

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## REMEMBERING 9/11 IN THE PUBLIC GARDEN



*nonprofit that fosters leadership skills in young people via community work, planted 2,997 American flags at the Arlington Street entrance to the Public Garden – one to honor each life lost at each of the three sites of the terror attacks.*

*Only hours after the flags were planted in the park on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 8, a number of the flags had been damaged or uprooted, while signs explaining the significance of the memorial went missing and trash cans in the area were upturned.*

*Several good Samaritans passing by the memorial replanted the flags, and according to published reports, Boston Police, a suspect believed to be responsible for the acts of vandalism had been identified.*

PHOTOS BY D. MURPHY

*In commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, a group of about 30 volunteers from Project 351, a*

## Freedom Rally returns Saturday to the Common, eliciting community concerns and assurances from event organizers

By Dan Murphy

With the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition's 32nd annual Boston Freedom Rally (formerly known as "Hempfest") returning Saturday, Sept. 18, to the Boston Common, some are concerned that in addition to bringing the usual array of issues associated with the event, like public consumption and trash left behind in the park,

it also has the potential this time to turn into a covid super-spreader, while MassCann officials, who acknowledge the past problems, are hoping this year will be the beginning of a fresh start between them and the nearby residential community.

"We've gone through a fundamental change over the last 12 months, with the board centered first and foremost on community relationship-building, coupled

with a focus on consensus-based decision making," said Grant Smith-Ellis, president and press secretary of MassCann, a nonprofit working for the moderation of marijuana laws, as well as the state affiliate of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). "This is our opportunity to make a very rare second first-im-

(HEMPFEST, Pg. 5)

## Ill-fated pot shop proposed for Newbury Street sues ZBA

By Dan Murphy

The team behind an ill-fated adult-use cannabis dispensary previously proposed for 297 Newbury St. filed a lawsuit last week in Suffolk Superior Court

against the city's Zoning Board of Appeal over its unanimous vote on June 22 to not grant the requested zoning relief necessary for the application to move forward.

"The ZBA's decision was

arbitrary, among other reasons, because the ZBA has approved other Cannabis Establishments at locations with far less amenities and at sites inferior to the

(EMBER GARDENS, Pg. 5)

## Wu and Essaibi George will square off in Nov. Election for Mayor

By John Lynds

In a historic election where four women candidates of color and one male candidate of color all vied for Mayor of Boston, voters on Tuesday have narrowed the field of seven candidates down to two.

On Tuesday, Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George finished in the top two spots and will

square off in the November General election. Rounding out the election was Andrea Campbell finishing third, Acting Mayor Kim Janey coming in fourth, and John Barros rounding out the top spots in fifth place, according to unofficial election results posted on the City's website.

"Today, Boston voters turned

ELECTION, Pg. 3)

## MIDA named an OpenTable 'Neighborhood Gem'

By Dan Murphy

MIDA, an Italian neighborhood restaurant located at 782 Tremont St. in the South End, has been named one of OpenTable's top 100 "Neighborhood Gems" in the U.S.

Responding Tuesday, Sept. 14,

to the good news, Chef Douglass Williams, the owner of and the culinary titan behind MIDA Boston, as well as MIDA Newton and now, APIZZA, wrote in an email to this reporter: "What a week this has been! Today we are opening APIZZ-

MIDA, Pg. 3)

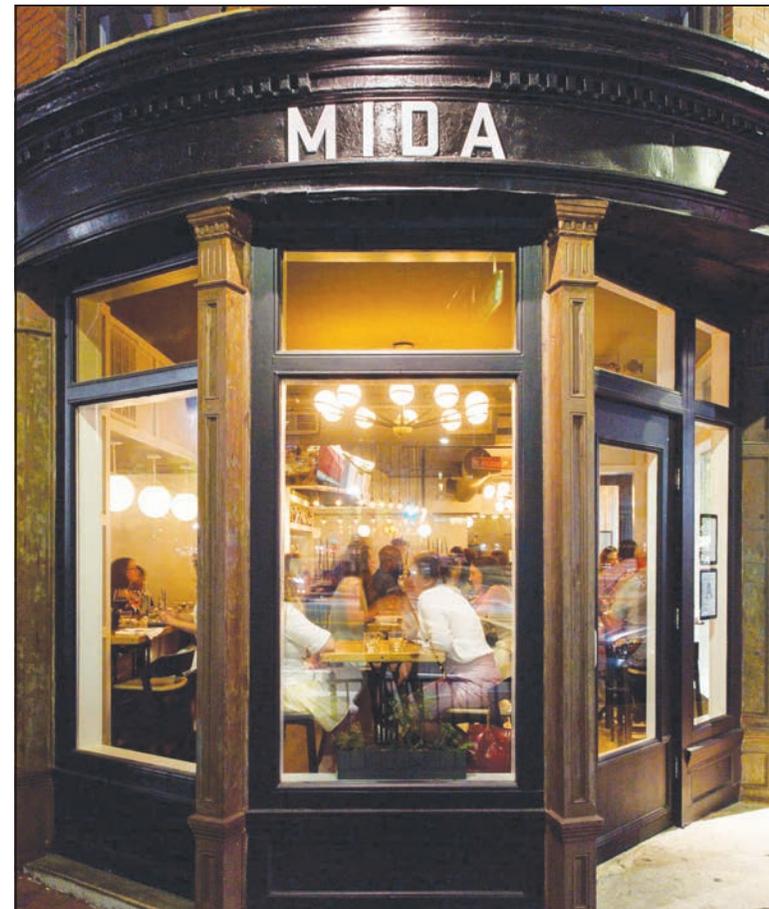


PHOTO COURTESY EMILY KAN

MIDA at 782 Tremont St. in the South End.

## Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1                              | SELLER 1               | ADDRESS                   | PRICE         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>BACK BAY</b>                      |                        |                           |               |
| Dukach, Semyon                       | URCA T                 | 250 Beacon St #17         | \$4,850,000   |
| Dukach, Semyon                       | URCA T                 | 250 Beacon St #19         | \$4,850,000   |
| Rich, Howard                         | Heritage 807 NT        | 300 Boylston St #807      | \$3,150,000   |
| Zhao, Xiao M                         | Albano, Nicholas       | 160 Commonwealth Ave #505 | \$742,649     |
| Zhao, Xiao M                         | Albano, Adam S         | 160 Commonwealth Ave #506 | \$657,351     |
| Rittner, David M                     | Lapides, Murray E      | 26 Dartmouth St #5        | \$720,000     |
| 86 Mass Ave Realty LLC               | 86 Ma Avenue LLC       | 362 Commonwealth Ave #5   | \$2,820,000   |
| Lin, Cai C                           | Eric B Holt T          | 464 Commonwealth Ave #27  | \$385,000     |
| MTC RT                               | Govanlu, David C       | 10 Hancock St #2          | \$1,015,000   |
| <b>BEACON HILL</b>                   |                        |                           |               |
| Beacon Hl Nursury School             | Le, Hoang H            | 180 Cambridge St #1       | \$940,000     |
| Maguire, Robert G                    | Selmasson Holdings LLC | 35-35A Myrtle St          | \$6,250,000   |
| Spang, Thomas E                      | Chen, Sung-Chieh       | 45 Province St #2201      | \$2,175,000   |
| 508 Archer LLC                       | JDMD Owner LLC         | 45 Temple St #508         | \$2,600,000   |
| Variam, Celina                       | Sprague, Michael W     | 6 Whittier Pl #2A         | \$485,000     |
| Penelope A Gallagher RET             | Hutchings, Mary J      | 8 Whittier Pl #15E        | \$798,000     |
| <b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b> |                        |                           |               |
| Mailing, Wyn                         | Carpenenter, Craig     | 19 Melrose St #3          | \$1,162,500   |
| Rich, Michael L                      | Dinjian, Scott R       | 120 Norway St #20         | \$622,000     |
| Sidopoulos, Konstantinos             | Mullen, Kevin          | 236 W Canton St #5        | \$1,235,000   |
| KVMG RT                              | Fastow, Joseph S       | 57 Appleton St            | \$1,750,000   |
| Pochal, Brina                        | Kelly, John            | 79 Appleton St #1         | \$1,295,000   |
| Green, Britton                       | Greenberg, Michael E   | 486-488 Beacon St #10     | \$1,995,000   |
| Piazza, John T                       | 15 Keswick Street LLC  | 15 Keswick St #3          | \$555,000     |
| Bezener, Anna                        | Gerardi, Pamela D      | 416 Massachusetts Ave #1  | \$680,000     |
| Ollagnon, Pascal                     | 684 Ma Avenue RT       | 684 Massachusetts Ave #1  | \$650,000     |
| Mailing, Wyn                         | Carpenenter, Craig     | 19 Melrose St #3          | \$1,162,500   |
| Khaled, Mustafa                      | 16 Miner Street RT     | 16 Miner St #404          | \$975,000     |
| Hui, Lilianna                        | Farrell, Camilla B     | 65 Park Dr #24            | \$470,000     |
| Spang, Thomas E                      | Chen, Sung-Chieh       | 45 Province St #2201      | \$2,175,000   |
| Maguire, Robert G                    | Selmasson Holdings LLC | 60 S Russell St           | \$6,250,000   |
| Tran, Hai                            | Munson, Daniel E       | 199 Saint Botolph St      | \$4,395,000   |
| Succar, Tony                         | Evans, Leon            | 11 Saint George St #12C   | \$304,393     |
| Succar, Tony                         | Evans, Leon            | 11 Saint George St #12C   | \$304,393     |
| Griffiths, Peteris                   | Mueller, Paul          | 80 W Concord St #3        | \$889,000     |
| Troyen A Brennan RET                 | Lammert, Warren B      | 1313 Washington St #221   | \$3,100,000   |
| Troyen A Brennan RET                 | Lammert, Warren B      | 1313 Washington St #222   | \$3,100,000   |
| Harrington, Baronet                  | Ohi LLC                | 148 Worcester St #2       | \$840,000     |
| <b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>           |                        |                           |               |
| Goedecke, Peter                      | G Richard Paul LT      | 40 Battery St #105        | \$2,700,000   |
| Wu, Bingxiao                         | Highview Prop Invs LLC | 40-42 Beach St #6B        | \$615,000     |
| 266 Commercial Street LLC            | Thomas A Gioia 1995 T  | 266 Commercial St         | \$2,000,000   |
| Mcdonnell, Catherine                 | Oliveira, Duarte N     | 300 Commercial St #409    | \$538,000     |
| Silverstein, Stacey                  | 315 Lincon LLC         | 357 Commercial St #315    | \$499,000     |
| Guglielmo, Marguerite M              | Davis, Cheryl J        | 357 Commercial St #810    | \$1,039,000   |
| Kuo, Ying Hua                        | Han, Song              | 1 Franklin St #1710       | \$1,080,000   |
| NFLSRE 2 Financial LLC               | 60 South Street LP     | 60 South St               | \$210,000,000 |

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The wall corner detail in the last clue is on 595 Commonwealth Ave designed by Canon Associates and constructed in 1996. It is the Rafik B. Hariri Building and is home to the Boston University School Of Management.

You'll find the next clue in the South End. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured?

Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# MBCC to feature special guest Lily Tomlin at LGBTQ+ virtual dance Oct. 23

Staff Report

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) is hosting their 24th Annual LGBTQ+ Dance: Party for Prevention virtually on Saturday, October 23 from 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. EST. The event will feature a guest appearance from long-time environmental activist, actress, and comedian Lily Tomlin. In 2020, Ms. Tomlin was the recipient of the MBCC Environmental Activist Award

in appreciation for her tireless dedication to making the world a better place. The event will also feature music with DJ Jodi Entertainment and dance lessons with Liz Nania, the founder and director of OUT to Dance. Club Cafe in Boston will help to facilitate this virtual event.

Cheryl Osimo, MBCC's Executive Director, says "We are grateful to all of the talented MBCC friends who will help

us raise funds toward MBCC's focus on cancer prevention. Ultimately these individuals along with all MBCC dance supporters are helping us to make the world a better place for our children, grandchildren and future generations. We are honored and thrilled to have Lily Tomlin join us again for this special evening. We are constantly inspired by individuals, like Ms. Tomlin, who continuously spread positiv-

ity in many ways in the world."

Tickets to attend the virtual event for adults are on a sliding scale of \$15, \$30, or \$45. Tickets for students are \$10 for the virtual event.

Please note: Since MBCC is unable to hold the in-person event, all in-person tickets will be transferred to the virtual event. Refunds will not be issued.

All proceeds from this event will benefit MBCC's mission of

breast cancer prevention.

To purchase tickets, please visit the MBCC website at [www.mbcc.org](http://www.mbcc.org) or by calling 1-800-649-MBCC (6222).

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is the state's leading breast cancer organization dedicated to preventing the environmental causes of breast cancer through community education, research advocacy, and changes to public policy.

## ELECTION (from pg. 1)

out on the doors, on the phones, on the streets, and at the polls to make their voices heard," Wu said Tuesday night. "Given the numbers reported back from precincts across our city, we are certain that our campaign — which was the first to launch in this field, exactly one year ago — will be advancing to the November general election. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart."

To kick off her general election campaign, Essaibi George told her supporters Tuesday night, "It'll take all of us to move Boston forward. To bring cleaner air to Chinatown and East Boston. To bring more home ownership opportunities to Roxbury. To keep our small businesses strong in Mattapan, and thoughtful, inclusive growth to Allston. We'll do it with an equity lens. We'll do it thoughtfully. We'll do it together. Nothing is off the table, when we ensure everyone is at the table."

In the District 7 City Council race to fill the seat vacated by Acting Mayor Janey, Tania Fernandez Anderson topped the

| MAYOR'S RACE           |                |                |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| CANDIDATE              | TOTAL VOTES    | PERCENTAGE     |
| ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE | 24,186         | 22.48%         |
| RICHARD A SPAGNUOLO    | 282            | 0.26%          |
| ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL    | 21,221         | 19.72%         |
| KIM M JANEY            | 20,946         | 19.47%         |
| MICHELLE WU            | 35,888         | 33.36%         |
| JON SANTIAGO           | 364            | 0.34%          |
| ROBERT CAPPUCCI        | 1,175          | 1.09%          |
| JOHN F BARROS          | 3,436          | 3.19%          |
| Write-in               | 94             | 0.09%          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>107,592</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |

ballot, garnering 26.67 percent, or 2,014 votes cast, and will face runner-up Roy Owens, who received 17 percent of the ballot (1,284 votes).

Narrowly edged out in third place was Angie Camacho, who garnered 16.63 percent of the ballot, or 1,256 votes cast.

Rounding out the eight-way race were: Brandy M. Brooks, with 9.81 of the ballot, or 741 votes; Lorraine E. Payne Wheeler, with 9.23 percent of the ballot, or 697 votes; Santiago Leon Rivera, with 7.52 percent of the ballot, or 568 votes; Marisa C.

Luse, with 7.28 percent of the ballot, or 550 votes; and Joao Gomes Depina, with 5.39 percent of the ballot, or 407 votes.

Meanwhile, Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia, Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Carla Monteiro, David Halbert, Althea Garrison, and Bridget Nee-Walsh will all advance to the city councilor at-large race in the November election, where four seats are open.

(With additional reporting by Dan Murphy and Lauren Bennett)

| AT-LARGE COUNCILOR RACE   |                |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| CANDIDATE                 | TOTAL VOTES    | PERCENTAGE     |
| CARLA B MONTEIRO          | 18,844         | 6.84%          |
| ALTHEA GARRISON           | 16,810         | 6.10%          |
| BRIDGET M NEE-WALSH       | 15,118         | 5.49%          |
| SAID A ABDIKARIM          | 7,725          | 2.80%          |
| RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE         | 33,425         | 12.13%         |
| KELLY F BATES             | 12,735         | 4.62%          |
| DAVID HALBERT             | 16,921         | 6.14%          |
| JULIA MEJIA               | 38,765         | 14.07%         |
| ROY A OWENS SR            | 5,223          | 1.90%          |
| NICK VANCE                | 3,943          | 1.43%          |
| MICHAEL F FLAHERTY        | 41,299         | 14.99%         |
| JON M SPILLANE            | 11,155         | 4.05%          |
| JAMES REGINALD COLIMON    | 4,671          | 1.70%          |
| ERIN J MURPHY             | 22,835         | 8.29%          |
| DONNIE DIONICIO PALMER JR | 6,823          | 2.48%          |
| ALEXANDER J GRAY          | 11,263         | 4.09%          |
| DOMINGOS DAROSA           | 7,139          | 2.59%          |
| Write-in                  | 845            | 0.31%          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>275,539</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |

## MIDA (from pg. 1)

ZA in Boston at Hub Hall, this past weekend I was lucky enough to be in Aspen celebrating Best New Chefs honorees, and now Open Table has shared this list of the top 100 Neighborhood Gems in the country. "

Chef Williams continued, "That's what we are all about at MIDA — community and neighborhood. I used to ride my bike past this location, and I thought wow, this corner could be something special. It could be a bridge between the South End and Roxbury. And now here we are, into our fourth year of MIDA South End, and I am truly just extraordinarily, deeply grateful. We used to think a snowstorm was a

big deal, but the people came. Now we've been fighting this pandemic, and our neighborhood supported us through the darkest days and nights. We are all still pulling together, doing our best to support one another, to take care of one another, and that's what it is all about.

"If MIDA can bring some comfort to our neighbors on a tough day, or share some joy on a great day, then that's what a neighborhood restaurant wants to do. I've always said the world can come together over a beautiful bowl of pasta, let's do it right here in our neighborhood," added Chef Williams.

OpenTable, an online service for making restaurant reservations,

analyzed its internal data generated solely from diner reviews collected between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, according to the company, and restaurants with a minimum "overall" score and number of qualifying reviews were included for consideration. Qualifying restaurants were then scored and sorted according to the sum of tags for which "neighborhood gems" and "outdoor dining" was selected as a special feature.

MIDA was one of five OpenTable "Neighborhood Gems" in Massachusetts and one of only two in the City of Boston, with Ma Maison on Beacon Hill being the other.

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# EDITORIAL

## AMERICA SINCE 9/11: ONE STEP FORWARD, MANY STEPS BACK

Amidst the solemn ceremonies and remembrances this past weekend of the terrorist attack 20 years ago on 9/11, one thing is clear: America is far better protected from a similar act of terrorism than we were on 9/10/01.

To be sure, our higher level of protection has come at great cost, but we have had nothing close to a similar incident since that terrible day, unlike in other countries, especially France, where high-profile, coordinated attacks by known terrorist groups have killed dozens of innocent civilians.

But if we are to assess our country today vs. where we were 20 years ago, by almost every other measure our nation is worse off.

The 9/11 attack rightly spurred us to invade Afghanistan, from where Osama bin Laden was directing his terrorist organization. Our military took care of business in short order, destroying bin Laden's network. But our rapid and easy success led us to continue with our military occupation of Afghanistan for 20 years and undertake an invasion of Iraq, even though there was no connection between that country and 9/11.

Those two foolhardy, deceitful, and hubristic endeavors have had disastrous consequences that reverberate today.

In addition, newly-released documents have revealed that both wars essentially were nothing more than a money-grab both by special interest groups in this country and by corrupt government officials in those countries. The vast majority of the trillions of dollars we spent lined the pockets of corrupt individuals and groups both here and abroad.

If we examine our domestic situation since 9/11, drug overdose deaths in the U.S, which reached an all-time high of almost 90,000 in 2020, are six times greater today than they were in 2001. The simple arithmetic tells us that we presently are losing as many Americans to drug overdoses every 12 days as we lost on 9/11.

The average life-span of many American sub-groups, especially white males who are victims of the so-called deaths of despair, has decreased for the first time in more than a century, even without factoring in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Income inequality and the accumulation of obscene wealth by a small group of individuals already was a problem in 2001, but 20 years later, the unequal distribution of our national wealth into the hands of a few has accelerated many times over and continues unabated. Combined with the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the Citizens United case, we are realizing that a democracy exists in name only when we have a stratification of wealth in our society that is the equivalent of a real-life Hunger Games.

Natural disasters were few and far between prior to 2001, but nine of the 10 costliest hurricanes in our history have occurred since 2005. Thanks to our refusal to acknowledge climate change and to take the necessary steps both to reduce its impact and prepare for its consequences, our nation (and the world) routinely has been ravaged by an ever-accelerating number of natural disasters that have far exceeded the cost of what we might have spent to reduce greenhouse emissions, the source of atmospheric warming.

Facebook, Twitter, and similar platforms did not exist in 2001, but today they dominate our informational and political landscape and chiefly are responsible for the spread of misinformation and disinformation, from both domestic and foreign sources, that have undermined both our democracy and our ability to fight COVID-19.

As for COVID-19, today we are losing 3000 of our fellow citizens -- the equivalent of those we lost on 9/11 -- every two days because of COVID-19, which in the past 18 months has claimed the lives of more than 660,000 Americans.

We have the ability to fight back against COVID-19 -- masks and vaccines are our readily-available weapons -- but with tens of millions of Americans failing to join in the battle, spurred on by disinformation on social media and dishonest politicians such as Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, our tragic and horrific daily death toll is the best evidence that we are losing the war vs. COVID.

Lastly, if someone had predicted in 2001 that within 20 years, a right-wing mob, spurred on by social media, would have stormed the Capitol building in an attempt to stop the counting of the Electoral College -- in support of President Donald Trump -- the entire scenario would have been the stuff of a fictional satire in a humor magazine. (And probably would have been rejected for being outlandishly ridiculous.)

To those of the younger generation for whom 9/11 is not even a memory, we sadly report that by almost every metric, America today is in far worse shape than when the twin towers tragically were attacked 20 years ago.

So the question is this: If things have gotten this bad over the past 20 years, is there any hope that things will be better 20 years from now?

## GUEST OP-ED

### Worry rarely changes anything

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Life presents challenges to us all and most of us understand worry. There are enough ordeals along the way of life to cause each of us to worry our heads off. However, worry will never add another day to our lives. Worry will not smooth a wrinkle, dry a tear or eliminate disease, poverty. It will not keep someone from harm. Worry has never prevented bad news or bad things from happening.

Worry rarely changes anything except to make us tense. This usually results in sleep loss, nausea, ulcers and chest pain. Who needs any of these? Worry often leads to stress and too much stress is never reported as being good for us. Of course, just daily living creates some stress for us all. We have appointments, jobs, deadlines, life goals and commitments. Within these there are expectations that bring about daily stress.

Deep down gnawing worry, fretting and fear doesn't do us much good. When we are filled with worry and fear all the time it only makes our situation worse.

Jesus said in Matthew

5:25 to not worry about the needs of this life. "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" Yet, if we are honest, we've all worried about all the above and much more at different times in our lives.

Let's try to think more about caution and prevention and doing what we know to do.

For example, take the Covid-19 vaccination. It's free, and it might save your life and the lives of people you love. Why wouldn't you do it? This is called prevention. You still might get sick but it might save your life. Your family loves you and needs you. Surely, you care enough about them to get this vaccination.

I know people who haven't gotten the vaccination and I'm concerned. However, I'm encouraging them to go and get the shot. This is something I can do. I can talk to them, fuss and gripe. Lying awake all night worrying about it will not change anything.

Eat right, exercise, take

your vitamins, go to the doctor regularly and do what your doctor says to do. Worrying about your health, will not make you healthy.

Stop worrying about money. Worrying about money will not make you richer. Go to work. Figure out some way to make a little if you are physically able. Don't throw your money away. Look for ways to save some. After this, don't sit around and worry, just be busy doing something and you won't have time to worry.

Eliminating worry is easier said than done. Pray, meditate, be physically and mentally active. Be creative and on the offense about whatever might be troubling you. Don't take life sitting down. Tackle what you can and trust everything to God.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

## GUEST OP-ED

### Cardinal O'Malley statement on 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

By Sean P. O'Malley

"Throughout the history of the United States, events have occurred that profoundly changed who we are as a country.

Breakthrough developments in medicine and science, and technology that allows for instantaneous

communication, have provided us opportunities to improve our lives and be connected to one another in ways not previously possible. Sadly, war, socio-economic disparities, systemic racism and political divisions have made life more difficult for generations of Americans and deeply di-

vided our society.

In the twenty years since the tragic day when America was attacked on September 11, 2001, we have witnessed great courage and bravery by our countless men and women who came to the aid and support of their broth-

(Op-Ed Pg. 6)

## THE BOSTON SUN

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**EMBER GARDENS** (from pg. 1)

Premises,” reads the court filing by Ember Gardens Boston in part, while it further asserts that the board’s rejection of their plan was for “ostensibly political purposes,” as well as “arbitrary and capricious.” Ember Gardens, as was first reported Friday, Sept. 10, by the online news outlet, Universal Hub, is thus asking the Suffolk Superior Court to annul the ZBA’s ruling so their plan can move on to the state Cannabis Control Commission for its consideration..

Regarding the lawsuit, the

Ember Gardens team, which includes CEO Shane Hyde, issued the following response: “Ember Gardens has filed this appeal on its ZBA denial because they are continuing to follow proper legal channels to open the proposed shop at 297 Newbury St. They remain committed to opening a business that will behoove the community and City of Boston and it’s important to remember that they were unanimously approved by the Boston Cannabis Board (BCB) at this location. They are simply following the

appropriate channels to pursue all needed permits to open.”

State Rep. Jay Livingstone, who, along with City Councilor Kenzie Bok, as well as a representative from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, urged the ZBA to reject the Ember Gardens proposal at the June 22 hearing, based solely on the proposed location’s close proximity to nearby residences, wrote, “The location was inappropriate for a dispensary and the ZBA made the right decision that I hope the court affirms.”

Elliott Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, which also opposed the proposed location for the same reason, said, “The {ZBA} board reflected on the very strong testimony it received and made its judgment.”

Also, NABB’s opposition to the proposal, said Laffer, wasn’t politically motivated, as the would-be dispensary operator has asserted, but instead based solely on the establishment’s proposed geographical location on Newbury Street between

Gloucester and Hereford streets, as well as its proximity to the apartments next door and the residential part of Commonwealth Avenue across the alley.

As for the issue of the one-mile buffer zone mandated by the city between cannabis dispensaries, that decision was left to the Zoning Board of Appeal, said Laffer which ultimately opted not to grant the requested zoning relief to the applicant.

“Variances aren’t supposed to be easy to get,” said Laffer. “That’s why it’s a variance.”

**HEMPFEST** (from pg. 1)

pression.”

This year, Boston Freedom Rally takes place Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. on the Common, said Smith-Ellis, with staff setting up Sept. 17, and everything coming down on Sept. 19. Cars loading in are required to remain on a path designated by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, he said, and all vehicles must be removed from the area by 11 a.m. Saturday. Cars are permitted to load in on Saturday between 9 and 11 a.m., after which time the Common will be closed to incoming vehicles. No camping will be allowed in the park for the event.

The Boston Freedom Rally is traditionally the second largest annual gathering for marijuana law reform in the U.S., after the Seattle Hempfest, as well as an event that has previously taken its toll on the Common.

Over the weekend of Sept. 14 to 16, 2018, an estimated crowd of between 15,000 and 20,000 was on hand for the 29th annual Boston Freedom Rally – an event that, according to city officials at the time, caused an unprecedented amount of damage to the Common, with reports of attendees driving their cars onto the park, camping out there overnight, and leaving behind mountains of trash in their wake, including discarded syringes allegedly found among the debris.

Chris Cook, the Boston Parks Commissioner at the time, said during a City Council hearing in November of 2018 at City Hall, no other event in the city’s park system generates as much trash as the Boston Freedom Rally. And that year’s three-day event set the city back \$10,000 in overtime to clean up the Common afterwards, with that cost rising as high as \$20,000 in previous years, added Cook at that

time.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has legally challenged Boston Freedom Rally at least six times to no avail, going back to the 1990s, and doesn’t endorse the event, which it views as a direct affront to the smoking ban enacted in city parks, including on the Common.

(Specifically, the event again takes place on Carty Patade Field on the Common, its home every year since 1995, with the exception of 2007, when the field was being resodded.)

Despite the opposition, the Boston Freedom Rally returned to the Common as a one-day event on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2019 (and as an eight-hour virtual event on Sept. 19 of last year, which featured 80 speakers and was produced by Smith-Ellis).

Colin Zick, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association Parks and Public Spaces Committee, as well as a longstanding board member with the organization, remains steadfast against the event this year not only because of its past history, but also on account of its potential to proliferate the spread of covid.

“At this point, it’s really a public health concern, with so many people crowded together, many of them we know are engaged in a high-risk activity for spreading covid” (i.e. the smoking and sharing of cannabis), said Zick. “It’s just doesn’t seem to be the smartest thing to have going on at this point.”

The city’s face-covering mandate doesn’t apply outdoors, he added, and the age group seeing the most cases are on the younger side, as are those who are likely to attend the Boston Freedom Rally. And afterwards, these same people will return to their own communities, where, said Zick, they risk spreading the virus to others.

“And this is on top of all the other concerns we’ve had over the years,” said Zick, who added whenever an event takes place on the Common, it becomes increasingly difficult for others to use and enjoy the park. “Now, add the risk of this turning into a super-spreader event, and I just shake my head. Unfortunately, this year, it’s really a double-whammy.”

The Central for Disease Control also continues to advise against large gatherings, said Zick, “so basically, the city is saying, in this regard, we don’t care what the CDC says, and the organizers of the event are saying the same.”

Moreover, Zick added, “We continue to do things that spread covid, and I think that’s something responsible people and our government should be act-

ing against, and this seems like an easy one - just follow CDC guidelines.”

Zick said he also laments that the event is moving forward with “no solicitation of views” from the community, although Smith-Ellis said MassCann sent the Civic Association a letter dated Aug. 25 to notify them of the event, as well as to tell them about setup and breakdown times in an effort to minimize the traffic impact on the neighborhood.

MassCann is also going to new and unprecedented lengths to not only ensure the health and safety of those attending this year’s Boston Freedom Rally, said Smith-Ellis, but also to see that the event doesn’t have an adverse impact on the Common, or on nearby residents, as it has before.

Fifty uniformed and unarmed security guards will be on hand for the event, paid for by MassCann, said Smith-Ellis, and the park will be replete with 150 collapsible trash barrels that will be routinely emptied into dumpsters, as well as ample hand-washing stations and around 75 porta potties.

“As a result of community feedback, we’ve gone above and beyond this year at our own expense to provide a cleaning contractor to work throughout the course of the one-day event,” said Smith-Ellis. “We are fully prepared not only to comply with federal, state, and local covid guidelines, but also to ensure that there is no sharing or consumption, which will be repeatedly emphasized throughout the event.”

**Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology  
South End Community Open House**

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology invites you to a community open house to discuss the status of the redevelopment and preservation of our present campus at 41 Berkeley Street with Related Beal, hear plans for our new campus in Nubian Square, and gather your input as we continue to engage with our South End neighborhood.

**Date: Wednesday, September 22, 5:30-7:30 PM**

**In Person:** We will gather in the Franklin Union Auditorium at 41 Berkeley Street. Participants will be required to wear a mask and the seating will be spaced for social distancing.

**To participate by Zoom:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83893525183?pwd=WThSVGpadGI4YWlSTFA0OUczRE8rQT09>

# BVHDC approves four roof decks for previously approved projects on Edgerly and Arlington

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) on September 14 approved the addition of roof decks to two previously approved proposals at 10 Edgerly Place and 130-134 Arlington St., both designed by architect Jonathan Garland.

Applicant Jonathan Lee explained that between the two proposals, there are four housing units to be constructed, and the team hopes to add a roof deck to each one. He said none of the decks will be visible from the street. Construction has yet to begin on either project.

When the Commission

approved both of these projects, they requested that should roof decks become part of the proposal, the applicant needs to come back before the Commission for a review.

Architect Jonathan Garland presented the proposal for both projects, beginning with 10 Edgerly Place, which will be a single townhome unit.

He said that the proposed roof deck will take up about half of the space on the roof, and will face the rear yard. There will be a 42 inch guard rail that “in no way would be seen from a site perspective,” Garland said. He explained that the railing is a painted steel picket rail with a

wood cap on top.

“Just to the left of the railing are two small air conditioning condenser units” that are about 30 inches tall and “sit on mechanical dunnage,” he said. Garland added that none of this deck would be visible from a public way because it is set so far back on the roof.

“I think it sounds very reasonable and clearly, as drawn, it will not be visible and so not part of our purview,” said Commissioner Steve Dunwell.

Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that he would like to see mockups of the decks when construction

of both sets of buildings is complete to ensure that they are not visible, rendering them exempt from review by the BVHDC.

The Commission voted to approve the deck with that proviso.

At 130-134 Arlington St., the proposal was similar. Garland explained that the previously approved proposal includes three three-level townhouses with outdoor garden space.

Once again, the proposed roof decks would be located towards the back of building and the condenser units are about 25 inches tall.

Tom Perkins, President of the Bay Village Neighborhood

Association (BNVA), said that Jonathan Lee presented to the BVNA Executive Committee last week, and the organization made sure to publicize the change to the proposal to residents of the neighborhood. He said that based on the lack of attendance regarding this issue, “nobody is too surprised or has issues with this.”

The Commission voted these decks as well with the same proviso that staff will examine mockups once the buildings are constructed to make sure the decks are not visible from a public way.

# Remembering the local victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks 20 years later

By John Lynds

Twenty years ago on Sept. 10, 2001, 2,996 people went to sleep not knowing the horrors the next day would bring.

Among them, 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights, 2,606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning, 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift, 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for morning patrol and eight paramedics

went to sleep in preparation for the morning shift of saving lives.

None of these saw past 10 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001.

It has been twenty years since the worst terrorist attack on US soil that changed the world forever and forced many of us to enjoy the breaths we take today before we go to sleep in preparation for tomorrow. Since the fateful day we've made an effort to kiss the ones we love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of life for granted.

Among the nearly 3,000 souls

that lost their lives 20 years ago in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania, were 206 Massachusetts residents of all ages, backgrounds and cultures that were cut down far too soon by a senseless act of violence that continues to shock the world.

Over the weekend the historic news footage of the day is just as real, just as horrifying and just as sorrowful as they were 20 years ago.

The images of the planes hitting the World Trade Center, people jumping in desperation from the buildings, the collapse

of the towers, smoke rising from the Pentagon and the stories of heroism aboard United Flight 93 will forever be burnt into our collective memory as a nation.

On Saturday, we honored the local residents that lost their lives on Sept. 11 like Jesus Sanchez, 45 and Antonio Jesus Montoya Valdes, 46, of East Boston, James, 67, and Mary Trentini, 65, of Everett, Marianne MacFarlane, 34, Revere, Kathleen Ann Nicosia, 54, Winthrop and Myra Joy Aronson, 50 and Christopher M. Morrison, 34, Charlestown.

They all left behind either chil-

dren or grandchildren, husbands or wives, parents or grandparents, or friends.

By all accounts the local victims we honor were gentle souls, good people, family men and women and all did not have a punishment coming and were not deserving of their fate.

So today, like every 9-11 anniversary for the past 20 years, we again mourn Jesus, Antonio, James and Mary, Marianne, Kathleen, Myra and Christopher.

We haven't forgotten and we shall never forget.

## OP-ED (from pg. 4)

ers and sisters in the midst of crisis. First responders, many of whom ran towards danger never to return, exemplify the American spirit, and we honor them always. Flight crews facing unimaginable horror that day focused on caring for their passengers who turned to them for help in moments of fearful desperation. And the men and women of the military courageously stepped forward to defend our freedom. A shining tower of architectural beauty now calls us to the place where the World Trade Center towers once stood. The 9/11 Memorial honors the lives lost and helps us to heal from the trauma of that day while holding up America's resolve to never forget. Memorials have also been erected at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania where, in those attacks, the extraordinary heroism of citizens and those who serve to protect

us saved many lives.

In the years since September 11, 2001, we have also experienced two deep and long-term economic downturns, a global pandemic that has led to more than 600,000 Americans losing their lives. And we have seen far too many people fall into poverty through no fault of their own, continuing an inequity that has for too long unfairly burdened those whose goal is to realize the dream of a better life for their families. A lack of civility and a too-quick readiness to denigrate and assign blame to others, amplified through social media, is fracturing communities and making us less trusting of our neighbors. Our brothers and sisters within the interfaith community have experienced an unprecedented amount of hate; we stand in solidarity with men and women of all faiths to combat this evil.

Almost 3,000 people lost

their lives on 9/11. Many have since died from the health impacts directly attributed to the collapse of the towers. Two wars have cost thousands of American lives and also the lives of our allies and citizens in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many men and women who answered the call to defend us suffered life-altering injuries. We are now called to support them as they return to our communities.

September 11th changed all of us and our society. We owe the families of those lost on 9/11 the honor of finding ways to overcome our differences and building communities of compassion and love that unites us. We should be motivated to take meaningful action by looking past our differences and embracing a culture of mutual respect and dialogue. The Church has a role in this and endeavors to be a beacon of hope for the distressed, friend to the forgotten and helping hand to the

less fortunate.

Many of us remember where we were and what we were feeling on that tragic day twenty years ago. I was in Washington, D.C., for meetings at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Shortly after the attacks, we canceled our meeting and made our way to the nearby Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for Mass on the campus of Catholic University, where a crowd had already gathered to pray. With the help of the University's president, who made his car available, I was able to return to New England with my fellow bishops to be with the people of the Diocese of Fall River where I was bishop.

All across the world, there was a strong sense of community and solidarity. Our need to share the profound sorrow of that time that brought people together in a profound way. The events of September

11th demonstrated the fragility of human life and also our resilience and recognition of our common bond of humanity.

Remembering the events of September 11th twenty years later, we pray for the victims, the families and the survivors who may still be traumatized and whose health has been compromised by the effects of the attacks.

We pray for peace in our world. We pray for wisdom to overcome our differences. We pray for a future free of terrorism and hate. We pray for the healing that comes from communities of love for another, mutual respect and caring. And we commit to never forget those whose lives were lost that day.”

*Sean P. O'Malley is an American cardinal of the Catholic Church serving as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Boston.*

INDEPENDENT'S

# Guide to Schools IN AND AROUND BOSTON

## PRE-SCHOOL

**The Advent School**  
15 Brimmer St.  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-742-0520 x 15  
adventschool.org/  
events

The Advent School is a Reggio Emilia-inspired elementary school for children from age four through Sixth Grade. In a diverse academic community founded in the principles of social justice and dedicated to respect and inclusion, Advent students learn to be critical thinkers, confident scholars, and compassionate citizens of the world.

Grades: Age 4 (pre-Kindergarten) - Sixth Grade

Tuition: \$31,950

Hours: 8:10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Application deadline: January

Financial aid: Need-based aid available



CHRISTOPHER HUAN PHOTOS

First day of school (above and right) at the Advent school.



library, seven classrooms and an indoor gym. All our programs have a strong emphasis on play, hands-on engagement, open-ended exploration, and social/emotional development. Enriched by weekly yoga and music classes, our program nurtures and engages children in an environment that cultivates creativity and joy in learning. Our

Junior Kindergarten program is designed to maintain the hallmarks of our play-based programs for young children while offering increased structure, exposure to academic readiness skills, leadership opportunities and preparation for the transition to next schools.

Programs:

Toddler (2-2.9 years) - 2 or 3

mornings (8:45am-12pm) or 2 afternoons (1-4:15pm)

Preschool (2.9-4 years) - 5 mornings (8:45am-12pm)

Junior Kindergarten (4-5 years) - M-Th (8:45am-2pm), F (8:45am-12pm)

Extended Day: Early Drop-off 8:15-8:45am

Extended Day until 3:30 or 5:45pm

Deadlines: Sibling & Legacy Applications - November 15

All other Applications - January 15

Virtual Open Houses: October 6th and November 9th 6:30pm

Virtual Coffees: October

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

**Beacon Hill Nursery School**  
74 Joy Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-227-0822  
www.bhns.net

Beacon Hill Nursery School was founded in 1955 and has been a vital part of the downtown community since its inception with a consistent commitment to high quality early childhood education. Our primary mission is to create a nurturing community that instills a lifelong love of learning in its students. We cherish children's innate curiosity through purposeful play guided by exceptional early childhood educators.

Our school is warm and welcoming, with two onsite playscapes, a dedicated



Join our  
*Virtual Open House*  
Lower and Middle School  
Sunday, October 24 1:00-5:00 PM  
Visit: [www.shs.org/](http://www.shs.org/)  
**ADMISSION**  
**Register Today!**

Shady Hill School  
Cambridge, MA



PRE-K TO GRADE 8

Join us at a Park Street School Open House (all campuses):

- October 19 or December 9 at 9:00 AM (Virtual)
- November 1 at 6:00 PM (In Person)

"Talk to Us Tuesdays"  
October - December at 10:30 AM (Virtual)

Register at [www.parkstreetschool.org](http://www.parkstreetschool.org)

**INSPIRE. DISCOVER. BECOME.**

TODDLER - GRADE 6 | 617-523-7577 | [PARKSTREETSCCHOOL.ORG](http://PARKSTREETSCCHOOL.ORG)  
PRESCHOOL: ONE PARK STREET | ELEMENTARY: 67 BRIMMER STREET

**PARK STREET SCHOOL**

INDEPENDENT'S

# Guide to Schools

## IN AND AROUND BOSTON

28th, November 18th and December 9th 9:30am  
Registration required for all events online at [www.bhns.net/meet-bhns](http://www.bhns.net/meet-bhns)

Financial Aid: Need-based

### Boston Children's School

8 Whittier Place  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-367-6239  
[bostonchildrens-school.org](http://bostonchildrens-school.org)

Established in 1965, the Boston Children's School (BCS) has been bringing the joy of learning to children between the ages of 2.9 and 7 years of age for over 56 years. Located in the historic West End section of Boston, at Charles River Park, the Boston Children's School attracts students from the greater Boston area and children from around the world.

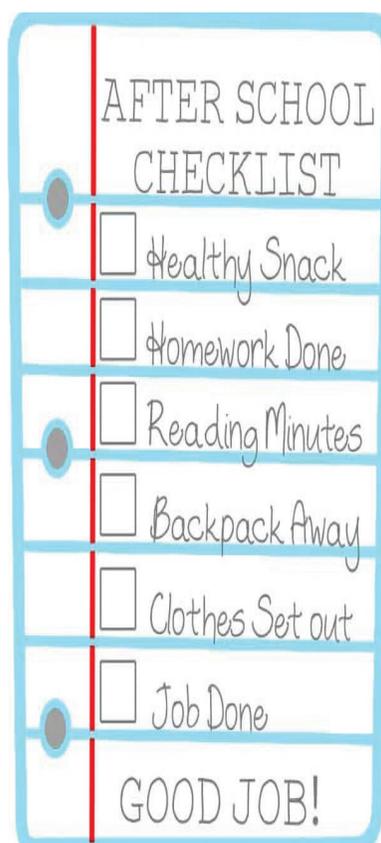
The BCS curriculum is both cognitively and developmental-

ly age appropriate. Children learn and play in small groups, in individual, intimate classroom settings, allowing the classroom teachers to know each child and their individual learning style. In addition to daily classroom activities, the Boston Children's School offers gymnastics, sign language and music as part of its curriculum. All children have daily access to the on-site playground. The Boston Children's School also offers a "Summer-Fun-Program" to children between the ages of 3 and 8 years old.

Detailed information about the Boston Children's School, its academic year and summer programs, are available on the BCS website at [www.BostonChildrensSchool.Org](http://www.BostonChildrensSchool.Org) or feel free to call BCS Director Judy Langer, at 617-367-6239 with any questions that you may have about the school.

Academic Year - September through June. Ages - 2.9 through 7 years old

Hours - 8:45 a.m. through 5 p.m., half day programs are



available.

Early arrival at 8:15 a.m. and late stay until 5:30 p.m. also available.

Application Deadline: January 15

### BSSCC

162 Goddard Ave.,  
Brookline, MA  
617-651-2279

[staffchildrenscenter.org](http://staffchildrenscenter.org)

BSSCC is a well-established early childhood program situated alongside Lars Anderson Park serving toddlers and preschoolers. Outdoor experiences in nature, problem solving, and social-emotional development through play are its emphasis. For more information: [staffchildrenscenter.org](http://staffchildrenscenter.org) or [bssccatgoddard@gmail.com](mailto:bssccatgoddard@gmail.com).

### Charlestown Nursery School

124 Main Street  
Charlestown, MA  
617-242-5169

[charlestown-nurseryschool.com](http://charlestown-nurseryschool.com)

[admissions@charlestown-nurseryschool.org](mailto:admissions@charlestown-nurseryschool.org)

Charlestown Nursery School (CNS) is an innovative program for children 2-5 years old that draws on the best research from Reggio Emilia, Montessori and other thoughtful approaches. Our curriculum is built around a series of explorations that grow out of the children's own interests and integrates individualized development - combining the power of the children's boundless curiosity with an expertly guided investigative approach that immerses the children in the process and joys of real discovery, with the goal of nurturing self-motivated, life-long learners. CNS has been recognized by educators from around the world and has been highlighted in many studies of high-quality early childhood. CNS is known for the teacher-researchers and experts.

The city's resources - including parks, museums, libraries and historic attractions - are considered part of the school's "campus," and our frequent visits foster the child's feeling of being at home in the wider world. In the last year, we have taken even more of our learning outside. See more on Instagram.

Ages: 2 - 5 years.

Tuition variable by program.

Early admission begins Nov.15 and is first come first serve. Applications on the website

### Park Street School - Preschool

One Park Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-523-7577

[www.parkstreet-school.org](http://www.parkstreet-school.org)

Inspire. Discover. Become.

Consider the best education for children Toddler - Grade 6 in bright and sunny facilities in Beacon Hill! While our loca-

**BELIEVE · BELONG · BECOME**

1863  
**BC HIGH**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**NOVEMBER 7**

**REGISTER @ [BCHIGH.EDU](http://BCHIGH.EDU)**

**BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL**

**Virtual Open House**  
Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8pm

- Ages 2 - 6
- Play-based learning
- Two onsite playscapes

74 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02114  
617.227.0822 • [www.bhns.net](http://www.bhns.net)

INDEPENDENT'S

# Guide to Schools

## IN AND AROUND BOSTON

tion is ideal, it's our remarkable students, faculty and families working together, forming close relationships that creates a vibrant and nurturing community where children thrive.

Grounded in Core Knowledge philosophy, children build strong foundations of knowledge in the early years - an approach foundational to developing critical thinking skills necessary for life-long learning. Learning here is active! Creativity, imagination, and social development are fostered through lessons, learning centers and play. Whether collecting leaves, discovering animals' habitats in Ponds and Meadows, or bicycling in gym, children are "out of the chair" - making connections in and out of the classroom and between subjects. The learning is authentic and sets us apart. As a Christian school, we're committed to guiding students in the formation of character and an understanding of God's love for them. Connecting the mind and the heart - classroom learning and character education - is what makes Park Street School special.

Ages: 2-5 years Tuition: \$10,800-\$22,300; \$2,000-\$8,500 additional for afternoon programs Financial Assistance: Available for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6, with limited availability for Preschool. Hours: 8:00 a.m.- noon for morning programs, Creative Afternoons noon-3:00 p.m. for ages 3 and up. Two, three, four and five-day programs available. Application deadline: Jan. 3 for priority for fall programs.

**Shady Hill School**  
**178 Coolidge Hill**  
**Cambridge, MA 02138**  
**617-520-5200**  
**www.shs.org**  
 Shady Hill School is a Pre-

Kindergarten through Grade 8 all-gender day school, with more than 500 students, located on an 11-acre campus in Cambridge. Since our founding in 1915, the School has been committed to creating an environment where children are joyful, active learners who are empowered to be intellectually adventurous and wholeheartedly just. Shady Hill honors each child's individual character, encourages learning through multiple perspectives and fosters an environment of collaboration. Central Subject, our unique approach to teaching and learning, fosters integrated study and the development of critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers. Grades Pre-K-8 tuition in 2021-2022: \$29,770 - \$44,890. Hours: 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM. Application deadline: January 10, 2022. Virtual Open House, Pre-K-8: Sunday, October 24, 1:00-5:00 PM.

**ELEMENTARY - MIDDLE**

**The Advent School**  
**15 Brimmer St.**  
**Boston, MA 02108**  
**617-742-0520 x 15**  
**adventschool.org/**  
**events**

The Advent School is a Reggio Emilia-inspired elementary school for children from age four through Sixth Grade. In a diverse academic community founded in the principles of social justice and dedicated to respect and inclusion, Advent students learn to be critical thinkers, confident scholars, and compassionate citizens of the world.

Grades: Age 4 (pre-Kindergarten) - Sixth Grade  
 Tuition: \$31,950  
 Hours: 8:10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Application deadline: January  
 Financial aid: Need-based aid available

**The Newman School**  
**247 Marlborough Street**  
**Boston MA 02116**  
**617-267-4530**  
**newmanboston.org**

Founded in 1945, The Newman School, an independent day school offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Boston's beautiful Back Bay neighborhood, prepares young women and men in grades 7 through 12 from Greater Boston and around the world for success in university studies, and in life. With a school culture that is uniquely welcoming and supportive, Newman provides students from broadly diverse backgrounds an opportunity to pursue serious studies in the company of like-minded peers and instructors. Studies are organized around the principles of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and students have the option of pursuing the entire IB Diploma or those portions of it that meet their needs and aspirations. Newman's IB graduates have matriculated at such schools as Columbia, Oberlin, the University of Virginia, Duke, and the University of Michigan. Guided by Cardinal Newman's motto, Cor ad Cor loquitur—Heart speaks to Heart—the school believes that students are able to achieve their potential when pursuing their studies in an environment of mutual respect, integrity, seriousness of purpose, and civic responsibility. A vibrant program of activities and sports provides students with opportunities for personal growth beyond the classroom.

**Park Street School - Elementary**  
**67 Brimmer Street**  
**Boston, MA 02108**  
**617-523-7577**  
**www.parkstreet-school.org**

Inspire. Discover. Become.

Consider the best education for children Toddler - Grade 6 in bright and sunny facilities in Beacon Hill! While our location is ideal, it's our remarkable students, faculty and families working together, forming close relationships that creates a vibrant community where children thrive.

Grounded in Core Knowledge philosophy, children build strong foundations of knowledge in the early years - an approach foundational to developing critical thinking skills necessary for life-long learning. Learning here is active! Whether it's collecting

field research in tidal pools, celebrating medieval festivals or bringing Shakespeare to life on stage, children are "out of the chair" - making connections in and out of the classroom and between subjects. The learning is authentic and sets us apart. As a Christian school, we're committed to guiding students in the formation of character and an understanding of God's love for them. Connecting the mind and the heart - classroom learning and character education - is what makes Park Street School special.

Grades: Kindergarten-Grade 6 Tuition: \$30,200-\$32,300; \$1,500-\$6,000 additional for afternoon programs. Financial Assistance: Available for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6, with limited availability for Preschool.

Hours: 8:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Grades 1-6; Kindergarten hours are M-TH 8:00p.m.-3:00p.m.; Fridays 8:00a.m.-noon with optional Kindergarten

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

WWW.CHARLESTOWNNURSERY.SCHOOL.ORG

# EXPLORE

## THE CNS DIFFERENCE

Visit us to experience why each year, over 1,000 teachers from around the world follow us to learn more about our attention to quality.

Ages 2 to 5

APPLY BY NOV 15th

Learn more about our innovative, research-driven program

CHARLESTOWN NURSERY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT'S

# Guide to Schools

## IN AND AROUND BOSTON

Enrichment, noon-3:00 p.m. After school program, clubs and private music lessons available until 5:30p.m. Application deadline: Jan. 3 for priority for fall programs

**Shady Hill School**  
**178 Coolidge Hill**  
**Cambridge, MA 02138**  
**617-520-5200**  
**www.shs.org**

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### HIGH SCHOOL

**BC High**  
**Boston College High School**  
**150 Morrissey Blvd.**  
**Boston, MA 02125**  
**617-436-3900**  
**bchigh.edu**

Founded in 1863, Boston College High School is a world-class, independent Jesuit, Catholic preparatory school for young men in grades 7-12. BC High offers students dynamic, urban learning experiences unique to Boston and connections to a global network of more than 1,000 Jesuit schools.

Our approach is rigorous, going beyond the academic to address the whole person: head, heart, and hands – cultivating qualities that establish character and provide students with a holistic framework to wrestle the many complexities

of life.

Here, future leaders begin to develop their potential, find their own unique voice, and work together toward a more ethical and inclusive future. Students learn to stand up boldly for what they believe in, including themselves, and become men who lead with integrity.

Our five-hundred-year-old tradition of Jesuit education has weathered plagues, recessions, and wars. Rooted in this tradition, BC High led the way last year in caring for students in an uncertain world. In the face of challenge, our students do not stand still, but continue to learn supported by a diverse community wholly committed to their growth.

Learn more about the BC High experience and register for our virtual open house on November 7, go to bchigh.edu.

**The Newman School**  
**247 Marlborough Street**  
**Boston MA 02116**  
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# Back Bay, surrounding area's COVID cases decline

By John Lynds

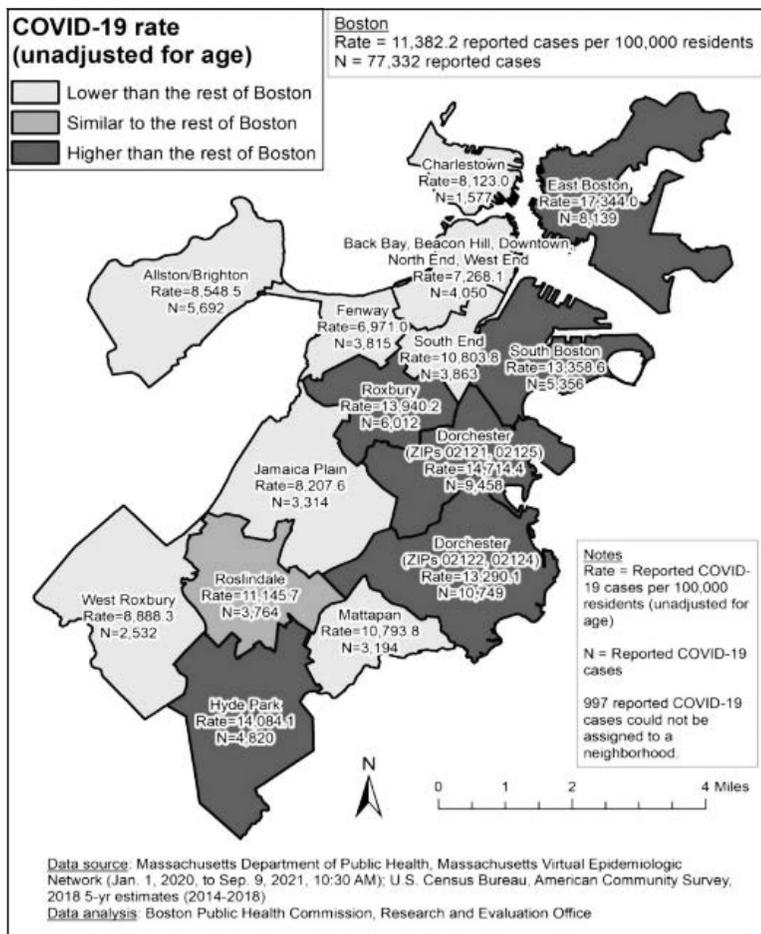
With a new school year in full swing, a large percentage of students under the age of 12 still unvaccinated and the Delat variant of the COVID 19 virus still raging city health officials are keeping a close eye on infection spikes in neighborhoods.

Ahead of the city's mask mandate, the Back Bay's weekly positive COVID test rate spiked 31 percent between August 16 and August 23 but has steadily declined.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,384 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.6 percent were positive. This was a 7 percent decrease from the 2.8 percent of residents that tested positive between August 30 and September 6.

Overall since the pandemic started 67,939 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 3.2 percent decrease from the 6.2 percentage reported by the BPHC on September 6.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased nearly 3 percent last week. According to the BPHC 22,313 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 2.85 percent increase from the 3.5 percent reported by the BPHC



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

on Sept. 6.

The BPHC data released Monday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 726.8 cases per 10,000 residents--a 1.8 percent increase from the 714.2 cases per 10,000 residents reported on September 6.

Seventy additional residents have been infected with the virus between September 6 and September 13 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,050 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 2.7 percent since Sept. 6 and went from 76,186 cases to 78,234 confirmed cases in a week. There were seven additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths remains at 1,413.

# Boston WNV risk level raised

By John Lynds

At the end of last week the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced that Boston's West Nile Virus (WNV) risk level has been raised from moderate to high. This designation by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is based on the high number of positive mosquito samples in the City and its surrounding towns, the rainfall and favorable weather for mosquito breeding, as well as the number of human cases in surrounding towns.

"West Nile Virus in humans is rare in Boston. However, we've seen a lot of rain this summer, leading to a higher number of mosquitoes in our City," said BPHC's Director of Infectious Disease, Dr. Sarimer Sanchez "When you're outside, you and your family can take precautions to protect yourself from mosquito bites and the dangerous diseases mosquitoes may carry. That includes using an approved mosquito repellent and wearing clothing that covers your body. Keep window screens in good condition to keep mosquitos out of your home and drain standing water from your yard to prevent mosquitos."

A rainy summer has made mosquitoes a nuisance all summer in Boston. Residents have complained that mosquitoes

were worse than ever this season. Many residents complained that all hours of the day--morning, noon and night--mosquitoes were abundant and inflicting itchy bites on those trying to do yard work or enjoy a cookout with family members.

Back in August the BPHC partnered with the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP) to protect Boston residents from mosquito-borne disease transmission.

The SCMCP performed an aerosol spray of Boston neighborhoods around and applied a formula that contains the pesticide, sumithrin, to help control mosquitoes.

However, the efforts and results by the BPHC and SCMCP were short lived as mosquitos continue to be a problem in the area.

Now that Boston has raised the West Nile Virus risk level to high, the BPHC is recommending that people over 50 years of age and those with compromised immune systems consider avoiding outdoor activities during the peak mosquito times between dusk and dawn.

West Nile Virus is a member of the family Flaviviridae, from the genus Flavivirus, which also contains the Zika virus, dengue virus, and yellow fever virus. The virus is primarily transmitted by

(WEST NILE VIRUS, Pg. 12)



## Virtual Community Meeting

### Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, October 4  
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/October2021RSMPOC

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 512 3481

#### 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. **Vote on Crescent Developer Designation Oct. 4th.**

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:

- Oct./Octubre/Oktòb 4 (Vote on Crescent Developer/ Votar sobre el desarrollador de Crescent Parcel/ Vote sou pwomote Crescent Pasèl)
- Nov./Noviembre/Novanm 1

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 sèvis 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  
617.918.5493 | kelly.sherman@boston.gov

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# Applicant tells NABB Committee of plans to open new restaurant in former McGreevy's space

By Dan Murphy

An applicant who intends to open a new restaurant in the former McGreevy's space at 911 Boylston St. outlined their plan during the Sept. 13 meeting of the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee Meeting, which took place virtually.

A name for the new establishment is still being settled on, but it would likely incorporate the "McGreevy's" moniker in a nod to the previous establishment owned by Dropkick Murphys lead singer, Ken Casey, which closed in August of last year amid financial fallout from the pandemic. But unlike the standard pub food offered by its predecessor, the new McGreevy's would serve French/British/American fare, with a hamburger expected to cost in \$18-22 range, according to chief applicant, Andrew O'Keefe.

O'Keefe would be the establishment's manager of record and his wife, Jenny, would serve

as the assistant manager. Both have had extensive experience in the industry, most recently running two restaurants in Midtown Manhattan. The couple would be opening the new establishment with the financial backing of two investors, said O'Keefe, who added that he and his wife would also be relocating to Boston, perhaps even living above the new restaurant.

Food is expected to account for 75 percent of the new establishment's income, he said, with the remaining 25 percent coming from the sale of alcohol, although the applicant was reluctant to agree to a requested good-neighbor proviso that alcohol be served at tables only with food.

"It's going to be expensive," said O'Keefe, who added that bread would be made in house and meat and fish locally sourced, and they might eventually even add a lobster tank downstairs.

The proposed hours of operation would be 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily, except Sunday, said the

applicant, because the new establishment plans to offer breakfast, including some Polish dishes not now available in the Back Bay area.

Conrad Armstrong, NABB LBU Committee chair, told the applicant that a restaurant offering breakfast on that part of Boylston Street would fill a void left after the closure of the Pour House in September of last year.

The establishment wouldn't offer takeout to start, however, said O'Keefe, but that could come later.

Upstairs, the new McGreevy's would have a capacity of between 85 and 100, said the applicant, with a bar with seating for 10 to 15 patrons on one side, a smaller bar with room for six to 10 patrons on the other, and a few tables in between them.

Downstairs would be a lounge area with around a 40-person capacity, where the applicant hopes to bring live jazz. There would be no TVs on this floor, and food would be served there as well, said the applicant.

NABB chair, Elliott Laffer, advised the applicant they would need to seek a separate entertainment license from the city for this endeavor, and that while Back Bay had once been a popular des-

tinuation for live music, the community has since "pushed back" against such proposals.

Trash would be stored in a dumpster in back of the establishment, said the applicant, and its removal would be handled by a commercial trash hauler.

There are currently no plans for outdoor seating at the establishment, said O'Keefe.

In another matter, the applicant, Jason Vuong, operating as VT Partners LLC, detailed a plan to open a bubble-tea shop called Gong Cha in a retail space formerly home to a Dunkin' (Donuts) at 270 Newbury St.

The proposed hours of operation would be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, according to the applicant. Besides bubble tea, the proposed Newbury Street outpost would sell waffles and other food items prepared on site using a hot induction cooker, said the applicant, who also owns and operates the original Gong Cha in Worcester.

The new shop would offer countertop seating, including one long counter along the wall, said Vuong, and it would have a small patio in front, where the applicant hopes to add a few tables. But Laffer advised Vuong he would likely have to go to the

city's Board of Appeal to have the patio use changed to reflect the new ownership, as well as to have the conditional use for the patio extended to them.

Trash would go in a dumpster in back, shared with other businesses in the building, and given the modest scope of the proposed operation, the waste generated is expected to be minimal. Still, Armstrong asked the applicant to store trash at the rear of the restaurant until just prior to pickup, if possible.

The applicant said they hope to have the proposed Newbury Street shop up and running by next spring, and that the expected site build-out would be minimal, since the space was formerly a Dunkin' location.

In both cases, Armstrong told each applicant he would let them know the committee's determinations on their respective applications, as the votes weren't open to the public.

Another item regarding the proposed operation of Cafeteria restaurant at 279a Newbury St. under new management was on the meeting agenda, but postponed until the committee's October meeting at the applicant's request, according to Armstrong.

## WEST NILE VIRUS (from pg. 11)

mosquitoes. The primary hosts of WNV are birds, so that the virus remains within a "bird-mosquito-bird" transmission cycle. The virus is genetically related to the Japanese encephalitis family of viruses.

About 80% of those infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) show no symptoms and go unreported but about 20% of infected people develop West Nile Fever (WNF). The symptoms of WNF vary in severity, and begin 3 to 14 days after being bitten. Most people with mild symptoms of WNV recover completely, though fatigue and weakness may last for weeks or months. Symptoms may range from mild, such as fever, to severe, such as paralysis and meningitis. A severe infection can last weeks and can, rarely, cause permanent brain damage. Death may ensue if the central nervous system is affected. Medical conditions such as cancer and diabetes, and age over 50 years, increase the risk of developing severe symptoms.

WNV is usually detected in Boston mosquitoes during the

summer and fall months from June to November every year since 2000.

So far this year there have been no human cases in Boston nor were there any human cases of WNV infection diagnosed in Boston residents in 2020 and 2019. In 2018, there were seven human cases of WNV infection diagnosed in Boston residents.

The BPHC said the best way to protect against WNV is to protect against mosquito bites. They suggest using repellents containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin or IR3535.

Another tip is to cover up when outside when mosquitoes are most active. This includes wearing protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks whenever possible.

For more information about the sprayings, contact SC MCP at 781-899-5730. For a full list of any upcoming spraying, and for West Nile Virus and Mosquito-Borne Illness Fact Sheets in Chinese, English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese, go to [bphc.org/mosquitocontrol](http://bphc.org/mosquitocontrol).

## DHS to increase civil penalties for violations of the Federal face mask requirement

Staff Report

The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will increase the range of civil penalties that may be imposed on individuals who violate the federal mask mandate at airports, on commercial aircraft, and in various modes of surface transportation, including passenger railroads, intercity bus services, and other public transportation. The federal mask mandate for transportation, which was implemented by TSA on February 2, 2021, will remain in effect until January 18, 2022.

The new range of penalties, which take effect Friday, Sep-

tember 10, 2021, will be \$500-\$1000 for first offenders and \$1000-\$3000 for second offenders.

"Wearing a mask protects the traveling public and all of the personnel who make the travel experience safe, secure, and comfortable," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "We will continue to enforce the mask mandate as long as necessary to protect public health and safety."

"We appreciate the majority of travelers each day who voluntarily follow the requirement, but find this action necessary to maximize the protections for those who use and work

within the transportation system, and to contain COVID-19," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. "By doubling the range of penalties, we seek to reinforce the importance of voluntary adherence."

TSA will provide updated signage at airports regarding these increased civil penalties. For more information about the federal face mask requirement, visit the TSA Coronavirus webpage.

These federal mask mandate-related civil penalties are separate from the civil penalties the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues for individuals who engage in unruly and unsafe behavior.

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# USES' after school program, club48 now at full capacity

By Lauren Bennett

As more students return to in person learning, many for the first time since the pandemic shutdown last spring, United South End Settlements (USES) is running its after school program, club48, at full capacity this fall.

The Sun spoke with USES Co-Executive Director Joe Masso to learn more about USES programming and how it operates, as well as how the organization is keeping students and staff safe as cases continue to rise due to the Delta variant.

Masso said that when the pandemic first hit in 2020, USES was “able to support children and families virtually” during that initial period. In July of last year, USES opened for full day programming, which he said “was not a problem.” Children were placed in pods and had a safe place to complete their virtual schoolwork while their parents returned to work.

He said that the program was able to support “children who were in different classrooms and different schools...this was a whole new ballgame for us. Staff had to learn on the fly,” as well as be able to communicate with families and teachers to coordinate it all.

He said that the decision to return to full capacity for the after school program this school year was made in part because

“the need was there for sure,” and parents needed a place for their kids to go while they were still at work. Because USES had already been operating during the pandemic, it was prepared to handle more kids as it had already been doing so with other programs, he said.

“Even with COVID, with the variant, recognizing...we know somewhat how to be able to manage this,” he said.

Masso said that nearly every single staff member has been vaccinated, and weekly testing for staff has been conducted since early spring.

On site at USES, regular sanitation and cleaning is still in place as it has been over the past year. Masso said one other challenge that this school year poses is that kids have returned to full-time in person learning, which requires “clear communications” from schools regarding any positive tests within school communities and ensuring that proper quarantining and isolation is happening where necessary.

Additionally, families are notified when their child has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and the USES program community is notified when a member of the community has tested positive, he said.

The mask mandate is in effect, and USES follows all other guidelines put forth by the state

regarding COVID-19, Masso said, including limiting touch points and entering the building one way and exiting another.

“We have been operating this way for this past year,” he said, and the staff has become accustomed to this way of operation.

During the summer program, students participated in talent shows, as well as an entrepreneurship activity where they put together a business plan to sell products.

“Since I’ve been here, this has been one of our best summers,” Masso said.

Club48 was back in session as of September 13, and Masso said that both new students and returning students have joined USES’ early childhood education program as well, which serves children ages three months through five years. He said there were “a lot of happy tears” shed on Monday, adding that staff were happy to see some of the children they hadn’t seen in a long time.

“It felt pretty close to normal, to be honest with you,” he said. There was positive energy from the students, who were happy to talk about their classes. “You could hear the laughter; hear the enjoyment,” Masso said.

USES’ programs “focus on the social and emotional aspect” of being a student, especially in the face of the pandemic when so many students were stripped



Students at USES’ after school program, club48, hard at work on their projects.

of the opportunity to learn in a classroom setting amongst their peers for so many months.

Club48 focuses on a STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—curriculum, which Masso said “truly makes us unique.” He said that students focus on different STEAM projects that are incorporated into work they do in their classes at school.

“These are things that really inspire our students,” Masso said.

Masso also talked about USES’ Family Mobility initiative, which he said includes a “basic income program” and a STEP (Striving Towards Economic Prosperity) program, as well as provides coaching and resources along with events and opportunities to engage families. He said that by offering this program, USES is showing its support for families and children.

The excitement around the beginning of the school year was felt at USES this week, and Masso said that kids are eager to return to some “regular activities” after more than a year with so much uncertainty.

For more information on USES and the programs it offers, visit [uses.org](http://uses.org).

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club48 students show off projects they created as part of the program.

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# Reclaim Our Lady's Guild House

## Residents and activists call for transfer of Our Lady's Guild House to two Boston non-profits

Staff Report

Senior residents of Our Lady's Guild House (OLGH), threatened with eviction, are urging the Attorney General's Public Charities Division to take action against the owner and manager of the 140-unit rooming house for women in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. Residents are requesting that the property be transferred to a collaborative joint venture between two experienced Boston-based non-profit affordable housing developers. Both the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), a non-profit organization affiliated with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, and Fenway Community Development Corporation (Fenway CDC), a local neighborhood-based non-profit, have jointly expressed interest in acquiring the property and ensuring its long-term affordability.

From 1947 until recent years, OLGH operated as permanent affordable housing for low- and moderate-income women. In 1946, the property was entrusted by the Boston Archdiocese to members of the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Concep-

tion, an order of nuns based in New Britain, Connecticut. After a change in leadership at the Daughters in the early 2010's, the Daughters essentially stopped running OLGH as a charity.

The Daughters hired Boston realtor Marc Roostaie (known as Marc Roos) to run the property. They raised rents, set time limits on the tenancies of residents, and began evicting long-term residents. Scores of vulnerable, senior women were displaced. Roos and the Daughters rented vacant rooms as high-priced Air BNB units until Boston outlawed the practice. Roos and the Daughters began focusing their advertisements on students, especially international students. They set an illegal age limit of 50 years old for applicants and used discriminatory language to discourage applicants with disabilities. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) found probable cause to conclude that these actions discriminated on the basis of age and disability.

MCAD also found probable cause that the Daughters' and Roos's enforcement of a newly-imposed short term rental policy at OLGH was a pretext

for discrimination. The Daughters and Roos falsely claimed that OLGH was not intended to be operated as permanent housing, and enforced a four-year, and then a two-year time limit on tenancies. According to data reviewed by MCAD, this and OLGH's other discriminatory policies virtually erased the population of senior residents at OLGH. Between 2009 and 2019 the number of 18- to 29-year-olds increased from 16 to 85, an increase of 86.3%. In the same time period, the population of tenants over 50 declined from 46 to 8, with all of the remaining 8 senior tenants facing eviction due to the Daughters' and Roos's time limit policy.

According to Boston Census and tenant survey data, from 2009-2010 to 2019, the number of students at OLGH increased from 17 to 89, or over 60 %, while the number of working, unemployed or retired residents decreased substantially. Moreover, the number of Boston residents who were able to gain access to OLGH plummeted. In 2009-2010, more than 80 women described themselves as permanent residents of OLGH and Boston. In 2019, no women described themselves as perma-

nent residents of OLGH and Boston in a resident survey, other than the handful of older remaining tenants facing eviction.

Through these actions over the past 10 years, the Daughters and Roos have jettisoned OLGH's charitable purpose of providing permanent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income women in Boston. In addition to blatantly discriminating against seniors and those with disabilities, the Daughters and Roos have imposed illegal fees, and violated other landlord-tenant and consumer protection statutes.

Mother Jennifer Carroll, who initiated the alliance with Roos and the mass displacement of senior, low-income women, passed away this past February. Residents and advocates see a unique opportunity for an optimal resolution, given the combination of new leadership together with an appropriate potential buyer for the OLGH. Mother Janice Zdunczyk became the new leader of the Daughters in June.

Senior OLGH residents have identified Fenway CDC and POUA as potential new owners for the building. Fenway CDC, a Fenway neighborhood-based housing provider, has a long

history of advocacy and organizational support for residents of OLGH. POUA, a non-profit housing developer, has developed nearly 3,000 units of affordable housing in Massachusetts. Residents and allies of OLGH recently met with Bill Grogan, President of POUA, who conveyed POUA's strong interest in collaborating with Fenway CDC to acquire the building. Leaders of both organizations have offered their respective commitments to returning the rooming house to its charitable mission and have reached out to the Daughters' leadership expressing their interest in making a purchase offer.

OLGH residents and allies led a postcard campaign appealing to Attorney General Maura Healey to act to transfer the building. Residents appreciate the efforts of Shafaq Islam, Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division, and Jonathan Green, Deputy Chief of the Public Charities Division, in pursuing a remedy for the Daughters' and Roos's action departing from OLGH's charitable mission, discriminating against senior and disabled residents and applicants, and myriad other violations of law.

## BBAC approves landscape and site plan for mixed-use building proposal at 149-155 Newbury St.

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural District Commission (BBAC) on September 8 approved the landscape and site plan for a proposed retail and office building at 149-155 Newbury St.

Whitney Robinette of L3 Capital LLC and Chris Jones of engineering firm IBI Group presented the proposal and addressed comments and questions from Commissioners and the public.

Jones explained that some changes had been made to the proposal since the last time it came before the Commission, as the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) had asked for some revisions to the design, he said.

He said the city expressed some concern with the "ground plane," and said that the parking that was originally planned for within the plaza has been moved to the curb. Additionally, he said that they "wanted us to make

sure we had a robust urban canopy," so planters have been proposed that will include things like annuals and seasonal bulbs.

The BlueBikes docking station has also been moved to the sidewalk instead of the street so it can be a year-round station, and the curb ramps will also be adjusted on the corner of Dartmouth and Newbury Streets. The length of the green space will also be brought up to the base of the building, Jones said.

Wrought iron railings and granite curbs will be used in the site design, as will benches that are shaped like pebbles, which sparked a discussion amongst the Commissioners and the team. The pebble seating would be located around the site under trees.

Commissioner John Christian- sen had some issues with the proposed pebble seating, saying that he wants to see seating options with backs and armrests, which the pebbles do not offer.

"I think the pebble seating's

a nice addition to Newbury St.," said Commissioner Jerome CooperKing. "I like the whimsy. It's nice." Commissioner Genia Demetriades agreed.

"I really hadn't intended to put traditional benches in this space," Jones said, but Christiansen said he felt they were necessary.

The team explained that this issue had been brought up by the city before, and there were concerns raised about people spending too long on benches. They said that the goal was to not "make it attractive for people to hang out there for the whole day."

Commissioner Jim Berkman said that "if someone needs a bench for the back, they can go to the Comm. Ave. Mall. I don't think we need to complicate the design by adding benches."

During public comment, Meg Mainzer Cohen, President of the Back Bay Association, said that while she supports the project, "I strongly oppose the idea of add-

ing more benches to Dartmouth St."

She explained that benches had to be removed from Copley Square because "too many homeless people were using the benches. We right now have a huge problem with homeless people on Newbury St., especially in front of vacant buildings."

Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said she agrees with Mainzer-Cohen, and would prefer to not have benches with backs and armrests. She said that she has "heard concerns from the Vendome" regarding issues with benches that have since been removed.

Additionally, Prindle said that the "size of the tree pits on Newbury St...seemed a little small to me," and she was concerned about the trees getting the proper amount of water.

Margaret Pokorny of the Garden Club of the Back Bay also said she does not want traditional benches in the area either, as

there are no benches on the Dartmouth St. mall currently. She said "it would be a real change of appearance to have them in this particular block."

Pokorny also said that the Garden Club would support moving the "tree on the corner" to a different location and planting "the appropriate species" in its place, which she said would be a Honey Locust tree.

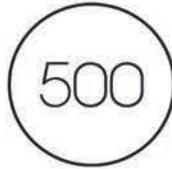
Commissioner John Christian- sen made a motion to approve the proposal with the provisos that the trees are surrounded by curbs and planting, using the Vendome tree pits as a model, and that if possible, the seating pebbled should be flattened out on the top, and to work with the Garden Club on the removal of the corner tree to replace it with a Honey Locust tree. The tree portion is just a recommendation, as it is the Parks Department's tree, not the building's.

The motion was approved by the full Commission.



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4 Beds | 4F 2H Baths | 3,000 SQFT  
\$7,250,000



*New Listing!*

**604 Tremont Street, Unit 1**  
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,033 SQFT  
\$2,390,000



*New Listing!*

**282 Beacon Street, Unit 6**  
4 Beds | 4 Baths | 3,200 SQFT  
\$5,790,000



*New Listing!*

**1 Charles Street, Unit 7H**  
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,571 SQFT  
\$1,950,000



*New Listing!*

**40 Glenoe Road**  
6 Beds | 4F 3H Baths | 5,805 SQFT  
\$4,495,000