Yet Another Hotel Coming to Back Bay

A developer is proposing to build yet another new hotel on the edge of the Back Bay. Local real estate firm HN Gorin announced plans this week for a 240-foot, 22-story hotel on Stanhope Street, on the site of the Red Lantern restaurant and lounge. The developer filed a notice of intent with the city, kicking off months of public meetings and approvals for the project.

“We look forward to working with the city and the community to create a hotel in one of the city’s most beautiful neighborhoods,” Roz Continued on Page 2

PILOT Payments Up But Still Falling Short

By Joe Walsh

Boston’s largest universities increased their cash payments to city coffers last year, but most schools are still falling short of the city’s requested contributions.

In the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program, the city asks for annual payments from major schools, hospitals and other institutions whose nonprofit status exempts them from property taxes. These voluntary cash payments reached almost $34.2 million in the 2019 fiscal year, a record-high figure that still fell millions of dollars below the total amount the city requested, according Continued on Page 2

D-8 Council Candidates Disagree on Bike Lanes

By Joe Walsh

Candidates for City Council District 8 are divided on how to manage the city’s overburdened road network, with some hopefuls promising more bike lanes while others urged their removal.

Five contenders vying to replace Councilor Josh Zakim spoke about transit, schools and opioids at a forum Tuesday night, two weeks before a preliminary election winnows the field to two leading candidates. The winner will represent a wide swath of downtown neighborhoods, stretching across most of the Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the Fenway.

The candidates expressed sharp disagreement on the role of bike lanes, which they characterized as either a safe way to manage bicycle Continued on Page 2

The Winners Are...

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay awarded its prestigious awards at last night’s annual meeting. The Paul Prindle Community Leadership Award went to Graffiti NABBers, a group started by resident Ann Swanson over 20 years ago to rid the neighborhood of graffiti. The Mary Natale Citizenship was awarded to Gail Laffer for her decades of involvement in neighborhood groups. Continued on Page 2
Continued from Page 1

PILOT

The city asks each nonprofit for a mix of cash and community benefits, adding up to 25% of the taxes a for-profit owner would have paid on their land. This figure is based on the cost of services like police, fire and infrastructure, which are used by nonprofits and regular landowners alike, city officials say.

“This is a really important revenue source for the city,” said Casey Brock-Wilson, the city’s director of strategic partnerships. “We want to continue to grow the program.”

Most nonprofits’ PILOT payments remained largely unchanged last year. Major hospitals paid nearly all of the PILOT requested from them, while most universities continued to pay a fraction of their bills.

Boston University (BU) and Northeastern each increased their cash payments by $200,000, reaching $6.5 million and $1.7 million respectively. The schools also offered millions in community benefits like scholarships for city residents and educational programs for high schoolers.

Still, both BU and Northeastern fell short of the city’s requested PILOT by millions of dollars and both schools hiked their payments at roughly the same rate that their property values increased. BU did not respond to a request for comment. Northeastern, for its part, says it works with the city to determine its payments, noting that the school is not reliant on some of the city’s services PILOT is designed to fund.

“Northeastern maintains its own professional police force, collects and disposes of trash, and handles its own snow removal,” said spokesperson Shannon Nagy.

Simmons University became a new entrant in Boston’s PILOT landscape. After several years of not giving any money, Simmons offered $200,000 in cash payments, slightly less than half of the city’s requested contribution. A spokesperson said that the school’s contributions extend beyond cash, including opening its recreational spaces for public use.

Meanwhile, a few nonprofits decreased their contributions. Mass General Hospital offered up $6.88 million in cash payments, a drop of more than $140,000 from last year. MGH did not respond to a request for comment.

Tufts University also decreased its payments by about $150,000, though a spokesperson noted that the school pays a higher percentage of its requested PILOT than most other universities.

Some residents believe nonprofits are still falling short, even if their total contributions have increased in many cases. Enid Eckstein, a member of the advocacy organization PILOT Action Group, said city officials should exert more pressure on these organizations. Large schools place a burden on the city’s infrastructure and housing stock, she noted, plus the city could use the extra revenue.

“These institutions do well by being in the city,” Eckstein said. “Some of them have been very hesitant to pay their fair share.”

City officials say they would like nonprofits to pay their entire requested PILOT bill, but they note that the city primarily relies on goodwill to convince institutions to pay. “These are all strictly voluntary payments,” said Commissioner of Assessing Nicholas Aritiello. “We are extremely lucky to have the level of participation that we’ve had so far.”

Bike Lanes

Continued from Page 1

traffic or a potential nuisance for other road users.

Candidates Kenzie Bok and Hélène Vincent both called for a more extensive and cohesive system of bicycle lanes across the city, including in the downtown neighborhoods. With the city’s population set to continue growing rapidly, a viable alternative to driving is critical, they said, and safe infrastructure for bikes will encourage more drivers to get off the road.

Currently, the city’s bike network is a patchwork of protected and unprotected lanes, along with sections shared with vehicle. These lanes often stop abruptly, Bok and Vincent noted, forcing bikers to either dart onto narrow sidewalks or pour into mixed traffic. The two candidates pitched more extensive bicycle lanes as a way to prevent these conflicts, protecting drivers, pedestrians and bikers alike.

“In order for us to protect space for pedestrians,” Bok said, “we need to have a designated space in the roadway that bicyclists feel safe to be in.”

Candidates Jennifer Nassour and Montez Haywood, meanwhile, were unified in their irritation with obstruction on Boston’s sidewalks, especially since the developer plans to have a designated space in the roadway that bicyclists feel safe to be in for its part, says it works with the city to determine its payments, noting that the school is not reliant on some of the city’s services PILOT is designed to fund.

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“The Stanhope Hotel would occupy a corner of the Back Bay that already sits steps away from the Fairmount Copley Plaza and the Loews Hotel. Despite that concentration, the area is not at risk of becoming oversaturated with hotels, Mainzer-Cohen commented. Prices remain high and vacancy rates are low, she noted, indicating that demand is strong.

“The Back Bay, as a neighborhood, is a hospitality draw,” Mainzer-Cohen said. “This is a very attractive neighborhood for tourism.” The developer said the hotel’s design is consistent with zoning rules for the area. Still, during the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) large project review process, the developer will need to answer a wide swath of questions ranging from traffic flow to historic preservation to potential community benefits.

Traffic impact remains an unanswered question. The Stanhope Hotel building would face a narrow one-way street, right near several other major real estate developments. Raffles Boston is in close range, and developers are eying a Mass Pike air rights project across the street.

A traffic study has not taken place yet, but one will be part of the BPDA’s review process. The developer anticipated that most guests will arrive via mass transit, minimizing the project’s impact on traffic.

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay has not fully reviewed the project yet, according to President Martyn Roetter. He said the project’s compatibility with zoning rules is good, but he added that traffic from ridehailing services like Uber and Lyft could be a concern, especially on such a narrow street.

“We would obviously like to see no significant addition to congestion,” Roetter said. “We’d like to have a chance to look at what’s proposed.”
Flynn Wants Chin Park Improved

By Dan Rabb

Long awaited enhancements to Chin Park and other Greenway properties abutting Chinatown are just around the corner, but many residents remain frustrated by a perceived lack of attention to their troubled section of the park.

The Greenway Conservancy manages a string of open spaces running between Chinatown and the Leather District, many less green than the stretch along the Financial District and Waterfront. With its popular food trucks, beer gardens and public art, the bulk of the Greenway has been widely regarded as an enormous success since the end of the Big Dig, but the Chinatown section has been plagued by problems.

From the bamboo lined serpentine path to Chin Park and the Chinatown Viewing Garden, the southernmost Greenway faces a growing rat infestation, a large transient population, and chronic issues with public urination, defecation and drug use. There is also nearby decaying infrastructure not seen in other parts of the park. As these issues have grown, so too have concerns from residents and business owners.

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services announced Wednesday that Flynn wants to see Chin Park improved.

Continued on Page 8

Mayor Names New Downtown Liaison

By Dan Rabb

Downtown, Chinatown and the Leather District have a new liaison to Mayor Marty Walsh, a position that has remained vacant for nearly two months.

Lisa Hy will be taking over as the Walsh Administration’s point person for Downtown residents and businesses, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services announced Wednesday.

The South Boston native has some previous experience in the Downtown communities, working in Tufts Medical Center’s Community Health Improvement Department since her graduation from Suffolk University last year. A fluent Cantonese speaker with proficiency in Mandarin, Hy previously worked for former City Councilor Bill Linehan in a community outreach role.

“Lisa is a proud product of the City of Boston and her experience working with nonprofits and community organizations makes her the perfect person for this position,” Mayor Walsh said in a written statement. “Her love of community will fit well with the activism of the Downtown, Chinatown and Leather District neighborhoods, and I’m excited to welcome her into this role.”

Downtown has been without a primary contact for the mayor’s office since the departure of Danchen Xu in July. Xu left the role after just a year on the job to pursue a Master’s Degree in International Affairs at Georgetown University, although her departure was at least partially necessitated by the terms of her student visa, city officials confirmed.

Xu came into the job amidst widespread dissatisfaction from many Downtown residents about a perceived lack of effective representation in the administration.

Continued on Page 8

High Holidays at the Four Seasons

ROSH HASHANAH EVE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
Greetings & Candle Lighting 6:00 PM
Evening Service 6:30 PM
Community Dinner 7:20 PM

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
Morning Services 9:30 AM
Children’s Program 10:30 AM
Blowing of the Shofar 11:30 AM
Kiddush Luncheon and Tashlich following services
Evening Service & Candle Lighting 7:30 PM
Urbanites New year’s Celebration 8:00 PM

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019
Morning Services 9:30 AM
Children’s Program 10:30 AM
Blowing of the Shofar 11:30 AM
Kiddush Luncheon following services

YOM KIPPUR EVE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019
Greetings & Candle Lighting 5:30 PM
Kol Nidrei Service 6:30 PM

YOM KIPPUR DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
Morning Services 9:30 AM
Children’s Program 10:30 AM
Yizkor Service 11:30 AM
Minchah Service 4:30 PM
Nefillah - Closing Service 5:45 PM
Havdalah & Breakfast Buffet 6:05 PM

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Tale of Two Neighbors
On September 5 around 2:15 pm, an officer responded to a harassment report from the 700 block of Tremont Street.

The officer met with the victim who explained her complicated relationship with a neighbor. Spoiler alert, thou dost not love thy neighbor as thyself.

The neighbor allegedly banged on the victim's door repeatedly. There were no kind knocks for a cup of flour here. After confronting the neighbor, the two got into a tiff resulting in the victim believing the neighbor would assault her.

So, the victim did what any reasonable human would do and reported the neighbor to management. But there was a little gift awaiting her return. The victim found her doorknob smashed and dented.

Officers advised the neighbors to keep their distance. Too bad they live next door to one another, good luck with that!

Paper Trail
An officer took a report on September 5 around 9:30 pm for an auto theft at Star Market, 33 Kilmarnock Street.

The victim parked her car in the lot on September 3. After returning the next morning, the car was gone. State police, Star Market themselves and multiple towing companies were contacted. None had any idea where the car was.

But the Boston Transportation Department did, kind of. The department found the vehicle had received three parking tickets within the time frame it was lost. There was a paper trail leading the victim to the perpetrators, but there was no certainty whether they could be tracked down, only a general area of where it might be.

The loss of the car was even more tragic for the victim because she had kept around $17,000 worth of valuables inside. She was in the process of moving, so if she gets the car back, there is no hope for her nurse supplies, glasses, laptop, electronics, clothing, books or hiking gear.

Locked Out
On September 6 around 6:15 pm, an officer responded to a tenant landlord issue at the 500 block of Mass Ave.

The victim explained that she rented a room in a shared apartment. This living situation has been the same since 2016, the victim said. Yet today, the locks were changed and the victim could not reach the landlord.

No paperwork could be provided to officers because it was all, you guessed it, locked in the apartment.

Officers knocked on the door, nobody answered.

Crocodile Tears
One officer responded to 51 West Dedham Street on September 6 around 7:22 pm for a motor vehicle accident involving a bicycle.

The cyclist said he rode his bicycle on the crosswalk when a car backed into him. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries and the cyclist did not fall, though he may have injured his knee. The driver of the vehicle then called the cyclist a “f---ing a--hole.” Not even an apology!

But here is where things got tricky. Out of the four people involved, three believe the cyclist was lying!

The driver said she backed up the car very slowly while moving parking spots. Suddenly, she heard a loud noise. Even when using her rear camera, she did not see the cyclist.

The two witnesses, both family members of the driver, had the same story to tell. Both were helping her back into the space and saw the coast was clear and suddenly The Flash on a bike was backed into.

All three believe the cyclist was crying crocodile tears and believe he purposely went behind the vehicle and was not actually injured.

Sweet Justice
Two officers made an onsite arrest at 43 St. Botolph Street around 1:42 am on September 7.

While scoping out the scene in an unmarked police cruiser, both officers specifically looked for an alleged bicycle thief on the run. They did not find him at this time, but what they did find was an even sweeter case of justice.

Both officers noticed a male briefly stop next to cars and pull on the door handles. He did this four times before officers approached him. Immediately, he put his hands in the air and was searched.

There were no weapons on him, but they did find two pairs of Ray Ban sunglasses and Boston Police Department badge. Fishy. But the suspect eased all the worries from the officers by saying, “some Spanish guy sold it to me for $20.”

The suspect had four outstanding warrants and was booked.
Community Approach To Learning Spanish

By Joe Walsh

At the West End Library, a group of patrons can spend several minutes discussing a single Spanish word.

Learning a new language in adulthood is notoriously challenging, but this group of Boston residents is embracing their struggle collectively. The Spanish/English Language Exchange, a weekly discussion group, unites native English and Spanish speakers in a combined desire to learn one another’s languages.

“It’s a very diverse group, which is part of the fun,” said Jean Lawrence, a Beacon Hill resident and one of the group’s coordinators.

For the past two years, Lawrence and a handful of other organizers have facilitated these free-flowing bilingual discussions on Monday afternoons at the West End Library. Six or seven residents attend a typical meeting, Lawrence says, with new additions flowing in nearly every week.

Regardless of background or level of fluency, these residents gather and help each other learn. They discuss all manner of topics, including their families, their personal backgrounds, events in their lives and notable news stories.

Participants are patient, often pausing to define a word or confirm understanding with the rest of the group. If one member is unsure about how to convey a thought, the rest of the group helps.

At one recent meeting, participants talked about transportation. The word autocar, they decided, is an accurate word for a mass transit bus, but it sounds a bit clinical and modern. Instead, one participant offered guagua, a word for bus that is common in some Caribbean countries. It conveys the same definition as autocar, he said, but with a more colloquial, streetwise feel.

Reasons for joining the group are varied. Some are retirees looking for friendship and mental exercise. Others are native Spanish speakers looking to hone their conversational English skills. Others hope to travel in the Spanish-speaking world, connect with Spanish-speaking family or learn about a new culture.

“People often will talk about cultural traditions,” Lawrence said.

Lawrence, a retired architect, began learning Spanish so she could speak with her bilingual granddaughter. Since then, she has become friends with many of the group’s Spanish and English native speakers, staving off the isolation that often accompanies retirement.

Coordinator Domingo Cintrón, meanwhile, moved to the mainland United States from Puerto Rico. He was looking for ways to stay connected to his heritage and language.

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“I support the group’s efforts to bring together people from different backgrounds and help them learn from each other.”

— Yang Chen

Yang Chen, a native Chinese speaker who has been attending the meetings for two years, said he has found the group to be a valuable resource for learning new words and phrases. He has also made new friends through the group, he said.

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Praise the Sun God

The Fenway Victory Gardens celebrated FensFest last Sunday. The forecast predicted rain but the organizers’ sun dance prevailed.

Mapparium: How The World Used to Be

By Zach Carmosino

One of the most accurate globes in the world is located in the Back Bay at the Mary Baker Eddy Library. It offers a perspective on history and geography unlike any other.

The library’s Mapparium is a three story globe made of stained glass, accessible through a 30-foot bridge running through its interior.

The view from within puts one equidistant from any point on the globe, offering a unique and highly accurate perspective of earth’s geography.

The presentation inside the Mapparium, titled “A World of Ideas” has offered a geographic perspective on how ideas and information spread to form the modern world since the exhibit opened in 1935.

“What makes it so unique is to step back into an era between two wars,” said Bert Hogan, assistant manager of plaza activities for the church.

A guide describes the history of both the exhibit and Mary Baker Eddy, who developed Christian Science in 1879. A flat screen television shows Earth’s surface from space. The globe

Continued on Page 8
New Drug Czar Coming Soon

Mayor Marty Walsh will name an interim Mass and Cass czar in the coming days.

Tasked with spearheading city efforts to combat the opioid crisis in the area known as Methadone Mile, the new czar will fill the vacancy left by Buddy Christopher, who announced his indefinite leave of absence last week amidst a city hall bribery investigation.

The Walsh Administration created the czar role in June, appointing Christopher to coordinate the tangle of city departments providing health, housing and recovery services near Mass Ave and Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Whoever takes over the role will have some additional tools at their disposal. The administration announced new initiatives this week to address the impact of the opioid crisis around Newmarket and throughout the South End.

Continued on Page 9

USES: Sell Tubman Or Cease to Exist

By Dan Rabb

Facing anger and protest over planned condos at the site of the Harriet Tubman House community center, leaders of United South End Settlements (USES) say the survival of the social service organization hinges on the property’s sale to a commercial developer.

USES staff and board members made their case Wednesday night at a contentious and unruly public meeting on the proposed development, which would place condos, retail and nonprofit space where the Harriet Tubman House now stands. The project has drawn the ire of some residents, who say the Columbus Avenue building is a vital community resource and carries symbolic resonance as a surviving pillar of what was once predominantly a community of color.

In the Tubman House atrium packed with both supporters of the project and protesters, USES leadership laid out in detail the financial woes that they claim left them no choice but to sell the property to South End based developer New Boston Ventures in April. Without the sale, they said, USES could close within a year.

“There’s a clear and direct path to closing the doors of this organization in 2020,” said USES board member Aaron Miller. “Then we’re not just talking about the Harriet Tubman House, we’re talking about the whole organization not existing.”

USES, which provides a range of social services to children and families, has operated at a deep deficit since the loss of a major national funder in the early 2000s. Despite reducing services and voluntary pay cuts by employees, board members say the nonprofit is on the verge of depleting its cash reserves.

According to USES officials, continuing to operate the 40-year-old Tubman House has pulled the group farther into the red, costing $2.8 million in operations, capital expense and deferred maintenance since 2014.

“We are at a place right now where we cannot afford to continue to run our organization,” said USES President and CEO Maicharia Z. Weir Lytle. “This building costs an enormous amount of money for us, and we have to make some really tough decisions.”

Yet many in attendance remained unconvinced.

In a heated question and answer session that at times devolved into shouting matches, opponents of the project framed replacing the Tubman House with condos as a slap in the face to Bostonians of color, who have seen the landmarks and institutions of an historic black neighborhood disappear with gentrification.

Continued on Page 8
the mayor’s office, leading some elected officials to call for separate liaison positions for Downtown and Chinatown. Yet there were no such calls ahead of Hy’s appointment.

Still, Hy now faces the challenge of serving as the city’s representative to one of Boston’s fastest growing neighborhoods. The population in Downtown, Chinatown and the Leather District is expanding at a rate exceeded only by the Seaport. With more people comes additional public safety and quality of life concerns as luxury high rises spring up next to homeless shelters and a handful of social service organizations. Downtown is also in the midst of a city led planning process that could impact future development throughout the area.

“I am very excited and honored to be appointed to this position,” Hy said in a written statement. “Since taking office in 2014, I’ve seen firsthand the Walsh Administration’s commitment to work with the Downtown, Chinatown, and Leather District neighborhoods on a variety of important issues, especially constituent issues.”

Chin Park
Continued from Page 3

has a sense among some Chinatown residents that their part of the Greenway does not receive the same attention as the lusher sections to the north.

“The residents of Chinatown don’t think the resources are coming down here to this part of the Greenway, and I agree with them,” said City Councillor Ed Flynn, whose district includes Chinatown. “We want to make the Greenway here as nice as the Greenway down by the aquarium.”

But Greenway Conservancy CEO Jesse Brackenbury bristles at the suggestion that the Chinatown end of the park is being shortchanged. He said it faces challenges unseen farther north, from an abandoned building adjacent to the property to easy access for the transient population from South Station and Downtown Crossing.

“Chin Park has a very different context than much of the rest of the Greenway,” said Brackenbury. “It’s not that resources aren’t going here, it’s that there are different challenges.”

Brackenbury cites a string of improvement projects slated for the coming weeks to respond to complaints from Chinatown residents and improve park conditions. In early October, the city said it will install a long-awaited coin operated toilet in Chin Park. The toilet was first approved through a public process in 2017, but the city has delayed the project four times.

Brackenbury says he is cautiously optimistic the toilet will not be delayed again and will finally cut down on public defecation in the park.

“We share the frustration over the delays because it’s our staff who have to clean up the mess,” he said.

The Greenway Conservancy is also exploring the removal of a series of cement blocks on the east side of the courtyard, intended as a children’s play area but now used as skateboard ramps or beds for Boston’s homeless population. Next month, the Greenway Business Improvement District will begin a lighting study to improve safety throughout the Chinatown Greenway.

While Flynn said he is appreciative of the upcoming improvements, he emphasized that additional resources are necessary to bring Chin Park and the surrounding area up to speed with the rest of the Greenway.

“Everybody knows it’s not equal,” he said.

“The question is how are we going to get the resources here.”

Learning Spanish
Continued from Page 5

States from Puerto Rico when he was 4-years-old. As his English skills improved as a child, his Spanish fluency quickly deteriorated, and he hopes to regain fluency in Spanish.

Beyond learning new words and grammatical rules, the group provides an opportunity to learn about culture in the Spanish-speaking world, according to Lawrence. With the number of Spanish speakers in the United States projected to continue growing, she says this cross-cultural education is essential.

“It just seems so obvious for Americans to learn,” Lawrence said.

USES
Continued from Page 7

“The question isn’t should they sell the buildings and get the funds, the question is why should they sell it to someone who will build luxury homes and push us out,” said one resident. “We never doubted USES was in financial crisis.”

But Weir Lytle argues selling the building at a discount to a nonprofit or low-income developer would have put the future of her 120-year-old organization in jeopardy. USES plans to use the proceeds of the sale to reestablish its long term cash reserves, as well as expand facilities and services at its Rutland Street headquarters and summer camp for low-income children.

“We looked at what we needed in order to survive, and we needed to sell for the market value of this property,” said Weir Lytle. “We cannot sell for 20% of the value of this building and go out of business in five years. We’re not looking short term, we’re looking long term.”

Liaison
Continued from Page 3

Appleton Bridge
Continued from Page 5

Director Michael Nichols.

“Director Michael Nichols.

“This is probably one of our two major entry points into the park, along with the Fiedler Bridge,” he said.

Given this volume of foot traffic, replacing the old footbridge was essential, according to Nichols. The old bridge was narrow, steep and laden with hairpin turns and switchbacks, and some sections were so weathered by age that they were blocked off.

This outland design made the bridge especially difficult for people with disabilities, many of whom were deterred by its steep grade and lack of passing room.

“A lot of people were uncomfortable crossing the bridge before it was too narrow,” said Appleton Footbridge architect Miguel Rosales. “The reception for the [new] bridge has been amazing.”

Nichols says park users have found the new bridge easier to use. Its pathway is significantly wider than the old bridge’s, making it accessible for people with disabilities, bicyclists and walkers alike.

State officials have also lauded the Appleton Footbridge’s appearance, especially in contrast with the old bridge’s crumbling and graffiti laden concrete. Earlier this summer, the bridge earned the Arthur G. Hayden Medal, an international award for bridge design.

“It is incredibly difficult to put any infrastructure in a park and have people appreciate it,” said State Representative Jay Livingston, whose district includes the Esplanade.

Rosales said he designed the Appleton Footbridge to complement its iconic surroundings. While its modern design contrasts with the historic Longfellow Bridge, Rosales noted that the two bridges’ broad arches and dark green hues match each other.

“It was important to somehow connect the two structures,” Rosales said.

Likewise, the two bridges are linked by name. The new footbridge’s namesake is Fanny Appleton, who married poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Now, more than 100 years after Longfellow walked across the Charles River to court Appleton on Beacon Hill, the couple can indubitably stand together.

For the state officials at Tuesday’s dedication, the Appleton Footbridge’s symbolic name reflects its inherent power as a unifier. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito believes the bridge has fulfilled its purpose of making the Esplanade accessible for a wide swath of residents.

“It’s a tremendous asset, connecting people to this special spot,” Polito said.

Mapparium
Continued from Page 6

lights up at different points to indicate how the world has changed since the Mapparium was created.

The Mapparium’s origins are closely tied to that of The Christian Science Monitor. The newspaper was founded by Baker Eddy in 1908 as a response to rampant yellow journalism of the era.

“She did not like that people were doing this to hearing their own voice with astounding clarity. The Mapparium’s origins are closely tied to that of The Christian Science Monitor. The newspaper was founded by Baker Eddy in 1908 as a response to rampant yellow journalism of the era.

“She did not like that people were doing this to themselves,” said Hogan.

The word “Mapparium” comes from the Latin ed lens,” said Hogan.

“Mapparium” comes from the Latin word “mappa” meaning “map” and arium or “a place for.”

It stands as a physical testament to the interconnectedness of humanity that transcends nations and borders. Citing nativist politics such as Brexit and tensions between Hong Kong and mainland China, Hogan thinks this may be more important than ever in an increasingly polarized world.

“It seems like the trend worldwide is divisiveness. You get inside the Mapparium and think, ‘Wow, we’re all neighbors.’”

POLITICS
Drug Czar

Continued from Page 7

End. Speaking at the South End Forum Tuesday night, the mayor said the additional resources are part of a larger coordination strategy branded as Mass and Cass 2.0, set to be unveiled in the coming weeks.

“It’s really about getting everyone on the same page and coordinating services,” Walsh told the forum. “What happens is, we have the police doing one thing, outreach workers doing something else, [Department of Public Works] doing something different, when we really should be thinking about a holistic approach to going after this.”

As part of this effort, the city plans to hire 10 new recovery services outreach workers assigned solely to the South End and Newmarket. They will be tasked with building relationships with drug users and steering them toward services.

Two of the new outreach workers will be assigned to the city’s needle pickup crew known as the Mobile Sharps Team, adding manpower to a unit that has been unable to keep up with an ever-growing number of syringes discarded in parks and on sidewalks throughout the South End. The city hopes to have the new outreach workers on the street within two months, according to Marty Martinez, chief of health and human services.

South Enders will also see an increased law enforcement presence. The Boston Police Department (BPD) has assigned its bike unit to focus specifically on the neighborhood, BPD officials say. This is the second deployment to the South End for the bike unit, which will conduct regular patrols until midnight.

The Walsh Administration also provided new details this week on their plan for a 500 bed recovery campus on Long Island, which officials say will ease the burden on service providers clustered in the South End. Any such facility is likely more than two years away, thanks to both engineering and legal hurdles to rebuilding the bridge that provides the island’s sole access point. Yet on a visit to the island Wednesday, Walsh and city officials said they are trying to prevent the existing infrastructure from decaying in the hope of being able to relieve at least some of the burden on the South End as soon as the bridge is built.

“In fairness to the people in the South End, they’ve had enough,” Walsh said. “They’re overburdened with programs, so when you think about the location of a program, this is the perfect location.”
By Caroline Broderick

The 32 acre green thread, known as the Comm Ave Mall, runs down the center of Commonwealth Avenue, an iconic and notable Boston street, from Arlington Street all the way to Kenmore Square. It grants residents of Back Bay a park area right in front of their homes. Filled with benches and sprinkles of historic statues, this iconic greenway is well known and loved.

The Comm Ave Mall was completed in 1888, just one year before the erection of 308 Commonwealth Avenue. Welcoming visitors and residents, the brick exterior and etched stone entranceway stretch into a wide stairway. Elegant and timeless, it is reflective of what can be found inside.

Whether you are an entertainer, collector or family-oriented, 308 Commonwealth, Penthouse Unit L has something for everyone. This expansive unit has gracious dimensions throughout, all lit up naturally from the multitude of windows. There are three exposures and with this home being at the top floor, the views are incomparable to others nearby.

An elevator takes residents right up to the home which has two or more bedrooms, two full bathrooms, two fireplaces and two living spaces. The nearly 10 foot high ceilings and large windows throughout the unit open up to not only views of the Comm Ave Mall, but also all the way to Cambridge.

The elongated, gallery like hallway is situated to show off fine art or family portraits and connects the two main living rooms. A large separate dining room has enough space to fit the largest of families or gatherings. There is bar space, an overhead chandelier and access to kitchen and hallway.

Nearby is the bright living room, though pocket doors can be used to expand the space or keep it separated. The living room is graced with bay windows and oak wood flooring. These windows are accented with wainscoting. Centering the room is an exquisitely detailed fireplace with crown molding. Adjacent is a cozy study with built-in wall bookshelves outlining the room, perfect for watching television or relaxing with a book.

The eat-in kitchen is fitted with state-of-the-art appliances from SubZero, Viking and Miele. There is a full sized pantry for dry goods. Glass and white wood cabinetry open up the space further. Small details like gold trim accents make this kitchen special.

Taking the space up one more notch, the sleek black granite countertops are harmonious with the stainless steel appliances. The second group of bay windows can be found in the family room. This room is versatile and can be used as an additional library due to its space for shelving, or office with gorgeous city views. If none of those seem fitting, the space can also be a third bedroom. The room counteracts the light, bright feel of the home with a darker cherry wood flooring, wainscoting and molding, providing the feeling of warmth and sophistication. Extending up like pillars, the fireplace's legs go up to the over mantel for a uniquely refined centerpiece.

There are three closets in the master bedroom, two being walk-in, providing a place for everything. There is an en suite full bathroom, large windows and direct access to a separate laundry room.

This professionally managed home has a new hot water heater, three AC zones, major capital improvements, newly refurbished common areas, private basement storage, access to public transportation, walking paths, the iconic Newbury Street and has all of Back Bay within walking distance. This penthouse is priced at $2,299,000. Contact Rebecca Davis Tulman of Coldwell Banker Beacon Hill at 617-510-5050 for more information.
## Open Houses

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Built in 1797, 43 South Russell Street a four-story townhouse is perfect for family living. There are four bedrooms, two- and one-half bathrooms, and a large basement which could serve as a workshop or playroom. This beautiful antique is one of the oldest houses on Beacon Hill still in existence. There is a center staircase and a spacious kitchen overlooking a patio. This home is conveniently situated near Whole Foods, parking, public transportation, and many restaurants.

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Joe Sullivan 617-733-6118

Back Bay | $2,299,000
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Rebecca Davis Tulman 617-510-5050

Falmouth, MA | $1,989,000
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Joe Sullivan 617-733-6138

Back Bay | $1,749,000
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