

Image: Courtesy of Boston Groundwater Trust

Good Groundwater Due to Rain & Repairs

by Mark Fuehlec

Boston's groundwater levels are doing fine at the moment, thanks not only to the heavy rains of 2018's

first quarter, but also to a decade of leak repair and recharge system installations.

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Need a Second Home? Only \$500,000,000.00



by Mannie Lewis

If you're tired of Boston winters and nor'easters, there a great cottage for sale in Beverly Hills. The listing price is only \$500,000,000.

For that money, you get 100,000 square feet of home. There are 20 bedrooms, but seven of them are in a separate

building for your servants and slaves. The master bedroom is 5,500 square feet, slightly larger than the average Beacon Hill closet.

There are seven swimming pools, one of which is in your own private nightclub.

To put the price in perspective, the most expensive sales

price in the world was in 2015: a French estate purchased by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia for \$300 million.

In Boston right now, the highest priced listing is a 5,700-square-foot Beacon Street penthouse on the market for a mere \$16 million.

Let's Listen Up!



Photo: Mark Fuehlec

The students of The Learning Project Elementary School honored International Women's Day Thursday with red bandanas on their heads in the

style of Rosie the Riveter. The event lasted all day and taught about the historic and ongoing struggles for equality.

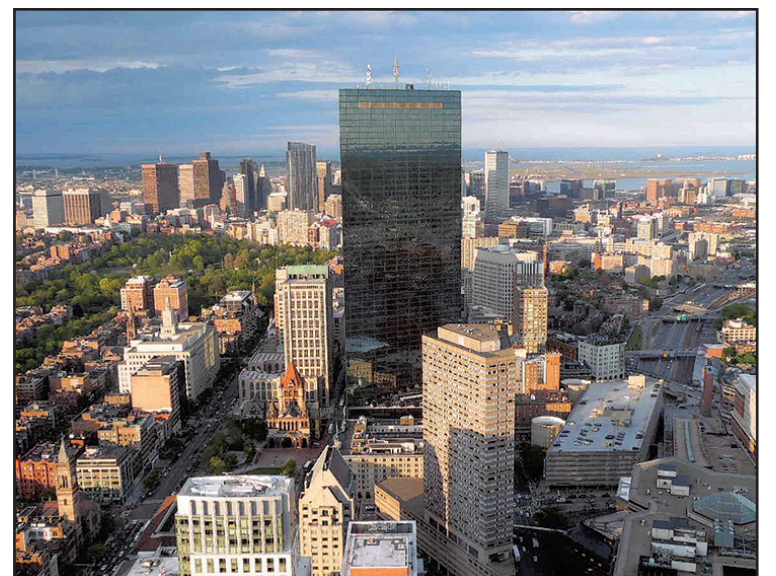


Photo: Bob Henry

What's In A Name?

by Dana Forsythe

As one of the major developers in Boston, Boston Properties (BP) is a stakeholder in some of

the city's most famous landmarks. After renaming the John Hancock, the tallest building in Boston,

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Names

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a few years ago, the company is hoping the new name for the former Boston Garden (BG) site will catch on.

Construction continues on the Hub on Causeway project, which broke ground last year on the 1.5 million square feet of mixed-use retail, office, hotel and residential space and an expansion of TD Garden on the 2.5-acre site.

Stephen A. Greyser, professor emeritus at Harvard Business School, said the project's popularity will ultimately decide if the name will eventually catch on.

"To be honest, it really depends if this project can bring a meaningful change to the area, something that makes it special and

brandable," he said. "In projects like these, those changes have to be well on their way before brandability can happen."

BP unveiled a new grand entry for TD Garden and a new entrance for North Station in January. Phase I of the project, which includes over 200,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, an ArcLight Cinema and outdoor space, also includes a 64,000-square-foot expansion of the TD Garden.

After three phases of construction are finished, the project will also include a 38-story residential tower, 10-story hotel, grocery store, more parking and even more retail and office space.

The name for the project naturally evolved after speaking with potential clients, explained Bryan Koop, executive vice president of the Boston Region for BP.

Koop said when his team was seeking tenants for the project he kept hearing from tech, advertising and media customers who were attracted to the project for its accessibility and planned amenities.

"These companies are looking for the whole package, and as far as recruiting and retaining talent, they need to offer something special," he said. "This area is already a transportation hub and an entertainment hub and the name grew from that idea. With this name, we're offering a warranty, a promise ... We're telling that if you come to the Hub, you'll be at the most connected spot in New England."

Developers have already committed to the idea of an organic campaign promoting the project, Koop said.

"Some people would go with a

dramatic party and roll out, but we think the best way is to create spaces and places and share our name and brand organically," he said. "It ties back into the authenticity we're trying to highlight with these Boston neighborhoods. The architecture of this project is strong and uniquely Boston as well."

The area of the former BG has gone through several changes through the years as well. Originally opened in 1928, the garden was torn down in 1993, giving way to the FleetCenter two years later. In 2005, the property changed hands and names again, this time being renamed as the TD Banknorth Garden. As of 2013, the name was changed again to the TD Garden.

Greyser said a big reason the FleetCenter's name stuck after the change was because the building was completely new and the name was widely used in the media.

In the past, BP has kept and changed the names of other major projects in Boston.

The company bought and renamed the John Hancock tower in 2015. As John Hancock was no longer a tenant of the building, BP could not continue to use the name, Koop said. The tower is now named after its street address, 220 Clarendon.

As for the Prudential Center, it was a completely different scenario. When BP negotiated the sale of the Boston landmark, Prudential wanted to keep the name, Koop said.

"It was really important to Prudential and they've done the same thing in other locations as well," Koop said. "We agreed and thought it was a great brand to maintain since the Prudential Center means so much to Boston."

Groundwater

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Groundwater levels are a critical issue for the wooden pilings on which many downtown buildings were built. When water levels drop, microbial life flourishes and the pilings begin to rot. The cost to repair failed pilings can top \$250,000, according to information from Bos-

ton Groundwater Trust (BGT).

BGT monitors groundwater levels through a network of 800 observation wells, a scale BGT executive director Christian Simonelli said is unparalleled. A campaign of regular repair and public education has resulted in the network's highest groundwater elevations despite normal levels of precipitation.

"I think we're in a pretty good place," said Simonelli. "That's really

the result of two things: more recharge systems than we've ever had before and fewer leaks than we've ever had before."

The BGT still has work to do, said Simonelli, though the situation is far less dire than it was two years ago when drought brought groundwater elevations to dangerous levels. Most wells are reporting safe elevations, but hotspots of low groundwater levels occasionally arise.

Elevations in BGT's wells began to rise in the fall of 2016, following Bos-

ton's driest summer on record, but at the area of Fairfield and Beacon Streets levels remained low. Simonelli said he worked with the City/State Groundwater Working Group, which brings together all public agencies responsible for underground infrastructure, to find the cause of the area's lower elevation.

In this case, Boston Water and Sewer Commission had a sewer pipeline in the area. After some inspection they found a break in

the pipe, in which groundwater was leaking. Once that leak was repaired, BGT saw elevation levels rise three feet within 48 hours.

"In a case like that, we knew there was something else at play," said Simonelli. "I commonly refer to the well network as the canary in the coal mine. That's really why we monitor. We read all 800 wells five to six times a year. We know where the water levels should be. We want to find these outliers."



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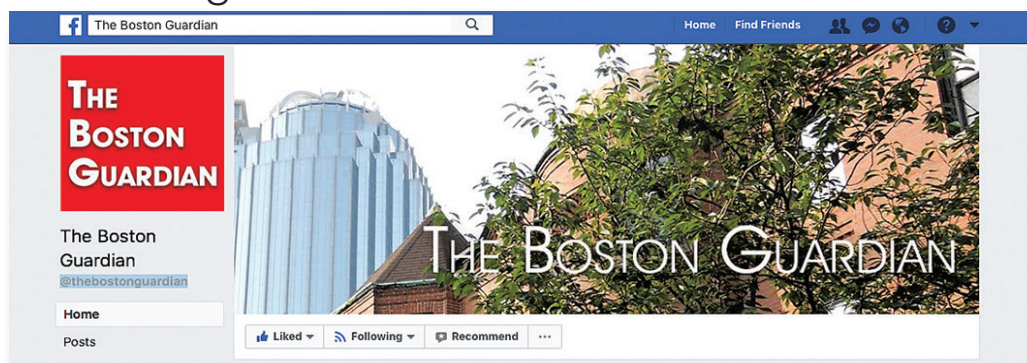
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EDITOR/PUBLISHER
DAVID JACOBS
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
GEN C. TRACY
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
LAURA PORECCA

PRESIDENT
ROBERT WHITCOMB

NEWS WRITERS
MARK FUECHEC
EUSEBIO DEJESUS
MANNIE LEWIS
PRODUCTION MANAGER
BOB HENRY

P.O. Box 171558, Boston, MA 02117 TELEPHONE: (857) 265-3022 FAX: (857) 990-3128 EMAIL: news@thebostonguardian.com
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news@thebostonguardian.com