

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Key Contributor South End Community Health Center brings familiarity and trust to vaccination efforts

By Seth Daniel

As Beverly Rogers sat in the chair at the South End Community Health Center (SECHC) on Monday preparing to get the Modera COVID-19 vaccination, it wasn't a snap decision that brought her out, but rather a thoughtful journey about history, science, vaccines, family and community.

Rogers, who is Cape Verdean, said she wasn't one that immediately jumped out of the chair and ran down to get vaccinated. For her, like a lot of people of color, it took a journey to get to the exam room.

"I wasn't so sure at first, but

then I began to think about it and now I think it's a blessing we have this vaccine," she said. "I remember when I was a kid and they came out with the polio vaccine. We went in there really scared, but it was good."

Rogers heard the opinions of friends in her building, of her eye doctor that got the vaccine, her sister, brother-in-law and a niece. She even did a little extensive research on the awful medical experiments done at Tuskegee and learned it was blood work and not vaccines that were part of that awful chapter in medical history.

(SECHC, Pg. 5)

An Historic Victory Former pulse of the Black community making a comeback

By Seth Daniel

It has been a stop on the Underground Railroad, the home of a quirky wood importer, the hub of Boston's Black community and even the home of Coretta Scott King when she attended college.

The grand League of Women for Community Service building at 558 Mass Avenue has been many things, but what it hasn't been lately is relevant and/or occupied.

However, a group of new and old members of the League have breathed new life into the organizations, and they told the Chester Square Neighbors last week they plan to do what they can to rehabilitate the historic property and put it back to a good, community use.

Adrienne Benton and Jacquelyn Arrington, both of the League, said they have been operating out of 18 Holyoke St.

in the South End, but would like to do preservation work on their historic headquarters and make it a hub for Black history – perhaps even a type of museum and function facility for the League.

"One thing we've been doing in conjunction with the work to

(LEAGUE OF WOMEN, Pg. 6)



The front of the historic League of Women for Community Service building at 558 Mass Avenue in more glorious years.



The Chapel Street Footbridge, Riverway lit up green as part of the 'Lights in the Necklace' series.

"Lights in the Necklace" begins this Saturday on select Emerald Necklace bridges

Staff Report

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy offers visitors to the Emerald Necklace parks another wonderful reason to visit this winter with "Lights in the Necklace." From February 13 through March 13, 2021, select bridges in the Emerald Necklace will

be awash with an emerald glow – thanks to battery-powered LED lights. "Lights in the Necklace" will celebrate the power of Boston and Brookline's urban parks to bring visitors together, inspire and light the way in challenging times. Free and open to the public, enjoy the lighting on a series of iconic Emerald Neck-

lace bridges, daily from dusk to 9pm.

The Emerald Necklace's 1,100 acres are home to more than 30 bridges. Connecting neighbors and bridging communities is what the Necklace was designed to do nearly 150 years ago by

(EMERALD NECKLACE, Pg. 3)

City, elected officials respond to findings from study that reportedly shows disparity in procurement practices

By Dan Murphy

While some elected officials are already sounding the alarm over a soon-to-be-released study that reportedly reveals a pattern of disparity in awarding municipal contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses during the first term of Mayor Martin Walsh's Administration, the city has responded that it's instead using the findings as a "tool" to help reverse the trend, and to reform its procurement

practices accordingly.

Last week, The Boston Globe reported on findings from the 703-page study that analyzed 47,801 city contracts for construction, as well as professional goods and services, from 2014 to 2019, and which determined that only 11 percent of these contracts were awarded to minority- and women-owned businesses while only 1.2 percent went to Black- and Latinx-owned businesses. (WGBH, which also received portions of the study prior to its

release, reported on its findings last week as well.)

For the study - the first of its kind in 18 years – the city retained BBC Research & Consulting of Denver, Colo., to determine apparent underutilization of qualified minority and women-owned enterprises (M/WBEs) as contractors and subcontractors across all of its departments. The study also includes an analysis that reviewed the

(DISPARITY, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

WINTRY BLAST IS NOT SO HARD TO TAKE

The polar vortex once again has spun out of control, as it has done often in recent years. Instead of remaining in a tightly-wrapped circular motion around the Arctic, the vortex has been weakened by record-high temperatures in the Arctic in recent years because of climate change, thereby loosening the vortex's centrifugal force and allowing waves of cold air to drift from the Arctic to the continental United States.

We have to admit however, that the cold air has been refreshing. We're not suggesting that we want the sort of cold that is gripping the midwest with below-zero temperatures and -50 wind chills, but what is winter without a little spell of cold weather?

We think all would agree that Sunday's snowstorm, with those huge flakes of snow floating down upon us, was wondrous. Catching them in your mouth (as we did while out for a run before the Super Bowl) was something to be appreciated by all of the senses.

Sure, milder winters are easy on our heating bills and we don't have to worry about freezing pipes, slippery roads, and all of the other difficulties that come with winter weather.

But it is precisely the harshness of winter that makes us appreciate summer all the more. It won't be long before the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here and these days of sub-freezing weather will barely be a memory.

TB SETTLED THE GOAT QUESTION

Yes Pats' fans, it was bittersweet to watch the duo of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl championship.

On the other hand, no Pats' fan should be deluded into thinking that if the Pats' management had kept #12, New England fans would be celebrating with a victory parade this week.

Tampa Bay started the season with far more talent on its offense than the Patriots and then went out and added Rob Gronkowski, Leonard Fournette, and Antonio Brown -- all of whom not so coincidentally scored the Tampa Bay touchdowns.

But analysis aside, the game captured the imagination of fans -- and even non-fans -- across the country because of the matchup between the greatest QB of all time, now at the age of 43, vs. the up-and-comer, 25 year-old Patrick Mahomes, from Kansas City.

In addition, en route to the big game, Brady had vanquished two other GOAT wannabes, Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers, while another GOAT pretender, Ben Roethlisberger over in the AFC, had fizzled out.

The Brady-Mahomes matchup was a classic, made-for-TV, duel-for-the-ages.

But in the end, it was #12 who stood tall and confident in the pocket, firing lasers to his receivers, while Mahomes was scrambling around haphazardly and making costly mistakes.

New England fans were fortunate to have had the joy of watching Tom Brady perform his magic for 19 seasons, including six championships in nine Super Bowl appearances.

It was a run of excellence that will not be repeated, either here or anywhere else -- because there is only one GOAT.

CORRECTION: Due to reporting errors in Dan Murphy's story, "Equity applicant proposes retail cannabis store for 331 Newbury St.," which was published on Page 8 of the Feb. 4 edition, Brian Keith, one of Rooted in Roxbury's owners, was misidentified, while the application for its Nubian Square location was unanimously approved by the Boston Cannabis Board in November, but has yet to go before the state's Cannabis Control Commission; and all deliveries to the proposed Back Bay store would be made on Newbury Street in an effort to mitigate the impact on residential neighbors sharing the alley.

The applicant's next step in the process is a public hearing sponsored by the Mayor's Office, after which they would go before the Boston Cannabis Board.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

YW Boston Building could provide housing for Back Bay's homeless, pending extensive background check

By Dan Murphy

With the proposed redevelopment of the building now owned by YW Boston (formerly YWCA Boston) at the corner of Clarendon and Stuart streets, some people living on the streets of Back Bay today could likely end up in one of 111 units intended specifically for people now experiencing homelessness, but first, according to members of the project's development team, they would have to pass an extensive background check.

"Our hope is that people who are homeless living in Back Bay now will be candidates to move into this building," said Jan Griffin, vice president of housing development for the Pine Street Inn, on Tuesday, Feb. 9, during the second public meeting on the proposal sponsored by the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

The Pine Street Inn, the leading provider of shelter and other services to the homeless in New England, is partnering with real estate developer Beacon Communities to convert 50,000 square feet of space now comprising the existing 66-room Hotel 140, as well as 118 apartments, into 210 affordable-rate rental units, with priority for 111 of them given to homeless individuals. The site's three largest existing commercial-tenants, the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, a nonprof-

it performing arts center; the Snowden International School; and YW Boston itself, would remain as part of the redevelopment plan, while the Pine Street Inn and on-site management would also have offices in the building. No exterior changes are planned for the historic 13-story building, and construction on the project is expected to commence this August, and to take around 20 months to complete.

All prospective tenants would be referred to management by the Boston Housing Authority, said Ben Phillips of Beacon Communities, and undergo an extensive background checks by both the BHA and management, which would automatically exclude Level 3 sex offenders and "lifetime registrants" from eligibility for any of the units.

"We drew that as a hardline, but those aren't the only reasons why we can deny access to housing," said Phillips, who added that the criminal background,

citizenship status and a past pattern of behavior that could adversely impact other tenants could also be grounds for refusal of housing.

Furthermore, Phillips said, "The BHA takes a hardline on drug offenses and previous evictions."

Homeless individuals referred by the Pine Street Inn would occupy the fourth through eight-floors of the redeveloped building, which would provide them with immediate access to their on-site case managers, said Darcy Jameson, vice president of Beacon Communities, while the upper floors would be home to "conventional apartments." (Living units designated for homeless individuals, unlike those on the upper floors, would also be equipped with various additional features.)

The management team is also

(YW BOSTON, Pg. 3)

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YW BOSTON (from pg. 2)

now interviewing the building's existing tenants, said Jameson, to find a new unit for them in the redeveloped building if they opt to stay, or to find them housing elsewhere if they choose to leave instead.

Longwood Security, which has been contracted by the management team, will provide two security guards, who will be on the premises around the clock, said Jameson, and who are already "patrolling" the neighborhood in effort to get to know

the area better.

Despite concerns raised over potentially dangerous tenants moving into the building, Nancy Armstrong, director of operations for the Women's Lunch Place, commented that she believes the building's security and screening process would instead make the neighborhood a safer place.

"I think it's wonderful project," Armstrong said, "and this type of affordable housing is sorely needed."

DISPARITY (from pg. 1)

legal requirements necessary to successfully implement a minority- and woman-owned business program, while the Mayor's Office of Economic Development has committed to reallocating \$2 million, or 20 percent of the Boston Police Department's overtime budget, to create a new Supplier Diversity Program. This program would oversee the implementation of any accepted recommendations and new initiatives launched in response to findings from the report.

According to a statement from Nick Martin, the city's Chief Communications Officer: "Our plan in launching the first disparity study in 18 years has always been to use the results as a tool to inform meaningful reform and policy changes that will strengthen the City's equitable procurement practices and level the playing field to ensure equal access to opportunities. Since the study was first launched in 2018, the Walsh Administration has worked diligently to break down barriers where they exist, and create pathways to ensure the full participation of minority and women-owned businesses in city contracting. While the results of this study are not surprising, they reaffirm our belief that more work needs to be done to institutionalize these practices into the everyday business of city government, and reaffirm our commitment to getting the work done. We look forward to putting forth actionable items in the coming days on how we will get to the root of the issues around disparities in city contracting."

Martin also said that the still-unreleased report had been "leaked" to the Globe and WBGH last week by a third party, and that the city is now "working to finalize the study and a set of action items in response to the findings."

Meanwhile, City Councilor and Boston Mayoral Candidate Andrea Campbell said in a statement earlier this week, "To close the profound racial wealth gap and eradicate inequities that make Boston one of the most unequal cities in the country, the City of Boston must lead by example in how we do business. It is a failure of this Administration to not have made more progress toward equity in City contracts when we've been talking about it for years."

Councilor Campbell also released an ambitious economic plan last week that, she wrote, "commits to bold but achievable goals of 7 percent, 14 percent and 20 percent WMBE contracts over the next three years."

Of the plan, Councilor Campbell wrote, "We can do this by intentionally investing in businesses owned by people of color and women, unbundling large contracts so smaller businesses can apply, streamlining the procurement process to make it easier for [M/WBEs] to submit bids, and increasing the capacity of City personnel to help small businesses navigate the process."

City Councilor Michele Wu, also in the race to succeed Walsh as Mayor of Boston, co-sponsored a 2017 ordinance that mandates the city to collect more data on its procurement contracts and told the Globe: "We should never use lack of capacity as an excuse as to why we're not building wealth in communities of color in Boston. The numbers clearly back up we are well below where we could be."

Walsh, who has served as Mayor of Boston since 2014, could reportedly leave office by the end of the month when he is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as President Joe Biden's incoming labor secretary.

EMERALD NECKLACE (from pg. 1)

famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. This winter, the Emerald Necklace and its shared green spaces continue to be some of the primary places of community connection. Not only will the emerald-uplit bridges offer fantastic picture taking moments, it will bring some fun and light to people as they explore the Emerald Necklace while commuting, crossing the parks on daily errands, or taking a stroll or run through the parks in the evening. "Our winters are already long, and this winter especially we need light, hope and safe opportunities and destinations to continue to enjoy the outdoors with limited daylight,"

said Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek. "We hope this limited-time installation will do just that - give folks an excuse and a reason for an enjoyable outing after hours." Information about each bridge's history and significance in the Emerald Necklace will be available on the Conservancy's website.

Website:

www.emeraldnecklace.org/necklancelights

Illuminated bridges - subject to change - check website for the most up-to-date details:

- Boylston Street Bridge in the Fens

- Liff Park Bridges in the Fens
- Chapel Street Bridge in Riverway
- Bridle Footbridge in Riverway
- Longwood Avenue Bridge in Riverway
- Leverett Pond Footbridge in Olmsted Park
- Ellicott Arch in Franklin Park

Share your #NecklaceLights moment by using the hashtag on social media:

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Kim Janey announces co-chairs of Mayoral Transition Committee

Staff Report

Boston City Council President Kim Janey has announced the co-chairs of her Mayoral Transition Committee, a diverse set of dedicated community leaders from government, business, advocacy, medicine and other sectors who will provide valuable expertise and insight for the forthcoming Janey mayoral administration.

The committee's co-chairs will support incoming Mayor Janey as she works to move the City forward in the crucial weeks and months to come. Janey will join the Honorary Co-Chairs of the Transition Committee — Mayor Yvonne Spencer of Framingham and Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui of Cambridge — as the only women of color serving as mayors in Massachusetts.

The Co-Chairs of the Transition Committee are:

- Honorary Co-Chairs
- Hon. Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor of Cambridge
- Hon. Yvonne Spicer, Mayor of Framingham
- Co-Chairs
- Linda Dorcena Forry, Vice



Boston City Council President and incoming Mayor Kim Janey.

President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community at Suffolk Construction

- Betty Francisco, General Counsel at Compass Working Capital and Co-Founder of Amplify Latinx

- Steve Grossman, CEO of Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

- Quincy Miller, Vice Chair and President of Eastern Bank

- Kate Walsh, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System

“These leaders were selected due to their deep devotion to Boston, their commitment to its recovery from ongoing and overlapping crises, and their

belief in a more equitable city for our underserved communities,” Council President Janey said. “I am so honored to have their expertise as I assume mayoral office and work to overcome the unprecedented challenges we face.”

Additional community leaders will lead sub-committees focused on topics such as COVID Response and Public Health; Small Business and Economic Development; Education; Housing, Planning and Development; and Safety, Healing and Justice, with a full list announced in the coming days.

“I am honored to be part of this important process during such a critical time for our City and for the residents of Boston,” said Kate Walsh, president and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System. “In order to overcome the challenges we face as we rebound from the COVID pandemic and work to address racial and social inequities within our City, there must be continued collaboration and engagement among city leadership with the people of Boston, and I look forward to being part of this effort.”

IT'S A SNOW DAY!



PHOTO BY KATHRYN WILLMORE

Though some would say the hill is not as steep as it used to be, and others would say it's just right, these kids simply enjoyed having fun in the snow at Titus Sparrow Park on Tuesday during the afternoon snow event. A large storm over the weekend gave way to a much easier snow event on Tuesday, but forecasts seem to be predicting a blockbuster for the weekend...but who knows. Certainly these kids won't mind.

Ward 4 Dems to establish new scholarship for ninth- and 10th-graders

By Seth Daniel

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee has moved to establish a scholarship for students living within their boundaries or attending a school in the boundaries.

Ryan Hatcher said the Ward 4 Dems recently came up with the idea and have now launched the first annual call for entries, which includes a response to one of two provided questions.

“One of our goals as a committee is broad community involvement,” said Hatcher. “We hope this scholarship will not only help students who live in or go to school in the Ward, but will also further strengthen the committee’s connection to the Ward’s youth and families for years to come.”

The scholarship is for 9th

and 10th graders who live in the Ward 4 Dems boundaries, which includes parts of Back Bay, Fenway and the South End. Students in grades 9 and 10 can also attend a school within the boundaries, and those schools would include Boston Latin School, McKinley South end Academy and the Winsor School.

Students will submit short written responses to two essay questions in the language of their choice; the essays will be judged for depth and originality. The deadline to submit is March 31. The Ward 4 Democrats will honor two students with awards of \$250 each at its summer community event in August. Students can apply at: bit.ly/Ward4Scholarship. Questions about the program can be directed to: scholarship@bostonward4dems.org.



Virtual Community Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, March 1

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3ibT8Nz

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 848 8944

Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

Upcoming meetings/Próximas reuniones/Dat pwochen rankont yo se:

March/Marzo/ Mas 1

April/Abril/Avril 5

May/Mayo/ Me 3

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.

Si w bezwen sêvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

Contact:

Kelly Sherman
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
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Sorry Algon-, now we just have the 'Quin House

By Seth Daniel

John Forrester Andrew must be turning over in his Mausoleum.

One of the most traditional of traditional places – the Back Bay's Algonquin Club – has done the ultimate 21st Century pivot, introduced a more trendy name.

The circa 1880s Gilded Age social club that counts Forrester Andrew, it's first president, and a real U.S. President, Calvin Coolidge, as members has petitioned the License Board to change its name from the tried and true Algonquin Club to the 'Quin House.

A hearing last week on the matter went before the Board and it was taken under advisement, but will likely pass muster

in good time.

"We are seeking a change of name from the Algonquin Club to the 'Quin House," said Attorney Patricia Malone.

The property at 217 Commonwealth Ave. changed hands two years ago when Sandra Edgerley of Hexagon Properties bought the old clubhouse and sought to reimagine it into the 21st Century as a private social club for those a little more hip than the old Algonquin name might suggest.

Renovations have been ongoing for the past two years, and Attorney Malone said they were putting up their liquor license as collateral to Needham Bank for the construction loan.

"We believe it will be opening at the beginning of June," she

said. "The pandemic has thrown kind of a wrench into the renovations. We are hoping to be open by June of this year."

Already, Hexagon has put \$25 million in cash into the renova-

tions, Malone said.

According to a history by Benjamin Bergenholtz, when the Club was completed in 1888 by designers McKim, Mead & White, it was hailed as the most

perfectly appointed clubhouse in America.

As of his writing in 2014, much of the original layout and placement of furniture had not changed since the Club opened.

SECHC (from pg. 1)

"I was waiting to see how many people – people of color especially – would go out and take it before I went," she said.

Eventually, she came to the conclusion that there was too much to live for, and she could no longer sit at home away from family and friends. So, she decided to take a chance on the vaccine.

"I'll be 78 in April," she said. "I'm still here and want to be here a lot longer so I can spend time with my daughter and son and grandchildren. It's a blessing. I want to see how many people get it and how many people of color get it, but I hope everyone gets it. That's the only way we'll move forward and get back to our lives."

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) CEO Manny Lopes, the parent organization of SECHC, said the community health centers are going to be a very important part of that journey that many in the community take – whether they are instantly interested or take a little time to make the decision. He said having a familiar face at a place like the SECHC, where many already get their normal health care, also makes it less intimidating.

"It goes back to the role community health centers play," he said. "We're the known health care provider in these communities. Right now, I think people will look to us for good information and access to the vaccination when they are ready... This is probably the most important job we'll ever do – getting the right information out there, help individuals answer questions and when they're ready we'll be there to get them vaccinated and encourage them to be vaccinated."

To get to that place was no easy task, Lopes and SECHC Director of Nursing Liz Southwick said.

EBNHC requested 4,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine from the state, and upon getting approval, stood up four vaccination sites within their footprint



Beverly Rogers at the South End Community Health Center (SECHC) on Monday getting her Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Like many people of color in the community, Rogers took a journey to get to the vaccine. Directors of the health center said their job is to help people along that journey and be "open and available" when they are ready. The health center began vaccinating their patients only last week.

at health centers and community partners. They established four sites for vaccination in only a few days.

At SECHC, they have started with vaccinating their patients only last week. On Monday, it was their fourth day of the effort and things were going really well and there had been no issues.

"SECHC is offering the vaccination program for our patients right now and their family members," said Southwick. "We do anticipate we'll open up to the public at some point, but given the proximity here to BMC and their large community vaccination effort, that will be a smaller effort here."

Right now, the SECHC program is available to patients 75 and over by appointment from 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments can be booked by phone or online, and they are doing outreach to existing patients who qualify for the vaccine.

"For us, every patient within the age range, the biggest barrier has been transportation and the weather," said Southwick. "That's the main reason the 75 and over gap exists for those that want the vaccine. When you go down to those 65 or 55, we are starting to get a sense of distrust in the science. Distrust in government is a huge part of that. Having it available from their primary care doctor instead of at a huge, intimidating site has been helpful."

One thing that has emerged from the vaccine clinic so far is a sense of celebration after receiving the vaccine.

She said many in the 75+ age group have been isolated for so long, that the vaccine is like a celebration to return to their lives. So many have been so happy, she said, and they get excited and chat with gusto while waiting for the 15 minute period after the vaccination.

She said they have about 40 per day capacity right now, but have only been doing about 20 per day so far. They believe they can get up to 80 per day if need be. They have three vaccinators working at a time, all registered nurses. Wait times to get in are less than five minutes, and the vaccination process takes about 10 minutes. After the 15 minute waiting period, a second appointment is made for 28 days later to get the final dose.

"We put a lot of thought into it," said Southwick. "It really has been a smooth rollout."

Lopes said as a community health center, they want to be helpful and patient with those they care for. He said the biggest thing is to be ready and to be available as people go through the journey of assurance.

"The key is to be open and available," he said. "In partnering with the state, they've given us all the things we need to do that. Now it's up to us to get the information out there and help people process it."

Give blood in honor of Black History Month at AC Hotel/South End

Staff report

In honor of Black History Month this February, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors, and especially those who have recovered from COVID-19, to give blood to honor the legacies of African Americans like Dr. Charles Drew and Dr. Jerome Holland. Their passion for helping improve the lives of patients in need of lifesaving blood products is carried on through dedicated blood donors, blood drive sponsors, volunteers and Red Cross employees.

Drew, an African American surgeon, was the medical director of the first Red Cross blood bank in 1941. Drew's research about the storage and shipment of blood plasma proved that blood could be stored for transfusions. Many of the processes he developed are still in use today.

As the first African American chair of the Red Cross Board of Governors, Holland was passionate about blood research. His commitment to providing the safest possible blood products for patients in need helped inform many safeguards the Red Cross has in place today to not only protect patients but also blood donors.

Donors have the ability to create a legacy of their own simply by rolling up a sleeve to give blood, platelets or plasma to help patients in need. COVID-19 survivors are especially needed to address a convalescent plasma

shortage. These individuals may have antibodies in their plasma that could help patients currently battling the virus.

Blood donation appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, those who come to give this February will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon. (Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

This gift is made possible by a generous \$1 million donation from Amazon, and the Red Cross hopes it will motivate donors to roll up a sleeve to ensure patients continue to have access to lifesaving blood products. During this pandemic, the Red Cross has been fortunate to witness the best of humanity and grateful to partners like Amazon, who have stepped up to help. Amazon's generous donation will specifically help support the Red Cross efforts to collect a sufficient amount of convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19 patients as well as support the needs of sickle cell patients by helping to engage the Black community on the importance of giving blood and hosting blood drives.

(BLOODDRIVE, Pg. 7)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN (from pg. 1)

preserve the building is to look at the operations of the League," said Benton.

"Our greatest efforts have been to preserve the building and keep it from collapsing on us," said Arrington. "I'm happy we have new members with a new energy and intelligence and doing the work and driving the things the way they need to go."

Both said they have been working with Boston Landmarks to get a designation for the building, and they now have a Henderson Grant to fix and secure the front steps and portico. Already, the amazing ironwork that adorned the front of the building has been put in storage to repair and replace later in the project. Beyond that, Benton said they are working to secure Community Preservation funding to restore the exterior and hope to hear about that by the end of March.

They also plan to kick off a huge capital campaign to restore and clean up the property. Remarkably, they said, the damage to the interior is minimal and much of the grandeur from the original home has been retained.

Benton said, "558 is probably one of the most intact buildings in the South End in terms of its original construction."

The history of the home goes back to a quirky, but wealthy, importer of fine woods named William Rice Carnes. When he built the home, he decked it out

with fine elaborate Mahogany woodwork, carved marble fireplaces, gilded mirrors, French gold-tipped finish chandeliers and wallpaper from Paris. The original carpeting from Brussels is still in place as well. Also, an original linoleum made from cork dust and linseed oil is also present in part of the home. Almost all of the details from the original home remain and are not damaged, miraculously. That's mostly because the roof has been replaced and there is very little damage, plus a great deal of good stewardship through the years.

Carnes is said to have operated the home as a stop on the Underground Railroad, but his business changed during the Civil War and he sold the home and moved to an island off the coast of Maine in 1868.

The League took possession of the home in the early 20th Century, and formed in 1920 to do educational, charitable and beneficial work for the community. The first president of the League was Maria Baldwin, who died just after the incorporation of the League.

Arrington said it was a hub of activity for the Black community from the 1920s to the 1970s. At that time, there were many grand functions, community events and historic and educational lectures at the League. That was mostly because many function halls and hotels would not allow Blacks to enter in those days.

"The League emerged from the

'30s and '40s and as late as the 1950s as a safe place and a popular gathering place for Blacks in Boston," she said. "Hotels were not willing to accommodate Black patrons at that time. Many, many grand events were held there and prominent Bostonians held weddings there and there were dance recitals for the Emma Lewis Dance School."

It was during that period of time that Coretta Scott King lived in the home while she attended college at the New England Conservatory and honed her amazing singing skills. It is at the home that she and Martin Luther King Jr. – then a student at Boston University – likely had dates and began their courtship.

"Being a Black woman in Boston going to college after World War II, you were not allowed to stay in student housing at their own schools," said Benton. "That's why Coretta Scott King lived here when she was in college."

However, in the 1960s, many social service organizations began to serve the Black community, and many people living in public housing or apartment buildings would use the new "community rooms" rather than the League for their big events.

"The use of the building changed along with 'progress' in Boston," said Benton.

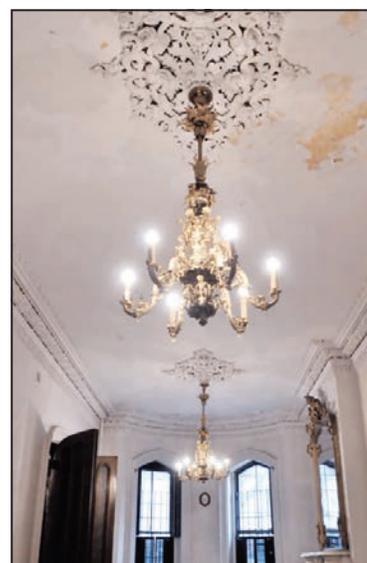
The future of the building, once repaired, will be to take on more of a museum, lecture and function space, with room



Maria Baldwin was the first president of the League in 1920, but died soon after its incorporation. She was a noted schoolteacher and dedicated to education.

for visiting scholars. Arrington and Benton said they've uncovered a vast amount of amazing Black and pre-Civil War history in the archives housed in the building. They are working on an agreement to transfer some of it to Northeastern University for safe-keeping, but intend to have a good amount on display for the public and for scholars.

"There are amazing things we're uncovering from our archives so we hope very soon we'll be able to tell some wonderful stories in our building," said Benton. "We will have socials in the building there's no question



Members of the League said their building is probably one of the most intact properties in the South End in terms of original detail and construction.

about it and that will be a key component."

Right now, they hope to be able to do some simple first steps, like fixing the front stairs.

"Our main priority is getting the front steps fixed, getting rid of all that plywood and getting the portico back to the way it was," said Benton. "That's our number one focus. We're just very excited about what's happening in the building and we hope to get to a point where we're giving tours again."



Despite the rundown exterior, conditions inside the League are stunningly intact from the original home built by a wealthy wood importer in the 1800s. Original carpeting from Brussels is still in many rooms.



Virtual Public Meeting

149-155 Newbury Street (The Aubry)

Monday, February 22

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3aGBgr9

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 863 2262

Project Proponent:

L3 149 Newbury Street LLC, L3 Capital

Project Description:

The proposed Project consists of the redevelopment of a surface parking lot at 149 Newbury Street in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston. The proposed Project will eliminate the 66-space parking lot and construct a five-story building totaling approximately 43,500 gross square feet (sf) including approx. 17,500 sf of retail space and approx. 26,000 sf of office space.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

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Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4280

email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment Period:

3/5/2021

Weekly positive test rate still on the decline

By John Lynds

Last week there was no change in the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in the Back Bay and the surrounding neighborhoods and the weekly positive test rate decreased for a third week in a row.

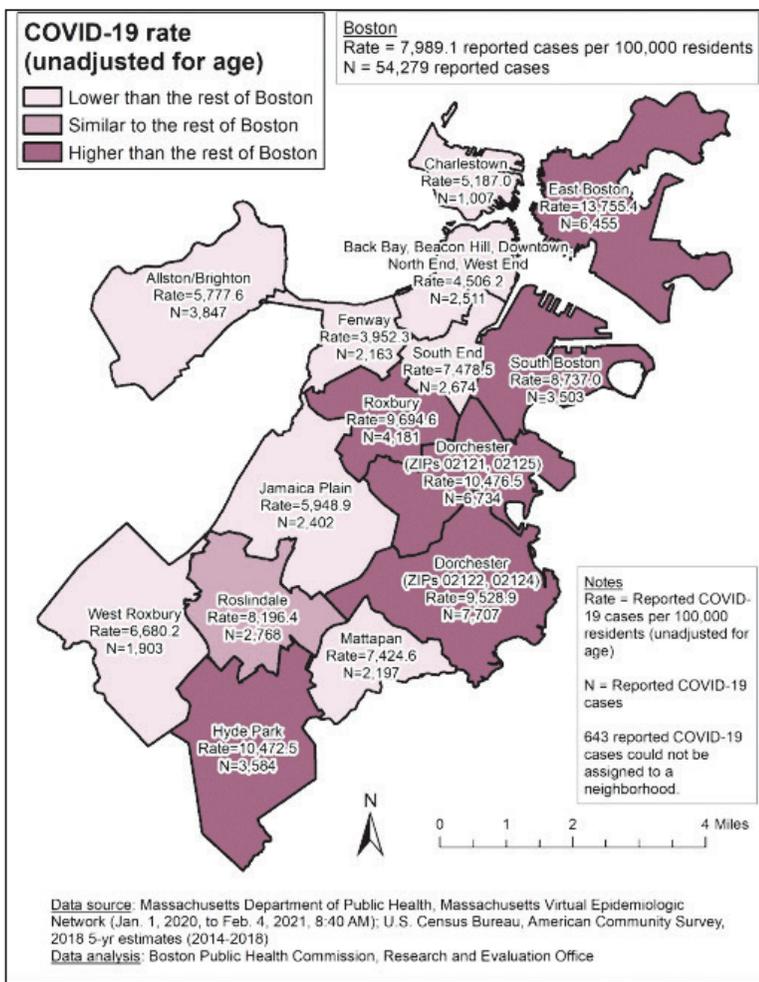
According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 43,525 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.7 percent of those tested were COVID positive--this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week 3,064 residents were tested and 3 percent were positive--a 6.25 percent decrease from the 3.2 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 32,198 residents were tested and 5.8 percent were COVID positive--a 15 percent decrease from the 6.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

The infection rate in Back Bay and surrounding neighborhoods increased 6.6 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 450.6 cases per 10,000 residents, up 6 percent from 432.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 99 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,412 cases to 2,511 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly

COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 5 percent last week and went from 52,704 cases to 55,404 confirmed cases in a week. Forty-three Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,196 total deaths in the city from COVID.

BLOODRIVE (from pg. 5)

In addition to Amazon's financial gift, Amazon has opened their corporate and operations building to host blood drives nationwide. In 2020, Amazon hosted 65 blood drives, collecting nearly 2,000 donations to help save thousands of lives.

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose

illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions -- including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff -- have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

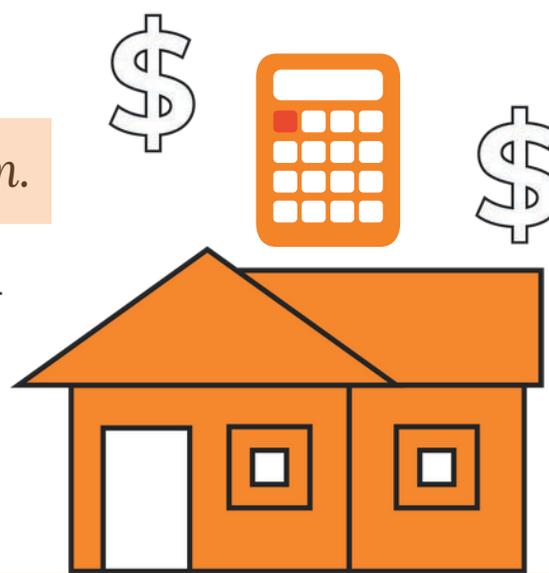
The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in from Feb. 16-28:
•Suffolk County
Boston
*2/26/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., AC Hotel by Marriott Boston Downtown, 225 Albany Street

THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

apply for the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit program.

The Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit helps people 65+ get a tax break and maybe even a refund. You may qualify even if you don't usually file taxes. Learn more by calling 311 and put money back in your pocket.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

At-large Councilor Mejia questioned about conduct at murder scene

By Seth Daniel

At-large City Councilor Julia Mejia is facing some questions about her conduct at a murder scene outside her home in Dorchester, where her neighbor was allegedly shot and killed while in his car.

Brandon Williams was murdered at point-blank range by a shooter on Thursday evening in a car in front of his home, which apparently is next door to Councilor Mejia's home.

Media reports, especially from LiveBoston617 reported that a live stream had been posted

directly after the shooting and the person posting it had gone into the crime scene and very close to the car, but never appeared to call police and refused to cooperate with officers at the scene.

That video has apparently been taken down and no longer available, but Councilor Mejia did say on a video post Monday that she was sorry for posting the graphic Facebook Live post. She said she had apologized to the family for it, but also said the conversation shouldn't be about her response, but rather the realities of violence many in Boston face routinely.

"This conversation needs to be about the realities of what people live every day in the City of Boston," she said in the video. "I'm sending my sincere condolences to the family on Evans Street for the murder that happened last week and ground this conversation in what it should have always been — the family that lost a son, father, sibling and friend. That's what the conversation should be about and I want to re-center it..."

"I also want to apologize to those that were exposed to a Facebook Live that I shared when I learned what was hap-

pening outside my door," she continued. "I responded first as a mother, as a neighbor and wasn't thinking about being a city councilor. I responded in a way that if I had to do it again, I wouldn't do it...I also know the impact on those that were exposed to it. I apologize for that. I reached out to the family and apologized for the hurt that it caused."

On Feb. 5, Councilor Mejia participated in a Boston Globe story about the incident, but did not say anything about a Facebook Live post she had made, or about whether or not she cooperated with police at the scene.

Some family members of the victim, Brandon Williams, responded to the video post by saying they were disappointed with Councilor Mejia's conduct both during and after the incident.

Mejia said, again, it is important to shed light on the realities of gun violence in some neighborhoods of the City, including her own.

A spokesperson for Councilor Mejia did not return an inquiry from this newspaper with a comment on the matter.

City Council holds hearing on BLC eligibility requirements for landmarks in Boston

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on February 8 regarding a petition for a special law regarding an Act Relative to the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) that would change language in the requirements for Boston buildings, sites, and other features to be eligible for consideration as a landmark.

Sponsored by Councilors Kenzie Bok and Liz Breadon, Bok said the docket came to be as a result of many conversations Bok has had with her constituents during her time as a councilor.

When the Boston Landmarks Commission was established in 1975, it was written into the language that in order for a Boston building or site to be landmarked, it has to be "any physical feature or improvement designated by the commission in accordance with section four as a physical feature or improvement which in whole or part has historical, social, cultural, architectural or aesthetic significance to the city and the commonwealth, the New England region or the nation," according to the legislation.

The petition would not automatically landmark any buildings or sites, and the existing process would still be in place. The petition would simply change the language to allow more buildings and sites to be eligible by allowing city significance alone to be enough for something to be con-

sidered for landmarking.

In order to become official, the proposal "would need consideration at the State House and a signature from the governor," Bok said.

"This should be a decade where we think about how to preserve our city's history," Bok continued. She said that Boston should be focusing on "acknowledging the richness and diversity" of its history, including immigrant, African American, Native American, and other contributions.

She said that she believes the current "standard of significance to the Commonwealth or nation" has had a connotation of preserving the white narrative of the history of the city of Boston.

"I think that's something we should find ways to undo," Bok said.

"I feel strongly about this issue," Councilor Breadon said. "This initiative is an important thing to try and protect."

Councilor Ed Flynn said that he is "interested in learning about the contributions of immigrants to our city. I would like to learn more about the proposal and see what specifically the city of Boston has to do if something is historic or what type of interaction they have to do with the state or federal government."

Carl Spector, Commissioner of the Environment Department for the City of Boston, said that this petition "will help create clarity" when it comes to landmarks.

"We don't see any reason why

that level of eligibility shouldn't apply to individual landmarks also," he said. "Because of the existing differences in eligibility that we have, we have made some attempts to protect individual buildings by instead of landmarking them, creating very, very small historic districts. That's a much more cumbersome, complicated, and lengthy process. We would prefer to not go through that if we don't have to. We think this is a very good proposal, and we certainly support its passage."

Roseanne Foley, Executive Director of the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that the language as it stands now was "an oversight back in the '70s that has caused us endless headaches." She said it "would be wonderful to have local historic landmarks."

Foley explained the current process for creating a landmark in Boston. She said to start the process, there must be a petition of 10 registered voters "for whichever resource...folks want to designate," and then it goes on a waiting list and is designated as a pending landmark "until we get the resources to do the study report," which describes the history, planning background, architectural history, and other aspects of the building. The public is involved in this process and is allowed to provide input, and if the BLC votes to designate a building as a landmark, it is registered at the Register of Deeds.

Lynn Smiledge, Chair of the

BLC, said that the BLC currently only has three preservation tools, and "of those three, two of them don't really work well."

She said that the three tools are local districts, Article 85 Demolition Delay, and landmarking. Smiledge said that local districts "take years to put in place," the Article 85 demo delay "doesn't work at all" and is "largely a waste of time and effort."

As for landmarking, she said it is "tricky because we can only landmark a handful of buildings." She said that right now, there are only about 110 landmarked buildings across the entire city.

She said that the current language "forces us to only consider buildings important beyond Boston," but she said "we believe a building needs to be important to Bostonians" to be a landmark in Boston.

Greg Galer, Executive Director of the Boston Preservation Alliance, said that he is "very much in support" of this petition.

He added, "this isn't how most cities operate." He said he has been in touch with other cities, including Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Fort Worth, Dallas, Cleveland, New Orleans, New York City, and several others, all of which use similar language to the petition to landmark buildings and sites in their cities.

"This is not a radical idea," Galer said. "It's common."

He said he still supports the "evolution of the city," and a petition like this will not change the city's ability to grow and change.

He said that the changes would have been beneficial in instances like the loss of the

West Gate building in Kenmore that may have been saved if the language of significance beyond Boston had been removed.

"Residents are desperate to save their history," Galer said. "I urge you to put Boston's process on par with the rest of the nation."

Resident Holly Berry, who said she volunteers with the Fenway CDC, also said that "equity has been first and foremost this past year."

She said the entire landmarking process should be available in multiple languages to be more inclusive.

"I think it shouldn't even hurt to have some sort of campaign on this," she said. "I think more people need to know more about it. It needs to be all-inclusive. As a community member, I'm so pleased to see this proposal."

Douglas Kelleher of Epsilon Associates said that he is "very familiar" with the Article 85 Demolition Delay process "as well as the current landmarking process," and wondered how or if the new policy were to be enacted if there would be a transition period.

Bok emphasized that this petition is just a change in legislative language and would not have any affect on the actual process of something becoming landmarked.

"The amendment itself doesn't change anything about the process; it just changes the standard," she said. "I think it's a question for us to discuss."

If the Council passes the petition, it would then move onto the mayor for approval, and then onto the State House and the Governor for final approval.

Walsh provides COVID-19; vaccination update as city's positivity rate declines

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh on Wednesday provided a COVID-19 update as well as talked about how people can continue to keep themselves and other safe as more vaccine rolls out.

Walsh said that as of Feb. 9, there were 168 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boston, and two more people have died.

For the week ending with Feb. 4, he said that testing was down 16 percent from the week before, and the average positivity rate citywide was five percent, down from 6.2 percent the week before.

He said that he would like to see the testing numbers increase and if the positive tests continue to go down, that is reassuring.

As of February 8, the state has allowed businesses allowed to open in Step One of Phase Three of the reopening plan to up their capacity from 25 percent maximum to 40 percent. Walsh said that Boston is "aligning with the state on these capacity restrictions." The limit on outdoor gatherings is still 25 people and the limit on indoor gatherings is still 10 people for both private and public places.

Walsh said that "the improvements we've seen in our city and state numbers" mean that the precautions and safety requirements are working, as are the personal measures residents are taking, such as wearing a mask and washing their hands.

He said that this "does not mean anyone should let their guards down," and that people should continue to follow all guidelines and precautions.

Walsh also said that the city's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) is working with the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, the Licensing Board, and other entities on ensuring that restaurants and other businesses are following the guidelines.

He said that "random spot

checks" are conducted each week, and that these departments are "not there to give you a hard time," but rather to "make sure people stay safe."

Walsh said that the "health and safety of residents" is always the first priority, and the city has and will continue to shut down any business that does not comply with the requirements.

He said he does not want that to be the case, and the city is working to provide businesses with things that will help them through this difficult time, such as grants and PPE.

Walsh also encouraged residents to not host parties or other gatherings. He said there were three distinct times when COVID cases spiked in the city: in April and May of last year, when the virus really hit the city for the first time, following the Thanksgiving holiday, and following Christmas and other holidays where people gathered with friends and family.

He said that the city and state are "starting to see these numbers go down now," but people should stay vigilant and not contribute to another spike.

The city and state are at the beginning of Phase Two of the state's vaccination plan, which includes those age 75 and older plus all people eligible in Phase One. Several vaccination sites are open in the city at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury and Fenway Park, as well as "multiple sites operated by community health centers and five pharmacy locations," Walsh said. He said that by the end of this week, there will be eight pharmacy locations.

For any seniors having issues getting a vaccination appointment, Walsh encouraged them or their family members to call 311 and ask for the Age Strong Commission, which will work with residents to help them sign up for an appointment.

"The vaccine is certainly a major step forward in the fight to recover from COVID-19," Walsh said. "It's one of the best tools we have to stop the spread of the virus and begin to return back to some sort of normalcy here in the city as far as being able to go outside and be able to enjoy life again."

He said this is only possible "if people have access to the vaccine." Walsh said that the city is working to provide access to the vaccine in the communities hit hardest by the virus, including people of color, low income residents, and immigrants who may have transportation or language barriers or are not able to

take time off of work to get the vaccine.

"That's why the city is pushing for more access," Walsh said, and "doing what we can to make sure that process is equitable."

Walsh also said that the city will be assisting people with the online registration system for vaccine appointments.

"We hope and expect that all the things will speed up as more slots become available.

This Saturday, Feb. 13, there will be a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for veterans at the Dorchester VFW Post 1018 on Morton St., Walsh said, that will be "open to vets 65 and older who are enrolled in VA healthcare."

Caregivers enrolled in the VA Caregiver Support Program are also eligible for the vaccine at the clinic, which will be open from 10am-1pm, and is first come, first served. Those who receive a vaccine at this clinic will be scheduled for their second dose for March 13.

Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez added that the city was "pleased to see" that the state will now permit a "companion" (of any age) who brings a person over the age of 75 to get their vaccine at one of the state's mass vaccination sites to also get vaccinated on the same day.

"For seniors watching, if you have someone in your family who will take you to get vaccinated, they will make an appointment as well as you and they will also

be able to be vaccinated at one of the state's mass vaccination sites including at Fenway Park here in Boston as well as the Reggie Lewis Center," Martinez said.

He also said that the city is continuing its work to prepare for the people who are eligible in the next phase to ensure access for all.

GARY DRUG

For over 75 years, Gary Drug has been serving the residents of Beacon Hill, the West End and the Back Bay.

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Virtual Public Meeting

601 Newbury Street

Monday, March 1
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3clZyDj
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 018 9112

Project Proponent:
601 Newbury Street, LLC

Project Description:
*This meeting has been rescheduled from February 9, 2021

The Proposed Project will be constructed as a four-story addition atop the existing three-story structure, for a total of seven stories. The proposal includes both residential market rate units as well as commercial executive suites, catering to tourists and business travelers alike. The Development team is proposing a mixed-use project that will include thirty-six residential units and forty-nine executive suites. The residential units will comply with Boston's Compact Living Program. The building will include ample community space and will include: a fitness room, remote workstation space, theatre/media room, and lounge. The Developer is proposing three parking spaces to serve as a pickup and drop off area to allow for access for small deliveries as well as ride sharing vehicles. The Proposed Project's proximity to the Kenmore MBTA station and bus lines will minimize community impact from resident/patron parking from the Proposed Project.

mail to: Michael Sinatra
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phone: 617.918.4280
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Close of Comment Period:
03.12.2021

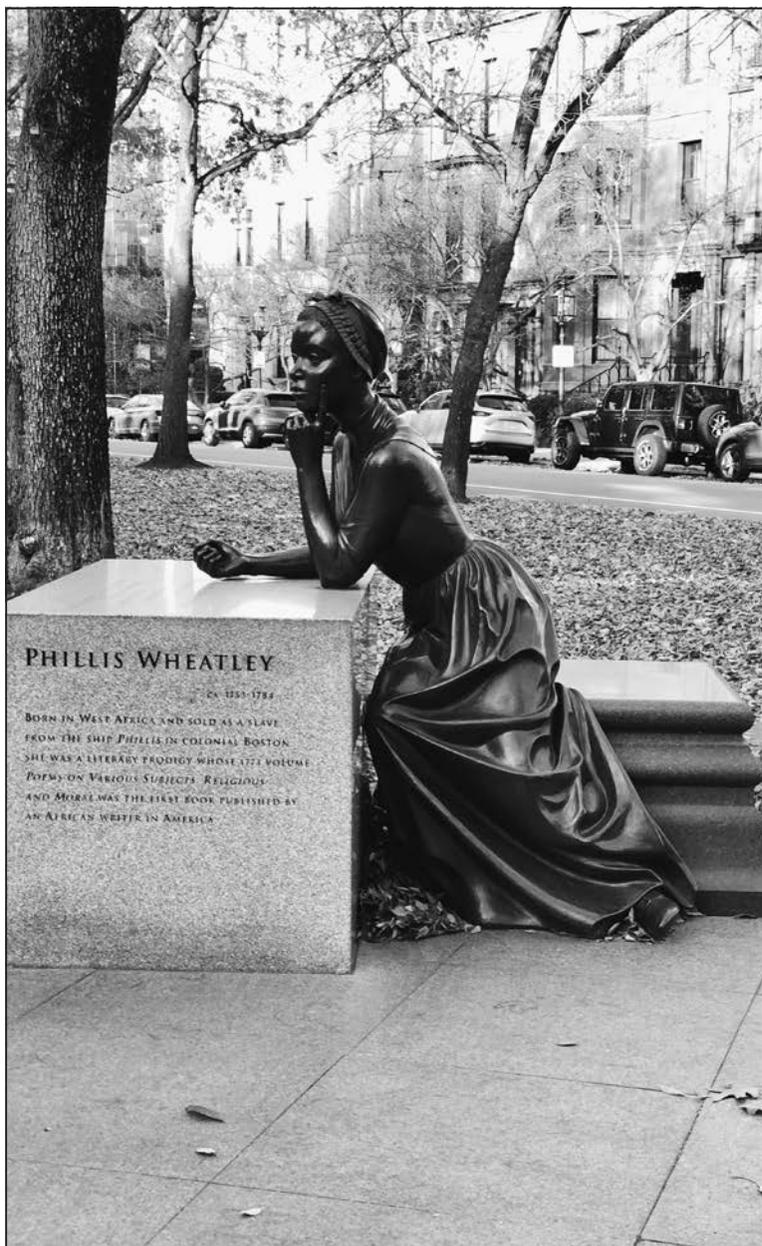
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ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The stairway in the last clue can be found at 84 Pembroke Street. This is the Boston House of Sufism. On their Facebook page, the group wrote that it was, "... organized and opened in 1978 in a beautiful South End brownstone that was built before the American Civil War." Thank you to the reader who suggested this address.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Powder Forest LLC	Beacon Mainsail 4 LLC	142 Beacon St #3	\$9,200,000
Lu, Peiqian	Gary W Rush RET	110 Stuart St #26A	\$1,010,000
MSGM LLC	First Savannah Ltd	534-538 Commonwealth Ave #5B	\$690,000
BEACON HILL			
Common Branch LLC	Branche Street T	19 Branch St	\$1,900,000
Allen, Amy	Pimental, Matthew D	69 Joy St	\$1,727,500
Vonmetzsch, George A	Mount Vernon 160 RT	160 Mount Vernon St	\$4,500,000
Brian Oconnell	L M Connors RT 2005	8 Whittier Pl #22K	\$369,750
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Shah, Ankit	Fahey, Christopher E	5 Appleton St #6A	\$1,310,000
Choukhmane, Taha	Johnson, Kirstin	433 Columbus Ave #3	\$815,000
Boyd, Frederick C	Cohen, Merrill L	312 Dartmouth St #312	\$4,500,000
Wang, Quanying	Axelrod, Stephen J	74 Fenway #36	\$755,000
Zhang, Lecheng	Miqueu, Francois	108 Gainsborough St #303W	\$565,000
69-14 Park Drive RT	Hunt, Finley	69 Park Dr #14	\$346,100
Duong, Charlie	Wilson, Jason	60 Queensberry St #A	\$499,000
Su, Yuhong	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #402	\$1,149,000
Adam S Goldstein	West Brook House LLC	189 W Brookline St #PH	\$3,950,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Pan 3 Avery LLC	3 Avery St Unit 901 RT	3 Avery St #901	\$660,000
Gibbons, Brian M	Mary Oliverson RET	17-R Clark St #1	\$665,000
Weitzman, Steven	Grewal, Harpreet	88 Kingston St #7D	\$1,330,000
Tran, Hai	R W Botnick T	165 Tremont St #803	\$1,725,000



Virtual Public Workshop

PLAN: Nubian Square Parcel P3 Workshop

Monday, February 22
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/36z6AXe
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 732 2394

Event Description

Please join members of the PLAN: Nubian Square team on Feb. 22nd from 6-7:45pm to discuss Parcel P3. During this workshop we will specifically review existing site conditions and conduct visioning exercises to guide the future RFP. For more information please visit bit.ly/PlanNubian.

Únase a los miembros del PLAN: equipo de Nubian Square el 22 de febrero de 2021 de 6 pm a 7:45 pm para discutir el lote P3. Durante este taller, revisaremos específicamente las condiciones existentes del sitio y realizaremos ejercicios de visualización para guiar el futuro RFP. Para obtener más información visite bit.ly/PlanNubian.

Tanpri, vin jwenn manm PLAN Nubian Square yo: Nan dat 22 de fevriye 6è a 7:45pm. Ekip Nubian Square la ap diskite sou kondisyon sit aktyèl yo epi fè yon egzèsis vizyon pou gide RFP nan lavni. Tanpri ale nan: bit.ly/PlanNubian pou jwenn plis enfòmasyon.

Contact:

Kelly Sherman
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.5493 | kelly.sherman@boston.gov

Police News

MAN HELD ON GUN CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH HOTEL SHOOTING

A Hyde Park man arrested Feb. 4 shortly after a shooting inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel was arraigned today in Boston Municipal Court on possession of a firearm charges, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said.

Messiah Leggett, 20, of Hyde Park, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail by Judge James Stanton.

Assistant District Attorney William Kettlewell stated in court that Mr. Leggett was seen on video leaving the hotel with two companions and crossing Boston

Common. He was detained at the intersection of Spruce Street and Chestnut Street. Police recovered a firearm near where Mr. Leggett and two juvenile companions were stopped by police. In speaking to police, Mr. Leggett acknowledged his possession of the firearm inside the hotel room where the deceased, a 17-year-old girl, was located.

“My Office is working closely with Boston Police detectives to learn exactly what transpired in that hotel resulting in the loss of this juvenile’s life. We will not rest until we know how this teen-aged girl was fatally wounded,” said District Attorney Rollins. “This is an active death investigation and my heart goes out to the family and loved ones of this

victim.”

Judge Stanton revoked for 60 days the bail of Mr. Leggett on a West Roxbury gun charge.

Tina Nguyen is the Victim Witness Advocate. Attorney Mark Perkins represented Mr. Leggett, who returns to court on March 1, for a pre-trial hearing.

KIDS FROM THE ‘BURBS CAUGHT TAGGING IN FENWAY

About 1:07a.m. on Thursday, February 4, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) arrested suspects for Vandalism of Property (Tagging/Graffiti) in the area of 120 Ipswich Street, Fenway.

Officers were on patrol in the Fenway area when they received information about a Vandalism

in Progress occurring on Ipswich Street. The officers responded to the location, and upon arrival observed a group of four individuals huddled together along a wall to the left side of Ipswich Street. The officers approached one individual, later identified as Ian Barg, 20 of Ipswich, who was holding a can of purple spray paint and actively tagging the wall. Officers also observed a second individual, later identified as Lucas Pedrelli, 18 of Natick, attempting to flee the area while in possession of a gold can of pink spray paint. Officers secured both Barg and Pedrelli, and broadcast a description of the two other individuals who fled on foot towards Boylston Street. The officers recovered

three cans of spray paint from Barg and Pedrelli. These cans were consistent in color with several graffiti in the area, which appeared to be freshly painted.

Responding units stopped a third suspect, a 19-year-old from Rutland, MA, at the intersection of Boylston Street and the Fenway, and the fourth suspect, a 22-year-old from Westford, MA, was stopped at 52 Westland Avenue. Both suspects were summoned into Roxbury District Court for Vandalism of Property (Graffiti/Tagging).

Ian Barg was arrested and charged with Vandalism of Property (Graffiti/Tagging). Lucas Pedrelli was also arrested and charged with Vandalism of Property (Graffiti/Tagging).

BLC votes to approve a preservation restriction on the Howell Matson House in Bay Village

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) on February 9 approved a proposal to protect the Howell Matson House at 41 Melrose St. in Bay Village through Historic New England’s Preservation Easement program.

The preservation restriction agreement is “pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 184 Section

32,” and will be “held by Historic New England,” according to the BLC agenda.

Dylan Peacock, Senior Manager of Preservation Services Historic New England explained that the preservation restriction currently applies to 116 properties across New England, including three in Boston.

Peacock explained that under the restriction, the building is

protected against things like alteration and neglect, among other things. The restriction protects features on both the interior and exterior of the building, he added.

He said that the Howell Matson House was completed in 1841 and used as rental housing. He called it a “well-preserved example of an urban Greek-revival...from the 19th century.”

He went through some of the historic features of the building that would be protected should this be approved.

He also explained that the “entire neighborhood was raised in 1868” as the Back Bay and other adjacent areas were being developed, and someone “can still read that in the house today.”

The protection of this building “requires approval at the state

and local levels,” Peacock said, and the state has already provided preliminary approval, so he was looking for BLC approval for the local level.

“It’s a wonderful house and it’s wonderful that it’s being protected in this way,” said BLC Chair Lynn Smiledge.

The BLC unanimously voted to approve the preservation restriction.

For the Record

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

From the Feb. 11 Community Preservation Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., online:

- Public Comments
- Final vote on full slate of FY21 CPA Applications

From the Feb. 11 Public Improvement Commission meeting, 10 a.m., online:

- 60 Kilmarnock Street, Queensberry Street; Boston Proper – Pedestrian Easement, Specific Repairs – On a set of petitions by 60 Kilmarnock (Boston) Owner LLC.

From the Feb. 11 School Committee Budget Hearing, 5 p.m., online:

- Review of Superintendent’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Proposal with a Focus on School Budgets: Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder.
- Public Comment.
- Questions and Discussion: Boston School Committee.
- Closing Comments: Boston School Committee and Superintendent Brenda Cassellius.

From the Feb. 16, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: The Committee will hold a hearing on an ordinance to establish guidelines for permitting retail residential kitchens. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Lydia Edwards. The sponsor of the docket is Councilor Julia Mejia.

From the Feb. 17 St. Botolph Area Architectural Conservation meeting, 5:15 p.m., online:

- DESIGN REVIEW**
- 31 CUMBERLAND STREET Proposed Work: At rear façade, relocate balcony opening on third floor visible from the Southwest Corridor.
 - 249 WEST NEWTON STREET Proposed Work: At front façade, replace three garden level windows. At rear façade, install new HVAC Equipment on side façade.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- 15 Durham Street: At front façade, third floor, replace three aluminum, bronze colored, one over one, windows with three aluminum clad 1 over 1 windows.

- 195 and 197 St. Botolph Street: Repair, scrape and repaint fire escape. Color (black) to match existing.

From the Feb. 18 Cannabis Community Outreach meeting, 6 p.m., online:

The proposed retail marijuana establishment is anticipated to be

located at:

827-829 Boylston Street, Back Bay. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

From the Feb. 22 BPDA meeting on The Aubrey, 149-155 Newbury St., 6 p.m.:

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application that was filed. The meeting will include a presentation by the Proponent followed by Q&A and comments. The proposed project consists of the redevelopment of a surface parking lot at 149 Newbury Street in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston. The proposed project will eliminate the 66-space parking lot and construct a five-story building totaling approximately 43,500 gross square feet (sf) including approx. 17,500 sf of retail space and approx. 26,000 sf of office space.

Register in advance for this webinar: www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_M-ECdEINRneICA_YgzeRA

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables – Thursday, Feb. 4 – Students with high in-person priority; March 1-4 – Students in K0-Grade 3 (Groups A and B); March 15-18 – Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 – Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).

•BPS Priority Registration – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students

entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31. Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28. There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

•P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at www.MAP-EBT.org or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

FREE BPS BREAKFAST IN SOUTH END/FENWAY

Students who wish to get a free breakfast Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 am., have three sites to choose from in the South End and Fenway. This is the BPS initiative, but other organizations are also serving meals in the area as well.

- Blackstone Elementary School – 380 Shawmut Ave. (South End).
- Boston Chinese Evangelical

Church, 120 Shawmut Ave. (Monday, Weds., and Friday only – South End).

- Boston Latin School – 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur (Fenway).

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General’s website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

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.

OPEN SUNDAY
12:30 - 1:30



ARLINGTON HOUSE

110 ARLINGTON STREET #4
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,310 SQFT
\$3,000,000



2 AVERY STREET #EH
7 BEDS | 6F 2H BATHS | 7,216 SQFT
\$12,000,000



295 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #6B
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 860 SQFT
\$925,000



110 SUDBURY STREET 36E
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,848 SQFT
\$2,950,000



188 BROOKLINE AVENUE #PH28E
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 2,548 SQFT
\$4,990,000

