should be in isolation or quarantine.

THE LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON PRESENTS A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder with Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak and Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman triumphantly finds its way to the Lyric Stage Company of Boston after originally scheduled to open on May 15, 2020. Directed by Lyric Stage Producing Artistic Director Emeritus, Spiro Veloudos with Musical Direction by Matthew Stern with Choreography by Larry Sousa°, this Tony Award®-winning musical brilliantly and hilariously tells the story of wrongfully getting what is rightfully yours.

Charming and ambitious, Monty Navarro is in line for an earldom in the lofty D'Ysquith

family. Eighth in line, that is. With a few tricks up his sleeve, he plots to speed up the line of succession all the while juggling the affections of two beautiful women, dodging suspicions and relying on fortunate twists of fate. Lyric Stage favorite Neil A. Casey* brings to life all eight members of the D'Ysquith family including a pious clergyman, a pompous bodybuilder, an aging actress, and a misguided philanthropist.

Performances begin Friday, April 15 and run through Sunday, May 22. Press Performance is Sunday, April 17 at 3pm.

Featuring a cast of Boston stage favorites and newcomers to the Lyric Stage including Leigh Barrett*, Teresa Winner Blume, Neil A. Casey*, Aimee Doherty*, Jennifer Ellis*, Kate Klika, Lori L'Italien, Todd McNeel, Jr., Karen Murphy*, Robert St. Lawrence*, Phil Tayler, and Jared Troilo*.

Scenic Design is by Shelley Barish, Costume Design by Elisabetta Polito**, Lighting Design by Franklin Meissner Jr.**, Sound Design by Andrew Duncan Will, and Projection Design by Johnathan Carr.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 4/13/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Kristofer Garcia unit #1022 contents: vending machine and household goods; Nathaniel Martin unit #1085; Lisa Freeland unit #1115; Christine Daka unit #2069; Junior Mota unit #3118; Rhonda L Persip unit #3221; Deborah Ann Bratkon unit #3306; Ismael Diaz unit #3309; Detarsha Jones unit #4069; Darwin Omar Solis unit #4073; Christine Peguero unit #4143. 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.

3/24/22, 3/31/22
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 tenant at the storage facility. The

sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 4/13/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Luis Ruiz-Romero unit #357. 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.

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The City of Boston reminds you:

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Massport announces goal to be Net Zero by 2031

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) unveiled a new, bold agenda to reduce carbon emissions across all facilities and become Net Zero by 2031, coinciding with the Authority's 75th anniversary. The Roadmap to Net Zero focuses on 100% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions directly controlled by Massport-owned facilities, equipment, and purchased electricity, with continued influence in areas the Authority does not control. The plan outlines the steps Massport will take to reduce emissions within the decade, directly benefiting neighboring communities and further preparing the Authority for the impacts of climate change.

"Massport is committed to working with our surrounding communities to reduce our impacts to the environment, while remaining focused on supporting the region's economy," said Massport Board Chairman Lew Evangelidis. "Massport's Roadmap to Net Zero aligns with the Commonwealth's climate goals."

Massport will accomplish this by:

- Improving energy efficiency in buildings through design standards and operational controls;
- Transitioning to clean fuel sources such as renewable electricity, renewable natural gas, etc.;
- Generating as much renewable energy as possible on-site,

and make off-site renewable energy purchases;

- Acquiring renewable energy credits, renewable identification numbers, and carbon offsets as a transition strategy, for the fossil fuel sources that cannot be reduced, electrified or switched to renewable energy in the near-term;

- Implementing all remaining facility-specific initiatives identified to ultimately reach net zero.

"The pandemic gave us an opportunity to rethink the way we do business going forward, and we are now on the path to Net Zero," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "This is a real commitment, with aggressive goals, tied to real actions that will take us to Net Zero by 2031, which also happens to be Massport's 75th anniversary. While we get our own house in order, simultaneously we will be working with our business partners on ways they can help reduce emissions."

For any areas where emissions cannot be reduced to zero, Massport will invest in carbon offsets to reach the target. The Authority expects to be Net Zero without offsets by 2040. Carbon offsets are investments in GHG reducing projects, such as a solar farm, that diminish the impact of an organization's own GHG emissions. Massport's aim would be to purchase offsets that benefit local projects within the Commonwealth.

"As an East Boston resident and community advocate, I'm glad to see Massport making

this commitment to becoming Net Zero that will greatly benefit neighboring cities and towns," said John Nucci, Massport Board member and Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. "Logan Airport and Massport's other facilities create greenhouse gases that impact our neighbors and this plan takes real steps to improve air quality and reduce those impacts."

Components of the phased plan controlled by Massport include items like upgrading lighting systems across all facilities to LEDs, which has already been started, to rehabilitating Logan Airport's Central Heating Plant, upgrading the Logan Express and shuttle bus fleet to electric vehicles, and installing more solar panels and renewable energy sources.

There is also a section of the plan including emissions that Massport does not control, but can possibly influence. One such example of an area of potential influence would be to enable use of SAF at Logan. SAF, or sustainable aviation fuels, are a renewable/cleaner substitute for fossil jet fuels that reduce carbon emissions and improve the air quality. It is estimated that more than 99% of airline emissions and approximately 50% of airport emissions worldwide are related to the combustion of jet fuel. This past fall, President Biden announced a goal for U.S. companies to produce at least 3 billion gallons of SAF per year by 2030 and, by 2050, sufficient SAF to meet 100% of aviation

fuel demand, which is currently projected to be around 35 billion gallons per year. Massport will work to enable use of SAF at our three airports and encourage our airline partners to transition to this alternative fuel while longer term strategies are evaluated, approved and adopted.

Massport currently has several programs to reduce emissions and has had success with environmental initiatives. Past projects include:

- On-airport clean-fuel buses since the mid-1990s;
- In 2001, Hanscom Field became the first U.S. airport to earn ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management Systems (EMS);
- In 2003, Conley Terminal was the first U.S. container terminal to implement an EMS and receive ISO 14001 certification;
- In 2005, Logan's Terminal A redevelopment was the first LEED® Certified airport terminal in the world;
- Installation of on-site renewable energy sources, including solar and wind;
- Developed more than 37 acres of greenspace within our surrounding communities;
- two new parks currently being designed in East Boston will be an additional 8 acres
- Since 1990, Massport has invested more than \$100 million in High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) transportation to and from Logan Airport, including the Logan Express system and free MBTA Silver Line service to

South Station;

- In 2014, completed the Rental Car Center at Logan- a LEED Gold certified building that consolidated nine rental car agencies into one center; reduced 100 diesel buses trips to 28 hybrid buses per hour; decreased shuttle bus vehicle miles by 70%, with an accompanying 35% decrease in airport-related emissions. The facility also has rooftop solar panels that account for 5% of the building's energy usage;

- Cut carbon emissions at Logan by 40% by 2019 – goal was 2020;

- Cut energy consumption at Logan by 25% by 2019 – goal was 2020.

Massport will continue to pursue outside funding to help pay for some of these projects. The Authority was recently awarded \$600,000 by the Mass. Clean Energy Center for a pilot project to build electric vehicle infrastructure at Logan to catalyze the electrification of the ride-for-hire industry. In 2020, Massport received a \$4M VALE grant to acquire charging stations at Logan for eGSE (electric ground service equipment). The EPA granted Massport \$500,000 in 2018 to install airline owned eGSE charging stations at Logan's Terminal B, and \$330,000 in 2015 for a Clean Diesel Project at Conley Terminal.

The next steps in the road map will be prioritizing the projects, further data analysis, creating the budget strategy, and timeline.

CITW PAWS (from pg. 8)

poking through garden fences.

These doctors also see dogs with scratches on their cornea from rose bushes, who have cut a paw on lawn edging, swallowed wood chips or rocks used as garden decor, or have ingested "cocoa mulch" made from cocoa bean shells and potentially dangerous to your pets.

We suggest that you pet-proof your garden with a dog or cat view inspection. While down low tending your plants, look around carefully and see what is going on at the four-paw level. Walk barefoot in the space to feel what might hurt or even cut a paw. Consider what your dog or cat can reach at full stretch.

Garden Training

How safe a particular dog is in a garden depends on the age, breed, temperament, and how well-trained that pup happens to be. Like all other aspects of life with dogs, training your companion to be a polite garden visitor will take some effort.

Small breeds are designed to be human companions, these guys are normally easy on a garden. But, dogs with high energy, strong instincts to dig, guard, or hunt need careful monitoring and correction.

Indoors Too!

The other day, we watched our Westie Poppy doing her best to reach the herbs we grow in a

hydroponic planter. She used a step stool kept handy to work on the plants in the back and could almost reach the mint trailing over the edge.

That mint wouldn't have hurt her, but there are plants that, while safe for humans, could be dangerous for her. Keep any questionable plants out of reach. Remain alert. Leaves can fall, plant food can spill, the gardener could be a bit careless, and your dog or cat might be sickened by a plant despite your best efforts to keep the two apart.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



Some gardens also serve as memorials to beloved animals.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Mehrotra, Rishabh	Bruce RT	212 Beacon St #3	\$4,025,000
Balmuth, Miriam J	Margaret Mccarthy RET	300 Boylston St #712	\$3,800,000
BEACON HILL			
Cai, Wenting	Staffiere Jr, Arthur C	21 Beacon St #6S	\$565,000
21 Beacon G3 LLC	Lakis FT	21 Beacon St #G3	\$1,700,000
Century Sky LLC	Gould, Jeffrey	34-1/2 Beacon St #12	\$5,650,000
Jordan H Doran 2007 RET	Yin, Hang	58 Beacon St #4	\$4,230,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
MSGM LLC	Fish, Anatoly M	11 Aberdeen St #3A	\$600,000
Kerr, Carolyn E	Johnson, Patrick	31 Concord Sq #1	\$1,400,000
Myers, Jayne Y	Highline 52 Dwight LLC	52 Dwight St #1	\$3,475,000
Hye-Lee, Kang M	Winter, Gregory J	85 E Brookline St #4	\$705,000
Han, Jinyu	Sethvarangkul, Pakdee	120 Mountfort St #206	\$810,000
Morgan, Spencer	Cantin, Stephen A	16 Upton St #1	\$1,825,000
BGRS Relocation Inc	Lin, Tun T	11-C Waltham St #1	\$770,000
Lee, Jonathan R	BGRS Relocation Inc	11-C Waltham St #1	\$750,000
Kelsey, Ilana A	Larsson, Carolina	28 Isabella St #28	\$685,000
Stephanie Briguglio T	Lauer, Thomas	400 Stuart St #22E	\$3,900,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Axford, Jacqueline	Cotter, Colleen	80 Broad St #606	\$708,000
Boston Harbor 31H LLC	Guerreri, Andrea	85 E India Row #31H	\$876,500
Ferrara, John	Helen Lin LT	1 Franklin St #5103	\$5,500,000
Greene, Peter B	Chin-Lee, Raymond D	100 Fulton St #2W	\$1,050,000
Rist, Wendy L	Zaragoza-Watkins, M D	5-9 Hudson St #5S	\$875,000
Kassler, Mitchell A	Otey, Michelle	300 Pier 4 Blvd #4L	\$1,640,000
Yajnik, Vijay	Rushaid, Hana A	580 Washington St #903	\$1,840,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The domed entrance in the last clue is on 481 Commonwealth Avenue built in 1897 and designed by architect William York Peters. Today's answer is from a 1915 photograph that is part of the Boston Transit Archive.

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.

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