

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Poll Power: Women's suffrage celebrates 100 years, with caveats

By Seth Daniel

It was a note from mom that changed the landscape for women to get the right to vote 100 years ago this week on Aug. 18, and 100 years later it has led to a lot of victories and a lot of sobering realities too.

The caveat, of course – and one that must be stated, is that African American women did not win the right to vote 100 years ago, but rather not until the 1960s Voting Rights Act.

That said, the milestone was celebrated in a muted way this week due to COVID-19 restrictions, but Aug. 18, 1920 was the day that cleared the way for the largest single increase in voting in American history – known as Ratification Day. And it did come down to one vote by Tennessee state legislator whose mother shamed him into

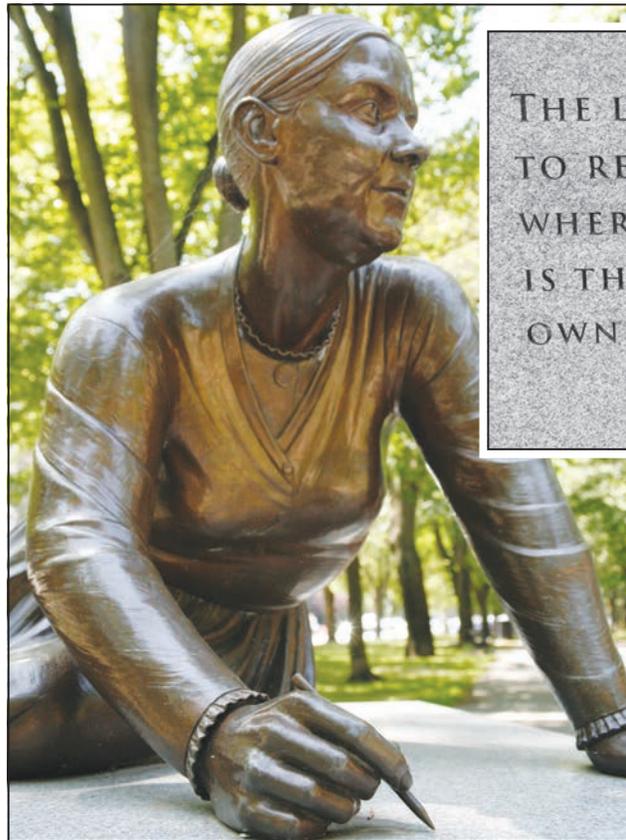
doing the right thing.

Harry Burn was a very young state representative at the time in Tennessee from a very small town, and it was his mother's note that changed his mind.

"It didn't look like Tennessee was going to approve the amendment," said Karen Price of the League of Women Voters in Massachusetts. "He came in wearing a red rose, which meant he was against it. When on the floor, he did find a note from his mother. It basically told him to do the right thing and he did and ended up voting for it. It ended up being the deciding vote when he changed his mind because it prevailed by one vote."

Price said the Ratification Day would have been a major celebration for the League, which was

(WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, Pg. 11)



THE LEGAL RIGHT FOR WOMAN  
TO RECORD HER OPINION  
WHEREVER OPINIONS COUNT,  
IS THE TOOL FOR WHOSE  
OWNERSHIP WE ASK.

WOMAN'S JOURNAL. 1891

At the Boston Women's Memorial on the Comm Ave Mall, there is a constant reminder of those women who fought for equality in all things – including voting. Pictured here is Lucy Stone, a long-time advocate of suffrage for women. While a leading voice in Women's Rights issues in the late 1800s, she died nearly 30 years before some women won the right to vote. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment occurred this week on Aug. 18.

## TIDYING UP FRANKLIN SQUARE



State Rep. Jon Santiago and Toni Crothall of the Friends of Franklin Square got to work cleaning up Franklin Square in the South End last week during one of the Tidy Up Tuesday events. Clean ups in the Squares have continued through the summer with COVID-19 precautions.

By Lauren Bennett

Gardening is always a popular activity in the City of Boston, but it became all the rage this summer because of its outdoor, social-distancing friendly nature.

The Sun spoke with Fenway Garden Society president Elizabeth Bertolozzi for an update on

how this year's growing season fared at the Victory Gardens.

Bertolozzi said that many changes were made to the usual protocol this year because of the virus, but the gardens were still very successful.

"Early on in the season, we let gardeners know that the gardening season wasn't going to be

cancelled," she said. "People were reassured about that, as they were looking to use their gardens and really have it as a space where they could get out and enjoy the outdoors and not worry about the concerns."

She said that certain new pro-

(FENWAY VICTORY GARDENS, Pg. 5)

## Fenway Porchfest organizers produce music video in lieu of event's cancellation this year

By Dan Murphy

Once it became clear that Fenway Porchfest couldn't proceed as usual for the third consecutive year this summer due to the pandemic, its organizers refused to simply cave in and cancel the eagerly awaited live concert event. So they began exploring other options for carrying on the tradition before

eventually settling on the idea of producing a music video to showcase the neighborhood's musicians instead.

"Initially we had thought it would have been possible to have the event," said Marie Fukuda, a board member of the Fenway Civic Association, which together with the Fenway Alliance and the Fenway CDC (Community

Development Corporation), has sponsored Fenway Porchfest since its inception in 2018. "All the partners we had reached out to were willing to participate, and so were the musicians, but as July came near, we realized it couldn't move ahead as planned. But we still wanted to have the event and do

(PORCHFEST, Pg. 10)

# EDITORIAL

## SAVE THE U.S. POST OFFICE

The unprecedented efforts to undermine the operations of the U.S. Postal Service by President Donald Trump and the Republicans are not even a thinly-veiled attempt to make sure that mail-in voting in the November election during this unprecedented pandemic will fail.

Trump's suggestion that mail-in voting can easily be manipulated, or "rigged," is absurd on its face. Five states, including Washington, Oregon, and Utah, have been conducting their elections for years by mailed-in ballots -- and they have been doing so without a hitch or any hint of manipulation.

However, even if we take Trump at his word that he is trying to "reform" the Post Office, why did he wait to do so until more than halfway through his fourth year in office and appoint as the Postmaster General a millionaire hack campaign donor who has absolutely zero experience in the mail delivery industry?

The U.S. Postal Service from its inception has been a national treasure that other nations have tried to emulate. We hope that the Congress is able to come together to save our Postal Service, an institution that literally is a lifeline for millions of Americans and provides a tremendous service for the entire country.

## NEW STIMULUS BILL IS DESPERATELY NEEDED

As we all have learned by now, the so-called Executive Order (if any of it is even legal) recently issued by President Donald Trump two weeks ago amounts to all talk and no action.

It does not stop any evictions of tenants anywhere in the country.

The extra \$400 per week of unemployment benefits (on top of whatever an unemployed person may be receiving from the usual unemployment stipend) is subject to each state kicking in \$100 of the \$400. Given that every state already is facing huge budget deficits because of the pandemic, the Executive Order amounts to what in the private sector is referred-to as a poison pill.

As for the temporary elimination of the Social Security tax -- which is only paid by employed persons -- that sum will have to be repaid in the future by each taxpayer and business. So what good is that?

The moratorium on interest on student loans may be able to go into effect, but the Executive Order extends that benefit only to September 30.

The House passed an extended relief bill in May that included funds for states and municipalities, as well as maintaining the additional unemployment benefits of \$600 that were included in the first pandemic legislation.

The Senate refused to take up the House bill until the deadline approached -- and then asserted that the House was unwilling to compromise.

With an average of 1000 Americans dying daily from the coronavirus and the economy still in a shambles, the country cannot afford political gamesmanship. Action is needed -- and fast.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET

GUEST OP-ED

By George Stergios and Bob Minnocci,  
Worcester Square Area Neighborhood  
Association

Three weeks ago, Pine Street Inn leased the Roundhouse Suites and added another 180 homeless people to the Mass & Cass area, where there are hundreds already living in shelters, hundreds living on the streets, and hundreds visiting every day. Some are here to get the addiction services that their Boston neighborhoods and Massachusetts towns refuse to provide, and some are here to participate in New England's largest open-air drug market.

Because of the COVID-19 emergency, Pine Street needs more space to spread out its clients, and since, according to it, no one else in Boston or outside of Boston was willing to lease it space, it was forced to choose the Roundhouse, smack in the middle of an area that has seen three stabbings, two fatal, in the three weeks since its clients started to move in.

In case of emergency, press Mass & Cass.

We who live here know the drill, for we have seen it so many times before. When Mayor Walsh declared that the Long Island Bridge was unsafe, that emergency brought the Long Island homeless population to the gymnasium at the South End Fitness Center on 35 Northampton St., and then to 112 Southampton St. When the overlap of the homeless and people experiencing substance-use disorder led to chaos on the streets, the City opened the Engagement Center behind the homeless shelter. The City introduced both the

homeless shelter and the Engagement Center as temporary but now cedes they are permanent. When the pandemic struck, the BMC's old East Newton Pavilion was requisitioned as an isolation and treatment center for the homeless and a "Comfort Zone" was opened in the Woods-Mullens parking lot to provide washing and toilet facilities, and just a little bit of distancing, to those living on the street.

The mother of all these emergencies was the opening of the Ahope needle exchange on 774 Albany St. in 2013, which the Menino Administration did without informing the neighborhoods. It hands out most of the 2,000 needles a day that the City gives away, many of which end up in our gardens and on our steps. The availability of free needles has made the Mass & Cass area the go-to place for everyone experiencing substance use disorder in the city and state. Clean needles attract drug users, who attract drug dealers, who attract more drug users. Mass & Cass has become Mass Chaos.

The emergency behind each of these decisions is identical, and it is not the need to prevent HIV or hepatitis, the collapse of a bridge, or a sinister virus. The real emergency is the shameful refusal of almost every other neighborhood in the city and state to take care of their own instead of packing them off to Mass & Cass. As if once we accumulate every human misery in one location, they will cancel each other out. As if the presence of active drug users and their dealers helps those trying to get or stay sober.

Because we opposed the intrusion of the Pine Street Inn into Mass & Cass and oppose any extension of its 12-month emergency lease, we will be shamed as NIMBYs, but there is more than one kind of NIMBY. Those of you reading this who live outside of the South End, Lower Roxbury, and Roxbury are the true NIMBYs, NOTHING IN MY BACK YARD, no matter what the emergency. When we say not in my back yard, we do not mean nothing in our back yard, because almost everything is in our backyard. We have 55 percent of the homeless beds in Boston, 1,300 daily visits for methadone, the only brick-and-mortar needle exchange, Health Care for the Homeless, the BMC Emergency Room, Rosie's Place, and more. They all do great and necessary work, but it is not necessary that they all do it in the same place. The concentration of services endangers those seeking services. We, in fact, are not NIMBYs, but NEIMBYs, NOT EVERYTHING IN MY BACK YARD, or BHOBYS, BOSTON HAS OTHER BACKYARDS.

So for all of you ready to pounce and criticize us: open your first homeless shelter before you criticize us for resisting our fourth, open your first methadone clinic before you criticize us for resisting our third, and stop forcing your addicts to journey here for the clean needles that keep them alive. If the federal government, moreover, ever allows Boston to open a Safe Injection Site, advocate for the first one to open in your neighborhood. We are waiting.

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# City announces polling location changes and safety measures ahead of Sept. 1 primary

By Lauren Bennett

With the September 1 primary right around the corner, the City of Boston has announced changes to some polling locations, especially ones that were located in senior housing buildings, to help keep residents safe during the pandemic. The City has also provided guidelines and other information for voters ahead of the election.

On the ballot for the primary are the races for Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Council, State Senate, State Representative, and Register of Probate.

The City has announced that polling locations will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm, and there will be various health and safety measures taken to keep poll workers and voters safe.

"All poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer," the City said in a recent release. "Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand six feet away from others and wear a face covering."

Eneida D. Tavares, Chair of the Board of Election Commissioners, said in a statement to the Sun that

"there are 20 precincts that have been changed because of construction on some sites or some facilities having COVID-19 concerns due to housing an older population of individuals. The City of Boston mailed every single registered voter affected by this change as well as posted the updates of the change on the website. We will continue to reach out to the residents of those precincts that changes have been made."

At his August 18 press conference, Mayor Walsh reminded residents that the voter registration deadline for the primary is August 22. Registration can be completed in person at the Election Department at City Hall, by mail, online, or at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, according to the City.

"This year, we're certainly facing challenges to the election process," he said, citing "attacks from the White House."

He said he is "committed to making sure Bostonians can vote safely," by putting safety measures in place, and also working to make voting by mail easy and accessible for everyone.

"All registered voters have received a vote-by-mail application in their mail boxes during the week of July 20, 2020," the City said. "To receive a ballot, vot-

ers must first complete, sign and return the prepaid postcard application to the Election Department by August 26, 2020 for the State Primary."

The vote-by-mail application can also be used to request a ballot for the November 3 election, and ballots can be requested in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Walsh also announced a Voting Access Point at City Hall, which is a ballot box available in the third floor lobby Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. No appointment is needed to drop off ballots, though all people entering City Hall will be screened for COVID symptoms upon entry, he said.

Ballots can be tracked on the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' website, and can be returned using the prepaid envelope, by dropping it off at an early voting site, or using the box at City Hall, the City said.

Walsh also reminded residents to be sure to sign their names on the outside of the envelope for mail in ballots.

Additionally, early voting will be available from Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28. Registered voters are welcome to use any early voting location; a complete list of sites can be found

on the City's website. The main location will be City Hall, and others include the McKim Building at the Copley Square Library from 11:00am to 7:00pm on August 22.

"Absentee voting in person is available until August 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at the Elections Department in City Hall," according to City officials.

"To qualify to vote absentee, registered voters must be absent from the City on Election Day, must have a religious belief which prevents them from going inside of a polling location, or have a physical disability which prevents them from going to a polling location," the City said. "The application to request an absentee ballot can be completed by mail or in person at the Election Department in City Hall."

Polling location changes and entrance changes in downtown neighborhoods are as follows, according to a document on the City of Boston website:

"Ward 4, Precincts 6 and 7, which is currently located at the Morville House at 100 Norway Street, and Ward 4, Precincts 5 and 8 which is currently located at Symphony Plaza East and West,

Boston, MA 02115 moved to Northeastern university, Matthews Arena, 238 St. Botolph Street, Boston, MA, Voter entrance from rear of building from Gainsborough Street. The reason for this move is that both the Morville House and The Symphony Towers have a senior population and opted out of a host location due to caution of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Polling Location at Franklin Institute of Boston, Ward 5, Precinct 1, located at 41 Berkeley Street is going to be moved back into their Auditorium from the Breezeway. The Voter Entrance will be from the Berkeley Street side of the building.

The Polling Location at the State House, Ward 5, Precinct 3, located at 24 Beacon Street is going to be moved back into Hearing Room B1 in the Basement from the Great Hall on the Second Floor. The Voter Entrance will be the same on Bowdoin Street through Ashburton Park."

For a complete list of polling changes and for more information on this year's election and voting process, visit [boston.gov/departments/election](http://boston.gov/departments/election).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We at United South End Settlements (USES) and New Boston Ventures want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of supporters who live, work and represent the South End neighborhood who helped ensure the success of our project over these many months.

The recent approval by the South End Landmarks Commission will enable USES, a historic 128-year-old non-profit organization, to continue to provide early education, out of school time, and economic mobility programs to the hundreds of children and families we serve in the South End and Lower Roxbury community.

The Harriet Tubman House was built in 1975 to serve as USES's new headquarters and has served this community well for the last 45 years. Led by people of color and serving a diverse constituency (over 80% of USES's participants are people of color). In the spirit of Harriet Tubman, USES has been

committed to racial, social, and economic justice. In 2018, USES made the decision to consolidate its programs and services to its Rutland Street location and sell a dilapidated building in need of costly maintenance to ensure sustainability of services - especially needed now in the middle of a pandemic that has hit communities of color particularly hard.

USES and New Boston Ventures have worked together over this past year to ensure a commitment to community through a very generous and significant community benefits package which embodies the following:

- Commitment to Racial equity - We are proud that a significant share of our investors are people of color and that people of color businesses and workers will be represented at all levels of this development

- Preserving Public Art and Neighborhood History: New Boston Ventures will digitally restore Jameel Parker's iconic mural, "Honor Roll", that graces

the front and side of the existing building on the site and display it as its original size in the windows of the new building so that it will be available for public viewing around the clock.

- Increasing Affordable Housing: The project will exceed the city's homeownership affordability requirements and be reserved for artists, many of whom have been displaced here in the South End and throughout the city.

- Supporting community-based organizations: Nearly 5,000 square feet of first floor space is being donated for use as community gathering space and offices for non-profit organizations that serve the South End and Lower Roxbury neighborhoods

NBV has already helped subsidize the relocation of the non-profits located at 566 allowing them to continue to provide uninterrupted services

United South End Settlements  
New Boston Ventures

## BPL brings back museum passes program

Staff Report

The Boston Public Library (BPL) announced it is reinstating a version of the Museum Passes program, granting BPL patrons access to free and discounted passes to Massachusetts museums and cultural institutions.

As museums continue to open in Phase 3 of the Commonwealth's reopening plan, the library will add more institutions to the program. For more information on COVID-19 safety requirements when visiting these organizations, patrons can call or visit their websites directly.

Library card holders can utilize the Museum Passes program. This program is effective immediately, and will expand as more organizations continue to open. Passes can be picked up at all BPL branch locations, and are available at the organizations listed below:

- Boston Children's Museum
- Boston Harbor Island Cruise
- Massachusetts DCR ParksPass hang tag
- New England Aquarium
- Institute of Contemporary Art,

Boston (ICA)

- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

- Larz Anderson Auto Museum

- Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Trustees of Reservations Go Pass

- More to come!

Patrons can reserve museum passes online in Tixkeeper. The library also allows patrons to reserve passes over the phone (with a library card number). There are three types of passes: physical passes that need to be returned, paper coupons that do not need to be returned, and digital passes that require an e-mail address and no physical pick-up. During this time of social distancing, each institution may have their own procedures for obtaining tickets even with a library pass. Patrons should call the institution or visit their website to find out next steps after securing a pass from the library.

Reservation information and instructions for reserving passes can be found at [bpl.org/museum-passes](http://bpl.org/museum-passes).



Encampments along Melnea Cass Boulevard in the South End seem to be growing this summer, and the City is still working to craft a policy and protocol for legally and humanely removing them.

## Encampments growing on Melnea Cass in South End

By Seth Daniel

More and more people living in tents on the parkway alongside Melnea Cass Boulevard in the Alexandra Ball neighborhood have popped up over the last several weeks, and City officials say they do not yet have the proper protocol in place to legally move those encampments — leading residents to wonder if the practice will spread to other parts of the South

End.

The encampments were a problem at the same spot, and by Boston Medical Center last summer until the City came in with the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan in the late summer and early fall. However, now more sophisticated encampments with several tents seem to be spreading on the Melnea Cass right-of-way.

(ENCAMPMENTS, Pg. 5)

## Baker, Walsh discuss schools, COVID updates

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Charlie Baker and Mayor Walsh each held a press conference on August 18, where they talked about schools and COVID-19 updates. Baker addressed food insecurity in the state, and Walsh also talked about the importance of the postal service.

Baker said that the state has asked school districts across the state to come up with plans for hybrid, in-person, and remote learning. “Over the past few weeks, school districts have submitted plans,” and of the 371 school districts, more than 70 percent of them indicated that they will offer hybrid or fully in person classes this fall. The other 30 percent will be fully remote, he said.

“Students have been away from classrooms and their students and peers since March,” Baker said.

On Monday, there were 213 new cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, and the seven day average positive test rate is about 1.4 percent. Baker said that this rate has been “hovering” between 1.4 and two percent for the past several weeks. To date, nearly 2 million tests have been administered across the state, and Baker said that there has been an increase in repeat tests in individuals.

Baker also said that continued success has been seen in the state’s Stop the Spread Initiative, which began on July 10 and will run through September 12. Baker

announced on Tuesday afternoon that the program will be expanded to three more communities: Salem, Holyoke, and Saugus, bringing the total number of communities to 20.

The state is launching a new interactive map with case data, which is available at [mass.gov/covidmap](https://mass.gov/covidmap).

“The Commonwealth is stepping up its partnerships with communities considered to be moderate or high risk,” Baker said, adding that the state will continue to “ensure public awareness about the steps we need to stay safe.”

Baker also talked about the Food Security Task Force, which was established this spring. There is \$56 million in investments available to “combat food insecurity,” Baker said, by providing funds to food banks and similar programs, and he said that a “great response” has been seen from food producers and distributors.

“Increasing access to fresh, local food is critical to ensure the health and wellbeing of all Commonwealth families,” Baker said in a statement. “Through this grant program, we are helping residents and businesses who’ve been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic while making investments in building a strong and equitable local food system for Massachusetts that is prepared for the future.”

As part of a second round of funding from the \$36 million Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program, \$3.3 million in grants will be distributed to Massachusetts farmers, urban farms, schools, seafood farmers, food banks, and more, he said. The funds will be used to invest in new technology such as refrigerated trucks, greenhouses, ovens, and more, so programs across the state can continue providing food to local residents.

“The great thing about this program,” Baker said, is that it is “not a stop-gap system,” but it will help to “invest in building a strong and local resilient food system.”

Baker said that the administration is “grateful for our continued collaboration with the legislature” on this issue.

### WALSH UPDATES

Mayor Walsh also held a press

conference on August 18, where he talked about testing in the City as well as preparations being made for back to school.

Walsh said that there were 24 new cases in Boston as of Tuesday, and testing is up in all neighborhoods except Allston-Brighton, but he added that there was a pop up testing center there last week.

“We’re going to bring testing wherever it’s needed,” Walsh said. “We need to stay focused and vigilant on the battle of COVID-19. Boston has done well over the last three months because our residents are resilient and responsible.”

Walsh said that September 21 will be the opening date for most Boston Public Schools (BPS) students.

He said the decision will be made “very soon” on whether or not to open BPS fully remotely or with a hybrid model, but reminded residents that families have a choice to have their children attend remotely regardless of the decision made.

He said that HVAC systems have been inspected in schools, and 3000 fans have been purchased. He added that the City’s protocol for preparation meets state requirements.

He also said that equity remains at the forefront of decision making. “Community input has shaped every step of the input,” he added.

Walsh also talked about the issues with the postal service, saying that the postmaster general announced that operational changes “that were causing this great concern” are being suspended.

“We need a strong postal service,” he said, adding that “many of our seniors and others” vote by mail each year. With the pandemic, many others will also request mail-in ballots so Walsh talked about the importance of making sure the postal service is fully up and running.

He said that the City will “continue to monitor the situation closely on a daily basis.”

Walsh said that he would like to “thank all the postal workers who are working for us. We take voting rights and voting access seriously in Boston.”



## PLAN: Nubian Square

### Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

**Monday, September 14**  
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

**Zoom Registration**  
[bit.ly/3gXMnxu](https://bit.ly/3gXMnxu)

#### Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

#### Upcoming meetings/Próximas reuniones/Dat pwochen rankont yo se:

- October/Octubre/Oktòb 5
- November/Noviembre/Novanm 2

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.  
Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.  
Si w bezwen sèvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

#### Contact:

Müge Ündemir  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.4488 | [mugzy.undemir@boston.gov](mailto:mugzy.undemir@boston.gov)

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# BPDA reissues development proposals, requesting stronger diversity and inclusion criteria

Staff Report

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board this month authorized the agency to reissue Request for Proposals (RFPs) for three separate developments on BPDA-owned property which have not sufficiently outlined plans to further the agency's mission regarding diversity and inclusion. The three developments are Building 108 in the Charlestown Navy Yard, 142 Shawmut Avenue in the South End, and Charlestown Main Street.

This vote builds on the BPDA's and City of Boston's ongoing commitment to ensure that developments on agency-owned property advance equity and inclusion in Boston. "In Boston we believe in using our public land for public good, and that means not only supporting affordable housing, economic development, and good jobs, but creating wealth and opportunities for those who have historically been left out," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "That's why we're asking our partners in the development community to step up. If we get this right, Boston can become the leader in promoting diversity and inclusion in development." While the proposals for these developments included sufficient design and programmatic elements, the diversity and inclusion plans

lacked specific, well documented measures to advance economic opportunities for people of color and women in real estate development and related fields. The agency has encouraged all proponents to re-submit their proposals with robust diversity and inclusion commitments. Additionally, the updated Diversity and Inclusion Plan will comprise 25 percent of the BPDA's comparative evaluation of each proposal submitted. At the same time, the City of Boston and BPDA are working to update the language in RFPs for public land to provide greater clarity on the expectations for submissions, further prioritize diversity and inclusions during the selection process, and strengthen the City's and the BPDA's commitment to outcomes which enhance equity. In 2018, Mayor Walsh committed the BPDA and the City of Boston to including a Diversity and Inclusion evaluation criterion in all real estate disposition RFPs, which requires proponents to include a Diversity and Inclusion Plan to outline their commitments to including M/WBEs in all aspects of their development. Additionally, the Board authorized the agency to bolster ongoing planning studies in Newmarket by entering into consultant services for the PLAN: Newmarket the 21st Century Economy Initiative to draft a planning document.

## ENCAMPMENTS (from pg. 1)

One of the things that seems to be hampering the ability to remove the encampments are lack of a policy that, perhaps, meets legal muster.

City officials said they are still working on an encampment policy, which was promised in the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan.

The City indicated street outreach teams from the Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Police Department routinely visit where individuals experiencing homelessness congregate to connect them with housing and recovery resources. They call in Public Works when necessary to clean up trash build up.

This happened on Melnea Cass most recently last weekend.

Residents of Alexandra Ball

Neighborhood Association said they are hoping to have a walk-thru with the City.

Sources with familiarity on the issue indicated there could be challenges from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) about removing encampments from public areas.

Others said the City has been working on the encampment policy for several months, and it was mentioned last fall as a key point in the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan. Some, however, wondered if there could be a successful policy or protocol crafted for such spaces.

It has been and is a consistent topic of conversation at the Mass/Cass 2.0 Task Force, as has been previously reported.

## FENWAY VICTORY GARDENS (from pg. 1)

concerns."

She said that certain new protocols have been adopted to help keep gardeners safe, including no longer sharing tools and leaving some gates open to reduce the number of high-touch areas. Wheelbarrows are still shared, though people are required to use gloves and wipe down any other shared surface they come into contact with, she said.

"Our ability to recruit volunteers has really been hampered this year because of the virus," she said. Each member of the garden makes a commitment to help maintain the garden as a whole once they obtain a plot, so each of them has been volunteering a certain number of hours, she said.

Regular community participation days for the garden have been cancelled because it would require too many people to gather, but smaller groups of no more than 10 people have been helping to maintain certain common areas of the garden.

Bertolozzi said that for the first time this season, a group of non-members came in to volunteer recently. A management consulting firm brought in some of its employees to help out in the garden, and Bertolozzi said they really enjoyed the opportunity to see each other in person for the first time since March while being able to contribute to a larger cause.

In the spring, the garden members typically partake in a bulk order of materials for gardens, including wood for raised beds, posts, dirt, cow manure, and more. However, this year, it was not possible because it takes too many people working close together to make it happen. Instead, some gardeners who had cars were able to get materials for those who were unable to do so themselves.

"We have talked about possibly doing a bulk order in the fall," she said. "That is still an option," as people need to amend their soil and clean out their gardens to prep for the next growing season.

"We're trying to follow the City of Boston and the Parks Department guidelines just to make sure that everyone is feeling comfortable," she said.

The gardens also traditionally offer a seed donation program to members with donated seeds for herbs, tomatoes, and other vegetables, but there was a seed and seedling shortage this year.

Gardeners started tomatoes from seed from prior years instead, and there has been a plethora of tomatoes and other vegetables harvested, many of which have been donated to Women's Lunch Place to be turned into healthy meals for homeless and low income women.

There has also been an influx of people interested in obtaining a plot in the gardens. "In terms of membership, our waitlist has exploded," Bertolozzi said. She said that some veteran gardeners held several plots over the years, and have since left the garden, allowing membership to increase.

The waitlist is around 250 people, and "we are still pulling people off the 2019 waitlist," she said.

"We have a really diverse membership," she continued, with people from many different areas of the City who speak 17 different languages and are of various ages, races, cultures, and socioeconomic statuses, she said. "It has been interesting listening to the scope of diverse challenges that [the virus] has posed to our members," she said.

She said there are a "significant number of elders in the gardens as well as gardeners at additional risk of the virus," so this year, the Board has reached out to those who are not able to come and tend to their gardens to see how others may be able to assist. "It's requiring a lot more coordination and a lot more communication with gardeners and with our organizational folks who are tasked with providing support to these gardeners," she said.

"A lot of people have struggled with the lack of large social events

that we've had in the past," she continued. "After a while, people get tired of Zoom meetings. People don't want to sit at home at a Zoom meeting; they want to be outside enjoying the outdoors."

She said that the Victory Gardens are "doing what we can," and are "fortunate that our gardens are fairly large," which allows gardeners to converse with passersby at a safe distance, or a small group of people can gather in one of the common areas. "That's really been a comfort to a lot of us," she said.

She said that it's been strange this year without crowds coming to Fenway Park and a significant decrease in tourists who used to come walk through the gardens.

However, Bertolozzi said that neighbors are beginning to spend more time in the gardens, which has been "nice to see." She added that park rangers and D4 officers are "extremely visible in the gardens throughout the day, keeping the garden safe."

Additionally, the pollinator garden that has been in the works is moving forward. "I'm happy to report that we have a landscape architect who we are working with," Bertolozzi said. She said the goal is to have the garden space completed by the end of the year, and there will likely be a virtual event to celebrate the garden opening.

During these difficult times, she said that it's important to "recognize that we have shared challenges and that it's important to be tolerant and to understand that everyone is under a lot of the same stresses, and to just have a little more empathy with anyone you're interacting with."

Bertolozzi said she encourages people to visit the gardens—they are open 365 days a year—and chat with gardeners.

"We're all in this together," she said. "It really is central to really understanding what it takes for a community, especially a gardening community, to work well together."



# BVNA hears new proposal for Isabella St. Church; discusses Emerson College's testing protocol and use of W Hotel

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Planning and Licensing Committee met virtually on August 17, where a new proposal was heard for the church at 19 Isabella Street, and representatives from Emerson College spoke to the community about its plans to house students at the W Hotel.

The original proposal for Isabella St., which was presented last year and was supposed to be developed by New Boston Ventures, is no longer on the table as the developer withdrew the plan.

Now, Carlisle Capital is the new developer, and president Bill Binnie and his son Dylan were on hand to answer questions from the committee. The architect for both proposals is Finegold Alexander. Architect Tony Hsiao gave the presentation.

Harry Collings, a development consultant for the developer, said that they are “just beginning the process” with this new proposal, and have not yet filed anything with the Boston Planning and Development Agency or “any other City department.”

Binnie explained that Carlisle Capital is an “award winning” developer, with a “particular focus and expertise in renovating old buildings.”

The proposed residential project at 19 Isabella Street would also include office space for his family business, he said, so they have a “particular sensitivity in making sure it looks right.”

This proposal includes 10 fewer units and is one story shorter than the previous proposal, Binnie said.

“Our goal is to make a smaller, less obtrusive project” than what was previously presented, he added.

Architect Tony Hsiao said that the “existing building has a very strong, stately presence in the neighborhood. We want to be respectful of the existing historic fabric.” He said that the team has done additional background

research on the church, and discovered that the steps leading up to the front entrance are not original.

Hsiao said that they would like to remove the steps and bring the building entry down to the ground, which would allow for accessible access to the building.

There would also be restoration work on the facade including preserving, restoring, and enlarging some of the windows to allow for more natural light. He also proposed the addition of windows on the alley side of the building to bring in even more daylight.

He then talked about the proposed addition to the back of the church, which would be for the residential units as well as 8,000 square feet of office space. The addition is set back “roughly 20 to 35 feet from the front face of the steeple,” Hsiao said. The addition matches “the height of the peak of the church” with a penthouse on top that is pulled away. There would also be a dedicated elevator inside separating the residential use from the office use.

The addition was proposed to be a lighter color masonry type material, which Hsiao said “lightens the current massing.”

The Committee and members of the community who tuned into the meeting seemed to share the same concerns about this proposal: that it's too similar to the one previously presented.

Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) president Bethany Patten said that speaking in “broad strokes, it doesn't look that different.” She added that it “feels a bit big,” and the massing on the back isn't drastically different from the other proposal that neighbors worked together to try and reduce.

“Looking at the rear, it just looks like a big box,” said BVNA member Gaye Bok.

BVNA member Sarah Herlihy said she does like the proposed glass roof on the back as well as

the design on the front of the church, and she said she “appreciates” the “effort to get light into the structure.”

She agreed with Patten that “there's been a lot of discussion about the massing in the back. It's still a problem that we need to work really hard and get creative about.” She added that “this feels very familiar and something we already said no to.”

Binnie said that space and volume from the residential units is needed to “justify” restoring the church and “bringing the facades back to a world class level.”

He continued, “this is just about a break even situation for us to do as a developer...I don't think the massing would look out of place” compared to other buildings in the area,” he said.

Resident John Shope said that “I don't want to say that we should just accept anything that any developer proposes,” but “what we have here is something that... is going to be owner occupied and very positive for the neighborhood.” He added that “what may happen” on the adjacent lot should also be considered, citing rising crime rates and a potential drop in values for urban real estate. “We need to be cognizant of the changing economic situation,” he said. “We need to take into account that a very experienced developer did take a pass when they were told something that was a little bigger than this wasn't going to be approved.”

Herlihy said that the BVNA has been “accepting of height” after a proper design review process that includes neighbors, and cited the Motor Mart garage project as an example. She also said that she isn't “worried about this becoming a bad use,” in response to Shope's comment.

“We are very open to working with the developers,” she said. “It is a challenge. I hope this is the start of a process.”

Binnie insisted that he doesn't

“know how to lessen the massing,” and said he “doesn't want to fight with the neighbors.” He said that the building has asbestos and a failing roof that costs “three times 10 million dollars” to address and restore. He said that colors can change for the proposed materials on the facade, but “we can't really change the fact that we need a box,” he said. “It's incredibly expensive, but we want it to be beautiful when it's done.”

He called the meeting “disappointing,” adding that “we have capital, we have commitment to the community.” He continued, “I'm not sure, given your comments, how much room there is for us to change things or fire the architect and hire another guy.”

Herlihy responded by saying, “I think these comments are a little disappointing to us.” The group wants the next steps to be involving a subcommittee to work with the project team on refining a design that works for all.

## EMERSON COLLEGE USE OF W HOTEL AND TESTING PROTOCOL

Peggy Ings, Vice President of Government and Community Relations at Emerson College, and Mary Higgins, Director of Community Relations, attended the virtual meeting on Monday night to update the community on the college's plans to bring students back to campus safely.

Ings said the college has partnered with the W Boston Hotel to provide 216 rooms to returning students. She said that nine of the 11 floors at the hotel will be occupied by students in an effort to socially distance students, and because the Paramount residence hall will be a dedicated quarantine and isolation location.

“Students cannot come on campus without a test,” Ings said. “Positive students will be moved to a room at the Paramount,” though she added that if it is possible for

that student to go home with their family, that would be preferable. “It can't always happen, though,” she said.

Students who test positive will have their ID temporarily deactivated so they cannot leave their rooms. No visitors are permitted in any of the college's residence halls this semester, she added.

The W will have eight Resident Assistants and one full-time Resident Director as well, she added.

“Students sign an agreement to be part of a community that is going to comply with the rules and regulations,” Ings said. “People will not stay at the campus if they do not comply.”

Before coming onto campus, students are tested at Tufts Medical Center and “those tests are repeated four days later,” and then again the following week, she said.

Higgins explained the move-in process for the W Hotel, which will take place on August 25 and August 26, with approximately 100 students moving in each day. Some parking spaces on Warrenton St. will be utilized for the move-in process. She said that it “should go very smoothly because it's such a low number of students.”

Sarah Herlihy said that “Emerson has been a good neighbor to the neighborhood,” and communication will be key as everyone navigates these uncharted waters. She asked what the plan would be should there be a cluster of cases on campus.

Ings said that the college is “fully prepared if that happens,” with the 260 bed Paramount residence hall available for quarantine and isolation purposes for students who test positive or have been exposed to the virus. She said that they hope to not use more than the first two floors for those who test positive, but are prepared with more space if need be.

# MassDOT schedules temporary overnight lane closures on Longfellow Bridge

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced that there will be temporary overnight lane closures for vehicular traffic travelling on the

Longfellow Bridge between Boston and Cambridge. The overnight closures are scheduled to take place nightly from Sunday, August 16, through Thursday, August 20, during the overnight of 9 p.m. through 5 a.m. the follow-

ing morning.

The work is scheduled to conclude at 5 a.m. on Friday, August 21.

The work will require the closure of only the motor vehicle travel lanes from Boston to Cam-

bridge. Travel lanes will remain open for motor vehicles travelling from Cambridge to Boston and for pedestrians, bicyclists, and the MBTA Red Line.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advance message

boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

MassDOT encourages drivers to seek alternate routes, reduce speed, and use caution while approaching and traveling through the work zone.

# Councilor Bok brings back in-person office hours

By Dan Murphy

For City Councilor Kenzie Bok, the most gratifying part of resuming in-person, neighborhood office-hours has been seeing her constituents in the flesh again.

“It was such a joy to see people in person, and everyone has been great about following all the safety guidelines,” she said. “We had some good conversations about helping out our neighbors in this tough time, and everyday issues like rodents and trash, as well as big-issue policies, like police reform, economic recovery and public housing.”

Councilor Bok held her first neighborhood office hours since the pandemic struck on Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Phillips Street Playground on Beacon Hill, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Back Bay and Mission Hill Playground in Mission Hill; and on Monday, Aug. 17, at Symphony Park in East Fenway and at Ramler Park in West Fenway. She is also scheduled to hold office hours today, Thursday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. in the West End on Thoreau Path (on the benches behind the Amy Lowell

Apartments).

While she is holding her office hours outdoors to better maintain social distancing and adhere to other public safety guidelines, Councilor Bok also views this as a prime opportunity to enjoy the city’s greenspace while the weather still permits.

“Just getting to sit in each of these parks and playgrounds in good weather, you can really appreciate how lovely these settings are,” she said. “As city dwellers, it’s such a reminder of what treasures our parks are.”

Most constituents who attended her office hours booked their appointments with Councilor Bok in advance, but she was also able to accommodate a few passersby at each session as well so far

“I wasn’t sitting alone for any of them,” she said of her office hours, “and we were all booked up for the most part, but a few neighbors still dropped by during every rotation.”

Besides welcoming the constituents themselves, Councilor Bok also greeted some pets during her office hours.

“It was mainly dogs,” she said,

“and they were well behaved and all adorable.”

Councilor Bok said she would continue to welcome pets at her office hours going forward, although she limited her invitation to dogs and cats only.

One issue has continued to come up in conversations with constituents, Councilor Bok said, surrounding how the city’s colleges and universities can safely reopen again.

“I’m concerned about schools returning and how we can handle it in a way that puts health first and foremost,” she said. “This is something I’m really concerned about, and I’ve encouraged schools to go virtual and bring fewer students back.”

While Councilor Bok plans to hold her next “rotation” of office hours virtually in an effort to engage those who aren’t comfortable attending them in person, she also said she intends to continue holding them outdoors through the fall, weather permitting.

“We definitely look forward to having as many opportunities as we can to do this in person while the weather is still nice,” she said.



City Councilor Kenzie Bok (right) speaking to a constituent during her neighborhood office hours on Monday, Aug. 17, at Symphony Park in East Fenway.



Councilor Kenzie Bok (right) meets with a constituent during her office hours on Saturday, Aug. 15, on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Back Bay.

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# Neighbors call for better plan on homeless living in Peters Park

By Seth Daniel

Residents in the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) are calling for the City and Pine Street Inn to come up with a better way to serve a growing group of homeless individuals that they said are taking over the park — scaring away children and harassing those trying to use the park.

Peters Park has always had small issues with homeless living in the park at times, but neighbors said this summer it has taken on a whole new look as several individuals have been living around the clock in the park — and making it hard for others to enjoy the space.

“This isn’t about NIMBY; it is about what is the plan to get people into work or housing and not hanging or living in the park,” said Arthur Coe, a long-time resident and member of EBNA. “Everyone has a right to be in the park, but you don’t have the right to take it over or make it your home... There needs to be a strategy here. I don’t know what it is, but I’m willing to help if they need help.”

EBNA President Ken Smith and Coe said many neighbors have contacted them over the summer about people living on the baseball diamond, sleeping overnight and

getting services from Pine Street Inn at the park. Neighbors said they don’t want to drag the Boston Police into the matter, as it isn’t a police issue. Bringing in the police only seems to criminalize the problem, which they said isn’t criminal.

“It’s not a police matter,” said Coe. “Captain Sweeny and D-4 officers are doing a wonderful job and they’re understaffed. It’s not a police matter, but an outreach matter. Pine Street is not out consistently.”

Said Smith, “I support Pine Street, but they need to be more focused on these efforts.”

Coe said he has seen the group living in the park harassing kids trying to play basketball and sleeping in the tot lot — discouraging parents from coming to the park.

Pine Street said the issue did get everyone’s attention earlier in the summer, and the City and Boston Police asked them to do outreach.

“Our outreach teams have gone to Peters Park at the City’s and BPD’s request,” said Barbara Trevison of Pine Street. “We agree with the community that no one should live in a park, and our staff are actively working to find places for those who are there. Strategies often include the distribution of basic food and water as we engage people and help them find a placement. Staff have had success with

getting several people to shelter and detox.”

The City said they fund the Pine Street daytime outreach team, and coordinate with a city network of outreach providers, emergency shelter and housing programs. They said they regularly ask Pine Street and other agencies to respond to persons in need of services in Peter’s Park, other locations in the South End, and across the city. In addition, work continues to refer people to shelter, detox, mental health and medical care, and permanent housing, the City indicated. However, they said it was not accurate to suggest they had asked Pine Street to serve hot meals to those living in the Park, as some in the neighborhood have said they’ve seen, though they do encourage outreach teams to provide water during extreme hot weather. Councilor Ed Flynn has been very close to the matter, and he said he has had meetings at Peters Park this summer to try to address the issues. He has been taking walking tours of the area through this month, including at Mass/Cass, and last Friday at Blackstone/Franklin Squares and Villa Victoria.

Flynn said neighbors at Peters Park and across the South End have serious concerns about what’s

happening there, and he said rightfully so.

“I think there has to be some personal responsibility and accountability for people using drugs in the park,” he said. “Parks are for athletics, community gatherings and socializing with friends and being in neighborhood spaces. It’s not a place for people to come and use drugs and discard needles. That behavior is not only illegal, but it also prevents other people

from living a good quality of life... That attitude needs to change. I am compassionate and support Recovery Services, but this is a neighborhood park where kids play sports and seniors enjoy the park.”

Flynn said he and his team are seeing lots of homeless in public spaces, and lots of discarded needles. He said it’s time for the City to focus on basic services and quality of life.

## Martin Luther King III endorses Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate

Staff report

“Joe has fought for the silenced and ignored, the oppressed and left behind. He legislates and leads from our streets and communities — for and with the people most in need.” — Martin Luther King, III

On Thursday, Aug. 13, human-rights activist Martin Luther King III endorsed Congressman Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate in a video released by the Kennedy for Massachusetts campaign. The fourth President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and oldest living child of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, King cites Kennedy’s record on Civil Rights and a need for new leadership in the Senate as his reasons for endorsing Kennedy.

“I’m proud to endorse Joe Kennedy because this country needs a new generation of civil rights leaders to tackle the injustice and inequity of our past,” said Martin Luther King III. “Throughout his career, Joe has fought for the silenced and ignored, the oppressed and left behind. He leg-

islates and leads from our streets and communities — for and with the people most in need. Joe is the kind of powerful new voice our country desperately needs in this moment to help bring us to higher, moral ground. We must elect him to the U.S. Senate.”

Martin Luther King III is the latest civil rights activist to endorse Kennedy following the late Congressman John Lewis and Dolores Huerta.

Kennedy is a committed ally to the Black community, understanding that generations of discrimination and disenfranchisement have led to structural barriers for Black and Brown families across the country. Over the course of his career to date, he has fought to proactively and deliberately address these barriers in everything from housing to health care to education, and criminal justice to voting rights. As he continues his campaign across the Commonwealth, he has promised to listen, learn, and relentlessly prioritize equity in both his policy and political choices.

## As Primary approaches, Markey campaign sees tsunami of grassroots contributions

Staff report

With two weeks to go before the final day to vote in the primary, the Ed Markey for U.S. Senate campaign is reporting \$1.84 million in donations in the period from July 1 to Monday. The campaign received 38,697 individual contributions during that same timeframe.

In the final week before the end of the reporting period -- from Aug. 5 to 12 -- the Markey campaign raised more than \$500,000, approximately half - \$261,887 - came in just those final two days. The fundraising announcement comes on the heels of the new Sunrise Movement-produced ad that has already garnered more than 3 million views and an inspiring grassroots house party featuring national progressive heroes

Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman Roh Khanna, and Sunrise Movement co-founder Evan Weber.

“Small dollar contributions continue to fuel our campaign’s rise. Ed’s leadership on the Green New Deal, Medicare For All, racial justice, and the progressive issues defining this moment are fueling the campaign’s grassroots momentum heading into the final days of voting. Voters can see through the Kennedy campaign’s desperate negative attacks, and our massive growth and momentum are the proof,” Campaign Manager John Walsh said.

The latest fundraising success comes after the Markey campaign posted a record-breaking second quarter of the year, when 33,707 individual contributions helped raise more than the Kennedy campaign.

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# Crite Park restoration stages 'big reveal' on site as momentum gathers

By Seth Daniel

The movement to reconstitute the park and properly honor Allan Rohan Crite at Crite Park in the South End has gone into warp speed this summer, and that was buttressed last Wednesday night, Aug. 12, with the unveiling of the proposed park design – complete with a large-scale South End-influenced painting by the world-famous artist who lived and grew up in the South End.

The park has been a blight for many years to neighbors, and is nothing more than a few trees and a brick wall on Appleton Street corner with Columbus Avenue. It's hardly been a sound tribute to an artist whose works are in the Smithsonian Museum.

That's exactly what neighbor Cheryl Dickinson thought, and she and others have quickly organized a Board that is supported by abutters and the widow of Crite, Jackie Cox Crite. Last Wednesday, they unveiled the most recent plans to a socially-distanced group of more than 65 people.

"This park was not designed by this Board," said Dickinson. "This park was designed by you."

Councilor Ed Flynn said it was appropriate to better remember an icon like Crite.

"We don't fully recognize the contributions of so many African Americans in this neighborhood and in our city," said Flynn. "They don't get recognition and so often our history doesn't teach about what great contributions have been made by people in our own neighborhood."

Landscape Architect Monique Hall of the BSC Group unveiled the plans and, with Dickinson, reinforced the three priorities. They are a place for quiet respite, areas to sit with lots of shade, and an eye-catching tribute to Crite.

The park, first of all, is pro-



Landscape Architect Monique Hall explains the idea for the park as being "outdoor living rooms."



Gary Bailey and other neighbors discuss the design, including the large-scale South End feature painting by Allan Rohan Crite that will be featured prominently.

posed to be 3.4 times larger than it is now, and it will contain pergolas that frame three "outdoor living rooms" and eight trees.

"The idea is creating outdoor spaces that are living rooms," she said. "You can sit and look out, but as people walk by on the street you can be observed. They are literally outdoor living rooms."

In the back, against an existing building, will be a new wall that will contain one of Crite's works, hopefully one that highlights the African Americans of the South End that Crite so loved to paint. There will be two small "rooms" and one larger one. The plan is to have three game tables, as two smaller tables as well. None of the sitting areas will allow someone to lay down or sleep in the park. There is not a plan for it to be locked, Dickinson said.

The overall plan is for the Parks Department to take over the space eventually from Public Works during construction. Right now, Dickinson said they are in the process of crafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) about who



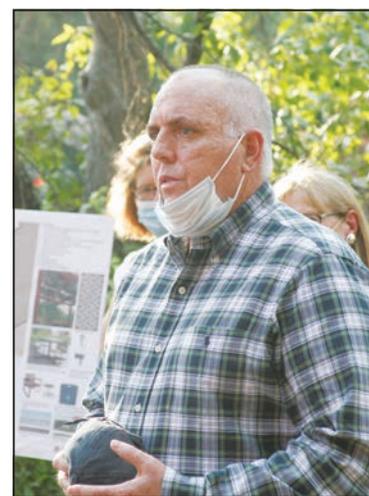
Architect Monique Hall, Crite Park Board President Cheryl Dickinson, and Jackie Cox Crite – the widow of painter Allan Rohan Crite.

will take care of what – meaning what the Parks Department will do and what the Board will take care of. Similar agreements exist at parks nearby like Hayes Park.

Councilor Flynn pledged his support to helping those two pro-

cesses along, and has been involved already in the effort.

Cox Crite said she was thrilled with the design and that so many neighbors want to properly remember her late husband, who loved that area of the South End.



Councilor Ed Flynn said he would do everything he could to advance the project.

"This is fabulous," she said. "It's incredible. It's going to have more green space and it will be family friendly. I think it's great."

An online Zoom meeting about the design will be held on Weds., Aug. 26, at 6 p.m.



An overview of the new park design, with the outdoor living rooms and new pergolas highlighted.



Members of the Planning Committee, including Regina Pyle, Jackie Cox Crite (Allan Rohan Crite's widow), Cheryl Dickinson, Architect Monique Hall, Maryellen Hassell and Jennifer Girvin.

## PORCHFEST (from pg. 1)

it in such a way that protected the musicians and visitors.”

In years past, Fenway Porchfest featured musicians performing hip-hop, folk, rock and classical, among other genres, on numerous outdoor stages at spaces through-

out the neighborhood provided pro bono by partnering organizations for one afternoon each summer. Porchfests, which were launched in Ithaca, N.Y., in 2007, are now held annually on front porches throughout the U.S. and



Eva Sita, who performed in and co-produced the Fenway Porchfest music video, performing during last year's event at the Victoria Rose Garden.

Canada, but since porches in the Fenway are in short supply, the Fenway Porchfest event motto has been “Music everywhere, porches optional.”

Even into the early summer, Fenway Porchfest organizers were holding onto hope that the event could proceed in its traditional manner and closely monitoring the status of other area Porchfests. But then they met with city officials, who suggested holding it virtually this year instead.

Rather than simply holding a virtual concert, however, the event organizers opted to produce a music video with an array of local musicians, including Lanky & the Fens, Ann, Eva, Bill Dwyer Band, JP Honk Band and Red Shaydez – all of whom are past Fenway Porchfest participants. Together (but separately), they riffed on the Standells' classic “Dirty Water,” with neighborhood-specific alternate lyrics that alter the song's chorus from “love that Dirty Water, oh, Boston, you're my home” to “love that Muddy River, oh, Fenway, you're my home.” The video debuted online July 31 at fenwayporchfest.org.

Madeline Lee, a Fenway CDC staff member, didn't join the team until earlier this year, and hasn't attended a previous Fenway Porchfest, but she knew just how much the neighborhood was looking forward to its return.

“We could've cancelled it,” Lee said, “but the Fenway community felt strongly that they wanted to celebrate and support the neighborhood's musicians.”

The Fenway Porchfest music video also honors the site partners, Lee said, with a photo montage that shows them holding up signs that read: “I [heart] Fenway,” along with old images of site partners who were unable to submit a new photo for the project.

Sita, a musician, as well as a music producer, not only performed in the Fenway Porchfest video, but she also produced it alongside fellow musician Shaydez.

The self-described “Beatmaker, producer, songwriter, dancer and artist,” and the first Ivorian woman student of Berklee College of Music, had initially applied to return to the event this year as a performing musician.

Last year, Sita participated in Fenway Porchfest on a stage at the Victoria Rose Garden, which she



Red Shaydez, who performed in and co-produced the Fenway Porchfest music video, on stage outside The Harp on Boylston Street during last year's event.

and her friends had adorned with flowers especially for the occasion.

“The audience sat on the grass, and it had a relaxed festival vibe like I imagine it would've been like in the '70s,” said Sita, who sang and played the kora, a traditional African string instrument, during the performance.

When this year's event was eventually cancelled, Genevieve Day, assistant director of the Fenway Alliance, asked Sita to help produce the music video.

Sita signed on and soon found herself collaborating with musicians she had never met before.

“I coordinated the music by first recording the song structure on an acoustic guitar, which I then sent to the artists who contributed to the piece by playing, singing and rapping along with my recording,” Sita said. “I got to meet a bunch of artists without leaving my house, and I'd never produced a project with so many artists on the same track. It was surreal, and it opens up a world of possibilities for artists working in the COVID context.”

Sita just graduated from Berklee, and is soon moving to New York City, but she already plans to return to Boston to perform at the Fenway Porchfest next summer.

“It's so nice to have [an event] that gives away music for free and celebrates independent artists,” Sita said. “I feel a lot very talented artists lack exposure, and this festival really does a service to their talents.”

Like Sita, Shaydez performs on and co-produced the music video, but she too was initially looking forward to being on stage at Fenway Porchfest, just as she has every year since its inception in '18.

“I appreciate that it gives equal opportunity to artists of all levels to join,” Shaydez said. “During the application process, [the event organizers] reviewed every one, and there have been opportunities for a lot of artists to perform.”

As a hip-hop artist, Shaydez said many of her musical peers were previously unfamiliar with the event, “but once they joined it became a big melting pot and a networking opportunity.”

In fact, when Shaydez was allotted 90 minutes to perform outside of The Harp on Boylston Street as part of last year's event, she instead chose to relinquish much of her stage time to allow other musicians the opportunity to showcase their talents instead.

“I curated my own little show by bringing in a bunch of artists from my community and having them perform their own mini-sets,” she said. “It was billed as ‘Red Shaydez and Friends.’”

Fenway Porchfest, she said, has also helped introduce the neighborhood's residents to the talent living in their backyard that they might not discover otherwise.

“In the Fenway, if you're average working person, you don't know what artists are there,” Shaydez said, “so [Fenway Porchfest] gives them an opportunity to get to know artists in their backyard.”

And regardless of the format that Fenway Porchfest adopts next year - be it a virtual or live event - Shaydez said she hopes to remain involved.

“Whether or not it's virtual or a live event, I'm looking forward to it either way because it's a great time,” she said. “I hope it continues because it's one of the best festivals in the city.”

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# Walsh announces \$30 million new affordable housing funding round

Staff report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced that the City of Boston has released two Requests for Proposals (RFP) offering approximately \$30 million for affordable housing developments seeking City of Boston financial support. This is the first affordable housing funding the City of Boston has offered since restarting affordable housing construction in June when Boston began its phased reopening plan in line with its COVID-19 guidelines.

"The work of creating affordable housing in Boston must continue," said Mayor Walsh. "Affordable housing for all families is crucial now more than ever, and the urgency for safe, stable income-restricted housing has been highlighted by this pandemic. We're dedicated to creating sustainable, affordable housing, in line with our housing and environment goals, for all families in Boston."

Developers can apply to the City with proposals to build new affordable housing or preserve existing affordable housing. The City, the Community Preservation Commission and the Neighborhood Housing Trust will prioritize projects that produce significant percentages of housing for extremely low-income Bostonians, that serve special popula-

tions such as homeless, seniors or special needs households, promote City goals to affirmatively further fair housing, and that efficiently use City resources and/or land to increase the supply of housing available to low- and moderate-income households.

The RFPs also require that developers prove that their team -- from the executive suite to construction workers in the field -- reflects the diversity of Boston's population. New affordable housing development proposals must provide an explanation for how they will prevent displacement of both residents and businesses and provide an eviction prevention plan that builds on existing sound management practices.

This year's funding announcement is paired with an update to DND's Design Standards with two key enhancements. The first is a requirement that all new affordable housing construction funded by the City must meet Carbon Neutral performance standards, consistent with the Carbon Free Boston by 2050 that Mayor Walsh set in 2017. These new standards are the result of a year-long collaborative effort between multiple City departments, the Boston Planning & Development Agency, a consulting team, and many practitioners and experts in the field. The second enhancement is an expansion of the agency's focus on Universal Design, forwarding

the work of the Mayor's Disability Housing Task Force. The updated design standards not only clarify the City's goals for a minimum of fully accessible units that is double the state's requirement, but they also request new enhancements in all apartment types to make it easier for owners to adapt all units to be accessible to people throughout their lifetimes.

The City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development and the Community Preservation Act (CPA) are issuing \$20 million dollars consisting of HOME, CDBG, Housing Boston 2030, Inclusionary Development Policy Funds and Community Preservation Funding. Approximately \$16 million dollars of resources will support qualified proposals from non-profit and for-profit developers of affordable rental, cooperative and homeownership developments. DND will prioritize up to \$4 million dollars of funding for supportive housing for homeless and/or aging populations.

"The City of Boston has again proven itself a leader in the production and preservation of affordable housing, this time in the midst of an unprecedented crisis," said Dara Kovel, CEO of Beacon Communities. "Bringing resources to create affordable housing counters the pressures of the economic downturn and helps alleviate Boston's housing crisis. This funding, including resiliency measures and targeting those most in need, puts

Boston at the front of the pack."

In addition, the Neighborhood Housing Trust Fund (NHT) is reviewing applications for up to \$10 million to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing developments that meet the needs of the homeless, low- and moderate-income individuals and households in Boston. The NHT is funded through a project linkage fee system for commercial development projects in excess of 100,000 square feet, and supports homeownership, rental, cooperative, transitional, or permanent housing. Projects serving households earning incomes of 50 percent AMI or less and special needs populations receive preference.

Based on the goals outlined in Mayor Walsh's housing strategy *Housing A Changing City: Boston 2030*, the City of Boston has established priority criteria which proposals must meet, including:

- Income-restricted, affordable housing developments targeting a mix of incomes: from units for homeless households, to units targeted and restricted to incomes representative of Boston's workforce. Funding awards will prioritize proposals that, in addition to the homeless set-aside, provide some portion of units targeting extremely low income tenancies (less than or equal to 30% AMI).
- Income-restricted affordable housing developments that have reduced the cost to build and or efficiently use subsidy (i.e. requests

that do not exceed program limits, cost caps, and that maximize private debt and equity), maximizing the benefits of the LIHTC program and improving the projects ability to move into construction more quickly.

- Income-restricted affordable housing developments that provide units that serve the disabled community, vulnerable or special needs populations, elders, veterans, artists, aging out youth, etc., (information on appropriate services or amenities must be provided) and that advance the City's goals of affirmatively furthering fair housing.

- Acquisition of unrestricted housing developments, extension of existing restrictions and/or deepening of affordability in order to stabilize the tenancies, and provide long term affordability for a mix of incomes (i.e. unrestricted properties).

- Developments that are at risk of losing their affordability within 5 Years. Proposals must score in accordance with the states matrix as very high risk (Preservation Projects Only).

- Projects creating new income-restricted affordable units in high-cost neighborhoods where most of the IDP and NHT funds are generated.

- Income-restricted affordable housing developments that utilize City-owned land.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (from pg. 1)

also founded in 1920 to educate women on issues of the day. The official approval came on Aug. 26, 1920 by the federal government.

"It was an extremely large and long movement," Price said. "I think it was probably one of the largest movements ever in U.S. history. It lasted about 80 years and was dramatic at every turn. At every turn, it seemed they were just squeaking through. It's a very impressive story."

As it turned out, women were able to vote in the 1920 presidential election, and it is said -- though not proven -- that they were the driving force in electing Republican Warren Harding and his Vice President Calvin Coolidge, who was from Massachusetts.

Looking back from 100 years, in Boston, the milestone is met with a City Council that is majority female, with women holding eight of the 13 seats and including the Council President post.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok -- who represents Back Bay, Bay Village and Beacon Hill -- said the milestone is joyous and sobering at

the same time.

"I think it's both energizing and sobering at the same time," she said. "It's energizing because you see how hard people worked to get this right and they were effective in doing it and all they went through, yet it's sobering because you have a majority female Council 100 years later, but it took 90 years to get one or two women."

She also said it is sobering in that African American women were not included in the milestone.

"Black women weren't included in that, and you also saw a long history of poll taxes and voter suppression to keep people from voting, and that's sobering too," she said.

Councilor Lydia Edwards, who still wouldn't have been able to vote at the 1920 milestone being an African American woman, said it was a time to celebrate, and also a time to acknowledge more can be done.

"As we enter one of the most consequential elections of our time, it's important to remember so many of us are able to have a voice today and vote because of

those who fought for a greater democracy," she said. "This year marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Let's utilize this moment to reflect and acknowledge that many people were not included in the movement for women's voting rights. We have learned and are still learning that gender and racial justice are inextricably linked and both are necessary."

Both Price and Bok point out that historically, the Aug. 18 milestone and the 1920 election -- which saw the first women voters in the United States -- gave birth to larger women's issues.

Bok -- a doctorate in history -- said the passage of the 19th Amendment gave rise to one of the largest infusions of federal money into what were perceived as women's issues, notably education and maternal health.

"Right after Women's Suffrage passed, Congress took up the biggest set of pro-family, pro-women bills it ever had," she said. "That was because all the men were terrified of losing their seat due to

women getting the vote...So that moment of Women's Suffrage also pushed Congress to address education and women's maternal health."

Likewise, Price said that in the moments after suffrage, many of those active in the movement began to rally around the Equal Rights Amendment -- which is still being fought for.

Suffragist Alice Paul authored the ERA shortly after the 19th Amendment passed, Price said.

"Now that they had the vote, they wanted to get equality in other areas," said Price. "That's when the ERA was born -- right after the right to vote was won."

Price said that for many young women and girls, it can be confusing for them to hear that women actually couldn't vote at one time -- and not so long ago in the history of the country. She said they strive to educate them about the fight, the ups and downs, and the good and bad of it.

This week, however, marks a milestone and a call for more to be done to advance what was

achieved 100 years ago this week.

"It's a slow road," she said. "But there is reason to believe we're making progress. We had the first female presidential candidate in 2016, and now we have the first Asian/African American woman as a candidate for vice president and that's a milestone. However, African American women in particular did not get to vote in 1920. They had to keep waiting until the Voting Rights Act...I like to say we've seen a lot of victories but still have a lot of work to do in regards to inclusion."

After holding a small celebration on Tuesday afternoon next to the Boston Common, Kerry Costello of the Boston League of Women Voters, said it was important to know just how important one vote -- and one's mother -- is.

"It was an important milestone certainly, but it wasn't complete because it wasn't for all women," she said. "It is remarkable how important one vote can be. We saw that in the Boston City Council race last year. One vote does make a difference."

# Northeastern officials outline plans for off-campus housing, COVID-19 testing

By Dan Murphy

Northeastern University officials were on hand for a virtual meeting sponsored by the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association Tuesday, Aug. 11, to outline their plans for housing students at area hotels for the fall semester, as well for how the school would administer testing for COVID-19 within its community.

John Tobin, Northeastern's vice president of city and community affairs, as well as a former Boston city councilor, said the school would lease all of the Midtown Hotel, located at 220 Huntington Ave. in Back Bay, and entire floors of Westin Copley Place, which, along with 140 units in apartment buildings it owns the master leases for, would provide off-campus housing for its students.

Kathy Spiegelman, Northeastern's vice president and chief of campus planning and development who is overseeing off-campus housing at the Midtown and the Westin Copley, said soon after the pandemic struck, the university realized it would need to reconsider student density, especially since the school is obligated to provide

housing for all freshmen and sophomores. "We wanted to keep students as close to campus as possible," she added.

Northeastern subsequently had conversations regarding providing student housing with all of the hotels in Coley Square and some Fenway hotels, Spiegelman said, as well as local landlords.

"First, we went to talk to the Midtown because they had a development project planned for the site and [intended] on closing the hotel," Spiegelman said, adding that the hotel has also accommodated a "small number" of Northeastern students for the past few years.

Under Northeastern's proposal, the Midtown would provide housing for 305 students, Spiegelman said, who would be monitored by eight onsite RAs (resident advisors) and two proctors.

The Westin Copley will be home for up to 844 international students who planned to study at seven locations worldwide, Spiegelman said, but since all but one of the study-abroad programs have been cancelled, the students were given the option of coming to Boston instead via the NU Inn

program.

Students will be required to wear face coverings at all times in the hotels when they aren't in their rooms (as well on campus, both indoors and outdoors), Spiegelman added, and NuFlex – a new teaching approach that Northeastern plans to launch this fall in an effort to limit the number of students in the classroom by alternating between learning on campus in the traditional sense and remote learning – would also help limit potential exposure to the coronavirus.

Northeastern will also launch its "Protect the Pack" campaign to emphasize to students the importance of following guidelines to ensure their personal safety, as well as the safety of the community, Spiegelman said, while the school is also developing "opportunities for small groups of students for virtual social engagement."

As for how Northeastern would monitor the behavior of its students living off-campus, Spiegelman said the university's Public Safety Group is aware that its boundaries would extend beyond the school grounds once the fall semester starts, but that the school

presently has no plans to patrol St. Botolph Street.

Tobin added that his office would answer to neighborhood concerns in regard to students living off-campus, and that the school had already received a commitment from Captain Steven Sweeney of Boston Police District 4 to help its staff work on any issues that might arise. (The Southwest Corridor, however, is under the state's jurisdiction.)

"I anticipate we'll be busy every weekend," Tobin said. "My staff will be on call, and I'll be on call... and we'll try to nip things before they become a problem."

In anticipating demand for student parking, Spiegelman said. "Freshmen are discouraged from bringing cars to school, but if they do they'll be parking on campus and not at the Midtown."

Meanwhile, David Luzzi, Northeastern's senior vice provost for research, said the university would have Federal Drug Administration-approved labs on campus with the testing capacity for 5,000 individuals each day, as well as "surge capacity" for 8,000.

Students returning to campus would be tested three times, Luzzi said, including on their first day back, as well as again on their third and fifth days back.

"We understand the frequency of how often testing is needed and what measures need to be taken to

keep the community safe," Luzzi said, adding that any student who isn't tested would be barred from participating in campus activities until they submit to one. "A student who misses a scheduled test will have an immediate reach-out from a health professional to check up on their physical well being."

Northeastern is also developing an app that would link to its existing virtual Student Hub, Luzzi said, requiring every member of the university's community to check in and report any possible symptoms of the coronavirus.

In the instance that someone from the school's community shows symptoms, Spiegelman said they would be relocated to "wellness beds" on campus to be tested, as would others they have come into contact with.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 would continue to be tested for the virus "every five days for rest of semester to ensure early intervention and to isolate any infected individuals," Luzzi added.

Moreover, Luzzi said the Network Science Institute at Northeastern University is leading the effort in developing a dashboard to track COVID-19 up-to-date metrics and data for the area's colleges and universities, with the presidents of 17 schools already committed to taking part in this initiative.

## ATTENTION Boston voters, Tuesday, September 1 is Election Day

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### If you used to vote at...

Ward 4, Precincts 6 and 7  
**Morville House**  
100 Norway St  
Boston

Ward 4, Precincts 5 and 8  
**Symphony Plaza East and West**  
334 Massachusetts Ave  
Boston



### You're now voting at...

**Northeastern University**  
**Matthew's Arena**  
238 St Botolph St  
Boston

CITY of BOSTON



## ATTENTION Boston voters, Tuesday, September 1 is Election Day

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### If you vote at...

Ward 5, Precinct 3  
**24 Beacon St**  
Boston

Ward 5, Precincts 7 and 8  
**700 Boylston St**  
Boston



### Please enter through...

**Bowdoin Street through**  
**Ashburton Park**

**Dartmouth Street side of the**  
**building**

CITY of BOSTON



# Death at Verb Hotel in March ruled a homicide

## Revere man arrested in Maine

Staff Report

At about 12:10 p.m. on Friday, March 13, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) responded to a radio call for a cardiac arrest in the area of 1271 Boylston St. (Verb Hotel) in Fenway. On arrival, officers located an unresponsive adult female victim. The victim was pronounced at the scene. The victim has since been identified as Sarah Dorany, 29, of Maynard.

On Tuesday, July 28, the manner of the victim's death was ruled a homicide by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

On Tuesday, August 11, detec-

tives assigned to the Boston Police Homicide Unit sought an arrest warrant for Aaron Parsons, 43, of Revere for the charges of Manslaughter and Engaging in Sexual Conduct for a Fee.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, members of the BPD Fugitive Unit with assistance from the US Marshals Maine Violent Offender Task Force located and arrested the suspect in South Paris, Maine. The suspect was additionally charged with Fugitive from Justice and will be held at the Oxford County Jail until his arraignment and subsequent rendition.

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# BBAC approves refurbishment of 224 Clarendon St. entrance

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) on August 12 approved with provisos the refurbishment of the entrance at 224 Clarendon St.

Architect Tom Trykowski presented the proposal for the project, which is part of a new design that had been previously approved. He proposed to clad the entrance way with a granite that is similar to

what exists already on the facade.

He said they have found matching granite and proposed to install a “neutral porcelain panel” on the inside of the doorway where the Guildford Hall plaque is, which sparked conversation between Commissioners, as many had questions about the historical significance of the plaque.

Trykowski also proposed pin mounted numbers for the building above the doorway, because he

said it is currently difficult to find the number from the street.

Commissioner Zsuzsanna Gaspar said she would prefer if the granite wrapped around the edge instead of switching to the porcelain panel, but she said that this new design is “so much better than the original.” Commissioner Jerome CooperKing agreed.

Paula Baker, a neighbor, said that the plaque should remain but also likes the granite wrapping

around.

“I don’t think the plaque is appropriate,” said Commissioner Robert Weintraub, but he added that it is “grandfathered in.” He still said he would “prefer to see the plaque removed.”

There was a suggestion to relocate the plaque to the lobby, but many Commissioners were curious about the historical significance of the building and the Guildford Hall plaque.

“With respect to the front entry, the back marble that is there now is not original,” said Tom High of backbayhouses.org, adding that there should be “no problem removing that.” He also said that “this design is much, much better,” and said that “it would be nice to keep the plaque simply because it

has some historic attraction,” as he said that Guildford Hall was the original name of the apartment hotel that was in the building.

However, he said that from an architectural standpoint, the plaque should not be kept where it currently is.

Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said that this design is “much better” and “will fit very nicely on the street.”

The Commission voted five to four to approve the proposal with the proposal that the granite “go over the top as well as the side; at least as far back as the new doors that are glass,” and how far back it goes will be determined by staff. The porcelain tiles will be removed from the design.

## Roxbury Corners Coop files injunction to stop Tubman House closing, demo

Seth Daniel

The full-court pressure returned to the Tubman House project this week, as a preliminary injunction and civil complaint was filed in Suffolk Superior Civil Court on Aug. 18 for United South End/Lower Roxbury Development Corporation (also known as Roxbury Corners Coop off of Columbus Avenue).

Attorney Brian Kaplan filed the complaint and the injunction, but was not immediately available for comment on the matter when called by the Sun.

The complaint is listed as being against the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), United South End Settlements and 566 Columbus LLC (the developer New Boston Ventures).

Those listed by name as Plaintiffs include Carol Streiff, Carolyn Ray, Elizabeth Patricia Nolan, Connie Forbes, Lloyd Raymond Fillon and Quanda Burrell Nanton.

Some of those named have also been referred to as ‘Roxbury Voices.’

“The plaintiffs move this Court for a temporary restraining order

– and, after notice and a hearing, a preliminary injunction – prohibiting the defendants and their agents from (a) demolishing the Harriet Tubman House, (b) closing on the sale of the property, (c) recording documents at the Registry that will eliminate a covenant restricting the property to non-profit community uses only, and (d) recording at the Registry other documents in furtherance of the Project described below,” read the motion. “These events are all imminent and will cause irreparable harm.”

It is described as a breach of contract case in the filing, and goes back to a 2001 settlement agreement where the BPDA promised to use its best efforts to allocate and whatever may be available for the develop with the South End Urban Renewal Area of:

- residential real estate projects with one-third low-income units, one-third moderate income units and one-third market rate units.

- other community benefits such as non-profit community facilities.

A man who brought suit against the project last year, abutter Jared Katsiane – whose suit was quickly dismissed in Superior Court at the time, has publicized a rally that was

to happen Wednesday night after Sun deadlines. It was described as a community speak out to preserve the Tubman House, the Honor Roll Mural and Black history.

In a letter to the Sun this week, United South End Settlements and New Boston Ventures thanked their hundreds of supporters who lent support to the recent approval of the project by the South End Landmarks Commission.

“We at United South End Settlements and New Boston Ventures want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of supporters who live, work and represent the South End neighborhood who helped ensure the success of our project over these many months,” read the letter, which appears fully elsewhere in the Sun. “The recent approval by the South End Landmarks Commission will enable USES, a historic 128-year-old non-profit organization, to continue to provide early education, out of school time, and economic mobility programs to the hundreds of children and families we serve in the South End and Lower Roxbury community.”

## MassDOT develops new mobility dashboard

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the release of the new MassDOT Mobility Dashboard. This dashboard is another resource for members of the public to visualize, analyze, and monitor data collected by MassDOT to better understand the effects of COVID-19 on the Commonwealth’s transportation network.

MassDOT is continually monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 on roadways, transit services, and Registry transactions. The dashboard is an interactive roundup of key indicators that primarily reflect how much people are traveling, how they are getting around, and where they are going throughout the Commonwealth. This data is updated weekly, with the date of the last update displayed prominently at the top of the page.

“This dashboard is just one of the ways that MassDOT is compiling and monitoring transportation data,” said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollock. “Having one central location to access and analyze the impacts of COVID-19 increases public accessibility.”

While MassDOT is not the only state transportation agency in the U.S. that has developed COVID-19 related mobility dashboards (see Vermont, Utah, Washington State), the MassDOT Mobility Dashboard succinctly organizes a variety of multimodal data about movement in the Commonwealth that covers a wide range of topics all in one place. Topics include traffic volumes, transit revenue, safety and more. The dashboard is a valuable resource for all stakeholders and enthusiasts of Massachusetts’ transportation network.

**ATTENTION South End voters, Tuesday, September 1 is Election Day**

**Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**If you vote at...**

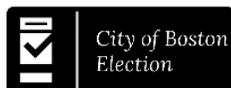
Ward 5, Precinct 1  
**41 Berkeley St  
South End**



**Please enter through...**

**Berkeley Street side of the  
building**

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Ron Berkowitz      Toni Doggett

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The small window in the last clue is on Delux Cafe at 100 Chandler Street. Eater Boston reported that there has been a bar here for more than 50 years, "Before Delux, it was Chez Joie; before Chez Joie, it was the Elbow Room; before the Elbow Room, it was Higgins Pub."

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Hunter, Travis	Walcott, Judith W	127 Beacon St #32	\$592,500
Tracey Goessel T	Karen Kane Moore LT	315-317 Beacon St #3	\$1,175,000
Viehbacher, Karena	Muakkassa, Wael F	6 Clarendon St #401	\$1,031,000
Janica Lane LT	Vinter, Stephen T	75 Clarendon St #51	\$132,500
Homsy, Christopher F	Hamilton, Dona B	180 Commonwealth Ave #A	\$720,000
Lens Condo T	L Rosen Marital T	257 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$3,500,000
Mazareas, Peter	Fuchs, Christine	184 Marlborough St #6	\$860,000
13-3 Gloucester St LLC	James Marlborough St	251-253 Marlborough St #2	\$2,485,000
Altieri, Andrea	Grosso, Francis L	80 Marlborough St #2	\$970,000
Wiley, Leanna	Mazareas, Peter	381 Marlborough St #1	\$750,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Millbury, Corinne L	Dittrich, T Tyler	10 Bowdoin St #202	\$749,000
Erlingsson, Erik C	NBE NT	33 Chestnut St #1	\$1,800,000
Mchugh, Nicola	Connolly, William	36-R Joy St #3	\$331,500
Cheng, Liyang S	Sar North Realty LLC	54 Myrtle St #5	\$580,000
Shaw, Alison C	Cushman, Russell G	63-63A Myrtle St #6	\$1,475,000
Kutz, Peter S	Bush, Kimberly	45 Province St #708	\$958,500
Weisskoff, Robert	175-1 St Botolph St	175 Saint Botolph St #1	\$844,000
Rodophele, Katherine O	Chen, Jason	6 Whittier Pl #2H	\$496,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Art, David R	StCyr, Christopher	511 Beacon St #6	\$439,700
Butler, Philip	Remis, Chad	410 Boylston St #4	\$2,270,000
Beck, Christopher M	Smith, Robert	34 Fayette St #2	\$1,875,000
Hamrick, William L	Stephen P Kelleher	52 Fayette St #1	\$1,179,500
Sutton, John E	Tofias Gloria M Est	1 Huntington Ave #1203	\$3,175,000
Brian H Whipple 2012 FT	Barbara I Edelstein T	201 Newbury St #405	\$1,795,000
Tarapaca Newbury Corp	UMNV 8 Newbury LLC	8-8A Newbury St	\$42,450,000
21 Piedmont LLC	Bhogal, Jasbir	21 Piedmont St #21	\$3,175,000
Yu, Hai	Guida, Paul M	191 W Canton St #2	\$665,000
Ben-Akiva, Ori	Brackenridge, Heidi	139 Warren Ave	\$4,500,000
Sciacca, Kate R	Rivers End LLC	171 Warren Ave #5	\$675,000
Hornsby, Kennifer	Sullivan, Andrew B	47 Warren Ave #1	\$1,440,000
Barbara I Edelstein T	Lewis, Denise A	7 Warren Ave #19	\$2,470,000
Brown, Catherine	Kramer, Zachary	40 Winchester St #401	\$1,375,000
Multirich Property LLC	Bajan Properties LLC	188 Brookline Ave #22C	\$1,250,000
Jin, Qingren	Burbank Street LLC	63 Burbank St #15	\$385,000
Wood, John	28 Concord Square Dev	28 Concord Sq #1	\$3,625,000
Moffat, Susan	SVS Hldg MA LLC	90 Gainsborough St #304E	\$775,000
Full Circle P&A LLC	Leitner, Rosemarie P	477 Harrison Ave #PHB	\$6,400,000
Choi, Chantal	Gibeau, Timothy D	460 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$703,000
Copeland, Aaron	Jeffrey S Aroy T	39 Milford St #2	\$3,100,000
Lowenthal, Jennifer	Hattangadi, Shilpa	125 Park Dr #32	\$545,000
Wu, Kunming	Smith, Aaron	31 Queensberry St #22	\$530,000
Summers, Jeffrey A	Dhokarh, Rajanigandha	11 Saint George St #13C	\$1,185,000
Zahedi, Misha	Garrett St Marys T	124 Saint Marys St #4	\$434,000
Chau, Angela	Crittenden, William F	46 Saint Stephen St #4	\$769,000
Harper, Benjamin C	Breene, Ventia R	519 Shawmut Ave #2	\$1,800,000
Lake, Craig A	Williamson, Maggie	604 Tremont St #3	\$985,000
Barsalona, Nicole	Hinds, Meghan E	11 Upton St #1	\$2,900,000
Rasmusson, Ann	Bos, Dana W	16 Upton St #3	\$1,115,000
May, Walter R	Beeston, David	164 W Brookline St #1	\$1,872,500
Murray, Tatum	Morrissey, Lisa R	12 Worcester Sq #4	\$920,000
Ou, Jonathan	Quinn, Brian T	14 Worcester Sq #4	\$879,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Anna L Richter LT	Topaz LLC	1 Avery St #PH1C	\$1,700,000
Miller, Eric	Yacobian, Antoinette	343 Commercial St #501	\$1,500,000
Myette, Charles L	David B Warias RET	357 Commercial St #209	\$840,000
Abbasov, Parviz	A Dorozynski 2015 RET	1 Franklin St #2504	\$2,300,000
Coughlan, Lisa M	Rojas, Jabes	210-216 Lincoln St #302	\$850,750

# Travel lane to close in each direction on Mass Turnpike for a year due to Parcel 12 project

By Dan Murphy

One traffic lane will close in each direction on the Mass Turnpike effective Saturday, Aug. 22 and lasting for approximately a year as construction proceeds on the Parcel 12 air-rights project, a representative for Samuels & Associates said.

The Boston-based developer's project will transform the critical intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston and Newbury streets in Back Bay into a sprawling mixed-use complex "featuring storefront retail, a boutique hotel and world-class office space," according to Morgan McKenna of the local PR firm Denterlein, as well as "connect the South End and the City of Cambridge, and vastly improve the street-level

experience along Massachusetts Avenue between Boylston and Newbury streets."

Samuels & Associates Principal, Abe Menzin said in a statement: "Samuels & Associates is so pleased to finally begin work on this project after years of planning and process. The project will be transformative in fulfilling the neighborhood's vision and repairing the urban fabric of the Back Bay. The project includes significant safety and transit improvements at the Newbury/Mass Ave. intersection, reconfiguration of a dangerous highway ramp and includes a half-acre public plaza."

The project will also result in myriad transportation benefits, McKenna wrote, via the creation of separated bike lanes that will connect to the existing lanes on



Construction underway on the Parcel 12 air-rights project adjacent to the Mass Turnpike.

Massachusetts Avenue, a new sheltered MBTA bus stop at Mass. Ave. and Newbury Street (Hynes T Station Southbound), and widened

sidewalks and pedestrian amenities in the plaza, as well as updated crossing signals.

A new entrance to the MBTA's

Hynes Convention Center Green Line station will also open as part of the project, McKenna added.

## For the Record

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:** Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

**From the Aug. 20, 1 p.m., COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING:** Order for a hearing regarding implementing changes for safe streets during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

This matter is sponsored by Councilor Michelle Wu and Councilor Liz Breadon and was referred to the Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation on April 29.

**From the Aug. 20 Public Improvement Commission meeting, 10 a.m., online:**

- On a petition by CKG Columbus LLC for the acceptance of a Pedestrian Easement adjacent to Columbus Avenue (public way), Boston Proper, located on its southeasterly side at address no. 566, between Massachusetts Avenue and West Springfield Street.

- On a petition by CKG Columbus LLC for the making of Specific Repairs within the following public ways in Boston Proper, consisting of consisting of curb realignment, sidewalk and pedestrian ramp reconstruction, as

well as new and re-located specialty pavement, street lights, street trees, irrigation infrastructure, stormdrain infrastructure, bike racks, and driveway curb cuts:

- \*COLUMBUS AVENUE – ON ITS SOUTHEASTERLY SIDE AT ADDRESS NO. 566, BETWEEN MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE AND WEST SPRINGFIELD STREET;

- \*MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE – ON ITS NORTHEASTERLY SIDE AT ADDRESS NO. 450, SOUTHEAST OF COLUMBUS AVENUE;

- \*WEST SPRINGFIELD STREET – ON ITS SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE SOUTHEAST OF COLUMBUS AVENUE.

- On a petition by CKG Columbus LLC for the granting of a Projection License for the installation of a canopy over a portion of the sidewalk within Massachusetts Avenue (public way), Boston Proper, located at the easterly corner of its intersection with Columbus Avenue.

- On a petition by CKG Columbus LLC for the granting of an Earth Retention License for the installation of a temporary earth support system within the following public ways in Boston Proper:

- COLUMBUS AVENUE – ON ITS SOUTHEASTERLY SIDE AT ADDRESS NO. 566, BETWEEN MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE AND WEST SPRINGFIELD STREET;

- MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE – ON ITS NORTHEASTERLY SIDE AT ADDRESS NO. 450, SOUTHEAST OF COLUMBUS AVENUE;

- WEST SPRINGFIELD STREET – ON ITS SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE SOUTHEAST OF COLUMBUS AVENUE.

**BUS AVENUE.**

- On a petition by Crown Castle for a Grant of Location with lead company status and no participants to install new telecommunication conduit with City shadow within Tremont Street (public way), Boston Proper, located generally at address no. 611, between Aguadilla Street/West Canton Street and Dartmouth Street/West Dedham Street.

**From the Aug. 21, 9 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING HEARING:** A hearing regarding the 2020 census, and the impact of COVID-19 on response rates.

**From the Aug. 24 South End Landmarks hearing, 5 p.m., Online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84367692453):**

- 41 Berkeley Street - Developer Related Beal and Hacin and Associates architects will present their preliminary design for the redevelopment of the triangular parcel(s) bounded by Tremont Street, Berkeley Street, and Appleton Street.

**From the Aug. 25 Boston Landmarks Commission, 4 p.m., Via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84023522746):**

**DESIGN REVIEW:**

- Back Bay Fens - 31 Park Drive: Replace existing concrete street light with metal street light and small cell wireless infrastructure including radio cabinet and antenna. Continued from 7-28-2020

- Charles River Speedway - 1420-

1440 Soldiers Field Road: Signage plan.

- Arlington Street Church - 351 Boylston Street: Repair brownstone, re-point mortar, re-construct south and north stairs, construct new north ramp, construct new basement stair enclosure, restore wood window frames, restore doors at portico and install new hardware, restore cornice, install new flashing and downspouts at portico roof and repair gutters, install bird control netting at portico overhangs and cornices, and restore wrought iron railings and sconce at east entry.

From the Aug. 27 School Building Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Online:

The Preliminary Design Program (PDP). Per the MSBA regulations, the PDP lays-out the various capital solutions the City will be exploring for the future William E. Carter School building in the South End. This submission of the PDP requires a vote of the SBC.

**BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS**

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in

mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

**REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS**

- Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created re-sources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

**HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY**

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.



**BEACON HILL TOWNHOUSE**

**54 PINCKNEY STREET**  
**5 BEDS | 4F 2H BATHS | 3,825 SQFT**  
**\$5,995,000**



**86 MARLBOROUGH STREET #3**  
**3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,520 SQFT**  
**\$3,250,000**



**144 BEACON STREET #8**  
**4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,970 SQFT**  
**\$6,450,000**



**79 DARTMOUTH STREET #2**  
**2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 965 SQFT**  
**\$1,075,000**



**385 BEACON STREET**  
**4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 5,165 SQFT**  
**\$7,900,000**

