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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

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Homelessness Task Force forum returns to Copley BPL

By Dan Murphy

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Homelessness Task Force held its fifth informational forum on homelessness on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library.

This year's forum, called 'Ensuring Everyone has a Home in Massachusetts: Bold City and State Initiatives,' was moderated by Jenifer McKim, interim investigations editor at GBH. Panelists included Kenzie Bok, administrator of the Boston Housing Authority who previously served as District 8 city councilor from 2020 to 2023; Josh Cuddy, director for interagency coordination for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; and Dr. Howard K. Koh, the Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as formerly the 14th Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2009 to 2014.

"Every major city and many rural communities as well are affected [by homelessness]," said Dr. Koh, who said that the matter has been even further complicated by a U.S. Supreme Court that allows cities to ban people from sleeping and camping in public places. "This is affecting all of us, everywhere – it's in the news all the time."

Dr. Koh said he first became

aware of the severity of homelessness on a local level during his tenure from 1997 to 2003 as commissioner of public health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In January of 1999 during what Dr. Koh described as a particularly "harsh" winter, 13 unhoused individuals succumbed to the elements on the streets of Boston.

"I've been haunted by this and asked why there's not a more coordinated, urgent response to this homelessness crisis," he said.

Affordable housing, meanwhile, currently presents a quandary, which Dr. Koh likened to a game of musical chairs with not enough housing stock available to fulfill the current demand.

During his presentation, Cuddy pointed to some of the major contributing factors that can often result in homelessness, including the disproportionate cost of housing in relation to an individual's income; income inequality between individuals; 'geographic diversity'; and rising construction costs.

Massachusetts has also seen a significant increase in older adults experiencing homelessness, many for the first time, said Cuddy.

At the podium, Bok underscored a BHA tagline declaring: 'A home for every story.'

While the BHA, which currently owns and/or oversees approximately 10,000 rental units of public housing citywide

(NABB FORUM, Pg. 3)



A SANCTUARY CAFÉ OPENS ON BEACON HILL

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Shown above, A Sanctuary Café – the eagerly awaited cat café and bookstore. – has opened at 80 Charles St. on Beacon Hill. Shown to the left, A Sanctuary Café's bookstore.

Sen. Markey maps need for climate action and highlights investments in state climate resilience

Special to the Sun

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) was recently joined in Boston by local officials and advocates to call for increased federal investment to bolster the climate resilience of regions at risk of sea level rise – exacerbated by devastation from climate change-fueled storms, as well as highlight ongoing resiliency projects in Massachusetts, following

two devastating hurricanes in the southeastern United States that are expected to cost \$300 billion and have resulted in more than 250 deaths. Senator Markey announced that over the past two years, Boston, Chelsea, and Revere have already secured more than \$75 million from the

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act for resiliency projects that include building resilient transportation

corridors in Roxbury, greening the Chelsea Creek waterfront, and making the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) Blue Line more flood resistant.

In total, Massachusetts has secured approximately \$200 million for climate resiliency projects from those two laws so far. Senator Markey was joined by

(MARKEY, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

OBAMACARE IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL AMERICANS

The revelation that family members of Republican vice-presidential candidate J.D. Vance used the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to obtain private health insurance is a cautionary tale for all Americans, especially those for whom the ACA is their only refuge for obtaining health insurance.

Vance's mother had been on Medicaid in Ohio, but when she earned too much money to remain on Medicaid, she was able to access affordable health insurance through the ACA.

Thanks to the ACA, a record 21 million Americans presently are able to obtain private health insurance. The provisions of the ACA also have expanded coverage for an additional 24 million low-income Americans for Medicaid.

But the ACA -- which also is known as Obamacare -- is a big deal for every American, even for those who are not on an ACA plan, for a number of reasons:

-- The ACA requires that ALL health insurance plans in the U.S. must provide coverage for the children of policyholders up to the age of 26, which, as any parent knows, is a huge benefit for their children who either are still in college or who have started a job that may not offer health insurance or does so at a high cost;

-- The ACA also requires that ALL health insurance plans in the U.S. must provide free or low-cost birth control to their policyholders, which is a huge benefit for women of all ages and their families;

-- Most significantly for individuals, the ACA forbids ALL health insurance plans from either denying coverage, kicking somebody off their plan, or raising the rates for persons with a pre-existing medical condition such as heart disease or cancer. This is especially important for individuals who may try to change their jobs, but who have a health issue, and who would be unable to obtain health insurance without the protections of the ACA.

-- In addition, by providing health insurance for all Americans, the ACA helps make America a healthier one, which not only benefits the health of every American both directly and indirectly, but also saves our nation money in the long run.

One of the first things Donald Trump tried to do in his first term in office was to repeal the major provisions of the ACA when the Republicans controlled both the House and Senate after the 2016 election. Fortunately, then-Arizona Senator John McCain, a Republican, gave his famous "thumbs down" on the roll-call, leaving the repeal one vote short by a vote of 51-49 (a deadlocked Senate would have left then-vice president Mike Pence in the position of breaking the tie and killing the ACA).

During his recent debate with Kamala Harris, when Trump was asked about his plans to "replace Obamacare," Trump said he has the "concept of a plan" (which, as we all know by now, means that he has no plan). However, there is no doubt that if Trump is elected with a GOP-controlled House and Senate, Trump will try once again to kill the ACA.

The fate of the ACA is just one of the things at stake in this election, representing a clear choice between the Democratic and Republican candidates -- which is why getting out to vote is more important than ever.

HAS FLORIDA BECOME UNLIVABLE?

The damage caused by Hurricane Milton, the latest major hurricane to strike Florida, raises a very basic question: Is Florida no longer safe or affordable for human habitation? That may sound a bit extreme, but the reality is that extreme weather has moved from the realm of a rare occurrence to the norm in Florida.

Significant hurricanes have been a way of life in Florida forever, but the intensity, severity, and frequency of these catastrophic weather events have been increasing over the past few years thanks to the startling rise in both ocean and air temperatures because of climate change. Warm water is the jet fuel for hurricane development and Milton was a perfect example of that interaction. Milton originated in the Gulf of Mexico, just off the Yucatan peninsula, and intensified from a Category 1 hurricane to a Category 5 within 24 hours, the fastest-ever hurricane to do so.

Not only did Milton spawn tornadoes across Florida even before it made landfall that resulted in death and destruction far from where it came ashore, but it also caused record flooding in the middle of the state which still has yet to fully recede. There are areas in Florida where those who bought their homes only a few years ago are unable to sell them, even at steep discounts, in the aftermath of the hurricanes of the past few years.

Even for those whose homes have been relatively untouched by the catastrophic weather, the cost of home insurance has skyrocketed. The Wall St. Journal reports that home insurance rates in Florida are twice the national average and auto insurance is more than 50% above the national average. There is no doubt that as hurricanes continue to pound the peninsula, these costs will continue to rise exponentially, effectively making living there unaffordable for many Floridians, especially for senior citizens who are on fixed incomes.

The possibility of losing everything -- your home, your cars, and all of your belongings -- has made many question whether Florida is a desirable place to live, especially in one's so-called golden years. You may escape the worst effects of a hurricane for five or 10 years, but all it takes is one occurrence to lose everything you have.

We have written previously that there is no place on the planet where we are safe from climate change -- the devastating effects of Hurricane Helene in serene western North Carolina, hundreds of miles from the ocean, being the most recent example -- but Florida has become the proverbial canary in the coal mine, the forewarning of much-worse times to come.

The trifecta of wind damage, flooding, and the high cost of living have turned the Sunshine State into the State of Danger & Despair -- and with climate change bringing ever-higher ocean and air temperatures with no end in sight, the future promises to be truly apocalyptic.

Living in Florida these days is like playing Russian Roulette, with Mother Nature in the role of the house. And as we all know, the house always wins.

Councilors Flynn, Worrell to discuss increasing the Veterans Property Tax Exemption next Tuesday

Special to the Sun

Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Brian Worrell will hold a hearing to discuss increasing Veterans Property Tax Exemption next Tuesday, October 22nd, at 2pm. In August this year, Governor Maura Healey signed the historic Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans Act, also known as the HERO Act. The act includes comprehensive spending and policy initiatives, such as benefits and property tax exemptions, to improve veterans welfare. This hearing will discuss expansions to property tax exemptions to provide the highest possible property tax relief for our veterans. Residents can provide in-person or written testimony by contacting Shane Pac at Shane.Pac@boston.gov. This hearing will be held in person at the Iannella Chamber in Boston City Hall, and will be live-streamed at boston.gov/city-council-tv.

According to 2022 U.S. Census estimates, Boston has over 13,000 veterans, with the largest age group being 75 and older. Currently, property tax exemptions for veterans are limited to specific groups, including Purple Heart recipients and disabled veterans, with a maximum exemption of \$400 for FY25. The recently passed HERO Act allows Boston to increase this exemption. With over \$500 million available through the legislation, the City of Boston is financially positioned to offer a maximum property exemption



City Councilor Brian Worrell.



City Councilor Ed Flynn

of \$840 starting in FY26.

"Our brave veterans who have served our country deserve our utmost care, respect and support," said Councilor Flynn. "I look forward to working with Councilor Worrell and the administration to increase the amount of property tax exemption so that we can provide meaningful financial relief to our veterans and military families in Boston."

For more information, contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

THE BOSTON SUN

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MARKEY (from pg. 1)

Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston; Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata; Roseann Bongiovanni, Noemy Rodriguez, and John Walkey from GreenRoots; and Dwaigh Tyndal, Executive Director of Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE).

“If we don’t drive down our emissions as a country, we could see more than six feet of sea level rise by the end of the century. That’s sunny-day flooding in neighborhoods from East Boston to Back Bay. TD Garden wouldn’t be flooded with a sea of fans—it would be flooded by the sea itself. Back Bay will go back to the bay,” said Senator Markey. “Our task is twofold. One, cut climate pollution by ushering in a clean energy revolution unlike any we’ve seen before, dismantling our dependence on fossil fuels. And two, prepare for the future by investing in resilient buildings and strong communities. Thanks in part to the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are well on our way to meet that second goal. In Massachusetts, we don’t wait, we create.”

“Chelsea and East Boston, the two communities that we serve at GreenRoots, are frontline environmental justice communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental assault. On a daily basis, envi-

ronmental justice communities throughout the United States and in the Global South face increased frequency of severe storms, storm surge, sea level rise, drought, heat island impacts, wildfires and much more. We need federal leadership like that of Senator Markey’s to prioritize policies and investments in climate resilience and climate justice, an end to fossil fuel use, and implementing greater renewable, resilient energy,” said Roseann Bongiovanni, Executive Director of GreenRoots.

“Many of the people here have immigrated as a result of natural disasters in their home countries, and with climate change, we know that natural disasters are only going to be increasing in number. When this happens, we need to ask the questions, ‘Where are we going to go? What is going to happen to us?’ These are the questions and worries that many of us have, not just for East Boston, but all over the country. We are the first generation feeling the effects of climate change and we may be the last generation that can do something about it,” said Noemy Rodriguez, Waterfront Initiative Organizer at GreenRoots.

“We know that when climate change happens, the least among us are the first affected and the worst affected. We frequently say that people are a paycheck



Senator Markey joined by City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta Zapata; Brian Swett, Boston’s Chief Climate Officer; Dwaigh Tyndal, Executive Director of Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE); and John Walkey, Noemy Rodriguez, and Roseann Bongiovanni from GreenRoots.

away from disaster. According to FEMA, just an inch of floodwater in a home causes roughly about \$25,000 in damages. There are over 400,000 Massachusetts residents living in the hundred-year flood zone which means more than a one in four chance of having a flood during a 30-year mortgage period. If home ownership is the route to generational wealth that we would leave to the next generation, we need to be planning and prepared for this,” said John Walkey, Director of Climate Justice & Waterfront Initiatives.

“Boston is deeply grateful for Senator Markey’s unwavering leadership in securing critical federal funds that are bolstering our city’s climate resilience.

as a successful partnership project underwritten in part by the BHA’s voucher program.

Bok noted that NABB led the process for this collaborative project, bringing together various stakeholders in an effort to combat homelessness at the local level.

NABB FORUM (from pg. 1)

and houses more than 17,000 people under the public housing program, is “one step removed” from the issue of homelessness, the city agency is still a “vital part of the conversation,” according to Bok.

“People only get out of homelessness if they have a home,” she said. “It could be any of us.”

Bok pointed to 140 Clarendon – a redevelopment project at the intersection of Clarendon and Stuart streets that resulted in 210 affordable apartments, including 111 supportive housing apartments designated for people exiting homelessness and provided by The Pine Street Inn –



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Pictured, left to right, are by Jenifer McKim, moderator of Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Homelessness Task Force’s fifth informational forum on homelessness, together with panelists Dr. Howard K. Koh, Josh Cuddy, and Kenzie Bok.

Thanks to our partners in the federal government, Boston has secured over \$60 million in grants for coastal resilience projects helping us protect our neighborhoods from rising sea levels and extreme storms. However, with the increasing frequency of extreme weather, much more work remains, and additional funding is essential to fully safeguard our city and its most vulnerable communities,” said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston.

“We have a moral obligation to move quickly to identify all strategies and tools that are at our disposal to ensure that Boston’s forty-seven-mile coastline is resilient and to protect these residents. I want to thank Senator Markey for his leadership in the Senate, and President Biden’s leadership in securing these necessary federal funds that Boston is now being awarded, which will help protect our communities. This is our next big challenge. We need the resources, capital, and collaboration to adequately protect Boston. We need the vital investments coming down the pike from the federal government in both green and gray infrastructure to protect our future. I am hopeful, with the level of partnership and leadership on display here across all levels of government, advocacy groups and philanthropy, and I know that we will continue to lean in and get it done,” said Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta Zapata.

“This is a reminder, a call to arms, a warning and a reality check. We may have more resources than imagination to deal with this issue. We have all the policy, the information, and the possible solutions.

The struggle now is to push beyond our imagination to do what we need to get this done. This is not going to be a part of the political cycle, or fundraising cycles, but part of the continual struggle and persistence that many of us are here today are taking part in,” said Dwaigh Tyndal, Executive Director of Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE).

The destruction of extreme weather events is disproportionately felt by Black, Brown, low-income, and immigrant communities, who are burdened by historical disinvestment and the compounded effects of legacy pollution and dangerous infrastructure sited in their neighborhoods. Under the Biden-Harris administration, including through the historic Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, federal funding has come to Massachusetts to help prevent the worsening impacts of climate change and support the Commonwealth’s climate resilience efforts, but continued federal investment in resiliency and clean energy will be needed to help avoid worsening disasters and billion-dollar storm recoveries in the future.

Senator Markey has been working to ensure that Massachusetts is climate resilient and prepared for extreme weather events, which are only increasing in frequency due to climate change. On October 4, Senator Markey joined Mayor Jennifer Macksey for a briefing on the Hoosic River Flood Mitigation Study, a project that aims to evaluate potential flood risk reduction measures and support development of a new flood mitigation system built with 21st-century engineering standards.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WLP'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS OCT. 18 TO THE FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA

Women's Lunch Place's annual fall gala, its Spaghetti Dinner, will take place on Friday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

WLP will celebrate its donors and partners who have invested in building a healthy community for women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty.

This year's event will include a dynamic musical performance by local artist Miranda Rae, as well as speeches from Kate Walsh, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Chef/Owner Douglass Williams of MIDA Restaurants, and the Honorable Linda Dorcena-Forry, former State Senator.

To reserve a seat, sponsor the event, or learn more, visit womenslunchplace.org/sd.

FALL-O-WEEN CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL RETURNS OCT. 18 TO THE COMMON

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the fourth annual Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground at the corner of Beacon and Charles streets on Friday, Oct. 18, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Adults and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of free, fun, and spooky family-friendly activities. Show off your skills at the Ultimate Gaming Truck or test your courage in our Haunted Zombie Maze. Try the Jumpin' Pumpkin and Scarecrow Slide, test your skills at Pumpkin Bowling, and enjoy nighttime fun in our Glow in the Dark Park with LED swings and LED seesaw.

A "monster mash" of activities will include music, arts and crafts, treats, rides on the trackless train, field games facilitated by Knucklebones, and sensory play with Play Boston. LEGO® Discovery Center Boston will be in attendance with fun Halloween LEGO builds as well as LEGO Halloween build activities with a Master Model Builder. Visit the New England Dairy displays to enjoy both the Mobile Dairy bar and the Mobile Dairy Experience. Enjoy live entertainment at the Parks Department Stage with music from Matt Heaton, dancing with Family Zumba, and a spooky storytime with Boston Public Library librarians.

For more information please visit boston.gov/falloween. To stay up to date with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

REP. LIVINGSTONE APPLAUDS BEACON STREET AUTHOR AT MASS BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY



COURTESY PHOTO

Rep. Jay Livingstone was recently in attendance at the 2024 Mass Book Awards Ceremony at the State House, where one of his constituents, Julie Carrick Dalton of Beacon Street, was honored for her new book, 'The Last Beekeeper.' Dalton's latest work was recognized in the Longlist in Fiction.

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HOWL-O-WEEN DOG COSTUME CONTEST SET TO RETURN OCT. 19, TO PETERS PARK,

The Friends of Peters Parks presents its Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peters Park, located at 1205 Washington St. in the South End.

Admission is free. For more information, follow Peters Park on Facebook, or on Instagram @PETERS_PARK/@REDDOGPETRESORT.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD OCTOBER EVENTS

SoWa Sundays will be held on all four Sundays in October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All SoWa Artists Guild events are held at 450 Harrison Ave., they are free and open to the public.

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

FOSEL'S AUTHOR TALKS CONTINUE OCT. 23 AT UNION CHURCH

Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) will hold the second in its fall series of author talks on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. at the United Church at 485 Columbus Ave, in the Connection Room, an accessible space. This event will feature two acclaimed authors: Danielle Trussoni, whose most recent book is 'The Puzzle Box,' and Adam Sikes, author of 'The Underhanded.'

Visit friendsofsouthendlibrary.org for more information.

REP. LIVINGSTONE TO HOLD VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS ON OCT. 24

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold his virtual Office Hours via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 5:30 p.m.

To receive the link for Rep. Livingstone's virtual office hours,

or to set an alternate time to meet with him, email Cassidy.Trabilicy@mahouse.org.

CITY TO HOLD NOV. 13 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE PROJECT IN SOUTH END

The Boston Planning Department will sponsor virtual Public meeting for a project proposed for the Animal Rescue League of Boston site in the South End on Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The project, proposed for 10 Chandler St., comprises the construction of a new, three-story facility to replace the "functionally obsolete facility currently onsite," according to the Planning Department.

Register for the meeting using the following Zoom registration link: bit.ly/4eOuJKb



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The Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be e-mailed to deb@thebostonsun.com.

CITY PAWS

Fall Art Walks with Dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Many of us enjoy walking our dogs through Mother Nature's colorful autumn artwork. In the Greater Boston area, you can combine a nature walk with a stroll through some significant art collections and craftsmanship created by humans.

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

We highly recommend a dog-friendly outing at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. This property is now part of the Trustees of Reservations, and the grounds are dog-friendly as long as they are on a leash and you pick up after them.

The Trustees tell you what to expect at this venue. "The Sculpture Park occupies the entire campus: 30 acres of beautifully

landscaped lawns, forests, fields, gardens, and terraces on a rolling site along the shore of Flint's Pond in Lincoln, Massachusetts. At any given time, approximately 60 sculptures are on display in the Sculpture Park."

Spend some time exploring their website to plan your visit. Check the current hours and regulations, bring a picnic, print a park map, or keep one on your phone. If you have a specific question, give them a call.

The Artwalk Project

Click over to www.theartwalk-project.com and discover a curated collection of more than a dozen recommended art walks around the area. On the site, you'll find maps for each walk, basic information, and details about each artwork and the artist.

For the past few months, we



Duchess Poppy and Lady Cha Cha accompanied us on the MIT art collection tour.

have been exploring the Chinatown Art Walk since this is a neighborhood we love and visit often. As with many places

you are familiar with, we tend to walk on the same streets to the same places. This walk has helped us walk new streets and

learn more about the people and their cultures.

(CITY PAWS, Pg. 6)

HARVARD AVE. & BRIGHTON AVE. Between Cambridge St. and Commonwealth Ave.



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Experience Allston/Brighton in a whole new way through **Open Streets!** Grab your friends and family and join us for a fun-filled day of walking, skating, biking and activities on a car-free **Harvard Ave. and Brighton Ave. between Cambridge St. and Commonwealth Ave.**

Streets Close at 9 a.m.
Activities start at 10:30 a.m.



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Questions? Email us at info@openstreetsboston.org or call 311



Emerald Necklace Conservancy continues its seven-year tree inventory and pruning cycle

By Sun Staff

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy's tree care program, the Olmsted Tree Society, is continuing its seven-year tree inventory and pruning cycle of all trees in the Necklace, this year focusing on the entire Back Bay Fens and Charlesgate.

The Olmsted Tree Society was founded in 2013 to preserve and maintain the Necklace's tree canopy. Together with public part-

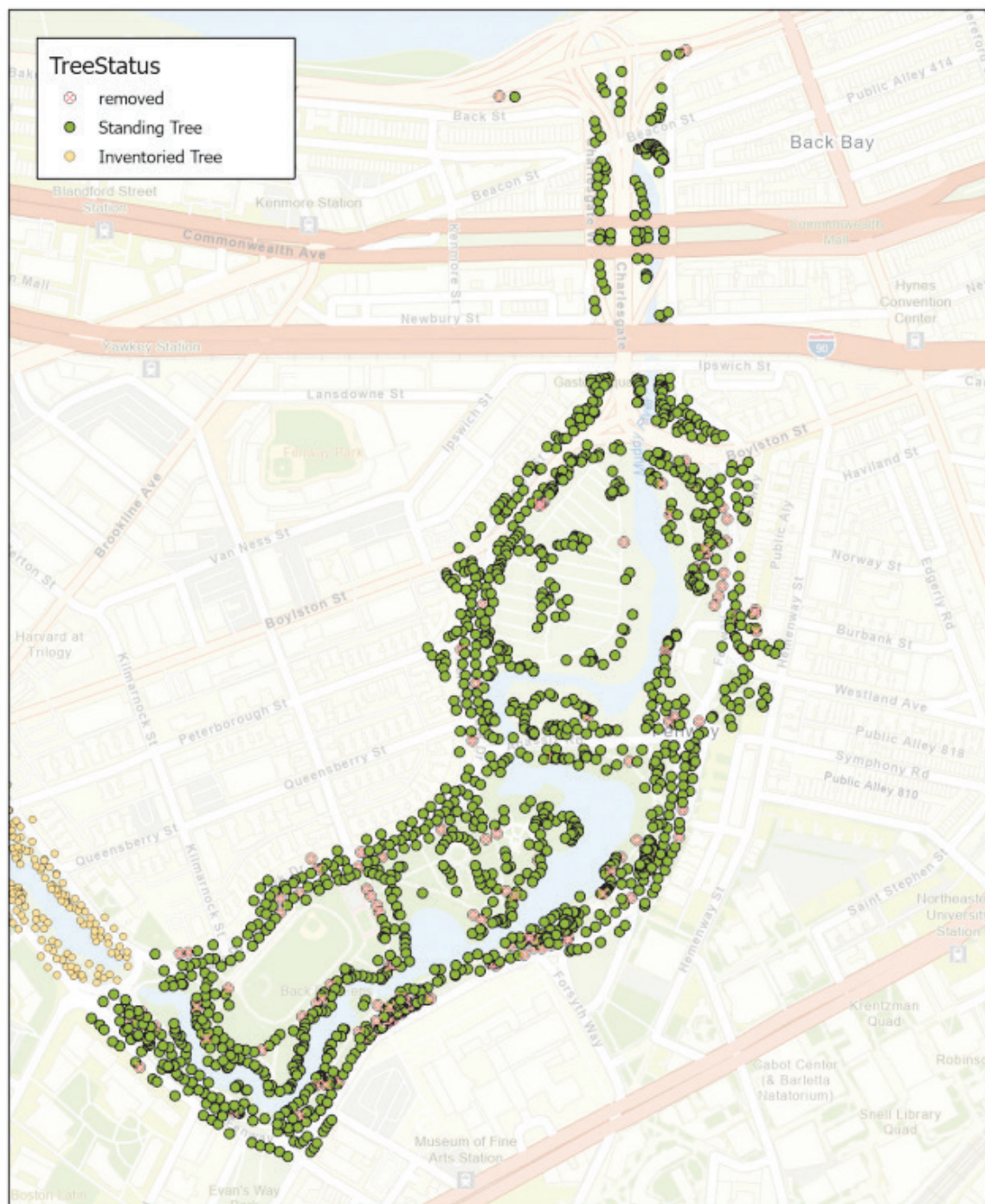
ners Boston Parks and Recreation, Brookline Parks and Open Space and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Society preserves and maintains trees (including heritage trees many of which are over 100 years old) with pruning, soil enhancement, watering and more.

Visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/olmsted-tree-society for more information.



COURTESY OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

A team member inspects one of the inventoried trees.



Back Bay Fens - Tree Inventory Assessment

July 19, 2024



COURTESY OF KYLE ZICK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

A map displaying the tree inventory.

CITY PAWS (from pg. 5)

College Campus Art

MIT offers a wondrous collection of art on its sprawling campus. In addition to the Art Walk Projects' Kendall Square map, MIT has a wealth of information if you search for MIT Public Art.

The school estimates that the campus "...features more than 3,500 noted works of contemporary art and landmark buildings designed by legendary architects like Frank Gehry and I.M. Pei."

Across the river, Boston University's campus is beautiful in the fall and boasts a remarkable collection of art and architecture. Searching for "Public Art at BU" will take you to all the information you need to find and learn more about their outdoor artwork.

Northeastern University divides its outdoor artwork into murals and 3D. For example, if you arrive at the school from the Ruggles MBTA station, you will find Silvia López Chavez's mural Cranes/Joy on the façade. You will find the school's information with the keywords "Northeastern Public Art."

Emerald Necklace

From the Boston Common to Franklin Park, the Emerald Necklace is glorious in fall. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy's website offers free maps of the seven parks included in this historic greenspace.

Several parks include artwork, and their maps include basic information on each work.

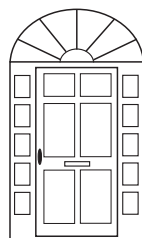
The most extensive collection is on the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The Friends of the Public Garden has taken the lead in caring for this collection, and you'll find additional information about it on their website.

While the deCordova requires a drive, all the other collections mentioned are accessible by public transportation. You can combine these with different activities in the area or plan to dedicate a walk to see all or some of each. There are even a couple of dogs in the artwork that you can see if you can spot them!

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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Rentals

Somaek in DTX named to NYT's annual restaurant list

By Dan Murphy

A new Korean restaurant in Downtown Crossing, Somaek was the only dining establishment in the city, as well as the state, named to the New York Times' recently published list of 50 restaurants recommended for 2024.

The restaurant debuted at 11 Temple Place in March under the auspices of BCB3, a new hospitality group which includes venerable Boston restaurateur Babak Bina, together with Chef Jamie Bissonnette and Andrew Cartin, one of Bina's enduring business partners.

Somaek opened in tandem with two sister establishments: the neighboring Temple Records, a cocktail lounge inspired by Japan's 'listening bars' of the



BRIAN SAMUELS PHOTOGRAPHY

A look inside Somaek.

1950s; and Sushi @ Temple Records, its downstairs sushi bar.

"In a minimalist space on a quiet side street in busy Downtown Crossing, Somaek presents Korean cooking in all its magnificence and abundance. Chefs often say their mothers taught them to cook, but Jamie Bissonnette's jangmonim (wife's mother), Soon Han, gets full menu credit for its focused flavors. Alongside robust classics like chilled pork belly, seared beef and stir-fried squid with rice cakes, Somaek serves a master class in banchan like chive-garlic salad, radish kimchi and pickled perilla leaf. The restaurant is named after a cold fizz of soju (clear liquid) and maekju (beer), popular for chugging and on Korean reality shows; it's just part of a full and

festive bar program here. Mr. Bissonnette, a veteran of Boston's fine dining kitchens (and the tapas juggernaut that was Toro), has built his dream chef cave, with a vinyl listening bar next door and a sushi speakeasy downstairs," wrote Julia Moskin in her description of Somaek in the Times' unranked restaurant list published on Sept. 24.

Of receiving this accolade, Bina wrote, "We at BCB3 Hospitality are tremendously honored to have been chosen by the NYT to be in the Top 50 Restaurants of 2024 in the country. We will continue to bring our loyal followers, Bostonians and visitors alike unique restaurants to enjoy."

For more on Somaek, visit somaek.com.

OUIMILLIE SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTIST, KIM DRUKER STOCKWELL

Ouimillie, a lifestyle boutique located at 126 Charles St., is showcasing 25 original pieces of artwork by Kim Druker Stockwell, a Boston-based artist and talented multi-disciplinary cre-

ative, this fall.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, the shop held 'Art & Aperitifs' - a special in-store event celebrating Stockwell and her paintings, with the artist in attendance.

For more information on this collaboration between Ouimillie and Kim Druker Stockwell, visit <https://ouimillie.com/blogs/news/meet-the-artist-kim-stockwell>.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Featured artist Kim Druker Stockwell is seen with Beacon Hill friends and neighbors (left to right): Annsley McAleer, Katherine O'Keefe, and Diana Coldren.



Pictured, left to right, are Mauryn Kkira, fashion designer; Millicent Cutler, owner of Ouimillie at 126 Charles St., as well as at 361 Huron Ave. in Cambridge; and Kim Druker Stockwell, featured artist.

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Eastern Bank Foundation honors Community Changemaker Jackie Jenkins-Scott with 2024 Social Justice Award

Special to the Sun

Eastern Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Eastern Bank, hosted more than

700 business, philanthropic and community leaders at their 2024 Celebration of Social Justice, honoring Jackie Jenkins-Scott, a nationally recognized social

justice champion. Jenkins-Scott was celebrated for her decades of work and dedication to creating positive change in Boston and beyond. The Social Justice

Award celebrates an outstanding leader who, through their dedication and passion, has made significant contributions to advance social justice in our region. This year's Celebration of Social Justice event also marked the 30th anniversary of the Eastern Bank Foundation.

For more than three decades, Jenkins-Scott has been a leading advocate for racial and economic equity for people of color and other diverse communities in Boston. She is widely known for taking vulnerable, crucial community-centered organizations and reshaping them into high performing, mission driven mainstays of opportunity and equity – particularly in the health and education spaces.

“Jackie is a transformer and innovator for good,” said Nancy Huntington Stager, President & CEO of Eastern Bank Foundation. “Her boundless energy and deep connections in communities of color – including with our next generation of civic and business leaders – together with her superpowers to take on difficult situations, create a vision and rally others to join in the work, and her persistence to stay at it until positive outcomes are achieved is a gift for all of us in Boston and Massachusetts. Eastern Bank and our Foundation are proud and humbled to be long-term supporters of Jackie’s work and vision. While she may think of retirement, we know that she will always be a force for good in our communities and look forward to what’s coming next.”

Jenkins-Scott recently concluded her two-year tenure as interim president at Roxbury Community College (RCC), where she focused on helping underserved students prepare for high-growth careers and business ownership to spur economic inclusion and mobility. Prior to her role at RCC, Jenkins-Scott served as the first African American president of Wheelock College for more than a decade from 2004 to 2016, where she earned a reputation for eliminating barriers to higher education success, growing academic options and quality, as well as increasing the enrollment of ethnically and differently-abled students by 40 percent.

As a recognized champion and changemaker advancing health,

social and economic justice, Jenkins-Scott spent 21 years at the helm of Roxbury’s Dimock Center beginning in 1983. She took the organization from near bankruptcy to success as a sustainable benchmark institution for health, workforce development, housing and wraparound services for families. In doing this, she also saved the Dimock campus from gentrification.

Jenkins-Scott has been a sought-after expert and partner by Governors and Mayors across the Commonwealth, helping to shape public policy, promote equity and improve education. She has served on many boards including the Boston Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the Tufts Health Plan. As a consultant, Jenkins-Scott has helped countless leaders create and extend mission-based organizations, and she is the author of the book *The 7 Secrets of Responsive Leadership*.

“With Eastern Bank and Eastern Bank Foundation having been at the epicenter of the work for Social Justice for as long as I have, I am delighted to receive this award,” said Jenkins-Scott. “We are living in challenging times which makes the continued push for equity in health, education, and economic inclusion and mobility even more important. We must continue to press ahead with optimism and hope, as the opposite – despair – is just not an option. Our young people getting ready for their first careers our families and our neighbors need to be given agency to build their lives on more equitable footing. Let’s all keep pushing for that together across non-profit, for-profit and policy efforts.”

The Celebration of Social Justice event also honored founding trustees of the Eastern Bank Foundation, now in its 30th year, including remaining members Stanley J. Lukowski, John A. Shane and Larry B. Leonard. Since its inception, the Eastern Bank Foundation has supported more than 7,000 unique organizations with over 36,000 grants and invested more than \$171MM+ in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. A regional leader in volunteerism, Eastern employees have devoted more than 730,000 volunteer hours since 1994.



Pictured celebrating at the 2024 Celebration of Social Justice are left to right: Denis Sheahan, Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank; Nancy Huntington Stager, President & Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation; Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Eastern Bank 2024 Social Justice Award Honoree; Bob Rivers, Executive Chair and Chair of the Board, Eastern Bank; and Turahn Dorsey, Chief Impact Officer, Eastern Bank Foundation.

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Chestnuts tour Chinatown and raise funds for The Boston House

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

The Chestnut Group, a non-profit women's social organization for friends over 50, has been celebrating the beginning of their 2024-2025 season by enjoying each other's company over cocktails, coffee, local adventures, and fundraising efforts. Members describe The Chestnuts as "energized," "kind," and "supportive," offering tre-

mendous opportunities to build strong relationships with other women living in the Boston area.

"They have many varied activities. Everything is fun and wonderful," said long-time member, Jane Gibbons, of Beacon Hill. "You get to connect with girlfriends."

Gibbons, who lived in Beacon Hill in the 1970s, returned 17 years ago because she loved the affable neighborhood, where she



Chinatown guide, Cho Li, originally from Hong Kong, shared his love of food with The Chestnuts Group.



Bea Morse, Lisa Geary, and Nancy Arbree visiting Chinatown on the corner of Beach and Hudson Streets.



Rachel Healey and Jill Stansky beneath paper lanterns in Mary Soo Hoo Park on the Greenway.



Ann Whiteley, Sharon Guadagno, Susan Leathers, Pat Carucci, and Rachel Healey sampling shrimp rolls.

first bonded with forever friends while walking her dog in Boston Common. Gibbons feels that The Chestnut Group is especially beneficial for newer residents looking for friendship.

"Girlfriends are everything.

I don't know what I would do without my girlfriends. I feel blessed," acknowledged Gibbons, Real Estate Broker, The Gibbons Group. "We're fortunate to be able to connect like this."

The Chestnut Group provides monthly activities for all interests, including film and travel discussions, visits to museums and theaters, and opportunities to learn new recipes through a

(CHESTNUT GROUP, Pg. 10)



The Chestnut Group in front of the Chinatown gate on September 25. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

CHESTNUT GROUP (from pg. 9)

Seasoned Cooks group. Ladies gather for afternoon and evening book groups, and frequent a variety of restaurants around the city during Lunch Bunch.

Friends recently participated in a food and history tour of Chinatown, led by Hong Kong-born, retired electrical engineers, Cho Li and Tin Ying. The married couple, who met while studying

at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, shared their two major hobbies: food and tai chi.

"I loved the couple. They were awesome," boasted Jill Stansky, Beacon Hill resident. "They both talked about how they were immigrants. Now in their retirement, they're just doing things they love. One of them is celebrating food – and we got to do



Kelli Brannan, Victoria Gribbell, Jodi Slifka, Kathy Parent, and Christine Cook.



Stacie Burns, Julie Walkap, Head of Development, The Boston House, Jill Stansky, and Ethel Macleod.



The Chestnut Group gathering at The Archer Residences for their September 26 Party with a Purpose, to benefit The Boston House

that with them."

During the September 25 excursion, The Chestnuts enjoyed a family style lunch, paused at several spots to sample Chinese food, and were introduced to new restaurants.

"I loved it," said Stansky, who was happy to have learned the best spots to order dim sum. "The food tours are one of my favorite things to do with The Chestnuts. This one was particularly good because I felt like I learned about how thriving a community Chinatown is in Boston."

After having raised her family in Sudbury, Stansky moved to Boston and joined The Chestnuts. Originally, she was searching for a group to play Mah-jong with; but has since become delighted by the diverse activities offered.

"Because of The Chestnuts I made really great friends," revealed Stansky, who is in her second year of membership. "The Chestnuts has been a wonderful surprise for me moving to Boston. They're fun, welcoming, and down-to-earth."

Stansky also attended the September 26 Party with a Purpose to benefit The Boston House. Some five times a year, The Chestnuts host a Party with a Purpose to contribute to a local charity. This fall's Party with a Purpose supported The Boston House's efforts to provide housing and other assistance to families of pediatric cancer patients at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Boston Children's Hospital. December's Party with a Purpose



Amy Emerman, Karen Canfield, and Dawn Emerman, Director, The Boston House.

will benefit the Boston Globe Foundation's Globe Santa initiative.

The Boston House, located in Brookline, is a converted mansion that can accommodate up to 22 families per night. It features nine bedrooms that share common areas, such as a dining room, laundry and play areas, and a fully-equipped kitchen.

The only criteria to be a guest of the non-profit organization is that the family lives a minimum of 40 miles away. There is no financial pre-requisite.

"We don't charge people to stay with us," said Dawn Emerman, Director, The Boston House. "We have people from every walk of life and all over the world. Right now, we have a family from the Dominican Republic and North Dakota. It's a beautiful space."

The Boston House also has 13 studio apartments that are primarily for families of children being released after having received bone marrow transplants.

"Those apartments were a life-saver during the pandemic," noted Emerman, who has been a staff member since 1997. "We had to close all the common areas."

Emerman expressed her gratitude for The Chestnuts' generosity, and explained volunteer opportunities to them, like preparing and serving guests a meal.

"Families appreciate it so much," Emerman described. "Everyone has been touched by cancer. It bleeds into every part of your life. Some families lose their jobs while they're here. It's comforting for families to know they have a place."

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Shuleva, Benjamin M	2 Arlington St Unit 4 LL	2 Arlington St #4	\$1,600,000
Reichenbach, Mary M	216 Comm Avenue Rt	216 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$1,460,000
Sebaoun, Jean-David	Beacon Bay LLC	483 Beacon St #45	\$725,000
Pei, Jianfa	Houihan, Angela C	290 Commonwealth Ave #8	\$425,000
BEACON HILL			
Puneet Kochhar RET	Lolastar LLC	18-18A Grove St	\$2,710,000
Spector, Kirsten L	Hawthorne Place Rt	9 Hawthorne Pl #170	\$540,000
Schoffield, Linda K	11 Irving Street Rt	11 Irving St #1	\$417,000
Corriere, Brendan J	Milind Deshpande T	40 Joy St #6	\$1,195,000
Klimczak, Frances D	Stevens, Virginia	12 Walnut St #1	\$765,000
Gatzogiannis, Evangelos G	Pieretti-Vanmarcke, A	6 Whittier Pl #6B	\$405,000
Hess, Julie R	Starlight Holdings LLC	8 Whittier Pl #3G	\$370,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Chan, Lauren	Schueppert, Mark C	33 Appleton St #2	\$550,000
Gering, Skylar A	Palm, Kathrin	15 Bancroft St #3	\$760,000
Kadner, Amy R	Casendino, Anthony B	9 Follen St #1-9	\$1,500,000
Seidner, Mary L	48 Montgomery St LLC	48 Montgomery St	\$4,275,000
Cre Back Bay LLC	Taramar LLC	201 Newbury St #208	\$1,985,000
Berkowitz, Richard F	Winston, Michael S	47 Winchester St	\$1,985,000
Family Tree Prop LLC	Kessler, Andrew I	21 Father Francis Gilday St #114	\$1,200,000
Berk, Katherine	Calus, Thomas P	40 Hanson St	\$4,050,000
Stamenkovic, Vladimir	Costa, David	700 Harrison Ave #211	\$304,256
Linder, Paul	Hawkins, Graham C	411 Marlborough St #7	\$730,000
Leoutsakos, Peter	U A K Norfolk LLC	415 Newbury St #186	\$145,000
Thompson, Michaela	Khandelwal, Parag	556 Tremont St #4	\$840,000
Harvey Nulman LLC	Keith P Creamer Lt	100-1/2 W Springfield St	\$740,000
Uscmf Velo Apartments LLC	Residences At Forest Hls	3686 Washington St	\$102,500,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Harborcave LLC	Prince 2020 Trust-TA	45-63 Atlantic Ave #10E	\$2,500,000
Carlson, Kim	Sandrock Jr, Alfred W	2 Avery St #29C	\$4,150,000
John G Hussey 2014 Ft	Battery Wharf Hldg LLC	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4610	\$2,132,500
Dumitru, George	Tarr, Diane L	142 Commercial St #603	\$1,060,000
Jones Survivors T	Donald S Scott RET	357 Commercial St #311	\$1,075,000
Linda G Johansson T	Vincent B Phaneuf T	357 Commercial St #611	\$812,000
Carr, Robert	Theoharides, Theoharis	357 Commercial St #725	\$1,615,000
Lang, Darrin M	Harrington, Christopher	357 Commercial St #818	\$850,000
Freitas, Anastasia C	Barcus, Mary M	65 E India Row #40G	\$1,200,000
Lm Corner Rt	J&b Rt	66 Harrison Ave	\$2,900,000
Russo, Matthew	Laurella, Carmela	23 Union Wharf #23	\$3,800,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The corner detail in the last clue is on the Lenox Hotel at the corner of Exeter and Boylston Streets. Today's answer is from a circa 1900 photo of the hotel when it stood alone.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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