

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB BARNEY

Shown from left, Jen Kimball of the South End Fridge, local donor, City Councilor-Elect Ruthzee Louijeune, CNA President Bob Barney, Audrey Ng of the South End Fridge, and CNA Board member and member of the Concord Square Neighborhood Association Renee Smith.

CNA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

Special to the Boston Sun

The Claremont Neighborhood Association (CNA) held a holiday food drive at the South End fridge this month, where about 85 bags of food and personal care items were donated.

According to CNA President Bob Barney, more than 65 peo-

ple contributed to the drive, and City Councilor at Large Elect Ruthzee Louijeune also came on December 19 to show her support.

"Thank you, councilor, for supporting residents with food insecurities and talking about the Mattapan Fridge," Barney said in a recent email. He also

thanked volunteers who took time to help stock the fridge and pantry and those who donated. "Special shout out to Jen [Kimball] and Audrey [Ng] from the South End Fridge who attended and helped with both events and Donna [Gadomski] for creating this opportunity for us to give back," Barney said.

Highlights for Boston First Night

Staff Report

Boston's First Night will feature performances all day on December 31, beginning at noon and culminating with the Boston Harbor Fireworks Produced by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park and the First Night Copley Countdown at midnight. The full First Night Schedule can be found at firstnightboston.org.

Below are highlights from the schedule according to the website:

1pm: Emancipation Proclamation Concert at Trinity Church, 206 Clarendon St.—Handel and Haydn Society and the Museum of African American History co-present the Emancipation Proclamation Concert, a celebration of liberty and freedom. Join H+H musicians to commemorate Boston's historic central role in the abolition movement, to celebrate the spirit of progress for human rights, and to recognize the role of music in creating an alliance and belonging.

1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45: Puppet Showplace Theater, Outside the Copley Place Mall, 100 Huntington Ave.—Take your family for an animated and family-friendly puppetry show by the Puppet Showplace Theater. Showtimes between 1:30 - 4:15 p.m. They will be performing at an outdoor space outside the Copley Place Mall.

3 p.m. and 4 p.m.: Boston Youth Chamber, Boston Public Library—McKim Building—

(FIRST NIGHT, Pg. 3)

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Staff Report

2021 was still a tough year for many, though the arrival of vaccinations for the general public, as well as advancements in science, have brought some relief during the pandemic. The Back Bay, Fenway/Kenmore, and South End neighborhoods—along with the city as a whole—had their share of ups and downs, but neighbors came together to help each other and engage in their communities to make a difference. Here are 21 top stories of 2021.

1. On Jan. 4, Mayor Marty Walsh signed an executive order creating an Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT). The office examines police procedures and investigates civilian complaints about the Boston Police Department. He had also previously created a nine-member Civilian Review Board as well as an Internal Affairs Oversight Panel.

2. On Jan. 22, the Esplanade Association commemorated its 20th anniversary by debuting "Hatched: Breaking through the Silence" – an original 15-minute visual performance led by Boston-based creative Maria Finkelmeier of MF Dynamics that was specifically designed for the 80-year-old DCR Hatch Shel. The free pro-

gram ran through Feb. 22, with multiple showings each night.

3. On Feb. 1, Fenway Park opened as the second large-scale COVID-19 vaccination site in the Commonwealth (after Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.) More than 55,000 vaccine shots were administered at Fenway Park before the site closed on March 27, and its vaccination clinic operations were shifted to the Hynes Convention Center in the Back Bay, so that the ballpark could accommodate the Red Sox home season, which kicked off on April 1, with a game against the Baltimore Orioles. The Hynes had opened as a vaccination clinic on March 18, and before it closed on June 22, more than 330,000 were administered there.

4. On March 18, the Boston Art Commission approved the final design for "The Embrace," a memorial honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Coretta Scott King, who met in Boston. The 22 foot bronze sculpture depicting embraced the hands and arms of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King will be erected on the Tremont St. side of the park, and construction is expected to be completed next year. On May 25, the Boston Landmarks

(2021, Pg. 8)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Pictured, left to right, DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery; Gov. Charlie Baker; former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski; Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association; Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides; Rep. Jay Livingstone; and former Sen. Sal DiDomenico are seen on May 7, when Ron Gronkowski announced his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to the Esplanade Association for a complete renovation of the Charlesbank Playground on the Esplanade.

EDITORIAL

YES, LET'S RING OUT THE OLD AND RING IN THE NEW

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about 2021 and our hopes for 2022.

Although it was published in 1850, its verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here's hoping that 2022 brings health and happiness to all of us.

GUEST OP-ED

Our most difficult decision for 2022

Dr. Glenn Mollette

2022 will be over almost quicker than you can say Happy New Year! Just look how fast 2021 sped by us all. Time rarely feels as if it's standing still unless we are waiting on something to happen. Time only drags when we need something to happen like a cure for a disease, a job to open or a relative to come home. When time drags, we make the mistake of wishing it away.

We only have a little bit of time. We all have the same in a day, a week or a year. Every year that we live we are extended the same number of days and minutes. We do all kinds of things with time. We waste time, kill time, try to make up time, lose track of time or don't pay attention to time. Regardless of how we treat time it's only doing one thing moving swiftly through the hourglass one grain or second at a time.

I'm thankful for time. I'm grateful for time with my wife and each family member. I'm grateful for this moment to sit here and type a few words out

on my keyboard. I suppose one of my problems is how do I fit all I want to do into my time? I guess I enjoy doing too much. If I only enjoyed doing one or two things then my time spent might be a little easier. Each day and moment I would simply devote my full attention to one particular aspect of life. Actually, that might not be a bad idea. Could I devote 24 hours a day to my family? I could, but they really don't want me in their hair 24/7. I could devote 24 hours a day to prayer and reading the Bible or reading other good books. But then, I don't want to be an isolated religious person who never enjoys this incredible world or people. I could devote 24 hours a day to my educational work and do a lot of the work that others do. However, institutions are stronger and better when the work is spread around to others. I could spend more time simply writing books or pursuing other hobbies I enjoy.

Somehow, we have to determine what is best. I heard about this farmer who hired a man to sort potatoes. The man's job was

to put the bad potatoes in one pile, the good potatoes in another pile and the best potatoes in another pile. The man agreed to the job. At the end of the day the farmer came to see how his new employee was doing and he had not done anything. He was simply standing looking back and forth at two potatoes. The farmer bewildered asked? "Why haven't you done what I asked you to do?" The hired man responded, "I just can't decide between the good and the best potatoes."

Our dilemma in 2022 may not be in deciding between good and bad but between good and best. There are a lot of good things we can do with our time in 2022. Using our time to do the best things may be our most difficult decision.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MAYOR WU'S 'B TOGETHER' PROGRAM IS THE LEADERSHIP BOSTON NEEDS

To the Editor,

During Mayor Michelle Wu's campaign, she promised that she would center public health and equity, listen to both lead immunologists and community members, and adopt best practices. And that's exactly what she has done with B Together, her new vaccine mandate for restaurants, gyms, and entertainment venues.

Mass vaccination is essential to public health and economic recovery. We applaud the work that the City has done this year in ensuring that as many Bostonians as possible get vaccinated. But there is more work to be done to increase our vaccination rates as well as to create safe

spaces for those who are vaccinated to gather, especially as we head into a long winter with the rise of a new COVID-19 variant.

First of all, mandates work. The vaccination rate in New York City increased 9 percent after Mayor Bill DeBlasio's launch of the "Key to NYC" mandate, with an even higher increase among 18-34 year-olds. Mandates are an essential tool for promoting vaccination.

Second, the vaccine mandate protects both customers and local business owners. It is easy to find out if everyone is vaccinated before attending a small get-together at a friend or family member's house. But in larger indoor venues, uncertainty reigns. Wu's vaccine mandate will give customers confidence that they can patronize local restaurants and entertainment sites safely. And it gives local

business owners a standard set of rules to play by, bolstering those who have already been taking key precautions.

Many people choose to live in Back Bay, Fenway, or the South End exactly because of our proximity to so many excellent restaurants, theaters, galleries, and museums. They are what makes our city as vibrant as it is. Wu's mandate shows that we can support them this winter while keeping Boston and ourselves healthy. We are all better off for her leadership.

Members of the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee: Amelia Aubourg, Jonathan Cohn, Aaron Dy, Jovita Fontanez, Nina Garfinkle, Lisa Jeanne Graf, Ryan Hatcher, Carol Lasky, Sandra Lipson, Suzie McGlone, Anne Renahan, Jacqueline Royce, Ben Siegel M.D., Jane Siegel, Janet Slovin, Jacob Wessel

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Latest BWSC sampling shows lead in tap water exceeds MassDEP standards

By John Lynds

Looking at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) Lead Service Map, Back Bay residents would be shocked to see how many old lead pipes still enter homes across the neighborhood and bring in drinking water.

The map, which can be found at www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map, allows users to search for specific properties in the Back Bay that are known or suspected to have a private lead service line.

The map is dotted with dozens of Back Bay homes that still have

private lead service lines that connect to the BWSC main water lines in the street.

At the source of supply Back Bay's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead.

Lead can enter the drinking water when the water remains unused for long periods of time and water service pipes and household plumbing containing lead dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage

to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.

The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

This week the BWSC reported the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from four Boston properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 17.4 parts per billion. Due to the excess, the BWSC is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under

federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

Under State and Federal regulations, the BWSC must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. "This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead."

Sullivan said all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

The BWSC continues to work with Back Bay property owners and recently increased the financial assistance it provides to property owners toward the cost

of lead removal through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The Program provides owners with up to \$4,000.00 towards the cost of removal of the private lead service lines. In keeping with regulatory requirements the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

This past year, BWSC has replaced over 400 lead service lines through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of all lead service lines in the Back Bay.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888 or (617) 989-7000. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water. The website also has the Lead Service Map (<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map>) where residents can see if their home has a lead service line.

FIRST NIGHT (from pg. 1)

The Boston Youth Chamber is a unique collection of young, talented, classically-trained musicians from around the Boston. They serve communities throughout Massachusetts by performing their repertoire of classical pieces and popular songs. Watch them perform at an outdoor space outside the Boston Public Library in Copley.

4pm: Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association (GBCCA) Cultural Dance and Music Performance, Copley Square—Join the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association (GBCCA) to learn and celebrate Chinese culture through traditional and high energy dance & music performances.

5:50pm: Opening Ceremony and Celebrate Boston Procession, Copley Square—Giant puppets, motor vehicles, woodwind instruments. Join us again this year for the Celebrate Boston Procession featuring colorful and celebratory groups that will parade from Copley Square to

Boston Common!

7pm: City of Boston's Family Fireworks Produced by the Mugar Foundation & the City of Boston, Boston Common: Enjoy a spectacular Fireworks display over the Boston Common, brought to you by The Mugar Foundation and The City of Boston.

Midnight: Fireworks over the Harbor, Boston Harbor: Welcome the New Year with a

brehtaking Fireworks display over the Boston Harbor at midnight, brought to you by The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park.

First Night Copley Countdown, Copley Square—Celebrate the New Year with the highly anticipated Pyrotechnics & Light Show at midnight, with live music at the Copley stage and a multi-sensory display above the Fairmont Copley hotel.

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City considering making changes to five intersections around Public Garden

By Dan Murphy

After making changes to walk signals and creating separated bike lanes on the streets around the Public Garden last year via its multi-phase Connect Downtown project, the city is now considering making permanent design changes at five intersections near the Public Garden.

At the intersection of Boylston Street at Charles Street, where separated bike lanes and new bike signals were introduced last fall, the city is now seeking to significantly expand the sidewalk next to the Boston Common to create a gateway entrance to the Common with the potential for new plantings and benches, according to the city, which is working closely with the Boston Common Master Plan.

All crosswalks at the intersection will be widened, while all the curb on the north side of Boylston Street would be rebuilt and widened. A slight change would be made to the traffic signal operations as well, although no changes would be made to the vehicle capacity at the intersection from current conditions.

Additionally, southbound bicycle access would be introduced on Charles Street to Boylston Street – a change that, according to the city, would improve access to Downtown, as well as provide an alternative to riding bikes through the

Boston Common, which is not allowed.

At the Charles Street crosswalk between the Public Garden and Boston Common, which was expanded last year while the frequency of the Walk signal was doubled, the proposed design changes include: widening the curb ramps to match the existing 60-foot-wide crosswalk; adding another pedestrian signal; and installing a bike signal to stop southbound bicyclists while pedestrians are crossing Charles Street. No changes to traffic signal operations, nor to vehicle capacity, would be made at the crosswalk, according to the city.

At the intersection of Beacon Street at Charles Street, proposed changes include: building two raised islands – one located on the west side of Charles Street just south of the crosswalk between the Common and Public Garden, the other on the south side of Beacon Street between Charles Street and River Street – to protect pedestrians and bicyclists; retaining existing crosswalks and curb ramps; and introducing southbound bicycling on Charles Street between Beacon Street and Boylston Street. The existing separated bike lane on this block will be made two-way – again, to improve access to Downtown, as well as to provide an alternative to riding bikes through the Common. No changes to traffic signal operations, nor to vehicle

capacity, would be made at this intersection.

Last year, the city installed a one-way, separated bike lane on Charles Street and on Beacon Street.

At the intersection of Beacon Street at Arlington Street, proposed design changes include: simplifying the pedestrian crossing between the Public Garden and the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge; building two new crosswalks – one across Arlington Street on the south side of Beacon Street, the other across Beacon Street between Arlington Street and Mugar Way; replacing the island with a mountable island, which will allow for larger trucks to turn while keeping most drivers in their lanes as they enter onto Arlington Street; adding a separated bike lane on the south side of Beacon Street from Arlington Street to Mugar Way to close the existing gap in the bicycle network (bicyclist movements will not be in conflict with pedestrian movements); and adjusting signal timing to accommodate the new design. People walking and biking will also be protected from turning vehicles. No changes will be made to vehicle capacity at this intersection.

The proposed changes at this location, according to the city, comes into response top feedback received on how difficult it can be to cross this intersection, especially because people walk-

ing from the Public Garden to the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge have to cross Beacon Street via a small island.

At the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue at Arlington Street, where, according to the city, 50 percent of pedestrians walk directly between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Public Garden gates despite the absence of a crosswalk, proposed design include: creating a “new, iconic crosswalk” between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Public Garden, with a wide crosswalk and curb ramps to improve accessibility for pedestrians crossing Arlington Street; retaining the existing crosswalks across Arlington Street on the north and south sides of Commonwealth Avenue; replacing diagonal curb ramps with directional curb ramps to improve accessibility; and adding a new bike crossing across Arlington Street north of the new crosswalk.

Minor changes would be made to traffic signal operations, but there will be no change to vehicle capacity at this intersection.

“This project will help families explore Boston’s neighborhoods and iconic parks from the Esplanade to the Boston Common to the Southwest Corridor,” a city spokesperson said of Connect Boston. “It will improve pedestrian crossings, provide comfortable routes for bicyclists, and enhance access for residents and

visitors alike.”

Of the plan, Rep. Jay Livingstone wrote, “I’m pleased that the bike lanes are being made permanent. I think it has generally been a success. I hope now the city will invest in more bike specific stop lights to improve pedestrian safety around the Public Garden.”

Likewise, Elliott Laffter, chair of Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, wrote, “Our Development and Transportation Committee has been looking at the proposals. We are pleased with improvements at the important crossing between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Public Garden. We also look forward to improved crossings of Arlington Street, at Beacon and Boylston streets.”

Connect Boston, meanwhile, is conducting a survey to solicit feedback on all or one of the intersections, or you can talk one-on-one with a member of the project team, which take place between 3 and 7 p.m. every other Wednesday through January. Sign up for a 15-minute phone call or virtual meeting.

Comments can also be sent to: Boston Transportation Department, ATTN: Stefanie Seskin, 1 City Hall Square, Room 721, Boston, MA 02201, or via email to connect-downtown@boston.gov.

Visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/004d5a37796144-f89b32d895d39e6aa1>.



Virtual Public Meeting

Government Center Urban Renewal Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 12
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3F6srEJ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 467 0002

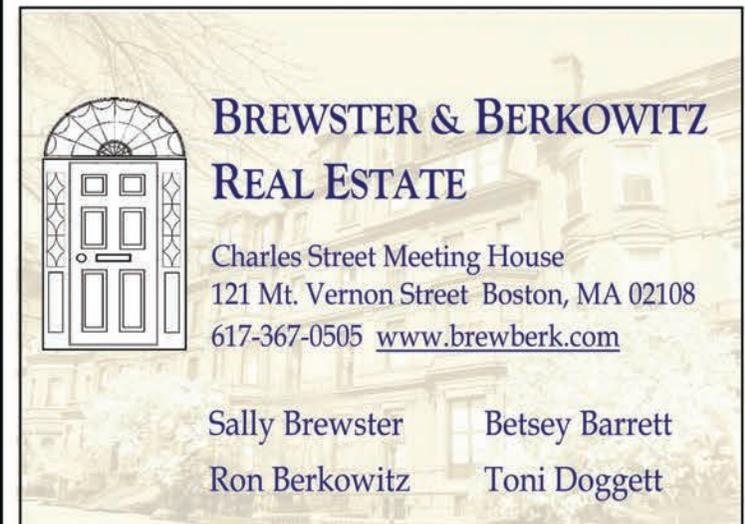
Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency is inviting the surrounding neighbors of the Government Center Urban Renewal Plan Area to a community meeting to gain feedback on a request to extend the terms of the plan. Translation/Interpretation will be available upon request with 7 day advance notice.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4202
email: chris.breen@boston.gov

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Can't make it to the gym? Local fitness company brings the fitness center to you

By Lauren Bennett

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, some residents may not feel comfortable exercising in a gym or fitness center with others.

Elite Home Fitness is a company that was started about five years ago by Luis Mendonca, and offers a way for folks to work out with a professional trainer right from their own homes—or even their offices. Right now, Elite Home Fitness serves Massachusetts and Rhode Island, but will soon also serve Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New York, according to its website.

Mendonca said that Elite Home Fitness allows for clients to exercise on their “own time and schedule,” and they don’t even need to have any experience or equipment. Elite Home Fitness’ trainers come fully equipped with everything needed, and the trainers can customize a workout routine based on the client’s fitness goals.

He said that in the fitness industry, “one of the main challenges” is finding the time to work out. “People just don’t have the time to make it to the gym,” he said. “When we bring the gym to them, we tend to make it very easy for them to work out and the accountability is always there.”

When COVID hit, Mendonca said that there was higher “demand coming from the suburbs,” as more people started to work from home and had concerns about the virus. He

said that over the past couple of years, there has been a focus on apartment buildings in Boston that already have gyms inside and only a trainer needed to be sent.

“Training with us is an educational experience,” Mendonca said, adding that all of Elite Home Fitness’ trainers are certified and have “a lot of experience in the industry.” Trainers have backgrounds in everything from strength training to weight loss to posture correction, to ensure there is a trainer to meet everyone’s needs.

Elite Home Fitness offers programs like strength training, cardio and conditioning, and stretching, which are “always tailored towards the client.”

During a client’s initial consultation, they will receive a body assessment and evaluation of fitness needs and any medical issues, as well as a 40 minute workout session to “find out where they’re at fitness-wise,” Mendonca said.

Elite Home Fitness also partners with Trifecta Nutrition to offer a “good, solid nutritional package” to clients as well if that is something they’re interested in.

Additionally, group training is also offered, either for couples looking to work out together or for small groups of up to five people to train together, Mendonca said.

All trainers are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and COVID precautions are



Luis Mendonca, founder of Elite Home Fitness.

taken when working with clients, such as wearing face masks and maintaining proper distance.

A “select group of communities,” including the 30 Dalton building in the Back Bay, are part of a partnership with Elite Home Fitness where pop up fitness booths are set up in the lobby, and residents can receive a complimentary fitness evaluation. Elite Home Fitness also gives away t-shirts and water bottles in these communities, as well as offers certain pop-up events such as a yoga class.

“Our service is truly for every-

body,” Mendonca said—“anyone that is looking for a better way to work out. When it comes to training, we provide an excuse-free way to train. We know that you signed up for a commitment, and as professionals, we really take pride in making sure we get you to that fitness goal.”

Mendonca said that he is looking forward to expanding the business throughout New England, and “with COVID, we’re really, really excited for the future.” He said he believes this way of working out will continue to serve many clients moving

forward.

He also said he believes the current “model” for working out “is totally broken. It shouldn’t be the client going out to the trainer—that requires a willpower and an accountability overall.” Instead, he feels it “should be the other way around—the trainer coming to the client,” as this “keeps them accountable and disciplined.”

For more information on Elite Home Fitness, visit elitehomefitness.com.

Back Bay, surrounding area’s COVID positive test rate nearing 10 percent

By John Lynds

A week after Mayor Michelle Wu imposed new restrictions on certain indoor activities due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, nearly 1 out of every 10 residents from the Back Bay and the surrounding area tested for COVID were found to be positive last week according to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, Wu announced that beginning on January 15 the

City of Boston both patrons and employees of indoor venues—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—will be required to show proof of vaccination. Wu said individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. Boston’s indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,684 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 9.7 percent were positive. This was a 56 percent increase from the 6.2 percent that tested positive between December 13 and December 20. The weekly positive test rate is up 102 percent in the area since December 13.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also neared 10 percent

last week. According to the BPHC 36,806 residents were tested and 9.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 40 percent increase from the 6.7 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on December 20.

Three hundred fifty seven additional residents have been infected with the virus between December 20 and December 27 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 5,203 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 8.2 percent last week and went from 95,790 cases to 103,667 confirmed cases in a week. There were 12 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,503.

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FENWAY SENIORS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH SNACKS AND LIVE MUSIC

PHOTOS BY LAUREN BENNETT

Seniors from Fenway's Peterborough Senior Center gathered at the Fenway Community Center on December 16 for its Coffee and Conversation program, where they enjoyed snacks and holiday tunes performed by a trombone quartet from the New England Conservatory called the Four Paper Clips.

The City's Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea also stopped by to speak to seniors

about upcoming vaccination clinics as well as pass out free face masks. She also told them about a virtual New Year event taking place on December 29, where residents are invited to ring in the new year at noon. There will be a "great band" and a magic show, Shea said, which elicited "ooohs" from the seniors.

"Happy Holidays to everybody," Shea said.



Lukas Helsel, Noah Nichilo, Katie Franke, and Chen Won Park, known as the Four Paper Clips, performed holiday tunes for the seniors.



Peterborough Senior Center intern Kathryn Beverly Smith serves Ruth Khowais some holiday treats.



Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea handed out free face masks to the seniors.



Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea spoke to residents about vaccinations and an upcoming virtual New Year's Eve celebration.



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District 8 Councilor Kenzie Bok outlines end-of-year policies

By Kenzie Bok

As you've likely seen by now, Mayor Wu made a major public health announcement on Monday. Starting January 15th, proof of vaccination will be required for entry into indoor restaurants, gyms, and performance venues in Boston, and all city workers will be required to be vaccinated. I was proud to stand with the Mayor on this; public health in public accommodations and city services is essential. You can find more on the policy in detail on the City website. The City also has a list of many upcoming vaccine clinics on the schedule – whether you need your first dose or a booster shot. I also hope you've seen that the City is distributing rapid tests at certain community locations; the three in District 8 so far are the Tobin Community Center in Mission Hill, the BPL Copley Square in Back Bay, and the Fenway Community Center.

I was also proud to stand with the Mayor yesterday as she announced a whole raft of housing policy initiatives that the Administration will be working on next year, in partnership with us on the Council and the whole community of local housing advocates. You can read more of the details in this press release, and you'll hear more from me on each of these steps in the new year, but suffice it to say that I'm excited and pleased to be in close touch with the Mayor's policy advisers on all these fronts.

Finally, on the housing policy front, yesterday the zoning amendment we've been working on since the spring became law! This change, which I introduced alongside my departing colleague Councilor Matt O'Malley, will ensure that when affordable housing developments are proposed anywhere in the City of Boston, parking minimums are not used as an excuse or a hook for bad-faith lawsuits to block their construction. We have been dealing with a very frustrating situation like this in Jamaica Plain, where 38 desperately-needed units for low-income seniors are being held up indefinitely on such a basis. This fall, our zoning amendment received unanimous support at the Boston City Council, the BPDA Board, and the Boston Zoning Commission – and yesterday Mayor Wu signed it into law! Through this signing, we've just made it easier to build affordable housing in the City of

Boston without unnecessary and costly delays – a tangible, important action step in response to our housing crisis.

I am so grateful for the large coalition that made this possible with their impactful testimony and advocacy at every stage: Mass Senior Action, Abundant Housing MA, City Life / Vida Urbana, Action for Equity, the Livable Streets Alliance, Transit Matters, MACDC, Fenway CDC, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, and Housing Forward MA – which is led by my predecessor, Councilor Josh Zakim! We also got expert help and guidance along the way from city staff at the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Boston Transportation Department, and BPDA. And of course a big thank you to my Policy Director Emily Brown, who did so much behind the scenes!

This shared effort is a good reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together. As we reach the end of the year, I hope many of you received our physical newsletter in the mail looking back on my first two-year term. If you didn't, you can read a digital copy; I'm very proud of all that we've achieved!

One holiday note: before the next term begins, we are taking a little breath. Council President Janey has closed the Council from Friday, December 24th until Monday, January 3rd, so my office will not be open during that week. Should you have an urgent issue, my staff will be checking the office voicemail daily from December 27th through 30th. You can also always call the City at 311 with any issue.

I hope you find time for reflection and community with family and friends in these final weeks of the year. The pandemic continues to cast a pall over this season, but I'm looking forward to continuing our work together in 2022.

Historian's Corner

Each year, a Christmas Tree is given to Boston from Nova Scotia and lit by the Mayor. This tradition started in 1918, when Nova Scotia sent a Christmas Tree to thank Bostonians for their assistance in the recovery from a large explosion in Halifax that killed more than 1,000 people and destroyed neighborhoods. In December 1917 two ships, including one stocked with munitions to use in WWI, collided causing this major explosion. Boston sent doctors, nurses, aid

workers, and medical supplies. Many of the aid workers decorated the hospitals for Christmas. In 1971, a second Christmas tree was sent to commemorate these events, and Nova Scotia has continued to send a Christmas Tree every year.

Read more from the Boston City Archives and Boston Parks

Announcements

Community Updates and Events

- On behalf of the Fenway Civic Association, Operation P.E.A.C.E. / Peterborough Senior Center, and Fenway CDC, thank you for your participation at the Fenway Bus Community Meeting.

Participate in the upcoming MBTA Bus Network Redesign

Details at mbta.com/busnetworkredesign

- Pediatric Vaccine Clinics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone age 5+ receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are one of the most important tools we have to protect ourselves and each other from COVID-19. However, vaccination rates in specific city neighborhoods and among youth ages 5-15 remain below the City of Boston average.

More information and schedule of clinics.

- Connect Downtown: Public Garden Crossings

The City is working on changes at five intersections near the Public Garden:

Boylston Street at Charles Street, Charles Street crosswalk between the Public Garden and Boston Common, Beacon Street at Charles Street, Beacon Street at Arlington Street and Commonwealth Avenue at Arlington Street

You can give feedback about one or all of the intersections.

- Beacon Hill Civic Association Winter Clothing Drive

Our friends at the Beacon Hill Civic Association are currently having a Winter Clothing Drive! All items will be donated to the Old West Church and Bay Cove Human Services who assist those challenged with mental illness, homelessness, aging-related needs and/or drug and alcohol addiction. All "like-new" donation items must be cleaned before they are dropped off! Please bring your clothing donations to the BHCA office lobby at 74 Joy Street between 9am and 5pm, where the BHCA will have a contactless drop-off for you there.

- Mission Hill Crime Commit-

tee Meeting, 12/30 at 6:00pm

Officer Michael O'Rourke from BPD will be in attendance to give a report of recent activity in the neighborhood.

Join using this zoom link. Meeting ID: 833 8899 4116 Passcode: 241224

- Boston Cannabiz 101: January 18th, 19th and 20th at 9:30am - 4:30pm

This free workshop series will provide guidance on the History of Legalization, Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry, Corporate Structure, State and Local Licensing, and Standard Operating Procedures, through the lens of minority-owned Boston cannabis business owners.

Seating capacity is limited and reservation for each Session is required -- be sure to RSVP as soon as you can.

- Fenway Community Center is fully open

The Fenway Community Center (FCC) is now fully open. Stop by 1282 Boylston Street, #123 Monday through Saturday for a host of programming.

The FCC has a variety of opportunities for engagement and fun for all ages. Sign up for bingo, painting, or other activities on their website.

FCC's staff is fully vaccinated and masks will be required for all regardless of vaccination status

- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has begun meeting to review the FY2022 applications and recommend projects for funding to the Mayor and City Council by February 2022.

COVID Booster Shot Information

- The CDC recommends that everyone ages 18 and older get a COVID-19 booster shot either 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine.

- Celebrate Vaccinations at the Museum

The Science Museum Museum is partnering with Cataldo Ambulance Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for new vaccination clinics for anyone age 5 and older, with booster and adult vaccines also available (if eligible). During our clinics, the Pfizer – BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine will be administered by Cataldo Ambulance Service.

Registered guests receiving a vaccine will be allotted two hours of free parking and two free tickets to the Museum, where you can also explore the science behind

vaccines in our Project Vaccine: Our Best Defense exhibit.

Check the Massachusetts Vaccination Finder portal for available dates and times.

Please Note: Registration for vaccination is required.

- Visit the VaxFinder tool at vaxfinder.mass.gov for a list of locations to receive a booster. Residents will be able to narrow results to search for locations that are offering the booster of their choice.

- If you are unable to use VaxFinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet, please contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line (Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) by calling 2-1-1 and following the prompts. The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.

Housing Resources

- The City of Boston's Office of Food Access has a COVID-19 food resources page with lists of organizations and phone numbers to call. They can be reached by email FOOD@BOSTON.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Graffiti NABBERS (Neighborhood Association of Back Bay) Seek More Volunteers!

Graffiti NABBERS are a network of resident volunteers, business and/or institutional partners that work to rid the Back Bay Historic District of graffiti vandalism.

Using red pails of graffiti removal supplies, they remove or paint over small-scale graffiti as well as removing expired signage, stickers, posters, flyers, tape, Zip-ties, string, gum, trash, and other clutter from the streetscape.

If you wish to volunteer, please send an email to graffitinabbers@nabbonline.org.

Beacon Hill Village is looking for folks who can help members with seasonal chores such as raking, clearing out a planting bed or planting bulbs, and snow shoveling.

We will put your name on a list and you can help based on your availability, no commitment is required.

For more information please call 617-723-9713, or email info@beaconhillvillage.org.

- Rescuing Leftover Cuisine needs Food Rescuers to transport food from Back Bay to Cambridge

Information about volunteer-

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Commission also approved the final design for the memorial.

5. On March 22, Mayor Marty Walsh gave his final farewell as Boston's mayor, as he prepared to head to Washington to serve as President Biden's Secretary of Labor. City Council president Kim Janey then became the first Black person and first woman to lead Boston.

6. In March, service on the Route 55 bus was suspended, leaving many Fenwickians without an easy way to travel downtown. On many Sundays, neighbors and transit supporters stood at the Jersey and Queensberry stop with signs, protesting the suspension. Service has since been restored on the line, but only from 10am to 4pm. A community meeting was held on December 7 for residents to hear updates and share their thoughts on public transportation in the neighborhood.

7. On April 26, Boston Public Schools (BPS) students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade returned to in-person learning after utilizing a hybrid model. Governor Charlie Baker had announced in February that remote learning was to be eliminated for elementary school students across the state by April 5, but BPS was granted more time to prepare for the return to in-person learning. Parents still had the option to continue remote learning for their children if they desired, but that option was not offered for the 2021-2022 school year.

8. On April 1, "Ducks on Parade!" – a photo book exploring the ongoing phenomenon of the iconic "Make Way for Ducklings" sculpture in the Public Garden and its ever-changing



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Color Guard is seen in a sea of flags as the Flag Garden made its full return for Memorial Day Weekend.

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Color Guard is seen in a sea of flags as the Flag Garden made its full return for Memorial Day Weekend.

In anticipation of Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, volunteers planted more than 37,000 flags – one in honor of each of the Commonwealth's fallen veterans – at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Boston Common, marking a full return to the tribute, which was scaled back in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Since 2010, Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund has been the driving force behind the Memorial Day Flag Garden, and this year, the nonprofit organization partnered with staff and volunteers from Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program to create this tribute, with financial support from John Hancock.

array of topical attire and its ever-changing array of topical attire – was published by Brandeis University Press. Nancy Schön, the West Newton sculptor who brought the family of aquatic birds from Robert McCloskey's classic children's book "Make

Way for Ducklings to life in the Public Garden, edited the book, which is divided into two sections – "Four Seasons of Ducks" and "Ducks with a Message." "Four Seasons of Ducks" follows Mrs. Mallard and her kin over the course of a year. They wear green for St. Patrick's Day, all dress as bunnies for Easter, don medals for the Boston Marathon and even masquerade as pilgrims for Thanksgiving, while showing their support for all the home teams, including the Bruins, Celtics, Sox and the Pats, with a changing array of uniforms. The book's second section, "Ducks with a Message," shows the aquatic creatures taking a political stand in costume, such as the knitted pink hats they wore in conjunction with the Boston Women's March for America, which drew a crowd estimated at 175,000 to the Boston Common on Jan. 21, 2017 – one day after President Donald Trump's inauguration – in support of women's

rights. Or, during a guerilla art installation in August of 2019, when the Ducks were caged in chicken wire to show solidarity with immigrants facing mistreatment at the border. The book's forward was also penned by former Mayor Martin J. Walsh, who wrote, "On any given day, you can walk through the Public Garden and find the Mallard family dressed up to reflect the current cultural moment and adorned with props to signify historic milestones in Boston's history. You'll see whimsical, over-the-top tributes to holidays and sports teams, and you'll see serious reflections on our country's political climate, too. In that way, Nancy Schön didn't just create one of our city's most beloved works of public art; she also gave us a living record of life in our city, and encouraged us all to become artists and reflect on the moment we're living in."

9. In April, The Tavistock Group announced its plans to add to add five more stories to three adjacent Boylston Street buildings located between 761-793 Boylston St. The international private investment group that owns Abe & Louie's and Atlantic Fish, intends to build a new lobby behind the façade of 777 Boylston St. where Crate and Barrel was formerly located that would rise up five stories and stretch over the locations of Abe & Louie's at 793 Boylston St. on one side and Atlantic Fish at 761 Boylston St. on the other. Dennis Quilty, an attorney for the applicant, said at time that time, the project, as proposed, includes plans for approximately 15,830 square feet of retail space;



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Carlos Bueno, incoming chair of the Back Bay Association; Meg Mainzer-Cohen, the group's president and executive director; and Elliott Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, accepting the BBA's Heavy Lifting Award this year on behalf of his organization, at the BBA's 98th annual meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, at the Colonnade Hotel.

25,720 square feet of office/fitness space; and nine residential units (three per floor) comprising approximately 18,600 square feet within the top three stories, and with proposed rooftop amenities facing both Boylston and Newbury streets. Retail uses would occupy the first and second levels of the site, with office space on the third through fifth levels. Moreover, operations at both Abe & Louie's and Atlantic Fish wouldn't be disrupted during construction, said Quilty.

10. On May 7, former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski announced his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to the Esplanade Association for a complete

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Former Mayor Ray Flynn congratulates Mel King at the Nov. 13 unveiling of Mel King Square at the intersection of Yarmouth Street and Columbus Avenue.



CREDIT: GEORGE LEWIS, JR.

A five foot wide, eight foot deep sinkhole was discovered on January 17 in Charlesgate Park and cordoned off by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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renovation of the Charlesbank Playground on the Esplanade.

11. On May 28, the Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial reopened on the Boston Common after undergoing a \$ 3 million renovation. The extensive restoration work, which was undertaken through a partnership between the Friends of the Public Garden, the City of Boston, the Museum of African American History and the National Park Service, entailed removing the brass memorial from its stonework encasing and transporting it to Skylight Studios in Woburn for refurbishing, as well as installing supplemental steel within the monument itself and a protection system for the existing beams within the plaza. The monument was also “retro-fitted seismically” to withstand earthquakes.

12. On June 7, Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the termination of Boston Police Commissioner Dennis White, following an independent investigation into domestic violence allegations that surfaced after he was sworn in on February 1. Former Mayor Marty Walsh had placed White on administrative leave on February 3 while the investigation was carried out. Chief Greg Long has served as the Acting Commissioner since White went on leave.

13. On August 12, Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced that all city employees, contractors, and volunteers would be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 19, or be tested weekly for the virus. Mayor Michelle Wu on December 20 announced that the testing choice would be eliminated, and instead requiring the vaccine for all city employees, who must have a first dose by Jan. 15 and a second dose by Feb. 15.

14. On Sept. 14, then-City Councilors Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George beat four other candidates to serve as the next Mayor of Boston in the Primary Election, including former Acting Mayor Kim Janey; former City Councilor Andrea Campbell; and John Barros, who previously served as the city’s chief of economic development under former Mayor Martin Walsh, to become the two top candidates who would face off in the Nov. 2 General Election. Another Mayoral candidate, Rep. Jon Santiago, withdrew from the

race on July 13. In the District 7 City Council race to fill the seat vacated by then-Acting Mayor Kim Janey, Tania Fernandes Anderson topped the ballot and went on to face runner-up, Roy Owens, in the November election. Owens narrowly edged out the third-place vote-getter in the race, Angie Camaco, while the other candidates rounding out the eight-way race were Brandy M. Brooks, Lorraine E. Payne Wheeler, Santiago Leon Rivera, Marisa C. Luse, and Joao Gomes Depina. In the crowded City Councilor at-Large race, Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia, Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Carla Monteiro, David Halbert, Althea Garrison, Bridget Nee-Walsh, and Alexander Gray emerged as the eight top vote-getters to advance to the November election, beating out rival candidates Said Abdikarim, Kelly Bates, James Colimon, Althea Garrison, Carla Monteiro, Domingos DaRosa, Jon Spillane, and Nicholas Vance.

15. On Sept. 22, “What Do We Have in Common?” – a new park-wide art installation to mark the Friends of the Public Garden’s 50th anniversary – opened on the Boston Common – one year later than originally planned due to the pandemic. The centerpiece of the art installation, curated by Now + There, a Boston-based nonprofit public-arts group, and created by Brooklyn, N.Y., artist, Janet Zweig was a massive wooden cabinet, with 200 compartments, each containing an illuminated, blue marker asking a poignant question. The first three questions, which were posed in Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as in English, during the Sept. 22 launch for the installation were: “who owns this park?”; “who owns the moon?”; and “who owns the air?.” Twelve guides were on hand in the park each day for the exhibit, which ran for 30 days until Oct. 22, to answer questions from guests, who were also invited to take a free book from the cabinet.

16. On Nov. 2, then-City Councilor Michelle Wu beat out her opponent, former City Councilor, Anissa Essaibi George, in the General Election to become the next Mayor of Boston, making her the first person of color, as well as the first person of color, to ever be elected to the office in the city’s history. In the District



CREDIT JAMES RASAIHAH

In an historic race for Boston’s next mayor, Michelle Wu celebrated her victory over Anissa Essaibi George at the Cyclorama in the South End on November 2.

7 City Council race, Tania Fernandes Anderson also beat out rival Roy Owens, making her the first Muslim-American ever elected to the council. In the race for the four City Councilor at-Large seats, incumbent City Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia retained their seats alongside newcomers Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy.

17. On Nov. 13, Mel King, the 93-year-old lifelong South End resident who served as state representative for the 9th Suffolk District from 1973 to 1982, was honored by the city with the unveiling of Melvin H. “Mel” King Square at the intersection of Yarmouth Street and Columbus Avenue. Numerous elected officials were on hand for the occasion, including former Acting Mayor Kim Janey, who said King has been described as a “trailblazer,” a “living legend,” and a “national treasure.” (King had previously endorsed Janey for Mayor). King himself also made two high-profile but ultimately unsuccessful bids for Mayor of Boston – in 1979 and again in 1983.

18. On Nov. 18, Nov. 15, at the Colonnade Hotel, the Back Bay Association bestowed its Heavy Lifting Award on another long-serving neighborhood group, the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, during the BBA’s 98th annual meeting at the Colonnade Hotel. At the event, Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the BBA, also welcomed

Carlos Bueno, a board member and managing director of The Newbury Boston, as the organization’s incoming chair.

19. On Dec. 9, Gov. Charlie Baker joined Mayor Michelle Wu, among other elected officials and dignitaries, at the old YW Boston (formerly YWCA Boston) headquarters at the corner of Clarendon and Stuart streets in Back Bay for the redevelopment project that will transform the building into affordable housing, with 111 of its 210 planned units expected to go to people experiencing homelessness. Beacon Communities and the Mount Vernon are partnering with the Pine Street Inn to renovate 50,000 square feet of space now comprising the existing 66-room Hotel 140 and 118 apartments into studio and one-bedroom rental units while the site’s three largest commercial tenants, the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, a nonprofit performing arts center; the Snowden International School; and YW Boston itself, will remain there as part of the plan. Beacon Communities, in partnership with Mount Vernon Company, will own the new development, which will be managed by Beacon Residential Management Limited Partnership. Construction on the project is expected to be completed in 2024.

20. On Dec. 15, Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the city intends to clear out the tent encampment at Mass. and Cass, the epicenter of the region’s opioid crisis. The following day, the

city deployed outreach workers to the area to offer citywide housing options to tent dwellers. Mayor Wu’s decisive action came on the heels of an executive order issued by then-Acting Mayor Kim Janey on Oct. 19 declaring the ongoing situation at Mass. and Cass a public health crisis, which also sought to ban encampments in the area, and to divert people living there into shelters. In a related news story, Boston Medical Center announced its controversial plan to bring new homelessness/addiction services and temporary housing to the Roundhouse Hotel, located in the heart of Mass. and Cass. at 891 Massachusetts Ave. Additionally, a pop-up “cottage community” comprising 17 pre-fabricated sleeping cabins to provide temporary housing for patients was slated to open before the end of December in a parking lot at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain.

21. On December 20, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the “B-Together” program, which requires people to show proof of vaccination to enter certain indoor spaces, including restaurants, bars, nightclubs, fitness centers, and entertainment venues, such as theaters. The program goes into effect on January 15, 2022. Employees of these places must also be vaccinated as part of the program. The requirement is similar to New York City’s, which went into effect in mid-September.

Thousands of at-home rapid COVID test kits distributed in Back Bay last week

By John Lynds

Last week, ahead of the Christmas Holiday, the City of Boston began distributing free at-home rapid COVID test kits to the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library with plans in place to expand the program to all library branches and BCYF sites in the future.

Back Bay residents seeking a test kit were able to obtain kits for their immediate family, subject to availability. Boston Public School students in the Back Bay were also sent home with an at-home test kit last Thursday with two tests to help ensure a safe return to school after winter break.

Additional test kit distribution will employ a targeted approach to reach specific vulnerable populations. Mayor Michelle Wu said the City will coordinate with service providers, community partners, and Vaccine Equity partners

to ensure direct and timely distribution.

“We must rely on testing, vaccination and other safety practices to ensure the health of us and our loved ones,” said Wu. “Led by Dr. Ojikutu with collaboration from agencies across the city, we will help our communities be together and celebrate safely. I am grateful to Governor Baker for swift action and all our city employees for their hard work to get these test kits into the hands of our residents.”

Earlier this month Baker announced state officials would be providing 2.1 million kits statewide. With these state kits and the City’s initial purchase of test kits earlier in the month, the City of Boston will be able to provide more than 260,000 kits for distribution throughout Boston. Each kit contained two tests, meaning there were over a half a million free rapid tests made available to residents.

“We’re distributing these kits with a focus on communities and populations experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 and barriers to testing, including people who cannot afford to purchase these kits from stores,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “Rapid antigen testing is an important mitigation strategy to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Access must be equitable.”

By last Thursday, the BPHC reported that they had already distributed over 180,000 rapid, at-home COVID-19 testing kits to Boston residents.

“We want to thank our residents for responding to this call, and for taking this quick action to protect themselves, their families, and their communities,” said Ojikutu. “Our focus has been on speed, equity, and getting kits in the hands of people in high-risk populations.”

“Because the demand for kits

across our city is so enormous, we can report that all BCYF and most BPL public distribution sites have now exhausted their supplies,” said Ojikutu. “While their supplies last, our community partners will continue to provide kits to high-need populations to ensure a focused, equitable, distribution. This phase of our test-kit distribution work has proven what we already know, that there is incredible demand for testing in our communities. While the supply of test kits in this City-State partnership effort is limited, we are exploring all avenues to expand testing – both rapid antigen tests and clinic sites – in the new year. This public health response work, including meeting demand for testing and vaccinations broadly, will continue to require collaboration and commitments of resources from all levels of government. We applaud President Biden’s announcement to expand access

to at-home testing and will continue to advocate at the state and federal levels for additional testing resources and distribution that is guided by the same principles we have applied here.”

Consistent with state and national trends, Back Bay and Boston are experiencing a surge in case numbers and hospitalizations. Wu and Ojikutu urge all residents to get vaccinated and boosted. If you are exposed to COVID-19 or presenting upper respiratory symptoms, please get tested immediately, regardless of vaccine status. For information about clinics and vaccine availability visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston>. For more information on where to find a free rapid test kit near you, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/free-covid-19-home-test-kits>.

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn outlines end-of-year policies

By Councilor Ed Flynn

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well during this Christmas and holiday season. As 2021 draws to a close, I am writing to provide you with a summary of the key areas of our work at the City Council this year: public health & vaccinations, pedestrian & public safety, housing & development, environment & resiliency, civil rights, and quality of life issues.

With a new surge of COVID-19 cases and the Omicron variant quickly becoming the dominant strain in the country, I will continue working closely with Public Health officials, local nonprofits and community partners to continue our efforts to encourage people to get vaccinated and to get their boosters to combat the virus. With holiday gatherings taking place soon, it is critical that everyone gets vaccinated, boosted, and rapid tested if possible before seeing family and loved ones. We know that vaccines are currently the most effective way of providing protection against COVID-19 and preventing serious complications, hospitalizations, and death. We have to work together as a City to do our part so that we do not overwhelm our first responders and healthcare providers during this wave.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy holiday season.

Below are highlights of our work this year:

Public Health

- Refiled hearing to discuss the creation of a Frontline Workers COVID-19 Health Registry;

- Refiled hearing to discuss ways for the City to be more proactive in providing services, educating the public, and raising awareness for those infected with HIV/AIDS;

- Refiled and held a hearing to discuss large house parties and gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our nurses and healthcare workers at the Boston VNA;

Quality of Life

- Refiled and held a hearing and working session to discuss pest control and illegal dumping;

- Refiled hearing to discuss updates on the status and enforcement of the Short Term Rentals Ordinance;

- Called and held hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards in the City of Boston;

- Called and held hearing to discuss increasing fines for large house parties disturbing neighbors’ quality of life;

Environment and Resiliency

- Called for hearing on the process for tree removals in the City of Boston;

- Called and held hearing to discuss investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure & electrifying the City of Boston’s vehicle fleet;

Traffic and Public Safety

- Refiled and held a hearing to discuss safety of construction sites;

- Called and held a hearing to discuss water rescue infrastructure in the City of Boston;

- Refiled hearing to discuss establishing a traffic master plan for South Boston;

- Called for using the a portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding for the city to be dedicated to address pedestrian safety infrastructure needs;

Civil and Human Rights

- Refiled and held a hearing on internet access and digital equity;

- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination;

- Co-sponsored hearing to hearing on domestic violence and sexual assault in the City of Boston;

- Called and held hearing to discuss ways for the City to increase communication access for people with disabilities to public-facing televisions;

- Sponsored and passed resolution in support of H. 3115 “An Act Ensuring Equitable Representation in the Commonwealth”;

- Sponsored and passed resolution in support Of S.D.972 And H.D.1653 “An Act To Reform The Hate Crimes Statutes;”

Housing and Development

- Called and held hearing to discuss zoning and the community outreach process for life sciences laboratories in the City of Boston;

- Opposed projects unfavorable to abutters & neighborhood associations;

- Brought Inspectional Services to meet with concerned neighbors;

Social and Economic Justice

- Called for hearing to discuss renewal fees for restaurants and food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Called and held a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities;

- Called and held hearing and working session to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors & long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID19;

- Co-sponsored and held a hearing regarding maximizing workforce development oppor-

tunities in biotechnology for Boston residents;

- Called for hearing to discuss renewal fees for restaurants and food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Veteran Affairs

- Called and held a hearing to hearing to discuss services for women veterans;

- Sponsored and passed a Resolution celebrating Always Ask, Proud to Tell Day;

- Sponsored and passed resolution commemorating Memorial Day and honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice for our country;

- Sponsored and passed resolution recognizing April As Month of The Military Child;

Other Actions

- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of H.D.4120 “an Act Relative To The Educational Needs Of Students Whose Education Was Negatively Impacted By The Covid-19 Emergency”;

- Sponsored and passed resolution in Support Of S.D.1313, “An Act Relative To The Structure Of The Fiscal Management And Control Board”;

- Sponsored and passed resolution In Support Of H.D. 1167, “an Act Concerning Genocide Education” And S.D. 1592, “An Act Advancing And Promoting Genocide Education.”

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Longwood Towers RT	Jones, Jason	180 Beacon St #9C	\$780,000
Pendergast, Elizabeth	Mattingly, Elliot	44 Clarendon St #2	\$1,460,000
Yazdi, David	Kosmo, Mark N	160 Commonwealth Ave #419	\$715,000
Fadus, Matthew	Zhang, Juanjuan	188 Commonwealth Ave #56	\$780,000
Downey, Allison J	DeGreef, Laurent G	171 Marlborough St #5	\$2,000,000
Bilal, Safa Y	Dicarlo, Gregory G	38-40 Saint Botolph St #B3	\$587,500
Lee, Ann L		347 Commonwealth Ave #B	\$3,875,000
Connolly, Paul T	Daher, John	393 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$3,825,000
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC	Trimount Foundation Inc	395 Commonwealth Ave	\$12,500,000
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC	Trimount Foundation Inc	397 Commonwealth Ave	\$12,500,000
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC	Trimount Foundation Inc	399 Commonwealth Ave	\$12,500,000
Hackley, Donna M		341-343 Marlborough St #1	\$920,000

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BEACON HILL			
Mckenna, Karen A	K W Dornburg First T	33 Hancock St #2	\$910,000
83 Myrtle Street LLC	83 Myrtle Street NT	83 Myrtle St	\$2,550,000
Sinicropi-You, Lara	123 Pembroke Dev LLC	123 Pembroke St	\$5,475,000
Shaye, David A	Hussey, Philip	36 Pinckney St	\$3,995,000
Ren, Hui	Agostinelli, Donald C	8 Whittier Pl #22F	\$530,000

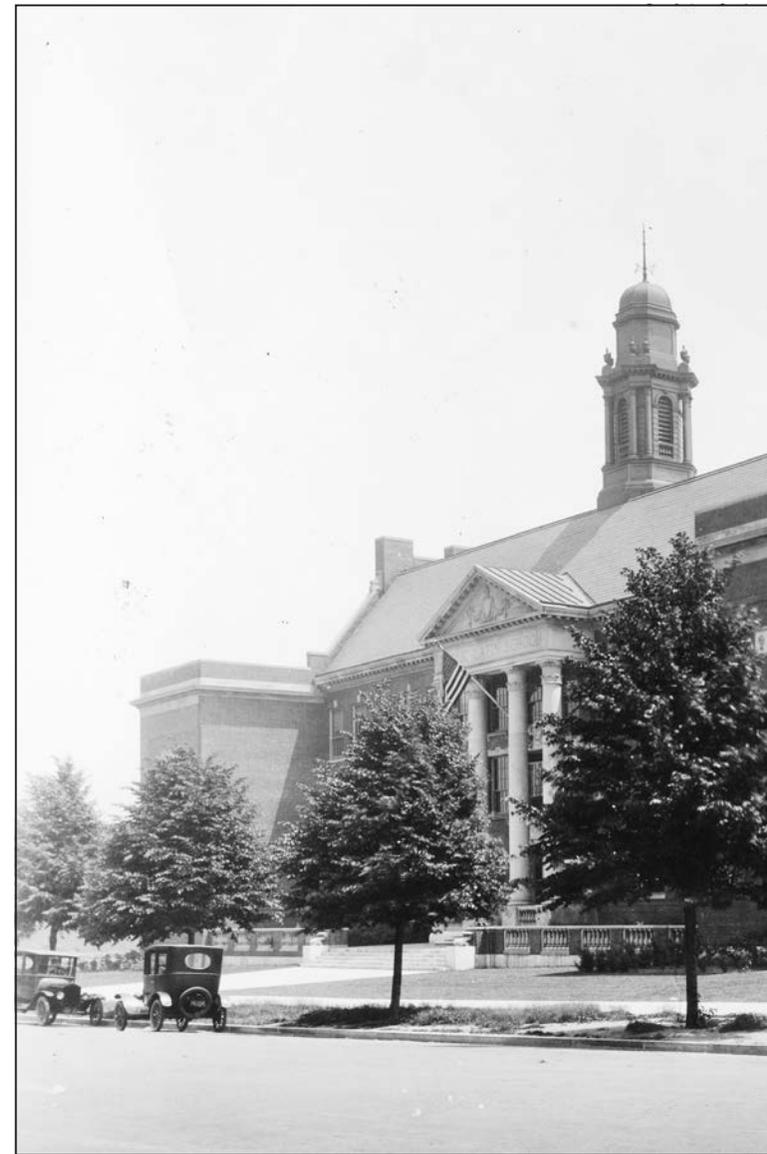
BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Smith, Caleb	Iglowski, Andrew	54 Appleton St #4	\$1,875,000
Carter, Allison R	Falla, Jacqueline A	114 Chandler St #G2	\$750,000
Schrag, Jonathan	Emanuel, Michael S	182 W Canton St	\$5,025,000
7 Durham Street NT	CK Durham LLC	7 Durham St #4	\$1,360,000
Duffy, William S	Alverson, Lily N	427 Shawmut Ave #5	\$770,000
Asselin, Timothy	Rosalind Rustigian LT	565 Tremont St #28	\$935,000
146 Wnewton LLC	Frishkopf, John J	146 W Newton St	\$6,300,000

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
R&B Pier 4 RT	Petroni Maureen Est	300 Pier 4 Blvd #8E	\$3,195,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The cupola in the last clue is on Boston Latin School at 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur built in 1922 and is the school's fifth location. Wikipedia notes that Boston Latin is, "... the oldest public school in the Americas and the oldest existing school in the United States." Today's answer is from a 1920s photo by Frank B. Conlin. Thanks to reader William Hogan for suggesting this address.

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 with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 1/12/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Gregory Olaiivar unit #206; Tiffany Holder unit #362; Mark Tedeschi/Related Beal unit #380; Chris Labossiere unit #618; Benjamin Daniels unit #838; John McGaffigan/Related Beal unit #PK23 contents: Gray Nissan

SV Frontier, Massachusetts License Plate # 162T40, Vin# TN6AD0EV9KN876808. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

12/23/21, 12/30/21 BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will

occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 1/12/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Sandra Chadwick unit #1003; Colleen Landry unit #3070; Brandon W Weltman unit #3109; Danielle Doe unit #3163; Maximilian Bousquet unit #3255; Rickelle McKinney unit #4008; Lei Min unit #4082. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

12/23/21, 12/30/21 BS

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

CAMPION AND COMPANY

CAMPION AND COMPANY IS PROUD TO
ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN THE
*#1 OFFICE IN BACK BAY!**



TRACY CAMPION

*#1 AGENT IN MASSACHUSETTS!**

*#1 AGENT IN BOSTON FOR THE 18TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR!**

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*#1 OFFICE IN BOSTON FOR SALES OVER \$2,500,000!**

*TRACY CAMPION AND THE TEAM AT CAMPION AND COMPANY OFFER OUR
SINCEREST THANKS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR! WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN 2022!*