



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Councilor Durkan cruises to easy reelection victory

By Dan Murphy

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan cruised to an easy reelection victory in the city's Tuesday, Nov. 7, municipal election.

"Thank you, District 8. Tonight, we won every precinct of the district again! I'm honored to continue to serve the West End, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Back Bay and Mission Hill for another two years. The work

continues!" Councilor Durkan posted on X (formerly Twitter).

According to the city's unofficial election results, Councilor Durkan garnered more than 70 percent of the ballot (3,686 votes out of a total of 5,591 ballots cast) while her opponent Montez Haywood trailed with just under 29 percent of the ballot (1,512 votes).

Haywood, an assistant dis-

(ELECTION Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF CITY OF BOSTON

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



COURTESY PHOTO

Henry Santana, who was elected to one of the four at-Large City Council seats.

## Harvard Club provides plan for permanent patio to NABB

By Dan Murphy

Representatives for the Harvard Club of Boston were on hand for the monthly virtual hearing of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee on Monday, Nov. 6, to discuss their plans to replace a

temporary outdoor dining space created along Commonwealth Avenue during the pandemic with a permanent patio.

The permanent patio, which has already gone through the zoning process and been granted a building permit by the city,

(HARVARD CLUB Pg. 4)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The future site of Gronk Playground on the Esplanade.

## Final design unveiled for Gronk Playground

By Dan Murphy

The final design for Gronk Playground – a new public amenity planned for the Esplanade and made possible via a financial gift from former New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski – was unveiled during a virtual meeting sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation on Thursday, Nov. 2.

In May of 2021, Gronkowski and his Gronk Nation Youth Foundation made a \$1.2 million donation to DCR and the non-profit Esplanade Association to fund a complete renovation of

Charlesbank Playground, which is located on the Charles River adjacent to the Alford Memorial Spray Deck on the Esplanade.

In addition to Gronkowski and his charitable organization, along with DCR and the Esplanade Association, the project team also includes landscape architect and prime consultant, Shadley Associates; arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts; and civil engineer, Nitsch Engineering.

For the project, the gate that separates the spraydeck from the existing playground will be removed as the playground is extended into the existing lawn

area, said Skyler Chick of Shadley Associates, while the river walkways will remain in much the same configuration as they are today.

The existing lawn between the playground and the spraydeck will be reconstructed to include a new walkway, said Chick, while existing asphalt walkways would be replaced using poured-in rubber. ADA-accessible picnic tables that sit atop rubber pads will also be installed, he said, as would additional Shurcliff benches along the edges of the site.

(PLAYGROUND Pg. 3)

## City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu opened the application to fill two upcoming vacancies on the Boston School Committee, for a term starting January 4, 2024 and ending on January 1, 2028. The Boston School Committee Nom-

inating Panel, composed of Boston Public Schools (BPS) families, educators, school leaders and representatives of the business and higher education communities, will receive and evaluate the applications and share recommendations with the Mayor. The Boston School Committee is the

governing body of the BPS.

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancies are due Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the week of November 27, 2023 in the

(SCHOOL COMM. Pg. 5)



# EDITORIAL

## “THANK YOU” TO OUR VETERANS

This Saturday, November 11, will mark the 104th observance of Veterans Day in the United States, a day marked by solemnity and reverence to honor those who have served in our nation’s military. Veteran’s Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 in observance of the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

World War I was marked by trench warfare in which neither the German-allied nations (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) nor the alliance among England, France, Russia, and the United States, accomplished anything. Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why it began. The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war. In the meantime, the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the “war to end all wars” only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 20 years later with WWII. Indeed, the roots of today’s conflict in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of the Middle East after WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England, which eventually led to the so-called British Mandate for Palestine after the end of WWII.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to include veterans of all of our wars. There are many ways that each of us can honor our veterans, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans organizations, donating to veterans causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the great sacrifice made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we hold as Americans today.

If nothing else, Veterans Day should remind us that freedom isn’t free and that maintaining our freedom since our nation’s founding has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

## HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOV. DUKAKIS

We wish to extend our best wishes for a “Happy Birthday” to former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who turned 90 last week.

Mike Dukakis served as governor of our state from 1975-79 and then again for two terms from 1983-91. He was the Democratic nominee for President in 1988, losing to Republican George H.W. Bush in a contentious election that was marked by immense distortions of Dukakis’s record, including the infamous Willie Horton ad that invoked racial stereotypes and played to the worst instincts of white voters.

For those too young to know about Mike Dukakis, we will mention three things about a man whose honesty, integrity, competence, and dedication to serving the people of our state stand as the benchmark for all office-holders: First, Gov. Dukakis turned around our state’s economic fortunes with the “Massachusetts Miracle” in which the high-tech and biotech industries set Massachusetts on a path to prosperity that carries through to this day. Second, he reinvigorated our state’s aging inner cities, including Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Lynn, and invested in public transportation, which Dukakis himself rode from his home in Brookline to Beacon Hill. Third, he established Massachusetts as a national leader in education, criminal justice reform, drug policy, and countless other areas.

Similar to former President Jimmy Carter, Mike Dukakis has led a low-profile, yet prolific post-government career in which he has continued with his lifetime of dedication to public service. We know we join with all of our fellow citizens in wishing Gov. Dukakis a “Happy Birthday,” and many more to come.



## Parks Department announces annual Holiday Lightings

Special to the Sun

Mark your calendars and prepare to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to celebrate the holiday season with their 2023 schedule of lighting celebrations in City of Boston parks. Please note that due to ongoing construction there will be no Copley Square tree lighting this year.

**Lighting of the Trellis at Christopher Columbus Park**  
Monday, November 20  
5–6 p.m.

110 Atlantic Avenue, Boston  
Located on Boston’s historic waterfront and stewarded with help from the Friends of Christopher Coumbus Park, the site will

be transformed into a beautiful holiday display when the park’s 260 feet of trellis are illuminated with 50,000 blue lights along with 14 decorated trees near Tia’s, the Marriott Long Wharf Hotel, and throughout the park.

**The Nova Scotia Tree for Boston Arrives**

Tuesday, November 21  
11 a.m.

Boston Common

Boston’s official 2023 tree arrives on Boston Common by flatbed truck from Nova Scotia. This year’s tree is a 40-year-old, 45-foot-tall white spruce donated by Bette Gourley of Stewiacke, N.S., and her family. The public is welcome to cheer the tree’s arrival with candy canes

and an appearance by Santa.

**Lighting of the Ship at Martin’s Park**

Saturday, November 25  
4–6 p.m.

64 Sleeper St., South Boston

The third annual lighting of the ship at Martin’s Park celebration will be held at the Smith Family Waterfront. Martin’s Park is a climate-resilient park built in memory of Martin W. Richard—the youngest victim of the Boston Marathon bombings—that provides a space for children, families, and visitors of all abilities. The park includes a ship as the centerpiece of its play structures that will be lit for the holidays.

(HOLIDAY LIGHTINGS Pg. 5)

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## News in Brief

### HARVEST FESTIVAL & AUCTION IN SUPPORT OF BOTH WLP AND NABB SET FOR NOV. 9

Women's Lunch Place and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay will hold the Harvest Festival & Auction on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Women's Lunch Place dining room at 67 Newbury St.

Enjoy a delicious harvest of culinary selections, wine, and craft beers, and get some early holiday shopping done during the event's Silent Auction, which will feature sports tickets, restaurant gift cards, and more. The event will benefit both WLP and NABB.

A highlight of the evening will be a boutique where shelter guests will sell items they have made during the many classes that WLP offers. Handmade jewelry, knit wear, decoupage shells and more will be displayed for purchase. The artist will receive all of the proceeds.

Single ticket prices for Harvest Festival are \$125, and sponsorships are also available.

Visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/nabb> for more information.

### FENWAY CDC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 9 AT FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

The Fenway CDC's Organizing Committee Meeting takes place on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center at 1282 Jersey St.

Come share your voice and participate in making positive changes in the neighborhood. No experience or knowledge is necessary! Come and explore housing policies and to learn how to effectively organize and create meaningful impact.

For more information, contact Leo at [lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org).

### 'STORY TIME WITH LIBRARIAN MARGARET COMING TO USES

Story Time with Librarian Margaret will take place on Thursdays, Nov. 9, 16, and 30; and Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. at United South End Settlements, located at 48 Rutland St.

The program, which is pre-

sented in partnership with USES, welcomes babies to preschoolers and their caregivers to join in for stories, songs, dance, art, and play time (with \*arts and crafts to follow for ages 2 years old and up) and is designed to draw children to love books, and to encourage interactive play with each other.

For more information, visit [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org).

### COFFEE HOURS FOR CITY'S BACK BAY-FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Maggie Van Scoy, the city's neighborhood liaison for Back Bay and the Fenway, will hold Coffee Hours on Friday, Nov. 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Newsfeed Café at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston St.; and on Friday, Nov. 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Fenway Community Center.

### SOWA ARTISTS GUILD'S NOVEMBER EVENTS CONTINUE

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its Sundays on Nov. 12, and 19

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 10)

### ELECTION (from pg. 1)

since 2006, lost to Durkan in the July 25 Special Election to succeed Kenzie Bok as District 8 City Councilor after Bok stepped down from the seat to assume the reins of the Boston Housing Authority. He also previously ran an unsuccessful campaign for the seat in the fall of 2019, losing to Bok when she was elected to her first term in office.

An additional 35 votes, or .67 percent of the ballot, were cast for write-in candidates for District 8 City Councilor.

In the race for District 7, which comprises Fenway and part of the South End, as well as Roxbury and Dorchester, incumbent Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson garnered more than 70 percent of the ballot, or 3,651 votes out of a total of 5,591 ballots cast.

Councilor Fernandes Anderson's opponent, Althea Garrison,

who served short stints as both an at-large city councilor and as a state rep for the 5th Suffolk district after being elected to those seats in 1995 and 2017, respectively, trailed her, garnering nearly 29 percent of the ballot, or 1,482 votes cast.

An additional 62 votes, or 1.19 percent of the ballot, were cast for write-in candidates for District 7 City Councilor.

Meanwhile, Henry Santana, who previously worked in the office of former District 8 Councilor Bok and also served as the city's first Director of Civic Organizing under Mayor Michelle Wu, was the only newcomer elected to one of the four at-large City Council seats.

Santana placed fourth in the eight-way race, garnering more than 15 percent of the ballot, or 32,902 votes out of a total of 76,397 ballots cast.

"Boston, tonight our city delivered a clear and resounding vote for progress. I'm honored to serve as your next City Councilor At-Large, and I'm ready to fight on behalf of every neighborhood and every resident of this city. Let's get to work," Santana posted on X after declaring victory in the election.

Other top candidates in the at-large race included three incumbents who earned the top three slots and secured their respective reelection bids - Ruthzee Louijeune, who garnered more than just 20 percent of the ballot, or 43,127 votes cast; Erin Murphy, who received just under 20 percent of the ballot, or 42,476 votes cast; and Julia Mejia, who garnered more than 18 percent of the ballot, or 38,529 votes cast.

### PLAYGROUND (from pg. 1)

A "critical goal of the project," meanwhile, is to protect and preserve the site's existing trees, said Chick, so construction work would be minimal on the "critical root zone," with limited demolition and no heavy equipment permitted in those areas. Five new shade trees will also be planted on site as part of the project, he added.

Playground elements will be clustered together, with equipment for ages 2-5 located on the site's southern portion, and equipment for ages 5-12 located in another section of the 100-percent ADA-accessible playground, said Chick, although children would be able to move freely between the two sections due to the new playground's open layout.

The largest structure for ages 2-5 will be a custom feature that resembles a "football being spiked," and which Gronkowski himself likened to a "rocket ship" said Sandra Libby, DCR playground planner. Due to its large size, this piece of equipment would be assembled at the factory and then transported via truck to the playground, where it will be set in place using a crane, she said.

The Gronk High-5 Low-5 element would feature a life-size likeness of 6-foot, 6-inch Gronkowski, said Libby, with one hand extended upwards to a height of 8 feet and the other reaching down to allow park-goers to "slap hands" with the former football star.

The playground will also feature three Duck Boat mod-

els, with a naming contest for the largest one now ongoing on Gronkowski's social media accounts. (Visit Gronkowski's Instagram account at @gronk to learn more about the Duck Boat naming contest.)

Also, a "Bridge Climber" element for ages 2-5 would be modeled after the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge to help give the playground "a Boston context," said Libby.

Moreover, a merry-go-round located near the main entrance would be flush with the ground to allow for wheelchair access, said Libby, while a 40-yard dash feature would also align with "the fitness theme through all the different elements."

Other proposed playground elements include a "Spring Rider"; various swings (i.e. group swings, toddler swings, and individual swings); a group seesaw; an "Overhead Spinner"; a rope climb; and large panels adorned with inspirational quotes from 14 famous athletes, including Gronkowski and his erstwhile teammate, former Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

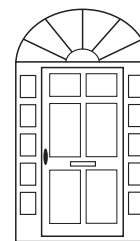
The playground equipment would likely be ordered in December, followed by a 12-month lead time to manufacture it. The equipment would then be installed as soon as weather permits, said Libby, before the new playground can open.

DCR is accepting public comments on this project through Nov. 16 online at [www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment).

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 3

from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Also, SoWa Artists Guild will open on Black Friday, Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit <http://sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>, or <https://www.instagram.com/>

sowaartistsguild/ for more information.

### NEW BOOK CLUB SET TO MEET NOV. 14 AND DEC. 12 AT FOMU

The Scoop: Book Club -the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library's new book club - will meet on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. at FoMu Ice Cream at 655 Tremont St. (Pur-

chases are encouraged but not required.)

November's book is "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich, and December's book will be "Five Tuesdays in Winter" by Lily King. Pick up a copy of November's book every Thursday in October at United South End Settlements or for December's book, every Thursday morning in November at USES, or send an email to sched-

ule a pickup appointment. The eBook is also available on Hoopla Digital (with no waitlist).

To register, email [southend@bpl.org](mailto:southend@bpl.org).

### FREE MARKET SET FOR NOV. 14 AT FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

A Free Market, co-organized by Fenway CDC and Fenway Community Center, is scheduled

for Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center at 1282 Boylston St.

Looking to start some early holiday shopping? Come swing by the Free Market. Bring your unwanted items to help your neighbors, and yourself. Please no bedding or soiled textiles. Contact Sage Carbone at [scarbone@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:scarbone@fenwaycdc.org) with any questions.

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 5)

### HARVARD CLUB (from pg. 1)

would be located on either side of the entrance to the establishment on Commonwealth Avenue and comprise 22 seats on one side and 14 seats on the other side, scattered among couches and a large table, said Tom Miller, an attorney for the applicant.

The proposed hours of operation for the permanent, patio would be six days a week (Monday through Friday) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch; and 5 to 9:30 p.m. for dinner service, said Miller, with all patrons required to be off the patio by 10 p.m.

Seating at the patio would be available by reservation made only by Harvard Club members, added Miller, and limited to only members and their guests.

While the Harvard Club doesn't expect the patio would be open all 12 months of the year, they are still seeking an annual license to allow for flexibility, especially as unseasonably warm days become increasingly more common during the winter and fall months, said Miller. No music or entertainment is being proposed or considered for the patio, he added.

Steven Cummings, general manager of the Harvard Club of Boston, said while the establishment owns outdoor space heaters, they don't anticipate the patio season starting before April or extending past mid-November.

The patio would be accessible via entrances located both inside the building and on Commonwealth Avenue, where existing granite curbs would be reduced to make way for two identical iron gates. The gates to the patio, which would be open only during its operating hours, would be installed on either side of the entrance to the Harvard

Club, said Cummings.

Once the permanent patio is completed, it will be furnished with crimson umbrellas. "It will be very attractive," said Cummings.

Moreover, the permanent patio would also allow the Harvard Club to get its temporary dining area off the sidewalk, which currently consists of tables of two nestled between where the two sections of the permanent patio would be located, added Cummings.

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, expressed his concern with the precedence this application could set for more proposed patios on private front yards along Commonwealth Avenue.

In another matter, the committee heard from representatives for the Boston developer, Samuels & Associates, on their plan to secure a liquor license for a yet-to-be-determined restaurant in the north tower (the Lyric Building) of the Parcel 12 project now under development at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Newbury Street. (The south tower along Newbury Street would be home to a hotel and have its own liquor license and restaurant operator, separate from what's proposed in this application, said Nick Zozula, the applicant's attorney.)

The approximately 1,200 square-foot restaurant space would accommodate 200 diners, said Zozula, with the bulk of this space, measuring around 1,100 square feet, including a 40-to-50-seat outdoor patio on private property, located on the second story while only the restaurant lobby would be found on the building's ground floor, alongside retail spaces.

Abe Menzin, a Samuels &

Associates principal, said the developer is currently "making great progress on the plaza," with fences coming down and parts of the sidewalk expected to open up in December or January. Samuels would then continue to work on the building's "core shell" through the spring, he said, and by next summer, there would be some "critical mass in the plaza," which would include the expected opening of the restaurant.

While Menzin didn't mention any would-be restaurant operator by name, he said, "We've had a lot of interest and a lot of good conversations so we're confident we'll have a really great restaurant in there at the end of the day."

Menzin said that Samuels views the restaurant "as an anchor that would be really critical to the retail operation."

Samuels obtained the liquor license for the future dining establishment from Sterling's, a now-defunct restaurant that previously operated at Faneuil Hall, said Zozula, who added the license would be transferred to the restaurant operator, once that party has been identified.

Zozula added that Samuels had obtained this liquor license for the sole purpose of attracting a restaurant operator to the north tower.

"There's not going to be a bait-and-switch here, where a Michelin five-star restaurant is promised and a McDonald's comes in," said Zozula, adding that the future establishment would be an upscale restaurant and not a nightclub.

Elliott Laffer, a NABB director, expressed concern with the proposed arrangement pertaining to the liquor license, which



D. MURPHY PHOTO

*The Harvard Club of Boston on Commonwealth Avenue.*

he described as "very unusual," as well as something that NABB had previously opposed when a couple of applicants on Newbury Street had made similar overtures regarding the transfer of liquor licenses.

Laffer said he also worries that if the liquor license lists a 2 a.m. closing time, as Zozula said would be the case, it would be much more difficult to get a restaurant operator to agree to an earlier closing time.

"That would not be a good place for us to be, especially when we don't know what the restaurant is," said Laffer, who also expressed concern about the patio being potentially open late, especially since the building sits directly across the street from a residential building at 360 Newbury St.

Zozula indicated that applicant would likely be "amenable"

to an earlier closing time being imposed on the patio.

His reservations aside, Laffer said the primary reason why the committee is even considering the applicant's request is due to Samuels' exemplary track record in the neighborhood.

Both Zozula and Menzin made assurances that they would return to the commission with the restaurant operator to discuss specifics, once an operator has been selected for the space.

Armstrong said he would personally follow up with the city's Licensing Board to ensure that the restaurant operator, once selected, would be obligated to appear before the commission.

Meanwhile, Armstrong told both applicants he would notify them of the determinations made by NABB's executive committee on their respective applications in the coming weeks.



## NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 4

### VIRTUAL MEETING ON PROPOSED BACK BAY FENS PATHWAYS DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 15

The City of Boston will hold

a virtual community meeting on proposed design improvements to the Back Bay Fens Pathways on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. (Join the meeting then at [bit.ly/bbf-pathways](https://bit.ly/bbf-pathways).)

Visit the project page at Project page: [Boston.gov/Fens-Pathways](https://Boston.gov/Fens-Pathways) for more information.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTINGS (from pg. 1)

#### Boston Common Tree Lighting

Thursday, November 30  
6-8 p.m.

Boston Common

Boston's official 2023 Christmas tree from Nova Scotia will be lit at the close of a two-hour celebration beginning at 6 p.m. and broadcast live on WCVB Channel 5 starting at 7 p.m. This is the 52nd year that a tree has been donated by Nova Scotia and commemorates 106 years of friendship with the people of Boston. The tree will be lit at approximately 7:55 p.m.

#### Lighting of the Trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Charlesgate Park

Thursday, November 30  
8:15 p.m.

Arlington Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Back Bay

The Boston Common Tree Lighting will be followed immediately by the lighting of Commonwealth Avenue Mall, courtesy of the Friends of the Public Garden. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Charlesgate Alliance are building on this annual tradition and bringing their signature emerald green lighting to the Charlesgate Park block of the Mall for the third consecutive year. For the first time this year, the lights on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall will extend to Kenmore Square.

Visit [bit.ly/LightsOnBos](https://bit.ly/LightsOnBos) for more information about the season's festivities. To stay up to date with news and events in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](https://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

### SCHOOL COMM. (from pg. 1)

late afternoon or early evening. Candidates must be Boston residents and should expect a significant time commitment to connect with school departments and leaders and prepare for and attend biweekly and impromptu meetings that run into late hours in the evening.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to

support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to [scnominatingpanel@boston.gov](mailto:scnominatingpanel@boston.gov) or to City Hall, Mayor's Office 5th floor Boston, MA. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.



PLEASE RECYCLE  
THIS NEWSPAPER

## 'Horsing Around' in support of BINA Farm Center

The BINA Farm Center's 'Horsing Around' gala, held on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Mandarin Oriental hotel, supported BINA's mission of bringing people together of all abilities through inclusive therapeutic, clinical and recreational equine programs in Lexington.

Coryn and Babak Bina, founders, and Janice Gilman, executive director, said this gala's focus was to celebrate the relaunch of their Music Therapy program. The evenings emcees, brothers Kamran and Aidin Bina, presented Emiley and Keith Lockhart with the BINA Achievement Award for their continued support of BINA since 2009, as well as their support of the Holiday Pops Sensory-Friendly concerts, which have been enjoyed by many BINA families.



Munjeet Geyer, Alberta Chu, and Murray Robinson.

Bebe Wood, who is starring in Tina Fey's upcoming film, "Mean Girls Musical," which is in theaters Jan. 12, performed a song from her EP, '21st Century Hippie,' and also played one song with Amir El Boukfaoui, who grew up participating in

BINA's Therapeutic Riding program.

Another event highlight was a special announcement made by Dr. Gene Beresin about a new collaboration between BINA and the Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds at Mass General Hospital, of which he is the executive director. This collaboration will allow BINA to further expand their Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy program with unbelievable resources.

Dr. Beresin discussed how they will bring the expert MGH faculty and Harvard Medical School to provide focused education on the latest in diagnosis, treatment, and advocacy for patients with psychiatric illness in the areas of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, substance use disorders, mood disorders, and anxiety and depression.

Event attendees also included Co-Chairs Tonya and Ben Mezrich, Lianne and Alex Leventhal, Christy Cashman, Harris and Paul Krupp. Additional attendees were Mandarin Oriental GM Markus Linder, Azita Bina, Tiffani Faison, Deep Voice Jojo of Kiss 108, Jonathan Soroff, Jadianne Thompson, Grace and Josh Zakim, Laura Baldini, Jennifer Kinsman, Alam Shah, Abby Bielagus, and Pat and Francesca Purcell.

Ropes & Gray was a sponsor of the event, which was designed by K. Kerkorian Events.



RUSS MEZIKOFSKY PHOTOS

Pictured, left to right, are Babak Bina, Christy Cashman, Coryn Bina, and Shannon Pastuszak.



Babak Bina, Tiffani Faison, Abby Bielagus, and Coryn Bina.



Pictured, left to right, are Channel 7 news team members Josh Wurster, Jadianne Thompson, Ryan Schulteis, and Sam Bleiweis.

# HOLIDAY

Saturdays  
11 - 5:00PM

# ART SHOW

December  
2nd - 16th

Sundays  
1 - 4PM

[THEHIDDENARTGALLERY.COM](https://THEHIDDENARTGALLERY.COM)



ELLIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER



After visiting Burro Bar Mexican Grill on Washington Street Committee member Kevin Mulchahy, Libby Blank, Phuc Troung, and Chris Marciano depart for various locations on the Progressive Dinner tour.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Ellis Association held its 15th annual Progressive Dinner after a three-year hiatus during the Covid Pandemic. Participants

meet at the Beehive and set off to various establishments throughout the South End in order to get a sampling of the many culinary options the neighborhood has to offer.



Committee members Norma St Coeur and Hope Blanchette brought a group to Metropolis.



An Ellis Progressive Dinner group at Burro Bar.




An Ellis Progressive Dinner group at Franklin Cafe.



At the Franklin Cafe, Committee member Kathy Phillips holds up the offering menu.

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Leslie Warshaw and Katie Rosen.



Margaret Eifert and Chris Travers at the South End Buttery.



# ELLIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER



*Ben Siegel chats with Trea LaRaia.*



*Kate Vasinda tries Ahi Tuna crispy rice with Oko-Style Brussel Sprouts.*



*Franklin Cafe in Shawmut Street was another destination for the Progressive Dinner.*



*Metropolis on Columbus Ave.*



*Hanger steak with fries was one of the offerings at the Franklin Cafe.*



*At Aquitaine were Grace Gregor, Tom Fisher, Margaret Eifert, Bill Gregor, Paul Wendelgrass, and Jim Jeneral.*



*Julie Arnheiter and Theresa Hanratty at The Elephant Walk.*



*The Elephant Walk on Washington Street was another destination.*



ELLIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER



Lavender Honey Salmon was one of the offerings at the Franklin Cafe.



The desert spread at the South End Buttery.



The Ellis Progressive Dinner's last setup on their South End culinary journey was at the South End Buttery for dessert.

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30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

December

M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
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An Ellis Progressive Dinner group at Metropolis.



At Banyan, guide and committee member Kate Vasinda brings a group to sample the unique menu there.



# Bay Village Historic District Commission to meet Nov. 14

Special to the Sun

The Bay Village Historic District Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on November 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom. Attention: This meeting will only be held virtually and not in

person. You can participate in the meeting by going to <https://zoom.us/j/93374938340> or calling 301-715-8592 and enter meeting id 933 7493 8340 #. You can also submit written comments or questions to [Bay-villageac@boston.Gov](mailto:Bay-villageac@boston.Gov).

The following is the agenda.  
I. Design review  
23.1012 Bv 18 winchester street: continued from 10-10-2023  
Applicant: Yan Schechter  
Proposed work: at roof repair existing headhouse, and install

deck and hvac equipment.  
II. Status of revised regulatory standards  
III. Ratification of 10/10/2023 public hearing minutes  
IV. Staff updates  
V. Projected adjournment: 4:30 pm

Bay Village Historic District Commission  
Anne Kilguss, Ruth Knopf, Three Vacancies  
Alternates: Thomas Hotaling, Kathleen Mcdermott, Stephen Dunwell

## BOSTON'S VETERANS DAY PARADE

The November 4 Boston Veterans Day Parade began at the Boston Public Library located on Boylston Street and marched to the corner of Park and Tremont Streets, and ended at 1 City Hall Plaza. This was a new and exciting parade designed to honor the

service and sacrifice of veterans and their families, as well as a thank you to all who continue to serve.



All the branches of the military were represented.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE

Boston thanks our veterans for their service and their selflessness.



The Boston Fire Department's Color Guard.

# DPH officials urge residents to get vaccinated ahead of the holiday season

Special to the Sun

As the weather gets colder and with holiday gatherings just around the corner, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) urges residents to get vaccinated.

"With Thanksgiving just two weeks away, now is a great time for those preparing to celebrate with friends and loved ones to get vaccinated for flu, COVID-19, and RSV, if eligible. Getting vaccinated now will maximize protection against these respiratory viruses," said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. "We want Massachusetts residents to have a safe, healthy, and fun holiday season and part of that is getting vaccinated to protect yourself and those around you."

Everyone 6 months and older should get a seasonal flu vaccine and an updated COVID-19 vaccine, both of which can take up

to two weeks to take full effect to protect against infection, serious illness and hospitalization, and reduce the chances of suffering the effects of Long COVID. The updated COVID-19 vaccine is effective against current variants and widely available for little or no cost to Massachusetts residents. Vaccine location information is available at [mass.gov/CovidVaccine](https://mass.gov/CovidVaccine). Residents who cannot get to a vaccination location can schedule an appointment for in-home COVID and flu vaccination by going to [mass.gov/VaccinesAtHome](https://mass.gov/VaccinesAtHome) or calling 833-983-0485.

DPH is working with hospitals and providers to encourage vaccination of staff and patients. Through its Vaccine Equity Initiative, DPH is working closely with communities of color and other populations and communities hardest-hit by COVID-19 to improve access to vaccination. Through partnerships with

community organizations, DPH will hold COVID-19 and flu clinics in many community locations and at upcoming cultural events. A listing of these community clinics that are accepting appointments and, in some locations, walk-ins, is updated weekly and can be found at [mass.gov/MobileVax](https://mass.gov/MobileVax).

In addition to flu and COVID-19 vaccination, many people are eligible for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination this year, including pregnant people, newborns, and many people 60 and older. COVID-19, flu, and RSV are the three viruses that are most likely to cause severe disease resulting in hospitalization and sometimes death.

While the holidays are a time for gathering, public health officials advise that if you are feeling unwell, you should stay home, get tested, and, if you test positive for flu or COVID-19, get treatment to prevent the spread of illness.

"Adding vaccinations to your holiday season to-do list is one of the best gifts you can give yourself and people you'll gather with, especially older adults, people who are immunocompromised, and pregnant people, who are at higher risk for severe complications," said State Epide-

miologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "While it's never too late to get your COVID or flu shots, getting vaccinated sooner rather than later will provide increased protection ahead of holiday celebrations, the start of winter, and peak respiratory disease season."

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## Special to the Sun

Tickets for the cinema's opening weekend are now available for purchase, giving guests a chance to reserve their seats for some of the holiday season's biggest movies at the new theater in advance. During the soft opening period running from 11/17 to 11/22, guests will also enjoy a 20% discount on select menu items and scratch-and-win cards for a chance to win prizes with every visit. True movie fans can also sign up for Alamo Season

Pass, a monthly subscription service that offers unlimited movies, up to one per day, for one killer price. Any Boston guest that joins between November 1st and February 1st, 2024, will get their second month free. Full subscription and offer details can be found online by scanning the QR code.

Alamo Drafthouse will celebrate its first Boston theater with a special Grand Opening event on November 16th, featuring



a theater tour for media, a VIP mixer, and screenings of some highly anticipated upcoming films. The exact titles are being kept secret for now, but it promises to be a memorable evening for Boston film fans.

"Boston is a city that loves movies, loves food, and loves interesting and excellent things to do, and we want to add to all of them with the opening of Alamo Drafthouse Seaport," said Alex Shebar, Alamo Draft-

house East Coast Community Marketing Manager. "The outpouring of support we've gotten over social media and at the local events we've already held has been overwhelming. Now the doors are almost open and we're as psyched as you are."

Alamo Drafthouse Seaport is a 10-screen theater with 780 seats and will feature a signature mix of first-run films and curated specialty programming, an extensive made-from-scratch food and beverage menu, and luxury recliner seating throughout every auditorium. The new theater is located at 60 Seaport Blvd. in the South Boston Waterfront's new Seaport Square development, a living, dining, retail, and entertainment hub with co-tenants that include lululemon, Scorpion Bar, Tuscan Kitchen, Flight Club, Kings Bowling, and Equinox.

"We are thrilled to welcome Alamo Drafthouse to Seaport and be home to its first Boston location. It's a best-in-class theater that brings movies and dining together to create an all around exceptional and fun experience for everyone," says Ariel Foxman, General Manager, Seaport Boston WS Development.

Alamo Drafthouse Seaport's 10 screens will showcase the company's diverse mix of blockbusters, indies, documentaries, foreign language films, repertory classics, unique special events like Movie Party celebrations of fan favorites (Beetlejuice, Legally Blonde, Ghostbusters), deep dives into hardcore cinephilia, and family-friendly choices like low-cost Kids Camp screenings. Guests can look forward to seeing all of the holiday season's biggest new releases, including Trolls Band Together, The Marvels, Napoleon, Saltburn, Dream Scenario, Aquaman And The Lost Kingdom, and American Fiction. Beloved holiday classics will also be gracing its screens, including Elf Movie Parties, White Christmas Brunch Screenings, Champagne Cinema screenings of Love Actually, and much more.

Each auditorium will be equipped with top-of-the-line digital 4K projection and dynamic surround sound, and fully outfitted with luxury recliners complete with footrests, ensuring every seat in the house offers a viewing experience of unparalleled comfort. Continuing the company's commitment to pre-



serving 35mm, Alamo Draft-house Boston Seaport will also feature 35mm changeover projection so that both classic films and new releases can be experienced in glorious celluloid.

Alamo Drafthouse Seaport's separate, full-service bar, The

Press Room, is much more than just a great place to grab a drink after a movie. Featuring craft cocktails, wine, and local beers on tap, The Press Room also focuses on a historically signifi-

(ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE Pg. 11)



# South End Holiday Stroll

Sat. December 2

Shop, Dine & Stay

- HOME DECOR
- GIFTS
- CLOTHING
- JEWELRY
- CHILDRENS
- FURNITURE
- FINE ART
- FOOD, WINE & SPIRITS
- PETCARE & ADOPTION
- HEALTH & FITNESS
- BEAUTY
- GIFT CARDS
- WREATH & TREES



# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
295 Beacon Street Rt	Saner, Katelyn E	295-297 Beacon St #42	\$1,575,000
Scott F Powers 2004 Ft	Rome, Barbara S	352 Beacon St #4	\$2,750,000
Shaji, Ali	Steerforth Rt	416 Commonwealth Ave #201	\$1,350,000
Chafel Rt	Kusma, Stacy C	397 Marlborough St #2	\$1,550,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Shenoy Ft	Alamo Partners Forever L	34 Hancock St #3A	\$1,550,000
Guo, Yuhua	Margaret M Doherty T	2 Hawthorne Pl #2M	\$675,000
Balmforth, John	Guo, Ying	2 Hawthorne Pl #9H	\$599,000
Dooley, Heidi	1 B LLC	39-41 Mount Vernon St #1B	\$3,875,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Karanfiloglu, Shirin	Gorman, Stephen C	79 Appleton St #3	\$785,000
Rococo LLC	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #22D	\$1,218,750
Trinity Stuart 35b LLC	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #35B	\$13,600,000
Narragansett Vent Partner	Fitz, Oliver J	505 Tremont St #421	\$2,500,000
Brennan Ft	Dent 3rd, Frederick B	12 Bond St #3	\$1,510,000
Jacobs, Jeremy	16 Bond 007 LLC	16 Bond St	\$2,900,000
Twenty Charlesgate Hldg L	Twenty Charlesgate LLC	20 Charlesgate W	\$10,500,000
Twenty Charlesgate LLC	Our Ladys Guild House In	20 Charlesgate W	\$14,000,000
Shaw, Alison	Phillip L Rosen Lt	24 Concord Sq #2	\$775,000
Nash, Carolyn	35 Concord Sq Nomine T	35 Concord Sq #1	\$2,000,000
Honan, Laurence	Robert, Daniel	19 Dwight St #1	\$925,000
Rolling Real Estate LLC	Rita L Field 2021 RET	12 Greenwich Park #1	\$1,315,000
Gattinoni, Aaron	Balkoski, Joseph M	485-495 Harrison Ave #305	\$722,500
Lee, Soyoung	761 Harrison Church LLC	771 Harrison Ave #PH3	\$1,555,000
29 Upton Street LLC	Malone, Laura M	29 Upton St #1	\$2,175,000
Henriques, Keenan B	Kahle, Adam L	98 W Springfield St #3	\$1,315,000
Smith, Matthew	Moscato, Mary K	1597 Washington St #612	\$1,085,000
Sobin, Sylvia M	Budge, Donald	3531 Washington St #305	\$900,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Zhu, Junxian	Zhan, Bao L	42-44 Beach St #8C	\$595,000
Lorber, Carolyn	Suppappola, Michael	65 E India Row #33G	\$1,280,000
635 Chestnut Hl Ave Re De	Johnny Court Rt	9 Johnny Ct	\$1,100,000

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE (from pg. 10)

cant collection of mid-20th century cinema newspaper advertising printing blocks. Guests are encouraged to take a self-guided tour in order to learn all about how letterpress printing, old-school graphic arts, and the newspaper industry influenced generations of movie-goers. The collection comes to life when the original 1940 Vandercook No. 4 proof press is inked up and skilled printmakers give guests a glimpse into a bygone era when the newspaper reigned supreme. Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

was founded in 1997 as a single-screen mom and pop repertory theater in Austin, TX. Twenty-six years later, with 39 locations and counting, Alamo Drafthouse has been called "the best theater in America" by Entertainment Weekly and "the best theater in the world" by Wired. Alamo Drafthouse has built a reputation as a movie lover's oasis not only by combining best-in-class food and drink service with the movie-going experience, but also introducing unique programming and high-pro-

file, star-studded special events. Alamo Drafthouse created Fantastic Fest, a world-renowned genre film festival dubbed "The Geek Telluride" by Variety featuring independents, international filmmakers, and major Hollywood studios. Alamo Drafthouse continues to expand its brand in new and exciting ways, including the American Genre Film Archive, a non-profit film archive dedicated to preserving, restoring and sharing film, and with several new theaters announced for this year and beyond.

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The doorway decoration in the last clue is on 5 Columbus Square. The answer photo is from circa 2011, when this building was described as being on Warren Avenue.

You'll find the next clue in the Back Bay. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE





# NEW LISTINGS!

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*LISTED AT \$1,999,000*



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