



Boston Bulletin

citywide news • street by street

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 49

DECEMBER 7, 2017

FREE

Council says yes to plastic bag ordinance

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council voted last week on an ordinance to ban thin plastic bags in the city and require stores to provide thick plastic bags for 5 cents apiece.

Ordinance sponsor and

into implementation you've seen the private sector really step up," he said. "You've seen individuals step up and offer reusable plastic bags... If passed today and signed into law, this will have a one-year sort of ramping up period."

He said the ordinance won't go into effect until a

BRING YOUR BAG.

NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS.



Residents will have some changes coming to their grocery routine next year.

COURTESY PHOTO

District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley said the unanimous vote was a great victory for climate change advocates in the city and a good way to reduce litter in Boston. He feels the businesses are more than ready to step up to the challenge.

"As we have seen with every city or town that has opposed this, once they've gone

year from now, and added this would give them plenty of time to work with ABCD, the Boston Housing Authority, food banks, the Boston Centers for Youth and Families and farmers markets to make sure that residents are aware of the ordinance.

"We can work and we can

Plastic Bags

Continued on page 13

Council talks Acoustics, Jackson Square Rec Center

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council met last week and voted on several key topics around the city.

The most prominent was the vote to accept a \$2 million revenue increase from a tax payment on the Old City Hall after a lease renewal agreement. Committee on Ways and Means Chair and District 9 City Councilor Mark Ciommo said the funds would be put towards the Jackson Square Recreation Center in conjunction with non-profit Urban Edge, which has been on the minds of local resi-

dents for more than a decade.

"This \$2 million supplemental appropriation will support the creation of a new youth recreation center in Jackson Square, an effort that has been 15 years in the making," he said. "It was heavily-advocated by local youth and will be an integral part of the Jackson Square planning initiative. This is a great public-private partnership, I believe they have a goal of \$21 million to make this a reality and they're almost to \$18 million as we speak. The funding for this program is the

Council

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Brighton comes out for annual Tree Lighting on Washington



Hundreds of residents came out on Monday for the annual Brighton Tree Lighting at the corner of Washington and Market streets.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Brighton Main Streets, in collaboration with the local Elks Hall 2199, Rockland Trust and the City of Boston held its annual tree lighting on Monday to a crowd of about 200 residents.

The night featured goodies for the kids, songs from the local Girl Scout troop and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Brighton Main Streets Director Elizabeth Sullivan said this was her first tree lighting for the neighborhood, but the collaborations between the

BMS, the Elks, the city and the local businesses made it easy.

"It was really wonderful getting everything together because we had really great partners," she said. "The Elks have done it for many, many years, and so they're kind of on-boarding me to it this year. They organize it with the Boston Firefighters, who donate the truck and their time, public works does all of the lighting, special events does the mic and this all donated."

Sullivan said it wasn't hard to find those willing to donate their time to make the holiday season a little brighter for the neighborhood.

"We had volunteers directing traffic and handing out cider and cookies, and the Elks provide the hot chocolate, the local Prime Realty group provided the cookies, and new business Kohi Coffee is handing out cider, coffee and pastries," she said.

Sullivan said her son also came out for the event, though her daughter was sick.

"She's so sad she's missing it," she said. "My son's here helping out, he'll be 4 in January and my daughter is sick and very, very disappointed to miss

Lighting

Continued on page 13

BPDA struggles to enforce development agreements

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) was "in chaos" in the waning days of the Menino administration and "a lot of mistakes were made."

This confession by Aaron Halquist, BPDA Assistant Compliance Manager came out of a meeting of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) on Nov. 27. The topic was how BPDA Article 80 cooperative agreements with developments are followed out.

Joining Halquist at the hearing table were Marie Mercurio, Senior Planner for

Jamaica Plain, Michael Christopher, Deputy Director of Development Review, Tim Davis, Housing Policy Director, and Peter Sasso, Compliance Director.

What began as genial introductions by each BPDA staffer on their responsibilities quickly went south; to 105 South Huntington Ave. where 24 units (two floors) have been subleased for short-term corporate rentals.

While Halquist, who said he had been with the agency since 2006, admitted that a lot of Article 80 agreements on leases and affordable housing were "put on the back burner," JPNC chair Kevin Moloney

wasted no time getting to the point.

"What happened at 105 South Huntington Ave?" he asked. "It's in violation of the June 2013 memorandum regarding occupancy which forbids subleases. Two floors are subleased for short-term rentals."

Sasso also got to the point.

"That cooperation agreement did not happen," he said. "It's unacceptable. No one was watching this."

Moloney appeared skeptical.

"I'm glad you're admitting this," he said. "It's a failure to

Agreements

Continued on page 12

Two neighborhoods: One River

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

The Hyde Park/Mattapan Neponset River Neighborhood Forum was held on Thursday evening, Nov. 30 at 912 River St.

The meeting featured a handful of pertinent speakers from different entities and organizations who presented their areas of expertise regarding the River to a group of over 50 people from both the Hyde Park and Mattapan neighborhoods.

Introductory speaker Vivian Morris, Chair of the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition and Coordinator of the Edgewater Drive Neighborhood Association, got at the reason for the meeting in her remarks.

“A big part of why we had this meeting tonight is so that we who live here can feel greater ownership of the river that runs through our neighborhood,” she said.

Morris went on to speak of iniquity in terms of the Neponset River Greenway going online in 2001, while “it took 15 years to get construc-

tion started on the only section of (it) that was going to abut a community of color.”

This led to a response from Dave Vieira, who felt uncomfortable addressing the Neponset in racial terms.

“The River is the River and the people are the people, and I would prefer that we go forward on that basis,” he said.

This, in turn, brought about a response from a black woman sitting nearby.

“It’s the people that control what we need done, though, so we need to call it as it is,” she said.

“I’ve lived in Hyde Park for 50 years and that river has been polluted since long before I lived here and it was never described in terms of racial inequity,” Vieira came back.

Moderator/POHWER member Raushanah Muhammad reluctantly stopped the building discussion in order to keep with the program schedule and despite her suggestion that they go back to it later, it was never revisited.

Instead, the direction of the meeting did essentially shift in Vieira’s direction, as succes-



A packed roomful of Hyde Park and Mattapan residents listen in as one of them – standing in the back of the room and wearing a blue jacket – asks a question about Neponset River pollution.

PHOTO BY MATT MACDONALD

sive speakers spoke of different aspects of the Neponset River’s pollution and how to alleviate it.

Ian Cooke, Executive Director of the Neponset River Watershed Association made an informative presentation first covering some definitions (a watershed: the area of land that drains into a particular river) and laying out some logistic information (the River

runs from Foxboro, is 30 miles long, covers a 120 square mile area, and has 330,000 people living in its watershed area).

He then moved on to pollution problems, spending most of his time on street stormwater runoff and showing, as one of his first slides, a common curbside storm drain/catch basin before mildly shocking probably more than a few in the room by inform-

ing everyone that whatever goes down the drain goes directly into the river via storm drain system network and “outfall” pipe.

“I think it’s fair to say that the vast majority of people do not realize that they could be standing a mile away from the river and, if they’re washing their car, or if they’re saying,

One River

Continued on page 11

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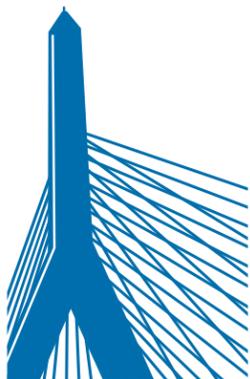
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City releases North Station Area Mobility Plan

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The City of Boston, in conjunction with the Boston Transportation Department and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), recently released the North Station Area Mobility Action Plan (NSAMAP), which is designed to help traffic move fluidly through parts of the West End, North End and Bulfinch Triangle neighborhoods.

The plan is designed to combine private development with public infrastructure projects. In the North End, that means private development will help fund projects like the Beverly Street Park (from the 239-unit Beverly Development), the North Washington Street Bridge (set for construction in 2018) and the Connect Historic Boston Commercial Street project (slated for completion next year).

The process was a series of meetings held over the past years or so and includes 15 improvements in the next five years around North Station.

“For over a year, they have shared their vision and concerns, and prioritized solutions, at community meetings,

pop-up sessions and online,” said Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. “We look forward to putting this plan into action alongside the community, and working with them on additional future neighborhood improvement projects.”

The project also includes pedestrian crossing improvements to Causeway Street for the Connect Historic Boston Project, and the Hub on Causeway development is also scheduled to restore the underground tunnel between North Station and the Orange and Green Line MBTA stations in late 2018. The Connect Historic Boston is also helping to fund protected bike lanes that are being added to Staniford, Causeway, and Commercial streets.

“By incorporating a combination of pedestrian enhancements, protected bike lanes, improved transit connections and updated traffic signal technology, the North Station Area Mobility Action Plan brings us one step closer toward realizing the goals established in Go Boston 2030,” said BTDA Commissioner Gina Fiandaca.

The North Washington Street Bridge reconstruction will also include one-way pro-



Among the many pedestrian and cycling improvements included in the plan is the North Washington Street Bridge, which is slated to begin construction soon.

COURTESY PHOTO

TECTED bike lanes for most of its span, and includes a priority bus lane in the inbound direction from Charlestown. The new lane will help people who ride the MBTA’s 92, 93, and 111 bus routes get to work faster, and help the bridge move more people faster.

“The business community around North Station is looking forward to working with our neighbors and the City to implement the many good projects in this plan,” said Jay

Walsh, Director of the Downtown North Association. “Improvements to walking, biking, driving and transit will allow our employees and customers to access and move around the neighborhood more easily, and provide a more pleasant place to spend time.”

The city is also looking to place performance-based parking meter pricing, essentially basing the pricing on the perceived demand by the fre-

quency at which each space is used. The City of Boston is running two pilot programs for performance-based meter pricing, one in Back Bay and the other in the South Boston Waterfront. The plan states that based on the results of these pilot programs, the City will consider a similar program for the North Station Area/West End and other parts of the City to help improve the utilization and efficiency of curbside parking.

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Letters to the Editor

SPRAGUE STREET EXTORTION

To the Editor:

As reported in the Nov. 30, 2017 edition of the Hyde Park Bulletin, a recent meeting was conducted by BRA/BPDA for the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) regarding the proposed massive 521-unit apartment complex along the side of the Sprague Street Bridge in the Readville neighborhood. If the reader is unfamiliar with an IAG, it is a group of neighborhood residents nominated by local elected officials to sit with the BRA and the project proponents to ascertain the appropriateness and future ramifications of the proposal if implemented. This writer attended the aforementioned meeting and, quite frankly, left with a good bout of nausea.

For virtually the entire meeting, the city Councilor and the BRA manager were coaching the IAG members on how to ask the proponents for things the members might like to have. They were urged to prepare a "wish list." BRA, oddly in my view, repeatedly gave an example of asking that the developer provide some of the new solar-powered trash cans throughout the Readville neighborhood. BRA prefers to call this procedure

"mitigation." But indeed it is more accurately described as extortion. On this night the Impact Advisory Group appeared to be serving as an extortion committee. One of the IAG members rightfully proclaimed that in his view the group should be assessing whether the proposal is acceptable before drafting up a list of requests.

It should be noted that a neighborhood group, Citizens for the Preservation of Readville (CPR), conducted a thorough petition drive throughout the entire neighborhood and gathered close to 400 signatures from residents opposed to changing the current light industrial zoning so as to accommodate this apartment complex. At the end of the petition drive, we could see that 89 percent of the residents were opposed, 9 percent were unaware of the proposal or needed more information before forming a decision, and 2 percent were not opposed. These opponents were vehement in their decision and did not make it contingent on what "goodies" we could extort from the proponents.

Craig Martin
Readville

Letters

Continued on page 15

Seasonal traditions bring a smile

As a young boy, I was fascinated by Jordan Marsh's fifth floor annex: that's where the Christmas toys were, a long time before toy stores came to populate the area.

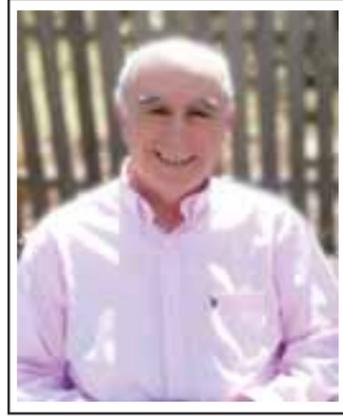
And on that floor only was a huge electric train display, featuring Lionel trains running every which way.

As a teenager, I was mesmerized by Downtown Crossing in mid-December. Jordan Marsh's windows, Filene Basement's hustle-and-bustle, the all-encompassing products of Woolworth's, the sports equipment in Raymond's, and the milieu of Gilchrist's.

As a young father, I delighted in my children's eyes as they viewed the Enchanted Village of Jordan's/Macy's and tasted the ice cream sundaes of Bailey's served in pewter.

As a father of teenagers, I was not stirred by the modern malls' blaring of seasonal music. Repulsion set in upon viewing various impersonations of Santa outside grocery stores, virtually destroying the magic in the eyes of very young shoppers in strollers.

But now in the autumn, if not the winter, of my life, there's one store that seems to capture the "old-fashioned-ness" of Christmas,



My Kind of Town/
Joe Galeota

right out of a L.L. Bean catalogue or a Hallmark made-for-television show. It sells plants, food products, various non-edible items, and even real Christmas wreaths and trees by the hundreds (no artificial ones at this store).

The few aisles are not numbered, nor do they have cutesy road names, such as Park Street, Centre Street, and Belgrade Avenue. Nor does this store feature numbered aisles.

Just as an aside, how many grocery shoppers would calmly tolerate being told, after a question about the location of say, gluten-free maple syrup, that "It's in the Hastings Street aisle." Hmm. Why do stores think we need this familiarization

with local streets? And what's with one supermarket's idea of posting the numbered aisles with a useless zero, perpendicular to the products? Thus aisle 8 appears as 08 written at a 90-degree angle next to generic categories.

Back to the quintessential Christmas store: it straddles the Jamaica Plain-Brookline border on Allandale Road. There's a dirt parking lot. Don't bother looking for any white lines indicating parking spaces. There might even be a fire in an outside barrel to warm your hands, with an aroma of burnt pine wafting across the parking lot. There are no flyers mentioning sales or prices. There's not much heat inside: most clerks wear flannel shirts and stocking hats. Only heaven knows if there's a public restroom available.

For some great seasonal warmth, head to the Allandale Farm and Roadstand, shortened by locals to merely Allandale Farm. There's always produce but no meat; yes, the prices are - well, you be the judge - and there might even be a truck there selling fresh fish on Wednesdays.

Indeed, a great place for starting or maintaining the (secular) Christmas spirit.

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Thank you for a great year!

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459 Poplar Street
Roslindale



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West Roxbury



307 Vermont Street
West Roxbury



64 Greaton Road, Unit #1
West Roxbury



10 Arborfield Road
Roslindale



191 St. Theresa Avenue
West Roxbury



44 Lorraine Street
Roslindale



38 Westover Street
West Roxbury



22 Burard Street
West Roxbury



21 Vogel Street
West Roxbury



9 Lourdes Ave, #1, #2, #3
Jamaica Plain



6 Lilac Lane
Dedham

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- 5251 Washington St..... West Roxbury **\$603,000**
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- 98 Morton Street..... Jamaica Plain **\$295,000**
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- 191 Saint Theresa Ave... West Roxbury **\$549,900**
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- 241 Perkins Street Jamaica Plain..... **\$772,000**
- 22 Burard Street West Roxbury **\$445,000**
- 21 Vogel Street..... West Roxbury **\$442,000**
- 100 Vermont Street West Roxbury **\$600,000**
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- 10 Arborfield Road..... Roslindale **\$350,000**
- 31 Houston Street..... West Roxbury **\$1,050,000**
- 9 Vista Street..... Roslindale **\$569,000**
- 20 Denton Terrace, U#2... Roslindale **\$380,000**
- 424 Baker Street..... West Roxbury **\$483,000**
- 123 Landseer..... West Roxbury **\$800,000**



79 Tacoma Street
Hyde Park



46-48 Sanborn Avenue
West Roxbury



14 Heron Street, Unit #205
West Roxbury



13 Elmview Place
Dedham



104 Joyce Kilmer Rd, U#1
West Roxbury



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Consulate awards Waite the Légion d'Honneur



Boston's French Consul Valéry Freland pins the honor on Boston Veteran Edwin "Bud" Waite's chest during the ceremony at the Stratford Street Church.

Trenese Franklin
 Staff Reporter

Friends, family and city officials gathered on Dec. 2 to witness World War II Veteran and West Roxbury resident Edwin "Bud" Waite be awarded the French Legion of Honor.

There wasn't an empty seat at the ceremony, which drew in

a crowd of about 100 people. Rev. Enid Watson, Co-Pastor of Stratford Street Church, helped to host the event.

"We are very proud and delighted to welcome you all here today," Watson said.

The ceremony then commenced by the singing of the French and American National Anthems. Everyone stood to their feet and honored both the French and American Flags, which were held up by Veterans of West Roxbury's VFW Post 2902.

"We have a number of distinguished guests, besides Bud," Watson said jokingly. "And I would like to invite our elected officials to come forward, City Councilor Matt O'Malley, Giselle Sterling, Commissioner of Veteran Affairs and (At-Large) City Councilwoman Annessa Essaibi-George."

O'Malley then took to the podium to commend Waite on his accomplishments.

"I have had the great pleasure of getting to know Bud and his family over the last several years," he said. "I knew Bud was a veteran, but I did not know the extent of his legendary service."

O'Malley explained that for Bud, it wasn't about receiving recognition.

"It wasn't about receiving accolades and it wasn't about events like this. It was about supporting others," he said.

O'Malley also gave a brief history of Waite's life and expressed how much of an amazing person he believes Waite is.

"To the people of France, we are incredibly honored that you are recognizing one of our Native sons. In a time when we have such discord in this world and uncertainty in this country, one thing is certain: the men and

women who served in World War II truly were the greatest generation," O'Malley concluded.

Councilor Annessa Essaibi George and O'Malley then presented Waite with a Councilor proclamation and congratulated him for being awarded the French Medal of Honor. Commissioner of Veteran affairs and Lord Mayor of West Roxbury and Post 2902 Commander Richie Gormley both spoke and congratulated Waite for a job well done.

The ceremony concluded with Boston's French Consul General Valéry Freland presenting Edwin Waite with the French Legion of Honor.

"You are a true hero and you will be our hero forever," Freland said.

As Waite walked to the podium, everyone in the audience cheered for him. He then took the microphone and expressed how elated and thankful he was for the honor.

"I'm pretty overwhelmed; I don't know what to say. I can't stop thanking people, there are so many on the list," he said.

He then thanked his family and friends for supporting him and putting together the ceremony.

"I'm so honored!" Waite exclaimed.

Waite served in the Company L, 260th Infantry Regiment from July 1944 to August 1945. Stationed 16 months overseas as an automatic rifleman, Private Edwin Waite participated in assaults on enemy positions in France, Germany and Austria. After arriving in Metz, France, the 260th Infantry Regiment joined General Patton's 3rd Army in an attempt to breach the Siegfried Line.

PHOTO BY TRENESE FRANKLIN




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Snow Angel program launched at Laboure Center

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Laboure Center in South Boston announced on Sunday the launch of its new Snow Angel program as part of its 28th annual Christmas House Tour.

Jake Bombard, the director at the Laboure Center, said the collaboration of the Laboure Center and the city was part of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's Age Friendly Boston Action Plan, which has more than 70 steps to help Boston become a friendlier city to seniors. He said one of those steps was to partner with local faith-based organizations to help isolated or infirm seniors in the neighborhoods.

"We thought this would be a great way to do it, this is a volunteer-based program, where volunteers and the Catholic Charity Laboure Center provides shovels and snow melt to willing volunteers and we pair them with local elders," he said. "When the forecast says three inches of snow more, it will be their job to go out and shovel out their neighbors."

"We're very excited, today really is a call for volunteers. We're here making our local elected officials our honorary Angels and we're hoping they'll help spread the word and we're hoping we'll be able to get 70 volunteers this year."

However, Bombard added should the supply of volunteers go over that, they're more than ready.

"We actually just got a donation of 200 bags of snow-melt as soon as yesterday," he said. "We'll be in talks with volunteers this month and then we'll have an assessment of how many shovels we'll need, and then in January we'll hopefully have shovels in the ground. Or rather, in the snow."

Debbie Rambo, President of the Archdiocese of Boston

Catholic Charities group, said though she's glad this program exists, she's hoping for a light winter this year.

"We're happy to have this partnership, but as a New Englander I'm just hoping, please don't snow," she said. "But it's better to be prepared."

Bombard said the goal is to get at least one to two volunteers per block, per senior.

"Which is ambitious, but we wanted to be ambitious so that we get enough people out there, because people get held up, they're out of town, they can't make it, we want more than one volunteer per elderly person," he said.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said he was happy to participate in the day's event and raise awareness of the new program.

"It's a great idea," he said. "He worked up at the State House and he understands that calls come in, particularly from seniors unable to shovel their sidewalks, and this program here is incredible such that any snow storm that will happen, the Laboure will get involved get volunteers out to help shovel out frail elders in their homes and really help them, you really don't want someone who's elderly out there shoveling the snow, they could get hurt out there, so this program is really a great program."

"Hopefully we can be helpful and hopefully volunteers can step up here and be supportive. There are a lot of young people here in South Boston and hopefully they will step up here at the Laboure."

Residents Richard Dahill and Joe Bebartas said they've been volunteering at the Laboure for some time, and are happy to help residents dig out when they need it. Dahill said he has a personal connection to the center.

"They took my aunt, who was sick about 25 years ago and I've been coming ever since."



Boston officials joined in at the Laboure Center's annual House Tour to raise awareness of the new Snow Angels Program.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

They did a great job helping her out and I figure I owe them a couple of favors," he said.

Bebartas said he volunteers because the center also helped his family in a time of need.

"My mother used to work here and it's a wonderful organization that needs support from the community, and I'm in the community," he said. "I was born here, so I decided to chip in and help out on the tour today and I hope that the Laboure gets a lot of support."

Resident Sharon Fogarty said she's a recent addition to the neighborhood, but found out about the Laboure through her work at historical preservation.

"I've been here about two-and-a-half years we're now part

of the South Boston Historical Society, so I love a lot of the history and that's why we're talking about the community of the Laboure, I really feel there's a lot of history here so I wanted to help preserve it," she said.

Residents Matt Wells, Lauren Riley and Kelley O'Shea said they're happy the Laboure is in South Boston doing this work and connecting the different age groups that now define Southie.

"We're neighbors, we live about two streets over and we knew some people and we've seen the house tour before and we had some friends in the neighborhood and it's a great organization and one of the few neighborhood-based organiza-

tions in the city and it's still very local-focused but it's also getting out to the rest of the city which is awesome," Wells said. "I think the Snow Angels program is much-needed in this neighborhood with the change that's happening over the last 10 or 15 years with a lot more younger people coming in and a lot of the older residents staying put, sort of connecting those two is a good thing in general and if we can help clean their streets and their driveways, that's really good too."

Residents wishing to volunteer can call the Laboure Center front desk directly at 617-464-8500 and also by going to the Catholic Charities website at <http://www.ccab.org/volunteer>.

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Around the Neighborhoods

CITYWIDE

MAIN STREETS EXPLORER

Jump on a free shuttle and visit Main Streets in Hyde Park, Roslindale Village, and West Roxbury. The Main Streets Explorer is a pilot program. We're offering a shuttle on Dec. 7, 14, and 21 between three Main Street Districts: Hyde Park, Roslindale Village, and West Roxbury.

We want riders to experience the live music, restaurants, stores, and events in each neighborhood. Our free shuttle is open to anyone who wants to ride. It's an easy way to shop, eat, and play locally. Learn more about when and where to pick up the shuttle at the bottom of this page.

This pilot program is run by the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics. Through this experiment, they are testing ways Main Street Districts could be even more welcoming spaces for all.

It goes from 4 p.m.-9:30 p.m. and repeats every Thurs-

day until Dec. 21, 2017. This service extends to Hyde Park, Roslindale Village, and West Roxbury Boston, MA 02136, 02131, 02132. If you have any questions please contact newurbanmechanics@boston.gov or call 617-635-0044

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A book discussion meets at the Brighton Branch Library on the last Wednesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. The featured selection for Dec. 27 will be *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. Copies of the book are available at the library. Everyone is invited and new members are welcome. Brighton Branch Library/40 Academy Hill Road/(617)782-6032.

ESL CLASS

An ESL conversation group meets at 12:30 p.m. every Monday. Come practice your language skills in an informal and friendly setting with other

new English speakers.

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HISTORY OF BOSTON'S LIBRARIES AND HOW THE BRIGHTON BRANCH CAME TO BE

An intriguing history of the Boston's libraries and how the Brighton Branch came to be with Anthony Sammarco/Noted author and historian, Anthony Sammarco gives an intriguing history of Boston's libraries and how the Brighton Branch came to be. His highly entertaining account of the beginnings and ultimate fate of the original Holton Library—now the Brighton Branch—provides an interesting back story to the city of Boston and its growth.

The Friends of the Brighton Branch Library and the Brighton Allston Historical Society invite you to this unique literary event. Monday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at Brighton Branch Library/40 Academy Hill Road/(617) 782-6032

HYDE PARK

PLAY AND LEARN BLOCK PARTY

Come play, build, and learn together at a block party – library style. Playing with blocks provides opportunities to learn about math and science, pre-reading skills, social skills, and motor skills. Various building blocks will be available including wood blocks, magnetic blocks, KAPLA blocks, soft blocks, and baby blocks. No registration is required. Located at the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library, 35 Harvard Ave., Hyde Park.

SEVENTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PUB CRAWL

Please join us for this year Annual Holiday Pub Crawl. Singing warm up for the Holiday Pub Crawl on December 15th, 6:30 – 7 p.m. located at the Riverside Theatre Works (RTW) with a champagne toast at the kick off the crawl!

This is a FREE EVENT sponsored by Hyde Park Main Streets.

Riverside Theatre Works (6:30 – 7 p.m.) 45 Fairmount Ave., The Switch Co-op (7 – 7:30 p.m.) 45 Fairmount Ave., Rincon Caribeno Restaurant (7:30 – 8:10 p.m.) 18 Fairmount Ave., Master McGrath's (8:10 – 8:50 p.m.) 1154 River St., ZAZ Restaurant (8:50 – 9:20 p.m.) 1238 River St., Bacaro (9:20 – 10 p.m.) 5 Fairmount Ave., Fairmount Grille (10 p.m.) 81 Fairmount Ave.

We Hope you enjoy yourselves and the holidays in Hyde Park!

10TH ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS EXTRAVAGANZA

This year marks our 10th year of this special event. We have had a part in making sure thousands of children wake up feeling The Magic of Christmas. This night is so special to Cappy and we hope that you can be a part in creating a memorable Christmas for so many deserving children. Join us for a night full of music, friends, spirits and lots of laughs. All the best, Kathi and Ray" Cappy's Tavern, 11 Wolcott Court, Hyde Park. December 16th @ 7:00pm-1:00 am

ANNUAL HYDE PARK CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ho, Ho, HO! Santa Claus is calling Hyde Park Children between the ages of 1 and 10 years old to join him for our Annual Hyde Park Children's Christmas Party, sponsored by PAL and Boston Police District 18. Join us! Dec. 9, 2017 from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. at BCLA/New Mission High School Gymnasium, 655 Metropolitan Ave., Hyde Park.

CHESS AND CHECKERS WITH CHARLIE

Children are welcome to come and learn to play chess or checkers with Charlie Cleary on Saturday afternoons at 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Hyde Park Branch Library. No registration required. Located at the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library.

WEST ROXBURY ROSLINDALE

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at the Boston Lodge of Elks #10 1 Morrell St., West Roxbury. THIS EVENT IS FREE! There will be great music, dancing, our famous holiday sweater contest, and the Subaru Unveiling Ceremony to celebrate our newest Meals on Wheels vehicle. Reservations are required and accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Call reservation line 617-477-6724 and leave your name, the full names of everyone in your party, and a phone number.

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

On Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. please join us for a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have a prayer service which will feature a talk on Our Lady by Sister Bárbara Gutiérrez, SND who was born and raised in Mexico City. Sister came to the United States 21 years ago and entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur 11 years ago. This will be an inspiring Advent Evening of Prayer. Come and join in our evening of prayer devoted to her. Bring a

SINGLE flower to honor our Lady if you wish. There will be an opportunity to bring it up to the altar during the service. This celebration will take place at St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington St., West Roxbury.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

On Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. there will be an Advent Penance Service for all Catholics in the West Roxbury and Roslindale area at St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington St., West Roxbury. All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. This evening will include readings, songs and the sacrament itself.

HOLIDAY BOOK STROLL

The Friends of the West Roxbury Library is hosting a Holiday Book Stroll on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Authors Tonya Mezrich, Casey Sherman and Dave Wedge, Carter Alan, Hank Philippi Ryan, Hallie Ephron, Jay Hajj, Jane Healey, Upton Bell and Ron Borges and others will be in attendance with their latest books, which you can purchase and have signed while enjoying refreshments and mingling. They sign. You sip. Holiday shopping: done. Held at the West Roxbury Library.

ROSLINDALE VILLAGE MAIN STREET HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET ON BIRCH STREET

This December brings the return of Roslindale Village Main Street's Holiday Market on Birch Street, a festive event to bring residents, visitors, and local businesses together to celebrate and shop for the season. The Holiday Market will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Birch Street between Corinth and South streets. Birch Street will be closed to traffic for this special event.

Visitors can enjoy treats from the Whoopie) Wagon food truck, free hot chocolate, holiday classics sung by caroling group Songful Artists, and play-based activities for all ages, in collaboration with local group Roslindale Wants to Play. JP Honk Band will perform throughout the Village and at the Commuter Rail Station, and the folk-rock band Rock 'n Roll Dreamers will play inside Emerald Society Building during the event.

The Holiday Market will also feature over 20 visiting vendors, offering everything from French soaps, to art and prints, pottery, locally-made honeys and sauces, jewelry and accessories, children's books and clothes, and more. Vendors will be located inside the Emerald Society Building at 10 Birch St., as well as two vacant storefronts at 22 Birch St. and 756 South St.

Calendar

Continued on page 14

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City looking to modernize Amory Elderly development

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council Committee on Government Operations met last week and discussed a home-rule petition that would, in theory, increase affordable units in the Amory Street Public Housing Development.

Through a proposal from the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to renovate the property, the city is looking to exempt itself from Commonwealth of Massachusetts Law Chapter 149, which requires that the BHA to go through an expensive bidding process for contractors and subcontractors. The exemption, which is covered by federal law, would allow the developer to select the contractors and the contractors to select subcontractors (under BHA regulations) independently. It would also not require a new bidding process if (more likely when) design changes to the redevelopment come into play in the future to create overall cost savings on the project.

Kate Bennett, Deputy Administrator for Planning and Sustainability for the BHA, said they are also applying for this exemption for the Lennox Street Public Housing Development,

and with the cost-savings from this exemption, they would be able to renovate and rehabilitate both developments without displacing residents.

“Without the legislation, the projects must adhere to an extremely-structured sub-bidding process with separate general contractor and subcontractor selection,” she said. “The GC has no control in choosing its subs, and the BHA and its developer has no ability to value its engineer or redesigns should costs increase beyond the funding availability, which frequently what happens in redevelopment. The value engineering is where significant savings can be made by allowing the developers to negotiate pricing with various subcontractors. Under existing statutes, changes in design made to reduce costs may require the bid process begin all over again, putting projects and funding at risk.”

Bennett said the redevelopment of both properties is most urgent.

“Both the Amory and Lennox properties are in distress, they are in need of modernization,” she said. “Our residents who live there, many of whom are children and elderly, deserve to have adequate housing. The aim for Amory is



Advocates are pushing for new rules regarding the Amory Street development in Jamaica Plain to allow developers to cut some red tape.

to preserve the existing public housing units and the generation of up to \$3 million in cost subsidy for new mixed-income units that will be added to the site. This will make for a more comprehensive rehabilitation of the existing 199-unit Amory building without demolition and without displacing the current resident population.”

Bennett said the final design will include 558 units, of which 215 will be market rate and 343 will be workforce and affordable units. She said this is a project where they will be adding net-affordable units to the site in addition to market

units to make the project feasible.

“Our developers, Community Builders, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation and Urban Edge, are working closely with the residents on this and the residents will remain onsite during the renovations,” she said.

Bennett said all BHA regulations regarding the use of local workers, women-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses will be passed down to the developers.

“There’s also a number of BHA regulatory and policy provisions in our Request for

Proposals (RFP) that we transfer as requirements to our development teams as they select contractors and then to the contractors themselves,” she said. “Hiring of women and minority, both for workforce within the subs but also women and minority-owned businesses, is a big part of the requirements that get translated from the BHA to the developer to the contractor, really all this allows is there to be a selection by the GC of its subs, and they can therefore chose subs that are going to respond to those requirements as well.”

COURTESY PHOTO



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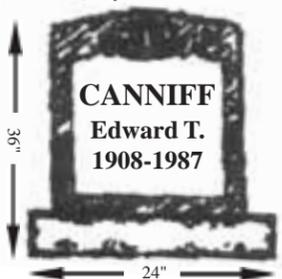
4TH ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE

Vogt Realty Group will be collecting clothing donations this holiday season for the St. Francis House, Boston's largest day shelter. We will be collecting these items at our West Roxbury office at 2085 Centre Street from Wednesday, November 15 – Thursday, December 14 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

See special instructions and needed items listed on our website and Facebook page.

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Council *continued from page 1*

result of a one-time payment to the city following the complete negotiation and extension of leases of old City Hall.”

Ciommo said these funds will go a long way to seeing the recreation center through.

“It is clear that this renegotiation was a win for the city and the \$2 million in revenues will help close the gap in funding some much-needed community investment,” he said.

District 6 City Councilor Matt O’Malley said the construction of the center will help to bring much-needed activities to the city’s youth, in Jamaica Plain and beyond.

“This will be absolutely transformative for the youth of the City of Boston,” he said. “For decades now the Kelly Rink has been a temporary outdoor facility for youth recreation and learning opportunities, it’s been wonderful but it’s time we had a permanent facility.”

O’Malley said this initiative has been a long time coming for his district.

“This has been a labor of love that predates my election to the council seven years ago, and because of great leadership of Urban Edge and other great nonprofits of the Commonwealth and, most importantly, this \$2 million commitment from the City of Boston and this mayor will be absolutely transformative,” he said. “We’re in the end zone, this will get us to our goal. This is remarkable.”

O’Malley said that activities for youth in troubled areas of the city are at least a way to help get kids off the streets and into more productive actions. He said he doesn’t believe it would be a silver bullet for crime in the neighborhood, and thinks it could help. He brought up the original announcement of the funds from October, where literally across the street 16-year-old Gerrod Brown was fatally shot.

“On that day, just across the street of the Mildred Hailey Housing Development, a young man was killed,” he said. “I’m not naive enough to contend that had this youth center been there, that life would have been saved. However, it is important to note that this will give opportunities for kids to learn to skate, to learn to get exercise, to work.”

The council also voted to permanently enact the Acoustic on Main Ordinance, which allows any establishment to provide acoustic live music to its patrons, as long as there are no more than five performers.

“This ordinance is just a very minor amendment that would remove the sunset clause on the ordinance the council passed last year,” said City Council President and ordinance sponsor Michelle Wu. “We’ve heard from businesses and Main Streets directors that this has directly meant that not only are the Friday and Saturday nights the busy nights, but when they are able to have spoken word or a local band there, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights are also filled.”

Wu said making the ordinance permanent would allow businesses to cut through regulations and fees to offer more entertainment options in the city, as many local music venues are finding it hard to pay the bills in the city’s boom of housing growth and property taxes.

“We’re trying to celebrate and build our arts community. We’re trying to support our small businesses, again the ordinance removed any permitting licensing registration fees, red tape for businesses to be able to offer acoustic live entertainment for up to five performers, just something that doesn’t disturb the abutting neighbors,” she said. “We’ve not received any complaints about this. We had passed this with a one-year sunset clause and I’m asking you to go over and remove that.”

District 5 City Councilor Tim McCarthy said businesses in his district have made full use of the ordinance.

“Again, I have three Main Streets in District 5 and all three have utilized the Acoustic on Main to their Benefit,” he said. “Sunday mornings at Fairmount Grill, Sunday morning Jazz Brunch, it’s all because of Councilor Wu; it’s a great morning, you have to get there early and chicken and waffles is the go-to.”

The council also voted to accept a donation for the benefit of the City of Boston of three bicycles for the use by District C-6 of the Boston Police Department in South Boston. Sponsor and District 4 City Councilor Andrea Campbell said the bicycles will allow for continual contact and visibility within the South Boston neighborhood and help improve the day-to-day lives of residents, workers and visitors in the area, which will further facilitate the district’s services and benefit the residents of Boston.

 **Thank You Novenas**
For Favors or Prayers Answered

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
(Never known to fail!)
Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.
Grateful thanks. —K.B.

St. Jude’s Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. My Prayers were answered.
In gratitude for helping me. —I.H.

Miracle Prayer
Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.
—D.J.

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One River *continued from page 2*

‘Hey, I’ve got this motor oil. I’d like to just drop it in that catch basin...’ that it ends up in the river,” he said.

In terms of what the community can do to help, Cooke recommended that people be careful as to what goes into storm drains, that they report noticeable problems with the River to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, that they volunteer as water testers or on River clean-ups and that they advocate on the River’s behalf to their elected officials.

Following Cooke, Northeastern University’s Carole McCauley, working under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant dealing with the Boston Harbor ecosystem network, gave some brief details on the EPA’s involvement with the Neponset.

Having accepted an invitation from the Commonwealth, the EPA is currently conducting its own investigation and testing of the site – including muddy sections the riverbed heavily polluted with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl).

According to McCauley, based on its findings, the EPA may make a recommendation that the River become a “superfund” site which will “open the door for some sorts of clean ups.”

If the River does get added to this national priorities list, it will be about a year from now. McCauley also made sure to mention that the clean-up process can take from 10-20 years.

She also added the importance of project advocacy to elected officials, since states are responsible for at least 10 percent of clean-up expenses. Nonetheless, McCauley was positive.

“Even though it seems like there’s a long road ahead, it’s really exciting progress that’s being looked into right now,” she said.

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission sent two representatives to the meeting,



Vivian Morris marks a map of the Neponset River. Residents of Hyde Park and Mattapan met last Thursday to hear about and discuss ways to try to reduce pollution in the Neponset River. PHOTO BY MATT MACDONALD

Director of Planning and Sustainability Charlie Jewell and Project Manager Amy Schofield.

Schofield delivered a detailed presentation that in many ways complemented Cooke’s. She concentrated on the BWSC’s ongoing efforts to find and fix illicit connections between sewer drains and storm drains that, when left unaddressed, pollute the river.

She also spoke of the ongoing inspections of the 69 total sub-catchments (a catch basin drainage network) that discharge stormwater into the Neponset. Since 2004, inspections for 57 of them are complete, with the remaining 12 scheduled to be finished by 2019. These subsystems, however, are open to re-evaluation.

The question and answer session touched on areas of each presentation, with each speaker at one point or another addressing an issue presented by the audience on index cards read by Muhammad. Many were directed at the BWSC, with contamination the focal point.

In her commentary on this problem, Schofield spoke of the difficulty in finding exactly where it comes from, despite the ability to narrow potential origin points down.

Jewell, silent during Schofield’s presentation, had

more to say about these problems.

“The investigation process requires certain weather conditions,” Jewell said. “Sandbagging (a method of determining illicit runoff in a stormwater drain) requires 96 hours of forecasted dry weather. That’s sometimes very hard to get in Boston.”

He also revisited an idea that Cooke presented to reduce contamination: “green infrastructure” – specifically, rain gardens that would allow storm water to be absorbed into the ground, letting natural processes treat it before it makes it to the river.

During the Q & A, Marc Nascarella, Director of the Environmental Toxicology Program for the Department of Public Health, encouraged River abutting residents to add signage warning against fishing, which he acknowledged as a possible issue for an immigrant population.

Following up on Nascarella’s comments, Cooke encouraged attendees to mark up a huge map of the Neponset that had been taped to the wall with suggested signage points.

The conversation continued well after the meeting had ended, with Hyde Park and Mattapan residents lingering in small groups around each other and different presenters, while others marked coordinates on the map, planning further as to the River that ran a stone’s throw away.



Volunteers at September’s Hyde Park Neponset River Clean-Up. Thursday night’s meeting concentrated more on the extremely harmful chemical and sewage pollution plaguing the River. PHOTO BY MATT MACDONALD

Community member thanks E-13 Police



The BPD said the Department is especially proud of District E-13 Officers Billy Jones and George Kayes and the community member who took the time to write the following: *If you live in Jamaica Plain then you probably recognize these two lovable, affable, congenial fellows. These two police officers serve and protect 02130, and they maintain order and prevent mayhem. But you’d be mistaken if you thought that was the extent of it. If you think they’re just two Boston cops walking the beat, let me tell you, there is way more more substance to this pair than you can imagine. I give you Community Service Officers George Kayes and Billy Jones of the BPD and my heart! I first got to know George and Billy while attending JP’s weekly Tuesday Hot Dog Night on South Street. Sure, they’d eat a frankfurter while attending the event, but deep down in my heart and soul, I know that these two came for way more than just the food. They came for the kids of the neighborhood who were hungry for some positive attention and great role models. When George and Billy show up in their cruiser, the kids go crazy! Cheering and yelling that Officer George and Officer Billy have arrived.*

COURTESY PHOTO



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In gratitude for helping me.
—P.L.D.

Agreements continued from page 1

bring this to the IAG. But why didn't [BPDA Director] Brian Golden say this in his letter last September?"

"Two floors of corporate leasing," he said. "Who was minding the store when this was subleased?"

Golden wrote in his reply of Sept. 19 that "The concept of corporate leasing was never discussed. As a result there is no prohibition regarding short-term corporate rentals in the cooperative agreement."

Michael Christopher said there is no way the BPDA can regulate this.

"Legally we cannot regulate that," he said. "We cannot put that [corporate leasing] in a cooperation agreement document. We cannot legally enforce who it is rented to whether short-term lease or student housing."

"This is no excuse," said Moloney. "If this is real why wasn't it in the directors letter?"

JPNC member Bruce Marks was incredulous

"This is hard to imagine," he said. "We're taking you at your word here. You should have come prepared with documents to support this. We expect you to get back to us with this ruling on short term leasing in writing."

Christopher agreed.

"We will get with the

BPDA counsel in a week for your answer," he said.

Halquis, who said he began during the Menino administration, explained the background.

"The time line is important. I take this criticism personally," he said "There was chaos in the last six months of the Menino administration. There were two BRA (sic) meetings a month. A lot was done in the waning months that were clearly out of order. A lot of mistakes were made. We're doing everything we can to correct this."

"The city's changing," Halquist said. "The zoning code needs to be changed."

Christopher said the city is working on a regulatory tool for short-term leases.

"Either by executive order or by zoning change, that's where we're at," he said. "Short-term rentals is a hugely growing field. It's a new way of using space. Some of what's driving this is there are not enough hotel rooms."

"Airbnb and short-term corporate leasing didn't exist a few years ago. Airbnbs go into a city and become very successful and then the city has to catch up and make policy later," Christopher admitted.

"This is the problem facing the Walsh administration" he went on. "Most problems are with 30-day rentals or longer. And enforce-

ment is very difficult. But a lot of eyes are on this now. If 105 South Huntington was in front of us now it would be looked at differently."

Tim Davis is BPDA Housing Policy Manager. He said that the BPDA can't restrict the use of private units.

"It [105 South Huntington] doesn't seem like a hotel," he said "There's no concierge or check in desk," Davis said. "The owner is not crossing the line- whatever that line is- for short-term leases."

The BPDA can't regulate Airbnb or corporate leasing but the community can.

"Mission Hill has gotten private agreements," said Davis. "That's a way forward, but it was between the citizens and the developer."

Neighborhood Council member Bernie Doherty was chair of the zoning committee in the 1990's.

"The impression I get," he said, "is you go around the community and get your buildings approved like the JPRox process."

Halquist disagreed.

"The BPDA board approved all the developments on Washington Street before it had voted on the JP Rox Plan," he said. "JP Rox was an eighteen month process. Meeting after meeting. Non-stop. It was supposed to be six months. It was extended again and again."

JPNC member Kyle Smith asked about the affordable housing commitment by Cedar



About 150 people took to the streets on Nov. 21 to protest the planned eviction of two Latino-owned businesses on Washington Street.

COURTESY PHOTO

Valley Holding Company to build forty-two off-site units as part of its 105 South Huntington approval.

"Where does that stand of the \$6 million to build off site units?" he asked. Davis explained the process,

"The Inclusionary Development Policy is written by me," he said. "It's consistent city-wide. We're working more closely with Fair Housing. The lottery system is changing. We've invigorated that. We've had a lot of success. We've added more staff."

It has been difficult for Cedar Valley to comply with its affordable housing commitment of forty-two units although it's building is fully leased.

"I'm on the phone with them every week," said Davis. "There is a timeline. They have an interim

milestone. On Jan. 7 they'll get their full occupancy permit, but they haven't found a location yet for the off site units. It's been a headache."

Davis added that Cedar Valley might put its \$6 million affordable commitment with the 125 Amory St. development.

Christopher said that Cedar Valley is in compliance with some of its agreements.

"Two months ago," he said "they made their final payment to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. And \$200,000 has been committed to a traffic study."

"But we really haven't touched on affordable housing," he admitted. "Are people living in the units in compliance? There's ton of energy being put into this to get as much together as possible."

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Happy Holidays!

Plastic Bags *continued from page 1*

do this well because we've seen it done well in other cities and towns. We have worked closely with our neighbors, we know what the recipe is and how we can do this and the benefits cannot be challenged," he said. "Let's write the Boston 'greenprint.'"

At-Large City Councilor Ayanna Pressley acknowledged that the main point of opposition in the city has been that this would impact low-income families, who may see a 5 cent increase per grocery bag as a burden.

"Should this ordinance pass, I'd encourage the City of Boston to explore ways to ease the burden of what will really require a cultural shift by providing free, reusable tote bags at accessible and convenient venues throughout the city for our low-income residents and seniors," she said. "This ordinance is a critical step towards a greener, cleaner and more sustainable Boston."

Matt Seaholm, the executive director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance, said the passage of the ordinance was disappointing and believes the mayor should veto the legislation outright so that the council will have to go back and rework it.

"It was seemingly a backroom deal that transpired over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend," he said. "Before that point we were under the impression that there was opposition in the Mayor's Office and City Council, but as it turned out there were some vocal members who were more interested in getting a feel-good ordinance through and gain political capital than make good policy."

Seaholm said it wasn't fair to the consumer. The ordinance would require businesses to use reusable, thick

plastic bags instead of the single-use bags currently in circulation.

"What it ultimately does is punish those who can least afford it," he said. "That 5-cent fee might not mean a lot to city council members, but I can tell you a low income family in Boston who has to pay 50 cents every time they do their weekly grocery shopping it adds up, and it's noticeable to those who can least afford it."

Bradford Verter, Director at the Mass Green Network, said that residents are already paying for their single-use plastic bags, though they may not know it.

"Plastic bags are not free and we all pay for them. They cost grocery stores 4 cents each on average and that's folded into the overhead and the price of goods, it's just been a hidden cost and one of the things this does is make hidden costs visible," he said. "When that happens, residents bring their own reusable plastic bags very quickly."

Seaholm countered that the cost of the single-use bags is nowhere near as high as the thicker counterparts.

"I guarantee they are not as expensive as 5 cents, many of those bags are as cheap as half a cent. You're talking about taking a penny and increasing it by seven times the thickness," he said. "Typically, those bags for many retailers are going to be more than the 5 cents and that will heap additional cost onto the retailer."

Verter said that the city is currently paying much higher costs for the single-use plastic bags in terms of the problems they create when they hit the recycling stream, which recycling facilities are not prepared to deal with.

"The big problem is that bags gum up the works in recycling machinery at these big

sorting machines that are run at recycling facilities and they just get totally jammed up with plastic bags. They have to hire people in eight-hour shifts to cut away the bags with box cutters or utility knives and they lose all this time," he said. "If plastic bags get mixed in, then that contaminates an entire shipment and they have to hire someone to sort it or just dump it all. It's a lot of wasted money and lost opportunity and those funds could go to social programs or to any other thing. It costs taxpayers and anything that costs taxpayers money hurts low-income residents the most."

Seaholm pointed out that plastic bags do not make up a large percentage of the city's waste, but Verter said that waste is determined in tonnage.

"It's certainly not as much tonnage as refrigerators, I can tell you that," Verter said.

City Council President and At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu said the ordinance, if anything else, is a mixed bag.

"So it's been an incredible honor to be part of this process and many others that the council has been working on to really plan and take actions for our next generations here in the city," she said. "This is a hard problem the city has been facing, representative of the larger problem of climate change and climate injustices that our country and the world is facing. To be totally clear, our current economic system, our current way of life and our society is headed towards a crisis point in terms of the global impact of a warming planet and changing weather patterns that we are going to see directly affecting Boston's bottom line and our residents' quality of life. This plastic bag ordinance is an example of a small step that is completely within the city's control to take."

Lighting *continued from page 1*



Residents lined up for cookies and cocoa, provided by the Elks and local businesses.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

it."

Maria Perez and her daughter, Rianna, came out for one person and one person alone.

"My daughter really wants to see Santa Claus," she said. "This is our first time and we just heard about it from a flyer from Main Streets."

Jose Maldonado and his daughter, Jaydaliz, said they came out to sing with the Girl Scouts and raise holiday cheer.

"We're excited," Jaydaliz said, her father adding that she had already asked for too much for Christmas. "I asked for more than 15 things."

"You asked for about 30," Maldonado said.

"Yeah, that's why I said more than 15," she replied.

Gwende Ruano said usually she and her daughter go back to Guatemala for the holidays to see their family, but she wanted her to experience some local holiday festivities as well.

"My daughter, she loves Christmas," she said. "I want her to see it here too, and she's excited she loves Santa."

State Rep. Kevin Honan said he's come every year in the 31 years he's been in the neighborhood.

"I come every year, and people love to come out to see Santa Claus, this is one of those

very special events in Allston Brighton, and it's great that Brighton Main Streets, the Elks, Rockland Trust all come together to support this wonderful event," he said.

Honan added that he should have remembered to wear gloves this year.

"But I have this lovely scarf, so I'll be warm and okay," he said with a laugh.

Boston Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Allston Brighton Representative, Warren O'Reilly, said he's amazed at the turnout this year, and that it has at least doubled in community participation.

"It's much bigger than last year's, you can really see the work that BMS and various community leaders, you can really see it working," he said. "It just seems like the work of BMS is getting out."

Resident Fernada Campbell said she's happy to do anything for her daughter.

"I think it's something nice for my kid to see the lights and hanging out with the community," she said.

Also, the Rockland Trust Brighton Center Branch will be providing a donation bin for new or gently used warm winter clothing for children and adults.

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Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU17C0513CA**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300

In the Matter of: Elizabeth Anna Aleksandroff
Of:

To all person interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by Elizabeth Anna Aleksandroff requesting that:
Elizabeth Anna Aleksandroff be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:
Skye Eres Davis
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/28/2017
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 24, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Boston Bulletin, 12/07/2017

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU17C0514CA**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300

In the Matter of: Kathleen Mary Layton
Of: Boston, MA

To all person interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by Kathleen M. Layton requesting that:
Kathleen Mary Layton be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:
Maridelia Onora Rowan
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/21/2017
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 20, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Boston Bulletin, 12/07/2017

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU17C0475CA**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300

In the Matter of: Christopher Figueroa
Of: Boston, MA.

To all person interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by Christopher Figueroa requesting that:
Christopher Figueroa be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:
Christopher Villar Flores
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/21/2017
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
Date: October 25, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Boston Bulletin, 12/07/2017

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU17D2524DR**

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Jocelyn Santiago Montero vs. Francisco Albert Hilario Sanchez
Suffolk Probate and Family Court, 24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 02114

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown of the marriage.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Jocelyn Santiago Montero, 8 Buckingham St., Hyde Park, MA 02136** your answer, if any, on or before **01/25/2018**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
November 22, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Court
Hyde Park Bulletin, 12/07/2017

Tell 'em what you think with a Letter To The Editor



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Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU17C0302CA**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300

In the Matter of: Travelle Michael Benjamin
Of: Hyde Park, MA.

To all person interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by Tashanna C. Williams requesting that:
Travelle Michael Benjamin be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:
Travelle Michael Williams
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 01/18/2018
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court
Date: November 15, 2017
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Hyde Park Bulletin, 12/07/2017

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE **DOCKET No. SU16P2643**

Estate of: Helen P. Canavan Suffolk Division
Also Known As:
Date of Death: December 2, 2015

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Phyllis A.C. Swett of Abington, MA
Phyllis A.C. Swett of Abington, MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Hyde Park Bulletin, 12/07/2017

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DURHAM COUNTY
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
17CVD1032

BETHEA VS. NOTICE-BETHEA

Lorraine Notice-Bethea:
Take notice that a pleading seeking a Final Divorce, Equitable Distribution, & Interim Distribution with attorney's fees has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:
That the bonds of matrimony which heretofore existed between the parties be dissolved and that the Plaintiff be granted an absolute divorce from the Defendant. That the Court determine the marital and divisible property of the parties and make an equitable distribution of said property and grant an unequal distribution in favor of the Plaintiff pursuant to N.C.G.S. §50-20 et. seq.; That the Court make an interim distribution that the marital home is Plaintiff's sole property and that the Defendant be instructed to take steps necessary to have her name removed from the deed; That the Court order Defendant to pay Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees; That the costs of this action be taxed to Defendant; That the Court grants such other relief to the Plaintiff as the Court may deem just and proper. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 14, 2018 and upon failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This the 30th day of November, 2017.
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Felton Banks, PLLC
7406 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite H
Raleigh, NC 27607
West Roxbury/Roslindale Bulletin, 11/30/2017, 12/07/2017, 12/14/2017

Calendar

continued from page 8

“The Holiday Market creates a festive atmosphere where local retailers, artists, restaurants, and neighbors can come together on a chilly night and warm up with music and hot cocoa — all while shopping locally in the heart of Roslindale Village,” said RVMS Executive Director Alia Hamada Forrest.

The surrounding shops and award-winning restaurants will feature special sales and menus during the market. Birch Street House & Garden and Joanne Rossman offer unique gifts, and the Boston Cheese Cellar will be serving mulled wine and their famous Swiss raclette.

As a special attraction this year, owners of the newly-announced brewery, Distraction Brewing, will be at the site of their future business at 2 Belgrade Ave. for a meet and greet.

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One-On-One Computer Assistance are on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. Please call 617-325-3147 to reserve a 30-minute informal session with a librarian. Bring your device or use a library laptop (library card required). Beginners are welcome. This is a free service.

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Boston Public Library locations offer free after-school homework help and mentorship provided by trained, high-achieving high school students. Homework Help is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., Sept. 18 through May 24. Open to students in grades K-8. No registration is required. Program is not available on Boston Public School holidays, early-release days, or long weekends.

Homework Help mentor trainings provided by Harvard University's Public School Partnerships Team, the developers of SmartTalk, a program that uses research-based tools, strategies, and resources to support students during homework time. Located at the West Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library.

SANTA SCAMPER 5K ROAD RACE

Race Day Registration and Pre/Post Race Festivities Registration and pre/post race festivities at the Irish Social Club, 119 Park St. in West Roxbury, just a block from the race start/finish. Our Race Day Logistics page will keep you up to date! Race Course Start/finish at Parkway Community YMCA. Rolling course thru the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. Chip timing

On Dec. 10, 2017 the 5K will start at 11 a.m. The Kids Run at 10:15 a.m.

The Parkway Running Club (PRC) of West Roxbury has hosted an annual Santa Scamper 5k road race since 1994. This race raises money for the Boston Globe Santa Fund, a charity to support children of need in Massachusetts.

Letters continued from page 4

GRATEFUL TO REP. LIZ MALIA

To the Editor:
We are grateful to and Representative Liz Malia for supporting the We the People Act (H.1926 and S.379). Not only is Rep Malia a co-sponsor but she

also took action this month by sending a joint letter to committee chairs hearing the bill urging a positive report. This bill would have Massachusetts, the cradle of American Democracy; join the other five states (Vermont, California, Illinois, New Jersey and

Rhode Island) that have already voted to propose a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's disastrous Citizens United decision. Until We the People, through our elected state representatives and senators, exercise our constitutional author-

ity to amend the Constitution in this way, our political landscape will continue to be dominated by multi-national corporations, billionaires and other powerful special interests, and government of, by and for the people will continue to be a mirage. Amending the Constitution is a heavy lift, but it has been done 27 times before. Without constitutional amend-

ments, former slaves, women, and people old enough to serve in the military would not have a voice in public affairs. Now it's our turn to live up to the first three words of the Constitution, "We the People," and make our government responsive to the needs of all the people, not just the wealthy few.

Laura Gang Roslindale

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