

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE



◀◀ The Boston Sun Rewind

2019 was a big year for the City of Boston, between passing new legislation, conversations about the opioid epidemic and homelessness, more development, and the election of new City Councilors. Here are 19 stories for 2019 that impacted the South End, Back Bay, Fenway, and Kenmore neighborhoods.

1. In January, State legislators and the governor were able to come to a last-minute compromise in a short-term rental regulation bill. The final version left intact several key provisions that were championed in the neighborhoods – particularly the ability of the City

to levy taxes and also the ability of the City to keep a detailed registration of all short-term rentals in Boston.

2. In February, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) announced that it would sell its building on Berkeley Street by 2022 and move to another location in the city. BFIT owned this building for 11 years, and President Tony Benoit said that the building no longer serves the evolving needs of the school.

3. In March, Rep. Jon Santiago hosted a very well-attended opioid epidemic town hall in the South End, where people spoke out on this issue that has plagued the city—the South End is one of the neighborhoods it has hit the hardest.

(BOSTON SUN REWIND, Pg. 5)



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Boston Queens Performer Verna Turbulence dedicated a special performance to those that were lost in the AIDS/HIV epidemic in Blackstone Square on June 4, as part of the Boston Pride Week's Pride Lights ceremony. Blackstone Square – a new venue for the event – was lit up in pink lights to remember those lost to the HIV epidemic and to celebrate the LGBTQ community.

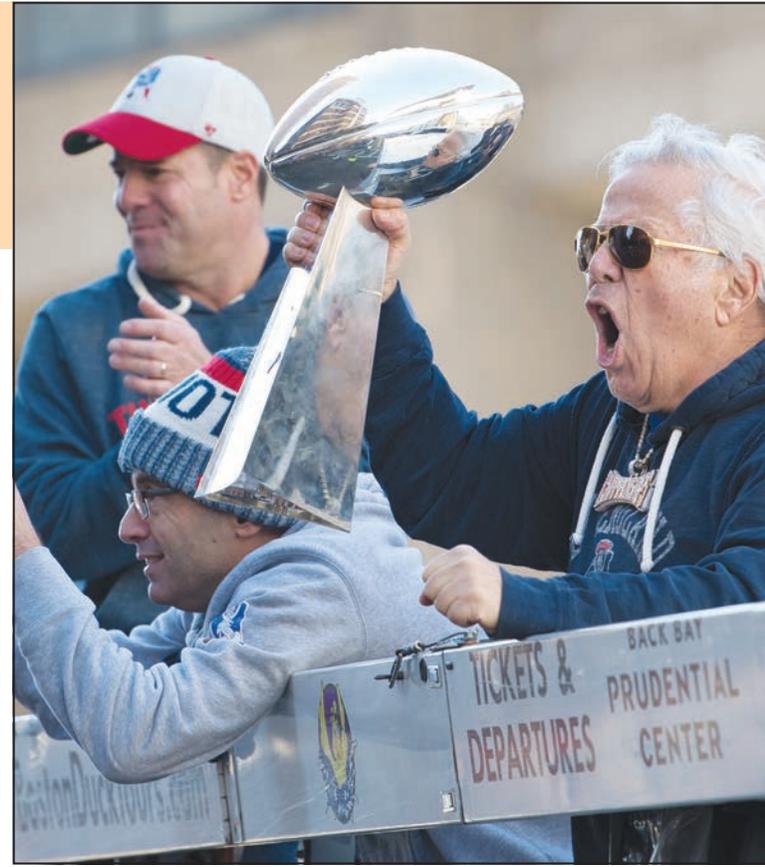


PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

With trophy in hand, Patriots Owner Bob Kraft, along with his sons Josh Kraft and Dan Kraft, are exuberant in the Super Bowl LIII victory during Tuesday's rolling rally in the Back Bay. Meanwhile, Defensive Lineman Trey Flowers gives a parting kiss to the Super Bowl LIII trophy as players descend on City Hall Plaza in Boston.

Flynn releases End of Year report

Staff Report

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn has released his end of the year report to update the residents of District 2 on his work during his second year in office. The report summarizes Councilor Flynn's work on areas related to housing and development, pedestrian and public safety, social and economic justice, public health, and other quality-of-life issues. Councilor Flynn continues to focus on constituent services, issues that impact the everyday lives of residents, and remains committed to delivering responsive city services to the neighborhoods of his district.

"As we approach the new year, I'm thankful for the support of the residents of District 2. My priority as a City Councilor is to advocate for working families, our seniors, persons with disabilities, our immigrant communities and our most vulnerable," said Councilor Flynn. "It is a great honor to represent this diverse district at

the Council and I will continue to work hard every day to ensure that the residents of Boston have access to the resources and opportunities that our city offers."

- Housing and Development
*Called for and held a hearing on the implementation of the Short-Term Rentals Ordinance

- *Called for and held a hearing on strengthening the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) and increasing affordable housing

- *Called for hearing on ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement in Boston

- *Opposed development projects that are unfavorable to neighbors, residents and civic groups at the Zoning Board of Appeals

- Social and Economic Justice

- *Called for and held a hearing on the impact of the partial government shutdown on veterans and military families

- *Called for and held a hearing on services for persons with disabilities and ensuring accessibility in our buildings, sidewalks, and



City Councilor Michael Flynn.

public spaces.

- *Passed two resolutions on state bills that would help improve accessibility in housing and expand job opportunities for persons with disabilities

- *Passed a resolution opposing the recent rule change to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

- *Stood with the working families of United Steelworkers

(END OF YEAR REPORT, Pg. 4)

State of the City to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Back Bay

By Seth Daniel

The annual State of the City address by Mayor Martin Walsh will take place in Symphony Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

The address will follow the swearing in of the new City Council – which includes several new members joining returning incumbents. That is expected to happen on Jan. 6 in the City Council

Chambers, though it hasn't yet been completely finalized. Roxbury/South End Councilor Kim Janey is said to have the votes to become the new Council President, taking the gavel from outgoing president Andrea Campbell, of Mattapan.

Walsh hasn't given any clues as to what he will talk about, but likely he will address national

(STATE OF THE CITY, Pg. 4)

South End Historical to oppose Villa Victoria Arts Center demolition

By Seth Daniel

In what has been an ongoing saga at the South End Landmarks Commission regarding the demolition and rebuild of a historic church that formerly housed the Villa Victoria Arts Center and Pre-

School, a new voice of opposition has entered the discussion.

After a long discussion and meeting of the South End Historical Society (SEHS), the membership voted to go on record as opposed to the demolition of the

(OPPOSITION, Pg. 9)

EDITORIAL

A NEW YEAR, A NEW DECADE

The arrival of a new year -- especially when it is the start of a new decade -- marks a time of reflection for all of us.

We pause to think back to the decade that has come and gone, and wonder too, what our lives will be like 10 years from now.

Each of us ponders the questions, "Where have I been? And where am I going?"

The latter asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay waste to even the best-laid of our plans for the year -- let alone the decade -- to come.

However, coming up with an answer to the former question can be equally difficult. It requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried lives. We barely have enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone to try to figure out how we got to where we are, wherever it is we may be.

Life does not take a time-out. The years -- and decades -- will continue to march on. While we, individually and collectively, may have some control over our future, all of us inexorably will be swept along by the currents of time and fortune that will bring us to a destination that none of us can foresee.

In the spirit of a new year -- and a new decade -- we offer our readers the enduring words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

HAVE A HAPPY -- AND SAFE -- NEW YEAR

Celebrating the New Year requires all of us to make sure not only that we ourselves do so safely, but also that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (or anything else) on New Year's Eve -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story in the morning news by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

New Year's Eve can be a time of joy -- it is up to all of us to make sure it does not turn into a tragedy.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy -- and safe -- New Year.



HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ 2020

GUEST OP-ED

The New Year's Noise Diet: Why you should cut the empty 'brain calories' in 2020

By Joe McCormack

If you're like most of us, you overindulged a bit too much in 2019. No, not on calories (well, maybe those too!), but on "noise." That's the name for the dizzying onslaught of information from work emails, app notifications, the 24/7 news cycle, social media updates, and other forms of screen time that leaves us unable to focus, listen, or do deep work.

A smidgen of noise now and again is okay. (We all have our guilty pleasures!) But consuming it mindlessly, all day long, is as bad as keeping a bag of chips, a monster-size soda, and a can of frosting at our desk and reaching for them every few minutes.

Too many empty brain calories won't make you fat but they will make you mentally anemic. Noise keeps you in a constant state of distraction. And like actual junk food, a high-noise digital diet is addictive, yet it never satisfies or nourishes you.

The real problem with giving into noise temptation isn't what you're doing; it's what you're not doing. You're tuning out what really matters. You're skimming the surface. When you're scrolling Facebook, for instance, you aren't learning a new language, refining that career-changing presentation, or engaging with your kids in a meaningful way.

The new year is the perfect time to put yourself on a noise diet. To

help with your calorie count, let's take a look at what noise junk food looks like:

The irritating--yet addictive--parade of social media stock characters in your newsfeed. This band of noisemakers assaults your brain with their cries for attention. For instance:

- The humble bragger. Your college rival who subtly slips into her post that she just got another promotion at her swanky company. #blessed #gag

- The cryptic drama-stirrer. That self-righteous friend who calls out people anonymously for perceived slights or makes vague "poor me" pity posts. (Cue the wave of very concerned commenters.)

- The over-sharer. We don't need a play-by-play of your colonoscopy. Thanks.

- The drop-of-a-hat ranter. Whose day would be complete without a furious recounting of how the barista screwed up your nonfat, dairy-free, double-shot, decaf, extra-hot mochaccino with extra foam? The nerve!

- The overly zealous kid promoter. Yes, yes, we know Junior is the smartest, cutest, cleverest tot around--your other 15 posts this week made that perfectly clear.

- The amateur political pundit. Do not engage...just don't.

Dumb@\$\$ shows on TV. You don't need to waste your precious attention span watching Jerry Springer, B-list celebrity lip-synch contests, or those morning talk

shows. Substance-free television combined with the lure of a cozy couch can quickly turn into a lost day or evening.

The 24/7 news carousel-of-darkness. Sadly, most news is bad news, and during a controversial election year it can also be fodder for controversy, vitriol, and the loss of civility with friends, family, and neighbors. (Hint: You don't need to totally disengage, but it's good to be discerning about what you let in--and about how often you engage in debates with the people in your life.)

Your work email. Your boss just had to email you at 9:30 p.m.... again. The moment you jump out of the bath to write back is the moment work email becomes yet another source of noise.

Are you feeling that noise hang-over settle in? Don't worry, you can kick off the new year with a different kind of diet--one that cuts the empty "brain calories" of digital distraction and gives you what you're really craving: a more intentional life. Join my "Just Say No to Noise" Movement and tip the scales in the other direction. A few suggestions:

Try going a week without social media. (We promise, you'll survive.) A short detox from social media is a pretty painless way to unplug and reclaim a lot of lost time. When the week is over, you can see if you even want to go back

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Boston Common Master Plan open house announced on January 15

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Public Garden invite the public to the second Boston Common Master Plan Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Josiah Quincy School Auditorium, 152 Arlington St.

The entrance for the meeting is located at the corner of Arlington Street and Marginal Road, with an accessible entrance located to

the right. Off-street parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Public transportation is available via Tufts Medical Center station on the Orange Line.

As “America’s First Public Park,” Boston Common is an oasis in downtown Boston and 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.

During this open house, attendees will have the opportunity to hear an overview of the Boston Common Master Plan project and receive an update on the work that has been accomplished to date, hear a summary of the extensive public feedback that has been received, hear a discussion about user needs and infrastructure needs, consider initial concepts for improving the Common, and learn about next steps.

Interpretation and translation services for this event are available

at no cost by contacting Laura Cawley of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at Laura.Cawley@boston.gov or by calling 617-961-3013.

The Open House format will include a slideshow presentation, question and answer period, and an opportunity for active participation within small breakout groups. Park users, abutters, and other stakeholders are urged to attend this important Open House as continued participation is needed in order to plan the brightest future for Boston Common.

Over the past several months,

project proponents have been deeply engaged in a conversation about the future of Boston Common and the level of engagement has been significant: 4,340 people have completed an online user survey; nearly 1,200 people have engaged in constructive dialogue at 10 “Mini Common” pop-up events held in neighborhoods around the city; and 140 people attended the first Open House on Oct. 29, to generously share their observations, hopes and aspirations for this amazing place.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

to occasional scrolling.

Reduce temptation by “hiding” distracting devices from yourself. Okay, you probably can’t hide your computer, but you can shut the office door. As for cell phones and tablets, treat them like what they are: gateways to digital distraction (and it is a very slippery slope). Find an out-of-the-way place to charge and store your devices so you’re not constantly reaching for them.

Break the idiot-box “background noise” habit. It’s easy to mindlessly turn on the TV when you get home. Problem is, it’s broadcasting nonstop noise into your work-free hours. Instead, plan a time to watch your favorite shows. Daily exposure to the depressing litany of pain and conflict we call “news” isn’t making your life better. Neither is watching the “Fatty McButterpants” episode of “King of Queens” for the 50th time. (Okay, we admit that one is pretty funny.)

Set some work/life boundaries with the 7-to-7 rule. The company won’t crash if you stop answering emails around the clock. After 7 p.m., put away your devices for the night. Don’t pick them up again until 7 a.m. the next day.

Insist on phone-free family dinners... Yes, the kids might whine at first, but soon enough they’ll get used to conversing with the out-of-touch “Boomers” and “Karens” at the table.

...and screen-free family fun days. For instance, make video games and TV completely off-limits every Wednesday and Friday. Yes, even if the kids swear they have no homework. Instead, do something fun or productive as a family. Play a board game. Go bowling or skating. Cook a great meal together. Volunteer at the local animal shelter. Heck...maybe even read.

Learn to save your “appetite” for the stuff that really matters... Your “appetite” is really your attention span, and it’s your most precious resource. Filling up on headlines, emails, and social

media means there’s little left over for doing the deep and meaningful work that helps you reach big goals at work and in your personal life. Before you cozy into an hour of lurking on your ex’s Facebook page, close the laptop and find something productive to do.

...and choose some meaningful goals to pursue. When you are able to sharpen and aim your focus, you can do some pretty impressive &%\$#. Want to start a website? Get a better job? Learn to code? These “North Star” goals are the best incentive to rethink your relationship with noise and see how your life changes.

We don’t realize that very often our addiction to information is the thing holding us back from getting a huge promotion, becoming valedictorian, or training for a marathon, but that’s exactly what happens as time passes. Once you think of it this way, it’s so much easier to put yourself on a noise diet. Make this the year you take back your time and use it to do something that matters.

Joseph McCormack is the author of NOISE: Living and Leading When Nobody Can Focus. He is passionate about helping people gain clarity when there is so much competing for our attention. He is a successful marketer, entrepreneur, and author. His first book, BRIEF: Make a Bigger Impact by Saying Less (Wiley, 2014), sets the standard for concise communication.

Joe is the founder and managing director of The BRIEF Lab, an organization dedicated to teaching professionals, military leaders, and entrepreneurs how to think and communicate clearly. His clients include Boeing, Harley-Davidson, Microsoft, Mastercard, DuPont, and select military units and government agencies. He publishes a weekly podcast called “Just Saying” that helps people master the elusive skills of focus and brevity.

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Worker dies while setting up for First Night celebration

Staff Report

A Sherborn man setting up the stage for First Night activities in Copley Square died on Saturday, Dec. 28, when a 3,500-pound ballast fell on him while he was setting up for the event.

Brandon McSweeney, 34, was working for United Staging & Rigging when the accident happened, and the MassCOSH organization alleged that the ballast wasn't properly secured to a forklift when it fell on the man around 9:45 a.m. He was pronounced dead on

the way to the hospital.

"Too many men and women go to work, never to come home because many still view fatal hazards as an unavoidable part of working," said MassCOSH Executive Director Jodi Sugerman-Brozan. "We expect that these employers who bear the full responsibility for keeping their employees safe on the job will cooperate with all investigations and not seek to contest OSHA findings and fines surrounding the loss of these men."

Two moments of silence were

expected to be held at First Night for McSweeney, one in the morning and one in the evening.

First Night Boston 2020 Tweeted on Monday that the moments of silence would be held.

"On Saturday, while helping with event set-up, Brandon McSweeney was killed in a tragic

accident," read the Tweet. "The talented and loving man from Sherborn is remembered fondly by all who knew him. (On Dec. 31), we'll remember Brandon with moments of silence at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. We invite you to join us."

MassCOSH said to date, there have been 47 worker deaths in

2019, but the number could be higher as the state Department of Public Health confirms additional work-related fatalities. In 2018, there were 21 workers that died in construction-related events. That year, the construction industry saw the greatest number of fatal workplace injuries by sector.

END OF YEAR REPORT (from pg. 1)

(National Grid), Unite Here Local 26 (Marriott, Battery Wharf) and UFCW 1445 (Macy's, Stop and Shop) as they sought fair wages, safe working conditions, affordable healthcare and a secure retirement.

*Advocated for expansion of language access all city departments
•Traffic and Public Safety

*Called for and held hearing on Transportation Network Companies (Uber/Lyft)

*Called for and held a hearing on pedestrian crossing signals and traffic calming

*Called for a hearing on methane gas leaks in Boston

*Called for and held a working session on stray voltage harmful to residents and pets

*Called for a hearing on construction safety to discuss the existing safety procedures

•Public Health
*Called for and held a hearing on domestic violence and sexual assault

*Held a hearing on public health disparities in communities of color

•Quality of Life
*Called for a hearing on after hours construction,

*Called for a hearing on City services and public facilities on South Boston Waterfront

•Other Actions

*Passed a resolution to support a state bill requiring curriculum unit on the Holocaust and genocide

*Passed a resolution recognizing the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during AAPI Month in May

*Passed a resolution supporting children born abroad to military members and federal workers

*Held neighborhood coffee hours and community meetings with the Transportation Department, Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Police Department, and the Office of Community Preservation

STATE OF THE CITY (from pg. 1)

issues once again with the impending 2020 National Election now at the doorstep. In last year's address, Walsh focused almost exclusively on how Boston has done better than the federal government, and talked extensively about national policies and how they did or did not relate to Boston.

Very little last year was shared

about progress in the neighborhoods, and nothing was unveiled for the downtown neighborhoods in regards to new policies or initiatives.

This year likely won't be much different, as the mayor is expected to prop up the Democratic party once again in his speech. However, with so much happening in Bos-

ton in 2019 and forward to 2020, there will likely be a little more local policy unveiled on Jan. 6 than there was in last year's speech.

One must tune in to find out though.

The speech will take place at 6 p.m. on Jan. 6 in Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave.

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Public Meeting

Northampton Street Residences

Thursday, January 9
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

AME Zion Church
600 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Project Proponent:

THR Acquisition, LLC, c/o Transom Real Estate, LLC and Harbor Run Development

Project Description:

The SPRA filed by THR Acquisition, LLC, c/o Transom Real Estate, LLC and Harbor Run development, LLC (the "Proponents") The proposal consists of the re-development of a 9,586 SF surface parking lot located on Northampton Street between the Southwest Corridor Park and the Newcastle Court residential building in the Roxbury neighborhood. The proposed project includes 47 affordable housing units in a new 5-1/2 story residential building. 100% of the units will be income-restricted units.

Minor Modification and Amended and Restated Land Disposition will be discussed in concert with the project for Northampton Residences regarding parcels 57 and 59 of the South End Urban Renewal Plan Area Mass R-56.

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BOSTON SUN REWIND (from pg. 1)

4. In March, the announced they would be piloting a designated pickup/dropoff location for rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft on Boylston Street in the Fenway. With growing concerns in the city about these services holding up traffic and posing threats to pedestrians and cyclists, the City said in a recent hearing that the Fenway pilot was successful and they will be extending it to several other neighborhoods.

5. After District 8 City Councilor Josh Zakim announced that he would not be seeking reelection, the race was on to fill the seat. When it came down to Jennifer Nassour and Kenzie Bok after the preliminary, Bok won the race with 70 percent of the vote, and will very soon be sworn in to represent Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-kenmore, Mission Hill, and the West End.

6. In April, Scape, a British-based development company, proposed to build a dormitory building at 1252-1270 Boylston St. that would provide fully furnished living spaces for graduates

and undergraduates in the city in an effort to get them out of residential apartments. After outrage from the community, particularly from supporters of nightclub Ramrod/Machine, which currently calls the space home, Scape came back in October with a new proposal for 477 units of residential housing with retail.

7. In May, newly chosen School Superintendent Brenda Casselius made her first public appearances, where she promised to listen to parents and teachers about what they do and don't like about Boston Public Schools.

8. After numerous public meetings regarding the relocation of the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain to the South End, the conversation continues regarding what will happen with the land once the move takes place. State officials from the Department of Health and Human Services did say that the land would not be turned over to open green space, but several Jamaica Plain neighbors and organizations like the Emerald Necklace Conservancy

are trying to make it happen.

9. In June, the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) held a homelessness forum, at which many perspectives were provided and the public was given the chance to speak out on how the issue affects the neighborhood and the city. The City and other organizations were also given a chance to discuss the work they have been doing to get people the help they need.

10. In June, Time Out Market food hall opened at the historic Sears-Roebuck building at 401 Park Drive, and features 15 eateries with food from Boston's top chefs and restaurateurs, as well as two full-service bars. The food hall is just a portion of the reactivation of that corner of the Fenway—an ice rink also recently opened on the new lawn out front, and Trillium Brewing Company also opened a location at 401 Park.

11. In July, the Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Jamaica Plain-based

(BOSTON SUN REWIND, Pg. 6)



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Megan McLaughlin, Brenna Larsen, and Alianora Reilly at the Amandla performance in the Fenway Victory Gardens during the annual Fenway PorchFest on Saturday, June 15. The event featured 36 venues and more than 80 musicians.



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

A wrestler going by the name of Firestorm on Plaza Betances must've been experiencing a firestorm of his own considering the extremely hot and humid weather - and the fact his costume probably doesn't breathe well. It was all part of the fun of Festival Betances, which featured an amazing lineup of female musical talent, and a wonderful Parade in July.



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

John Tedford trying out the saxophone under the tutelage of Aiden Ramsey from the Community Music Center of Boston during Fete de la Musique on Saturday, June 22. The annual celebration in the South End held by the Music Center took over several parks on a sunny summer day and converted them into concert venues - much to the delight of neighbors young and old.

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BOSTON SUN REWIND (from pg. 5)

City Life/Vida Urbana sent a bus full of activists down to Connecticut to protest what they say is unfair treatment and evictions of elderly women living in the Our Lady's Guild House in the Fenway. The building is intended to provide housing to low and moderate income single women, but the

Fenway CDC said that no agreement could be reached between the property owners/manager and the tenants could be made. The building is owned by the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception, who live in New Britain, Connecticut. About 45 people boarded a bus down to Connecticut,

where they chanted and held signs in front of the nuns' residence. The CDC said that none of them came out to respond to the protest.

12. In July, the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held a meeting to get answers from the city regarding homelessness and drug users on the streets of their neighborhood, where the problem had become increasingly prevalent over the summer.

13. In August, the City held a public meeting regarding its "Operation Clean Sweep" effort,

which led to the arrests of 34 individuals with outstanding warrants in what is known as "Methadone Mile" as a result of an assault on a corrections officer earlier that month. Soouthenders and other residents swarmed South End Library Park and demanded answers from the city in a meeting that got out of hand. People began shouting over one another, making many uncomfortable. The City explained their efforts in addressing the issue.

14. In August, the Straight Pride Parade was held in Boston, against the wishes of many. The leaders of the parade said they



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN
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.

wanted to promote the idea of having people calmly talk about issues like gender, sexuality, and moral values. Many counter protesters attended the event, and some were sprayed with pepper spray by the police.

15. The Mass/Cass 2.0 plan was debuted by the City in October, with key elements like dedicating more city employees to the South End and spreading out needle exchange services. The plan was championed by Mayor Walsh in response to a spiraling problem for vulnerable addicted populations and neighbors in the Worcester Square and Newmarket areas.

16. In October, the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts at 85 West Newton St. in the South End was officially condemned by the City of Boston. The building, which is also home to the IBA preschool, has been proposed to be demolished due to financial hardship, but the South End Landmark District Commission is hesitant to release the project from its purview and want to see it restored, and hearings are ongoing about the fate of the existing building.

(BOSTON SUN REWIND, Pg. 7)

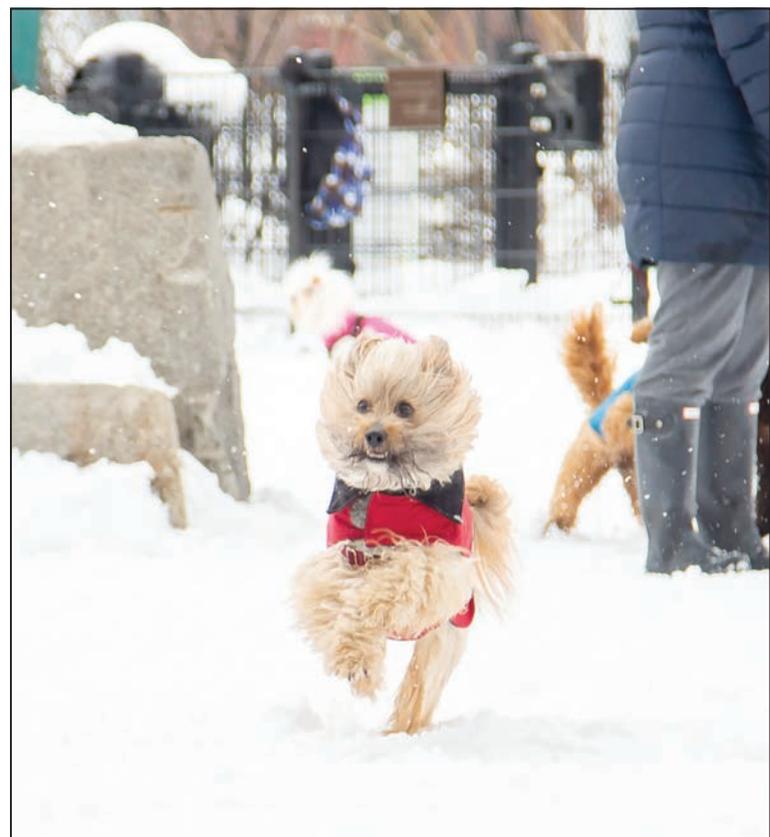


PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Bandit (Tibetan terrier) enjoying the snow day with friends in Peters Park on Monday. More than 11 inches fell on the neighborhoods in early March, leaving a winter wonderland for kids, adults and canines.



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Lenox, held by grandmother Kiki, reacting to the Easter bunny at the 12th annual South End Library Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 21. Dozens of kids converged on Library Park to find 1,700 egg filled with goodies.



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

State Rep. Jon Santiago, Capt. Zoraida de la Rosa, Councilor Michelle Wu, and Councillor Ed Flynn laying the wreath in front of the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument during Memorial Day ceremonies.

Pictured below: Accordionist Patrick Farrell performs not just at the Spotlight Spectacular Gala, but also in the Huntington Theatre's production "Indecent." It was just some of the fun during the Theatre's annual gala at the South End's Calderwood Pavilion on May 6. The gala brought in a record \$1.3 million in fundraising.



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI

A Boston Police officer pepper spraying the counter-protesters outside of the Straight Pride Parade rally in Copley Square on Saturday, Aug. 31. Meanwhile, conservative commentator Milo Yiannopoulos was the grand marshal and keynote speaker at the controversial parade and rally on City Hall. Organizers of the Parade said they wanted to take back the public square to have civil discourse about cultural issues in America.



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Sumie Kaneko, a Japanese Koto player, playing a piece from the 16th Century at the Kaji Aso Studio. Sumie, a renowned traditional Japanese musician, had her first solo performance 17 years ago at the Kaji Aso Studio while completing her music studies at Berklee College of Music. The milestone came during the annual Fenway Alliance Opening Our Doors celebration on Monday, Oct. 14. More than 60 events took place at numerous locations throughout the Fenway.



PHOTO BY KEIKI HIROMI

Richie Dunshee sporting his turkey hat during Fenway Community Development Corporation Friendsgiving Thanksgiving meal at Morville House in the Fenway on Saturday, Nov. 23

BOSTON SUN REWIND (from pg. 6)

17. In November, Mayor Walsh and Fenway Sports Group broke ground on the MGM Music Hall, which will accommodate up to 5,000 patrons and be adjacent to Fenway Park on the corner of Landsdowne and Ipswich streets. The four story, 91,000 square-foot music hall will be operated in partnership with Live Nation and is set to open in 2021.

18. In December, new guidelines for sandwich boards in the

commercial district of the Bay Bay were approved by the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC), and are set to take effect April 1. The BBAC will approve a standard design for display boards within the district, there can only be one board per 25 feet of building frontage, the location must be on private property (locations on public property will be approved on a case-by-case basis where it is physically impossible to have one on private property), display

boards are only allowed outside during business hours, and they must be approved by the property owner. Additionally, all current sandwich boards will be banned as of April 1, 2020.

19. After much back and forth regarding the Alexandra Hotel in the South End on several different issues, JB Ventures, owners of the hotel, reported in

(BOSTON SUN REWIND, Pg. 8)



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Cleo Lento and Abar Korb, both of the South End, were super-excited about Halloween during the annual Titus Sparrow Park pre-trick-or-treat party on Oct. 31.



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Sofia Ainslie and Denisse Leatxe pose in front of Douglas "Hoxsob" Hoekzema's mural at the Ink Underground GetDown celebration on Saturday, June 29, under the Expressway. The community came out to celebrate nine new murals under the highway - including a gigantic mural one running up the side of the highway called 'Cranes in the Sky' by Victor 'Marka27' Quimonez.



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Water lanterns flowed down into the Charles River on July 27, during the Water Lantern Festival at the Esplanade. The Water Lantern Festival not only takes place in Boston, but also in locations around North America. Thousands of lit lanterns were released after sunset Saturday.

Walsh announces application open for fourth round of Boston Air, City's artist residency program

Special to the Sun

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced this week that applications are now open for the fourth round of Boston AIR, the City of Boston's artist residency program.

Through this program, a cohort of artists will collaborate with the City of Boston to explore, analyze, and re-imagine City initiatives at the intersection of civil service, social justice, and artistic practice.

"Artists-in-Residence implement projects that imagine and test new approaches to City of Boston policies, processes, and procedures with the help of various City departments," said Mayor Walsh. "This, in turn, helps to create a stronger and more equitable city."

Since the creation of the Boston AIR program in 2017, the City has had a total of 20 artists-in-residence. Previous years focused on examining City policies with a lens of resilience and racial equity, valuing proximity to people by pursuing an understanding of the impact of local government policy in the lived experience of Bostonians, and supporting collaborative and democratic creation of City policy, processes and practices.

"As a writer, Boston AIR opened many doors for me. The

opportunity to collaborate with other talented artists made me feel a sense of connectedness to other artists in Boston," said former Boston artist-in-residence Nakia Hill. "Boston AIR provided the resources for me to publish my first book of poetry *Water Carrier* and an intergenerational anthology, "I Still Did It." Now, that publication is available in Boston Public Library branches across the city-my city."

Examples of past artists-in-residence include Karen Young, a Japanese taiko drummer who collaborated with the Age Strong Commission and worked with women at the Grove Hall Senior Center to form "Older and Bolder," an elder voice project that advocated for a safer crosswalk outside of the center. Another former artist-in-residence, Rashin Fahandej, collaborated with the Office of Returning Citizens and individuals ages 5-19 at the Blackstone Community Center in the South End to develop *A Father's Lullaby*, a multi-platform, co-creative project that highlights the role of men in raising children and their absence due to racial disparities in the criminal justice system in the United States.

The following City of Boston departments are partnering on this round of Boston AIR:

- Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab
- Mayor's Commission for Per-

sons with Disabilities

- Office of Emergency Management
- Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)
- Mayor's Office of Recovery Services
- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
- Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement

"Boston AIR encourages City departments to take risks and think creatively about their programs and policies, as well as integrate creative expression into municipal work," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "When we integrate artists into civic work we find ways to make Boston a better city for every resident."

Experienced artists ages 18 and over who work in all media are encouraged to apply. Each artist will receive a \$30,000 stipend and up to \$10,000 for project materials.

Building off of Mayor Walsh's record-breaking investment in Boston's arts sector, the City of Boston is investing \$250,000 for the artist residency program, as well as an additional \$200,000 FY20 investment in sustaining key grant making programs for individual artists.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 22, at 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Harry Phillips races down Boylston Street moments after the start of the 20th annual Santa Speedo Run through the Back Bay on Saturday, Dec. 14. The fun started and ended at Back Bay Social, with all proceeds from the charity event going to the PlayBall! Foundation.

BOSTON SUN REWIND (from pg. 7)

December that they have reached an agreement regarding mitigation for the project with the Tenants Development Corporation, who own an abutting housing devel-

opment. JB Ventures said that the resolution will prevent any delay to the project, which is to restore the hotel and create a 156-room boutique hotel to the area.



Jan Earls (center), Makeda Wakllace (L) and Haissan Booth (R) of "Fine art Superheros" by Basil El Halwagy during the Joy Parade through the streets of the South End presented by NOW + THERE.



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Antone Almeida playing percussion instruments repurposed from items found at yard sales during the grand opening of the Wheel'n Around installation in the Fenway Victory Gardens on Monday, Aug. 12. Creator Rob Barella used wheelbarrows and repurposed items to create a space where people can relax or have outdoor meetings.



Public Meeting

155 Portland Street - Onyx Hotel

Wednesday, January 15
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Boston City Hall
9th Floor BPDA Board Room
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02210

Project Proponent:

Back Street Boston Holdings, LLC

Project Description:

The Proponent proposes to develop a nine (9) story hotel addition to the existing 112-room Onyx Hotel at 155 Portland Street. The addition will be developed on the 5,478 SF parking lot immediately abutting the hotel. The Project will add approximately 40,725 gross square feet, providing approximately seventy-seven (77) additional hotel rooms, ground floor flexible retail/restaurant space, proposed rooftop amenity space and improved operational space along the Friend Street elevation. No additional parking will be provided at the Site in connection with the Project. The Project will also involve a reconfigured, improved first floor lobby layout within the existing hotel. In total, the expanded hotel will contain approximately 189 guest rooms and will comprise approximately 91,000 square feet of gross floor area.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4280
email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
1/31/2020

Open Meeting Law complaint filed against BBAC

By Lauren Bennett

A complaint alleging a violation of the state Open Meeting Law against the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) was filed by Samuel D. Perry of Chestnut Hill on Nov. 27.

According to the complaint filed with the Office of the Attorney General, Perry notes a prior citation of the BBAC by the Commonwealth's Office of the Attorney General for another Open Meeting Law violation on Sept. 26, 2016, then describes his personal complaint.

The complaint reads: "email chain and letters sent by Samuel D. Perry to the Back Bay Architectural Commission pertaining to a request for public documents most recently dated November 1, 2019 where no response has been received."

It continues on to say that "Superior Court Filing dated Oct. 31, 2019 following Back Bay

Architectural Commission's failure to allow taking of Defendant Back Bay Architectural Commission's Depositions scheduled to commence on Oct. 22, 2019."

Perry requests that the situation be investigated and "order Back Bay Architectural Commission to proceed with Depositions and to provide requested public records to Samuel D. Perry."

According to city officials, the City of Boston had filed for an extension, and has until Jan. 17 to respond to the complaint. The matter is on the agenda for the Jan. 8 hearing of the Back Bay Architectural Commission, which is open to the public and the complaint will be discussed in more detail.

According to the document, within 14 business days after review, the public body is required to respond to the complaint in writing and a description of any action that will be taken to address the allegations.

CRWA, CLF settle lawsuit with EPA

Special to the Sun

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) have reached a proposed settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) regarding the Massachusetts municipal stormwater permit.

The two organizations intervened in the permit appeal process to ensure that the permit's pollution reduction requirements were in line with current science. The groups fought to require nature-based solutions for stormwater management in new and redevelopment projects and push for stronger protections to defend waterways from polluted runoff that causes toxic algae blooms. The proposed settlement was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 27 before undergoing a 30-day public comment period.

The permit governs stormwater runoff from cities and towns along the Charles and requires a greater reduction in the polluted runoff that ends up in the river. During rain or snowmelt, water from urban streets, parking lots, and construction sites carry oil, grease, sediment, phosphorus and other pollutants into the river. This can cause toxic algae outbreaks like the ones seen this summer, which choke plants and wildlife and make the river unsafe for humans and pets.

Under the Clean Water Act, municipalities and other public entities that discharge stormwater into rivers and streams must comply with the "MS4" (short for

"municipal separate storm sewer system") general permit, which is issued by US EPA. Stormwater is the largest source of pollution in the Charles River, and the MS4 permit requires municipalities to reduce stormwater pollution by removing illicit sewer connections to storm drains and taking other steps to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, bacteria, and other toxins into drains.

US EPA first issued an updated permit in 2016 that was more stringent than the previous permit yet delayed the permit's effective date. CRWA and CLF filed suit against US EPA to force the agency to carry out the Clean Water Act. Other parties, including the National Association of Home Builders, also sued US EPA, seeking to weaken the permit.

OPPOSITION (from pg. 1)

structure. The church at 85 West Newton St. in the South End dates back to 1898 and is designed by noted architect Thomas Silloway, but it was condemned and shut down suddenly by the City in September. This fall, the owners – IBA – proposed a waiver to demolish the structure and re-build it with a new Arts Center.

"As an organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural integrity of the South End, the South End Historical Society opposes the demolition of historic structures in the neighborhood," read a letter from SEHS Director Jason Amos. "In the revised 1983 South End District Committee Report the committee found that 'a major element of the South End is its many distinctive churches and associated structures.' Once this historic structure is removed

from the neighborhood, it will be lost forever, thereby diminishing the historical and architectural character of the neighborhood." IBA purchased the church and the accompanying Parish House in 1980 and established its Arts Center, Performing Arts Space, Gallery and Pre-School there. They have been before Landmarks several times already requesting a hardship waiver to demo the structures.

Some members of the SEHS said the hardship waiver was put in place in the 1980s to help individual homeowners who might not have the finances to repair their buildings to the standards of the Landmark District. That, they said, was meant for lower-income people in the South End at the time who wanted to repair their homes, but maybe didn't have enough to do it to the standards required.

Commissioners were allowed to grant the waiver as long as it was deemed not to detract from the neighborhood.

One member, Paul Wright, said in a letter that such a waiver wasn't meant to be used by large property owners like IBA.

"The use of the hardship exemption, created to protect indi-

vidual owners without sufficient means, by one of the largest property owners in the Landmark District to demolish a significant landmark, sets a dangerous precedent for future misuse of the hardship provision by other major stakeholders in the District," he wrote, speaking as a member of the SEHS.

Wright has also been appoint-

ed to the Landmarks Commission recently, but has not been approved yet by the City Council.

Another hearing on the Arts Center demolition is expected to be held on Jan. 7 during the monthly South End Landmarks Commission hearing.



Community Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Friday, January 6
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, 6th Floor
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

On behalf of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC), the January 6 RSMPOC Meeting is being postponed to February 3, 2020. On February 3rd, the BPDA will be providing a debrief on the P3 Development Process.

For more information on the upcoming meeting, including the draft agenda and all materials from previous RSMPOC meetings, please visit bit.ly/theRSMPOC.

Contact:

Muge Undemir
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

bostonplans.org | [@bostonplans](https://twitter.com/bostonplans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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Beacon, BHA excited to begin partnership for Lenox redevelopment

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and Beacon Communities will begin the review process on Jan. 8 for their full redevelopment of 285 units of public housing in 12 buildings at the Lenox Apartments in the South End.

Interim BHA Director Kate Bennett said the Authority has entered into a long-term ground lease with Beacon to redevelop

the properties – much as it did at neighboring Camden Apartments a few years ago.

“We have the protections in the agreement that we need, and it will be 100 percent affordable as it is now,” she said.

The project will not be a mixed-income approach to renovating the development as has been the case in some of the BHA's renovations, but rather a one-to-one replacement of the units by

renovating the buildings. While the BHA will retain long-term ownership of the property, the buildings will be owned by Beacon under the terms of the ground lease.

“They have partnered with us already at Old Colony and Camden previously,” said Bennett. “The bottom line for us is we're excited it's moving forward. We've been able to complete the first phase at Camden next door and we're excited to get going at

Lenox.”

Dara Kovel, of Beacon Communities, said they have set a goal to work with the BHA, Mass Housing and their investor to start work on the rehabilitation of Lenox in 2020.

“Beacon is thrilled to partner again with the Boston Housing Authority to implement this extensive renovation of the historic Lenox Apartments,” she said. “This transformation will improve

this critical affordable housing resource in Boston for 285 families for many decades to come.”

The partnership was officially announced by former, late BHA Director Bill McGonagle last summer on site at Lenox.

The first review meeting held by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will be on Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m., in the Mandela Homes, 1855 Washington St.

NEWS BRIEFS

SOUTHERN PROPER TO CLOSE

The uniquely designed Southern comfort food spot in the South End – Southern Proper – closed its doors for good after dinner service on Dec. 31, according to a post on Instagram by Chef and Owner Jason Cheek. Southern Proper featured fried chicken, homemade sausages, smoked meats and a full bar in its space at The Girard, 600 Harrison Ave. The restaurant opened in 2018 after getting the approval of neighbors in the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association and in the Blackstone/Franklin Squares Neighborhood Association. The restaurant was particularly unique for its exposed pine interiors, and use of recycled wood in its construction.

“I am so fortunate to have accomplished this dream of mine and to have met so many amazing people during this time of my life. I will continue to grow in my career and will continue to build the relationships I've made through this wonderful restaurant. Thank you, everyone, for all your support through the last few years,” wrote Cheek on his Instagram account.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Christmas tree recycling will take place on the first two weeks of January, from the Jan. 6 week of collections to the Jan. 13 week of collections.

All ornaments and lights should be removed from the tree and it should be placed bare on the curb for the neighborhood's first recycling day. It should be placed on the curb by 6 a.m. for pickup. The tree will get shredded at a central facility and then used as compost in various Boston parks next spring. After the first two weeks, trees will be collected as trash and will go to the incinerator/landfill with the regular trash.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

•Boston Common Master Plan Open House

Join the Friends, the City of Boston, and Weston & Sampson for the Second Boston Common Master Plan Open House at the Josiah Quincy School Auditorium in Chinatown, 152 Arlington St., on Wednesday, Jan. 15. The Open House format will include a slideshow presentation, question and

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 11)

LEGAL NOTICE

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-reasures.com on 1/13/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Michael Williams unit #244; Berceste Dindar unit #454. 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.
12/24/19, 1/2/20 BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton 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 online auction via www.storage-reasures.com

on 1/13/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Donna McDonald unit #3147; Cartare McQueen unit #3190; William Burgio unit #3305; Lester Calvin unit #3323; David Flecha unit #4047; Karen Stokes unit #4079; 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.
12/26/19, 1/2/20 BS

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

BACK BAY

Koslosky, Kevin
Hasselbeck, David J
Bbreh LLC
Bisconti, Kenneth A
Rabanal, Roberto S
Dong, Lee S
Ayyoub, Alaa
Cahn, Peter
Clarendon BB 2020 RT
Romero, Javier
Marlborough St 31 LLC

BEACON HILL

Gloria Magida IRT
Oucherif, Kaoutar A
Acorn Boston LLC
Reinshagen, Katherine

SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE

Herman, Mark A
Giffune, Matthew J
David J Valacer LT
916 Beacon Street LLC
Chen, Xiaohan
Lin, Xiaoping
Jordan, Conner P
VanDer-Linden, Scott J
Hsu, You-Yueh
Ko, Eric
Ko, Eric
Watkiss, Lee L

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Girshick, Birgit
Shilalis, Jonathan A
Unit 604 Commercial LLC
Henofa 2 LLC
Foster, Jason J
Pailin Asset Management

SELLER 1

Snider, Andrew E
Morganelli Peter Est
Donelan, Kathleen
Appelbaum, Caryn S
212 Commonwealth Ave LLC
Patrick, David E
Apelian, Alik
Rabanal, Roberto S
Martin, Michael D
Hall RET
Ellen Gordon RET

Levine, Elliot
Flynn, Edward A
Ambrose, Diana M
Bid Pinckney Street LLC

Kathleen M Rubino RET
Hogan, Colleen E
Fitzgerald, Paul D
Rose Constance H Est
Weisman, Evan
Patel, Shutish
Rubin, David A
Stanton-Abbott, James
Massad-Colon, Jessica
LY Properties LLC
LY Properties LLC
Zaidi, Sana

ICSA US Real Estate Inc
Alfred White QTIP T
Krantz, Alan T
MT Cityview LLC
Siegel, Jeffrey A
Mac 580 Washington St

ADDRESS

172 Beacon St #3
341 Beacon St #2C
371 Beacon St #7
116 Commonwealth Ave #C
212 Commonwealth Ave #1
185 Marlborough St #1
194 Marlborough St #8
227 Marlborough St #9
400 Stuart St #27D
308 Commonwealth Ave #L
439 Marlborough St #31

34 Hancock St #4A
59 Phillips St #3
145 Pinckney St #626
20 Pinckney St

31 Braddock Park #2
193 W Canton St #1
7 Warren Ave #18
916 Beacon St #1
50 Charlesgate E #195
80 Fenwood Rd #1009
120 Norway St #21
51 Rutland Sq #2
12 Stoneholm St #315
1154 Washington St #1A
1154 Washington St #3
35 Worcester St #1

2 Avery St #30D
300 Commercial St #514
300 Commercial St #604
1 Franklin St #3607
88 Kingston St #3A
580 Washington St #800

PRICE

\$4,275,000
\$855,000
\$635,000
\$2,340,000
\$7,000,000
\$4,150,000
\$735,000
\$2,800,000
\$2,912,500
\$2,090,000
\$582,000

\$1,225,000
\$530,000
\$600,000
\$3,000,000

\$1,050,000
\$1,125,000
\$1,950,000
\$680,000
\$530,500
\$670,000
\$659,900
\$2,195,000
\$466,250
\$2,860,000
\$2,860,000
\$1,020,000

\$2,225,000
\$700,000
\$1,491,000
\$2,225,000
\$1,000,000
\$1,300,000

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NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 10

answer period, and an opportunity for active participation within small breakout groups. Your continued participation is crucial in planning the brightest future for Boston Common.

• **SAVE THE DATE** for a new winter event on Boston Common! To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, on Sunday, Feb. 9, the Friends of the Public Garden will be sponsoring Skating with Friends, free skating for all on the Frog Pond! Stay tuned for more updates.

SOUTH END DATES

• The next Sound End Forum Opiate Working Group meeting takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. in the Hampton Inn and Suites, Mass/Cass.

• The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the D-4 Police Community Room, Harrison Avenue.

FENWAY TIMES

• Fenway Center Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The BPDA will host a Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on Jan. 21, from 6-8 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. Please note that the purpose of this meeting is different than that of a traditional community meeting. As part of the development review process, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members work closely with BPDA staff to identify the impacts of a project and recommend appropriate community benefits to offset those impacts. CAC meetings prioritize discussion between the project proponent (i.e. the developer) and CAC members. The proponent proposes changes to the previously approved Fenway Center Phase 2 project. 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.

• Construction begins on Van Ness Lot

Work has started on the parking lot on the corner of Van Ness and Ipswich Streets behind CVS as part of the overall Fenway Music Hall and bleacher improvement projects project. This will be a new designated area for TV trucks and other storage related to Fenway Park that was previously located on the site of the future MGM Music Hall at Fenway. This part of the project mostly involves leveling and resealing.

• Select Red Sox 2020 Tickets on Sale Now

Red Sox 2020 "Sox Pax" and single-game tickets for select April, May, and September games are on sale as of today. Tickets are available online at redsox.com and by phone at (877) RED-SOX9. "Sox Pax" are packs of three or four games with a variety of date and seat options, including Interleague games, summer weekend games, and matchups against the Yankees and Cardinals.

'Operation Safe Holidays' ended on New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) conducted alcohol enforcement operations at bars in major cities across the Commonwealth, including several operations in Boston. The primary objective was to prevent impaired driving and other alcohol related harm on the holiday known for heavy alcohol consumption.

This holiday season, the ABCC focused enforcement efforts at bars throughout the state that have been most often identified as the last bar to sell alcohol to a convicted drunk driver, as well as locations identified by police as a source of alcohol-related criminal activity, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced.

"This effort supports safer roads and communities throughout Massachusetts during the holiday season," said Treasurer Deb Goldberg. "We want people to enjoy New Year's Eve, but responsibly - this kind of enforcement

establishes a long-term deterrence for bar owners from over-serving, helping keep the public safe from drunk driving and other alcohol related harm."

The program is run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Crackdown, from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve, and is funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security - Highway Safety Division. The ABCC will also be working with local police departments that have identified high risk locations in their communities.

In 2017, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 10,874 deaths. Excessive alcohol consumption in the U.S is responsible for an average of 80,000 deaths each year an estimated cost of \$223.5 billion. Data indicates that well over 50-percent of impaired driving arrests originate at bars.

For the Record

From the Jan. 2 Tree Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass Ave., 3rd Floor, 10 a.m.:
Request to remove eight public shade trees in the South End

The request is for the removal of eight oak trees measuring between 4 and 5 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) due to construction of a multi-use 34-story high-rise at 252-258 Huntington Avenue in the Symphony area of the South End.

Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, or may be provided prior to the hearing in writing to the Tree Warden, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor, Roxbury, MA 02118 or by emailing parks@boston.gov with "South End Tree Hearing" in the subject line.

A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing.

From the Jan. 2 Tree Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass Ave., 3rd Floor, 10:40 a.m.:

The request is for the removal of four zelkova trees measuring 3 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) and two zelkova trees measuring 4 inches dbh at Ipswich and Lansdowne Streets in the Fenway due to the Fenway Theater project at 175 Ipswich Street.

Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, or may be provided prior to the hearing in writing to the Tree Warden, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor, Roxbury, MA 02118 or by emailing parks@boston.gov with "Fenway Tree Hearing" in the subject line.

A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing.

• Jan. 6, City Council meeting, swearing in members, noon. City Hall.

From the Jan. 7 Licensed Premise Violation hearing, City Hall Rm. 809A, 10 a.m.:

• Dunboy, Inc., doing business as: Mj O'Connor's Irish Pub; 27 Columbus Ave., Back Bay.

Date: 09/21/2019: Assault and battery patron on employee in front of premise.

From the South End Landmarks District hearing, City Hall Piemonte Room, 5:30 p.m.:

DESIGN REVIEW HEARING

• 25 Savoy Street. Proposed Work: Replace a double acorn light pole with new double acorn light pole with attached telecommunications equipment and antennae

• 1313 Washington Street (Continued from 12/03/2019 Public Hearing). Proposed Work: At the Waltham Street façade, replace service garage door

• 1 Appleton Street. Proposed Work: Install an internally-illuminated menu board at entry alcove wall.

• 23 Upton Street. Proposed Work: Construct a head house and roof deck, visible from a public way.

• 16 Holyoke Street. Proposed Work: Reconstruct a roof deck, visible from a public way.

• 34 Clarendon Street. Proposed Work: At the front façade, replace nine six-over-six, double hung, wood windows in kind.

• 37 East Springfield Street. Proposed Work: Rebuild a roof deck.

• 64 West Rutland Square. Proposed Work:

• 85 West Newton Street (Continued from 11/05/2019, 12/03/2019, and 12/17/2019 Public Hearings). Proposed Work: Demolish the existing former church and parish house (Villa Victoria Center for the Arts/ IBA Preschool).

ADVISORY REVIEW

• 25 Claremont Park. Proposed Work: Construct a penthouse and roof deck.

• 566 Columbus Avenue. Proposed Work: Construct a new building.

• 599 Columbus Avenue. Proposed Work: Construct a new building.

• 115 Worcester Street. Proposed Work: Construct a new building.

From the Jan. 8 Back Bay Architectural Commission, City Hall, 5 p.m.:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

• Matter of Open Meeting Law Complaint of Samuel D. Perry against the Back Bay Architectural Commission, received November 27, 2019.

DESIGN REVIEW

• 117 Newbury Street: At front façade install flag holder in ground and Union Jack flag.

• 10 Newbury Street: At front façade replace storefront.

• 10-11 Arlington Street: At rear elevation remove upper fire escapes; and at roof enlarge previously approved roof deck and construct copper-clad headhouse.

• 217 Commonwealth Avenue: At roof install retractable skylight at eastern courtyard.

• 303 Commonwealth Avenue: At roof construct deck and headhouse.

ADVISORY REVIEW

• 97 Newbury Street: Renovations to existing building including re-design of façade, rear addition, and rooftop addition.

• 149-153 Newbury Street: Construction of a new, mixed-use (retail/office) building on the site of the existing surface parking lot.

From the Jan. 8 Conservation Commission meeting, City Hall 5th Floor, 6 p.m.:

• Notice of Intent for DEP File No. 006-1709 from Fort Point Associates on behalf of the Esplanade Association for the proposed playground renovation located on the Charles River Esplanade, Back Bay, Boston, MA (100ft Buffer to Inland Bank)



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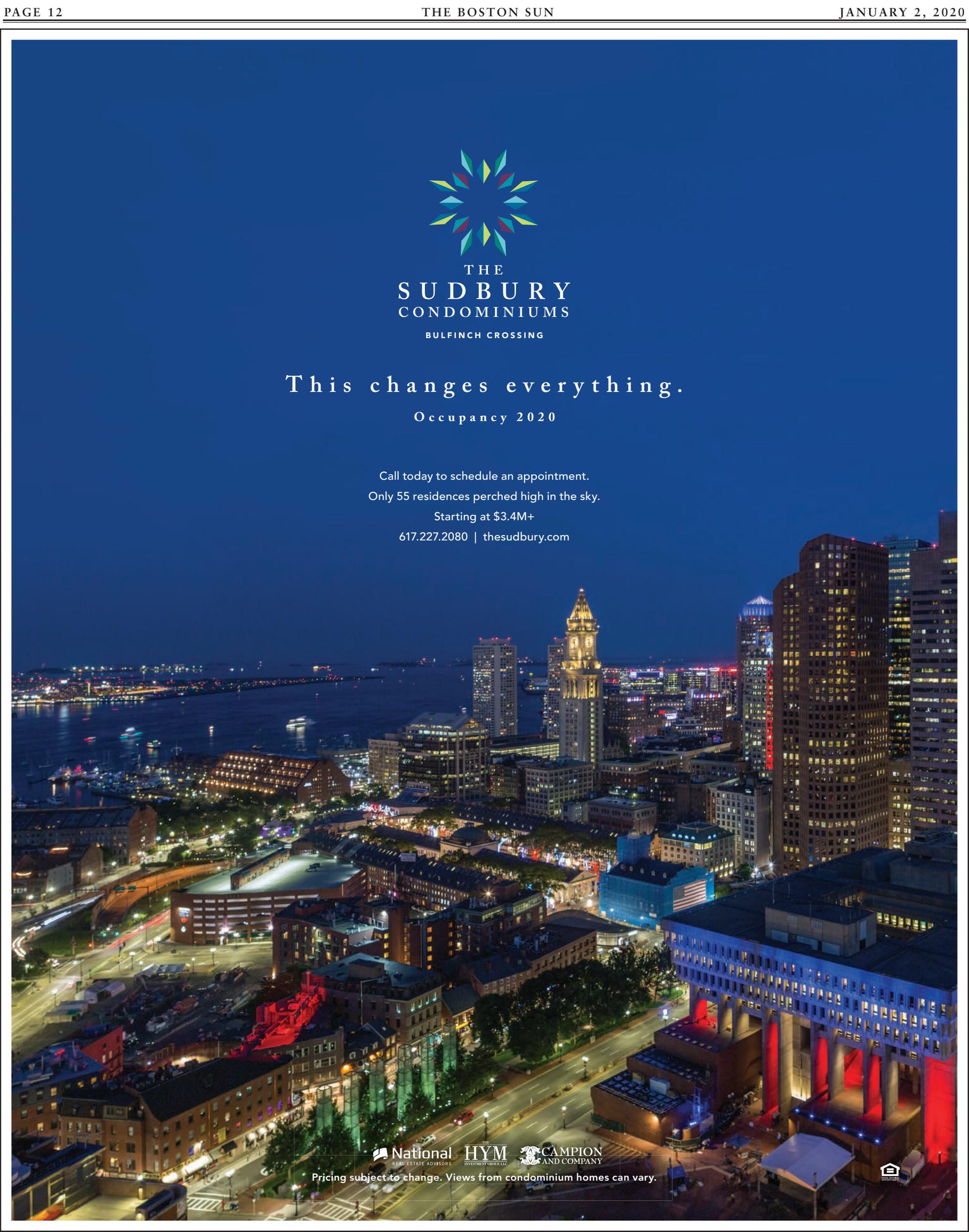
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