



THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## BPDA to hold virtual meeting on Jan. 16 to discuss proposed Fenway Corners Project

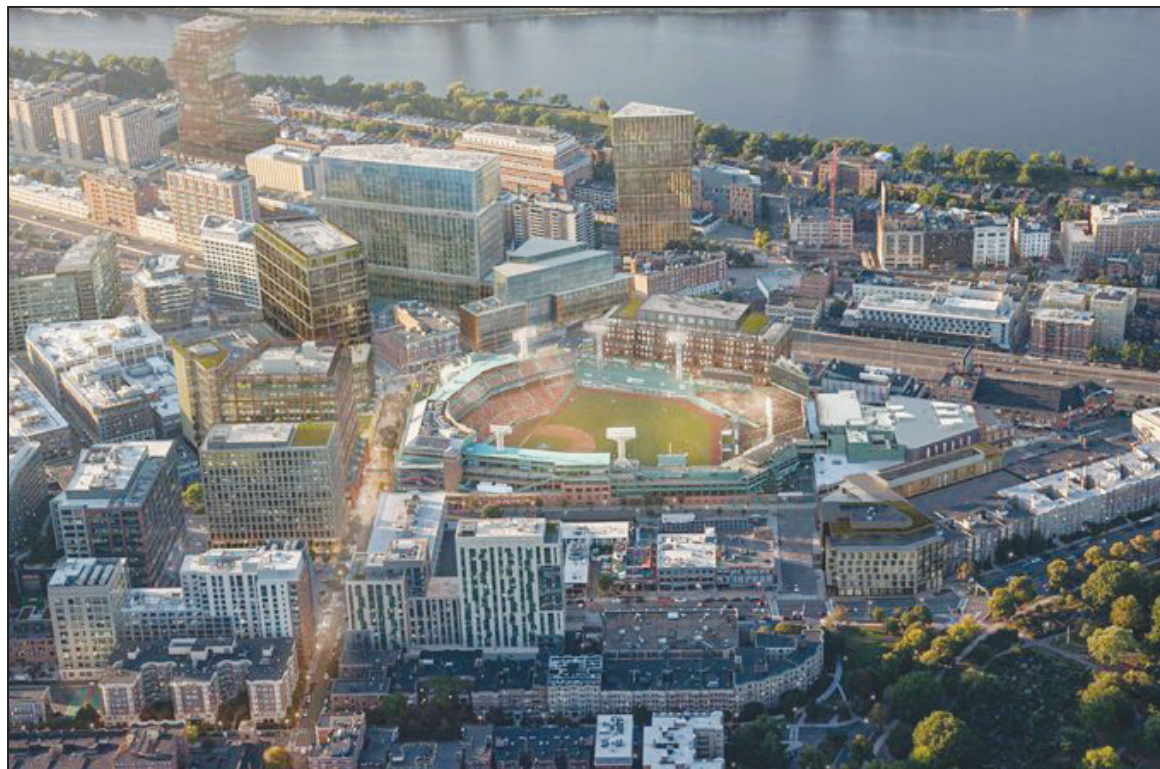
By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will hold a joint Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public meeting to discuss the proposed Fenway Corners (West) project on Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m.

WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC – a partnership comprising the Fenway Sports Group, which owns the Red Sox; the D'Angelo family, who own the 47 sports apparel and memorabilia company; and Newton-based WS Development, which led the redevelopment effort in the Seaport - intend to redevelop 13 parcels located

south of the Massachusetts Turnpike near Fenway Park on four major blocks along Jersey Street, Brookline Avenue, Van Ness Street, and Lansdowne Street, respectively, and collectively total around 5.32 acres.

The proposed project would contain a total of 266 dwelling units, including 53 affordable units; 10,000 square feet of civic space; and the creation of the Fenway Family Center, a day-care/early childhood ed center that could accommodate up to 100 children, said Yanni Tsipis, senior vice president of WS Development, during a virtual public meeting sponsored by the BPDA on June 12 of last year.



COURTESY OF THE THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

*A rendering of the proposed Fenway Corners project.*

The project will also provide 1,489 new parking spaces, along with the extension of Richard B. Ross Way from Van Ness Street to Brookline Avenue.

As one of the project amenities, the developer has pledged to completely fund the restoration and renovation of the city-owned Duck House into a proper public

facility, said Tsipis.

Visit [bit.ly/4ar6BvV](https://bit.ly/4ar6BvV) to tune into the Jan. 16 virtual meeting, or [bit.ly/Fenway-Corners-West](https://bit.ly/Fenway-Corners-West) to learn more about the project.

## FIRST NIGHT BOSTON PARADE IN THE HUB



Boxford and Belmont residents, Alana, Kat, and Stephen, enjoying the First Night Boston Parade.



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

*A dragon from the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association, making its way along Tremont Street. See more photos on Pages 5 through 7.*



# EDITORIAL

## THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER -- NOW IT'S BACK TO REALITY

The holiday season may have provided the usual respite for all of us from the strife and turbulence that has been assaulting us daily for the better part of the past decade, but despite the arrival of the New Year, we still have to face our same old problems.

The war in Ukraine continues to grind on, with Vladiimir Putin targeting primarily civilians in cities far from the battlefield. The Israel-Hamas war likewise has no apparent end in sight, with civilians on both sides suffering greatly. In addition, with other Iranian-backed terrorist organizations threatening to expand the war not only against Israel, but also against the United States and world-wide commercial shipping, the potential for a much-larger conflict increases with each passing minute.

China, the other member of the Axis of Evil, continues to encroach its military bases and fleet on the sovereignty of other nations and threatens to launch an invasion of Taiwan at any time.

Scientists have confirmed that 2023 was off-the-charts for being the warmest year in the history of mankind, with the trend looming for an even-hotter 2024, promising to bring more devastating storms and climate change-related catastrophes in the year ahead.

Despite the strong economy, homelessness in the United States grew by 12 percent in the past year, with no imminent solution at any level of government. The increase in homelessness is a direct result of the lack of housing that has accumulated over the past decade to the point where it is estimated that the country is five million units short of what is needed to keep up with our growing population.

The situation at the border with Mexico represents a complete failure on the part of Congress and the White House, with the result that the situation for migrants is dire and American cities are being overwhelmed. Even Democratic governors and mayors are feeling besieged by the influx of immigrants for which our local and state governments are ill-equipped to handle.

The lack of meaningful gun legislation to stop the proliferation of deadly military-grade weapons all but assures that 2024 will see more mass shootings throughout the country.

Drug and alcohol abuse also shows no signs of abating and will continue to claim the lives of tens of thousands of Americans in the year ahead. American life expectancy continues to trail the rest of the industrialized world.

And last but not least, the political turmoil in the coming presidential year promises to be the most turbulent not only in our recent history, but since 1861 -- the start of the Civil War.

The prospects are overwhelming for a grim 2024. About all we can say is that we are living in an era that brings to mind the title from the Kevin Costner movie from the late 1980s -- No Way Out.

# THE BOSTON SUN

**PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY**

(STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

**MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO**

(DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

**ART DIRECTOR: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT**

**REPORTERS: DAN MURPHY, DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM**

## The Vilna Shul to hold International Holocaust Remembrance Day event on January 28

By Sun Staff

In commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. will offer a multi-faceted and interactive event on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The event, co-sponsored by Facing History and Ourselves and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, and presented in partnership with Boston's 3G and the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, will open with a gallery talk by Boston-area photographer and montage artist, Leslie Starobinsky, along with a viewing of her photo exhibit, 'Looming in the Shadows of Lodz.' The event will also feature a screening of 'Who Will Write Our History?' -- filmmaker Roberta Grossman's documentary about the Oyneg Shabes Archive.

As recounted in Sam Kassow's book 'Who Will Write Our History,' Polish journalist Emanuel Ringelblum was interned in the Warsaw ghetto, along with over 400,000 Jews, during World War II. Recognizing that the stories of the Warsaw ghetto would only

be told from the Nazi perspective as eventually no Jews would be left alive there Ringelblum organized the clandestine Oyneg Shabes Archive. Its objective was to document and preserve the stories of Warsaw Jews, as well as the challenges and small victories they faced in the ghetto. At the risk to their own lives, and with what little supplies they had available, around 60 people collected stories, drawings, journal and diary entries, letters from the underground, and other forms of documentation. Before the Nazis liquidated the ghetto, Ringelblum and his colleagues buried these materials in six cachets, five of which were located and collected at the end of WWII. These archival materials are now on display in various museums, including at Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Following the screening of Grossman's documentary, conversations will center on such questions as Why is it important who tells your story?; What are the consequences of someone else telling your story?; In what ways can we be sensitive to the idea

that as we consume news today, the identity of the storyteller will shape our perception of the story and the people involved?; How does this relate to your own experiences consuming and/or producing media?; Whose story do I tell, and how do I tell it?; What story about my community and culture should I preserve for future generations?; How is storytelling a form of resistance?; and What tools can we use to tell our stories?

Participants will then have the opportunity to share what they have created with another participant whose story is different from their own. In this way, the program intends to build community, create connections between participants of varied backgrounds, and engage attendees in dynamic experiences linking history to their own stories and legacies.

Members of Boston's Armenian and Cambodian communities will also participate in the event.

Tickets for the event cost \$18 each. Visit <https://vilnashul.org/events/event/ihrd> to purchase tickets or for more information.

## Greater Boston bikeshare system plans to add 750 ebikes to growing fleet

Special to the Sun

The cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville and Everett, the town of Brookline, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") and Lyft today announced plans to integrate 750 next-generation ebikes into Greater Boston's popular Bluebikes program and the renewal of Blue Cross' title sponsorship through May 2031. The rollout will begin with 50 ebikes hitting the street this week; an additional 700 will join the fleet in subsequent months.

The new seven-year agreement between Blue Cross and the municipal owners further cements a dynamic public-private partnership for sustainable urban transportation. Blue Cross will continue its commitment to promoting the overall health

and well-being of Massachusetts residents by supporting the municipal owners of Bluebikes in driving system growth and accessibility through initiatives including station expansions, system enhancements and the integration of ebikes.

"Today marks an exciting milestone as we usher in the next wave of transportation in Greater Boston with the introduction of state-of-the-art e-bikes," Boston Mayor Michelle Wu said. "Partnerships such as our Bluebikes alliance with Blue Cross are crucial in ensuring our residents have access to healthier, more sustainable, and affordable transportation options. We look forward to continued collaboration with Blue Cross and all our municipal partners as we elevate our bike share system."

"Bluebikes have become an

integral part of so many communities in and around Boston, and we are thrilled to continue supporting the system," said Blue Cross President and CEO Sarah Iselin. "We're looking forward to the next chapter of partnership with the cities and towns through the renewal of our Bluebikes sponsorship. Biking is truly one of the best ways to get around, benefiting the environment as well as our mental and physical health. And adding ebikes to the Bluebikes system is an important step toward making biking more accessible to more people."

The new collection of ebikes is expected to grow the overall Bluebikes fleet to 5,000 bikes across 500 stations by next summer. Funding for the initial purchase of the ebikes came from a combination of munic-

# Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Champion Reception in March

Special to the Sun

The Boston Arts Academy Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization that raises essential funds to augment the Boston Arts Academy budget, has announced that Hector Piña and Dr. Aisha Miller will be honored with the prestigious Champion Award at the 2024 Boston Arts Academy Foundation Champion Reception on March 21. The event will take place at the iconic House of Blues in Fenway on Lansdowne Street and will be followed by the opening night of the all-student-led performance of *Simply The Best! The Life and Legacy of Tina Turner* as told through song and dance. This year's event will be chaired by Dylan Leavitt, founder of Studio Dylan.

The Champion Reception is one of several annual Boston Arts Academy Foundation events that raise critical funds for Boston Arts Academy. The money raised helps provide arts programming and life-changing opportunities for students that would be otherwise unavailable to them. Each year, the Champion Award

is presented to members of the community who embody the school's commitment to the arts, scholarship, and citizenship. Previous BAAF Champion Award honorees include Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, former First Lady of Massachusetts Diane Patrick, former Boston Mayors, Kim Janey and Martin J. Walsh, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, and former Governor Charlie Baker.

"We are thrilled to recognize two exemplary civic leaders who

have worked tirelessly to impact the residents of the City of Boston," said Boston Arts Academy Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark. "Hector and Aisha represent our students in so many ways, and truly are servant leaders. Their passion and love for young people, education, and the arts are what our Champions award hopes to recognize."

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Hector Piña is the CEO and President of Tres Islas Group Corporation and a community leader known for revolu-

tionizing Boston's culinary scene. Hector and his wife, Nivia Piña, have launched several acclaimed eateries including Merengue, Vejigantes, Doña Habana, and Cilantro Latin Kitchen, earning national recognition for their Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban cuisines. Committed to community involvement, Hector actively serves on Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Board of Directors and has received numerous awards for his leadership and impact on Boston's Latino community.

Dr. Aisha Miller is currently the Vice President of Permitting, Community, and Corporate Engagement at Related Beal. Dr. Miller has a diverse professional background, including serving as Boston's Chief of Civic Engagement and holding positions in the Boston Inspectional Services Department. In addition, she has worked as a Suffolk County Probation Officer, was the Regional Steward for Suffolk County Probation Officers, and has served as an aide to political figures. Dr. Miller has received numerous leadership and community service awards, most recently the 2023 Girls' LEAP Empowerment Champion Award.

Event Chair Dylan Leavitt is a member of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Advisory Council. Leavitt is passionate about building community through education, arts, and culture. Leavitt founded Studio Dylan, a boutique production company, in 2018, and has served as a producer for PBS national television programs including "Antiques Roadshow"

(BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY Pg. 4)



Dr. Aisha Miller.



Hector Piña.

## EBIKES (from pg. 2)

ipal investment from Boston and Cambridge, state funding, federal funding by the Boston Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and support from Blue Cross's sponsorship of the bikeshare system. Together, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and Blue Cross will provide support for affordable user costs of ebikes for Bluebikes members.

The state's largest health plan became Bluebikes' title sponsor in 2018. Since the inception of the Bluebikes partnership, the municipal owners – in conjunction with Blue Cross – have made investments, received grants and fostered station sponsorships to accomplish system milestones, including:

- Expanding the system from four to 13 municipalities, representing a 225% increase
- Supporting a 333% growth in the number of available Bluebikes and a 150% expansion in the number of Bluebikes stations
- Bolstering the income-eligible program
- Surpassing 22 million rides taken

"The City of Cambridge is proud to support more afford-

able, sustainable, and healthier forms of transportation and extend what has been a win-win public-private partnership," said Cambridge City Manager Yi-An Huang. "Bluebikes have become a critical part of Cambridge's public transportation system and I am excited that the system is becoming even more accessible through the addition of ebikes to the Bluebikes fleet, which will open up the system to more older adults, people with disabilities, and others who may find traditional bikes hard to pedal. It will also create more opportunities for individuals seeking to maximize their time and access to our busy communities, while reducing traffic congestion."

Lyft's ebike was named one of TIME's 100 Best Inventions of 2022. It features a long-lasting battery with a 60-mile range, a user-friendly interface LCD screen, a smoother ride and numerous safety upgrades. Massachusetts legalized Class 1 ebikes, which have no throttle and a maximum speed of 20 MPH, as part of the Transportation Bond Bill last year. Unlike traditional pedal bikes, ebikes

aren't permitted on sidewalks; they can be used on shared paths and bike lanes. Riders must follow all traffic laws and regulations and must bike in the same direction of traffic except on specially marked streets. Riders must always yield to pedestrians, maintain a safe speed and remain aware of all street users of all abilities.

"Somerville takes great pride in our regional, public-owned Bluebikes system, which is already one of the most successful bikeshare systems in North America," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Bikeshare is public transit, and I believe that affordable, pedal-assist ebikes can improve travel choices for people across the metro region."

"Bluebikes is getting our newest ebike, which has cutting-edge features that riders love," said Caroline Samponaro, VP of Public Policy, Lyft. "These ebikes make it easier than ever for people to reach jobs, family, and friends with sustainable, climate-friendly transportation that gets cars off our roads. I want to thank Mayor Wu, all the

Bluebikes municipal owners, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts for their continued investment and partnership in Bluebikes. Without them, Bluebikes wouldn't be the tremendous success it is today."

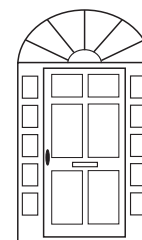
The municipal owners have prioritized access and affordability for the new Bluebikes ebikes, which will be available at \$0.10 per minute for Bluebikes members, \$0.25 per minute for Adventure Pass holders, and \$0.07 per

minute for low-income residents enrolled in Bluebikes' Income-Eligible Program. Income-eligible riders are provided a reduced annual fee for Bluebikes. Earlier this year, Boston also announced the Boston Bikes Pass, which is a Bluebikes membership offered only to City of Boston residents at a reduced annual rate of \$60. Learn more discounted Bluebikes rates at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes/discounted-bluebikes>.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD JANUARY EVENTS

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its SoWa First Friday on Jan. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m., as well as its SoWa Sundays on Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit [sowaartists.com](http://sowaartists.com), [facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild](https://www.facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild), or [instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/](https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/) for more information.

### VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING SET FOR JAN. 8 TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Boston Public Library and the city's Public Facilities Department will sponsor a virtual community meeting to discuss plans for the South End Branch of the BPL on Monday, Jan. 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. At this time, the meeting can be accessed online at <https://qrco.de/bplse>.

The meeting will be hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu; Dion Irish, Chief of Operations; David Leonard, President of BPL; and Kerrie Griffin, Public Facilities Department Director. The new architects from Utile Inc will be

introduced and the project plan will be shared with the community as well during the meeting.

### RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR JAN. 11 TO DISCUSS DPIR FOR PROPOSED 2 CHARLES GATE WEST PROJECT

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will host a virtual public meeting to discuss the Draft Impact Project Report (DPIR) for the housing development with ground-floor retail proposed for 2 Charlesgate West on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Scape, the British real estate developer which is also redeveloping 1252-1270 Boylston St., into a 477-unit apartment building, is proposing a 251,000 square-foot building, comprising 400 residential housing units, 3,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and 75 below grade parking spaces, at the corner of Ipswich Street, where Charlesgate turns from the Bowker Overpass onto Boylston Street.

The upcoming meeting was rescheduled from an original date of Dec. 21 of last year.

Visit [bit.ly/47TPaSy](https://bit.ly/47TPaSy) to tune

into the Jan. 11 meeting, or <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/2-charlesgate> for more information on the project.

### SECOND BACK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON FEB. 1

The Esplanade Association

will hold its second Back Street Neighborhood Project Meeting to discuss ongoing safety projects at Esplanade entrances on Back Street. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

During this gathering, EA representatives will review progress made to-date, hear neighborhood feedback, and discuss proposed plans for additional safety improvements. Your presence

and insights will greatly contribute to the success of the meeting, and the project.

Register for the meeting via zoom at <https://bit.ly/BackSt-Meeting>.

To learn more about the project, visit [esplanade.org/crosswalks](http://esplanade.org/crosswalks); and to learn about other pathway safety initiatives, visit [esplanade.org/pathways](http://esplanade.org/pathways).

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 9)

## CARDINAL O'MALLEY RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR AT BACK BAY'S ST. CLEMENT



Cardinal O'Malley rang in the new year with Mass at 11:30 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine in the Back Bay on Sunday night, December 31. A good crowd attended for the annual event and refreshments were served in an adjoining room.

### BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY (from pg. 3)

and "Lidia Celebrates America." She has also curated films at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Telluride Film Festival.

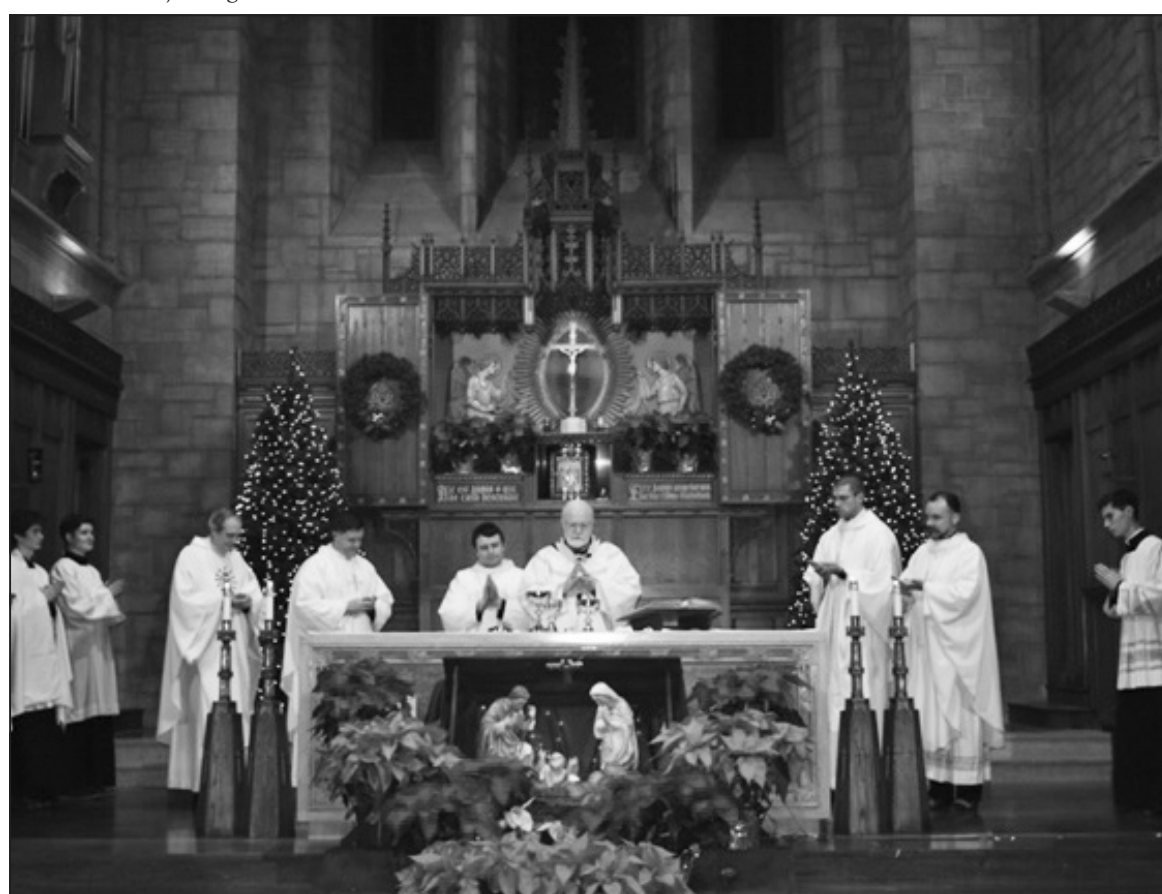
"We are grateful to be working with Dylan on our Champions Reception," said Clark. "Dylan is a fresh, young creative force, and we are excited to be partnering with her on this event."

After the reception, guests are invited to enjoy the opening night of Simply The Best! The Life and Legacy of Tina Turner, an entirely student-run production that will feature work and appearances from all five core arts majors at Boston Arts Academy. The show was chosen by the students because of its themes of female empowerment and resilience.

Tickets to the Champion Reception and opening night of Simply The Best! are available for \$125, while a ticket for all other performances is \$25. Proceeds from the event will directly support BAA's arts program-

ming. For more information about sponsorships and to purchase tickets for all performances of Simply The Best!, visit <https://bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/event/champion-reception-2024>

Boston Arts Academy Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1999 to raise essential funds for Boston Arts Academy, the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts. Each year Boston Arts Academy Foundation must bridge the gap between the school's allocation from Boston Public Schools and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both arts-intensive and college preparatory. Support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors is crucial to the school's ability to offer a comprehensive arts and academic education.





CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT BOSTON PARADE



Viola Giangregorio, of Revere, and Paula DiMartino, of Winthrop.



Krisztian Gado and Courtney Chan, of Waltham.

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Thousands of residents from throughout the Commonwealth gathered along Tremont Street to cheer for the First Night Boston Parade, on December 31. The display featured over 100 puppets from Boston Puppeteers Cooperative, brass bands, Chinese dragons, and crowds clad

in festive, light-up, “2024” headbands. “Everything is alright in life if you can make it to First Night Boston. I’m holding a light – and light represents hope,” said Sandy Joneck-Schiff, Winthrop resident. “It’s about celebrating Boston. All the communities get together. You come with family, friends, you meet people, go out

to eat, and you’re jiving to the music.” Joneck-Schiff has been attending First Night Boston since 1976, when she remembers fire pits being lit in Boston Common. For her, participating in the New Year’s Eve celebration marks the beginning of a prosperous and healthy new year.



Nel Blinman, of East Boston, Rew Denneno, of Downtown Boston, Kaleb McCauley, of Taunton, and Katelyn Norwood, former East Boston resident.

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CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT BOSTON PARADE



Jordan Brown with Hatch, Betsy and Steve James, of Beacon Hill, Heather and Hayes Brown, 2-years-old.



Families gathering on Tremont Street for the First Night Boston Parade.



A girl waving the wings of a bird puppet, one of over 100 Boston Puppeteers Cooperative puppets used by community members during First Night Boston Parade.



Hot Tamale Brass Band performing in the First Night Boston Parade on the corner of Tremont and Winter Streets.



Parade goes on the corner of Tremont Park Street making their way toward the First Night Boston fireworks display.



## CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT BOSTON PARADE



Jeff Schiff and Sandy Joneck-Schiff, of Winthrop.



Bridget Liang, of Newton, twirling a dragon ribbon in front of a Chinese "Happy New Year" sign on City Hall Plaza.



Mayor Michelle Wu waving to families outside the Park Street Congregational Church on Tremont Street during the First Night Boston Parade on December 31.



Neil Nagpaul, MacKenzie and Isabell Moran, of Grafton.



Campbell Kaynor, of Melrose, playing the Irish tune, "Kid on the Mountain," on violin, in City Hall Plaza.

## Pet care tips to keep in mind this season as the weather gets colder

Special to the Sun

It's been a rough winter so far in many parts of the country.

If you're a pet owner, that means you'll also need to keep your pets out of harm's way.

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs by 2025, offers the following tips to keep your pet as safe as possible:

- Outside animals should be brought indoors unless evacuation is required.

- Do not wait to evacuate. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to get out with your pets.

- If evacuating, please bring your pets with you. If that is not possible, do not keep animals enclosed in a pen or crate and make sure to keep pets on the highest floor or point of your home.

- Make a plan of where to go with your pet(s). Identify pet-friendly emergency shelters that may be open in your area for temporary respite. There are also

pet-friendly hotels that you may be able to locate online.

- Put together an emergency go-bag of all of your pets' essential items, such as medications, food, bowls, leash, crate, toys, blankets, and identification tags. It's also pertinent to have your animal's vaccination and medical records handy, including their microchip number, together inside a waterproof, sealed bag. Keep the bag as close to the door so that if you need to evacuate immediately, you can grab your pet and the bag and leave.

- Identify a neighbor who has access to your home and can grab your pets and their go bag if you are not home during a flooding event.

- Close all windows and doors.

### Additional Do's and Dont's:

- Do not attempt to walk through floodwater. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you and your pet down.

- Do not allow your pet to drink any floodwater. Floodwater is polluted with chemicals,

sewage and other harmful debris and foreign materials that are harmful to your pet.

- Do not assume your pet can swim. Animals can panic if put in a situation that they are too stressed to handle.

- Do not drive through water or even over bridges that sit above fast-moving water, as they can collapse at a moment's notice.

- Do dry off a pet as quickly as possible. Wetness can cause bacterial growth and inflammation on their skin.



## The Year of the Wood Dragon

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COURTESY OF DUANE LUCIA

'Staring Death in the Face' - a 2023 acrylic-on-wood work by Duane Lucia.

## Exhibit exploring neighborhood resistance to change, death, and superstition features work of West Ender Duane Lucia

Special to the Sun

The Gallery at 249 A Street is set to premiere 'Urban Edge' - a new exhibit of works by local artists Duane Lucia and Steve Kromer.

Sponsored by the 249 A Street Artists Cooperative, Gallery East, and the South Boston Community Development Foundation, 'Urban Edge' is a collection of paintings, mixed media sculptures and photographs of graffiti through which the two artists conjure up thoughts and feelings about vandalism, superstition, street beat, death, surrealism, and neighborhood resistance to change. Kromer's photographs portray the beauty, vulgarity and rawness not concerned with the comfort zone of others; roadside attractions which don't need to be intellectualized. Lucia's paintings and totem sculptures tell of a 45-year journey; a degenerated photobooth selfie, an assemblage of discarded objects, furniture found in the trash, cans, driftwood from the Fort Point Channel, and more.

"I like to take found objects that speak to me and work them into my mixed-media sculptures and paintings; sometimes the found objects themselves are combined as poetic ready-mades. I don't like to talk about the narrative or meaning of my work, I'll leave that for the viewer and critics; I do love talking about the process and materials because that's how culture evolves," said Lucia.

Lucia is an artist, curator, and

documentary filmmaker working in the Fort Point, as well as the co-founder of Gallery East, which since 1979 has been a platform for Boston's avant-garde. He is also a community activist and historian in the West End neighborhood he has called home for many years.

Kromer is a member of the 249 A St. Cooperative whose work includes "Party of Three," which was presented at the 40th anniversary group exhibition at Atlantic Wharf Gallery this past spring. He is a singer, songwriter, and harmonica player.

"Music has to have an edginess and irreverence to move me. I think that explains the attraction to street or graffiti art," said Kromer, who resides with fellow artist, Caroline Muir, at Fort Point.. "Call it self-expression or illegal eye floaters, graffiti and street art are part of the urban backdrop in cities and towns everywhere; it's got a good beat."

The Gallery at 249 A Street is supported by a grant from the South Boston Community Development Foundation, while the 'Urban Edge' exhibition is a Gallery East Production.

The exhibit runs from Wednesday, Jan. 10, through Saturday, Feb. 24. Gallery hours are by appointment only and can be arranged by calling 617-416-0718. The opening reception takes place on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 3 to 6 p.m. and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit and reception are both free.



## FRESH &amp; LOCAL

## Food pathways to consider

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Rather than make food and diet resolutions this year, we suggest you choose some food pathways to consider. Resolutions are often short-lived goals. That's because they require you to change something immediately. The only resolution we've ever kept was the one we made in 2007 to have a glass of something bubbly to toast each new month.

Pathways are taken step-by-step, allowing you to move at your own pace and change direction when you want to try a different fork in the road. Over the past few years, we've been wandering down the healthy eating pathway. It's been a great stroll.

Real Food v.s.  
Food-Like Products

The first step on this path is to begin reading food labels. We're fortunate that industrial food

producers have started to adapt to those of us who read labels and choose processed food with fewer ingredients or, in some cases, single ingredients over highly processed and ultra-processed food with a long list of additives, chemicals, flavor, and texture enhancers.

For example, rather than lower quality, out-of-season berries with our morning oatmeal, we've recently switched to frozen or unsweetened, dried blueberries, cherries, cranberries, and mixed fruit. These all have just the named fruit on their ingredient list. It's the same for the frozen peas, corn, minced garlic, and ginger we always keep on hand.

## The Eating Healthier Pathway

If you decide to start on the road to healthier eating, you can do that step-by-step with minor adaptations, choosing one area of change at a time. You may have a medical issue that might

be improved with more or less of a specific food group. For example, a pre-diabetic could have less sugar and simple carbohydrates. For someone with cardiac issues, it could be foods that lower cholesterol and choosing healthier fats.

For those who are healthy now and want to stay that way, your path could be to add more fruit and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and beans to your meals. It doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing change. We switched to frozen packages of simple brown rice from white rice.

Many of us have reduced our alcohol consumption and taken advantage of lower alcohol and alcohol-free beverages. We often choose a glass of sparkling wine, which tends to be 11-12% Alcohol by Volume (ABV), instead of the big, bold reds, which average 13.5% ABV. What's more, some reds may go as high as 20% ABV. Again, read the labels.



If you are new to dried fruit, try a sampler tray, like this one, from Fastachi in Watertown.

Make One Little Change  
at a Time

It took many years of less healthy habits to bring a person to the point where they make a New Year's resolution to lose 50 pounds or stop their caffeine or sugar addiction. Yet, they think they can undo all the harm in a few weeks. Slow and sure is a far better way to win this race.

If you have a fast food habit, you can opt to make your lunch at home one day a week and take a walk for exercise instead of going to your local fast food

chain. If you have an evening cocktail routine, you might opt for an exciting mocktail a few nights a week.

Step-by-step and decision-by-decision, you can slowly explore a food pathway to make a difference in your life and health. Once you succeed with one change, you can set off toward success on a different food exploration pathway.

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

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 4

MORE THAN  
ONE-THIRD OF  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
HOME FIRES OCCUR  
IN JANUARY

More than one-third (34 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at. "The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk."

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than

artificial trees.

According to the latest statistics from NFPA, there was an estimated annual average of 150 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in one civilian death, 10 civilian injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017 and 2021. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

LYRIC STAGE BOSTON  
PRESENTS 'TROUBLE IN  
MIND'

A tale that was meant to be told over 60 years ago, Dawn M. Simmons brings to Lyric Stage Boston, Alice Childress's unflinching look at the standards of 1950's Broadway in *Trouble in Mind*.

Meant for a Broadway run in 1957, *Trouble in Mind* never made its debut after producers urged Childress to subdue the content. Childress refused, and after a successful Broadway run in 2021, Lyric Stage is proud to

present this re-discovered theatrical marvel as the playwright originally intended.

It's 1955, and after enduring indignities and lost opportunities, Wiletta Mayer, a seasoned Black actress, is finally making her Broadway debut. Written by a white playwright, her star vehicle is the allegedly progressive "Chaos in Belleville," which turns out to be anything but. Leading a cast of both younger and experienced actors, Wiletta challenges not only the soft racism of her white director but also the veiled prejudice that limits her aspirations and success. With warmth, humor, and sharp insight, this moving backstage look at identity and stereotypes cracks open searing truths about the American theater that remain heart-breakingly contemporary.

Director Dawn M. Simmons says, "Have you ever read something so relevant, so fresh that you wondered who's been reading your texts? That's how I felt when I first read *Trouble in Mind*. It's funny, "on time", smart, and so maddeningly current I knew it had to be written

by someone working in the theater today. But *Trouble in Mind* first premiered in 1955. I've put together a cracking team of Boston's finest artists, and we're gonna put on one heck of a show for you. Laugh, cry, and be outraged with us, but most importantly, be in community with us as we hold the mirror up to nature and take you back to 1950s New York, which sometimes doesn't feel all that long ago."

Performances begin Friday, Jan. 12 and run through Sunday, Feb. 4.

SULLIVAN SQUARE  
TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Motorists should be advised that the Sullivan Square Underpass will be closed beginning on Tuesday January 2 through Friday May 31 to perform repairs to the structure.

Motorists are encouraged to plan accordingly and/or seek alternative routes.

If you have any questions, please contact:

[pwdengineering@boston.gov](mailto:pwdengineering@boston.gov)



# UMass announces scholarships for top 10-percent of community college graduates

Special to the Sun

The University of Massachusetts announced that the top 10 percent of the Commonwealth's future community college graduates will receive a minimum of \$5,000 per year above federal and private financial aid if they enroll at one of the four nationally ranked campuses in Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell. The Community College Advantage Scholarship (CCAS) is designed to incentivize highly talented community college students to finish their associate degree at one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges, and then complete their bachelor's degree at one of the four nationally ranked University of Massachusetts campuses.

The CCAS also seeks to address two challenges facing public higher education in Massachusetts:

- Providing equitable access to historically underrepresented groups of students in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on race-based admissions, and
- Strengthening the Commonwealth's talent pipeline as the number of high school graduates in Massachusetts is projected to decline in the coming years, the existing population is aging out of the workforce, and more young people are leaving the state.

"We want to send a clear message that UMass welcomes highly talented community college graduates to continue their pursuit of a college degree on our nationally ranked Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses," UMass President

Marty Meehan said. "We believe this initiative will lead to more community college graduates choosing to finish their four-year degree at UMass, which will accelerate their upward economic trajectory and strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce."

"As New England's first Hispanic Serving Institution, Northern Essex Community College serves thousands of students each year, mostly from the Gateway Cities of Haverhill and Lawrence and towns across the Merrimack Valley, seeking a path to a college degree and greater career and economic opportunities," NECC President Lane Glenn said. "The Community College Advantage Scholarship will help more of them continue on that path from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree at one of the state's outstanding UMass campuses."

Starting in Fall 2024, the CCAS will help develop and retain diverse talent in Massachusetts by:

- Guaranteeing students in the top 10 percent of their community college graduating class automatic admission to a University of Massachusetts campus and a minimum of \$2,500 per semester (\$5,000 annually) for a total of at least \$10,000 for the students' final two years of college.
  - Students remain eligible for additional aid based on individual circumstances.
  - The CCAS will supplement federal and private grants awarded to the student.
- To be eligible for the Fall 2024 CCAS, students must:
- Complete their degree in the top 10 percent of their graduating class at their college. This will be calculated as of the end of

the semester prior to the UMass financial aid priority deadline (Students applying for fall admission must have been in the top 10 percent of their class as of the end of the Fall 2023 semester).

- Complete the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or equivalent state financial aid application.
- Be eligible for in-state tuition.
- Have earned 45+ credits that are transferable to UMass.
- Be on track to complete their associate degree prior to the Fall 2024 semester.
- The CCAS is the latest in a series of state and UMass initiatives aimed at expanding access to a four-year college degree, which data shows significantly enhances a person's lifetime

income.

The University has increased annual institutional financial aid by 67 percent to \$395 million since 2015 and has launched an early college program that allows high school students in urban centers to earn UMass course credit while still in high school, thereby saving them tuition costs once they get to college.

The state has recently made community college tuition free for students 25 years or age and older and has expanded the MassGrant+ program by \$62 million to close make public higher education more affordable for lower- and middle-income students.

Northern Essex Community College, the first Federally designated Hispanic Serving Institu-

tion in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor's degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University's Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit Northern Essex online at [www.necc.mass.edu](http://www.necc.mass.edu).

## ArtsEmerson presents 'Moby Dick'

Special to the Sun

ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is excited to kick off its 2024 season with renowned director Yngvild Aspeli and the endlessly inventive Norwegian theater company, Plexus Polaire's 'Moby Dick' at the Emerson Paramount Center from January 23 – 28, 2024. Herman Melville's immeasurably influential novel is brought to life in this radiant stage production featuring seven actors, fifty puppets, video projections, a drowned orchestra and a life-sized whale.

'Moby Dick' is, on its surface, the simple tale of a whaling expedition, but the story's haunting themes of unparalleled obsession lead us all to question the unexplained mysteries of life and of the human heart. In this groundbreaking production, the classic is reborn with a freshness and urgency that makes it truly unforgettable. The New York Times calls 'Moby Dick' "a stunning work of art."

"We are thrilled to jump start 2024 with the wondrous feast for the eyes that is Plexus Polaire with Yngvild Aspeli's 'Moby Dick,'" says ArtsEmerson Interim Executive Director Ronee Penoi. "We think our audiences will be spell-bound by this poetic



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTOPHE RAYNAUD DE LAGE

*A scene from 'Moby Dick' by Plexus Polaire.*

and magical piece with breathtaking puppetry."

"I like how the sea somehow draws invisible lines between the different corners of the world, how it creates points of connection," says 'Moby Dick' director Yngvild Aspeli. "How, facing this force of nature, we are all the same. And no-one captures the battle between man and nature like Herman Melville in 'Moby Dick.' An ancient white whale, a captain steering his ship into destruction and the inner storms of the human heart."

Tickets for Moby Dick may be purchased 24/7 at ArtsEmerson.org, or by calling 617-824-8400

(Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Tickets start at \$25. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 9:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the Today-Tix mobile app. For more information, please click on "General Public" when you visit ArtsEmerson's Offers web page.

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## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
150 Beacon Street 2023 Rt	Edmond J English Ft	150 Beacon St #G1	\$17,250,000
150 Beacon Street 2023 Rt	Edmond J English Ft	150 Beacon St #PH	\$17,250,000
Brooks, Peter C	Veroneau, Andrew	151-153 Beacon St #3	\$3,325,000
Kozyrytska, Kateryna	Bouret, Lissette	228 Beacon St #1	\$850,000
Manzi, Jim	Golden LLC	250 Boylston St #3A	\$7,800,000
Sposato, Peter	Altieri, Richard	80 Marlborough St #2	\$1,065,000
180 Marlborough 5 Nt	Mccoy, John	180 Marlborough St #5	\$2,200,000
Mccarthy, Bruce	Ljl T	302 Marlborough St	\$6,400,000
430 Stuart St Unit 1614 T	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1614	\$1,970,000
Rugg, Joseph	Brigitte C Fletcher T	416 Marlborough St #503	\$769,000
Henderson, Joshua T	Haydon, Charles P	652 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$1,365,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Linsenmann, Kimberly	Kracoff, Brian	30 Lawrence St #1	\$1,269,000
Liberatore, Claudia	Daggenhurst, Richard	63 Mount Vernon St #5	\$3,415,000
Hill, Peter	Jdmd Owner LLC	45 Temple St #105	\$2,100,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Hickox, Brian	Miller, Dana M	32 Braddock Park #1	\$685,000
Vaughn, Anthony J	Ofr Dev LLC	25 Fountain St #208	\$202,900
De La Cruz, Sasha	Ofr Dev LLC	25 Fountain St #509	\$221,700
Mapesa Og One LLC	207 West Newton St LLC	207 W Newton St	\$3,170,000
Delano, Travis	Gomolka, Faythe P	249 W Newton St #1	\$742,500
Lye, Ellen	Osullivan, David H	6 Yarmouth St #3	\$1,100,000
Cengiz, Huseyin	Addezio, Marco	5 Albemarle St #4	\$838,000
Disston, Margaret	Putnam 234 Associates LL	234 Causeway St #720	\$762,500
14c Quinn Rt	Quinn South End LLC	370 Harrison Ave #14C	\$2,049,000
Halim, Regina	Hunter L Cote lrt	18 Medfield St #5	\$844,000
Scott, Sarah P	Joseph Patrick Nee Ft	27 Milford St #4	\$1,525,000
Woodruff, Margaret	Woodruff, Benjamin C	322 Shawmut Ave #4	\$1,805,000
Sc Tremont Street LLC	Frog Pond Realty LLC	129 Tremont St	\$6,500,000
Coveney, Christine	Siegel, Eric	15 Upton St #4	\$1,085,000
Lang Dynasty T	Kidder, Katherine J	90 Waltham St #1	\$2,775,000
Jason M Haskell RET	Harrison, David	14 Wellington St #2	\$2,525,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Li, Wei	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5112	\$4,250,00v

## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The eagle in the last clue is outside the Boston Public Library near the Copley Square MBTA station. A Boston Landmarks Commission study noted, "Granite bollards line the edge of the sidewalk on Dartmouth and Boylston streets; some of which are carved with low-relief eagles, the design of which is derived from those at the Piazza di Spagna in Rome."

You'll find the next clue in Kenmore Square.

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



## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should e-mail news releases and photos to [deb@thebostonsun.com](mailto:deb@thebostonsun.com).

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to [obits@reverejournal.com](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588



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