

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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## Pour House could reopen by January

By Dan Murphy

The Pour House could reopen at its former home of 34 years at 907 Boylston St. under new management “hopefully within the month of January,” representatives for the applicant told the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay License and Building Use Committee at its Monday, Dec. 6, meeting, which was held virtually.

C and R Hospitality Managers, LLC, purchased the assets of the former establishment in bankruptcy court and wants to re-open the restaurant under the same concept, while Charles M. Talanian, the principal owner of C. Talanian Realty, the real-estate firm that owned the Pour House, will acquire the liquor license for the new establishment via his entity.

Chuck Hitchcock, who has 17 years in the restaurant industry, having previously worked at the erstwhile McGreevy’s on Boylston Street, as well as the House of Blues, and Two Saints Tavern

on the Northeastern University campus, which he described as his first foray as a bar owner, will serve as the general manager of the new Pour House.

“We’re not reinventing the wheel here,” said Hitchcock, who added that the establishment would be run “just as it was” prior to its closure in March of 2020.

The establishment would open at 8 a.m. daily and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner, seven days a week, said Hitchcock, while the menu would bring back many previously popular items. The closing time would also remain 2 a.m., he said.

Trash would be stored on the premises and emptied six days a week, added Hitchcock.

In another matter, an applicant (Stark Hospitality LLC) discussed their plans to bring an “elevated dining experience” to the former Storyville space while introducing an “upscale diner-type bar” upstairs in the for-

(POUR HOUSE, Pg. 6)

## MAYOR’S ENCHANTED TROLLEY VISITS BLACKSTONE SQ.



Shown above, the crowd goes wild as Santa and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu light up the Holiday Tree in Blackstone Square during the annual Mayor’s Trolley Tour. Shown to the left, the Holiday Tree in Blackstone Square is lit and welcoming. See more photos on Pages 12 and 13.

## First Suffolk & Middlesex Primary set for Tuesday, December 14

By Sun Staff

On Tuesday, December 14 voters will head to the polls during the First Suffolk & Middlesex Special Election Primary and cast their ballots for state senator. The election to fill the seat vacated by Joseph Boncore will take place in the Boston

neighborhoods of Chinatown, Bay Village, the South End, Beacon Hill, East Boston, the North End, as well as Revere, Winthrop and Cambridgeport.

### Who is on the Ballot next Tuesday

On the ballot in next Tuesday’s Special Election are District

1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Revere School Committee member Anthony D’Ambrosio.

Councilor Edwards, an Eastie resident, previously ran for the Senate seat after former State Senator Anthony Petrucelli left office in 2016. While unsuccessful

(ELECTION, Pg. 3)

## USES HOLDS YOUTH VACCINE CLINIC



Boston Community Pediatrics prepares COVID vaccine paperwork as USES participants look on before getting their shots. See more photos on Page 10.

## Fenway residents come out for 55 bus meeting

By Lauren Bennett

A community meeting regarding the 55 bus in the Fenway neighborhood was held on December 7, where about 85 people came to listen to updates and share their opinions on the

bus.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok kicked off the meeting by talking a little bit about the 55 bus and where it stands now.

“In November 2020, the MBTA announced some pretty drastic cuts across the board,”

Bok said, including reducing some service and completely slashing some bus lines—the 55 was one of them.

Bok said that there was a “huge amount of upset and pro-

(BUS 55, Pg. 7)

# EDITORIAL

## CHARLIE BAKER WILL BE MISSED

There has been a lot of speculation by the pundits as to the reasons behind Governor Charlie Baker's decision not to run for re-election in 2022, but we think it comes down simply to this: Gov. Baker is burned-out, similar to so many of his fellow Baby Boomers (including the older members of Generation X) who are retiring from both the public and private sectors amidst what is being called the Great Resignation.

In our mind's eye, we still think of Gov. Baker as the youthful man from the campaign trail in 2013, but the reality is that Gov. Baker just turned 65 years old.

He ain't a kid anymore.

And as so many other Baby Boomers are coming to realize, there is a lot more to life than work, especially when work no longer is fun.

We think it is telling that Lieut. Governor Karyn Polito -- who at 55 is a Gen Xer -- also announced that she has no plans to run for governor, which was actually more surprising than Gov. Baker's announcement. The Lieut. Gov., who is part of the Baker team that consistently has been among the most-popular governorships in the country, would have been a strong candidate to make history as the first female governor in state history.

But after eight years as an highly-active Lieut. Gov., it is clear that Polito has no desire to occupy the corner office at the State House.

But regardless of Gov. Baker's reasons for not seeking re-election, there is no disputing that Charlie Baker has been a great governor who has accomplished great things for our state, even amidst an unprecedented pandemic.

His ability to work with Democrats in the Mass. legislature, amidst an era of unprecedented political rancor at the national level, will be regarded as a shining example for future governors, regardless of party, to follow.

## THROW THE BOOK AT THEM

Another news cycle -- and yet another mass shooting incident in America.

The horrific murder last week of at least four students at Oxford High School in suburban Detroit and the wounding of several others by 15 year-old fellow student Ethan Crumbley once again has brought unspeakable tragedy to a community in our country.

However, there is an additional twist to this story, which we will compartmentalize as follows, based on the facts as we know them:

-- The semi-automatic handgun used by Ethan Crumbley was brought for him as a Christmas present by his parents a few days before the shooting;

-- When a teacher became aware that Ethan Crumbley was drawing photos depicting violence by gunfire during class, Crumbley was taken to the office of a guidance counselor;

-- The guidance counselor called Crumbley's parents, who came to the school, because of his disturbing images;

-- The parents never informed any school authority that they had bought their son a handgun as a "Christmas gift";

-- The parents insisted that Ethan remain at school that day.

The parents have been charged with four counts each of involuntary manslaughter for their alleged role in the murders. The local district attorney has conceded that the prosecution of the parents presents novel questions of law.

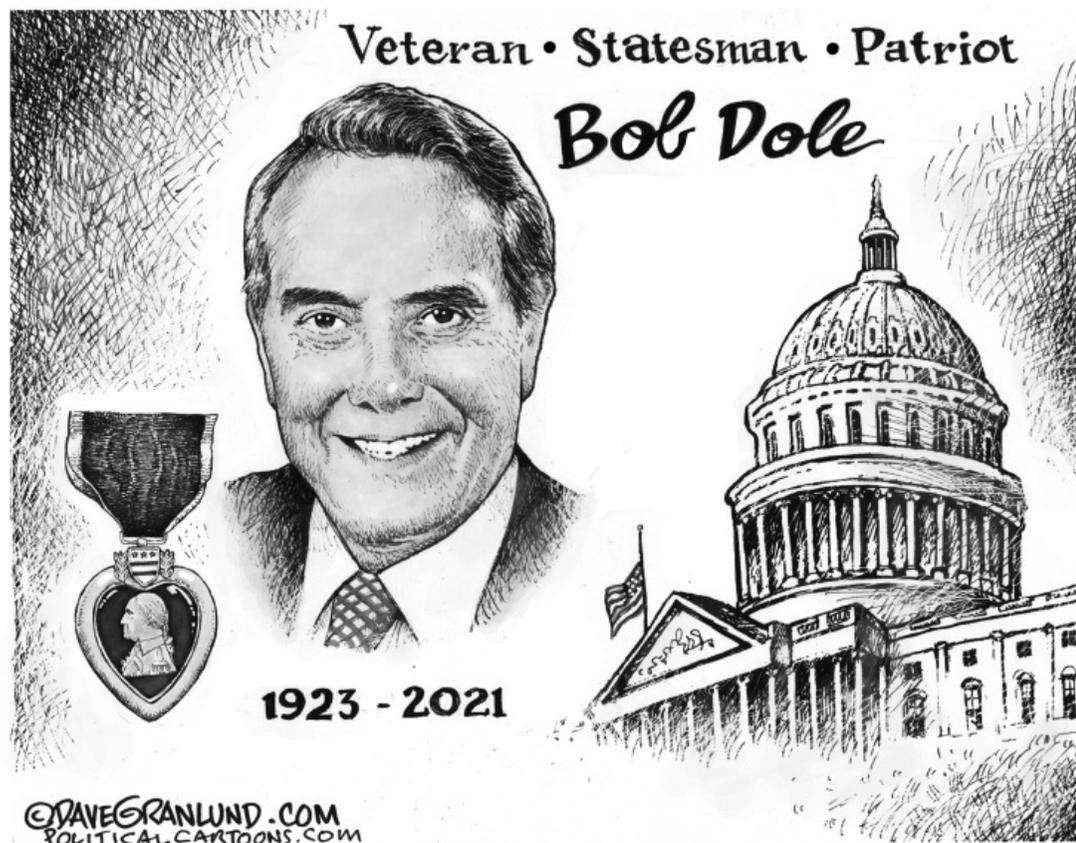
If it is true that the parents did not divulge to the school authorities that they had bought their son a handgun, the question will be whether that omission makes them criminally liable for what transpired shortly after they left the school without their son.

No right-thinking person would deny that the parents are morally-culpable for not disclosing to school personnel that they had bought their son a gun, even if they believed that the gun was in a locked box at home.

We also believe that if they had made that fact known, the student's backpack and locker would have been searched immediately by school personnel and the tragedy could have been avoided. But does this make the parents criminally-liable?

Whether Michigan law encompasses a charge for involuntary manslaughter given the facts of this case ultimately will be decided by that state's highest court, but we support the decision by the district attorney to bring the charges.

If nothing else, hopefully it will deter like-minded parents from buying guns for their children. And if the courts determine that the parents are not criminally-liable, perhaps legislatures will pass laws that do so in circumstances such as these.



## GUEST OP-ED

### What about the other Ethan Crumbleys?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are unfortunately informed once again of another horrific, senseless school shooting. They don't stop. When will the next one be? Who will be the next shooter and who will be the next unsuspecting victims?

Once again, American kids go to school to pursue education and American life but are murdered by a classmate while walking the hallway or sitting in a class. This has to stop. Will it ever?

According to news reports, on November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a fifteen-year-old, took the lives of four schoolmates and injured seven others at Oxford High School, a Detroit, Michigan suburb.

Crumbley has once again reminded us of the horrific outcomes of mental illness and the importance of parents, teachers, churches and communities working together to protect each other.

According to news reports, the Oxford school was alerted to Crumbley's disturbing social media posts, drawings depicting violence, and other actions that had called for his parents to come to the school for a serious talk about their child.

Reports of the parents buying a semi-automatic weapon for their son's Christmas present and taking him to a shooting range for practice is revealing their denial of, as well their failure to address, their son's problems.

My dad gave me some shotgun lessons when I was growing up. I was turned loose in the hills of Appalachia to hunt for squirrels at the age of 12 with a hunting license. Parents teaching their children to shoot a weapon and hunt are as old as our nation. However, parents should never provide their children access to guns when there are obvious warnings of mental illness.

Past school shooters have talked about being bullied by

classmates or not fitting into any of the school social groups. Rejection, being bullied, failure to make the school team or feeling outright mistreated makes anyone feel bad, dejected and disappointed. Such feelings should be a push to any of us to look at ourselves to see how we either must adjust, change, work harder, problem solve as to what is happening or even find a different school or community in which to live. Hurting others never resolves anything and only increases our pain, darkness and sentences the rest of our lives to prison or regret of how we handled our feelings.

School can be a difficult life

(Op-Ed, Pg. 3)

## THE BOSTON SUN

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# Back Bay and surrounding area's COVID cases decrease

By John Lynds

Just as expected and like health officials warned, the city's weekly COVID positive test rate exploded last week with the majority of new cases most likely traced back to the Thanksgiving Holiday where many gathered indoors maskless with friends and family.

However, the Back Bay and the surrounding area's weekly positive test rate decreased slightly but around 700 people less got tested than the week of Thanksgiving.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,955 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.1 percent were positive. This was a 11 percent decrease from the 3.5 percent that tested positive between November 22 and November 29 but over 2,700 residents were tested during that time.

The citywide weekly positive test rate increased dramatically last week. According to the BPHC 21,26 residents were

tested and 5.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 30 percent increase from the 4 percent reported by the BPHC on November 29.

In response to the latest uptick in cases as well as hospitalizations across the city, Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday that Boston health officials will distribute 20,000 free rapid antigen home tests and free masks to neighborhoods with the highest rates of COVID-19. Wu also appointed a 17-member advisory board to help city health officials combat the latest

rise in COVID cases.

"We're now entering year three of this public health emergency with new variants continuing to emerge and it is clear that we need leadership from every sector to help us take on this public health crisis with immediate steps," said Wu at a press conference at City Hall.

Sixty-one additional residents have been infected with the virus between November 29 and December 6 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,679 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.9 percent last week and went from 87,674 cases to 90,193 confirmed cases in a week. There were six additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,473.

## ELECTION (from pg. 1)

ful in that race Edwards went on to run for the District One City Council seat, which includes Eastie, Charlestown, and the North End, the following year. She went on to win that race and has served on the council ever since.

D'Ambrosio, a Revere resident, got his start in politics in 2019 when he successfully ran for Revere School Committee, a citywide seat. He topped Revere's School Committee ticket in that race and had an impressive showing during his first run for political office.

### Where to Vote

The following are the polling locations broken down in order of Precincts. All polling locations will be open between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14. Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation

phone bank.

Ward 3, Precinct 6, City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza. Vote in the hallway by Credit Union. The voter entrance is on the north side of the building.

Ward 3, Precinct 8, Wang YMCA of Chinatown, 8 Oak Street West. Vote in the gymnasium.

Ward 5, Precinct 11, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, 41 Berkeley Street. Vote in the auditorium.

### In-Person Early Voting

In-person early voting for the Dec. 14 Primary began in Boston on Saturday, December 4. Voters will still be able to vote early in-person for the senate race at the BCYF Quincy 885, Washington Street, Chinatown on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 12 - 8 p.m.

In-person early voting can also be conducted at City Hall on Thursday, December 9 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday, December 10: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Note that Friday is the last day of in-person early voting.

### Vote by Mail Ballots Drop Boxes

The City of Boston has also installed ballot drop boxes for voters to drop off completed vote by mail ballots.

The Ballot Drop Box is located at BCYF Quincy 885, Washington Street, Chinatown or City Hall. All drop boxes are monitored under 24 hour video surveillance. Drop boxes will also be available at each early voting location during the scheduled voting hours.

Applications for vote by mail ballots have been mailed out to every registered voter in Boston. Voters are asked to fill out the application, including their signature, as applications received without a signature will not be accepted.

Vote by mail applications can be returned by U.S. mail with the prepaid postcard or in-person at the Boston Election Department, City Hall, Room 241.

If a registered Boston voter did not receive or lost their applica-

tion, they can request a new ballot application by completing the form available on the City's vote-by-mail website. The form can be sent to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, fax, or in-person. The Boston Election Department is located at Boston City Hall, City Hall Square, Room 241, Boston, MA 02201. Fax: 617-635-4483, Tel: 617-635-VOTE (8683). Email: absenteevoter@boston.gov

### Vote By Mail

The Election Department sent out vote by mail ballots to those who requested one. Once a voter receives their ballot package, they should follow the enclosed instructions. It is important to sign the yellow ballot affidavit

envelope. Unsigned ballot affidavit envelopes will cause a ballot to be rejected. To return ballots by U.S. mail, make sure to apply sufficient postage. While ballot package weight can vary, two First Class stamps is generally sufficient.

To be counted, ballots must be received by the Boston Election Department or in a ballot drop box by the close of polls on Election Day, Tuesday, December 14 at 8 p.m.

### Tracking Your Ballot

Boston voters can track their ballot request through the state's website. For more information on how to participate in the Special Election, please visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

## OP-ED (from pg. 2)

learning ground. What we face in the local school often is only preparing us for what we may face at the office, the factory, the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout life we know everyone is not going to like us, accept us, applaud us or even try to get along with us. There are always people who don't like us. However, there are people who will affirm, support, and befriend us. Sometimes it just takes a while to find those communities, houses of faith, social groups, and others with whom we can emotionally connect.

The Ethan Crumbleys of the world are sad, scary and wreak

destruction. They need help now. His life and many other lives are forever destroyed. Apparently, his parents were living in some sort of disconnected denial of what their son was really about to do to himself, them and many others.

Schools and work places must have all authority to protect themselves quickly. Oxford school officials were alarmed by some of his actions. They were trying to work with the parents. Looking back, he should have been escorted out of the school and barred from its grounds until a professional counselor had given written permission for

his return. I know, hindsight is always 20/20.

Sadly, for those who are now dead, it's too late. Maybe the other Ethan Crumbleys can be stopped today, right now, before it's too late.

*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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BOSTON MEDICAL

# Holidays Have arrived in the Back Bay, South End and Fenway

Trees are now lit everywhere in the Back Bay, South End, and Fenway as residents celebrate the holiday season. Several tree lightings took place last week throughout the neighborhoods and residents were happy to come together to celebrate.

## VILLA VICTORIA TREE LIGHTING

Mayor's Office Photos by Isabel Leon

On December 2, Mayor Michelle Wu celebrated a Christ-

mas tree lighting with residents of Villa Victoria in the South End.



City Councilor Ed Flynn, IBA CEO Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Shown above, Villa Victoria residents gathered to watch the tree light up on December 2, signaling the start of the holiday season. Shown left, Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Chief Executive Officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA).

## FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

Fenway residents and elected officials gathered

in the Kelleher Rose Garden on December 1 to celebrate the holiday season with a tree lighting.



Rep. Jon Santiago, Councilor Kenzie Bok, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Rep. Jay Livingstone.



Shown above, Wally the Green Monster joined some young Bostonians in the Kelleher Rose Garden for the annual Fenway Civic Association Holiday Tree Lighting on December 1. Shown to the right, Mayor Michelle Wu greeted residents at the tree lighting.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### WARD 4 DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY SET FOR DEC. 21

Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee's Annual Holi-

day Party takes place Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. at Petit Robert Bistro at 480 Columbus Ave.

Join fellow Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End for the annual holiday party, where there

will be good food, good cheer, and good conversation. There is a suggested contribution of \$15 per person. For more information, email ward4dems@gmail.com.

### POUR HOUSE (from pg. 1)

mer Minibar space in the Copley Square Hotel.

Tyronee Di Stasi, the proposed manager of both Tribute and Glory Days, said the space downstairs would be "like a supper club with dining and entertainment" with a deejay, similar to concepts found in Miami in New York.

Besides a deejay, Di Stasi said they also intend to have local musicians from Berklee College of Music performing in the downstairs space after work and in the early evening. Entertainment would likely begin there at 4 or 5 p.m. each day and last until just before the 2 a.m. closing, he added.

The upstairs establishment would have 72 seats, said Di Stasi, while downstairs would have a 177-person capacity, with room for 115 seats, including 20 seats at the bar, in the main dining area, as well as 62 seats, with 15 at the bar, in the side room. (There will be no designated dancing are downstairs, he added).

The menu at the upstairs establishment would have lighter fare items, such as a burger and club sandwich, and be different from the downstairs menu, said Di Stasi,

The downstairs menu would include many shared items with mid-level price points, he added.

Also, Allan Rodriguez outlined his plan to expand his La Neta taco shop at 255 Newbury St. into the adjacent retail space at 253 Newbury St. now occupied by the Boston Olive Oil Company.

Rodriguez said he intends to add a bar in the new space, as well as create a new Mexican tapas concept with cocktails.

The capacity would be around 23 seats, which is the same as the existing capacity, he said, adding that while the hours of operation are currently 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, he would be seeking a 1 a.m. closing time "if possible." (LBU members advised him that a midnight closing time instead

would be "helpful.")

The expansion would also likely have a new name, as well as a new menu, said Rodriguez, "to attract a different crowd," but they would still serve their signature tacos.

"We don't want to make it fine dining, but would keep the same prices," he said.

Boston Olive Oil Company's lease is set to expire in February, said Rodriguez, so the expansion likely wouldn't happen until March.

As is the case now, trash would be stored inside until its collection, seven days a week, he added, while the business's car would continue to make deliveries in the rear of the establishment.

Six tables on the outside patio, which measures approximately 13-by-16 feet, would likely continue to accommodate mostly waiting patrons, said Rodriguez, while the overall capacity inside would be between 23 and 30 and wouldn't exceed 45.

Elliott Laffer, chair of the NABB board of directors, advised Rodriguez his plan would likely require a zoning variance from the city.

In another matter, Antione Lambert, the owner of Café Sauvage, a Parisian-style bistro with American and other influences that opened with a common victualler license at 25 Massachusetts Ave. on Oct. 20, detailed his plan for the commission to add a beer-and-wine license, as well as an entertainment license in order to provide background music, to the existing operation.

The restaurant's capacity is now 38 seats in the main dining area, with six at the bar, and five staff members at the front of the house, as well as additional staff in the kitchen, said Lambert, and the beer-and wine license would have hours of 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily. (NABB LBU Chair Conrad Armstrong asked Lambert if he would consider a 9 p.m. closing time, but Lambert instead said he

hoped to close at 10 or 11 p.m.)

Lambert said he doesn't have a beer-and-wine license lined up for his establishment from another restaurant and would

instead seek one of the city's new "quota" licenses. (Otherwise, he said he would seek to acquire an existing license.)

Meanwhile, Armstrong told

all of the applicants he would inform them of the committee's determinations on their respective applications by Friday (Dec. 10) morning.



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# Mayor Wu announces COVID-19 Advisory Committee

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Michelle Wu on Monday announced the formation of a COVID-19 Advisory Committee, which is comprised of a group of 17 individuals with various backgrounds.

The Committee is chaired by Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, and will “be charged with advising us as we look to take every possible action to end the pandemic,” Wu said on Monday.

As the news around the Omicron variant continues to circulate and the first case has been detected in Massachusetts, there is also an anticipated surge in COVID cases this holiday sea-

son, Wu said.

“I urge Bostonians to get tested, to get vaccinated, to get boosted, and to work with us to close these gaps so that every person has easy access to the public health tools they need,” she said.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu said that both cases and hospitalizations are up in the city, “while vaccination amongst some of our most vulnerable populations is lagging behind.”

She said that “to address this threat, Boston is focused on four key strategies,” which include increasing access to both initial vaccines and boosters, increasing testing, “enhancing health communication,” and “doubling down on prevention.”

Boston’s citywide COVID

positivity rate is 5.2 percent, which is up 15 percent from two weeks ago, Ojikutu said, with an “increase across most Boston neighborhoods and across all racial and ethnic groups.”

She said that about two thirds of people hospitalized with the virus are unvaccinated.

“Let me make this clear,” she said. “Vaccination is critical to ending this pandemic.”

She also reminded residents that vaccines’ protection wanes over time, and so far, only 21 percent of fully vaccinated Bostonians have received a booster shot.

She also said there is a low vaccination rate among 5-11 year olds — only one-quarter of Bostonians ages 5-11 had

received their first dose of the vaccine as of early December. She also talked about racial and economic disparities as it relates to vaccination in the city.

When it comes to the Omicron variant, Ojikutu said that the Massachusetts patient who was diagnosed with the variant was fully vaccinated and exhibited mild symptoms.

She said that while there is no conclusive evidence yet around Omicron’s transmissibility and ability to evade vaccines, but “we do have some concerns,” Ojikutu said, adding that there has been some evidence that the variant could increase the risk of reinfection in those who have already had the virus.

She said that the “ability to

detect Omicron in Massachusetts is exceptional,” and the state has the ability to increase testing capacity as well.

Ojikutu said that residents should “remain vigilant, but calm,” and urged fully vaccinated residents to get their booster shots.

More vaccine clinics will be available throughout the city to increase access to vaccines, and in some locations, no appointments will be required. Additionally, there will be several “higher capacity sites” available as well, including at Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury and at City Hall.

“We need to increase our vac-

(COVID-19 ADVISORY COMM., Pg. 10)

## BUS 55 (from pg. 1)

test against this,” and in March of this year, service on the 55 bus was suspended.

Residents and activists gathered at the Jersey and Queensberry stop Sunday after Sunday to protest the suspension with signs. Bok said that this support “stressed how important it was for the community” to have this bus line for seniors and others needing to travel around for doctor’s appointments, grocery shopping, and work.

Following these protests and meeting with the MBTA, service was restored on the 55 bus, but not fully. Right now, the bus only runs from 10am to 4pm.

Bok added that “we also felt as though it’s been a challenge in these COVID times to do the full outreach we need to do,” including holding a large multilingual in-person meeting.

“We heard some really moving testimonies over the course of that protest period,” Bok said, adding that there has been a “really strong community effort to date.”

State Rep. Jay Livingstone offered remarks on the MBTA Bus Initiative, which began before the pandemic and aims to make some changes to various stops and routes.

“The MBTA is looking at restoring these routes in the context of this planning that has been underway,” he said, adding that in winter or spring of next

year, there will be a “much firmer plan of the changes they want to make in this region to be adopted by the end of next year.”

Kimberly Hutter from State Sen. Will Brownsberger’s office went through some data that had been compiled for the 55 bus. She said that “2020 was an abnormal year, especially in ridership,” so the 2019 data is being used to gain a better understanding of how residents use the 55 bus.

She said that the “most frequent use of service” in the 55 bus is going inbound to downtown.

“This route served commuters exiting the Fenway area,” she said. “We know that in 2020, that has significantly changed for a lot of people. Other riders are using it throughout the day, but at a much lower capacity.”

Before the pandemic hit, she said that the 55 bus was in the “lower quarter of buses.”

Additionally, 6.2 percent of the neighborhood is 60 years of age or older, and Hutter said that this is “driven by the high percentage of young adults who live in the Fenway neighborhood.”

She also reported that Fenway residents are “twice as likely” to not own a vehicle when compared with the rest of the city.

“There is a high need for the alternatives to driving and that Fenway has unique access to the workplace from living in the

neighborhood.”

Hutter also said that the pandemic’s long term effects also need to be taken into consideration, as the number of people commuting may never return to pre-pandemic levels as working from home has become more normalized in many fields.

Cassidy Trabilcy from Jay Livingstone’s office, Kennedy Avery from Kenzie Bok’s office, and Marie Fukuda from the Fenway Civic Association spoke about the Fenway bus survey that was conducted by the Fenway CDC, Operation PEACE, and the Fenway Civic Association, along with Councilor Bok, Rep. Livingstone, and Sen. Brownsberger.

Though this survey only represented a small number of Fenway residents, the results help paint a picture of how the community uses the bus.

Trabilcy reported that the average age of respondents was 49 years old, and 70 percent of them were in the workforce, 20 percent were retired, and about 5 percent were students.

Kennedy Avery said that 70 percent of respondents said they do not own a car, while 29 percent said they do.

Marie Fukuda provided some feedback from residents about how often they would like to take the bus, and many respondents stated that they would like to take it at least daily, especially in the evenings and on weekends.

Before breaking out into smaller groups to discuss bus use further, a poll was conducted on Zoom asking attendees if they would prefer “routes that go to the front doors of destinations” with reduced frequency in service, or “straight routes that stay on major street streets within walking distance of destinations” and a higher frequency in service.

In all, 24 percent of respondents preferred the first option, while 76 percent preferred the second option.

Within small groups, attendees discussed what they would like to see from the 55 bus and transit in general in the Fenway neighborhood.

Many different ideas were discussed, including from the fact that continued development in the neighborhood, especially residential units, will contribute to the need for more reliable and frequent public transit service in the neighborhood.

Also, Conrad Cizek said that in his group, people said that

those with disabilities will have to rely on the MBTA’s the RIDE service without access to the 55 bus, which will “result in more expenditures and costs to the MBTA,” he said.

We will continue to work with our elected officials, the MBTA, and other stakeholders...” said Tracey Hunt, a Community Coordinator with Operation P.E.A.C.E. She urged residents to ask the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for more transit planning in the Fenway as well as participate in the December 8 MBTA public meeting regarding changes to winter service.

Additionally, residents can join the campaign planning group by reaching out to Cassie White of the Fenway CDC at [cwhite@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:cwhite@fenwaycdc.org).

The bus survey is also still available and residents are encouraged to take it at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/fenwaybus-survey>.

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# CITY PARKS SHINING BRIGHTLY FOR THE HOLIDAYS



PHOTOS BY DAN MURPHY

The silhouette of the Bridge in Public Garden is traced by shining white lights.



Shown above and to the right, various trees throughout the Boston Common are done up for the season in colorful Christmas lights.



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This year's Christmas tree on the Common, a 60-year-old, 48-foot white spruce, courtesy of the people of Nova Scotia in thanks for the assistance Bostonians gave to them following the 1917 Halifax Explosion.

# LIGHTING UP COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Pictured, left to right, are Rep. Jay Livingstone, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Matt Sidman, who helps organize the holiday lights.



Mayor Michelle Wu (center) with Elliott Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay board of directors (at left) and his wife, Gail Laffer (right)

Mayor Michelle Wu and other city officials joined residents on Commonwealth Avenue Mall for the annual lighting up of the trees along the avenue on Thursday, Dec. 2.



Mayor Michelle Wu joins residents and visitors on Thursday, Dec. 2, for the lighting of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY ISABEL LEON

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# VACCINATION CLINIC COMES TO USES HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTH END



*Pictured (left to right): United South End Settlements (USES) Director of Early Childhood Education Kaitlin Coffin; USES Co-Executive Director José F. Mas-só; USES Director of Family Mobility Melody Valdes; and Boston Community Pediatrics Founder Dr. Robyn Riseberg.*

Photos Courtesy of USES

In partnership with Boston Community Pediatrics, United South End Settlements (USES) held a vaccination clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at its South End headquarters.

“We’re all about providing access and opportunity to families and children,” said USES Co-Executive Director José F. Massó. “When it comes to vaccinating children, especially those facing barriers, a huge component is providing vaccines from a trusted partner in a place that they are familiar with and trust, so to host this clinic at our headquarters with Boston Community Pediatrics made perfect sense.”

USES Co-Executive Director Jerrell Cox said, “BCP have been amazing partners since the pandemic began. Dr. Riseberg has advised us on a number of issues connected to the pandemic and this was just the next step. We want to be that community partner that steps up when we see a need, so we were happy to host this clinic and hope more organizations are able to do the same.”

A total of 20 children and adults, including USES pro-program participants, staff, and community members received either a first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the clinic.



*Shown above and below, Boston Community Pediatrics volunteer Tanya Geha provides a COVID-19 shot to a USES participant.*



*Boston Community Pediatrics prepares COVID vaccine paperwork as USES participants look on before getting their shots.*



*Students and staff pose after getting vaccinated at USES.*

## COVID-19 ADVISORY COMMITTEE (from pg. 7)

ination among children,” Ojikutu said, adding that increased vaccine clinics will be available at schools.

The city is also aiming to increase testing citywide, and will be providing 20,000 free rapid antigen home tests to residents in communities with high rates of COVID-19 and “high barriers” to purchasing at-home test kits. These tests will be distributed, along with face masks, during the holiday season.

“We need to redouble our efforts to prevent the spread of disease,” Ojikutu said, and the indoor mask mandate will

remain. The city urges residents to continue washing their hands, distancing from others, and monitoring for COVID symptoms, as well as get a flu shot.

Ojikutu also said that increased information about vaccines and booster shots, especially when it comes to vaccines for children, will be communicated to residents.

“I believe that a return to normalcy and a brighter future are within reach,” she said. “Let’s work together to keep Boston and Bostonians safe and healthy.”

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# SEDLC denies without prejudice ‘demountable structure’ at Atelier 505

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) on December 7 discussed a proposal for a “demountable structure” on the plaza for the the Atelier 505 building at 505 Tremont St. This proposal has been discussed several times before, but this time, the Commission decided to deny it without prejudice, citing the precedent it would set in the neighborhood.

Architect Tim Love explained that the proposed structure is “part of a strategy to enliven the plaza,” and would be located underneath the four bay windows on the building with a sign band on either side. The structure would allow for more seating for Life Alive Cafe, which is a tenant in the building along with Down Under Yoga Studio.

The latest iteration of the proposal includes a standing seam metal roof that would have a smooth finish and match the light color on the Calderwood Pavilion.

The side of the structure would feature sliding panels on the side that could open in good weather. The Commission has struggled with how to define this structure at past hearings and at this one, saying that they aren’t sure whether to look at it as a temporary or permanent structure. Love said that the tenants are required by the landlord to make the structure able to be easily removed without a trace, but temporary structures are not typically approved by the Commission.

The “[Inspectional Services Department] considers this a temporary structure,” Love said, adding that it appears to be permanent “in terms of visual expression.” He said that the glass is not insulated and is able

to be demounted if need be.

“From the beginning, I’m struggling with the temporary versus permanent sense of the structure, and still am,” Commissioner John Freeman said. “It does seem like it’s moving towards a more permanent structure—whether it’s demountable or not is not in our purview.”

The tenants have a 10 year lease with the landlord, but it is not guaranteed what will happen after that, so there is a possibility that the structure could remain after that and some commissioners had issues with the durability of the materials.

“This could be here 25, 30, 40 years from now,” Commissioner John Amodeo said. “Is this structure designed for that duration?”

Love said that “these are all really good questions,” and said that “it’s a high quality window system”—similar to the one that is installed in the Atelier 505.

“I think we need to look at this like it is a permanent structure,” Amodeo said. “I think we need to give it a definition so we know how to respond to it.”

Love said that the structure will “look like an addition” to someone walking by on the street.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt was having issues with her microphone, so all of her comments were written out to Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission.

“This would set a dangerous precedent,” Hunt wrote.

“It isn’t so much the architectural stylistic precedent that we’re worried about,” Freeman said. “It’s as much a use precedent that we’re worried about. We’ve sat here so many times and turned down temporary additions to other buildings, rowhouses or not...so that’s what makes it dif-

ficult. I’m slowly coming around to seeing the potential. There’s a part of me that says why not?”

The Commission then got into a discussion of whether or not to set up a subcommittee to talk about this proposal and hash out some of the details.

“I would really wonder if we could have a subcommittee really flesh the language out for this,” said Commissioner Fabian D’Souza.

“You could say you don’t know how much progress you could make in subcommittee,” Amodeo said. “Sometimes, very subtle and seemingly minor design changes actually can alter an entire appearance. We’re all struggling to approve what you’ve presented to us.”

Love wondered whether or not having a subcommittee would lead to the Commission

actually eventually approving this structure.

“If the majority of the Commissioners thing there’s a path to design improvements here, and the majority are honest that there’s a path, there should be a continuance,” he said. But “if this is delaying the inevitable,” and “even with adjustments it is still unlikely that the Commission would approve this,” he said that the “client team here would like to know the truth earlier rather than later.”

Hunt said that she is against having a subcommittee, and had issues with defining the structure. Others felt the same way.

“I don’t know what kind of structure I’m reviewing,” Amodeo said. “It’s such a confusion that it makes it difficult to figure out. It’s neither fish nor fowl...I would be with Catherine

and say a subcommittee may not get us anywhere.”

Resident Douglas Fisher, who said he lives at the Atelier, said that this “sets a really dangerous precedent for a tent-like structure in the South End.” He suggested that several other businesses would request similar structures and “you’d be creating an enclave in this property.” He added that “if you were to make this structure permanent...it would have to follow the permanence of the building” with materials.

Ultimately, the Commission voted to deny the project without prejudice, which means the applicant can choose to either abandon the project altogether, or come back with a different proposal. Freeman was not in favor of the denial, but everyone else voted to support the motion to deny.

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# SCENES FROM MAYOR WU'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY AT BLACKSTONE SQUARE



DJ Chris Roxx gets some music playing in Blackstone Square before the Enchanted Trolley Tour arrives.



Incoming Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins and State Rep Santiago.



Ashlynn and Makeda Payton after their meeting with Santa and Mrs Claus.



Joe Schutt with neighbors William Alves also Cora Fusi.



Matt Mues and Megan Alves and her sleepy son Tristan (center).



Annabelle Fauber gives her neighbor Katy Cancelliera a bop on her nose.



Neighbors Kristen and Lily Schuck with Lystra and Joseph Feghali await the Enchanted Trolley Tour's arrival.



Racy-Macy waits with her holiday friends Scarlett and Saylor Houston-Azzarello as they all prepare what to tell Santa and Mrs Claus what they want for the Holidays.

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# SCENES FROM MAYOR WU'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY AT BLACKSTONE SQUARE

On Saturday, Dec. 4, Michelle Wu stopped by Blackstone Square as part of her first Enchanted Trolley Tour as Mayor of Boston.

The Enchanted Trolley Tour is a Boston holiday tradition of lighting holiday trees throughout the City.

"It's a joy to participate in our annual holiday trolley tour and tree lighting across the City," said Mayor Wu. "The holiday season is a time for friends, family, and neighbors to come together and celebrate, and I am delighted to welcome all to attend this weekend of fun for families and residents."



Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune addresses the gathering.



Olaf, the snowman from the Disney movie Frozen, does his best to placate the crowd before the Enchanted Trolley Tour's arrives.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (3rd from left) with Massachusetts State Rep Santiago and City Councilors Kenzie Bok, Ellen Murphy, Tania Anderson, Ed Flynn, and Ruthzee Louijeune greet the Blackstone Square neighborhood.



Claire and Grant Petersen get a picture with Santa and Mrs Claus.



Aoife and Saoirse Houston get a picture with Santa and Mrs Claus.



Hayden Gonzalez gets a picture with Santa and Mrs Claus.



Jeremiah Gonzalez gets a picture with Santa and Mrs Claus.



A long line of kids await to meet Santa and Mrs Claus.



Shin, Everest, and Ren Thissell get a picture with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (2nd from right).



The Holiday Tree in Blackstone Square is lit and welcoming.

## FRESH & LOCAL

# Food Trend Wish

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This time of year, we usually feature a column about the food trends we expect to see in the upcoming year. Instead, we decided to highlight our wish that a trend that began during the pandemic would thrive and grow. In the process, we found we had created a list of great books to recommend.

### Learn to Use What You Have

Reviewing the cookbooks written during the past year, we've loved how many offered simple recipes, with few components, and plenty of suggestions for alternative ingredients if you don't have a specific item in your pantry.

The YouTube feeds from successful chefs and writers like Jamie Oliver, Kenji Alt-Lopez, and Chetna Makan shared what they were making for their own families. As they chatted about the recipe, each of these educators would offer swaps if the viewer didn't have or simply didn't like an ingredient.

The team working with

Yotam Ottolenghi published a new book, "Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: Shelf Love: Recipes to Unlock the Secrets of Your Pantry, Fridge, and Freezer: A Cookbook." The accompanying YouTube channel, "Ottolenghi Test Kitchen," starts with what's on their pantry shelves and then offers options from your supplies or to suit your preferences.

Chef Mina Stone's new book "Lemon, Love & Olive Oil" gives delicious results from very few ingredients. Reviewers have said they want to make all of the recipes. We agree, and we love the two-page spreads that have one recipe and one fabulous photo of the finished dish.

Another cookbook produced during the pandemic is Julia Turshen's, "Simply Julia." This book is filled with lists to help you set up and equip your workspace and pantry. It also has lists of her favorite recipes for different times of day and occasions. What's more, the stories shared throughout make it a great book to read as well.

### Make it Your Own

In her new book, *Baking with Dorie: Sweet, Salty & Simple*, food writer Dorie Greenspan encourages the use of alternative ingredients with her "playing around" suggestions. In interviews, she makes it clear that she celebrates when readers make a recipe their own.

Greenspan recently shared her "Pumpkin Stuffed With Everything Good" recipe in her newsletter and on the food site, *The Kitchn*. She wrote, "Of all the recipes I've put out into the world, this is the one that people really love to make their own. And it makes sense - the basic elements are simple, and swapping them is easy."

She then outlines the concept with headings like, "Start with a pumpkin ... or not!" where she suggests options for alternative squashes. Next comes "Add bread ... or not!" where she offers gluten-free options like rice and easy swaps like stuffing mix. She shares some variations she plans to make that came from her readers.



Mina Stone's new book "Lemon, Love & Olive Oil" gives delicious results from a few ingredients. We want to make almost all of the recipes like these "Oven Chickpeas."

### These Books Make Great Gifts

As you think about gifts for the people you love, consider one of these books. Each would be perfect for a new cook and engaging for an old pro. We'd also recommend books by the people whose video feeds we listed.

We often quote Kenji's Alt-Lopes "The Food Lab: Better Home Cooking Through Sci-

ence" because it is one of our prime reference books. We own many titles by Jamie Oliver and Chetna Makan. His latest is "Together: Memorable Meals Made Easy." Her's is "Chetna's 30-minute Indian: Quick and easy everyday meals."

Do you have a question or topic for *Fresh & Local*? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## Audubon applauds agreement to make significant investments in nature and climate with ARPA plan

Special to the Sun

As the major \$4 billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending bill moves toward final passage and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker's desk for approval, Mass Audubon leaders, who have been lobbying vigorously for investments in climate change mitigation and nature, praised the legislative conference committee for coming to an agreement this week.

"This is a significant moment for Massachusetts to ensure that nature-based climate solutions are put into place in every corner of our state, across rural and suburban settings, and especially in urban communities where res-

idents have been disproportionately impacted by COVID," said Mass Audubon President David O'Neill.

"Not only will these funds reduce the risks of climate impacts and greenhouse gas emissions and restore critical water infrastructure, they also support investments that expand providing equitable access to nature when so many are seeking respite in the natural resources and amenities that we are so fortunate to have here. For too many years, these investments have been underfunded. This is a critical, once-in-a-generation opportunity to make progress, and we are so pleased to see state lawmakers leading us there."

Both the House and Senate approved plans over the past few weeks to spend more than \$3.82 billion in ARPA federal pandemic relief funds and state surplus money. The bill was accepted by the House on Thursday and is expected to be passed in the Senate on Friday, moving it onto Gov. Baker's desk. Just shy of \$2.5 billion of ARPA funds remain for the state legislature to debate next year.

"We are especially grateful to the members of the conference committee for their hard work over the last two weeks, and for the leadership shown by members in both branches who made a point of prioritizing nature and climate," O'Neill said. "This is a

down payment on our future. We will continue to need to commit sustained funding over time. This is an essential first step."

"I'm deeply grateful as well for State Rep. Daniel M. Donahue (D-Worcester); State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (D-Pittsfield); State Rep. Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (D-Lowell); and State Sen. Adam Hinds (D-Berkshire County)," O'Neill continued. "They championed specific earmarks for Mass Audubon projects that are both shovel-ready and shovel-worthy." Those projects include repairs to storm-damaged trails and forests at the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox; wetland restoration at Broad Meadow Brook

Conservation Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester; and an open space and parks initiative in Lowell, future site of a nature center at Rollie's Farm.

Mass Audubon Director of Legislative and Government Affairs Sam Anderson said the final law contains about \$377.6 million in investments in climate and nature, including \$15 million in parks and open space; \$100 million for environmental infrastructure, including local resiliency measures; \$100 million for clean drinking water and sewer infrastructure; \$25 million for tree planting, particularly in Gateway cities; and \$7.5 million for green job workforce development.

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# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The chimney in the last clue is on 54 The Fenway built as a single-family dwelling in 1895. It was designed by Geldert, Alden, Hartwell, and Richardson architects. Today it is one of five brown-stone buildings along the Fenway owned by Berklee College of Music and used as student residence halls. 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 Pen-ny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID FIRST CHURCH IN JAMAICA PLAIN - TOWER MASONRY REPAIRS

12/9/21 BS  
First Church in Jamaica Plain, the Awarding Authority, requests bids for structural masonry repair and restoration at the tower of their church at 6 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, which is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Fund (MPPF) through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by and available from the architect: Spencer Preservation Group, 41 Valley Road, Suite 211, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908 (617-227-2675) and meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties". State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work in a timely. Manner,

and references. All bids must be submitted to the architect no later than 5:00 PM, Thursday, January 6, 2022 to be eligible for consideration.

### LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID ST. JOHN'S ESPISCOPAL CHURCH IN JAMAICA PLAIN - TOWER MASONRY REPAIRS

12/9/21 BS  
St. John's Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain, the Awarding Authority, requests bids for structural masonry repair and restoration at the tower of their church at 1 Roanoke Avenue, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, which is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by and available from the architect: Spencer Preservation Group, 41 Valley Road, Suite 211, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908 (617-227-2675) and meet the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for

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### 公开听证会通知

12/9/21 BS  
波士顿重建局现在以波士顿规划与开发署 ("BPDA") 的名义, 依据波士顿分区法 ("法规") 第 80A-2、80B-5 和 80C-5 节的规定, 在此通知: 将于 2021 年 12 月 16 日下午 5:40 举行虚拟听证会, 听证会将在波士顿市电视台播出 (Xfinity 24 频道、RCN 13 频道和 Verizon Fios 962 频道), 并在 boston.gov 现场直播, 考虑对 HYM 投资集团公司代表 Bulfinch A 单元业主公司和 Bulfinch 东地块业主公司提交之

Government Center 停车场项目 96 号规划开发区域开发计划的第一次提议修正, 并考虑将 Bulfinch Crossing 东地块项目视为开发影响项目。公众参加这次公开听证会有两种形式: 可以通过在 <https://bit.ly/DecBPDA> 注册, 或将您的证言用电子邮件发给 BRABoard@boston.gov。使用电子邮件发送的证言将在听证会上朗读。可在通过链接 <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/government-center-garage-redevelopment> 查看提议的项目。

12/9/21 BS  
Teresa Polhemus, 执行主任/秘书  
波士顿重建局

### 公聽會通知

12/9/21 BS  
波士頓重建局 (商業名稱爲波士頓規劃與發展局「BPDA」), 根據波士頓分區法規 (「法規」) 第 80A-2、80B-5 和 80C-5 節, 特此通知將於 2021 年 12 月 16 日下午 5:40 舉行遠程公聽

會, 以考慮由HYM Investment Group, LLC代表Bulfinch Unit A Owner LLC和Bulfinch East Parcel Owner LLC對於波士頓市中心政府中心車庫專案的96號規劃開發區提交的擬議開發計畫第一修正案, 並考慮擬議的Bulfinch Crossing East Parcel作為一項開發影響專案。公聽會將在波士頓城市電視台 (Xfinity第24頻道、RCN第13頻道和Verizon Fios第962頻道) 進行電視轉播, 並在 boston.gov進行視訊直播。市民可在<https://bit.ly/DecBPDA>註冊或透過電子郵件將證詞寄至BRABoard@boston.gov來參與本次公聽會。透過電子郵件發送的證詞將在公聽會上宣讀。擬議專案可在以下連結查看<http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/government-center-garage-redevelopment>

12/9/21 BS  
Teresa Polhemus, 執行董事/秘書  
波士頓重建局

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# CAMPION AND COMPANY



**2 AVERY STREET, UNIT 29EH**  
5 Beds | 4F 1H Baths | 5,555 SQFT  
\$10,400,000



**13 HANCOCK STREET**  
5 Beds | 4 Baths | 4,212 SQFT  
\$2,990,000



**52 BEACON STREET, PH**  
4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 5,438 SQFT  
\$9,500,000



**333 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, UNIT 4**  
2 Beds | 3 Baths | 1,552 SQFT  
\$1,899,000



**10 ROWES WHARF, UNIT PH06**  
4 Beds | 5F 2H Baths | 7,230 SQFT  
\$12,000,000