

Boston's Official Tree Arrives Nov. 17

SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

The annual gift of an evergreen Christmas tree from Nova Scotia is scheduled to arrive by police escort at Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17. This is the 50th year that a tree has been donated and commemorates 104 years of friendship between Nova Scotia and the people of Boston after our city provided emergency assistance when Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital, was devastated by a maritime munitions explosion in the harbor in 1917. The first Tree for Boston was donated in 1971 by Joseph Slauenwhite from Lunenburg County.

"Nova Scotia and Boston have shared a special bond for a century," said Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods. "This year marks 50 years that the province of Nova Scotia has gifted a tree, and it's the 80th year that the City has held a tree lighting event on Boston Common. I'm pleased we will come together after a challenging year to

celebrate the friendship and connections between our two regions."

Boston's official 2021 Christmas tree is a 60-year-old, 48-foot white spruce tree from Orangedale, Municipality of the County of Inverness, Cape Breton. The tree is being donated by the landowner L'Arche Cape Breton Community, a non-profit organization that creates safe, supportive homes and meaningful work for people with disabilities.

"The Tree for Boston has been a symbol of appreciation, friendship and unity for 50 years," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "We will never forget the kindness the people of Boston showed Nova Scotia following the tragedy of the Halifax Explosion."

The tree-cutting ceremony will be held on November 10 on L'Arche Cape Breton's property in Orangedale. Members of the L'Arche community will attend

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King for a day and beyond: Mel King Square dedicated

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

In his 93 years, Mel King has worn many hats: community organizer and activist; elected official; high school and university educator; author and poet; and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many.

King represented the South End in the Massachusetts House of Representatives (9th Suffolk); was a teacher at Boston Trade High School and Boston Technical High School; was an adjunct professor of urban studies at MIT; spearheaded the affordable housing protests at Tent City; founded



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Mel King with Jovita Fontanez. Photo by Ethan S. Gould.

State to set up temporary housing for Mass/Cass homeless at Shattuck Hospital campus in Franklin Park

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM



Examples of pallet shelters from www.palletshelter.com

The state next month will set up a "temporary cottage community" on the grounds of Shattuck Hospital in Franklin Park to house and care for up to 30 people who now live — or try to live — in tents along the Mass and Cass area, state Health and Human Services Secretary Mary Lou Sudders said Monday.

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News from...

Chester Square Neighbors

Chester Square Clean-up

Saturday, November 20,
9:00 – 11:30 am.

Meet up with Jim, Teo, the guys from Victory House and others at the corner of Chester Park nearest 564 Mass Ave. The City will provide tools. Bring your coffee or refreshments to share

and we'll scope out the morning!

Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, 7pm, 155 Northampton Street.

More information at: <https://chestersquareneighbors.org/>

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1	Studio	459	\$1,232	60% AMI	-	-
3*	1-Bedroom	575	30% of Household Income	30% AMI	2	-
10	1-Bedroom	536	\$1,320	60% AMI	-	-

***Three (3)** Homeless Set-aside units (One Studio, Two 1-BR) will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa>.

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on the number of bedrooms and the percent of Area Median Income (AMI))			Maximum Incomes (set by DND + based on the household size and the percent of Area the Median Income (AMI))		
# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 30% AMI	Minimum Income 60% AMI	Household size	Maximum Income 30% AMI	Maximum Income 60% AMI
Studio	\$0	\$37,900	1	\$28,200	\$56,400
1-Bedroom	\$0	\$39,600	2	\$32,200	\$64,440

Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based housing assistance voucher.

Applications are available during the application period from November 15, 2021- December 24, 2021

For an online application or to have one sent by email visit <https://bit.ly/41northmargin> or call **(617) 567-7755**

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at **(617) 567-7755**, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings through Zoom	
November 18, 2021, 6:00 PM	December 2, 2021, 6:00 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84781902856?pwd=aSt5MWovb2xxM2xmNFZVeEV0Y3I3Zz09	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87168250118?pwd=bVF3YndYZTJERnFmazM3VU14RjhTQT09
Meeting ID: 847 8190 2856 Passcode: 803874	Meeting ID: 871 6825 0118 Passcode: 387641
Or call in 1-929-205-6099 84781902856# *803874#	Or call in 1-929-205-6099 87168250118# *387641#

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **December 24, 2021**

Mail to: Metro Management, 201 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA 02128

- **One member of the household must be at least 62 years of age at the time of lease signing**
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King

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the Massachusetts Rainbow Coalition party; created the South End Technology Center at Tent City; authored "Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development" as well as other articles and poetry; and raised six children with his wife, Joyce.

On Saturday, November 13, his life's work and contributions to the community were honored with the dedication of Melvin H. "Mel" King Square and the proclamation by Acting Mayor Kim Janey of Mel King Day in Boston. The sun shone brightly on the joyous celebration at the newly minted square at the intersection of Yarmouth Street and Columbus Avenue, near the home he and his wife Joyce have shared for many years. Over 100 people gathered for the dedication, including family and friends, neighbors, and elected officials.

Among the crowd were King's long-time friend and one time political opponent, former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn; Jon Santiago, who holds King's 9th Suffolk district seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives; congressional representative Ayanna Pressley of the 7th district for Massachusetts; state representative (5th Suffolk) Liz Miranda of Boston; and city councilors Ed Flynn, Kenzie Bok, Ricardo Arroyo and Julia Mejia.

King is perhaps best remembered for his activism for affordable housing and community-driven development, which is no surprise given his early history. One of nine children of Watts King of Barbados and his Guyanese wife, Ursula, King and wife Joyce grew up in the long-lost corner of the South End called the New York Streets, which fell to urban renewal redevelopment in the 1950s and 1960s.

The area was working class and very culturally diverse, where recently arrived Italians, Lebanese, Jews, Greeks, and others lived side by side in a close-knit, working-class community.

In her remarks, acting mayor and lifelong friend Kim Janey recited King's accomplishments in her proclamation of Mel King Day and shared personal recollections, including the friendship between King's mother and Janey's grandmother, who used to share recipes.

Priscilla Douglas, the first African American woman cabinet member, under Governor Bill Weld, in Massachusetts history, spoke of the inspiration she drew from King. "At every stage of my life, I've been inspired, lifted up and loved the wisdom of Mel King." Pointing in the direction of King's house, she said, "That's where it started, on Sunday afternoon," referring to King's longstanding tradition of hosting a Sunday brunch open house.

"That's where we learned what community was." Douglas quoted King's famous words, "Love is the question and the answer," adding, "It's our capacity as human beings to love each other, to love the Earth and to love the community."



Mel and Joyce King. Photo by Ethan S. Gould.



Mel King, Kim Janey, Priscilla Douglas. Photo by Ethan S. Gould.



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley, center. Photo by Ethan S. Gould.



Former Mayor Ray Flynn, center. Photo by Ethan S. Gould.



Publishers:

Jeff Coakley
Sue O'Connell

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Michele D. Maniscalco
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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Boston, MA 02127

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Letters policy

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Tree

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to help celebrate the annual tradition. Due to the pandemic, the Province is partnering with Port of Halifax, container terminal PSA Halifax and transportation company Eimskip Canada to transport the tree on a container vessel. The tree will leave Halifax on November 15 and be delivered to its new home on Boston Common.

Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan

Woods, an official Nova Scotian town crier, Santa Claus, and local school children including students from the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester will greet the tree at its final destination near the Boston Visitors Center at 139 Tremont Street. The tree will be lit at approximately 7:55 p.m. on Thursday, December 2, as the City of Boston's Official Tree Lighting is celebrated on Boston Common from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on WCVB Channel 5 starting at 7 p.m.

The 80th annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common is co-sponsored by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the title sponsor, The Province of Nova Scotia. Amazon serves as our presenting sponsor while Bank of America and Exelon are supporting the event as key sponsors. Additional support provided by WCVB Channel 5 and the Boston Globe.

For further information, visit Boston.gov/Parks and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter.

Temp Housing

Continued from page 1

In email to advocates, Sudders said the state is buying "18 private lockable sleeping cabins, each with one or two beds, personal climate control and storage for possessions" from a company called Pallet—which says the units can be set up in as little as an hour. And:

The state will also contract with a local health and human service provider to provide immediate onsite services, such as meals, laundry, case management and mental health and addiction services, with the goal of

supporting residents in their transition from the streets to permanent housing and longer-term stability. The provider will also be responsible for general oversight of the community, including 24/7 security, as the safety of the residents as well as hospital staff, patients and the surrounding neighborhoods is paramount. The housing is expected to be operational in December.

Sudders added:

The Temporary Cottage Community, although temporary, represents the first phase of implementation of the longer-term plans for supportive housing and services envisioned on the campus.

Under current plans, the state says it will move all current in-patient medical and psychiatric programs at Shattuck to a building on the Boston Medical Center campus and then lease the Shattuck grounds for creation of "supportive housing" and public- and behavioral health programs.

The plans are opposed by park and open-space advocates, who say the 13-acre site should be re-integrated with the rest of Franklin Park as parkland. They have suggested the state focus its attention on the former MBTA headquarters at nearby Arborway bus yard for social services.

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Virtual Community Meeting

Visioning Grove Hall

Wednesday, December 8
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3DnrcjC
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 833 0033

Project Description:

Join the BPDA for a community meeting about three vacant sites owned by the BPDA: 20R Dacia St.; 27-29 Fernboro St., and 626 Warren St., in the Grove Hall neighborhood. We will seek the community's ideas, wants, and needs for the future of these sites. Interpretation and translation will be provided in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Únase a la BPDA para una reunión comunitaria sobre tres sitios vacantes propiedad de la BPDA: 20R Dacia St.; 27-29 Fernboro St. y 626 Warren St., en el vecindario de Grove Hall. Buscaremos las ideas, deseos y necesidades de la comunidad para el futuro de estos sitios. Se proporcionará interpretación y traducción en español y criollo haitiano.

Vin jwenn nou nan BPDA a pou yon reyinyon kominotè sou twa sit vid BPDA a posede: 20R Dacia St.; 27-29 Fernboro St., ak 626 Warren St., nan katye Grove Hall la. Nou pral chèche lide, dezi, ak bezwen kominote a pou lavni sit sa yo. Ap gen entèpretasyon ak tradiksyon an panyòl ak kreyòl ayisyen.

mail to: **Jonathan Short**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
22 Drydock Ave. Second Floor
Boston, MA 02210
phone: 617.918.6234
email: jonathan.short@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
12/22/2021

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Virtual Public Meeting

85 West Newton Street

Monday, November 29
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/85WestNewton
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 542 1835

Project Proponent:

Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción

Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 85 West Newton St project located in South End. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application proposal. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. The Project is the redevelopment of the site of the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts which was located in the former All Saints Lutheran Church at 85 West Newton Street. IBA had to demolish the structure in 2020 due to severe structural conditions. The site is 9,301 square feet with frontage on West Newton Street. The proposed new approximately 26,000 square foot four (4)-story building will create a new multi-purpose community arts center. The Project will be constructed in one phase and may require proposed urban renewal actions including but not limited to a Minor Modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan.



Ready to Register?
Scan this code with
your smartphone

mail to: **Tyler Ross**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 857.334.8952
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Oct 1-Mar 31: 8 am-8 pm, 7 days a week

Apr 1-Sep 30: 8 am-8 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-6 pm Sat-Sun



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Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.

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