Muddy River Overhaul May Start This Spring

By Joe Walsh

A long awaited overhaul of the Muddy River could finally kick off this spring.

The Army Corps of Engineers hired a contractor last week to deepen the Muddy River and restore its crumbling banks, the second phase in a lengthy restoration project that will prevent the river from overflowing during large storms. Despite two decades of cutbacks and delays, advocates are excited that the $74 million plan is moving forward, noting that it will protect the Fenway from downtown areas, a decisive win that paralleled his unexpected victory across Massachusetts on Super Tuesday. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, settled into second and third place in Boston's core neighborhoods. The former Vice President

Downtown Is Biden Country

By Joe Walsh

Boston's downtown neighborhoods are Joe Biden territory. Biden drew more than 32% of votes cast in the city's downtown areas, a decisive win that paralleled his unexpected victory across Massachusetts on Super Tuesday. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, settled into second and third place in Boston's core neighborhoods. The former Vice President

Women Changing Boston’s Skyline

By Dan Rabb

Real estate development in Boston has traditionally been an old boys' club. But in recent years, women have been at the helm of some of the city's most ambitious building projects, changing the development industry along with the Boston skyline.

Today, Kathy MacNeil is one of Boston's development heavyweights. A Principal at Millennium Partners, she's currently managing the construction of Winthrop Center, and was a central figure in the completion of the Millennium Tower and the Ritz Carlton building on Avery Street.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Has South End Roots

By Joe Walsh

Mayor Marty Walsh has chosen a downtown real estate staffer to serve as one of his key advisors. Kathryn R. Burton will start as Walsh's new Chief of Staff
Biden
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raked in over 8,000 votes across the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, the South End, the Fenway and Downtown, helping him narrowly win the city of Boston overall. Even though Warren collected 27% of downtown votes, she fell short of expectations, falling into third in Boston and Massachusetts. And Sanders earned 22% downtown, but he came within 56 votes of winning citywide.

The other candidates were far behind. Michael Bloomberg, who suspended his campaign Wednesday morning, gathered only 13% of local votes despite reportedly spending more than $12 million on advertising statewide. Finally, Tulsi Gabbard drew just 68 downtown votes, and former candidates like Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar collectively earned almost 5% downtown despite dropping out.

In addition to winning the total downtown vote, Biden earned victories in most local precincts. He swept Beacon Hill, Bay Village, most of the Back Bay and large parts of the South End. Meanwhile, Sanders won several precincts in the Fenway, the South End and Chinatown, and Warren won part of the West Fenway and came in second place across dozens of other precincts.

Sanders supporter and South End political volunteer Jonathan Cohn is not surprised that his candidate placed third in the downtown areas. Sanders performed well in younger enclaves like the Fenway, Cohn noted, but a handful of affluent areas favored Biden, Warren and sometimes even Bloomberg over him.

“I wasn’t shocked to see that this wasn’t his stronghold in the city,” Cohn said. Some locals believe that a pair of endorsements this week from Buttigieg and Klobuchar helped propel Biden into first place. Buttigieg was popular in some corners, earning more cash from downtown donors than any other candidate. Plus, for longtime Biden supporters like Back Bay resident Barry Solar, the former Vice President portrayed himself as a credible challenge to President Donald Trump.

“We’re so disgusted with Trump that our number one priority is to nominate someone who can defeat Trump,” said Solar, a realtor.

State Representative Jay Livingstone agrees that voters were keen to choose a strong general election contender, but he saw Warren as the best option. He was somewhat disappointed that Warren did not win in Massachusetts, arguing that many residents who chose other candidates still likely approve of her.

“She is one of the smartest people I’ve ever met, and I thought [she] bridged the gap between left leaning Democrats who like her message and more moderate Democrats who have seen her be successful in accomplishing things,” said Livingstone, who represents the Back Bay and Beacon Hill.

Voter turnout was relatively high this year. About 38% of downtown registered voters cast a ballot in the Democratic or Republican primary, and voter participation was higher in most precincts than in 2016. Local political watchers say residents were enthusiastic, even if most voters ultimately chose not to vote.

“There’s intense interest in the election,” said former City Councillor Larry DiCara. “When turnout goes up, you are more likely to have people who are less ideological and more making their decision later.”

Chief of Staff
Continued from Page 1

on Monday, the mayor announced earlier this week, Burton has worked in the public sector and at nonprofits for most of her career, but she spent the last four years as director of operations for New Boston Ventures (NBV), a developer that has helped reshape the South End with a series of large and occasionally controversial residential complexes.

In her new role, Burton is tasked with implementing Walsh’s priorities and overseeing a workforce of more than 18,000. She will be the first indigenous person to head a cabinet position, City Hall officials noted.

“I look forward to helping Mayor Walsh achieve his ambitious goals for the city and being part of the team that is leading the charge in making Boston a better place for all,” Burton said in a statement.

A former chief of staff for State Treasurer Steve Grossman and leader at gender equity nonprofit Barbara Lee Family Foundation, Burton shifted to the private sector about four years ago.

As NBV’s director of operations, she supervised staff and helped to keep the office focused, working on nearly all of the firm’s major projects, said NBV Principal David Goldman. Goldman is sorry to see Burton leave his firm, casting her as a key part of his team. He expects Burton to serve the city well, though.

“She was sort of the engine that drives the plane,” Goldman said. “She’s a force to be reckoned with, and a terrific human being.”

In recent years, NBV has left its mark on Boston by building new residential buildings and overhauling old ones, with a focus on the South End. The firm turned a 19th century church on Shawmut Ave into a luxury condo complex called The Lucas, and it built The Boulevard near the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

The firm also plans to redevelop the Harriet Tubman House, replacing a South End community center with a new condo complex. The development, which was approved by city officials last year, has drawn opposition from some activists who warn that the plan will hasten the area’s rapid gentrification and uproot a handful of local nonprofits who use the aging community center.

Burton’s predecessor at City Hall also has ties to Boston’s downtown neighborhoods. Former Chief of Staff David Sweeney left his post as Walsh’s Chief of Staff earlier this year to serve as the executive director of MASCO, an advocacy organization for the Longwood Medical Area’s universities and hospitals.

Burton will handle both city services and Walsh’s policy agenda. The mayor said that Burton’s private and public sector experience should serve her well in this dual role.

“From her wide ranging background across sectors, it is clear that she is someone who is smart and driven,” Walsh said in a statement. “Her commitment to common sense solutions will be a valuable asset as we work together to carry out our wide-ranging and progressive agenda of bold initiatives to move Boston forward.”

At the Hynes Convention Center

March 7-8
Boston Volleyball Festival
22,000 attendees

March 8-10
International Antiviral Society-USA Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections 2020
4,000 attendees

March 10
Directions 2020
1,000 attendees

March 13
South Boston’s Citizens’ Association Dinner
350 attendees

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African American Was 1st Revolutionary Death

By Dan Rabb

Coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre, an exhibit launching this week at the Old State House examines the life and memory of Crispus Attucks, the Massacre's first victim who would become a powerful symbol in the struggle for racial equality in Boston and the country at large.

Reflecting Attucks is a project by Revolutionary Spaces, the nonprofit that as of December serves as the steward of the Old State House and the Old South Meeting House. The exhibit is one of a series of initiatives, events and reenactments planned by the organization to mark the March 5th anniversary of the Boston Massacre.

There is general agreement among historians that Attucks, a former slave of both African American and Native American ancestry, was likely the first person to be killed in the Boston Massacre. He was shot multiple times by British redcoats attempting to quell an

Continued on Page 8
Caught Black Hatted

On February 24 around 9 am, an officer was called to the Bank of America at 40 Boylston St. to investigate some found property.

Earlier that morning two men entered the bank and one made a transaction from his personal account. In a move that would bafflingly self-sabotage their whole plan, the suspects left a black winter hat full of various debit cards, credit cards, rewards cards, passports, vehicle registrations, vehicle keys and check books all tracing back to stolen identities, the suspects returned to the bank shortly after and demanded the hat back. The bank managers refused to give it back and froze the account of the man who made the ATM transaction earlier.

Finders Keepers Losers Will Find You With GPS?

Around 2:26 pm on February 25 a police officer headed to the scene of a bicycle theft at 79 Chandler Street.

The so-called victim left his Chrome Bianchi Pista unlocked out on the sidewalk in front of his apartment around 2:05 pm before entering his apartment. When he came back outside around 2:10 pm his bicycle was gone. Is it really theft though if the bike wasn’t locked? People leave free things they don’t want anymore on the sidewalk all the time… Possessing a flawed internal logic system surrounding security measures, the “victim” had a “Ring Doorbell” system installed over his door and thus, had video footage of a white man between the ages of 30 and 40 dressed in a black jacket, yellow hoodie and black backpack riding off on his bike. He also had a GPS system on his bicycle, but is still figuring out how to use it. Womp, womp, womp. The officer told him to recontact 911 if he locates it. Hopefully, he also shared the obvious advice that if he just locked his bicycle, but is still figuring out how to use it.

Fake Money, but Real Style

On February 26 at around 2:50 pm, two officers responded to a radio call for a person attempting to use counterfeit money at the Georgio Armani store located at 22 Newbury St.

A man with pretty classy, expensive taste tried to purchase a pair of dress shoes, a bow tie, sneakers, a belt and a blue jacket. However, he overshot the depth of his faux deep pockets; after being told by the sales associate that the blue jacket cost $4,000 he put it back. He passed the clerk $2,500 for the remaining items which totaled $2,463.75.

The clerk, quite an astute character, immediately suspected the bills to be fake and ran them through an electric counterfeit identification machine thus confirming his suspicion. The suspect became incredibly agitated, swearing profusely at the staff, claiming that the cash was real and that it was old money.

Mixed Signals

Around 5 pm on February 19, three officers responded to a radio call to remove a threatening man from a Starbucks located at 147 Massachusetts Ave.

The store manager informed the police that the suspect had been harassing customers. He tried to escort the suspect off the premises at which point the suspect unleashed a string of threats, saying “I’ll punch you in the face,” shouted an obscene insult. He left before the police arrived and thankfully did not follow through on any of his threats.

Ironically, the suspect was wearing a bright green jacket which happens to be the same shade as the Starbucks apron which is part of the employee uniform. Was he trying to show his brand loyalty to the company, dress for an interview or cause a scene?
Many Esplanade Trees to Be Cut Down/Replaced

By Joe Walsh

The Charles River Esplanade looks like a lush green space, but many of its trees are beset by hidden health problems. Advocates say the best way to help these trees is by cutting some of them down.

The Esplanade Association plans to pull out dozens of dying trees that dot the narrow riverside park, replacing them with hundreds of newer plantings. The nonprofit organization kicked off the $2 million project over the last few months by removing about 30 old trees and planting 20 new ones, the start of a decade long effort that group officials say will leave the park’s aging tree canopy healthier and more diverse. “This is the first major tree planting effort on the Esplanade since the 1950s,” said Esplanade Association Executive Director Michael Nichols. “It’s certainly a big deal for

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Beacon Hill Wine Dinner

More than 70 guests gathered at Rochambeau last week for Hill House’s annual Wine Dinner fundraiser. The event raised more than $45,000 for the neighborhood organization’s youth and community programs.

Photos: Dianne Powers

Urban Renewal Community Meeting

Thursday, March 26
6:00 PM
West End Museum
150 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

Project Proponent:
Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:
The Boston Planning and Development Agency invites the surrounding neighbors for a meeting to gather information on potential updates to the West End Urban Renewal Plan.

mail to: Christopher Breen
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4202
e-mail: chris.breen@boston.gov

The Copley Group
Nantucket Collection
Nantucket houses are available to rent by the week in the summer time.
Short term rentals are available throughout the year.
Nantucket rental availability year-round

BostonPlains.org | @BostonPlains
Teresa Palermo, Executive Director/Secretary
City Is Considering Boylston Bike Lanes

By Joe Walsh

The city is renewing its push to add bike lanes to Boylston Street in the Fenway.

More than a decade ago, officials designed an overhaul of Boylston Street, envisioning space for bikes, wider sidewalks, better traffic lights and more tree cover for the busy road. But as a construction boom transformed Boylston’s skyline and increased overall foot traffic, the street itself sat mostly unchanged.

Now, city planners hope to dust off these ideas. Transportation officials will gather public input for a Boylston Street redesign this year, and construction could kick off by spring 2022. The exact changes are still unclear, but Fenway locals are relieved that a transportation overhaul is finally gathering momentum.

“It’s a welcome and timely discussion to have,” said neighborhood resident and Fenway Civic Association member Marie Fukuda. “Traffic patterns have shifted significantly.”

Most significantly, Boston Transportation Department (BTD) officials are pitching a set of protected bike lanes, shielded from car traffic by either plastic bollards or a line of parked cars. These lanes may run across the neighborhood on Boylston Street before crossing the Muddy River via Brookline Ave, making it safer for commuters to bike through the Fenway and reach the Longwood Medical Area.

The city is also eying better pedestrian ramps on Boylston Street’s sidewalks, curb extensions to make street crossings safer and new traffic lights timed for walkers and bikers. The project is primarily funded by the state, BTD officials say, though the city could take on smaller improvements over the next year.

Some of these ideas date back to 2006, when the state offered up transportation funding as part of a wider economic stimulus package. The city then devised a master plan for Boylston Street that sat unimplemented. However, as developers began scooping up land and building massive apartment complexes, these private projects helped to fund upgrades like wider sidewalks and new trees.

“We’re trying to be strategic about it,” said BTD Senior Transportation Planner Charlotte Fleetwood. “We’ve leveraged development, and I think the developers are very much in support of the vision.”

With large parts of the road’s sidewalks already overhauled by developers, the city now hopes to fill in some missing pieces and address traffic conditions on Boylston Street itself, Fleetwood explained.

Muddy River

Continued from Page 1

devastating floods.

“It’s wonderful that the second phase is finally starting,” said Frances Gershwin, chair of the project’s resident led Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee.

The Army Corps is aiming to start work in May and finish up by 2023. Over that time, contractor Charter will dredge large parts of the Muddy in the Fenway and Mission Hill, expanding the river’s capacity and removing polluted soil. Workers will also stabilize the river’s banks, remove structures that block the water and pull out the invasive phragmites reeds that choke some sections.

Charter is still working out a schedule, but Army Corps officials said residents can expect disruption and daytime noise as the project winds through the Fenway. Dredging will take place at more than a dozen worksites between Ipswich Street and the Longwood Area, and the firm will tackle several spots at a time.

“We are planning on working in multiple areas, as long as it’s efficient and beneficial to the neighbors,” said Charter President Bob Delhome.

Charter also handled the project’s first stage, which wrapped up almost four years ago. That phase eliminated the narrow culverts that once carried the Muddy below roadways and parking lots near 401 Park, allowing part of the river to see the light of day for the first time in decades.

The project’s immediate impact will be aesthetic, advocates noted. Parts of the river will no longer sit ringed by eroding banks and burdened by reeds, restoring the landscapes that Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned when he created the Emerald Necklace. Staff hope that the Muddy’s natural appearance will improve even though budget cuts prevented the Army Corps from fully restoring the river’s ecology.

The Army Corps’ long term goal is less glamorous, however. The project aims to turn the manmade river back into a storm drain for the Fenway, reversing decades of neglect that left the Muddy squeezed by roads and laden with silt. Once this work is complete, the Muddy will have more capacity during heavy rainstorms, preventing it from overflowing its banks and flooding into nearby areas, officials explained.

“The project will significantly improve water conveyance,” Wendy Gendron, chief of the Army Corps’ New England civil works branch, said at a community meeting last week.

This role will become more important over time. As climate change brings more intense severe weather to Boston, a revamped Muddy would take in rainwater from the Fenway and prevent neighborhood flooding.

Olmsted designed the Muddy to serve as a 19th century drainage system, diverting stormwater away from populous areas and toward the Charles. Although Olmsted’s ideas are 140 years old, the specters of climate change and storm surges make his vision strikingly relevant yet again, officials explained.

“Olmsted was thinking about green infrastructure and urban landscape architecture before they were nomenclature,” said Christopher Cook, the city’s chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. “If we had just enacted his plans in the first place, we wouldn’t be in the mess that we’re in.”

DON'T SIGN ANYTHING:
A GUIDE FOR THE DAY YOU'RE LAID OFF

By the authors of the highly acclaimed How to Negotiate Your First Job
Paul F. Levy and Farzana S. Mohamed
The future of a city-owned plot of land on Shawmut Avenue designated to become a park may soon come into focus.

In February of 2019, officials at the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) asked South End residents and neighborhood groups what they wanted to see built on a thin strip of land known as Parcel 5, located in the newly developed New York Streets Neighborhood. Adjacent to The Lucas condominiums built into the former Trinity Church, the 8,543 square foot parcel was, and remains, one of the last undeveloped slices of public land as the area filled in with luxury condos.

At a public meeting, South End resident groups from the Castle Square Tenants’ Association to the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association reached a rare consensus: the land should be a park. Now, the BPDA is finally looking to find a buyer for the site who can make that vision for a neighborhood green space a reality. But who that buyer will be is yet to be determined. See Page 8 for more.

By Dan Rabb

Weed Dispensary Is Coming Soon

By Dan Rabb

The South End’s first cannabis dispensary could open for business by this summer.

Rhode Island-based Liberty Compassion Centers received approval from city regulators in February of 2019 for a medical marijuana dispensary at 591 Albany Street in the South End. More than a year later, the company is now entering the final phases of the state level licensing process and expects to open early in the second half of 2020, according to Liberty CEO Vincent Giordano.

“You should see the doors open sometime this summer,” said Giordano. “That’s the most likely scenario.”

Liberty is the only dispensary, medical or recreational, to receive approval to open in the South End. One of only 14 dispensaries to be approved in Boston, the city’s go ahead followed public meetings and a letter of nonopposition from the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (BFSNA). Liberty also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the neighborhood group, a first of its kind agreement in Boston codifying everything from operating hours to payments to local nonprofits.

What’s taking so long after a year? Giordano points to the slow pace of the licensing process at the state-level Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), required before any marijuana business can begin operations. Liberty’s application requires the company to manufacture all its own products, and the license for its processing facility in the town of Clinton, Massachusetts will be voted on by the CCC this month.

Should the state approve the Clinton plant, Liberty still has to complete construction at the Albany Street location, then must undergo a final inspection and vote by the CCC. Construction of the South End dispensary is expected to wrap up in April, according to Giordano, while the final steps with the backlogged CCC could take months more.

“Our final production license in Clinton is the last piece to get this whole process rolling,” said Giordano. “It has been a long complicated, time consuming and expensive process….”

With no other proponents of cannabis businesses in the South End seemingly anywhere near approval by the city or state, Giordano is not ruling out eventually exploring a transition to selling recreational marijuana, known in industry jargon as adult use. It’s a possibility that Liberty executives have been open about throughout the process, although Giordano insists that no pot shop pivot is imminent.

“When we were going through the process with all the neighbors, the one thing I would not commit to was never going to adult use, Continued on Page 8
Crispus Attucks
Continued from Page 3

angry mob of colonists, making him, in a sense, the first casualty of the American revolution.

While Reflecting Attucks examines what life in Boston may have been like for someone from Attucks’ background, the bulk of the exhibition focuses on how his memory has been used as a powerful symbol in the country’s struggle with racial justice. As a person of color and the first martyr of the revolution, Attucks has served as a rebuke to the often whitewashed portrayal of America’s founding from the abolitionist movement to the bussing crisis.

“The memory of Attucks and his role in the Massacre have been shaped at a few critical moments of crisis and conflict where we as a nation have had to grapple with issues of racial justice and what our body politic looks like,” said Nat Sheidley, CEO of Revolutionary Spaces.

“It’s a story about how we’ve used the founding era in order to continue a set of deep and meaningful conversations as Americans that began with the founding but are not yet finished.”

The exhibit traces this history beginning with black abolitionists in the 1850’s. Slaveholders and their allies argued that former slaves could never be true citizens, being too self-interested and narrow minded to sacrifice for the common good. So abolitionists pointed to Attucks.

“He’s the first person who sacrificed on behalf of this experience we call the United States,” said Sheidley. “It’s a very direct response to those racist arguments by slaveholders.”

Attucks would continue to be used to connect black Americans to the nation’s founding story. Following Dred Scott supreme court decision, which effective-ly denied full citizenship to African Americans, abolitionists christened the anniversary of the Boston Massacre “Crispus Attucks Day,” holding a major rally at Faneuil Hall.

The idea of Crispus Attucks Day would continue, particularly in Boston, throughout the next century and a half. It was employed by Civil Rights leaders from William Monroe Trotter in the early 20th century to Melnea Cass in the 60’s and 70’s.

Sheidley says that through Reflecting Attucks, Revolutionary Spaces is continuing this tradition of using the anniversary of his death as an impetus for dialogue around race and American identity. But he also wants to move that narrative forward. The exhibit gives greater voice to Attucks’ symbolic importance to Native Americans, which has generally been ignored outside of native communities.

“In our memory, he’s very much part of the story of the African American struggle for justice, but he’s claimed by many New England native communities,” Sheidley said. “There’s a lot of work for this commonwealth to do in terms of coming to terms with the histories of our native communities and what that means in terms of our larger story.”

Esplanade Trees
Continued from Page 5

the park, and people have already started to take notice.”

The program, titled Lasting Esplanade Arbor Fund (LEAF), is grappling with an 80-year-old tree canopy whose health has declined significantly. Fewer than half of the park’s trees are in good shape, staff found in a 2015 study.

The park is an unforgiving environment for trees, as years of heavy use have compressed the soil and made it tough for water and nutrients to reach the roots below. Unhealthy and nutrient-starved trees can dent the park’s canopy, Nichols explained, and they pose a safety risk to park users if their branches die or become imbalanced.

Plus, the Esplanade’s tree population is not diverse, a seemingly obscure problem that could threaten the canopy’s health even further, Nichols noted. Only about four major tree species fill the park, so a disease outbreak or insect infestation could sweep through the Esplanade and quickly kill hundreds of nearly identical trees.

“If you plant too much of the same species, and they have an issue, you could lose a large number of trees in a fairly short period of time,” Nichols said.

The LEAF project aims to mend these looming issues. Each winter, workers will tear out trees that are either dead or too decrepit to save, a population that could number in the dozens, according to Nichols. Meanwhile, up to 50 new trees will be planted every year, with a focus on diverse species that will make the park’s canopy less uniform.

The project could also rescue hundreds of Esplanade trees before they die, Nichols noted. Teams will treat the park’s soil to add nutrients, decompact the dirt so that water can easily reach the trees’ roots, and prune dying tree branches.

The impact of this work is already noticeable, according to Nichols, with a handful of new trees taking root in the park. But in the long run, it could rescue scores of older trees and make disease outbreaks less disastrous.

“They’re in a harsh urban environment. There’s a lot of events, a lot of people,” he said. “Absent some major new focus on the tree canopy, we would continue to see tree losses in significant numbers.”

The Esplanade Association is funding this work through a mix of private donations and public grants, alongside support from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which owns the park.

“Enhancing the Esplanade’s tree canopy will ensure the park remains healthy and vibrant for years to come,” DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery said in a statement.

Bike Lanes
Continued from Page 6

The decade old master plan is guiding these upgrades, but the city plans to adapt its designs to fit a neighborhood that has changed drastically in recent years, Fleetwood noted. More residents and commuters walk and bike instead of driving, ride hailing services like Uber now need dedicated zones, and the city has changed its preference from standard bike lanes to protected tracks.

“As we continue to complete the vision, I think it’s going to serve the neighborhood well,” she said. “And it’s serving the changing ways that people get around.”

Neighbors will weigh in on the city’s plans over the next few months, with a community meeting slated for later in March. Fukuda said specific design details will be key, noting that residents may worry about lost parking spaces and connections between the new bike lanes and other bicycle routes. Ultimately, she hopes the project will tackle the entire street, rather than waiting for developers to upgrade some parts.

“My hope would be that we have comprehensive upgrades and no missing segments,” Fukuda said. “I wouldn’t want to waste the opportunity to … upgrade that entire stretch.”

Dispensary
Continued from Page 7

because I can’t predict the future and I don’t want to limit the business,” he said. “But it’s clear to me, in that neighborhood, that I have to demonstrate a viable, positive working relationship with the community and show there’s nothing scary about us before we start thinking of anything like that.”

Any such decision would require Liberty to effectively restart the city and state approval processes from square one. And while representatives of the BFSN characterized their relationship with Liberty as positive, they emphasized that their official support would not apply should the company go that route.

“Our memorandum of understanding and nonopposition was specifically premised on medical marijuana only,” said BFSN president David Stone. “It’s an industry that’s a known quantity that has some sort of track record with the state. Adult use would be an entirely different discussion.”

Public Park
Continued from Page 7

how the open space will be funded is unclear.

The desire for a park on the site among South End leaders remains unchanged. Indeed, while the New York Streets area has sprouted new building after new building, this development has been accompanied by almost no public green space or parkland.

“If there’s anything that the New York Streets really needs it’s open space,” said Sheila Grove, a longtime neighborhood activist and the former Executive Director of Washington Gateway Main Streets. “That neighborhood needs softening up and it needs places where people can congregate that aren’t located inside their building. It’s not inviting right now, a park there would be a really nice amenity.”

The city’s request for proposals also calls for the site’s landscaping to include significant additions of trees and other plantings, along with lighting that allows the park to serve as a safe pedestrian connection between Shawmut Avenue and Washington Street at all hours. Proponents have until March 24th to submit plans to the BPDA.

Who’s willing to fork over cash for a public park? Sources familiar with South End development say that while there may be nonprofits who could afford to purchase, landscape and maintain a new park, the likely buyer will be a developer of a nearby building looking to fulfill a community benefit requirement or provide a neighborhood amenity for their tenants.

That eventual buyer will have a head start on fundraising. The Davis Companies contributed $75,000 for work on Parcel 5 as a community benefit from their 100 Shawmut project, currently under construction, according to a developer familiar with the transaction.

Once the city figures out who ends up in control of Parcel 5, leaders of nearby neighborhood groups say they hope to be included in discussions about the specifics of what ends up on the site.

“We’d be very interested in the city contacting us,” said Ken Smith, president of the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association. “We’d like to be involved in part of this process going forward.”
**Thursdays**

Free Chair Yoga. Gentle form of yoga while sitting in a chair or using a chair for support, a part of The Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series. Morville House at Symphony Park, 100 Norway St. 10 am.

**Now-March 8**

She the People. World-renowned comedy collective, The Second City presents this cocktails and craziness fueled foray which proudly roasts the patriarchy through a medley of sketches and musical numbers with a comedic sensibility that will appeal to any audience. This high energy show was completely created, designed and performed by women and has traveled to Boston after getting rave reviews and extended engagements in Chicago and Toronto. All are welcome. Tickets range from $35-$89. Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA, Wimberly Theatre, 539 Tremont St. Fri, March 6, 8 pm, Sat, March 7, 4 pm, 8 pm, Sun March 8, 2 pm, 6 pm.

Fiddler on the Roof. Barlett Sher, a Tony-award winning director and the team behind South Pacific, The King and I and Oslo infuse this classic musical with a fresh and authentic vision. Inspired by a deep dive into her own imagination. Free. Childs Gallery, 169 Newbury St. Tuesday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, talk is at 1 pm.

**Now-March 11**

Frog Pond Ice Skating. Outdoor ice skating with skates, skate aids and lockers for rent. $6 to skate, $12 for adult rentals, $6 for child rentals, $5 for a locker. Boston Common. Monday, 10 am-3:35 pm. Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am-9 pm. Friday-Saturday, 10 am-10 pm. Sunday, 10 am-9 pm.

The Rink at 401 Park. Outdoor ice skating at 6,000+ square foot rink with skate rentals. $6-$10. 401 Park Dr. Monday-Friday, 3-9 pm. Saturday, 11 am-10 pm. Sunday, 11 am-8 pm.

Seaport Skating Rink. Winter activities, goodides and 3,000 square foot rink. $3-$5. 65 Northern Ave. Monday-Thursday, 4-9 pm. Friday, 4-10 pm. Saturday, 11 am-10 pm. Sunday, 11 am-8 pm.

**Friday, March 6**

Bloodlust: Mysteries of Victorian Boston. Learn about the gruesome murders and unexplained phenomena in what used to be the country’s largest Victorian neighborhood, the South End. From $24/person. Sign up through Airbnb Experiences. Meet at Mass. Ave T stop, South End. 2 pm-4 pm.

**Now-March 8**

Mindful Origami Class with OTA. Cleanse your busy mind with this soothing paper folding class which will start with simple figures. Enjoy making cranes, dresses, multi-sided shapes and lily pads. The class will be led by Junko, a native Japanese origami practitioner, a member of Origami USA and an art therapy student working toward becoming a licensed art therapist. From $25 per person, sign up on Airbnb.com on the experiences page. Wagamama, Faneuil Hall marketplace, 1 S Market St. February 27, 11:30 am-12:30 pm, February 29, 5 pm-6 pm, March 1, 12 pm-1 pm, March 3, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm, 3 pm-4 pm, March 10 1:30 pm-2:30 pm, 3 pm-4 pm, March 12 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

**Now-March 11**

Hannah Barrett: Transitions. Retrospective display of the artist’s various series which convey Barrett’s development as she progresses from collage to eerie portraits inspired by a deep dive into her own imagination. Free. Childs Gallery, 169 Newbury St. Tuesday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday-Sunday, 11 am-5 pm.

Boston Ballet’s rEvolution show. Choreographed by Balanchine, Robbins and Forsythe, this ballet immerses viewers in an illusory rendering of metropolitan life intended to unearth deeper truths about reality. $37-$159. Citizen’s Bank Opera House, 539 Washington St. Feb. 27-29, 7:30 pm, March 1, 1:30 pm, March 5, 6, 7, 30, March 7, 1, 3, 10, 7, 30, March 8, 1, 30 pm.

**Saturday, March 7**

Why Deprive the State of her Service? The Nichols Women and Politics. A women’s suffrage centennial with an exhibition focused on the political lives of the Nichols women and the 100th anniversary of Marian Nichols’ role in creating the Massachusetts ACLU. This exhibition honors International Women’s Day and will include a gallery talk by museum curator Laura Cunningham. Free admission for self-guided tours will also be offered on this day. Free. Grogan & Co., 20 Charles St. Museum is open from 11 am-4 pm, talk is at 1 pm.

**Wednesday, March 11**

Clarie Jensen Concert. spice up your hump day by heading to the MFA for this Juliaud alvin experimental cello show. After honing her solo cello repertoire for many years, playing in the romantic tradition, Jensen is now elaborating on and abstracting the familiar sound of her instrument through the use of pedals, multi-tracking and recorded loops played at variable speeds over her live playing. Her debut album, For This From That Will Be Filled, was released internationally in 2018. $40 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium (Auditorium 161), 465 Huntington Ave. 8 pm-9:30 pm.

**Wednesday, March 11-15**

Plata Quemada. This play from TEATROCINEMA delivers a noir tale of bandits, betrayals and blowouts that will have you on the edge of your seat. The creators’ revolutionary storytelling style interweaves live-action performance with hyper-stylized graphic novel illustration, bringing the narrative bursting to life right in front of audiences’ eyes in a wildly unique manner. Tickets $10-$90. Emerson Paramount Center, Robert J. Orchard Stage 559 Washington St. Wed, March 11, Thurs., March 12, 7:30 pm. Fri., March 13, 8 pm. Sat., March 14, 2 pm, 8 pm, Sun., March 15, 2 pm.

**Thursday, March 12**

Aoife O’Donovan, Songs and Strings. Let yourself be serenaded by this folk vocalist’s ethereal melodies and substantive songwriting. O’Donovan will perform the song “Bull Frogs Creep,” a piece which uses stunning text by the late, and former Poet Laureate of Oregon, Peter Sears, alongside a string quartet. The rest of the evening will be filled with songs from her long career with a few traditional favorites mixed in. Taylor Ashton, a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Canada will open for O’Donovan with a 30-minute set. $35-$55. Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St. 8 PM.

**Sunday, March 8**

Boston Ballet’s rEVOLUTION show. Choreographed by Balanchine, Robbins and Forsythe, this ballet immerses viewers in an illusory rendering of metropolitan life intended to unearth deeper truths about reality. $37-$159. Citizen’s Bank Opera House, 539 Washington St. Thurs., March 12-Sat. March 14, 7:30 pm, Sunday, March 15, 1:30, March 19-20, 7:30 pm, Sat, 21, 1:30 pm, 7:30 pm, Sun. 22, 1:30 pm.

**Friday, March 13**

INTO CHAOS. Take in this collaborative art installation by painting duo Kaye Lane and Sam Fish. This exhibit combines hung work, mural and sculpture and will also feature JDJ performances by Tyler Kpakpo and Carter Reeves. Get your ticket which includes delicious refreshments early so as to guarantee your spot. Tickets won’t be available at the door. 21+, $13. EXIT Gallery, 254 Newbury St. 7:30 PM.
160 Commonwealth, Unit 518

Unit 518 is fully renovated to the highest standards and is nestled within the iconic Vendome’s luxury residences facing the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Natural light pours into the spacious living room through the set of three oval shaped windows overlooking spectacular views of Comm Ave’s urban arbor. This ample room provides plenty of space for comfortable seating, an entertainment system, a vitrine for displaying fine china, objets d’art and knickknacks. It is a lovely, roomy blank slate for any interior decorating vision the new owner dreams up.

The living room flows out to a dining area which is the perfect setting for entertaining guests over dinner, cocktails, games or anything that sparks your fancy. The dining area leads to a long, minimalistic kitchen with all wood floor to ceiling cabinetry, generous amounts of counter space, and a huge refrigerator to fit all your culinarily staples and experiments, you’ll see that it’s a gourmet home chef’s dream.

Unit 518’s amenities include two elevators, 24-hour concierge services, onsite management, central AC, forced air heating and snow removal. The condo is priced at $1,750,000. Contact Jacqueline Cabral of Donnelly + Co at (617) 775-5171 for more information.
76 Charles Street
Retail Rental
Unique opportunity to rent a small, charming Dickensian retail space on one of Charles Street’s best blocks. Currently used as an antiquarian book/print/curiosity shop for more than 40 years. Heavy foot traffic. Surrounded by bustling retail stores and restaurants. Sidewalk level with easy access. Magnificent display windows, lofty 14 ft. ceilings. Small storage loft. Owner would consider offering a turnkey business opportunity to purchase the current print/book/curiosity inventory and rent the shop.

Joe Govern: 857-222-5235
joe@streetandcompany.com

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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.”

$4,975,000

sallybrewster@gmail.com – 617-367-0505
visit our website www.brewberk.com
The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority has proposed to sell the Hynes auditorium on Boylston Street for redevelopment. This sale requires legislative approval and the Baker Administration has filed legislation that would grant the approval. State Senator Will Brownsberger and State Representatives Jay Livingstone and Jon Santiago are holding a listening session to determine whether and under what conditions they should support the requested approval, taking account of how you envision the future of the Hynes and its role within the Back Bay neighborhood. Please come and offer your thoughts.

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority intends to use the proceeds of the Hynes sale to help fund expansion of the Convention Center in the Seaport. The listening session is not about the planned expansion in the Seaport, which could be funded in other ways. The focus of the session will be on the desirability of the possible redevelopment of the Hynes for Back Bay.