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# Starbucks to set up shop in Allston

By **Matt Rocheleau**

Boston.com Staff

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**S**tarbucks plans to open its first shop in Allston next month.

The coffee chain is scheduled to debut on May 1 in a 2,000 square-foot space at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Griggs Street, said Bruce

Perceland, chair and founder of The Mount Vernon Company, which owns the property.

The Seattle-based coffee company will open in a couple-block area of Allston that's undergone a dramatic transformation over the past few years at the hands of Perceland's real estate and development firm.



"Starbucks looked at this site three years ago, and we told them our vision for the area, but at that point it was hard to visualize," he said. So, "they took a wait-and-see approach."

But, Percelay said when officials from the coffee company saw the area again recently and the changes made to the surrounding block, they jumped at the opportunity.

“It’s a big deal for us,” he said Friday. “The Starbucks lease validates that this site is now in primetime.”

The Mount Vernon Company **has spent** more than \$100 million constructing new buildings and renovating run-down properties and dated apartments to create a new high-end, environmentally-friendly residential and business area named the “Green District.”

The company even recently bought the popular bar Joshua Tree because that establishment’s college-party atmosphere did not fit with its vision for the area.

Percelay said Friday his company is in talks with three separate grocers who are interested in leasing the now-vacant space, but declined to name which three companies are in the running.

“We feel confident that it will end up as some type of high-quality market,”

he said.

He said another business Lapels Dry Cleaning recently signed a lease to move in next door to Starbucks.

While most have welcomed the changes in that confined section of Allston, some have cited concerns over gentrification.

There is no Starbucks in Allston, a neighborhood known for its affordable living and dining options, but there is one a few blocks away in Brookline and two in neighboring Brighton.

[BostInno](#) first reported on Starbucks' plans to enter Allston.

.@starbucks coming soon to Commonwealth Ave in #allston #boston is that good or bad? I say good. [pic.twitter.com/N4dcOGV07b](https://pic.twitter.com/N4dcOGV07b)  
— Jack Gately (@gatelywire) [March 25, 2014](#)

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Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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## Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting



Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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## BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks



Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.

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## US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner

A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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## Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

## Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing


A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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## Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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## Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

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## Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.



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## Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

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## 10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

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## Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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## Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’


Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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## Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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## Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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## Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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## Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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## Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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## Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  5 hours ago  Share



## Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future



Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

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## Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident



Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

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## Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500

The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases  12 hours ago  Share

## North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant

Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

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## Feds Deny Tsarnaev Lawyers' Complaint About Leaks



Federal prosecutors say there's no need for a hearing on what defense attorneys have called leaks and improper comments in the case of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

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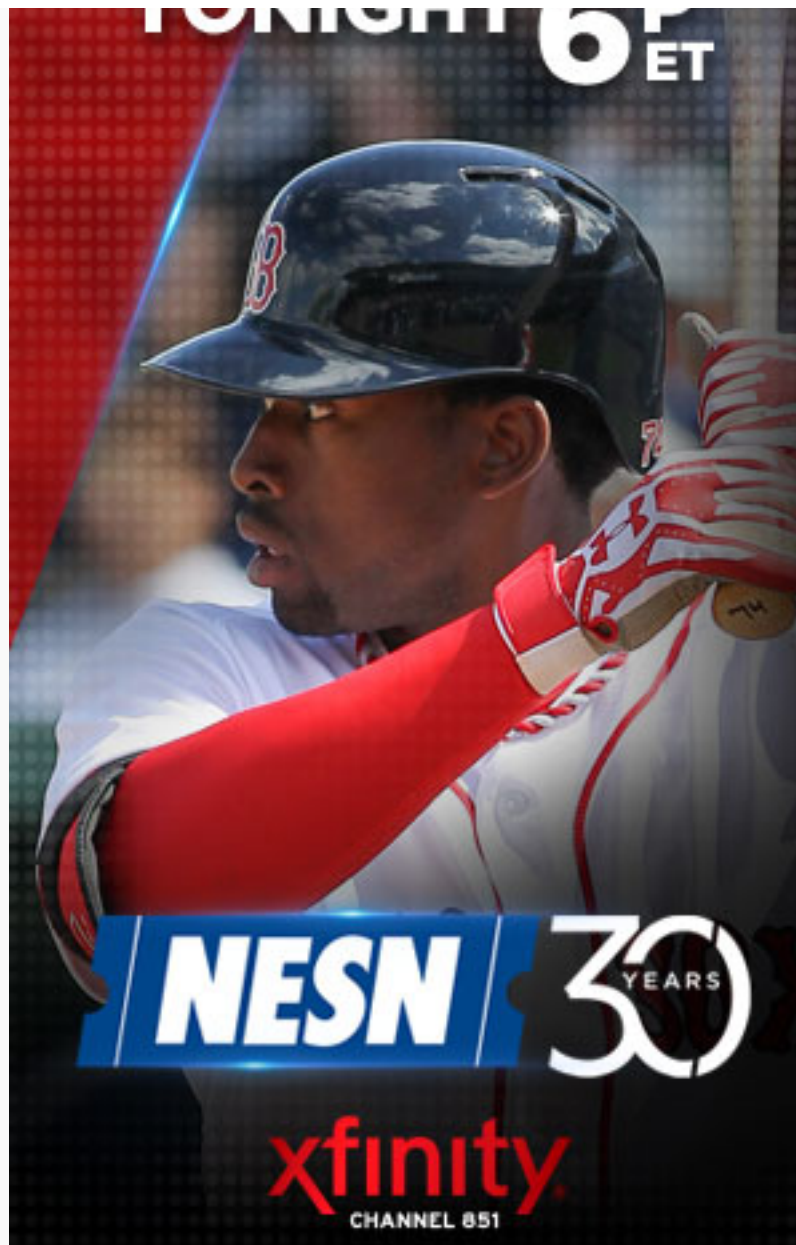
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