Groundwater Levels Returning to Normal

By Zach Carmosino

After a rainy spring, Boston's groundwater has returned to a safe level, mitigating damage to city infrastructure. Many of Boston's neighborhoods are built on marshland filled in with sand and gravel, including parts of Back Bay, South End, Fenway, Beacon Hill and Downtown. Many of their buildings are supported by wood pilings designed to be submerged below groundwater levels.

Groundwater levels vary by year, largely dependent on how much rain and snow falls. When levels drop, the pilings are exposed to air and are attacked by microbes that rot the wood, risking damage to the buildings they support.

When pilings rot, the buildings above them settle and cracks often appear. In several cases, buildings became unsafe to occupy. For homeowners, the cost of underpinning a home or restoring its wooden pilings, can cost more than $250,000, according to Boston Groundwater Trust.

According to Christian Simonelli, executive director of Boston Groundwater Trust, high levels of groundwater are good news, as they mitigate damage to city infrastructure.

State Cried Wolf About River Algae

By Joe Walsh

A state health warning about dangerous algae in the Charles River may have been overblown.

The warning, issued two weeks ago by the state Department of Public Health (DPH), advised residents to avoid the Charles due to elevated levels of cyanobacteria. But the harmful toxins that some algae species produce were not found in the river and algae counts quickly normalized after a week. The advisory also did not stop hundreds of residents and tourists from plying the Charles.

BSO Is Evaluating Its Underutilized Land

By Joe Walsh

The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is eyeing a large scale redevelopment project that could transform the face of Huntington Avenue.

The BSO is looking into building a large complex with Symphony Hall as an anchor, according to members of the orchestra’s Board of Advisors. The redevelopment project, still in preliminary stages, could replace a stretch of old low-rise retail buildings that line Huntington Ave near Symphony Hall.

BSO leaders have not formalized or officially unveiled plans for the neighborhood, but the organization’s Board of Advisors discussed preliminary ideas with BSO staff and with acclaimed architect Elizabeth Diller, two board members said. The BSO declined to comment, and Diller, whose role with the

Parcel 12 Won’t Use Fossil Fuels

By Dan Rabb

Boston may soon have its first high rise heated without the use of fossil fuels.

The developers of Parcel 12, a massive proposed complex spanning the Mass Pike along Massachusetts Avenue, say they are committed to installing an all electric heating system in one of the two towers planned for the site. Rather than natural gas, the building will use a system known as an “air source heat pump” to provide heat and cooling.

The building will be part of a larger project spanning Parcel 12 and Parcel 14, which will also be heated by an all-electric system.

EXCLUSIVE

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Groundwater
Continued from Page 1

precipitation in Boston over recent months has eased concerns over low groundwater levels brought on by a dry winter. “We had an above-average spring,” he said. “Overall, the wet spring and the slightly above-average year have helped.”

Construction of roadways and subway tracks beneath parts of the city created with landfill have caused groundwater levels to lower since these neighborhoods were built. This challenge is especially felt in Back Bay, which is almost entirely built on reclaimed mud flats along the banks of the Charles River.

The city created the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District that regulates this issue, which works to recharge rainwater into the ground and ensures new construction and renovation projects do not further reduce groundwater.

This summer’s return to higher rainfall levels has eased concerns created by low levels in the recent past. Boston experienced an atypically dry year in 2016, when the city saw an unusually low average of only 30.48 inches of precipitation across the city, according to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

Although groundwater levels are up since winter, the city is on pace this year for less rainfall than in 2018. Boston saw an average of 51.78 inches of rainfall across the city last year, according to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. The city has received only 22.26 inches of rain so far, at pace to reach 37.97 inches over the course of a year.

Simonelli says Boston’s current healthy groundwater levels are a product of unusually high levels of rainfall last year compensating for relatively low precipitation in this one. That level of rainfall was beneficial in the recovery process for Boston’s groundwater, but he expects a return to normalcy in 2019.

“This year was so high, I think this year will push it back to normal levels,” Simonelli said.
One island. Thirteen homes. Infinite memories.

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THE BOSTON GUARDIAN
Mace to the Face
Four officers responded to a call on July 10 around 6:15 pm at 1826 Washington Street, Hair Stop Beauty Supply.

Immediately upon arrival, officers saw the victim screaming with watery, red eyes. A hairy situation. The red-eyed victim told officers she was attempting to make a purchase when an employee ordered her to put down her cell phone while at the register.

The employee, or now suspect, threw a piece of paper at the victim, who then retaliated by throwing another unknown object back. A thrown object for a thrown object leaves the world objectless. It went zero to 100 real quick when the suspect/object leaves the world objectless. It went.

A thrown object for a thrown object leaves the world objectless. It went zero to 100 real quick when the suspect/object leaves the world objectless. It went.

Several witnesses said the suspect also attempted to throw a knuckle sandwich. They described the suspect continually pepper spraying the victim while she was on the ground.

The suspect admitted to pepper spraying the victim yet attempted to justify the actions by saying the victim cursed and knocked over several items. Officers reported the shop to be in order with no items scattered around. The suspect was transported, booked and charged.

AirBnBurglary
On July 19 around 7:42 pm, two officers responded to a radio call for a burglary at the 200 block of Northampton Street.

When the officers were making their way downtown, driving fast, faces pass and they're crime bound, they receive a tidbit about the residence. The property manager said it should be vacant because the home is an AirBnB, though the manager could have some weird trends nowadays. There has even been property stolen from the unit, also unreported.

Officers were able to find an iPhone, bank card and school ID card. They logged the evidence and notified District 4 detectives.

Not the Brightest Star
On July 20 around 3:20 am, a victim reported her wallet was stolen while shopping at the Star Market, 33 Kilmarnock Street.

The victim shopped around 8 pm the night prior and left with a full cart. She loaded up the bags into the car and placed her wallet in the cart. She forgot to load up the most valuable item.

It was not until receiving an alert on her phone that the victim realized her wallet was missing. The alert notified her that her Capital One debit card was used at 7-Eleven and Target. She cancelled all bank cards.

7-11 Robbery
Around 5:40 am on July 22, two officers responded to a robbery in progress at 121 Jersey Street location of 7-Eleven.

Officers spoke to the store manager upon arrival who also happened to be the victim. An unidentified man had attempted to rob the store, according to the manager. Maybe the suspect missed free Slurpee day!

The manager tried to stop the suspect from shoplifting, then the suspect started being aggressive. The suspect threw the manager to the ground and attacked him. Probably not over a Slurpee.

The suspect took the manager’s wallet, ripping his pocket. The wallet contained $530. The suspect rode off on foot with his new makeup, never to be seen again.

The unknown suspect fled the store on foot with his new makeup, never to be seen again.
Old Timers Welcome Newcomers

Longtime Beacon Hill notables mingled with neighborhood newcomers at 75 Chestnut Monday night, for the Beacon Hill Civic Association's Meet and Greet. The monthly event regularly draws dozens of residents interested in meeting each other in a casual setting.

Esplanade Murals Prevent Vandalism

The once dreary pumphouses lining the Charles River Esplanade have become canvases for public art.

The Esplanade Association hired a trio of artists to paint three Boston Water and Sewer Commission pumphouses near Fairfield Street and the BU campus, turning blighted graffiti magnets into showcases of art. The three muralists, all of whom have local connections, unveiled their work to the public last week.

The murals serve two purposes, according to Esplanade Association Executive Director Michael Nichols. They enhance the park by introducing new art for visitors to enjoy, he says, and they discourage vandalism by eliminating empty spaces for graffiti artists to occupy.

“This is not the first time the Esplanade Association has used art to prevent vandalism. A concrete slab underneath the Bowker Overpass was covered in a mural two summers ago and Nichols says that project prevented vandalism on the overpass and in surrounding areas of the park.

“Generally speaking, thoughtful murals tend to cut down on negative instances of graffiti,” he said.

Continued on Page 8

By Joe Walsh

Every school in the City of Boston should be high-quality. And every child should have a school in their neighborhood.

As City Councilor, and as a parent, I will advocate for every child and ensure that we deliver on the promise of public education.
‘Stolen’ Statue Is Coming Home

By Zach Carmosino

Robert Burns and his dog, Luath, are one step closer to returning to their original home in Fenway. But first, they need a cleaning.

The statue of the famed 18th century poet and his canine companion is set to move back to the Back Bay Fens this fall after four decades in Winthrop Square downtown. Next week, the bronze likeness of the Scottish literary icon will be moved to a conservator’s studio in an effort to restore its condition, the penultimate stop in what many in the Fenway say is the monument’s journey home.

“We’re thrilled to have it back in the park,” said Margaret Dyson, director of historic parks.

Though it stood Downtown since the 1970’s, the statue was once an important piece of civic life in the Fenway. Created

Continued on Page 8

‘WaterGoat’ Will Clean Muddy River

By Joe Walsh

Trash heaps that plague the Muddy River could disappear as soon as next summer.

The Muddy Water Initiative secured funding last week in the state’s annual budget to buy a floating trash collection boom. When it is installed next year, this WaterGoat will stretch across the Muddy and capture debris from the surface in an attempt to end severe trash buildup.

Organizers hope to correct a decades-old trash problem in the Muddy. The brook regularly fills with garbage that drifts throughout the Emerald Necklace, often accumulating downstream near the dam that separates the Muddy from the Charles River.

“Anybody who has walked by the Muddy River has noticed that it is in a catastrophic state right now,” said Caroline Reeves, cofounder of the Muddy Water Initiative. “It’s not bad, it’s catastrophic.”

Continued on Page 8
More Police for Methadone Mile

By Zach Carmosino

The Boston Police Department (BPD) will maintain an increased presence around Newmarket and its surrounding neighborhoods for an indefinite period of time, according to city officials.

The blue surge comes as the city deals with fallout from Operation Clean Sweep, a crackdown on crime along Boston’s “Methadone Mile” in which Boston police made over 30 arrests in the wake of a recent attack on a Suffolk County corrections officer.

The intensive nighttime operations displaced many homeless residents living near the two emergency shelters around the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Now, many of those homeless residents have dispersed throughout the Fenway, the South End and Roxbury, leaving them cut off from recovery treatment and other services, leaving residents of surrounding areas nervous that the problems that once plagued Atkinson Street have come to their front door.

Officials from both the BPD and the mayor’s office say the continuing police presence throughout these neighborhoods is meant to address both these problems.

“We’re trying to balance public safety and neighborhood quality of life issues that we know people are experiencing,” said Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez, at a South End meeting addressing the fallout from Operation Clean Sweep. “We’re trying to balance the fact that people deserve dignity, respect and access to care and services, and we’re trying to make sure people feel safe both in their neighborhoods and are getting care and services.”

Police in the South End and other affected neighborhoods will be paying special attention to alleys and other areas where individuals might use drugs or sleep, according to Special Advisor to the Mayor Buddy Christopher, who oversees services in the Newmarket area. He emphasized that such increased vigilance is not punitive, but intended to assist the homeless and get people help.

“The messaging that’s supposed to be coming from the police, their opening line is, ‘Can we help you? Can we get you to a shelter?’” Christopher said. “The objective is to get these folks, both male and female, we’re trying to get these people off the street into some more proactive way of dealing with their situation right now.”

According to Christopher, the city now wants homeless residents to return to

Continued on Page 8

Night Out with Neighbors

Residents gathered to join Mayor Marty Walsh, Police Commissioner William Gross and Boston Police Department Command Staff for the 36th annual National Night Out on Tuesday. The tradition honors the successes of crime prevention while celebrating with food, drinks, activities and awards.
The WaterGoat will capture floating trash in its web of buoy and nets, which sits atop the water and leaves the river’s wildlife unscathed below. Every week, teams of volunteers will pull the device from the water and throw away its spoils. As years’ worths of garbage works its way through the river and into the grips of the goat, Reeves says neighbors will see a noticeable drop in trash volume within the first month.

By Henry Hudson O’Reilly, the monument was dedicated in 1920 to much pomp and circumstance, including a speech by then Governor Calvin Coolidge. The depiction of Burns, best known today for penning the New Year standard “Auld Lang Syne,” paid tribute to the contribution of Scottish immigrants.

Yet in 1975, the statue disappeared from its pedestal, leading some authorities to believe it was stolen. And in a sense, it was. A developer asked the city for the statue while searching for public art to complement his new building in Winthrop Square. The Boston Arts Commission moved the monument from the Fenway in the middle of the night, with no warning or discussion with the neighborhood.

“The Boston Arts Commission decided that if they grabbed it in the dead of night, it would be very hard to fight back,” said Fenway Civic Association (FCA) Vice President Matthew Brooks. “The city was being predatory.”

The FCA has long been looking for a way to return the statue to its neighborhood.

The WaterGoat’s purchase, installation and permitting, plus a year of private trash haulage for the debts captured by the device.

The WaterGoat fits into a larger effort to restore the Muddy River, an Emerald Necklace centerpiece that has become trash strewn and pollution ridden after decades of neglect. While garbage is the Muddy River’s most obvious problem, the river’s more pervasive issue is harder to see. The Muddy is one of the Charles River’s most polluted tributaries, Reeves said, and this pollution has led to a serious cyanobacteria problem, leaving globs of noxious green scum nestled among the river’s mounds of floating trash and dead phragmites reeds.

The Muddy Water Alliance eventually hopes to address this wider pollution issue through better stormwater management, but sifting out the trash is a strong first step, Reeves says. By making the river more visually appealing, Reeves hopes to encourage further conservation.

“Many years, the Muddy River has been a site of abuse,” Reeves said. “We need to treat it with the respect it’s always deserved.”
**ON the TOWN**

**Saturdays, July-October**

**Games Day at The Steps.** Oversized Jenga, Connect 4, checkers, music and putting green. Free. Corner of Washington and Franklin Streets. 11 am-3 pm.

**Sunday, August 11**

**Madonna Della Cava Feast.** Feast coinciding with the festival held in Sicily. Free. North End. 12 pm.

**Sunday, August 18**


**Saturday, August 24**

**REI’s Find Out: Party in the Park.** Run fun, yoga, bike maintenance classes, smores, giveaways and music. Free, registration is required. 401 Park Green Space. 10 am.

**Sunday, August 25**

**50th Annual Chinatown August Moon Festival.** Live performances, food, art and vendors. Free. Phillips Square, 1 Harrison Avenue. 10 am.

**Trinity Church Art & Architecture Series.** Learn about Trinity Church’s building and art through a forum after the 10 am service. Free. Trinity Church, 206 Clarendon Street. 11:30 am.

**SoWa Second Sunday.** More than 80 artists will be in their open studios with art available for view or purchase. Free. 450 Harrison Avenue. 11 am-4 pm.

**Greenway Augmented Reality Tour.** Tour of AR art. Free, registration is required. Meet at Dewey Sq. 5:30 pm.

**Fenway Civic Assn. Summer Public Meeting.** News and updates to Fenway public spaces. Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston Street. 6-8 pm.

**Movie Night at Fenway.** World Series trophies on display, followed by *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Vers.* $10 (kids under 12 are free). Fenway Park Gates A & D. 6:45 pm warning track, 8 pm movie.

**Wednesday, August 14**

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra Annual Green Concert.** In partnership with New England Aquarium. Free. Hatch Memorial Shell. 7-9 pm.

**Thursday, August 15**

**Rosalita’s Puppets Marionette.** Free performance sponsored by ParkARTS. Christopher Columbus Park. 11 am.

**SoWa Artist Talk.** A conversation with artists Mishael Coggeshall-Burr, Wilhelm Neusser and Natalia Wrobel discussing their paintings. Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, 460C, Harrison Avenue. 6-8 pm.

**Saturday, August 17**

**The Fenway Food Tour.** Learn history while munching. $60. Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Comm Ave. 10 am.

**Sunday, August 18**

**Phillis Wheatley Day.** The day Phillips became a member of the Old South congregation. Free with museum admission. Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street.

**Monday, August 19**

**Boston Art & Music Soul Festival.** BAMFest celebrates youth and women empowerment through high-energy performances. Food trucks, games. Free. Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade. 6-7:30 pm.

**Wednesday, August 21**

**Panel Discussion: Women in Landscape Architecture Today.** To discuss the gender pay gap in architecture. Featuring panelists Clara Barchelor, Denene Crosby, Eleni Glekas and Jessalyn Jarest. Free, registration required. Nichols House Museum, 55 Mt. Vernon Street. 6-7:30 pm.

**Thursday, August 22**

**Free Admission at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum’s Neighborhood Nights.** Live performances, food trucks. 25 Evans Way. 5-9 pm.

**Summer of ’69: Woodstock.** Songwriter and Berklee associate professor Mark Simos explores the significance of Woodstock. $25-$21. Boston Center for Adult Education, 122 Arlington Street. 6:30 pm.

**Movie Musicals at the Marketplace:**

**A Star is Born.** Trivia, photo-op, prizes and a movie showing. Free. Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Pre-show at 7:30 pm, movie at dusk.

**Saturday, August 24**

**The Boston Guardian**
By Caroline Broderick

The Charles River has calming blue waters running for 80 miles, a verdant, activity rich Esplanade and the opportunity to escape from city life. Many Bostonians travel to the Charles for rowing, kayaking or trails, but at 380 Beacon Street, Unit 2, the river is your backyard. Views of the Charles from the lush summer through the striking white winter are available with the single move of a curtain.

This home is in an ideal location for peaceful living and access. Although this area of Back Bay is quiet and calm, it’s only a few blocks away from Newbury Street, a unique shopping spot with endless boutiques and restaurants.

380 Beacon Street, Unit 2 is a three bedroom, three bathroom single floor co-op home with rare traits, making it a true gem. The ceilings stretch for over 10 feet and the walls are adorned with tall, oversized sound proof windows. The home fills with sunlight and has views of the Charles from the living room. Dark oak wood flooring spans throughout, contrasting with the bright white paneled walls.

Built in 1900 but converted into a cooperative in 1985, Unit 2 has five wood fireplaces, detailed molding and wainscoting. Its interior windows open the space up. Leading from the living area is a more secluded wood paneled room tucked into the corner of the home that can be used as a library or office because of its built-in wall shelving.

The kitchen is equipped with professional grade appliances and high end custom cabinetry. There are two ovens and double Bosch dishwashers, as well as six stove burners. The stone counters extend to a spacious breakfast nook, a sunny spot with custom cabinets, an extra refrigerator, windows and a built-in bench. Off the kitchen is a large formal dining room with working pocket doors that separate the living room from the dining area.

The master bedroom is fitted with a walk-in closet and a large bathroom. The bathroom has a double sink and vanity along with a clawfoot bathtub. Sophisticated paneled walls give the bathroom a luxurious feeling.

The residence has a total of 10 rooms and includes a separate 483 square foot area with a private bath, large windows and fireplace, which can be used for a fitness studio, extra living room or office.

This 3,714 square foot condominium comes with a common rooftop deck, central air and one parking space with up to two additional rental parking space options. 380 Beacon Street is professionally managed and Unit 2 has direct elevator access. This home is listed at $6.398 million. Contact Jonathon Curley at (781) 258-7996 or Elizabeth Crowley of William Raveis Real Estate at (617) 797-8659 for more information.
## Beacon Hill Open Houses

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<td>333 Beacon St #K6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>Sat 11:30:12:30</td>
<td>(617)489-3914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$699,000</td>
<td>35 Bay State Rd K1R</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>Sun 1:2</td>
<td>(617)413-2216</td>
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<tr>
<td>$675,000</td>
<td>362 Comm Ave #K8</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>Sat 12:1</td>
<td>(617)270-1188</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## South End Open Houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Pkg</th>
<th>Beds</th>
<th>Baths</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>Open House</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>$2,650,000</td>
<td>15 Braddock Pl K</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2,370</td>
<td>Sun 11:30:1</td>
<td>(617)861-3636</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,575,000</td>
<td>117 W Concord St PH</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>2,107</td>
<td>Sat, Sun 11:30:12:30</td>
<td>(617)908-4000</td>
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<td>$2,955,000</td>
<td>52 Rutherford Sq K</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>Sun 1:30:3</td>
<td>(617)861-3636</td>
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<td>675 Mass Ave K</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>Sun 11:30:12:30</td>
<td>(617)266-4430</td>
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<td>$1,459,000</td>
<td>11 Harvard St K501</td>
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<td>(617)378-9293</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Sun 12:1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>(617)721-7143</td>
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<td>$869,000</td>
<td>600 Mass Ave K4</td>
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<td>(978)738-2419</td>
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<tr>
<td>$739,000</td>
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<td>$559,000</td>
<td>16 Marlboro St K2</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>Sat, Sun 12:2</td>
<td>(617)649-4907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Beacon Hill Townhouse - 160 Mount Vernon Street

This inviting and aesthetically pleasing four story townhouse built in 1871 is in excellent condition. The current owners, who have resided there for 34 years, have brought the house into the 21st century while retaining historic details. There is sensational light and lovely views from both the front and rear. The house has a wonderful, spacious roof deck, gracious rooms, central a/c and a beautiful garden which has been on The Beacon Hill Garden Tour. The building foundation has been underpinned and the garden level has been totally renovated. There is a full on-site parking space. This is a “must-see.”

$6,250,000

Lisa B. Haftenreffer
401-635-2468 office
401-474-7345 cell

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