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THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

ROOTED IN HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



A large crowd gathered on the morning of Friday, March 24, to cut the ribbon on Rooted In, an adult-use cannabis shop at 331 Newbury St. Elected officials in hand for the event included Rep. Jay Livingstone, who offered a state citation to the owners of the business In signed by himself and Speaker Ronald Mariano, and Rep. Chris Worrell, along with past Boston Mayor, Kim Janey. Segun Idowu, Mayor Michelle Wu's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, also offered comments and presided over the ribbon cutting. Visit rootedinroxbury.com for more information on Rooted In. See Page 7 for more photos.

Love Your Block spring cleanup starts April 22

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) announced the Love Your Block spring 2023 cleanups will take place on April 22nd and 29th. Love Your Block is a City-wide community service event that invites community organizations, local businesses, and neighborhood groups to host a spring cleanup in their neighborhood. Groups interested in hosting a cleanup can now sign up here. Additionally the City is seeking volunteers to participate

in scheduled cleanups. "Love Your Block has become a beloved tradition in our neighborhoods to come together and beautify corners across Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our Office of Civic Organizing is ready to help connect volunteers and provide cleanup tools, so I encourage any interested community groups to identify a spot that could benefit from some care and sign up!" Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of two weekends.

(CLEANUP Pg. 10)

City holds virtual meeting on Back Bay Fens pathways

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department sponsored its fourth meeting virtually on Tuesday, March 28, to discuss conceptual-design options for the Back Bay Fens pathways.

Lauren Bryant, project manager for the city agency, said besides looking at accessibility at the pathway entrances and the site amenities that touch the pathways, the project will consider accessibility; desirability and uses; stormwater and runoff; materials; and pathway longevity. The project will also take into account site furnishings like

benches, trash receptacles, and lighting, as well as the health of trees along the pathways, she said.

The cost of the project, which was originally intended to focus on just the pathways themselves, was then estimated to be around \$6.3 million, said Bryant, but that price will rise as the project scope has since been expanded to include three additional items: the War Memorial; the John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial; and the new Evans Way Bridge.

The Parks Department controls most of the land and pathways within the project site, with

the exception of the War Memorial and its pathways, which are under the jurisdiction of the Boston Trust Office; and the land around the perimeter of the park and on the edges of Agassiz Road, which is under the jurisdiction of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Kyle Zick, a landscape architect whose firm is leading the multi-disciplinary team for this project, said a site inventory of the pathways has been completed, with pathways ranging in width from around 9 feet wide to about 3 feet wide in the Victory

(PATHWAYS Pg. 10)

Esplanade Association offers free guided Women's History tour

By Dan Murphy

For the last day of Women's History Month, the Esplanade Association will be offering a free guided tour highlighting some of the women who helped shape the history of the park on Friday, March 31.

"The Women and the Esplanade: Service & Tribute Guided History Tour" will be facilitated by two prominent women from the Esplanade Association - Margo Newman, a Director Emeritus for the group, and Jerly Oristaglio, the organization's co-founder, respectively.

Said Newman: "We are thrilled to be sharing the many interesting, lesser-known stories that should be told about

women's representation in and impact on the park - Helen Storrow, Amy Beach, Fanny Appleton, The Hatch Sisters, Katharine Lane Weems, and more. It's important that we share the stories of the amazing women who have positively impacted one of Boston's most iconic parks and to celebrate them."

The tour takes place on March 31 from noon to 3 p.m., with participants meeting in front of Community Boating, Inc.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-tour-women-and-the-esplanade-service-tribute-tickets-590152631407> to reserve your spot at the free event.

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER WEEK -- ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA

The news this week of yet another mass shooting, this time in a private school in a wealthy neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee, in which six persons (including three, nine year-old children) were killed, once again has highlighted the need for our federal government to ban assault-style weapons.

America stands alone in the world for this sort of self-inflicted carnage. In no other country can heavily-armed individuals wreak tragedy upon families and communities because of easy access to military-grade weaponry.

Australia, a country with a Wild West mentality similar to ours, banned assault-style weapons in 1996 after a mass shooting in a cafe in the city of Port Arthur in which 35 people were killed and another 13 were wounded. The tough new laws banned the sale and importation of all automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns; required individuals to present a legitimate reason (and wait 28 days) to buy a firearm; and called for a massive, mandatory gun-buyback. Australia's government confiscated and destroyed nearly 700,000 firearms, reducing the number of gun-owning households by half.

The result? Since 1996, there has been one mass shooting in Australia. New Zealand enacted similar laws in 2019 after a mass shooting in a mosque in Christchurch and since that time, there have been no mass shootings.

The U.S. banned the sale of assault-style weapons in 1994 as part of a wide-ranging anti-crime bill, but that provision of the legislation expired in 2004.

And that's where we stand today -- with mass shootings now a regular part of American life.

With politicians in both parties subservient to the small minority of vocal, one-issue voters, the chances of enactment of common-sense laws regulating the types of guns that can be sold in this country are just about zero, even though a majority of Americans support such laws.

Even more depressing is that laws in states such as Massachusetts that regulate gun ownership and possession soon may be struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

To paraphrase the last line of the Star Spangled Banner: America is the land of the free -- and the home of the dead.

THE IRAQ WAR -- NEVER AGAIN

Last week marked the 20th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq, a conflict that was broadcast into our living rooms on our TV sets in great detail thanks to the many reporters who were allowed to become "embedded" with U.S. troops as they made their way across the battlefields of Iraq.

Some commentators today refer to the War in Iraq as a mistake, but that implies a mere error in judgment. However, that assessment completely ignores the simple fact that the war was predicated on a deliberately-false narrative.

It now has become common knowledge that the war was based on nothing less than complete and total fabrications by the administration of President George W. Bush. When Secretary of State Colin Powell went before the United Nations to claim that Iraq was harboring terrorists from 9/11 and had weapons of mass destruction, those assertions — as Powell himself later admitted — were based on deliberately false intelligence.

Unfortunately, with few exceptions, the U.S. Congress fell hook, line, and sinker for this fabricated intelligence narrative — and we plunged into a war that had no purpose and accomplished nothing to improve the security of either the United States or the world in general.

In fact, the war had just the opposite effect: The ensuing destabilization of the Middle East allowed terrorist organizations such as ISIS to thrive and spread around the world.

This is by means to deny the incredible bravery of the American men and women who served in that war. As soldiers always do, they did their duty, bringing great honor to themselves and their country. Even as our lying politicians were doing their worst, our men and women in uniform were doing their best on the battlefield.

But the bottom line is that millions of innocent Iraqis were caught up in the chaos of war, with nearly a million dead and many more millions displaced. American casualties in the war totaled 4,203 dead and tens of thousands maimed and wounded. In addition, the well-documented psychological scars of that war will endure both for the soldiers themselves and their families for the rest of their lives.

The war in Iraq was an enormous tragedy for all who were touched by it, with its after-effects still reverberating today.

Hopefully, we'll never again be led into a war by duplicitous politicians whose true motives to this day are known only to themselves.

GUEST OP-ED

How to make hockey in Boston more accessible to kids of every background and from every neighborhood

By Adam Whitney



Adam Whitney.

I have been playing ice hockey since I was little. I learned to play hockey at the Steriti Rink in Boston's North End, as part of the North End Youth Hockey Program, where I am now also a volunteer coach. I then played on several of the Charlestown youth town teams, as well as on different club teams. I now play hockey for Boston Latin School. I believe that it is very important that Boston work to make hockey even more accessible to kids of all backgrounds and from all of Boston's neighborhoods, in order to make the sport more inclusive and diverse.

The National Hockey League ("NHL") has been a strong leader in such efforts on a national level. In June 2021, the NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced a new \$5 million investment over 18 months to strengthen the NHL through diversity and inclusion efforts. Commissioner Bettman stated that he believed that the NHL was "a higher performing League when we have an inclusive culture that harnesses the power of diversity." He said that the NHL was "taking the next step to bring real, positive, systemic change to the game," including developing new youth and amateur hockey programs. The NHL also committed support for capacity-building initiatives with youth and amateur hockey organizations to bring new opportunities in street and ball hockey, to improve the cultural availability of the game, and increase opportunities to play the sport in neighborhoods lacking access to these games.

In February 2023, at the start of Black History Month along with the All-Star events in Florida, the NHL debuted a mobile museum that highlights minority and underrepresented contributors to the game. According to Jeff Scott, the NHL's vice president for community development and growth, who helped with the museum's creation,

"[w]hat we're showing here with this experience is the representation of access and opportunities." Scott, who is Black, stated that when he was growing up, hockey really didn't seem to be an option for him, and the goal of the mobile museum, which is set up inside a bus that the league plans to bring to all 32 NHL markets, is to help eliminate some of the same barriers to entry into the sport that existed when he was young.

The NHL isn't the only group that is seeking to make hockey more accessible to kids of all backgrounds. In Canada, for example, in June 2022, Hockey Diversity Alliance ("HDA") announced a new program designed to bring hockey to children from diverse communities underrepresented in the sport. Akim Aliu, Chair of the HDA, said that "kids of color are often unable to play hockey because of access. Through HDA's new Ball Hockey Skills program, HDA was "removing barriers by bringing hockey to kids in their own neighborhoods so kids from every kind of background and every circumstance feel welcome in the sport we love." Michael Thompson, Deputy Mayor of Toronto, stated that Toronto was proud to partner with HDA "to bring programming to underserved communities in the Greater Toronto Area," and that the "City of Toronto encourages such programs which aim to make hockey more inclusive and accessible for all."

In Harlem in New York City, a group called Ice Hockey in

Harlem ("IHH") has stated that its mission is to improve the social and academic well-being of children from the Harlem community, and that it would seek to increase this community's involvement in ice hockey to help achieve that goal. IHH began in the winter of 1987 with forty kids, and has since grown tremendously in popularity. With a cursory knowledge of the basics, the youngsters donned mismatched, secondhand equipment and wobbled onto the ice of Lasker Rink, an outdoor facility at the northern end of Central Park. Under the tutelage of founder's Dave Wilk, Todd Levy and former New York Ranger Pat Hickey and other volunteers, the students were soon skating, shooting, and passing as though they had been playing the game for years.

In Boston, SCORE Boston Hockey launched its first season in 1995 and every year since then has served thousands of children in the greater Boston area. As part of the NHL's "Hockey is for Everyone" Initiative, SCORE is a non-profit organization for kids between the ages of 5 to 14, and its sessions take place at the Max Ulin Memorial Rink in Milton, Massachusetts. The program provides weekly ice time, full equipment, opportunities to play games against other towns / in tournaments and a dedicated coaching staff. SCORE Boston Hockey provides kids the opportunity to participate in the sport of ice hockey and inspiration to see their future differently. Many of the kids come from challenging environments and under resourced communities.

In November 2018, the Boston Bruins helped to unveil the brand new Willie O'Ree Community Street Hockey Rink at Smith Playground in Allston. O'Ree was joined by Bruins players Chara and Bergeron for the dedication. "I think it's great," said O'Ree, the NHL's first black player, who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2018. "I think anytime you can erect a

GUEST OP-ED

Every time We Turn Around...

By Alison Barnet

More labs are proposed. (No, I don't mean dogs.) The Globe reported last June, "The life sciences industry is rapidly expanding across the region—maybe too rapidly." In much of Massachusetts: "lab inventory has more than doubled in the last decade, to over 41 million square feet, compared with 18.6 million in 2012..." Strangely, there is almost never a description of what will be done inside—the word "lab" seems to suffice. Why don't they say? Is it because they don't know yet which drug company will pay the most for the finished space? they're waiting for the highest bidder?

Recently, we hear that labs are planned for Washington Street in the South End in the Berkeley/Herald Street area, which is already built up and known as Ink Block. And now Wentworth Institute has plans for two labs to be built on its sports field. This is nothing compared to the air-rights project that's building

almost 1 million square feet of lab space over the Mass. Pike. And numerous others. How about those visible-from-everywhere zigzag stacks called BU Center for Computing and Data Sciences near Kenmore Square—the CITGO sign pales by comparison.

What's next? Due to the lab fad, our city is becoming one big tech center. "Life sciences" everywhere, replacing "life" as we used to know it. A friend who has a science background says labs are good, we need them, and the jobs they offer are top notch. There's lots of research money out there, he says, but not enough places to build labs. After all, Cambridge is full up.

Another says: "I think it's all about attracting well-paid life science workers who will want to live nearby, further gentrifying the neighborhood. Maybe this is why labs and housing are often planned together." And there's the question, "Why not build affordable housing instead?" The answer is obvious: way too

little profit.

Why aren't more of us concerned? The discussion over labs makes me wonder "Whatever happened to the protest and the rage?" I remember "NO BIO TERROR LAB," "STOP THE BU BIOLAB?" twenty years ago when community activist Klare Allen and a large group of us protested the Level 4 Bioterrorism Lab on Albany Street in the South End known as NEIDL. Safety Net filed a lawsuit in 2003, and, although we ultimately lost, it succeeded in delaying research on deadly pathogens such as Ebola, plague, and anthrax close to our homes.

The proposed new labs may not be Level 4 or dangerous—we don't know yet—but as one life sciences director told the Globe: "We've just got to get our arms around what's going on." Said a NEIDL protestor, "There's no such thing as a safe lab."

Alison Barnet is a longtime South End resident and author of five books on the neighborhood's history.

OPED (from pg. 2)

facility where you can bring boys and girls and get them together, different races and creeds, and get them out to enjoy the game... what more can you ask?" The Bruins and Boston Bruins Foundation also pledged \$250,000 to the City of Boston to refurbish street hockey rinks across the city, and the Bruins partnered with the City to establish the "Willie O'Ree Street Hockey League" to ensure the newly improved rinks have programming.

While SCORE and other similar private initiatives in Boston like that of the Bruins, have

had great success in making hockey more accessible to kids from diverse communities that are currently underrepresented in the sport, I would like to see the City of Boston do even more to increase participation in ice hockey by kids from all of Boston's diverse communities. For instance, Boston could work more with the NHL, the Bruins and local area college hockey teams to bring players of color into schools in underserved communities of Boston, to tell their stories about how they became college and professional hockey

players, and to show kids from these communities that they can participate in hockey as well.

Also, the City of Boston could team up with companies to supply hockey equipment at no or low cost for young athletes and remove financial burdens for children and families in diverse neighborhoods. Boston could also work to make local ice rinks more accessible to those communities currently underrepresented in youth hockey, by increasing transportation options that are affordable and convenient, and by creating programs during the hockey season that would staff rinks throughout the City with coaches from diverse backgrounds to help teach kids the basics of ice hockey. In this way, Boston can promote a more diverse representation in hockey and inspire the next generation of hockey players from all backgrounds and from all of our neighborhoods to pursue their passion for the sport.

Adam Whitney is in 10th Grade at Boston Latin School, where he is on the varsity ice hockey team. He lives on Beacon Hill with his family.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On child's brain development

Dear Editor:

The first few years of a child's life are the most important for brain development and have lifelong effects. The brain starts developing a few weeks after conception. The average size of the brain of a full-term baby is about one quarter of the adult brain. The brain doubles in size in one year. By three years of life, the brain is 80% of an adult brain and by age 5 is 90%.

With rapid brain expansion and growing connections between brain cells, optimal social-emotional and cognitive capacities are promoted only when nurtured and stimulated.

Babies can recognize and differentiate parents' language from foreign language as early as a few hours after birth, and language starts developing by 4-6 months. When infants and toddlers are exposed to toxic stress, there is permanent damage to brain structures. It would be wonderful if all parents could afford to stay with their children in the first 2-3 years of life, but that is often impossible. Most parents must work, and many others want to. That's where high-quality early education and childcare comes in. Without government support, this is often unaffordable for many families.

Econometric data demonstrates that when infants and children in poverty have high-quality early childcare,

their economic and social well-being as adults increases by 7-10% per year (13% per year if early childcare starts at birth). Early investment is the best fiscal investment impacting even the second generation by reducing the need for later interventions, including for health, mental health, employment, education, and incarceration.

The Common Start Coalition (commonstartma.org) is proposing state legislation (H.489 and S. 301) to strengthen public support for early childcare and early education programs to ensure greater stability for providers and greater accessibility and affordability for parents. This program is good for parents who wish to work and most especially for single parents who need to work. Greater investment in early education and childcare also stimulates the economy by ensuring that decent, living salaries and benefits are provided to early childcare workers. This is the best program for Massachusetts families for support and equity now and for the future for children.

I had the opportunity and honor of working on these issues with policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics in the past.

Benjamin Siegel, MD
FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry

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NEWS IN BRIEF

SOWA FIRST FRIDAY AND SOWA SUNDAYS THIS MONTH

SoWa First Friday takes place on April 7, from 5 to 9 p.m. at 450 Harrison Ave.

The artists of SoWa Artists Guild will also open every Sunday in April from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 450 Harrison Ave.

For more information, visit <http://www.sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>, or <https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/>.

WARD 4 DEMS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS TO AREA NINTH- AND 10TH GRADERS

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee is offering scholarship awards for students in the ninth and 10th grades.

The committee will be honoring several students with awards of \$400 each at its summer community event in August.

To apply, students must submit written responses to two essay questions in the language of their choice; the essays will then

be judged on the merits of depth and originality. The extended deadline for essays is May 15.

Apply at bostonward4dems.org/scholarship-program.

For more information, email scholarship@bostonward4dems.org.

Ward 4 schools include Boston Latin School, William McKinley South End Academy, and the Windsor School, while Ward 4 includes parts of the Back Bay, Fenway, and South End.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL BENEFIT SET FOR APRIL 11 AT ST. BOTOLPH CLUB

The Gibson House Museum will host its annual benefit,

“À la Belle Époque,” on Tuesday, April 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club at 199 Commonwealth Ave.

The evening includes drinks, a light supper, a raffle, and entertainment provided by a French music trio. Join the Gibson House Museum in honoring the French Library for culturally inspiring the community and for

its dedication to preserving Boston’s architectural history with a recent historically sensitive renovation of its 1867 brownstone headquarters. All proceeds will support the preservation and operation of the Gibson House Museum.

This year’s benefit features some select raffle items, including private tours; tickets to the theater, symphony, and ballet; a French Library family membership; French-language classes; restaurant gift certificates; an “instant French wine cellar”; designer jewelry; and vintage treasures. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$150 and may be purchased at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit>, or by sending a check with the names of your guests to the Gibson House Museum, 137 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116.

Visit <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit> for more information on the event.

GARDEN OF THE BACK BAY'S ANNUAL TWILIGHT PARTY RETURNS APRIL 26

The Garden Club of the Back Bay’s annual Twilight Garden Party will take place on Wednesday, April 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club, 199

Commonwealth Ave.

The event will include live music, drinks, and hors d’oeuvres, with proceeds going to support the Garden Club’s “mission in caring for neighborhood trees, promoting civic beauty, and providing horticulture education to the public.”

PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER RETURNS MAY 7 TO THE BOSTON COMMON

After going virtual for the past three years due to the pandemic, Project Bread’s annual Walk for Hunger returns on Sunday, May 7, from 9-11 a.m., as a three-mile walk around Boston Common, with proceeds benefitting the fight against food insecurity in the Commonwealth.

The fundraising event, which dates back to 1969 and traditionally takes place on the first Sunday in May, has set a target of \$1 million this year.

DUCKLING DAY EVENT SET TO RETURN MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 14

The Friends of the Public Garden will again partner with the Boston Parks Department for the annual Duckling Day event on Sunday, May 14, from 10 a.m.

to noon.

Every year, hundreds of participating children, dressed as their favorite characters from Robert McCloskey’s classic children’s book, “Make Way for Ducklings,” join the parade led by the Harvard Marching Band. The parade route begins on the Boston Common at the Parkman Bandstand and ends in the Public Garden near the Make Way for Ducklings sculpture.

Playtime on the Common will take place ahead of the parade and include Interactive Circus Games with Esh Circus Arts; Jenny the Juggler; Peter O’Malley, magician; Jump, climb, and play with Knucklebones; a chance to meet the giant Duck; a visit with the Harvard University Band; a “Make Way for Ducklings” reading station; and a goody bag for every kid filled with Duckling Day-themed items.

The registration fee is \$35 per family in advance (before May 12) and \$40 per family the day of the event. Each child who registers will receive a special goody bag. Register at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2022/12/01/ducklingday2023/>.

For more information on Duckling Day, visit <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/ducklingday/>.

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston presents Sister Act

Sister Act with Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Glenn Slater, Book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner, and Additional Materials by Douglas Carter Beane will be Directed by Leigh Barrett with Musical Direction by David F. Coleman and Choreography by Dan Sullivan will raise the roof and lift spirits this spring at Lyric Stage Boston made in part possible by our Corporate Sponsor for the production, Brookline Bank.

Sister Act, based on the beloved hit movie, will have audiences relishing in “heavenly” voices and jubilant performances. Featuring a choir of cheeky, loveable nuns led by the fabulous, unforgettable, (and sequin loving!) Deloris Van Cartier, toes will be tapping and spirits will be lifted at this celebration of friendship, the joy of music, and the importance of togetherness.

After witnessing a murder, free spirited, disco diva Deloris Van

Cartier finds herself in protective custody at a convent. At odds with a rigid Mother Superior, and a strict lifestyle, Deloris finds divine intervention bringing the choir from dour to dazzling with her signature style. While Deloris is busy raising the roof, her cover is blown and her new-found sisterhood rallies around her with a lot of love (and maybe a few sequins) in a tribute to the power of friendship.

Performances begin Friday, April 7 and run through Sunday, May 14.

Press Performance is Sunday, April 9 at 3pm. Email heather_darrow@lyricstage.com for tickets.

Director Leigh Barrett says, “Expectations. We all have them. We have them for ourselves, for the people we meet and, of the moment. What you’re going to experience at Sister Act is what happens when people see beyond

those limited expectations and assumptions, and find love, hope and friendship in the most unexpected place.”

“We’re excited about the Bank’s sponsorship of Sister Act,” said Brookline Bank President Darryl Fess. “Lyric Stage is an important part of the culture here in Back Bay and we’re proud of our partnership with them.”

“Lyric for All” Affordable Price Options

In an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston, Lyric Stage offers multiple options including \$30 Under 35, advanced Student Tickets, Senior Tickets, and partnerships with MassWIC and EBT Cardholders that allow audiences to visit as often as they like. More information at: <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all/>

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Fenway Civic Association's annual meeting returns as in-person event

By Dan Murphy

The Fenway Civic Association held its 61st annual meeting on Wednesday, March 22, at 1325 Boylston St.

Tim Horn, president of the board of directors of the board-driven, all-volunteer, member-supported nonprofit organization, offered opening remarks and recalled how for last year's virtual meeting, he participated from Austin, Texas, while visiting his parents there.

Horn recounted some of the group's many successes over the past year, which included hosting numerous community meetings and events, such as the return of the Fenway Porchfest on July 9 – an afternoon of free music performed outside of people's homes and in other public spaces that the Fenway Civic Association again sponsored in partnership with two other neighborhood nonprofits, the Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) and the Fenway Alliance.

Additionally, Horn pointed to the ongoing success of Fenway Cares – a program that the Fenway Civic Association and myriad other neighborhood nonprofits, along with area businesses and other organizations, launched in the immediate wake of the pandemic to combat food security in the neighborhood. The program has since grown in response to the ongoing demand in the neighborhood.

Horn thanked Northeastern University for handling food deliveries for Fenway Cares; Rep. Jay Livingstone, who



D. MURPHY PHOTO

After going virtual last year, the Fenway Civic Association's 61st annual meeting returned as an in-person event on Wednesday, March 22, at 1325 Boylston St. Pictured, left to right, are Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association's board of directors; Sen. William Brownsberger; District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes-Anderson; Rep. Dan Ryan; Rep. Jay Livingstone; District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok; and Sen. Lydia Edwards (Not pictured: City Councilor at-large Ruthzee Louijeune.

helped secure state funds for the program; and the Red Sox Foundation, which donated \$40,000 towards the program's \$42,000 annual operating cost.

Besides outlining the group's objectives for the coming year, which he said remain largely in line with those from this past year, Horn said the Fenway Civic Association will also continue to strive to raise awareness that the neighborhood is much more than the ballpark.

"People do forget we're a neighborhood, and that's what we're here to remind people of,"

he said.

Horn introduced the group's board slate for '22, including himself as president; Matthew Brooks, vice president; Sheri Olans Wright, 2nd vice president; Karen Wolff, treasurer; Alex

Sawczynec, assistant treasurer; John Bookston, secretary; Mary Jo Plymm, 1st assistant secretary; and Kathy McBride, 2nd assistant secretary.

Horn thanked Sawczynec, the only departing officer, for his

service to the organization. Sawczynec will soon be leaving the Fenway, Horn said.

Board members for '23 were also announced, who were all returning, except for Willied Hessein, who will be replacing Sawczynec as assistant treasurer. Hessein moved from Florida to the Fenway to attend Suffolk University in 2014 and fell in love with the neighborhood, said Plymm, who introduced the incoming slate of board members.

The Fenway Civic Association also has three standing committees, including Licensing, chaired by Wolff; Membership, chaired by Fredericka Veikley; and Parks and Open Space, chaired by Marie Fukuda. Peter Sougarides serves as the group's business manager.

Elected officials on hand for the meeting included Sen. William Brownsberger; Sen. Lydia Edwards; Rep. Dan Ryan; Rep. Livingstone; District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes-Anderson; District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok; and City Councilor at-large Ruthzee Louijeune.

Sen. Edwards and Rep. Ryan are both new to representing the Fenway due to recent restricting.

OBITUARIES

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Holy Week at Saint Cecilia PARISH

Palm Sunday

Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Passion [9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed]

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Livestreamed to Facebook

7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

10:00 p.m. Night Prayer—In-person following adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Livestreamed to Facebook

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross—In-person & YouTube

7:30 p.m. Commemoration of the Lord's Passion—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

Holy Saturday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Livestreamed to Facebook

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter—In-person & YouTube livestreamed

Easter Sunday

8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

[9:30 Mass will be in-person & YouTube livestreamed]

6:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers—Facebook

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Residents gather to celebrate the life of Karen Wepsic

Friends and family recently gathered at the Loring Greenough House in Jamaica Plain to celebrate the Life and Service of long-time Jamaica Plain resident Karen Wepsic, who passed away on October 15, 2022.

The Invocation and Benediction were given by Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird of the First Baptist Church. Other speakers who spoke were from the Footlight Club, MIT Sailing, Fenway Garden Society, Peterborough Senior Center, the Jamaica Pond Association, and the Mission Hill and Fenway/South End neighborhoods.

The following is taken from the memorial booklet that was available:

Karen Wepsic was born 1938, the only child of parents Nils Okland (sea captain) and Sofie Okland of Norway; Raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Elementary school PS104, Karen maintained a "Victory Garden" in Brooklyn, an activity she would carry with her to Boston. She moved, with her family to Elmont, Long Island and attended Sewanhaka High School.

Upon graduation she enrolled and matriculated from Cornell graduating with a degree in Chemistry. She had a long science-orientated career including as a lab assistant at Woods Hole Oceanographic in 1959. She obtained a Doctorate (PhD) from

Yale in 1967 in BioPhysics. Her thesis, using radioactive thymidine, evidenced that chromosomal DNA could replicate while in circular form. Her thesis was published while attending the MGH School of Nursing, where she graduated as an RN in 1968. At MGH she worked in the recovery room. She continued working at MGH through the birth of her only child and son, Eric.

Karen was a Hospital Albert Schweitzer volunteer in Haiti in 1972. She was a staff member at Harvard Medical School's Department of Biochemistry from 1978-2012.

A fixture in Jamaica Plain and dedicated to community service, Karen served on a variety of local community organizations, including The Footlight Club; Arborway Committee, Jamaica Pond Association, MBTA Riders Oversight Committee, Fenway Victory Garden, MIT Sailing, Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard and others. She loved her community and neighbors. Notwithstanding her tremendous intellect, she always served humbly, selflessly and faithfully. She touched many during her travels across the City of Boston. Her presence was felt in several neighborhoods including Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, the Fenway, South Boston and Roxbury. The Galway House was a place where she held strategy and



Left to Right: Barbara Zighera (JP), Alison Pultinas (Mission Hill), and Sarah Freeman (JP).



Rev. Ashlee Wiest Laird, First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain and Franny Charles, MIT Sailing Master.



Photos courtesy Sam Johnson

Left to Right: Kay Mathews, Jamaica Pond Association and Liz Bean, President - Footlight Club.

organizational meetings, broke bread with friends and enjoyed a Manhattan or Pint. She was an exceptional friend, colleague, committee member and community activist. Karen will be remem-

bered as warm and iconoclastic. She projected love and was loved by all whom she touched. Karen is survived by Eric Wepsic, and her two grandchildren in New York City.

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Polar explorers from the early 1900's

Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

We Invite Your Nominations for NABB's COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) works to enhance the quality of residential life in the community and our volunteer members serve as advocates on neighborhood issues. Each year we recognize individuals or groups who have shown exceptional dedication to that mission through two Community Service Awards. Please send us your nominations.

Name of Nominee:
Please print name of the individual, group, committee, institution, or organization you are nominating: _____

Award (please select one):
 Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award
Criteria: Recipient selection will be based on important and sustained leadership in promoting residential interests in the Back Bay.
 Mary Natale Citizenship Award
Criteria: Recipient selection will be based on significant and sustained dedication and service to the residential interests of the Back Bay. This award honors unselfish and unheralded commitment to the Back Bay residential neighborhood.

Nominating Party Contact Information:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

For more information and a list of past recipients visit: nabbonline.org/About
 Send this form with a description of the work and contribution of the nominee to:
 NABB, 160 Commonwealth Ave L8 Boston, MA 02116-2749
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: May 1, 2023

ROOTED IN HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

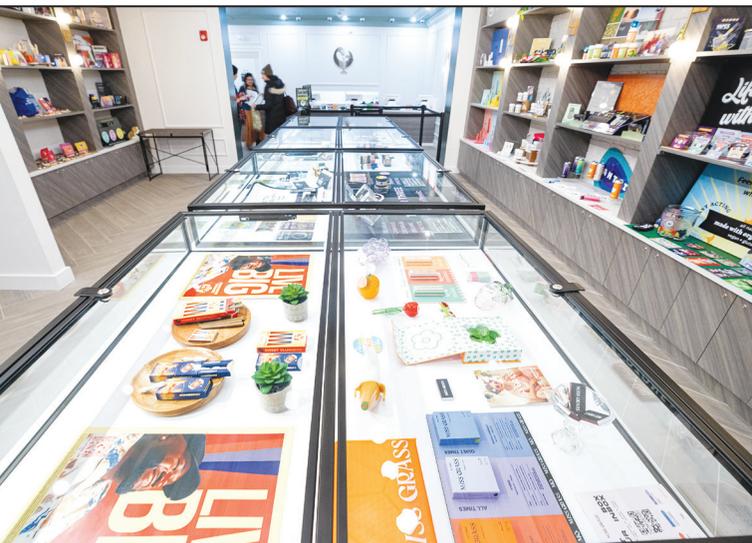
A large crowd gathered on the morning of Friday, March 24, to cut the ribbon on Rooted In, an adult-use cannabis shop at 331 Newbury St.

Elected officials on hand for the event included Rep. Jay Livingstone, who offered a state citation to the owners of the business In signed by himself and Speaker Ronald Mariano,

and Rep. Chris Worrell, along with past Boston Mayor, Kim Janey.

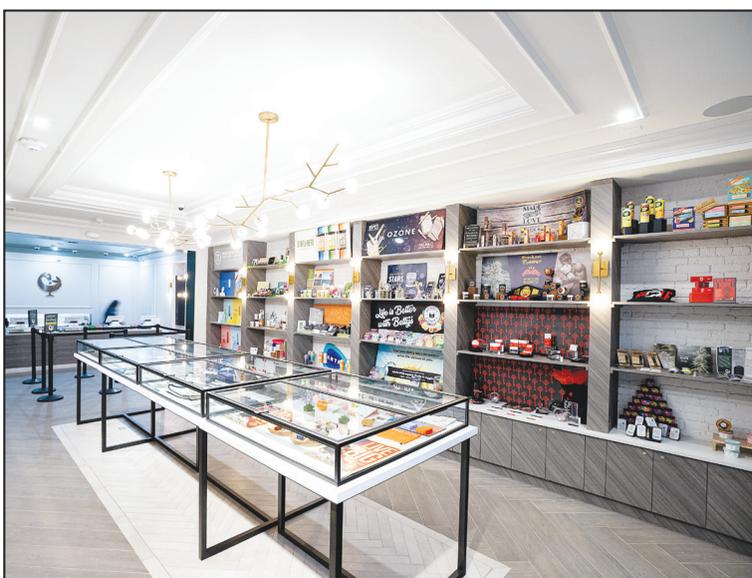
Segun Idowu, Mayor Michelle Wu's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, also offered comments and presided over the ribbon cutting.

Visit rootedinroxbury.com for more information on Rooted In.



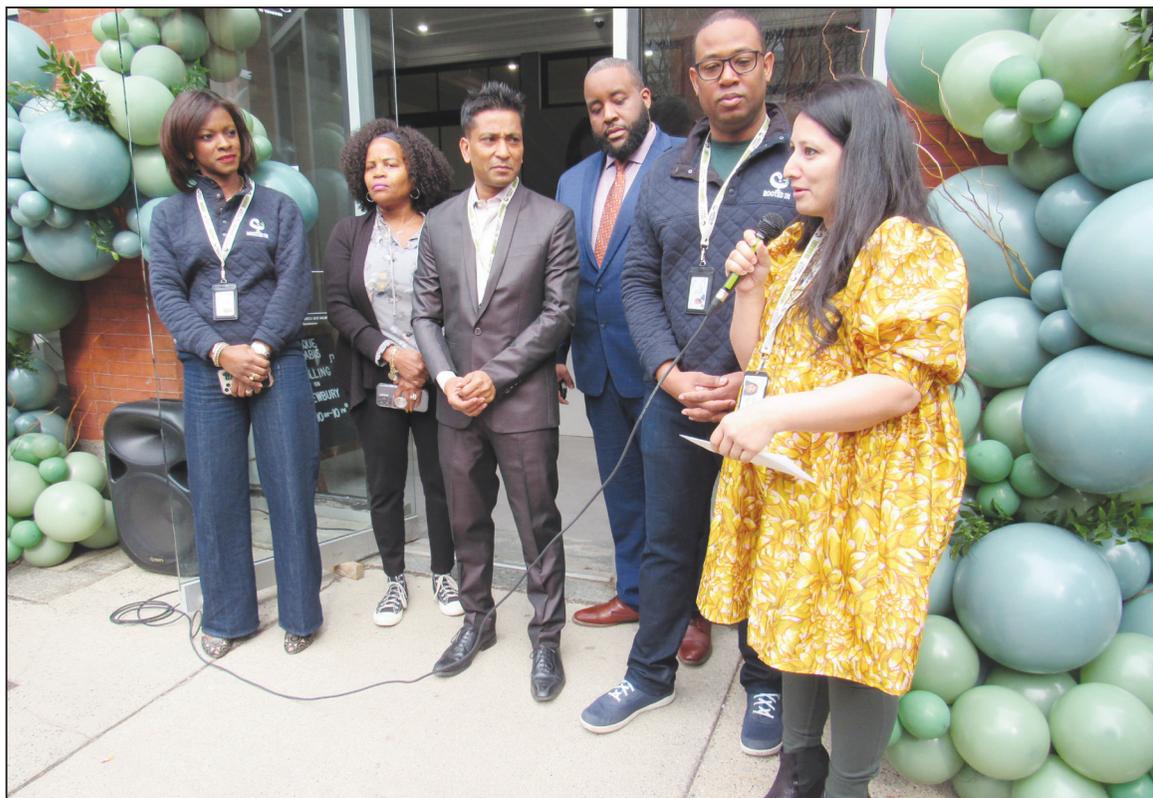
PATRICK ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

A look inside Rooted In (above and below).



PATRICK ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Rep. Jay Livingstone offers a state citation to the owners of Rooted In signed by himself and Speaker Ronald Mariano.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Rooted In Chief Marketing Officer Rokeya Begum addresses the crowd.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

A large crowd gathered on the morning of Friday, March 24, to cut the ribbon on Rooted In

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Please Recycle

FRESH AND LOCAL

The changing local food scene

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Suppose you've followed your favorite farmers and food producers on social media for the past decade. In that case, you're aware of the improved availability of local food in the winter and early spring.

Once, this time of year was called the hunger gap. Crops held in the ground or storage ran out, and the spring and summer crops were not yet ready. Historically, it was a time of hunger and starvation. More recently, it was a time when we had less local food.

Availability has improved with consumers supporting outlets like public markets, winter farmers markets, winter CSAs, and local farm-to-consumer delivery services. Some supermarket chains identify the local products they sell. We also notice more small local food shops that offer products from regional produc-

ers. Farmers can raise crops in greenhouses, polytunnels, shipping containers, and hydroponic facilities when they have outlets for the produce.

Added Value

In addition to raising animals and planting crops year-round, local farmers can diversify and find ways to add value to what they grow. One good example is Stillman Quality Meats (SQM). Kate Stillman says, "We, very proudly are one of only a small handful of farms across the US operating our own abattoir and whole-animal Butchery. This means we control the process from start to finish."

In addition to beef, pork, lamb, and poultry cuts, SQM also produces sausage, deli meat, bacon, terrines, smoked meat, and pates. Plus, they offer prepared food such as pot pies, stocks, soups, meatballs, and frozen meals.

Dairy farmers may add value



Farmers can raise crops in greenhouses, polytunnels, and hydroponic facilities when they have outlets for the produce. (Photo by Zoe Schaeffer)

with cheese and yogurt. Some produce farms turn bumper crops of tomatoes into sauce, peppers into hot sauce, apples into cider, or pickle other crops. Orchards with their own bees offer honey in addition to their fruit.

Higher Quality

Buy a quart of strawberries from a farmers' market and compare those to a big national brand and you confirm that local is of higher quality.

You might not realize that the other products at a well-managed and honest farmers' market (where the source of the items sold is controlled) are also of higher quality. What's more, that

quality goes beyond taste. Local farms deliver food that is more nutritious and food that will last longer. We once went on vacation and returned to discover that a head of local romaine lettuce we forgot in the crisper was still good. That will not happen with the browned bottom versions sold in supermarkets.

Farms that create value-added products take the same pride in the quality of those items as they do in their primary crops. Moreover, since the ingredients move from farm to kitchen, you can be sure they are at the peak of nutrition.

Know Your Food Producers

We mentioned following your favorite farms and food produc-

ers on social media. That's one way to stay in touch with what they're doing, learn about their philosophy, and discover what they offer at different times of the year. We also follow several farmers' markets and shops supporting local producers to learn about new vendors and offerings.

Even better is to get to know the people who raise, grow and produce your food in person. Conversations with the people behind your food can be an education. We rely on the staff at farmers' markets to answer our questions about what they sell, give us cooking tips, introduce us to new products and varieties, and help us choose the best of what they offer.

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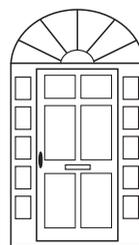
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Emily Sweeney discusses her book 'Gangland Boston' at West End Museum

Story & photos by Marianne Salza

Boston Globe reporter, Emily Sweeney, discussed her book, "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime," on March 23, at The HUB50 Community Room, Boston. The Dorchester resident shared fraudulent and violent stories of local mobsters that prevailed in Boston during the West End Museum event.

"The mafia made its debut in the late 19th century Boston," began Sweeney. "It was difficult being a police officer around the turn of the century. Back then, nobody carried ID's. Criminals constantly used aliases. Boston Police didn't start using fingerprints to identify people until 1906."

Until then, officers relied on mug shots, and measurements such as the length of the left foot, middle finger, or forearm to identify suspects.

"One of the first gangs that rose to prominence in the late 19th century was the Swindling Beggars Gang," Sweeney noted. "The leader of this gang was Frisco Slim, from California. He would fake being injured and beg for money on the street. He would recruit young kids to wear bloody bandages and limp. Then they'd go back to the West End and split the proceeds. When the police did bust this gang, they found that kids were working for them like child slaves."

One of the earliest instances that Sweeney could locate in a digitized newspaper was from the Boston Sunday Post in 1895. The article specified the structure of the mafia and estimated that there were about 200 mafia members in the Boston area at the time. Many newspaper articles that Sweeney read from the turn of the century described people in mortal terror.

"My book, 'Gangland Boston,' has a lot of information about the Gustin Gang," mentioned Sweeney. "They were one of the first, prominent Irish mobs. They rose to power during Prohibition."

The leader of the Gustin Gang was 5-foot-5-inch-tall Stevie Wallace, of South Boston. Wallace, who was a member of the 1920 US Olympic boxing team, hugely impacted Boston's orga-



Emily Sweeney discussing her book, "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime" during a March 23 West End Museum event.

nized crime; and was protected by powerful government officials and law enforcement.

"In December 1931, these guys go to 317 Hanover Street – a Citizens Bank now – in the North End to have a sit down with leaders of the mafia. They did not leave alive. This was a major turning point in organized crime in the City of Boston," Sweeney emphasized. "The Italians established their power over the city."

In addition to smuggling and distributing alcohol during Prohibition, organized gambling was another illegal source of income for criminal groups.

"People gambled what little they had," said Sweeney. "Back then, you could place a bet with a bookie who was standing on a street corner, in shoe shine parlors, barber shops, and regular stores."

The most famous West Ender in the bookmaking business was Doc Sagansky, the son of Lithuanian immigrants. Growing up, Sagansky sold newspapers at the Massachusetts State House. He graduated from Tufts Dental School in 1918, and practiced dentistry in Scollay Square.

"Through betting and gambling, he built a fortune," said

Sweeney, a descendant of a West End resident displaced during Urban Renewal. "He became an owner of two Boston nightclubs, and operated a loan agency, which allowed him to finance other enterprises."

One illegal bookmaking establishment was Swartz's Key Shop, 364 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, where bets on horse and dog racing could be made. The popular shop was raided by the Internal Revenue Service in 1961.

"In addition to gambling, when people ran out of money, they turned to loan sharks, who were excessively violent against customers," Sweeney mentioned. "This was before credit cards. You could get a loan on the street."

Emily Sweeney is a board member of the New England First Amendment Coalition, and the New England Society of News Editors. Her book, "Dropkick Murphy: A Legendary Life," a biography about the professional wrestler and doctor during the Great Depression, will be available through Amazon on May 23, 2023. Visit www.Facebook.com/BostonOrganizedCrime to view images, videos, and newspaper articles.



Emily Sweeney, author of "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime."

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CLEANUP (from pg. 1)

The dates are as follows:

Saturday, April 22: Allston-Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown, Dorchester, Downtown, Fenway-Kenmore, Fields Corner, Leather District, Matapan, Mid-Dorchester, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury, West Roxbury.

Saturday, April 29: Back Bay, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, North End, South End, South Boston, St. Botolph (Back Bay), West End, Wharf District.

Some neighborhoods have already had local organizations volunteer to host a cleanup. These partners are listed on boston.gov/love-your-block. Multiple cleanups in each neighborhood are encouraged, so local organizations can still sign up to host in any neighborhood. This year the Love Your Block cleanups fall on Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (4/29).

The Love Your Block program was first created in 2015 with a three-year grant awarded to the City of Boston by Cities of Service. After the grant's expiration in 2018, Love Your Block became a permanent City program under the Mayor's Com-

munity Engagement Cabinet.

"Love Your Block is an exciting opportunity for residents to come together, take ownership of our neighborhoods, and exercise our civic power," said Director of Civic Organizing Henry Santana. "We look forward to working with neighbors and community partners to keep Boston clean and green."

"Love Your Block is an event that the Cabinet of Community Engagement's Office of Civic Organizing leads each year. It's our civil responsibility to keep our communities beautiful, so residents and their families can continue to take pride in their neighborhoods," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor.

In past Love Your Block cleanups, neighborhood groups have picked up litter from streets and sidewalks, beautified local parks, cleaned up vacant lots, urban wilds, and more. For tips on how to plan and host a cleanup in your neighborhood, OCO has created a helpful guide.

"Chinatown Main Street has participated with 'Love Your Block' for many years," said Debbie Ho, the Executive Direc-

tor of Chinatown Main Street, one of the organizations that has already committed to hosting a Love Your Block cleanup. "We all want to be sure we have a clean Chinatown and it's important that we involve volunteers within and outside of the Chinatown community to create a unified Boston!"

Those interested in hosting a neighborhood cleanup can sign up here to request support, volunteer t-shirts, and tools such as trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, and trash pickers. Requests will be accepted until Wednesday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Those interested in signing up as a volunteer can also do so here. OCO will connect you with a cleanup site in your neighborhood once all sites are finalized.

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.

PATHWAYS (from pg. 1)

Gardens.

An inventory of "pathway puddling" following rainfalls has also been completed, he said, which found that the DCR bike path "traps water consistently" after each storm.

Zick said the design team had also heard "loud and clear from community" on it concerns regarding potential conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians on the pathways. He added that the Parks Department maintains that it doesn't encourage the use of bikes in the interior of the park and instead attempt to divert them to the park's perimeter or to the DCR multi-use path.

Among the conceptual design options being considered, said Zick, include raising the grade of two paths on the eastern side of the park and creating a "switch-back path" that would connect to the path along the Muddy River.

By the O'Reilly Memorial, the path could potentially be widened to accommodate large volumes of foot traffic and maintenance vehicles, said Zick, who added that a new path could also connect Jersey and Forsyth streets across the northern footbridge - one of two existing footbridges in the park.

The northern footbridge would be "regraded slightly," he said, with handrails installed parallel to the path.

Once the new Evans Way Bridge has been installed, there will be opportunities to install new lighting fixtures, said Zick, as well as to raise the grade slightly, "at least in the beginning." A path from Jersey Street to the Evans Way Bridge would also be repaved, with new lighting added, he said.

The Victory Garden paths could also be enlarged to accommodate emergency and maintenance vehicles, added Zick.

The path leading to the southern side of the Rose Garden, now comprising asphalt atop concrete, would be repaved, said Zick, while a bike rack and bench offering river views could be installed in the area.

The recently repaved path from the basketball courts to the Rose Garden would remain unchanged, he said, while the nearby diagonal path would be repaved and widened by between 2 and 3 feet.

Near the Fenway Victory Gardens, the path along the river would be reconstructed to

better accommodate large volumes of foot traffic and vehicles, said Zick, while bike racks and a drinking fountain could also be installed in that area.

Additionally, a non-historic wall near the Robert Burns statue would be removed, said Zick.

Floodlights in the park owned by the Parks Department would be updated to more energy-efficient LED lighting fixtures, said Zick.

Longtime Fenway resident Kristen Mobilia expressed her desire to see recycling in the Fens, pointing to the opportunity for a "larger receptacle somewhere in the park."

Bryant responded she "100 percent agrees" with Mobilia's suggestion and added that the Parks Department is now exploring implementing recycling in city parks, but the issue is "complicated," given the large number of parks it would entail.

Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association board of directors and a longtime neighborhood resident, lamented that the Fens appear to be "stuck with the cobra fixtures" and added that he wishes they could "live up to the standards" of lighting fixtures found in the Public Garden and on the Boston Common.

Bryant replied that the Parks Department intends to work with the city's Street Lighting Division to install acorn light fixtures in the Fens. She added that the temporary lighting now found at the Victory Gardens would be upgraded as well.

Additionally, Horn expressed concern that the project would result in the activation of the passive Victory Gardens, which he described as "a place for people to enjoy nature and sit down on the grass and have a picnic," and recommended against installing new seating there.

Horn suggested instead that the project design should encourage gatherings on the south side of the Victory Gardens, which offers river views.

Despite having some concerns, Horn and other meeting-goers expressed their resounding enthusiasm for the project.

Meanwhile, Fenway neighborhood activist Steve Wolf called not including the Field House in the project scope "a missed opportunity."

"I think we can just clean it up to make it look cared for again," said Zick.

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Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The colorful doorway in the last clue is on 15 St. Germain Street. It was built between 1890 and 1895, according to the G.W. Bromley & Co atlases of the time. In the 1890 atlas, the street was called Cronwell, and building lots were recorded. In the 1895 version, numbers 11-21 were shown as residences.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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



SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Boston Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@thebostonsun.com

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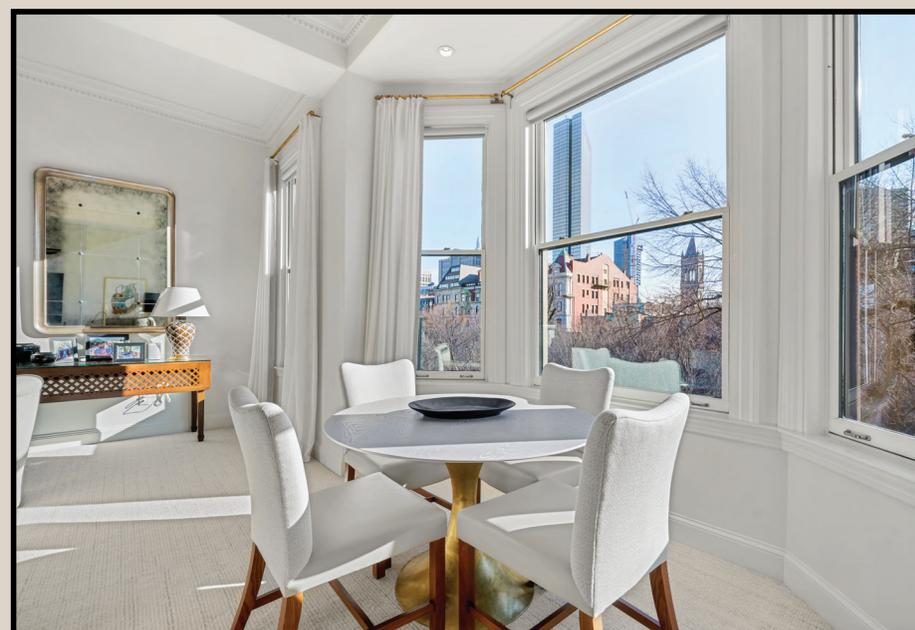
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