South End's Henry Wood passes at 87

By Beth Treffeisen

Henry Austin Wood III, a Boston architect and a long-time South End resident, who was behind the makings of Boston City Hall, passed away in his home in Boston on Jan. 27 at the age of 87. Henry Wood’s architecture that spans throughout the Boston region and beyond will have a lasting impact on City’s residents for years to come.

A memorial service was recently held for him at City Hall this past Saturday, Feb. 18.

“It was amazing,” said Josh Rose-Wood his son and architect. “It was a beautiful ceremony.”

Rose-Wood said that along with his brothers, cousin, and three close friends, other residents also stood up to share stories about building City Hall or about their experiences in the South End.

“He had an amazing ability to manage to bring together a diverse community of people,” said Rose-Wood referring to the Texas contractor, Boston politicians, and young New York archi-

Mayor Walsh awards $22 million in new funding for affordable housing

By Seth Daniel

Last week, Mayor Martin Walsh announced nearly $22 million in funding for 10 affordable housing developments in neighborhoods across Boston. The funding will help preserve or produce 602 housing units with 77 of those units being reserved for homeless or extremely low-income households in Boston.

This announcement follows behind the Mayor’s goal of creating 6,500 new units of affordable housing outlined in “The Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030” housing plan, and supports “Boston’s Way Home”, the administration’s plan to end chronic homelessness by 2018.

“Preserving Boston’s affordability is key to ensuring everyone who wants to live here can afford to do so, and I’m particularly pleased this funding will both preserve and add to our existing affordable housing stock,” said Mayor Walsh in a statement.

He continued, “This will help us continue to build a pipeline of affordable housing, and put us one step closer towards reaching the ambitious goals laid out in our housing plan.”

This funding was made possible through more than $13 million of federal and local resources awarded by the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), and more than $8 million of linkage funds, awarded through Boston’s Neighborhood Housing Trust.

With the inclusion of these funds, the Walsh Administration has now committed nearly $100 million in affordable housing funding since the Mayor took office. In total, the Walsh Administration has helped create or preserve more than 3,000 units of affordable housing, which includes 500 units for housing the homeless.

Old Dover approves SoWa Market's Saturday expansion

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It didn’t come without a great deal of careful conversation, but GTI Properties eventually got the neighborhood nod of the Old Dover Neighborhood Association on Tuesday night, Feb. 21, to expand the popular SoWa Sunday Market to also include Saturday.

The proposal by Mario Nicosia and his team at GTI eventually won out in a packed-house vote of 23-7.

With the backing of Old Dover, the application for the Saturday and Sunday Market at SoWa will go to City Hall on Monday, Feb. 27, before the Special Events Commission.

It didn’t come easy for GTI or for the neighborhood, as President Ken Smith guided a soul-searching community conversation for more than an hour. Business and restaurant owners pleaded their case, saying that times are very tough and they only really do business on Sundays when the Market is operating. Beyond that, they said, business typically doesn’t exist or is sparse, meaning that the prospect of an additional Market day on Saturday meant a second day of better business.

That was overlaid by many residents with equally grave concerns about the fact that they feel trapped on Sundays by the surge of people coming to the Market. That, they said, makes it difficult to run errands, go food shopping or leave for the day. The prospects of having another weekend day trapped in their home was burdensome, if not frightening.

Nicosia won over most of the neighbors in the end by conceding to some mitigation points.

First, he said they will do a better job with traffic on both days - routing cars directly from I-93 down Albany Street to his GTI parking lots under the Expressway.

“Honestly, I’ve looked at the traffic and cringed too,” he said. “The traffic we have to manage better. We promise to be more aware of that and manage it better. We have to.”

A key point was that Nicosia pledged to allow free parking on Saturday.

(SoWa Saturday Pg. 17)
Meet gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez
The Boston Downtown Democrats invite you to meet Jay Gonzalez, Democratic candidate for governor, at Carrie Nation, 11 Beacon St., on Monday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

At this time, Gonzales will discuss his ideas for strengthening the Commonwealth’s schools, improving affordable health care for all residents, safeguarding neighborhoods and making Massachusetts a leader again.

His previous work experience has included providing health insurance coverage for low-income residents, helping cities and towns build new schools and fire stations, advocating for high-quality early education and managing the state budget for Gov. Deval Patrick during the Great Recession.

Ash Wednesday services at Trinity Church Boston
Trinity Church Boston at 206 Clarendon St. will hold three services of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 7 p.m. All services are free and open to all. Visit www.trinitychurchboston.org for more information.

City Councilor Zákím’s office hours
City Councilor Josh Zákím will hold office hours at Trident Bookshoppers & Cafe, 338 Newbury St., on Friday, March 3, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The SoWa Artists Guild’s ‘First Friday’ on the “First Friday” of each month, including March 3, from 5 to 9 p.m., more than 70 artists open their studios at 450 Harrison Ave. Meet the artists in their element and view their latest works. The SoWa Artists Guild strives to make its art and artists accessible to everyone. The event is free, and parking is available. For more information, call 978-337-4191 or visit www.SOWAartists.com.

Lecture on ‘Safety at Home and on the Streets’
Beacon Hill Village presents “Safety at Home and on the Streets” at the AARP, 1 Beacon St., 23rd floor, on Wednesday, March 8, at 2 p.m. This two-part program that will begin with a discussion of home safety and falls prevention by Adam Lipman, physical therapist and program manager at CareTenders Home Health. He will also demonstrate simple and safe exercises that you can do at home to improve balance. The second part of the program will be presented by Robert Luongo, City of Boston community safety officer, who will provide key points on streets sense and walking to empower us with knowledge to stay safe on the streets. The presentation is free and open to the public, but registration is required; call Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713 to register.

Lecture on spirituality in time of climate change
Trinity Church Boston at 206 Clarendon St. presents “Spiritual Resilience in a Time of Climate Change” on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Explore ways to experience the climate crisis as a catalyst for personal learning, growth, and transformation. The morning will include presentations, guided meditation, and small and large group conversation. This retreat will be led by The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Ph.D., an Episcopal priest and writer who serves as Missioner for Creation Care in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ. All are welcome. Visit www.trinitychurchboston.org for more information.

TCF Meets First Tuesday
The Boston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) meets at Trinity Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

TCF is a national self-help, mutual-assistance organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents and their families. Call 617-539-6424 or e-mail tcfoboston@tonton@gmail.com for more information.

Volunteer at Spaulding Rehab
Stay active, meet new people and be connected with your community by volunteering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Staff members will match your skills and interests to a volunteer opportunity. The hospital is currently recruiting volunteers, ages 18 and up, for two- to three-hour-a-week shifts for a minimum of six to 12 months commitment. Volunteer at spauldingnetwork.org for more information.

Neighborhood Round Up

Affordable housing (from pg. 1)
The recipients of the funding include four developments in Dorchester, two in Jamaica Plain, two in Mattapan, one in downtown and one in the Fenway.

The developments that were chosen follow strict guidelines that follow the goals outlined in the “Housing A Changing City: Boston 2036.”

One of the recipients is 125 Amory Street building, which is part of the 10-year Jamaica Square Master Plan. The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) is proposing to create a 44-unit affordable rental development there.

According to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), this housing unit will be for the elderly and disabled. The building will consist of a mix of market-rate housing in order to offset redevelopment costs.

It will be the fourth project to be built under the Jackson Square Master Plan.

“This is one of the first, if not the first new development in the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury area to get city funding commitment,” said Richard Thal the executive director of the JPNDC. “Getting city funding is critical in order to get state funding.”

Thal said that there is a tremendous need for affordable housing in the City. He pointed to a project in Jackson Square that has 39 affordable units that had over 3,000 people apply.

For the 125 Amory Street project, Thal hopes to receive the funding by next year. That way they can break ground by early 2019 and get families moving in three years from now.

“When the city demonstrates a real commitment to a project, it gets the process rolling,” said Thal.

The project slated for 250 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain for 112-unit mixed-income rental development, including 44 affordable units, along with 2,140 square feet of retail space also received funding from the City.

This project is being headed by The Community Builders of Boston; a nonprofit real estate developer that creates housing for families and seniors of all income levels and invests in local businesses and public amenities that strengthen neighborhoods.

“This funding is really a catalyst to meeting federal matching and getting the funding for it,” said Noah Sawyer from Community Builders. “It’s the first step and it shows that the City is behind the project.”

This building will be the fifth project to be constructed under the Jackson Square Master Plan, where community members have been planning over a span of 10 years.

Sawyer said while he attended these public meetings he had heard a lot of strong community support for these projects, citing, “It’s all been very positive feedback.”

The funding, Sawyer said, will hopefully come in by the end of this year. He hopes that the project can get started by 2018, but Sawyer said, “It’s still up in the air.”

“Boston is putting money behind it and it’s a wonderful thing. It is great to be in a City that is so committed for affordable housing,” said Sawyer.

Another recipient of the funding is the 48 Boylston Street project that will create 93-unit mixed-income development in downtown Boston. The St. Francis House and the Planning Office for Urban Affairs are heading this project and are still unsure of the upcoming plans.

In the Fenway, the Burbank Gardens also received funding to rehabilitate the existing 32-unit development. Headed by the Fenway Community Development Corporation (Fenway CDC) this proposed development would protect the existing tenants from displacement and preserve the long-term affordability of this mixed-income development.

“I want to thank the Neighborhood Housing Trust for making these funds available and supporting these worthy developments,” said Mayor Walsh in a statement. “Working together with our partners, I am proud we are building a better Boston.”

Volunteers needed for American Cancer Society cosmetic sessions
The American Cancer Society is currently seeking volunteers for the “Look Good…Feel Better” sessions held at Tufts Medical Center, 800 Washington St. “Look Good…Feel Better” is a free program that teaches cancer patients hands-on cosmetic techniques to help them cope with appearance-related side effects from chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. Cosmetologists certified and trained by the American Cancer Society conduct the sessions, which are non-medical and do not promote any product line. Volunteers are needed to assist the cosmetologist conducting the session and are responsible for set-up, cleanup, and any other needs of the program. Programs are held from noon to 2 p.m., once a month every other month. For more information or to volunteer, contact Nanyamka Hales at 781-314-2611 or via e-mail at Nanyamka.Hales@cancer.org, or visit cancer.org.

A picture of the repurposing of 48 Boylston Street that will create additional mixed-income units downtown, courtesy of the BPDA.