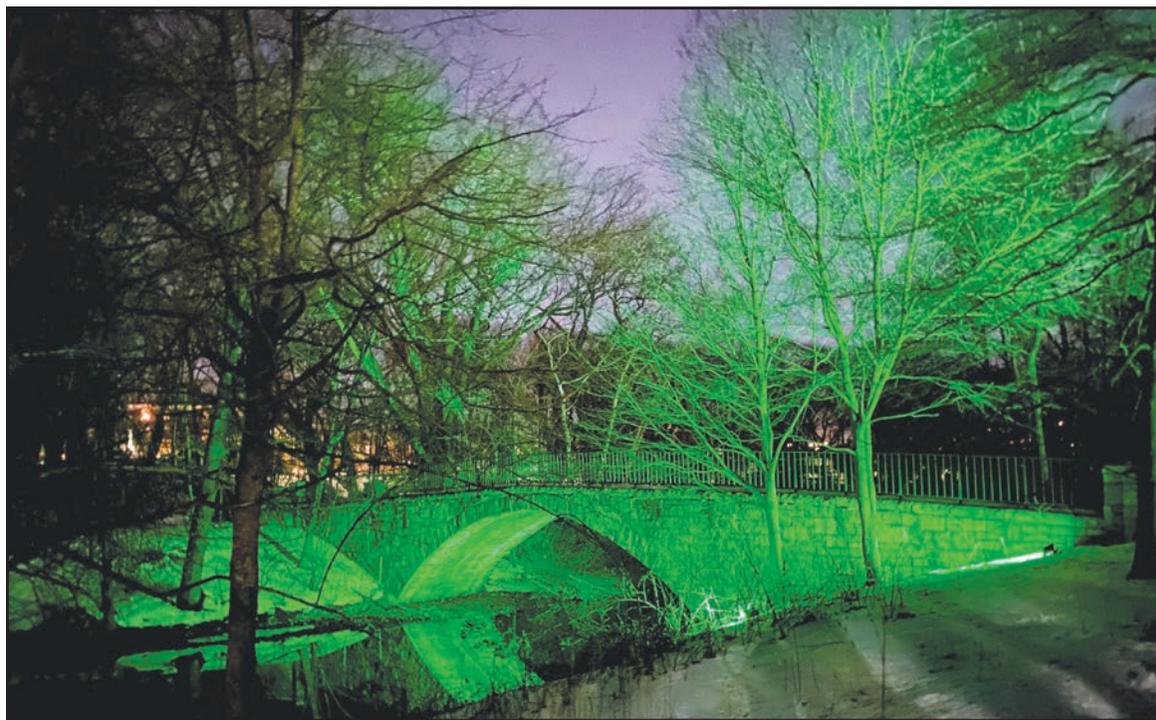


THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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Chapel Street Footbridge, Riverway lit up as part of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's 'Lights in the Necklace' exhibition.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy to bring back 'Lights in the Necklace'

Staff Report

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is bringing back a wonderful reason to visit the Emerald Necklace parks this winter. "Lights in the Necklace" is a unique lighting exhibition which

began last year and will return beginning February 1 and continuing through March 20, 2022.

Select bridges, and some trees, in the Emerald Necklace will be awash with an emerald glow. "Lights in the Necklace" celebrates the power of Boston

and Brookline's urban parks to bring visitors together, inspire and light the way in challenging times. Enjoy the lighting on a series of iconic Emerald Necklace bridges, from dusk to 9pm, daily. Also delight in the ten

(EMERALD NECKLACE Pg. 5)

Working group meeting focuses on ongoing issues at Mass/Cass as city's deadline looms for clearing out encampments

By Dan Murphy

One day ahead of the deadline set by Mayor Michelle Wu to clear out the homeless encampments at Mass. and Cass,

neighbors on hand for a virtual meeting of the South End, Newmarket, Roxbury Working Group on Addiction, Recovery, and Homelessness on Tuesday, Jan. 11, expressed their concerns

that the city's measures would only temporarily remedy the problem and the encampments, along with the open-air drug

(WORKING GROUP Pg. 4)

New City Council President Ed Flynn looks forward to serving during historic time for the city and for the council

By Dan Murphy

As the new City Council President, District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn is looking forward to serving in the role during the dawn of Mayor Michelle Wu's new administration, as well as amid an influx of new blood into the City Council.

"I'm really proud of my new colleagues who just start-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF BOSTON
City Council President and District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn.

ed and are off to a strong start. They really care about the city and their neighborhoods. And I'm equally proud of the current councilors and look forward to a productive term working with Mayor Wu," said Flynn, who was unanimously voted in as the new council president for a two-year term by his fellow council-

(FLYNN, Pg. 3)

Wu, public officials discuss Mass/Cass

City in process of removing encampments

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Michelle Wu held a press conference on January 10 to provide updates on the public health crisis at Mass and Cass.

"Our efforts here at Mass and Cass have been driven by a public health and housing-led approach," Wu said, adding that the encampments "are not a safe or healthy place for anyone to be living."

There is no heat or running water and fires have broken out in the area as people attempt to stay warm.

With this week's frigid weather especially, there are "ongoing issues around frostbite and hypothermia as temperatures drop," Wu said.

The Wu administration has surveyed folks living in the Mass/

(MASS/CASS Pg. 3)

PLANET FITNESS SEEKS BSC SITE



PHOTO BY DAN MURPHY

The entrance to the former below-grade Boston Sports Club location at 361 Newbury St., now being proposed as a future Planet Fitness outpost. See story on Page 3.

Eliot School parents circulating petition to Wu over exam school entrance plan

By John Lynds

Parents at the North End's Eliot School are fuming over the introduction of the so-called '10-point' penalty placed on some high performing Boston Public Schools in order to level the play-

ing field for entrance to Boston's exam school like Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and the O'Bryant.

The Eliot, which serves many students from Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the North End, Charles-

(ELIOT SCHOOL Pg. 7)

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EDITORIAL

WE MUST NEVER FORGET

THE LEGACY OF

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As we were watching the recent coverage by the media of the events of a year ago on January 6, we were struck by the contrast between the Trump Mob's violent storming of the Capitol and the many peaceful marches on Washington that have occurred during our lifetime.

Perhaps the most-famous of the non-violent protests occurred on a steamy summer day in August, 1963, when more than 250,000 Americans from all across the country gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to demand "jobs and freedom," an event that was climaxed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

The March on Washington was famous not only for Dr. King's iconic words, but also because the unprecedented mass gathering of Americans was completely calm. Pundits and others had predicted rioting, but there were no arrests, no incidents, no violence -- a stark contrast to the events perpetrated by Trump's Mob.

The March on Washington and Dr. King's many other peaceful protests of that era galvanized support for the goals of "jobs and freedom," eventually resulting in laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that ended segregation in the South and discrimination in the North.

Even though the best efforts of a revered figure such as Dr. King could not stem the tide of violent rioting that marked the 1960s, most notably Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967, and Chicago in 1968, it is Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest that endures today.

For those of us old enough to remember the 1960s, it's hard to believe that it has been almost 54 years since Dr. King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis, where Dr. King was marching to show his solidarity with that city's striking trash collection workers.

Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Dr. King is just another historical figure.

But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and dedication to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better since 1968 in terms of racial equality in our society, the events of the past year -- from the January 6 riot to the countless voter-restriction laws aimed at minority communities in Southern states -- also have made it clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although Dr. King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent protest and he practiced what he preached. That's a lesson that must be re-learned by each succeeding generation. We can only hope that his courage and perseverance will continue to inspire present and future Americans to bring about a world in which all persons are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

GUEST OP-ED

Our kids need sports, I will stand up for our BPS kids!

By City Councilor Erin Murphy

Boston Public School parents were disappointed when some of them noticed the small blurb, only two sentences long, buried at the bottom of the newsletter this week saying that they have made the decision to continue the current pause in athletics.

Sports provide our children with way more than just the opportunity to exercise their bodies. There are social, health and psychological benefits that allow our kids to do better in life. As a mother of student athletes (Go BLA Dragons and Eagles!) who benefitted in so many ways from their time on school teams, and as a public school teacher who knows that educating the whole child has to include physical and social wellness to be successful, I will fight for school sports for our BPS kids. I know how participa-

tion on a school team, whether it's volleyball, cheering, football, or soccer, can transform a youngster's life, increasing motivation and a sense of inclusion, and knitting together a closer school and neighborhood community.

I believe we should be doing everything possible to get our Boston Public School sports back on track. Boston children who attend METCO, private and parochial schools are still playing sports. Kids in neighboring towns are still playing sports. Many of our BPS students are still playing sports in their neighborhood athletic organizations. As long as we are following the CDC guidelines, I do not think we should continue the pause that was started during winter break. Boston Public School kids need this outlet for their social and mental health, now more than ever.

This has to stop and I will fight for our students on the City

Council. It's the right thing to do because we all know that sports are good for everyone. The physical benefits are just the beginning. Kids who participate on school teams are far more likely to have improved grades, report healthier social behavior, and to reach higher academic and professional success after high school. Our own kids have the will, the talent, and the RIGHT to all the wonderful, life-long benefits that school sports offer.

As the only teacher on the City Council, one with real lived experience, who knows firsthand what it means to be a BPS student, athlete, parent, and teacher. That's me. It's what I've done all my life, and as your At Large City Councilor it is what I will continue to do for each and every family in BPS and Boston.

Erin Murphy is a Boston City Councilor At-Large.

Pressley's statement on anniversary of January 6 insurrection

Special to the Sun

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) issued the following statement on the anniversary of the January 6 insurrection.

"One year ago, the nation watched in absolute horror as a violent, white supremacist mob—incited by Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers' hateful rhetoric and dangerous lies—attacked our seat of government. The attack was a blatant attempt to silence the will of the people, particularly the record number of Black and brown voters who made their voices heard in the 2020 election. Today, one thing remains painfully clear: white supremacy continues to threaten our democracy, our communities and everyone who calls America home.

"The January 6th insurrection was traumatic for everyone involved, from custodial and food service workers, journalists,

Capitol police officers, to Congressional staff and members of Congress alike. As a Black woman in America—to experience the ancestral trauma of a violent white supremacist mob seizing the building, brandishing Confederate flags and erecting a noose on the capitol grounds was all too familiar—and tragically, the threat remains today. The same white supremacist threat fuels efforts by our Republican colleagues—many of whom supported and incited this attempted coup—to continue spewing lies and misinformation about the 2020 election results. It fuels the coordinated assault on our sacred right to vote. None of this is by happenstance.

"In this moment, we do not have the luxury of simply turning the page on this ugly and painful chapter in our nation's history. To heal our collective trauma, to protect our communities, defend our democracy and ensure an attack like this never happens again, there must be accountabil-

ity. I am grateful for the work done by Chairman Thompson and the January 6th Committee. The American people deserve to know exactly what happened that day and the Biden Administration must use the full weight of the presidency to investigate, prosecute and hold everyone involved accountable—including those in the previous Administration and sitting Members of Congress. And we must abolish the Jim Crow filibuster and pass meaningful voting rights legislation to protect our democracy and keep power in the hands of the people.

"Our work to root out white supremacy in all of its forms, safeguard our democracy, and protect the wellbeing of our communities is far from finished. We must remain uncomfortable with what happened that day and the trauma it caused. We cannot grow complacent and we must move with the urgency this moment demands."

THE BOSTON SUN

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Planet Fitness proposes opening 24-hour gym at 361 Newbury St

By Dan Murphy

Representatives for Planet Fitness outlined their plans to take over the below-grade space at 361 Newbury St. formerly occupied by the Boston Sports Club and transform it into a 24-hour gym during the Monday, Jan. 3, meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay License and Building Use Committee Meeting, which was held virtually.

Chase Villafana, director of construction and property management at Planet Fitness New York, Massachusetts, California, and Hawaii, said they intend to

occupy 20,000 square feet on two stories - the basement-level gym space, as well as the sub-basement level - and would stay within the same footprint as the former Boston Sports Club. A single entrance at the street level would provide access to the facility, which expected to have an occupancy of no more 300 people, due to the constraints of the gym equipment.

The hours for the proposed Newbury Street outpost would mirror the round-the-clock operations of Planet Fitness's first Boston location at 17 Winter St. (In contrast, the hours of operation for the former Boston

Sports Club at 361 Newbury St. were 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, according to the company's Facebook page.)

Like the Winter Street location, the proposed Planet Fitness on Newbury Street is expected to see "very light traffic" between the hours of 11 p.m. and 4:30 a.m., said Villafana, and the gym's clientele is expected almost exclusively to come from the area, and to take public transportation to get there, as was the case with the former Boston Sports Club.

"The company ethos is to have people be able to access the gym

at any time of day," said Villafana, who added that the off-hours would likely appeal to someone like a doctor or an international stockbroker.

Planet Fitness is seeking to expand to Newbury Street because they feel its "an underserved area in terms of gyms and health clubs," said Villafana, and the proposed 24-hour operations at that location would "follow the lines of our other stores to have inclusivity...but obviously, it costs us more money operating overnight."

Sean Curran, a project consultant, said Planet Fitness also promotes "economic inclusivity,"

with its low membership costs, and as a result, many people who use the Winter Street gym get there on foot or bicycle, or via public transportation. Less than 4 percent of people who use the Winter Street location currently drive there, he said.

The new Planet Fitness on Newbury Street would offer group training classes free to its members, but no aerobics or spin classes, said Villafana, and while there would be low-level background music, it isn't expected to have any sound impact outside the facility.

MASS/CASS (from pg. 1)

Cass area and between December 6 and December 8, identified 145 people who resided in the area. She said that the city is trying to "meet each person where they are" when it comes to what their needs are regarding housing and medical care.

"Almost all individuals who were surveyed then stated that they'd like to move into low threshold housing," Wu said, "but that many of the existing shelter options were not meeting their needs."

Wu said that following the December survey, resources were provided to those surveyed on December 16 and they were also told that tents would be removed

after January 12.

She said that as of Jan. 10, 83 people were living in low threshold housing, and space is available for the 62 remaining people.

Wu said that on Jan. 12, the city will take down tents that had been left as well as "begin clearing the street."

She said that the public works department will be "investing in street repairs and regular cleanings," and the Boston Police Department will "ensure a safe environment for residents, businesses, and individuals accessing care."

Wu also said that it will take "more than one day" to get rid

of the encampments.

She also said that the city continues to work on longer term efforts, as Wu and city officials visited Long Island last week to assess the condition of the buildings. She said that more "regional investment" as well as collaboration with the state and other cities and towns will be needed.

Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said that housing for 200 people "has been identified," and as of the press conference, 159 spaces were up and running and all feature 24 hour staff.

"We're taking a comprehensive public health approach to this issue," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu,

Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "The need for these services will continue and will be great even when the tents in this area are gone."

She said the approach includes "increasing access to low threshold housing," as well as "intentionally focusing on health equity."

Wu acknowledged that there are more than 62 people remaining at Mass and Cass, as there are "people constantly coming and going," but "our approach is to really understand who is truly living in the encampments and living in this area" and help provide them with services and housing, "then connect with any

other folks who might be in the area."

The administration said that folks are living at the Envision Hotel on S. Huntington Ave., as well as at 112 Southampton St. and Woods-Mullin shelters. The Roundhouse Hotel is also housing folks, as are the new cottages at the Shattuck Campus in Franklin Park, though not all are ready for occupants yet because of delays in getting electricity to the units.

Dillon said that each cottage is heated individually, and that more will be "coming on next week."

FLYNN (from pg. 1)

ors during the City Council's first meeting of the new year on Jan. 3 at City Hall's Christopher A. Iannella Chamber.

The Council's five new members, District 4 Councilor Brian Worrell, At-Large Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, District 6 Councilor Kendra Hicks, District 7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson, and At-Large Councilor Erin Murphy, who filled Michelle Wu's vacancy on the Council after Wu was elected mayor, were on hand for their first City Council meeting after being sworn in only hours earlier at City Hall.

"The new City Councilors coming in are highly educated and have great experience," said Flynn. "I'm looking forward to working with my new council colleagues and giving them the support necessary to serve their constituents in the city."

In the Nov. 2 election, Boston voters also voted overwhelmingly in favor of Ballot Question 1 to adopt a charter amendment calling for an overhaul of the city's budget process; this mandates the creation by the City Council and Mayor of the new Office of Participatory Budgeting, which would allow residents to weigh in on how their tax dollars are spent for the first time and would also release an annual report detailing how much of the city's budget needs to be set aside to ensure fiscal responsibility. The charter amendment allows the City Council to amend or even override the Mayor's proposed budget as well.

"I think during this difficult period in our and in our country, it's important to continue to listen to and work with residents," said Flynn. "Residents voted strongly in support of the ballot initia-

tive, and with this City Council working on the incoming budget and listening to the concerns and recommendations of residents, I know we'll [be able to accomplish this] working closely with Mayor Wu's administration."

As Council President, Flynn also plans to continue committing himself to an issue that has topped his agenda since he was sworn into office as the District 2 Councilor in January of 2018: pedestrian safety in the city.

Flynn, who has called "speeding cars a public health emergency," has already drafted a 12-step plan to address pedestrian safety via traffic-calming improvements, as well as slower speed limits and enforcement, while working closely with the Transportation Department to also address concurrent signals. Now, he's hoping in his new role as Council President, he can

help the city secure much-needed funds for pedestrian improvements via the \$9 billion Massachusetts in federal funds is reportedly set to receive from President Biden's \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill.

"The City of Boston is also getting of money from the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and I'm asking that a portion of that goes to address pedestrian safety in Boston," said Council President Flynn.

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WORKING GROUP (from pg. 1)

market, would return to the area in a few months upon the return of warmer weather.

“Every January, I start the conversating by saying, ‘how can we anticipate what we’ll need in March or April?’” said Steve Fox, chair of the South End Forum, “and every March or April, it becomes a crisis.”

Dr. Monica Bharel, who serves on Mayor Wu’s cabinet as a senior adviser on the Mass. and Cass crisis, as well as previously as the commissioner of the state’s Department of Public Health, said one day after Mayor Wu announced the cut-off date to clear out encampments on Dec. 16, city outreach workers identified 145 individuals living there and began talking to them about the impending deadline while evaluating their individual needs and attempting to get them into shelters.

On Monday Jan. 10, the city’s outreach workers and workers from partnering organizations increased their efforts, going tent to tent in an effort to get the people living in them into housing, said Dr. Bharel, and by the next night, 133 of 145 tent-dwellers had left the area or were planning to leave that night.

Another 20 tent-dwellers were also tentatively planning to tran-

sition into shelters and temporary housing on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 11, said Dr. Bharel, adding that the city currently has room of all 145 individuals who were living in Mass. and Cass at the time of the headcount. (The city is also providing assistance to others who migrated to the area after the original 145 tent-dwellers were first identified, she said.)

“Some people don’t have a plan,” said Dr. Bharel, “and whether they’re on the list or not, those people will have to vacate the area...and we’ll work with them to find a safe place tomorrow.”

Beginning at 6 a.m. on Jan. 12, outreach workers were scheduled to descend on Mass. and Cass to help individuals living there pack up their tents and other belongings, said Dr. Bharel, and after Wednesday, police patrols in the area will be increased to help get the word out that encampments will no longer be tolerated there.

Shelter is being provided for displaced individuals at the Roundhouse hotel located in the heart of Mass. and Cass. at 891 Massachusetts Ave., which Boston Medical Center has leased for a two-year term; a pop-up “cottage community” comprising pre-fabricated sleeping cabins to provide temporary housing

for patients in a parking lot at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain.; the Pine Street Inn shelter at Shattuck Hospital; the Woods-Mullen women’s shelter at 794 Massachusetts Ave.; and the Southampton Street Shelter at 112 Southampton St., among other sites, said Dr. Bharel.

“Dismantling the tents is the first step so there isn’t the attraction to come to this area. In many ways this is different, and this is just the beginning of our work,” said Dr. Bharel, said Dr. Bharel, adding that the city will later announce its medium- and long-term plans to address, homelessness, mental health and addiction, as well as to address the “defects in system” that led to situation at Mass. and Cass.

Ramon Soto, director of government advocacy for Boston Medical Center, was also on hand to discuss the operations at the Roundhouse Hotel, which in addition to a targeted 60 low-threshold beds to be phased in over time, also includes a Transitional Care Center, a medically supported triage for patients referred by street outreach workers and shelter staff to Faster Paths at BMC to receive methadone; as well as the Stabilization Care Center, which provides space for patients with substance

abuse disorder to stabilize and connect them with permanent housing and treatment.

While drug use by patients won’t be tolerated at the Roundhouse, Soto said staff would take a “therapeutic approach” to any such infractions.

“It isn’t allowed but isn’t necessarily something that would get them kicked out of facility,” said Soto, adding that many patients ended up living on the street in the first place as a result of receiving “punitive” repercussions stemming from their addiction issues. Instead, patients caught using drugs at the Roundhouse would be “treated” and put on the “path to recovery,” he said.

Weapons won’t be tolerated at the Roundhouse, however, said Soto, and individuals arriving at the facility would be “wanded on entry,” while all patients’ belonging would be stored in secure lockers on the exterior of the building, which will be closely monitored.

The Roundhouse opened on Friday, Jan. 7, with a dozen patients living there, said Soto, and that number was expected to climb to 30 by the end of the day on Tuesday, Jan. 11. The facility won’t accept walk-in patients, though, he added, as all referrals must from the city and be based on patients’ individual needs.

Clinical services for patients are expected to come to the Roundhouse by the end of the month, added Soto, after staff experienced “some hiccups in the move-in process that kind of slowed things down.”

Soto also said that BMC is adapting a Memorandum of Understanding with the city that the Pine Street Inn previously had when it operated the Roundhouse to reflect the current needs, and that they would “engage the community in developing it.”

Despite Soto’s assurances, District 3 City Councilor Frank Baker said that Mayor Wu’s

administration has yet to answer any questions regarding BMC buying the Roundhouse – something he sees as a very likely scenario.

“The fundamental problem is centralization...and we’re dealing with an administration that refuses to answer questions,” said Councilor Baker, who also expressed apprehension that the city’s efforts to provide shelter for those living in the encampments “gives the impression that Boston is giving out free hotel rooms.”

Councilor Baker, who was elected to his seat in November of 2011, added, “My frustration level has gone beyond anything I’ve experienced in my job so far.”

George Gstergios, vice president of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association, said the reason the encampment at Mass. and Cass exists is due to the city’s public health approach to the problem, including distributing 2,000 clean syringes at Albany Street each day.

“If you’re handing out 2,000 needles a day, you should expect 2,000 drug deals a day,” said Gstergios, adding that the city had been taking a public health approach to the problem for the last 12 years, and during that time, the problem has only gotten worse.

Likewise, South End resident Andrew Brand called the open-air drug market at Mass. and Cass the area’s “primary attraction” due to “the ready availability of drugs and low likelihood of getting arrested.”

Looking ahead, Fox said he thinks the next meeting of the Working Group should focus on the open-air drug market at Mass. and Cass.

“I think we need to hit it dead on and see if there’s any way to decrease the draw of Mass. and Cass,” said Fox.



Virtual Public Meeting

Longwood Place (305 Brookline Ave.)

Monday, January 24

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/LongwoodPlace

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 170 5823

Project Proponent:

Skanska

Project Description:

This is a meeting of the LMA Forum, co-hosted by the BPDA & MASCO. This meeting will function as a Public Meeting for the Longwood Place (305 Brookline Avenue) development proposal. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed Planned Development Area (PDA) Development Plan, which was filed by the Proponent (Skanska) on January 3, 2022. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. The proposed PDA includes the redevelopment of approximately 5.8 acres, consisting of 1.75 million square feet of residential, office/laboratory, retail, restaurant, commercial, community space, and parking, as well as 2.3 acres of open space.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本会议的内容，您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务，请通过以下方式进行联系：Edward.Carmody@Boston.gov 617-918-4422。会议定于2022年1月24日，请在会议前5天内申请口译服务。

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mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:

2/18/2022

The City of Boston reminds you:

The legal drinking age is 21.



Thanks for not providing alcohol to teens.

Esplanade Association seeking submissions for four new murals on electrical boxes along the park

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association (EA) has issued a call for artists to submit their proposals for four new murals on electrical boxes along the park.

Through this public art opportunity, which EA is sponsoring in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Volunteers Incorporating Black Excellence, Inc. (VIBE), a self-described “non-profit organization dedicated to creating volunteering experiences for volunteers who identify with the African Diaspora,” four qualified artists are being sought to design and install murals on four electric boxes on multi-use pathways on the western end of the park, directly behind Boston University and located between

the BU and Massachusetts Avenue bridges. The murals are expected to go up in May, and to remain in place for a period of up to three years. EA is accepting Statement of Interest from interested artists until Jan. 21, and the four winners will be notified by Feb. 4, with each receiving a \$500 stipend “to recognize their time, artistry, and contribution to the Esplanade,” according to Alison McRae, the organization’s director of projects and planning.

A Fenway Community Benefits grant from the Boston Planning and Development Agency is making the project possible, said McRae, who describes the Electrical Box Murals as a “great addition to the Esplanade Association’s public art portfolio,” which also includes four murals, all painted by female artists.

“Patterned Behavior” by Silvia López Chavez, commissioned by EA and curated and produced by the Boston-based nonprofit arts organization, Now + There, was installed in 2017 in the area of the park just west of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, where it remains after receiving several permit extensions from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

The other murals were painted on three pump-houses in the park in 2019 and have three-year permits, which have yet to expire.

“They have been really successful at reducing graffiti and enlivening some great spaces in the park,” said McRae.

Between the murals and “Hatched: Breaking through the Silence” – an original multi-me-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

Alison McRae, the Esplanade Association’s director of projects and planning.

dia performance to mark the Esplanade Association’s 20th anniversary that had multiple showings every night between Jan. 22 and Feb. 22 of last year at the DCR Hatch Shell – McRae said EA’s public-art initiative has “really highlighted local artist and sparked joy and inspiration.”

The Electrical Box Mural project also provides another opportunity for EA to partner with VIBE.

EA provided support to VIBE for the Electrical Box Murals project last year by sharing infor-

mation with them, said McRae, and VIBE has also previously partnered with the EA’s programming and horticultural teams to paint benches on volunteer days in the park.

“We’re really excited to work with VIBE after they’ve done so much to support the Esplanade,” said McRae. “We’re so grateful to DCR and VIBE for this project.”

Artists can submit their Statements of Interest for the EA’s Electrical Box Mural project by Jan. 21 at <https://esplanade.org/rfp>.

EMERALD NECKLACE (from pg. 1)

trees at the intersection of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Charlesgate Park in Boston, which are already illuminated in emerald green string lights as part of “Lights in the Necklace”.

The Emerald Necklace’s 1,100 acres are home to more than 30 bridges. Connecting neighbors and bridging communities is what the Necklace was designed to do nearly 150 years ago by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who would have turned 200 this year. The Emerald Necklace and our shared green spaces continue to

be some of the primary places of community connection amidst the ongoing pandemic. Not only will the emerald green bridges offer fantastic picture taking moments, they will also bring some fun and light to people as they explore the Emerald Necklace while commuting, crossing the parks on daily errands, or taking a stroll or run through the parks in the evening. “New England winters are long, and this winter we are excited to bring back Lights in the Necklace to offer a safe outdoor activity for park users,” said Emerald

Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek. “We hope this limited-time installation will once again give folks a reason to visit the parks – and maybe even explore new areas of the Emerald Necklace for the first time.” Information about each bridge’s history and significance in the Emerald Necklace will be available on the Conservancy’s web-site and mobile tour guide. Signs posted at the Charlesgate Park’s emerald-lit trees also provide information about the ongoing revitalization of Charlesgate Park.

Illuminated Locations (subject to change, therefore please check website for the most up-to-date details):

- Charlesgate Park Trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall
- Liff Park Bridges in the Back Bay Fens
- Chapel Street Footbridge in Riverway Park
- Bridle Footbridge in Riverway Park
- Longwood Avenue Bridge in Riverway Park
- Leverett Pond Footbridge in Olmsted Park
- Wards Pond Footbridge in Olmsted Park
- Ellicott Arch in Franklin Park

For more information, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/necklacelights.



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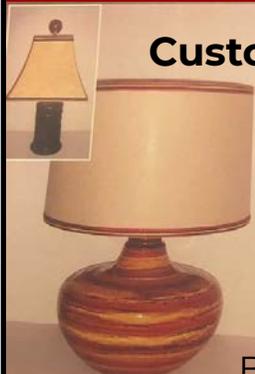
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Me2/Orchestra 10th anniversary concert set for Symphony Hall

Ensemble aims to support and welcome those with mental illness

By Lauren Bennett

After nearly two years of pandemic uncertainty, several local residents are gearing up for their upcoming performance with the Me2/Orchestra at Symphony Hall.

The Me2/Orchestra is a New England orchestra “created for musicians living with mental illnesses and the people who support them,” according to a press release from the orchestra.

The upcoming concert on January 23 celebrates the 10th anniversary of Me2, and is titled “Stigma-Free at Symphony Hall.” The orchestra invites those with mental illnesses and their allies to attend.

Me2 was founded in 2011 by Ronald Braunstein, who has bipolar disorder. According to Me2, his “rising career as a world-class conductor was cut short due to the stigma surrounding his bipolar disorder diagnoses,” but he has created this group for musicians like him who live with various mental illnesses to come together in a safe space.

There are multiple Me2 ensembles in the New England area, including Boston, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, as well as a flute choir in Boston. Each of these ensembles has been rehearsing for the concert and will come together on January 22 for a full rehearsal before the

concert on the 23rd.

According to Me2’s Executive Director Caroline Whiddon, half of the orchestra’s musicians have a mental illness.

“From a social justice and inclusion standpoint, it’s powerful for audience members to be free of traditional expectations at a classical music concert, and to see people like themselves on stage,” she said in a statement.

“We plan to make everyone comfortable at this performance by taking the pressure off the experience of attending a concert,” she continued. “Our philosophy is ‘come any way you can,’ ‘be who you are; and ‘do what you need to do while you’re here.”

Cynthia Peng is a Back Bay resident and a flute player in the Me2/Orchestra. She moved to Boston during the pandemic in the summer of 2020, and said she heard about the orchestra from a colleague.

She told the Sun that it has “been a blast,” since it’s been a while since she’s played live music. “It’s invigorating to get involved with a group.”

Peng also said she appreciates coming together to make music with people from a variety of “different backgrounds and ages,” as well as abilities. “It’s a very warm and welcoming environment,” she said.

The repertoire for the upcoming concert includes music from classical composers like Beethoven, Hector Berlioz, and Gioachino Rossini, as well as more contemporary composers like Milad Yousufi, among others.

“Everyone is very COVID safe and aware,” Peng said of the musicians, who currently rehearse at the VietAID in Dorchester.

“After having a weird introduction to the city, it’s so nice to

Me2 / Classical Music for Mental Health

be embraced and accepted and vice versa; getting to embrace and accept other people,” she said, adding that it’s “so huge” having the opportunity to perform at Symphony Hall.

Miles Wilcox, a Jamaica Plain resident who plays the viola, explained how the orchestra’s rehearsals work.

“Every rehearsal starts with a moment of mindfulness,” he said, which includes group breathing to “center ourselves and feel like we’re on the same wavelength. We sort of recognize there are people that are coming to us with all different struggles all day.”

He also praised Braunstein’s leadership qualities. “He knows how to make people their best,” Wilcox said.

“It’s really powerful to be able to bring your whole self; that you don’t have to hide any part of yourself when you’re in rehearsal. In the Me2/Orchestra, it feels really safe,” and people are “allowed to feel anxious.”

Sherry Grossman is also a Jamaica Plain resident and plays both the oboe and the English horn, and also said the orchestra is “very, very supportive.” She said that there are no auditions required to participate, which removes “anxiety” about auditioning that many people have.

“I think the concert’s important because we are working towards mastering these pieces,” she said. “To actually have the concert happen and do it right, we really are at a pinnacle of our growth as a group. It’s been a bit concerning about the surge with omicron; we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Grossman said that in the past, the orchestra has played at

various mental health centers, a prison, various congregations, and art museums. “There has been a lot of support for mental health causes,” she said.

She said that there are “Stigma-Free Zone” posters hung up at rehearsals, “and it just really makes a difference in terms of our mental health outlook and working to support one another.”

She added that being a member of this orchestra has been “a very profoundly positive experience. It really has changed my life.”

The January 23 concert is free to all, but reservations are required and can be made at [bso.org/events/me2-orchestra](https://www.bso.org/events/me2-orchestra).

To ensure an inclusive environment for all, Me2/ said in their release that Symphony Hall staff will help attendees move around during the concert “if staying seated becomes uncomfortable for them,” and there will also be designated quiet areas for people who need respite from the concert.

Additionally, accessible seating as well as assistive listening devices will be provided to those who need them, and large print and Braille programs will be available as well. Symphony Hall also permits service animals.

“We are a large collection of musicians who range greatly in age and ability,” music director and conductor Ronald Braunstein said in a statement. “I can’t wait to see what happens when we converge at Symphony Hall to play those first few notes. I expect it will be electrifying for us and for our audiences.”

For more information about the Me2/Orchestra, visit me2music.org.

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Councilor Lydia Edwards becomes Senator-elect Edwards following election

By John Lynds

On Tuesday, voters in Bay Village, Chinatown, the South End and the rest of the First Suffolk & Middlesex district went to the polls and elected City Councilor Lydia Edwards to serve as their next state senator. Once sworn in Edwards will become the first woman and the first person of color to represent the district.

“I am grateful to the people of Boston, Cambridge, Revere and Winthrop for sending me to Beacon Hill to fight for our communities,” said Senator-Elect Edwards. “I know how to fight for what you believe in, build a movement and win, and I am looking forward to continuing the work in the state house. When in 2014 we passed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, we showed the world that nannies and house cleaners can write

laws: they know as workers, as women, as immigrants and people of color, about the dignity they deserve and they know when our government needs to do more to guarantee their rights and wellbeing.”

Edwards continued, “Like so many in our communities, I know what it’s like to be unable to afford school lunch, to lose a job and panic about next month’s rent, to live each day breathing in air pollution and to worry about tomorrow as the sea levels continue to rise. Together, with our pain and purpose, we will fight for laws and the social conditions that protect people, communities and our planet. I am excited for the journey ahead.”

The election took place across the district during Tuesday’s frigid state general election and included Wards and Precincts in Bay Village, Chinatown,



State Senator-elect Lydia Edwards. the South End, Beacon Hill, the North End, Eastie, Revere, Winthrop and Cambridgeport. With no Republican or Inde-

pendent challenger on the ballot Edwards’s win was all but guaranteed Tuesday.

On Tuesday, in a very low voter turnout election, Edwards received 1,764 votes across the senatorial district to secure the senatorial seat.

Edwards beat Revere School Committee member Anthony D’Ambrosio during the December 14 state Democratic Primary to fill the seat left vacant in the fall by Joe Boncore.

Edwards won every Precinct in the North End and beat D’Ambrosio nearly 80 to 20 in the rest of Boston’s Wards and Precincts. While D’Ambrosio won his hometown of Revere handily Edwards was able to pull out a victory in the hotly contested Town of Winthrop—winning all but one Precinct in the town.

Edwards is a career advocate, activist, and voice on behalf of

society’s most vulnerable. She was raised all over the world by her military mom but chose to make Eastie her home.

Prior to her public service, Edwards worked extensively in the legal field and on workers rights. She worked as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services focusing on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers, and combating human trafficking. At GBLS, she proudly became a member of UAW 2320. She coordinated a statewide campaign to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in 2014 - and won.

She was subsequently appointed the founding Deputy Director of the Boston Office of Housing Stability and worked to prevent evictions and foreclosures in

(EDWARDS, Pg. 8)

ELIOT SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

town, and East Boston, has for years enjoyed a high success rate of students getting into one of the three exam schools.

Eliot School parents are now arguing the introduction of what they are calling the ‘10-point penalty’ will hinder their child’s ability to get into the top Boston Public High Schools.

The Eliot, and five other schools have been deemed high performing schools with a lower percentage of low-income students than most other BPS schools, so a student at the Eliot getting straight As in 6th or 8th grade hoping to get into an exam school will get 100 points in the exam school admissions system. This score will be used to determine the students eligibility for an exam school seat. The other schools are the Lyndon and Kilmer Schools in West Roxbury and the BTU Pilot School in Roslindale.

However, at all other BPS schools straight A students will receive 110 points. Not only will Eliot School students rank below all other straight A students at other BPS schools, they will also receive fewer points than any BPS student who receives an A-average.

Kelsey Barrett, a parent at the Eliot School, began an online petition hoping to get 1,000 signatures. Once the petition receives 1,000 signatures it will be sent to Mayor Michelle Wu.

“Because of this 10 point pen-

alty, the top achieving students at the Eliot and four other Boston Public Schools will have no access to Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy or the O’Bryant,” said Barrett. “The original justification for these 10 points was to offset the higher performance of privileged students on the BPS entrance exam. However, no entrance exam was given last year due to the pandemic. Therefore, for this year’s 6th and 8th grade students, only the GPA will be used. In the absence of an exam, adding 10 points to the GPA scores of all BPS students except those attending five BPS schools serves only to penalize these BPS students. It will unfairly limit the academic opportunities of these students compared to students of similar socioeconomic status at the other BPS schools. I am a single mother with mixed race children in the Boston Public School system, including a 6th grade student. I am writing this petition, together with other concerned BPS parents, asking you (Mayor Wu) to act immediately to suspend the plan to apply a 10 point penalty to the 6th grade students attending five BPS schools that are being alienated by this year’s BPS exam school admissions process.”

Barrett argues the 10 point penalty introduces a systematic bias against the students attending the Eliot and the other four

BPS schools.

“The 6th and 8th grade students at these five BPS schools are being penalized because fewer than 40% of students at these schools meet the definition of low income,” she said. “Students at these five BPS schools come from a range of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. Their access to a middle and high school education at Boston Latin School (and other exam schools) is being blocked by BPS itself, even though BPS, through its lottery system, assigned these students to these schools. This 10 point penalty sends a clear message to my daughter and all students at these 5 BPS schools that the city of Boston cares less about them than the students attending other BPS schools.”

The online petition, which can be found at www.change.org/p/mayor-wu-no-10-point-penalty-for-students-at-boston-public-schools, has already gained over 600 signatures.

“I’m signing this because equity means helping the dreams of marginalized students to provide equal opportunity but it does not mean squashing the dreams of exceeding hard-working students regardless of background in the process,” said Rose-Marie Gomez who signed the petition.

Chris Coche said, “I’m signing because of the lack of transparency in pushing this change in admission through and inten-

tionally putting barriers against students from a handful of schools-schools that due to a lottery system they had no control over where they get assigned.”

Kathleen Chardavoynne, who has closely followed the School Committee proceedings on the new exam school assignment process said BPS knows that the distribution of the 10 bonus

points will be unfair.

“Their own simulations show that 568 of the students receiving the 10 high-poverty bonus points are not economically disadvantaged while 131 students who are economically disadvantaged do not receive bonus points (just because they attend the Eliot or one of the other four BPS schools,” she said.

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Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden sworn in

Staff Report

District Attorney Kevin Hayden hit the ground running on his first day after being sworn into office by Gov. Charlie Baker by naming Boston defense attorney Kevin R. Mullen as his first assistant district attorney and announcing the formation of a transition team to help review office policies.

“The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office is staffed with exceptional attorneys and

non-lawyers who are dedicated to justice and nurturing safe communities. That will not change with my administration,” DA Hayden said. “I am returning home by coming back to the office where I started my legal career. I could not be prouder to lead this office, which is so critical to preventing crime and harm in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.”

DA Hayden’s first action was to name Mullen, who was an ADA with DA Hayden in the

1990s, as his first assistant. In addition to his work as a Suffolk County prosecutor, Mullen, from Dorchester, has worked as a criminal defense attorney and been appointed a special prosecutor in other counties, frequently for cases where the DA’s office was presented with a potential conflict of interest. First ADA Mullen was sworn in today as well.

One of the priorities of DA Hayden is to reduce the number of illegal guns in the county to determine the proposer course of prosecution in each situation. “I am beginning a comprehensive review of all the gun cases pending in this office; each one has the potential to cause great harm to our communities,” said DA Hayden. “The harm that guns cause is incalculable and we must do everything in our power, use every tool at our disposal, to reduce that harm.”

In addition, DA Hayden said he will meet with staff members,



Gov. Charlie Baker with new District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

law enforcement partners, elected officials, and community partners, to engage in how best to support the communities of Suffolk County. He is also forming a transition committee which will be comprised of people who live,

work and worship in Suffolk County to review SCDAO policies and make recommendations on how to improve performance.

“I am excited to start and humbled by the appointment,” said DA Hayden.

Former Suffolk County DA Rachael Rollins sworn in as the U.S. Attorney

Staff Report

Former Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV administered the oath of office in federal court in Boston during a private ceremony. A formal investiture will be planned for a later date.

U.S. Attorney Rollins was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden on July 26, 2021 and was confirmed by the United States Senate on Dec. 8, 2021 in a tie-breaking vote cast in favor by Vice President Kamala Harris.

“Today’s swearing was a proud and humbling moment for both myself and my family. It was particularly special for me to have my parents with me, on my father’s 74th birthday,” said U.S. Attorney Rollins. “Their support has been unwavering, and I owe so much of this moment to them. As I reflect upon the path that led me here, I cannot help but think about the many colleagues and mentors who have supported me along the way. I want to acknowledge my friends, colleagues and law enforcement partners at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office whose steadfast commitment and dedication to keeping our neighborhoods healthy and safe has truly made a difference in the lives of so many. I am enormously proud of what we accomplished together.”

Rollins added, “As I begin this next chapter as the United States Attorney, I look forward to the challenges ahead. There is much to be done and I am blessed to be walking into an office with highly skilled attorneys and staff who have the same commitment to public safety and community wellbeing and health.”

U.S. Attorney Rollins, 50, of Boston, is now the top-ranking federal law enforcement official in the District of Massachusetts, which comprises 14 counties. With over 20 years of legal experience, U.S. Attorney Rollins will lead a team of more than 250



U.S. Attorney Rachel Rollins.

federal prosecutors and staff with three offices located in Boston, Worcester and Springfield.

U.S. Attorney Rollins has been the Suffolk County DA for the last three years. In 2019, the people of Suffolk County elected her as the first woman to serve as their DA and the first woman of color to serve as DA in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Rollins is now the first Black woman to ever serve as U.S. Attorney in the District of Massachusetts, one of the two first U.S. Attorney’s Offices in the nation, established in 1789.

U.S. Attorney Rollins previously served as Chief Legal Counsel to the Massachusetts Port Authority. Prior to that she served as General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. From 2007 to 2011, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts serving in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions.

Earlier in her career, U.S. Attorney Rollins was an attorney at Bingham McCutchen LLP and from 1999 to 2002 she was a field attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. U.S. Attorney Rollins began her legal career as a clerk for Associate Judge Frederick L. Brown of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

U.S. Attorney Rollins earned a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law and a Masters in Law from Georgetown University Law Center. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and African-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Area’s weekly COVID positive test rate over 20 percent

By John Lynds

The COVID 19 virus continues to spread across the Back Bay and the surrounding area with 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turning out to be positive. Deaths from the virus are also rising at an alarming rate citywide as Boston hospitals deal with the latest surge.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,278 Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 22 percent were positive. This was a 46 percent increase from the 15.1 percent that tested positive between

December 27 and January 3. The weekly positive test rate is up 127 percent in the area since December 27.

Seven hundred twenty-one additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 3 and January 10 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 6,419 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased over 30 percent last week. According to the BPHC 42,254 residents were tested and 31.9 percent were COVID positive—this was a 75 percent increase from the 18.2 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 3. The weekly positive test rate has increased 239 per-

cent in Boston since December 27.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 23 percent last week and went from 108,336 133,501 cases to confirmed cases in a week. There were 25 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,535. Deaths were up 257 percent last week when compared to the 7 deaths that occurred in the city between December 27 and January 3.

A reminder, beginning on January 15 both patrons and employees of indoor venues in Boston—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—will be required to show proof of vaccination.

EDWARDS (from pg. 7)

Boston, to strengthen local and state laws and to resolve landlord-tenant disputes.

In 2017, she won election to the Boston City Council. As a councilor, she wrote and advanced legislation to protect low-income renters and elder homeowners, combat discrimination, divest from fossil fuels, and protect civil liberties. She also partnered with state lead-

ers to introduce legislation and passed a new state law prohibiting the naming of minors in eviction proceedings.

In addition to legislation, Edwards spearheaded a ballot initiative to reform the 1909 Boston Charter by enabling a more open and participatory budgetary process—an initiative which passed with over 68 percent of voters casting a ballot in support.

Edwards was raised by her mother, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Lydia graduated from American University Washington College of Law and received a LLM in taxation from Boston University School of Law. She lives in Eastie and loves to run along the waterfront, practice martial arts, and sometimes, she even skydives.

Mark Martinez launches campaign for State Representative in the 7th Suffolk

Staff Report

Former State House staffer, activist, and lawyer Mark Martinez announces his candidacy for the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the 7th Suffolk District, which includes parts of Roxbury, Mission Hill and Fenway.

“This district is the heart of the city, and a thriving 7th Suffolk means a thriving Boston,” Martinez said. “Without a healthy heart, the whole body fails. The lack of urgency on Beacon Hill means problems that disproportionately burden the residents of this district go unaddressed. Housing costs continue to rise, Black and brown communities are overpoliced and underinvested in, and the communities that

contribute the least to climate change are left to bear the heaviest burdens. The people of this district deserve a fighter with a proven record of working in coalition to tackle these issues head on. I am running for State Representative to be the fighter, the collaborator, and the leader the people of this district deserve.”

Mark is the former Legal Counsel and Budget Director to State Senator Patricia D. Jehlen. As a renter who has experienced housing instability, a food service worker who has had to scrape together tips to pay rent, and as the child of a formerly incarcerated mother and a father who lost his life to an overdose, Mark has lived the struggles faced by too many people in the district. Mark’s combination of pro-

fessional and lived experience makes him ready to serve the district and tackle the most pressing issues on day one.

Mark is also actively engaged in community as a Steering Committee Member for the Highland Park Neighborhood Coalition and a board member of the Highland Park Community Land

Trust. He serves on the board of MassEquality, the leading statewide grassroots advocacy organization for issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community and helps run the Boston chapter of the New Leaders Council, which provides training to the next generation of progressive leaders. Mark lives in the Highland Park

Neighborhood of Roxbury with his rescue dog Tallulah, where he has lived since moving to Boston to attend law school at Northeastern University.

If elected, Martinez would be the first openly LGBTQ+ person of color, and first nonbinary person elected to the Massachusetts State Legislature.

ZBA approves addition at 95-97 Broadway in Bay Village

By Lauren Bennett

On January 11, the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) approved a proposal at 95-97 Broadway in Bay Village to add a partial second and a third floor addition for two residential units to the existing office space on the ground floor, which will remain.

The project is in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD), which requires zoning relief. Christian Simonelli from the Boston Groundwater Trust said that the office has received the approval letter from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, as well as the no harm letter from an engineer. The ZBA confirmed receipt of these letters as well.

Attorney Mike Ross spoke about the other violations for the project, saying that “this is an existing office use,” and “our plan is to add two residential units to floors two and three of the existing building.” The Floor Area Ratio will increase from 1.9 to 2.7 as a result of the addition, which consists of about 4800 square feet of additional space to the existing building. There is also a rear yard violation, but the proposal does not include any addition to the rear yard.

Ross explained that both units are two bedrooms, but Unit 2 is

smaller and will be located on the second floor. It will be about 2,005 square feet, while Unit 1—on the third floor—will be the “entire third floor” at 3,900 square feet, and will also have exclusive access to a roof deck, which also requires a conditional use permit.

The roof deck is about 580 square feet, he said, and will be accessed via a stair to a hatch.

He said that the building owner wanted to have a hatch “to remove any kind of head house obstructions” and avoid impacting neighbors with that kind of structure.

Kim Cruciolli from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that the applicant conducted a “completely thorough community process,” and there is “no opposition from abutters,” nor from from the Bay Village Neighborhood Association.

City Councilors Ed Flynn and Michael Flaherty were in support of the project, as was an abutter on Melrose St. who said that the process was “thorough” and the proponent met several times with neighbors. “We do not oppose the project and are in support of what she’s doing,” she said of the proponent.

After all comments were made, the ZBA voted to approve the project.

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Baker announces that 26 million rapid antigen tests are forthcoming

By Lauren Bennett

The Baker administration on January 11 announced that the Commonwealth will be receiving 26 million rapid antigen COVID-19 tests over three months in a contract with iHealth, a company who produces the tests.

Baker said that the tests will be “prioritized” for K-12 education and childcare across the state, adding that the “rapid tests are convenient and efficient. They are also accurate in detecting when someone is about to infect

others.”

These new tests will be in addition to the 2.1 million tests distributed to 102 cities and towns across the state, Baker said.

He also spoke about a new public health advisory from the state’s Department of Public Health (DPH) released earlier this week that provides guidance on when residents should be tested for the virus.

He said there are “two key scenarios” when the state “advises” that someone should be tested: if

they have symptoms of COVID-19, and if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus. In that case, the test should be done five days after the exposure.

Baker said that the new DPH guidelines “recommend,” but do not “require” a test five days after exposure, and quarantining is not required if a person is fully vaccinated but not eligible for a booster, if a person is fully vaccinated and has received a booster, or if a person had been infected with COVID-19 within the past 90 days.

Additionally, according to the state, “the new isolation protocols do not require a COVID-19 test to exit isolation after having COVID,” which is also applicable to K-12 educational and childcare settings.

“Rapid tests, in most situations, are a very good alternative to PCR tests,” Baker said,

for which results can take 24-72 hours. Rapid tests provide results within 15 minutes in many cases, and are “highly accurate in determining” when someone infected with the virus is the most contagious.

“DPH advises that a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen does not need to be confirmed with a PCR test,” according to a release from the state.

However, if a person with COVID symptoms tests negative on a rapid antigen test, they “should isolate and either repeat an antigen test or get a PCR test in 24-48 hours if they continue to exhibit symptoms,” the state said.

A negative test is not required “after returning from COVID isolation,” Baker said, and “DPH does not advise employers, or schools and childcare, to require a test as a condition of returning to work or school,” according to

the state. He said if employers are asking employees to provide a test, the state recommends not requiring a PCR test.

Baker also stressed that “getting vaccinated and boosted remains your best possible protection from getting really sick.”

He also assured residents that “the vaccines are safe and effective for adults and kids,” and that more than 5.1 million Massachusetts residents are fully vaccinated.

“If you haven’t gotten a vaccination or a booster, please book an appointment and get one now,” Baker said, adding that five “state-sponsored vaccine and booster sites” have been opened in recent weeks in Boston, Lynn, and Taunton.

For more information about the public health advisory, testing, and to book a vaccine or booster appointment, visit mass.gov/covid19.

Fenway Park open again as state-sponsored vaccination clinic

Staff Report

Fenway Park is once again the site of a mass vaccination clinic, and has been open and running since January 6 providing first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as booster shots, for all people who are eligible to receive them.

According to the Red Sox, the Fenway Park site is run by Cat-

aldo Ambulance and is able to provide 1,3000 shots per day.

Appointments can be made at vaxfinder.mass.gov, but the site is also accepting walk-ins.

Those looking to come to Fenway Park for a vaccine are asked to enter on Jersey St. at Gate A, and translation services are also available for those who need them, the Red Sox said.

Red Sox apply for 16 concerts for 2022

Staff Report

On Jan. 4, the Red Sox said that they have filed an application with the Mayor’s Office of

Consumer Affairs and Licensing for a total of 16 concerts at Fenway Park for this year. The application includes four shows that

had been approved by the office for 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic, as well as 12 new ones.

Winter Weather Advisory

Check CO alarms and keep vents clear of snow

Staff Report

With the season’s first significant snow, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey reminded residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace, and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

“Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they’re working properly, and if an alarm is more than five to seven years old, replace it.”

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of fall-

ing, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, 7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole’s Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

“Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto

them if using a snowblower.”

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 18,000 CO incidents in 2020, officials said, and 92% were in residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous.

“We can’t see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1.”

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit the DFS website.

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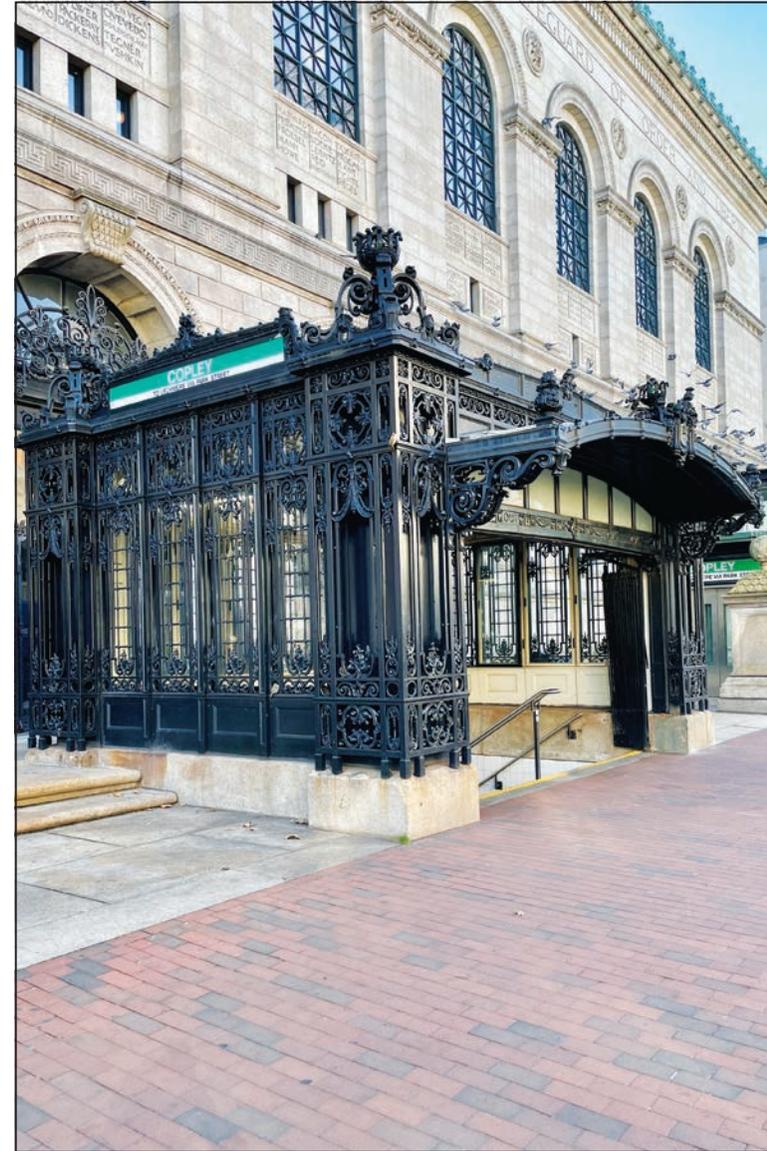
Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Eichinger, Gerald L 1201 Heritage RT Sun, Harry Stucke-Coleman, Peter B Facey, Jerald P R W Harkins RET 2016 Bahhady, Imad Bailey, Thomas Bahnam, Marie-Jose 27-29 Stuart St Invs LLC Mai, Xuhong Caprio, Joseph A Thi-Nguyen, Kim A Facella RT	Fay, G Park Heritage 1201 NT RHF Boston LP Crowley, Nicole Arias, Jaime M Lens Condo T Millbank RT Richard Alan Bacon RT Packwood, Richard J HDG Stuart LLC Abruzese, Anthony B Singh, Navdeep 1950 Wa Street LLC Wiese, Rutger	351 Beacon St #6 300 Boylston St #1201 300 Boylston St #810 2 Clarendon St #208 167 Commonwealth Ave #4 257 Commonwealth Ave #6 28 Dartmouth St #3 28 Dartmouth St #G 291 Marlborough St #3 27-29 Stuart St 143 W Brookline St #502 126 W Newton St #2 1948-1950 Washington St #2B 26 Wellington St #2	\$800,000 \$5,050,000 \$2,985,000 \$700,000 \$790,000 \$3,650,000 \$330,000 \$465,000 \$1,800,000 \$5,150,000 \$626,888 \$2,460,000 \$398,170 \$849,400
BEACON HILL 11 Anderson Street LLC Joshi, Jagruti Thaler, Thomas W 35 Grove Street LLC Knuepfer, Christian P Knuepfer, Julia Zuleger, John P	Fitzgerald, Edward R Okruta RT Noering, Thomas W Mauve Realty Corp 3 Mount Vernon Square 3 Mount Vernon Square JDMD Owner LLC	11 Anderson St 37 Beacon St #36 37 Beacon St #46 35 Grove St 3 Mount Vernon Sq #1 3 Mount Vernon Sq #3 45 Temple St #608	\$1,485,000 \$830,000 \$825,000 \$4,550,000 \$1,248,750 \$1,600,000 \$2,650,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE 80 Chandler Street RT Baker, Brian J Boston University Paul G Panariello RET Ennis, David Jha, Bibhas K 21 Cumberland Street NT Mclaughlin, Jeannette Havey, William B Berkshire T 2021 Martini, Paolo Tam, Pak L Tam, Pak L Mass Ave Group Inc	Jackson, David Dayalji, Bhavesh Knighthouse LLC Katz, George Lot Oz RT Kenmore Tower Corp Kirk, James Aucoin, Louis M Zarookian, Armen E Christina RT South End 10 LLC South End 10 LLC South End 10 LLC Weir, Colin B	80 Chandler St 55 Gray St 63 Bay State Rd 427 Beacon St 351 Commonwealth Ave #3 566 Commonwealth Ave #307 21 Cumberland St #1 37 E Springfield St #2 95 Gainsborough St #403 9 Hanson St #2 370-380 Harrison Ave #1011 370-380 Harrison Ave #1109 370-380 Harrison Ave #1115 582 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$5,687,500 \$2,500,000 \$6,225,000 \$5,025,000 \$525,000 \$490,028 \$920,000 \$599,000 \$545,000 \$850,000 \$1,896,500 \$2,190,000 \$2,190,000 \$895,000
Bozampalis, Stavros Schwartz, Marie Breen, Erin O Boretsky, Karen Blott, Eleanor Xu, Rong K Reuther RET 2021 Reece, Matthew B Wozanc, Richard W Hope, Henry	H Armian T S Lawrence Lightfoot RET Carrick, Jamie A Yount, Bradley A Sodini, Anne K Div Shawmut LLC Chen, Yehan Rooney, Mark A Armstrong, Jason Petrino, Christopher	100 Riverway #6 18 Rutland Sq 47 Rutland St #1 111 Saint Botolph St 15 Saint George St #4 100 Shawmut Ave #709 136-140R Shawmut Ave #2H 49 Union Park #3 1686 Washington St #4 37 Worcester St #5	\$770,888 \$3,300,000 \$799,000 \$3,360,000 \$694,000 \$876,900 \$2,075,000 \$2,150,000 \$903,031 \$799,900
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN NFLSRE 470 Atlantic LLC Shiryeva, Inna Price, Benjamin G Richard Baum RET 81 Tyler Street RT Wood, James M Wood, James M 81 Tyler LLC	CSREFI Independence Paul F Mcmanus Jr RET Paul E Gaudes LT NGMV LLC Gee FT Jeffrey S Forgosh RET Jeffrey S Forgosh RET Young, Wai F	466-474 Atlantic Ave 142 Commercial St #402 65 E India Row #32G 1 Franklin St #5306 1 Nassau St #1607 170 Tremont St #901 170 Tremont St #902 81 Tyler St	\$238,000,000 \$730,000 \$896,000 \$5,250,000 \$890,000 \$2,500,000 \$2,500,000 \$1,750,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The word "Out" in the last clue is on the headhouse to the MBTA Subway entrance adjacent to the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. A headhouse is, "a part of a railroad passenger terminal providing accommodations for persons waiting for trains" according to Merriam-Webster. This one is a particularly lovely example and in keeping with the architecturally important building behind it.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.

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



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