



Boston Bulletin

citywide news • street by street

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FREE

Density concerns persist for \$300 million Channel Center Plan

Laura Griffin
Staff Reporter

Nearly 100 residents filled a community room at 10 Channel Center last week as a team from Commonwealth Ventures LLC unveiled models and sketches of a proposed \$300 million dollar makeover of 100 acres of the vast site located off South Boston's A Street.

At the outset, Commonwealth's president

Galvin predicted the project will bring 1,000 construction jobs and a similar number of permanent business jobs to the area where his company has already expended \$100 million of a projected \$300 million investment.

Architects Tamara Roy of ADD Inc. and Cheryl Tougias, President of Spalding Tougias Architects, described efforts to incorporate artistry into each building design from curved



Scale figures depict the Commonwealth Ventures plans for a \$300 million dollar upgrade of the former Boston Wharf Company property at Channel Center.

PHOTO BY LAURA GRIFFIN

Dick Galvin, outlined the project, which will include an 11-story office building and a nine-story parking garage with 960 spaces as well as a 1.6-acre public park and a pocket park.

After the meeting, Galvin said the building will be leased, not sold, to State Street Bank and Trust.

painted windows to cobblestones, varied color metals, reddish and orange terra cotta, and warm-toned bricks throughout.

Roy said the major tenants will not be the banking arm of State Street, but rather their "creative technology center."

Channel Center
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Outreach is key to a health Allston-Brighton

Donald Vincent
Staff Reporter

The Allston-Brighton Substance Abuse Task Force in partnership with the Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative hosted an open dialogue forum last week for area residents to find ways to make a healthier Allston-Brighton neighborhood.

With the help of the Boston Public Health Commission, Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, residents were educated on the health status of

their neighborhoods.

Nancy Allen, Coordinator of the Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative, said that the idea was to talk to residents to identify health concerns in order to create action plans and goals for a healthier neighborhood.

"I'm incredibly pleased with the turnout we've had and that there were not only folks who work in Allston-Brighton, but we had a lot of folks who are residents and community leaders and that's what we were hoping for,"

Outreach
Continued on page 13

A celebration eight years in the making



Mayor Thomas Menino helped officially cut the ribbon Friday afternoon at the Presentation School Foundation Community Center.

PHOTO BY ZACK HUFFMAN

Zack Huffman
Senior Reporter

After eight years of hard work, the community came out Friday afternoon to finally cut the ribbon at the brand new Presentation School Foundation (PSF) Community Center.

"All of the work that's been done over the last eight years has been done by volunteers," said PSF Board Chairman Jim Prince. "You know this work doesn't get done without you."

Almost 100 people came

out to see the building, which has been spruced up with all new interiors, while the black paneling on the exterior of the new building entry way is made from old chalkboards that were originally in the school's classrooms.

"As I walked over to it, I had an urge to write, 'I will not talk in class, I will not talk in class,'" quipped State Rep. Mike Moran.

Amid a financial crisis and dwindling attendance, the Presentation School - a Catholic school - was facing closure by

the Boston Archdiocese eight years ago, when residents took up the fight to purchase the building and renovate it, transforming the structure into a community center.

Moran, who was once a student at the Presentation School, was excited for the ribbon cutting, and added that with the inclusion of the Little Sprouts pre-school, he will be able to bring his own child to the school.

"For me this building is

PSF
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BRA Board approves creation of 23 new condominiums in Southie

Gil Haylon
Staff Reporter

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Board unanimously approved the creation of 23 residential condominiums at 637 East First St. in South Boston.

This \$7.2, 29,000-square foot project will create 5 one-bedroom units, and 18 two-bedroom units ranging in size from 750 square feet to 1,408 square feet on a vacant lot. Twenty-four parking spaces will also be constructed.

The development team in-
Development
Continued on page 10



A rendering of the approved development at 637 East First St. approved by the BRA Board.

PHOTO BY GIL HAYLON

Rainforest Makers bring some green to the Italian Home

Zack Huffman
Senior Reporter

What do you call a bunch of lawyers who spent last week planting trees throughout Boston? They call themselves Rainforest Makers.

Friday morning, the group was at the Italian Home for Children in Jamaica Plain to plant four young maple trees to be enjoyed by the home's children for decades to come.

The effort was financially supported by local lawyers, such as Karen Weber, executive director of the Foundation for a Green Future.

"We're very pleased to have a wonderful partnership with RainforestMaker," said Weber. "It's also wonderful to be able to help out the Italian Home for Children."

According to Weber, the Foundation for a Green Future is dedicated to spreading access to nature in an urban environment. She was happy to get involved with the Italian Home.

"I just felt that the Italian Home is doing such wonderful work with children," she said. "They're basically in our

neighborhood and they're always in need of something."

Chris Small, executive director of the Italian Home, was also on hand to witness the new trees that he expects will be very beneficial to the home's children.

"Obviously it's a wonderful thing. The kids will enjoy this for generations," said Small. "What I think is even more important is that we're building partnerships and partnerships last forever. We have numerous different groups here and it's a great thing."

RainforestMaker, which was founded by local attorney Jeff Glassman, in addition to encouraging other lawyers to begin reducing, reusing, and recycling, creates opportunities for attorneys to plant trees locally through its local initiative LATTE (Lawyers Accountable To The Earth).

"Lawyers go through about 10 times more paper than average office workers," said Glassman, who tries to partner with local community members whenever his group does a planting. "I like having the participation of the



The Italian Home for Children was excited to welcome four new trees to the property Friday morning.
PHOTO BY ZACK HUFFMAN

community. Doing a small project is what gives people the inspiration to do larger ones."

Jane Zopatti-Lewis, Director of Educational Services at the Italian Home, expresses her enthusiasm regarding the

arrival of the trees. "We are so excited to plant the new trees at the Italian Home...We have lost many trees over the past year due to storms, so the new trees are greatly appreciated!"

Contributions by

plantings in the Boston area.

"As a personal injury lawyer, the concept is that you're a rain maker," said Glassman. "RainforestMaker was a natural thing. Going through all that paper got me thinking about how we were im-

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Jeff Glassman of Rainforest Makers, Chris Small of the Italian Home and Local attorney Karen Weber were among those who came to make the planting happen.
PHOTO BY ZACK HUFFMAN

RainforestMaker and the following attorneys supported the planting and maintenance of these and more trees in the City of Boston: D'Ambruoso & Freed, LLP; Suffolk University Law School Professors Kathleen Engel, Joseph Glannon, and Janice Griffith; Fireman & Associates; Rita Glassman; Law Offices of Jeffrey S. Glassman, LLC; Jan R. Schlichtmann, Attorney at Law, P.C.; Epstein & August, LLP; and McGregor & Associates, P.C.

For the most part, RainforestMaker has organized trips for lawyers and other volunteers to South America to help with massive replantings of trees in the rain forest. More recently, the group has been taking part in smaller-scale

planting the environment. Some say a single lawyer can go through 24 trees a year."

Foundation for a Green Future, Inc. is a Boston-based 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing environmentally focused programs to the Greater Boston community. Throughout the year, the organization runs a series of programs focused on greening our urban spaces through gardening, green roofs and living walls.

The Italian Home is a residential and day treatment facility for emotionally and behaviorally challenged children of all races, nationalities and religions. On any given day about 100 children attend the programs in the Jamaica Plain campus.

Council calls for NStar transformers oversight, outage mitigation

Zack Huffman
Senior Reporter

On March 13, a building fire caused an NStar transformer to go offline, which plunged the Back Bay and surrounding areas into darkness for upwards of three days.

That would have been bad enough, but in the first week of May, that same transformer shorted out, causing another mass blackout.

In response, City Council President Stephen Murphy called for the establishment of either an independent inspector of NStar power equipment, or new guidelines that would allow city or state government to inspect the equipment along with NStar’s own internal inspections.

“My understanding is that NStar is responsible for policing themselves and there is no independent or city verification of what is going on in facilities owned by NStar,” said Murphy. “We need to have some protocols in place to ensure that all of us in government and the residents of our city that we’re doing everything we can to maintain safety and security and to verify what is being told to us in terms of maintenance.”

Although Murphy praised the work that NStar did in restoring power in March in about three days, he was dismayed at the cost to many of the businesses and residents who had to throw out spoiled food as a result of being left without power for so long.

“I think it might have been three days before power was restored to everybody and there was quite a cost,” he

said. “Some of the residents, many of which were seniors on fixed incomes, lost all the food in their refrigerators. A lot of businesses in that area had to throw out considerable amounts of perishables.”

Murphy also noted that the city itself bore some of the costs, with police, fire and EMS resources being redirected to the Back Bay area, along with the overtime costs associated with the added attention.

A representative from the Boston Police Department testified that as per protocol, when the power outage occurred, people in the immediate district responded. Once their shift was up and it was determined that there was still a need for extra officers, those first-shift officers were kept on the job, resulting in overtime costs to the city.

At that point, officers from drug units and gang units in other districts were also called in to provide support.

“All those resources get pulled into that area and taken out of other districts,” he said, before explaining that in the aftermath of the March 13 power outage, the city spent about \$250,000 in police overtime pay.

According to Craig Hallstrom, NStar inspects its own equipment and then submits the inspection results along with a description of the inspection methods to the state. Although the state does not verify that information, Hallstrom stressed that it would not be in NStar’s best interests to under-inspect.

“Our substations are very important assets to us. We inspect them monthly,” he said. “This is the first event we’ve had in this substation in 22 years. I think that speaks to our inspection procedures.”

While Murphy acknowledged that 22 years without a major event was a good track record, that didn’t change the fact that when there was a major event, it proved to be disastrous.

“The magnitude of the event and then the repeat of the event a few weeks later suggests that there’s not enough being done,” he said.

Mike Ross, District City Councilor for the areas most affected by the outages, criticized NStar for what he saw as an unwillingness to mitigate the losses residents and businesses suffered from the outage.

“I have to say that I am disappointed in what occurred,” said Ross. “The fact that two major incidents in the span of six weeks shut down the heart of business in this city and the response in that the most vulnerable among us each lost over \$100 of food and services weren’t even considered for any type of reimbursement for their loss is really disturbing to me.”

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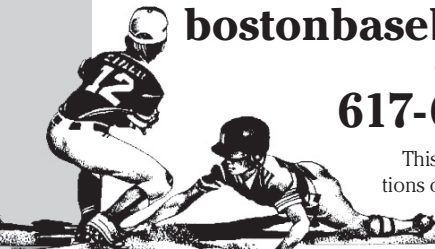
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BRA

The Boston Redevelopment Authority will hold a public meeting regarding **Project Notification Form – New Brighton Landing**

7:00 PM, Wednesday, June 6th
WGBH Auditorium, One Guest Street
Brighton, MA 02135

Project Proponent: New Brighton Landing, LLC.

Project Description: The site described in the Project Notification Form ("PNF") contains approximately 13.98 acres (about 608,969 square feet) of land area located on both the north and south sides of Guest Street and the east side of Life Street, in Brighton. The portion of the site on the northerly side of Guest Street is bounded to the north by land of the MBTA, to the south by Guest Street, to the east by a Stop & Shop Supermarket and to the west by the office complex known as Brighton Landing. The portion on the southerly side of Guest Street is bounded to the north by Edward C. Joyce, Trustee/B.L. Makepeace, Inc., and to the west by Life Street. Only a small 8,049 square foot parcel on the southerly side of Guest Street is not contiguous to any of the other parcels (collectively, the "Project Site"). The PNF describes four new projects (each, a "Proposed Project," and collectively, the "Proposed Projects") to be located on the Project Site: (i) a new Office Use building with accessory parking and loading to house New Balance employees, managers and officers, together with retail, restaurant and service uses; (ii) up to three (3) new office buildings with accessory parking and loading, restaurant, retail, and service uses; (iii) a hotel with accessory parking and loading, restaurant, retail, and service uses; and (iv) a sports facility with accessory parking and loading, restaurant, retail, and service uses. The PNF sets forth the detailed description of the Proposed Projects, proposed impacts and appropriate mitigation to minimize and improve existing conditions. The PNF also describes the anticipated public benefits of the Proposed Projects. The focus of this meeting will be on urban design and traffic mitigation.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

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Before one can lead, one must be willing to follow. There is no argument that Boston Firefighter, Daniel Magoon and Boston Fire Lieutenant Gregory Kelley learned to follow, and then to lead. While bravely and honorably serving and sacrificing for our country, they were battle tested during multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Is it any wonder that they will overcome all obstacles in order to complete their latest mission? Along with an extremely enthusiastic core group of volunteers, they hope to bring to fruition a permanent Massachusetts Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Heroes (MIAFHM) Memorial.

Magoon, Executive Director of the MIAFHM, and Kelly, the organization's Vice President, know that their mission is to honor the members of our military from Massachusetts, who make the ultimate sacrifice while in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the idea for the memorial was conceived, and the awesome fundraising undertaking and logistical challenges were weighed, some naysayers didn't give it a chance. However, Magoon and Kelly, a team of bulldozers, know otherwise. Marching onward, their governing philosophy is thorough and effective: "We don't have time for 'No.'"

Magoon, 30, is an Army Sgt. and Paratrooper who served for five years. Kelly, 36, -SFC, US Army Special Forces

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has, along with his service in the US Marines, been on active duty for 17 years. They vividly recall those who died while serving our country. "When my First Sgt., (Christopher Conrad Rafferty), died in Afghanistan, it hit me hard. I knew then and there that I wanted to do something more to help when I got home," Magoon said. Dan and his wife, Megan, who now live in Dorchester, have a son, Conrad, named after First Sgt. Rafferty. Greg and his wife, Meghan, also live in Dorchester. They have two boys, Charles and Martin. This has been a busy few weeks for Magoon and Kelly. They wouldn't have it any other way. While focusing on others' service and sacrifice, they run from meeting to meeting, from hardware stores to legislative offices to union meetings, and then from firehouse, to firehouse, and back to the former VFW Post on Neponset Avenue. It is there where they, along with a core group of dedicated, talented and generous veterans and firefighters are steadfastly renovating the post in order to give it a re-birth of sorts. When opened this weekend, it will be playing first-time host as Boston Fireman's Post, 94 American Legion. There, they will have a barbecue for friends and families after Monday's Cedar Grove Memorial Day events. Kelly will serve as Post 94's Commander and Magoon its Vice Commander. They en-

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE



Frank Reflections/
Frank Sullivan

courage you to drop by. Magoon and Kelly, even when prodded, don't think what they are doing is anything other than what comes naturally. They are grateful and driven by a sense of duty and honor. They wish to lead so that others will be permanently remembered at the Fallen Heroes Memorial. They also want area firefighter veterans to have a gathering spot at Post 94. Service and Sacrifice: Last Saturday morning, Magoon and Kelly led others at Fenway Park, setting up an interactive,

traveling MFH memorial display. It would be showcased during the following day's Run-Walk to Home Base fundraiser for wounded veterans and their families at Fenway Park. Service and Sacrifice: Last Saturday afternoon, the two gregarious and generous and loyal military men, and goodhearted servants to all of Boston, through their work on the Boston Fire Department, led volunteers to Newton South High School's "Hoops for Troops" fundraiser. They then set up an information table regarding the MFH mission. Service and Sacrifice: Kelly and Magoon and their wives, along with United States Senator Scott Brown and many other supporters of their effort, ran as a team, joining more than 2,000 other runners and walkers who crossed home plate, after a 9k Run-Walk, presented by New Balance at Fenway Park. The enormously successful event has raised approximately \$7 million in its first three years, to support the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program, which provides clinical care and support services to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and families. Magoon has a unique appreciation for the Home Base Program because it has helped him and his family. As a result of continuing to gain his footing and a renewed sense of purpose, he approaches

his family, his work and his volunteerism in a more healthy — physically and emotionally — manner. Magoon and Kelly, whether constantly working at the BFD, and then on their mission on behalf of both the MFH Memorial and Boston Fireman's Post 94, are always on the go, dedicated to the memory of others' service and sacrifice. "I know he is often away from home, busy with one thing or another. But, at least, it isn't like when he was away from home for so long while deployed," said Meghan Kelly. When Greg was away on a lengthy deployment, he and Meghan "Skyped" and had a conversation. Charlie, who was only three years old, looked at the computer screen and said, "Hey, daddy, how did you get in there?" "Greg will be talking about going to this Sniper School or to that Jump Training, and I will say, 'Did you ever think about becoming a librarian,'" said Meghan Kelly. "My wife is super supportive," said Greg. "She manages everything, without me, while I am gone. Speaking of gone, I came back. What about all the children that won't have a father reading bedtime stories to them tonight?" Greg asked. "I know between Dan's work with the BFD and the energy he puts into getting the memorial completed and the Fireman's Post renovated, he is always on the go. It is for a greater good. We both have that independent spirit, so we can have our own interests and also be there for each other," said Megan Magoon. "Meg has been very strong, and I couldn't accomplish anything without her being there," said Dan, the middle of three children, who is originally from South Boston. This coming holiday weekend has much significance for both families. In fact, Greg Kelly will be the keynote speaker at Dorchester's Cedar Grove Cemetery Memorial Day services. Being the keynote speaker is an esteemed honor accorded to select veteran dignitaries over the years, including John F. Kennedy, before he became President. "I am humbled and honored that I have been asked to speak," said Kelly, the youngest of six children, whose father is retired from the Boston Fire Department. Kelly's brother, Ed, President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, is the former President of Boston Firefighters Local 718. Their brother, Sean, is a Boston Fire Lieutenant. Greg gave me a tour of his Dorchester neighborhood, where he pointed out Eddie's house, right across the street from their parent's house. That's where I grew up, that's Eddie's house. My house is right over there. They say Eddie and I didn't go very far," Greg joked. On a more serious note, Greg mentioned the MIAFHM's beginnings and its growing importance. According to MIAFHM literature, Lt. General John Kelly, USMC, was the keynote speaker at the group's inaugural dinner. Just weeks prior to delivering his remarks, his son, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Kelly, 29, had been killed in action while leading a platoon of Marines in Afghanistan. Lt. General Kelly said, "Today, only a fraction of American families - less than one percent - shoulder the burden of fear and sacrifice, and they shoulder it for the entire nation." It is that one percent, and all those who served throughout our nation's great history, who we must remember. Often, however, it seems as if there are fewer and fewer attendees at Memorial Day observances. During his comments prior to last Sunday's Run-Walk to Home Base at Fenway Park, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino commended veterans for their service and encouraged everyone to take the time to go to a Memorial Day observance. Mayor Menino said that we should never forget our veterans, especially on Memorial Day. Melanie Nott doesn't forget. She is part of that one percent who

Sullivan
Continued on page 5

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City Council takes issue with Access to Excellence Plan

Gil Haylon
Staff Reporter

Debate continues to rage in regards to the Access to Excellence Plan, a school reassignment plan proposed by the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

The Boston City Council hosted a hearing regarding the school reassignment plan, and several City Councilors called for drastic alterations to the current BPS plan.

“I felt many of the questions that have been asked haven’t been sufficiently answered,” said City Councilor Mark Ciommo. “I feel like we didn’t have the info as a body to make an informed decision.”

The City Council criticized BPS for their lack of preparation in a previous hearing, before taking issue with the current plan.

“I think it’s possible to expand access to excellence in a better way. This goes well beyond being prepared when you come before the City Council,” said City Councilor Mike Ross.

Ross was among those particularly critical of the planned move of Fenway High to the Mission K-8 School in Mission Hill. Ross laid out a variety of reasons that Fenway High should be moved to the Agassiz School in Jamaica Plain instead.

“It’s a lot of high school in a small building, it’s like fitting a size 13 shoe in a size 10,” he said. “That is the move I question and criticize. I ask that is the move you change.”

The current plan calls for Fenway High School to move

to the Mission Hill K-8 building, while the Boston Arts Academy would take over the Ipswich Street space it now shares with Fenway, the New Mission High School and Boston Community Leadership Academy would move to Hyde Park and a new Margarita Muniz Academy would move into the Agassiz School in JP along with Mission Hill.

BPS Superintendent Carol Johnson cited partnerships that the Fenway High has in the area as a reason she felt it was best to move Fenway High as short a distance as possible.

“I’m extremely impressed by the passion and caring of the people at the Mission K-8 School, it shows the great community and families they have and made it a difficult decision,” said Johnson. “It’s not that we haven’t looked at other options, but of the ones we considered this seems to be the best, even if the burden is harshest on the Mission K-8 students.”

City Councilor Tito Jackson was perhaps the most critical of the proposed plan.

“It truly makes me angry that we’ve been given miserable choices amongst horrible options,” he said.

Jackson pointed out that the \$19 million that the BPS wants the City Council to approve for loans, down from an earlier \$21 million estimate, could be used to leverage additional state school construction money to simply build a brand-new school.

Ross urged councilors to vote in opposition of the plan, despite pressure from the

Mayor’s Office.

Other councilors expressed concern about the plan, including Matt O’Malley, Felix Arroyo and Ayanna Pressley, but not all were in opposition.

Ciommo indicated that a similar plan from BPS several years ago seemed to work out well.

“We had some different thoughts on how to proceed, and which schools to include, but the more we looked at it, it seems to be a reasonable expense in terms of what is trying to be achieved,” said Sam Tyler of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau. “Overall, we would support the plan.”

Councilor Rob Consalvo was positive about the proposed Access to Excellence Plan’s impacts on his Hyde Park district.

“I would say this impacts the district in a positive way, as we will no longer have a vacant state-of-the-art facility in my district,” he said. “This facility is used for not just educational purposes but community events, and we are excited to have two high performing schools return to our district.”

\$850,000 in renovations will be put into the facility, mostly to build new science labs.

Johnson indicated that the two headmasters from BCLA and the New Mission High School will meet in coming weeks to discuss how the school will be divided for the two high schools. Previously, the Hyde Park Education Complex hosted three high schools.

Johnson added that she expected to recoup all lost funding from the Massachusetts



Superintendent Carol R. Johnson

School Building Authority, after grant payments were put on hold while the Hyde Park Education Complex was empty for this past year.

Several Mission Hill parents attended last Thursday’s

hearing to urge councilors to oppose the plan. Councilors voted on the plan Wednesday afternoon after the *Bulletin* went to press. See next week’s issue for more information about the plan.

Teen arrested for Hyde Park Avenue murder

Gil Haylon
Staff Reporter

Boston high school senior Charles Reddicks is facing murder charges after police arrested him last week in connection with a fatal shooting on Hyde Park Avenue in Jamaica Plain.

Reddicks, 18, was held without bail following his arraignment in West Roxbury District court on multiple charges, including murder and unlawful possession of a gun, after police say he shot and killed 25-year-old Mariano Malave inside the victim’s Hyde Park Avenue home.

Reddicks also had his bail revoked on an open and unrelated shooting case out of Boston Municipal Court, according to the Suffolk County district attorney’s office.

Reddicks, who lives in Dorchester, is a senior at Jamaica Plain’s Community Acad-

emy, according to reports. The alternative high school caters to students “who do not thrive in a traditional classroom setting,” according to the Boston Public Schools web site.

Police said they rushed to the Jamaica Plain apartment around 6:30 p.m., on April 27, where they found Malave dead from a gunshot wound. After what po-

lice called an “extensive and exhaustive investigation,” officers with their fugitive unit found and arrested Reddicks last week.

Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Dan Mulhern, chief of the district attorney’s gang unit, is prosecuting the case.

Reddicks is due back in court June 20.

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PSF

continued from page 1

more than bricks and mortar,” said Moran. “There were times when you could’ve quit and you didn’t. Thank you for that.”

It appears that PSF had one last trick up their sleeve in terms of new developments when they celebrated the ribbon cutting.

Just before the actual ribbon was cut, Susan Leger-Ferraro, president of Little Sprouts, announced that earlier that day, her company had decided to donate the funds needed to complete the building’s renovations.

“This was the most incredible school we opened,” said Leger-Ferraro, referring to the wildly successful Little Sprouts school that is now located in the PSF Community Center. “We will be donating the additional \$30,000 to finish the community space downstairs.”

The community space will be used for public events and community meetings.

At the heart of every speech from politicians was praise for the dedication that the community put forward in saving the building from outside development and then from deterioration.

“Eight years ago a dark cloud came,” said Mayor Thomas Menino. “We really wanted this building to be a resource for this community. You made this happen.”

Politicians aside, it was really the community members in the PSF that had the most to celebrate.

The PSF’s own Kevin Carragee was fired up about the



The ribbon cutting for the Presentation School Foundation drew a humungous crowd of excited supporters from the community.

PHOTO BY ZACK HUFFMAN

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ribbon cutting after years of telling people that when it comes to the drive to the save the building “the train is coming.”

“This was a joyful eight years. It was a lot of hard work, but it was a hell of a good time,” he said. “People get ready, the train’s arrived.”

The effort began in 2004, when the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston announced plans to close Our Lady of the Presentation School. Community members, including Presentation students and their parents, quickly mobilized to protest the closure, forming the PSF and enlisting the support of other Allston-Brighton residents, large and small businesses, foundations, and elected officials at all levels of government.

Facing community opposition, the Boston Archdiocese locked students out of their own school on June 8, 2005, leading to a protest campout in Brighton’s Oak Square Common and producing widespread criticism of the Archdiocese. Following the lockout, sixteen months of often-difficult negotiations finally produced a purchase and sale agreement in 2006, with PSF assuming ownership of the building on Oct. 12, 2007.

After almost four years of fundraising in the midst of a severe economic downturn, PSF began renovating the building in 2011.

PSF volunteers raised \$4.2 million to finance the building’s acquisition and renovation. Major contributors included the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the New Balance Foundation, the Boston Foundation, and Allston-Brighton residents and small businesses.

Development

continued from page 1

cludes Oranmore Enterprises, LLC, developer; Niles O. Sutphin, architect; Walter McKinnon Associates, structural engineer; LVR Corporation; MEP engineering; and Greater Boston Survey and Engineering, land surveying consultant. The team anticipates the yearlong construction process will begin in the fall of 2012, and that 75 construction jobs will be created.

Residents have long been concerned about density and parking in regards to the project.

“We want our neighborhood to be a neighborhood, not just another place for development,” said Michael Trudell, a local resident.

South Boston’s increasing density has long been a problem for local residents, many of whom have fought proposed development opportunities because of concerns about density.

“I think our neighborhood is reaching a critical mass,” said Trudell. “We need to make sure that the integrity of our neighborhood isn’t being compromised by all of this development.”

The East First Street project was not as vociferously opposed as some larger projects in South Boston, given the relative scale of the project.

The BRA approved many new projects during last week’s board meeting. A total of \$381 million in private investment was approved for construction projects during last week’s meeting. The BRA estimates that over 2,700 jobs will be created by the approvals.

The projects included a \$12.8 million condominium project in the South End as well as a \$63 million project adjacent to Ramsey Park and bounded by Melnea Cass Boulevard and Washington Street that calls for a 3-building complex that includes a 150-room hotel, a 2-story commercial and community building, and a 5-story residential and retail facility.

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Menino pushes for summer anti-violence initiative

Zack Huffman
Senior Reporter

In response to a city-wide uptick in crimes, particular violent and drug-related crime in the South Boston area, Mayor Thomas Menino has announced a new initiative to curb the rising flow of crime throughout the summer - a time when crime historically is on an upswing.

Menino joined Boston public safety, human services, and health officials last week to kick off S.P.R.I.N.G., an anti-violence strategy to get a jump start on stemming summer violence. The aggressive six-part strategy is a coordinated effort across government agencies and community partners. It will focus on sharing information, problem property enforcement, re-entry coordination, increased deployment, neighborhood engagement, and gang feud/player ceasefires.

The Mayor also outlined several new initiatives to support the strategy, including a Violence Interrupters Project in Mattapan, increased visibility of police on walking beats, and promoting positive summer programs and summer jobs in hot spot areas.

“We are working especially hard between now and July, because these efforts will shape our success from Independence Day to Labor Day,” Mayor Menino said. “Every shooting we prevent now means one or two fewer shootings in retaliation later this summer. By working together and taking early action, we can help ensure that the youth and families of Boston have a safe and healthy summer, regardless of their zip code.”

The S.P.R.I.N.G. summer strategy will emphasize some key areas of improvement, including the sharing information among city and partner agencies, including Boston Police Department (BPD), Boston Public Health Commission Violence Intervention Program, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families streetworkers as well as increased deployment of police and streetworkers in hotspot areas, including coordination of drug control units and Youth Violence Strike Force, and placing new strategically located cameras in target areas.

Neighborhood engagement

and increased visibility will include adding more Safe Street Teams, BPD walking and bicycle beats, neighborhood and business crime watch groups, and summer jobs placement for at risk youth.

The city will also ramp up its problem property enforcement including problem residences, focusing on party houses, as well as licensed premises in neighborhoods and downtown.

Re-entry coordination with the Department of Corrections based on successful work with Suffolk County, including visits on re-entry, will take place, while city will also work on gang ceasefires in order to focus on preventing retaliatory violence.

The Youth Violence Strike Force will organize a “call-in” for violent gang members and provide relentless follow up.

Mayor Menino also outlined the new 2012 violence prevention initiatives and identified several S.P.R.I.N.G. benchmarks to be accomplished by July 1.

This huge list of benchmarks calls for the creation of 75 new crime watch groups; 10,000 summer jobs; 65 training and transitional employment slots for PACT (Program for Assertive Community Treatment) clients; 75 case management slots for PACT siblings ages 6-17; 2,500 youth enrolled for BCYF summer camps; and 11,000 BPS summer program enrollments.

The mayor also said that he would like to see three additional problem properties identified, five new Violence Interrupters working with Streetworkers in hotspots areas, 34 cameras in historical/potential hotspots, 55,000 spring walking/bicycle beats, 50 visits with released prisoners, 30 gang members called-in for ceasefire conversations, 30 unresolved shootings meetings.

The E-18 Precinct in Hyde Park will also step up community patrols during the summer time. According to Captain Robert Ciccolo, bike patrols will be increased during the summer, and officers will also be more aware of nighttime activity in local parks.

“We do our best in the summer to maintain an even more significant presence out in the community,” said Ciccolo.

Staff Reporter Gil Haylon contributed to this story

“They view themselves more as a technology company,” Tougias said of State Street after the meeting.

According to Roy, a major feature will be an airy public passageway joining the office structures. That walkway with two second-story glass enclosed corridors will be open at least 18 hours a day and feature lighted pavement blocks underfoot as well as soaring bright walls sporting art.

Commonwealth’s project is one phase of a major mixed-use overhaul of the vast Channel Center property underway in conjunction with the Boston Re-development Authority (BRA). Much of the property housed warehouses built in the 1900s and was originally home to the Boston Wharf Company.

The area boasts the Fort Point artists’ colony and many live at Midway Studios, a renovated building at 15 Channel Center Street adjacent to Commonwealth’s property. There, 89 units are leased only to artists, writers, sculptors, and similar occupants and their families.

Aside from any potential positive impacts, local residents challenged portions of the plan and cited the lack of community input.

Speakers charged that neither the City of Boston nor the BRA has developed any traffic improvement data to date and recommended re-directing truck routes and widening A Street.

Others demanded details on the allocation of nearly \$1 million of anticipated mitigation funds as well as a voice in the planning of the open space, and more ground-level retail space.

In addition, residents claimed the BRA gave them no time to evaluate the massive project; the public comment deadline is Wednesday, June 6 at 5 p.m.



Cameron Sawzin (left), a member of the Board of Directors of the Fort Point Neighborhood Association; B.K. Boley, AIA, Principal of Boston’s ADD Inc. (center); and resident Newman Flanagan.

PHOTO BY LAURA GRIFFIN

Even members of the area’s Impact Advisory Group (IAG) claimed they’d been cut out of the loop.

Several times, residents asked for shadow impact studies and suggested that the location of two buildings, the high-rise office building and the parking structure, be switched to spare their homes from significant shadowing.

However, Galvin said such a change does not appear to be feasible. Resident Steve Hollinger said he downloaded the entire plan as soon as it was available but that was just four days earlier.

“We needed more than four days,” said Hollinger who provided an in-depth analysis of the project and voiced numerous local concerns that drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

“This is a premium neighborhood,” said Hollinger, stating that underground parking was preferable to the above-ground facility in the plan.

As for mitigation funds, Hollinger said that \$400,000 had already been paid to the BRA and another \$600,000 is expected.

“We need to see where these dollars are going,” said Hollinger, adding that residents should get an accounting of ev-

ery dollar.

“We need to see this money invested in our neighborhood,” he said.

IAG member Valerie Burns called for a charrette for the neighborhood after noting that there has not been “one community meeting” on the development.

“You have a responsibility to include the neighborhood; there’s a lot going on you’re not sharing with the community,” said Burns.

A second IAG member, Joe Rogers, said he was appointed in 2001 but was never contacted until last week.


“We are a different neighborhood than we were eleven years ago,” he explained.

Many speakers like Hollinger and Dominic Jones recommended more retail on the ground level, suggesting the first floor of the parking facility could be used for such space.

As a current Channel Center resident with two young children, Jones said that he wanted access to milk and groceries.

“We’re in a little bit of a food desert here,” he said.

At the meeting’s conclusion, BRA spokesman Geoffrey Lewis promised to call an additional community meeting in the next few weeks. No date has been set.



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This past weekend City of Boston Credit Union sponsored the Field of Dreams Wiffle Ball Tournament held at the Boston Athletic Club. The goal of the tournament is to raise awareness of diabetes, as well as funds for the Joslin Diabetes Center.

The tournament, organized by the Boston Police Runners Club, began three years ago and has raised over \$140,000. Proceeds from this year's tournament will support Joslin Diabetes Center's commitment to finding a cure.

Along with the excitement of both the youth and adult tournaments, Shawn Thornton and Mayor Menino stopped by to wish the players luck. Thornton picked lucky winner Liam Stokes to receive an autographed jersey.

For more information about City of Boston Credit Union or the Field of Dreams Tournament please visit www.cityofbostoncu.com.

City of Boston Credit Union offers membership to individuals that live or work in the communities of Norfolk or Suffolk County, as well as City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts employees and their families.



Outreach *continued from page 1*

said Allen about the success of the event.

Dr. Barbara Ferrera from the Boston Health Commission explained the three major issues that were affecting the Boston area. There are large gaps between whites and the black/Latino population regarding low-birth weight, chlamydia and obesity.

The forum broke out into group discussions which focused on targeting different messages to students, immigrants, residents, and workers in the Allston-Brighton neighborhood.

The need for social cohesion was top among the groups, followed by access to family events, and leveraging the three universities and New Balance to work together to create and ensure optimum health.

The statistics presented by Barbara Ferrera said that Allston-Brighton has an 8 percent hunger issue, meaning that 8 percent of people over 18 do not have enough food to eat. The statistics also boasted a 98 percent occupancy rate of businesses in the Allston-Brighton neighborhood, proving its strong economy.

The Boston Moves for Health, a citywide campaign led by Mayor Thomas Menino to help get everyone in Boston moving towards a healthier lifestyle, were also at the forum signing residents up. The challenge consists of city residents losing a combined one million pounds by walking, run-

ning, hopping, swimming, or skipping 10 million miles.

Nick Martin, the Director of Communications at the Boston Health Commission, is also an Allston resident.

"This was a chance for me to hear from some of my neighbors about what's really working well in the city and what they'd like to see improved," he said.

For Martin, participation is key for change.

"It's hard to enact change in a community if you don't get the public involved," he said. "So the more people we can have at events like this participating, the better."

Allston-Brighton has the highest percentage of people between the ages of 20-30 in all of the neighborhoods in Boston. Allston-Brighton also has a large population of people who are renters as well. In creating a healthier Boston, residents and community members pushed for extra days for farmers' markets and easier access to open space and green spaces located throughout the neighborhoods.

Martin and Allen both say that the next steps will be to compile all the feedback from the different groups.

Allston resident Tony Mancini thought the night's event went well.

"I've lived in the community my whole life, which is 26 years, and I've seen a change drastically in the last five years," he said. "It

went from very community oriented with families to a lot more of a rental oriented community where the feeling of a whole is gone."

"I think it highlighted a few definite issues that need to be addressed," added Mancini.

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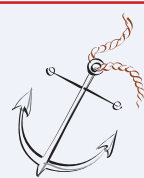


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