

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Janey suggests exploring ferry service to Long Island as Task Force unravels

By Seth Daniel

Acting Mayor Kim Janey has reportedly asked her administration to explore the idea of using ferry service to get patients to the Long Island Recovery Campus – a move that has been rejected in the past by many stakeholders – just as the key membership of the Mass/Cass 2.0 Task Force has unraveled and is going back to the South End Forum Working Group format.

A spokesman for Janey said on Wednesday she has asked her team to explore the idea of

ferry service, and stressed that Janey doesn't see such a service as a replacement for the Long Island Bridge. The comments from Janey were characterized by her team as less a reversal in approach and more of an evolution in approach.

"Rebuilding the bridge to Long Island is an essential piece to reopening a regional recovery campus there," said Spokesman Nick Martin. "We expect to go out to bid on the bridge this fall and start construction next year.

(LONG ISLAND FERRY Pg. 4)



Boston's beloved Rob Gronkowski was back in Beantown on Friday, May 7, to present a check for \$1.2 million to the Esplanade Association on behalf of the Grok Nation Youth Foundation. The money will be used for renovations of the Charlesbank Playground.

Gronk donates \$1.2 million to renovate Esplanade's Charlesbank Playground

By Dan Murphy

Former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski was back in Boston on Friday, May 7, to announce his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to the Esplanade Association for a complete renovation of the Charlesbank Playground.

Gronkowski made the

announcement flanked by Gov. Charlie Baker; Rep. Jay Livingstone; Sen. Sal DiDomenico; City Councilor Kenzie Bok; Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides; Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery; and Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association, as well as Gordie Gronkowski, older

brother of the tight end, now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, among others.

Besides paying for the playground renovations, the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation's gift to the Esplanade Association will also create a 10-year maintenance fund for the facility.

Gov. Baker called Ron Gron-

(GRONK, Pg. 7)

Chester Square Neighbors hear proposal for Ebenezer Church redevelopment

By Lauren Bennett

The Chester Square Neighbors met virtually on May 5, where members heard from the team proposing to redevelop the Ebenezer Baptist Church at 157 West Springfield St. in the South End.

The proposal is for nine units of residential housing with parking for eight cars in the basement, which will be accessed through the alleyway. There will be outdoor space for the residential units, and he said the units will be on the larger side to fit in with the needs of the neighborhood. The building will also be fully accessible, and the mechan-

ical equipment will be located on the roof.

According to a slide presented, the building was originally designed to be a Presbyterian church, but the "Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded by former slaves after the Civil War, in 1871," when they came to Boston from Virginia. The church was also a location for civil rights rallies in the 1950s, and is a Black Heritage Site.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church held its final service in this building on February 23 of last year.

Deconsecration is scheduled to happen this year, and the "church will remove all sacred items," and will also keep the

stained glass windows as well as the pipe organ, according to the presentation.

"Hand carved wood trusses will also be removed and retained for future use in the organization's next space," the slide reads, and the brick will be restored.

Architect Eric Robinson said "we really kind of come to these projects with the notion of listening," adding that the team wants to hear concerns from residents about the project.

For the church facade, Robinson said the front stoops will be maintained, and a preliminary

(EBENEZER CHURCH Pg. 6)

HILL TAKES THE REIGNS AT CITY LIGHTS STUDIO



Braun Hill has taken over the visioning for the City Lights Studio on Washington Street in the South End, and hopes to transform the Studio into an incubator for talent in the area. His father, Duggan Hill, established the school more than 30 years ago in the same spot when very little existed in the area. Read all about it on Page 5.

EDITORIAL

GET THAT SHOT!

The idea of “vaccine hesitancy” is a relatively new phenomenon in our country.

For those of the Baby Boom generation, there never was any question about getting shots for all kinds of childhood and adult communicable diseases.

Vaccines, along with antibiotics, were universally accepted as wonders of modern medicine that chiefly were responsible for the increase in longevity and decrease in misery both in the U.S. and in populations around the globe.

However, the rise of baseless conspiracy theories and adherence to senseless political conformity, all of which have been amplified by unscrupulous voices on social media (including Russian disinformation), have combined to increase vaccine hesitancy to record levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polls show that vaccine hesitancy spans all ages, educational backgrounds, social strata, political affiliations, and employment status.

In addition, the success of vaccines in bringing about the dramatic reduction in deaths from COVID-19 over the past two months has bred its own sense of complacency. With the pandemic on the decline and hospitalizations near zero in some places, the need to get vaccinated may seem less urgent than when the pandemic was at its peak.

However, there are three basic facts that make vaccine hesitancy a dangerous mindset both for individuals and for society at large.

First and foremost, the coronavirus still is infecting thousands and killing hundreds of Americans each and every day. Though the numbers in the U.S. are far below the peak from January, they still are unfathomably high.

In addition, across the globe, the virus is wreaking havoc from India to Brazil, where a lack of vaccines is ensuring that record numbers of people are dying every day. Vaccination is the only means by which transmission of this dread disease can be halted.

Second, all of the coronavirus vaccines being administered in the U.S. are both incredibly effective and incredibly safe. Any suggestions otherwise are being spread by self-serving groups who have no concern for the health of Americans, individually and collectively.

Finally, if enough Americans fail to get the vaccine and the virus continues to spread and mutate, the new variants may evade the protection of the vaccines, thereby establishing a vicious cycle in which we always will be a step behind and which ultimately will affect the economy.

Too many of our fellow Americans have died, too many lives have been upended, and too many of our front-line workers have made incredible sacrifices, to allow the progress we have made in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic to take a step backwards because of baseless claims that underpin “vaccine hesitancy.”

The simple reality is this: Mass vaccination is the only means by which we can defeat the virus and return to a semblance of normalcy. Both the public and private sectors need to do whatever is necessary to ensure that each and every American receives a shot -- and we urge all of our readers to do what they need to do in order to get the vaccine.

GUEST OP-ED

Developing a Plan

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Have something to look forward to every day. Work a job. Work in your apartment or house. Have an exercise or health outing of some kind. Clean out a closet. Read a book. Your goal may be to sit on the porch and watch nature or the traffic go by. We all need leisure days. If you have an idle day then plan to enjoy your time.

Work on your health, mental and physical. Occasionally do a mind check. Clean out any garbage between your ears. Your mind is where you spend your life. Do away with negativity. Get rid of any bad or resentful feelings. Forgive and love yourself and forgive others. God has forgiven you and it's time you forgave yourself. Give peace and happiness every chance possible to exist in your head. Take care of yourself physically. A good friend who will be 100 soon says vegetables and fruit are her main dishes and every day she is physically active.

Put a few dollars aside as you can. You can't take it with you

when you die but you can enjoy it while you are alive. You also might be able to help others. You can build wealth if you will work and save a little every week or month. Get rich schemes and winning the lottery are like being hit by lightning, they seldom happen. Invest in your local bank's Individual Retirement Account, a 401K and buy safe stock as you can. Also, pay into Social Security. You'll need it eventually.

Work on your network of relationships. If you don't have any friends then at least try to be a friend. If you go looking for friends you probably won't find any. If you will be a friend then you'll build some long-lasting relationships. Don't give up on your family. Stay close to your relatives if you possibly can. Church and civic groups are good places to build relationships. We all need personal time but don't spend your life totally alone.

Continue to work on you. You aren't finished yet. You are still a work in progress. Too often we point to an accomplishment or the past as the summation of

our lives. What we did yesterday may have been wonderful or not so wonderful but it's in the past. Who are you today? Keep becoming a better person. We all are still growing and have room for growth.

Make your own decisions and make good ones. You and God can figure it out. Stay independent as long as possible. A friend of mine recently gave up her home and moved to a place where “others” thought she should be. I don't think she is too happy with her new surroundings. Before you do, what other people think you should do, make sure it's what you want to do.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

NEC's 150th Annual Commencement Exercises to be held on May 23

Staff Report

New England Conservatory (NEC) announces gospel and soul singer Mavis Staples as its 150th annual commencement speaker at its commencement exercises on Sunday, May 23, at 10 a.m.

The ceremonies will take place in historic Jordan Hall and be streamed on NEC's website (necmusic.edu). NEC will also bestow honorary Doctor of Music (hon. D.M.) degrees on five distinguished musicians: Carl J. Atkins, Founding Chair of NEC's Jazz Studies Department; Emanuel Ax, classical pianist; Deborah Borda, President and CEO of the New York Philharmonic; Wu Man, pipa virtuoso; and Mavis Staples.

Staples will give her virtual commencement address to the combined graduating classes of

2020 and 2021.

“We're thrilled to celebrate NEC's Classes of 2020 and 2021 at our 150th commencement ceremony,” says NEC President Andrea Kalyn. “The past year has tested us all, and I am especially proud of our NEC graduates, who have prevailed in developing and sharing their artistry—whether streaming a concert from their home or from Jordan Hall, performing private virtual concerts for COVID patients, or teaching online lessons to front-line workers. They advance humanity through their music, and I am excited to see the impact they will have on the broader world.”

This year's recipients are honored for their lifelong commitment to the performing arts and their remarkable contributions to the field. Recent past recip-

ients include: Jessye Norman (2019); Herbie Hancock (2018); André Previn (2017); Leonard Slatkin, (2016); Ahmad Jamal (2015); Carla Bley (2014); Philip Gossett (2013); George Shirley (2012); Steve Reich (2011); and Quincy Jones (2010). Full list of past Honorary Doctor of Music Degree recipients here.

190 graduating students from the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be awarded degrees and diplomas including the Bachelor of Music, Graduate Diploma, Master of Music, Doctor of Musical Arts, and Artist Diploma.

A pre-Commencement streamed concert will showcase NEC students from the graduating classes on May 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. ET. Further details will be announced on the NEC website in advance of the performance.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

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

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, (SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

LAUREN BENNETT, (LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

Janey announces expanded services at City Hall, BPL, BCYF

By Lauren Bennett

Acting Mayor Kim Janey held a press conference on May 11, where she announced some updates to the city’s reopening plans, as well as spoke about the “encouraging” public health data in the city regarding COVID-19.

“There is no higher priority in my administration than the equitable recovery from this pandemic,” Janey said, later adding that “the latest data show encouraging trends.”

Janey said that over the past two weeks, new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boston have dropped by 38 percent. There have been an average of 80.1 new positive cases per day, and the citywide positivity rate

has decreased by 1.3 points to 2.4 percent citywide, Janey said.

She added that each of the city’s neighborhoods had a positivity rate under 4.3 percent, which is below the threshold of five percent.

“There’s also encouraging news in our hospitals,” Janey said. “COVID-related ER visits decreased by six percent over a two week period,” she said. She also said that there are currently 75 Bostonians hospitalized with COVID-19, which is “one of the lowest numbers recorded since the start of the pandemic.”

On the vaccine front, “more than 64 percent of all residents age 16 and older have got-

ten at least one shot,” Janey said. “We are working hard to engage residents who have still not been vaccinated.”

Both mass vaccination clinics in Boston—the Hynes Convention Center in the Back Bay and the Reggie Lewis Center—opened for walk-in vaccinations on Monday.

Janey also announced that services will be expanded at City Hall, the Boston Public Library, and the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) beginning in June.

“Starting June 7, Boston City Hall will be open to the public by appointment four days a week, and residents will be able to book appointments online Mondays, Tuesdays, Thurs-

days, and Fridays,” she said. For more information about which services will be available in person and to book an appointment, visit boston.gov.

Also in June, the Boston Public Library will “reopen for limited in-person services. All of our library locations will prioritize services that help residents with economic and educational recovery along with summer programs for kids and adults,” Janey said.

Additionally, BCYF locations will “align with the Phase Four, Step One of the Massachusetts reopening plan. This move will provide safe and accessible space for young residents and increase children’s programming,” such as game

nights, arts and crafts activities, and fitness classes.

She also said that the city is looking at “accelerating Boston’s reopening timeline in light of the improving public health metric metrics across all of Boston’s communities,” but no announcement has been made yet regarding details of what that might look like.

She continued, “to make a full and equitable recovery from the pandemic, we must continue to do what works in the City of Boston,” such as mask wearing, keeping distant from others, hand washing, and getting vaccinated.

“Working together,” Janey said, “we can ensure Boston’s reopening is a safe one.”

UNITE HERE Local 26 endorses Mayor Kim Janey

Staff Report

Just four weeks after announcing her candidacy for a full term as Mayor of Boston, Mayor Kim Janey has been endorsed by UNITE HERE Local 26 in the 2021 Boston mayoral race, citing her unique lived experience and distinct focus on building generational wealth for working families.

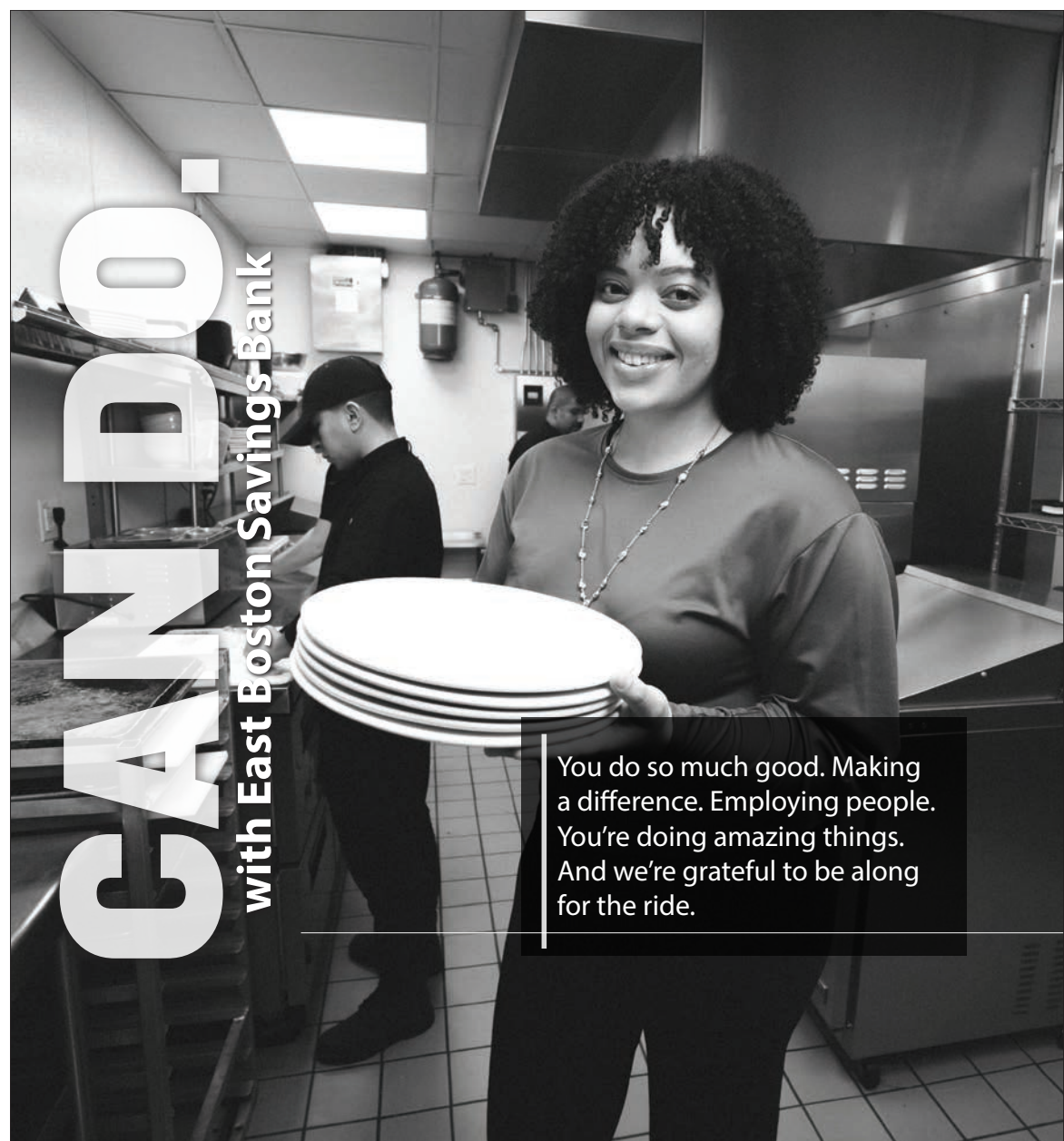
The 12,000-member hotel and food workers union is one of the most diverse and politically powerful organizations in the City of Boston.

“Mayor Janey knows what it takes to build first-generational wealth for Boston residents,” said Carlos Aramayo, president of UNITE HERE Local 26. “That means home ownership and good jobs for every neighborhood. We are proud to be the first union to endorse Mayor Janey.”

“I am so proud and thankful to receive the endorsement of UNITE HERE Local 26,” said Mayor Kim Janey. “Their members have been some of the hardest hit economically during the pandemic but – like Boston – they are strong and resilient. As our City continues to safely reopen, I will be standing with Local 26 to ensure that these hotel workers get back on the job – jobs that provide a living wage, critical benefits and an economic path forward for them and their fam-

ilies.” Mayor Janey had made it a priority to safely reopen and rebound the hospitality industry for workers and businesses. Recently, Mayor Janey opened her doors for a sit-down with Nine Zero Hotel workers who were fired unjustly in March of this year. An hour after the meeting with the Mayor, Nine Zero workers won their recall rights, with their jobs and seniority reinstated. The Mayor has also publicly called for solidarity with the unjustly terminated staff at the Copley Marriott Hotel, using her platform to advocate for fair and equitable treatment of its workers. “Boston residents need to be able to buy a home to build first-generational wealth. Mayor Janey knows this first hand because she lived it,” Aramayo said. “The Mayor is making this possible through city dollars and good job creation. Whether it be joining us on marches, picket lines, partnering on short-term rental regulations or organizing new hotels, she is focused on keeping Bostonians in Boston.”

UNITE HERE Local 26 has a longstanding relationship with Mayor Janey, endorsing her in the 2017 Boston City Council election. She has been “a true partner, in every possible way,” according to Richie Aliferis, a Local 26 Executive Board member and Boston resident. “Many call Boston home but can’t own a home in Boston. Mayor Janey will change that.”



 **East Boston Savings Bank™**
Home of Respectful BankingSM

800.657.3272 EBSB.com

Global Security Firm enters consent agreement with DA Rollins

Staff Report

Sweeping changes in training of guards and Special Police Officers hired by a subsidiary of the global security firm Securitas, as well as how the company retains records are part of an innovative pretrial probation consent agreement between the giant security firm and the state, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins announced last week.

The agreement, approved today by Judge Michael D. Ricciuti, will be in effect for two years and if it is complied with, then the criminal charges against Securitas Security Services USA Inc. of Parsippany, N.J. will be dropped on May 4, 2023. If Securitas fails to comply – as monitored by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office – the case will then move to trial. Mohammad Khan, and his employer Securitas were charged in 2019 with assault and battery on a child under 14 and one count each of civil rights violations.

"The actions of Mr. Khan and the company which employed him were deeply troubling in part because the company had reprimanded him several times previously for excessive force. This pretrial consent agreement

will help ensure that nothing like this happens again in any Massachusetts retail outlet that hires Securitas personnel as guards," said DA Rachael Rollins. "The agreement notes that there are 292 such locations in Massachusetts and 92 of them are in Suffolk County.

"The changes in training will include de-escalation of high-risk situations, management of aggressive behavior, unconscious bias, and handling and processing of juvenile offenders," DA Rollins said. "Revisions to the training program will incorporate principles in limits of authority and use of force."

To lessen the risk of intentional deletion or destruction of video evidence, the agreement calls for Securitas to implement an updated records retention policy at all retail locations in Massachusetts. All videos and written records of arrests or use of force complaints will be stored in a separate computer accessible only by management.

Securitas will also make a charitable donation of \$25,000 to an organization that seeks to address the mental health/trauma related needs of young individuals and/or seeks to address the effect of community policing on juveniles and emerging adults.

ADA Teniola Adeyemi told the court that the donation was in addition to a payment already made to the juvenile as part of civil litigation against the company. Attorney Paul V. Kelly represented Securitas in this case.

Under state law, to prove corporate liability the Commonwealth must show that an individual committed a criminal offense, that the individual who committed the offense was involved in a corporate business, and that the individual was vested with authority to act for the corporation with respect to that business. District Attorney Rachael Rollins' Office believes those thresholds have been met and exceeded in this instance.

This consent agreement, said to be the first of its kind in the history of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, will have an outside auditor review the company's actions in addition to oversight by the DA's office.

The case is the result of a call from State Representative Nika Elugardo to DA Rollins alerting her about an incident in a Boston store in June of 2019. Initial claims alleged that a Primark security guard, Khan, used excessive and unreasonable force to detain an 11-year-old shoplifter, who admitted taking several

items of clothing from the Primark store at 10 Summer St. in Boston on June 9, 2019. Boston Police estimated the value of the stolen goods to be \$175.

A lengthy investigation found that Khan, a Special Police Officer employed by Securitas, had been reprimanded at least four times previously for using more force than permitted by the company and for violating protocol. On June 9, 2019 he grabbed the 11-year-old girl, pulled her back into the store, and pushed her into a corner obstructing the view of the CCTV security camera. Over the course of more than seven minutes, Khan, who is 6' 1" and 225 pounds, grabbed the girl by the head and neck and threw her to the ground, punched her in the face while straddling her as she was on the ground, and even after being separated from her by Boston Police, re-engaged in struggling with her. All of this was done even though Khan was under explicit orders not to touch any customers, including suspected shoplifters. In addition, his Securitas co-workers and passersby urged him to stop.

The District Attorney's Office indicted both cases, against Securitas and Khan, and also notified BPD of Khan's excessive and allegedly criminal conduct, as

BPD issued the license for him to be a Special Police Officer.

"This is an exceptional result and I commend Securitas and their counsel, Paul Kelly, for committing to improving its policies and practices. I also commend the Securitas employees that stepped up that day urging Khan to stop his violent behavior. They represent the best of this company, and likely far exceed the number of Khans who work there. I appreciate the quick work by Boston Police to de-escalate and control this volatile situation upon their arrival.

"We think differently about solutions when we see problems in Suffolk County. This consent agreement, which covers the hundreds of Securitas locations throughout Massachusetts, ensures appropriate training for and humane treatment by any security officer licensed by the police to engage with the public. And that is good for the people of Suffolk County."

The charges against Mr. Khan are not impacted by this agreement. He returns to court on June 9 for a readiness hearing. Mr. Khan is represented by attorney Derege Demissie.

LONG ISLAND FERRY (from pg. 1)

In the interest of exploring ways to accelerate the reopening of vital regional recovery services on Long Island, Mayor Janey has also asked her team to take another look at hospital and public safety infrastructure that could be added to the island as well as how ferries might complement the guaranteed, all-weather access that a bridge provides."

The use of ferry service has been suggested before, at one time by Councilor Ed Flynn and most recently as part of the Mass/Cass Plan presented by Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Andrea Campbell. In the recent past, however, the idea of ferry service has been wholly rejected by members of the South End community and the 2.0 Task Force – as well as by the Boston Fire Department and Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS). That said, it's something that does continue to come up.

In the neighborhood though, it was just another piece of news on top of more frustrating news delivered to the Task Force recently. Last week, Task Force member Mike Nelson, of Worcester Square, said the meetings of the Task Force were no longer productive, and indicated if something didn't change they wouldn't really be worth his time any longer.

This week, that has been followed up by key South End member Steve Fox announcing that he will revive the South End Forum's Working Group on Mass/Cass – a long-time public meeting of the community, the City and providers that gave birth to ideas such as the Long Island Recovery Campus. The Working Group had been disbanded almost two years ago when Mass/Cass 2.0 came in and the Task Force seemed to replace that forum – though the Task

Force meetings were not open to the public and were not as transparent.

Fox said the issue of ferry service was one reason, but another was the fact that the Task Force was told this week that the mobile bathroom venture – which has been discussed for almost a year – was being put on hold.

"We're bringing back the Working Group," he said. "We're asking all the old members of the Working Group to come back and all the current Mass/Cass Task Force members to join us and we'll invite the public and the press and have a rigorous discussion on pros and cons of all these issues... We were discouraged that after six months of work in the Task Force on the mobile bathroom issue, that we're being told now that the idea is being shelved for 90 days as the City examines its

own departmental capacity and whether this is a good idea. We all wish that could have happened six months ago."

Fox said that Sue Sullivan of the Newmarket Business Association, another key Task Force member, has told him she would also agree to transition to the Working Group again. Many on the Task Force, including Nelson, have said that Fox and Sullivan have become the drivers of the Task Force, and little would get done without them steering the ship.

Last week Nelson, and this week Fox, said they are very worried that the summer is going to bring a barrage of quality of life issues to the South End if there isn't a winning strategy implemented as soon as possible.

Fox said they need to return to a community-driven process for that strategy.

"We need a community-driven process because summer is upon us," he said. "We understand the challenges of Mass/Cass and we

need a better balance of mental health and social workers...We need to triple or quadruple the BEST team. We also need concentrated enforcement on the dealers who are omnipresent on Atkinson Street...That's why we've decided to reconstitute the Working Group to bring people together and have an open and public discourse. The Long Island Recovery Campus was born in the Working Group and was endorsed by former Mayor Walsh and made a big part of his second term inaugural. That is the kind of work that needs to be done and is inclusive and transparent."

The Working Group was formed as a subcommittee of the long-time South End Forum in 2016 as a way to focus the energies of the community, the City and stakeholders at a time when the opioid epidemic was first surging. It met monthly in the Crossroads Hampton Inn on Mass/Cass.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Same last name, but new vision for City Lights under Braun Hill

By Seth Daniel

City Lights Studio on Washington Street has a huge imprint from founder Duggan Hill all over it, but now the new leader will still have the same last name, but a new and revived vision for the long-time arts sanctuary.

Braun Hill, the son of founder Duggan Hill, has taken over the City Lights organization and is looking to put a new imprint all his own on the studio that has served kids and adults – mostly people of color – from the community since the 1980s. His father, Duggan, will still be involved to an extent, but is taking a step back to let his son move the needle on the new vision.

Braun Hill and his business partner, Russell Ferguson – who got his start at City Lights and won Season 6 of ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ – hope to keep Duggan Hill’s imprint on the place, but make it into more of an incubator for talent in the area, with kids learning alongside working professionals in the arts.

“He was tired of travelling and being a show piece all over

the world,” said Hill. “He and I want to transform the existing dance area so we can do a lot of shooting and filming, which is what a lot of the new studios do now. We want to offer music production, performance, visual design, videography and photography. A lot of this place is my dad, Duggan. Every inch of it is my dad. That is great and I want to keep it that way. However, my aesthetic is I want it clean and re-do the lighting so everything looks great for a performance.”

Hill and Ferguson want to move from a full-on teaching space that has been the focus for several years now, to more of an incubator for talent with intensives that help young artists from the area hone every aspect of their craft.

“We really want to be an incubator for talent,” he said. “We lost sight of that in teaching and having kids in here. My father was always looking for something. He would say he wanted to find the next Elvis Presley. I would say the next Bruno Mars. It is a non-profit and we’re doing this for the community, but we are professional artists too.”

The idea would be to have about 10 to 15 students participating in the program every three months. Professional artists, music producers, DJs, dancers and others would instruct the students, focusing on all aspects of a career in the industry.

“I really just want to be an open resource too so kids can come and work on their craft – especially after the complete the program,” he said. “There would be a lot of open labs where you can come in and work on your stuff. A lot of our kids don’t have the ability to do that every day because many don’t even have a computer.”

A major piece of the plan are renovations to the existing space, which is very large. The front part of the studio would be reconfigured for a photography studio that could be rented out – making good use of the front windows and ample natural light that exists. The rentals for the photography space would pay for the operations of the rest of the program. He plans to put a new professional dance floor over the existing floor, upgrade the lighting, and put a music pro-

duction studio in the basement space. They have already added new bathrooms adjacent to the dance space.

“I would like to have us all in here with a glass of wine, schmoozing and giving tours by September,” he said. “I would really like to be able to show it off then.”

Duggan Hill gives full respect to the plan by his son, and said he is really glad to see the new energy put into the studio by Braun. He said he is reminded of how he started the Studio so many years ago on Washington Street when there wasn’t much around – long before any neighbors really ventured to live in the area.

Braun said he recalls being a student at City Lights as well, and noted that his father was a tough and demanding teacher as he had been a professional director in the 1970s and knew what it took to be good. Braun studied there from 6th grade to his college years, and then ventured off with Esoteric and DJ7L. He was involved in the underground hip-hop scene in the late 1990s. From there, he was able to get on the professional DJ circuit

and toured the country making a living in the industry. After that, he began curating music for companies.

“When you have all these companies that want to be cool, but no one there is cool, they outsource the coolness,” he said with a laugh.

Now, Hill said he is excited to take the baton and run with it – but in his own way. He said he wants to motivate kids, and he believes there is a ton of talent in the area that just needs some resources and professional guidance.

“It’s a very thick and rich culture here,” he said. “My dad’s biggest thing was to put money in their pocket. That’s one thing, but they need to see they’re getting better a lot sooner now. You have to start them in a way so that they progress quickly and see themselves get better. In that way, they’ll be excited and keep going on. If you start them with something hard, it’s easy to get discouraged. You have to start them easy, and then they can see their progress and that’s motivation...We want this to be a sanctuary for that.”

BBAC subcommittee recommends approval to full commission for 149 Newbury St. proposal

By Lauren Bennett

A subcommittee of the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) met virtually on May 5 to continue discussion of the proposed five story building on the lot at 149 Newbury St.

Architect Haril Pandya said that at previous meetings, the design team “received a lot of really great comments” that it has tried to incorporate into the latest iteration of the design.

Pandya spoke about different aspects of the design of the building that had come up at the last subcommittee meeting, including the color of the brick for the facade, the metal tones, the office entrance, lighting, the penthouse, and the location for the BlueBikes station.

For the brick facade, he said that the “intent is to be within the family of reds and brick that is familiar to the street as well as the neighborhood,” and that the tones of bronze should be darker as well to match the surroundings. He said that the goal is to “create articulation with brick detailing” as well as “creating different shadow lines.”

Three of the proposed five stories of this building will be office space, with the bottom two dedicated to retail. Pandya talked about the office entrance

on Dartmouth St., saying that the proposed canopy could be pulled back, and “warm, welcoming wood tones” could be introduced on the sides of the entrance, which had not been previously proposed.

Pandya then spoke about the cornice, which has been “simplified...to be almost like a coping detail” and is more flat than previously proposed. He also showed both light and dark options for the mechanical penthouse, with many of the commissioners saying they preferred the dark option, as they felt it better blended in with the architecture of the building.

The Commissioners and the team then spoke for a while about the placement of the BlueBikes station, as there are several potential options, both on the sidewalk and on the street near the building.

Chris Johns, a member of the team, said that they are still working out where the best location for the BlueBikes station would be. There is an existing station further down on Dartmouth St., but he said that “the idea of putting them on Newbury St. might make some sense,” or even potentially splitting the bikes up and having them in several different locations on the street.

Tom High from backbayhous-

es.org said that “putting [the bikes] on the sidewalk next to another building I think creates some visual problems as well as potentially some safety problems.” He said that moving them to Dartmouth St. could work, so long as they are “not in front of the building.”

Commissioner Jerome CooperKing said that he likes the bikes better “at the curb in the utility strip instead of bringing it right up next to the storefront,” and Commissioner Robert Weintraub said that while he believes the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate the bikes, he thinks they’re best located on the street.

Weintraub said that the “wood at the office entry wing walls is a great idea,” and it will help to “soften some of the harshness at the entry.” He said he prefers the darker penthouse option as well.

BBAC Chair Kathy Connor also said she prefers the darker option, as it is “easier on the eye,” as did Commissioners John Christiansen and Jerome CooperKing.


Other commissioners, like David Sampson, said that he likes the proposed new trees for the sidewalk area for the building as well as the “fat cornice at the very top,” which he said “separates the building itself from the penthouse.”

Commissioner Christiansen brought up an “issue with the amount of glass and how it’s broken up,” and made a few suggestions for how to address that, and there was also some discussion about the sign bands, though the design team is aware that they will have to come before the Commission with a signage plan as a separate application.

“This has been a fabulous process,” said Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB). She thought that the BlueBikes would work better on Dartmouth St. than on Newbury, as she is “concerned about heavy foot traffic” on

Newbury St. She also said she hopes the NABB Architecture Committee can work with the developer on a plan for the timing for the proposed building lights, “so it isn’t bright all night,” she said. Prindle also said she still had remaining concerns about the size of the mechanical equipment.

After a few more details were discussed between the commissioners, the public, and the design team, the Commission ultimately voted to recommend approval of this project to the full Commission, where it will be heard at next week’s BBAC hearing on May 12.



BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE

Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com

Sally Brewster
Ron Berkowitz

Betsey Barrett
Toni Doggett

Boston-based WHOOP to open global headquarters at One Kenmore Square

By Seth Daniel

The back-and-forth about the future of the office in the working world is one that WHOOP founder Will Ahmed hopes to resolve in Kenmore Square by making the recent investment in a 121,000 sq. ft. office space lease into a place employees want to come to.

Bucking a trend in the working world, the health and wellness company last week announced it was leasing eight floors, for a total of 121,000 sq. ft., in the new One Kenmore Commonwealth Building now under construction by Related Beal. The quickly growing company said bringing workers back to an office will be easier with new construction, and will be a place that isn't an obligation, but rather a place to look forward to.

"We have the advantage of designing this space with a post-Covid world in mind and we will have the majority of people who are based in Boston coming to the WHOOP office regularly," Ahmed told the Sun. "For team members in the area, we'll likely have some employees in the office daily based on the specific needs of their jobs while others will have more flexible or hybrid schedules. The space should be one that inspires people to come to work. The days of having an office that people feel obligated to go to are over, and our goal is to create a place that is exciting where people truly want to come

together."

Ahmed said WHOOP had 120 employees at the start of 2020, but the company has grown quickly, and has had 75,000 job applications sent to them over the past year. With the new lease, they are committing a large amount of jobs to the new office location in Kenmore.

"We had 120 employees at the start of 2020 and now have more than 500 at WHOOP with half of our team based outside of Boston," said Ahmed. "We've received 75,000 job applications over the past year which speaks to a heightened interest in everything we are doing to drive the future of health and wellness. Our commitment to bring 1,000 jobs to the new office in the next few years and the overall larger physical footprint are testaments to the strength of our membership and mission."

Related Beal made the announcement last week, noting it would be a significant tenant for their Commonwealth Building now under construction. Related said the company's move to Kenmore Square, in the heart of Boston, will add hundreds of talented employees to the neighborhood across engineering, data science, research and development, marketing, product design, talent, and more.

"WHOOP is a dynamic, homegrown Boston success story and we are thrilled to welcome them to Kenmore Square," said Patrick Sweeney, Managing

Director of Related Fund Management. "We are particularly excited that WHOOP is making the Commonwealth Building their new headquarters and look forward to helping facilitate their continued growth and innovation."

Said Kimberly Sherman Stamler, president of Related Beal, "Kenmore Square is one of Boston's most vibrant neighborhoods, making it the perfect home for an innovative company like WHOOP. WHOOP's focus on vitality, physiology and innovation will benefit from One Kenmore Square's proximity to outstanding medical, cultural and academic institutions."

WHOOP, founded in Boston in 2012, offers industry-leading wearable technology and a monthly subscription for 24/7 health monitoring designed to optimize behavior, improve physiology and sleep, and create meaningful lifestyle changes, according to the company. WHOOP has experienced a year of hypergrowth for the membership and overall business, including a \$100 million Series E financing at a \$1.2 billion valuation in October 2020 that featured investors like NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes, NBA MVP Kevin Durant, and PGA TOUR Major Champions Rory McIlroy and Justin Thomas. Over just the past few months, WHOOP has launched official partnerships with the PGA TOUR and LPGA Tour, CrossFit, the U.S. Army,

and schools like Howard University and The University of Southern California.

"Boston uniquely blends together world-class education, healthcare, technology, and sports, which align perfectly with our mission at WHOOP to unlock human performance," said Ahmed. "We intend to bring 1,000 jobs to our new global headquarters and look forward to calling Boston our home for years to come."

The new lease would account for a little more than one-third of the total square footage of the Commonwealth Building, which is listed as a 326,000 sq. ft. transit-oriented destination.

The Commonwealth Building, located on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and

Deerfield Street, includes five roof decks with unobstructed views of Kenmore Square and the Charles River, and more than 7,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor. WHOOP is expected to take occupancy of the building in mid-2022.

Immediately adjacent to the Commonwealth Building is the Beacon Building, a seven-story, 198,000 square-foot asset currently being developed as a Class A life science building. As part of the One Kenmore Square development, Related Beal said it would be delivering public realm and community enhancements, including expanded sidewalks on Deerfield and Beacon Streets, new street trees and seating, additional greenspace, and a buffered bike lane.

EBENEZER CHURCH (from pg. 1)

conversation has been had with the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) about the project. The presentation stated that the design will "aim to deliver an architectural intervention that will be contemporary yet respectful to the existing structure."

Kate Kelly from the project team said that respecting the "historical significance of the church...is something that is really important to us."

She continued, "We totally understand the significance and want to make sure that is captured as well."

Resident Rudy Mitchell said he would like to see something "more detailed" than just a simple plaque or stone to remember the history of the church.

Resident Laura L'Abbe asked how long the construction would take and how long neighbors would potentially be disrupted during the process.

Robinson said that since the existing building will be kept, there is not much construction that needs to happen on the exterior of the building. He said that there will need to be a steel structure installed to reinforce the building and get it up to the seismic code.

He said that the steel frame will "go in quickly," and the entire construction process should take between 16 and 18 months. Robinson added that he is "looking forward" to working on construction management plans with the neighborhood.

Kelly said that "a lot of the work will be done internally," and there would be "pretty minimal" street closure that would last two to three weeks

"at most," compared with some other projects that create take six to eight weeks for such work.

Another question was raised about the price point for the units and any affordability restrictions that might be placed on them.


Kelly said that there are "no [Inclusionary Development Policy] units on the property itself," but she said that the team is still discussing potential opportunities for affordable housing with the city. She also said it is difficult to predict the price point for the units since it would be at least a year and a half before the units would be on the market.

Developer Anton Cela said that the current cost of the project is \$10 million "between purchasing and developing it as it is right now." He said that he hopes the price will decrease, but right now, the cost of materials like wood and steel have sharply raised.

"Right now the markets are super volatile," Cela said, and "we're seeing supply chain problems. I think it will be a much better place in a year and a half."

Chester Square Neighbors president Carol Blair reiterated the concern about "erasing Black history" with this project, as former slaves founded the church when they came to the city and this structure at 157 W. Springfield St. had been used for more than 130 years as a place of worship and congregation.

"It's really very, very important that the changes that are made to the appearance of this church be minimal and be very respectful," she said.

 | **Virtual Public Meeting**

109 Brookline Avenue

Tuesday, May 25
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3toHBi5
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 084 8949


Project Proponent:
IQHQ

Project Description:
This is a Public Meeting to discuss the proposed 109 Brookline Avenue project. The Proponent (IQHQ) is proposing an approximately 250,000 square foot building at 109 Brookline Avenue intended for office, laboratory, research and development, ground-floor retail, and below-grade parking. If you require language services in order to understand the material presented in English at this meeting, please contact Edward Carmody at Edward.Carmody@Boston.gov.

该项目计划在施工现场南端建造一座10层高、约250,000平方英尺的办公场所/实验室/研发大楼，楼盘面朝Brookline大道。第1层将作为办公室/实验室/研发场所、零售和后勤区域。2至10层仅作办公室/实验室/研发部门之用。地下将设3层停车场，约有230个停车位，可自Burlington大道进入。项目地点位于波士顿Fenway和Kenmore社区的交界处，邻近数类交通枢纽，包括项目地点北部的马萨诸塞州高速公路，北部的MBTA Worcester/Framingham通勤铁路线的Lansdowne车站，东北部的MBTA绿线B、C、D支线的Kenmore站，以及西南部的MBTA绿线D支线的Fenway站。现有的6层办公楼将保留在项目场地，通过一堵隔离墙与项目相连。非常重要！该会议包含关于您的权利，责任，和/或福利的重要信息。请您务必完全理解这会议，这对我们来说十分重要。我们会免费给您提供翻译服务。如果您有需要请联系我们的邮箱 Edward.Carmody@Boston.gov。

mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
6/1/2021

[BostonPlans.org](https://bostonplans.org) |  @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

INCLUSIVE
ALL

Boston Harbor
Fort Point

Boston
**Ready
for More**

SEE BOSTON WITH NEW EYES AT ALLINCLUSIVEBOS.COM

Renovation to get underway soon on Fiedler Footbridge

By Dan Murphy

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is scheduled to close the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge on May 10 for renovations, and when construction wraps on the project up in August, the color of the footbridge will be restored to the historic gray first used in its 1954 construction.

The \$1.4-million restoration job includes concrete repairs, expansion joint replacement, caulking, paint coating removal, new paint and anti-skid water-

proof surface installation.

Work is expected to take place during daytime hours of approximately 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and nighttime hours of approximately 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.

Daytime work will be limited to improvements that don't require vehicle traffic impacts along Storrow Drive (inbound) under the bridge. Nighttime work is expected to require various lane closures and roadway detours. Notably, Storrow Drive

impacts will be limited to hours outside of commuter rush-hour.

The footbridge will be closed for the duration of work and pedestrian detour routes will be clearly marked directing pedestrians and cyclists to the Dartmouth Street Footbridge and the Frances "Fanny" Appleton Pedestrian Bridge to alternatively access the Esplanade.

Prior to construction, DCR is expected to distribute a Recreational and Traffic Advisory to inform the public of the imminent project.



The Arthur Fiedler Footbridge.

COVID-19 positive test rate continues to decline

By John Lynds

Last week the Back Bay's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased for a third week in a row and fell to 1 percent after posting a 5.8 percent increase towards the end of April.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 1,878 residents

were tested and 1 percent were positive--this was a 66 percent decrease from the 3 percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Overall since the pandemic started 51,097 Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.9 percent of those tested were COVID posi-

tive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased once again.

According to the BPHC 20,721 residents were tested and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 31 percent decrease from the 3.5 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 625.5 cases per 10,000 residents, up 0.7 from the 621.1 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional 25 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 3,461 cases to 3,486 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by

the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased less than one percent last week and went from 69,441 cases to 69,998 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,374 total deaths in the city from COVID.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

FIXED FIRST 24 MONTHS

LIMITED TIME-
APPLY TODAY!

CityofBostonCU.com

2.50%^{APR*}

**CITY OF
BOSTON**
CREDIT UNION

Federally Insured by NCUA



Check out our new branch
at 2 Westland Avenue!

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Initial discounted rate is 2.50% APR for the first 24 months, then Prime rate + 1.00% per month thereafter; current prime rate is 3.25% APR as of 3/16/20. Prime rate is published in the Wall Street Journal and adjusts monthly. Minimum/Floor APR after the initial discount is Prime rate at the time of funding. Maximum APR is 18%. New Home Equity Lines of Credit to City of Boston Credit Union only. Loan to value (LTV) not to exceed 80%. Maximum loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Available for 1-4 family primary residences. Property and flood insurance may be required. Early termination fee applies if closed within the first 36 months. Other restrictions may apply. All loan programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change. Interest may be tax deductible (consult your tax advisor). Must be eligible for City of Boston Credit Union membership to apply. Subject to Credit and Underwriting approval.

GRONK (from pg. 1)

kowski “a big man with a big heart” and described his gift to the Esplanade Association “a more public example of the things he does al the time on behalf children.”

Gov. Baker added, “It’s great to see you back in Boston again and maybe we’ll see you again in February [at the Super Bowl].”

Nichols said Gronkowski had reached out to the Esplanade Association via Sarah Hurley,

whom he described as a “mutual friend,” and added that Gronkowski would also be involved in the design phase of the project, which is set to begin this week.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Jay Livingstone have also filed legislation to rename the playground “Gronk Playground” upon completion of the project, which is expected some time in 2022.



Gov. Charlie Baker, Ron Gronkowski and his brother, Gordie Gronkowski.



Gov. Charlie Baker.



Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association.



Pictured, left to right, are DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery; Gov. Charlie Baker; Ron Gronkowski; Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association; Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides; Rep. Jay Livingstone; and Sen. Sal DiDomenico.



Rep. Jay Livingstone at the podium as Sen. Sal DiDomenico looks on.



Ron Gronkowski donning an Esplanade Association polo shirt.

THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

access your veteran benefits.

You've served us. Now it's our turn to serve you.

For more information about resources you may qualify for, visit www.boston.gov/benefits or call 311.



CITY of BOSTON

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

Swan Boat season opens

Staff Report

Acting Mayor Kim Janey and her family last weekend joined the Paget family -- owners and operators of the Swan Boats -- and local residents to open the popular Boston Swan Boats for the 2021 season at the Boston Public Garden lagoon.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Swans Boats were not open for the 2020 season.

"As warmer weather comes to Boston, the reopening of the Boston swan boats is a great way to celebrate our recovery from the pandemic, especially after being closed last season," Janey noted. "We welcome Bostonians and visitors back to our historic park to enjoy this joyful attraction in keeping with current health guidelines for a safe ride with family and friends."

Launched in 1877 by Irish immigrant and shipbuilder Robert Paget, the Swan Boats continue to be owned and operated by the Paget family. Paget designed the Swan Boats after attending the opera Lohengrin in New York City. At the end of the opera, the hero crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan.

2021 marks the 144th season for the Swan Boats. The oldest and smallest boat in the fleet just celebrated its 111th season, while the newest was launched in 1993. The swan on today's boats is made from either copper or fiberglass, depending on the age of the boat. Fully loaded, each



Acting Mayor Kim Janey said she was glad to welcome back the Swan Boats after their one-year cancellation.

Swan Boat weighs three tons and is powered by the driver using a foot-propelled paddle wheel. The Swan Boats are built on oak framed pontoons sheathed in copper just as they were initially constructed in 1877. After being stored in a safe place for the winter, the boats are returned to the Public Garden Lagoon in the spring.

Masks are currently required and passengers will be safely spaced both in line and on the Swan Boats. For more information on hours of operations, ticketing and pricing, please visit the Swan Boats of Boston online at www.swanboats.com, call (617) 522-1966, or email info@swanboats.com.



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN WILCOX/MAYOR'S OFFICE

Acting Mayor Kim Janey and her family members joined others on May 8 in the Public Gardens for a return of the Swan Boats after their cancellation for the 2020 season due to COVID-19. The Paget family has operated the boats since 1877, and are back after a year hiatus.



Friends of the Public Garden Director Liz Vizza greeted Acting Mayor Janey at the lagoon.



Commissioner Ryan Woods, with his daughter, and Acting Mayor Kim Janey get ready to enjoy a Swan Boat ride.

UNIQLO donates 75,000 AIRism face masks to BPS

Staff Report

This week, global retailer UNIQLO donated 75,000 AIRism face masks to Boston Public



COMPLETE LANDSCAPE SERVICES
— Serving New England Since 1998 —

- Weekly Mowing
- Spring & Fall Cleanups
- Shrub Trimming
- Lawn Care & Fertilization
- Plant Health Care
- Tree Spraying
- Licensed & Insured

781-551-8733 • 617-242-8733

Schools (BPS). These protective face coverings will be distributed to BPS students, as well as teachers and faculty to provide a safe, healthy and productive learning environment. UNIQLO's donation of AIRism face masks will provide the community with the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to maintain their wellbeing throughout the summer and beyond.

On Thursday, May 6, BPS, in partnership with Boston After School & Beyond, announced a series of programs for students to access support services, academic recovery and acceleration initiatives, and other enrichment activities over the summer. These summer learning opportunities will be school-based, partner-based, and activity-based while serving all neighborhoods and offering

a mix of in-person and remote opportunities. The AIRism face masks will be provided to students and staff at BPS summer learning sites.

"Boston Public Schools is providing enriching learning opportunities this summer to keep students engaged and to continue supporting their social and emotional well-being. We also remain committed to promoting the physical health and safety of our community members," said BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. "I am so thankful for this gracious donation from UNIQLO. The immense challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic require support from both the public and private sectors, and these 75,000 masks will help to ensure the safety of students and staff all summer long."

UNIQLO's award-winning AIRism face masks, which have received national and global attention since the product category's launch in 2020, employ a triple-layer structure with the brand's innovative AIRism mesh fabric enclosing a filter at the center of the masks. The AIRism face masks are machine-washable and available in three sizes to fit both children and adults.

"It is UNIQLO's honor to support Boston Public Schools in helping to ensure that staff and students are safe and healthy," said Daisuke Tsukagoshi, CEO of UNIQLO USA. "With this donation of AIRism face masks, and our commitment to ongoing support of local community, we look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our Boston friends and supporters with

apparel that is designed to benefit people's everyday lives."

UNIQLO was introduced to BPS through its relationship with City of Boston Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh, with whom the brand has worked with on the Commission's annual hiring initiative called Disability Mentoring Day. "UNIQLO has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting persons with disabilities," Commissioner McCosh said. "We look forward to reconnecting with them as businesses in Boston continue to reopen."

Globally, Fast Retailing has provided close to 17.7 million surgical masks, 1.4 million isolation gowns, 472K AIRism innerwear, 2.3 million AIRism masks and close to 800K essential items free of charge.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy talks trees at annual meeting

By Lauren Bennett

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) held its annual meeting virtually on May 6, where the organization provided an update on its work over the past year, and Dr. Jim Clark of HortScience gave a speech about tree care and the importance of tree health for human and environmental health. There was also a panel discussion with Clark, ENC Field Operations Coordinator Erica Holm, and Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods about the city's tree canopy and its effects on residents.

ENC President Karen Mauney-Brodek spoke about some of the projects the organization has worked on this year, including the Charlesgate Park revitalization project, which includes the daylighting of the Muddy River at Charlesgate.

"We're really making progress there," she said, and the ENC is "really excited to change that part of the necklace which has been really compromised over the past 50 years."

Additionally, the ENC has continued its park advocacy work and is aiming to return some of the Shattuck Hospital land to parkland once the hospital moves to the South End.

The ENC also held its volunteer program with Muddy River cleanup days.

"This year, Bostonians really connected to their parks and wanted to help," she said.

People were also big fans of the Lights in the Necklace Program, where battery powered green lights were placed on various bridges throughout the Emerald Necklace to illuminate them. She said it was so popular that they are looking into having the lights again next year.

She also mentioned the Olmsted Now bicentennial celebration that will take place in 2022, where the ENC is working with more than 50 partner organizations "to share a shared vision for an equitable, vibrant, and verdant city."

Dr. Jim Clark, Managing Consultant at HortScience and

Bartlett Consulting gave a presentation on "Keeping the Emerald Necklace Green" and the importance of planting, preserving, and maintaining trees in the Emerald Necklace parks.

"Planting alone is not enough," Clark said. He said that while planting trees is important and necessary, it alone is not adequate for keeping the "urban forest" alive and thriving.

Clark said that there are various health benefits provided by trees, and "there is a direct link between trees and tree care and the scale of benefits provided by the urban forest."

If trees are maintained poorly or not at all, there is more cost involved and fewer benefits, he added.

"It takes a long time to grow a big tree," he said, adding that the best way to "increase carbon sequestration" is to both plant new trees and properly maintain the existing ones.

Tree care leads to many positive outcomes, such as improved tree health and structure, reduced

pest infestations, management of invasive species management, and more, he said.

Additionally, Erica Holm, Field Operations Coordinator for the ENC, talked about the existing trees in the Emerald Necklace, of which more than 9,000 have been inventoried.

She said that more than \$4.7 million has been invested in the Emerald Necklace's trees, and explained that any trees planted need to be planted correctly using the proper amount of soil and mulch, and then the care needs to extend beyond the planting of the tree.

She said that last year "was our biggest pruning year that we ever had," even in the midst of the pandemic.

This year marks the first seven-year pruning cycle of the ENC's Tree Inventory, Assessment and Management Plan. Holm said that annual tree planting will "ramp up," and the ENC will "tackle woodlands management."

During the panel discussion,

Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said that there has been a "\$500,000 investment in our urban forestry plan," and an assessment of trees in the city is underway and already complete in neighborhoods like Back Bay, East Boston, and many others.

He said the assessment is currently in progress in Mattapan, Hyde Park, and several other neighborhoods. By June, the assessment is set to be complete citywide. He said that prior to this effort, there was no full assessment of the city's trees. Woods also said that the city had been planting between 700 and 800 trees per year, but the goal is now to plant 2000 trees per year.

Woods added that another arborist from the New York City park system will join the Parks Department staff beginning in early June to help continue the tree work in Boston.

For more information about the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and its work, visit emeralnecklace.org.

IBA selects Studio Enée and Ann Beha Architects to design new multipurpose community arts center

Staff report

Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) announced this week it has selected STUDIOENÉE architects (STUDIO ENÉE) and Ann Beha Architects (ABA) to design its new multi-purpose community arts center at 85 West Newton Street next to O'Day Park.

The two Boston-based architects are joining forces for this project, combining their decades of experience designing leading civic, academic and cultural spaces in Boston and across the nation.

"STUDIO ENÉE and ABA are the perfect partners to design this new center, which will be a space for our neighborhood and for residents throughout Greater Boston to gather, share, collaborate and create," said Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO at IBA. "We are thrilled to be working with a design team that shares our commitment to incorporating diverse perspectives as

we create a beautiful space that both honors the deep history of the former Villa Victoria Center for the Arts and embraces our vision for a cultural center that is custom-built to serve the specific needs of our community now and as we grow."

With award-winning portfolios of sustainable, community-oriented cultural spaces, both STUDIO ENÉE and ABA bring to the 85 West Newton project a profound respect for IBA's mission and for the history of the site as a cultural hub for the South End and Greater Boston Latinx communities. This diverse, Latinx and women-led design team will help bring to life IBA's vision for the space as a center that celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of the South End, empowers IBA's residents and neighbors, anticipates the future needs of IBA and the community, and is accessible to all.

"The project has a profound significance to Boston and the

Latinx community," Natasha Espada AIA, STUDIO ENÉE Principal, and Ann Beha FAIA, ABA Principal, wrote in a joint statement. "We look forward to working with the community, the city and IBA leaders to create a visionary arts and cultural center in Boston's South End to support this diverse community."

For years, Villa Victoria Center for the Arts served as a place of expression, learning and celebration, hosting everything from weddings and quinceañeros to political conventions and arts performances. STUDIO ENÉE and ABA are committed to creating a space that allows IBA to expand upon this legacy, incorporating diverse voices and uses at every step of the design process.

The former Center for the Arts, which was originally a German Lutheran Church, was condemned two years ago during a renovation project and had to be demolished earlier this year.



**Celebrating
29 years on
Charles
Street!**

*An elegant mix of new & old
art, antiques & home decor.*

— Featuring local art work —

69 Charles Street, Boston MA, 02114
617-367-1950
lauraupstairsdownstairs@gmail.com
@UpstairsDownstairsAntiques

SERVICE DIRECTORY

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

**JOHN J. RECCA
PAINTING**

Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential

Fully Insured
Quality Work

Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

\$1.7M raised for Boston Arts Academy through BAA Honors

Staff Report

A star-studded night of music, dance, and performances by students, alumni, and Honorees at BAA Honors 2021 helped raise vital funds for Boston Arts Academy, the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, during a live broadcast event on May 4. The event helped Boston Arts Academy Foundation (BAA Foundation) raise nearly \$1.7 million through BAA Honors during the past year.

More than 350 generous donors to BAA Honors 2020, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as BAA Honors 2021, secured nearly \$1.7 million to support Boston Arts Academy's students. All 2020 Honorees and sponsors actively participated in BAA Honors 2021.

BAA Honors celebrates BAA's diverse, talented, and successful students. The night featured student and alumni performances and recognized prominent Honorees for their meaningful contributions to the community. A socially distanced event hosted by BAA Honors in Music recipient Ernie Boch Jr. was broadcast live on NECN and NBC10 Boston with NBC10 Boston co-hosts Latoyia Edwards and JC Monahan, and streamed live on the NECN and NBC10 Boston websites, making it accessible to supporters of the school across the world.

The program featured Honorees David Ortiz and Steve Samuels playing live with the BAA Honors All-Star Alumni Band along with speeches from distinguished guests, including Boston Mayor Kim Janey, BAA President Denella Clark and BAA Head of School Anne Clark.

BAA Honors supports wide-ranging resources at BAA, from special lighting in performance spaces, to state-of-the-art technology for recording studios, additional student health and wellness services, and increased STEAM (STEM+Art) education opportunities.

The 2021 BAA Honorees include: Ernie Boch Jr., president and CEO, Subaru of New England (Honors in Music); Ruth E. Carter, Academy Award-winning film and television costume designer (Honors in Fashion); David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox legend, Fox Sports Major League Baseball analyst (Honors in TV & Film); Eve S. Rounds, passionate dance advocate and champion of the arts (Honors in Dance); Scott Wilson and Scott Butler, founding directors, Wilson Butler Architects (Honors in Visual Art); and Steve



PHOTO BY JULIE CORDEIRO

Boston Mayor Kim Janey (center) poses on the red carpet with BAA Head of School Anne Clark and BAA Foundation President Denella Clark.

Samuels, chairman and principal, Samuels & Associates, a real estate development firm (Honors in Civic Responsibility). Sandra Gordon, founding president of Boston Arts Academy Foundation (1999) and Trustee Emerita of Boston Arts Academy and BAA Foundation, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event co-chairs were Lee Michael Kennedy, president and CEO, Lee Kennedy Co., a construction management firm, and Sue Brady Hartigan, philanthropist and Boston's veteran on-air radio personality. Pamela D.A. Reeve and Donna M. Harris-Lewis were announced as

BAA Honors 2022 co-chairs.

"BAA Honors is a celebration of the absolute best of what Boston Arts Academy has to offer," said Boston Arts Academy Foundation President Denella Clark. "From our incredible students to our alumni who always give back to the next generation, to the Honorees who inspire our students to reach for greatness, it was an evening to recognize all of their accomplishments and to share in the passion that connects our remarkable community."

"I'm very honored to receive this award," said TV & Film Honoree David Ortiz Saturday night during the live broadcast.

"I was born in the Dominican Republic, where music just runs through our blood and art is everywhere. When I think about music, I think about happiness. We've got to support [BAA] and we've got to help. We understand how massive this can be for the kids who come [to BAA] and learn and become independent because of it."

NBC10 Boston, NECN, NBC Sports Boston and Telemundo Boston served as the official 2021 multimedia and broadcast partners for BAA Honors. The Boston Globe also supported BAA Honors.

Candidate for Mayor Michelle Wu commits to police reform through contract negotiations

Staff Report

Michelle Wu issued a blueprint for police reform through union contract negotiations, committing to fighting for clear steps for systemic reform through the collective bargaining process as Mayor of Boston.

Steps include establishing an objective discipline matrix, elim-

inating binding arbitration for certain serious offenses, curbing overtime abuse, diverting non-violent 911 calls to alternative response teams and ensuring data transparency by mandating regular, proactive reporting of information to the public.

The contracts for Boston's four main police unions expired

in June, and some – including the agreement with the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association – are still under negotiation. Key issues like discipline, promotions, overtime, and the role of officers are hashed out in the contract. The Mayor negotiates the contract on behalf of the city, and the Council votes to approve

or reject the contract.

"Delivering public safety through a lens of public health and community trust requires urgent action. But for too long, the necessary steps for meaningful change have been hindered by provisions in the collective bargaining agreements. It's time to get serious about structural changes to the BPD with a contract that gets to the root of the cultural and systemic reforms we need - transparency, accountability, removing non-police functions from the department's purview and reducing wasteful overtime spending to reinvest in neighborhood-level services," said Michelle Wu.

This blueprint adds to Wu's existing public safety and reform proposals and advocacy, and serves as a baseline of key changes to the contract. She has also released bold proposals to create a Cabinet-level Chief of Worker Empowerment, close the child-care gap, transform our public

schools, Boston Green New Deal and Just Recovery Plan, Food Justice Agenda, Digital Equity Agenda and more.

Wu for Mayor surpasses \$1 million cash on hand

Staff Report

City Councilor and candidate for Mayor Michelle Wu announced that her Mayoral campaign has more than \$1 million in the bank, reaching a key milestone that puts her campaign in a strong position for the months ahead.

In a powerful demonstration of Wu's growing grassroots backing, the campaign has over 6,280 donors at an average contribution amount of \$93 per donation. Wu has received thousands of donations from Boston

residents.

The funds allow the Wu campaign to build up a strong team and make long-term plans, and demonstrates that Michelle Wu's message of doing more to keep families in Boston, transform our schools, close the childcare gap, free the T and bring a Boston Green New Deal has earned grassroots support.

Team Wu also recently surpassed the 3,000 signatures collected threshold the same day signature gathering began.

"I'm inspired everyday to

see the grassroots momentum for our campaign matching the energy for bold, urgent leadership across our neighborhoods. Whether it's chipping in five dollars, making phone calls, or joining our events, our supporters and volunteers share a powerful vision of what's possible for Boston to meet the moment. We are building a movement not just for Election Day, but to follow through on the charge to be bold and do more in office," said Michelle Wu.

REGIONAL APP ENGINEER

Nova Engineering, Ltd. is seeking a Regional Application Engineer to dev. new apps. for Nova products in Asia Pacific using knowledge of material processes & eng. principals. Resps. incl.: Support & solutions to custs. incl. chem./petrochem. plants, distributors, & eng. cos. Assess cust. processes & sys. needs & propose eng. solutions. Analyze cust. bus. plans & objectives to correlate Nova Eng.'s solutions to plan achievements. Maintain knowledge-base of eng. trends to dev. enhancements & new eng. products. Interface w/ eng. team members throughout the dev. process to explain tech. cust. specifications. Min. reqs.: Master's in material engineering; Demonstrable ability in design optimization of blast furnaces, metal processing & metal prod., & salesforce. Pl. of empl.: 21 Alpha Rd, Ste 205, Chelmsford, MA 02476. Hrs 9am - 5pm, M-F. Send resume & cvr ltr to: Daniel Murphy, GM, at dan.murphy@nova-engineering.us.

News Briefs

MASSDOT ANNOUNCES THE NEW ON-RAMP FROM NEWBURY STREET NOW OPEN

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced that it opened a newly extended on-ramp from Newbury Street to Interstate 90 westbound in the Back Bay as one element involved in ongoing work for an air rights project over I-90.

The new on-ramp was open to traffic beginning at 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 8. The on-ramp enhances public safety as it is straighter and longer than the previous ramp at this location, improving driver sightlines for safer merging with vehicles coming onto the Interstate 90 westbound.

Drivers using the new on-ramp will still merge into a work zone that is currently in place for the Parcel 12 air-rights development project and is being extended to incorporate the new Fenway Center air-rights development

project. The current three-lane configuration starts in the Prudential Tunnel underneath Massachusetts Avenue and will extend to the Beacon Street overpass with the upcoming Fenway Center development work zone.

The extension of the on-ramp is part of the overall improvements that are scheduled to take place in this area including widening sidewalks, implementing separated bike lanes that connect to the existing bicycle network, and improving accommodations for MBTA Green Line and bus customers through the construction of a new west side entrance to the Hynes Station, and the creation of nearly a half-acre of publicly accessible space at street level.

On Interstate 90, Phase 2 construction work continues in both directions. The slow-speed right lanes are closed, while the remaining three lanes are open for travel. MassDOT encourages drivers to pay extra attention to your speed, lane markings, traffic signage, barriers, and any police

or construction workers present. Always check the Current Construction Updates page for the latest information.

COUNCILOR FLYNN SECURES SPOT ON SEPTEMBER BALLOT

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is now qualified to be on the September ballot for District 2 Boston City Councilor.

City Council candidates need to gather a certain number of certified signatures from their respective districts in order to be qualified to be on the September ballot. Councilor Flynn was officially certified by the Boston Election Department on Monday, as he had submitted the required number of signatures from registered voters in District 2. District 2 includes South Boston/South Boston Waterfront, Fort Point, South End, Chinatown, Bay Village, Downtown, as well as parts of Back Bay and Beacon Hill.

“I’m honored to serve as the District 2 Boston City Councilor. I will continue to work

closely with my constituents on important matters such as housing affordability and stability, public and pedestrian safety, standing up for working families, and addressing quality of life issues,” said Councilor Flynn. “I want to thank the volunteers for their work, as well as to the voters who put me on the ballot. I’m committed to working with residents, advocates, and community organizations in delivering services and resources for District 2.”

For more information, please contact info@edforboston.com.

2021 APPLICATIONS FOR FENWAY COMMUNITY BENEFITS NOW AVAILABLE

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) announced that up to \$100,000 is available in community benefits for the Fenway neighborhood for temporary or permanent beautification projects.

Applicants are required to

submit a plan to the BPDA that describes how the proposed project will utilize the funding to produce the greatest measurable impact on the community. Projects must be fully accessible to the public.

Applicants are required to submit a detailed budget and comprehensive plan describing their objectives and goals if they are to receive funding. All awards will be subject to BPDA Board authorization and chosen applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the BPDA.

As part of the Fenway Park Demonstration Project in 2013, the Red Sox agreed to contribute \$1,000,000 over ten years to be used towards beautification efforts in the Fenway neighborhood.

Applications are due by Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The application can be downloaded at <http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/926a0992-b77f-40e8-9fff-10ee9acf5ce>.

Developer presents latest plans for 761-793 Boylston St.

By Dan Murphy

The development team proposing to add three five more stories to the three adjacent Boston Street buildings, which, east to west, are home to Abe & Louie’s, Crate and Barrel, and Atlantic Fish, respectively, presented the most recent iteration of its plans on Monday during a virtual meeting sponsored by the Boston Planning and Development and Agency.

The Tavistock Group intends to build what is essentially a new building, with a shared lobby, behind the façade of 777 Boylston St. where Crate and Barrel is today, said Dennis Quilty, an attorney for the applicant. It would rise up five stories and stretch over the locations of Abe & Louie’s at 793 Boylston St. on one side and Atlantic Fish at 761 Boylston St. on the opposite side.

The project includes plans for approximately 15,830 square feet of retail space; 25,720 square feet of office/fitness space; and nine residential units (three per floor on the sixth through eighth levels) comprising approximately 18,600 square feet, with

proposed rooftop amenities for the residential units facing both Boylston and Newbury streets. Retail uses would occupy the first and second levels of the site, with office space on the third through fifth levels.

The historic facades of all three buildings, including the one at 777 Boylston St., would remain “in place” as part of the proposed project, added Quilty, and restaurant operations at both Abe & Louie’s and Atlantic Fish would remain uninterrupted for the duration of construction, which is expected to take 16 to 20 months to complete. (The project could also include a possible opportunity to expand the outdoor seating adjacent to Abe & Louie’s, according to members of the design team.)

The three buildings were built between 1901 and 1908, said Ross Cameron, vice president of Elkus Manfredi Architects, and the one at 777 Boylston St. was originally built as an automotive club.

“There’s nothing original behind the Crate and Barrel facade,” Cameron said. “We’ll tear down all the building behind

it and then reconstruct new building....and then stitch everything back together.”

David Manfredi, architect, said the design team had made “incremental changes” as the project has progressed, and that they wanted to be “respectful” and “deferential” of the three historic buildings, while also making it a contemporary mixed-use development project.

Among the latest project tweaks, said Manfredi, is raising the top of the building to reflect what you see on other Back Bay buildings - a minor change that, he added, wouldn’t increase the height of building while providing “a more fitting cap” for it.

Two sides of the building would also be wrapped in light-colored metal, he added, to reduce the “sense of mass” for the entire building.

Alana Spencer, a sustainability consultant for the project, said the building would save 164,000 gallons of water each year via

water-reduction measures, and that it wouldn’t need water-cooling towers.

The building would also be “94-percent electric,” she added, saving 22 percent in energy due to glazing, and have a window-to-wall ratio in the 30-percent range - down from an earlier proposal in the 50-percent range.

Martyn Roetter, a Beacon Street resident and past chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, applauded the development team for taking into account the sustainability aspect of the project, but said he would like them to consider likely advances in technology, as well as expected building code changes, more thoroughly in their analysis.

Roetter also offered to put the design team in touch with several experts he knows to help them achieve a more sustainable building.

John Tankard, a member of the public in attendance at the

meeting, expressed concern that the historic façade giving way to a contemporary building behind it would unwittingly create the illusion that the façade had been “pasted on” to it.

“It creates a real dichotomy that doesn’t connect,” Tankard said.

Michael Sinatra, BPDA project manager, as well as Back Bay resident, announced at the onset of the meeting that he would leaving his current position to pursue a new employment opportunity on May 14 - the last day of public comment for this project. Several in attendance at the meeting praised Sinatra’s performance on the job and wished him well on his new endeavor.

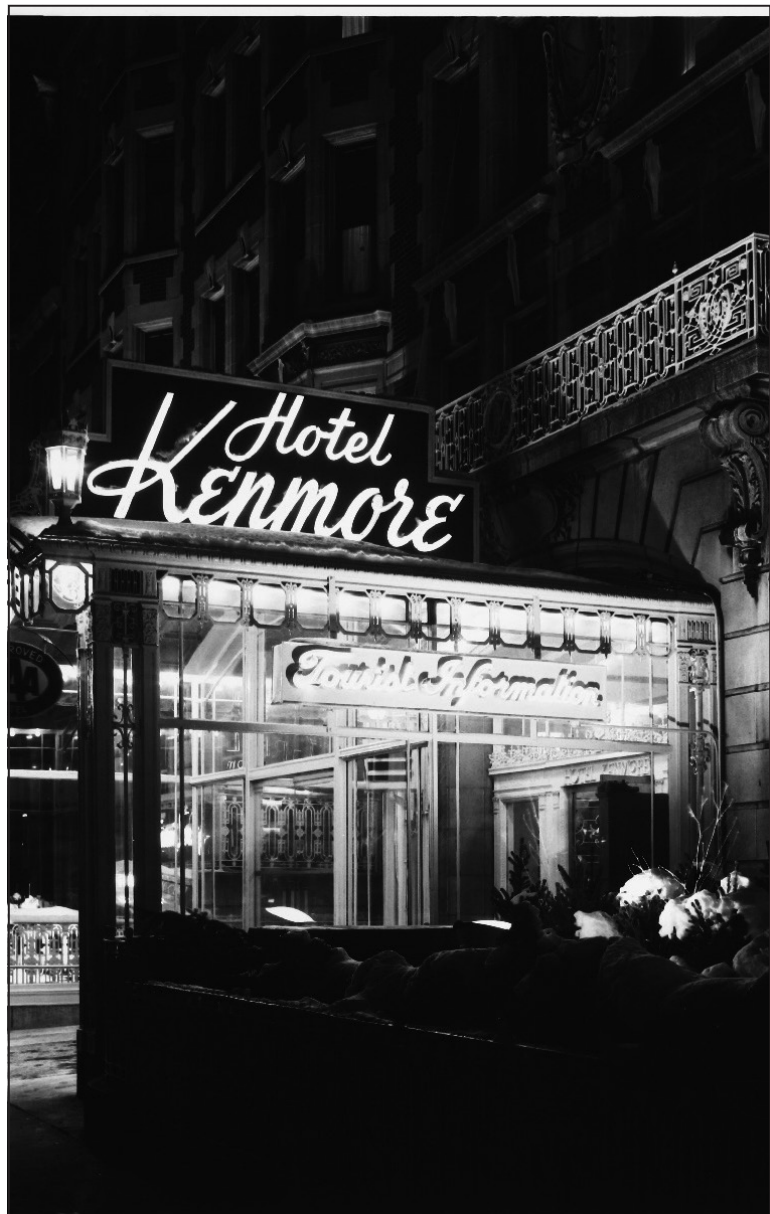
Public comments can be submitted until that time online at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/761-793-boylston-street> or directly to Michael Sinatra, BPDA project manager, via email at michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The letter "K" in the last clue is on 488 Commonwealth Ave, built as an "apartment hotel" in 1916 and doubled in size in 1925. Today it is known as Kenmore Abby and offers, "... affordable accommodations for seniors and disabled persons ..."

Today's answer is a photo from the MIT Library's Kepes-Lynch Photograph Collection taken circa 1954-1959.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

SELLER 1

ADDRESS

PRICE

BACK BAY

Benesh, Steven R
Bernard, Thierry
Jing Zhou&Ning Pan FT
Ruetsch, Elizabeth
Reynolds, Garrett
330 Dartmouth 3N LLC
Piereson, James W
Richmond, Eric M
Lin, Ikuan

Gatzogiannis, Hrisoula
260 Beacon Street RT
James M Beck 2018 RET
Fogle, Martin A
Cort, Jack K
Lashkari NT
J E Ryder Jr T 2016
Guilbert RT
G Lau&J Pacifico RET

250 Beacon St #1B \$570,000
260 Beacon St #4 \$3,000,000
295-297 Beacon St #72 \$1,495,000
160 Commonwealth Ave #521 \$685,000
60 Commonwealth Ave #3 \$1,015,000
330 Dartmouth St #3N \$1,250,000
9 Dartmouth St \$2,439,400
69 Saint Botolph St #5 \$1,925,000
382 Commonwealth Ave #42 \$750,000

BEACON HILL

Newton, Claire
Attenborough, Carolyn D
Holzinger, Chloe
Zheng, Jianping
Decosta, Paul D

Mews NT
Saint Donat De Montcalm
Goren, William A
Feins, Eric N
28 W Cedar St 1 RT

21 Beaver Pl #21 \$8,300,000
37 Brimmer St #2 \$1,250,000
5 Grove St #10 \$645,000
37 Revere St #6 \$715,000
28 W Cedar St #1 \$2,300,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Wang, Aijia
Stephanie H Oberto RET
Tepper, Richard
Thompson, Oliver M
Connolly, Margaret
Schroeder, James
Lin, Yi
Franklin, William
Kanawal, Amrit B
Rathnam, Tarun
Bian, Hongxiang
Rose, Karin A
Weddleton, William J
Haghighi, Ali
Zhang, Haixia
Laroche, Kristin E

Pucek, Joseph J
Hugo-Chang, Lap C
115 Chandler Street LLC
Buhlman, Robert A
Sai Mutual Holdings LLC
Collins, Casey
Bernstein, Adam
Freeland, James
Hayes, Donald R
Mahlowitz, David
Batshon, Najib
50 Symphony LLC
Frechette, Kevin P
Symphony Court 202 RT
Steven C Moore LT
Durante, Kathleen T

9 Appleton St #202 \$750,000
9 Appleton St #305 \$675,000
116 Chandler St #1 \$2,000,000
238 W Newton St #3 \$2,650,000
234 Causeway St #721 \$637,500
85 Pembroke St #1 \$3,200,000
66 Queensberry St #116 \$395,000
11 Rutland Sq \$6,225,000
1 Saint George St #1C \$735,000
136-140R Shawmut Ave #2D \$1,630,000
12 Stoneholm St #406 \$432,500
50 Symphony Rd #101 \$186,400
3 Wellington St #2 \$670,000
43 Westland Ave #202 \$720,000
43 Westland Ave #412 \$765,000
90 Worcester St #6 \$995,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

TJT Holdings LLC
Greenblatt, Joshua
Jain, Aditi
Anne Odonnell T
Huang, Weihua

ICSA US Real Estate Inc
Oliveira, Duarte N
Ishikawa 2013 RET
Gale, Frederick K
Patel, Shalin S

2 Avery St #29D \$2,100,000
300 Commercial St #808 \$920,000
65 E India Row #37A \$565,000
20 Rows Wharf #310 \$3,350,000
580 Washington St #310 \$850,000

Baker provides details on COVID vaccines for 12-to-15-year-olds, announces forthcoming employer vaccination program

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Wednesday toured Moderna's laboratory facility in Norwood and provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccinations in the state.

Baker said that as of Tuesday, Massachusetts saw 472 new COVID cases from around 42,000 tests. He also said the seven day average positive test rate is 1.32 percent, which is down to a similar percentage that had been seen last fall. He said that 441 Massachusetts residents are currently hospitalized with

the virus, and 117 are in the ICU.

The state's "Stop the Spread" initiative, which offers free testing sites in certain areas across the state, will be expanded through the end of September, Baker announced on Wednesday. The program was originally supposed to end on June 30.

Baker announced that three million Massachusetts residents are fully vaccinated, and almost 74 percent of adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Massachusetts is "one of only five states in the country that has crossed that 70 percent mile-

stone," Baker said.

He also announced that the state is making preparations to vaccinate 12-15 year olds, following the FDA authorization on Monday for the Pfizer vaccine to be administered to kids of those ages, "and today, the advisory committee on immunization practices will meet and make a recommendation on this approval," Baker said.

"This group represents about 400,000 individuals here in the Commonwealth and we're working with our providers and our

(BAKER, Pg. 15)

Santiago secures over \$2 million in state funding for communities of color, early education, and the opioid epidemic

Staff Report

State Representative Jon Santiago (D-Boston) joined his colleagues in voting to pass the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, H4000. This budget responsibly responds to the needs of residents and makes investments that set the state on a path toward economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded at \$47.716 billion, the House's FY22 budget includes significant investments in education, supportive services for vulnerable populations, and workforce and economic development, among other priorities.

"As we begin to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, this

state funding is more critical than ever," said Santiago. "I am proud to have once again secured valuable state resources to fund programs that serve our most vulnerable and hardest hit residents. I want to thank Speaker Mariano for his vision and leadership, as well as the House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz for his steady hand and hard work. This budget will go a long way to starting our recovery rooted in equity and opportunity."

Within the budget, Representative Santiago successfully secured over \$2 million for seven district priorities.

- To support early education

programs, \$100,000 was allocated to United South End Settlements and Nurtury Inc., both programs that serve predominantly black and brown communities.

- A \$2 million earmark was allocated to RIZE Massachusetts to support work on the opioid epidemic and addiction services.

- Representative Santiago also prioritized communities of color across Boston, securing additional funding for the Union of Minority Neighborhoods, Fundación Dominicana del Arte y La Cultura, Inc., and Conexión.

- Lastly, the budget included \$75,000 for the South End Com-

munity Health Center to bolster vaccination efforts.

The budget also included two critical provisions filed by Representative Santiago. The first provision, filed jointly with Representatives Jay Livingstone and Chynah Tyler, prohibits the Department of Conservation and Recreation from installing parking meters along public ways without prior approval from a local municipality. This language is meant to advance the goals of our neighbors in the Fenway who have been working with the state delegation to preserve parking along several public ways in the Fenway. The second provision, titled A Better City, requires

the acceleration of 'shovel ready' MBTA capital projects. This language will speed up the MBTA's modernization and improvement efforts to increase transit efficiency, reliability, and frequency.

Speaker Mariano and the House Ways & Means Committee introduced their FY22 budget on April 14, 2021, following a review of the Governor's proposal and a series of budget hearings. After three days of debate and over a thousand proposed amendments, the budget passed by the House of Representatives 160-0 and now goes to the Senate.

BAKER (from pg. 14)

mass vaccination sites and others to put plans in place to vaccinate this group once we received word of a final approval."

He said that any parents who have questions about the vaccine should reach out to their primary care provider or their child's pediatrician.

"Pending the CDC's approv-

al for this group, people age 15-15 will be able to book appointments or access a walk-up appointment beginning on Thursday, May 13," Baker said.

He also said that he is "pleased" that Moderna is also working on approval of its vaccine for those under the age of 18.

"We applaud their progress and

look forward to Moderna's vaccine working their way through this important and rigorous approval process as well," he said.

Massachusetts still remains on track to reach its target of vaccinating more than 4 million people by the beginning of June, but Baker said that "we have a lot of work to do" still to reach people

in hardest hit communities.

Finally, Baker announced that the state will soon launch an employer vaccination program, which will allow employers to schedule blocks of time for their employees to get vaccinated at one of the state's mass vaccination sites, or schedule a time for a mobile vaccine clinic to come to

the workplace.

He said more information on this program will be announced soon.

"The vaccine is free to everyone, and it remains the best way for folks to protect themselves their loved ones, their neighbors, and their coworkers," Baker said.

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.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS FOR THE WEEK:

- May 12 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING, 10 a.m.: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for the Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

- May 13 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING, 4 p.m.: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for Youth Engagement and Employment.

- May 14 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION, 10 a.m.: The focus of this working session is the FY22 budget for Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, Boston Public Health Commission, Office of Health & Human

Services, Boston Transportation Department, Public Works Department, and Boston Public Schools.

- May 17 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING, 10 a.m.: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budgets for the Office of Food Access, Office of Language and Communications Access, Office for Immigrant Advancement, Human Rights Commission, Age Strong Commission.

- May 18 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING, 10 a.m.: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for the Boston Public Schools.

- 2 p.m.: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for Boston Public Schools.

- May 20 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING, 10 a.m.: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budgets for the Office of Economic Development and Women's Advancement.

- 2 p.m. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for the Boston Public Library.

From the May 12 Boston Cannabis Board meeting, online:

- Liberty Compassion, Inc., 591

Albany St., South End.

License Type: Medical Cannabis Dispensary License

Request: Application for a change of beneficial interest holder; change of officers/directors; transfer of stock.

From the May 13 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, 3 p.m., online:

- Financial Report and Investment Update:10

- FY22 Budget Review: 15

VOTE REQUIRED

- Authorization to Award Well Installation Contract:15

VOTE REQUIRED

- EXECUTIVE SESSION- Annual Personnel Review Process: 10

- Draft Ordinance for Legal Representation Update:10

- GCOD Amendments Update:10

- Executive Director's Report: 10

From the May 13 Zoning Board of Appeal Advisory, 5 p.m., online:

- 165 West Canton St., South End. Applicant: Marc LaCasse. Purpose: Amendment to ALT1014362 to build a roof deck per plans provided and landmarks approval. Install balcony on rear of kitchen.

- 1008-1010 Tremont St., South End. Applicant: JC Barbershop, LLC. Purpose: Build out of a Bar-

bershop (This is a change in occupancy as well).

From the May 18 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BPL TRUSTEES, 8:30 a.m., online:

- Fine Forgiveness: VOTED: that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston authorize the President of the Boston Public Library to implement any and all policy changes to permanently waive and eliminate late fines on all regular library materials, in concert with Mayor Janey's FY22 City of Boston Operating Budget.

From the May 19 St. Botolph Area Conservation District Commission meeting, 5:15 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86288536842):

DESIGN REVIEW

- 2-24 Albemarle Ct. Proposed Work: Renovation of courtyard including new gate, lighting fixtures, walkways, planters, painting surfaces.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- 193 St. Botolph St.: At floor four, front facade replace four, 1 over 1, aluminum clad, windows with four, 1 over 1, aluminum clad windows.

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 resources 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.

SINGLE FAMILY TOWNHOUSE



157 W CANTON STREET
4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 4,130 SQFT
\$6,499,000



31 CHESTNUT STREET
9 BEDS | 6.5 BATHS | 8,979 SQFT
\$9,950,000



220 BOYLSTON STREET #1412
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,673 SQFT
\$3,400,000



3 JOY STREET #PH
4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,752 SQFT
\$5,999,999



314 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #2
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,422 SQFT
\$6,995,000

