

THE BOSTON SUN

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Harriet Tubman House project heads to BPDA Board for consideration

By Lauren Bennett

Despite another raucous and chaotic public meeting regarding the Harriet Tubman House project (566 Columbus Ave.) on Dec. 9, the project has advanced to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board agenda for consideration on Dec. 12.

There has been some real doubts as to whether or not the project would advance to the BPDA meeting if there was a third unruly meeting, and reports from sources close to the situation said late last week another bad meeting would put the project, and sale, in jeopardy.

After Monday's meeting, which many described as worse than the previous two meetings, many on both sides were on eggshells about whether it would, or would not, be on the agenda. Getting on the agenda would signal there was a good chance the measure would pass – but leaving it off would have been an indication that the project might not have been viable.

Letters campaigns on both sides were quickly organized all morning Tuesday in advance of the 2 p.m. release of the Board agenda. And at 2 p.m., the matter appeared on the agenda, signaling a win for USES in the short term.

The project will redevelop the site at 566 Columbus Ave. into a six-story, mixed-use commercial and residential building with 5,000 square feet of commercial space including a social enterprise cafe with outdoor seating, an art exhibit gallery, and deeded community space for United South End Settlements (USES), the current owner of the building.

Additionally, the project includes 66 residential units, 11 of which would be artist live/work spaces, as well as 42 below-grade parking spaces. Most of the project is by right, meaning it will not have to go through the traditional Article 80 public review process.

The meeting on Monday night saw a room packed with supporters of the project wearing red USES

(TUBMAN HOUSE, Pg. 5)

VILLA VICTORIA TREE LIGHTING IN PLAZA BETANCES



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Gabrielle Edwards looks to hang a Santa Claus ornament on the tree in Plaza Betances during the annual Villa Victoria tree lighting celebration on Weds. evening, Dec. 4. Hundreds came out to ring in the holiday season with fun, food and music – the beginning of many such tree lighting celebrations throughout the neighborhoods in the coming week.

Copley Singers a staple at St. Cecilia's

By Seth Daniel

The Copley Singers always seem to find their way to the Back Bay in the Christmas season, and

next Tuesday night, Dec. 17, they will return for their annual holiday spectacular at St. Cecilia's on Belvidere Street.

The Singers enjoy their tour,

which includes St. Cecilia's in Back Bay, Charlestown's St. Mary's Church and a concert in Concord.

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CAROLING IN HAYES PARK



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Caroline Rotch, president of Friends of Hayes Park, singing during the caroling event at Hayes Park on Sunday, Dec. 8. Numerous neighbors came out for the holiday tradition at the park, including Councilor Ed Flynn and his father, former Mayor Ray Flynn. It was the final event of the year for Hayes Park.

BU, City break ground on Center for Computing and Data Sciences

By Lauren Bennett

What was once a Burger King will become a state-of-the-art building on the Boston University (BU) campus within the next few years. Mayor Martin Walsh, along with Boston University, broke ground on the Boston University Center for Computing & Data Sciences on Dec. 5. The 345,000 square foot structure will be Boston's largest fossil-free building, and will stand 19 stories tall. Set to open in 2022, the building is also seeking LEED Platinum certification and will include 31 geothermal wells.

"The building we break ground on today is, in every sense, a game changer for Boston University," said Jean Morrison, university Provost and Chief Academic Officer. Morrison also said that the

building will "have a transformative effect on both the look and feel of the Charles River campus and on our capacity to lead in the rapidly growing fields of computing and data science."

BU President Robert Brown talked about the history of the parking lot at 665 Commonwealth Ave., which is the site to become the Center for Computing & Data Sciences.

"Not long ago, this parking lot was the home for a Burger King," he said. "When this project was born five years ago and we didn't want it really known what we were doing, it was secretly called 'BK1'."

He said the location "could not be more strategic for the university," as it is located at the heart of the campus, near the Dahod

(SCIENCE CENTER, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."
-- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

With Christmas just two weeks away, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our last-minute holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although the vast majority of Americans have much to be thankful for because of a strong economy and a record-low unemployment rate, there are many of our fellow citizens who have not shared in the general prosperity.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally -- thanks to high rents and soaring land values.

This dichotomy is most evident and acute in the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what we read about in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy. Indeed, the announcement by the Trump administration last week that there will be a cutback in the Food Stamps program (known as SNAP) that threatens to leave millions of Americans (including many children) hungry is a real-life Grinch story, but without a happy ending.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, actually is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Giving to others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there are multiple opportunities in the next two weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.



SHOP LOCALLY AND OFTEN
GUEST OP-EDS

Where the locals go: 20 Districts in 20 days

By Mayor Martin Walsh

The holiday season is in full swing, and many of us are searching for gifts to give friends and family to show them how much they mean to us. It's a great time to try and shop local to support the small businesses in our neighborhoods. Lucky for us in Boston, it's easy to find wonderful small and locally-owned places to shop!

There are 20 official Main Streets districts in Boston, each reflecting the unique history, culture, and traditions of the surrounding neighborhood. We recently celebrated Small Business Saturday and kicked off our '20 Districts in 20 Days' campaign in Four Corners. Through Dec. 19, each day is dedicated to a different neighborhood to highlight their Main Street businesses. I'm

inviting all Boston residents to get involved and see what their local Main Street Districts have to offer—or to explore a part of the city they've never visited before!

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy and the backbone of our communities. They represent goods and services close to home, first jobs for our young people, and opportunities for our residents. They hire locally, they reflect our rich diversity of cultures and languages, and they care deeply about being good neighbors.

Boston is home to more than 40,000 small businesses, which account for about 170,000 jobs. That's nearly half of all private-sector employment! All together, they create vital commercial districts that strengthen our local economy. When our small businesses thrive, our entire city thrives. Supporting

small businesses is very important to my administration, and it's a key strategy in some of our most important efforts—from creating jobs, to beautifying our neighborhoods, to improving equity and making sure that opportunities reach everyone.

Throughout the holiday season, and throughout the year, I hope you'll join me in shopping local. You'll be supporting your community and learning more about our historic and vibrant neighborhoods. After all, they're where the locals go.

You can find out more about the Boston Main Streets program and the 20 Districts in 20 Days campaign at Boston.gov/SmallBusiness. And share your support by using the hashtag "#WhereTheLocalsGo"!

Martin Walsh is the Mayor of the City of Boston.

Sale of Harriet Tubman House would most benefit the community

By State Rep. Jon Santiago and Councilor Kim Janey

We have listened carefully to the debate surrounding the sale of the United South End Settlements (USES) building at 566 Columbus Ave., known as the Harriet Tubman House. We have also spoken to countless neighbors who are committed to ensuring that USES can continue to serve South End and Roxbury families, as it has for the past 127 years.

As your elected officials, we

cannot and will not imagine a South End without USES and the important services they provide to neighborhood families. Therefore, while we understand the frustration of some in our community, and as difficult as this situation is, we support USES in their mission to save their organization from financial ruin by selling their building.

Founded by six African-American women in 1906, the Harriet Tubman House opened on Holyoke Street in the South End as a

home to black women migrating from the South. Moving to several locations before settling on Columbus Avenue, the legacy of Harriet Tubman has never been wed to bricks and mortar but to its commitment to serving those most in need. Today, her memory is honored with programming and services aimed at disrupting the cycle of poverty, as is the mission of USES and the various tenants that have called this building home

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SCIENCE CENTER (from pg. 1)

Family Alumni Center and the Levanthal Center, “where tens of thousands of visitors come to the university every year,” he said. Additionally, the science and engineering complex is located diagonally across the street.

“Today, BU is a leading private research university, competing and competing well with the finest universities in the country for talented students and faculty,” he said.

Brown also touted that the building will become the largest geothermal powered building in New England. “The Center will stand as a remarkable commitment to our climate action plan and our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2040,” he said.

Mayor Walsh praised Boston University for its contributions to the City of Boston. “They’re a good neighbor; they continue to contribute to the city’s efforts around transportation, public space, and climate,” Walsh said.

Walsh said that in 2014, he issued a challenge to the city’s landlords and universities to create a “world class city” with new designs for buildings that would mesh the new with the old, and since then, the city has seen many new investments and a lot of new construction.

“BU certainly stepped up in a big way,” Walsh said. “It’s certainly a bold landmark; it’s a symbol of creativity and innovation.”

The building will create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs, Walsh added.

“For years to come, this building will stand up as a symbol of Boston and BU’s climate leadership,” he said. “It’s going to help inspire students to think big and act with integrity. Our hope is that it’s going to inspire a whole new wave of excellence in design and sustainability in Boston and beyond.”



Mayor Walsh, along with Boston University staff, broke ground on the 345,000 square foot Center for Computing & Data Sciences on December 5.

TUBMAN HOUSE (from pg. 2)

over the years.

There are currently more than 350 children and families who rely on USES services, over 80 percent from communities of color and over 70 percent from low-income families. Many of USES’ families need these services to stay afloat in an otherwise expensive neighborhood. If the sale of 566 Columbus does not go through, USES will be forced to shut down and close its doors permanently. That would only exacerbate the gentrification we seek to curtail.

Without USES, we will lose our largest local provider of social services to low-income families. And as your elected officials, we will not allow this to happen and will fight to ensure that non-profit organizations in our community can continue their good work into the future.

Regarding USES’ proposal, a socially responsible and viable plan with community input has been crafted for the sale of its property at 566 Columbus Ave. They selected a locally invested development partner and a diverse team that understands our neighborhood because its members live and work here. This sale will have other benefits, including affordable housing that exceeds the city’s requirements, 11 residential units set aside for live-work spaces for artists who have been displaced from the Piano Factory and other nearby locations, home ownership opportunities, new minority equity investment opportunities for communities of color, construction and

permanent employment for more women and people of color, and almost 5,000 square feet of space dedicated to community programming for non-profit partners and neighborhood groups. The sale will also allow USES to double their service capacity. And finally, the development team has worked with all six existing non-profit tenants to assist them with relocation at no financial cost to them.

We recognize that development and gentrification issues have divided our neighborhood for decades. Since taking office less than two years ago, we have been outspoken against displacement and have worked tirelessly with residents and activists to seek solutions to our housing crisis and fight for a more equitable and inclusive future. In this case, there will be far more harm in losing childcare, early education, mentoring, after-school and summer programs, and financial empowerment services for our most in need neighbors, than the sale of an inefficient building costing USES more than \$350,000 annually to operate and in need of millions of dollars of deferred maintenance.

However, given the existing socioeconomic disparities in our community, to do anything that undermines the survival of institutions that provide critical services to vulnerable families is not an option. The only choice before us is one that ensures the viability of USES well into the future.

(This op-ed first appeared in the Boston Herald)

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CAROLING AT HAYES PARK DECEMBER 8

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

Caroling In The Park took place at Hayes Park in the South End on Dec. 8. Many neighbors and friends came to share holiday spirits, singing many songs from

holiday classics to children songs together. Former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn joined the caroling with his son, Councilor Ed Flynn, and family members.

It was the final event of the year for the Hayes Park community.



Bea Fischer-Bean with Maggie during caroling at Hayes Park.



Councilor Ed Flynn, Angie Hayes, Berry Hayes, former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, Kathy Flynn, Kristen Flynn and Caroline Flynn singing during caroling at Hayes Park.



Shown above, Abbey, Araceli Carlos and Memo Flores during caroling at Hayes Park. Shown below, Choir Master Willis Emmons (R) and Kathryn Willmore singing 'Jingle Bells.'



Tait Nielsen and Matt Salzler.



Emily Flanagan and Meghan Head singing during caroling at Hayes Park.



Christian Solberg and Gillian Thompson singing to Madeleine Solberg during caroling at Hayes Park.



Silas and Victoria Brown.



Koen Nielsen enjoying apple cider during caroling at Hayes Park.

Public Works begin intensive cleaning effort on Mass/Cass 2.0

By Seth Daniel

There are more than a few moving parts to the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan put out this fall, but one part that is moving fast right now is the cleaning operations by the Public Works Dept. in the neighborhoods.

While the emphasis on services and recovery were a hallmark of the plan, one new focus was providing better quality-of-life services to residents and businesses in the affected neighborhoods – particularly the Worcester Square area and the Newmarket area. That part of the plan came in the form of greater police presence, but also in a cleaning team dedicated to the neighborhood.

That cleaning effort began last Wednesday, Dec. 4, Mayor Martin Walsh's office reported.

As part of Mayor Walsh's Mass/Cass 2.0 plan, the Public Works Department recently hired four full-time, dedicated Motor Equip-

ment Operators to address street and sidewalk cleanliness on Melnea Cass Boulevard, Massachusetts Avenue, Newmarket Square, Andrew Square, Dudley Square, the South End, and surrounding Roxbury neighborhoods. The new cleaning team will work Wednesday - Sunday from 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. and will focus their efforts on neighborhood trouble spots, and participate in larger scale cleaning efforts too.

"We are fully committed to addressing concerns on Melnea Cass and Mass Avenue by increasing outreach to get more people the help they need, expanding opportunities for homeless individuals to be placed in the homes they deserve, and increasing police presence in our neighborhoods to keep everyone safe," said Mayor Walsh. "This new team will work to ensure the streets and sidewalks in-and-around the area are properly cleaned and maintained,

enhancing the quality of life for residents, visitors, and business owners in the area."

•Additionally, the new 24-person Task Force will begin meeting on Friday, Dec. 20, at City Hall in a private meeting to get the ball rolling. The Task Force will work differently from the established South End Forum Opiate Working Group, which is an on-the-ground neighborhood effort. The Task Force will look at accountability and recommendations for implementing the many faces of the 2.0 plan.

Those on the Task Force from the South End include:

- Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, United Methodist Church
- State Rep. Jon Santiago
- David Stone, Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association
- Steve Fox, South End Forum Moderator
- Mike Nelson, South End/Worcester Square resident

NEWS BRIEFS

COUNCILOR JANEY LIKELY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Roxbury and South End Councilor Kim Janey proclaimed on Tuesday to have the necessary votes required to become the next City Council President this coming January. To get the position, a councilor must secure a majority of the votes from their 11 colleagues. The current Council President is Dorchester/Mattapan Councilor Andrea Campbell.

Other names that had been discussed, according to sources and to the Boston Herald, were Matt O'Malley, Lydia Edwards and Michelle Wu.

JAIL TIME FOR DARTMOUTH TRENCH COLLAPSE

Suffolk Superior Court Judge Mitchell H. Kaplan on Dec. 4 sen-

tenced Kevin Otto, owner of Atlantic Drain Services to sentenced to two years in the House of Corrections after being found guilty for the deaths of employees Robert Higgins and Kelvin "Chuck" Mattocks. Otto will have three years' probation following his sentence, and he can never employ anyone in a job that involves excavation. The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) hopes the sentence will serve as a warning to employers that place profits over the safety of their employees that society will punish them for needlessly putting lives at risk.

"When a worker is killed on the job, it is incredibly rare that an employer is held responsible, despite knowingly putting their workers lives at risk," said MassCOSH Executive Director Jodi Sugerma-Brozan. "This (NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 7)

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t-shirts, as well as a large group representing those opposed to the project—many from non-profits who would have to move to another location should this project commence. Those opposed also shouted chants of "We are Harriet, not for sale!" in support of the historical significance of the building in the South End.

Shouting and chanting went on for more than two hours from both sides, while the BPDA con-

ducted the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting in the background, with few paying any attention to it. USES solicited comments from its supporters and urged them to provide them to the BPDA by mouth at the meeting or in writing on sheets that were passed around the room.

Despite the uproar at meetings, there is support from the community from elected officials like Rep. Jon Santiago and City Councilor

Kim Janey, who wrote a statement of support that was published in the Boston Herald week, and in this week's edition of the Boston Sun.

Dot Joyce, a consultant for the project's designated developer, New Boston Ventures, said this is "less about the sale of a property and more about saving services for people who need them." USES provides services, including affordable daycare, for more than 350

children in the community, and without the sale of this building, the organization would cease to exist.

The sale of the building "will allow [USES] to increase that capacity as well as continue services into the future," Joyce said.

The project is as-of right, which means it does not require Zoning

Commission approval or a public hearing in front of the BPDA.

Should the project be approved by the BPDA on Thursday, the project proponents would move ahead with the next steps, which include securing permits for construction from the Inspectional Services Department.



USES supporters stood in front of project opposers at the IAG meeting on Monday night. Each group held signs stating reasons why they believe the project should or should not go forward, and chants were shouted throughout the duration of the meeting.

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BBAC signage subcommittee approves plan for sandwich boards

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) Signage Subcommittee met again on Dec. 5 to continue its discussion regarding the moratorium placed on the location of sandwich boards on public ways in the architectural district. The moratorium is set to expire on Dec. 31, so the committee had to come up with a solution to present to the full BBAC at its Dec. 12 meeting for a vote.

The proposal agreed upon by the committee by the end of the meeting was that all current sandwich boards in the commercial area of the district would be banned as of April 1, 2020. Additionally, the BBAC “will approve a standard design for display boards,” which will be reviewed and approved administratively by BBAC staff with no public hearing process required, provided they meet the following: “one display board per [25] feet off building

frontage,” the location must be on a private property (“locations on public property will be approved on a case-by-case basis at locations where it is physically impossible to locate a display board on private property”), display boards are only allowed outdoors during business hours and must be brought indoors at night, and “display boards must be approved by the property owner whose signature is required to complete an application for a display board.”

“We don’t want to put anyone out of business with this direction we’re going in,” said BBAC Chair Kathleen Connor. Since the banning of the signs and the new standard will not take place until April 1 of next year, it gives businesses and the Commission time to transition into the new guidelines and work towards something that works well for everyone. Additionally, this program would be a one-year pilot program.

There was some discussion

around the term “case-by-case basis.” Meg Mainzer-Cohen of the Back Bay Association said she feels that the term is a good one, and “somewhat pushes the landlords to be more open” to the idea of display boards.

BBAC Commissioner Robert Weintraub said that since all projects have to go through the BBAC anyway, the use of “case-by-case” is necessary because it is already implied. However, he also said that taking that language out might be “too restrictive.”

“If we want to sell this to the Commission,” he said, “we have to present it in such a fashion that they can swallow it and approve it.”

Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission Joseph Cornish said that language needs to remain because “I need to have some way to have control...people still need to go through the Landmarks Commission [to get these boards

approved].”

BBAC Commissioner Patti Quinn said she has never liked the display boards but understands that “they’re trying to create a win-win situation.” She added that she was “a little nervous” that landlords will decide not to allow these board on private property just to get them out onto the public way. “Alternatives are a good thing to have,” she said. “Even sandwich boards on private property could be obstructive.”

Several business owners have come to previous subcommittee meetings, saying how vital the signs are to their businesses. On the other hand, some tenants and landlords don’t feel the need to have the boards to help their sales.

“How do you measure success with sandwich boards?” Connor asked. “We need to take a look at the viability down the line. That’s a consideration when we get deeper into this.”

Originally, the presentation to

the full Commission was going to include a proposal for fixed directory boards as well, but the subcommittee decided to hold off on that portion, because Weintraub said that a fixed directory should be part of an overall signage plan, and it was also said that fixed directory signs have to go through zoning to be approved.

As far as the “standard design for display boards,” this is something that the Commission will work on next. They want to get the guidelines approved and will then come up with the design or designs for the boards.

“We’re going to have a good, clean design [for the boards],” Cornish said.

“This is an evolution; we’re coming to a compromise here for one year,” Connor added. “It’s a pilot program. In that timeframe we will have solutions in place that support the economic integrity and viability.”

Julia Mejia wins at-large race by one vote following recount

By Lauren Bennett

After a recount called by At-Large City Council candidate Alejandra St. Guillen after losing to Julia Mejia by 10 votes on Election Night, Mejia still came out victorious—but this time by only one vote. Mejia garnered 22,492 votes, and St. Guillen got 22,491, the Election Department announced

on Dec. 9. Mejia will fill the fourth vacant At-Large council seat, joining Michelle Wu, Anissa Essaibi-George, and Michael Flaherty, who were all reelected in the September election.

St. Guillen has decided not to challenge the results a second time. In a statement put out by her campaign, she said: “After weighing all the options with my team and my family, I have come to the deci-

sion to not move forward with a court challenge. I am so grateful to every person who supported me over this last year in our campaign to build a better Boston for all. I am so proud of what we accomplished and even though we came up short, I feel like we are all winners.”

St. Guillen also congratulated Mejia on her victory and for “running an inspiring campaign and

showing us all what we can accomplish when we have the courage to walk in our power.” She added that she believe St. Guillen will be an “excellent councilor” and looks forward to being represented to her.

Mejia took to Twitter to show her gratitude for her supporters. “I am so overwhelmed by today’s results,” Mejia wrote on Monday night. “Thank you to all 22,492

people who believed in this #MejiaMovement. Today goes to show that #EveryVoteCounts. I want to thank my team who have been here from the beginning all the way to today’s final count.” Mejia also thanked all of the volunteers who aided in the recount process, as well as congratulated St. Guillen on her “incredible campaign.” Mejia wrote, “We made history together.”

COPLEY SINGERS (from pg. 1)

It is part of their holiday tour, and one that came out of the idea of celebration and healing.

“We’ve been around 11 or 12

years now, depending on how you determine when we started,” said Will Biedron, president of the Singers. “Many of the singers began singing with our former Director Brian Jones at Trinity Church in Back Bay. He was the choir director at Trinity Church for about 20 years.”

The Singers began to organize more than a decade ago when a member of their choir experienced a death in the family, and an impromptu group of singers assembled to perform at the funeral.

“It was just really well received,” he said. “It was well outside the normal boundaries of a church choir. We performed shortly after at a country club for a holiday concert. From there, it wasn’t long when we all thought that we really had something and decided this was worthwhile and something we should give a pur-

pose to and a name.”

Because they were located mostly in the Back Bay’s Trinity Church, they chose the Copley Singers.

“The concert at St. Mary’s in Charlestown was probably the first thing that emerged from that,” he said, “and followed by St. Cecilia’s.”

The group has been performing the St. Cecilia’s holiday concert for the past eight years, and will return at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17.

The group is a very high-quality group made of about 35 regular singers that come together to sing, most times with very few rehearsals, Biedron said.

“It’s a really high-quality group and what’s more, it’s a semi-professional group,” he said. “We don’t rehearse regularly. For the concerts, we will only rehearse two times and that’s because there are many great musicians and great

sight readers. When you have a group that knows each other and supports each other, and has been to one another’s home – when you do all that it makes people sing with heart and soul and conviction.”

The Singers have a new director since last fall, Andy Clarkson, who has come up from the ranks of the singers to lead the group. Under Clarkson, the group has become even more energized and ready to perform at their three-stop tour.

“We live for it,” said Biedron. “This is our time of year. It’s when our blood is pumping.”

The same is true for the audiences, he said. Most every place they sing, they are invited back – which has been the case at St. Cecilia’s.

The program is still being set, but one piece on the program is ‘Noel Nouvelet,’ or ‘Noel We Sing.’ That piece will be a dramatic tag-team between the organ and

the choir going back and forth. Others numbers are still being set.

Beyond the musical program, however, Biedron said the mission of the Singers is about healing – which was how they formed in helping their friend heal from the loss of a loved one.

“Celebration and healing are what we are,” he said. “We’re a group that takes the celebration and healing part very seriously. It’s the core of what we are. We take that about as seriously as you can imagine. It’s how we were formed and it’s more important than making ends meet sometimes.”

The Copley Singers assemble year-round for special singing events, and have considered a spring concert, but have a regular series for the holidays.

The St. Cecilia’s Concert is Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. (18 Belvidere St.).

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BVHDC continues discussion on proposed changes to district guidelines

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) met briefly on Dec. 10 to discuss proposed changes to the Bay Village Historic District Commission Regulatory Standards.

The Commission reached out to the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) several months ago, asking for comments and feedback on the new guidelines but have yet to hear back.

Nothing has been changed on the draft document since 2018, so Joseph Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, recommended to the BVHDC that they look at it again “with fresh eyes” and come back for the January meeting with comments about it.

Several of the Commissioners had already taken another look at it. “I think it looks really good, nicely presented, and organized in a clear, coherent way,” said BVHDC Commissioner Stephen Dunwell. He added that it “includes a lot of the climate resilience agenda that some voices were asking for.”

One piece of information Dunwell said he’d like to see on the guidelines are a brief statement of the Commission’s mission to maintain historical integrity in the district. Having an “overarching vision at the beginning” of the document will lay out the duty of the BVHDC, which Dunwell said includes preserving the “historic fabric we have” in context of evolution, changes of use, and renovations within the district.

Dunwell also praised the section of the guidelines that deals with new construction, as he said this “will become a hot topic in 2020,” with several large projects expected to come down the line in Bay Village next year. One such project could be a proposal for the Boston Center for Adult Education building and its adjacent parking lot, Dunwell added, as the parcels are for sale. “It’s important that the segment on new construction be clear,” he said.

The next steps for the Commission include continued discussion on these proposed guidelines at the January public hearing, where comments will be compiled into a revised draft.

NEWS BRIEFS

from Pg. 5

case was even more egregious in that Kevin Otto and Atlantic Drain had already been issued multiple OSHA violations, had been placed in OSHA’s Severe Violator Enforcement Program, and even attempted to deceive investigators with falsified safety and health records after the tragic event. We hope the Mattocks and Higgins families get some peace from justice served.”

“[We are] glad there is coverage so the world will know that [Kelvin] did not die in vain and some good has come out of this,” said Melinda Mattocks-Ushry, sister of Kelvin Mattocks.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BOSTON INTRODUCES PUPPY LOVE PACKAGE

This Valentine’s Day and beyond, show your pet the love with a getaway for you both at Five-Star Mandarin Oriental, Boston with the Puppy Love package. Upon arrival, four-legged guests will enjoy a plush sleeping pillow, mineral water, puppy place-setting, in-room “Doggie Dining” menu and a special “doggie bag” delivery, which features homemade artisan dog biscuits and a Woof Clicquot dog toy. Enjoy a relaxing “Lady and the Tramp-” inspired

three-course Italian feast in the comfort of your guestroom. Menu highlights include guest’s choice of Risotto Alla Milanese or Spaghetti Aglio Olio and homemade Tiramisu, while pets enjoy meatballs made with ground beef, oats and vegetables such as carrots and kale. The package also includes a 30-minute pet photo shoot at the hotel with a professional photographer who will provide a digital image gallery for guests as a special memento of their stay. The John Paul Pet care package will come in handy for getting your pet “photo-ready” with items such as Body and Paw Pet Wipes. The Puppy Love package is priced

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 15)

WHERE IS THE SUN?

BELOW ARE THE LOCATIONS THAT YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR THE BOSTON SUN

Back Bay Area

- Ritz Carlton
- Sarni Cleaners
- Boston Public Library
- Citizen’s Bank
- Teriyaki House
- Little Stevie’s Pizza
- Pad Thai
- Crazy Dough
- Tasty Burger
- Cask and Flagon
- Back Bay Bicycles
- Sheraton Hotel
- Hilton Boston
- Copley Square Hotel
- The Greenhouse Apts b. good
- Bangkok City Restaurant
- Tomodachi Sushi
- City Hair/Thai Body
- Snappy Sushi
- Starbucks
- Lauren’s Nails
- Ben & Jerry’s
- Hempest
- Fairfield Realty
- Bush Cleaners
- Back Bay Ace Hardware
- Deluca’s Market
- Boloco
- Newbury Guest House
- Town Nail Salon

- Pavement Coffee
- Back Bay Hair Design
- Bauer Wines & Spirits
- Newbury Comics
- Trident Booksellers
- Converse

Beacon Hill Area

- Sarni Cleaners
- Boston City Hall

Fenway Park Area

- Upper Crust
- Fenway Community Center
- Back Bay Laundromat
- Hidyan Cafe
- Blick Art Supply
- Canestoros
- El Pelon Taqueria
- Jersey Street Liquors
- College Pizza
- Guitar Center
- The Verb Hotel
- Red Mango
- Supreme Pizza
- Fenway Studios
- Fenway Health
- Fenway Community Development Corporation

Kenmore Square Area

- Hotel Buckminster
- Cornwall’s
- Blue Moon Smoke Shop
- The Lower Depths Tap Room
- India Quality
- Peterborough Senior Center
- Hotel Commonwealth
- 7 Eleven
- Bank of America
- East Boston Savings Bank

South End Area

- Berkeley Perk Cafe
- Club Cafe
- South End Library Branch
- South End Food Emporium
- The Wine Emporium
- Food Basket
- Giorgiana’s
- Charlie’s Sandwich Shoppe
- Brownstone Restaurant
- Cleary’s
- City Convenience
- Tent City
- East Boston Savings Bank
- Whole Foods Market
- Bostonian Market
- Boston Medical Center

Symphony Plaza East

- Victoria’s Diner
- Liquor Land
- Blackstone Community Center
- Rome Pizza
- Metropolis
- Starbucks
- Sarni Cleaners
- South End House of Pizza & Grill
- Mings Supermarket
- Dunkin Donuts
- Foodies Urban Market
- South End Community Health Center
- Mike’s City Diner
- Post Office

Symphony Area

- Huntington Wines
- Boston House of Pizza
- Cappy’s II
- Boston Shawarma
- Huntington YMCA
- Marino Center - NEU
- Curry Center - NEU
- Fern Exotic Flowers
- Ruby’s Nail Salon
- Whole Foods Market
- Symphony Apartments
- Chinatown
- East Boston Savings Bank

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TREE LIGHTING ON THE COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL

Photos by Mike Mejia

Mayor Martin Walsh and the Committee to Light the Commonwealth Avenue Mall illuminated

the walkway on Thursday, Dec. 5. Attendees enjoyed warm refreshments and listened to comments from local officials before promenading the Commonwealth Mall under the beautifully lit trees.



Lisa Hobart, Marcie Mann, Nicole Mann, and Emily, the golden retriever that picks up every issue of The Boston Sun from Nicole's front door.



The Herman family pose for a picture with Mayor Martin Walsh.



Mayor Martin Walsh makes opening remarks before counting down the Mall lighting.



Gina Dodd and Brenda Dean.



Tillie Fishoder, Coco Fishoder, Mave Thelbald, and Avery Sarzana.



Above: Residents of the Back Bay, Donna Celentano, Connie Hughes, Kevin Hughes, and Marty Manes.

Right: Christoph Tonder and Persephone Geor.



District 8 City Councilor-elect, Kenzie Bok and Martyn Roetter, of NABB.



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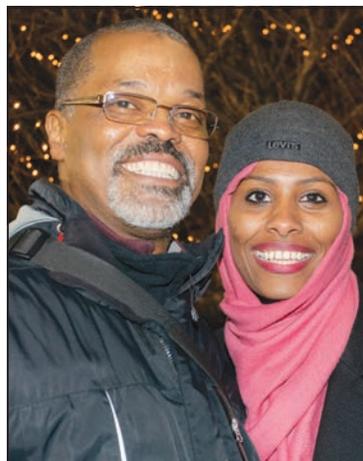
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VILLA VICTORIA TREE LIGHTING AT PLAZA BETANCES



Jorge Ortiz of "Jibaro Soy" performing Latin Christmas favorites during the Villa Victoria tree lighting.



Chris Cato and Mayoral Liaison Faisa Sharif.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The South End celebrated one of its beloved holidays traditions with the tree lighting at Villa Victo-

ria on the evening of Dec. 4 – one of the first lightings of the season. With music from Jibaro Soy, Santa and snow on ground, residents, friends and neighbors enjoyed the celebration.



Shown above, Emilia Gonzalez, with Irma and Gloria Ortiz. To the left, Santa (Javier Rodriguez) arriving during tree lighting at Villa Victoria.



Alias DeJesus throws his hands up in joy as the tree is lit on Plaza Betances.



Lisa and Rosiris Mercado.



Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz welcomed the crowd to the holiday festivities.



Councilor Ed Flynn, IBA Director Vanessa Calderon-Rosado (IBA), D-4 Capt. Steven Sweeney and Mayra I. Negron-Roche, of IBA.



Enerie Velasquez, Sharon Bonet, Hayley Calderon and BPD officer Javier Pagan.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

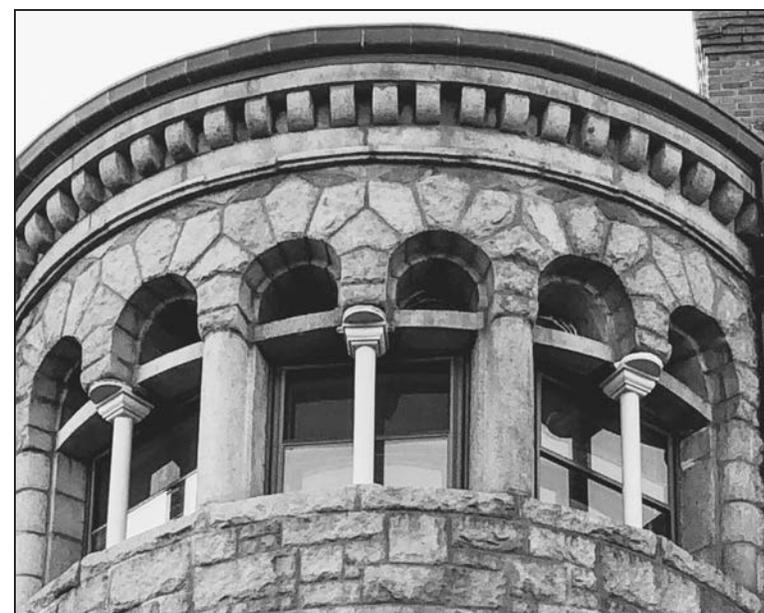


The windows in the last clue are on 694 Tremont Street. When we view buildings like this in the South End, we might never guess that in 1970 the city was issuing citations because windows such as these were open to the elements and unsafe. In 1960 this was a lodging house. In 1968 it was renovated and became eight apartments and a store.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

BACK BAY

Pham, Thauh H
Pons, Caroly L
Hom, Oliver
Qi, Chang
Kinmos T LLC
Nagle, Carol K
Eda Mayer LT
Ho, Rachel X

BEACON HILL

Syverson, Kirsten
Davis, Kassia A
Finicane, Moira
Sadowski, Greg
Wang, June
Du, Yan
Spinelli, Frances J
Chan, Raymond
Saka, Prasanth
Mulhotra, Cindy

SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE

Harrison, Rosemary S
Landry, Michael W
Harold 114 Chandler St
Seaver, Robert
19 Bradford Street RT
Hahn, Sarabeth
Frago-Errecart, Gustavo
Chin, Russel
He, Ran
Jordan 3d RT
Anagram Hunt307 Group LLC
Pasqualini, Martin
Truax, Melissa
Anne K Giudice 1999 T
Montgomery-Malone, L
Lyman, Matthew S
Floyd, Frederick P
Hume, Steven A
Ronaldson, Elizabeth W
Bongiorni, Michael

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Rogers, Raquel
Mckinley, John T
Brocca, Michele
Michael P Wluka 1999 RET

SELLER 1

Kelly, Elizabeth
Pieroni, Rhonda A
Anderson, Thomas R
Union Ave Exchange LLC
Shand-Tucci, Paul D
Ross, Dylan E
Savir, Karen S
Pochler, David

Kachouh, Ibrahim F
75 Beacon Street Acq LLC
Spoonrift Capital 2 LLC
Savich Shari G Est
Houngmany, Bounthome
66 Mount Vernon Street
Sheerin, Elizabeth A
Rahmani-Kia, Kamyar
Zhi, Gang
Gu, Yan

Cook, Christine M
Davidson, Mark
Madrid, Pascual
Lopin, Jonah B
Carlson, Rolf I
Rochon, Lauren
Rothschild, Daniel M
Gregory, Alex M
Issa, Gilbert
477 Harrison Avenue LLC
270 Huntington 307 RT
Drachma RT
Chatham, Rachel
Piscitelli-Bell FT
Smith, Louisa P
Marchand, Luke
Oconnor, John H
Metri, Fadi R
Diaz, Reina D
Maloney, Laura C

Broude, Matthew W
Halter, Brian R
Wade, John
Davis, Debra M

ADDRESS

124 Beacon St #1F
313 Beacon St #14
75 Clarendon St #208
75 Clarendon St #508
160 Commonwealth Ave #410
188 Commonwealth Ave #15
293-295 Commonwealth Ave #1D
362 Commonwealth Ave #1D

51 Beacon St #1
75 Beacon St #2
37-41 Beaver Pl #BP1
10 Bowdoin St #403
9 Hawthorne Pl #10H
66 Mount Vernon St #2
54 Myrtle St #9
11 Phillips St #6
6 Whittier Pl #17L
8 Whittier Pl #4F

150 Appleton St #4A
5 Bond St #1
114 Chandler St #G1
7 Claremont Park
19 Bradford St
529 Columbus Ave #3
265-275 Dartmouth St #1K
40 Fay St #603
80 Fenwood Rd #608
477 Harrison Ave #3D
270 Huntington Ave #307
131 Saint Botolph St #2
12 Stoneholm St #307
400 Stuart St #21B
29 Upton St #1
112 W Concord St #3
57 Warren Ave #3
43 Westland Ave #603
25 Worcester Sq #3
37 Worcester St #2

109-119 Beach St #4D
17 Clark St #3
357 Commercial St #823
1 Franklin St #3701

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\$725,000
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\$899,000
\$422,000
\$1,075,000
\$102,457
\$680,000

\$1,337,500
\$11,384,350
\$900,000
\$1,030,000
\$555,000
\$4,400,000
\$565,000
\$650,000
\$454,000
\$525,000

\$1,000,000
\$1,125,000
\$582,500
\$4,137,500
\$2,100,000
\$765,000
\$798,500
\$840,000
\$625,000
\$2,850,000
\$307,000
\$2,645,000
\$425,000
\$2,510,000
\$2,087,000
\$2,300,000
\$1,083,000
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\$668,500

\$790,000
\$967,500
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

THE GRAND BOSTON MENORAH LIGHTING!

The first Night of Chanukah is Sunday, Dec. 22, and the menorah in Copley Square will be lit at 4 p.m. There will be a live Berklee music ensemble, Menorah kits, dreidels and chocolate gelt. All are welcome. Fun for the whole family! No R.S.V.P. Required but appreciated. Wishing you a Joyous and Luminous Chanukah! Any questions or comments email: info@BostonChabad.org or call: 617.247.7100

YOUNG FRIENDS WINTER PARTY

The Young Friends of the Public Garden will be holding a winter party at the Union Club on Friday, Dec. 13, from 6 - 9:30 p.m. for the second annual Winter Party brought to you by the Young Friends of the Public Garden. Join us and be merry! Come celebrate and support Boston's historic greenspaces; the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Don't miss out on a fabulous raffle with a dazzling array of prizes. Prizes include a stay at the Eliot Hotel Boston, two Boston Celtics loge tickets, a Moo gift certificate, and more.

Tickets are \$65, and include two complimentary drink tickets and light hors d'oeuvres. Its holiday time, so come dressed to dazzle! No sneakers, jeans, or athletic attire is permitted.

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON ANNOUNCES FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

First Night Boston, New England's biggest New Year's Eve celebration, released today its full performance schedule, offering more than 12 hours of entertainment to guests and residents of all ages. Comedians, artists, and musicians from near and far will perform across six performance venues in Boston's Back Bay, with the main stage and ice sculptures in Copley Square serving as the event's centerpiece. Beginning at 11:45 a.m. on Dec. 31, artistic and musical performances kick-off in Copley Square with the Dempsey Sisters, and at noon in Boston Public Library and Copley Mall with the Responders and Chu Ling Dance Academy. Trinity Church hosts a performance by the Handel and Haydn Society at 1 p.m., and both the Old South Church and the First Church of Christ, Scientist host soul-warming

organ concerts at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. respectively. Musicians of all genres entertain from the main stage in Copley Square through the afternoon, while comedy performances and a myriad of family-friendly activities fill the Boston Public Library until 4:30 p.m. Following remarks from City of Boston representatives and the People's Procession at 6 p.m., fire-works fill the sky above Boston Common, and music returns to the main stage in Copley Square, where the tempo increases amid sparkling ice sculptures and illuminated buildings. Boston-based pop powerhouse Alli Haber begins her set at 7:30 p.m., followed by award-winning Hip-hop artist Daniel Laurent and Dixieland jazz-inspired Greenlight Orchestra. As the countdown clocks inch closer to midnight, Liz Bills, Najee Janey, SAVASHA, and Sons of Levin will keep the energy high throughout the evening. At 11:30 p.m. First Night Boston headliner Single By Sunday takes the stage and closes 2019 with thousands of fans in Copley Square

FRIENDS OF TITUS SPARROW PARK

Ring in the coolest season with neighbors at Titus Sparrow Park's Winter Party on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1:30-3 p.m. There will be refreshments, caroling, a "snowman," favors for the kids, and neighborly good cheer.

RING IN THE NEW DECADE: NYE BACK BAY BALL AT THE WESTIN COPLEY HOTEL

On December 31, the Westin Copley Hotel will host a New Year's Eve Back Bay Ball event starting at 7pm with dinner stations. There will be reception stations from 9-10:30 p.m., and the event will include live music from Cherrie Bomb Band, dancing, a midnight countdown, and party favors. Black tie optional. 21+. Tickets can be purchased at backbayballnye2020.eventbrite.com.

A CITY LIGHTS CHRISTMAS

A City Lights Christmas will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 from 5-9 p.m. at 1154 Washington St. in the South End. Stop by anytime, stay a few minutes or all evening! Great food and music by DJ Braun Dapper with performances at 7:00 and a DJ instruction session by Braun Dapper at 8 p.m.. Please R.S.V.P. at acitylightschristmas.eventbrite.com.

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We've been cleaning out our kitchen cupboards. Two young people setting up their first apartments gave us the perfect excuse to sort out the duplicates, pass on gadgets we no longer use, and reorganize the space so our favorite tools are within reach. This made us very aware of the items we love and use most. Here are just a few of them.

Prep You and Your Space

Preparing to cook has a specific sequence of steps for Penny. She dons an apron, washes her hands, and puts a non-slip cutting board and a flexible cutting mat (for trimmings) in her work area.

Two large rimmed baking sheets with silicone mats come out of the oven to cover the stovetop and extend her workspace. An induction burner is placed on one of them. (Since we bought induction burners, our cooktop is seldom used.)

The odd-looking pot that's often placed on that burner is a slim, tall "Fourth Burner Pot." We use it to steam vegetables, boil eggs, cook noodles, and make small batches of chicken stock from every rotisserie chicken we buy.

Next, she selects the knife or knives best for the job from an array on magnetic knife racks along one wall. Finally, she'll grab any special tools she'll need for the specific food she's preparing. That might be a mandoline, Thai shredder, bench scraper, microplane, or mortar and pestle. All that happens before she begins to gather the ingredients she needs to make the recipe.

Always Ready

Lazy Susans are key organizers in our tiny place. They're in the pantry, refrigerator, and tucked into kitchen corners. Two salt pigs (a large one with kosher salt and a small one with a finishing salt) live on one with a pepper grinder, and plastic squeeze bottles of local honey, olive oil, and neutral oil within reach when we cook.

Another of those squeeze bottles sits next to the stove with water in it. We have Bon Appétit food director Carla Lalli Music to thank for this idea. In one of her videos, she saved a broken sauce by adding a squirt of water and emulsifying it again. She recalled having worked in a restaurant kitchen where every station had a squeeze bottle of water for quick adjustments.

Heavy duty kitchen shears hang on a hook near the work area. These can cut through small bones. A lighter duty set is usually in the dish drainer. We use

FRESH AND LOCAL

Favorite kitchen tools

them like Korean cooks for many tasks where others might use a knife, from clipping herbs to cutting meat.

Other Pro Tools

Friends in the restaurant business and years of watching a select group of food media professionals who actually educate, has convinced us of the value of some pro tools.

Our digital scale is used daily. Weighing is simply more accurate than measuring. Quick read digital thermometers are always at hand to check the internal temperature of meats, casseroles, and even bottles of wine.

Blue tape hangs on the side of our refrigerator to identify and

date everything we use around the kitchen. We use dozens of glass canning jars to store our foodstuffs, leftovers, stocks, and prepared food. Tongs are the most used tool living in a ceramic pot of utensils in another corner.

Ed's Favorites!

As the non-cook, Ed's most used kitchen tools are a thin fish knife (he prefers for cutting fruit), our toaster oven, Nespresso machine, salad spinner, and a long bread knife and crumb box for slicing his favorite loaves.

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



Some favorite kitchen tools are silicone mats, induction burners, 4th burner pot, salt pigs, plastic squirt bottles, tongs, kitchen shears, y-peelers, bench scrapers, and Thai shredders.





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TREE LIGHTING AT KELLEHER ROSE GARDEN IN FENWAY

Photos by Mike Mejia

Mayor Martin Walsh and the Fenway Civic Association held the annual tree lighting outside the Kelleher Rose Garden on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The dark and cold winter evening was brought to life by carols from Berklee's Upper Structure, warm refreshments and food, and a special appearance from Wally.

Shown left: Brenda Howard, Laura Kelley, Renee Harmon. To the right: Aleksandra Petelski and Peter Kulik enjoying a cup of hot chocolate.



Mike Connor holds his niece, Miya Kuman, on his shoulders.



Josep, Beret, and Carol Sauri.



Alicia Brisson, Tim Horn, Fenway Civic Association president, Robert Kordenbrock, and Alex Sawczynek, Fenway Civic Association board member, in front of the Fenway tree.



Shown above: Riley Sapp and Cohen Brown. Shown below: Silas Brown, of the Fenway, having fun with Wally in the snow.



Members of Berklee's Upper Structure singing "Joy to the World" during the tree lighting at the Kelleher Rose Garden.

Back Bay and South End residents help raise \$245,000 for the Friends of the Mass. General Cancer Center

On Oct. 25, The Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center hosted its 27th annual fall benefit, Couture for Cancer Care, and brought nearly 300 together at the InterContinental Boston Hotel for a fashion show with patients and their caregivers to celebrate survivorship.

The Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center are volunteers who raise funds to bridge exceptional medical and supportive cancer care through innovative programs that promote whole-person healing.

Co-Chaired by Kay Mukherjee of Back Bay along with Marion Martignetti of Osterville and Leslie McCafferty of Lexington, the evening raised \$245,000 to fund a wide range of supportive care services, all of which are provided to cancer patients and families at no cost.

TV host, producer and personality Jenny Johnson of the South End welcomed the crowd and kicked off the fashion show with David P. Ryan, MD, Clinical Director, Mass General Can-



Antonia Stephen, MD, of the Mass. General Cancer Center, takes a celebratory walk with her patient, Robert Cocuzzo of the South End, down the runway.

cer Center and Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology. Together, they announced the patient/doctor duos as they walked the runway, cheered on by their friends and family in the crowd. President of the Friends, Back Bay's Brenda Warshaw, concluded the show.

Event partners Cole Haan, Details and Goods, Fulham Salon,

Giorgio Armani Beauty, Mr. Sid, and Vineyard Vines dressed and prepped the 11 patient-caregiver duos for the runway show, while DJ Deja delivered the music.

Since its inception in 1988, The Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center has raised over \$7 million. The Friends utilize 100 percent of all donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund supportive care services for people living with cancer. Programs include the MGH Lymphedema Screening Program, which incorporates lymphedema screening as part of the standard of care for all newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, and The Katherine A. Gallagher Integrative Therapies Program, which improves the well-being of patients, their families and friends through free services like music therapy, art therapy, ear acupuncture, massage therapy, Reiki, yoga and qigong. Visit giving.massgeneral.org/cancer/friends-of-the-cancer-center/ to learn more.



Patient-caregiver duos take their final lap on the runway.



Together, the work of Leslie McCafferty, Jenny Johnson, Marion Martignetti, Brenda Warshaw of Back Bay and Kay Mukherjee of Back Bay helped fund a range of supportive care services that are provided to cancer patients and their families for free.



Shown above: Daniel Haber, MD, Director, Mass General Cancer Center, and Co-Chair Kay Mukherjee of Back Bay greet each other at Couture for Cancer Care, which raised \$245,000 for The Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center.



Shown right: David Ryan, MD, Clinical Director, Mass General Cancer Center and Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology, and TV host Jenny Johnson of the South End emceed the evening.

PHOTOS BY MGH PHOTOGRAPHY

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A friendly new employee joins The Fairmont Copley Plaza staff

Staff Report

Fairmont Copley Plaza is proud to continue its rich tradition of offering lovable, adorable service to guests with the arrival of Cori Copley, its new Canine Ambassador. Cori is a two-year-old female black Labrador adopted from the Guide Dog Foundation, a Long Island, NY-based nonprofit organization that provides trained guide dogs to those who are blind or visually impaired. During Cori's guide dog training, her trainer noticed that she was more suited to be a pet rather than a working dog, which resulted in a wonderful career change into hospitality. She follows in the pawsteps of Carly Copley, now retired, and the hotel's first Canine Ambassador, the famous Catie Copley.

"It's the happiest of times when a hotel introduces a resident dog, for both visitors and our employee family. Cori's presence gives the comfort of home to everyone, whether children, adults, conference attendees or neighborhood friends," said George Terpilowski, General Manager at Fairmont Copley Plaza. "We are excited



Cori, the newest Canine Ambassador at the Fairmont Copley Plaza.

to watch Cori become part of Fairmont Copley Plaza's Canine Ambassador legacy of offering best-in-class, lovable service."

Cori's caretaker is Fairmont Copley Plaza's longtime Concierge of 14 years, Joe Fallon. Joe was also the caretaker of Catie Copley, similarly adopted from the Guide Dog Foundation. Visitors can find the hotel's friendly new canine "working" in the lobby during Joe's shift

at the concierge desk, Sunday to Thursday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Off duty, Cori has already explored several north shore beaches and likes going on Joe's boat, acting as "first mate"—she'll be a New Englander in no time.

"During the short time Cori has been at our hotel, she has become an essential part of the front office team, and is quickly turning into a Boston celebrity," said Joe Fal-

lon, Concierge at Fairmont Copley Plaza. "It feels special to have another Canine Ambassador under my care for the second time. I can confidently say that Cori has the best job in the world!"

As the pet-friendly hotel's Canine Ambassador, Cori joins guests on walks and runs, socializes with visitors, stops by meeting breaks upon request, and will eventually serve as a community

liaison by appearing at neighborhood and charitable events. Cori is still acclimating to the hotel environment, but already has a few sweet habits—she loves receiving belly rubs on the lobby carpet, and gives lots of puppy kisses when she meets new friends.

For the first time, Fairmont Copley Plaza's resident dog will have its own Instagram page. Follow @CoriCopley to keep up with Cori's adventures "working" at a luxury hotel.

Travelers missing their own pet or looking for a furry companion on the road can reserve the hotel's Canine Adventure Package, which includes a walk with Cori, a stuffed Cori Copley plush toy, and a pawtographed copy of "Catie Copley's Great Escape." Plus, Fairmont Copley Plaza will donate \$10 per night to the Guide Dog Foundation.

Cori's arrival is cause for celebration. The hotel's restaurant, OAK Long Bar + Kitchen, has a cocktail named "Cori's Cooler" (crop cucumber vodka, basil, lemon, soda—\$15) and \$1 will be donated to the Guide Dog Foundation for each Cori's Cooler sold.

CITY PAWS

Excessive Licking

by Penny & Ed Cherubino

Licking can be a dog's way of telling you that something is wrong. Unlike cats, dogs don't spend hours grooming themselves.

They will give a few casual licks to clean up something that's bothering them or as a way of investigating an object. However, when you see a dog excessively licking a specific area on their body or

object in the home, you should make note and follow-up.

Causes

Licking can signal you to seek a cause. If your dog is licking a paw or leg, you might check for sore spots, interdigital cysts, cuts, broken nails, and note any change in gait. Dogs will also lick areas that are painful even though they can't reach the site of the pain. Licking a leg may mean the leg hurts, even if you can't see anything on the surface.

If the pup is licking their genital or anal area, it could be a sign of a urinary tract infection or sore skin. Your veterinarian can investigate the problem and eliminate medical conditions that might be responsible.

Possible Effects

On the other hand, excessive licking can bring on problems. We have a little dog friend who loves to lick carpets and floors. She will continue to do this non-stop until some human in the room tells her to cut it out. She has been cleared of medical issues that might cause this behavior. But the problem is that all that licking of fiber could

gather enough material to cause a blockage in her intestines or an upset to her gastrointestinal system.

Constant licking of skin can lead to fungal or bacterial infections, so the sooner you discover the cause and stop the licking the better. What's more licking is often accompanied or followed by scratching which can compound the damage.

Prevention

Be aware of seasonal allergies. If you know that your dog gets itchy at a certain time of year, you may want to set up a plan for dealing with this before the season arrives. Experts may suggest some environmental controls, grooming steps that can help remove allergens, and/or preventative medication like antihistamines. Having a treatment plan in place for our Westie Poppy has been a big help.

Recognize that a dog licking or scooting on his or her rear can mean the dog's anal glands need to be expressed. A quick trip to the vet to have this done could prevent a bigger problem.

Boredom, Stress, and Obsessive Behavior

Some dogs lick objects out of sheer boredom, stress, or anxiety. If your dog doesn't try to lick when they are playing, interacting with others and never wakes up in the middle of the night licking, you may have a smart dog who needs more mental stimulation.

If you and your vet think this may be your dog's problem, you could try rotating toys so there is often something new to play with, providing more stimulating toys like those that are food puzzles, or adding more exercise and activity to tire out that busy mind. If all else fails, you can consider a mild sedative or anti anxiety medication.

The big takeaway here is to notice heavy duty licking and log when it begins, how long each session lasts, and if it's one spot or more. Also consider any other significant changes in stress levels, seasons, food, or other aspects of your dog's life that could help you and your veterinary team resolve the issue.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws. Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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D - 4 POLICE NEWS

SHADY CUSTOMER

On Monday, Dec. 3, at about 4:23 p.m., police responded to a radio call for an armed robbery at the Sunglass Hut at 86 Newbury St.

Upon arrival, the officer met with a store employee, who was shaking and stuttering, and appeared to be in grave fear.

The employee said an unknown male suspect, approximately 30 years old and 6 feet tall and wearing a cold-weather black mask that obscured all of his face besides his eyes, walked to the rear right section of the store and began depos-

ited 19 pairs of miscellaneous sunglasses, with a total retail value of \$7,600, into a green Barnes & Noble shopping bag.

The employee said the same suspect stole 26 pairs of sunglasses one day earlier.

The suspect told the employee the second robbery was easy to get away with, since she was working again that day. He then said to her: "If you grab the phone, I will put a bullet in your head."

The suspect then exited the store, took a right onto Newbury Street and headed towards Berkeley Street before taking a right into

the alley adjacent to the Restoration Hardware parking lot that connects to 501 Boylston St.

Police searched the area for the suspect at this time to no avail.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, at about 10:30 a.m., police made an on-site warrant arrest at Massachusetts Avenue and Albany Street after spotting an individual matching the description of the suspect in the Sunglass Hut robberies.

The suspect was placed under arrest and transported to District 4 headquarters for booking, during which time, he was found in possession of \$481 U.S. currency, as

well as two clear plastic zip-lock bags containing a brown powdery substance.

The suspect was additionally charged with possession of a Class A substance with intent to distribute, and the money and drugs were seized as evidence.

BAD TIMING

On Thursday, Dec. 5, at approximately 2:27 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for an armed robbery at Lord & Taylor at 760 Boylston St.

On arrival, police met a loss-prevention employee who

said he observed, on surveillance video, a known shoplifter enter the men's fragrance section and place a bottle of cologne inside his jacket. The suspect then exited the store into Parking Level 4, where the employee attempted to confront him.

"Not this time," the suspect said before brandishing a 4-inch, spring-loaded knife with a black handle at the victim and fleeing into the elevator. The suspect then fled out of the store in an unknown direction, the victim said.

Officers searched the area for the suspect to no avail.

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 7

starting at \$1,195.00 plus taxes and gratuities. A portion of all Puppy Love package proceeds will be donated to MSPCA-Angell, a premier "pawtner" of the hotel that provides kindness and caring for all animals.

The package is available from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2020, is based on double occupancy and one pet per guestroom and is subject to availability. Pet fee is included in package price. It must be booked a minimum of seven days prior to arrival and additional nights can be booked at the best available rate. Reservations can be made by visiting www.mandarinoriental.com/boston.

SOUTH END DATES

•The Sound End Forum Opiate Working Group meeting on

Dec. 17 has been canceled due to an Opiate Task Force meeting on Dec. 20. The next meeting of the Opiate Working Group will be on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. in the Hampton Inn and Suites, Mass/Cass.

•The Zoning Board hearing for Ming's Market to expand a warehouse use to a vacant building at 148 East Berkeley St. will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. in City Hall, Room 801

•The Boston Flower Exchange demolition will officially begin on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m. on Albany Street. The Abbey Group and Suffolk Construction will hold a short ceremony to mark the occasion as they begin construction on the first phase of Exchange South End – a next-generation life science and technology

campus.

FENWAY TIMES

•Tiger Mama to host feast of the seven fishes, a multi-course, holiday seafood extravaganza featuring exclusive dishes and wine pairings tuesday, Dec. 17

Making the season bold, merry and bright, Tiger Mama is hosting a tiki Christmas bash and a New Year's Drag Brunch. On Tuesday, December 17th, Tiffani Faison's award-winning Southeast Asian restaurant will riff on the classic Italian Pescatarian Christmas Eve tradition, Feast of the Seven Fishes, with a seven course, seafood-forward extravaganza told through Tiger Mama's bold point of view and exciting flavor profiles. Tiger Mama will also host its wildly popular Drag Brunch

on New Year's Day. Reservations are now being accepted for both Feast of the Seven Fishes and Drag Brunch. www.tigermamaboston.com, 617-425-MAMA (6262).

•The BPDA is holding a meeting on December 16 from 6:00-8:00 at the Alumni Center at Columbus Place, 716 Columbus Ave. to discuss Northeastern's proposed Institutional Master Plan Amendment and student residence building (a joint venture with American Campus Communities) at 840 Columbus Avenue in Roxbury. Public is invited and encouraged to attend.

• The BPDA is holding a Phase 2 public meeting regarding the Fenway Center project on December 16 from 6:00-8:00pm at the BU Sargent College, Room 101, 635 Commonwealth Ave. The revised program consists of 692,000 square feet of lab space,

which includes associated office and support spaces, along with 48,400 square feet of ground-floor retail space. The Proponent proposes to construct approximately 501 parking spaces as a component of Phase 2, for a total of 790 Project parking spaces. The Project Change will therefore reduce the overall project parking count by approximately 550 spaces as compared to the previously approved project. *In addition to this meeting, a public meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be held in January 2020.

•Billy Joel to Return in 2020

Last week we announced another concert coming to Fenway Park in 2020: Billy Joel will make his return for the seventh consecutive year on Aug. 28, 2020. The news comes less than two months after closing out our 2019 concert series in September.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
FENWAY STUDIOS PRESERVATION
Fenway Studios Housing Cooperative and Friends of Fenway Studios, the Award-

ing Authority, requests bids for brick masonry watertable repairs, and selective window restoration at the Fenway Studios, 30 Ipswich Street, Boston, Massachusetts, which is listed in the State &

National Registers of Historic Places. The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by and available from Spencer, Sullivan & Vogt, 1 Thompson Square, Suite 504, Charlestown, Massachusetts 02129

(617-861-4291) and meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative

Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work

in a timely manner, and references. All bids must be delivered to the architect's office at the above address no later than 12:00 noon, Friday, January 3, 2020 to be eligible for consideration.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Fenway Studios, 30 Ipswich Street, Boston at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. 12/12/19 BS

For the Record

From the Dec. 11 License Board meeting, City Hall:

•GHR COURT STREET, LLC; 1 COURT St., Boston. Holder of an Innholder

All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above. To: The Tower, Inc. d/b/a The Tower 101 Arlington Street Boston, MA 02116. On five floors, consisting of one room and storage in basement (7,400 s.f.); two rooms, mezzanine and kitchen on first floor (5,751 s.f.); two rooms and kitchen in rear on second floor (5,938 s.f.); one room and kitchen on third floor (4,795 s.f.); two rooms on fourth floor (4,159 s.f.); one room on fifth floor for storage (4,159 s.f.). Jaime Campos II, Manager. 2 a.m. Closing Hour. Lastly, has petitioned to change the license type – From: Innholder All Alcohol License To: Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcohol License.

From the Dec. 12 Zoning Board Advisory hearing, 1010 Mass Ave., 5 p.m.:

•31 Appleton St., South End. Applicant: Richard Gold

Purpose: Rebuild fourth floor back dormer and add new exterior deck on back of building off fourth floor master bedroom.

From the Dec. 12 and Dec. 17 South End Landmarks hearing subcommittee, City Hall Rm. 709, 5 p.m.:

•85 West Newton St. - Previously heard at 11/05/2019 and 12/03/2019 SELDC Public Hearings. Proposed Work: Demolish the existing former church and parish house (Villa Victoria Center for the Arts/ IBA Preschool).

From the Dec. 17 Licensed Premise Violation hearing, City Hall:

•The Pitcher's Mound, Inc., doing business as: Diamond At Fenway; 72 Brookline Ave., Fenway.

Date: 08/08/2019: Persons under 21 in possession of alcohol (draft beer).



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