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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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Project team unveils latest plans for St. Mary's Street

By Dan Murphy

The latest, revised plans for razing an existing parking garage and building a residential development in its place at 142-146 St. Mary's St. in the Audubon Circle neighborhood were unveiled during a city-sponsored meeting of the project's Impact Advisory Group (IAG) held virtually on Nov. 12.

Newton developer and long-time owner of the property, Allen Associates Properties, now intends to transform a two-story, non-conforming garage located along the tracks for the MBTA's D train on the Green line at the intersection of Boston and

Brookline into an 84,520 GFA (gross floor area) development – a reduction from the previously proposed 91,000 GFA development. As a result of the reduction in GFA, the proposed project's FAR (floor area ratio) has been reduced to 2.85 from the previous 3.07, said Ben Wan, a principal at Boston-based RODE Architects.

Spanning five stories above a two-story garage, the proposed development would now contain 85 units (down from the previously proposed 90 units), including a mix of market-rate studios, one-bedrooms, and two-bedrooms. Thirteen units have been

(142-146 ST. MARY'S ST., Pg. 4)

Wu signs order to adjust property tax exemption for veterans

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Veterans' Services Commissioner Rob Santiago, City Councilors, and veterans to sign an order that adjusts the property tax exemption for Boston veterans to better match the increased cost of living. This exemption increase, originally filed in the City Council by Councilor Brian Worrell, aims to increase affordability and housing ownership opportunities for eligible veterans. The order signed yesterday increases the base exemption annually by an amount equal to the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index. Mayor Wu also announced a

second round of Veterans Services' Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program, with grants totaling \$200,000 to support local organizations that work with veterans and their families.

"Our veterans and their families risk everything and sacrifice to ensure Boston and our country is free and safe. As the cost of living increases, we're proud to stand with our colleagues on the City Council and at the State House to help our veterans make a home here in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This Veterans Day, we're also proud to launch another round of grant funding for organizations with

(VETERANS, Pg. 4)



The city's annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 9, made its way through Copley Square. Shown above, the Boston Fire Department Honor Guard.

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON



Many organizations contributed to the Veterans Day Parade in Boston. See more photos on Pages 5-7.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Sailors from the USS Constitution march towards Government Center.

Council approves amendment to exempt 2 Charlesgate West from Parks Ordinance

By Dan Murphy

The City Council voted by a majority during its Nov. 6 meeting at City Hall to approve an amendment filed by Councilor Sharon Durkan, which would exempt a development proposed for 2 Charlesgate West in the

Fenway from the Boston Parks Commission's Parks and Parkways Ordinance.

Morro, a developer of multi-family housing, has proposed a 276,000 square-foot project comprising 400 fully furnished, smaller dwelling units; 2,900 Square feet of retail at the

Ipswich Street level; and indoor bike parking for 408 bikes. No onsite parking is proposed for the project, although it would create an off-street loading area.

The developer had intended to subdivide the project site, appar-

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EDITORIAL

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON HERE, REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE

*“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” —
Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities*

With the holiday season now upon us, 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 the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historic record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the vast 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 recent history. It is estimated that 13.5 percent (18 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2023, exceeding the 12.8 percent number in 2022. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in food-insecure households, of whom 20 percent are children.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold.

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. The problem has been most acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and the Boston Metro area, for many years, but now has spread to almost every part of the country. Thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in their cars or on the streets.

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 is seen in the 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 opportunities 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 just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

GUEST OP-ED

Why 2 Charlesgate West project should be exempted from city’s Parks Ordinance

By City Councilor Sharon Durkan

When I ran for office, I featured the iconic footbridge of the Public Garden behind my name on my campaign logo, because Boston’s parks were integral to my sense of belonging here.

As a young professional just out of college, finding housing in Boston was a huge challenge. The costs were often steep, and the sacrifices I had to make were unsustainable. Many of the students and recent graduates I hear from as District 8’s City Councilor face the same issue. They love this city, want to contribute their talents, but can’t find a place to call home.

A year into my tenure, two core priorities I hold close—protecting our parkland and increasing housing opportunities—came into direct conflict. The proposal for 2 Charlesgate West in the Fenway, proposed by Morro sought to work around City of Boston Ordinances, 7-4.10,

“Restrictions on Park Frontages,” colloquially known as the ‘Parks and Parkways Ordinance,’ which provides important protections for our City’s green spaces by requiring necessary setbacks and height restrictions for parcels of land abutting the parks, by seeking a subdivision of the parcel.

The plan to allow for a subdivision of the parcel would have created a harmful precedent. This precedent-setting regulatory path didn’t sit right with me, Parks advocates or most importantly the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD). We know that the ordinance is a crucial safeguard that protects our open spaces, including the historic Emerald Necklace. The original strategy would have set a dangerous precedent, opening the door for future development projects to bypass this vital protection.

In response to this dilemma and community concerns, I authored an amendment that

creates a one-time, site-specific exemption for 2 Charlesgate West. This amendment passed last week with strong support from my colleagues on the Boston City Council. Importantly, this is not a blanket change to the Parks and Parkways Ordinance, but a carefully crafted site-specific solution that preserves the integrity of the ordinance, while allowing for the development of 400 units of housing (17 percent IDP, including 68 units of affordable housing) on this particular site.

Here’s why this amendment strikes a necessary balance:

1. No Precedent for Future Circumvention: The amendment doesn’t set a new precedent; the ordinance has been amended before for specific addresses, yet this amendment only allows for the confines of the BPDA board approved project, including the nuances of specific height and setbacks.

2. Affirming the City’s Commitment: The site-specific amendment upholds the position of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) that the “proponent seek an amendment to the Municipal Code from the City Council so that its effort to exempt the project from the height restriction does not set a precedent that would have significant negative impact on the iconic design; historic landscape materials; and user experience of the parks and parkways of the Emerald Necklace.”

3. Limited Use of Site-Specific Amendments: Since 1985, no other site-specific amendments have been sought, making it clear this will not become a frequent tool to alter parkland protections.

By ensuring that this amendment is carefully tailored, we maintain the strength of the Parks and Parkways Ordinance while addressing the pressing need for housing. The 2002 Fenway neighborhood zoning plan identified the parcel in question as a gateway parcel, allowing for additional height at this specific site, but this amendment provides a path forward for this specific site that doesn’t undermine the ordinance.

The amendment that passed the City Council reflects a critical balance: protecting our cherished parks, while allowing for responsible development that meets the housing needs of a growing city. This careful, site-specific amendment allows for this important project that meets our City’s housing needs, but not in a way that pits our priorities against each other.

Our amendment threads a needle that few have been able to thread, one that prioritizes a city that grows responsibly, stays true to its historic values, and provides opportunities for everyone to call Boston home.

Sharon Durkan is a Boston City Councilor representing District 8.

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GUEST OP-ED

Logan Airport and Hanscom Field: A Tale of Two Environmental Reports

By Corinne Doud & Valinda Chan

During October, the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the state of Massachusetts, Rebecca Tepper, approved two very important Massport assessment reports for New England's top two busiest airports: Boston Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field general aviation airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Environmental Status and Planning Reports (ESPRs) are prepared by Massport every five years and provide annual updates and long-range analysis of projected operations, passengers, and cumulative impacts of overall airport activity. Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field were both due for ESPR reports in 2022, but the multi-year process means that reports don't receive approval or denial until years after their submission, rendering them more retroactive than planning reports. Both Logan and Hanscom are currently facing community pushback for expansion efforts.

In autumn of 2023, Logan Airport quietly opened the expansion of its international terminal, a move criticized by Logan-Area residents as a misuse of resources during a major air pollution crisis in the area. At a rally on the airport's 100th anniversary, Chris Marchi, the long-time Vice President of the nonprofit Airport Impact Relief, Inc (AIR Inc) addressed the crowd saying, "We should not congratulate this airport while it poisons environmental justice communities. We should be avowing to change. Massachusetts needs to stop excusing environmental destruction for pet projects. When will this state's leaders finally disown claims that we need to accept environmental sacrifices for the

survival of our economy?"

Air pollution, including pollution caused by aircraft emissions, is scientifically linked to major health problems in communities where exposure is high. A Logan Airport Health study found that children in East Boston are four times more likely to exhibit signs of asthma compared with children in other areas. In addition, the study found that adults who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are more likely to have lived in areas of high exposure to pollutants for long periods of time, such as near Logan Airport. The East Boston neighborhood next to Logan is a "hotspot" for many different types of cancer, suggesting environmental causes for these illnesses.

On top of exposure to harmful pollutants, East Boston has the lowest tree canopy coverage in the city, largely because of the infrastructure built for Logan Airport. This contributes to the urban heat island effect, or hotter temperatures. East Boston near Logan experiences the urban heat island effect worse than most other neighborhoods in the region on average. Because of the increase in temperature and worsening of heatwaves caused by urban heat islands, they often lead to an increase in heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and even heart attacks in affected communities according to MIT. As a result of all of this, community members in East Boston are far more likely to fall ill as a result of living near Logan Airport.

Meanwhile, Hanscom Field is facing a proposed expansion of private jet infrastructure to benefit the ultra-wealthy. The proposed Hanscom Field expansion would allegedly clear-cut about 20 acres of mature woods. According to an independent

analysis by Industrial Economics Inc, it would add approximately 6,000 additional private jet flights annually, and about 150,000 tons of carbon emissions each year – essentially to benefit a privileged few. If the expansion proceeds, private jet emissions from Hanscom alone would cancel nearly 70% of all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts. Advocates from Boston to the Berkshires and beyond decry this expansion for fueling the climate crisis.

Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere, a coalition of over 95 organizations, is widely known for their work to halt the proposed expansion of Hanscom Field. Last fall they submitted a petition to Governor Healey urging her to halt the massive fossil fuel development, delivering over 10,000 signatures (now 14,000).

Recently, the coalition helped generate over 1,500 public comments to MEPA (Office of MA Environmental Policy Act) on the Hanscom developers' Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from individuals and organizations, as well as government officials. These comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to the proposed expansion,

many of them arguing that the proposed development was antithetical to state and federal climate goals for 2050. In June, EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper rejected the Hanscom developers' DEIR and instructed them to file a supplementary report that more fully and accurately reported the expected environmental and climate costs of their project.

Secretary Tepper approved the Hanscom and Logan ESPRs, respectively on October 11 and October 18, stating that each report adequately complied with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. However, she included strong caveats with each approval.

Pointing to rising passenger levels and pollution at Logan Airport, the Secretary issued a strong directive to Massport to improve its environmental performance there. The Secretary also ordered Massport to plan additional pollution reduction strategies to address the growth of environmental impacts if passenger or flights outpace forecasts. This idea answers community requests for Massport to stop using inaccurate planning forecasts. She also asked Massport to address the health, air quality, and community impacts of

Logan's operations, and required that the Port Authority create a working group with the community to identify ways to reduce Logan's public health impacts develop air quality monitoring and pollution reduction programs, form partnerships to distribute air filters, create an idling reduction plan, and simplify and improve the pollution reporting process.

Logan Community Clean Air Coalition members are cautiously optimistic about this certificate. Chris Marchi said, "We are eager to work with the Secretary's staff to help Massport implement the full slate of the Secretary's requirements."

Approved just a week before the Logan report, the Hanscom Field report came with a requirement: a supplemental ESPR, to be filed before the 2027 ESPR report is due. According to the Secretary's certificate, this supplemental ESPR must include, "updated forecasts of aviation activity and associated air quality and noise impacts which take into account the proposed design of North Airfield Development project (EEA# 16654), which is currently under MEPA review. The Supplemental ESPR

(OP-ED, Pg. 4)



City of Boston
Planning
Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

NOV
20

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

1 JOSLIN PL

Register: bit.ly/1JoslinPUB

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 029 8799



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a Task Force Meeting for the proposed 1 Joslin PL Institutional project located in the Longwood medical area neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the overall project and the potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the Task Force and the public.

PROJECT PROPONENT:

1 Joslin PL

Website:

bit.ly/1JoslinPUB

Mail to: **Tyler Ross**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4214
Email: Tyler.c.ross@boston.gov

2 CHARLESGATE WEST (from pg. 1)

ently as a way to circumvent the Parks and Parkways Ordinance. As proposed, the site would have been divided into Lot A, fronting the Back Bay Fens, with a maximum height of 70 feet; and Lot B, fronting Ipswich Street, with maximum allowable building heights in the range of 295 feet.

The ordinance amendment, which now goes to Mayor

Michelle Wu for her consideration, would only apply to the 2 Charlesgate West project.

The council voted 10-1-2 in favor of approving the amendment, with Councilor Ed Flynn casting the sole dissenting vote against it. Councilors Tania Fernandes Anderson and Julia Mejia both voted 'present.'

VETERANS (from pg. 1)

existing connections to our veterans that help them access the services they've earned."

"The Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services is dedicated to supporting the well-being of veterans, service members, and their families, and ensuring that Boston remains a welcoming and affordable home for them," said Veterans' Services Commissioner Robert Santiago. "The Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program will offer crucial support to local organizations committed to serving our veteran and military communities. This initiative will help address unmet needs and fill any gaps that may remain even after other benefits are accessed."

"I was proud to introduce this tax order to ensure our veterans see an increase in their property tax exemption and that they can see this exemption tied to cost-of-living increases in future years," said City Councilor Brian Worrell. "I'm thrilled that Boston will continue to maintain its reputation for supporting its veterans by being one of the first cities in this state to opt into this program."

Boston opted in to adjust the property tax exemption following the Legislature's passing of the HERO Act signed by Governor Maura Healey in August, which allows for individual municipalities to increase their exemption for eligible veterans. The property tax exemption is granted to Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star parents, veterans with a service-related disability, and surviving spouses. The cost of living adjustment will happen annually beginning in FY26.

"We're grateful to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for supporting the HERO Act's expanded property tax exemptions for our veterans," said Secretary Jon Santiago of the State's Executive Office of Veterans Services. "Through efforts like this, Boston is setting an example in honoring the service of our veterans with real, impactful support."

Before today's signing by the Mayor, the property tax exemption adjustment was introduced by Councilor Worrell and passed unanimously by the City Council on October 23. Residents can learn more about the exemption and how to apply here.

Mayor Wu also announced the city will soon open applications for a second round of Bridge the Gap Mini-Grants,

designed to support veterans, service members, and their families. The mini-grants will be awarded to organizations that support the veteran community of Boston and "bridge the gap" that may exist for veterans after accessing other benefits. The grant program, the first of its kind for the City, initially launched in May, with 12 local veterans groups benefiting from the first round of funding. Due to demand for the financial support, the City is launching a second round of applications for the mini-grants.

Funds for this round will be used to support Boston nonprofits that help veterans with key issue areas, including: housing, transportation, health and wellness, upward economic mobility, legal services, and educational programming. A total of \$200,000 is available across the second round, with individual applicants able to apply for up to \$9,999 in funding. Applicants can apply here starting Tuesday, November 12 through March 6, 2025.

"Thanks to the generous grant from the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services, we've been able to make an immediate difference for our veterans," said Christine Kelly, Residential Coordinator of Patriot Homes, South Boston NDC's affordable housing development for veterans. "With this funding, we've provided essential furniture for two tenants, distributed items from local food stores and pharmacies, and even arranged for a private van service to take residents shopping each week. This grant has truly enhanced their quality of life, supporting comfort, access, and independence."

"We are deeply grateful for the grant from the City of Boston's Office of Veterans' Services, which aids our programs at Brighton Marine. The veterans who come to us for services attend our coffee hour, group and individual therapy, and more. Vitality, they find a community space that is safe, structured, and affirming where they can share their unique stories as they relate to the trauma of war, the challenges of adjusting to subsequent civilian life, and the stressors they encounter every day. They find camaraderie, meaning, and validation, which is enormously helpful," said Italian Home for Children CEO Susan Keays.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu signs legislation passed by the City Council to adjust the property tax exemption for veteran homeowners in the city.

142-146 ST. MARY'S STREET (from pg. 1)

designated as IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy Units), including a two-bedroom accessible unit, said Wan.

The latest project plans also include a significant reduction in parking, with 82 garage spaces and 18 exterior spaces now proposed, as opposed to the previously proposed 105 garage spaces and 23 exterior spaces.

Other changes to the proposed project outlined in the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR), which came in response to feedback from both the city's Planning Department and the MBTA, include moving access

to the garage from St. Mary Street to a shared alley, as well as a reduction in the size of the second-level amenity lounge to 2,100 square feet from the previously proposed 2,700 square feet.

The revised project plans also include a 25-percent increase in open space, bringing that number to 8,370 square feet – up from the previously proposed 6,674 square feet, said Wan.

Commitment from the developer now include a \$150,000 grant to the Town of Brookline Parks and Open Space Division for the enhancement and mainte-

nance of Monmouth Street Park in Brookline.

Moreover, the developer has also committed to a proposed pedestrian connection to the MBTA's Fenway station on the Green's D line.

The city's public-comment period for this project runs through Nov. 22; comments can be submitted via the project page at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/142-146-st-marys-street>, or emailed directly to Ebony DaRosa, the Planning Department's project manager, at ebony.darosa@boston.gov.

OP-ED (from pg. 3)

should also provide additional data on the energy use of terminals, hangars, and other buildings at Hanscom Field. As noted below, future ESPRs should also expand on environmental justice and public health outreach and analysis, and consider Massport's obligation under MEPA to avoid or minimize, and, where appropriate, to mitigate, environmental impacts, and, under recently promulgated rules and regulations, to consider environmental justice principles through MEPA reviews."

What does this mean? It means that both the prospective Hanscom developers and Massport itself are now required by the EEA Secretary to provide substantial additional infor-

mation, in the instance of the Hanscom developers, they will need to produce a Supplemental DEIR report for their proposed expansion. Separately Massport must submit both a Supplemental ESPR report for Hanscom and do extensive supplemental work for the Logan ESPR. These directives are considered interim wins by climate and public health activists who are working to rein in and mitigate the harms of Massport's Logan and Hanscom expansions.

Public efforts to hold Massport accountable to the myriad environmental and health costs, and climate impacts, of its operations is a classic David and Goliath tale, where the public stands against forces that threaten their future. As climate and clean-air

activists across the state await the passage of a comprehensive Climate Bill at the State House, MEPA's response to Massport's ESPR reports provides another slingshot to carry into the ring.

Valinda Chan is Team Co-Coordinator and Corinne Doud is Leader of the Bedford Chapter Campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere.

Corinne Doud of Mothers Out Front Bedford and Valinda Chan of Mothers Out Front East Boston. Mothers Out Front is a national organization of mothers and others working toward a livable climate and an equitable future for all children.

2024 VETERANS DAY PARADE THROUGHOUT CITY OF BOSTON



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



Grand Marshall of the Veterans Day Parade this year was Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards (2nd from right) who also serves as a JAG First Lt in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The City Of Boston held its 2024 Veterans Day Parade the Saturday before the 11th. Orga-

nizations from across the country came to contribute their efforts in honoring those who serve and have serve in the US Military.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu presents Past National Commander of the American Legion Jake Comier with a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the Veterans community with American Legion adjutant Lisa McPhee and District 7 Executive Committeeman Carla Nelson.



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn marches with the American Legion Post 16 Mattapan.



Co|So

Copley Society of Art

HOLIDAY SMALL WORKS

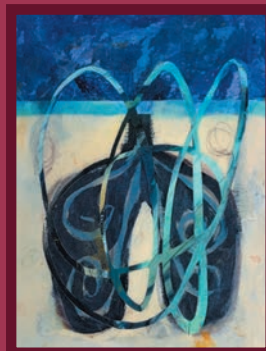
November 9th - December 23rd
Opening Reception: November 13th, 5-7 PM



Meghan Weeks, *October Brownstones*



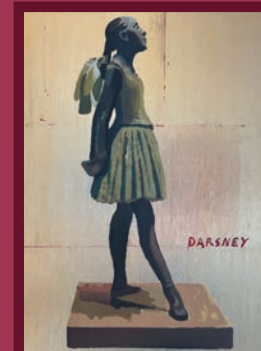
Marieluise Hutchinson (CM), *A Wondrous Day*



Caroline Rufo (CA), *Irihale*



Kathy Edmonston, *Tulips in Blue Vase II*



Thomas Darsney (CA), *Little Dancer X*

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11-5



2024 VETERANS DAY PARADE THROUGHOUT CITY OF BOSTON



English High School JROTC.



Members of the Christian Brothers Academy Regimental Marching Band approach Government Center.



Members of the Christian Brothers Academy Regimental Marching Band head up Boylston Street.



English High School JROTC cadets march up Tremont Street.



The Grand Marshall of the Veterans Day Parade this year was Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards (2nd from right) who also serves as a JAG First Lt in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. She is joined by City Of Boston Chief of Human Services Jose F Massó, EMS Chief James Hooley, Veterans Services Commissioner Robert Santiago, and COL John Wildermann.

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Past National Commander of the American Legion Jake Comier helps hoist up the Veterans Flag which will fly in place at City Hall Plaza.

2024 VETERANS DAY PARADE THROUGHOUT CITY OF BOSTON



National Guard Department Commander Nelson Izaak Blake and Post 16 Commander Mary-Dith Tuitt.



Past National Commander of the American Legion Jake Comier.



Members of the West Point Band head up Boylston Street.



Spectators watch the parade from Park Street Church.



Sailors of the USS Constitution march in the parade.



The 54th Massachusetts Regiment Vol Company A fires a salute in front of Boston City Hall.



The Honor Guard for American Legion Post 76 in Jamaica Plain.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HOLIDAY SMALL WORKS 2024 AT Co|So NOW THROUGH DEC. 22

Running through Dec. 22, the Copley Society of Art, located at 158 Newbury St., will offer ColSo Artists' Holiday Small Works 2024, appearing in both the Upper and Lower Galleries.

Featuring work from hundreds of artists, Holiday Small Works is one of ColSo's most eagerly anticipated exhibitions each year. In their Best of Boston 2018 feature for Best Art Gallery, Boston Magazine spotlighted this traditional holiday show, which offers hundreds of affordable small artworks in a

variety of media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, and photography.

Several newly admitted artists will contribute their small works for the first time as well.

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) is America's oldest non-profit arts organization, which is committed to the advancement, enjoyment, and promotion of its member artists and the visual arts. The organization, founded in 1879, comprises juried artists who are selected by a credentialed art committee. ColSo provides artists with a gallery for exhibiting and selling their work and a platform for engaging and educating the community.

Visit copleysociety.org for more on ColSo.

WLP AND NABB PARTNER FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL AND AUCTION ON NOV. 14

Women's Lunch Place (WLP) and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) will host the Harvest Festival and Auction on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 67 Newbury St.

Attendees will mingle with their neighbors during this fun event while supporting two worthwhile causes—WLP and NABB—and enjoying a delicious harvest of culinary selections, wine, and craft beers.

An art gallery of creations from WLP guests will also be available for purchase.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at womenslunchplace.org/nabb.

Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 1 and SoWa Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 17, and 24, along with SoWa Black Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Nov. 30. All SoWa Artists Guild events are held at 450 Harrison Ave.; they are free and open to the public.

Visit <http://sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>, or <https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/> for more information.

CITY TO SPONSOR VIRTUAL MEETING ON PLANS FOR SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY

The city will sponsor its fourth community meeting virtually to discuss plans for the South End Branch Library on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Register for the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3NN64u8>.

OPEN NEWBURY: HOLIDAY STROLL COMING DEC. 1 AND 8

Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll is coming Sunday, Dec. 1, and Sunday, Dec. 8.

For these events, Newbury Street will be car-free from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 8. The route will be the same as the summer Open Newbury series, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. The City encourages Newbury Street businesses to activate their outdoor spaces with programming with family-friendly activities, pop-up parklets, brand activations, and much more. In case of inclement weather, a makeup date will be

held on Dec. 15.

EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY'S WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE CONTINUES

Since 2021, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has collected over 2,000 items of cold-weather gear for Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) – a nonprofit human services organization that each year provides more than 100,000 low-income residents in the Greater Boston region with the tools and resources needed to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success.

Please donate a new or lightly used winter clothing to help keep the community warm in this season of giving. Items to donate include coats and jackets, sweaters, boots, hats, mittens and gloves, scarves, blankets snow-pants and snow bibs, and warm socks.

Donations are accepted until Dec. 2 at the following locations: Shattuck Visitor Center, 125 The Fenway, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; James Michael Curley House - 350 Jamaica Way, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; REI, 401 Park Drive, Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; City Feed & Supply, 66 Boylston St., Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and City Feed & Supply - 672 Centre St., Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SOWA WINTER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO SOWA POWER STATION

New England's largest indoor holiday marketplace, the ninth annual SoWa Winter Festival, will be open seven days a week between Nov. 29 and Dec. 22 at the SoWa Power Station.

The festival features more than 100 of the region's best makers, artists, designers, specialty food-and-beverage vendors, craft workshops, holiday lounge, photo opportunities, and the SoWa Winter Food Truck Village, along with on-site parking. Shoppers will find a wide array of unique items including art, crafts, apparel and accessories, jewelry, home decor, gourmet foods, and holiday gifts from small businesses.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD NOVEMBER EVENTS

November brings SoWa First



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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Sen. Collins announces Massachusetts' Disabled Veterans Benefitting from HERO Act

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor vehicle now offers veterans that are eligible to receive fee waivers for various transactions at the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) due to the most comprehensive piece of veterans' legislation in Massachusetts history.

The HERO Act, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in August, An Act Honoring, Empowering, and Recognizing our Servicemembers and Veterans, includes over 30 provisions positively impacting veterans, including specific transactions veterans may conduct at the RMV.

"I am proud to announce the expansion of the HERO Act. This comes at a significant time, as we just celebrated Veterans Day, a day in which we dedicate to honoring the services and sacrifices our Veterans made for this country. It is important that they know we are always fighting for their quality of life in the legislature. This expansion allows us to show additional gratitude to

qualifying veterans that will benefit from this this year-round," said Senator Nick Collins "The fees that are waived will lessen some of the burdens many of our veterans face daily and show that the Commonwealth is committed to them."

Every motor vehicle registered in Massachusetts is subject to the annual excise tax, unless exempted. Under the HERO Act expansion, all Massachusetts residents who qualify as a disabled veteran are now eligible to receive the excise tax exemption. To qualify, they must present a letter from the U.S. Veterans Affairs Office to the city or town where their vehicle is garaged.

In addition, disabled veterans are no longer required to pay a vehicle registration fee for any vehicle registered in their name. Previously, this benefit could only be applied to one vehicle registered in their name. Also, all these veterans are no longer required to pay a transaction fee for a passenger driver's license or for a passenger driver's license

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

"The term 'sick as a dog' originates from the 1700s, when dogs typically lived outside in poor conditions, causing them to be far mangier, dirtier, and sicker than today's well-groomed show-pieces," according to www.grammar-monster.com.

When your dog is sick, you must determine just how ill they are and whether a trip to the vet is needed. Gastrointestinal (GI) upsets are common in dogs and

can be stressful for guardians. We recently faced this issue with our Westie Poppy. Fortunately, she is trained to use puppy pads, which makes handling the situation more manageable.

Puppy Pads Are Useful

We recommend that every family with dogs keep a supply of puppy pads on hand. While your dog may never use them regularly, they are perfect for caring for sick or injured animals. Both human and animal hospitals use



We lined Poppy's favorite window seat with puppy pads while she was sick.

BACK BAY FENS FENCES REMOVED FOR FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS



COURTESY OF EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

For the first time since 2020, the Back Bay Fens are fully reopened with the removal of chain-link fences that were placed during the Muddy River Restoration Project. The crews recently took down fences throughout the Fens that have blocked off large swaths of parkland for the last four years. Though the dredging project concluded in 2023, the fences stayed in place to protect new plantings as they acclimated to their new environment. And parkland around the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's Shattuck Visitor Center is open once more.

renewal.

A disabled veteran is determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to either have a combined service-connected disability rating of 100 percent or be individually unemployable due to their ser-

vice-connected disability.

The legislation signed into law by Governor Healey in August 2024 increases benefits, modernizes services and promotes inclusivity for veterans in Massachusetts. In addition to provisions impacting veterans who drive,

the legislation expands access to behavioral health treatment, supports businesses that hire veterans, updates the definition of a veteran, expands the Veterans Equality Review Board's scope, and codifies medical and dental benefits.

FRESH & LOCAL

Sick as a Dog

these for surgical procedures, to catch blood, and to protect surfaces. We once shared a few pads with a neighbor who had severe nosebleeds.

In the case of vomiting or motion sickness, the pads can catch what the animal is releasing. Most of our dogs have alerted us to possible vomit with a session of gagging. We usually have time to slip a pad under their mouth if we're keeping watch. We also use washable pads in her crate and on our bed whenever Poppy has an upset tummy.

Our recent episode involved diarrhea. We discovered that Poppy would run to her pads when she felt the urge to go, even at night. We added extra pads to our floors and didn't have the stress of constant clean-up duties.

Causes of GI Illnesses

Vomiting and diarrhea are common in companion animals; many of us have experience treating them at home. We all know that some dogs will root out and gobble down anything inter-

esting they find along the way. Some of their choices can cause a GI upset.

You might identify stress, anxiety, medications, antibiotics, or a new food as a possible cause. Grazing on grass is a common dog habit that can result in vomiting.

Off to the Vet?

Pads also help you spot warning signs requiring a veterinarian trip. If you see blood in vomit, stools, or urine, blackish stools or vomit, or the symptoms last more than a couple of days or are reoccurring, consult your veterinarian. You are off to the vet if there are multiple symptoms like fever, unusual drooling, signs of dehydration, lack of appetite, or weakness.

Fortunately, Poppy ate, drank, played, and acted normally except for the diarrhea. Her puppy pads also clearly showed us the state of her stools, so we could see quickly that she was recovering.

Stop the Spread

Evidence on sidewalks showed that loose stools were going around our neighborhood. If you have a dog who will only poop outside, you can bring along a puppy pad and slip it in place under the dog for easy cleanup and to keep from spreading anything contagious.

We didn't add to the neighborhood's problem by keeping Poppy inside while she was sick and keeping her away from other dogs for a few days, even after her system was back to normal.

Don't forget that you can call your veterinarian and ask for guidance in your decision-making. They can suggest what, how, and when to feed an animal with a problem. You could make a cancellable appointment a few days out in case the illness continues. That could save an emergency room visit.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

Lt. Governor Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Civic Leaders spotlight food insecurity at GBFB's 19th Annual Chain of Giving

Special to the Sun

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, held its 19th annual Chain of Giving event last week, an annual tradition uniting elected officials, local advocates, business leaders and community members to raise awareness and mitigate holiday food insecurity. The event, sponsored by Biogen and National Grid, draws attention to the persistence of food insecurity in the state and GBFB's Hunger Free Holidays campaign.

As GBFB strives to offer nutritious and culturally sensitive food to families in need this holiday season, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and GBFB President and CEO Catherine D'Amato shared remarks highlighting the critical need to address food insecurity in the Bay State. Over 150 participants then formed a human chain to pass nearly 1,200 turkeys from a delivery truck through GBFB's warehouse that would later be donated to families in need. This represents

only a portion of the 46,000 turkeys and other holiday and daily food items the nonprofit expects to distribute to pantries across Eastern Massachusetts throughout the holidays.

"The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends, but many families in Massachusetts are struggling to provide for their basic needs. Our neighbors in financial distress are often having to make tough decisions between buying food or paying for housing, healthcare, or transportation," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "That's why our administration takes a community-wide approach to hunger and we work hand in hand with community partners like GBFB every day. In Massachusetts, we work hard, we work smart, and we work together to be there for our neighbors in need. And we will double down our work on the root causes of food insecurity, to end hunger once and for all."

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Commissioner Jeffrey McCue of MA Department of Transitional



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, GBFB President & CEO Catherine D'Amato, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg.

Assistance, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, as well as several other state and local officials joined the tradition, alongside the beloved mascots for the Red Sox and Patriots.

"The Greater Boston Food Bank provides vital support for our residents who are facing food insecurity, and I am so grateful for their continued dedication to creating a healthy and nourished community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Chain of Giving is a wonderful and inspiring tradition that provides essential relief to our residents who lack resources during the holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in order to end food scarcity in the city."

Following the Chain of Giving, GBFB celebrated the opening of its new refrigeration unit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of the organization's efforts to rightsize its warehouse to support the state's historic need for food assistance. The new unit stores 400 pallets of perishable food; including highly sought-after and nutritious items such as produce, eggs, and dairy, allowing GBFB to distribute up to an estimated eight million additional meals each year.

Food insecurity has solidified as a post-pandemic, everyday

lived experience for 1 in 3 Massachusetts residents – nearly 2 million individuals – according to GBFB's annual study on food access and equity. The event and accompanying fundraiser come at a time of sustained hunger brought on by an unsustainable cost of living and intersecting affordability crises in housing, groceries, healthcare and childcare. The study also revealed disparities in food access among households of color, LGBTQ+ households, and those with children.

"With soaring costs of housing, food, and daycare, these financial burdens often force families to make tough choices, like sacrificing meals to meet other essential needs," said Catherine D'Amato, GBFB President and CEO. "While these stresses may peak during the holidays, families need food year-round, not just at Thanksgiving. Massachusetts can achieve hunger-free status, but it requires collective action. Let's work together to advocate for policies that ensure food security for all."

Wellesley Girl Scout Troop Wins Nally Award

Each year, GBFB honors outstanding young people who have championed hunger-relief in their communities with the Nally

Award. Established in 2006, the award is named after Danny and Betsy Nally, who at ages 8 and 6, started their very first turkey drive for GBFB. This year's Nally Award was presented to Wellesley's Girl Scout Troop 64049 who graciously donated their cookie sales profits to GBFB after learning about the impact of childhood hunger.

The troop of 15 fifth graders, who have typically donated cookie sale funds toward wild-life-related causes, was shocked to learn that other children in their community – their age and younger – face hunger. After doing their own research, they agreed to donate to GBFB to help end hunger here.

To learn more about The Greater Boston Food Bank or to join its annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign, visit GBFB.org/holidays,

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and one of the largest food banks in the country. For nearly half a century, GBFB has fueled Eastern Massachusetts' hunger-relief system, putting nearly 90 million healthy meals on tables across the region each year. Over 600 community-based pantries and other local partners in 190 cities and towns depend on GBFB to provide access to healthy food for 600,000 people every month. GBFB is committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. Together, we have the power to end hunger here. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

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Lazaris, Barbara P	Abissi, Lyn C	425 Newbury St #C115	\$150,000
Ferris, Timothy	15 Symphony Rd	15 Symphony Rd	\$591,172
Le, Jianling	Wong, Lok S	50 Symphony Rd #403	\$1,379,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Gupta, Vineet K	Lutynski, Adam M	1 Avery St #30C	\$1,650,000

Historic classics highlight opening concert of NSPO this Sunday, Nov. 17

Special to the Sun

Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts music of Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and

Hindemith when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra begins its 76th season on Sunday, November 17 at Swampscott High School Auditorium.

Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance at www.nspo.org at \$30, \$25 for seniors and students. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Lehmann is looking forward to conducting the program

that features Felix Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony, Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme with Boston Symphony Orchestra cellist Mickey Katz, and the powerful Mathis der Maler Symphony of German/American composer Paul Hindemith.

"Significant moments in Protestant history appear rendered though music on our fall concert," Lehmann remarked. "Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony, his Fifth, quotes the famous Dresden Amen as it commemorates the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, the basic statement of the tenets of the Protestant faith put forth

in the Lutheran Reformation."

Lehmann added that Hindemith composed Mathis der Maler inspired by the work of artist Matthias Grünewald's Isenheim altarpiece that illustrated the Catholic and Protestant forces that rent Germany apart in the 1500's, as well as to call attention to the unfolding parallels with the rise of National Socialism in Hindemith's own time, 1930's Germany.

Soloist Mickey Katz will highlight Tchaikovsky's exciting "Variations on a Rococo Theme." Katz is currently in his 20th year as a cellist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. A native of Israel, he has distinguished himself as a solo performer, chamber musician, and contemporary music specialist. He received the Presser Music Award in Boston, the Karl Zeise Prize as a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow, and won first prizes at the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Competition and the Rubin Academy Competition in Tel Aviv. He has been a recipient of the America Israel Cultural foundation scholarships since 1988. As soloist, he has performed with several Israeli orchestras and locally with the Boston Civic Symphony, Symphony Pro Musica, and Hudson Valley Philharmonic.



Boston Symphony Orchestra cellist Mickey Katz will be the featured soloist in Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme in the North Shore Philharmonic's Nov. 17 concert.



Music Director Robert Lehmann will conduct the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in its November 17 concert at Swampscott High School Auditorium.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The words in the last clue are on a musically engraved wall in the Symphony Community Park on Edgely Road near Symphony Hall. The "BVW" in the clue stands for Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (Bach works catalog), and 1052 refers to "Concerto for Harpsichord and Strings in D Minor."

You'll find the next clue in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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