

THE BOSTON SUN

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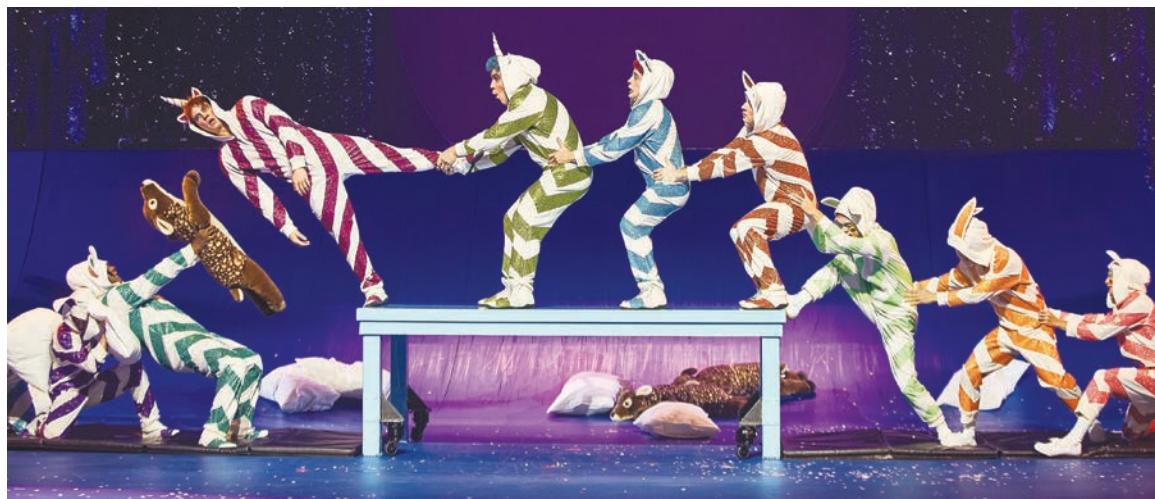


Photo provided by Cirque du Soleil

Children, unable to fall asleep, anticipate Santa's arrival in an acrobatic table routine in "Twas the Night Before."

Cirque du Soleil presents 'Twas the Night Before

Story by Marianne Salza

Cirque du Soleil is presenting "Twas the Night Before" at the Wang Theatre through December 11. This cheerful and thrilling production is a playful twist on the iconic Christmas poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," by Clement Clarke Moore.

"It's cold outside, but we are bringing the warmth," beamed acrobat and hoop diver, Evan Tomlinson Weintraub, of San Francisco, California. "It is a

moment for families to come together."

This holiday season, join Cirque du Soleil for its first Christmas show about the spirit of Christmas, and the wonders of sharing and friendship. On Christmas Eve, a father reads the classic story to his teenage daughter, Isabelle. Disenchanted by the craze of Christmas, Isabelle is uninterested in the family tradition.

Magic emerges as a spark of light; and the jaded Isabelle is

separated from her father by a storm. She is whisked on a fantastical journey through a winter wonderland, where the young girl meets reimagined characters from the poem.

Unlike in the original version of the tale, the children in "Twas the Night Before" are not snuggled in their beds, patiently awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Dressed in candy cane-striped onesie pajamas, they are wide awake and

(NIGHT BEFORE Pg. 4)

A DRINK FIT FOR ROYALTY

Special to the Sun

With the Royals visiting Boston this week, both Kings and Loretta's Last Call will offer royally good cocktails and front row seats to a possible glimpse of royalty.

Kings Seaport and Kings Back Bay will feature a signature cocktail called "The Crown" on their drink menu during the Royals' stay in Boston. The photo is attached and it is \$13. It is made with: Raspberry Vodka, Orange & Peach Liqueurs, Pineapple Juice, Strawberry Puree, Santa Marina Prosecco and served in a martini glass. What is a better place to celebrate a future King than to go to Kings?

Kings is open daily at the Seaport at 11 a.m. and is open in the Back Bay starting at 3 p.m. For more information on Kings,



please log onto www.kings-de.com.

Loretta's Last Call is locat-

ed directly across for the MGM Music Hall on Lansdowne Street and the bar is prime seating for the Royals' arrival on Friday night. They have two cocktails available- one is called the William and one is called the Kate. Loretta's Last Call is located at 1 Lansdowne Street and the website is www.lorettaslascall.com. Loretta's Last Call opens at noon on Friday. They are made with the following:

- The William:
 - cranberry juice
 - pomegranate juice
 - Crown Royal
 - Ginger Ale
 - Absolute Vodka
- The Kate:
 - Love Noir Rose
 - Watermelon Juice
 - Lemon Juice
 - Soda Water

By Adam Swift

Nearly a half century after it was founded, the Fenway Community Development Corporation continues to be an ally and advocate for residents of the Boston neighborhood.

"We are a nonprofit affordable housing developer that is really neighborhood focused," said Fenway CDC Lead Community Organizer Cassie White. "We do a lot of community building and social services and try to work alongside the community any way we can."

Housing is always a big focus for the Fenway CDC, as the neighborhood is at the forefront of facing gentrification and an affordable housing crisis that spreads nationwide.

The Fenway CDC works with local agencies and other community groups on housing policies

to help improve that crisis.

"We want to make sure the Fenway neighborhood is accessible for folks of all racial backgrounds and economic stations and that it can be someplace where people can live and thrive," said White.

One of the ways the organization reaches out and keeps a finger on the pulse of residents in the neighborhood is through its Organizing Committee.

Fenway CDC organizer Leo Ruiz Sanchez said the committee currently has about a dozen members from the community and is looking for volunteers who are interested in campaigns for affordable housing and looking for an opportunity to develop their skills as a community advocate.

"It's a space for residents and organizations like the CDC to

(CDC Pg. 9)

Boston man arraigned for October attack of woman on Boylston Street

Special to the Sun

A Boston man was charged today in Central BMC with attacking a woman on Boylston Street last month and smashing her cell phone before fleeing, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Albert Williams JR., 61, is charged with unarmed robbery, assault and battery and vandalizing property. Assistant District Attorney Emily Miller requested \$1,000 bail, a stay away order from the victim and a revocation of Williams' bail from an existing assault and battery case. Judge

Mark Summerville released Williams on personal recognizance with conditions that he complete a treatment program and stay away from the victim. Williams will return to court February 7 for a probable cause hearing.

Miller said that shortly after midnight on October 15 Boston police responded to a call that a woman had been attacked by an unknown male as she walked on Boylston Street near Dartmouth Street. The 21-year-old victim said the attacker grabbed her, threw her to the ground, ripped

(ATTACK Pg. 9)



**Welcome to Boston
Prince William
and Princess Kate!**

EDITORIAL

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." -- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by record-high inflation, affects almost every American, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to record-low unemployment rates.

However, the good economy (from an employment standpoint) being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our history.

According to the US Dept. of Agriculture, more than 34 million Americans, including nine million children, are food insecure. We should recall that during the height of the pandemic when schools and senior citizen centers were closed, the biggest effect was upon our children and seniors, who relied on programs administered by the schools, government agencies, and non-profits for their only meal of the day.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston at Mass. and Cass. Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunity to do so in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate. Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there will be multiple opportunities in the next four weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

There is no excuse for failing to do so.

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas once started for me when the JC Penny and Sears catalogs came in the mail. They came early in the Fall and I wore them out looking at the toy section. By December the catalogs were in shambles.

My mother used to order clothes and other stuff from those catalogs. I don't remember her ever ordering toys. They usually came from the five and dime store in our town of Inez, KY or G.C. Murphy's store in Paintsville. Yet, the catalogs were fun and gave me ideas of the latest items for which to wish and hope.

I think my mother would enjoy the Internet today. She could order online like many of us are doing. Having Internet in the country is like having an updated Christmas catalog every day. There is always a means to shop and order. Back in that day ordering was tedious and arrival took weeks. Shipping back a dress that didn't fit was a long ordeal.

As a child there was always much more that I saw, dreamed of and wished for than I ever received. Some Christmases were

GUEST OP-ED

Christmas is in your heart

lean and others were more abundant. Life is like that most of the time. We have hopes and wishes that never come true and some that do. It's nice when one or two come true.

We hope for good health and enough money to pay the bills. We hope for our children to have meaningful lives and to be independent. We hope for peace and to see positive results from our efforts in life. We would all like to be compensated well for the jobs we do. Being stuck in a job that is restraining with little hope of better wages is discouraging. Everyone deserves a life where internal inspiration can lead to reward and a better life.

The hardest part of life is when we feel hopeless. A terminal illness. Hard work with little to no reward. An empty house that isn't changing because you just buried a spouse. Failing when you may have tried hard or just decisions that didn't work out too well. All of these and more can be heartbreaking. Heartbreak doesn't do much for the Christmas spirit.

Those of us who have lived a few years know that Christmas doesn't come in a catalog, nor never did. It doesn't come on

Black Fridays or cyber-Mondays. The multitude of Christmas programs don't bring Christmas. Decorated houses and trees are delightful but they don't create Christmas.

Christmas is an inside job. Christmas is in your heart and mind. The first Christmas was a peasant couple giving birth to a baby in a barn with a cow's trough for a crib. They were poor and just paying their taxes was about all they could afford. Yet, the child brought a joy they had never experienced.

In Luke chapter 2:19 we read "but Mary treasured up all these things and pondered in her heart..." Consider what and mainly who brings you joy and what really matters in your life and let there be Christmas in your heart during this season.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TEMPORARY SOUTH END LIBRARY SERVICES TO BE ASSESSED IN BPL SURVEY

To the editor:

The Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) is partnering with the Boston Public Library (BPL) to determine which temporary library services are needed most while the South End Library remains closed for the next couple of years. Please take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/9QLDDV. The page also has a form for giving input, asking a question, and providing contact info for future updates by BPL.

The South End branch has been shuttered since May after a catastrophic basement flood destroyed the building's infrastructure.

Instead of repairing the library, Mayor Michelle Wu, BPL, and our elected leaders have agreed to move directly into an accelerated process for a capital project to rebuild the branch with more space for our growing community. The goal for this process is a new library at the end of 2024.

A community meeting on zoom with the BPL is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM. Information and registration is currently posted on the South End Branch web page: www.bpl.org/south-end-project/. The page also has a form for giving input, asking a question, and providing contact info for future updates by BPL.

To support the South End's

the BPL has committed to providing temporary services needed most. We need to know which services are most urgent to South End residents and which locations make the most sense. Please complete this survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/9QLDDV or use the QR code so that the BPL can take your opinions into account. It usually takes less than 5 minutes to complete. In the upper right-hand corner of the first page, you can click on the English dropdown menu which offers Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese versions.

For further information, please contact BPL's Director of Neighborhood Services, Priscilla Foley, at pfoley@bpl.org

Friends of the South End Library

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOSTON'S PRUDENTIAL TOWER TO SHINE ORANGE IN SUPPORT OF EASTERSEALS MASSACHUSETTS

Beginning in December, Prudential Tower will once again shine bright with the help of local community organizations. Easterseals Massachusetts will flip the switch to light up Boston on December 30, 2022, as part of Prudential Center's Annual 31 Nights of Light program. The top of Prudential Tower will beam orange in support of people with disabilities.

Easterseals Massachusetts has been a leader in disability services for over 75 years. They are known for their expertise in rehabilitation, assistive technology, youth services, Veteran's services, employment and transition services, and disability advocacy. They are committed to providing services for people with disabilities to fully live, learn, work, and play within their own communities.

At the ceremony held that night in Prudential Center's Center Court, young adults from ESMA's #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign committee will honorably flip the giant switch when the tower lights up orange.

The 31 Nights of Light program was introduced in 2009 to celebrate local Boston-area organizations and draw attention to the great work they do in Boston and beyond. Utilizing a state-of-the-art LED lighting system, the 52nd and 51st floors of the Prudential Tower will change color daily to honor its 28 community partners.

For more information on Prudential Center, Boston, and the 31 Nights of Light event, visit www.prudentialcenter.com, and follow @pruboston on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

Holiday lighting of Comm. Ave. Mall set for Thursday, Dec. 1

Mayor Michelle Wu; Ryan Woods, commissioner of Boston Parks and Recreation; Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden; and Matt Sidman, a founding member of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Enhancement Committee, will join together in welcoming the crowd at the Holiday Lights 2022 Ceremony on Thursday,

Dec. 1, at 8 p.m. on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Arlington Street.

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Wu will turn on the holiday lights for 2022. The Newbury Boston will be providing cocoa and cookies for the assembled crowd.

EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY TO LIGHT CHARLESGATE PARK TREES GREEN ON DEC. 1

In conjunction with the annual tree lighting on Boston Common and the tree lighting along Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will once again bring light to Charlesgate Park by illuminating 10 trees in green.

The lighting will take place on Thursday Dec. 1, at approximately 8 p.m. at the Charlesgate Park trees, located on Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and Charlesgate West. The trees will remain lit each evening through next March.

The lighting of Charlesgate Park began in 2021 and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy is excited to bring its signature emerald-green color lighting to the park again this winter. Complementing the annual lighting of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, 10 Japanese zelkova trees will be lit at Charlesgate and adorned with green lights to distinguish Charlesgate as the connecting point between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the rest of the Emerald Necklace, and to raise awareness of the ongoing efforts to restore Charlesgate Park.

Visit <https://www.emerald-necklace.org/charlesgate-lights/> for more information.

BPDA TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZONING AND PLANNING IN THE FENWAY

The Boston Planning and Development Agency will hold a virtual public meeting to learn more about planning and zoning in Fenway on Monday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The meeting will include basic information about how zoning works to regulate development

and a more detailed analysis of existing zoning in the West Fenway district, as well as an opportunity to provide input on the neighborhood's zoning and a number of future planning considerations, which will be studied and discussed over the next few months.

Register in advance at <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register>.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NEIGHBORS 2022 HOLIDAY WREATHS

Each holiday season, the Clarendon Neighborhood Association hangs wreaths with lights along Massachusetts Avenue from the Southwest Corridor to Tremont Street. This year, the Mass Ave Coalition will join in to decorate the blocks from St. Botolph Street, all the way to Albany Street. We know we can easily do this. We just need your support!

If readers make a donation to sponsor one or more wreaths, Chester Square Neighbors will match their donation. Our two blocks need about \$500. To donate cash or a check: put it through mail slot at 222 Northampton St. (payable to Chester Square Neighbors);

donate via Venmo to @CarolW-Blair (reference Mass Ave Wreaths); or donate through Paypal at chestersquareneighbors.org.

Readers can also join the Dec. 3 wreath-raising party in Chester Park to help attach bows and hang wreaths, and where you'll find good holiday spirit. The event takes place on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:30 a.m. in Chester Square Park by the fountain near 545 Massachusetts Ave. If you have a stepladder for the occasion, or if you like to climb, this is your moment. To volunteer, contact Carol (carol@jfocwb.com) or Bob (Robert.l.barney@gmail.com).

WORCESTER SQUARE TREE-LIGHTING SET FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 4

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association will be holding its 59th annual Tree Lighting Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. in Worcester Square Park.

Join your neighbors for an evening of live music, refreshments, and merriment. Penni Layne and the Wonder Boys will play holiday classics while Santa Claus will bring the toys and joy.

Visit facebook.com/WorcesterSquare for more information.

EBNA HOLIDAY GATHERING SET FOR DEC. 6 AT JJ FOLEY'S

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association will hold its annual Holiday Gathering on Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at JJ Foley's at 117 East Berkeley St.

Guests are encouraged to each bring an unwrapped toy, since for this occasion, EBNA is joining the Boston Police Department to support the BPD's annual toy drive. The preference is for new, unwrapped toys for newborn to 17-year-olds, with a focus on positive, educational things - no toy guns, water pistols, violence-oriented board or computer games.

Admission is free. Complimentary appetizers will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

PRUDENTIAL CENTER TO HOSTS HOLIDAY STROLL ON DEC. 10

Prudential Center invites you on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. to stroll through the Center discovering exclusive discounts and promotions at participating shops and eateries.

Guests are encouraged to shop, eat, and visit the holi-

day-themed sip stations where they can take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season with a bit of bubbly, sparkling wine, locally brewed beer, sparkling water, and more.

The holiday spirit will be in the air with festive music brought to you by electric violinist Vivian Luo and a cappella quartet by Songful Artists performing throughout the Center. And, don't forget to say hello to Santa at home in his favorite Back Bay living room located in Hynes Court adjacent to sweet-green.

For those looking to channel some holiday magic, shop your way through the Center collecting stamps at all participating stores. Guests who receive stamps from all listed locations will be eligible to win a \$1,000 holiday Prudential Center prize pack.

To learn more about the Holiday Stroll and to view the full listing of December programming please visit www.prudentialcenter.com

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY SET FOR DEC. 13

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will hold its holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the back patio at Petit Robert Bistro (480 Columbus Ave). There is a suggested donation of \$15 to help cover the cost, and you can donate in advance at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ward4dems2022holiday>.

THE BOSTON SUN

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Mass Lottery celebrates 50th anniversary at State House event

The Massachusetts State Lottery commemorated its 50th Anniversary with a celebration of its customers, retailers, employees, and the communities that the Lottery supports, all of whom have played an important role in the Lottery's success over the past five decades.

The celebration, which took place at the Massachusetts State House, included a live drawing of the Midday Numbers Game at the Grand Staircase hosted by State Treasurer and Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission Deborah B. Goldberg.

"When Prop 2 1/2 was adopted in the early 1970's, Treasurer Bob Crane understood the negative impacts it would have on local communities," said Treasurer Goldberg. "It was his vision that created a lottery whose profits became the one reliable source of unrestricted local aid that people throughout the state have come to rely on. We have built upon that legacy and hope through collaboration, innovation, and good business practices to continue for another 50 years."

Prior to the drawing, Governor Charlie Baker presented Treasurer Goldberg with a Citation commemorating the Lottery's milestone achievement.

"The Lottery has been all that anybody back in the beginning could have hoped for and then some, and I'm thrilled to be here to be a part of this celebration today," said Governor Baker. "Thank you for everything



State Treasurer and Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission Deborah B. Goldberg stand with mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox) all participated in the festivities.

you've done."

Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over \$143 billion in revenues, awarded over \$100 billion in prizes, returned over \$31 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth for unrestricted local aid provided to cities and towns, and paid over \$8 billion in commissions and bonuses to its statewide network of retailers.

"As we look towards our next 50 years, we make this commitment today to continue to innovate, to continue to come out with new and exciting lottery products, and to continue on with the State of Winning, which since 1972 has generated over \$100 billion in prizes paid to our players," said Mark William Bracken, Interim Executive

Director of the Mass Lottery and host of the event.

Additional speakers included Senate President Karen Spilka, Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante of Gloucester, Mayor of Newton and President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Ruthanne Fuller, and Gary Park, owner of Gary's Liquors in Chestnut Hill, a Lottery retail partner since 1972.

"The Lottery is so important to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in so many ways," said Senate President Spilka. "As a former chair of Ways and Means, especially when financial times were not so rosy, I have to tell you how valued and how critical the partnership with the Lottery was then and continues to be now to ensure that we continue to give the resources to

our cities and towns that they all need so dearly."

"We can fully appreciate and comprehend what it means to have a billion dollars to put into the budget to help cities and towns with the things that matter," said Representative Ferrante. "Sometimes, it's not the big things, it's the smaller things, like the ability to improve a school playground, to do the things that matter to the people that have been so supportive of the Lottery over time."

"Last year, it was \$1.1 billion that was distributed to the 351 cities and towns here in the Commonwealth, and they allowed us, with that unrestricted aid, to help our residents and our businesses at a really difficult period," said Mayor Fuller. "For us, it translated into teachers in schools, police on the streets, and firefighters available during emergencies. DPW workers paving our streets and clearing the snow. Social workers and counselors meeting the mental health needs of our residents and our children, and so much more."

"The Lottery has been fantastic for us and fantastic for a lot of Lottery agents throughout the state," said Park, a third-generation store owner who was joined at the event by his father Barry. "The commissions have helped us improve our business, the claims bonuses over the years I know went towards my and my brother's and my sister's college educations. The amazing thing about the Lottery is the amount

of people that it brings into a lot of small family-run local businesses."

The event featured a live performance by local musician Andy Brink, winner of the Lottery's "Sound of Winning" jingle contest. Brink's jingle, "Everyone's a Winner in the Commonwealth," was incorporated into the Lottery's 50th Anniversary advertising campaign earlier this year.

At the conclusion of the speaking program, a video featuring historical footage and testimonials from municipal leaders, Lottery employees, retail partners and prize winners was shown. The video was narrated by national television personality Tom Bergeron, a native of Haverhill, who hosted Lottery Live and Megabucks drawings in the 1980s while working in the Boston television market.

On display at the event were jerseys from local professional and college sports teams with "Mass Lottery" on the name plate above the number 50. Mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox) all participated in the afternoon's festivities.

A red carpet was set up near a display of movie and television posters in which Lottery branded equipment had appeared. Additional displays featured historical items, including vintage lottery terminals, advertising posters and oversized instant tickets.

NIGHT BEFORE (from pg. 1)

eager to see Santa in this high-energy, comical, acrobatic table routine.

"My character is so happy waiting for Santa Claus," laughed acrobat and hoop diver, Jing Wang, of China, who plays a boy that instigates the frenzied chaos.

Similar to his character, Wang remembers being too excited to sleep on Christmas Eve. Although he spent last Christmas performing with Cirque du Soleil in Mexico, Wang associates Christmas with chilliness, snow -- and, no matter the temperature -- eating ice cream.

"It's a big celebration with family," described Wang about what Christmas means to him. "Everybody enjoys the Christmas atmosphere."

Wang and Weintraub's favorite trick is performed in the scene, when the little ones hear Santa on

the roof.

"In three high, people stand on top of each other's shoulders, looking for Santa Claus. I'm the one on top. Then I fall and roll. I can't see the audience, but I can hear their screaming and clapping" explained Wang, who has studied acrobatics for 22 years, and also practiced wushu, Chinese martial arts.

Weintraub, as Prancer, and Wang, as Comet, also perform in the hoop diving act that introduces Santa's playful reindeer as a collaborative team.

"I think what's nice about this show is that it's built for families," said Weintraub, who celebrates Christmas on a warm beach with his family. "We tap into the memories of when we were kids, and translate that energy to them to make the show special."

Weintraub and Wang especially

love the enthusiasm and awe of young viewers.

"The more feedback from the audience, the more it helps us to go further," smiled 30-year-old, Weintraub, who has been a circus acrobat for 18 years; and before that, was a gymnast. "We are giving so much energy, that when we receive it back, it's like a cycle. It gets better and better."

Friends, Weintraub and Wang, worked together in "'Twas the Night Before," in 2019 when the production first debuted. To prepare this year, the acrobats rehearsed the choreography for seven weeks: six days a week for five hours.

"This show has become a hit and classic for Cirque du Soleil," said Weintraub, who appreciates the supportive teamwork of the circus. "We're not seeing outrageous changes to it. We're coming

back into a roll that's familiar, which is nice. It's a significant amount of time to put in and be learning something. It's muscle memory now."

Weintraub and Wang's golden-antlered reindeer conclude the production as Isabelle is reunited

with her father; and they read the poem together.

"They start to explore what Christmas means, where the spark of Christmas comes from, and what it means to share the warmth and light with each other," Weintraub revealed.

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Funding secured for Bowker Overpass reconfiguration

By Dan Murphy

Following years of conversation and planning, the funding is now in place for two projects that will radically reimagine the Bowker Overpass.

The announcement came on Monday, Nov. 21, at "The Grove," at the corner of Beacon Street and Charlesgate East at the Bowker Overpass. Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) representatives joined state and local elected officials and advocacy groups at the event.

According to MassDOT, the first project will focus on replacing the structurally deficient Bowker Overpass over I-90, Ipswich Street, and the MBTA's

Worcester Commuter Rail line. On its current schedule, the project will be advertised in early 2024, and is expected to cost \$59 million based on current estimates. The project will take approximately two and a half years to complete once construction begins.

The second project will consist of the replacement and reconfiguration of the Storrow Drive eastbound bridge over the Bowker ramps. Based on current estimates, this project is expected to cost \$120 million, and will be advertised in early 2027. The project will take approximately four years to complete once construction begins.

"Primarily it's to replace Storrow Drive eastbound and a major rehabilitation of Bowk-



COURTESY OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

Pictured, left to right, are Parker James of the Charlesgate Alliance; Karen Mauney-Brodek, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy; Commissioner Doug Rice from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; State Sen. William Brownsberger; Anthony Pangaro, trustee of the Esplanade Association; Secretary Jamey Tesler of MassDOT (the state's Department of Transportation); District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok; and John Gulliver, highway administrator for the state's Department of Transportation.

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- And much more...

er Overpass over I-90," MassDOT Project Manager Steve McLaughlin said. "In doing that, we're able to do some reconfiguration where we can connect the Emerald Necklace all the way to the Esplanade."

MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver added that the project would also "daylight" the Muddy River, which runs parallel to the overpass, and create more than four acres of parkland, along with numerous multi-use paths associated with it.

Sen. William Brownsberger said: "I'm grateful for the creativity and collaborative spirit that MassDOT has brought to this project. I'm in it for the long haul to make sure we can all enjoy the great park and watershed improvements that this project offers."

Said Rep. Jay Livingstone: "I'm excited to see the realization of this transformative project that will improve our infrastructure and add acreage and greater connections to our parklands. I greatly appreciate MassDOT's commitment to this project and it's ingenuity."

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok said: "I am so thrilled that this project will reconnect Olmsted's Emerald Necklace at Charlesgate, finally relinking the Fens to the Esplanade. The Muddy River is one of Ameri-

ca's original green infrastructure projects, and by daylighting the river once again we will improve its water quality and create new parkland for Bostonians to enjoy. Increasing multimodal access and continuity for our green spaces makes Boston a better place to live and visit."

Karen Mauney-Brodek, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, said in a statement: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to redesign vehicle infrastructure in a way that will reconnect the Emerald Necklace with several iconic greenspaces after decades of broken links in the regional transit and parks networks. It is a tremendous milestone in our ongoing effort to improve the entire Charlesgate area and restore its connections to the rest of the city and beyond."

Mauney-Brodek credited a partnership involving the Conservancy, the Charlesgate Alliance, the Esplanade Association, Marie and Dan Adams of Landing Studio, and city and state officials, as well as the larger community, for making this a reality.

"We applaud the Commonwealth's leveraging of the opportunity to reconsider outdated infrastructure to simultaneously restore a significant portion of the Esplanade and reconnect the Emerald Necklace parks, and we

are excited to continue working together in realizing a much more connected, greener and healthier future for the transportation and river network throughout our city and region. Once realized, this will be a legacy worthy of the next 100 years," she added.

In a statement, the Esplanade Association said: "The reconnection of the banks of the Muddy River to the Charles River Esplanade provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore and create parkland, make regional park connections for pedestrians and bicyclists, and prepare our parks for a changing climate. The Esplanade Association is proud to stand in partnership with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Charlesgate Alliance, and park stakeholders across the region to support and advance this project to reconnect the Emerald Necklace and the Esplanade through Charlesgate. We are grateful to MassDOT for the opportunity to be deeply engaged in the project and to continue to advocate for designs that provide the maximum possible public realm improvements and restore acres of parkland on the Charles River Esplanade. By reconfiguring and dismantling outdated highway infrastructure at the Bowker Overpass, MassDOT is making progress towards forward-looking thinking about these historic green spaces."

COCOANUT GROVE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE HOSTS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

PHOTOS COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE

On Monday, November 28, the Cocoanut Grove Memorial Committee hosted an 80th Anniversary Remembrance Vigil at the site of the former nightclub, Piedmont Street and Cocoanut Grove Lane in the Bay Village neighborhood. A program of guest speakers will attend and several family members of both victims and survivors plan to attend. A reception will follow at the Revere Hotel's Liberty Hall and a presentation of "Six Locked Doors," a documentary will be shown.

The Cocoanut Grove nightclub opened in October 1927, and quickly became the top club in Boston, but with Prohibition followed by the Depression, the club lost its gleam. But with the end of Prohibition, the Cocoanut Grove rebounded and again was the leading place in Boston to go

"We are so please to have Mayor Michelle Wu supporting this memorial to preserve and honor the victims, the survivors, the first responders, military personnel, brave citizens, medical professionals and families of the Cocoanut Grove Fire."

~ Mike Hanlon, Cocoanut Grove Memorial Committee Member

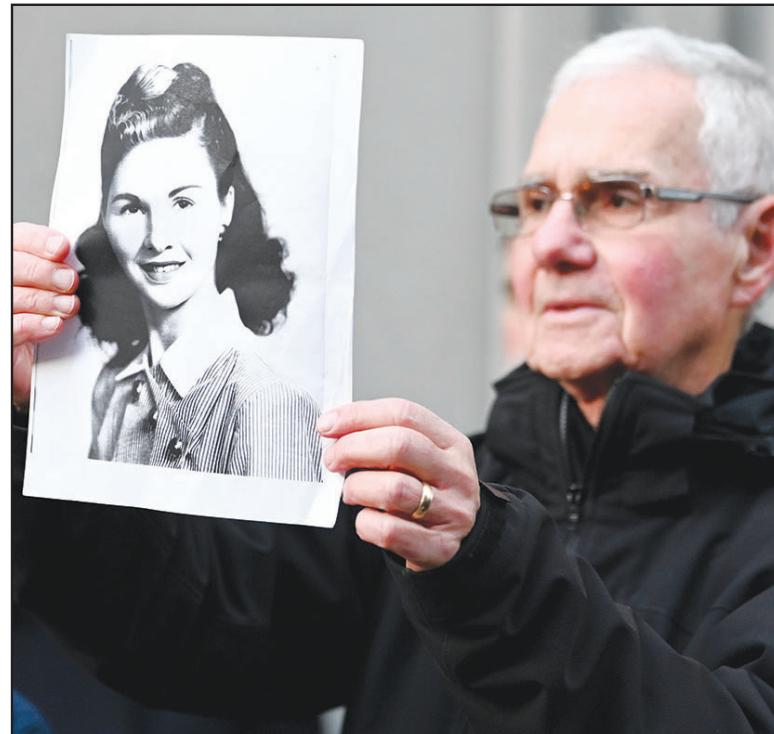
to for entertainment and fun.

On Saturday afternoon, November 28, 1942, Boston College, the undefeated and number one college football team in the country, played Holy Cross College at Fenway Park. The BC Eagles got swamped and lost, 55-12. Lots of BC fans canceled their reservations at the Cocoanut Grove, but it didn't stop people from heading to the

Grove for a night of celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, wedding, and for departing soldiers to fight the War in Europe and the Pacific and this would be the last night to share a drink and a dance.

In the downstairs Melody Lounge, a sedate piano bar, a couple was getting romantic when the fellow removed a small light bulb that hung from a fake palm tree causing some darkness. A teenage busboy tried to screw the bulb back in and struck a match to see the outlet. He blew the match out, but did a spark fly into the fake palm tree fons and start the fire? To this day, fire experts are not sure of the origins of the fire that took the lives of 490 patrons that night of November 28, 1942.

Following the ceremony, a showing of the documentary



A photograph of one of the victims of the fire, Joyce Spector Mekelburg that was brought by her children Richard Rosenthal and Lesley Kaufman.

film "Six Locked Doors" by former Bay Village resident Zach Graves-Miller was shown.

According to Michael Hanlon of the Cocoanut Grove Memori-

al Committee, there are plans to build a memorial of three archways that would have led to the doors of the Nightclub.



An architectural rendering of the memorial of the three archways that are in the planning stages.

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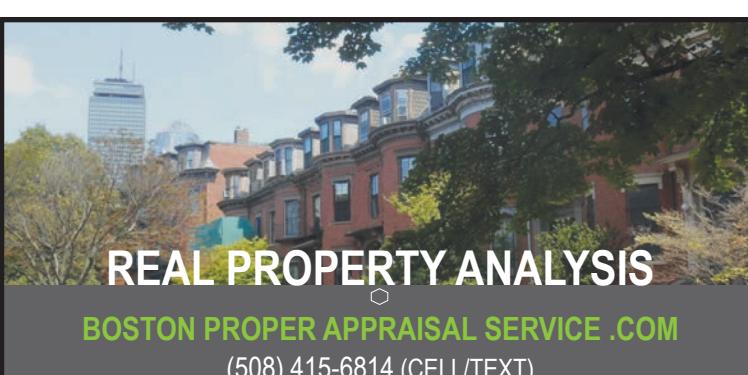


Boston Fire Chaplain Fr. John Unni offers remarks on the tragedy.

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Shown Left to right, Mike Hanlon, Paul Miller, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Zach Graves-Miller.



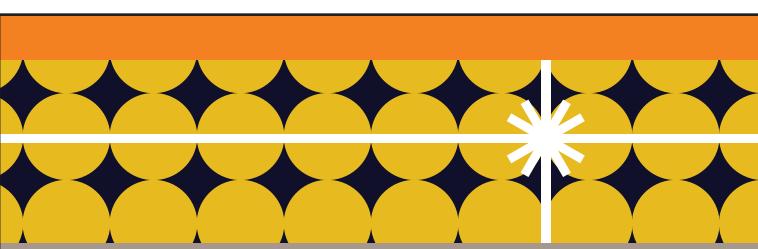
Mayor Wu addresses those in attendance.



Fire Commissioner Paul Burke and Rabbi Yosef Zaklos of the Chabad of Downtown Boston.



Some of those attending are shown above.



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Company offers private valet parking service to homes in and around Beacon Hill and Back Bay

By Dan Murphy

A unique company that got its start earlier this year, Acorn offers private, full-service valet parking options for townhouses and condos in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and contiguous neighborhoods.

For \$590 a month, subscribers can opt for Full Valet Membership. This includes dedicated garage parking for your vehicle, available on demand to your front door; scheduled valet services for consistent commuting times or carpools; and valet parking privileges for guests.

Or for \$450 a month, customers can purchase a Standalone Guest Valet Membership, which includes parking for all guests directly to your front door, as well as unlimited availability of guest parking booklets for purchase for either nights and weekends or weekdays.

Members can also buy deeply discounted passes for multiple guests, making Acorn a great option if members decide to host a dinner party at their homes.

Deeply discounted parking passes are also available in bulk for condo associations and developers.

Acorn members call or text a dedicated number for pickup and delivery of your vehicle on demand and track the valet in real time through the company's smartphone app.

Members can simply text the service, and their vehicle will be delivered to their front door around 10 or 15 minutes later, or the valet can meet members when they arrive home to drop off their car at the garage. (Acorn works with local neighborhood garages, so the resident doesn't need to arrange parking themselves.)

Moreover, members will access

to their vehicles 24/7 should they choose to retrieve them independently of the service.

Acorn will save members the trouble of traversing the neighborhood's steep slopes in inclement weather, particularly when carrying heavy loads such as baby strollers, sports equipment, or groceries, and without seeing the cost of this convenience reflected in their condo fees..

In fact, Acorn's services could actually help increase the selling prices for residential units in the city by offering valet parking amenities like those at the Ritz-Carlton and the Four Seasons to single-family homes.

Parking spaces in the city can also now fetch as much as \$750,000 each in contrast to Acorn's much more affordable services.

Seniors using Acorn's services will be able to avoid climbing up

steep hills in inclement weather or other arduous treks.

Other advantages of using Acorn are members will no longer have to worry about street-cleaning schedules, or feel uncomfortable waking to and from the garage at night.

Members also won't have to dig their cars out after snowstorms, nor will they ever need to circle the neighborhood looking for parking on the street.

In a testimonial on Acorn's website, Jim P. of Beacon Hill wrote: "We've been really impressed with the ease of Acorn, and how much it has made day-to-day city life stress free. We can't imagine living in the city without this fantastic service—we save so much time not walking to and from the garage, or [trawling] for a spot."

Likewise, another Acorn member, Libby M. of the Back

Bay, wrote: "Acorn Valet parking service is a game-changer for living in Back Bay. The service is efficient and reliable, and the employees are professional and personable. The cost is reasonable compared to owning a space. My car is parked in a garage, out of the elements, which is perfect for street cleaning, weather emergencies and when I travel. Now that I have Acorn, I am no longer interested buying or renting alley parking."

Meanwhile, Acorn plans to expand into other Boston neighborhoods in the near future.

Acorn is headquartered at 20 Park Plaza, Suite 400, in Boston. For more information, call 617-546-5444; email membership@theacornclub.com; or visit www.theacornclub.com.

CITY PAWS

We are thankful

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

It's the time of year to be thankful and to recognize all the wonderful companion animals, responsible guardians, rescue volunteers, and animal professionals around us. For many of us, our animals have been essential for coping with the changes in our lives since January 2020.

More Companion Animals

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reported, "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, nearly 1 in 5 households acquired a cat or dog." A survey they conducted had more good news, "...the vast majority of these households still have that pet in their

home and that animals who were rehomed were placed with friends, family members, and neighbors more frequently than relinquished to shelters and rescues."

These animals provided companionship, stress relief, silly moments, a daily routine, and in the case of dogs, a reason to get out of the house. Walking the dog was an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors at a safe distance.

Rescue Volunteers

With everyone seeking animals to adopt, volunteers in rescue groups continued to process applications, match people and animals, and drive long distances to meet adoptive families.

These dedicated people also fostered dogs and cats for people

who had COVID and rehomed ones who lost their caregivers.

While some of these volunteers worked with organized rescue groups, others were simply friends, family, or neighbors who offered to walk a dog when someone was sick or to assist someone who worked long hours in an essential job.

As the ASPCA noted, people like these ensured that animals in need found foster spots or new homes. Anyone who loves a furry family member will understand the relief a person must have felt knowing that their beloved animal was cared for and was in a safe place if they were very ill or feared they might die.

Animal Professionals

The VIPs in your animals' lives worked long hours under stressful circumstances. Veterinary teams had to adapt to caring for their patients without the presence of the people who usually speak for



In 2021, walking the dog was an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors at a safe distance.

them. They had to deliver medical, and follow-up care reports to people waiting outside in cars. Worst of all, they had to turn away some animals who needed care.

Dog walkers had to figure out safe ways to pick up and deliver their charges. In some cases, they lost income because families were home and walked the dog themselves.

Some pet supply and grooming shops closed, while others, like ours, took orders for food and other essentials for local delivery or street-side pick-up. Our carefully masked groomer met us

on the sidewalk for the drop-off and return of Poppy for grooming appointments. Later the shop arranged for a comfortably safe space inside the building where the exchange could occur.

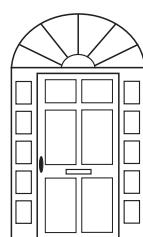
Express Your Thanks

We're sure anyone who was helped has verbally thanked their helpers. These folks sacrificed time and, in many cases, money to take on the responsibility of another animal. Consider a small gift with a year-end thanks. In the case of a rescue group or non-profit veterinary hospital, make a donation. You could even make a contribution in honor of a helper.

Groomers, dog walkers, and pet sitters need to make up the income they lost over the past two years. Adding a bit of extra to your tips or a holiday card with a year-end bonus would be most welcome.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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Wu announces “Meet Me in the City,” new holiday initiative

Mayor Michelle Wu this month announced the launch of “Meet Me in the City,” a new initiative designed to encourage local tourism through special events, performances, and holiday shopping in Boston’s Downtown and neighborhoods. “Meet Me in the City” encourages residents and visitors to come into the city and support local businesses in Downtown and across every neighborhood.

“Our small businesses and cultural institutions are the foundation of our communities and drive our local economy,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “We all benefit from more tourism coming to Boston. As we enter this holiday weekend and approach the new year, I encourage everyone to come experience the vibrancy of our neighborhoods and shop locally here in Boston.”

Boston’s dynamic small busi-

nesses and arts and cultural institutions are critical to the local economy, especially during this year’s holiday shopping and entertainment season. With holiday spending forecasted by the Massachusetts Retailers Association to increase 10 percent statewide compared to 2021 and an 8 percent inflation rate, the “Meet Me in the City” initiative encourages residents and visitors in the greater Boston area to experience the city and invest in our communities.

Following a recent report by the City and Boston Consulting Group detailing some of the challenges facing Downtown Boston, Mayor Wu along with key City and business leaders have re-launched PLAN: Downtown. The plan, in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization report, sets a roadmap for the City to reimagine Downtown

Boston as a truly inclusive neighborhood filled with new homes, diverse businesses, world-class public spaces, vibrant nightlife, and a thriving arts and culture scene.

“This initiative is an important step to encourage residents and visitors alike to shop local and increase consumer spending during the holiday season,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “More than 50 percent of Americans shop small on Small Business Saturday, and this campaign will help drive activity to Boston’s Downtown and neighborhood districts this weekend and into the new year to showcase thriving, vibrant, and inclusive spaces for all of our residents and visitors to spend the holidays once again, while supporting our local economy.”

“Meet Me In the City” lever-

ages the City’s award winning All Inclusive Boston campaign to focus on raising awareness and elevate the visibility of the Mayor’s call to shop local this holiday season through a significant commitment to advertising with neighborhood newspapers and sites, along with local television partnerships and collaborative activations. Encouraging patrons, visitors and residents to use ‘the power of the purse with passion and purpose’, the initiative also aims to address the shift to remote work, which has significantly reshaped the central business core. For years, Downtown Boston was one of the busiest neighborhoods in the city, with heavy, daily foot traffic driven by thousands of office workers. However, foot traffic numbers have remained down by 40 percent since the pandemic. The “Meet Me in the City”

initiative is aligned with the Mayor’s vision to address this shift and ensure that Downtown is a vibrant neighborhood where people from all backgrounds come together.

Beginning this month, holiday tree lightings kick off the season before and after Thanksgiving, along with beloved new and familiar holiday traditions like Boston Ballet’s Nutcracker, Boston Pops, Urban Nutcracker, ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas, Black Nativity, ice skating on the Frog Pond and the annual New Year’s Eve celebration, First Night. The City of Boston’s holiday tree lighting in Boston Common takes place December 1, followed by local neighborhood tree lightings throughout the city.

CDC (from pg. 1)

interact with the community and see what they are experiencing directly,” said Sanchez.

Sanchez, who joined the Fenway CDC as a community organizer about two months ago said he is still getting to know more about the organizing committee and the issues they see as crucial to the Fenway neighborhood. He is a graduate of the community health department at Tufts University, where he also focused his energy and efforts in law, policy, and advocacy; and he has also held several leadership roles within the Latino and first-generation community.

Recently, Sanchez said the organizing committee has

worked on the 55 Bus Campaign in an effort to keep the MBTA’s 55 bus running through the Fenway neighborhood.

As part of the MBTA’s Better Bus project, the MBTA tried rerouting the 55 bus, which Sanchez and White said is crucial for senior citizens in the Fenway. In its most recent plan, the T went back to the original route for the bus.

The latest organizing committee meeting in November focused on the role of universities in the neighborhood, and payments in lieu of taxes programs for colleges and other nonprofit institutions that do not have to pay property taxes in the neighbor-

hood.

Sanchez said the committee meetings typically take place virtually on Thursdays, and that anyone interested in joining it should contact Sanchez at lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org or White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org. Typically, they will hold a one-on-one meeting with potential committee members to find out more about their interests and investment in the neighborhood.

White said the committee is a great leadership development opportunity for people who are involved in the Fenway.

ATTACK (from pg. 1)

her phone from her hand and smashed it. The victim refused medical treatment.

Police several hours later stopped a person matching the description provided by the 911 caller. The person, later identified as Williams, denied being involved in the attack. Subsequent investigation of video surveillance led police to confirm that Williams was the attacker, and they secured a warrant for his arrest.

Williams has a lengthy record, including the open Central BMC case, dating back to 1992 and including convictions, House of Correction sentences, violations

of probation, and many instances of like and similar offenses.

“This is the type of offense that affects a victim for a lengthy period of time and impacts both the reality and perception of safety in our neighborhoods. It’s fortunate that the victim in this case did not sustain serious injury,” Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden’s office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over

20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

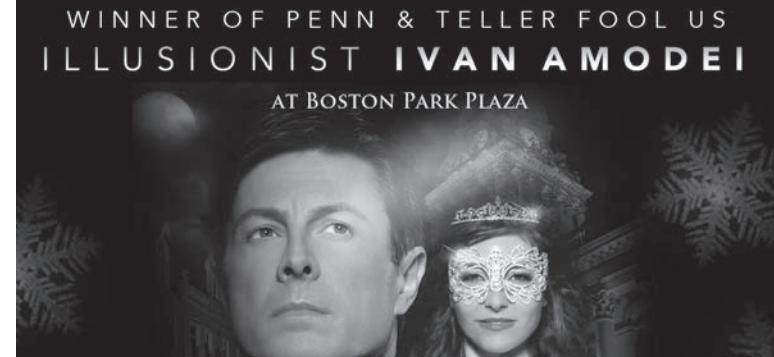


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Wu announces steps to transition to renewable energy

Mayor Michelle Wu announced next steps to purchase renewable energy for municipal properties in Boston in the form of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Through power purchase agreements (PPAs) the City seeks to purchase renewable energy from external suppliers, empowering the market as a guaranteed buyer. This announcement is a step towards achieving Boston's environmental goals that are at the intersection of equity, green jobs, and renewable energy. This procurement is part of a larger initiative to expand additional investments in municipal energy efficiency, accelerate local energy grid transformation while creating new economic opportunities and green jobs. This structure builds off of Renew Boston Trust (RBT), a City of Boston program that finances energy efficiency projects through its projected energy cost savings. The guiding principles of RBT creates green jobs, fosters cost savings, and reduces emissions through energy audits and conservation upgrades for municipal buildings.

"When the City of Boston invests in green, renewable energy, we all benefit," said Mayor

Michelle Wu. "This procurement will help us run our municipal buildings off of clean energy, while also creating green jobs and improving community health for generations to come."

Throughout Boston, buildings account for nearly 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, and City-owned buildings account for nearly three-quarters of emissions from local municipal operations. To transition to a renewable energy supplier, the City of Boston is seeking proposals from qualified applicants to provide approximately 15,000 MWh per year of electricity to the City's energy portfolio, which accounts for about 10 percent of the City's annual energy needs. The City of Boston currently purchases 20 percent renewable energy, which is in alignment with the state's renewable portfolio standard. The City of Boston will work gradually to increase renewable energy sources within the current energy portfolio while helping to invest in local projects that bring co-benefits to the Boston community, with a particular focus on environmental justice neighborhoods. By providing multiple smaller procurement opportunities annually and by setting clear planning

horizons, the City of Boston can reduce barriers and support the creation of a diverse, regional energy market.

"By stepping out as the first purchaser for renewable energy projects, the City of Boston will stimulate the market to meet our energy needs in a way that is resilient and supports the creation of exciting new workforce opportunities," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "This is an investment in our communities and our collective future and I am thrilled to support Boston in this work."

In addition to reducing municipal carbon emissions, the City is encouraging "renewable resource additionality", which is the development of new, local green energy sources to be incorporated into the energy grid. This step can help foster workforce opportunities and a cleaner, more resilient energy supply. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workforce development within the solar and wind energy industries are projected to have the fastest employment growth between 2020 to 2030. Wind turbine service technicians are expected to see a 68 percent increase in work-

force growth and solar photovoltaic installer careers are projected to increase by 52 percent. The data also shows that each of these occupations had a median annual wage that was higher than the \$45,760 median for all workers in 2021.

"As a Green New Deal City, we look for climate investments that provide a return on climate mitigation, economic justice, and quality of life," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Green New Deal Director. "We are harnessing Boston's energy use to push the development of more renewable energy in our region. With an ambitious and step-wise timeline for decarbonization, we hope to draw new businesses into the market with each procurement."

In addition to increasing renewable energy usage within municipal properties, the City of Boston is working across sectors to ensure all of our residents have access to affordable, clean energy. The City is encouraging residents to assess their current energy supplier and enroll in Boston's Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program. Energy prices are expected to increase significantly this winter while BCCE's rates are locked in until December

2023. Currently, all three tiers of BCCE's pricing is lower than Eversource's basic service rates, meaning residents can choose to power their homes and businesses on 100 percent local, renewable energy for less than Eversource's basic service rate. Residents can opt in or out of the program at any time by visiting [boston.gov/bcce](#) or by calling 3-1-1.

In addition to sharing the RFQ, the City will pursue a variety of strategies to achieve its net-zero emissions goal including the implementation of energy conservation measures, the electrification of City operations, and the reduction and eventual elimination of the carbon emissions associated with its annual electricity requirements. This announcement is a key step towards realizing a citywide Green New Deal for Boston while achieving our carbon neutrality goals and working toward creating workforce opportunities in the energy sector. These strategies expand upon Mayor Wu's recent work to audit all public exterior lighting in Boston and the beginning of Renew Boston Trust Phase III.

Local residents hear from new Boston Planning and Development Agency director

By Stephen Quigley

Six months into the top job at the Boston Planning and

Development Agency (BPDA), Arthur Jemison recently accepted an invitation to hear the concerns of residents at a joint meet-

ing of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council and the North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Jemison is no stranger to Boston. He worked at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in the early 1990s and most recently served as deputy assistant secretary at the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jemison pointed out that the original mission of the BRA in the 1950s and 60s was to get rid of blighted, substandard housing -- also known as urban renewal -- but that is not the case today.

He told the audience that the two principal areas that need to be addressed now are increasing the number of affordable housing units and making the city more resilient to global warming, the latter of which is of particular concern to the North End.

With 70 percent of the city's revenues coming from property taxes, Jemison said, "Growth of the tax base needs to happen and development is essential. The city must do planning and development at the same time that are

ahead of the trends that developers are looking at, and shape them into what works for the city."

After making his introductory remarks, Jemison opened up the floor to questions to the more than 50 residents in attendance, telling the audience that he was here to take notes and to hear the concerns of residents.

Many in attendance voiced a similar concern: that the current Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) does not take the time to hear all points-of-view from residents by limiting the number of community speakers at its meetings.

As one resident bluntly put it, "Our input is ignored."

Jemison explained that because of a high threshold for projects pursuant to the city's zoning ordinances, many projects automatically go before the ZBA, which entails a high volume of work for the ZBA.

One resident mentioned that commercial development in the North End seems to be focused on only more restaurants and less on small businesses that provide services, such as a shoe cobbler.

Diane Valle of Charlestown

noted that the master planning process in communities such as Charlestown is not going well, a comment that came as a surprise to Jemison.

During the meeting it was pointed out that Maverick Square in East Boston has more density than the North End, a fact that surprised some in attendance, who suggested that density in the No. End is too high.

One resident noted that developers are trying to get a 700-foot tower built in the Bulfinch Triangle where the zoning only allows for a 100-foot height limit.

This prompted another resident to ask, "Does zoning mean anything?"

"Development is not more important than the citizens of Boston," said Jemison.

Another resident brought up the impact on the neighborhood with the growth of local colleges and the housing of students, which is squeezing out many long-time residents.

The meeting ended with Jemison promising that he would, "love to come back and touch base again with residents."

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Solomon, Joshua D

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Corrigan, Mark H	389 Marlborough St	\$5,500,000

BEACON HILL

HP Properties LLC
Naseem, Fariha
Yang, Lishang C
Zhang, Lingling

Syverson, Kirsten	51 Beacon St #1	\$1,400,000
Chisholm, Kirk	10 Bowdoin St #414	\$535,812
Arapaho Showroom Ltd	32 Hancock St #2B	\$524,571
Levine, Hillel	78 Phillips St #8	\$560,000

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Brannan, Sydney	FPG Lagrange Owner One	47-55 Lagrange St #4L	\$740,000
Gu, Billy	FPG Lagrange Owner One	47-55 Lagrange St #5B	\$825,000
Liu, Xinxin	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #1109	\$920,000
Khan, Rehmiyan Z	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #1409	\$960,000
Nguyen, Ngoc M	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #1609	\$1,030,000
Hatem, Johnny	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #203	\$735,000
Batchu, Jayanth V	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #206	\$575,000
Gupta, Gaurav	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #301	\$690,000
Baker, Mckenzi	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #3H	\$699,000
Habibi, Salam	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #3L	\$720,000
Merhej, Joseph	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #401	\$695,000
Zarrouk, Firas	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #403	\$775,000
Hanlon, Ashley	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #405	\$625,000
Merhej, Joseph	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #4A	\$695,000
Perusse, Kara	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #6C	\$815,000
Steffins, Louis N	FPG Lagrange Owner One	55 Lagrange St #802	\$885,000
Liu, Mingyi	LM Pierce LLC	188 Brookline Ave #PH28B	\$2,825,000
Hall, Ayla R	Tong, David T	125 Park Dr #40	\$430,000
Kaipu Weston LLC	110 Saint Botolph LLC	110 Saint Botolph St	\$3,025,000
Larochelle, Christian J	Wilfong, Chris	663 Tremont St #3	\$2,000,000
Doore, Michael	Speck, J Craig	149 W Canton St	\$3,925,000
Johnson, Elizabeth	Amanda Z Keeler RET	9 Wellington St #2	\$2,450,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Geary, Christopher B	Furman Duffy RT	1 Avery St #31D	\$2,800,000
Huizinga, Mary M	Randle, John C	108 Lincoln St #6B	\$2,209,500

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The paws in the last clue are on a sculpture in front of the Fenway entrance to the Museum of Fine Arts. The MFA describes it as "A Native American man, draped in animal skin, crouches and holds his bow, having just released an arrow." It is a 2001 cast of the 1917 original by Paul Manship.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

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

storage treasures.com on
12/14/2022 at 12:00 PM.
Unless stated otherwise the
description of the contents
are household goods and
furnishings. Katazza Kiguli
unit #1069; Iris Castro unit
#1074; Maryann Donahue
unit #3074; Diane Barrera
unit #4080; El Mays unit
#4153; Josefa Velez unit
#4214; Phyllis Ann Knox
unit #4244; Berry Adams
unit #5024; Saidy L Cruz

unit #6002. All property is
being stored at the above
self-storage facility. This
sale may be withdrawn at
any time without notice.
Certain terms and conditions
apply. See manager for details.
12/01/22, 12/8/22
BS

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime
Storage - Boston Traveler
St. located at 33 Traveler
St., Boston, MA 02118
intends to hold an auction
to sell the goods stored
by the following tenants
at the storage facility.
The sale will occur as an
online auction via www.
storage treasures.com on
12/14/2022 at 12:00 PM.
Unless stated otherwise the
description of the contents

are household goods and
furnishings. Juan J Mejia
unit #352; Sophia Girault
unit #828. All property is
being stored at the above
self-storage facility. This
sale may be withdrawn at
any time without notice.
Certain terms and conditions
apply. See manager for details.
12/01/22, 12/8/22
BS

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Self Storage Sale

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
12PM-1PM

New Listings!

433 MARLBOROUGH STREET, PENTHOUSE

4 BEDROOMS | 3 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 3,674 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$6,990,000



433 MARLBOROUGH STREET, UNIT ONE

3 BEDROOMS | 3 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 2,311 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$3,599,000



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