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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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OPEN NEWBURY RETURNS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JOHN WILCOX

Following on the success of the city's continuing Open Newbury program, the inaugural Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll transformed a stretch of Newbury Street into a pedestrian-only, vehicle-free walkway on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Open Newbury, which the city launched in the summer of 2016 and continues to hold each summer, opens up a mile-long, eight-block stretch from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue for shopping, dining, and family-friendly activities.

Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll is scheduled to return from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, and in case of inclement weather, a makeup date has been scheduled for Dec. 15.



Public safety concerns on the Common and downtown discussed

By Dan Murphy

Concerns pertaining to public safety and quality-of-life issues on the Boston Common and in Downtown Crossing were the subject at hand during a special City Council committee hearing on Nov. 26 at City Hall.

Rishi Shukla, a co-founding leader of the Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association, as well as a panelist at the hearing, cited findings from a recent survey administered by his group, which indicated that 71 percent of 300 respondents feel less safe on the Common than they did a year ago.

Within the past six to eight months, Shukla said he has seen a noticeable uptick in open-air drug dealing in the Common, along with open consumption of drugs and alcohol in the park. He noted that trend coincided with the city's effort to close down homeless encampments at

Mass and Cass.

Shukla said within this same timeframe, some people have begun to avoid parts of the Common, including Brewer Fountain, and areas Downtown, including Park and Tremont streets and parts of Winter Street, due to public safety concerns.

By way of a remedy, Shukla suggested that all stakeholders, including representatives from the city and state, along with those from shelters, universities, and neighborhood civic groups, among others, should be convened and "locked in a room" until they can arrive at some solution.

"This moment calls for our highest ideals and sensibilities," said Shukla. "We need to put aside partisanship and get a few things done. The future of our city depends on our collective action."

(PUBLIC SAFETY, Pg. 4)

Boston Common Tree Lighting set for tonight

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and title sponsor The Province of Nova Scotia will host Boston's signature holiday celebration, the 82nd annual Boston Common Tree Lighting, on Thursday, December 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Boston

Common, adjacent to the Visitor's Information Center at 139 Tremont Street. Mayor Wu will be joined by friends from Nova Scotia. This celebration marks the 53rd year that Nova Scotia has given a tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917

(TREE LIGHTING, Pg. 2)

EDITORIAL

REMEMBER THE NEEDY ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Americans already have been spending a record amount of money thus far this holiday season, spurred on by the extended “Black Friday” (we are using air quotes because Black Friday sales began in early November), Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday shopping days.

However, amidst our zeal to find the “perfect” gifts for our family members and friends, we hope that our readers make the effort, no matter how small, to remember those in need this holiday season.

As we noted in this space two weeks ago, homelessness is at an all-time high in this country. For example, almost one-in-eight New York City school children experienced homelessness during the most recent school year.

The simple reality is that for far too many of our fellow Americans, the holidays bring little or no joy.

There are countless ways by which each of us can make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, ranging from toy drives to food banks to Salvation Army Santas. With Christmas fast approaching because of the shortened holiday season, we urge everyone who has the ability to do so to make that small effort to help those for whom the holidays are just another day.

HOPEFULLY, MUSK WILL BRING US SELF-DRIVING CARS

Everyone concedes that Musk unquestionably is a visionary who already has revolutionized the automobile industry. He was named Time Magazine’s Person of the Year for the success of Tesla, which made electric vehicles available to the mass market. Tesla has done more than any other company in the world to address the existential threat of climate change caused by fossil-burning fuels.

Two months ago, Musk held a publicity event for the press and investors to showcase his plans for self-driving robo-taxis, which he said will be available by 2027. Self-driving vehicles will be powered by AI and Musk’s companies have committed to buying billions of dollars of AI computer chips from Nvidia, the American chip company founded by another visionary, Jensen Huang.

A few months back, we wrote of our visit to San Francisco and mentioned that we drove in autonomous electric taxis operated by Waymo, which was founded by Google. Our experience, as has been the case with everyone who has used Waymo, was amazing.

Waymo is now expanding to Los Angeles, Phoenix, Austin, Atlanta, and Florida and clearly is the industry leader in robo-taxis.

Self-driving electric vehicles represent the future -- and it is coming faster than anyone ever expected thanks to Nvidia, whose AI chips will be key to the revolution. Self-driving electric vehicles not only will be good for the planet, but they also will benefit each of us in our everyday lives -- they will be safer (all but eliminating the carnage that exists on our highways today), they will reduce our auto insurance and repair costs, and they will allow for greater independence for both the young and old for whom driver’s licenses are iffy propositions.

Although Waymo is doing great things with robo-taxis, a car manufacturer such as Tesla can scale-up production to meet the mass market. We would note here that GM tried the robo-taxi field with its Cruise fleet, but it presently is on hold because of safety issues.

Although Waymo already has a huge lead on Tesla, we have no doubt that once Elon Musk sets his mind to it, Tesla will catch up to -- and surpass -- Waymo. And, we hope, the sooner the better.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY IN NEED OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the South End Library supports our neighborhood library-- even when it’s closed. Your donation will ensure the Library remains a vibrant part of our community. Please give today!

In 2022, a catastrophic flood

forced the library to close. FOSEL continues to bring services and programming to our neighbors. Here’s how: by advocating for the new library; by sponsoring our summer concert series in Library Park; by hosting author talks in person and virtually, by maintaining Library Park; by stocking the Little Free Library in Library Park; and by publicizing local library pro-

grams such as Pops, Morning and Evening Storytime, Yoga, and Scoops Book Club

Please support our efforts and invest in the future of the South End Library by making a gift: friendsofsouthendlibrary.org

Work for a company with a matching gift program? Please consider a match!

The Friends of the South End Library

TREE LIGHTING (from pg. 1)

explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster, a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel traveled from Boston to Nova Scotia to aid in recovery efforts.

“Every holiday season we celebrate a special tradition with our friends in Nova Scotia to commemorate the warm and meaningful connection between our two communities dating back more than a century,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I want to thank Hugh & Liz Ryan and Nova Scotia for donating this beautiful treasure that will shine brightly throughout the holiday season in Boston. The Boston Common Tree lighting brings our residents together through compassion and holiday cheer each winter, and we’re excited to continue the tradition.”

WCVB Channel 5’s Chronicle co-anchors Anthony Everett and Shayna Seymour will host Channel 5’s live broadcast of the event beginning at 7:00 p.m. American Authors, 5x platinum recording artists, and 2x Grammy nominees who got their start in Boston at Berklee College of Music, will headline with hit songs like “Best Day of My Life” and “Christmas Karaoke”. This year’s entertainment includes Halifax pop singer-songwriter Ria Mae, songs from A Christmas Carol performed by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, the soulful melodies of Mi’kmaq folk artist and fiddler Morgan Toney, the legendary vocals of Boston-based jazz

and gospel icon Renese King, a heartwarming performance by the Boston Children’s Chorus, and more.

The official holiday season kick-off in Boston includes the lighting of the City of Boston’s official Christmas tree with approximately 5,000 lights, and the lighting of more than 50,000 lights throughout the Boston Common and Public Garden. This year’s tree is a 48-year-old, 45-foot-tall white spruce donated by Liz and Hugh Ryan of Mattie Settlement, Nova Scotia.

The holiday lights throughout both parks will light up in sequence shortly before 8:00 p.m. when Mayor Wu is joined onstage by Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The show will close with a pyrotechnic display by Pyrotecnico.

The event is supported by title sponsor Province of Nova Scotia, presenting sponsor Amazon, signature sponsors JetBlue and Meet Boston, community sponsors Bank of America and Constellation, and media partners WCVB Channel 5 and The Boston Globe. A sampling village will feature giveaways and refreshments from JetBlue, H.P.

Hood, New England Coffee, Harry Potter, The Exhibition, and Raising Cane’s while supplies last. Sponsors of the “Make the Common Glow for the Holidays” who make the lighting of the Common and Public Garden possible include The Lynch Family Foundation, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the Friends of the Public Garden, and Gilbane Building Company.

Immediately following the celebration on the Boston Common, the Friends of the Public Garden and the Committee to Light Commonwealth Avenue Mall will flip the switch to light up Commonwealth Avenue Mall in the Back Bay. This event marks the second year that the lights on Commonwealth Avenue Mall will extend all the way to Kenmore Square.

Please call (617) 635-4505 or visit boston.gov/boston-common-tree-lighting for more information about the festivities. To stay up to date with news and events in Boston parks, sign up for the email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow the social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.

NEWS IN BRIEF

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ON PROJECT SET FOR DEC. 10

The city's Planning Department will convene a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. to discuss the project proposed for 142-146 St. Mary's St. in the Audubon Circle neighborhood.

Newton developer and long-time owner of the property, Allen Associates Properties, now intends to transform a two-story, non-conforming garage located along the tracks for the MBTA's D train on the Green line at the intersection of Boston and Brookline into an 84,520 GFA (gross floor area) development.

Spanning five stories above a two-story garage, the proposed development would contain 85 units, including a mix of market-rate studios, one-bedrooms, and two-bedrooms. Thirteen units have been designated as IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy Units), including a two-bedroom accessible unit. In addition to 82 garage parking spaces, the project would also include 18 exterior spaces.

The city's public comment period for the DPIR (Draft Project Impact Review) is open through Dec. 20; comments can be submitted via the project page at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/142-146-st-marys-street>.

To register for the Dec. 10 virtual meeting, visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2024/12/10/public-meeting>.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S REPEAL DAY CELEBRATION RETURNS DEC. 6

The Gibson House Museum at 137 Beacon St. will host the Etiquetteer's 13th annual Repeal Day Celebration on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 each, with all proceeds benefitting the preservation of the Gibson House Museum. Register at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/events>.

Boston Choral Ensemble to bring holiday concert to Old South Church

Boston Choral Ensemble will perform 'Northern Light' - a Nordic-inspired holiday musical program - on Saturday, Dec. 7, at

6 p.m. at the Old South Church at 645 Boylston St.

Along with selections like "Valgusele (For light)" by Part Uusberg, "Northern Light" by Ola Gjelio, and "Sweeter Still" by Eric Barnum, the program will also feature traditional holiday carols. Advance purchase tickets are \$25 each; \$15 for students/seniors; and \$10 for children.

Tickets at the door cost \$30 each; \$20 for students/seniors; and \$10 for children. Special ticket prices for families and groups are available.

More information and tickets available at bostonchoral.org.

OPEN NEWBURY: HOLIDAY STROLL RETURNS DEC. 8

Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll is coming Sunday, Dec. 8.

For this event, Newbury Street will be car-free from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 8. The route will be the same as the summer Open Newbury series, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. The City encourages Newbury Street businesses to activate their outdoor spaces with programming with family-friendly activities, pop-up parklets, brand activations, and much more.

In case of inclement weather, a makeup date will be held on Dec. 15.

'PICTURE YOUR PET WITH SANTA' RETURNS DEC. 13 TO THE COLONNADE HOTEL

The Colonnade Hotel, located at 120 Huntington Ave., will bring back its timeless, pet-friendly holiday tradition with "Picture Your Pet with Santa" on Friday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. Hotel guests, neighbors, and passersby are welcomed to bring their four-legged friends for a festive photo opp with Saint Nick himself.

A cash bar, and complimentary hot chocolate and sweets from The Colonnade Hotel's onsite restaurant, LUCIE drink + dine, will be available for human attendees, along with free, festive treats for pets. A \$25 donation to the MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center is required for attendance. Photos will be delivered to each attendee virtually via email as well as in print during the event.

Reserve your spot by visiting ColonnadeSantaPics2024.eventbrite.com.

CO|SO ARTISTS' HOLIDAY SMALL WORKS 2024 RUNNING THROUGH DEC. 22

Running through Dec. 22, the Copley Society of Art, located at 158 Newbury St., will offer ColSo Artists' Holiday Small Works 2024, appearing in both the Upper and Lower Galleries.

Featuring work from hundreds of artists, Holiday Small Works is one of ColSo's most eagerly anticipated exhibitions each year. In their Best of Boston 2018 feature for Best Art Gallery, Boston Magazine spotlighted this traditional holiday show, which offers hundreds of affordable small artworks in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, and photography.

Several newly admitted artists will contribute their small works for the first time as well.

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) is America's oldest non-profit arts organization, which is committed to the advancement, enjoyment, and promotion of its member artists and the visual arts. The organization, founded in 1879, comprises juried artists who are selected by a credentialed art committee. ColSo provides artists with a gallery for exhibiting and selling their work and a platform for engaging and educating the community.

Visit copleysociety.org for more on ColSo.

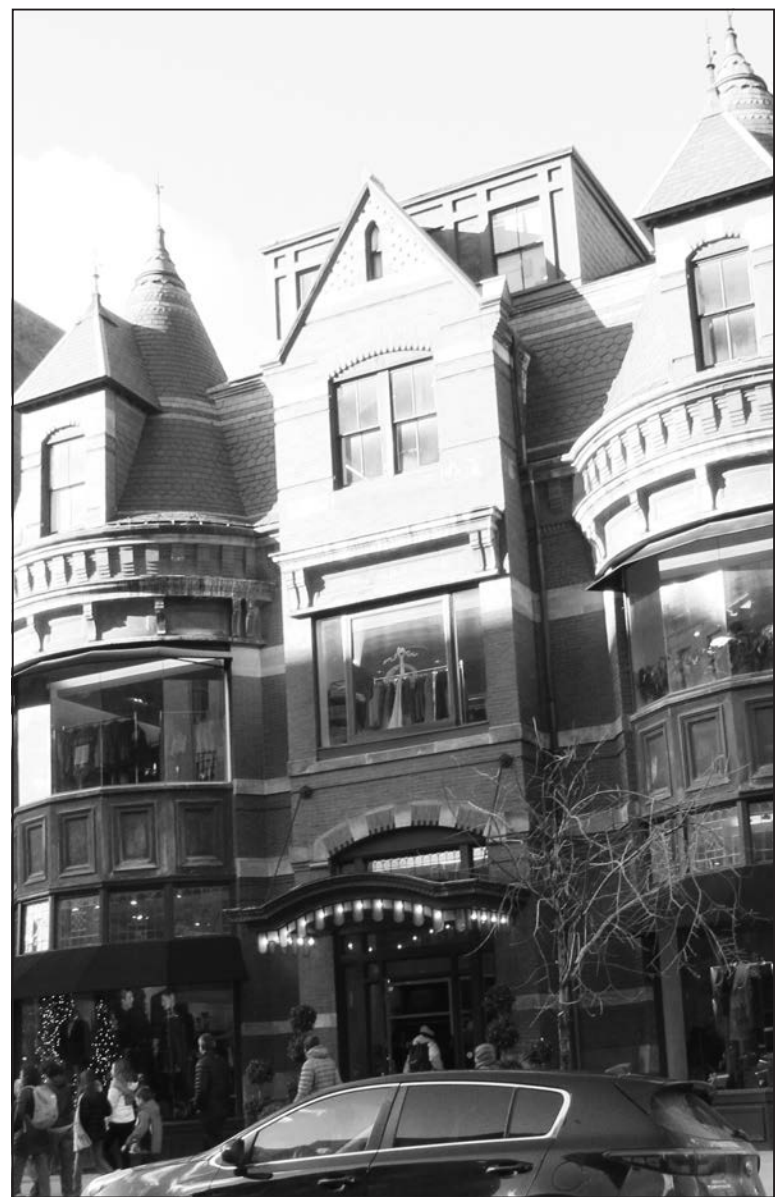
SOWA WINTER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO SOWA POWER STATION

New England's largest indoor holiday marketplace, the ninth annual SoWa Winter Festival, will be open seven days a week through Dec. 22 at the SoWa Power Station.

The festival features more than 100 of the region's best makers, artists, designers, specialty food-and-beverage vendors, craft workshops, holiday lounge, photo opportunities, and the SoWa Winter Food Truck Village, along with on-site parking. Shoppers will find a wide

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 4)

BROOKS BROTHERS RETURNS TO NEWBURY STREET



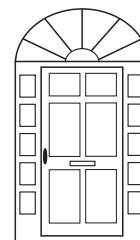
D. MURPHY PHOTO

Two years after closing its longstanding Newbury Street store, the venerable, high-end clothing retailer, Brooks Brothers, has returned to the Back Bay, with its new flagship store at 109 Newbury St. — only one block away from its previous location in the neighborhood.

The new, 3,000 square-foot store, which opened last month, spans three floors and offers men's sportswear on the first floor, womenswear on the second level, and tailored clothing on the third floor. Brooks Brothers closed its 16,000-square-foot store at the corner of Newbury and Berkeley streets amid the pandemic in the summer of 2022, after 90 years in business at that location.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 3

array of unique items including art, crafts, apparel and accessories, jewelry, home decor, gourmet foods, and holiday gifts from small businesses.

EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY'S WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE CONTINUES

Since 2021, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has collected over 2,000 items of cold-weather gear for Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) – a nonprofit human services organization that each year provides more than

100,000 low-income residents in the Greater Boston region with the tools and resources needed to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success.

Please donate a new or lightly used winter clothing to help keep the community warm in this season of giving. Items to donate include coats and jackets, sweaters, boots, hats, mittens and gloves, scarves, blankets snow-pants and snow bibs, and warm socks.

Donations are accepted until Dec. 2 at the following locations: Shattuck Visitor Center, 125 The Fenway, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m.; James Michael Curley House - 350 Jamaica Way, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; REI, 401 Park Drive, Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; City Feed & Supply, 66 Boylston St., Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and City Feed & Supply - 672 Centre St., Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CITRUS & SALT HOSTS FESTIVE MARIAH CAREY DRAG BRUNCH

Citrus & Salt invites guests to get into the holiday spirit with a fabulous All I Want For Christmas Mariah Carey Drag Brunch on Thursday, December 21, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at its newly relocated Seaport location.

Guests can expect dazzling performances by talented drag queens, indulge in festive cocktails, and enjoy a vibrant, Instagram-worthy holiday atmosphere. Showtimes are scheduled for 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM, and

tickets are priced at \$25 per person.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit Citrus & Salt's website.

Located in Boston's Seaport District, Citrus & Salt offers Mexicali coastal cuisine in a vibrant, beach-inspired atmosphere. Created by Chef Jason Santos and executed by Chef Zen Hyderck, the menu features a variety of playful cocktails, raw bar selections, and shareable plates perfect for any occasion.

For reservations or additional details, visit www.citrusandsalt-boston.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY (from pg. 1)

Another panelist, Liz Vizza, president of the nonprofit Friends of the Public Garden, which works in partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to maintain and enhance the Common, along with the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, also acknowledged that the Common has recently been plagued by more problems than usual.

This apparent trend, Vizza

believes, is due in large part to drug dealers who prey on addicts in the park, along with violence and other adverse consequences of this activity.

Vizza pointed out that the Friends group has no jurisdiction over enforcing rules and regulations on the Common while commending the work of Boston Police. She acknowledged officers "couldn't be everywhere at once" in the park, however.

Echoing Shukla, Vizza called

for a "collective response" to address the problems on the Common, including exploring the possibility of issuing 'stay-away orders' to individuals who have habitually caused serious problems in the park in the past.

Michael Nichols, president of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (BID) and another panelist, said despite the city's low crime rates, a park user's overall impression of the Common, as well as of Boston,

comes down to their most recent experiences there.

Colin Zick, president of the Beacon Hill Civic Association and longtime chair of its Parks and Public Spaces Committee, as well as a Friends of the Public Garden board member, joined the hearing virtually as a panelist.

While Zick said the Common has always had its issues during his 30-plus years living and working in Boston, he believes a "different kind" of problem exists in the park today.

Zick acknowledged safety conditions on the Common improved recently after more police were deployed to the area, but he said "that was only after things got completely out of control."

Looking ahead, Zick suggested that Park Rangers, who now have no authority to enforce rules and regulation on the Common, be given the "tools to protect the park they're serving."

He also called for more cameras on the Common, as well as for more services for homeless individuals who frequent the park.

If the goal is for people to ultimately return to working and visiting Downtown, Zick said they would first need to feel safe there.

Boston Police Deputy Superintendent of Field Services Dan Humphreys said as part of a recent strategy, officers have been redeployed into areas of community concern to increase their visibility in 'hot spots.'

City Councilor Sharon Durkan commended the Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox and the department and pointed to the city's low crime rates as a testament to their work. She also cautioned against "perpetuating the narrative" regarding increased crime in the Common and downtown, which could adversely impact the city while "arousing unnecessary fear."

Instead, Councilor Durkan suggested striking a balance between legitimate public safety concerns, with the work that the city has done – and what still needs to be done to address the ongoing issues.

Meanwhile, Councilor Ed Flynn, lead sponsor for the hearing, emphasized the need for mutual respect when it comes to further addressing these concerns.

"The last thing I'm trying to do is fear-monger," he said. "I'm not here to criticize anybody. It's about working together and respecting each other."



City of Boston
Planning
Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

DEC
10

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

142-146 ST. MARY'S STREET

Register: bit.ly/4eFUOe8

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 812 0792



DESCRIPTION:

This is a Public Meeting for the proposed 142-146 St. Mary's Street project located in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public.

对于您作为波士顿的居民和利益相关者，本次会议的信息至关重要。与会的语言服务免费。如果您需要这些语言翻译服务，请在12/5/24之前联系 (ebony.darosa@boston.gov)

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，这次会议中的资讯对您非常重要。我们可以向您免费提供语言辅助服务。如果您要求这些服务，请在12/5/24之前联络 (ebony.darosa@boston.gov)

How to Participate Please register for the meeting using the following Zoom link: bit.ly/4eFUOe8
Meeting ID: 160 812 0792 Toll-Free Call-in Number: 833.568.8864



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WATCHING CRITE PARK TAKE SHAPE

Special to the Sun

Eight years ago a group of South End neighbors formed the Friends of Crite Park to revitalize an overgrown and trash-laden space into a welcoming neighborhood park. Through your donations and grants, the construction has finally begun.

Weather permitting, the park will be usable, but not fully finished until 2025. The Friends of Crite Park continue to raise funds and apply for grants to complete the final touches.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Crite Park project or would like to make a donation, please see critepark.org. Watch the park grow and join in the excitement!



Before construction.



Demolition.



A rendering of the Crite Park conceptual plan, as seen from West Canton Street.



Beginning construction --EJ, owner of Haven Contracting, with Cheryl Dickinson, Friends of Crite Park President.



A rendering of the Crite Park conceptual plan, as seen from Columbus Avenue.

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Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour returns to South End Dec. 7

Special to the Sun

For the 28th year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees while bringing holiday spirit to children across Boston. The event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa, tree lightings, and more.

This year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will start on Saturday, December 7, and end on Sunday, December 8, in neighborhoods throughout Boston.

- Saturday December 7**
- 2 p.m. - Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain
 - 3 p.m. - J.P. Monument, Jamaica Plain
 - 3:45 p.m. - Brigham Circle, Mission Hill
 - 5:45 p.m. - Blackstone Square, South End
 - 6:45 p.m. - Oak Square, Brighton
- Sunday December 8**
- 4 p.m. - Paul Revere Mall, North End
 - 5 p.m. - Winthrop Square (the Training Field), Charlestown
 - 6:15 p.m. - Maverick Square, East Boston

MGFC HOLDS ANNUAL STORYBOOK BALL FUNDRAISING EVENT



Shown above, Kaia Miller Goldstein, Jono Goldstein, Ange Uwimana and David Dusabirane.

Shown to the right, Tamara and Brandon Odom.



Photos by Matt West

The energy was palpable as nearly 600 guests came together for Mass General for Children's (MGfC) Storybook Ball on Saturday, November 2, 2024, celebrating 25 years of the spectacular fundraising event.

Led by Co-Chairs Sarah and Walter Donovan and Laura Will and David Nicholson, the evening raised \$2.1 million for MGfC's extraordinary work and highlighted Complex Care, which includes Pediatric Coordinated, Supportive and Palliative Care programs.

Rafanelli Events transformed the Omni Boston Hotel at the

Seaport into the world of Corduroy, the 1968 children's book that follows a tattered teddy bear's journey inside a bustling department store. As cocktail hour progressed into dinner, guests were whisked away from the store floor to the welcoming home of Lisa, the little girl who surrounds Corduroy with love.

The seated program opened with patients, clinicians, volunteers and former event co-chairs taking the stage to share how 25 years of Storybook Ball has paved the way for fellowships and training, vital pediatric research, Child Life and Integrative Therapies programs and family-centered care.

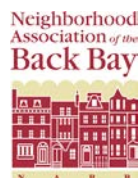
Joanne Wolfe, MD, MPH, Physician-in-Chief of MGfC, Allan M. Goldstein, MD, Surgeon-in-Chief of MGfC, and David F. M. Brown, President, Academic Medical Centers, Mass General Brigham, shared MGfC's state-of-the-art clinical and surgical work in Complex Care and introduced the March family's remarkable journey with their son's complex diagnosis and wraparound MGfC care.

Six-year-old Logan and his family have been receiving treatment, support and guidance at MGfC since he was diagnosed with a rare genetic muta-

tion soon after birth. In a given week, Logan can have six to ten appointments with various specialty departments. MGfC's Pediatric Coordinated Care and Palliative Care teams have helped Logan's family navigate his medical needs and ensure his quality of life is at the center of his care.

Guests enjoyed dinner and dancing, carnival booth games with luxury prizes, the sweet sounds of singer Andrew Marshall, finalist of NBC's "The Voice" Season 20 and a Boxford native who underwent treatment for leukemia at MGfC, and a lively auction led by radio personality Rich Shertenlieb, which included a premiere African safari and an incredible Irish castle getaway.

Throughout Storybook Ball's quarter-century history, donor generosity has helped raise nearly \$40 million. These funds directly help MGfC lead the way as one of the top pediatric research institutes in the country, engaged in groundbreaking studies on a variety of conditions, including brain trauma, cancer, celiac disease, food allergy, epilepsy, Down Syndrome, mental and behavioral health, neurogastrointestinal disorders and substance use disorders.



Thank You Harvest Festival Sponsors and Supporters!

Your generous support of this unique partnership between the **Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay** and **Women's Lunch Place** will reduce the burden of homelessness on the unhoused and on the community.

Support from our sponsors, auction donors, auction bidders, and all attendees will promote the missions of both organizations.



Thank you!

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Remy Stressenger, Jo Swani and Rebecca Seidenberg.



Rich Shertenlieb.



Saman and Pranita Amarasinghe.



Brian Ruballos and Lizany Ruballos 3.



Dr. Catherine Chu and Logan March.



Rebecca Nordhaus, Dr. Will Curry, Vanessa Kerry and Dr. Brian Nahed.



Dave Nicholson, Laura Will, Sara and Walter Donovan.

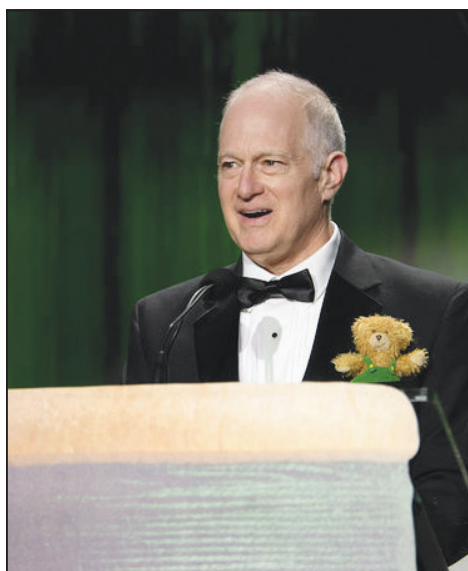
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Dr. David F.M. Brown.



Dr. Howard Weinstein and Sandra and James McGee.



Dr. Michael Givertz and Dr. Joanne Wolfe.



Fiona Beneson and Erika Tarantal 2.

THE BOSTON SUN

HOLIDAY BLOWOUT SALE

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November							December						
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				1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
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							30	31	1	2	3	4	

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Dr. Allan and Rachel Goldstein, Melissa Lees and Herb Chambers.



Paige and Matthew Connell.



Jason Vassy and Dr. Scott Hadland.



Jonathan Soroff, Ashley Harmon and Charles Ribakoff.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Cooking and mental health

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Researchers and doctors are slowly looking to food to improve mental, emotional, and brain health. Recently, we've read reports on the benefits of cooking as a therapy for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Research points to ways cooking can improve executive and cognitive function in those

with mild cognitive impairment. Other studies promote cooking for patients with obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.

Benefits of Cooking

It's often suggested that you keep learning to improve your brain health. You might learn a new language, practice meditation, yoga, or tai chi, play word

games, volunteer, or become physically and socially more active. Research has shown that cooking can be added to this list. For us, cooking and learning about food, wine, and food culture are a focus for our lifetime learning goals.

Food and Wine magazine quoted Hillary Ammon, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist at the Cen-

City receives \$9.8 million to build a climate-ready workforce

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu recently joined Senator Ed Markey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officials, state officials and local partners to announce that the City of Boston has been awarded \$9.8 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to develop the workforce needed to enhance climate and coastal resilience across Boston neighborhoods. The grant will assist City departments in developing training programs that build in-demand and emerging climate resilience skills, offer wraparound services to ensure workers' success, and place workers in good jobs and career pathways. The Office of Workforce Development (OWD), under the leadership of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet (WE) and in collaboration with the Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS), Green New Deal Office, and the Office of Green Infrastructure applied for the grant.

"Boston is the economic engine of New England. We are the national leader in education, healthcare and biotechnology. If we want to continue being the best home for innovators, entrepreneurs and working families, we need to not only invest in creating more jobs but protecting our coast and our residents from

the effects of climate change," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This nearly \$10 million dollars in funding from NOAA is going to help us do all of that in partnership with dozens of community partners across labor, academia, non-profit and the private sector. This Alliance will create a pipeline of highly skilled workers ready to fill the good paying jobs it'll take to protect our communities from higher tides and stronger storms. Thank you to all of our partners across industries who are forging this alliance with us and to NOAA for helping execute on our responsibility as a city to keep our community safe with a once in a generation opportunity for Boston's workforce."

This funding comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate-Ready Workforce initiative. This represents a \$60 million investment to support sectoral partnerships that will develop and implement job training programs to help train and place people in jobs that advance a climate-ready workforce for coastal and Great Lakes states, Tribes, and Territories as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda under the Inflation Reduction Act. The City of Boston received the largest grant among the nine projects selected for funding through a competitive process. Modeled

after the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's successful Good Jobs Challenge, the Climate-Ready Workforce initiative is uniquely focused on preparing and placing people in good jobs that will advance climate resilience nationwide, ensuring coastal communities are prepared for the worst impacts of climate change. The program will also assist employers in developing a 21st-century workforce that is climate literate and skilled at addressing climate challenges.

"Thanks to this grant funding, Boston's Office of Workforce Development is uniquely positioned to implement climate resilience plans for the City of Boston," said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator, Jainey Bavishi. "The cohort they will be a part of highlights the importance of regional public and private partnerships in climate careers, and will ultimately strengthen efforts to build a community that is more ready, resilient, and responsive to the impacts of climate change."

Boston is uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. According to the 2016 Climate Ready Boston Report, by the 2070s annualized losses from coastal and riverine flooding could amount to \$1.4 billion. To reach our climate goals, the

public, private, and institutional sectors must make unprecedented investments that will require a larger, more diverse workforce. Boston has become a leader in coastal resilience planning and implementation. Since the 2016 Climate Ready Boston report, the City of Boston has worked with community partners to complete coastal resilience solutions plans for all 47 miles of Boston's coastline, presenting district-scale and nature-based solutions to reduce coastal flood risk while simultaneously improving connectivity along and access to the waterfront, enhancing public open space and recreation, and restoring natural ecosystems.

In addition, Mayor Michelle Wu established the Green New Deal as a framework for tackling the climate crisis in Boston — with policies that address economic, social, and racial inequities, while advancing health, livability, and justice throughout our neighborhoods for all Boston residents. Through a series of ambitious policies and city-wide investments, Boston has been steadily advancing towards its climate and equity objectives, striving to achieve carbon neutrality in our built environment, promote economic vitality, and enhance climate resilience across the city for all our residents.

"Building climate resilience is not just about infrastructure and innovation — it's about peo-

ple. This funding from NOAA enables Boston to lead in creating a workforce that is both climate-ready and equity-driven," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Environment Commissioner and Green New Deal Director. "By investing in training program and job opportunities that prepare individuals for high-demand resilience roles, we're not only fortifying our city against climate impacts but also breaking down barriers to economic opportunity for historically underserved communities. The Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance is a testament to our commitment to a just, inclusive, and sustainable future."

Boston cannot have a climate-ready city without a climate-ready workforce. The funding announced today creates the Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance, an equity-based initiative that will advance new sectoral workforce development systems aligned with achieving the objectives of a green economy and growth. By creating workforce development programs centered on equity and engaged employers, this generational green investment can address age-old inequalities in the city. The Alliance brings together 30+ key stakeholders, including

(CLIMATE, Pg. 11)



Mayor Michelle Wu with City and State officials and leaders, celebrating the award.

Serial sex offender swears at judge, attacks court officers while being sentenced to decades in prison

By Sun Staff

Suffolk County Judge Katie Rayburn sentenced Ronald Brown, age 60, on Nov. 26 to 72 to 105 years in prison for a series of home break-ins and sexual assaults during September and October 2016 in the South End, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

A jury Friday convicted Brown of 21 charges, including aggravated rape, kidnapping, witness intimidation, photographing an unsuspecting nude person, and breaking and entering.

Brown has been held without bail since his October 2016 arrest. Brown refused to attend his trial and instead watched by Zoom. He logged off halfway through the reading of the verdicts Friday.

Brown was present in court this morning for sentencing and refused to stand when the judge imposed her sentence. Brown yelled an expletive at the judge and attacked the court officers who tried to bring him out of the courtroom.

Brown committed the 2016 crimes only months after his

release from a 25- to 30-year state prison sentence for a similar rape in 1986. That sentence also included crimes Brown committed while in custody, including assaulting a correctional officer and rushing the jury box during the trial.

On the night of Sept. 22, 2016, Brown broke into a woman's residence on Warren Avenue and stole shoes, handbags, a car key and other items.

On Sept. 23, 2016, Brown staked out a basement apartment on Dwight Street by taking video of the front exterior. On Sept. 27 and 28, Brown recorded a woman through her bedroom window as she came out of the shower and got dressed.

On the night of Oct. 2, Brown broke into an apartment on Milford Street while the woman occupant slept and stole her clothes, purses, shoes, a computer, and cash.

On Oct. 3, Brown broke into the Dwight Street apartment he had previously videotaped and took photos of personal documents belonging to the tenants.

On Oct. 6, he broke into another apartment upstairs in

the same Dwight Street building, stealing thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry, shoes and handbags.

In the early morning of Oct. 11, Brown broke into a basement apartment on Clarendon Street, where he blindfolded, bound, and gagged the two female occupants, stole their electronic devices and other property, and demanded the passwords to the devices. He forcibly raped one woman, forced her to shower to wash away potential evidence, and told her he hated Chinese people, in reference to her heritage. He touched the breasts of the other woman and threatened to kill both if they told anyone.

A prescription pill bottle with Brown's name was found on the bedroom floor of one victim. The other victim caught a glimpse of red camouflage clothing on the intruder.

Using that information, Boston Police detectives on Oct. 12 went to the Pine Street Inn shelter, where Brown was staying. They arrested Brown after learning he had arrived there on Oct. 11 wearing red camouflage shorts. Brown's backpack contained

items stolen from the victims and from the other break-ins, as well as notes in his handwriting with personal information about the women he targeted. Also in the backpack was the defendant's own cellphone, which contained video of a woman in the nude as well as dozens of photos of shoes, handbags, and other personal items. Some of those items were also identified as belonging to victims in the case.

All 12 members of the jury were present at the sentencing. The court heard victim impact statements via Zoom from four of Brown's victims. Assistant District Attorney Erin Murphy read two other statements to the court.

One of Brown's victims referred to his "menacing legacy."

"We won't feel truly safe again. No wrought iron bars, no upgraded ADP, no glancing into the window well each time I return home, none of it will replace the feeling of wellbeing that Ronald Brown took from me that night. This is his menacing legacy. Fear, suspicion and rage. He is a real and present danger

to society. He has illustrated no success at rehabilitation. He has taken no accountability whatsoever and shown not a hint of remorse. He should under no circumstances be allowed the liberty to terrorize another human being, community or society ever again," the victim said.

Hayden thanked the prosecution team, the Boston Police detectives who worked on the case, the jurors, and the victims.

"It is very rare that we have all members of the jury present for sentencing. I think the reason is clear—they were touched by the bravery of the victims and profoundly moved by what they endured at the hands of Ronald Brown. I commend the survivors for their resilience during this difficult, trying process, from their courage to come forward to their brave testimony at trial and their poignant statements today," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

FRESH & LOCAL (from pg. 8)

ter for Anxiety & Women's Emotional Wellness. "Cooking can serve both purpose and pleasure, Ammon says. "It is a hobby that can provide a sense of purpose — nourishing your body or cooking for others — and a sense of pleasure, in that it brings you joy or satisfaction," she explained. "When we consider some of the basic tenets of treating depression in therapy, we are often looking to ensure people have

both purposeful and pleasurable activities in their lives."

Cooking Therapy

Other findings show that the steps you take in cooking, such as planning what to cook, following a recipe, and being creative, improve your executive function capacity. Initial research on the topic has led to programs of "Cooking Therapy."

There are many versions of

cooking therapy, which is a new approach. Ammon explained that it can involve a patient cooking with their therapist. While cooking, the therapist can lead a relaxed discussion of the patient's mental health issues.

Side Benefits

One side benefit of cooking is improved nutrition. When you shop for good ingredients, choose recipes that will improve your health conditions, and cook the food yourself, you make a big step towards eating what's good for you.

As more links between your brain health and microbiome are proven, cooking at home will enable you to add more fiber, fermented foods, and foods rich in Omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants to your menus. Even learning what these are is a benefit.

Cooking can be a form of self-expression and a creative outlet for many. It can also promote mindfulness, enhance self-esteem, and promote self-care. Cooking with and for others is an excellent form of socialization. People have always bonded through food. For those who have always cooked, teach-

ing and supporting those who could benefit from learning to cook can be mutually beneficial.

Today, physicians are happy to refer patients with specific health conditions to registered dietitians who can provide food guidelines as a control factor. We were recently prescribed the MIND Diet as one that would be great for our brains. It combines the Mediterranean and DASH diets and is recommended for seniors as a preventative measure against cognitive loss.

Since it is always a good idea to check in with your primary care physician before you make any lifestyle changes, make an appointment and ask for guidance on how you might use this new research on the value of cooking and cooking therapy to help manage any brain-related issues you would like to discuss.

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

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PHOTO BY YUNUS TUG

Cooking is good for your mental health and brain health. Cooking with others increases the benefits.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Tarnoff, Michael	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5608	\$3,745,000
222 Commonwealth Ave LL	222 Commonwealth Ave LLC	222 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$10,200,000
BEACON HILL			
Batra, Puneet	Crossman, Susan	145 Pinckney St #115	\$515,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Bui, Vy	Nguyen, Ann	88 Hudson St #310	\$212,301
Striglio, Michael J	Raizman, Daniel	17 Braddock Park #2	\$885,000
Scully Jr, Brian J	Tjre Investments LLC	69 Church St #4	\$1,250,000
Nahmiyas, Josef N	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	47 Lagrange St #7D	\$1,082,000
20 Shawmut LLC	Hale, Ida F	20 Shawmut St	\$1,700,000
Fiore Ft	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1508	\$1,679,000
Chan, Igor	Taylor, Harry D	32 Traveler St #PH10	\$2,200,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Parmett, Simon	Saperstein, Paul	20 Rowes Wharf #TH4	\$2,075,000
Cara Leigh Freedman RET	Baillargeon, Stephanie	100 Lovejoy Wharf #4P	\$845,000

CLIMATE (from pg. 10)

employers, training providers, community engagement partners, climate policy practitioners, adult basic education programs, and wraparound service agencies to develop and implement training pathways aimed at filling over 1,200 committed jobs in coastal and climate resilience occupations over four years. Workers trained through the grant will be placed in jobs that help advance coastal resiliency strategies, especially in the municipal and public sector including:

- Installation of green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions which are key strategies for flood protection and water quality.
- Working to ensure our water and wastewater systems are reliable.
- Building critical flood and coastal protection infrastructure.
- Strengthening the City's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.
- Climate and coastal resilience community education and outreach.

"To create a climate resilient city for all, we must create a trained, well-paid, diverse talent pool to tackle these pressing

issues with a focus on equity and engaged employers," said Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Worker Empowerment. "We are incredibly grateful to NOAA for providing this funding to create the Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance that will allow us to address critical workforce development needs to support Boston's coastal climate and coastal resilience goals."

"Developing a workforce with climate-informed skills is essential for building statewide capacity for advancing climate adaptation and resilience," said Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary. "The City of Boston's leadership on equitable workforce development for regional climate resilience is commendable, and this collaboration among municipal, state, and private sector partners underscores the City's and the state's dedication to creating climate career and education pathways for people from underrepresented populations. We are proud to support this initiative through positions at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and we deeply

appreciate NOAA's support."

The Alliance is employer-driven with employer engagement in the curriculum, assessment, pre-hiring, and support services for graduates. Unlike other employer-driven approaches, this initiative is unique in that the City of Boston is leading the way as a model employer. In addition, the Alliance will benefit individuals from historically underrepresented communities and incorporate wrap-around services like childcare, career coaching, and training stipends to ensure their success.

"Parterre Ecological Services is proud to partner with the City of Boston to help prepare our company and our city for the ever-advancing impacts of climate change," said Jason Harris, Owner of Parterre Ecological Services. "The Alliance will assist us greatly in finding the people we need to grow and rise to this challenge. As an employer, this presents us with a rare chance to add skills and talent to our base while working closely with local government and non-profits to impact our local communities while improving our business prospects."

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The striped section in the last clue is on 665 Commonwealth Avenue, BU's Center for Computing & Data Sciences. The design features multiple cantilevers, which are more of an engineering feat than an architectural one. The Forth Bridge in Scotland, built in 1890, is one of the earliest examples of this engineering technique and is still used today.

You'll find the next clue in the South End.

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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