

THE BOSTON SUN

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Emotions run high at Tubman House meeting

By Seth Daniel

The first meeting of the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) on the Harriet Tubman House redevelopment project rolled out Monday night, Aug. 29, but try as they might, they never got to the meeting.

The Tubman House, which was sold by United South End Settlements (USES) to South End-based New Boston Ventures, has been slated for a 66-unit, by-right development of condos and commercial/community space. The sale came, USES said, to save their organization from folding, but at the same time it has also been a

major point of contention for those who oppose the sale because they feel it is a sacred space on a sacred corner – the last refuge of the black and low-income communities that existed in the South End exclusively in the past.

Monday night, one thousand different points of emotion and perspective flooded down on 566 Columbus Ave. (Tubman House). As the members of the IAG were being introduced by Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Coordinator Michael Sinatra – an unruly tirade began and it didn't subside for nearly

(‘TUBMAN HOUSE’, Pg. 3)



Bernard Johnson passionately confronts BPDA Coordinator Mike Sinatra and New Boston Ventures Co-Founder David Goldman during the first meeting Aug. 19 on the demolition and redevelopment of the Harriet Tubman House at the corner of Columbus and Massachusetts Avenues. The unruly meeting seemed to bring to the front a generation of frustration with housing, race and wars within the non-profit world.

SEEING IT ALL Businesses at the opioid epicenter hoping for help

By Seth Daniel

Gerry DiPierro is a noted and talented contractor in the South End.

DB&S is a long-standing, high-quality lumber yard in Newmarket.

Neither business has anything to do with opioids, but employees and owners have become experts on the matter by virtue of their locations – a forgettable side street called Gerard Street in the Mass/Cass area that is the focal point of the City's and State's epidemic.

“Last year and this year, but this year in particular, things have really tipped,” said DiPierro inside his construction showroom. “In 10 years, things have never been this bad. It's a vicious cycle. It breaks your heart. Every day I come in and their sleeping in front of my door. The other day I found a girl there who was only 15. She was just a kid, and there on the street. I have five girls so I can really identify with it. It breaks your heart.”

Across the street, at DB&S Lumber Yard, Manager Neil Kane said the company has been there since the 1960s, but now they find themselves barraged with as many people suffering from opiate issues as they do with customers seeking building materials.

It has never been as worse as it is this year, he said – noting that last spring on a Saturday morning business was disrupted by seven overdoses on the 50-yard stretch that fronts their yard.

Two, he said, were fatal.

In a corner of the yard, on the other side of their chain-link fence and the new fence the City built last fall is a rip-rap encampment that Kane said moved down to his yard when the fence was built last year. In a tiny space about two feet wide between two tall chain link fences, Kane showed a living area carved out for those actively using drugs – with blankets, pillows, clothes, trash and everything else providing an illicit nest for bad behavior.

Likewise, in front of their office on Gerard Street lies the vestiges

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Mobilia takes home a top prize, is inducted into Hall of Fame in Mayor's Garden Contest

By Dan Murphy

Fenway resident and District 8 city council hopeful Kristen Mobilia had the dual distinction of winning first place in the Vegetable or Herb garden category and being named a 2020 Hall of Fame inductee in Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Garden Contest last week.

“My garden is unique because I grow artichokes, un-like most peo-

ple, and all my tomatoes are grown from seed...and I have about a dozen different varieties of them,” Mobilia said.

Since her apartment offers no greenspace, Mobilia opted to grow a Vegetable or Herb garden in the Fenway Victory Gardens, which placed second and third place in that category last year and in the 2017 Garden Contest, respectively. She entered the contest one other

time, but her the judging panel overlooked her submission that year.

Mobilia lauded the long-running Garden Contest for bringing together gardeners from across the city together, including members of the Fenway Victory Gardens, of which she has been a member for the past 20 years.

“I think it's really important to have a connection to greenspace,

especially for those who garden in the city's community gardens,” Mobilia said.

Trailing Mobilia in the Vegetable or Herb garden category in this year's Garden Contest were Pasqualino Cerro of Hyde Park in second place and Molly Beinfeld of Roxbury in third.

Other first-place winners in their respective categories includ-

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PUPPY DOGS AND POLLINATORS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

THE DOG DAY...AT SOWA: Ramen (6 moths old) sleeping under the bench during the Dog Days of Summer celebration at SoWa Open Market on Sunday, Aug. 18. Hundreds of dogs and their humans flocked to the Market to beat the heat with shopping, cold craft brews and great food.



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

CELEBRATION OF POLLINATORS: A female Monarch butterfly ready to be released into the Fenway Victory Garden last Saturday, Aug. 17, during the celebration of pollinators in the Butterfly Gardens. Scores of residents took advantage of the beautiful weather to enjoy nature in the Fenway.

EDITORIAL

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR RED SOX, NATION?

After 2018's record-setting season in which our Red Sox won the most regular-season games (108) in their history and then vanquished the Yankees, Astros, and Dodgers in the post-season by a combined 11-3 en route to winning the World Series, it seemed that the sky was the limit for 2019.

We had the "best" manager in Alex Cora, guiding a group of young and exciting players -- led by Mookie, J.D., Xander, Andrew, and Rafael -- as well as a pitching staff -- paced by the "unhittable" Chris Sale -- that seemed destined to repeat as world champions.

But a funny thing happened from the end of 2018 to the beginning of 2019: Our Sox came down to earth.

When they did not re-sign their closer, Craig Kimbrel, perhaps the most essential position in baseball today, and then opened the season with a 2-8 start, it was evident that 2019 was not going to be a repeat of 2018.

Injuries piled up, pitchers went on and off the IL, and the magic of 2018 never reappeared. Mookie's ever-beaming smile had been replaced with the grimace of defeat.

As we write this, the Sox stand at 67-59, six games behind Tampa Bay in the extra wild-card spot, with Oakland in between.

In addition, they have a killer schedule in their final 36 games. And with Chris Sale essentially out for the rest of the season, the Sox' chances (which stand at 2.8 percent) of making the playoffs are shortening every day as surely as summer's fading sun. And even if they do make it, will they really be any match for any of the other playoff teams?

For young Red Sox fans, the disappointment of 2019 offers a life lesson: When you're on top, everybody wants to take you down.

For those of us who have seen this all before, the saga of the 2019 Red Sox brings to mind the line from the Impossible Dream record of the 1967 season (and yes, we still have our well-worn, vinyl album, as well as a CD of it) that has summed up so many Red Sox seasons both before and since:

When April's high aspirations,
Turned to September's tears.

Let's go, Patriots!



BEFORE THE SUMMER SAILS AWAY, ENJOY EVERY BALMY DAY

THE BOSTON SUN

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BOSTON CITY COUNCILORS' STATEMENT ON BOSTON CALLING DECISION

Dear Editor,

In the wake of the recent Boston Calling verdict, we are compelled to speak out about our role as City Councilors and our enduring commitment to fight for social inclusion and economic dignity.

The decision of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts to push this case was a grievous misuse of limited prosecutorial resources in service of a misguided political agenda. This case sets a terrible precedent where government officials who personally received nothing of value can nonetheless face criminal penalties for advocacy that federal prosecu-

tors deem too aggressive. Attempts to criminalize advocacy can only serve to advance the interests of those seeking a society that is less equal and less fair.

Voters sent us to public office to take on issues such as housing affordability, good jobs, environmental protection, civil rights and public safety. As public officials, it is our job to speak up daily for the constituencies we represent. Our duty to do so is even greater when public land or public resources are at stake. As residents call for action on the issues that affect their quality of life and well-being, we will continue to use our voices to address these concerns.

It is fundamental that city business should be transparent, accessible, and fairly administered according to the laws that hold public officials accountable. As

Councilors, we also have an obligation to shape the laws. We will redouble our efforts by advancing clear and compelling standards for how we expect business to be conducted in the City of Boston and by writing and debating legislation to attack inequality and protect the public good. Every public employee should feel empowered by these laws to advocate for all people to have a place in our city and full opportunities to thrive.

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Councilor Frank Baker

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GUEST OP-ED

In supporting United South End Settlements, We're Honoring Harriet Tubman's Legacy

By Joyce King, retired educator, 89-year-old South End resident

The move of the Harriet Tubman House is difficult; I understand that very well because I was born in the South End and never lived any place else. Thankfully, we are not losing the Harriet Tubman House or the programs that carry her legacy. That's because United South End Settlements has made a very difficult but necessary decision - it's selling 566 Columbus Ave. - the building that currently houses the Harriet Tubman House, consolidating and adding to programs at its Rutland Street location just a few blocks away.

In its 127-year history of serving as a central South End presence while evolving with the community, USES finds itself facing a central question: does it preserve a building or an institution? It has chosen the latter, ensuring generations of families will be served long into the future.

While the sale of 566 Columbus Avenue is essential for the preservation of USES and the legacy of service it embodies, USES did not

sell to the highest bidder. It selected South End developer New Boston Ventures because of the firm's history of working with the community and giving back and the unique and generous community benefits it's proposing.

New Boston Ventures responded to USES's request for proposals as a community partner and has demonstrated its commitment through its actions. It has assisted the non-profit tenants of 566 Columbus find new and affordable spaces that are close by, helped with relocation and buildout costs, and will be providing rental subsidies. It is also giving USES space in the new building - at street level - so it can continue to have a presence of community and civic engagement at this vibrant location in the neighborhood. The project is committed to preserving and protecting what it can, including the mural on the building by Jameel Parker.

USES has outlined a very clear and exciting path forward, using proceeds from the sale wisely and thoughtfully to ensure that its doors remain open to continue offering services to the commu-

nity. One-third of children in the South End live in poverty, so we need USES to still be here, offering a place for children of all backgrounds to learn, to laugh, and to grow up happy, healthy and confident; a foundation to being successful. We need USES to also continue supporting families who take care of our children, helping them achieve their goals.

The experiences that many of us have had at the Harriet Tubman House will now take place at Rutland Street, as USES expands programs that support children and families in our community. It is with the community in mind that USES is now positioning itself to continue to be one of the most valuable assets in the South End. We as a community need to remember that Harriet Tubman wasn't about a specific location, she was about helping others wherever she could. USES is doing the same. Let's not let location cloud our judgement. In uniting together to support USES, we are honoring Harriet Tubman's legacy while answering the question: what's more important, preserving a building or an institution?

The Boston Sun reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. We publish 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 Boston Sun.

Isabella Stewart Gardner gearing up for final Neighborhood Night

By Lauren Bennett

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum will have its final Neighborhood Night of the summer tonight, Aug. 22, where the museum will come alive with the sights and sounds of musicians, artists, and other creators. The theme of the final night is “Map this Block Party,” and guests can enjoy free admission to the museum to enjoy the exhibits and take advantage of the interactive activities provided, including performances, art-making, food trucks, games and more.

Rhea Vedro, Director of Community Engagement at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is also a

leader of the Neighborhood Salon Luminaries, a cohort of artists that are chosen each year. A few of these Luminaries will be showcasing their work at the Neighborhood Night Block Party.

“We are about to invite our fourth cohort,” Vedro said, and current cohorts are nominated by past cohorts as well as nominations. In the past, Luminaries have included chefs, artists, painters, and community organizers, she said. The group of selected artists convene quarterly at the museum to talk about their work, collaborate, and get feedback, Vedro said. “Those collaborations and interests and talents inform the shape of community engagement

programming at the museum,” she said. “It’s really special and lets us be a creative home.”

This year’s party will feature sustainable fashion designer Nathalia JMag, who has been working on an exhibition of her clothing for many months, Vedro said. JMag has been working with groups like Urbano Project, Hyde Square Task Force, and Sisters Unchained. Her clothing will be modeled by drag queens and others that were selected by JMag for the event. After the block party, the clothing will be on display in Urbano Project’s gallery space throughout August.

“I chose to go into sustainable fashion because I felt like I didn’t have any other option,” JMag

said. The fashion designer went to Framingham State University, where she said she switched around majors five times before settling on the fashion department, as she was drawn to those classes.

Outside of her classes, she did her own research on the industry and found things she liked and things she didn’t like about it. She said she liked that it is a trillion dollar industry and she would be able to make a living in it, but she found out just how bad for the environment clothing production can be.

“I could be just part of the solution,” she figured, and decided to major in fashion design and “figure out how I can do things the right way, not the conventional way,”

she said. She took a class about zero-waste design and upcycling, and still uses what she learned in that class today.

It also led her to do more of her own research on the fabrics she liked using. She found out that even faux fur is not good for the environment as it contains petroleum and some types of vegan leather are also not environmentally friendly, she said. She also liked to use a lot of upholstery fabrics, she said, but “a lot of them are harmful to wear because they’re sprayed with a lot of chemicals,” she said.

Instead, she learned that fabrics like linen, organic cottons, and hemp and bamboo fabrics are

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TUBMAN HOUSE (from pg. 1)

three hours as some in the audience argued, some scrapped in the corner and others expressed genuine emotion on both sides of the issue that had been carried with them for years – if not generations.

It was unprecedented, with strong racial overtones, and gentrification top on the agenda.

No one had seen anything like it in a City meeting for a long time.

As developer David Goldman began to explain the project, a group that had been protesting outside made their way slowly into the Tubman House community space playing drums and chanting, “We will not be erased.”

Goldman began to try to shout them, and they upped the ante with their chants.

Sinatra tried to keep order, but it was useless as the meeting descended into a dark place that it never seemed to be able to get out of.

“I am a Southerner,” yelled Goldman. “My husband and I moved into the South End nearly 40 years ago. We believe in this neighborhood and it is our home.”

That was countered by Destiny Polk – a performance artist from Concord, who said she had been displaced from Boston, and who had led the marchers in the building.

“I’m not interested in hearing your presentation,” she yelled back over the chants. “We no longer want you to take our space. We’re not interested in hearing you.

Leave this place now.”

Goldman pleaded that he get enough respect to be able to explain the project, and BPDA employees called for some calm.

“Sell the building to people of color,” yelled the crowd.

“This meeting is disrespectful,” yelled another.

“We don’t need more condos” came another shout.

Despite, the development team pressed on amidst the catcalls, harangues and high emotions of those in the crowd – some who were there to put on a show – which they did, and others who were feeling genuine emotions about losing a treasured community space.

That’s when Bernard Johnson, who said he was from Codman Square in Dorchester, came from the back of the room and took over the meeting – getting into the face of Goldman and Sinatra to curse them and call them liars. He confronted them at the podium for nearly five minutes and then went into the crowd to confront those telling him to sit down.

About 30 minutes later, after finally sitting down next to the podium, he arose and apologized for his behavior.

“I apologize for coming up here and cussing and being so passionate,” he said at the podium. “I will literally die for my community.”

That was carried on during the fracas as Anthony Brewer, of Roxbury and associated with the Columbus Avenue Zion Church, got heated about the sale of the building and called USES Director Maicharia Weir-Lytle a “sellout.”

He later apologized for doing that, and said as a Christian man, he was way out of line.

All of it, however, set the free-for-all tone that often overshadowed mixed the real concerns and frustrations.

Nina LaNegra of the United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury said the anger goes back 50 years to Urban Renewal and the taking of

property.

“This community process was duplicitous at best,” she said. “There’s a better word for it and it starts with L and ends with R... The BRA gave this to USES for \$0. Why? To ameliorate the damage done to the community.”

Bill Singleton, president of United Neighbors and a landlord in the South End, said people were angry because they were losing something.

“Look around, those that are not angry have things,” he said. “You’re not angry that you’re losing something because you have things. I want others to have things too. Anger is a method for being heard. You have so much and this is one little thing people want, and you’ll take that too.”

Goldman and his development partner, Dennis Kanin, did give a presentation, but few paid attention, and even fewer could pay attention given the antics that continued – and became even more personal as the night went on.

Goldman pointed out that the building has 17-percent affordable units – which will be marketed to artists being displaced from the Piano Factory Guild on Tremont Street and will average a monthly mortgage of \$1,500. That, he said, is lower than many of the rental properties advertised by local community development corporations.

He also touted the social enterprise café, noting that he has talked to the Haley House about possibly operating it – and he noted that there would be community space on the first floor deeded to USES. He, and investment partner Richard Taylor, emphasized this isn’t going to be a luxury development that leaves the community behind.

“You’re dealing with people of integrity who understand what this institution stands for,” Taylor said of New Boston.

USES folks mostly listened during the first part of the meeting, but Camp Hale Director Jerrell

Cox was quite frustrated by the meeting. Having attended USES as a kid, he said he was sad to lose the Tubman House, but said it’s more important to keep serving needy children in the neighborhood.

“We are not a country club,” he said in regard to criticism from the crowd that indicated USES was only serving wealthy, white children. “I welcome the opportunity to prove to you we have a diverse population. I go to the schools, to the housing developments and to the shelters to make sure it’s diverse. We had to do this to survive. It’s been extremely difficult to grow up here and see the hardship we go through every single year to survive. I grew up here, but these are just bricks and we’re trying to change children’s lives.”

The only young man that attempted to make public comments, Julian Rodrigues, 14, wanted to express how much Camp Hale means to him and how much he wants it to continue.

However, few even heard him due to the confrontations, yelling and scrapping going on in other parts of the room.

City Councilor Kim Janey was one of the first to speak, and the only elected official to venture into the fray, delivering a diplomatic speech.

“I don’t think any of us wanted to see this building sold,” she said. “It represented the last foothold in the South End for communities of color before gentrification. It is painful. It is important we hear those voices. I hope people can separate this development from being angry about the building being sold.”

Quanda Burrell was one of many in opposition to the sale. Melody Valdes, an early childhood teacher at USES, rose to dispute that and to say that the financial troubles were very real.

“We’re being told we don’t care for the kids and all we do is care,” she said, in tears. “I have had to write five grants to get \$50,000 to

keep my program. Where do we get all this money from that people keep talking about? We keep talking about all this money and I don’t know where it is.”

Weir-Lytle rose to speak at the end of the meeting – nearly three hours into the taxing affair – to state that the sale had to happen so USES could remain solvent.

“I inherited an organization that suffered operational deficits for 19 years,” she said. “I came to this organization because I did not want to see another black and brown organization close its doors... We are doing everything we can to keep it alive... We knew something had to change and we did not have people come out to help us. We asked. It wasn’t on the radar.”

Arnesse Brown, of Tenants Development Corporation (TDC) and an IAG member, said that was insulting and incorrect.

“For me to hear that no one offered help when I know for a fact that TDC offered is shameful,” she said. “We offered our help because we could have fixed these things that are broken. They didn’t want our help.”

Valerie Stephens, a long-time Southerner who said she had been priced out years ago, chided the audience for its behavior, but also said the passion that had been on display was exactly right.

“For those that don’t get it, too bad,” she said. “That’s the South End where I grew up. It is insulting to tell people to shut up because of their passion. It was passion, love and need that built this building. Hold your feet to the fire. Show up. I came to meetings and you all weren’t there. I’ve sat here and listened to people suck their teeth and give a snide remark... The South End should know how to show up and hold people’s feet to the fire.”

Everyone will get that chance to show up again on Sept. 11, when the BPDA will have its next meeting on the Tubman House. The details are still to be determined.

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Kristen Mobilia with her parents Pat Mobilia and Mary Lynch Mobilia in Kristen's award-winning garden in the Fenway Victory Gardens.

MOBILIA (from pg. 1)

ed Dominique Hurley of East Boston for Small Yard garden; Megan Fox of Jamaica Plain for Medium Yard garden; Daryl Johnson and Rick Smith of Dorchester for Large Yard garden; Michele Topor of the North End for Porch, Balcony or Container garden; Miguel Rosales of Beacon Hill for Shade garden; Cheryl Crawford of Roslindale for Senior Yard garden; Recreo Coffee & Roasterie of West Roxbury for Storefront, Organization or Main Street District garden; and John Ruiz of the Fenway for Community garden.

Other 2020 Hall of Fame inductees are Carmen Musto; John-son and Smith; Rick Kuethe; and Torpor.

While congratulating Mobilia and this year's other winners during an Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at Suffolk Law School, Mayor Walsh described the Garden Contest as "honestly, my favorite event of the year," adding that it has inspired him to take up gardening at home.

"Many of you put your hearts and souls into your gardens, and that's something I want to recognize," he said.

Walsh pointed out that a public

park is at most a 10-minute walk from anywhere in the city, which he credits to the hard work of the Boston Parks Department.

Walsh also paid tribute to Norbert Strissel, JetBlue's erstwhile chief of operations who died last year.

"He attended this Awards Ceremony every year and donated round-trip tickets," Walsh said. "This was kind of his marquee [event]."

Besides JetBlue, which provided the grand-prize pro bono, Mahoney's Garden Centers, Boston Flower & Garden Show, Polar Beverages, ICA Boston and the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture also donated prize packages for this year's competition.

As a Hall of Fame inductee Mobilia won't be able to enter the Garden Contest again, but she plans to continue supporting the event, perhaps even serving as a judge if the opportunity ever arose.

"It's great to be recognized, but I just love the event every year," Mobilia said. "As the mayor said, it's one of his favorite events and just a great opportunity to celebrate greenspace in the city."

ISG MUSEUM (from pg. 3)

much better alternatives.

JMag has decided to take her education one step further and is in the process of completing a masters at Rhode Island School of Design in Nature, Culture and Sustainability, where she's learning about where textiles come from and about natural dyeing. She's applied natural dyeing to the clothes she sells on her website.

The collection that will be showcased at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Block Party will be her first 100-percent zero-waste collection. She says it's important for people to be aware of sustainable clothing because "it's intertwined with every industry." Typical clothing is made by a person who is making cents to the hour, she said. "It's really important for us to start thinking about how what we're doing and our purchasing is affecting the world," she said, citing the cliché that "you vote with your dollar."

JMag's workshops with JP youth at Urbano Project, Hyde Square Task Force, and Sisters Unchained include teaching people textile dyeing techniques and how to print on fabric.

JMag describes her clothing style as "ethereal but also streetwear." She said the designs are femme but she likes to take certain aspects of menswear and use them in her designs. "I want people to be able to wear my clothes to a party or dress it down for movies or a date," she said, adding that her clothes are for "everyone,"

and does not believe that clothing should have an age attached to it.

"I am most excited to see the event come together and see the textiles and the mini collection on display and just being there," she said. "It's really important to realize that we have power. If we collectively choose to make good choices we can really make a difference in the world."

The Neighborhood Block Party will take place from 5-9 p.m., and JMag's first processional will be at 6:15 p.m. outside the museum.

Other Luminaries that will be a part of the event include DJ Real P, who will be deejaying the block party outside, and Josh Knowles, who will be playing electric violin and singing in the courtyard.

Other performers include youth step teams, dance teams, and percussion group Grooversity. A screening of Eternally Misunderstood, a documentary "that gives voice to how incarceration takes its toll," will be playing in Calderwood Hall at 6, 7, and 8:15 p.m., Vedro said. At the 7 p.m. screening, there will be a discussion with director Vanessa Ly. "I'm excited to see the culmination of this really exciting technical skill building that Nathalia has been doing with young people at Urbano Project, Sisters Unchained, and Hyde Square Task Force," Vedro said. She's also excited for people to "come on out and join us," she said. "I think it's going to be a really wonderful night."

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 The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com
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Claremont neighbors weigh in on Worcester St. housing proposal

By Lauren Bennett

A special meeting of the Claremont Neighborhood Association was held on Aug. 15 for LIHC Investment Group to present their proposal for approximately 60 market rate apartments on Worcester Street between Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street. The space is currently used for parking and open space for residents at Concord Houses on Tremont Street.

Randi Lathrop of RG Lathrop Consulting, LLC said that the team has engaged with the community—community leaders, nonprofits, and others to talk about the site, but they have yet to formally file with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). She said that they are looking to formally file in mid to late September, and the project also falls within the South End Landmark District, so it will have to go before that Commission as well.

Marci Booth of LIHC Investment Group said that LIHC currently has 38,000 units throughout the country, and explained that this proposal will provide “extended affordability” to Concord Houses for an additional 20 years. “It’s very important to the community, to the residents there,” Booth said, as some residents have lived there for over 35 years.

Architect Jay Szymanski said that “our design approach to this is to create a modern approach to the existing fabric” by using rhythms and materials of existing surrounding buildings “in a more contemporary way,” he said. There will be an accessible ramp to the six ground-floor units, and 41 covered parking spaces with 19 angled spaces behind that along the alley.

The sidewalk will be 8-foot wide with a 3-foot planting strip and 4-foot accessible sidewalk.

There were several comments and questions from the community regarding the design of the building. There was a concern about historic inclusion and the way the building looked.

“Most often with historic projects, you’re not encouraged to replicate what’s there,” Szymanski said. He said that agencies like the BPDA “push you to use more contemporary design but do it in a way that is sensitive to the existing historic buildings.”

There were several comments about the proposed greenspace and how the community would like to see more of it, as well as put back any trees that will be removed during the construction process. “We are not doing bituminous paving and we are adding trees where we can,” Lathrop said. There is an opportunity to work

with the community to put in better trees, she added. “The landscape plan is really early,” she said. “There’s room for improvement and suggestions.”

“You should be ashamed of yourself to put this monstrosity on a quiet street in the South End,” a neighbor said. “What are you doing for us as neighbors to minimize disruption during the construction process?”

Szymanski responded by saying that all construction will be done within the property line and wouldn’t disrupt the neighbors, but they were not convinced that they would not be disrupted due to the close proximity to the abutting buildings.

Another abutter said her foundation is rubblestone, so she was very concerned about disruption to her foundation during the construction process. She admitted that they are not very secure foundations to begin with and is worried about it becoming weaker.

Szymanski said that right now, there is mooring being done onsite. There is also no basement with the new construction and all parking is at the surface level, so there will not be any excavating below the ground.

“Buildings will be pinned and monitored throughout the construction process,” Lathrop said, and insurance will be taken out. The buildings will be watched throughout the construction process to see if there’s any movement.

“As far as construction goes, this is relatively low impact,” Szymanski said. The parking is being put at-grade due to expense and construction process, and a suggestion to put it below-grade to reduce the height of the building would not work, he added.

The team said that the parking lot will be accessed in the same way it is today, and a detailed study will be done in terms of what it means for extra car trips and bicycles.

Another neighbor commented that 19 more parking spots is a “huge change,” and will cause a safety issue in the alley.

The team said that the alley will be reconstructed at least along the building property, but will consider reconstructing the entire alley.

Others said they would like to see a smaller building, calling it a “monster” and “bulky.”

Lathrop said that this building will really help Concord Houses support itself, and the cost of building a 60-unit versus an 18-unit building, for example, is a huge difference.

“This is the start of the process,” Szymanski said. There will be more public meetings to come

and room for further public comments and questions on the process. Once everything is decided

upon and ready to go, Szymanski said he estimates between 14 and 18 months for construction of the

building. “Keep in mind that this is a revolving plan,” Lathrop said, “so what is there is not set.”

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY

Abadiotakis, Helen
Peterson, Bradley
Kelly, John
Ricci, Carla
Thomas Reardon RET
Obrien, John
Liang, Xinghui
Trinity Stuart Dev LLC
Daley, Michael
Kleinberger, Adam
Mills, Aaron
Forbes, Sherry
Psaltos, Dimitrios
239 Botolph LLC

SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE

Saillant, Jason
Fisher, Andrew
Steigerwald, Amy
Tet Boston LLC
Preller, Paula H
Carr, Brian J
Hinchcliffe, Michael W
Denklaus, Michael A
81 Warren Avenue LLC
1134 Washington SGT 2F&G
1134 Washington SGT 2F&G
Christine A Scordato RET
Axbey, Tom
Callo LP
Korff, Erica
Appleton 6A Owner LLC
Cervenak, Bradford T
Lequin, Elisabeth
Preller, Paula H
81 Warren Avenue LLC
Saad, Abdo
Casas, Jose O
851 Beacon Sr Spe LLC
Lequin, Elisabeth
Puram, Pryadarsini I
Rebeiz, Elie E
Zheng, Shelly

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Bayberry RT
Hall, Brodie
Delaney, Dennis R

SELLER 1

Kim, Edward C
361 Beacon LLC
Callahan, Joan S
Michael P Stack
Miller, Andrew D
St Botolph 67 RT
Chang, Yoon S
University Club
Dutton, Garrett D
Zibailo, Christopher
377 Commonwealth Ave LLC
377 Commonwealth Ave LLC
Yanovsky RT
Griggs, Tyler

ADDRESS

271 Beacon St #3
361 Beacon St #2
328 Dartmouth St #3
104 Marlborough St #C
166 Marlborough St #1
67 Saint Botolph St #4
400 Stuart St #18H
426 Stuart St
206 Beacon St #1
334 Beacon St #334
377 Commonwealth Ave #4
377 Commonwealth Ave #7
464 Commonwealth Ave #67
123 Saint Botolph St #9

PRICE

\$775,000
\$5,400,000
\$760,000
\$2,460,000
\$4,945,000
\$2,125,000
\$1,100,000
\$17,050,000
\$1,803,200
\$1,050,000
\$575,000
\$730,000
\$360,000
\$699,000

21 Father Francis Gilday St
655-659 Tremont St #6
3 Union Park #4
7 Upton St #4
232 W Newton St #H
100 Waltham St #3
100 Waltham St #4
90 Waltham St #2
81 Warren Ave
1140 Washington St #2F
1140 Washington St #G
1313 Washington St #230
3 Wellington St #1
27 Worcester St #3
38 Appleton St #1
6-A Appleton St
95 Appleton St #2
290 Columbus Ave #6
232 W Newton St #H
81 Warren Ave
478 Beacon St #3
511 Beacon St #11
851 Beacon St
290 Columbus Ave #6
466 Park Dr #1
80-82 Fenwood Rd #809
90 Gainsborough St #404E

\$893,000
\$1,150,000
\$1,204,500
\$1,500,000
\$1,499,000
\$850,000
\$1,300,000
\$2,350,000
\$2,225,000
\$1,337,000
\$1,337,000
\$2,275,000
\$1,500,000
\$1,085,000
\$539,000
\$4,600,000
\$2,650,000
\$772,600
\$1,499,000
\$2,225,000
\$715,001
\$540,000
\$4,250,000
\$772,600
\$1,525,000
\$625,000
\$830,000

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April Callahan
april.callahan@compass.com
847.971.7273

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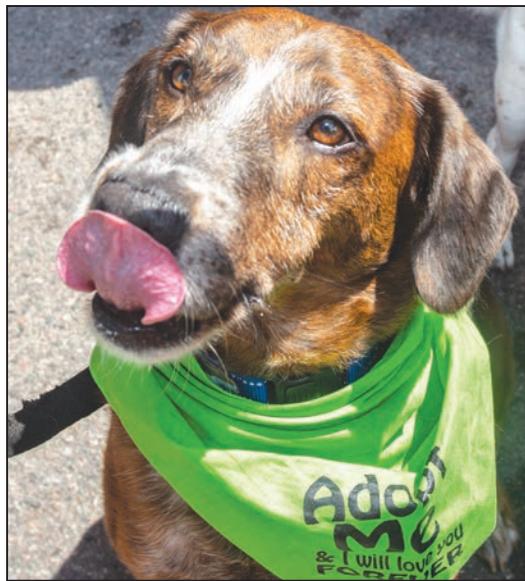
DOG DAYS AT SOWA MARKET

The SoWa Market hosted a Dog Days of Summer theme on Sunday, Aug. 18. The Market invited four-legged friends and their human friends to explore local food and good vibes during the dog days of summer. Beer'd Brewing Co. poured dog-themed brews with \$1 of every beer sold donated to Ruff Tales Rescue, a Massachusetts-based organization dedicated to saving the lives of abandoned dogs and their adoption.

Temperatures reached about 85, with a muggy and hot feel to the day. Ruff Tale's Rescue was also on premises with dogs who were ready for adoption.



French bulldog Chowder and Quyen Nguyen.



Jake (6 years old), a cataboula hound, was one of the many dogs available for adoption at Ruff Tales Rescue.



Ellie, Pomski, dressed up as Ellie May of the Beverly Hillbillies.



Rebecca Wojciechowicz and Miranda-Max De Beer with Ruby.



Allie Charlip with Leo at Dog Days of Summer at SOWA.



Emily Ansel and Jaxson with Luis Lopez and Norman.



Sam MacFarland serving up some great dog-themed brews during the event.

COMPASSION & LEADERSHIP TO BATTLE THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Addiction is a disease that took my brother's life. When I see authorities rounding up people struggling with addiction, I see my brother. We need more treatment beds than jail cells.

I will be a leader who tackles this public health epidemic with compassion and determination. This epidemic is statewide, and I will work for Boston to help Massachusetts continue to tackle this crisis.

~ Jenn Nassour



JENNIFER NASSOUR
for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 8

jenn4boston.com
@jenn4boston
jn@jenn4boston.com



Odie the dog with Kathleen Chaudoin, Karen DeLuca, Judy Brigham, (front L-R), Tricia Doxbury, Leslie Botsford and Annie Magerman, (back L-R).

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS
ROBB COHEN TEAM



MASS/CASS (from pg. 1)

of the epidemic, including needles, drug supplies, discarded clothing and tall grass.

"We have to clean up the needles they throw over our fence every day," he said. "My employees are smart. They know how to be careful now. We used to try to keep the front clean every day, but now we don't. There are just too many needles and it's too dangerous. They even hide stuff in the trees. You have to watch out. I have a family member that wants to get into law enforcement. I told them not to come down here. It just seems there's no regard for life here."

DiPierro, who has an office overlooking the intersection, said he has seen it all – and has made time to watch and observe what's happen-



Gerry DiPierro has a front-row seat to the opioid epidemic – as do his neighboring businesses on Gerard Street.

ing. He pays five veterans who live on the streets to clean up the trash and human refuse daily.

Others, he said, can often find their way inside via a different route.

"I have a real problem with people pushing their way in the door when customers or employees open it," he said. "They come in and they won't leave until I give them money. One girl squeezed in the door behind a customer and fell on the floor and screamed until I gave her \$20. Then she left. You see that a lot."

But it doesn't end there for DiPierro's company.

He has a hard time keeping tenants in his retail space, his employees often quit for fear of going outside, customers don't like coming to the showroom, and he cannot find a cleaning company that will stick with it.

"Clients don't want to come here," he said. "I've asked them to come here and they ask me if I can come to their house instead. I have a great showroom, but I really don't have client meetings here because of it. I have 2,000 square-feet and no

one will rent it...The bike guy took off because he couldn't get out of his shop...I have a hard time here with employees. I have to assure them I have cameras and screens so they can see what they're walking into out there. We had to move the secretary upstairs. It's touchy situation because I get it."

He added that similar, and even worse, things happen to businesses in the surrounding area on a frequent basis.

He said one thing that is starting to get out of hand this year is the prostitution, with drug dealers stationing girls further up the street in exchange for drugs.

"That's something I've seen more than ever this year and I've been around here 25 years," he said.

At DB&S, Kane said they heard quite a bit about the Corrections Officer that was assaulted in recent weeks – a case that got widespread coverage. However, he said law enforcement getting attacked is nothing new. He recalled several incidents, including one that happened last year when a young officer and an older sergeant were making an arrest outside the lumber yard.

"He punched the younger officer in the face and then the other

people came and the (sergeant) couldn't handle all of them," he said. "They were in trouble. I saw it and we all came out to help. I had a guy close by in his car who came out with a tire iron and stopped it and we were all able to hold them down until help came."

DiPierro remembers one crafty drug dealer who stationed himself on the corner wearing clothing that made it appear he was law enforcement. He stood there stoic for two weeks and appeared to be part of the police force. However, he was just a very crafty dealer.

"I told the police I appreciated them stationing him right there across the street," said DiPierro. "They told me they didn't station anyone there. I went back and looked at my videos and realized he was a dealer. He had a car parked there and the users knew he was dealing, but everyone else left him alone because they thought he was law enforcement."

The stories could go on and on, but the solutions aren't so easy.

Both Kane and DiPierro and most business owners in the area are sympathetic. One cannot get a bad word out of them about the people they encounter. They both said they hope that there can be solutions found that will end the

suffering.

"What I see is that it's not all the people coming down here for services or the programs that are causing problems," he said. "It's the 100 to 600 that don't go to the programs or the shelter. They go out as far as the South End Library...If you do a big sweep, and get them out of there, they just go to the South End, Bay Village, Back Bay and around the city. Then they come back in a week or so. The big question is how do we address those that don't want to be addressed. That's what we need to figure out to help things."

For DiPierro and others in the "hot corner," they have a lot of optimism for new Mayoral Advisor Buddy Christopher – who formerly headed up the Inspectional Services Department. Christopher recently addressed the Newmarket Business Association, and DiPierro said he felt that Christopher was the right one for the job.

"I feel like he could really be the one that makes a difference," he said. "When he spoke, he was on point. He's a smart dude. He was saying the right things...He has compassion and wants to solve this, but he can also cut through the baloney. Hopefully he can really help."

SoWa
OPEN
MARKET

May 5 - October 27
every sunday 10am - 4pm

460 - 540 Harrison Ave
sowaboston.com

INAUGURAL SHAWMUT AVENUE COMMUNITY DAY

Photos by Mike Mejia

The City of Boston closed a part of Shawmut Avenue for neighbors to come together during the first-ever Shawmut Avenue Community Day. With the help of District D-4, Shawmut Avenue was blocked off between Kendall and Lenox Streets. The Community Day consisted of food, beverages, music, and games. Members of the community took advantage of the street closure by riding their bikes, bringing their chairs on the street, and socializing with neighbors and elected officials.



Dianny Felix watches a large bubble float over her.



Lissatte Billings and her son, Jaiden, take advantage of the road closure by riding their bikes on the street.



Veronique Cayman has the Jamaican flag painted on her cheek.



Councilor Kim Janey speaking with Isabel Zapata.



Sara Mitchell, South End Liaison Faisa Sharif, Carol Blair, president of Chester Square Neighbors, and Rep. Jon Santiago. Sara and Carol helped organize the first Community Day on Shawmut Avenue.



Ruth Wong, Malcolm Thomas, and Araya Jackson. Ruth and Malcolm helped organize the first Community Day on Shawmut Avenue.



Delenie Felix, Dianny Felix, and Fior Peña. Delenie and Fior were two of the youth organizers that were instrumental in preparing the logistics and games for kids during the Community Day.



Dwayne Austin playing a game of Connect 4.

CELEBRATION OF POLLINATORS AT FENWAY BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian



Azriella Gardner has some fun with the Wheel'N Around interactive sculpture at the Fenway Victory Garden.



Monarch butterfly larvae.



A bee on a Helianthus flower, a prolific pollinator.

A celebration of pollinators was held at the Butterfly Garden in the heart of Boston's historic Fenway Victory Gardens on Saturday, Aug. 17. Visitors got to learn about pollinators such as the bee and monarch butterfly. There were arts and crafts, henna tattoos, and garden tours. Signs incorporated with plants pollinated by butterflies were made by Boston artist Qian Mei.

Fun was had by all.



Tanner Gauvin and Ana Antolin discuss the fun they find in gardening.



Dan Rybarczyk, Noah Abbott, Naomi Carolan, Joe Ward, and Nicole Cormier were happy to learn more about the intricate relationships between plant and insect that comprise the natural mechanics of urban gardening.



President of the Fenway Victory Gardens Elizabeth Bertolozzi with artist Qian Mei, who made the signage present for the butterfly event.



Victory Garden member Richard Dunshee welcomes visitors to his plot and tells them of his story gardening through the years.



Danielle Seagal gets a henna tattoo from Shrenika Singhvi of Shrenika Henna Art.



Boston artist Qian Mei (second from left) leads a curious group to the garden plot of Loretta Flash who is happy to explain her space and gardening experiences.



NEWS BRIEFS

BOSTON I-90W CLARENDON STREET ON-RAMP PERMANENTLY CLOSING

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced that the on-ramp which carries vehicles from Clarendon Street onto I-90 westbound in Boston will be permanently closed effective September 3, 2019. There will be no impacts to the I-90 mainline as a result of this on-ramp closure. This closure is being implemented following approval from the Federal Highway Administration and due to concerns over safety and effective travel at this location. There are low traffic volumes at this location, as the on-ramp is utilized by approximately 75% less vehicles per hour than nearby on-ramps at Arlington Street and Dartmouth Street. Members of the public should note that the Dartmouth Street and Arlington Street on-ramps onto I-90 westbound will remain open. These on-ramps are each located within approximately ½ mile of the Clarendon Street on-ramp. MassDOT has had informal conversations with

community leaders and municipal officials regarding the future closure of this on-ramp for more than one year. The department is currently carrying out a comprehensive out-reach process in order to notify members of the public, motorists, residents, and businesses of this impact. A public meeting will be held on August 27 in Boston on this topic and the scheduling details are as follows:

6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 27

Central Library in Copley Square
700 Boylston Street, Back Bay.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

- There will be no NABB Green Committee meetings in August.

- Newbury Street will be closed to traffic and become a pedestrian-only walkway from Arlington Street to Massachusetts Avenue on August 25 and September 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Open Newbury Street.

- Boston Common Master Plan Online Survey:

As "America's First Public Park" and an oasis in downtown Boston, Boston Common is one of the most treasured green spaces in the world. The goal of the

Master Plan is to create a Common that will serve the people of Boston and visitors alike while protecting this special place for decades to come. Overall, we envision an atmosphere of civic access and engagement with a profound sense of identity and a deep-rooted connection to this vibrant city. The online survey can be found at bostoncommonmaster-plan.com.

Screening of Glory on the Boston Common: Join us for special FREE screenings of the Academy Award-winning film Glory. As a part of the Shaw 54th Memorial Restoration programming, the Partners are excited to host an outdoor screening of the classic film on the Parade Ground and at the Bright Screening Room @ Emerson College.

Glory on Boston Common
Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Parade Ground, Boston Common
This is a free event
Glory at Emerson College
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019
6:30 p.m.
Bright Screening Room, Emerson College
559 Washington Street, Boston
MA 02110

This is a free event

- Boston Common Park Pres-

ence Day: On Friday, September 6 from 4:30-8:30pm, come talk to us on the Boston Common! Learn more about the master planning effort, provide feedback on the park today, and share ideas for the future.

SOUTH END DATES

- SoWa FIRST FRIDAY

The artists of SoWa Artists Guild invite you to visit SoWa First Friday, free and open to the public! More than 80 artists' studios at 450 Harrison Avenue in the SoWa Art + Design District in the South End of Boston will be open from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. You'll meet artists and experience a wide variety of original contemporary art that is available for you to browse and buy. MBTA Orange line to New England Medical Center, then Silver line outbound to Union Park Street. Parking is available. For more information, please visit <http://www.sowaartists.com> and <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>.

- The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) has ended its spring meetings. The EBNA has changed its meeting time for the fall, now meeting on the first Tuesday of the month

instead of the third Tuesday. They will meet next on Sept. 3.

FENWAY TIMES

- The Boston Planning and Development Agency last week approved the plans for the Fenway Theater Project. "Thank you to all neighbors, organizations and government officials who participated and provided thoughtful and valuable feedback and ideas, and helped make our proposed project even better," the Red Sox said in a community email. "FSG Real Estate hopes to begin construction after the baseball season ends this fall and we'll provide updates in advance. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions." Bm

- The Fenway Victory Gardens annual FensFest will take place on Saturday, September 7 from 11:00am-3:00pm at Central Meadow, 1200 Boylston St. There will be barbecue food, games, live music, and a raffle. There will also be a "White Elephant" sale at the event, in which household items, garden extras, books, etc. can be sold and all proceeds will be donated to the Fenway Garden Society. Visit fenwayvictorygardens.org for more details.

For the Record

From the Aug. 21 License Board hearing, 10 a.m., City Hall:

- SESAME CZ, LLC, D/B/A: ROKA, 801 MASSACHUSETTS Ave., South End.

Holder of a Common Victualer 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above - To: Purple Shell Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Purple Shell Bar & Kitchen 11 West Broadway South Boston, MA 02127. One room on the first floor, main entrance/exit on West Broadway, secondary entrance/exit on Dorchester Avenue, kitchen and storage area in the rear. Gan Quan "Jerry" Chen, Manager. 2 a.m. Closing Hour.

From the Aug. 22 South End Landmarks Sub-Committee meeting, 8 a.m.:

Meet at a private residence at 30-34 East Concord St., South End, for the public sub-committee meeting.

From the Aug. 27 Boston Landmarks Commission meeting, 4 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 900:
DESIGN REVIEW

- Boston Common Applicant: Elizabeth Vizza, Friends of the Public Garden
Proposed work: Installation of new Brewer fountain lighting
- Christian Science Complex Applicant: Brooke Ten Eyck
Proposed work: Publishing House façade rehabilitation

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- 29 Bay State Road Unit #1 Applicant: Anthony Griseto, Pella Windows and Doors
Proposed work: Replacement of four front and one rear windows and trim
- 29 Bay State Road Applicant: Frank Rolo
Proposed work: Repair roofing slate
- Commonwealth Avenue Mall Applicant: Elizabeth Vizza, Friends of the Public Garden. Proposed work: Removal of cobble edging and planters at Collins Statue
- Boston Public Library Applicant: Emily Tokarczyk, Director of Events
Proposed work: Interior painting of Tea Room walls
- Christian Science Complex Applicant: Sarah Printy, Northeastern University
Proposed work: Northeastern University signage replacement

From the Aug. 28 Flammable Storage and Garage hearing, 1010 Mass. Ave. (4th Floor), 10 a.m.:

- Continued applications
370-380 Harrison Ave 180 Vehicles 3,600 gallons of gas in the tanks of vehicles: South-end 10, LLC.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF
WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT
COURT
OUTAGAMIE
COUNTY
Case No.
19 CV 432
Plaintiff,
v.
Nicholas A.
Krupka
1707 North
Briardiff
Drive
Appleton, WI
54915-2881

Sarah M. Beck,
f/k/a/ Sarah M.
Krupka
345 Harrison
Avenue, Apt. 1162
Boston, MA 02118
Defendants
SECOND AMENDED
SUMMONS
THE STATE OF
WISCONSIN

To Sarah M. Beck,
f/k/a Sarah M.
Krupka:
You are hereby notified that
the plaintiff named above
has filed a lawsuit or other
legal action against you.

Within 40 days after August
22, 2019 you must respond
with a written demand for a
copy of the complaint. The
demand must be sent or
delivered to the court, whose
address is Clerk of Courts,
Outagamie County Govern-
ment Center, 320 South
Walnut Street, Appleton
WI 54911, and to McCarty
Law LLP, plaintiff's attorney,
whose address is 2401 E.
Enterprise Avenue, Appleton,
Wisconsin 54913-78887. You
may have an attorney help
or represent you.
If you do not demand a copy

of the complaint within said
40 days, the court may grant
judgment against you for
the award of money or other
legal action requested in
the complaint, and you may
lose your right to object to
anything that is or may be
incorrect in the complaint. A
judgment may be enforced
as provided by law. A judg-
ment awarding money may
become a lien against any
real estate you own now or in
the future, and may also be
enforced by garnishment or
seizure of property.
Dated August 13, 2019.

McCarty/Law LLP
Attorneys for Fox Communi-
ties Credit Union
2401 East Enterprise Avenue
Appleton WI 54913-78878
p. (920) 882-4070
f. (920) 882-7986
Steve J. Cerasoli
State Bar No. 1013079
8/22/19, 8/29/19, 9/5/19
Boston Sun

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime
Storage - Boston Traveler
St. located at 33 Traveler
St., Boston, MA 02118

intends to hold an auction
to sell the goods stored by
the following tenants at the
storage facility. The sale will
occur as an online auction via
www.storage-treasures.com
on 9/9/2019 at 12:00 PM.
Unless stated otherwise the
description of the contents
are household goods and
furnishings. Florentino Perez
unit #206; Curtis Babine
unit #300; Adam Nunez unit
#351; Alberto Penafior Avila
unit #407; Claudia McLane
unit #517. All property is
being stored at the above
self-storage facility. This sale

may be withdrawn at any
time without notice. Certain
terms and conditions apply.
See manager for details.
8/22/19, 8/29/19
BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime
Storage - Boston South-
ampton St. located at 100
Southampton St., Boston,
MA 02118 intends to hold
an auction to sell the goods
stored by the following
tenants at the storage facility.
The sale will occur as an on-

line auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 9/9/2019
at 12:00 PM. Unless stated
otherwise the description of
the contents are household
goods and furnishings. Marie
Molea Anthony unit #3314;
Torah Keyes unit #4154.
All property is being stored
at the above self-storage
facility. This sale may be
withdrawn at any time
without notice. Certain terms
and conditions apply. See
manager for details.
8/22/19, 8/29/19
BS

City pleased with East Berkeley parking pilot, neighbors hope for more

By Seth Daniel

It's been one year since the City finally stepped in to institute a pilot program that limited parking on a stretch of East Berkeley Street in the South End that has been a log-jam for years – and the early data shows that the program is successful.

Neighbors in the East Berkeley area have done numerous volunteer studies on parking and traffic in the area between Harrison Avenue and Washington Street, a stretch that has been a traffic pinch point for several years due to the fact that it narrows from three lanes to one.

Last summer, after years of back and forth between neighbors and business owners there, the City

stepped in to give the pilot program a shot. It allowed parking on the north side of East Berkeley in the area only between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. That basically meant there was no parking allowed during the daytime, thus creating a second travel lane during the busiest hours.

Boston Transportation Department (BTD) said it did not collect specific data on the pilot program, but did make regular observations on site and via traffic cameras.

“Using real time feed from cameras located in the area, City of Boston Traffic Management Center traffic engineers regularly observed traffic backed up to Harrison Avenue when the parking restriction on East Berkeley Street was limited to peak hours Monday through Friday,” read a BTD state-

ment. “Since the parking restriction has been extended to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, observations made by TMC staff indicate that traffic flow on East Berkeley Street has improved considerably. Allowing vehicles to proceed using two lanes of East Berkeley Street has greatly eased congestion and improved travel times mid-day Monday through Friday as well as on the weekends.”

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) was pleased to hear the pilot was successful, but said they would like to see a next step in the process.

President Ken Smith said he and the EBNA Board are calling for an extension of the parking restriction.

“We're thrilled that the data bears out improved traffic flow,

as we knew it would,” Smith said. “But, Boston is a 24-hour city, and congestion is only getting worse. One lane of travel for the block in question after 6 p.m. remains to be problematic. A majority of neighbors polled believe there's a profound need to open up that block to two lanes of travel at all times. This would still allow one full parking lane on the south side of East Berkeley. We appreciate all the efforts that have made this pilot successful and the willingness to try it and are advocating strongly that the pilot become permanent with the addition of extending the hours as mentioned above.”

Smith said they also would like the City to take a next step in replacing the lost parking with some spots down the street by the Berkeley Gardens – a proposal they

advanced five years ago.

“For years, EBNA has suggested that the City look to add a lane of parking further up East Berkeley along the Berkeley Gardens,” he said. “EBNA is well aware that the parking needs to be supplanted and offered the solution above that would add at least as many parking spots on East Berkeley between Shawmut and Tremont.”

Licensed Plumbers Wanted

Boston residents preferred. Start immediately. Call 617-212-2268 for more information.



All of Us
RESEARCH PROGRAM

The future of health begins with you

The more researchers know about what makes each of us unique, the more tailored our health care can become.

Join a research effort with one million people nationwide to create a healthier future for all of us.

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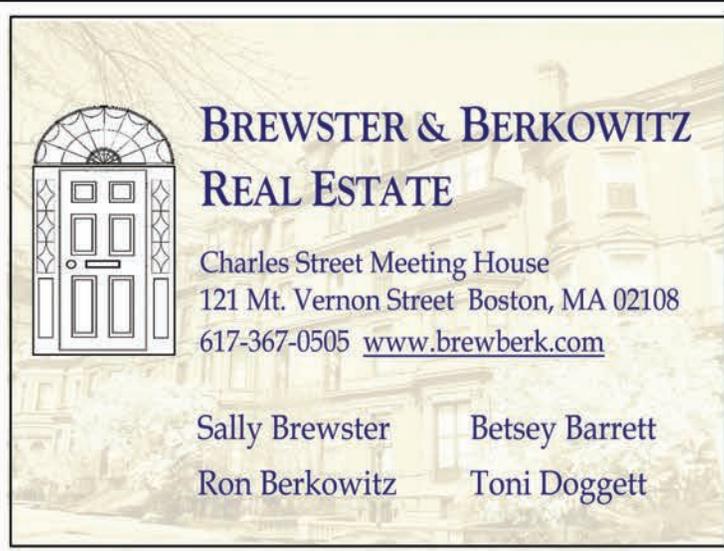
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