Police Assets in Drug Zone May Be Reduced

South End residents were informed that D-4 officers will no longer have a fixed presence in the Melnea Cass Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue stretch of the neighborhood, an area known as Methadone Mile, because of the preponderance of drug addicts and homeless.

Continued on Page 2

Cannabis Applicants Are Learning Patience

Four companies vying for the right to operate the one recreational marijuana dispensary allowable in the the Back Bay are waiting patiently as the City’s Cannabis Control Board finalizes its process and the COVID-19 pandemic isn’t helping.

Boston’s Cannabis Control Board held its first meeting by video conference call on June 24 and is still developing its rules of operation. Its next meeting has not yet been posted.

City Zoning requires that recreational marijuana dispensaries not open within a half-mile of another dispensary, be at least 500 feet from a kindergarten, elementary or secondary school and must be in a business district. That means after one dispensary is granted a license, it’s unlikely another location in the Back Bay could qualify.

“No applicant can go in front of the board unless they’ve held a public meeting,” said Elliot Laffer, the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay’s (NABB’s) licensing and building use committee co-chair.

Continued on Page 2

Virtual Fireworks Forum Sparks Creative Solutions

At first Anna Kupik of the Fenway was merely annoyed by the occasional blasts of fireworks, until they happened on her street.

“I would say that for a long time the fireworks were faraway pops that I would hear,” she said at a virtual forum hosted by Boston City Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia on Tuesday, July 7.

Continued on Page 6
“Our first role is more or less modeled after the mission of Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of the Emerald Necklace, to be the park keepers,” he said, noting that the Park Rangers are a division of the city’s Parks Department. “We are here to primarily educate Bostonians and tourists and preserve Boston’s open space.”

Event management such as concerts that stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic will slowly return, Survillo explained. “With restrictions loosening, we are expecting a tsunami of people returning to the parks,” he said. “We want the young and old to be able to enjoy everything we have to offer.”

He added that the rangers have a close relationship with Mayor Marty Walsh and the Boston Police Department. Because of Boston’s diversity, the department has expanded its role to reflect growing needs. The 18 park rangers speak several languages and have backgrounds in park management, legal studies and environmental science.

“Our dynamics make Boston the wonderful city that it is,” Survillo said. “We are a melting pot, and being a harbor town, we are historically a city of immigrants. We not only understand that, we embrace it.” The rangers also are certified first responders, with authorization through the Boston Police Department to assist in emergency situations. They are trained in CPR, first aid and crisis intervention.

“When people see a mounted ranger, everyone turns their heads,” Survillo said. “It’s an unquestionable way to do community policing. I always joke that I want to see people put the horse,” he added. “Not too many people want to pat the cruiser.” Another way rangers promote the parks is by educating people about their history. They also address issues such as homelessness and drug use.

“With the Fens, there has been an increase in the homeless population,” Survillo said. “We also have to keep our parks safe by removing hypodermic needles we find.”

Wildlife management is an unseen part of the job. This year, the geese population has gotten unwieldy, so rangers have had to harvest eggs.

In addition to the nine major parks throughout the city, rangers can be seen in Boston’s neighborhood parks, tot lots and historic burial grounds. “We are here to keep people safe,” Survillo said.

Business Leaders Meet With Livingstone & Bok

By Jordan Frias

Seeking solutions from business owners in the Back Bay, elected officials Jay Livingstone and Kenzie Bok joined a virtual meeting held by the Back Bay Association (BBA) last week.

Livingstone and Bok both took the time to acknowledge that restaurants on Newbury and Boylston streets are back open, along with other businesses, but explained how cash strapped the city and state will be in terms of further assistance.

“I think what you’re going to continue to see is a relaxing of certain regulatory rules that are in place for a long time, to allow people to deal with the pandemic. Budget wise is very difficult,” state representative Livingstone said.

Livingstone added that measures, including expanding outdoor seating options, has helped some businesses reopen during the coronavirus pandemic, but the lack of activity downtown will continue to negatively impact the budget.

While the city has set up a series of funds for small businesses to take advantage of, more may need to be done to create destination spots that people would want to flock to in order to increase activity in the city, commented Bok.

“The normal shopping patterns aren’t cutting it,” Councilor Bok said. “We’ve lost too many of the tourists, the conventioneers, the workers in the office buildings. So [that] creates a real need to create different audiences and draw other people in, and I think the sweet spot there is outdoor stuff.”

Both the state and the city are seeing constrained budgets, and despite an interest in some sort of commercial property tax relief, BAA President Mainzer-Cohen said the association won’t be advocating for it. Recently, the Newbury Street League has been asking for commercial property tax relief.

“Oh course we always want the taxes to be lower, but we have experienced through direct conversations with the mayor that he really doesn’t get involved in individual tax cases and leaves it to the assessor,” Mainzer-Cohen said. “So I’m advising people to talk to the assessor and to put in a direct individual appeal.”

The sluggish return of activity was also mentioned as people continue to work from home in fear of returning to the office.

Fairmont Copley Plaza General Manager George Terpilowski, who said it would be five weeks until the hotel fully reopened, added that his industry “will not bounce back quickly” but gradually and substantially.

Bryan Koop, senior vice president and regional manager at Boston Properties, noted that the return of the workforce, which spends money during the day and in the evenings downtown, may take a while to return during the pandemic.

“Activity-based taxes, that’s what this is all about,” Koop said. “And I would say anticipate a slower start than you’re budgeting, anticipate things to be far more difficult.”

In addition to the pandemic impacting business, the looting following a police brutality protest on May 31 was also mentioned as devastating to those that were targeted.

The need to prevent empty storefronts was also brought up by BBA member Michael Jammen of Urban Meritage, a private real estate investment firm.

He said the focus needs to be on bringing the proper retailers in to fill those storefronts.

The wrong businesses moving in, he said, is “what can do damage for 5 or 10 years and make it impossible to attract the retailers that make it Newbury Street, Newbury Street.”

Mainzer-Cohen asked Bok to support efforts to bring appropriate retailers into the Back Bay when they are before the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Both Livingstone and Bok are hoping to get more feedback on what barriers can be removed and what regulations can be eased to make things better for businesses reopening going forward.

The BBA hopes to have a focus group to help brainstorm more ideas on what rules can be relaxed at a later time.

Cannabis Applicants

“Only Cypress Tree Management and Sira have held them. Public meetings can’t be in-person with COVID-19. Then, the applicants have to go through zoning and the State. It’s an unfortunately long road to follow.”

A representative from Sira Naturals declined to be interviewed on the record. The company has been in business since 2013 and operates dispensaries in Somerville and Needham. They plan to redevelop 827-829 Boylston St. into a mixed-use building, including 4,500 square foot dispensary.

Cypress Tree Management co-founder Victor Chang said his company is developing a dispensary in Newton and has applied for another one in Natick. Chiang said the two public meetings he held for the dispensary he hopes to open at 1114 Boylston St. went well. He said the process of getting approved is long and difficult, but it’s fair and everyone has to go through it.

“As a minority majority locally owned applicant we’re excited to see through the city’s process and move forward with our dispensary,” Chiang said.

If his application is approved Ember Garden CEO Shane Hyde will open at 397 Newbury St. He said people often compare marijuana dispensaries to liquor stores. Hyde says he plans to open something more akin to a 1,300 square foot fine wine shop.

“Based on our vision of the neighborhood, we want an upscale dispensary,” Hyde said. “We’ll be appointment only to prevent long lines and avoid the traffic horror stories that you saw in Brookline. We’ll have security inside and outside. We want to be a good neighbor. We don’t want to stand out. There will be frosted glass on the windows. My vision is if you were walking past and didn’t know what we do, you’d never know we were a cannabis dispensary.”

The fourth applicant, Compassionate Organics, which hopes to open at 331 Newbury St. did not respond to requests for an interview.

No one interviewed for this story would hazard a guess when the first dispensary would open its doors to the public. They’ve all leased or purchased space that didn’t know what we do, you’d never know we were a cannabis dispensary.”

The fourth applicant, Compassionate Organics, which hopes to open at 331 Newbury St. did not respond to requests for an interview.

No one interviewed for this story would hazard a guess when the first dispensary would open its doors to the public. They’ve all leased or purchased space that has been sitting empty for months and could remain empty many more months as the process grinds on.

Laffer said Back Bay residents are open to having a dispensary, and the applicants have been responsive to their concerns so far.

“Two years ago, I don’t think the community would have wanted it,” NABB’s Laffer said. “There is more acceptance today than there was then. It’s important for both the residential and commercial districts to thrive. They aid each other.”
One island. Fourteen homes. Infinite memories.

Nantucket houses are available to rent by the week in the summer time. Shorter term rentals are available throughout the year.

Nantucket rentals available year-round
(508) 901-9877
guestservice@thecopleygroup.com
www.thecopleygroupnantucket.com

THE COPLEY GROUP
nantucket collection
Swiping Packages

On June 29 a resident at 871 Beacon observed a guy entering the building empty handed. Not unusual but wearing flip flops and a blue amazon vest is definitely a cause for suspicion. Our observant resident waited in the lobby until Mr. Fashionplate left for suspicion. Our observant resident waited and a blue amazon vest is definitely a cause for suspicion. Our observant resident waited for Mr. Fashionplate to load their goodies into a blue Volkswagen SUV with Michigan plates. (Have SUVs become the official cars of low-level thieves?) Police arriving on the scene ran the plates and, guess what?, the car was stolen.

The three perps were found across the street getting their nails done at a salon. Everyone knows that you get a manicure after stealing a car and some fancy cloths. No one admitted to stealing from Diesel. Oh, and the car belonged to friend of a friend of a friend. To no one’s surprise, all three had outstanding warrants. Regrettably, our arresting officers did not have designer handcuffs so had to use the ordinary kind.

Clothes and a Manicure

Also on June 29, a male and two Fashionplate Wannabees were busy trying on clothing in the dressing rooms at the Diesel store at 339 Newbury Street. We guess that they were so excited with their new duds that they forgot to pay for them. The store manager saw them load their goodies into a blue Volkswagen SUV with Michigan plates. (Have SUVs become the official cars of low-level thieves?) Police arriving on the scene ran the plates and, guess what?, the car was stolen.

The three perps were found across the street getting their nails done at a salon. Everyone knows that you get a manicure after stealing a car and some fancy cloths. No one admitted to stealing from Diesel. Oh, and the car belonged to friend of a friend of a friend. To no one’s surprise, all three had outstanding warrants. Regrettably, our arresting officers did not have designer handcuffs so had to use the ordinary kind.

Early Morning Coffee

On June 30 at 6:30am (is the sun even up at that hour?) police where called about a breaking and entering at the Dunkin Donuts at 270 Newbury Street. A store employee had just opened the shop and found the drawers from two cash registers on the floor. The registers usually hold about $300 in cash overnight. The thief was caught on camera wearing a hooded sweatshirt, gym pants and sneakers (hopefully not from Diesel). The crime which took all of one minute at 1:26am has been turned over to police detectives.

Landlord on the Clock

On June 30 at 3:47pm, officers responded to a landlord/tenant issue at an apartment on Boylston Street between Gloucester and Hereford. The female tenant’s lease expired at noon but her departure was delayed because she was waiting for her father to arrive with a vehicle to transport her belongings. The landlord became angry and demanded she leave immediately. Feeling threatened, the tenant called the police who informed the landlord that they could do nothing as this was a civil matter. Perhaps he’ll take her to court to collect an additional four hours or so of rent.

Call the Fashion Police

Yup, another shoplifter, this time at Saks Fifth Avenue on Ring Road on June 30. Obviously thinking she would blend in with the other shoppers, this female had rainbow colored hair, black tank top, black pants and black shoes. Rather than choosing an offsetting color, she tried to steal a black Bailey jacket worth $288. Store security retrieved the item after she walked out of the store. Rather than thanking the loss prevention officer, she spit on her and fled in the direction of Huntington Ave. Not only did the shoplifter need a fashion consultant but also an SUV like other perps.

Even More Shoplifting

On July 1, Nordstrom Rack at 497 Boylston Street reported a male entered the store, selected a pair of Reebok sneakers, concealed them under his jacket and walked out. Unlike the Saks shoplifter, this one had a contrasting wardrobe of white t-shirt, black jacket, black jeans and white sneakers. Kind of makes it easier to blend in with other Back Bay shoppers.

The local economy is starting to heal based upon an anecdotal observation: the number of shoplifting and package theft incidents seem to be on the rise. Forget any talk of a "new normal". We’re returning to some of our old ways and patterns.

Police Line Do Not Cross

District 4: 650 Harrison Avenue, 617-343-4457
District A-1: 40 New Sudbury Street, 617-343-4627

Stay Safe
Stay Healthy

Middle East coverage you won’t find anywhere else.
Accurate facts.
In-depth analysis.
www.jns.org | news service

Don’t Be Left Out on the Street
Stay Healthy
Stay Safe

24 hour rate: $40
24/7 access monthly parking
$394/month
Visit our website for hourly rates
www.motormartgarage.com

Visit our website for hourly rates
www.motormartgarage.com
(617) 482-8380
mmg@lazparking.com
By Jay Livingstone
State Representative

The past few months have been trying for so many reasons. Many issues that were pending in our community in early March have been stuck in place. Now that our economy is starting to re-open, some developments are starting to return. I thought it would be helpful to recap the pending development projects under discussion, many involving state resources, in the Beacon Hill and West End area.

There are two large MassDOT projects: Replacement of the red line viaduct heading from Beacon Hill into Charles Station and connecting the red line to the blue line.

One DCR project: Replacing the tunnel in the east bound lane of Storrow Drive.

One other State project: Redevelopment of the Hurley Building.

Two private projects: Expansion of Mass General and expansion of Mass Eye and Ear and building underground parking that will impact Beacon Hill and the West End.

All are centered around Cambridge Street.

There are many issues to consider regarding these projects. There are always pros and cons with respect to any development. Nothing is ever perfect.

Continued on Page 8

Area A-1 Welcomes Capt. Robert Ciccolo

By Mary Ellen Gambon

Newly appointed Boston Police Area A-1 Captain Robert Ciccolo is no stranger to being a leader in the Boston Police Department. His most recent role was as the night commander for all Boston Police units on duty citywide, which he held from April 2016 until the end of June. “He commanded the north side of the city, but he was responsible for officers all over the city,” according to BPD spokesman Sgt. Det. John Boyle, noting Ciccolo’s office was in the same building. “He responded to all major incidents that occurred.” He also is very familiar with the downtown area, having supervised multi-jurisdictional forces during emergencies and special events.

Ciccolo has taken over the position after Captain Kenneth Fong retired at the end of last month. The A-1 precinct encompasses the Downtown, Theater District, North End and West End.

Continued on Page 8
The discussion, attended by city officials on Zoom and viewed by 461 on Facebook, focused on different strategies to deal with the barrage of fireworks that has plagued some communities for up to 12 hours a day.

Kupik said she was inspired to join a citywide group organized by Mejia after the councilor held a similar discussion on the socioemotional and health impacts on elders, veterans, people with disabilities and those who suffer from trauma and PTSD.

“I think I was happy that the dialogue had happened with one of the other community members where they were taking non-police action, talking to other residents, having a fire extinguisher nearby,” she said. “So I took that approach. I felt that I was deterring the additional fireworks that were going on.”

She added that community empowerment is a key to dealing with a problem that has risen by an exponential factor this summer.

Community engagement can have explosive consequences, as District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn described. Last week a South Boston veteran told Flynn how he asked people to politely stop shooting fireworks.

“They turned on him, and they shot the bottle rockets at him,” Flynn said. “He had big burn marks throughout his body.”

He also talked about the impact on people with disabilities, who often go under the radar. A man he spoke with has to wake up at 6 a.m. to get a van to a dialysis appointment. He returns home exhausted at 4 or 5 p.m. Fireworks have been keeping him awake, sometimes until 3 a.m.

“It might be fun shooting fireworks off, but let’s think about the people who are home who are not in good physical or mental health,” Flynn stressed.

One solution Mejia said the task force proposed was having a fireworks buyback program. People, including young adults, would be reimbursed with either gift cards or cash. The confiscated fireworks could then be used as part of a citywide fireworks festival, where they would be lit by professionals. There would be educational opportunities for fire safety as well as career exploration.

Another idea was motivating young people who lit off fireworks to become peer counselors against the practice.

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok, whose district includes the Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the Fenway, said she and her district have been affected.

“I have heard the fireworks,” she said. “I am also hearing from a lot of constituents for whom it’s beyond an inconvenience. It’s affecting their quality of life in a deep and pervasive way.”

She added that she hoped July 4th was a “punctuation mark” that would cause the fireworks to cease.

Bok questioned the buyback idea because, depending on the price, “You could create some really weird incentives where people decided to buy more fireworks in order to sell them back.”

Eileen MacNeil, the executive director of the Greater Boston YMCA, said she has worked with teens who have been “trying to voice themselves any way they can be heard.”

Results of the neighborhood sessions will be compiled and given to the task force, which will then determine how plans can be implemented.

By Jordan Frias

Long anticipated work on Phase 2 of the Muddy River is set to begin this year, with some of the preparatory work already started.

Temporary fencing will be put up and Agassiz Road will function as the main site for the project, which will include dredging to mitigate flooding.

Fenway residents can anticipate the trucking of heavy construction equipment and trailers to Agassiz Road, which will be closed from 7 a.m. until the end of the construction day, according to Project Manager Kyle Merkosky.

Continued on Page 8
Drug Zone
Continued from Page 1

The bicycle patrol for D-4 will also no longer be deployed, according to Sgt. Paul DeLeo, supervisor of the D-4 Community Service Office.

DeLeo said the majority of calls they get come from this area.

“Too have a dedicated car there is very useful, and I think it’s very comforting for the neighborhood. But that is not going to be the case, so hopefully it gets reinstated at some point, but for now it’s off the table,” DeLeo said.

DeLeo added that a third of all community service officers, three in the day and three in the afternoon, are no longer scheduled. Therefore, two will work in the day and two will work at night.

Though there may be a lag when it comes to answering 311 calls because of the reduction, DeLeo said the department will continue to be responsive.

“It might just take a little longer for non-emergency stuff to be handled on our end,” he said.

Asked if changes were due to budget cuts, DeLeo deferred all questions to the Boston Police Department, the Mayor and the City Council. BPD did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Kenzie Bok, District 8 Councilor whose area includes the Back Bay and Fenway, which D-4 covers, said she and her colleagues have not yet received information on what BPD districts or operations have been cut due to a reduction in BPD’s overtime budget.

The City Council, Bok said, approved Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s recommendation to cut $12 million from BPD’s overtime budget, but did not have say in what areas would be impacted.

“All the Council has done at this point is to ratify the mayor’s proposal to reduce the overtime budget by 20 percent…so to the extent that the police department is making those choices that’s part of what we’re going to talk with them about,” Bok said.

Bok and her colleagues will call for a hearing on the overtime budget cuts at the next city council meeting, scheduled for July 8th, to better understand why BPD Commissioner William Gross made the changes and why.

“All the councilors, including myself, want to see these decisions made in a way that has the least impact on the policing services that our constituents most rely on,” Bok said. “I think we’re going to be appropriately skeptical about whether reducing assignments for the most popular front-line roles, whether that’s a necessity or whether that’s about making a political point.”

Bok also added that direct impacts on a particular district, as far as she knows, “are speculative.”

But Stephen Fox, a representative on the Mayor’s Mass/Cass 2.0 Task Force and chair of the South End Forum, said he was informed that these changes to D-4 happened because of changes to the budget.

“What we’re being told is that there are budget constraints,” Fox said. “And we follow the news, we understand the defund police perspective… but when push comes to shove, it’s really about recognizing an environment that’s real to the South End community and to the Newmarket community as the most needy place for us to fulfill our obligation.”

Fox said years have been spent to ensure that the Mass and Cass area had a comprehensive plan to deal with the many challenges there, which included a dedicated police presence, particularly on bicycles.

Fox added that it is not the community’s job to figure out the budget details regarding overtime.

“We need the police resources for the overall management of the environment we have, not because we want lights and sirens, but because we need to have vehicles and resources that are capable of helping us to manage an environment that can grow out of control,” Fox said.

He points to the attack on a correction’s officer by the Southampton Street Shelter last year and the controversy that followed as an example why a police presence, along with other resources, is necessary in that area.

Fox has been in touch with many people since he got word of the changes and said he hopes the bicycle unit will be restored.

“I don’t care how they pay for it in terms of budget, but I’m asking for it to be restored to the location that is without any question most needy. If I don’t get that commitment I’m calling a meeting by the end of the week with city councilors,” Fox said. “This is not something that can wait two weeks for us to resolve.”

If the issue is not resolved, Fox said, he will be calling for a face-to-face meeting with the mayor.

In a statement, Walsh’s office said BPD is discussing how to reduce overtime cost and reallocate money to social services programs, but “no final decisions have been made on how this will impact police coverage at Newmarket Square and the surrounding neighborhoods.”

“Addressing quality of life concerns is an integral part of the Mass & Cass 2.0 plan,” Walsh said in a statement, “and we remain committed to working in partnership with the community towards a collective solution so every resident can live a healthy and safe life.”

Reopening Boston Restaurants, How You Can Help

Boston restaurants have reopened at limited capacity, here are some tips to help them run smoothly!

- Help restaurants make the most of their space and staff by dining out Sunday through Wednesday
- Limit your dining experience to 60 minutes, or 90 minutes for parties of 6 or more
- Be sure to call ahead for reservations!
- Restaurants are still offering takeout. Order your meals to go and enjoy the nice weather!
- As always, be courteous and patient with restaurant staff. Operating guidelines are new for us all, and they are doing their best to ensure we all have a fun, safe, and relaxing time. Tip generously!

Thank you to The Boston Guardian for their generous donation of this ad space

For questions about reopening or to become a member, please email TaskForce@SEBABoston.com
When Brothels Tried To Be Good Neighbors

By Mannie Lewis

Some South End lintels in the Ellis and Eight Streets sections of the neighborhood may still bear the signs of their lurid pasts. In the late 1940s, fed up with johns knocking on their doors in search of prostitutes, residents came to an agreement with the area’s brothels that they would paint their first-floor lintels. “They had to go to the bordellos and ask them to do it,” said Paul Duffy, longtime neighborhood resident, who was a little boy at the time. “I think that at that time (the paint) might have been red and turned salmon or pink.”

According to Duffy, there are still some buildings that have the mark from the past, but he could not name specific addresses. Historians reached for more information were not familiar with the paint markings, but provided details about South End prostitution half a century earlier. “[The South End] became very active with brothels between 1890 and 1910,” said Mary Beaudry, chair of Boston University’s Archeology Department. “The johns were just about everybody.”

According to Beaudry, the houses of prostitution were run by madams and were fashioned in the style of the clientele they hoped to attract. A parlor house would be a facsimile of a middle-class home of the time, and men could get private in-meal rooms while enjoying dancing, entertainment, and the services they came for, Beaudry said. Liquor was sold, often at a 300 percent markup, because that was how the madam made money. Sally Deutsch, historian and author of Women of the City, said while researching for her book, one authoritative source was convinced that nearly every shop in the South End was offering sex for sale, often fronting as a business.

“Only the expert could distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate businesses,” Deutsch wrote in an email. The annual Boston Street Directory, which was sponsored by advertisers, listed the residents and businesses of each address in the city including houses of prostitution even though they were illegally open, Beaudry said.

He really enjoys being out meeting people and knowing the neighborhoods within his district,” Boyle said. Since he became a captain in 2007, he has been in command of several areas of the police department, including 911 Public Safety Area Point (PSAP); Hackney Carriage Division; the Court Division; Operations; and Area E-18, which covers Hyde Park and Roslindale. Earlier in his career, he served as a shift commander in Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. He also was a patrol supervisor, anti-crime supervisor, and acting shift commander in Mattapan, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale and Jamaica Plain.

“Having a lot of experience dealing with citywide problems and major events,” Boyle said. Ciccolo has 35 years of experience in coordinating state and local law enforcement agencies, most notably in the area of special events planning. He also has assisted private organizations to lead and institute crime prevention tactics, transportation licensing and regulation. Other areas he has provided guidance on include investigation patrol, training, communications, transportation regulation development and disaster response.

Ciccolo graduated from the Boston Police Academy in 1987. He also earned master’s degrees in Business Administration and Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration from Curry College. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum, Senior Management in Policing program as well as the Global Threat Reduction Initiative Response to Radiological Incidents at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oakridge, Tenn.

Livingstone

Continued from Page 5

I always first think about the potential positives for the community and try to work with the community to make sure, if the project goes forward, that the positives are realized.

The potential community benefits for these projects include more acres of the Esplanade, MEEI expansion; a senior center or a public school, Hurley redevelopment; greater safety, the replacement of the DCR tunnel and MassDOT viaducts; and better connections to public transit, red to blue connection. Second, I think about how to try to minimize any potential negatives. The long-term concerns can range from increased traffic (which is hard to think about as a possibility now, but it will return), to inconsistency with current community goals, to the potential loss of important historic features. Each of these projects has unique long-term issues to address.

The construction impacts are the primary short-term concern. The sheer number for the small area means the construction disruption is potentially a greater concern than you would expect for any one of these projects separately. I have helped to coordinate the project teams to minimize both construction impacts and disruption.

I know that the community positives may not be realized, and the negatives may be realized, if we do not work together. My goals for these projects is to reflect community desires and concerns. I look forward to continued partnership with other local city and state leaders, local civic groups, and community members to secure the best community results from these projects. If you have thoughts or questions regarding any of these projects or anything else, please let me know.

Representative Jay Livingstone represents Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the West End.

Muddy River

Continued from Page 6

The entire project is slated to be done in March, 2023, which includes a two-year maintenance period. “[Agassiz] road will then be reopened at the end of the day,” Merkosky said during a virtual meeting on the project on June 30. “We are not going to close the road just for the sake of closing the road.”

The project, which will require the removal of 130 trees, sediment and reeds or phragmites, will improve river flow and the quality of the water, according to Project Manager Jennifer Flanagan of the Army Corps of Engineers. She explained how Phase 2 of the flood risk management project could prevent major flooding, like the 1996 flood that impacted the MBTA and cost millions of dollars in damages.

“Overall the project will improve the water moving through the system,” Flanagan added. “The Charles River will still strongly influence the Muddy River water level. However, the water will move through the Muddy River much quicker and the project’s designed for a 20 year storm. The 20 year storm is an event that has a 5% chance of occurring any given year.”

In addition to temporary fencing for the site, foot traffic will be impacted in specific areas, some of which will divert people to the Brookline Memorial. Which includes a two-year project could prevent major flooding, like the 1996 flood that impacted the MBTA and cost millions of dollars in damages. “What we’re going to be looking at constructing is almost exactly like a train,” Merkosky said. “If we are currently digging or excavating in Area 1, we will be already pulled out of Area 1, restoring Area 1, and also preparing Area 3 for excavation.”

A flagger will also be present in certain areas, including Agassiz Road, to keep pedestrians safe from moving work vehicles.

The last part of the project, Area 13, will include the construction of a flood protection wall near the old fire department building by Westland Avenue. That construction won’t take place until 2021. Merkosky added that access to the Victory Gardens should not be impacted as the project moves behind that area.

Once the project is done there will be increased plant diversity, vegetation and the replanting of thousands of trees and shrubs.

This summer, Merkosky said sporadic road closures can be expected as excavators, loaders and offroad trucks enter around 7 am and leave the area around 5 pm.

Tree clearing will be a major part of the work this summer. Excavation is set to begin in the fall.
A DIFFERENT FOURTH

No crowds, no concert, no fireworks on The Esplanade this Fourth of July. Just pastoral beauty and time to relax and reflect.

Photos: The Esplanade Association
**Back Bay**

*260-262 Commonwealth Avenue, Unit 2*

Residence II at Maison Commonwealth has 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathroom and features an exceptionally expansive, 46 foot wide open living and dining concept spanning two brownstones with windows facing Commonwealth Avenue. Sophisticated master suite with a 3-sided glass fireplace, walk-in closet and dressing area, and en-suite master bathroom. Deeded garage parking.

**$9,650,000**

*Beth Dickerson*  
Gibson Sotheby’s Realty International  
617 510-8565  
Dickersonre1@yahoo.com

---

**Beacon Hill**

*160 Mount Vernon Street*

Beautifully restored four-story townhouse on the flat of Beacon Hill with sensational light and lovely views from both front and rear. Spacious roof deck, gracious rooms, beautiful garden, outdoor access to two streets, underpinned foundation and on-site parking space.

**$4,975,000**

*Sally Brewster*  
Brewster & Berkowitz  
617 869-3443  
sallybrewster@gmail.com  
www.brewberk.com

---

**Downtown**

*2 Avery, PH2B*

Duplex Penthouse at the Ritz-Carlton Residences with wrap around 1,200 SF private, landscaped terrace. 180 degree views of the sunrise over Boston Harbor to the sunset over the Boston Common & Charles River. Three bedroom plus den, 3.5 marble baths w/ 4300 square feet of living space including 2 Valet Garage Parking. Soaring 14 ft double height windows in living room with streaming sunlight.

**$7,450,000**

*Pamela Cushing / The Live In Luxury Team*  
Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
987 771-3319  
pamela.cushing@elliman.com

---

**South End**

*20 Union Park, Unit 1*

Unique garden duplex perfectly situated in front of one of Union Park’s gorgeous fountains. This two-bedroom home has a two-story living room, two private entrances, two outside spaces including a deck off the kitchen for entertaining and a private patio. Parking.

**$1,395,000**

*Paul Whaley / Charlie Ring Team*  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
617 460-4238  
paul.whaley@removes.com  
paulwhaley.com
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

sallytbrewster@gmail.com ~ 617-367-0505
visit our website www.brewberk.com

Mount Vernon St Carriage House
Rental Available- 2 Beds/1.5 Baths/Parking
The Carriage House on Mt. Vernon Street is a spacious and charming single family home nestled into historic Beacon Hill. Accessed via cobblestone driveway and featuring two tandem parking spots, the first floor of this two-story residence features a gracious living and dining area with exposed brick and stone, modern kitchen, and cozy study. Upstairs features a master bedroom and a well sized guest bedroom.

$6,800/month

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

New Listing
QUACK, QUACK! we’re back!

Come and experience the best introDUCKtion to Boston! Reopening July 13th

www.BostonDuckTours.com • 617-450-0068