

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

As Urban Renewal meetings begin, advocates surprised by talk of extensions

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will be coming out to the neighborhoods, including the South End, Back Bay and Fenway, in the coming months to discuss its recent efforts under Urban Renewal and the possibility of expanding boundaries and extending time periods.

City Councilors and BPDA officials met on Friday morning, May 10, at City Hall for the bi-annual

briefing on Urban Renewal following the six-year time extension granted in 2016 by the Council. As part of that extension, the BPDA has to submit a recommendation to the state by August about what it intends to do when that extension runs out – an action plan – and it also had to inventory all of the properties it owns and Land Disposition Agreements (LDAs) that are in place on private and public properties across the 16 Urban Renewal Areas. With those

tasks now accomplished, and a report due to the state by August, the BPDA is ready to take the show on the road.

The South End, Fenway and Park Plaza are three of 16 Urban Renewal areas across the city christened in the 1960s, and they contain some of the largest swaths of Urban Renewal territory in Boston.

BPDA staffers Chris Breen and Devin Quirk will be heading up the effort citywide, and both told Councilor Michelle Wu and District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn they plan to go out to the communities to talk about future plans immediately.

“I’ll be putting together a presentation and be going out to all 16 Urban Renewal areas across the City,” said Breen. “I plan to have 16 community meetings...The community engagement will large- (URBAN RENEWAL, Pg. 3)

BFIT graduation an inspiring morning for students, faculty and neighborhood

By Seth Daniel

There is one key fact that one must realize when taking in the graduation at the South End’s Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) – and that fact is that most every student walking across the stage is the first in his or her family to do so.

This Saturday, 149 students will graduate from 111th class in the BFIT’s auditorium at the South End campus, with all of them having inspiring stories that include completely changing the trajectory

of their lives and their family’s lives.

No one more resembles that than Regis Lino-Kelly – who will graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering technology. Lino-Kelly will be the student speaker – standing alongside new Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who is the keynote speaker.

According to BFIT staffers, Lino-Kelly showed up with a purpose when he arrived on campus in 2014. Now, having been already hired by the 3M company in Rock-

(GRADUATION, Pg. 3)

CLUB ¡TROPICALIENTE! AT HURLEY



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Alora Frederick and Reggie Orozco dancing salsa during the Hurley K-8 School’s 11th annual Tropicaliente! Fundraiser on Friday, May 10. The annual fundraiser drew scores of parents and community members to the Benjamin Franklin Institute for a night of dancing and fun. More photos on Page 4.

SPOTLIGHT SPECTACULAR GALA



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Accordianist Patrick Farrell performs not just at the Spotlight Spectacular Gala, but also in the Huntington Theatre’s production “Indecent.” It was just some of the fun during the Theatre’s annual gala at the South End’s Calderwood Pavilion on May 6. The gala brought in a record \$1.3 million in fundraising. See more photos on Page 11.

Conservancy calls for Shattuck Hospital site to return to open space

By Seth Daniel

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has tossed a curveball into the Shattuck Hospital planning process, calling for the entirety of the hospital campus to be returned as open space – a proposal that has riled many in the South End who

had been promised that some relief would come in relocation of services to the Shattuck site.

Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek said the planning process has not gone as her organization expected, has not been transparent, and they would like to see the public health uses relocated to the Arborway Yard – an

underutilized MBTA bus yard about a half-mile from the Shattuck site in Jamaica Plain.

“We’re glad there is a public conversation about planning the site,” she said. “However, we think there should be some real conversation about what happened in

(SHATTUCK HOSPITAL, Pg. 10)

Jennifer Nassour enters race for District 8

By Lauren Bennett

Back Bay’s Jennifer Nassour has joined the cramped race for District 8 City Council. Originally from New York, Nassour moved to Boston in 2000 and has lived in the Back Bay for eight years, where she is raising three daughters.

Nassour’s background is deeply rooted in politics—she became involved when she was 19 years old working at her local village hall getting signatures. When she went to college, she said she decided to change her major from biology to political science. From there, she worked in a whole host of political jobs, ranging from



Jennifer Nassour.

the state senator’s office to being the Young Republican Chair in Nassau County, N.Y. She decided

to go to law school, and currently works as a general practice lawyer.

After she moved to Massachusetts, she worked in the Worcester DA’s office, as well as for former Gov. Jane Swift. She also worked for several different law firms, as well as chaired the Massachusetts Republican Party. Nassour said that she felt that women were not engaged enough in the political conversation, so she started an organization that aimed to recruit more moderate women to run for office. She said that she was recruited to be the CEO of a nationwide nonpartisan polit-

(NASSOUR, Pg. 10)

EDITORIAL

ANTI-VACCINE HYSTERIA PUTS ALL OF US AT RISK

The recent outbreak of measles in the United States is cause for concern for every American.

First and foremost, measles is a highly-contagious disease that places at risk anyone who is in the vicinity of someone who is infected with measles, whether it be on a plane, a ship, or the person standing next to you in line at the store.

Second, measles is a disease that can have severe complications for those who contract it, especially the very young, the elderly, and pregnant women. Though measles can lead to death in rare cases, there are many more complications, ranging from flu-like symptoms to encephalitis (the swelling of the brain) that can cause life-long cognitive and physical defects.

Third, the recent outbreak shows how dangerous our society can become for all of us when a small minority decides, for reasons ranging from religious beliefs to quack science, that they are not going to accept vaccinations for their children.

Vaccinations for smallpox, polio, measles, and other contagious diseases are the single-most significant reason why life expectancy in the developed world has increased exponentially in the past 100 years, even though rates of death from heart disease and cancer have remained roughly the same.

The spread of misinformation over the Internet about the safety, reliability, and efficacy of vaccines is yet another example of how viral misinformation via social media is damaging our society.

Measles was declared eradicated in this country in 2000. Hopefully, our public health officials will address the situation swiftly, not only to eliminate the threat of measles itself, but also to ensure that the anti-vaccine contagion does not spread to other diseases that can have serious consequences for all of us.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY, STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

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GUEST OP-ED

How We're Investing in Back Bay

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Every spring, we release our Capital Investment Plan which funds the critical improvements to our infrastructure and facilities in Boston over a five-year period. It is a reflection of our priorities, and is guided by the voices of over 15,000 residents who offered input for our citywide plan, Imagine Boston 2030. Our Capital Plan funds the essentials of community life, such as our schools, streets, libraries, and parks, including climate and resilience projects. It's a commitment to all those who call Boston home and to our future generations.

Here in Back Bay, we're making investments across a wide range of projects, including parks and open space, streets and transportation, our schools' infrastructure, and our delivery of City services.

We'll finish the \$18.3 million Massachusetts Avenue bridge over Commonwealth Avenue project. We believe that funding infrastructure and transportation efforts is crucial in order to make navigating Boston safe, reliable, and equitable.

In addition to the Mass Ave

bridge, we've also devoted \$12.6 million towards designing and renovating the Dalton Street bridge to extend its life in order to support the transportation needs in and around Boylston Street. Also, we're investing \$3.8 million in reconstructing the sidewalks on Boylston Street. The next phase will be on the north side of the block from Exeter to Fairfield Street.

We believe that funding accessible community spaces is critical in keeping Boston not only a beautiful city, but also an open and welcoming one. That's why we're allocating \$1.5 million to upgrade the play equipment at Clarendon Street playground for families to enjoy. We're also redesigning Copley Square Park with a \$500,000 budget in order to optimize its resiliency to high-traffic events and storm water. We hope residents can continue to utilize these spaces in years ahead.

We've also funded a number of longer-term projects designed to create growth and opportunity in each neighborhood for the coming years.

With an eye towards the future and our city's response to climate change, we're planning to assess and develop a plan for resiliency

with our Climate Ready Boston Harbor Study. This will examine possible measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce vulnerability of coastal flooding due to sea level rise.

With this Capital Plan, we're investing heavily in high-quality facilities and infrastructure improvements to better serve residents. We've put \$2 million towards replacing the roof at Snowden International School, as well as another \$435,000 for renovations to an existing staff restroom at our Central Library's Johnson Building.

Now that we've submitted Boston's budget, where do we go from here? First, to the City Council, where it will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. After it's gone through that process and secured approval, it will go into effect, starting in July 2020 and running throughout the next 12 months. We hope you will continue to provide your valuable input on what we as a city can do to raise up your community. If you'd like to learn more about the Capital Plan and how this budget was created, please go to budget.boston.gov.

URBAN RENEWAL (from pg. 1)

ly be taking place in three phases... We are the city we are because of Urban Renewal and I'm trying to go out to all 16 areas. I don't know if that's been done ever."

The South End and Fenway would not be in the first phase of the meetings, Breen said, but Park Plaza would be. In fact, the South End – one of the largest and most complicated Urban Renewal areas – would be lumped in with Charlestown, Government Center, Washington Park and the West End at the end of the process.

Quirk said they will be looking to accomplish several things, including a background on Urban Renewal, an action plan, a review of the Land Disposition Agreements (LDAs) in a particular area, and proposed boundary changes or any extension or sunset of a particular area.

The tenor of the discussion was a shock to several advocates in the audience.

Most said they had expected the Urban Renewal conversations to be about how to end the process – to sunset virtually every district.

"The elephant in the room here is that the Urban Renewal zones are edifications of the late 1950s and early 1960s and were never intended to last this long," said Fred Cavalieri, chair of the Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations (ADCO). "The last 10-year renewal, which became a six-year renewal because it was the first time there was push back...I feel a lot of the process here is intended to memorialize these Urban Renewal Zones and not get rid of them...Our associations want

a sunset on these areas, including West End, North Station, South Station, Park Plaza, South Cove, South End and Fenway. We want them gone. We see there is no need for them. If we need to transfer LDAs, let's do that. I don't want to get rid of the BRA; I want the BRA to move forward, not backward."

Elliott Laffer, of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said he was surprised there wasn't more discussion of sunsetting the areas.

"This is a tool that was misused at its birth and most things misused at birth don't get better," he said. "We need to clean up the debris and get rid of them. We need the City's planning agency to think about planning."

Rich Giordano, executive director of the Fenway CDC, was likewise thrown for a loop with the discussion of possibly extending the time and boundaries for Urban Renewal.

"I mistakenly thought the focus of this process was how to end Urban Renewal processes, not to extend them," he said. "To learn that we could come out of this with an extension is pretty surprising... We don't need Urban Renewal. In my view, the development we're getting is not the development we need. We can reverse that if we plan better."

In the South End, Fenway and Park Plaza, an end to Urban Renewal was seen as a near certain thing after the six-year extension in 2016. However, much of the discussion at Friday's meeting centered on some of the risks that



The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is gearing up to talk about their action plan going forward for Urban Renewal across the City. Meetings in some parts of the city will begin immediately. On Friday, May 10, Councilor Michelle Wu and Councillor Ed Flynn held a meeting to go over the next steps in Urban Renewal.

could be involved in sunsetting an area, and very little was talked about in relation to how a zone as big as the South End would be closed out.

"In different Urban Renewal areas there are different types of Land Use agreements," said Quirk. "We would want to discuss the risks of what sunsetting Urban Renewal would mean for those agreements."

In most of the downtown neighborhood areas, a major concern was the inventory of property and LDAs. Over the past two years, Breen

and other BPDA staffers have been poring through old records and Registry documents to catalog electronically all of the agreements that were put on properties during the early Urban Renewal periods. Many people and organizations own land with Urban Renewal LDAs in effect and don't even know it. Any meetings in the South End would likely be focused on rolling out all of those LDAs that have been found in the two-year inventory process.

Wu and Flynn did have some concerns about the timing of the community meetings, saying that it didn't make sense to make a progress report to the state before finishing up community meetings in places like Charlestown.

"It seems like this would take a lot more time and you should start earlier," said Wu. "I don't think enough time has been allocated to go property by property in a place like the South End."

Councilor Flynn said Urban Renewal is a powerful tool, and it has been abused in the past, and that story must be told, he said, along with the positive things that have been done.

"In the end, I always think of my friend Jim Campano of the West End and the residents of the West End that were pushed out of the city by Urban Renewal," he said. "That's where I'm coming from... People who were displaced even as kids at the age of 3 – that stays with them all their lives. We need to always remember that we're talking about people when we make decisions. We have to treat

everyone fairly and with respect."

Said Breen, who lives in Charlestown, "My grandfather was actually displaced by Urban Renewal and my mother, too. I've heard the stories all my life and understand the pain. When I came to work at the BPDA, my whole family asked me why I would do that. I came to work here because the people on the ninth floor now are not the people who were on the 9th floor then. Now they are there to protect the residents and the elderly and try to do what's best for them."

Quirk said the BPDA will approach this next round of Urban Renewal processes in a fair and just way.

"We're not in it for the money for the community good," he said. "I'm going to listen and go back and report what I've learned at every single meeting. We're going to think it through – the City, the (state), and the community and do what's right."

Meetings on Urban Renewal in the South End aren't likely to come until the late fall. In the Fenway, those meetings could come some time in September. The BPDA officials said that after they present their Phase 1 report (which will encompass Brunswick-King, Park Plaza, Kittredge Square, North Station, Central Business District and Boylston-Essex), they will have a solid timeline for making final recommendations, which are likely to come out in spring 2020.

Phase 2 meetings would include Campus High School, South Station, South Cove, Fenway and Downtown/Waterfront/Faneuil Hall.

GRADUATION (from pg. 1)

land, he is ready to embark on that purpose – which first and foremost is buying a home for he and his family.

"My goal is to purchase a home for my family in the next year or two," he said. "Preferably, we'll buy in Boston. I want our family to have somewhere stable that we can call our own. I think that should be everyone's goal to have a property they can call their own."

Shawn Ayala, director of Student Success at BFIT and the advisor to Lino-Kelly, said he has been very inspired by the young man.

"Regis is an awesome guy, but really, he is a perfect example of how BFIT transforms students' lives," he said. "Regis is a first generation college student. These students overcome so much adversity but are able to enroll and break barriers and graduate. That degree allows them to change their lives and the lives of their family and set them up for a new trajectory in life.



Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) in the South End will graduate 149 students on Saturday, May 18, on their campus – with keynote speaker Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Regis Lino-Kelly, pictured here with his advisor Shawn Ayala, will be the student speaker.

Regis is one example of so many of our students. They fight through it because they know it will change

their lives."

Lino-Kelly – who is the son of Justo Lino and Norda Kelly – said

he has wanted to be a mechanical engineer since he was very little, having been inspired by the super-

hero Iron Man.

"I've always been interested in mechanical engineering since I was a little kid," he said. "One of my favorite shows and superheroes was Iron Man. He was a mechanical engineer and an engineer all around. That really attracted me. I looked it up and after that day I always wanted to be an engineer."

Now, having put the books away, Lino-Kelly will celebrate his final day in school on Saturday, and then report to work. There, he said he will fix machines when the break, and try to anticipate weak points in the machines before they break.

"It takes a lot of thinking ahead and planning," he said.

That seems to be something he has a good grip on already.

BFIT is one of New England's oldest colleges of technology, started with a bequest from Benjamin Franklin and a gift from Andrew Carnegie.

11TH ANNUAL CLUB ¡TROPICALIENTE! AT THE HURLEY SCHOOL

Photos by Mike Mejia

Neighborhood Parents for the Hurley School hosted the 11th annual Club ¡TropiCaliente! on Friday, May 10. Parents, community members, and volunteers enjoyed a night of music and dancing in a retro-Latin nightclub themed event. Partygoers enjoyed delicious Latin-inspired food donated by local restaurants Masa, El Centro, and One Mighty Mill. The Hurley K-8 public school is a Spanish-English immersion school located in Boston's South End, which serves about 350 students. The Hurley parents raise over \$100,000 a year from the community through events like these.



Edverette Brewster and Natalya Faison dressed for the occasion with floral pattern attire.



Principal Marjorie Soto celebrating the work of teachers at the Hurley School.

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Nicole, Isabell, and Stacey.



Neighborhood Parents for the Hurley School (NPHS) President Alicia Erickson, and Vice President Jennifer Anderson. NPHS is a non-profit organization that acts as the development arm of the Hurley School.



Teachers Karen Gonzalez and Ivanelis Hernandez.



Michele Zuccala and Audrey Azzoto.



First-grade teacher Ana Soto and her mother, Laura Viquez. Ms. Soto said, "Children are the future." She is passionate about inspiring and motivating her students.



Brian Gaines and his wife, Paola Cruz. Mr. Gaines teaches Grades 3-6 at the Hurley School.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Ubaldino, Alena S	Witt, Shawn M	136 Arlington St #2	\$499,000
105 Back Bay Unit 4 LLC	Thomas&Lisa Hedger FT	105 Beacon St #4	\$610,000
Leung, Anthony C	192 Beacon NT	192 Beacon St #BSMT	\$1,185,000
Wang, Tzu-Yin	Kern, Daniel	195 Beacon St #8	\$565,000
Hegarty, Michael	Champion, Laurie S	200-202 Beacon St #3	\$970,000
Rupp, Cynthia	Ojengbede, Aderinola	234 Beacon St #1A	\$1,065,000
Bowen, Kerri	236 Beacon Street NT	236 Beacon St #2E	\$1,825,000
Wang, Zheng J	Oneil, John M	333 Beacon St #4	\$1,468,000
Grainger, Julianne E	Krantz, Patricia E	280 Commonwealth Ave #301	\$1,385,000
Simpkins, Greer	Obrien, Marianna M	90 Commonwealth Ave #8	\$1,245,000
Zhang, Rui N	Marlboro Ezeter LLC	11 Exeter St #4	\$1,600,000
Sergici, Asri O	Magee, Bernard D	227 Marlborough St #3	\$595,000
Nguyen, Tri	Zhao, Xiao M	38-40 Saint Botolph St #22	\$515,000
Kearney, Michael K	Hoffmann, Udo	347 Marlborough St #3	\$2,500,000
BEACON HILL			
Whitten, Simon P	Adam, Alastair	9 Chestnut St	\$5,750,000
Bousquet, Candice M	Fuller, Dale W	35-37 Garden St #9	\$565,000
Ridgeway RT	Jafry, Syed	30 Hancock St #M	\$1,525,000
Patton, Ryan R	Difonzo, John	140 Mount Vernon St #6	\$1,560,000
Sharon R Paul 2015 RET	Walnut Willow LLC	82 Mount Vernon St #2	\$5,500,000
Knopf, Claude	Cockrell, Bryan K	88 Myrtle St	\$2,950,000
Hessler, John C	Laperle, George M	112 Pinckney St #42	\$1,010,000
Poon FT	Mckallagat, Greg P	80 Revere St #7	\$535,000
Zhao, Claire Y	Sylvia A Blumenthal	8 Whittier Pl #9A	\$565,000
SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE			
Paszczkowski, Joseph L	Shontz, Larry	14 Concord Sq #2	\$760,000
Weaver, Michael K	36 Dwight Street LLC	36 Dwight St #2	\$3,300,000
Tzigantcheva, Adriana D	Hanover Court LLC	36 E Newton St #5	\$520,000
Limerick, Nicholas J	55 E Springfield LLC	55 E Springfield St #2	\$760,000
Jones, Samuel	9 East Springfield St	7 E Springfield St #3A	\$1,100,000
Harford, Simon	Slusarz, Jonathan	35 Fay St #301	\$779,000
Cockrell, Bryan K	Wu, Tianhao	735 Harrison Ave #W105	\$958,000
Arfaian, Ardeshir	Su, Longcheng	530 Massachusetts Ave #4	\$990,000
Dys LLC	670 Mass Ave LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave #1	\$2,396,000
Dys LLC	670 Mass Ave LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave #2	\$2,396,000
Dys LLC	670 Mass Ave LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$2,396,000
Dys LLC	670 Mass Ave LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave #4	\$2,396,000
Dys LLC	670 Mass Ave LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave #5	\$2,396,000
Firestone, William	Hardiman, Sean O	23 Milford St #2	\$1,430,000
Molgaard, Erin N	121 Portland LLC	121-127 Portland St #208	\$745,000
Chi, Hongbin	Carla R Volturo RET	60 Queensberry St #16	\$638,000
Nutt, Jeanne M	320 Shawmut Ave LLC	320 Shawmut Ave #3	\$899,000
Li, Siyun	Siena Ink Block LLC	40 Traveler St #602	\$1,150,000
Ovalle, Alberto	Straw Jeffrey S Est	233 W Canton St #3	\$385,000
Lin, Clark Y	Nicholas G Tagaris IRT	192 W Springfield St #3	\$1,420,000
Bearce, Hannah T	Mokrisky, Joseph M	15 Waltham St #B106	\$421,000
Parseghian, Reen S	Barlow, Joshua	1411 Washington St #12	\$632,000
Ovalle, Alberto	Straw Jeffrey S Est	233 W Canton St #3	\$385,000
Liu, Yingnan	Leonard, Jennifer M	13 Albemarle St #2	\$750,000
Zhang, Yan	Zywina, Dariusz	188 Brookline Ave #23F	\$1,035,000
Song, Wenjing	Point Condo LLC	188 Brookline Ave #25A	\$2,600,000
Terrell, Kathryn M	Zhou, Xu	234 Causeway St #701	\$915,000
Magill, Keith	Gaffney, Timothy J	4 Charlesgate E #703	\$694,000

Devonia Antiques helps revive treasured pieces

By Marianne Salza

Hundred-year-old heirlooms are prone to scratches and tarnish.

A chair may need tightening and reupholstering; and delicate stemware might be chipped.

Appraiser Lori Hedtler, owner of Devonia Antiques, has been collaborating with Trefler's restoration company to revive treasured pieces since she has been in business.

"A lot of times, antiques are such high quality that you want to invest in keeping them that way," said Hedtler, whose boutique has been located on Charles Street for 20 years. "One of the great resources that we have in our backyard is Trefler's restoration studio. They started in Beacon Hill 97 years ago."

Family owned since 1921, the skilled artisans of Trefler's conserve paintings, ceramics, and textiles. Hedtler encourages customers to contact her for a convenient consultation with a Trefler's professional at Devonia Antiques.

"They restore everything, from repairing a candelabra to polishing silver," boasted Hedtler. "They restored a table split in two. Somebody just brought in a book: a first edition Huckleberry Finn. I can't tell you how many of my glasses have gone to them with nicks. They can hand-paint to match porcelain."

Hedtler specializes in early 20th Century American, English, and European glass stemware and porcelain dishes. Her shop on the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets is stocked with a wide selection of Venetian and Continental glass, candlesticks, and platters.

"This shop is small, but powerful," declared Hedtler, who will search through a thousand items before choosing a set to display in her gallery. "We keep a well-edited, curated collection on our shelves."

Hedtler loves mixing antiques with modern pieces, visiting estate



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEVONIA ANTIQUES

Lori Hedtler, owner of Devonia Antiques, loves blending antique and modern dishes and stemware. In this place setting, Hedtler mixes 140-year-old porcelain plates with new linens and royal blue drinking glasses.

sales and working with dealers and traders around the country to compile her sets. She believes that blending antiques with modern accents brings soul to the dining experience.

"We do antiques for today's table," explained Hedtler, who formerly worked as a hotel manager in Denver before opening Devonia Antiques.

Hedtler grew up in Newton, and remembers her father bringing home bags of shiny silver that he collected in addition to American coins. Her mother had an appreciation for antiques as well, matching discontinued China patterns. Hedtler's parents also partnered with Trefler's.

"The restoration studio and the antiques have synergy. It's important to preserve and protect," emphasized Hedtler. Trefler's is "the largest, full-service studio in the United States. There's nothing like them anywhere."

Visit Devonia Antiques at 15 Charles Street, Beacon Hill, or contact Lori Hedtler at (617) 523-8313, and DevoniaAntiques@aol.com for a free estimate on an item.

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COMPASS

FRIENDS OF THE BLACKSTONE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The Friends of Blackstone School held its second annual Spring Fundraiser on Tuesday, May 7, at Stella Restaurant in the South End. Parents and members of the community joined faculty and staff to fundraise for programs and initiatives that directly serve students and families of the Blackstone School. Located in Boston's South End, the Blackstone Innovation School serves nearly 600 children in Pre-K through grade 5.



Boston City Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George addressing attendees at the fundraiser. Prior to joining the City Council, Essaibi-George taught juniors and seniors at East Boston High School for 13 years.



Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Bill Wolff, president of the Board of Directors, and Mike McDermott, member of the Board of Directors.



John Cappellano, Julie Cappellano, mother of kindergarten student at Blackstone School, and Norah Cappellano.



Blackstone teachers Crystal Collier, Alex Sullivan, Melanie McDermott, and Blackstone School Counselor Maria Burke.



John Chambers and Wes Narron.



Kashine Dolan and Steve Jenks.



Rep. Jon Santiago and Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz.



Blackstone School Principal Jamel Adkins-Sharif, left, addressing attendees at the fundraiser.

 **Public Meeting**

201 Stuart Street - Motor Mart Garage

Tuesday, May 28
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

200 Stuart Street
Revere Hotel
Boston, MA 02116

Project Proponent:
201 Stuart Street Owner, LLC and Boston Global Investors

Project Description:
201 Stuart Street Owner, LLC, an affiliate of CIM Group LLC, together with its development partner Boston Global Investors, LLC, proposes to redevelop the existing eight-story, Motor Mart Garage into a vibrant, mixed-use building by adding basement level retail space, reducing parking, and constructing new residential apartments within the western portion of the existing building, and constructing new residential apartments and condominiums within a 20-story residential tower rising out of the existing building.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4280
email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
06/07/2019

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Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

Two projects return before BBAC; receive approval

By Lauren Bennett

A couple of projects came back to the Back Bay Architectural Commission on May 8 with new proposals, after being asked to make changes. The first was the forthcoming Chick-fil-A restaurant at 569 Boylston St., represented by architect Jeremy Lindsey. At a previous hearing, the Commission was not happy with the proposed signage or the roof plan. At the hearing on May 8, Lindsey proposed a new sign that had a tan background instead of a stark white one in order to better fit within the historical district. "The finish as shown is a pretty typical stucco finish," he said, and the sign has some internal-lit components with a metal surround.

Lindsey said there were two options for a new roof plan, but the Commission said they prefer if an extended parapet would be used to shield the equipment from view, as it would blend in better. Commissioner Robert Weintraub said that the parapet "should be a color that blends in and fades into the background," not a darker color that draws the eye to the roof line. "I would agree," said Commissioner John Christiansen. The Commission voted to approve the application with the proviso that the extended parapet option is used for shielding the mechanical equipment, rather than the other proposed screening option.

At 237 Newbury St., the site of Serafina restaurant, architect Ryan Noone returned before the Commission to present the proposal for the restaurant's patio area. There are two upper patios, which Noone called Upper Patio A and Upper Patio B. Upper Patio A, Noone said, is only to be used by the restaurant when the Safar salon is not in business, which is usually evenings and Sundays. Upper Patio A has ten proposed seats around round tables. Upper Patio B would have 30 seats around round tables

with four proposed umbrellas. Under these patios are storage areas where the furniture would be stored when not in use, Noone said.

The Commission seemed a little concerned about how cramped the seating areas looked, but Noone said that both the Inspectional Services Department and the Fire Department approved the restaurant for 69 people on the patios. Noone pointed out that he was proposing less seats than that, but did say that this particular diagram of the seats has not yet been shown to the Fire Department.

"I think we can set that aside and let's just concentrate on the design," Weintraub said.

Noone also talked about the lower patio, where he proposed a bench, four tables with three seats and one table with two seats, as well as planters underneath an overhang that would serve as a buffer so people wouldn't be able to sit. All umbrellas are 7.5 feet wide and 7 feet tall with no writing on them. The previously proposed ones were orange and had writing, but after meeting with the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB), those changes were made.

"I'm very pleased to see the changes you've made since our meeting," said Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. The speakers that were previously installed have also since been removed at the request of the neighborhood.

Christiansen was very displeased with the proposed table that would sit in front of the stairway to the Safar salon. "For me to vote for it, I'd like to see that one table taken out," he said.

The Commission ultimately voted to approve the application as submitted, provided that the applicant follow all health and fire code regulations and that the current planters are modified to fit within the property line.

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NEWS BRIEFS

DAVIS COMPANIES LOOK AT JUNE GROUNDBREAKING

Demolition has begun on the Davis Companies project at the corner of Herald and Shawmut in the New York Streets area. The large residential project will be fully under construction this summer. Officials said to look for an official groundbreaking in mid-June.

BCA GARDEN TO GET REVAMP

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) Director Greg Ruffer said he and Banyan owner Rebecca Roth Gullo are working on a revamp of the BCA garden, which hosts open space, plantings and an outdoor seating area for the restaurant.

"The garden has had its ups and

downs and this year we're working with a landscape architect that will ramp up and re-think the garden," he said. "That will be phase one of a new reconfiguration of our garden on the plaza."

URBAN GARDEN CONTEST

Mayor Martin Walsh this week announced the Boston is seeking proposals for creative installations and events at three community gardens as part of the Community Grown program, a three year-partnership between the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, The Trustees, and TD Bank. Now in its second year, the program is seeking ideas for innovative design installations at the Joe Ciampa Community Garden in East Boston, the Berkeley Community Garden in the South End, and the Fen-

way Victory Gardens that support the gardens' role in strengthening social connections and creating welcoming spaces. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals by 9 a.m. on May 20.

"Community gardens bring families, friends and communities together, creating stronger connections in neighborhoods throughout our city," said Mayor Walsh. "Through this partnership, Boston's green spaces will continue to welcome visitors and provide a free, welcoming space to all across Boston."

DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE DEBATE

On Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m., Berklee College (160 Massachusetts Ave.), there will be a

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 10)

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ANNUAL DUCKLING DAY ON THE BOSTON COMMON

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

A beloved Mother's Day tradition for more than 30 years, the annual Duckling Day was a celebration of all things fluffy, feathered, yellow, and cute. Participants got to enjoy some playtime activi-

ties, a marching band, and a magic show on Boston Common, then a parade leading to the Public Garden, where Mr. and Mrs. Mallard made their home in Make Way For Ducklings.

It was quack-tastic!



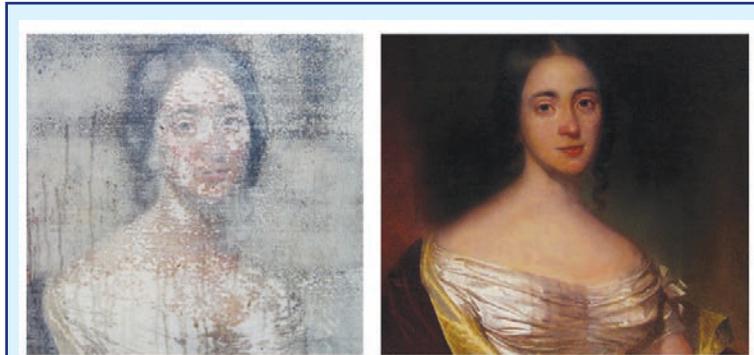
The Duckling Parade makes its way around Boston Common.



Sachin Shahn (right) has a moment with his own little 4-month-old Duckling, Zaiden.



Landon Armata is dressed for the occasion of Duckling Day.



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A flautist with the Harvard University Band, who provided music for the prestigious if not soggy day, adorned her instrument with a duckling of her own.

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ANNUAL DUCKLING DAY ON THE BOSTON COMMON



Duckling Day legend Peter O'Malley performs to an impressive duckling crowd.



Jonathan Krygowski as Officer Clancy with his own row of ducklings to tow helps rally the crowd for the Duckling Parade to begin.



Shown above, Cynthia Giacchino helps get her own little duckling, Olivia, into a quacky mood. Pictured to the right, Joe Nash brought his son, Will, as a different kind of duck that you'd be more likely to find in Orlando than in Boston.



BHNS Summer Program
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NASSOUR (from pg. 1)

ical coalition that has the same mission—getting more women in office.

Nassour said that when she heard that Josh Zakim would not be seeking re-election, she first asked her daughters what they thought about her running for City Council, and then turned to her friends and neighbors for advice. She said she feels that it is important to have someone who is living in the neighborhoods, raising kids here, and “isn’t leaving anytime soon.”

“These are the issues we deal with everyday,” Nassour said. Her three school-age daughters are not Boston Public School students because there are no close schools for them in her neighborhood, Nassour said, so she felt it was best to send them to independent school.

“There are no real neighborhood schools in the district; nothing close by,” Nassour said. She said that quality public schools are on her list of important issues. Public safety is also on the list—“making sure that our streets are safe, that the homelessness and drug addiction issues are being focused on,” she said. She said that the issue of traffic is not foreign to any neighborhood in the city, and that is something that needs to be addressed as well. She believes that the City Council needs “someone who is listening to the residents and what’s important

in their neighborhoods.”

Nassour said she’s been out talking to the community about the issues that matter to them. “Everyone has something a little bit different,” she said. In Beacon Hill, she said people have complained about the trash that doesn’t necessarily get picked up right away. “It gets picked through and tourists throw their trash on neighbor’s trash, promoting rats,” she said. In the Back Bay, she said she noticed that people were concerned about cars speeding up and down the roads, so they would need things like speed bumps and “figuring out a way to help traffic.” People are also concerned about needles in open space and Nassour strongly believes that is something that needs to be addressed.

“No issue is too big or too small,” Nassour said. She said that her resume and years of experience set her apart from the other candidates. “I have had years and years of experience working in a legislative capacity, running nonprofits, sat on numerous boards,” she said, adding that she’s also been able to view and participate in the budgeting process as well.

As an “invested parent in the city,” Nassour said she wants her kids to be able to come back to the city run the future to a “hospitable and affordable place for them to come to,” and she wants to be part of making that a possibility.

NEWS BRIEFS

from Page 7

District 8 candidate debate. Join the Boston Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees, Fenway CDC, Fenway Civic Association, Greater Boston Young Democrats, and MassVOTE for a community conversation with the Boston City Council District 8 candidates. Margaret McKenna, President Emeritus of Lesley University and a civic and philanthropic leader in Boston, will be moderating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at bit.ly/BostonD8Forum.

MAYOR’S COFFEE HOURS

Mayor Martin Walsh announced his Coffee Hours for the coming spring and summer months. All Coffee Hours run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, May 23, Back Bay, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, 15P Commonwealth Ave.

Participants will enjoy coffee and breakfast treats provided by Dunkin’ Donuts and fresh fruit from Star Market. In addition, each family in attendance will receive a flowering plant grown in the city’s greenhouses as a gift

from Mayor Walsh. Residents at the event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin’ Donuts. Information will be available on City programs from the Boston Public Library, Boston Public Schools, Boston Police Department, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

RED SOX HOME GAMES

The Red Sox kicked off the home season this month. Other upcoming home games include:

5/17 vs. Houston Astros at 7:10pm

5/18 vs. Houston Astros at 7:15pm

5/19 vs. Houston Astros at 1:05pm

5/27 vs. Cleveland Indians at 4:05pm

5/28 vs. Cleveland Indians at 7:10

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

- SAVE THE DATE: A NABB Homelessness Forum will take place on June 17 at 6 p.m. The discussion will focus on homelessness and how it affects the Back Bay and many neighborhoods in the city.

SOUTH END DATES

- The South End Forum cancelled its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, May 7, but will be back in action on June 4. The agenda will include a discussion by New Boston Ventures for the USES redevelopment; as well as a discussion for the proposed Concord Square development.

- The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will meet on May 21 in Project Place, 6:30 p.m. On the docket is State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz with a legislative update. There will also be an update from the Davis Companies on their construction schedule for Shawmut Avenue.

- The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association will have its next General Meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the D-4 Police Station. State Rep. Jon Santiago will be joining neighbors for the meeting to hear concerns and feedback. The annual elections will also take place at the meeting. Those interested in running for a seat on the board have

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 15)

Annisssa Essaibi George Endorses Kenzie Bok for Boston City Council

At-large Boston City Councilor Annisssa Essaibi-George today endorsed Kenzie Bok, to be the next city councilor representing the District 8 neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, Kenmore, Audubon Circle, Mission Hill, and the West End.

Kenzie’s first citywide endorsement testifies to her deep understanding of how the policies Boston needs to care for its great urban neighborhoods, keep families and seniors in the city, and provide excellent public education are all interlocked with the details of city budgeting and resource management.

“In 2016, I asked Kenzie to serve as my budget director, because I admired her passion for this work, her intelligent grasp on policy, and her commitment to serving her community. Now, as I proudly endorse her candidacy for District 8 City Council, I know that those traits, combined with her years of experience, make her the best possible person for the job,” Essaibi-George said. “Kenzie will be an amazing City Councilor and I look forward to working with her again on behalf of the people of Boston

— as we tackle important issues like housing affordability, ensuring every child in Boston has a quality education, and stewarding the fiscal health of our City’s government.”

Bok served as budget director for the Essaibi-George in 2016, where she established a framework for analyzing the whole city budget and focused particularly on the policy work behind Essaibi-George’s advocacy for impactful increases in critical support staff like nurses, psychologists, and librarians across the Boston Public Schools. Since then, Bok has served as the Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning at the Boston Housing Authority.

“In her time at the Boston Housing Authority, Kenzie has been a great ally in my work on behalf of homeless families,” Essaibi-George continued. “She has earned my support because she has the policy experience, the work ethic, and the heart to be a great Councilor for District 8.”

“Annisssa is a tireless advocate for Boston’s families, a leader on education and homelessness issues, and a model of the passion and energy you need to be an effective

City Councilor,” said Bok. “I loved working as her budget director to manage the City’s financial resources while prioritizing the needs of Boston’s families, and I look forward to collaborating with her again on the City Council.”

Councilor Essaibi-George will join Kenzie this Saturday, May 18 at noon on Beacon Hill to lead a canvass, where neighborhood supporters will champion Kenzie’s ideas for the district. The event will kick off at the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets with remarks from the Councilor. Those who wish to learn more and sign up can email the campaign at: info@kenziebok.com.

Bok’s campaign shows significant momentum. More than 150 people attended her kickoff event in April in the Back Bay, and nearly thirty volunteers brought her message to Mission Hill residents in early May. In less than a week, her friends and family gathered enough signatures from their neighbors across the district to put her name officially on the ballot. The campaign has raised more than \$50,000 since Bok declared her candidacy on March 29th.





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THE HUNTINGTON THEATRE HOLDS ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT SPECTACULAR GALA

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Huntington Theatre Company held its annual Spotlight Spectacular Gala at the Cyclorama on Monday, May 6. It was an evening to celebrate the 36 years of the theatre group and their dedication to bringing excellence to the dramatic arts in Boston.

Huntington Theatre Company board and staff reported they broke their fundraising record at this year's Spotlight Spectacular, with the gala bringing in \$1.3 million to support the Huntington's operations for the fiscal year, including its broad range of education and community outreach programs.

More than 440 guests honored Wimberly Award recipients, including the Huntington's Norma Jean Calderwood Artistic Director Peter DuBois, Board Chairman David Epstein and Education Committee Chair Betsy Banks Epstein. The event was co-chaired by Cokie and Lee Perry, and Linda and Daniel Waintrup.

At last year's gala, Managing Director Michael Maso broke news that he had received the signed deed to the Huntington Avenue Theatre, which the company now owns outright after its separation from Boston University and the sale of surrounding buildings. The Huntington will renovate the historic theatre as part of an overhaul of the one-block stretch of Huntington Avenue. This year's record-breaking numbers are a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of the Huntington's dedicated supporters to the renovation campaign and securing the legacy for the Huntington Theatre Company.



Huntington Theatre performer Aimee Doherty sings "I Can Cook, Too" from the theatre's production of "On The Town."



Jessica Baron and Dr. Curt Civin.



Tracy Griffin, Nikki Stalling, and Lisa Tankanow.



Spotlight Spectacular Gala co-chair Linda Waintrup with Huntington Theatre Artistic Director and Gala honoree, Peter DuBois.



Channel 5 News co-anchor Rhondella Richardson and her husband Brown University Chief Of Police Mark Porter (second from right) with Artemis Joukowsky and Leah Field.



Lincoln and Megan Pasquina (far left and far right) with Sarah and Jason Forney.



Scott, Barbara, and Michael Stedman.

"I feel fortunate that I have called Boston my home for my entire life. In my real estate business, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with a diverse cross-section of people living in many of Boston's neighborhoods. I've also seen up-close and personally how Boston's passion for sports is a reflection of its passion for life," said 2019 Wimberly Award honoree, and co-investor of the Boston Celtics, David Epstein. "We are better when we connect to community and share experiences. For me this is the treasure at the core of the Huntington's mission – sharing stories, celebrating artistic risk, and laughing, crying, and learning together. Theatre can be astonishingly transcendent and frighteningly intimate. As a community, our theatre experiences

become part of our collective conscience. Within the walls of our restored historic theatre and our new interactive social spaces we will expand our audience to deepen our connections to our beautiful and diverse community."

Norma Jean Calderwood Artistic Director and fellow 2019 Wimberly Award honoree Peter DuBois also shared his enthusiasm for the Huntington's future. "We are marrying Boston history with a vibrant modern vision for Boston's future: something social, something that brings you joy, something that allows for cultural collision in our city which is in the midst of a whole new bloom of innovation, significance, and forward thought."

Guests also donated a record \$300,000 to sponsor the Huntington's education programs including the Student Matinee Series. All pro-



Gala honorees David and Betsy Epstein with Huntington Theatre Artistic Director Peter DuBois, three honorees of the evening, take a moment outside by the theatre marquee before the Huntington Theatre's Spotlight Spectacular in the South End's Cyclorama on Monday, May 6. The gala broke all previous fundraising records, raising \$1.3 million.

ceeds raised at the Spotlight Spectacular support the theatre, including award-winning education and community programs that reach more than 30,000 students and 6,000 community members annually.

The evening continued with the presentation of the Gerard and

Sherryl Cohen Awards for Excellence, which recognizes Huntington production and administrative staff members each year. This year's recipients were Costumes Craft Artisan/Dyer Denise Wallace-Spriggs and Individual Giving Manager Annalise Baird.

Mayor Walsh's Fenway Coffee Hour at the Morville House

Photos and Story by Lauren Bennett

A little rain didn't stop the Fenway community from coming out to Mayor Walsh's Coffee Hour on May 14. The event was originally supposed to be held at Symphony Park, but due to the weather, it was moved to the Morville House. A host of people came out to mingle with each other and with the Mayor, including City Councilors Kim Janey, Anissa Essaibi-George, and Josh Zakim, as well as State Rep. Jay Livingstone, and three candidates for District 8 City Council.

Mayor Walsh spoke to the community about updates on neighborhood projects, including the



Above, City Councilor Josh Zakim, his baby Leo, and State Rep. Jay Livingstone enjoyed chatting with Fenway residents. Leo was all smiles, and was the most popular one in the room.



City Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George recently announced that she was endorsing Kenzie Bok for District 8 City Council. The two chatted with the Fenway community on Tuesday morning.

Boston Arts Academy (BAA) and the Muddy River improvements. He said that the \$124 million BAA facility, when completed, "this is not an exaggeration, it will be the...most resourced arts school in the country." The Muddy River is receiving \$89 million for improvements, he said, and the Back Bay Fens improvements to the Westland Avenue Park entrance and the Johnson Memorial Gate are underway.

He also talked about new projects in the area, including a planned facility for engine 37 and



Tim Horn, President of the Fenway Civic Association, conversed with Mayor Walsh.

ladder 26. "Last time we built a new fire station was 30 years ago," Walsh said. He said the current stations are dirty, and many of them still contain asbestos. "We're working on a planning process for the fire station here but we're also



working across the city on building a couple new fire stations as we move forward," Walsh said. He added that the Fire Alarm Office in the Back Bay will be receiving a \$1.5 million exterior repointing, "which is going to make the building look sharper and nicer and better," he said. Charlesgate Park also received \$400,000 to complete the park.

Walsh also thanked the residents of the Fenway for being the neighborhood to test the pilot of the rideshare dropoff/pickup program. "We're hoping it works because it really is a big issue as you all know—Uber and Lyft and rideshare just dropping people off," he said. Additionally, the city is working to refresh crosswalks and lane markings across the entire city. "That's one of the concerns people had, that some of the crosswalks in front of senior buildings" are in disrepair. Accessible pedestrian signals are also being installed in the Back Bay to assist



Shown right, Mayor Walsh discussed neighborhood updates with the Fenway Community at his Fenway Coffee Hour on May 14. Above, State Rep. Jay Livingstone chatted with Fenway CDC's Richard Giordano.



District 8 City Council candidates Kristen Mobilia and Helene Vincent made their way around the room.

visually impaired residents, and the mayor will be releasing a call to artists for a piece of permanent public art at the new BAA school.

Walsh finished his speech by directing people to the appropriate city department for any concerns they may have with the various projects going on in the neighborhood right now, particularly the proposed private dormitory building on Boylston St.

SHATTUCK HOSPITAL (from pg. 2)

the last meeting. We saw housing and support services going from 200,000 sq. ft. to 600,000 sq. ft. and complete development of the area with new buildings. We feel there should be another conversation..."

That conversation includes opening up the Shattuck as green space, something she said was the case for nearly 70 years when Franklin Park was first opened. She said the Shattuck assumed 13 acres for public health purposes in 1949, and now might be a good time to return it to open space.

"Sometimes a city encounters a rare, pivotal moment when we can make a decision to invest in the long-term needs of our city, its communities and climate by adding in a significant manner to Boston's open space inventory. We are in one now," read the letter.

Instead of building up to 600,000 sq. ft. of supportive housing and supportive services on the Shattuck, she said they would propose locating those uses on the state-owned Arborway Yard—which is close by. That would free up the Shattuck space to be used for open space.

"It was a park for 60 or 70 years," she said. "I think that conversation has been happened already in the neighborhoods. People have been asking for open space and walking paths. That area has no bathrooms and very few public amenities like playgrounds. There are a myriad of public amenities that could serve the thousands of new and existing residents in this underserved area."

In the South End, the letter has riled those who have been monitoring the Shattuck Hospital relo-

cation process. The state plans to relocate the Shattuck Hospital to the South End in the Newton Pavilion building by 2022. Already, the state has purchased the building, and the planning process was meant to look at the future of the Shattuck campus in JP. Part of that process was providing relief to the South End of the numbers of human services that are there now. It was expected by numerous neighbors there that in exchange for accepting the Shattuck in the South End, they would have some human services moved to the new recovery campus in Franklin Park.

Steve Fox, moderator of the South End Forum, sent out a letter to the long-established Opiate Working Group last week. That letter addressed the Conservancy's position and explained how it could conflict with some of the

promises made to the South End.

"I thought it important for all members of the Working Group to understand the impact of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy position," he wrote. "They are asking that no buildings, programs, housing, or services be allowed on the thirteen acres of the Shattuck Hospital campus, that the entire campus be adsorbed as pure open space. I urge all members of the Working Group to read their letter seeking broad political support and understand what it would mean to our priorities and needs should this proposal gain political and administrative support."

Mauney-Brodek said the uses proposed at the current Shattuck site are not in harmony with the area and would work far better at the Arborway. She said it would be best there because it could be closer

er to transit.

"But this site is clearly not the best place for these uses, as it is not integrated into a community; instead these uses would be far better located nearer to transit and other activity areas," she wrote. "Though the process has not explored other options, we request consideration of nearby state-owned property, the underutilized 18 acres at the Arborway Yard, which could provide at least 200,000 sq. ft. of space. It is located near the park, but is closer to transit and less isolated, making it a far better location."

The matter was on the docket to be discussed at the next Opiate Working Group in the South End on May 21.

IAG weighs in on proposed Kenmore Hotel

By Dan Murphy

The Impact Advisory Group for the proposed Kenmore Hotel weighed in on the newest iteration of a project that would reconfigure the neighborhood's streetscape Monday at the Boston University Kenmore Classroom Building.

Wellesley-based Mark Development intends to raze the existing Citizen's Bank building at 560-574 Commonwealth Ave. and build a hotel in its place. The new building would be shifted to the east while its triangular design would resemble the Flatiron Building in New York City. This new reconfiguration would create a "fork intersection" that would connect Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street, as well as provide space for a new, approximately half-acre public plaza. Studio Gang of New York City is the project architect while Cambridge-based Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architects will serve as its landscape architect.

Mark Development CEO Damien Chaviano said the massing of the proposed project has grown to 230,000 square feet

from 161,000 square feet in the earlier iteration while the number of rooms has been increased from 382 to 389. The proposed height of the building has also been expanded from 24 stories (260 feet) to 27 stories (289 feet).

Jeff Speck, lead city planner for the project from Brookline-based Speck & Associates whom Chaviano described as the "visionary behind the plan," said, "Kenmore Square is an important social hub, but also a traffic hub. We're trying to get more people safely to a place that's already overrun by traffic."

Speck added that Kenmore Square is "primarily a place for vehicles" that doesn't feel safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The project would quadruple the existing public space on the site while reducing pavement by 12,500 square feet, Speck added.

Ralph Todisco, a project consultant for the international engineering firm Stantec, Inc. said, "We're blessed because Kenmore Square is already a multi-modal destination."

The project would create more crosswalks and shorten existing ones to make for more direct routes

from Kenmore Square through the plaza, Todisco said, as well as add three new traffic signals at intersections in the area.

Todisco also said the left-hand turn from Commonwealth Avenue to Beacon Street at Deerfield Street wouldn't be eliminated as a result of the project, and that the MBTA's 57 bus line would be the only public transportation route affected by it.

And although the proposed project wouldn't accommodate any on-site parking, Todisco said the New Road would provide access for unloading while three parking spots on Beacon Street would be reserved as valet spaces and another two spaces for drop-offs, taxis and ride-share services.

"We have no arrangement yet with any parking facility in the area, but we're continuing to work on it," Todisco added.

Emily Isenberg of Brookline-based Isenberg Projects discussed new opportunities that could arise from the creation of the plaza, such as providing a venue for public art, sculptures and "urban play."

Said Isenberg, "If we don't come



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

An artist's rendering of the proposed Kenmore Hotel.

up with solutions to get people to linger there, they won't."

IAG member Parker James said he believes there is an opportunity to connect the new plaza with Charlesgate Park - the long-neglected parcel abutting the Back Bay and Fenway and runs adjacent to Kenmore Square that is now undergoing a transformation under the auspices of the nonprofit Charlesgate Alliance, which he helped establish two years ago with fellow Fenway resident Pam Beale.

A public meeting on the matter took place May 8 on the BU cam-

pus, and another will be scheduled after the applicant files the findings from its supplementary wind study with the city, which is due May 22, said Tim Czerwienski, project manager for the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Public comments on the proposal can be submitted until July 6 to Czerwienski at Tim.Czerwienski@Boston.gov or via U.S. mail to his attention c/o the Boston Planning and Development Agency, One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201.

Mayor Walsh serves as keynote speaker for BBA annual meeting

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Martin J. Walsh served as keynote speaker for the 96th annual meeting of the Back Bay Association Monday morning at the Hynes Convention Center.

Walsh said the city has raised \$10 million to date for Boston's Way Home - a self-described "action plan to end veteran and chronic homelessness in Boston."

"The ultimate goal is to build a permanent facility [for the homeless] on Long Island," Walsh added. "Everyone deserves a place to call home - that's our goal."

And Walsh said after a lengthy

search, the city has found a permanent home for the Josiah Quincy Upper School at 249 Harrison Ave. in Chinatown.

With large developments projects under construction and coming to the Back Bay, including One Dalton and Parcel 12, Walsh pledged to "continue working with the community as they see the neighborhood change."

Walsh said the city would also undertake extensive sidewalk improvements "to make it easier and safer to get around this neighborhood."

In addition, Walsh discussed plans for Gloucester artist Pablo Eduardo's \$2 million memorial

to the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings coming to Boylston Street.

Now entering its fourth season, Open Newbury Street will return July 14, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15 as the city closes it to vehicular traffic, thereby transforming the full width of the street from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue into a pedestrian-only walkway.

"It showcases what our neighborhood has to offer," Walsh said of the recurring events.

Like Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the BBA, Walsh also expressed his gratitude to outgoing City Councilor Josh Zakim for his service to the city.

Mainzer-Cohen, along with David Leonard, a BBA board member and president of the Boston Public Library, presented the Heavy Lifting Award to Back Bay Homeless Outreach - a group of business owners, law enforcement, representatives from the faith community and homeless outreach workers who meet at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library bi-weekly to help connect homeless individuals with necessary resources.

John Hailer, chairman of the Back Bay Association board of directors, president of 1251 Capital Group and a Back Bay resident

described the neighborhood as a "vibrant economic zone...with a lot of new businesses coming to Newbury Street and the Back Bay." He added that retail at the Prudential Center and Copley Place "continues to thrive."

Hailer outlined the BBA's major achievements from the past year, including managing the Boylston Street Improvement Project; working on the Homeless Task Force, assisting new businesses in the neighborhood and helping existing businesses to expand their footprints; and sponsoring the 86th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors last June.

And to manage its growing social media needs, Hailer said the BBA has hired a women-led firm, the 1909.

Meanwhile, Dan Donahue, a BBA board member and president of the Lenox Hotel, delivered the Nominating Committee Report and introduced the slate of officers - Chris Hailer, chairman; Joseph Hanley, vice chair; Brenda Hanley, secretary; and Bill Kenney, treasurer.

New incoming board members include Chris Dalton; Alan Smith, general manager of the Boston Marriott Copley Place; and Michael Fleisher, CFO of the Boston-based e-commerce company Wayfair, Donahue said.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh addresses the crowd at the 96th annual meeting of the Back Bay Association.



Amanda Hamedany, the Back Bay Association's director of membership, marketing and special events, and Kelsey Pramik, director of programs and outreach for the Esplanade Association.



Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the Back Bay Association.

BVHDC approves 67-69 Church St; two other projects get green light

By Lauren Bennett

After a month of not meeting, the Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) met on May 14 and heard three design review proposals. The first was 4 Melrose St., where architect Timothy Burke proposed adding a dormer on to the rear of the house to “get a little more headroom” on the top floor of the single family house. On top of the proposed dormer would be a roof deck. Burke said that they have received approval from the Zoning Board of Appeal to use a hatch for access to the roof deck.

Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that he would like to see the railing for the roof deck be moved back to be less visible. The Commission approved the proposal with the proviso that the applicant work with staff to determine how far back the railing needs to go to reduce visibility from the street.

Right next door, at 6 Melrose St., architect Brigid Williams proposed what she called a “laundry list” of things to be done to the house. The scope of proposed work includes repointing the masonry on the front facade, replacing deteriorated window lintels and sills with concrete to match existing brownstone, remove skylights, replacing rubber membrane roof, install new skylight, among other things.

She said that many of the houses on the street do not have shutters, so they will be removed, but the hardware will be left in case future owners want to install some.

For the garden side of the roof, Williams said that they “sought out the smallest, lowest profile” condensers they could find, and are nesting them into the roof. While they are still slightly visible from behind, “we’ve done everything we can to keep it low and happy,” she said.

She also proposed a two-panel door for the front door, to replace the existing door that has two glass

panels in the top—the client does not want glass in the door, she said. “It should be a six-panel door; you don’t need to have lights at the top of the door,” she said.

Commissioner Stephen Dunwell told Williams that he received an email from a neighbor “applauding your project and emphatically endorsing your work,” he said. She currently has leakage on the party wall, and is glad it will be fixed. “I think it looks fabulous,” Dunwell said. “Huge improvement.” The Commission voted to approve this application with the proviso that the proposed two panel door be replaced with one that is a more historic six panel door.

Lastly, at 67-69 Church St., which has been before the Commission before, as well as before the community numerous times, architect Anthony Piermarini proposed the final plans for the current Erbaluce restaurant building. The design of the proposed restaurant/residential building has gone through several iterations with

the community. The base of the building, Piermarini said, would be restored, and two stories added on top for a total of 22 additional feet on the height.

Throughout the process, the architects have promised to stay true to the original intention of the building and use materials and a style that would both complement the original as well as add a modern touch. The first floor would be used for a restaurant/commercial type space, with the second, third, and fourth floors as residential space. The fourth-floor unit would have an internal staircase behind a door on the third floor, and would have exclusive access to the roof deck.

The storefront would be aluminum, Piermarini said, and the cornice line on the second floor would be restored. The residential entry would be off of Shawmut Avenue.

“I think this is really impressive,” Stephen Dunwell said. “This is a great presentation.” He said that the historical research is

“impressive.”

“I’m just very impressed and I’m all in favor and I think it’s going to be a big improvement,” Dunwell said.

Ben Beck of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association said that the organization is “content” with the design proposal as it is now.

“I love the restoration,” a direct abutter said, but added that he was concerned about the mechanical units, one of the reasons being noise. Piermarini said that there will be fencing around all of the mechanical units.

“Be cautious about the sound of the mechanical equipment and work with your neighbor,” Dunwell said, admitting that it is not in the Commission’s purview to control noise, but still thought it was appropriate to mention.

The Commission voted to approve this project as presented, said Commissioner Kathleen McDermott, “on the grounds that it will restore the original design of

D-4 POLICE NEWS

BAGMAN

On Thursday, May 9, at about 3 p.m., police responded to radio call for a fight at 225 Massachusetts Ave.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to the victim, who said an unknown male suspect began yelling and screaming at him before he attempted to forcibly take the victim’s bike away from him. The victim dropped his backpack at this time, which the suspect seized hold of before fleeing on a blue bicycle in the direction of Copley Square.

While searching the area of Boylston and Exeter streets, police spotted an individual who matched the suspect’s description on a blue bicycle. Officers stopped the indi-

vidual and a search of a backpack in his possession turned up the victim’s Massachusetts driver’s license and personal paperwork.

The suspect was subsequently placed under arrest for unarmed robbery and transported to District 4 headquarters for booking.

The victim’s backpack was also returned to him.

RADIO PIRATE

On Thursday, May 9, at approximately 10:35 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for a fight outside of Loretta’s Last Call at 1 Lansdowne St.

On arrival, police observed a large crowd gathered on Lansdowne Street, as well as sever-

al officer assigned to detail for a House of Blues concert speaking to an individual sitting on the sidewalk outside of Loretta’s.

According to the officers on detail, the individual and his friends had been removed from the Lansdowne Pub, at which time he became involved in a physical altercation with an unknown number of individuals on Lansdowne Street, all of whom fled the area in an unknown direction.

When police attempted to speak to the remaining individual he was uncooperative; he also refused medical attention or a ride somewhere.

While police were canvassing the area to speak to employees who might’ve witnessed the earlier

altercation, the individual stood up and began walking away from the bar down Ipswich Street in the direction of Van Ness Street.

The responding officer remained at the House of Blues as the crowd dispersed, but as they were driving away, they observed the man running down Ipswich Street with another male in pursuit screaming: “Get him! Get him!”

Police followed them both as they took a right onto Ipswich Street in the direction of Van Ness Street before the initial suspect entered a construction site.

Police were able to apprehend the initial suspect in the parking behind the Boston Conservatory, as well as his pursuer as he was fleeing down the alley toward Ips-

wich Street.

Meanwhile, the bouncer at the Lansdowne Pub told police that the initial suspect spit in his face and stole a portable radio from his person before fleeing down Lansdowne Street. The suspect then allegedly threw the radio into an adjacent parking lot attempted to flee the area. (Employees were able to retrieve the radio from the parking lot.)

After the bouncer positively identified the suspect as he was sitting in back of a police cruiser, he was charged with unarmed robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and trespassing before being transported to District 4 headquarters and booked in the usual manner.

For the Record

From the May 15 Conservation Commission hearing, City Hall:

- Notice of Intent from Gale Associates, Inc. on behalf of Emmanuel College for the replacement of the existing synthetic turf field located at Kilamock Street and Park Drive, Fenway, MA (BLSE, Buffer zone to Inland Bank and BVW)

From the May 16 License Board meeting, City Hall, 10 a.m.:

The Following have applied for a One Day Amendment to be voted:

- Lansdowne Boston Restaurant, LLC d/b/a House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St., Fenway, have applied for a one day amendment for an extension of Liquor License to serve beer and wine on Lansdowne Street on 5/25/19 for the country 102.5 Street Festival, this is a ticketed 21+ event.
- Lansdowne Boston Restaurant, LLC d/b/a House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St. Boston, MA 02115 have applied for a one day amendment for an extension of Liquor License to serve beer and wine on Lansdowne Street on 9/22/19 for the country 102.5 Street Festival, this is a ticketed 21+ event.

From the May 16 non-hearing Common Victualler Transactions meeting, City Hall, 10 a.m.:

- Thanh Thuy LLC d/b/a Sushiemon, 201 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Thuy

Huynh as manager of record. Small restaurant on the first floor with kitchen and dining area. Hours of operation: 10:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: There will be a meeting of the District Community Engagement Advisory Council on May 20 at 6 p.m., in the Bolling Building, Dudley Square. Agenda includes: Community Building Activity, BuildBPS Updates and Strategy Development: Welcoming New Superintendent.

City Council Budget Hearings, ongoing, City Hall:

- Boston Public Library, May 13, 10:30 a.m.
- Parks and Recreation, May 13, 2 p.m.
- Boston Police, May 15, 2 p.m.
- Boston Public Health Commission, May 16, 10:30 a.m.
- Health Commission-Recovery Services, May 16, 2 p.m.
- Boston Fire Department, May 21, 10:30 a.m.
- BPDA, May 21, 2 p.m.

NEWS BRIEFS

from Page 10

until May 7 to do so.

•The next Pilot Block Neighborhood Association meeting will be May 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at Whaling in Oklahoma on Tremont Street. The agenda will include elections.

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association will meet on Tuesday, May 28, in Boston Medical Center's Menino Pavilion at 7 p.m. New location, look for the signs through the surgical suite. Also WSANA will be holding elections on May 28 for the executive board. Anyone interested can send an email to the nominating committee, Peter San-

born, peter_sanborn@comcast.net, and Sahar Zaheer, sahar.zaheer@gmail.com.

•The South End Forum Opiate Working Group will meet at 4 p.m. in the Crosstown Hilton on May 21. The featured speaker on the agenda will be Human Services Chief Marty Martinez.

•Step Up to the Plate for South End Baseball. On Tuesday, June 4, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., step up to the plate and support the best free youth baseball program in the city and the Hugh Chambers/Paul Rinkulis Scholarship. Join them at Stella for a fun evening with deli-

cious food, a cash bar, and both live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$50.

•The 2019 Ink Block Underground Mural Project by Street Theory will take place in Underground at Ink Block on June 24-29.

From June 24 - June 29, The Underground Mural Project will gather and celebrate creative do-ers, local-national-internationally renowned street artists, and local tastemakers through a week of arts programming, education, one-of-a-kind activations and a block party that celebrates a blossoming City of arts and culture.

The Underground Mural Project in curated by Street Theory in partnership with National Development.

FENWAY TIMES

•The Peterborough Senior Center holds bingo at 12:30 p.m. and a Tech Café at 11 a.m. every Wednesday. Come play bingo and meet new people, or can get help with your phone or tablet/computer.

•Latinx Potluck: Fenway CDC and Fenway Community Center are organizing a Latinx Potluck on Saturday, May 18 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center.

. Please join us to celebrate Latinx food and culture in the Fenway! Enjoy a wonderful opportunity to create community and learn about the resources offered at Fenway Community Center. Please bring a dish or dessert to share! For inquiries, please contact fenwaycommunitycenter.org or (857)246-9053.

•The BPDA is holding a public meeting of the Simmons University Task Force on May 22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Simmons Main College Building, Room C-101. The Task Force will be discussing Simmons' upcoming plans and projects.

LIHC and community meeting on proposal for Concord Square

By Seth Daniel

A flurry of opinions on social media have already formed on a housing proposal for Concord Square, though few actually know what the proposal is, and developers said this week they haven't even officially proposed anything with the City.

LIHC Investment Group, which currently owns the Concord Houses affordable housing building on Tremont Street and is based in Maine, has been talking to neighbors about developing market-rate housing on a parking lot behind the Concord Houses. The 725 Tremont St. property includes the parking lot, fenced/locked open space, and portion of the alleyway on which the company is seeking to construct new, market-rate rental housing.

These initial conversations, though, have led to a lot of misinformation in the neighborhood.

The gist of what is proposed would be, they said, in line with what is around the neighborhood and on land they have owned about 10 years at 725 Tremont St.

The project being suggested includes 60 market-rate rental units, ranging from studios to three-bedrooms on the parking lot space in back of 725 Tremont. The proposed building would be the same height as townhouses on Worcester Street (about 58 feet tall) and a landscaped border similar to what is found on Worcester

Street now.

The proposal includes a single-level of parking on the ground floor of the building and additional parking in the rear of the building. LIHC is also planning on making improvements to the private alleyway in the rear of the site.

"The project team looks forward to continuing to meet with nearby residents, neighborhood associations, and others to gather feedback," read a statement from company spokesperson Kelly Magee. "However, plans have not yet been filed with the city."

LIHC and the project team began meeting informally with neighbors, elected officials, and community groups in February 2019. The proposed building has not been formally filed with the City of Boston / Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). No date has been selected for the formal filing with the City.

That said, there will be a community meeting on the project at the June 4 South End Forum meeting, where the company will present plans to the broader neighborhood.

LIHC has owned Concord Houses for about 10 years, and recently was able to renegotiate a deal to keep those units affordable for several more decades. They said they take being a good neighbor very seriously and believe they have demonstrated that with their property in the South End.

LIHC will soon be making

improvements to the exterior of Concord Houses by adding

planters at the main doorways, metal canopies over the doorways,

new exterior signage, and painting the fencing on the front.



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For more info, to volunteer in exchange for a free ticket, and to buy tickets: thetrustees.org/seg

TICKETS:

IN ADVANCE
Trustees members \$24,
Nonmembers \$30

DAY OF TOUR
Trustees members \$28,
Nonmembers \$35

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