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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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WARD 4 DEMS HOST 'MINGLE AND JINGLE'

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS
With the holiday season in full swing and a tradition of the Jingle And Mingle was to be fulfilled some caroling was in order as Winter Wonderland was transformed into "Walking In The Ward 4 Wonderland".

Shown right, Attendees to the party brought winter clothing for local shelters and spices to donate to the BPL Spice Drive.

See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.



Liz Vizza prepares to bid farewell to the FOPG

By Dan Murphy

While Friends of the Public Garden (FOPG) President Liz Vizza intends to step away from the organization at the end of the month after a 15-year tenure, the positive influence she has made on Boston's parks will undoubtedly continue to endure well into the future.

In April of 2009, Vizza, who had previously worked extensively in landscape planning and historic preservation but had no prior non-profit experience, came on board as Executive Director of the Friends group, which together with the Boston Parks Department, works to maintain and enhance the Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The only paid staff

member besides Vizza at that time was a part-time administrative assistant, but today, the Friends has a full-time staff of 10 while the organization's budget has increased six-fold under her leadership.

"When I got here, it was largely a volunteer-driven organization and had been for decades," said Vizza during a recent phone interview. She likened the growth of the Friends during her tenure as "putting a solid house on a good foundation."

At Vizza's urging, the Friends moved in early 2012 from a small, rented room at the Colonial Society's headquarters at 87 Mount Vernon St. to the organization's current headquarters at 69 Beacon St., located directly across the street from the



COURTESY OF THE FOPG

Liz Vizza, outgoing President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

(VIZZA, Pg. 3)

City hosts rodent control webinar

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Last week, the city hosted a webinar in which representatives from the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and Waste Reduction team discussed rodent control and how it starts with residents.

John Ulrich, the assistant commissioner of environmental services at ISD, initially spoke about

what the division does regarding pest management.

First, Ulrich explained they use an integrated pest management program to keep populations low and have controls in place to reduce reliance on rodenticides.

Moreover, he spoke about the outreach that is conducted for environmental sanitation. "We allow neighbors to point to the

issues that they're dealing with," said Ulrich, who indicated that an inspector responds to 311 complaints within 24-48 hours.

Ulrich expanded on what the response by an inspector looks like in that they are looking for the cause of a rodent issue. "It's mainly driven by food, but food, water, and shelter is what we're

(RATS, Pg. 3)

WE ARE CLOSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS DAY

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

PUBDATE: 12/26/24 DEAD: FRI 12/20/24

PUBDATE: 1/2/24 DEAD: FRI 12/27/24

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away. We realize that the compressed holiday shopping season has put even more pressure than usual on all of us, but we hope that all of our readers can find the time to remember those in need this holiday season.

The stock market may be booming and unemployment may be near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans once again has increased in the past year and millions of American children (1 in 8) face food insecurity on a regular basis.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2024 is that the promise of benefitting from a booming economy still is only a dream, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the onslaught of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers who have the means to do so to take a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that we make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa (the Salvation Army provided services to 27 million Americans last year) or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that we can make this holiday season.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE STARTED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It was 80 years ago this week that the final big battle of WWII in Western Europe -- the Battle of the Bulge -- got underway.

In brief, the Battle of the Bulge marked a last-ditch counter-offensive by the German Army against the U.S. and its allies as the allies advanced through Belgium and toward Germany. The German attack, which caught the Americans by surprise, earned its name from the "bulge" that the sudden German thrust created in the middle of the American line in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium.

The battle was immortalized in the 1965 movie, *The Battle of the Bulge*, and then 40 years later in the great HBO series *Band of Brothers*, which followed the exploits of E Company of the fabled 101st Airborne Division, including its crucial role in the defense of the Belgian town of Bastogne where General Anthony McAuliffe uttered the famous, one-word declaration word, "Nuts!" in response to a demand for him to surrender from the German commander who had surrounded the Americans. The 101st Airborne hung on, against all odds and a militarily-superior enemy, stalling the German offensive until General George Patton arrived with reinforcements.

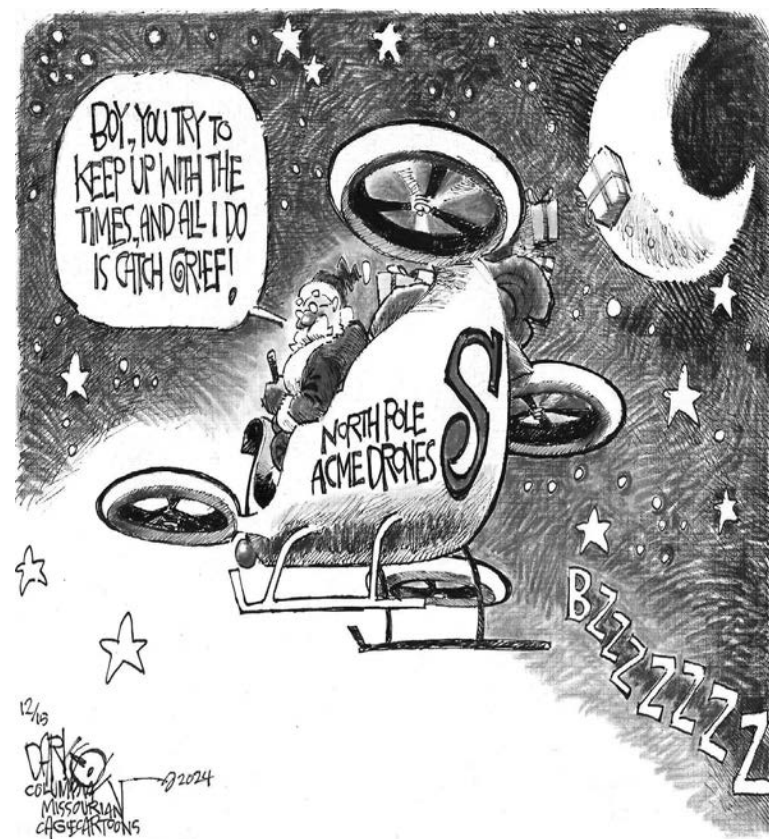
Soldiers fought in brutal winter conditions against a ruthless German enemy that literally was taking no prisoners -- the Nazis executed hundreds of captured American soldiers during the engagement. Altogether, the U.S. Army lost approximately 19,000 men and suffered 75,000 total casualties in what became the United States' deadliest single World War II battle, which extended from December 16, 1944, to January 16, 1945. When the battle was over, so too for all intents and purposes were the Germans, whose surrender occurred less than four months later.

The reason we wish to make note of this epic battle is because in some of our sister newspapers, we write a weekly "Through the Years" column. In our Revere newspaper, it was noted that seven Revere families were notified this week 80 years ago that their sons, husbands, and fathers had been killed in action.

We today can only imagine the profound and deep sense of grief and sadness that enveloped entire communities all across the country as the telegrams from the War Department were delivered by the thousands to families informing them of the loss of their loved ones over those terrible four weeks.

In addition, it occurred to us that so few of the Greatest Generation, including our own uncles and fathers who served in that war, are still alive today. All of the members of Easy Company have passed away.

We do so in hopes of acknowledging the debt we owe to the brave soldiers who gave their lives in the forests and on the fields of Belgium 80 years ago, with the hope that we might fulfill the sentiments expressed by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address: "...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."



GUEST OP-ED

Home at Last

By Alison Barnet

I recently became interested in the Home for Little Wanderers, the oldest child welfare organization in the US. According to a 1899 directory, "It receives children over age 2 of any race or creed, legally given up, sound in body and mind and places them in families where they are treated like sons and daughters." Back then it had numerous sites and still exists today.

Here are a few of the other Homes of the time:

- Home for Aged Men
- Home for Destitute Catholic Children
- Home for Intemperate Women
- Home for Aged Couples
- Home for Incurables
- Home for Mental Treatment
- Home for Aged and Friendless Women

There were also many charities with similar missions and names starting with Association, Asylum, Church, House, Refuge, Wayward, Dispensary, Industrial. Three of my favorite names are Lend A Hand Society, House of the Good Shepard, and House of the Angel Guardian.

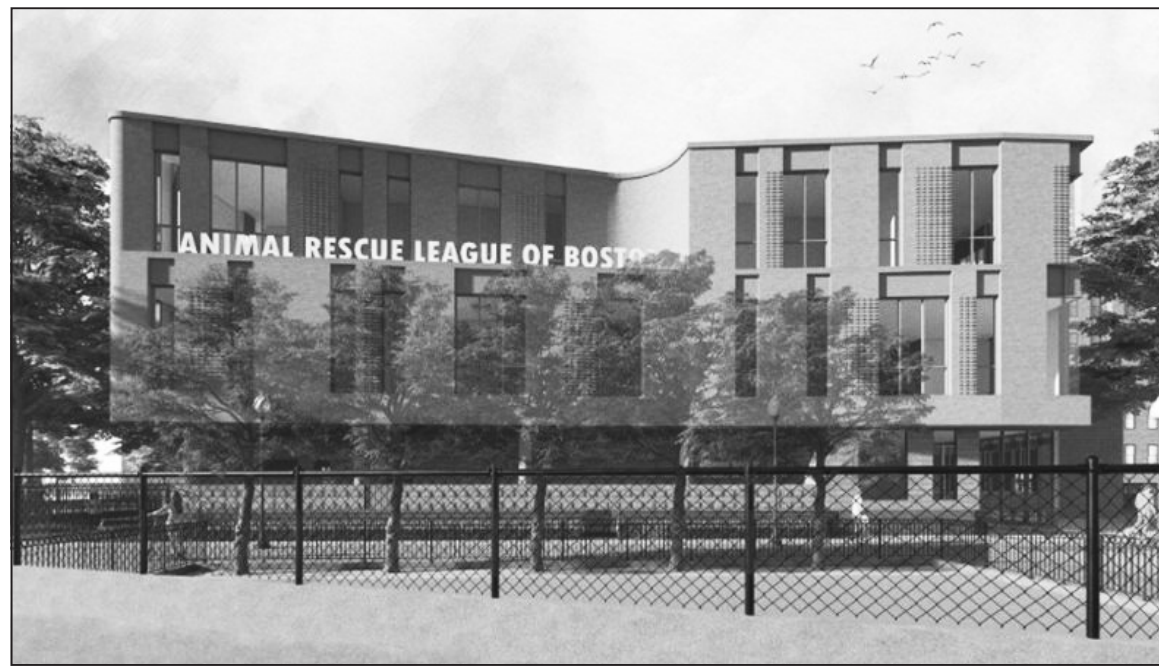
I was fascinated that there were so many Homes helping so

many people in the late 19th century, early 20th. Amazing how many homeless children and women there were after the Civil War! So many needy people! Sounds like Gaza. From today's perspective, it seems strange that there was so much concern, so much good will and so many wealthy benefactors.

Boy, could we use Homes—and homes—today, as well that kind of compassion and support! But how many wealthy benefactors would want to sponsor them? And how many new neighbors would tolerate a Home next to them? But, if we were lucky enough to have Homes, their names would probably be:

- Home for the Homeless
- Home for Grown-Up Wanderers
- Home for People Without Tents
- Home for People Throwing Their Arms Around
- Home for Migrants
- Home for the Addicted
- Home for the Evicted

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



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A rendering of the new, three-story headquarters for the Animal Rescue League of Boston proposed for 10 Chandler St. in the South End.

BPDA board approves plans for new Animal Rescue League headquarters

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency board approved plans for a new, three-story Animal Rescue League of Boston headquarters to replace the outdated facility on Chandler Street in the South End on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Construction of the proposed, new 30,500 GFA (gross floor area) building at 10 Chandler St. would be staggered between next July and July of 2026 to allow for continuous operation of the nonprofit Animal Rescue League, which offers veterinary care, pet adoption, and field services, said Robert Baldwin,

project manager for the Boston real-estate consulting firm, QPD, during unveiled a city-sponsored meeting on the project held virtually on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The organization would move its operations into the new building in August of 2026, said Baldwin, while demolition of the remainder of the original, two-story building, built in 1957, is slated for September of 2026.

The 25 existing surface parking-spaces would be retained but in a “slightly different configuration,” added Baldwin, while a steel picket fence would surround the perimeter of the new facility to provide security during peak and off-hours.

RATS (from pg. 1)

looking for,” he said.

Later, Ulrich described issues that lead to more rodent activity, such as feeding birds and neglecting to pick up dog waste, and noted that dumpsters and trash were the primary food source for rodents in the city.

To combat rodent activity, Ulrich emphasized that it is essential to store trash properly. “[Make] sure your barrels have covers, tight-fitting lids, that they don’t have holes in them or cracks,” he said.

Sanitation inside and outside a home was described as the most important step to prevent rodent infestations. For example, Ulrich spoke about the importance of not leaving food out and general maintenance like vacuuming.

Securing the correct amount of storage barrels for a particular household was also stressed. “If you have two barrels with covers and then you put out four trash bags, you’re missing the point, and you’re still contributing to rodent activity,” said Ulrich.

Other critical measures to prevent rodents discussed included not leaving pet food outside, discarding unwanted items like furniture that might be cluttered, and performing regular yard maintenance like mowing the lawn.

As the presentation continued,

Ulrich provided tips on ensuring that rodents do not enter homes.

For example, he discussed repointing masonry, such as foundations, and sealing cracks and gaps above ground level.

As for what methods the environmental services division uses for rodent control, Ulrich described a couple.

One method is putting two pounds of dry ice in holes. While Ulrich said it was effective and helped reduce the reliance on rodenticides, he indicated they had used it less recently.

Another method is using a Burrow RX machine. “A Burrow RX machine is a machine that uses carbon monoxide to pump into the burrows and kills the rat inside the burrows,” said Ulrich.

“There’s no risk of secondary poisoning with rodenticide, and it’s very effective.”

After Ulrich provided an overview of rodent control requirements for construction sites and the city’s site cleanliness ordinance, Dennis Roache, the city’s superintendent of waste reduction, took the floor.

After providing an overview of the waste reduction team, Roache explained why Boston is a “perfect storm city” for rats.

First, Roache discussed the city’s age. It has 150-year-old sewer systems, alleys, and street

corners that are rat-friendly, as well as densely populated neighborhoods.

He also pointed out that the city does not have containerization rules on trash day. “This basically leads to a free dinner buffet,” said Roache.

To combat rodent issues, Roache recommends that residents always store trash in rodent-proof bins. He also noted that the city is looking at what New York is doing regarding requiring containerization.

Roache also reemphasized other strategies that were presented by Ulrich, such as maintaining cleanliness and sealing cracks around homes.

Residents of buildings with six or fewer units were also urged to sign up for the city’s free food waste collection program.

“It’s a way to separate your food waste into a container,” said Roache. “You can separate your food waste out of your trash and keep rats off of your property.”

For more information and to sign up for the food waste collection program, visit <https://www.bostoncomposts.com/>.

Tips for bigger buildings were also provided, such as offering educational programs for residents, dropping food waste off at free Project Oscar Bins, using a commercial trash service, and

more.

For more information about Project Oscar Bins and their locations, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar>.

To close out the presentation, Ulrich provided more information about the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), which he described as a “new initiative to reduce rodent population across the City of Boston.”

The plan, which involves numerous city agencies, was accompanied by a report from Dr. Bobby Corrigan, an urban rodentologist who made recommendations that fall into six categories: coordination, trash management, data and technology, community engagement, integrated pest management, and sanitation.

For example, some of these recommendations call for

improved communication

between city departments, policy improvements for trash storage and collection, communication with residents about how their behavior impacts rodents, and much more.

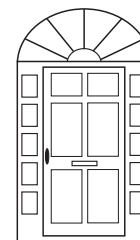
Finally, Ulrich discussed enacting pilot programs in neighborhoods with the goal of scaling them citywide. These pilots include marketing and education campaigns, litter basket improvements, and more in neighborhoods such as Dorchester, the North End, Roxbury, and others.

To learn more about the city’s plan for rodents and how you can help combat the issue, view the webinar in its entirety at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3Q3JsTROCE>.

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Councilor Flynn calls for cancellation of the White Stadium proposal

Special to the Sun

After months of opposition letters and statements during various levels of city approvals, District 2 Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is calling on the Wu Administration to cancel the planned renovation of White Stadium in Franklin Park due to increasing concerns on fiscal responsibility, as projected costs have reportedly jumped from \$50 million to now \$91 million so far for the city. These fiscal issues are in addition to previous concerns highlighted by residents - including lack of a thorough community process, the use of public land for private organizations, and now the practicality of two professional soccer stadiums in close proximity with the New England Revolution 24,000 seat proposal in Everett, as well as other suitable options available.

Residents and organizations across the city have expressed concerns on the lack of a genuine public process that left many neighbors feeling unheard when it came to rapidly rising pro-

jections and the city's finances, reports of the ability to renovate White Stadium at a projected \$20 million for student athletes and residents, as well as displacement of students and the general public for 20 games and 20 practices annually during warmer months. Many neighbors also expressed that they were not taken seriously on quality of life issues like traffic and congestion, available parking, trash removal, and public safety. Moreover, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reported that 140 trees would need to be cut down for the project, as well as paving over acres of grass to accommodate the construction.

From the outset, Councilor Flynn repeatedly took issue with the initial investment projected at \$50 million, and expressed concerns that the project appeared tone deaf - especially at a time when the Administration, the City Council, the Massachusetts State House, concerned residents and businesses have spent the better part of a year debating our budget and a property tax shift in the face of reports on falling



District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn.

commercial property values. For months, Councilor Flynn repeatedly warned that figure could easily inflate with higher cost overruns. Last month, city officials revealed at the Public Facilities Commission that the White Stadium Project is now projected to cost residents and taxpayers \$91 million. Mayor Wu publicly stated last week that, "We are going to pay our half of the Stadium, no matter what it costs."

Councilor Flynn previously

made his opposition known at both the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission in August and at the Boston School Committee in September, where he highlighted the need for additional community process as well as further discussion when it comes to proposals on the privatization of public space.

Beyond concerns on fiscal issues and public space, residents across the city have conveyed the need to discuss alternatives for the city to consider. There has been considerable public discussion now regarding the practicality of an agreement to potentially share a new soccer stadium in Everett between the New England Revolution and a National Women's Soccer League team, currently BOS Nation Football Club, like other major cities across the country. Portland, Oregon, and New York City have shared men and women's soccer stadiums. Finding a way to merge these proposals would also leave room to renovate White Stadium with a more responsible budget and significant upgrades for BPS stu-

dents and residents. Moreover, Boston is rich with other opportunities that could support a professional women's soccer team, like Fenway Park and other premier stadium options at our colleges and universities.

"Prior to these latest reports that the White Stadium project will now cost the city \$91 million, I have repeatedly called for a genuine community process. Residents did not feel that they were taken seriously when it came to the cost for the city, other available options, the use of public property, or quality of life and environmental issues," said Councilor Flynn. "We should cancel this proposal immediately and work together with residents and stakeholders across the city to provide the best option not only for our city and supporting a professional women's soccer team, but one that incorporates the voice of our residents and student athletes as well."

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

VIZZA (from pg. 1)

Public Garden. The Friends now own the space, giving the group a secure base of operations, enviable for a small nonprofit

As a testament to just how much Vizza has achieved with the group, going well beyond her original responsibilities, the Friends board voted in August of 2020 to officially change her title to President.

The Friends has faced some unexpected pitfalls during Vizza's time with the group, but as she is quick to point out, some of these apparent setbacks have actually proven to be beneficial for the parks in the long run.

In 2016, the Friends spent 11 months challenging the proposed height of the Winthrop Square tower, which exceeded the legal height limit. Though the Friends ultimately "lost the fight" regarding the project's height, Vizza said

it also led to increased awareness for the organization via dialogue with the entire Boston delegation at the State House, as well as every City Councilor.

The Friends also ultimately negotiated two 'concessions,' said Vizza, including the development of a comprehensive plan for Downtown, so that park advocates would not have to continue fighting proposals one building at a time, if deemed necessary.

The other agreement for the Friends was the development of a comprehensive, \$150 million Master Plan for the Boston Common, which the City released in October of 2022 to ensure that "money is spent intentionally and thoughtfully on high-priority needs," according to Vizza.

One of her greatest hopes for the future, said Vizza, is that the

City can find the funding to realize the myriad projects outlined in this "roadmap for the People's Park."

The Friends has also undertaken projects in recent years that have not only led to partnerships with other organizations but have also served to examine some previously overlooked chapters in the history of the parks.

Completed in the summer of 2022, the restoration of the Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial on the Common, which commemorates the first Black regiment from the North to fight in the Civil War, involved a partnership between the Friends, the City, the National Park Service, and the Museum of African American History.

Moreover, "the monument was used as a platform for dialogue about race and social justice," said Vizza, to dig deeper to examine not only the monument's "true meaning" but also to "pose difficult questions about whether we are honoring their sacrifice today."

This effort also helped inform the Friends of the Public Garden's Monument & Memory Ini-

tiative, which, Vizza said, "scrutinizes park monuments around more complex histories to raise unheard voices and untold stories."

For the first time, the Friends worked with a Task Force of historians, the City archaeologist, and Massachusetts tribal members to document the history of the Indigenous people who have lived on the parklands for thousands of years and are still very much present in Boston.

Similarly, Vizza has strived to ensure that the parks are somewhere everyone can feel safe and comfortable, as well as making them welcoming places for All.

Meanwhile, the Friends is now in what Vizza calls a "Golden Age" when it comes to the group's partnership with the Boston Parks Department.

"There's a level of trust and communication [between the Friends and the City] that has been so wonderful, and that has allowed us to work together in a much more seamless way than ever before," said Vizza.

(Since the Friends was established in 1970, a tacit agreement with the Boston Parks Department had been in the place, which wasn't formalized until

both entities signed a Memorandum of Agreement in early 2020.)

Looking ahead, Vizza said "the sky is the limit" for the Friends, with the promise of new leadership bringing fresh ideas and opportunities.

Asked to reflect on what she wishes her legacy with the organization will ultimately be, Vizza said she hopes "that I helped to ensure that the Friends is an enduring, impactful, and inclusive organization that continues to be a thought leader in Boston on the vital importance of healthy parks throughout the city, for All."

Vizza said she is proud that she helped grow the Friends from a largely volunteer nonprofit to an organization with a professional staff that now invests over \$2.5 million annually in park care and programming, "which is having a visible impact on the living landscape of these well-loved greenspaces."

Vizza added: "Our relationship with the City is key, and I am leaving an organization that enjoys a trusted, collaborative partnership with the Parks Department."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM

at the First Church of Boston located at 66 Marlborough Street, Boston.

A holiday service of special music, familiar carols, and a retelling of the Christmas story with a message by the Rev. Dr. Stephanie May entitled The Simple Gift will be held.

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 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 snowpants 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.

SEBA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AT J.J. FOLEY'S



On November 20 at J.J. Foley's, South End Business Alliance (SEBA) held their annual meeting and holiday party. This year they recognized three businesses and five nonprofits that have been operating continuously in the South End for 80 years or more.

In addition to the plaques they were given to commemorate the occasion, proclamations were given to each business and nonprofit from Councillors Flynn, Murphy and Fitzgerald as well as Mayor Wu.

Businesses honored: Jacobson, 82 years, J. J. Foley's, 112 years and Olympia Flower Shop, 125 years.

Nonprofits honored: Ellis Early Learning, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute, United South End Settlements (USES), Boston Medical Center (BMC) and Animal Rescue League (ARL)

Randi Grobe Lathrop was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for her 38 years volunteering and supporting Boston's South End through her community and business activism and volunteering on the SEBA board as Government Relations for the last 8 years.

CHRISTMAS TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Neighborhoods on a Regular Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

Neighborhoods on a Delayed Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Charlestown
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

***All delays in service begin on Wednesday 12/25**

'MINGLE AND JINGLE' WITH THE WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Treasurer of Hell's Kitchen Democrats NYC Barbara Knecht and Ken Kruckemeyer.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian
Ward 4 Democratic Commit-

tee held its annual Mingle And Jingle party at Kings. Local officials, members of the Committee, and neighbors came to celebrate the holiday season.



Lucy Rivera, Bob Lagoyda, Becca Gould.



The Mingle And Mingle got many in the community to connect and to celebrate together.



Another tradition of the Jingle And Mingle is the desert contest. In the spirit of the democratic process, everyone got to vote. Karen Kwok won with her Magic Bars.

Merry Christmas
From Senator Nick Collins & Family

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From your State Representative Jay Livingstone. I am wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy new year!

'MINGLE AND JINGLE' WITH THE WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Massachusetts State Rep John Moran, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Ward 4 Secretary Jonathan Cohn, Ben Siegel, and Ryan Hatcher.



Jackie Royce is proud member of the Ward 4 committee as well as NABB, Gas Transition Allies, and other groups.



Daniel Zackin with the climate justice advocate group 350 Mass, Nina Garfinkle, Ward 4 Secretary Jonathan Cohn (who went into full ugly sweater mode), and co-chair Carol Lasky.



Pamela Nusoke and Susan Capanno.



Amelia Aubourg and Justin Cambridge.



Ward 4 Democratic Committee co-chair Carol Lasky addresses the gathering.

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SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY. MUST BE 21+

How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Story by Marianne Salza

The Grinch relinquished the smidgen of animosity lingering between him and Santa Claus this holiday season to promote his performance in “Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” playing at the Boch Center Wang Theatre through December 23.

The mostly reformed Grinch has been parading around Boston and surrounding areas, disrupting the peace in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, commandeering the Spirit of Boston vessel, and jumping on luxury hotel beds. He made an appearance at the opening night of ZooLights at the Stone Zoo, received a holiday basketball jersey from the Celtics during one of the games, and even celebrated the lighting of the Boston Common Christmas tree, so his devoted fans could marvel at him.

“I’d much rather have positive attention and love than be by myself,” admitted The Grinch, who finds himself to be hilarious and witty.

Hearts will grow three sizes watching this classic tale of mischief, cheer, and forgiveness as the scheming Grinch discovers the true meaning of Christmas. “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is an 85-minute-long show with no intermis-



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch cutting the roast beast on Christmas.

sions, and is narrated by The Grinch’s stalwart dog, Max.

“For those living under rocks or don’t finish books, the Whos are very annoying, and I tried my best to take away their favorite thing from them,” said The Grinch, about the jubilant residents of Whoville who he tried stealing Christmas away from. “I was very successful at it; however, they still love Christmas, being around each other, and holding hands.”

Although The Grinch had convinced himself that he valued his solitude, he admitted that on Christmas Eve, the night of the Yuletide theft, he was feeling particularly alone.

The Grinch considered it “one bad night,” explaining that his reasoning for committing the crime was that the Whos’ Christmas had become too commercialized. He was astounded by the over-consumption, and rejected the glitter and commotion.

“Although I took every physical thing away from them, they still had it in their hearts,” The Grinch explained about the Whos’ Christmas spirit.

Soon, he realized that Christmas is more than gifts – it is about togetherness. He learned that life is more meaningful when shared with those one loves.

“My heart grew,” shared The Grinch, who expressed his

remorse. “I stole Christmas and gave it back. It was very kind of me. Their forgiveness and kindness helped me realize that they’re the best people. I can tolerate them.”

“How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is a transformative story of redemption from “bad banana” to holiday savior.

“I stopped the villain within me, became a hero on the outside, and am now a beloved Christmas icon,” boasted The Grinch. “The only thing I steal now is attention.”

The formerly conniving Grinch now embraces his past, and celebrates his growth and the

community that he has gained. Changing his rotten behavior has proven difficult at times, but The Grinch has no intention of stealing Christmas from the Whos again.

The Grinch encourages families to join him at the Boch Center Wang Theatre for “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” so they can appreciate his solo performance in “One of a Kind,” when The Grinch dances in a one-man kick line.

“That’s my favorite part of the whole show,” noted The Grinch. “It’s a wonderful time. It’s amazing.”

A Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 21 | 6:30 pm

Join us for a time of meditation, candlelight, and music on the longest night—featuring James Ruff, tenor and early Gaelic harp.



FIRST CHURCH BOSTON 66 Marlborough St. Boston, MA 02116 | firstchurchboston.org



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch stealing Christmas from the Whos.

Two men arraigned for flying drones from restricted Long Island

Special to the Sun

Two men were charged in Dorchester BMC with three counts each connected to flying drones in hazardous air space around Long Island and Boston Harbor on Saturday, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Robert Duffy, 42, of Charlestown, and Jeremy Folcik, 32, of Bridgewater, were each charged with trespassing, breaking and entering, and violating a municipal ordinance or bylaw. Judge Erika Reis released the men on personal recognizance and ordered them to stay away from Long Island and to not operate drones. Both will return to court February 6 for pre-trial hearings.

Boston Police responded to the abandoned homeless and hospital campus on Long Island via patrol boat at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday to investigate reports of unmanned aircraft being flown in hazardous proximity to Logan Airport. As officers searched the site they saw a light on in a building and a person walk by a window. Officers climbed to the second floor of the building by

fire escape stairs and conducted a room search. Officers encountered Duffy and Folcik in the building. Duffy told officers he had been flying a drone and that it was in his backpack. Duffy and Folcik told officers they had been transported to the island on a boat owned by a third man. They said they did not know the man's name. Boston Police asked a State Police patrol boat unit for assistance in locating the third man but he was not apprehended.

Using data from the drone's serial number officers identified six recorded flights on Saturday and seven recorded flights on December 7.

"No trespassing" signs are posted on structures throughout the shuttered Long Island campus.

"There are many areas in Massachusetts to safely operate drones. But flying them from an area closed to the public while creating a potential public safety hazard in the process is conduct that will land people in court to answer to criminal charges, which is exactly what happened here," Hayden said.

Boston Police still seeking leads in apparent South End homicide

By Sun staff

Boston Police are still seeking leads in an apparent homicide last week in a luxury South End condo building.

Just before 7 a.m., on Thursday, Dec. 12, District D-4 officers responded to 390 Harrison Ave. to check for a well-being check and located a deceased adult inside the building, according to Boston Police.

Other news sources identified

the victim as Shantel Gillespie, a mother of three who had completed the coursework for her nursing degree only two days before her demise, while the crime scene was identified as the fifth-floor unit at The Harris.

The Boston Police Department's Homicide Unit is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact the Boston Police Homicide Unit at 617-343-4470.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

More than 230 Boston residents who purchased homes this year with support from the City's first-time homebuyer program. Shown are some of the residents gathered around Mayor Michelle Wu.

Wu celebrates hundreds of first-time homebuyers

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu today joined the Office of Housing's Boston Home Center, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and hundreds of new homeowners to celebrate a milestone in Boston's efforts to expand homeownership opportunities. In 2024, the Boston Home Center helped 235 households achieve their dream of owning a home. Since the start of Mayor Wu's administration, the City of Boston has helped 678 residents become homeowners through its homebuying programs. Homeownership is a critical part of assisting residents in building wealth and countering displacement, embodying Mayor Wu's vision to make Boston a home for everyone.

"The Boston Home Center has empowered residents to navigate the home-buying process and secured their future as homeowners," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thrilled to celebrate these new homeowners and the transformative impact of the City of Boston's home buying programs in building generational wealth and equity across our city. My deepest thanks to the Boston Home Center and its partners for their commitment to expanding opportunities for all."

Of the 678 residents who have become homeowners through the City's home buying programs since Mayor Wu took office, 197 people received support through the financial assistance program and 481 people participated in the ONE+Boston mortgage buy down program to secure lower interest rates. Altogether, the City provided over \$16.8 million

in down payment and closing cost assistance, averaging about \$24,800 per household, and over \$7.4 million in interest rate subsidies. These programs have been critical to increasing homeownership in Boston.

"Each new homeowner represents a step toward a more equitable Boston, where families can build stability, wealth, and a deeper connection to their neighborhoods," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "I'm proud of the incredible work done by the Boston Home Center and our partners, and we look forward to helping even more residents achieve their homeownership goals in the years to come."

In 2024, homebuyers assisted by the City of Boston's programs purchased homes across many neighborhoods. Most homes were purchased in Dorchester totaling 49, followed by Roxbury with 37, Hyde Park with 30, and Mattapan with 27. Other neighborhoods where residents bought homes include East Boston (16), South Boston (17), Jamaica Plain (9), Roslindale (10), West Roxbury (10), and Brighton (12), Allston (3), Charlestown (3), Back Bay/Beacon Hill (3), Fenway/Kenmore (2), the South End (6), and the Leather District (1).

Since it was launched in November 2022 with an initial \$2 million investment, the Boston Housing Authority's (BHA) First Home Program has helped more than 39 BHA residents become homeowners. The program offers up to \$75,000 in enhanced down payment assistance to eligible families in public housing, making homeownership more accessible. In September, Mayor

Wu announced an additional \$3 million in ARPA funding for the BHA First Home Program. This funding will ensure continued support for down payment assistance through 2026, helping an estimated 57 more BHA families purchase homes in Boston.

"The BHA First Home Program has been an incredible example of how creative city investments can transform lives and empower people to achieve beyond their wildest dreams," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "Every single family that has used this program has struggled with housing insecurity, and thanks to Mayor Wu's investment, they have come out the other side as homeowners. This is how we help families build wealth and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty."

In addition to financial resources, the Boston Home Center also provides home-buying classes, workshops, and seminars tailored to first-time buyers. In 2024, hundreds of participants attended these programs, receiving guidance that helped many take the critical steps toward purchasing a home.

At the Homeowner Holiday Celebration, Mayor Wu reminded attendees that the Center's services extend far beyond the initial home-buying process. Homeowners can continue to access assistance for repairs and other challenges through the Boston Home Center, ensuring long-term success in their homeownership journey. For more information, visit the Boston Home Center's website or call 617-635-HOME (4663).

SEND US
YOUR
NEWS:

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.

FRESH & LOCAL

Full of Beans!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The expression "full of beans" is more directly food-related than you might think. According to the Oxford Language Club, this "...is an idiomatic phrase that has been used for generations to describe individuals who exude liveliness, enthusiasm, and boundless energy. This expression originated in the early 20th century, with 'beans' symbolizing vitality and vigor. The phrase likely emerged from the idea that beans, a staple food and a significant source of sustenance, provided essential nutrients and fuel for the body."

Lately, everyone, from dietitians to food writers, has been promoting the use of more beans in our diets. There are excellent reasons why so many food cultures have beans or legumes as

a staple. Dried beans are filling, easy to store, nutritious, high in protein, and contain soluble and insoluble fiber. Soluble fiber lowers our glycemic index, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels. Insoluble fiber improves the work of our digestive tract and reduces the risk of colon cancer.

Buying Beans

As we all try to use less processed, more local, sustainable, fresher, and diversified food products, you may not realize that the humble bean is all of these.

Farmers markets or high-quality food shops may sell Baer's Best Beans grown in Massachusetts. This farm produces about 20 varieties of heirloom and specialty beans. We suspect that more farmers will add beans to their crop list. Beans add good-



Beans with Greens is a favorite quick supper. This one adds Italian sausage, but we often enjoy a vegetarian version with a slice of bread to complete the protein.

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ness to the soil, which is a win-win for farmers.

Rancho Gordo is a West Coast company that preserves food diversity with heritage beans. The website's store locator lists some local sources: Formaggio Kitchen, Dave's Fresh Pasta, and Bocco Wine and Cheese.

We highly recommend the company's bean cookbooks. Another favorite source for bean recipes is Joe Yonan's "Cool Beans: The Ultimate Guide to Cooking with the World's Most Versatile Plant-Based Protein."

Adapting Your Body to Beans

Mrketng Spcialst (Boston, MA): Collet & anlyze data on pzza frnchise's custmr dmogrphcs, prfrncs & eatng habts. Idntify potntial markts & factrs affctng prodct demnd for pzza frnchse. Reqs: 3 yrs exp as Biz Dvelpmnt Spcialst, Marktng Spcialst, Mrket Rsearch Spcialst or rel pstion. Mail resume to: HR, Boston Pie Inc. d/b/a Domino's Pizga, 100 Conifer Hill Dr., Ste 402, Danvers, MA 01923.

If you're not in the habit of eating beans, your body will take time to adapt to the fiber load they provide. You can start slowly by adding a small dose of beans to a soup or salad and increasing your intake over several weeks.

You may have heard the expression, "Beans, beans, the magical fruit, the more you eat, the less you toot!" In your lower digestive tract, beans are fermented by healthy bacteria, and gas is produced as a by-product. You may have fewer digestive issues as your microbiome and gut health improve. In Mexico, cooks add the herb epazote to their beans, while in India, asa-fetida is used to ease digestion.

Another tip is to rinse canned beans (without sauces) to reduce flatulence and the high sodium in the canned product. Some experts suggest that several

changes in the soaking water can remove some gassy fiber if you start from dried beans.

The funniest suggestion we've read was from Mairlyn Smith, author of the book "Peace, Love & Fibre." In an article in Food and Wine, she was quoted as saying "...that she and her husband go for 'fart walks' most nights after dinner about an hour after they've eaten. We eat a lot of fiber, so we have gas, and you fart when you walk."

The Rancho Gordo website offers more information about beans and an exploration of their heritage bean offerings. To continue your education, sign up for their newsletter and receive a monthly dose of "beanology."

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

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BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Fox Jr, Robert C	Apgar, Anne N	122 Beacon St #3	\$3,661,400
Fox Jr, Robert C	Apgar, Anne N	122 Beacon St #4	\$3,661,400
Kaufman, Regis F	Arabia Jr, Leonard F	182 Beacon St #1	\$800,000
Lucchese Jr, Alphonse M	36 Beacon St 5b LLC	236 Beacon St #5B	\$1,625,000
Serwitz, Bert W	Skinner, Paul R	324-332 Beacon St #72	
\$2,000,000			
Shah, Naimesh	Alex & E Johnson Ft	341 Beacon St #2D	\$1,180,000
Bayt LLC	Soctomah, Michaela	199 Marlborough St #203	\$760,000
J & Company LLC	Lehar, Catherine M	348 Marlborough St #3	\$1,075,000
Zhao, Yizhen	Marlborough Street 73 LL	73 Marlborough St #4	\$725,000
K & Laura Arsenault RET	Kruidenier, Laurens	319 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,950,000
Onan, Stewart	Fourcom LLC	339 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,776,000
Wolfe, Morgan	Threecom LLC	339 Commonwealth Ave #30	\$1,292,000
Nita A Shah RET	Shahbazian, Amir	534-538 Commonwealth Ave #3B	\$875,000
BEACON HILL			
Hourihan, Angela	Hourihan, Susan M	21 Beacon St #8K	\$425,000
Balmforth, John	Geller, Stuart C	9 Hawthorne Pl #16D	\$700,000
Schoener, Jason D	Terres, Eduardo	67 Mount Vernon St #G	\$1,165,000
Marks, Chantal	Myrtle Roofdeck LLC	69 Myrtle St #6	\$1,275,000
Helena Sharon Dangelo T	Jdmd Owner LLC	45 Temple St #PH3	\$7,700,000
Zhang, Gengyuan	Al-Khatib, Malek A	8 Whittier Pl #12F	\$540,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Stangl, Kurt	Meikleham, Elizabeth C	236 W Canton St #4	\$1,180,000
Ross D Gorman T	Laohapoonrungsee, Nannap	223 W Newton St #1	\$1,295,000
Malsbenden, Francis	Hill, Terron P	43 Warren Ave #B	\$650,000
Barker, Thomas R	Cubeta, Thomas E	80 Worcester St #2	\$1,800,000
Le, Thao N	Englander, Michael	1 Melrose St #2	\$750,000
Yang, Ying	Cosman, Glen W	19 Fayette St #7	\$650,700
Michaud, Ryan	Deedy, Ryan	519 Columbus Ave #3	\$839,000
Frellech, Michael	Slingerlan, Madeleine	26 Dwight St #2	\$1,765,000
Lander, Daniel A	Jcgst 2014 lrt	18 Medfield St #6	\$827,500
Yen, Zehui L	Walsh, David	480 Shawmut Ave #5B	\$749,000
Walsh, David	Dittman, Jennifer	40 Traveler St #706	\$865,000
Mcgowan, Terence	Rohrbeck, Christine	30 Union Park St #403	\$2,170,000
Kim, Hyesu	Katsampes, Christina	15 Upton St #3	\$1,180,000
Ward, Eve-Marie	Wallace, Everett	1180-1200 Washington St #423	\$1,640,000
Fernandes, Carol L	Kuo, Alexander S	43 Westland Ave #403	\$840,000
Baker, Christopher	Howard, Katherine T	88 Worcester St #6	\$1,050,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Grodzinsky, Alan	Geary, Leigh	1 Avery St #31D	
\$2,500,000			
Dandrea, Phillip C	Hare Realty LLC	80 Broad St #809	\$642,500
Simas Ft	Hallawell, Hugh	110-112 Commercial St #2	\$690,000
Murphy, Jayne M	Anna Petrillo Lt	120 Commercial St #3-1	\$650,000
65 East Indian 26c Rt	Li, Junlong	65 E India Row #26C	\$1,017,360
Brandon, Adam	Burnett, John R	65 E India Row #31H	\$765,000
Edwards, Denise M	Brochetti, Wendy	85 E India Row #22A	\$620,000
Zhou, Dingwei	Lai, Leslie	170 Tremont St #1406	\$650,000
Kuchhal, Manju	Gesang, Wang J	580 Washington St #803	\$1,230,000
Cinre Ph Sro	Seaba LLC	580 Washington St #9A	\$1,400,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The ram's head in the last clue is on a frieze at the end of Cazenove Street. Today, this street that once connected Chandler Street to Columbus Avenue ends in a brick wall with this lovely frieze.

You'll find the next clue in the Back Bay. 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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