

## Don't miss this year's *The Nutcracker*

**Boston Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, one-hour special excerpted from the 2019 production at the Boston Opera House, presented by Primark. Friday, Dec. 25 at 5 p.m. on Telemundo, Friday, Dec. 25 at 7 p.m. on NBC10 Boston. Also available free of charge on [bostonballet.org](http://bostonballet.org).**

BY JULES BECKER

Ballet, by definition, is a wordless language of movement. Due to COVID-19, Boston Ballet's "The Nutcracker" has moved to television in an excerpt under an hour in length.

While the second act Palace of Sweets in the celebrated winter classic may seem on a diet in this condensed broadcast, the company



Tigran Mkrtchyan as Nutcracker Prince and Mia Steedle as Clara in Boston Ballet's "The Nutcracker" (photo:Liza Voll,Boston Ballet)

and individual dancers fully sparkle in scenes from the recorded 2019 production.

For television, NBC10 Boston

(the recent initial broadcast on NBC 10 followed by Sunday's on NECN)

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## South End businesses shine in Holiday Stroll

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The South End Business Alliance's annual Holiday Stroll, spread out over three days this year to include SoWa First Friday and Small Business Saturday, gave a boost to holiday shopping amid a depressed economy and COVID-19 business restrictions. Expanded this year from a one-day event to three days, from Thursday, December 3 through Saturday, December 5, the event encompassed SoWa First Friday and Small Business Saturday.

Due to the pandemic, many businesses had hand sanitizer near the entrance, limited the number of patrons at a time, and refrained



Continued on page 2

Inside Gifted, 2 Dartmouth St. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

## Boston Medical Center workers welcome those first vials of vaccine

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN  
[WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM](http://WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM)

Some workers at Boston Medical Center, the first hospital in the state to receive doses of the Pfizer vaccine, went outside to celebrate. You can watch the full video on Boston Medical Center's Facebook page and TikTok.



Photo courtesy Tik Tok @bostonmedicalcenter

## ASK DOG LADY



### Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

My parents have a Shepoo (cross between a poodle and a Shih Tzu) that has these bumps on her. The vet says these are veins that burst. This doesn't seem right. These bumps are small and circular and they break open and bleed. She is groomed regularly and they have tried switching her food thinking that is it she is also one of those dogs that are dander-less. My parents do give her human food once in a while. Any thoughts on what this may be?

— Eliza

Dear Eliza,

If you have to write "Ask Dog Lady" about bleeding bumps on a cute little dog, you are barking up the wrong tree. Dog Lady is not a vet nor does she play one in any medium. You need to steer your parents to a new veterinarian pronto. Also, tell them to stop giving human food immediately. Find dog food that is anti-allergenic. Dog Lady recommends two brands: Solid Gold and Newman's Own Organics. There are others, of course, but these two are dependably good. This little dog needs an intervention. You're in a great position to help.

Dear Dog Lady,

I'm considering getting a Whippet or Greyhound. They say both are laid back and don't require so much exercise. Can you tell me, what is the more obedient, less active, more loving and quiet dog? Whippet or greyhound? Hope you can help us.

— Jonly

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## COVID 19 Update

Boston has rolled back to a modified version of the "Phase 2 Step 2" of the state's economic reopening plan, effective now. Mayor Marty Walsh announced Monday afternoon in response to an ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases. Businesses such as museums, aquariums, bowling alleys, movie theaters, gyms and fitness centers are closed in the city. Indoor dining is allowed, with strict adherence to safety guidelines. Bar seating is restricted to those restaurants that obtain special permission from the city. Office capacity will continue to be limited to 40%

## Holiday Stroll

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from some of the customary Holiday Stroll flourishes such as refreshments, but stores and restaurants still put their best foot forward to customers with special discounts and a festive atmosphere.

At Flock, 274 Shawmut Avenue, Bronwyn Owens, sssss said on stormy Saturday, December 5, "It was going really the first couple of days, but today is a little bit slower." After the late-March business shut down due to the pandemic, Owens was involved in developing Flock's on-line shopping presence, which has continued to be significant even after the store reopened for shopping Tuesday through Saturday.

At Table and Tulip, 461 Shawmut Avenue, owner Andrea Halliday said, "[The Stroll] has been very good. A lot of people have used it as an excuse to hang out with friends and get outside. On Friday, we had a lot of people, and today, everyone who came in bought a ton of holiday stuff. Regardless of the cold weather, everyone was in the holiday spirit."

Gifted at 2 Dartmouth Street also did brisk business despite Saturday December 5's stormy weather, drawing shoppers of all ages to the family-friendly store. Manager Joe Nadeau enlivened the atmosphere with the soundtrack from the "Pee-Wee's Playhouse" Christmas special featuring Grace Jones's rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy", and Gifted offered discounts during the stroll, with "a little more for healthcare workers and people in the medical industry," Nadeau said.

In addition to selling decorative household items, wearable accessories and books from across the US and around the world, Gifted is a purveyor of local author and historian Alison Barnet's "Once Upon a Neighborhood: A Timeline and Anecdotal History of the South End of Boston" and "Sitting Ducks", a crime novel based on a murder that occurred in one of Barnet's early South End residences.



(Top) Inside Table and Tulip, 461 Shawmut Avenue. (Bottom) Inside Flock, 274 Shawmut Avenue. Photos by Michele Maniscalco.

# South End News

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# Man charged with home invasion on Chandler St.

**Victim able to summon help via a 911 whisper**

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN  
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

Boston Police report a man shoved into his Chandler Street apartment by some guy on at about 4:55 pm, on Saturday, December 5, was able to discreetly call up 911 on his phone and whisper for help.

Police report officers who arrived at the man's home, at the Columbus Avenue end of Chandler, shortly before 5 p.m. spotted the home invader walking out and immediately recognized him as somebody already wanted on numerous warrants.

The police report says: "Upon speaking with the officers, the suspect provided a name which they knew to be false. Officers detained the suspect on scene without incident and then made contact with the victim who stated that as he was entering his home, the male

suspect approached him from behind and shoved him to the floor of his foyer before locking the front door behind them. The suspect then forced the victim through the main interior door of his residence and into the living room area of the home. The victim stated that the suspect appeared distressed and agitated. After several tense moments, the victim was able to discreetly contact the Boston Police Department via his cell phone, speaking in a whispered tone to a 911 Dispatcher who was able to quickly ascertain the address and discern the seriousness of the unfolding incident, resulting in the officers' prompt response to the scene."

Police did not identify the suspect, but said he was wanted on 22 outstanding warrants in Boston, Somerville and Cambridge.

He was charged with assault and battery on a victim over 65, unarmed breaking and entering in the nighttime, disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct and providing a false name to a police officer, police say.

## Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

Dear Janly,

Don't go into the dog adventure by seeking a type of dog that "doesn't need much exercise." No matter what breed of dog you eventually bring home, you must remember that all dogs need outdoor activity the way the flowers need sunshine. Dogs also need socialization with other dogs because it reminds them of who and what they are. This is important for a healthy, sane pet. No dog shuns a walk; no dog willingly does its business indoors on piddle pads; no dog shies away from nuzzling and sniffing one of its own species. Humans are lazy about offering these things to their dogs—not the other way around. Dogs are always eager for exercise and outdoor adventures, especially greyhounds and whippets.

Dear Dog Lady,

Bosco, my nine-year-old Boston terrier is housebroken but for the last month, I let him outside and no matter how long I leave him out, he comes in the house and poops. I'd appreciate any idea why he does this.

—Kathy

Dear Kathy,

Please don't merely open the door and let Bosco out. Participate in his activity. Give your dog a good walk around the block, at least. Allow him to sniff unfamiliar territory and make it his own. Dogs thrive on this. Also, please bring Bosco in for a medical checkup with the veterinarian. Often, changes in potty habits are caused by a medical issue.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com

# Fund set up to help two burned out of their home

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN  
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

Sari Sanchez has started a GoFundMe page to help her mother Samira and sister Yamilet, who lost everything in the fire on West Newton Street on the morning of Wednesday, December 2.

Samira, 60, and Yamilet, 24, had lived there for 20 years.

Firefighters put a ladder up the side of the building to rescue a mother and her children from a balcony on the third floor. The department reports the fire displaced eight people, two turtles, a cat and a dog, but adds, "not all



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# COVID-19 RESOURCES

## Greater Boston Basic Needs Supports

Catholic Charities Greater Boston Basic Needs Department

Serving Suffolk and Middlesex County. Services include: food pantry assistance (Dorchester, South End, Somerville); emergency financial assistance; emergency essential assistance; SNAP outreach; HIV support services; resource & referral assistance

More Info: Please call (617) 506-6628 or email [Basic\\_Needs@ccb.org](mailto:Basic_Needs@ccb.org)

## Resources for Immigrant Communities: What's available?

Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign (NILC & CLASP)

The PIF Campaign has developed a quick reference guide on immigrant eligibility that provides a general overview of some of the federal public programs available to support individuals and families during the COVID-19 crisis. In light of implementation of public charge regulations, we have also included clarification about whether certain public programs are taken into account for public charge purposes. The guide includes links to deeper dive resources on eligibility from our partners. <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/>

## Suffolk County Resource Guide

Suffolk County District Attorney, Rachel Rollins

This is a collection of resources currently available in Suffolk County, Ma, compiled by the staff of the Juvenile Alternative Resolution Program of the Juvenile Unit at the Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins. It is not a complete list, and you should continue to consult relevant experts and your care providers when appropriate. This guide is intended to be a starting point for residents and service providers for finding resources to assist during the COVID-19 National Emergency. Our current circumstances are fluid and evolving; information, services, and recommendations may change over time. We advise you to contact any of the included services outlined here ahead of time to ensure up-to-date accuracy. <https://www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com/>

## DTA SNAP and Cash Benefits During COVID-19

Massachusetts Legal Services

To view a general overview of DTA policies and how to ensure folks can access benefits, please visit MLRI's COVID-19 page: <https://www.masslegalservices.org/DTA-COVID-19>

## Hunger and Food Resources for Households

Project Bread's Hunger and Food Resources page offers information for families and households on school meal sites and locations; the Food Resource Hotline (to get connected to food, and for SNAP application assistance); and policy updates (state and federal level). <http://www.projectbread.org/>

Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB)  
GBFB partners with 500+ hunger-relief agencies, including food pantries, community meal programs and other food assistance providers throughout the nine counties and 190 towns and cities across Eastern Massachusetts. These efforts have doubled in the wake of COVID and increased food needs. This page offers information on food pantries across the state, as well as additional resources for food assistance, including school meals sites. <https://www.gbfb.org/>

## Massachusetts State Updates & Resources

State of Massachusetts (Governor's Office) and MA DPH is working closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information about the novel coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.mass.gov/offers>:

- Prevention and treatment
- Cases, quarantine and monitoring
- State of emergency
- Printable fact sheets and FAQ
- Emotional health and well-being resources
- Press release
- MA 2-1-1

## SIREN COVID-19 Resource Page

Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network (SIREN)

[sirennetwork.ucsf.edu/covid-19-resources](http://sirennetwork.ucsf.edu/covid-19-resources) includes resources on a national level such as: Social needs surveillance

- Recent news articles about COVID and health equity
- Resources for clinicians and patients
- Insurance coverage and codes for COVID-related healthcare services
- Pharmacy delivery services
- Vaccination scams/exploitation
- Housing
- Employment/income concerns
- Utility concerns
- Social isolation
- Advocacy opportunities

## The City of Boston

The City of Boston has a free texting service to provide daily updates and information about the coronavirus. Text BOSCOVID to 99411 to opt-in for English. Language and communications access remains a priority for Mayor Walsh, so this text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

- Text BOSEspanol for Spanish
- Text BOSKreyol for Haitian Kreyol
- Text BOSFrancais for French
- Text BOSKriolu for Cabo Verdean Creole
- Text BOSPortugues for Portuguese

Updates in 10 total languages can additionally be accessed through [boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help](http://boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help). Each language has its own page and hosts multilingual print materials distributed citywide.

## HOMELESS SERVICES AND HOSPITAL CAPACITY

On April 2nd, Mayor Walsh announced that construction begins at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center to add 500 beds for treating homeless adults who have tested positive for COVID-19 and need care, but do not require full hospitalization.

The City has released a Request for Proposals to secure a partner organization to operate the facility. If necessary, the Convention Center beds will be opened up for hospitals to use for sub-acute COVID patients in the general population.

These 500 beds will bring Boston's total number of new beds for homeless individuals to over 1,000. This includes Boston Medical Center's Newton Pavilion facility, which the City and State are working to re-purpose as a medical facility for homeless residents affected by the coronavirus.

## SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

On April 2nd, Mayor Walsh announced two new resources that will help small businesses during the public health crisis.

The City of Boston has created a Small Business Relief Fund. Drawing on a combination of City, federal, and private industry contributions, it establishes \$2 million in grant funding—capable of providing a lifeline to hundreds of local businesses at risk of shutting down permanently due to the crisis. It will be administered as a streamlined version of the City's Small Business Financing program. Small businesses can begin applying on Monday, April 6.

The City of Boston has also created a Financial Relief Handbook and FAQ document for small businesses. It's a resource for navigating

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### Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]  
Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

### Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]  
[sue.southendnews@gmail.com](mailto:sue.southendnews@gmail.com)

### Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps  
[danielj.raps@gmail.com](mailto:danielj.raps@gmail.com)

### Contributing Writers:

Michele D. Maniscalco  
Dog Lady

### Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]  
[jcoakley@southendnews.com](mailto:jcoakley@southendnews.com)

### Classified Advertising:

[classifiedads@southendnews.com](mailto:classifiedads@southendnews.com)

### Letters to the editor:

[letters@southendnews.com](mailto:letters@southendnews.com)

### Calendar listings:

[sencalendar@southendnews.com](mailto:sencalendar@southendnews.com)

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PO BOX E.14,  
Boston, MA 02127  
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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# Apart Together

**Piano Craft Guild's 44th Annual Resident Group Show**

**Now through December 20**

SUBMITTED BY PIANO CRAFT GUILD

2020 has been like no year in a century. The global COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted racial and economic inequality while we voted in a heavily watched and contested national election. This year, we have done something we have never done before; close the Piano Craft Gallery to the general public.

While we had to make the difficult but necessary choice to cancel exhibitions, we maintained our commitment to artists with launching the online Social Distancing Gallery, where we exhibited artists' work from Boston to across the globe.

In August, we reopened the gallery with our new COVID-19 guidelines with a solo exhibition by the Piano Craft Guild resident, Anton Uhl. In September, we hosted our

first annual ROX/SE exhibition where jurors Daughter of Contrast, Jamaal Bonnette, Rion Folan, and Erik Grau juried work by artists that live and/or work in Roxbury and South End, which was curated by Kamal Ahmad. We successfully and safely brought in members of our immediate community to celebrate a truly unique opening to the artistic season in Boston.

In October we exhibited the work of new gallery board member, Jeffrey Nowlin in an amazing sculptural show. Finally, in November, we hosted a timely political exhibition titled, "Speak Up," where local artists and arts organizations juried and curated a diverse show.

In keeping with tradition, the Piano Craft Gallery begins its annual celebration of the creativity within the Piano Craft Guild and reimagines what is possible in this new social, political, and public health landscape. This year we will host our annual resident group show both on-site with a limited visitor capacity as well as online with a virtual gallery and special online feature of the doors of the Piano Craft Guild.



We hope you enjoy this exhibition in whatever way you prefer. Visit [www.piano-craftgallery.com](http://www.piano-craftgallery.com) for more information.

Gallery Hours: Fridays 6-8PM, Saturdays 12-5PM, Sundays 12-5PM, social distancing and masks required.



The people depicted here are models. Their image is being used for illustrative purposes only.

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# Food Pantries

## Information from the City of Boston

**Haley House Food Pantry**, 23 Dartmouth Street, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 617-236-8132

**Rosie's Place/Pantry**, 889 Harrison Ave., Mondays: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., 617-442-9322

**Salvation Army/South End Food Pantry**, 1500 Washington Street, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 617-536-5260.

**Catholic Charities/El Centro del Cardena**, Monsignor Reynolds Way, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., 617-522-4040

**Boston Medical Center Food Pantry**, 1 Boston Medical Center Yawkey B, Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 617-414-3834

**Grant A.M.E./Self-Help**, 1906 Washington St., First and third Thursday of the month: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 617-427-0670

**American Red Cross/Mobile Market**, 1033 Massachusetts Ave., Times vary, call ahead: 617-375-0735.

**Islamic Multi Service Organization**, 722 Shawmut Avenue, Second Sunday of the month: 1:30 - 4 p.m., 617-442-2805

**Union United Methodist Church Food Pantry**, 485 Columbus Ave., Second Tuesday of the month: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., 617-287-1020

Locations and times are subject to change. Please check back to confirm information before you head to a meal pickup site or food pantry.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-covid19-food-resources> for a full list of pantries.

## Nutcracker

Continued from page 1

has Today Show co-host Hoda Koib making introductions and briefly commenting about the ballet. At the same time, armchair narrator Colton Bradford of "Boston's The Hub" provides vocal program notes about 1820 young heroine Clara's dream and the title magical Christmas gift.

Koib's assistance is more of a mere network addition, while Bradford's narrative bits are likely to benefit young newcomers unfamiliar with Clara's workshop wizard godfather Drosselmeyer and the ballet itself.

Even in an excerpted form, company artistic director Mikko Nissinen's smart choreography is vividly evident. Paulo Arrais, arguably Boston Ballet's finest male principal, captures Drosselmeyer's elegance as well as his skill with the nutcracker itself at designer Robert Pertiola's sharply detailed workshop.

Mia Steedle has all of Clara's wonder and grace. (Missing in a broadcast also shortened by commercials is the heroine's envious sibling Fritz.)

Tigran Mkrtchyan catches the Nutcracker Prince's bravery in the amusing first act battle of cadets and mice. Closing the first act as always is the radiant snow scene, gorgeously lit by Mikki Kunttu. Here Paul Craig as Snow King pulls off strong high lifts with Seo Hye Han, who displays impressive leg extension as Snow Queen.

Once Clara arrives at the Palace, the congenial Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince greet the dancers who will charm and amaze Clara and escorting Drosselmeyer. Boston Ballet fans will notice the absence here of such entertaining feats as the richly sensual Arabian and the acrobatically spirited Russian. Still, the pleasures of the remaining 'sweets' cannot be denied. Pertiola doubles as costumer throughout the ballet and especially at the Palace—most notably in the lively Spanish opener's fiery red outfits and the pastel poetry of the dancers in the Waltz of the Flowers. In the famed latter sequence, Viktorina Kapitonova combines rapid turns and lyrical entries and exits.

Mkrtchyan brings good length to the Prince's turns, and Ji Young Chae has the right lightness as well as speed during the Sugar Plum's pivotal solo. Their iconic pas de deux impresses with breathtaking lifts. Music director Mischa Santora and the Boston Ballet Orchestra do beautiful justice to the evocative Tchaikovsky score.

As always, Clara wonders whether everything was reality or dream. With COVID-19 vaccines now an approaching reality, Boston Ballet newcomers and aficionados alike can dream of the 2021 return of "The Nutcracker" in all its fully realized glory.

Editor's note: South End News co-publisher Sue O'Connell is employed by NBC10 Boston

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