

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Property taxes taking a bite out of longtime homeowners

Southenders facing tough life decisions ahead

By Seth Daniel

When a new 'For Sale' sign goes up on any number of established streets in the South End, those who have been there for a long time – those who have fought the battles required of living a life in the City – begin to tense up as they hear the suggested sale prices.

Likely, it will go for more than the \$3 million or \$4 million that properties fetch today.

The tenseness isn't because of a changing neighborhood or a new wave of new people. Rather, it has everything to do with property taxes, and how much those huge sales will once again drive up tax bills, as sales on one's street have a great deal to do with the valuation of a home for tax purposes.

"Every time one of my neighbors sells, I'm like 'Oh my God,

how much is this one going to be for?'" said Jim Cullion, a South End resident for 37 years. "It's fine if you want to sell, but if you're staying, those sales turn into huge tax bills...My taxes for last year were \$30,000, which I thought was absorbatant. This year they went up \$6,000. I'm paying \$36,000 in property taxes. I didn't intend on living in a fancy neighborhood. I noticed it going up before, but now it goes up and up every year. My plan was to have my house paid off and live off the rents in my retirement."

All over the South End, longtime residents and Senior Citizens – sometimes one and the same – are facing the decision about whether or not to pay those high tax bills, to sell their properties

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EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH HOLDS FINAL SERVICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYOR'S OFFICE/JOHN WILCOX

The Ebenezer Baptist Church on West Springfield Street in the South End held its final service at the South End location on Sunday, Feb. 23, after continuously meeting there since 1871. Mayor Martin Walsh and several clergy joined in on the emotional, last service. Rev. Carl Thompson has said publicly the congregation will sell their longtime gathering location and temporarily meet in Orchard Gardens School next month until they find a permanent home. The building was constructed in 1860 for a Presbyterian Church, but former slaves from Virginia began meeting there upon arriving in Boston. The Church is an official Black Heritage Site.

CITYWIDE CANVASSING AHEAD OF SUPER TUESDAY



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

SUPER TUESDAY: Laura Melle and Sarah Heft canvassing for Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren in the South End last Saturday, Feb. 22, before the March 3 Super Tuesday Primary vote. Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu kicked off the first leg of a city-wide canvass for Sen. Warren in the South End. Volunteers canvassed all of the City throughout the rest of the day.

Neighborhood voters highly anticipating Super Tuesday

Canvasses for Warren, Rally on the Common for Sanders

By Seth Daniel

Excitement is swirling throughout the neighborhoods as voters get closer to the day when they can finally choose the candidate of their choice in the Super Tuesday Primary Election, March 3.

All over the neighborhoods, residents, neighbors and coffee klatches have been weighting their

options – mostly on the Democratic side of things – and evaluating candidates in person and over e-mail for months.

Naturally, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and her many allies in elected office have brought out their organization heavily in the last few weeks to canvass for her in her home state.

That was the case last Saturday,

Feb. 20, when Councilor Michelle Wu led off a canvassing effort in the South End for Warren – organized by the Warren Campaign. It was handed off to Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who ran events in Jamaica Plain as well.

Congressman Joe Kennedy III was also out for Warren over the weekend in Cambridge – rallying

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Study suggests noise in the Fenway could be a health risk

By Lauren Bennett

A presentation on the Fenway Community Noise study was given at the Fenway Community Center on Feb. 24, where members of the public heard from Dr. Erica Walker, founder and principal investigator at the Community Noise Lab at Boston University, as well as a cardiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a law student at Suffolk University, and a group of children who conducted their own noise study at some Boston schools.

The need for a noise study stems from the fact that many Fenway residents are concerned with the noise levels that come from Fenway Park during events like ballgames and especially summer concerts. The data presented shows that the noise levels are not only above recommended limits, but can also contribute to health issues. Fenway community activist Kristen Mobilia has also been a spearheaded on this issue.

Dr. Michael T. Osborne, a cardiologist at MGH and an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical

school, said that noise exposure is independently associated with heart disease, and stress activates several important pathways in the brain that lead to heart disease.

Stress in the body releases cortisol, a stress hormone, as well as activates the sympathetic nervous system, ("fight or flight"), and also causes inflammation. "The brain is how noise gets into our bodies," Osborne said, and can be a source of stress for many.

Osborne explained that the

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EDITORIAL

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD -- VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The revelation last week by members of our intelligence agencies to Congress that the Russians once again are, and will be, interfering in our electoral process is an ominous portent for the national election in November.

The recent experience of the mismanaged vote-counting at the Democratic caucuses in Iowa has shown the limits of the technology that we have employed to replace paper ballots and its susceptibility to being bungled and hacked.

Even worse, the extreme form of gerrymandering and voter suppression in the Southern states brings into question whether some in our own country even believe in the democratic process.

Together, these developments should give all of us good reason to be fearful about the future of our republic. That may sound dire and overly-dramatic, but it's a reality that we cannot ignore.

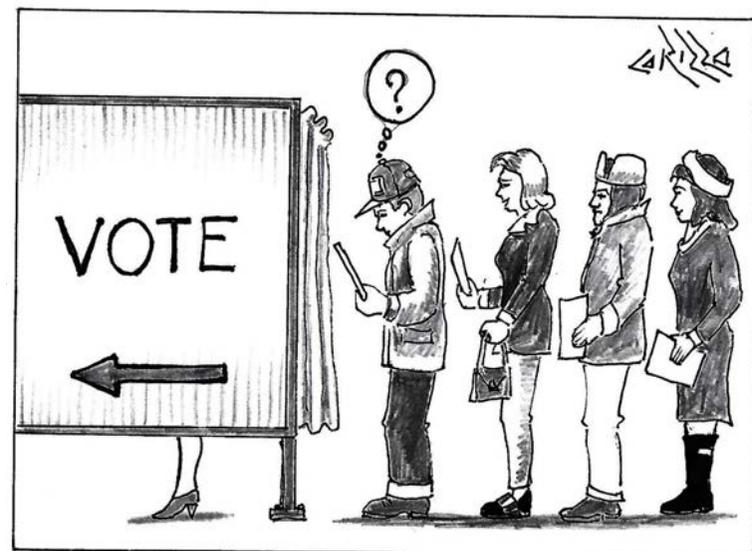
The one thing that had set us apart from every other nation in the world -- the sanctity and fairness of our electoral process -- has been shown to be vulnerable not only to foreign influence, but also to a combination of our own incompetence, our misplaced faith in 21st century technology, and the blatant self-interest of certain political groups.

In an era when cynics are proclaiming that we are sliding into the realm of a banana republic, it therefore is essential that all of us who have the ability to vote must do so.

Early-voting already is underway in Massachusetts for the Presidential Primary election, which will be held this coming Tuesday. There are 15 candidates on the Democratic side of the ballot and four Republicans, as well as Libertarian and Green party candidates.

The only way that we can overcome the forces who are seeking to destroy our democracy is to exercise the one thing -- our right to vote -- that has set us apart from every other nation in the world since our founding.

We urge all of our readers to get out and vote -- doing so never has been more crucial to maintaining our democratic principles.



SUPER TUESDAY GET OUT AND VOTE MARCH 3RD,

THE BOSTON SUN

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VOTE FOR THE SECOND SLATE

I've voted in every election, but left it to the political few to set up my choices. No more!

I'm running for my local ward committee. Recruited by my young neighbor, Armani White, our "fresh slate" promises more opportunities for voters to engage with issues and candidates. We

want to meet face-to-face and consider important matters by sharing our stories and understanding the needs of our community.

Do you know your ward committee? Go to www.sec.state.ma.us to see your local ballot; and go all the way to the bottom to see who's running for ward committee.

If you're in Boston's Ward 9, you have a choice. The Second slate, the slate for change, is Arma-

ni White, Amanda Govan, Jim O'Donnell, Carol Blair, and five incumbents - Aaron Jones, Robert Carrington, Tomiqua Williams, David Reno, and George Wilson.

And if your state senator is Sonja Chang-Diaz, please check out Armani White, candidate for Democratic State Committeeman.

Carol Blair
Northampton Street

NEWS BRIEFS

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS CAUCUS: SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Registered Democrats in Boston's Ward 4, which includes parts of the neighborhoods of Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End, will hold a caucus on Saturday, March

21, at Union Church (485 Columbus Ave) to elect delegates to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. This year's convention will be held May 30th at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to discuss Party business

and to vote on the US Senate race. The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in the ward. Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate may apply to be an

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SUPER TUESDAY (from pg. 1)

voters for his own U.S. Senate campaign and using it as a platform to pledge support for Senator Warren.

Kennedy remembered being first in line outside of Sen. Elizabeth Warren's office as a Harvard Law School student, waiting for the then-professor to get off the phone so he could ask her about "some crazy complexity in the bankruptcy code." According to Kennedy, it became apparent that Warren was trying to get whomever was on the other end of the line off the phone. And as the conversation wore on, he realized who it was. "It was Harry Reid," the Massachusetts congressman recalled Monday. "And she was getting the Senate majority leader off the phone as they were talking about her oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (the 2008 bank bailout that Reid appointed Warren to oversee) to talk to a law student about the bankruptcy code." Kennedy says it was a small but emblematic example of Warren's commitment to working to take on structures that lead to societal inequities, from teaching her students about contract law and the bankruptcy code to setting up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. "She did it because she believed that her students could perform and understanding that parts of this stuff were hard, but we all had the potential to get there," he said.

"I see that same Elizabeth Warren in the way that she's approached this campaign."

This Saturday, there is a push from Sen. Bernie Sanders in Boston.

The Vermont senator, who is leading early on in the Primary battles, will appear on Saturday at the Boston Common for a massive rally.

Naturally, at the individual voter level, discussions vetting candidates have been going on for months. Neighbors having weighed the entrance of Michael Bloomberg into the race, the fizzling of Joe Biden and the detailed health care plans put forth by Warren and Sanders.

Few have been as active as the South End Seniors group, which meets weekly on Tuesdays. The group has actively been vetting candidates over coffee and e-mails since last August -- perhaps before.

Moderator Betsy Boveroux said in recent weeks the group has been so focused on the intricacies of the impeachment saga that few words have been uttered about Super Tuesday.

As for March 3, we have been so focused on the impeachment, the coming Primary has barely gets a word," she said. "Judging by the people who speak up, we are a 'Beat Trump' crowd. Bloomberg is a welcomed addition to the list, but the 'stop and frisk' issue causes some concern... We have one vocal

Bernie supporter too."

The polling locations in the downtown area for March 3 include the following:

BACK BAY/BAY VILLAGE/ BEACON HILL

- 5-1 (Bay Village, Franklin Institute)
- 5-2/2a (Fenway/Kenmore, Boston Arts)
- 5-3 (Boston Common, State House)
- 5-4 (Beacon Hill top, West End Library)
- 5-5 (Beacon Hill Charles St., Hill House)
- 5-6 (Back Bay 1, Emmanuel Episcopal)
- 5-7 (Back Bay 2, Copley Square Library)
- 5-8 (Back Bay 3, Copley Square Library)
- 5-9 (Back Bay 4, St. Cecelias)
- 5-10 (Back Bay 5, BU, Kilachand Hall)
- 5-11 (Beacon Hill Top, Hill House)

SOUTH END/FENWAY

- 4-1 (South End, McKinley School)
- 4-2 (South End, Tent City)
- 4-3 (South End, McKinley School)
- 4-4 (South End, Frederick Douglass Apts.)
- 4-5 (Back Bay, Symphony Plaza East)
- 4-6 (Fenway, Morville House)
- 4-7 (Fenway, Morville House)
- 4-8 (St. Botolph, Symphony Plaza West)
- 4-9 (Fenway, Wentworth Institute)
- 4-10 (Fenway, Simmons College)
- 3-7 (South End, Cathedral High)
- 8-1 (South End, Cathedral High)
- 8-2 (South End, Cathedral High)
- 8-3 (Worcester Square, Orchard Gardens CC)
- 9-1 (South End, Youth Development 100 W. Dedham)
- 9-2 (South End, Washington Manor Apts.)
- 9-3 (South End, Hampton House)
- 9-4 (Lower Roxbury, Madison Park Complex Hayes House)

PROPERTY TAX (from pg. 1)

and go to a cheaper part of the city, or use the proceeds from the sale to rent. For many, it's a dramatic departure from the plan they thought they would follow in their older years. But when sales continue to increase into the multi-millions, it causes assessments of existing homes like Cullion's to also increase; and with major cuts to the City Budget not an option at City Hall, rising assessments mean rising tax bills.

Longtime resident Ken Kruckemeyer said, like many, he uses Social Security to pay the taxes on his home – which he has owned since the 1967. He said he is fortunate because he is able to dip into savings to pay his expenses, but many don't have that.

"I think this problem of whether or not to stay because of taxes is true of a lot of people in our South End neighborhood," he said, noting that his current yearly taxes dwarf what he paid for the home in 1967. "It's not unique to the South End, but we seem to be at the pinnacle. I guess that's because the houses are so much more costly. For a lot of people like myself, to pay taxes on the house is about equal to the Social Security check I get. That means all the other costs like utilities and other costs have to come from some other source."

The dilemma comes down to whether residents can, or want, to continue to pay those huge costs while retired or on limited income. It eventually comes down to an uncomfortable, forced choice many didn't foresee having to make.

"It's a real dilemma and something the City needs to address, whether it believes people rooted a long time in a neighborhood should have the opportunity to afford to say there," he said.

For long-time residents like Ron Johns, that decision was to leave the neighborhood he had been connected to since 1970. Johns moved into his first South End home on Dartmouth Street in 1970, paying \$13,000 for it. It needed everything, and he fixed it up little by little, he said, while also enjoying the growing and diverse neighborhood around him. After a life change and a move to the Back Bay for a while, he came back and lived on Waltham Street in a condo. It was where he planned to live out his life among his friends and neighbors that he had known for decades.

"I loved it," he said. "I would have stayed forever. However, I cashed out."

Now, Johns lives in Dorchester, and he said he has gotten used to it, but it was not an easy decision.

"It was a very hard decision,"

he said. "I didn't want to leave, but the costs were just too much. I was playing cards and a friend asked if anyone knew someone looking for a place in Dorchester. I said I was. I decided right there. I sold my condo at \$10,000 over asking price after only one day... My taxes are at least half what they were and my costs are half. It was hard, but I'm comfortable. I have more square footage than I had in the South End. I have more than what I had in the South End for half the price. You can't fight that."

Johns said despite the emotions, at 72, he was in good enough health to be able to use the MBTA and get around easily. He said the real worry for him is the elderly couples and widows in the South End. He said he already knows of three longtime residents that used to live on this block. They have sold, even though they didn't want to, and used the proceeds to rent apartments in other parts of the city.

"I feel particularly sorry and worried for the older couples and older widows," he said. "They are retired. If someone sells for \$4 million on their street, they're screwed. If any house is worth \$2 million this year on the assessment, then it will be worth \$3 million the next year. Getting a \$6,000 tax increase on top of an existing \$30,000 bill is just impossible. Nobody plans for that."

At City Hall, the issue is one that is somewhat isolated.

While there are pockets of high-priced properties in the downtown neighborhoods and in Charlestown, most of the rest of the city has much lower values and very low tax bills compared to cities and towns around Boston. It makes it a problem that is hard to attack because it isn't citywide.

"Property values are doing a lot better than they were 10 to 20 years ago," said Assessing Commissioner Nick Ariniello. "One thing we can do to try to make the City more affordable for all residents is we have classifications with our tax rate. We can shift the tax burden from residential to commercial properties... That shift does make it a lot more affordable to our residents... The City of Boston is significantly more affordable than other places like Newton, Cambridge, or even Arlington and Somerville. We are a leader in the state in terms of affordability for homeowners."

He said residents can and should take advantage of all the programs available to veterans, Senior Citizens, and owner-occupants. There are also state "circuit breaker" programs to help with the taxes,

and a Senior Work-Off program that the City sponsors for \$1,500. Cobbled together, those things can help, but they make only a "small dent" in a \$36,000 tax bill.

Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea said she encourages any Senior Citizen grappling with the issue to contact her office. They can help long-time homeowners come up with a plan to deal with the tax bills. One of those is to defer the taxes until there is a sale.

Like many of the programs, there are income restrictions on that, and one must be 55 as of July 1, 2019. However, the basic premise is that the taxes can be held over with a 4 percent rate until the house is sold. When the home sells, the City keeps whatever the balance might end up being.

"One thing we are committed to in our office is helping to get the

word out," Shea said. "Certainly if people are having trouble making ends meet, there are a number of programs to help... Assessing is fantastic for tax exemptions and deferral programs, but what we can do is help people plan for the larger picture."

For those in the South End like Cullion, they are stuck in a vortex where they are middle class, house-rich, but retired with limited income. Many programs they don't qualify for, and few have sympathy because the homes are so valuable on paper. Frequently, Cullion said he and others like him are told they should just sell, but it means abandoning the neighborhood they worked so hard to make a special place – like walking off the stage before the final act.

"I'm very frustrated at this point," he said. "Nobody is listen-

ing to middle class people in this situation. Seniors are not part of the conversation unless they are poor. The South End will now be just rich and poor. We spent a lot of time living in a neighborhood that had serious issues and we helped to clean it up. Right now, I'm looking at other places to live and I'm not happy about it. My friends are here and my family is close by, but I'm 67 and this has to last me until I'm 92 or 95. That won't happen with these kinds of tax bills."

Those looking for programs that can help with Assessing are advised to call the TRAC office at City Hall, (617) 635-4287. The Age Strong Commission is also another resource to consult before making big decisions, Shea said.

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Residents dissatisfied with current ZBA; City Council working on Home Rule Petition

By Lauren Bennett

Following Mayor Walsh's Executive Order calling for more transparency and ethical standards for the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), the City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on January 25 to discuss a Home Rule Petition regarding the ZBA.

City Councilor Lydia Edwards spearheaded the hearing as well as the proposed Home Rule Petition, which she said would change the structure of the ZBA. The Home Rule Petition would need to pass both the City Council and at the State House in order to take effect.

The petition as proposed now requires that ZBA members have expertise in areas of affordable housing, civil rights, environmental protection and climate change, urban planning, and design of neighborhoods. Additionally, it would require that both homeowners and renters be on the board and have expertise in zoning and general laws.

"The proposal also includes a provision that prevents members of the ZBA from engaging in the business of real estate construction, development, or purchase or sale within the city while they are members of the Zoning Board, Edwards said. "The proposal also includes a provision that gives the City of Boston discretionary authority to acquire as a condition

of appointment that ZBA members will not be engaged in the business of real estate construction, development, purchase or sale within the City for up to five years after their term of service concludes or set restrictions on activities following a member's term of service." Additionally, the proposal requires that the ZBA public rules that would discourage "real or apparent" conflicts of interest during or after a ZBA member's term of service, and also requires that the ZBA's standards of review be put into the Boston Zoning Code. Additionally, the proposal requires that more information be available and easily accessible to the public, including contact information for the board members, a subscription list for notice and advertisement of board hearings, and a record of board proceedings, as well as establishes an Office of Community Council "to assure that people are fully informed and know their rights on the day of the hearings," Edwards said.

Lastly, the proposal establishes term limits board members and requires quarterly reports of variances. Edwards said that the City Council has received support from community organizations across the city, as well as letters of concern from architects who would like to see the requirement of an architect on the board remain.

Public testimony ranged from wanting to make sure technical expertise positions remained on

the board to fully supporting the Home Rule Petition and recognizing the need for an overhaul of the ZBA.

Brian Blaesser, a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl, said that in order to have findings of fact, which is a large part of what the ZBA is based on, technical expertise is necessary. He said that the Home Rule Petition seems to replace "those technical expertise positions with positions of policy," and if the board loses the technical expertise and switches to a focus on policy, it will be unable to apply those technical standards.

Fatima Ali-Salaam of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council said she supports the petition offered by the City Council, but agrees that it "should not exclude those with technical expertise," she said. "We agree with Councilor Edwards; it's a good start."

Elliott Laffer of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said that he has spent a number of hours before the ZBA, and agrees that there should be no conflicts of interest within the board.

However, "the most fundamental problem with the ZBA is not with the board, but how many cases are in front of the board," he said. "We are zoning by exception. If the zoning code was properly written, we wouldn't spend as much time smoothing things out."

He said that most cases that come before the ZBA are ones ask-

ing for variances, and "maybe only two get turned down" out of 40 or 50 cases. "We're doing something wrong in the way we act," he said, adding that he feels the ZBA has a "strong bias" toward approval from the board—many people go in expecting an approval right off the bat.

Raymond Hurteau, a smaller independent developer in the Boston area, said that he does not agree with the zoning code as it is today, and would like to see some of the restrictions lifted.

"We do live in the City of Boston, and it's a city and whether we like it or not, if we aren't thinking towards the future in terms of density and not thinking of the impacts of the added density, we're going to continue to have a supply shortage," he said. He said that if some supply constraints were removed, more units could be developed and prices would fall.

Thomas Schiavoni, a North End resident, expressed frustrations with the ZBA process and hearings themselves. He said that people have taken time off of work, canceled medical appointments, and scrambled to find babysitters so they can come to a ZBA hearing for a project they're concerned about, only to find out at the hearing that the project is deferred. Developers are "more than likely" to be granted requested deferrals, he said, which leads to frustration in the public.

Additionally, he said that people out in the hallway outside the hearing room can often be loud and disruptive during hearings, making it difficult to hear the current case. "When we don't under-

stand the process, it ends as disrespect for the process," he said, adding that people lose faith in the ZBA system when the process is confusing or misleading.

Luanne O'Connor, a resident from South Boston, said that the City Point Neighborhood Association is also frustrated and upset with the zoning process. "I do think that we need transparency, accountability," she said. "We don't really have a lot of information insofar as statistics." She said that residents are being displaced and the city needs to look into more responsible development.

"If we're going to trust the ZBA, we need to have a process that we can trust," O'Connor said. She also said that she believes the ZBA is currently "disregarding" elected officials, neighborhood associations, and abutters when some projects still get approved despite the fact that large numbers of people are opposed to them.

"I'm very excited for your Home Rule Petition," she told the City Council.

The City Council then spoke with members of the Walsh Administration to ask questions about the current ZBA process and make suggestions to how things might be able to be adjusted moving forward.

"This is the beginning," Councilor Edwards said. She added that the Council will have working sessions moving forward to finalize the language for the Home Rule Petition, and then it can go before the Council for a vote. If passed, it will then move on to the State House for a vote.

FENWAY NOISE (from pg. 1)

amygdala, a bilateral structure that is part of the limbic system deep within the brain, participates in the emotional and physical response to stress and fear. Additionally, amygdala activity predicts cardiovascular events, he said.

"Noise exposure has been repeatedly associated with heart disease and many other diseases in epidemiological studies," Osborne said. "Noise exposure increases activation of the amygdala."

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that "exposure to in excess of 85 decibels for eight hours or 100 decibels for 15 minutes" is considered an unsafe sound level. Osborne said that a rock band is double the WHO cutoff.

Dr. Erica Walker explained that in her study, which was funded by an outside grant, she and her team conducted real-time sound monitoring, community noise surveying, and created an app called NoiseScore as a resource.

Additionally, she conducted a community noise survey, where she learned that many residents

felt that concert noise was a "significant issue." She reported that people thought of the concerts as "loud, noisy, and unbearable," and made people feel "irritated, anxious, frustrated, and angry."

She said that in gathering an understanding of community sound levels during concerts and games at Fenway Park, she hopes to create a community agreement based off the data.

Walker and her team measured at 14 sites in the Fenway during four time periods: true background (no events at Fenway Park), in-season background, during a Red Sox game, and during live concerts.

While it is apparent that concerts are loud events, they also emit a lot of low frequency sounds, Walker said, which can also cause damage. "The closer you are to Fenway Park, the more exposed you are to the low-frequency sounds. Distance to Fenway Park matters during concerts."

Walker said that she feels the best mitigation for this is to have fewer concerts, but there are also

other meaningful steps that can be taken to lessen the effect of this noise on Fenway residents. "This is a very serious issue," Walker said. "We have the data, and now is the time to take action."

Noise isn't just affecting Fenway residents. Schools in the city have a higher risk of noise affecting students' learning, according to a group of students known as the Galaxy Decoders from the Sharon Youth Robotics Association. The students gave a presentation about noise levels in three Boston schools near West Roxbury. The team of students conducted both weekday and Saturday noise measurements and concluded that "most levels are way above the limits," one student said. "Kids are exposed to this for hours every day."

The students also created a noise-awareness survey, distributed a pamphlet, and created a blog post about their work as well.

Ian Adams, a Suffolk University law student, talked about good neighbor agreements from a legal standpoint. He said that the agree-

ments' strengths are that they are highly modular and customizable, as well as "combine reactive and proactive elements." On the other hand, their negatives include needing good faith negotiating by all parties and require a "continuous commitment of attention, time, and effort," he said.

"Agreements should be a supplement, not a substitute, for a good body of regulatory law," Adams said.

Several community members offered input or asked questions about the study and about noise in the Fenway. One resident who lives in the East Fens said she would like that section of the Fenway to be part of the noise measurements as well. Walker said that she could have monitors installed in the East Fens, as well to help collect even more data.

Another question was how the city's noise ordinance relates to Walker's data. Walker said she feels like the noise ordinance is an "inadequate document," as it only talks about loudness, but she

said there are more components to sound than that. The ordinance explains when and how loud people can operate equipment, but the effects of noise come from many other factors.

One resident talked about how she has complained to the city's noise hotline about the commercial aircrafts that circle Fenway Park prior to events there, and Walker said that her NoiseScore app could be used to capture the noise from the planes as a possible start to a solution.

"I think the next step is to take action," Walker said. All of the data collected will be publicly available for interested residents to look at and analyze themselves. Kristen Mobilia also advised residents to call 311 with noise complaints, and more meetings will be held regarding this issue to talk about a good neighbor agreement.

"Noise is about loss of control over your environment," Walker said. "Any time you have loss of control over your environment, that in and of itself can be life-altering."

Mayor starts overhaul of ZBA

By John Lynds

In the wake of the scandal that rocked the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) last year, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards called for an overhaul of the city's zoning board.

The John Lynch bribing scandal trickled down to the ZBA and led Mayor Martin Walsh to call for an investigation into the board.

Lynch, the city's Director of Real Estate, pleaded guilty in federal court to accepting \$50,000 from a developer to sway members of the ZBA on a vote.

Since his plea, ZBA Board Member Craig Galvin has resigned and former ISD Commissioner Buddy Christopher, who has been serving as an advisor to Mayor Martin Walsh, also jumped ship from City Hall. Reports then surfaced that Galvin's real estate company may have benefited from votes he took approving projects that he and his wife later sold.

As the scandal unfolded Edwards filed legislation to modernize and reform ZBA.

On Monday, Walsh signed an Executive Order to establish new, rigorous ethical standards for the ZBA and institute strong policies and procedures that will bring a significantly increased level of transparency, accountability and integrity to the board of appeals.

These important changes are informed, in part, by the findings of the Sullivan & Worcester report and initiate both immediate

and long-term changes needed to ensure that best practices, strong internal protocols and policies are in place at the ZBA.

"The ZBA plays a critical role for our city, but to be effective in this role and maintain public confidence, the board must operate at the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and accessibility," said Walsh. "The changes we are making today will go further than state ethics laws that currently govern the board and its members, modernize the function of the board to make it more accessible and transparent to the public, and I will file legislation to change the membership of the board to ensure that it is reflective of our neighborhoods and their concerns. I want to assure the residents of Boston that they can have confidence in the ZBA and that we will continue to protect what we love about our neighborhoods as we grow and evolve as a city."

Through these reforms, Walsh is spearheading the changes necessary to strengthen public confidence in the board, improve their functions and efficiencies, and create a more understandable and transparent process. The changes will include strict standards around conflict of interest, financial and ethical disclosures for both board members and certain applicants seeking project approvals, rules governing business dealings before, during and after projects are considered and approved, enhanced ethical training for

board members, as well as technological improvements to bring greater access to the board and its process for the public.

According to the Mayor's Office the Executive Order bolsters the ethics and transparency expectations of its board members by implementing new disclosure requirements, prohibiting members from participating in any project in which they have an interest and prohibiting members from having any subsequent business dealings with any project on which they voted. In addition, the order establishes new standards for board members, requiring each member to submit annual statements of financial interest and undergo comprehensive ethics training.

Because changes to the ZBA require state approval, Walsh said he will continue to work with Edwards to craft a home rule petition to the Massachusetts state legislature to change the composition of the board to bring added perspective and expertise.

"It is critical that residents trust and have full and indiscriminate access to 21st century government. Today's executive order takes critical steps by modernizing the Zoning Board of Appeal, promoting transparency and strengthening ethical standards," said Edwards. "As the council moves forward with legislation regarding the Board of Appeal, I look forward to continued partnership with Mayor Walsh."



Mayor Martin Walsh signs an Executive Order to begin overhauling the ZBA Monday as City Councilor Lydia Edwards looks on.

The Executive Order by Walsh includes many of the overhauls Edwards called for last year.

According to the order, records would be available electronically and in person at City Hall and 1010 Mass Ave no later than seven days following a hearing. Notices of hearings would be posted and delivered electronically twenty days in advance. Contact information for the board would be posted electronically.

Appeals could be filed electronically, in person at city hall or at 1010 Mass Ave.

As part of the Mayor's commitment to making the ZBA more accessible to residents, the Executive Order calls for the designation of an ombudsperson to notify the public of their rights during

and outside of ZBA meetings and guide residents or appellants through basic procedural steps of appeal. In addition, the Board will be required to work with the Mayor's Office of Language and Communications Access to ensure the provision of translation services is available to residents.

The reforms announced today build on steps that Mayor Walsh took immediately after learning about the allegations of bribery that are currently under investigation, which include ordering a comprehensive, independent review of the practices and procedures of the Zoning Board of Appeal, and a separate review conducted by Attorney Brian Kelly to focus on allegations regarding a specific project.

New England Genealogical Society speaks out against new record restrictions

By Seth Daniel

Seemingly out of the far reaches of left field, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in the Back Bay were ambushed this month with a little-known proposal in Gov. Charlie Baker's budget that would severely limit vital records – a key-stone for those doing genealogical and academic research.

Ryan Woods, executive vice president of NEHGS, said this week that the new restrictions came within the 'outside sections' of the governor's Fiscal Year 2021 State Budget request – a section of the budget buried deep and rarely discussed or seen by the general public. The proposal, which would be approved with the Budget if not removed beforehand, restricts access to birth and marriage records for 90 years, and restricts access to death records for 50 years. There are currently no

restrictions on such public records – known as vital statistics.

It was a complete surprise to the organization and Woods.

"Unequivocally it was a surprise to us," he said. "There had not been any public discussion about this until it appeared in the budget. Our understand is the proposal came from the Department of Public Health, which oversees the Commonwealth's Vital Records and Statistics...We were surprised to see this because Massachusetts is one of about a dozen states that does not have any significant restrictions on vital records. To effectively cut off access to those for what would be a lifetime was absolutely a significant shift in what the Commonwealth has allowed going back to the 1640s."

Outside Sections in the budget are often reserved for loose ends and legislation that some might want to get through without the normal process. Two years ago, creation of the new 4 a.m. extend-

ed liquor licenses for casinos was done in an outside section of the governor's budget – a measure that passed with the final budget.

Woods said such a change in access to records would impact public health researchers, journalists, family researchers, and academia significantly. He said it's a change that should be debated in traditional fashion.

"For our industry and the First Amendment rights and Public Health researchers, we think this

is a significant change in state law that was buried pretty deep in the Budget," he said. "We certainly understand the desire to have privacy protections, but don't think that debate belongs in a Budget document that only gets and up or down vote."

He added that research indicates access to vital statistics doesn't increase identity theft or privacy invasions, and he also added that most records are already online and available on the private mar-

ket for a fee.

He said they will continue to advocate with the State Legislature to prevent this measure from becoming law, and hope that it will be removed during the ongoing State Budget debate.

It is estimated that family history and genealogy is the second most popular hobby in America, and 20 million Americans participate in some sort of family research. Most of those searches start with such vital records.

DID YOU KNOW?

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cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other prod-



Downtown Open House showcases wide range of city services

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Martin Walsh was on hand for a Downtown Open House that highlighted the myriad services the city offers Monday night at the Josiah Quincy School.

The event, which drew a full house of Downtown residents, featured tables staffed by members of their respective city agencies, including the Transportation Department, the Public Health Commission, the Commission for People with Disabilities, the Assessing Department and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, among others.

“It’s great to talk to people in the community because we know they can’t all get to City Hall, but want to hear about the services we provide,” said Kristen McCosh, the city’s disability commissioner.

Beth Gavin, special assistant to Sheila Dillon, the city’s chief of housing and director of Neighborhood Development, said, “The Open Houses are really great because they bring out a lot of people and showcases all the services the City of Boston has to offer in one place.”

Vineet Gupta, the Boston Transportation Department’s director of



Fenway resident Mahmoud Gamil channels his inner Tutankhamun.

planning, said “It’s really a great opportunity for neighborhood residents to be able to get feedback to all the city departments, and for the Transportation Department, it lets us know about the full spectrum of issues.”

Leather District resident Kathryn Friedman, who attended the open house with her daughter, Lucinda, said she learned about the event from Lisa Hy, Mayor Martin Walsh’s neighborhood liai-



Mayor Martin Walsh with Downtown residents.

son to the Leather District, as well as Chinatown and Downtown.

Meanwhile, Edinboro Street resident Bingxang Ma told this reporter via an interpreter he came to the Downtown Open House because he wanted to talk to Mayor Walsh about a “billboard proposed in the heart of Chinatown” that he believes “would have an adverse impact on the community.”



Edinboro Street resident Bingxang Ma and Mayor Martin Walsh.



Mayor Martin Walsh with Leather District resident Kathryn Friedman and her daughter, Lucinda.



Kristen McCosh, the city’s disability commissioner, with Mayor Martin Walsh.

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2020 Summer in the City

BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL
74 JOY STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-227-0822
BHNS.NET

Beacon Hill Nursery School is excited to announce its annual summer programming for 2020, packed with creative learning adventures for children ages 2 to 6. The program offers eight one-week sessions from June 15-August 14 (no camp June 29-July 3) for Toddlers (children ages 2-2.8) and Mixed Age (children ages 2.9-6), from 8:30-1pm. An extended day option is available until 3:30pm for children 2.9-6. In addition to the Mixed Age program for children ages 2.9-6, we are offering four one-week Specialty Camps (8:30-2pm) culminating in a showcase for families at 1:30pm on each Friday, as follows: Spanish Camp (June 15-19), Yoga and Mindfulness Camp (June 22-26),

Theater Camp (July 6-10), STEM Camp (July 13-17). Please do register for our waitlist if a week is currently full, as we do see movement throughout the spring into the summer and we actively manage the waitlist.

This unique summer program is staffed largely with the school's own EEC qualified teachers and offers a stimulating and nurturing environment. Children enjoy spending their days exploring our two natural playscapes, discovering science and nature, participating in music, art, and yoga, and engaging in water play and outdoor activities. In addition, a wide variety of in-house field trips are part of the summer program experience, including visits from places such as The Museum of Science, Barn Babies, and the New England Aquarium. Utilizing the school's outdoor natural playscapes, the program integrates exciting opportunities for young children in the city to engage with nature-based activities. Please visit our website (www.bhns.net/summer-program) to register now!

BELMONT DAY SCHOOL
55 DAY SCHOOL LN,
BELMONT, MA 02478
(617) 484-3078

Belmont Day School's Summer Camp combines the best of summer fun with enriching programs for children entering pre-K through Grade 9. At Belmont Day, summer is about making new friends, pursuing interests, and gaining independence. Activities include archery, movement, sports, art, nature and much more, with daily swimming lessons and a free swim period. Belmont Day summer programs are led by dedicated and experienced counselors. Be part of the Belmont Day community where kids explore, play, and grow. For more information visit www.belmontday.org/summer-discoveries.

BOSTON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
8 WHITTIER PLACE
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-367-6239

Summer Fun Program
 The Boston Children's School Summer Fun Program celebrates its 37th year of providing exceptional summertime experiences and academic enrichment to children between the ages of 3 and 10 years old. The Summer Fun Program at The Boston Children's School is conveniently located at Charles River Park, in the historic West End section of Boston. The location is fully air-conditioned. The school has its own private

playground, which allows children to play outdoors away from the noise, congestion and traffic of the city streets. The location also allows children to explore the cultural richness of the City of Boston through field trips to museums, theaters, libraries and historic sites. The Summer Fun program is organized by age. Each age group is supervised, taught and nurtured by certified teachers, along with teacher interns from local area colleges. All activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for each age group. Children can use the pool areas, on a daily basis, at The Clubs at Charles River Park. The Summer

(CONTINUED ON Pg. 6)

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 COMMUNITY ACADEMY
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Summer
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FOR GIRLS & BOYS GRADES 5-12

Specialty Programs • GRADES 5-8

Sports Camp • GRADES 6-12

Academic Courses • GRADES 6-12

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
bchigh.edu/summer
 REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 11, 2020!



Fun program also offers children music appreciation, gymnastics, field trips, arts and crafts, tennis, and interactive storytelling. Parent involvement and participation are always a part of the program, which begins June 22 and ends Aug. 21.

If you would like your child to become part of the 2020 Summer Fun Program at the Boston Children's School, call Judy Langer, Program Director, at 617-367-6239.

BOSTON EXPLORERS -AN URBAN CAMP FOR KIDS BOSTONEXPLORERS.ORG 617-839-2029

Boston Explorers combines the best of summer camp —creative, spontaneous play and hands-on

activities —with the sights and sounds of the city.

Children, ages 7-15, are on the move every day in each of our two-week programs, exploring Boston from multiple perspectives —on tops of buildings, at sea level, and offshore on the Harbor Islands. We walk and take public transportation everywhere. With one counselor for every six kids, campers get personal attention and are carefully supervised.

We offer a wide-ranging, inter-age experience that includes city-wide explorations and adventure, hands-on learning, child-driven free play and exercise. We spend time outside every day, exploring Boston's natural environs through day-long and overnight adventures. We model a broader literacy — of geography and nature; of neighborhoods, history and culture — and provide opportunities for campers to fuel their curiosity,

inspire one another and foster citizenship.

The city of Boston IS OUR CAMPGROUND.

Program tuition includes two snacks and lunch every day, ferry and admission tickets and all activity fees. As a non-profit organization, Boston Explorers is committed to providing opportunity to all children. Financial aid is available based on need. Session 1: July 6 – 17, Session 2: July 20 – 31, Session 3: August 3 – 14 Bike Week (Ages 10+): August 17 – 20 Tuition: \$1,250 per session Bike Week tuition: \$500 (4-days)

Financial Aid available
Hours: M-F, 9:00 am - 4:30
Children start and end the day at our base camp location
Rafael Hernandez School
Egleston Square, Roxbury

CHARLESTOWN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB 15 GREEN STREET CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129

617-242-1775
WWW.BGCB.ORG

Summer programs at the Charlestown Club run from July 2 - August 17, 2018

Summer Camp is for ages 6 (or entering First grade in September) to 12 years and will run 9:00am - 4:00pm. Extended day available 8:00am - 5:30pm.

The Teen Young Leaders Program for ages 13-14 runs 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Teen Evening Program for ages 13-18 are from 4:00 - 8:00pm

Summer Camp is July 6th - August 21st

Mini Camp - July 6th - 10th
Session 1 - July 13th-24th
Session 2 - July 27th - Aug 7th
Session 3 Aug 10th -21st
Camp Open House - Feb. 28th at 6:00

Registration Starts Monday, March 2nd for Current Members
Registration for New Members starts Monday, March 23rd

For more information, please contact Maura at 617-242-1775 or mcannon@bgcb.org

"e" INC. -
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE LEARNING
CENTER
114 16TH STREET
SUITE 1030

BOSTON, MA 02129
617-242-4700

WWW.EINC-ACTION.ORG

w"e" inc.'s Summer Science and Discovery Program is back!

What tiny Dino relative flits by your window in the early morning – why a bird of course! How did they get feathers and why do some fly thousands of miles to lay their eggs? Come find out when we explore Birds in Week 1 – from the tiniest to the most huge!

Then we flip to the Animals of the Savannah – come on Safari with us across Africa!

"e" inc.'s Summer Science and Discovery Program is happening the last two-weeks of August. Week one is about our Avian Friends (August 17-21) and Week 2 takes us to the open fields of the Savannah (August 24-28). You won't want to miss these great fun-filled days.

Camp times are from 9AM to 3:30 PM each day, with after-care available, as well. Each week has a field trip off-site to add to the fun. Camp is open to children entering first grade in fall and goes up to fifth grade. As ever, at Science and Discovery Program, the days are full -- conducting experiments, building models, observing live specimens, artistic opportunities, etc. – there's something for everyone at "e" inc.!

For more information visit: www.einc-action.org and click on the camp tab for information, sign-up papers, etc. We look forward to exploring these new frontiers with you.

ESSEM STUDIO
50 TERMINAL ST -
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Mini Art + Maker Workshops at Essem Art Studio

Does your kid get lost in an art project? Is your child passionate about doodling, sketching, and making things? At Essem Art Studio, our mission is to Spark Joy and Inspire Creativity through the arts. Our professional art studio is located in the Charlestown Commerce Center and we are hosting multiple three-day art and maker workshops for kids ages 4-9 throughout the summer. These three day workshops are immer-

sive creative experiences that take place 8:30-11:30 AM for three consecutive mornings. You can join us for one or all of the workshops for they will feature varied themes, mediums, and processes. Space is very limited. For more information, visit www.essemartstudio.com or email us at hello@essemartstudio.com. You can also visit our Instagram account to get a glimpse at our programming @essemartstudio.

Ask about out after school Art Club for ages 4-10, and April Vacation session as well!

KINGSLEY
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
CAMPUS LOCATIONS:
30 FAIRFIELD STREET
26 EXETER STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116
617-226-4906

WWW.KINGSLEY.ORG

Come join Kingsley Montessori School for a fun-filled summer of learning and hands-on experiences! Uniquely nestled in the heart of Back Bay, Kingsley Montessori School offers student-driven, experiential programming year-round. Summer in the City at Kingsley provides students with an opportunity to pursue their interests throughout the summer while exploring and utilizing all of the opportunities that Boston has to offer! Your child will be immersed in activities centered around the arts, engineering, sports, and nature right here in the city. Register today!

FOR AGES 3-9 (Limited spots available for ages 6-9)

Session Dates

Each session will be a unique combination of physical activities, hands-on creative time, exploration, and fun! No two weeks will look alike. From exploring the islands in the Boston Harbor to studying and recreating some of Boston's historic landmarks, Summer in the City is bound to be a great fit for students of all interests!

Session 1: June 22-26

Session 2: June 29-July 2*

Session 3: July 6-10

Session 4: July 13-17

Session 5: July 20-24

Session 6: July 27-31

Session 7: August 3-7

*Session 2 is only 4 days due to the July 4th holiday.

Sign up at info.kingsley.org/summer-2020

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Ages 3 to
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Summer IN THE CITY
@ KINGSLEY

AGES 3-9*
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available for
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2020 Summer in the City

Boston Explorers helps kids explore their interests, and their city

By Seth Daniel

When Alphonse Litz was growing up in Syracuse, there wasn't an historic site or a walking trail that his working class family didn't visit and learn about. It was a way for them to experience their surroundings, and occupy their time on a fixed budget.

But, he said, it was so enriching for him growing up, that he was surprised after many years of being a Boston Public School teacher that many kids in his classes and under his guidance had never seen Boston's rich historic trails or experienced its lush amenities. It was with that in mind – and some disappointment as an educator existing in the standardized testing era – that he set out to found a program to let kids explore their interests and the historic city they live in.

That's when he founded Boston Explorers – a summer and school vacation program that has grown from 11 kids in the basement of a South End Church in 2011 to more than 275 kids in three two-week camp sessions (plus February and April School Vacation weeks).

"I was going into a third grade classroom carrying a large stack of MCAS tests into the room, and one of the third graders said, 'There's the man that brings the

tests,'" said Litz, a long-time resident of the South End and former public school teacher in Mission Hill. "I was devastated. I had been about radical changes in education and focusing on kids learning, and then that came out. I went home and told my partner Bob about it and it had been the most depressing day I'd ever had. That's when I started to launch Boston Explorers. It wasn't a question of if, but when. I had the luxury of being able to go out and start the camp in 2011. We started with 11 kids in the church basement and we explored the entire city."

In addition to visiting places like the USS Constitution, historic homes like the Nichols House or Otis House, the Public Gardens, rowing on Boston Harbor and figuring out how to travel on the MBTA – the camp also features a time of reflection for kids where they can choose to do things they like, but in a non-electronic environment.

That could mean building something in the wood shop, playing Foosball or bumper pool, jumping rope, building with Legos or quietly reading. The four goals of every day, Litz said, are to explore Boston, have fun, be kind to everyone and make things with their hands.

"We try to do those things every



Boston Explorers is a camp that brings kids front and center with the historic sites in the City that often elude those who live here, and it also allows kids to explore their own interests in a non-electronic environment. The camp has grown from 11 to 275 per year since 2011.

single day," he said. "I want to get kids back to working with their hands, learning like I did from my father, who was a carpenter. I want to share that. Kids don't miss the phones. Some of the feedback I've gotten is that even the older kids don't mind leaving the phone behind because they can really just be a kid again...So much play is scripted by adults like in sports or ballet or music lessons. This is a place kids can go to have full choice over what they want to do. They are guided by adults, but kids have room to choose and

learn." That's where it becomes what Litz and Assistant Director Sakura Tomizawa call a throwback kind of summer camp.

"This is the kind of camp your grandmother would recognize," said Litz. "The kids value the freedom...It's a child-centered program really all about play and exploration. We have turned down grants because we don't want to do education. It's about play, exploring and learning through that. Kids love it and we keep on exploring."

Boston Explorers is tailored to kids age 6-14 in a mixed-age camp that features numerous staff members and older teen trainees. Campers are well-supervised on the trips through Boston, and many of those supervisors are former campers too.

Over time, Boston Explorers has moved its base camp from Union United Church in the South End to the Rafael Hernandez School in Jamaica Plain. From there, they start and end their days, but have excursions that include visiting historic homes, or leveraging partners like Emerson College to get a behind the scenes tour of the Majestic Theatre.

It's literally like a buffet of activities – going so far as to include African drumming with the Hyde Square Task Force partner from Jamaica Plain.

Ironically, many of the kids in the camp have never been on the Freedom Trail or contemplated the statues in the Public Garden. For a lot of kids in Boston, those things can seem like parts of the city that are only for tourists – not for children growing up here.

At Boston Explorers, Litz said, the City is in their hands.

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS AT BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

BHNS has long integrated yoga as part of its program for students age 2-6, integrating a mindfulness component that further deepens the children's awareness and control of their own bodies.

With veteran teacher Tara Rachel Jones, children engage in movement, stretching, breathing, and reflection as they act out stories, discover with their five senses, and learn new poses.



Students of the Beacon Hill Nursery School during yoga class.



BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Summer Program
June 15th thru August 14th

- Ages 2 - 6
- Specialty Camps
- Two onsite playscapes



74 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02114
617.227.0822 • www.bhns.net



2020 Summer in the City



Hill House Summer Camp

By Marianne Salza

Hill House Summer Camp is an opportunity for children to be kids in a fun and safe environment. From skipping through the Alford Spray Deck, playing games on Teddy Ebersol's Red Sox Fields, and creating art at the Mount Vernon Street Firehouse, campers will have an action-filled summer from June 15 through the end of August. Hill House is encouraging families to register soon, as almost all of the weekly sessions are 80 percent full.

"Kids love our summer camp because it is a place for them to hang out with their friends," said Lauren Hoops-Schmieg, Executive Director. "Many of our kids go to different schools. Hill House tries to keep that neighborhood feeling. Kids can hang out with their next door neighbors and be outside."

Day Campers, ages 5 to 12, enjoy arts and crafts at the Firehouse, and playing field games on the Esplanade. Children attend

educational and fun field trips to the New England Aquarium, The Arnold Arboretum, space centers, farms, Canobie Lake Park, and Sky Zone. Several days a week, campers swim at The Clubs at Charles River Park, where they are staffed by American Red Cross-certified lifeguards, as well as Hill House staff; and nearly every day, they frolic through the Esplanade's spray deck.

"The spray deck is a great asset because on a hot day in the city, there is nothing better," Schmieg explained.

Kiddie Campers, ages three to five, explore a variety of art mediums and outdoor athletics on the Esplanade and Boston Common to build confidence and friendships. The New England Aquarium will visit with touch tanks, and farmers introduce children to animals at the Firehouse, where little ones can enjoy puppet and magic shows.

"We try to make a comfortable and safe place for them to explore and build social skills," explained

Hoops-Schmieg. "We have a lot of sensory activities."

When children graduate from Day Camp, they can participate in the Leaders in Training (LIT) program, for teenagers, 13-15-year-old who wish to continue at Hill House, but with a new dimension: being a mentor. This is the third year that Hill House has offered LIT for children to explore beyond their comfort zones, build their strengths, and self-reflect. They learn conflict resolution, how to play with children and have first aid training.

"There aren't a lot of opportunities for 13-15-year-olds. This program challenges them and builds their critical thinking skills," said Hoops-Schmieg. "This is a way that they can explore what their own capabilities are. It's learning by doing and being around their peers."

Teenagers gradually transition from campers to counselors as they take part in leadership workshops, in addition to planning and



PHOTO BY CLAIRE OGDEN

Teenagers in the Leaders in Training program learn to become counselors.

assisting camp activities. The LITs also participate in community service projects throughout the three-week program.

"The most successful Leaders in Training are those willing to be vulnerable and learn about themselves," described Hoops-Schmieg, who spent many summers at an overnight summer camp where her mother served as a director.

Schmieg describes camp as being her first love. From age three-24, Hoops-Schmieg has been a camper, advancing to a counselor-in-training, to a counselor, and then administrative staff member. She was also the former director

of a summer camp in the woods of Rhode Island.

"I am passionate about summer camp because you have the room to physically and mentally explore and become a full person," explained Hoops-Schmieg. "Camp helps you be a kid, develop interests, and gives you freedom of expression."

Register for Hill House Summer Camp and learn more about the weekly sessions by calling (617) 227-5838, visiting www.HillHouseBoston.org or the Firehouse, located at 127 Mount Vernon St.

Register online today for:

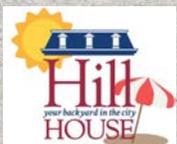


Our camps feature:

- Weekly Day Camp field trips
- Kiddie Kamp onsite adventures
- Expanded enrichment opportunities
- Sailing, Theater, Sports & Film camp options
- Weekly themes
- Extended day options for Day Campers
- Expanded LIT program for 13-15 year olds

Camp is in session:
june 15 - august 27

127 Mount Vernon Street, Boston
617.227.5838 hillhouseboston.org



Southenders against beer and wine for Berkeley St. 7-Eleven

By Lauren Bennett

A well-attended abutters meeting was held on Feb. 19 regarding a proposed beer-and-wine license for the 7-Eleven located at 55 Berkeley St. in the South End.

Attorney Liz Lashway, on behalf of the owners of the franchise, said that this store has been under the applicant's ownership for 14 years, and the goal of the license would be to "offer convenience to the neighborhood," as she said the owners have been asked numerous times by customers where they can buy beer or wine in the area.

The owners intend to have a refrigerated section with four coolers as well as a shelf for the wine and beer. No liquor would be permitted with this license, and beer-and-wine sales would abide by state law and end at 11 p.m.,

though the store itself is open 24 hours.

Lashway said that the owners do have control over what they sell, and would be willing to place a condition on the license to not sell any single-serve bottles or cans of beer or wine. They also said they would be willing to listen to the public about what types of beer and wine they would like to see in the store.

A resident who lives in an apartment directly above the 7-Eleven at 9 Appleton St. said that his infant daughter "sleeps right above the cash register," and has several concerns with this proposal.

"Alcohol sales, for me, prompt illicit behavior," he said. "Smoke comes in our windows all the time from people loitering." He said he believes the addition of alcohol sales to this location will increase

already existing issues with noise and traffic, as well as people hanging around the building. McGee also distributed a survey to his neighbors in the apartment building, and reported that out of 37 units, 23 of them were opposed to this. He did, however, thank the owners for keeping existing issues at bay.

Bruce Percelay of the Revolution Hotel said "7-Eleven can be an uncomfortable place to be at certain hours." He also said that the hotel gets frequent calls about what goes on in the neighborhood.

"I think you're just pouring gasoline on the fire," he said of the proposal. He suggested that maybe something like craft beer or wine that is sealed with a cork might change the dynamic. But having beer and wine at 7-Eleven is "not exactly an enhancement to this

neighborhood," he added.

One resident said he has concerns about people "brown-bagging" and sitting on his stoop, as this is already an issue with food and soft drinks from the store.

Another neighbor agreed that the owners have been responsive to complaints and issues in the past, and though she is neutral to the idea, she respects the fact that many of her neighbors are against it.

One neighbor asked what would happen should the license be granted and the issues of loitering and noise get worse. Mayor's Liaison Faisa Sharif said that while licenses are harder to take away than they are to give, if the owners do not make changes in response to complaints, they will be penalized.

After hearing all of this feedback

from residents, the owners said at the abutters meeting that they still wanted to move forward with a licensing hearing. Sharif said that the biggest factor for the Licensing Commission is determining the public need for a license like this, in addition to public feedback. This matter is not yet on a licensing agenda, but when it is it will be posted on the City of Boston website and the public is welcome to attend the hearing.

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 2

add-on delegate at the caucus or online at www.massdems.org. Questions? Email ward4dems@gmail.com.

•Boston Ward 4 Dems March Meeting: Tuesday, March 17. The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 17, at 6 pm at Union Church (485 Columbus Ave). Featured speakers include Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz on next steps in education equity and Beth Huang of the MA Voter Table on the impor-

tance of the upcoming census.

TREMONT STREET DESIGN

The Boston Transportation Department invites community members to a series of open houses for the Tremont Street Design Project. Stop by at any time to learn about our current design and to review changes to the curb regulations along Tremont Street. Open houses will include:

- Revolution Hotel, 40 Berkeley St., Monday, March 16, 6-8 p.m.
- South End Library, 685 Tremont St., Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SOUTH OF MASS AVE TO BE ADDED TO SWEEPING

The areas south of Massachu-

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 10)



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TREMONT STREET DESIGN PROJECT

Drop by any time to learn more about our design for Tremont Street.

Pase cuando quiera y obtenga más información sobre el diseño de Tremont Street

OPEN HOUSE #1 REUNIÓN PÚBLICA #1

Monday, March 16
Lunes 16 de marzo
6:00PM - 8:00PM
Revolution Hotel
40 Berkeley St
Boston, MA 02116

OPEN HOUSE #2 REUNIÓN PÚBLICA #2

Saturday, March 21
Sábado 21 de marzo
11:00AM - 1:00PM
South End Library
685 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02118

CONTACT • CONTACTO

boston.gov/transportation/tremont
stefanie.seskin+tremont@boston.gov
617-635-4680



Public Meeting

Tufts University Institutional Master Plan

Thursday, March 5
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

230 Fenway
Room B209
Boston, MA 02115

Project Proponent:
Tufts University

Project Description:
Tufts is proposing a renewal of their IMP with an Amendment to add two leased properties that are currently used for the School of the Museum of Fine Arts @ Tufts. These two buildings are 230 Fenway and 160 St Alphonsus Street. These two properties would be added to the IMP that governs the Tufts Health Sciences Campus based in Chinatown.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
4/1/2020

BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ REAL ESTATE

Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com

Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 11

setts Avenue in the South End will now be part of the general rules for South End street sweeping, Public Works's Mike Brohel said on Tuesday.

That means streets below Mass Ave. will start street sweeping now on March 1.

The streets include Northampton Street, Reed, Newcombe, East Lenox, and Lenox.

FAMILY GYM AT BLACKSTONE CC

Boston Centers for Youth & Families' (BCYF) Family Gym Program is coming back for the

spring season and will be available at Blackstone Community Center. Family Gym is a free, weekly play program that promotes physical activity for children ages 3-8 and their families.

Family Gym will run on Saturdays beginning February 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. at BCYF Blackstone Community Center in the South End. Over 3,700 children and caregivers have participated in the program since it began in 2011. More than 360 college students have volunteered for Family Gym contributing more than 9,400 volunteer hours. Children and adults move at their own pace in supervised activities. Colorful play

equipment encourages individual, small-, and large-group play. Families can jump rope, play on an obstacle course, do the limbo, or play parachute games or sports. No pre-registration required however caregivers must participate and remain in the gym with their children at all times.

MUDDY RIVER RESTORATION PUBLIC MEETING

Muddy River Project: Climate Resilience through Green Infrastructure, an important gathering and meeting for the public, will be

held at the Eisner Administration Building Auditorium, Emmanuel College at 400 The Fenway on Thursday Feb. 27, 2020 from 5:30 to 8 p.m..

The interactive program will provide information and updates on the Army Corps' Muddy River Flood Risk Management Project, being financed with federal, state and local funds. The Project has been undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (N.E. District), with the support of the local non-federal sponsors, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, City of Boston and Town of Brookline. A free event, all are invited to learn about and discuss project plans and impact.

SOUTH END DATES

•There will be a Board meeting of the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association will be on March 24, 6:30 p.m., One Chandler Street.

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) will meet next on March 24 in the Boston Medical Center's Menino Pavilion in the conference room, next to the surgical suite waiting room.

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Project Place. Meetings in April and June will likely be held at AC Hotel in Ink Block. The agenda will include development at 478 Harrison Ave., Atlantico Restaurant at 600 Harrison Ave., and a safety update.

•Chester Square neighbors will meet on Weds., March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Hampton House, 155 Northampton St. The agenda includes updates on the Melnea Cass reconstruction and the Urban Renewal meeting on March 18.

•The next Alexandra Ball Neighborhood Association meeting is on March 10, 7 p.m., in the Grant AME Church on Washington Street in the basement.

•The Pilot Block Neighborhood Association will have a Potluck Meeting on Tuesday, March 10. Please RSVP to PBNAINfo@gmail.com for further information. Indicate what dish you will bring to share.

•The BPDA will host a South End Urban Renewal meeting on Weds., March 18, 6 p.m., in the AC Hotel, 225 Albany St. The meeting is intended to gather information and give the community updates on the potential extension, or not, of Urban Renewal in the South End Area.

FENWAY TIMES

•LOVE, FENWAY

There are many great neighborhoods, but there is only one Fenway! Love, Fenway, a benefit to support the Fenway Community Center will take place on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. Take a break from the frigid Boston winter and join your neighbors, colleagues, and friends for a tropical celebration of Fenway Community Center at Love, Fenway!

Join us for a night filled with:
Live music
Open bar (beer & wine)
Hors d'oeuvres
Raffle/silent auction
And more!

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 13)

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 3/9/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Richard Gardner unit #246; Ivan Nevado unit #248; Kathryn Russell unit #421; Berceste Dindar unit #454; Benjamin Jackson unit #PARK07. 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.
2/20/20, 2/27/20
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-treasures.com on 3/9/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Amanda Demmons unit

#3029; Jaycee Bressette unit #3115; Tammy Turner unit #3232; George Morton unit #3255; Alan R Mark unit #4073; Barry Twomey unit #4306. 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.
2/20/20, 2/27/20
BS

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
NATIONAL CENTER OF AFRO-AMERICAN ARTISTS MUSEUM EXTERIOR RESTORATION
The National Center of Afro-American Artists, the Awarding Authority, requests bids for selective roof replacement and masonry repairs at their

museum at Abbotsford Mansion, 300 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury, 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 Ac-

tion 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, March 20, 2020 to be eligible for consideration. A pre-bid conference will be held at Abbotsford Mansion, 300 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

2/27/20
BS

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

SOUTH END 15TH ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association will hold its 15th Annual Ellis Progressive Dinner on Monday, March 23. It's a marvelous way to meet new neighbors and sample gourmet offerings from our neighborhood restaurants—all at a very reasonable price. The evening starts at Beehive at 5:30 p.m. for a welcome reception—wine, Hors d'Oeuvres, Gemütlichkeit and instructions. Participants will enjoy three additional restaurants, two assigned on a random basis from an "electronic hat," so participants will spend the evening with neighbors they may not have had a chance to meet and restaurants that you may not have visited. The Grand Finale will be at Barcelona with the full group. The restaurants participating are Aquitaine, Banyan, Beehive, Barcelona, Black Lamb, Boston Chops, Burro Bar, Coppa, Elephant Walk, Franklin Café, Frenchie and Metropolis. A glass of wine is offered with the course at each venue. The popular, optional night cap at the Beehive will be held again for intrepid South End jazz fans. Space is limited, so reserve now on the Ellis website <http://www.ellisneighborhood.org/> or by sending your check for \$85 (\$95 for non-ENA guests) by March 19. Payable to: "Ellis NA". Send to: Ellis NA, attention Bill Gregor, 30 Union Park St., Unit 203, Boston, MA, 02118. Please include the name(s) of those who will be attending, whether they would like to dine together and if walking only short distances is highly desirable. Questions? Contact Bill Gregor elliswine@mindspring.com or Betsy Hall at Betsy02116@comcast.net.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY FS 1515 NT	H&J RT	2 Commonwealth Ave #14F	\$7,500,000
BEACON HILL 89 Beacon Street RT Polaris 2000 LLC Osullivan, Brian Kaplan, Lee M	89 Beacon Street LLC Domolky, George C Grealish, Coleman Barbara S Rappaport RET	89 Beacon St 96 Beacon St #2 21 Temple St #2 19 W Cedar St #6	\$15,750,000 \$5,200,000 \$550,000 \$655,000
SOUTH END/BAY VILLAGE/KENMORE Cohen, David T Mahesh C Karamchandani 245a West Canton St RT Haase, Julie M Highline 52 Dwight LLC 245a West Canton St RT 343 L&S Realty LLC	27 Isabella LLC Holman, Amy L Robin C Fleishman T Klingemann, Hans Furlong, James P Robin C Fleishman T General Nutrition Corp	27 Isabella St #3 110 Stuart St #17F 245 W Canton St #2 301-319 Columbus Ave #804 52 Dwight St 245 W Canton St #2 343 Washington St #102A	\$3,325,000 \$1,100,000 \$2,125,000 \$2,690,000 \$2,962,000 \$2,125,000 \$2,750,000



The existing Park Gallery buildings on Park Driver have been purchased for \$28.5 million in a partnership between The Davis Companies and The Copley Group.

The Davis Companies and The Copley Group partner to acquire Fenway's Park Gallery Apartments

A joint venture of The Davis Companies (TDC) and The Copley Group last week announced its \$28.5 million acquisition of the Park Gallery apartments in the Fenway.

Boston Realty Advisors brokered the sale of the multifamily portfolio, a collection of 55 market-rate apartments in two adjacent buildings located at 77-81 Park Drive in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. Comprising a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments which are 100 percent occupied. The property is immediately adjacent to the Back Bay Fens and directly across from the Museum of Fine Arts. TDC partnered in the acquisition with The Copley Group, which will also be responsible for property management as well as construction management for planned upgrades and renovations to the property.

"Park Gallery consists of two institutional-quality assets that offer size and scale in an unparalleled urban location," said Jason S. Weissman, founder and CEO of Boston Realty Advisors. "The Davis Companies and The Copley Group are the ideal owners to preserve the authenticity of these

properties, coupled with the experience to add value to each building and the growing Fenway community."

Weissman was joined by an exclusive team of specialists at Boston Realty Advisors including Senior Partner Nicholas M. Herz and Associate Directors Kevin R. Benzinger and Andrew B. Herald.

"We are delighted to be acquiring such an outstanding property as the Park Gallery in the vibrant and desirable Fenway neighborhood, within the epicenter of a robust employment-driven market and to continue our successful Boston urban infill residential value add program, in collaboration with our friends at The Copley Group," said Jerry Murphy, Senior Vice President of Investments for TDC. "We look forward to working with The Copley Group to improve the property and its management to modernize and enhance the value of the property."

Planned improvements will include interior work to kitchens, bathrooms and common areas, as well as upgrades to utilities and the exterior of the building, such as windows and landscaping.

"It doubles our pleasure to add

another property to our significant presence in the Fenway area and to be able to do so in partnership with The Davis Companies," said Norman Levenson, president and founder of The Copley Group. "We are confident that the successes we have already experienced working with The Davis Companies in adding value to multi-family assets will continue with the Park Gallery. Our combined efforts will further improve what we believe is already one of the best neighborhoods in Boston to live in."

The new owners described the Park Gallery as being situated in one of the most dynamic medical and academic communities in the world.

The property is just a half-mile from the Longwood Medical Area, home to Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital. Additionally, the Park Gallery is bordered by an academic institutions like Northeastern University, Boston University, Berklee College of Music, The New England Conservatory of Music and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

BPS issues RFP on new testing company for exam school entrance

By Seth Daniel

In the wake of a scandal this month involving the maker of the ISEE Exam School test and the Boston Public Schools, Supt. Brenda Cassellius reported late last week they have begun to seek new vendors for the exam school test – an annual ball of stress for parents of children headed to 7th or 9th grades next year.

The Boston Public Schools requires students to take an exam to enter either Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy or John D. O'Bryan School of Math and Science. The test is taken in the previous fall for entrance into either 7th grade or 9th grade, and many parents spend considerable amounts of money preparing their kids with tutoring for the test months in advance.

That test has been the ISEE test that is put out by ERB Company for many years, but after much internal – and now public – controversy, that test may not be what students take next fall.

"Boston Public Schools (BPS) is committed to, and actively working to expand equitable access to our exam schools," said Cassellius. "Almost immediately upon my arrival in Boston, it was brought to my attention that there were concerns that the ISEE test was potentially creating barriers for some students seeking admission to BPS' exam schools, particularly underrepresented students.

"As I've previously stated, often and publicly, this is the final year of the BPS contract with ERB," she continued. "As is the case when any contract expires, we will release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) which we expect to issue within the next week. That RFP is being written in a way that specifically addresses some of our concerns, including that it be aligned to the Massachusetts state standards and that it is reviewed and validated for bias."

On Tuesday of last week, BPS reported they had issued an RFP for a new test provider. Cassellius said on Tuesday the goal is to pick an entrance exam aligned with Massachusetts curriculum

standards, one that is bias-free and measures student readiness for the rigors of an exam high school. She also said it was the next step forward in furthering equitable access to exam schools for black and Latinx students, which she said have been underrepresented historically in the three exam schools.

"Creating more equitable opportunities for students to get a great education is one of our most important priorities," said Cassellius. "We believe the new RFP will help level the playing field for students seeking admission to our exam schools by offering a test that actually assesses student's knowledge of content they're taught in class and has been rigorously reviewed to ensure it is free of bias. This is a good next step in our efforts to make sure our exam school student body is representative of all the students BPS serves."

Added Mayor Martin Walsh, "It's important that any student who wishes to attend one of Boston's exam schools is well-prepared and has an equitable pathway to do so. We have made significant progress in recent years to expand access to the test for exam schools, and this RFP is another opportunity for BPS to continue that important work."

To develop the RFP, BPS participated in an extensive process that included input and recommendations from an internal working group, as well as community feedback, with the goal of ensuring the RFP results in an assessment that tests students on material they have learned in school. BPS is asking all interested vendors that submit a proposal to demonstrate their assessment is aligned to Massachusetts state learning standards and is bias-free.

BPS aims to award the new contract to a vendor in June 2020.

They also said that those already in test prep programs should speak with the provider to ensure the materials are appropriate for the student's grade and aligned to Massachusetts state curriculum standards. Cassellius said the best test prep is daily attendance in school and learning grade-level reading and math lessons.

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 12

Additionally, we will present the 2020 Community Spirit Award to Brenda Clark, as well as honor the late Stephen Sorkin. Visit fenway-communitycenter.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

•The Rink at 401 Park is open and operating (weather dependent). The rink is open seven

days a week. Monday-Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$6 for college students, seniors and kids under 12. Skate rentals are \$6.

•Construction Update: MGM Music Hall at Fenway

Concrete pouring began last week at 189 Ipswich, with more

internal and some external demolition taking place at Ipswich and Lansdowne streets. The contractor, Gilbane, has set up a time-lapse camera near the Music Hall site, so by the end of the project, we should be getting some great images of the work. As always, please keep an eye out for any new safety signage when walking or driving

around the construction sites.

2020 Fenway Concerts Announced To Date

*June 21, : James Taylor with Brandi Carlile and Shawn Colvin

*June 24, : Maroon 5 with Leon Bridges and Meghan Trainor

*July 25, : Guns N' Roses

*Aug. 7 and 8, : Dead & Company

*Aug. 25, : Motley Crue & Def

Leppard with Poison and Joan Jett & the Blackhearts

*Aug. 27, : Green Day with Fall

Out Boy and Weezer

*Aug. 28, : Billy Joel

D - 4 POLICE NEWS

NO FREE LUNCH

On Monday, Feb. 17, at approximately 4:30 p.m., the victim of an attempted armed robbery flagged down an officer in the area of 64 West Rutland Square.

The victim, who works as a driver for Domino's Pizza, said he was making a delivery to the aforementioned address when two unknown male suspects, both about 18 years old, approached

him.

When one suspect demanded the driver hand over the pizza, the driver responded he needed to be paid for it first. The second suspect then lifted his jacket and displayed what appeared to be a firearm.

The would-be victim then quickly got back in his vehicle and accelerated down the street in reverse to flee the suspects. The empty-handed suspects then took

off running down West Rutland Square through Sparrow Park in the direction of Huntington Avenue.

Police searched the area for the suspects to no avail.

A COSTLY HABIT

On Saturday, Feb. 22, at about 1 p.m., a woman came to the District 4 police station to report she was the victim of a larceny.

The woman said she met an unknown man at the Red Lantern, a restaurant and bar located at 39 Stanhope St., and at around 1:30 a.m., they both stepped outside so she could smoke a cigarette.

The victim said she and the man were outside talking for about 30 minutes when an unknown male suspect approached them and asked her for \$1.

The victim then took out her wallet to hand the suspect a \$1

bill when he snatched the wallet from her hand and ran away in an unknown direction.

At this time, the victim reported the incident to a security guard at the front door, who responded that she should chase after the suspect.

The victim told the security guard she wasn't going to chase him and instead caught an Uber home.

The victim told police she subsequently cancelled all her credit cards.

For the Record

From the Feb. 25 License Board meeting, City Hall:

•DEB Group, LLC D/B/A: El Jefe's Taqueria, 80 BOYLSTON St., Back Bay. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - 1,082 Sq. Ft kitchen, serving line and dining room, two unisex bathroom, 172 sq. ft. storage room with office and walk in. Manager: John Schall. Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

•5517 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE 461 BOSTON, LLC D/B/A: AKELIUS; 461 MASSACHUSETTS Ave., South End. Has applied for a Lodging House License to be exercised on the above - Five story building with basement. There are a total of 17 rooms. There are two rooms in the basement and three rooms on floors 1-5. Manager: Raquel Thompson.

•VERDI, LLC D/B/A: 5 NAPKIN BURGER, 105 HUNTINGTON Ave., Back Bay. Holder of a Common Victualler 7-Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above - To: Third Door Hospitality, LLC 100 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110. Restaurant Space: In one large room on ground floor with entrance on Congress Street, with dining area and bar, kitchen and restrooms (4,200 sf) as well as upper mezzanine space with second bar and dining area, additional restrooms, private dining area and access elevator (2,570 sf). Basement for storage (1,361 sf). Seasonal (April October) outdoor patio along Congress Street on private property. Atrium Space: 1. In addition to the Restaurant Space, in a certain delineated portion of the building's atrium space along Congress Street known as "Kiosk Premise" on the floor plan, for additional restaurant space and auxiliary

service bar during normal hours of operation of the restaurant. 2. During special events, the atrium space shall expand to cover the entirety of the building's atrium space as shown on floor plan known as "Atrium Premise" excepting only that certain area in the middle of the atrium as shown on the Atrium Premise plan comprised of existing licensed area for a separate common victualler license. Mevzad Durakovic, Manager. 2 a.m. Closing Hour.

•AREA FOUR CENTRAL OPERATING, LLC D/B/A: A4; 275 ALBANY St., South End. Holder of a Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above - To: Pressed Huntington Cafe, LLC d/b/a Pressed 105 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02199. In one large room on ground floor with seating areas and bar, kitchen, storage space and restroom, additional room in rear for additional seating, as well as office and additional storage space, with seasonal (April November) outdoor patio on private property 10 p.m. Closing Hour along Huntington Avenue. Saumil Patel, Manager. 2 a.m. Closing Hour.

From the Feb. 27 Public Improvement Commission meeting, City Hall Rm. 801, 10 a.m.:

•On a petition by ExteNet Systems Inc. for a Grant of Location with lead company status and no participants to install new telecommunication conduit with City shadow within the following public ways in Boston Proper: Berkeley Street - at Commonwealth Avenue; Clarendon Street - at Commonwealth Avenue; Dartmouth Street - at Commonwealth Avenue; Fairfield Street - at Commonwealth Avenue; Hereford Street - at Commonwealth Avenue.

•East Canton Street, East Dedham Street; Boston Proper - Pedestrian Easements, Specific Repairs - On a set of petitions by MEPT Harrison/Albany Block Owner LLC

From the Feb. 27, 10 a.m., COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING: Confirmations of appointments or re-appointments to the Boston Landmarks Commission. Appointments include John Freeman, Susan Goganian, Joseph Castro, Bradford Walker, and Christopher Hart.

From the Feb. 27, 10:30 a.m., COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING: A hearing regarding various appointments or re-appointments to the Back Bay Architectural Commission. Appointments include Zsuzsanna Gaspar, Meredith Christensen, Kathleen Connor, John Christiansen, Jerome CooperKing, James Berkman, and Ethel Maleod.

From the March 3 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall 809a, 10 a.m.:

•Baseball Tavern, Inc., doing business as: Baseball Tavern; 1270 Boylston St. Fenway. Date: 11/17/2019: Assault and battery staff on patron.

•Baseball Tavern, Inc., doing business as: Baseball Tavern; 1270 Boylston St.,

Fenway. Date: 11/16/2019: Indecent assault and battery staff on patron.

•Bhc Corporation General Partner, doing business as: Club Café; 209 Columbus Ave., Back Bay. Date: 12/07/2019: Overserved patron.

•Jaho Industries, LLC, doing business as: Jaho Coffee; 661 665 Washington St., South End. Date: 10/30/2019: Blocked Fire Exit (barrels of coffee). Premise operating recorded music without Entertainment License.

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

DESIGN REVIEW

•23 Upton St. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck and head house.

•87 Worcester St.: Proposed Work: At the front façade parlor level replace two (2) historic two-over-two, double-hung, curved sash windows.

•156 Worcester St. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck with spiral staircase.

•565 Tremont St. Proposed Work: At the front façade storefront install a wall sign and new vinyl signage.

•51 Rutland Sq. Proposed Work: Install a railing at the front façade mansard level (which was modified prior to designation).

•64 West Rutland Sq. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck, modify the mansard, and construct a rear addition through the cornice line.

•34 Clarendon St. Proposed Work: At the front façade parlor through mansard levels, replace seven (7) six-over-six, double-hung wood windows in kind.

From the March 5 Back Bay Tree Removal hearing, 1010 Mass. Ave. 3rd floor, 10:40 a.m.:

The request is for the removal of two honey locust trees measuring 7 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) at 256-260 Newbury St. due to excavation for construction of a new terrace. The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden (or designee) in the 3rd floor Conference Room of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Roxbury.

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 "Back Bay Tree Hearing" in the subject line.

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

From the March 5 South End Tree Removal hearing, 1010 Mass Ave. 3rd Floor, 11:20 a.m.:

Request to remove nine public shade trees. The request is for the removal of four honey locust trees measuring 2 and 3 inches dbh (diameter at breast height), three oak trees measuring 2 and 3 inches dbh, one zelkova tree measuring 2 inches dbh, and one elm tree measuring 4 inches dbh due to redevelopment of the Boston Flower Exchange property at 540 Albany St. in the South End. The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden (or designee) in the 3rd floor Conference Room of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Roxbury. 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.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

BOSTON DEMS CANVASS AHEAD SUPER TUESDAY

Photos by Keiko Hiromi



Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu joined residents of the South End in launching the City-wide canvassing shift for Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren before Super Tuesday on Feb. 22. Many volunteers joined the canvass in the South End on what was a sunny winter day. Super Tuesday on March 3 will give Massachusetts' voters an opportunity to choose their candidate of their preference by party, with most excited to weigh in on the slate of Democratic candidates. Sen. Warren – the lone candidate left from Massachusetts – is in a neck-and-neck fight with Bernie Sanders to win her home state.



Volunteers for the Warren Campaign from the South End were ready to canvass the neighborhood from their headquarters on Mass. Ave.



Elliot Richardson, of the Warren campaign, briefing with the volunteers before the canvassing event.



Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu with her family, Conor Pewarski, Blaise and Cass ready to hit the campaign trail for Sen. Warren.

Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu rallied the volunteers for the event. Wu has been out of state at times on the campaign trail for Sen. Warren during the run up to the Primary elections.



Shown above: Dorothy Cronin (L) and Patrick Egan with Louisa Cronin Egan (4 months) canvassing on Tremont Street for Senator Warren.



Shown left: Addie and Annie Pates canvassing the South End on a very seasonable February day.

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