

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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## BPL launches Spice Bank Collective in partnership with GBFB

By Lauren Bennett

As the holidays roll around and the season of giving is upon us, the Boston Public Library (BPL) has announced a Spice Bank Collective in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) in an effort to provide more diversity and variety in offerings at local food banks.

The Sun spoke with Stephanie Chace, Nutritional Literacy Coordinator for the BPL, to learn more about the program.

Chace said she has noticed that food pantries and banks have had a shortage of spices and dried herbs, and she thought that starting a spice bank collective “could really be a way for people to have more agency with the food they prepare for themselves.”

In 2019, the program was

piloted at the Faneuil Branch of the BPL, and garnered 135 containers of spices and dried herbs, which were then sent to the ABCD food pantry in the neighborhood.

“Folks using the pantry at the time were really excited about being able to have spices as an option,” Chase said.

The program is now being extended to 20 branches plus the Central branch in Copley Square.

Chase also said that with food pantries offering more kinds of fruits and vegetables and grains, being able to have different spices would give people a way to have “some cultural identity and share family traditions and it would encourage people to be creative in their cooking,” as well as “be a way for people to explore other

(SPICE BANK, Pg. 3)

## PREPPING PETERS PARK FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Shown above, Neighbors of Peters Park gather to help prepare this available neighborhood resource for the Holidays.

Shown right, David Nickelson, resident florist for the Peters Park community, designed this planter and helped devise the template for replicating it throughout the Park.



## Mothers Out Front brings its renewable-energy message to the State House

By Dan Murphy

Around 30 representatives from the downtown neighborhoods for Mothers Out Front - a national, grass-roots group of mothers, grandmothers, and other caregivers advocating for a transition off of fossil fuels to renewable energy in an effort to combat climate change - brought their message on Wednesday, Nov. 17, to the State House’s front lawn.

The demonstration was part of Mothers Out Front climate relay took place across the state that day, beginning in Pittsfield at Berkshire Gas before making several more stops at rallies along the way before reaching the gas-utility provider for much of Boston, National Grid in Waltham. After hitting the State

(MOTHERS OUT FRONT, Pg. 4)



COURTESY OF MOTHERS OUT FRONT

Mothers Out Front’s Ania Camargo and Suzie Tapson.

## MassDOT launches bicycle-safety pilot on the Mass. Ave. Bridge

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation launched a bicycle-safety pilot on the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge over the Charles River (the Harvard Bridge) on Monday.

This pilot is the result of a strong partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Cambridge, the City of Boston, and various advocacy groups, including Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), LivableStreets Alliance, TransitMatters, MassBike, Cambridge Bike Safety, and WalkBoston, according to MassDOT.

The pilot will reduce the number of vehicular travel lanes to one lane in each direction and increase the available width of the bicycle lane to provide additional buffer space to separate

cyclists from vehicles and trucks.

“MassDOT is thrilled to implement this bicycle safety pilot to better serve all users of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge,” Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler said in a press release. “This pilot is a great example of various agencies, municipalities and advocacy groups working together to create safer and more sustainable transportation options for all modes.”

DCR Acting Commissioner, Stephanie Cooper, said in a press release: “Implementing this bicycle safety pilot will help explore a mobility solution on the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge that can help support a sustainable transportation system. DCR is pleased to collaborate with so many partners to advance this

(BICYCLE-SAFETY PILOT, Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back 400 years to the Pilgrims and Indigenous People, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America.

Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

It is the only day on the calendar when we have no obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Even amidst this time of the ongoing pandemic in our country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of how much we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be in a country such as ours.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and inevitably -- at least for some of us -- a post-dinner nap or early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SAFELY

We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

The pandemic still is spreading like wildfire across our nation, claiming the lives of more than 1000 Americans each and every day. Common sense requires all of us to take every precaution to ensure that we do not spread the coronavirus among our friends and family members.

The virus does not take a holiday -- and each of us must act accordingly.

## GUEST OP-ED

### America Needs Thanksgiving

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

America has been through a tough time. A national election separated friends and family, divided churches and took over our media. We've been intoxicated with poisonous rhetoric and toxic street gatherings that led to more division, injuries and even death.

Americans horrifically viewed the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and said we aren't going to take that anymore.

Over 762,000 people have died from Covid-19 in America. Over 47 million of us have been sick. Families who have buried loved ones don't need convincing about the realities of Covid-19. Americans who have spent weeks in hospital intensive care units know they are fortunate to be alive. However, in the midst of America's pandemic nightmare, Americans have debated with each other over vaccinations, masks, school and business closures. We have watched our businesses suffer. Our government's finances have been further strained to supply money to hurting unemployed people.

Americans watched our departure from Afghanistan in horror. We argued among ourselves about how we should have left, the timing of our departure, and whether we should have left at all.

We continue to struggle with racism in America. People who have experienced it know the reality. At all levels of society

we must rise above any and all words or actions that denigrate others.

We continue to have other crises impacting our nation. People pouring over our border illegally, an ongoing drug epidemic, homelessness, rising costs of medical treatment and insurance, unaffordable college tuition, unaffordable housing and unaffordable and sometimes unavailable groceries. Americans are now facing the fire of growing inflation. Groceries are becoming even more unaffordable for poor Americans. The cost of living adjustment coming for America's retirees in January, which is reported to be 5.9 percent, might buy a small bag of groceries, maybe.

America has gone through a tough time, maybe better said, we are going through a tough time. This is why we desperately need Thanksgiving.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days.

That first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the Mayflower ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first

New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from a member of the Abenaki tribe who greeted them in English.

Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans. (from History.com)

The early settlers who came to America suffered hardships that few Americans can comprehend. In the midst of so much death, sickness and starvation they found a way to stop and express gratitude. The friendship and humanitarian aid given to them by native Americans stand out as to what really makes America great. We all need to learn from the first Thanksgiving. This year maybe we all could take time to be grateful, and do something to help each other.

*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.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

For more information, visit <http://sowaartists.com>.

### THE NEWBURY CUP PRESENTS \$25,000 CHECK TO WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE AT INAUGURAL CHARITABLE EVENT

The Newbury Cup was officially announced at a reimagined afternoon tea at the iconic Newbury Hotel to mark the beginning of a new charitable initiative

created to raise awareness and much needed funds to nonprofit organizations in the Boston community that enrich and improve the quality of life for those most vulnerable. Founding committee members Lisa Pierpont, Shannon Pastuszak and Simone Winston, along with managing director Carlos Bueno, hosted the kick-off event on Thursday, November 18th, and presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to The Women's Lunch Place – this year's recipient.

### SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY AT 450 HARRISON AVE.

The SoWa Artists Guild will open our doors for Small Business Saturday, November 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 450 Harrison Ave..

Artists on the second, third, and fourth floors of the building will be offering paintings, prints, jewelry, photography, sculpture, textiles, and other fine art for your holiday shopping.

# Projects deferred/withdrawn at the ZBA

By Lauren Bennett

A proposal for a rooftop addition at 95-97 Broadway in Bay Village was deferred at the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on November 16. Meichi Peng of Meichi Peng Design Studio had come before the Bay Village

Historic District Commission for two different advisory reviews but attorney Mike Ross said at the ZBA hearing that “we do not yet have our GCOD,” but was ready to discuss the other violations, which include roof structure restrictions, excessive

Floor Area Ratio, insufficient rear yard, and change the occupancy from an office to an office and two residential units.

ZBA Chair Christine Araujo said that “we’d prefer to wrap it up as a package,” so the project will return before the ZBA on

January 11 at 12:30.

Additionally, a proposal at 191 Commonwealth Ave. to change the use from 16 to 20 apartments as well as make upgrades to the electrical, alarm, and sprinkler systems was withdrawn by applicant Vernon Woodworth.

Woodworth said that the reason for the withdrawal is because the proponents are looking “to redefine our application with ISD.” He said once the project is worked out, they will return to the ZBA seeking relief for violations.

## SPICE BANK (from pg. 1)

flavors.”

She said that the Greater Boston Food Bank has “been great in partnership,” and the Newsfeed Cafe in the Central branch will be matching all donations received at the branch.

People interested in donating spices to any of the participating branches can do so at the circulation desk. All containers must be unopened.

Each BPL branch will be choosing a food pantry that

they want to sponsor as part of this program, which will extend through 2022.

### Participating branches include:

Adams Street Branch  
Brighton Branch  
Central Library in Copley Square (Newsfeed Café)  
Charlestown Branch  
Codman Square Branch  
Connolly Branch

East Boston Branch  
Egleston Square  
Fields Corner Branch  
Grove Hall Branch  
Honan-Allston Branch  
Hyde Park Branch  
Jamaica Plain Branch  
Lower Mills Branch  
Mattapan Branch  
North End Branch  
Parker Hill Branch  
Roxbury Branch  
South Boston Branch

South End Branch  
West End Branch  
West Roxbury Branch

“By providing access to spices, the BPL hopes to offer a way to maintain a sense of cultural identity and family traditions, encourage creative and nutritious cooking, and promote the abundant cultural make up that is found in Massachusetts,” the BPL said in a press release.

## BICYCLE-SAFETY PILOT (from pg. 1)

safety pilot and looks forward to understanding the important data that the Commonwealth will be able to collect in the coming months.”

This separated bike lane were scheduled to be installed Monday using cones, arrow boards, and advance signage.

“As we work to promote low-carbon travel options, our City needs to move urgently to protect the safety of our commuters and residents,” Mayor Michelle Wu said in a press release. “Boston is grateful to our local and state partners for helping this safety pilot come to fruition, connecting our communities and laying the groundwork for safer, more sustainable transportation infrastructure throughout the region.”

Regarding the pilot, Rep. Jay Livingstone told this publication, “I’m pleased that MassDOT is conducting this pilot program to best determine how to improve bike safety on the Harvard bridge on a long-term basis. I advocated with the Boston Cyclists Union and appreciated how quickly MassDOT reacted to make this change.”

The bicycle safety pilot will run through the winter months, according to MassDOT, while engineers and advocates evaluate safety and crash data, traffic volumes, bicycle volumes, and travel time of the MBTA’s Harvard Square-Nubian Square bus, (running bus route number 1).

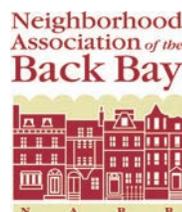
“On behalf of the Boston Cyclists Union and all of the advocacy groups who requested MassDOT address safety issues

on the Mass. Ave. Bridge, we are grateful for the state’s prompt leadership in addressing the issues identified, as well as city leadership on both sides of the bridge who embraced the proposal,” said Becca Wolfson, executive director of Boston Cyclists Union, in a press release. “This important regional route already carries thousands of daily bicycle riders who have protection on city streets on both sides of the bridge and have endured the gap in the bike network over the bridge itself.”

Moreover, Wolfson added, “This commitment from MassDOT is truly a win-win, and we look forward to working with the state and other stakeholders to achieve the more permanent changes in the spring.”

During severe weather, the pilot may be temporarily suspended during snow and ice operations with the intent to restore the pilot as soon as possible.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are also encouraged to: dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions; visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com), a website which provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions; follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions; or download MassDOT’s GoTime mobile app to view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.



## Increasing Housing Affordability in Boston: Why it Matters to Us All

Panelists will include the following City of Boston civic and business leaders:

- **Thomas N. O’Brien**, Former Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Former Chair of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, and CEO of HYM Investment Group, LLC
- **Kenzie Bok**, Boston City Councilor, District 8
- **Symone Crawford**, Incoming Executive Director (January 2022), Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA)
- **Sheila Dillon**, City of Boston Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021**

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Register for the online event:**

<https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/618a98bc3c3b882f002c9ac7>

Please join us for a citywide Zoom forum produced by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Homelessness Task Force about how to address the high cost of housing, which has been further exacerbated by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

**The high cost of housing is the number one concern of Boston citizens according to citywide polls. Boston’s older adults, families, and workforce are increasingly burdened by a lack of affordable housing in or near the city. The pandemic has exacerbated the problem for many of Boston’s citizens and businesses. At the same time, it has provided new insights to help re-envision a more stable housing situation in our city and state.**

**Boston’s civic and business leaders will outline Boston’s affordable housing needs, the high cost of not addressing the problem, and exciting new plans to increase housing access and affordability. We hope that you will join this meeting to learn how we can all play a role in making our city a vibrant world class leader in affordable housing.**

Boston Public Library President **David Leonard** will provide opening remarks  
NABB President **Patricia Noyes-Corrigan** will serve as moderator.

# Back Bay, surrounding area's COVID cases increase

By John Lynds

On Thursday Bostonians will travel to loved one's homes or host Thanksgiving Day dinner and many will gather inside without masks for the holiday.

Local health experts are suggesting that if families keep gathering relatively small; if everyone over the age of 12 is fully vaccinated; those eligible for boosters are boosted; and there is no one in attendance who is particularly vulnerable, the risk of getting together for a holiday party is relatively low according to Dr. Malika Marshall, WBZ-TV Health Reporter. However, Dr. Marshall cautioned that it's the unvaccinated who are at the highest risk of getting infected, getting really sick, and passing it onto others during an indoor holiday gathering.

"If you're attending an event, ask the host if everyone who is eligible for a vaccine is vaccinated," she suggested to Bostonians last week. "If not, I might think twice about going. If you're hosting an event this year, I would ask those who are unvaccinated to perform a rapid home antigen test on the morning of the event and wear masks while in your home."

After decreasing 13 percent two weeks ago, the Back Bay and the surrounding area's COVID weekly positive test rate increased last week.

According to the weekly

report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,190 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.6 percent were positive. This was a 30 percent increase from the 2 percent that tested positive between November 8 and November 15.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week. According to the BPHC 23,916 residents were tested and 3.8 percent were COVID positive--this was a 46 percent increase from the 2.6 percent reported by the BPHC on November 8.

Fifty-seven additional residents have been infected with the virus between November 15 and November 22 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,618 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 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 .57 percent last week and went from 85,672 cases to 86,157 confirmed cases in a week. There was one additional death in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,463.



Local representatives of Mothers Out Front and supporters at the State House.

## MOTHERS OUT FRONT (from pg. 1)

House, Mothers Out Front made its final stop at Eversource's headquarters at the Prudential Center. In all, they delivered more than 3,000 postcards to gas utility providers (and of these, 2,000 postcards went to National Grid) saying they "want Clean Air and that Gas is the Past!"

"The utilities have been tasked with coming up with their own plans to meet our state's Net Zero by 2050 target," Suzie Tapson of Mothers Out Front told a crowd of members and supporters at the State House. "Their plans are due in March 2022. We want the gas utilities to know that we are watching, and that we want solutions that make sense for the planet, for ratepayers, and for their workforce."

Mothers Out Front's clean heat platform, according to Tapson, calls for "efficient, all-electric buildings and homes utilizing air source and networked ground source heat pumps; a speedy ramp up of electricity generated from renewable sources; training and other supports for gas workers to ensure they maintain family-sustaining jobs as we transition off gas; and a transition that is affordable for all and ensures safe, clean, and healthy homes."

In Boston, buildings account for 71 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, added Tapson, while most of these buildings are heated with methane gas, which is 80 percent more powerful than



Pictured, left to right, are Ania Camargo, of Mothers Out Front, dressed as a ground source heat-pump; City Councilor Kenzie Bok; Suzie Tapson, of Mothers Out Front, dressed as a methane gas emission; and Rep. Jay Livingstone.

carbon at trapping heat in the atmosphere.

"And it is leaking at even higher volume than we thought," added Tapson. "And it causes asthma. And it is explosive, and it kills Boston's trees. Gas has got to go."

To underscore their message, Tapson, donning a methane-gas costume for the occasion, hand-

ed off a baton to fellow Mother Out Front member, Ania Camargo, dressed as a ground source heat-pump.

Rep. Jay Livingstone and City Councilor Kenzie Bok were both on hand at the State House to show their support for Mothers Out Front and their mission.

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# FRIENDS OF CHILDE HASSAM PARK HOST CLEANUP; PLANT 100 DAFFODIL BULBS



This is Childe Hassam Park.

Photos by Elizabeth Bertolozzi

The Friends of Childe Hassam Park in the South End held a cleanup on November 6, where 100 daffodil bulbs were planted as part of the city's Boston Blooms program. South End resident Elizabeth Bertolozzi said that "we had a number of neighbors stop by to say how much

they appreciate this beautiful little pocket park—whether it's to enjoy their coffee or the paper, sit with small children or take a few minutes to check their phones and people watch."

For anyone interested in volunteering and attending future events, visit the park's website at <http://www.childehassampark.com/>.



CHP volunteer Rick Richter.



Friends of CHP President Ryan Smith and CHP Gardener Linda Esposito.



CHP Board member Alexander Roche.



CHP Gardener Linda Esposito.



CHP neighbors (L to R) Charles and Karin Dumbaugh, and CHP Board member Alexander Roche.



CHP President Ryan Smith.

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# FRIENDS OF PETERS PARK COME TOGETHER TO PREP THE SPACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Margaret Woo and Jane Schenkel prep planters throughout Peters Park.



Jeff Oskwarek helps plant bulbs and touches up rough spots around Peters Park with some help from Charli, who he is dogsitting for a friend.



Meredythe Sweet has decorative branches to place in the planters around Peters Park.



Shown to the left, Jane Schenkel and Meredythe Sweet place decorative branches in the planters around Peters Park.

Shown to the right, the centerpiece of some of the plants installed for the holiday season. The planter was designed by resident florist, David Nickerson.



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# FRIENDS OF PETERS PARK COME TOGETHER TO PREP THE SPACE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Cynthia Curtis with Ted and Colleen Fitzpatrick plant some bulbs for next Spring.



Shown above, the Boston Parks Department came by on Thursday to remove the many leaves that had fallen in Peters Park however Chris Johnson, Stuart Rose, and Cynthia Curtis do some touch up work on leaves and debris.



Shown to the left, Luca Dufresne and Max Suchman, friends who share the same birthday, check out the completed Holiday-themed planters.

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# Mayor Wu signs Councilors Edwards and O'Malley's fossil fuel ordinance

By John Lynds

On Monday Mayor Michelle Wu signed a city ordinance proposed by City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Matt O'Malley to divest city funds from fossil fuels.

The ordinance requires the city's collector-treasurer to divest city funds out of "stocks, securities or other obligations of any company which derives more than 15% percent of its revenue from the combustion, distribution, extraction, manufacture,

or sale of fossil fuels, which shall include coal, oil and gas, or fossil fuel products."

"The climate crisis requires us to take immediate steps toward a cleaner and more sustainable future," said Councilor Edwards. "Boston has led on divestment in the past when we divested from apartheid era South Africa. We know it's a strategy that works. With this ordinance Boston will once again take the lead and move toward climate resiliency. I'm grateful for the partnership

of Mayor Wu and Councilor O'Malley on this proposal and for their continued leadership on climate issues."

The ordinance also requires that the city divest its funds from private companies that operate or maintain carceral facilities. The ordinance would apply to approximately \$1.3 billion.

"The City of Boston continues to lead on environmental, economic and social justice issues. With the passage of this ordinance, we are headed another

step closer toward a more resilient city," said Councilor O'Malley. "Through codifying our values through this ordinance, we are demonstrating our commitment to addressing global climate change and its impacts on our city for future generations to come."

The ordinance unanimously passed the City Council last week and builds on Wu's commitment to growing a low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy in Boston.

"It's so important for every bit of leverage that we have to be put towards making sure we're addressing our climate crisis," said Mayor Wu. "I'm excited to be able to take the pen to a piece of legislation that I've been working on for many years on the Council with community advocates and colleagues to say the City of Boston is going to step up and do our part and push for urgency on the issue."

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS ON THE FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail® Foundation invites revelers to celebrate this holiday season on the annual Historic Holiday Strolls. The festive atmosphere of the city, set against the unique backdrop of Boston's historic sites, makes these merry 60-minute tours a perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Walk the Freedom Trail and discover how Boston's holiday traditions evolved on the Strolls offered on select Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. through December 31 and, additionally, on Thursday, December 23.

Led by 19th-century Dicken-

sian costumed guides departing from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center, the Strolls are complete with a tour of holiday lights and Christmas trees along the Freedom Trail. Following the Strolls, guests receive discounts off museum store purchases at Freedom Trail sites, including the Paul Revere House and Old North Church (valid with any 2021 Historic Holiday Strolls receipts).

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, and reservations can be made online; tickets may also be purchased in-person at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. The Freedom Trail Historic Holiday Strolls may also be scheduled for a group tour by calling (617) 357-8300. The

Freedom Trail Foundation continues to offer daily public Walk Into History® Tours throughout the season and during the winter months. For tour tickets and more information please visit [www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org).

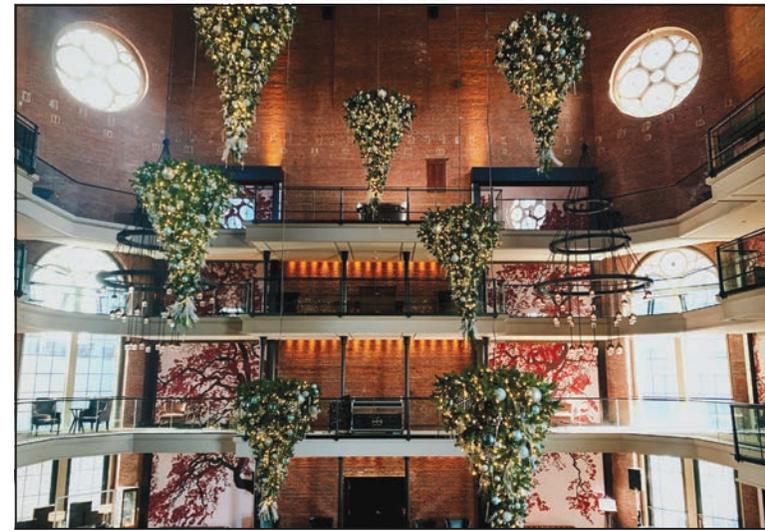
### COPLEY SQUARE TREE LIGHTING NOV. 29

The City of Boston, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Friends of Copley Square welcome the holidays with the annual Copley Square Tree Lighting on Monday, November 29, starting at 5 p.m.

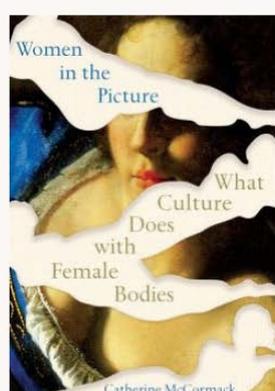
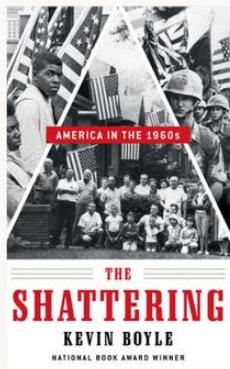
This free event will feature

(HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS, Pg. 9)

### LIBERTY DECKS ITS HALLS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



The Liberty Hotel located at 215 Charles Street has gone all out decorating for the Holiday season with full Christmas trees hanging from the ceiling in their foyer.



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# Rats rampant in Bay Village, South End, according to study

By Dan Murphy

Bay Village and the South End are, respectively, the second- and third-most rodent-infested neighborhoods this year in the city, ranking only behind the top-ranked downtown neighborhood, while the Back Bay came in fifth on the list, according to a recent study released by RentHop, an online resource for apartment rentals.

Behind downtown, with 451 complaints in 2021 (or 727.4 complaints per square mile), Bay Village had 22 complaints (or 550 complaints per square mile) and South End, 298 complaints (or 402.7 complaints per square mile). Fifth-placed Back Bay had 93 complaints (150 complaints per square mile), just behind the fourth-placed North End, with 58 complaints in 2021 (or 290 complaints per square mile).

Bay Village also saw the greatest increase in the rodent complaints from last year – a 100-percent increase – with 22 this year, compared with 11 in 2020.

The South End, meanwhile, saw the fourth-greatest increase in rodent complaints – a 34.8-percent spike – with 298 complaints in 2021, as opposed to 221 last year.

(In contrast, Allston saw the greatest decrease in rodent complaints 56.6), with 124 this year as opposed to 286 in 2020.)

One South End location – 214 Northampton St. – was tied with 40-42 Ashford St. for third on the list of the most rodent-infested addresses in the city in 2021, with seven complaints a piece.

(The most-rodent infested was 130 Endicott St. in the North End, with 12 complaints in 2021.)

“After a tough year with rats roaming around, we have some good news for Bostonians – 311 reports involving rodent activity are down 10 percent this year,” according to RentHop. “As of November 10, Boston 311 received 3,225 rodent activity reports in 2021, which translates to 4.71 complaints per 1,000 population.”

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS (from pg. 8)

appearances by Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer along with musical performances by vocalist Ackeem Hill, the Boston Children’s Chorus, the Boston Pops Esplanade Brass Ensemble, and Berklee College of Music’s own Esperanza Delgado.

Additional support provided by AT&T Mobility and H.P. Hood, LLC. Light refreshments provided by H.P. Hood, LLC. Event production partners include Boston Properties, Encore Global, and Fairmont Copley Plaza.

Other 2021 holiday celebrations hosted by the Boston Parks

and Recreation Department include the lighting of the ship in Martin’s Park at the Children’s Wharf Harborwalk on November 27, and the Boston Common Tree Lighting followed by the lighting of the trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall on December 2. The arrival of Boston’s official 2021 Christmas tree, a 48-foot white spruce tree donated by L’Arche Cape Breton of Orangedale, Nova Scotia, will be celebrated on Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on November 17.

Visit [bit.ly/LightsOnBos](http://bit.ly/LightsOnBos) or call 617-635-4505 for more information.

# Have a safe holiday season!



Adriana Martinez, Physician Assistant

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## Enchanted Trolley Tour & Tree Lightings

Friday, December 3 | Saturday, December 4 | Sunday, December 5

**Friday, December 3 | 5:30 – 7 p.m.**  
Mattapan, Readville, and West Roxbury

**Saturday, December 4 | 1 – 6:45 p.m.**  
Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roxbury, South End, and Brighton

**Sunday, December 5 | 1 – 7 p.m.**  
South Boston, Chinatown, North End, Charlestown, East Boston, and Dorchester



**TO PLACE AN AD IN  
THE BOSTON SUN,  
PLEASE CALL 781-485-0588**

# Mayor Wu announces expansion of fare-free bus pilot

By Lauren Bennett

On her second full day as Mayor, Michelle Wu gathered with colleagues and transit activists at Ashmont Station to announce the expansion of the fare-free bus pilot, which was started by Acting Mayor Kim Janey with free service on the Route 28 bus.

On November 17, Wu said she “filed an appropriation order with the Boston City Council to allocate \$8 million in federal funding to expand our fare free bus program.”

Wu said that “early next year,” the pilot will be expanded from a four month program to a two year program “to truly see what’s possible.”

Additionally, the pilot will be expanded to two more routes—the 23 and the 29.

The program will continue on the 28 bus, which runs on Blue Hill Ave. from Mattapan Square to Ruggles Station. Wu said that the bus runs to the Longwood Medical Area, which she called “one of the fastest growing job centers.”

The 29 bus also runs up Blue Hill Ave. from Mattapan Square and ends at Jackson Square, passing Franklin Field and several apartment buildings, Wu said. The 23 bus originates at Ashmont and travels through Dorchester Center and ends at Ruggles, stopping near parks, playgrounds, the Dorchester YMCA, and Grove Hall.

“Each of these bus lines serves a ridership that reflects Boston,” Wu said, adding that over 59 percent of riders on these lines are low income, and 96 percent are people of color.

“So by taking this action, we truly will connect our communities and supercharge our recovery, putting these federal recovery funds to good use by supporting and investing in communities who have been hardest hit by this pandemic,” Wu said. “Free bus fare has already shown that this is the best way to attract riders back to public transit.”

Ridership on the 28 bus is now back “nearly at pre-pandemic levels,” Wu said, and the route has the highest ridership on the MBTA. “General bus and subway ridership is at only about a little over half of pre-pandemic weekday levels,” she said.

Stuart Spina of the T Riders Union said that “Mayor Wu’s proposal sets a gold standard for improving transit access, especially

for those without automobiles and bicycles.”

He added “We don’t expect Dorchester High or the Fire Department to run a profit, and the T is no different. By investing public monies in a public service, we’re laying a new cornerstone for Greater Boston’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Stacy Thompson of the LivableStreets Alliance said, “I am here to celebrate this amazing expansion of free bus service, but I also want to drive home that we need to dispel the myth that we need to choose between free service and great service. We can have both, and we are implementing both.” She added, “this is the first step; I look forward to many, many more announcements as we expand and improve our transit

service and Boston again leads on this issue.”

City Councilor Michael Flaherty said that he is aware of “the impacts that this program would have on families in the heart of the city,” and said that his “pledge” is to “make sure we continue moving this forward.”

Councilor Matt O’Malley also expressed his support, saying that “this will pass the Council.”

Councilor Andrea Campbell called the expansion “an equity initiative,” and said that Wu beginning her term with this initiative “sets the tone.”

Councilor-elect Erin Murphy said that she wants to ensure that people going to work and school are able to do so equitably, and she is “looking forward to the work ahead.”

## Massachusetts unemployment and job estimates for October

Staff Report

The state’s October total unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point at 5.3 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts gained 25,000 jobs in October. This follows last month’s revised gain of 13,500 jobs. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services, Leisure and Hospitality, and Educational and Health Services. Since December 2020, Massachusetts has gained 186,500 jobs.

From October 2020 to October 2021, BLS estimates Massachusetts gained 197,200 jobs. The Largest over the year gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Trade, Transportation and Utilities.

The October unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point above the national rate of 4.6 percent reported by the Bureau

of Labor Statistics.

The labor force increased by 5,600 from 3,720,700 in September, as 1,600 more residents were employed and 4,000 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down by 3.2 percentage points.

The state’s labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was up one-tenth of a percentage point at 66.0 percent. Compared to October 2020, the labor force participation rate is up 0.7 percentage points.

### October 2021

#### Employment Overview

- Professional and Business Services gained 9,700 (+1.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 43,400 (+7.6%) jobs were added.

- Leisure and Hospitality gained 4,900 (+1.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 51,100 (+19.7%) jobs were added.

- Education and Health Services gained 4,900 jobs (+0.6%) over the month. Over the year, 26,000 (+3.5%) jobs were added.

- Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 4,600 (+0.8%) over the month. Over the year, 26,300 (+4.9%) jobs were added.

- Manufacturing gained 1,100 (0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 9,400 (+4.1%) jobs were added.

- Information gained 700 (+0.8%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 7,000 (+8.1%) jobs were added.

- Construction gained 500 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 11,300 (+7.2%) jobs were added.

- Other Services gained 200 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 5,100 (+4.5%) jobs were added.

- Financial Activities lost 700 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 1,500 (+0.7%) jobs were added.

- Government lost 900 (-0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 16,100 (+3.8%) jobs were added.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As

a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

Detailed labor market information is available at [www.mass.gov/lmi](http://www.mass.gov/lmi).

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale  
Please take notice Prime  
Storage - Boston Southampton  
St. located at 100 Southampton  
St., Boston, MA 02118  
intends to hold an auction  
to sell the goods stored by  
the following tenants at the  
storage facility. The sale will  
occur as an online auction  
via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com)  
on 12/8/2021 at 12:00  
PM. Unless stated otherwise  
the description of the contents  
are household goods and  
furnishings Robert Bolduc unit  
#3104; Lawrence M Poncia  
unit #3311; Angel Leonor unit  
#4041; William Hamilton  
unit #4315. All property is  
being stored at the above  
self-storage facility. This sale  
may be withdrawn at any time  
without notice. Certain terms

and conditions apply. See  
manager for details.  
11/18/21, 11/24/21  
BS

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
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(617)788-8300  
NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR  
CHANGE OF NAME  
Docket No.  
SU21C0534CA  
In the matter of:  
Shelley Linda  
Rosenstein

A Petition to Change Name of  
Adult has been filed by Shelley  
Linda Rosenstein of Boston,  
MA requesting that the court  
enter a Decree changing their  
name to:  
Michelle Ross  
Any person may appear  
for purposes of objecting  
to the petition by filing an  
appearance at: Suffolk Probate  
and Family Court before 10:00  
a.m. on the return day of  
12/16/2021. This is NOT a  
hearing date, but a deadline  
by which you must file a  
written appearance if you  
object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 16, 2021  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate

11/24/21  
BS

## Police News

### LARCENY

11/12/21 Around 3 a.m., an antique urn valued at over \$500 was stolen from an individual’s front porch on Melrose Place in the Bay Village neighborhood. The urn had 20 years’ worth of sentimental value to the owner, they said. This incident was captured via video surveillance, and

Area A-1 detectives were investigating the matter.

### LARCENY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

11/13/21 - Officers responded to Columbus Avenue in the Bay Village area for a motor vehicle break-in.

The victim told police he is an

overnight employee of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, and that when he was done with his shift in the morning, he realized his car had been broken into.

The victim stated the only thing that appeared to be stolen was his wallet, and Area A-1 detectives were investigating the matter.

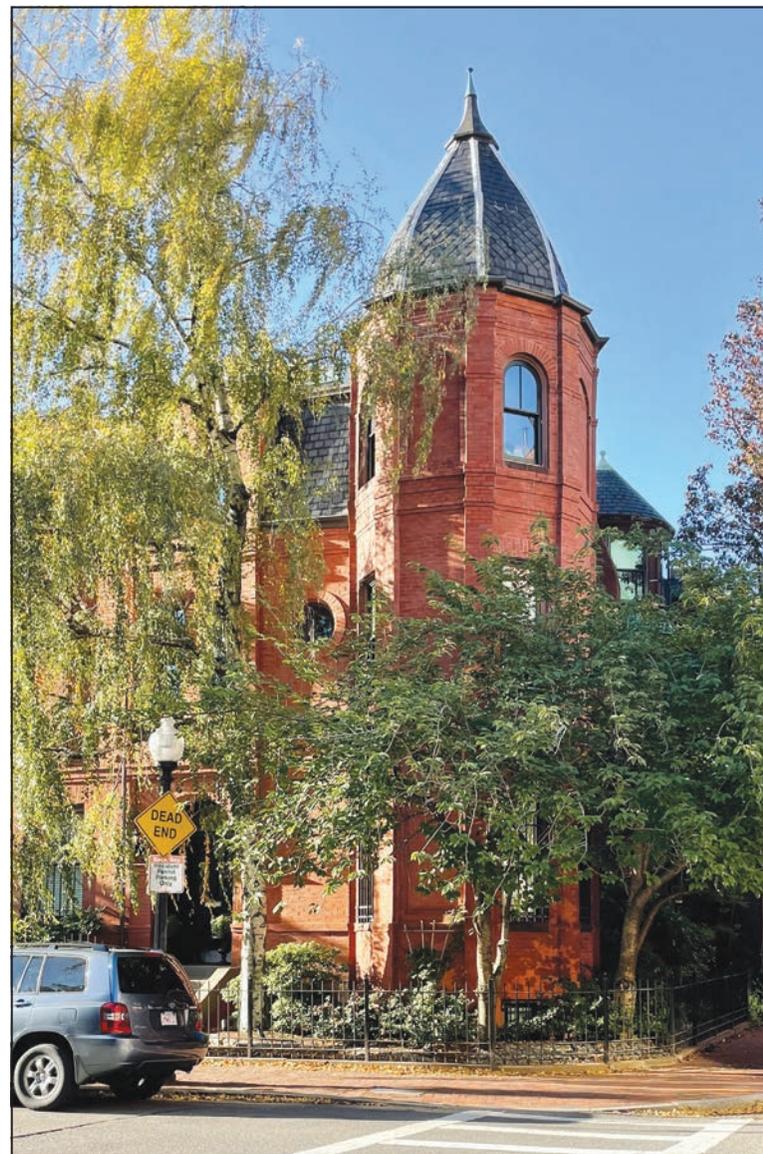
## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
202 Beacon Street LLC	Champion, Laurie S	200-202 Beacon St #1	\$8,000,000
202 Beacon Street LLC	Champion, Laurie S	200-202 Beacon St #3	\$8,000,000
Halverstadt, Douglas	Cerk, Norman	293 Beacon St #61	\$8,240,000
Condit, Gregory M	Hoeg, Charles R	354 Beacon St #7	\$825,000
Boylston St 9001-9003 RT	Haas, Joanna	200 Boylston St #9001	\$8,850,000
Fallos RT	Heritage FT	220 Boylston St #9013	\$2,500,000
Archard, Nicole	Sciaba, Michael E	36 Clarendon St #3	\$1,285,000
Mattingly, Elliot F	Infantino, Robert A	38 Clarendon St #2-3	\$2,035,000
Middle Clarendon LLC	Eagan, Matthew J	56 Clarendon St #4	\$3,195,000
Halverstadt, Douglas	Cerk, Norman	191 Commonwealth Ave #61	\$8,240,000
Rockspray Limited	Alperin, Thomas M	257 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$5,650,000
Kamyab, Andishesh	Keefe, Phuong	40 Commonwealth Ave #D	\$890,000
Gatsey&Safari FT	Avram, Mathew	193 Marlborough St #2	\$3,550,000
288 Comm Ave LLC	Black Wolf Special Oppo	288 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$2,595,554
Luo, Chenghui	Ayres, Percy D	343 Commonwealth Ave #22	\$660,000
Page T	Bravel, Richard J	15 Gloucester St #3	\$779,000
Gomolka, Faythe P	Patel, Sagar	8 Gloucester St #3	\$700,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
13 Anderson LLC	Selmasson Holdings LLC	13 Anderson St	\$3,000,000
1416 Derne LLC	Beacon Hill RT	14-16 Derne St	\$3,825,000
Rinaldi, Anthony	Mannix, Benjamin R	1 Garden St #8	\$695,000
Macelroy Bowler RET	Winoker, Steven	73 Mount Vernon St #1	\$3,250,000
Huth, Timothy	Sullivan, Daniel S	73 Myrtle St #3	\$910,000
Wertenberger, Rebecca A	Harmeling, Peter J	76 Phillips St #3	\$449,000
Fortis E LLC	Providence Dev Ptnrshp	45 Province St	\$3,100,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Ristuccia, David L	Barger, Rachel	3 Appleton St #205	\$609,500
Mda Partners LLC	Guarracino Silver NT	1 Charles St S #707	\$660,000
Phillip R Webber RET	Mullaney FT	301-319 Columbus Ave #801	\$2,550,000
Dolan, Patrick	Cohn, Nicholas G	23 Gray St	\$2,460,000
Mastrototaro, Domenico	Piedmont 48 Street LLC	48 Piedmont St	\$1,780,000
Gloria Magida IRT	Rains, Jeffrey T	505 Tremont St #313	\$2,149,000
Iqhq-645 Beacon LLC	Buckminster Hotel Corp	645 Beacon St	\$42,500,000
Iqhq-645 Beacon LLC	Buckminster Annex Corp	651 Beacon St	\$42,500,000
Iqhq-645 Beacon LLC	Buckminster Annex Corp	655-665 Beacon St	\$42,500,000
Chen, Dafeng	75 Burbank St 304 LLC	75 Burbank St #304	\$455,000
Schober, Fabian	Treff, Gary	234 Causeway St #1106	\$559,000
Cleary, Christopher	Lavoie 2014 FT	234 Causeway St #822	\$800,000
Kanto, John	Marchette, Tristan D	519 Columbus Ave #1	\$749,000
Friberg, Marcus	Carter, Roger M	555-555A Columbus Ave #6	\$595,000
Dibisceglie, John	Devlin, Jeffrey	31 Concord Sq #3	\$825,000
Sutherland, Sarah	Weismann, Thomas R	36 Edgerly Rd #A	\$1,000,000
Mernick, J Stephen	Holick, Michael F	21 Father Francis Gilday S	\$960,000
Salloum, Eyad	Zhou, Jingyi	79 Gainsborough St #405	\$899,000
Fachetti, David	Remby, Caitlin	40 Greenwich Park #2	\$865,000
Sullivan, Daniel S	Hawthorne Lobster	2 Hawthorne Pl #2D	\$825,000
Lu, Xuedong	131 Pk Dr Unit 131-31	131 Park Dr #31	\$352,500
Thk Development LLC	Yang, Yiming	108 Peterborough St #7A	\$665,000
Cn Penson LLC	Zhou, Jingyi	137 Peterborough St #29	\$685,000
Correnti, Richard C	Portland LLC	121-127 Portland St #507	\$870,000
Suo, Peimin	Raftopoulos, George	121-127 Portland St #704	\$702,000
James M Whiten LT	Manz, Lelah E	324 Shawmut Ave #1	\$1,980,000
Beecher, Scott	Curtis, James W	32 Traveler St #508	\$815,000
Kraner, Rita	88 W Springfield LLC	88 W Springfield St #2	\$600,000
Darabi, Golnoosh	Scudder, Daniel M	1313 Washington St #231	\$975,500
Wilkes Passage 411 LLC	K C Kavanagh Left Bk T	1313 Washington St #411	\$785,000
Maloney, Mark M	Weissinger, Susan L	1313 Washington St #613	\$1,340,625
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Black, Jeffrey	Black, Kenneth	3 Battery Wharf #3	\$2,100,000
Bobrow Mathewson T	Roberta M Rubin FT	151 Tremont St #7F	\$1,500,000
Th19 Union Wharf RT	Ammerman, Robert C	19 Union Wharf #19	\$3,650,000

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The turret in the last clue is on 1 Durham Street, built circa 1896. This building shows a reason to be thankful if you take a winter walk here when the leaves from the beautiful willow and birch are gone, and you can see all the lovely details on this building.

You'll find the next clue in the Back Bay.

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



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