

THE BOSTON GUARDIAN

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Buzzards Bay Earthquake Rattles Insurance Clients



By Ian Stevenson

Before dawn on November 18, 1755, an earthquake struck some 30 miles east of Cape Ann. In Boston, chimneys and gabled roofs toppled to the ground and church steeples tilted. Some streets were filled with piles of brick that

made them impassable. The 3.6 magnitude (on the Richter scale) earthquake on November 8 in Buzzards Bay off New Bedford caused little damage compared to that from the estimated 6.2 magnitude earthquake 265 years ago, geophysicists say that the region is due for another substantial

tremor sometime soon. “If a 5.5 [magnitude earthquake] happens tomorrow in Buzzards Bay, that wouldn’t surprise me,” said John Ebel, a professor of geophysics at Boston College. “Because sooner or later you have to catch up with the long-term average of statistics.”

Continued on Page 8



So Where Does The Plywood Go?

By Justin Roshak

Many downtown businesses boarded up ahead of potential public unrest this year, and some are keeping the materials on hand, just in case.

Ordinary board up calls involve the aftermath of emergencies, such as fires, storms, vandalism,

and vehicle impacts. This year was far from ordinary.

A day of peaceful demonstrations on May 31 to protest the death of George Floyd ended with late night incidents of violence: broken shop windows, a burned police car, and scattered looting.

Continued on Page 8



Try Cooking for 140+ Guests Over 3 Days

By Mannie Lewis

As you sit down for Thanksgiving dinner this year, consider including these people in your list of reasons to be grateful, Susanna White, Elizabeth Hopkins, Eleanor

Billington and Mary Brewster.

Like many a good gathering, they did most of the work but reaped little of the credit. They were the only four grown women present at the first historic feast in 1621, according to records.

Continued on Page 8

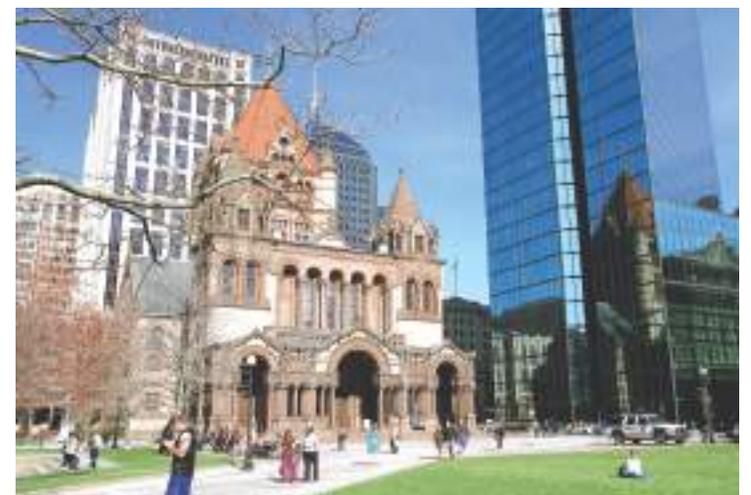
Copley Square Will Get Facelift in 2022

By Amy Sokolow

Copley Square hasn’t been renovated since the 1980s. The city has decided it’s time for an upgrade.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Boston-based design firm in charge of the project, Sasaki, held a virtual meeting Monday to determine the future direction of the space and solicit feedback from local residents.

“We have a much-loved square that we’re asking an awful lot of,” said Kate Tooke, design principal at Sasaki, who designed a previous iteration of the square in the 1960s. She cited the “stressed” greenery in the square, the cracked pavement and the fountain damaged by



skateboarders and running on old machinery as the reasons to start this project now.

“The Parks Department is thinking forward: what can we do to ensure that we have this much love to [this] city square,

and upgrade it to 21st century standards?”, Tooke said. The Parks Department is updating Copley as part of a larger initiative to ensure Bostonians equitable access to public parks.

Continued on Page 8



Fu lions Returning To Chinatown

By Justin Roshak

After a very long delay, twin lions will be returned to Chinatown. They will guard a new walkway along Harrison Avenue and a plaza at the junction with Essex Street.

The statues, known as guardian lions, fu lions, or sometimes incorrectly as “foo dogs”, are white marble. They’ll greet pedestrians from atop granite pedestals and flank the northern entrance to New England’s best known Chinese American urban enclave.

A spokesperson for the city’s Public Art Commission said on November 13 that the

installation date was still being finalized. Because COVID-19 precautions will likely extend into next spring, there are currently no plans for a public event to celebrate the lions’ return.

After more than a decade in limbo, the Boston Public Art Commission planned to have the lions enthroned by November 2019. But preliminary work revealed that the ground was unsuitable for supporting the statues, said to Karin Goodfellow, director of the Public Art. Stronger bases are being prepared for the pedestals, at the recommendation of the project conservator.

The site is a block east from the Chinatown MBTA station, and two blocks northwest of the Chinatown Gate. Taiwan gave Boston four original lions, pedestals, and the gate, which was completed in 1982. During the Big Dig (1991—2007), the lions were replaced with new ones.

But in 2007, *the Boston Herald* discovered that contractor Paul Pedini, former vice president at Modern Continental, had installed two of the originals inside his house. He claimed they were construction waste, but public outcry prompted then-Mayor Thomas Menino to threaten legal action.

Pedini eventually agreed to return the lions and ever since, they have awaited a new home in city custody. They have been cleaned and conserved.

Once installed, they will guard the east side of Harrison Avenue, which is being redeveloped into Phillips Square Plaza.

The sidewalk will become a combination pedestrian and commercial space, with shade awnings, trees in planters, art spaces, and open-air dining, down the entire block. The walkway pavement will be painted. One proposal includes colorful dragons’ scales.

For some, the statues are less important than the plaza, walkway, and greenery they will adorn. “Chinatown doesn’t have a whole lot of open space,” observed Karen Chen, executive director of the Chinese Progressive Organization. She said that the mainly working class community experiences some of the worst air quality in Massachusetts due to nearby highways. Chen said she would welcome new open space and greenery, especially if it supported local businesses.

The east side of Harrison Avenue has a swath of Asian restaurants, specialty food stores, and salons, all of which will obviously benefit from increased foot traffic and outdoor seating. On the west side, an existing bike lane will get safety posts and a wider buffer. Phillips Square Plaza will remain a work in progress, a “tactical square” for the next few years, a city spokesperson said.

Arts Non-profit raises \$150,000+ at Virtual Gala

By Trea Lavery

The Art Resource Collaborative for Kids’ (ARCK) annual gala was a bit different this year, but the nonprofit still raised \$154,000 to support arts education for under resourced Boston students.

The virtual gala, held on October 23 over Zoom, included a silent auction, a live painting demonstration by artist Dwight White and a digital “whiteboard” on which participants could write and draw. The night concluded with dancing and celebration with a live DJ, still over Zoom.

“It was open for everyone to participate in,” said Sara Mraish Demeter, founder and executive director of ARCK. “People dressed up and put on a show. Especially in times like this, you want to have that personal, human touch.”

ARCK, founded in 2012, helps fund arts education for K-8 students in Boston Public Schools (BPS), with the aim of ensuring that the arts are part of the regular classroom curriculum. Demeter founded the company when her child started kindergarten at Boston’s Josiah Quincy Elementary School. She learned that the school did not provide arts education due to budget cuts. ARCK teaching artists co-teach with BPS educators through its 36-week curriculum, helping students improve social emotional skills and build civic engagement. “Our program provides vital tools for these children to build their confidence and to connect with one another to envision a better world,” Demeter said. “It’s about promoting citizens to become agents of positive change, all done through the arts curriculum.”

With the money raised through the auction, which ended on October 31, ARCK will be able to send materials kits to BPS students who are learning virtually at home.

Continued on Page 9

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Boutique Owner Keeps Afloat Despite Pandemic

By Amy Sokolow

Diane Agoun, owner of two Soodee boutiques, one on Charles Street and the other on Newbury Street, is no stranger to hardship.

As a young adult, Agoun and her young daughter escaped a controlling marriage in China to seek a better life in the U.S. In the early 1990s, arrived in Boston with very few resources and minimal English language skills.

She chose Boston because she had friends and family here and wanted to give her daughter a good education. She has since fallen in love with the history and culture of the city. She shared her story Tuesday during a virtual event for the Beacon Hill Women's Forum.

Although she never had any formal training in fashion and wasn't making a career from it in China, Agoun "always had a passion for fashion ever since I was a little girl," she said. "I believe I have a natural eye and I'm very good with [knowing] what the style looks best on different people."

Continued on Page 9



Holiday Events Adapt to COVID

By Trea Lavery

With the winter holidays approaching, Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) has changed its annual events to better suit a world restricted by COVID-19.

The group's annual holiday party will be held virtually this year, and the neighborhood will be decorated only on Charles, Cambridge and Beacon Streets, instead of throughout.

Ivy Turner, who has organized the holiday decoration for 25 years this year, said that the usual group of hundreds of volunteers who help with the process will be replaced by hired professionals this year to keep everyone safe. On the weekend when the decorating usually takes place, BHCA will hold its virtual holiday party.

"The core of what holiday decorating has become is the group of people who do it and know each other," Turner said.

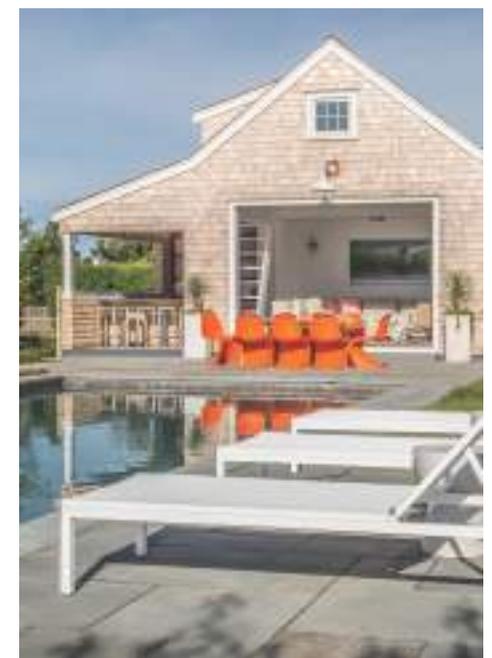
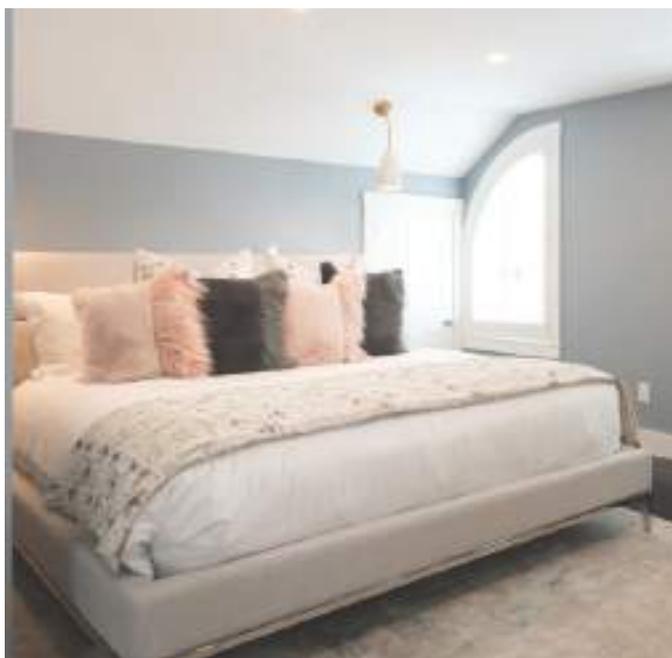
"We'll be continuing the spirit together and doing what we're always known for, which is holiday magic."

The theme of this year's holiday party, which will be free of charge, is "Bringing the Holidays into your Home." The event will include demonstrations by bartenders at 75 Chestnut restaurant, chefs at Hampshire House and florists from Rouvalis Flowers on holiday cocktails, desserts and decorating. There will also be music performed by the Back Bay Ringers.

The party will be held December 5 beginning at 6:30pm.

"The most important part of holiday decorating is the sense of community, where neighbors see each other after not having seen each other for a while," said Patricia Tully, executive director of BHCA. "Everyone can feel like they have a part of making things beautiful for the holidays."

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For neighborhoods with two collections a week on Mondays and Thursdays, **Thursday is canceled.**

The next collection will be **Monday, November 30**

For more info visit: boston.gov/trash

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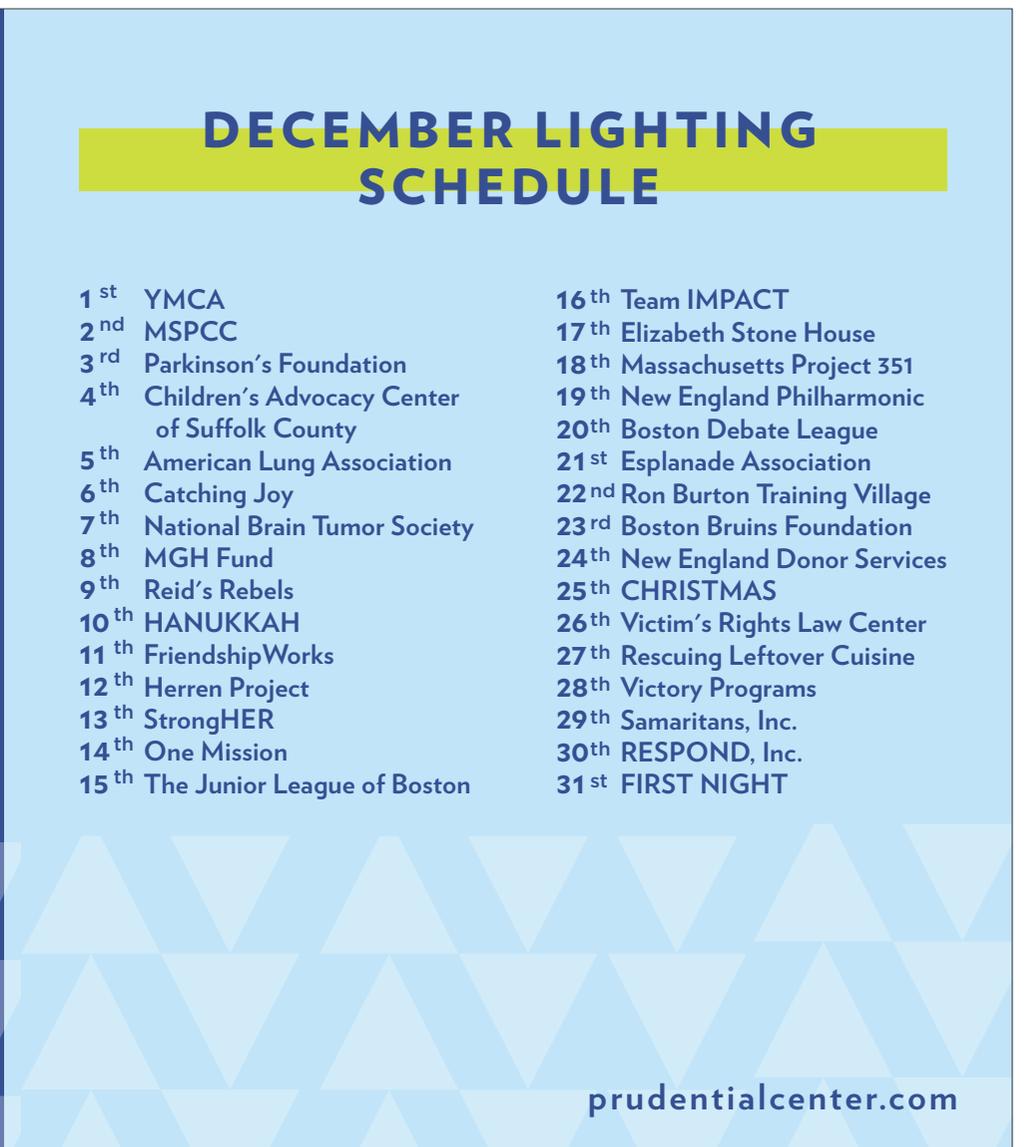


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2 nd MSPCC	17 th Elizabeth Stone House
3 rd Parkinson's Foundation	18 th Massachusetts Project 351
4 th Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County	19 th New England Philharmonic
5 th American Lung Association	20 th Boston Debate League
6 th Catching Joy	21 st Esplanade Association
7 th National Brain Tumor Society	22 nd Ron Burton Training Village
8 th MGH Fund	23 rd Boston Bruins Foundation
9 th Reid's Rebels	24 th New England Donor Services
10 th HANUKKAH	25 th CHRISTMAS
11 th FriendshipWorks	26 th Victim's Rights Law Center
12 th Herren Project	27 th Rescuing Leftover Cuisine
13 th StrongHER	28 th Victory Programs
14 th One Mission	29 th Samaritans, Inc.
15 th The Junior League of Boston	30 th RESPOND, Inc.
	31 st FIRST NIGHT

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Pot Shop to Open Another Proposed



By Trea Lavery

Legal marijuana has arrived in the South End. The neighborhood's first medical dispensary, Affinity Boston, will likely be opening at the end of the month or beginning of December, and a proposal has been submitted for another, recreational dispensary in

the neighborhood.

Affinity Boston, located at 591 Albany Street, will be the second dispensary opened by the company, after its other location in West Springfield, which is also medical-only.

The company's president, Vin Giordano, said he hopes the

Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission will vote to allow the store's opening in its November 19 meeting.

"Our key to success has always been working very closely with the community," Giordano said.

Giordano said that Affinity, which is owned by Liberty Compassion, Inc., began the process of opening the South End store at the beginning of 2018.

They worked with the community and the city to ensure that the store was accepted by the neighborhood, including using a construction company with headquarters nearby, Sleeping Dog Properties. The store will only be open to medical marijuana customers, although Giordano did leave the possibility open for opening up to adult-use customers in the future.

"I never say never," he said. "Provided that we operate safely and successfully, and we have the support of the community, it might be a logical next step."

Continued on Page 9



Pediatric Practice for Low Income Residents Opens

By Ian Stevenson

After a ribbon cutting ceremony last Monday morning, Dr. Robyn Riseberg quickly began seeing patients. Her new South End medical practice, Boston Community Pediatrics (BCP), was open for business.

Aimed at serving low-income children and families, the 527 Albany Street facility is the first nonprofit private pediatric practice in the state. Though her

nonprofit is designed for children's medicine, Riseberg said she will also focus on issues that affect entire families, like housing and mental health.

Already, one of Riseberg's patients, who is being evicted, called her to ask for help with moving expenses. With financial support from some deep pocketed donors, Riseberg said her practice has set up a fund to help such families with emergency needs.

Continued on Page 9

Drug Meetings Are Full of Sound, Signifying Nothing

By Trea Lavery

In a series of recent online meetings, city officials met to discuss the homelessness and drug abuse problem on Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, commonly known as Methadone Mile.

In a November 9 Zoom meeting, a team of city officials, consisting of representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, police and fire departments, the mayor's office, homeless shelter Pine Street Inn and others, presented the progress that they have made on the problem to residents of the South End and Roxbury.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has focused on emergency housing for homeless individuals, housing 205 individuals since May.

Pine Street Inn has also entered into a one-year lease with the Best Western hotel on Mass Ave. to provide housing. In addition, the Office of Recovery Services has set up comfort stations to provide COVID testing, restrooms

and clinical care for homeless individuals.

However, the city has had trouble moving forward with the problem, which Mayor Marty Walsh attributed to more widespread issues throughout the state.

"A lot of the [recovery] programs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, when they release someone out and have nowhere to go, they release them to Boston and they end up in our services," Walsh said. "These programs need to be spread around the state. We can't take every single person in need."

In a city council hearing on the issue November 17, Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said that treatment systems throughout the state need to do a better job of stopping this from happening.

"The Boston Public Health Commission and Pine Street are doing much better data collection at the door to see where people are coming from," Dillon said. "We're taking that information and feeding it back to the state."

Continued on Page 9

Quincy School Will Be Most Expensive in History

By Justin Roshak

Next year Boston will break ground on a new campus for the Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS) at 249 Harrison Ave. The site is currently home to the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, which agreed to sell to the city last year.

JQUS opened in 1999, and serves a diverse student body, of which half are Asian. It offers an International Baccalaureate (IB) program and Mandarin Chinese to all grades, 6–12.

Currently, students are spread across two sites, a building at 152 Arlington Street and modular classrooms a quarter mile away at 249 Harrison/900 Washington Street.

The new facility will be across the street from the Josiah Quincy Elementary School at 885 Washington Street.

"It will be the most expensive school built in the history of Boston," said Patrick Brophy, Mayor Walsh's Chief of

Operations, at Tuesday's design meeting. The project is budgeted at \$193 million, including about \$52 million in state aid.

\$8.55 million will be used to refurbish and expand learning space in the Arlington building. A student lounge will be converted to a classroom and the cafeteria will be expanded.

This "swing space" will house the entire staff and student body of JQUS for the three-year construction. Preparations for the move are expected to last two months; and will be ready for the 2021-22 school year. Main construction will then begin that September, and last until August 2024.

The "swing space" will be too small for social distancing. If COVID-19 restrictions persist into next fall, the school would implement a hybrid model of mixed in person and remote classes.

The new campus will have seven floors and rise 116 feet. It will have a full court gymnasium, 450-seat auditorium, and black

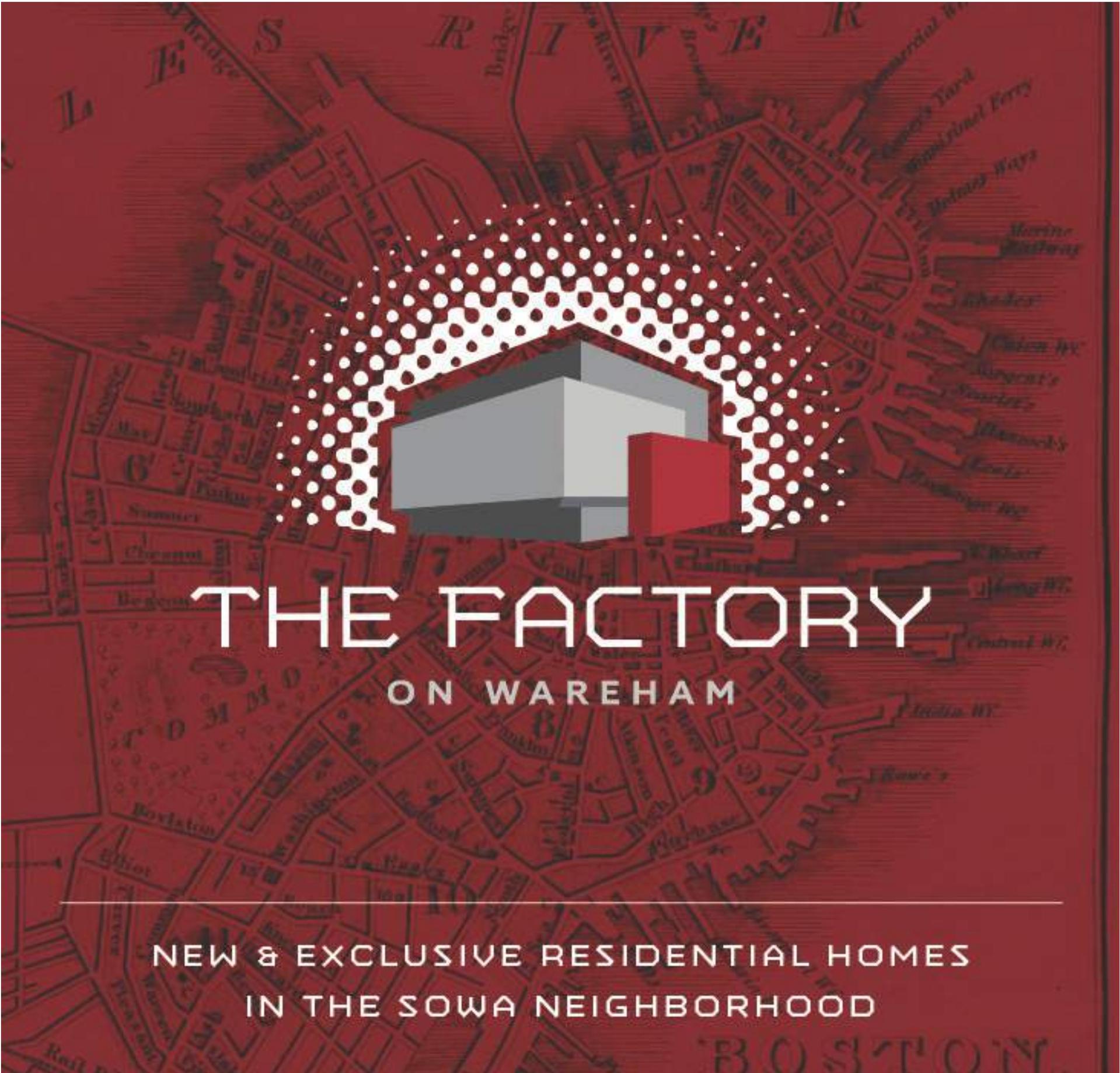
box theater, which will be available for community use on weekends. The roof will include green space for classes and athletics, a student garden, and a small solar array.

The building is designed to be fully wireless; each classroom will include a 50-inch flat screen display. But many of the specifics of technology and fixtures are still to be decided. Technology changes so quickly that school leaders won't start shopping until construction is well underway.

Safety is a big focus. The ventilation system will have a state-of-the-art MERV-14 filter, primarily designed for scrubbing air pollution. But it can switch to low speed "pandemic mode", said Pip Lewis of HMFH Architects.

Other safety features include a single, controlled entranceway with damage resistant glass. Classrooms are laid out with "hiding space" and will lock from the inside. While opening day is years away, some students are already looking forward to it.

Continued on Page 9



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Earthquakes

Continued from Page 1

Ebel says that earthquakes with a magnitude of 5 or slightly higher, which is usually the threshold for significant damage, occur, on average, every 80-100 years in New England.

Of course, more severe quakes happen even less frequently. In 1940, a 5.6 magnitude tremor that knocked over chimneys in New Hampshire's Ossipee Mountains was felt in Boston but caused no appreciable damage there.

Since 1975, when detailed earthquake measurements began being recorded in New England, there haven't been any earthquakes recorded under the city itself, according to Ebel. But the possibility exists. "[The past epicenters]

kind of ring around Boston," Ebel said. "That could change though... Our earthquakes aren't large enough to crack the ground's surface," he added. "So we don't know the patterns of active faults in the region."

After the November 8 earthquake, insurance brokers noticed an uptick in clients interested in buying earthquake insurance, which is sold separately from homeowner or business insurance as an endorsement.

"We've received quite a few calls as a direct result of the little earthquake," said George Doherty, president of Corcoran and Havlin Insurance Group, a broker based in Wellesley with clients in Boston. "Small earthquakes can leave their mark. What is of some concern from a risk standpoint is if there were to be an earthquake in the Greater Boston area, there are a few

neighborhoods that are particularly vulnerable."

Boston was founded on a narrow peninsula, but its size has been greatly expanded over the years, mostly in the 19th Century, by using mud, sand and trash to fill land around the watery edges of the old, core city. Back Bay, the South End and South Boston are built on this landfill.

During an earthquake, Doherty said the landfill can vibrate "like Jello."

"Soft soils like river sediments and landfill tend to amplify ground shaking more than the ground shaking on hard rock," Ebel said.

Because neighborhoods built on landfill are at higher risk, earthquake insurance in those areas costs more than in areas built on more stable foundations. Boston's historic neighborhoods are also vulnerable to earthquakes because

of their age.

But Doherty maintains that earthquake insurance in the Boston area is affordable. A \$1 million home's earthquake insurance could cost between \$550 and \$750 annually, he said.

Since the 1970s, building codes in Boston require new structures to be able to withstand the shaking of 5.5 to 6.5 magnitude earthquakes, according to Eric Hines, a professor of engineering at Tufts University. Older buildings, when renovated, are required to be reinforced against earthquakes.

"As our old buildings get replaced with new buildings, we're actually becoming safer and safer," said Ebel.

Still, between 40% and 60% of the buildings in Boston that pre-date 1970s building codes have not been renovated, Hines said. Older masonry buildings are brittle

and so more likely to collapse.

Living in a region with moderate seismic risk, Bostonians have trouble adequately preparing for an event that is unlikely but expensive to mitigate.

"Boston has been working as diligently as anybody in the world to ensure that [the city is] safe," Hines said. "But we live this double life where we say we have to design for earthquakes, but we can't spend the money," he said.

And one day, another damaging earthquake is coming.

"People feel vulnerable after an incident like Sunday, and it's a reminder that it can happen. A lot of people haven't really paid attention to that peril before," Doherty said. "But most people in New England are not living in fear of an earthquake and feel they're going to roll the dice and continue on without the coverage."

Plywood

Continued from Page 1

By comparison, Election Day was mostly peaceful both in Boston and nationwide, but fear of unrest still led many to batten down the hatches. Demand for board up services spiked in the weeks leading up to November 3, according to numerous local news reports.

Among the locations that boarded up by the start of November were landmarks like the Prudential Center, national chains such

as CVS, and shops on Boylston and Newbury Streets. Nationally, the price of plywood rose sharply every month from May to October, when it reached an all time high, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis. So even though board-up companies were extremely busy, they faced higher costs.

"We were paying more, with a shorter margin," said Louis Falzarano, founder of Boston Board Up, who observed, "One misconception is that it's really easy and you make a lot of money." A former firefighter, Falzarano said that by November 3, plywood

was becoming more difficult to find. This was the first Election Day he recalls when his services were requested ahead of time.

Falzarano also said the board up landscape has changed. Previously he would typically dispose of the boards, custom cut on site for each opening. Now some customers are choosing to store theirs on location, numbered by window, and ready to be put up at a moment's notice.

That provides savings for both parties. Exterior grade plywood is a significant expense for boarding up. It is perhaps 15

to 20 percent of cost per protected window, according to construction cost comparison website Homewyse. Political demonstrations have continued through and past Election Day. Boston Democrats rallied on November 4, while Trump supporters protested in Washington, DC on November 14.

And while the vast majority of Boston demonstrations have been peaceful, it only takes one brick to put a big dent in operations. So what was once an emergency service has become, for many, a cost of doing business.

Copley Square

Continued from Page 1

Copley Square is the home of Boston's New Year's Eve celebration, the city's largest farmers market and countless protests and marches and serves as a gathering place near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Copley is also a commuter crossroads and an oasis for the lunch crowd.

The project is still in its initial planning stages, as Abigail Chatfield, project manager at the Parks Department, reminded the audience throughout the evening. For now, Sasaki is still in an initial analysis phase.

The firm is currently soliciting survey responses about residents' thoughts on how the space should function and what it should look like and will start drafting designs in 2021. The public will be able to weigh in on proposed design options next year.

Sasaki then expects to have a refined concept plan ready for public approval around early spring. If that plan is approved, the firm will then secure the necessary contracts. Construction is slated to start in and continue through

at least 2022. Throughout the meeting, Tooke and other staff from Sasaki enlisted the audience to participate in live surveys to determine the priorities of the park. When asked what elements they'd like to see in a Copley Square redesign, many attendees answered that public art, an interactive fountain, skateboarding friendly features, greenery and a pavilion or café were desired features in a redesign.

Most survey respondents also voiced support for a mix of greenery and pavement, a design that caters to bustling social gatherings rather than quiet ones, and a total reimagining of the space rather than a smaller scale spruce up.

"As we've seen in the last year, outdoor spaces are more and more important to our sanity and health," Chatfield said, referring to the need for outdoor socializing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The obvious challenge is how do we keep up?" she said. "One can see the various aspects of the square suffering from use: pavement is cracking, trees have suffered, and the lawn gets trampled. We need to upgrade it so it can better serve our needs today and tomorrow."

Thanksgiving

Continued from Page 1

These women cooked a three-day feast for 53 pilgrims and about 90 Wampanoag men.

The four women who made the meal that became known as the first Thanksgiving did so because they were the four women who survived to see it. Five young girls lived as well.

Primary sources on the first Thanksgiving are scant.

William Bradford wrote one of just two primary accounts known to date.

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength, and had all things in good plenty; for as some

were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about codd, and bass, and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion," he said.

Edward Winslow kept the other record. As it turns out, he married Susanna White, the first of our four Thanksgiving chefs, after her husband William White died.

Largely what is known of the women at the first Thanksgiving is based on their associations to their husbands.

Many historians note that Susanna White was friends with Elizabeth Hopkins, wife of Stephen Hopkins, but little else is known of Hopkins.

Eleanor Billington and her family had a reputation for being troublesome. Her son Francis drew scorn for firing a

musket inside the Mayflower. Her husband John was executed for murder in 1630.

Mary Brewster and her husband William were known for their religiosity, and William Brewster's role as a Pilgrim leader continues to be celebrated by his descendants through the Elder William Brewster Society.

The accomplishments of those like William Brewster, William Bradford and their contemporary men are well documented. Lesser-known are the women who made the first feast, whose biographies are short and whose tasks were likely limited.

Those not included at all? Historical mentions of Wampanoag women at the first feast are even scarcer.

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Dispensaries

Continued from Page 6

Meanwhile, a different company, Redemption Boston, has submitted a proposal for a recreational dispensary at 29-31 Stanhope Street, the former location of The Brahmin Bar.

Geoffrey Reilinger, the

proponent of the application, said that this is his fifth attempt since 2014 to open a marijuana dispensary in the Boston area, and hopes that this time he will be successful.

His previous attempts have included Compassionate Organics, at 331 Newbury St., and another store under the Redemption name in downtown Quincy Market.

“Boston gets all these national

companies. They don't get small operators because it costs too much and it's too time consuming. It's very hard for the local guy because you have to survive the double process,” Reilinger said, referring to the approval process for dispensaries, which have to go through first the city's Cannabis Board and then the state's Cannabis Control Commission. Reilinger was

diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1996. While trying marijuana to help with sleep issues soon afterwards, he noticed that his MS flare-ups stopped, and has had no problems with the disease for 18 years now. His experience with marijuana inspired him to get into the business.

If the store is allowed to open, Reilinger said that Redemption

will offer medical card holders a 15 percent discount to offset the higher tax rate on recreational cannabis. That way, the store will still pay the taxes, but they won't be passed along to patients. Stacy Koeppel, executive director of the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association, declined to comment until the community group learns more about the application.

Pediatric Practice

Continued from Page 6

“I believe that you can't treat kids in a vacuum,” she said. “It's also about the family, so we'll be helping the parents navigate these complex systems.”

So far, BCP has raised over \$900,000 from individual and institutional donors, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Red Sox Foundation, and Boston Children's Hospital.

Families with MassHealth, the state's Medicaid insurance, often have difficulty getting care from private pediatricians because doctors receive smaller reimbursements from MassHealth than from private insurance companies.

Instead, families often forego preventative treatments and turn to large hospitals that offer less personalized care. Low-income children are three times more likely to have an unmet health need than wealthier children, according to Riseberg.

With support from its donors, BCP hopes to avoid the bottom line issues other practices face and serve many MassHealth patients. Situated close to several affordable housing developments, Riseberg plans to eventually open on some weeknights and Saturdays to make it easier for parents to book appointments around their work schedules.

“The South End has the highest percentage of affordable housing units in the city of Boston, even though most people think of it as a gentrified place,” she said. “It is certainly a place of great need.”

Having spent more than a decade working

with children, Riseberg says the inflexibility of large institutions and the need for personalized healthcare motivated her to start her own practice. She previously worked as head of pediatrics at the South End Community Health Center.

“I realized that with all of the bureaucracy in large institutions, it can be hard to sustain all the programs that are necessary to give the absolute best care to [underserved] patients,” Riseberg said. New programs can take years to be approved and require long wait times to make changes. At BCP, Riseberg hopes to make corrections and improvements quickly.

On Monday afternoon, she was hurrying to a meeting with staff at her office.

“We're going to talk about what worked well today and what didn't, and whatever didn't we're going to change tomorrow,” she said.

Drug Meetings

Continued from Page 6

You have to do a good job seeing people have the right supports before they're discharged.”

The city is looking at a few alternatives to curb the problem. One possibility is developing permanent supportive housing units for individuals exiting homelessness to live and receive treatment, in an environment where they don't face eviction if they relapse.

Boston is also in an ongoing legal battle with the city of Quincy over the right to build a bridge to Long Island, where they plan to open a substance abuse treatment center.

“One of the challenges is that it just can't happen tomorrow,” said Lyndia Downie, president of Pine Street Inn, in the community meeting. “I think the next two years is going to be tough. When the hotel is no longer used for homeless people, it doesn't mean that the homeless people go away.”

While the city and state search for solutions, residents of the area are still concerned about the effects of the widespread drug use on their own health and safety.

In a separate Zoom meeting following the city's meeting, members of the South End-Roxbury Community Partnership, an activist group in the area, expressed frustration at the city's lack of progress on the Mass/Cass problem.

Many participants said they felt that the meeting with city officials felt like the same information they had heard many times before. “We continue to hear, ‘Be patient with us, these individuals are sick, they need help, we're working on it.’ What are you working on?” said Yahaira Lopez, an organizer with the group, in the meeting. “We can't focus on harm reduction while creating harm for our community.”

In the city council hearing, City Councilor Julia Mejia praised the South End-Roxbury Community Partnership and other activist groups for their work, and said that the city needs to do a better job of engaging with the people who are actually living in the area, both residents and homeless individuals, to see what help they really need. “They're not deemed formal leaders, but they are street leaders,” Mejia said. “I'm encouraging us to think outside of the box about who has a seat at the table.”

Boutique Owner

Continued from Page 6

“As an 8th grader I get to graduate from the new building – yay!” commented student Zuleyka Reyes at Tuesday's design hearing.

JQUS has about 500 students. The design for the new facility includes a planned capacity of 650. Head of School Richard Chang said enrollment has steadily increased, as more families are choosing to remain with JQUS. He attributed that to higher levels of parent engagement and the

school's International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which began in 2010. Chang said the new campus would increase the prestige of its graduates.

“The building will give exposure and will allow people to know how great our students are,” he told the design meeting.

Quincy School

Continued from Page 4

“There were so much fear and uncertainty, but I was able to overcome the fear and the uncertainty and learn to adapt to new environments and survive,” Agoun said. She hopes that this can do attitude can help her continue to make a living selling upscale clothing as the pandemic and associated recession continue.

The last time that a recession hit in 2008, Agoun seized the opportunity. The recession had cut real estate prices, which let her buy her second, larger space on Charles Street, a

location she had always admired for its “beauty, elegance and sophistication.”

For now, she's brushing up on her digital skills and sprucing up Soodee's online presence. Because Agoun usually keeps a limited supply of each item in stock, her stores' business model wasn't easily convertible to an online format.

Before the pandemic, she didn't rely on online sales because she couldn't update the site to match the clothing available in stores.

Instead of treating the store's redesigned website like a typical e-commerce site, she decided to treat it more like a store window, to preview new styles at Soodee

and entice customers to visit, safely, in person.

She's also learned to better coordinate the site's content with Facebook and Instagram to keep her customers abreast of the latest arrivals.

Agoun has also partnered with local social media influencers, photographers and models to cross-promote each other's content, and has started offering customers private shopping experiences to reduce potential exposure to Covid-19.

The hope is that customers still feel safe coming into Soodee because what makes it special is “the human experience, the connection and the relationship I make with my customers.”

Agoun cited examples of women whom she's helped dress for years, including one who invited Agoun to her Harvard Business School graduation.

She reminded the women at the event that in the face of the pandemic, dressing well can help boost spirits. “You can still feel fabulous while attending meetings in Zoom,” she said on the video call. “When you dress better, you will feel better.”

And although she thinks “we don't have fashion in 2020,” for 2021, she predicts “very colorful, very vibrant” clothes will be trending to “bring some energy [to] this world. That's what we need.”

Arts Nonprofit

Continued from Page 2

The money will also help fund professional development for BPS classroom teachers in all disciplines, a program that ARCK developed

with Lesley University. While Demeter said she is very happy with the gala, the organization hopes to meet their goal of raising a total of \$200,000 through another fundraiser, on Giving Tuesday, December 1. ARCK will be taking monetary donations, as well as contributions of art materials, through its website, arckboston.org. Every \$100 the organization

raises will fund an art kit for one student, which will last them through the school year. “We're working on getting the materials together to send them before the holidays, so kids can actually make the projects they're learning and share it with their families,” Demeter said. “It's a way of connecting with families and healing [from the pandemic] together.”

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