

THE BOSTON SUN

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Alexandra Residences bring renewed hope for development of former hotel

By Seth Daniel

The owners of the blighted, but historic, Hotel Alexandra property at the corner of Washington Street and Mass Avenue have filed a Project Notification Form (PNF) to switch their proposal from a hotel use to a 106-unit condo building – renewing hope that despite the crash in the Boston hotel market, the property might still see a revival.

Attorney Marc LaCasse, who represents Alexandra Partners, filed the PNF a few weeks back and said that despite the project being ready for hotel construction just prior to COVID-19, the plan was upended by the pandemic and forced to reconfigure.

Now, the plan will be to shift from a 150-room hotel to 106

(HOTEL ALEXANDRA, Pg. 2)



Members of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee gathered at the 'Make Way for Ducklings' statue in the Public Gardens last Thursday, Aug. 5, to officially announce their endorsement of Councilor Michelle Wu for mayor.

Ward 5 Democrats endorse Wu for Mayor

Staff Report

Last week, the Ward 5 Democrats (Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, and Bay Village) gathered in the Public Gardens to officially endorse Councilor Michelle Wu for mayor of Boston, and then participate in a stand-out for her

on Charles Street.

Sharon Durkan, of the Ward 5 Dems, said they voted on July 20 on the endorsement, and had 16 vote for Wu, two vote present and one person voted for another candidate.

The vote was overwhelmingly to endorse Michelle Wu for

Boston Mayor, the second Ward Committee to endorse Wu in the Mayor's race. The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee had thrown their support to Wu in May. No other Ward Committees have endorsed any candidates in

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BVHDC approves conversion of former church on Isabella St. to condos

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) on Tuesday approved the conversion of the former Our Lady of Victories church into condominiums with an addition, a project that has been discussed for a long time in the neighborhood.

This project has already come before the Commission for two advisory reviews, but was officially approved on August 10.

Architect Rebecca Berry provided an update to Commissioners about where the project team is in the process, and presented the latest iteration of the proposal.

The last time this project came before the Commission was in February, and Berry said that since then, the Article 80 review with the city is continuing, as is community outreach. Additionally, both the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board and the Zoning

(BVHDC, Pg. 3)

Inbox Appeal:

Mayoral candidates use e-mail inundation this time for fundraising, exposure

By Seth Daniel

There's one way this summer to know that the end of the month is

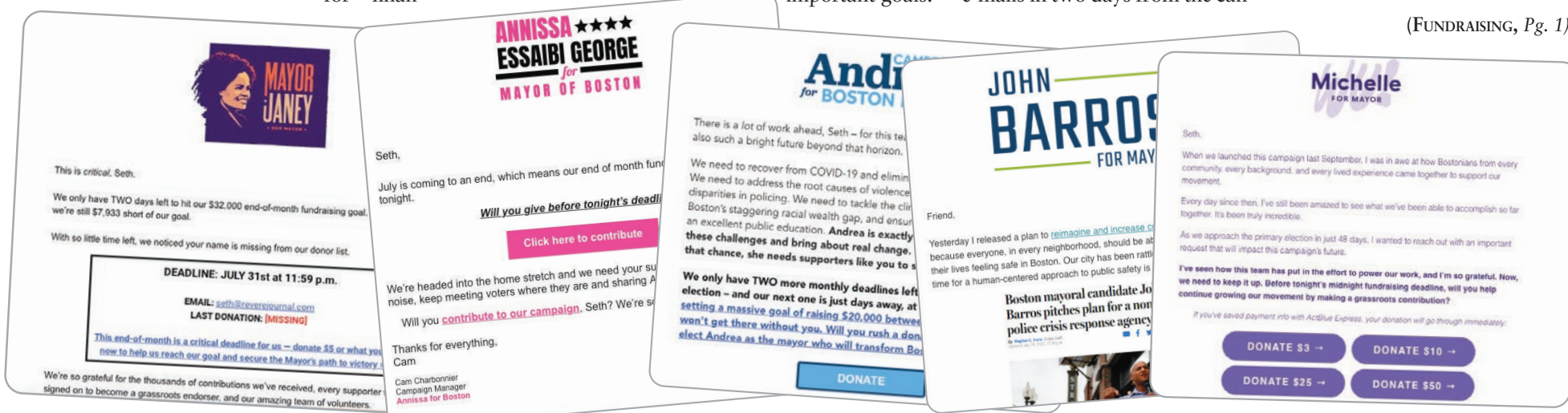
coming – and that is by the inundation of fundraising e-mails that storm inboxes from all five major mayoral candidates appealing for finan-

cial help with personal stories, outrages of the day or simply pushing the narrative that time is running out to meet important goals.

One e-mail address from this newspaper that has the attention of all five major mayoral candidates got approximately 35 e-mails in two days from the can-

didates' digital fundraising operations at the end of last month – each using the addressee's first name and seemingly knowing

(FUNDRAISING, Pg. 1)



EDITORIAL

A BLEAK FUTURE FOR THE EARTH

The report released this week by the United Nations detailing the impending effects of climate change in the near future because of our rapidly-warming atmosphere paints the starkest picture yet of what awaits life on Earth as we know it if we do not change our ways.

Our planet has warmed by an average of 1.1 degrees Celsius since mankind started belching carbon gases into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels in the late 19th century.

Scientists have long told us that an increase of 1.5 degrees in global temperature represents the tipping point at which life as we know it becomes all but impossible. Almost all of today's living creatures, both in the oceans and on the land, will not survive if the Earth becomes that hot.

We already are seeing the dramatic and dire consequences of what happens at our present 1.1 C level: The polar ice sheets are melting, the permafrost areas in the Arctic Circle in Siberia are catching fire, epic floods are striking everywhere, massive superstorms threaten coastlines, out-of-control wildfires scorch vast swaths of forest acreage and pollute the air across hundreds of miles, coral reef bleaching is turning our oceans floors into dead zones, and heat waves are killing humans and animal life in every corner of the globe.

The U.N. report basically states that an increase to 1.3 Celsius already is baked (no pun intended) into the next 20 years or less, with every .10 increase adding exponentially to the damage. In other words, no matter what we do, things are going to get worse.

On the other hand, perhaps the only good news in the report is that the increase to 1.5 is not inevitable -- but that is ONLY if we adopt policies now and we put them into place starting today. The global economy cannot turn on the proverbial dime, but we can move incrementally over the next 20 years to eliminate the carbon footprint of each and every human being so that the 1.5 threshold is not breached.

The bottom line is that we are running out of time to save the planet and preserve civilization as we know it. Some might point to the high economic cost of changing our consumption of energy from fossil fuels to clean alternatives. And to be sure, that conversion will cost trillions of dollars over the next two decades.

But the costs of climate-related catastrophes -- in both economic and human terms -- soon will far outweigh whatever the price may be to convert to clean energy.

Unless we change our ways, there literally will be no place on Earth that will be safe to live. To paraphrase the great heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis, we can try to run from climate change, but there will be nowhere on our planet to hide.

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Esplanade 5K returns August 29

By Dan Murphy

The eagerly awaited Esplanade 5K, which was held virtually last year due to the pandemic, will return to the park as an in-person footrace on Sunday, Aug. 29, kicking off at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell at 9 a.m.

Runners of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate in the footrace, which takes a riverfront route along the Charles and offers unparalleled water and garden views against the backdrops of both the Boston and Cambridge skylines. Proceeds from the event, which

is again presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, go directly to support the work of the Esplanade Association to revitalize and enhance the park.

"We're trying to faithfully bring back as many things in person as possible, and the 5K was a signature event that we're happy to bring back, as well as one of our longest-running events," said Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association.

For the first time year, the Esplanade Association is planning a Community Day to "wrap around" the 5K, said Nichols, with family-friendly events taking place throughout

the park, including a Groundbeat concert, presented in partnership with BAMS (Boston Art & Music Soul) Fest, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Hatch Shell.

"BAMS Fest is overjoyed to partner with The Esplanade Association to curate the lineup for their annual GroundBeat series," wrote Catherine T. Morris, founder and executive director of BAMS Fest. "Over the years, we have been fortunate to present over a dozen of local Black and Brown artists and bands. The Hatch Shell is a beautiful place and we are excited to bring a little magic and our culture to this space."

A nonprofit dedicated to breaking down racial and social barriers in the arts across Greater Boston, BAMS Fest has previously partnered with the Esplanade Association on its award-winning "GroundBeat: The Esplanade's Free Riverfront Music Series."

Meanwhile, the Esplanade Association is encouraging runners to stop by their office at 575 Boylston St., Suite 4R, to pick up their bibs before the race in an effort to reduce long lines and unnecessary crowds on the day of the event.

(ESPLANADE 5K, Pg. 3)



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENT DOSCHER

Runners are seen near the Storrow Lagoon during the 2019 Esplanade 5K presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

HOTEL ALEXANDRA (from pg. 1)

residential condo units, with 71 of them being Compact Living Units (CLUs) under the City's new guidelines. It will include a mix of studios and one-bedroom units that will be for sale.

Alexandra Partners told the Sun the hotel market in Boston has been severely impacted by COVID-19, one of the most impacted markets according to most industry studies. They said with that in mind, the boutique hotel concept approved in 2019 and nearly ready for construction in early 2020, had become unfinanceable.

"In short, building a new hotel in 2020 was completely out of the question and it is estimated by industry analysts that the Boston hotel market will not return to pre-pandemic levels for perhaps five years," read a statement to the Sun from Alexandra Partners. "As a result, we have pivoted to converting the existing approved

project to highly desirable compact residential con-dominium units that are smaller in scale and accordingly more affordable than most units on the market in the general area. These residences will be part of the strong fabric of the surrounding communities and add more residents with an ownership stake in the neighborhood. In accordance with the city's Inclusionary Development Policy, 13 percent of the units will be affordable under BPDA guidelines. We remain entirely committed to a full and complete historic restoration and preservation of the Alexandra and developing these homes within the parameters of previously granted approvals. With this change, the project is now known as the Alexandra Residences."

Some of the key points will be that the massing and preservation and design of the project will not change, including a ground

floor restaurant or retail concept. Instead, most of the changes will be made to the interior layout to achieve the new floor plans for condo units rather than hotel rooms.

A rooftop lounge open to the public has been scrapped, however, and will become amenity space for those living in the proposed condo building.

That does ensure that the historic façade, which is made up of unique sand-stone and wrought-iron fencing, will be preserved as it was touted to be during review meetings in 2018 and 2019.

The changes will require a review process, and will also require a trip to the Zoning Board. A key part of that will be the fact that the building will include no vehicle parking, but a lot of bicycle parking. That will likely be discussed in Article 80 community and IAG meetings that will be upcoming.

ESPLANADE 5K *(from pg. 2)*

Nichols expects participation will fall somewhere between—the 1,000 runners that the event typically drew in pre-pandemic times and 300—the number that took part in last year’s virtual 5K.

Runners from three countries (the U.S., Brazil and India) and 13 states participated in last

year’s virtual race, which took place from June 1 to 7, 2020. Within that timeframe, participants were allowed run or walk 5K (3.1 miles) anywhere in the world at their own pace.

This year, however, is a different story, with the footrace returning to its traditional format.

“There’s probably not time for it to sell out,” Nichols said Monday, “but for a variety of reasons, we wouldn’t mind a smaller event this year.”

With this in mind, safety measures will be in place for this year’s footrace, said Nichols, including taking steps to keep

runners a safe distance apart from each other.

Order your bib for the footrace for \$25 each (or \$20 each for Esplanade Association members, or a bib and one-year membership to the Esplanade Association for \$40) at <https://sub5racing.redpodium.com/>

esplanade-5k-2021.

To register a team for your group or company, contact Samuel Englert at senglert@esplanade.org.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, email Christine Francois at cfrancois@esplanade.org.

BVHDC *(from pg. 1)*

Board of Appeal have approved the project.

Berry said that the “most important” proposed change to the existing church building is making it accessible for future residents by removing the stairs at the front of the building.

She said that when the architectural team conducted research on the church building, it was found that the existing stairs are not original. “What is currently there today is not what was there historically,” Berry said.

The proposal includes 18 condominium units, with one one bedroom unit and the remaining 17 units are a “mix of generously sized two and three bedroom units,” she said. Wherever possible, the units are provided with balconies or roof terraces that are accessed by individual units only.

Parking is provided at street level off of Piedmont St., and bike storage will be provided, as well as bike racks at the front of the building. There will be a new sidewalk installed along Isabella St., and landscape improvements will be made at the front as well.

Berry also briefly described the layout of the building, saying that the ground floor includes parking towards the rear, and the one bedroom unit. This unit is considered a loft unit, and will span from the ground floor to the first floor. Levels two through five will feature different units, and levels six and seven are duplex units with private roof terraces. The upper level is set back from the edges so it is less visible.

“In terms of the approach to the architecture, the church building itself as we have noted before will be completely restored,” Berry said. The masonry and the stone detailing will be cleaned, and areas that need repointing will be repointed.

“All of the existing windows are well past their life,” she added, so they are being removed and replaced with windows that replicate the detail and color of the existing ones.

The addition, which begins at the fourth floor, is only visible

from the corner when standing in front of the existing church building. The penthouse will feature “minimal” detailing, and the upper portion of the addition will have “interlocking zinc panel cladding,” Berry said, that will feature “a variety of widths.” The color will be a “classic weathered gray,” and that color will also be in the mul-

lions. At the northwest addition, the team has proposed “an ironspot masonry,” but the color has yet to be officially chosen. The team is looking at either a “very dark red brick that does not attempt to match the existing building,” Berry said, or a “true purple iron clad brick” that is darker. The entirety of the northwest addition will be clad in this material.

Some other minor details were also discussed by the Commission and the project team.

There was a question about the alley from the Commission, and the team said that the alley is owned by The Marc condominiums and this project has an easement to use it.

All in all, the Commission seemed pleased with the changes presented and praised the project as a whole.

“Overall, I think you’ve improved the design, especially in the back corner with the removal of the balcony [from a previous proposal],” said Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission. He also praised the fact that the additions have been located away from the sidewalks so more of the existing church building can be focused on.

“From what the commission had seen in January and February, it’s an even better project,” Cornish said, adding that he’s “seen nothing but good improvements.”

Commissioner Stephen Dunwell said that he is a fan of the detailing around the windows, as well as the “sense of verticality that comes up over the vaulted windows and so forth. I think it comes together very nicely.” He continued, “I’m very much in favor of it; I think it’s going to be

a terrific project.”

Commissioner Ruth Knopf said she agrees with Dunwell, adding that “I think that the changes that have been made are really enhancing.”

Several members of the public also made comments, including Tom Perkins and Sarah Herlihy of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association.

In the chat, Perkins wrote that

the “BVNA voted not to oppose. I agree with Steve Dunwell’s observations that the added details and subtle changes have improved this project with each iteration. Not everyone in the neighborhood is in favor of this project, but a large majority are supportive.”

Herlihy said that this project “has been through three different developers now,” and while

there is “never uniform support for projects, this one does have broad support.” She added that she feel sit is “important to get this project done” as soon as possible so as to preserve the historic church before it is too late.

The BVHDC voted to approve this project with the proviso that all materials chosen for the exterior of the building be discussed with Landmarks staff.



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FUNDRAISING (from pg. 1)

some details about the owner of that address. While such operations have been common on the federal and state level for some time, this is the first open-seat mayoral race with numerous candidates since 2013, and so it's also the first time that new technology like e-mail digital fundraising operations have trickled down to a major municipal election in Boston. Experts say it's likely a trend that will only expand and go further down the political office chain.

It can be a little creepy, and they are prolific, but according to political science experts – they are efficient and successful.

“There has been a huge expansion of digital fundraising, especially since the mid- to late- 2000s when it was utilized so successfully by the Obama campaign,” said Northeastern Professor Costas Panagopoulos, chair of the Political Science Department, who noted it was actually Republican John McCain that first used the technology. “The Obama fundraising success is what put him on the map in 2008. One of the main reasons for it was so many small donors giving in small amounts. Those small donations add up to very large sums. Campaigns have been leaning on digital fundraising technology ever since in presidential races.

“Local campaigns now are as professional as higher level campaigns and this technology can be used in even very small races,” he continued. “It's so scalable. It exists and it's right there to take advantage of whether it's for a presidential campaign or for dog catcher.”

Suffolk University Political Science Professor Ken Cosgrove said it's more than just e-mails in the inbox, but it's a serious digital operation that targets voters in different neighborhoods with different stories and pleas. He said one person in one part of the city may get a different e-mail than another person – and sometimes two people in the same home can get different, tailored pleas for fundraising.

“This is one of the things that Trump brought back to Republicans that they were good at in the 1980s,” he said. “You can raise a lot of money three dollars at a time and several times over. Barack Obama also did a great job expanding on that idea. People think it's only \$3 and only one Starbucks coffee a week. It doesn't sound like much...You have to talk about these candidates now as consumer products and this is an offshoot of it. They are selling you something – policies and stories...The fundraising e-mails are important for that because they tell you stories that

will make you feel good and then give them money, or will make you so mad you'll give them even more money...With all this technology and databases from Google and Facebook, they even know who you are. This technology is very efficient because it's easy and you can raise more money. I'm not surprised it's being used this way in the mayoral election this time.”

Cosgrove added that the companies used by the candidates for digital fundraising use databases and information from places like Facebook Audiences and Google to find voters by neighborhood, by race, by profession and even by religion. He said they have learned to make tailored appeals to like-audiences using a number of different criteria.

So, when those e-mails asking for donations and talking about a warm and fuzzy story, or a contentious policy argument, hit one's inbox – it comes after a great deal of digital research on each person.

Councilor Andrea Campbell's campaign utilizes the technology with great success so far, using the national company known as MissionWired – which has done similar work for campaigns like President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in 2020. In June, Campbell's mayoral campaign spent \$27,000 on services from MissionWired companies and has shown strong fund-raising numbers most every month as a result.

Her campaign said they didn't want to directly comment on their strategies for fundraising, but did comment that roughly 50 percent of their donations have been raised online.

Councilor Michelle Wu's campaign has also utilized the e-mail fundraising to a great degree, spending \$5,000 in June with Authentic Campaigns – another major player in the digital space. The campaign said they have been successful using the new tool to reach people where they're at and allow more people to participate in the fundraising aspect of the campaign.

“We're proud to have the greatest number of grassroots donors and volunteers in this race,” read a statement from the campaign. “Reaching out by email has helped us meet people where they're at to power our campaign—whether by pitching in a few dollars or giving their

time.”

Acting Mayor Kim Janey's team has also utilized such technology and spent \$4,500 with Battleaxe Digital in June for digital fundraising. Campaign manager Kirby Chandler said it is one tool of many they are using to build grass-roots support and buy-in.

“We use a number of tools to activate our grassroots supporters and contributors whether via email, texts or social media,” said Chandler. “While fundraising is a part of that outreach, it is also meant to keep supporters up to date on the campaign and the Mayor's work on behalf of the residents of Boston.”

Councilor Annissa Essaibi George's campaign spent \$16,000 with Liberty Square Group and LB Strategies in June for digital work, including e-mails that they said have been successful in reaching donors at critical times and to inform campaign supporters of work that's going on.

“We use fundraising emails at the end of the month to boost our numbers and make that last minute push with a sense of urgency,” read a statement from the campaign. “Sometimes we choose to send short ‘reminder’ emails such as the one (the paper) is using as an example, and sometimes we provide more of a fun campaign update. We also use these fundraising emails to boost engagement amongst our list and make sure we are regularly using it to our advantage.”

John Barros's campaign also uses the e-mails, but to a much lesser extent and at a much lower cost. In June, that campaign paid \$340 to MailChimp for sending out fundraising e-mails and other communications.

They did not respond with a comment for this story on their digital activities.

Panagopoulos said don't expect such fundraising practices locally to fade out with the pandemic, as they were around prior to the pandemic and will continue to expand their reach afterwards. He said it is a cheap, user-friendly way for campaigns to raise money fast from a lot of people, while also keeping them connected to the campaign. It has also come at a time when people have grown more comfortable making online purchases using their credit card, and so they aren't as wary to contribute

online using that same credit card – and reporting contributions to state agencies is made far easier than it was when people sent checks and gave cash.

“It makes it so much easier and it's a relatively easy way to go about fundraising these days,” he said. “It's also useful for large contributions too. People don't have to go out and find the campaign to give them a check. Even without a pandemic, this kind of fundraising is way easier in contemporary campaigns.”

All aboard for the ‘Merch Store’ express

Another aspect of the digital campaign fundraising arm is what has now become known as a ‘Merch Store,’ or an online campaign merchandise store.

For some candidates, gone are the days of handing out combs, fingernail files and bumper stickers with their logos for free to supporters and potential voters. Instead, some candidates choose to open a merchandising operation, said Suffolk University Professor Ken Cosgrove. That action goes hand-in-hand with the digital fundraising e-mails. He said when people give their money, and are encouraged with a tailored story, they will often want to buy something to support that action afterward.

Therein lies the magic fundraising capabilities of the ‘Merch Store.’

“It's smart because you turn people into your mobilized ad force and they pay you to do it,” he said. “That's something that Trump brought to politics with his red hats. It took a professional marketer and salesman like him to bring that to politics, but it's here. It's no different than the Bruins or Red Sox gear people wear around. It doesn't cost much to make this stuff and you can make a good chunk of change selling it. In a race with this many candidates, building brand recognition matters.”

To this point, Councilor Wu has opened a Merch Store, using the familiar purple colors with ‘Wu!’ emblazoned on the materials for sale.

Acting Mayor Janey has one of the more robust Merch Stores, with her purple and dark yellow colors on T-Shirts, hats, stickers and more. She has even premiered a T-Shirt in her colors that says, ‘Madame Mayor.’



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WARD 5 DEMOCRATS (from pg. 1)

the race as of early August.

The Ward 5 Democratic Committee said: "Our members voted overwhelmingly and wholeheartedly to endorse Michelle Wu for Mayor of Boston. To put it simply, Michelle is the best choice for Mayor of Boston: she has a long track record of being a problem solver who has established herself as a visionary leader who is ready to tackle the biggest challenges facing our city. As Democratic activists, we've experienced her collaborative

nature and style, and we believe Michelle's vision and leadership will be transformational for our city. We are proud to put our full support behind her in this fight, and ready to knock on doors, make phone calls and get to work to ensure she is our next Mayor."

Michelle Wu said: "Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee has been leading the way for progressive activism and organizing for years, and I'm so proud to have their support once again.

Our campaign is organizing in every neighborhood of our city, and this endorsement will help supercharge our campaign to have thousands of conversations with neighbors. I look forward to organizing in partnership with the Ward 5 Democratic Committee through Election Day and beyond."

The Ward 5 Democrats' endorsement adds to the Wu campaign's enthusiastic coalition supporters including leaders Senator Elizabeth Warren, Ward 1 Councilor Lydia Edwards, State Senator and Assistant Majority Leader Sal DiDomenico, former State Representative and Assistant Majority Leader Byron Rushing; union like Teamsters Local 25, New England Joint Board of Unite Here!, Alliance of Unions at the MBTA, MBTA Inspectors Union Local 600, OPEIU Local 453; environmental organizations like Sunrise Boston, Sierra Club, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, 350 Mass Action; as well as groups like Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale and the Ward 4 Democrats.



Ward 5 Chair Sharon Durkan passes out literature to members of the Committee.

Ward 4 Dems to host Ice Cream Social on Aug. 29

Staff Report

Boston Ward 4 Dems 10th Annual Ice Cream Social -- Sunday, August 29, 2 pm to 4 pm -- Titus Sparrow Park: Join fellow Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End (and

anywhere else!) for a fun afternoon of good ice cream, good toppings, and good conversation. The event is co-hosted by City Councilor At-Large and mayoral candidate Michelle Wu. Questions? Email ward4dems@gmail.com.

Acting Mayor Janey's Movie Night set for Sept. 10 on the Common

Staff Report

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department ParkARTS program presents Acting Mayor Kim Janey's Movie Nights in nine local City of Boston parks from Monday, August 9, through Friday, September 10.

All shows begin at dusk. The series is sponsored by Bank of America and Xfinity, and hosted by Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Additional support is provided by the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment and media partner JAM'N 94.5.

Upcoming events in the area are as follows:

•Friday, September 10

"Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker"

Boston Common, 38 Beacon Street, Boston, 02108

All ParkARTS performances are free of charge. For more information, please call (617) 635-4505. To stay up to date with Parks Department news, events, and projects, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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India Day Festival returning Aug. 15 to Hatch Shell

By Dan Murphy

After a three-year absence, with the event going virtual last year due to the pandemic and moving to City Hall Plaza for two years in both 2018 and 2019, respectively, the India Association of Greater Boston's long-running India Day Festival is returning to the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade on Sunday, Aug. 15, from 3 to 7 p.m.

The India Association of Greater Boston (IAGB) was started as a socio-cultural organization with the goal of bringing the area's Indian community together in 1962 and held its first India Day Festival soon afterwards. And from the 1980s until 2017, the event was held on the Esplanade, said Sanjay Gowda, IAGB President

The festival always takes on a weekend around India Independence Day, which commemorates the country's independence from

the United Kingdom on Aug. 15, 1947, said Gowda, and attendance in recent years has ranged from 8,000 to 15,000, depending on the weather, among other factors.

When the festival took place virtually last year, it afforded the IAGB the opportunity to stage a bigger event, said Gowda, that included a concert with "high-quality performers."

This year, the festival will have three parts, said Gowda, including first, the "cultural performance or entertainment program."

For the second part, vendors from all over New England, he said, will be selling their wares, including Indian crafts, jewelry, and clothing on site.

Third, the Food Mela, added Gowda, will features booths from five area restaurants serving up cuisine from all over India.

"This is a free event, open to all, and a celebration of the largest



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

The last India Day Festival which took place on the Esplanade in 2017.

democracy in the land of the oldest in the land of democracy," he said, "as well as a celebration of democracy, a celebration of unity, and a celebration of the Indian American community."

Michael Nichols executive director of the Esplanade Association, said his group is thrilled to see India Day Festival making its return to the park this summer.

"We love having the park serve as a venue for all manner of musical and cultural programming," said Nichols, "and it's great to see the India Day Festival back on the Esplanade."

Likewise, Gowda is pleased to see the event again returning to the Esplanade.

"The Esplanade is a beautiful, iconic place, and the India Associ-

ation of Greater Boston is proud to celebrate India Day every year for several decades," said Gowda. "It attracts everyone and is the perfect spot for the entire family to enjoy the events at the Hatch Shell and other activities along the river."

Visit iagb.org for more information on India Day Festival, or iagb.org/sponsorship/ for sponsorship opportunities.

Renowned artist Janet Zweig to create interactive public sculpture on Common

Staff report

In celebration of the Friends of the Public Garden's 50th anni-

versary in Boston, famed public artist Janet Zweig will unveil a large, participatory public

sculpture – a hand-crafted, double-sided, wooden cabinet with removable illuminated markers that invite discussion about ownership for an installation called "What Do We Have In Common?" beginning Sept. 22 on the Boston Common.

The Boston Common is a powerful backdrop for this experience. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the land that became the Common was occupied by the Massachusetts tribe that considered all land to be held in common. As America's first public park, it has 387 years of history. It has witnessed executions, sermons, protests, and celebrations. It has hosted famous visitors and everyday gatherings of friends and family. The earliest townspeople grazed their cows and beat their rugs on the Common. The arrival of Boston's public water system in 1848 was heralded by a Water Celebration at the Common's Frog Pond attended by thousands. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke from Parkman Bandstand on April 23, 1965. after a mile-long freedom march through the streets of Boston. On Oct. 1, 1979, Pope John Paul II celebrated the first papal mass in North America to 400,000 people.

"What Do We Have In Common?" is curated by Now +



There, a non-profit public art organization bringing temporary, site-specific artworks to all neighborhoods of Boston, and the installation will also be part performance. Boston-based Guides will pull out blue illuminated markers from the cabinet each day and engage passersby in conversation around questions printed on the markers such as: "Who Owns the Moon?" "Who Owns the Shadows?" and "Who Owns Happiness?" "Who Owns the Trees?" At night, the cabinet and markers will glow, lighting up the park as a reminder of the care needed to protect the beauty and dynamism of public spaces that we own in common. "What Do We Have In Common?" will be on view for 30 days.

"What Janet Zweig has so poetically brought to light is the crux of this work of being stewards of common resources:

bringing people together to take care of something we all deeply value. Our partnership over these past 50 years has made us stronger and it makes our parks better for future generations," said Liz Vizza, Friends of the Public Garden President.

The cabinet will also serve as a Giving Library for the public to take texts on the theme of shared resources. There will be fiction, poetry, children's books, and histories of Boston Common, available for all to take and book plates will be signed by Zweig. Reflective of the Common's rich cultural diversity, 34 of the 200 markers in the cabinet will be in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Cape Verdean Creole. Many of the Guides, who will be prompting conversations with the public, will self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Now + There's Executive Director Kate Gilbert adds: "Participatory public art enlivens spaces and galvanizes people. With Janet Zweig's decades-long history of sparking contemplation through subtly whimsical approaches, plus the 10 Boston area citizens acting as the pulse of 'What Do We Have In Common?,' we're posing provocative

(JANET ZWIG, Pg. 7)

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SEDLC hears advisory review for proposed seven-story building on Washington St.

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) on August 3 heard an advisory review for a proposed seven-story building at 1395 Washington St., which is currently home to a one-story commercial structure.

Architect Dartagnan Brown presented the proposal, saying that the project team has recently filed a rejection letter to kick off the Article 80 process with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), and were looking for some initial feedback from the SEDLC on the proposal as it stands now.

"What we're looking to propose is a seven-story residential building with 35 units," Brown said, adding that there would be "very active ground floor retail." The units would be condominiums with a mix of studio, one, two, and three bedroom units.

The proposed height for the building is 83 feet tall, but the limit for the area is 70 feet.

"We are truly excited to work on this," Brown said. He also said that the team is "really focusing on attention to detail."

The top floor of the building will be set back "significantly," and "understanding the context of surrounding buildings is the main idea here," he said.

The massing of the residential portion will be in between the second, third, fourth, and fifth floors, while the sixth floor will be "carrying the band that's quite prevalent in the building to

the right," and the seventh and top floor will "really step back," Brown said.

The residential lobby will be located to the right, and the retail space will be able to be subdivided to allow for "flexibility for tenancy in the building," which is something that's desired by the project team.

The materials for the facade are proposed to be a lighter stone colored brick, and there will be the "ability to open up at the living rooms with the Juliette deck."

The existing building to the left is five stories, while the one on the right has a seventh floor "that we're in alignment with," Brown said. Mechanicals will be on top of the setback on the seventh floor, but no details were provided.

"That's a little deceptive, guys, sorry," said Commissioner Catherine Hunt. Brown said the units would be "individual little condensers like you see on the brownstones."

Commissioner Freeman said, "I like the building and I think you've done some very thoughtful design and I like your presentation."

He talked about how the Commission has decided over the years what makes a South End building a South End building, saying that "it's not mimicking historic buildings," calling that the "worst way to do a new construction building."

He said that "half" of the South End's "architectural

vocabulary to make it comfortable in the South End."

Right now, he said he doesn't feel that this building meets that criteria. "Very often, South End buildings diminish in scale as they go up," Freeman said. He continued, "buildings next to each other usually recognize the horizontal alignments of the buildings adjacent to them in some way." He told the project team that they "need to bring in a little bit more of that in this design to make it comfortable in the South End."

He suggested first looking at the horizontal alignments, and told the team that they need to include the mechanical equipment in the presentation, as well as a preliminary signage plan, though a master signage plan will be required later.

Commissioner Fabian D'Souza took a different approach. He said he believe it would be "helpful" for both the Commission and the project team to "lump" certain aspects of the proposal into different groups "so that that makes for greater fluency of discussion," he said. "I think at this point in time, I am less inclined to actually talk about specifics." He wants to make the issues more concise.

Commissioner David Shep-

perd said he had some concerns about the proposed height, but he did like that part of it was set back. However, he said that he doesn't notice the setback from all angles of the renderings that were down.

He said he is not sure any building above 70 feet would be "approvable," as "that's the rule for the neighborhood and this lot."

Additionally, Shepperd said "I think we will want to have some more details about various things John mentioned," such as the lintels and sills, the windows, and the overhang for the bottom floor. Balconies were also a topic of discussion. The proposed balconies are a Juliette type.

"I'm not sold on the grayish color" for the brick, he said, as "everything adjacent and nearby is all red brick. That's really the historic nature of the neighborhood."

Commissioner Hunt said, "I probably agree with a lot of John Freeman's comments," but she also asked the project team why they were proposing a building that is taller than the approvable height. "Why does it always have to be something more, more more?" she wondered. This is an issue that has come up for several proposals not just in the South

End, but in other neighborhoods in the city as well.

The project team said that the proposal as it stands "fits into what the market needs," and this number of stories is what is needed to make it work financially.

Attorney Marc LaCasse said that "the notion that a variance for height or any of the other dimensional requirements is unusual is simply not the case in Boston," LaCasse said. He said that at the Zoning Board of Appeal, "you'll hear no fewer than 200 variances being granted every other Tuesday." He added that in Boston, the "zoning code is intentionally restrictive and intentionally archaic...so the city can control the process."

Overall, Hunt said the team has "done a great job," calling it "a fine start." She said she personally did like the light color for the facade. She said that there are "a lot of nice moves here. I'm sure it will progress in a fine way."

The project team said that they will take the Commission's comments into consideration, and expect to come back multiple times throughout the city process to continue to get feedback and hone the proposal before coming back with an official application for a vote.

JANET ZWEIG (from pg. 6)

questions that invite reflection and discussion about commonality in a way that encourages everyone to be part of crafting alternative solutions. This is the power of public art."

For Zweig, who lived in Boston and Cambridge in the 1980s and now resides in New York, this is her first public art commission in Boston. She has worked in the public art realm since the 1990s, consistently creating work that speaks to environmental issues. Her major projects include a kinetic installation on a pier along the Sacramento River, a performance space in a prairie on a Kansas City downtown green roof, a generative sentence wall in downtown Columbus, a light installation and memorial in Pittsburgh, a system-wide interactive project for eleven

Light Rail train stations in Minneapolis, and a 1200' frieze at the Prince Street subway in New York. While she has created public sculpture, interactive works, and performance, "What Do We Have in Common?" seamlessly brings all three elements together for the first time.

"After much research, I had more questions than answers about the idea of commons," Zweig said. "The markers ask a lot of those questions. I am hoping the Guides, who spread the markers to the wider public around the park over the month, will facilitate many questions including an important one for us all: What do we have in common?"

Visit www.nowandthere.org/incommon for more information.



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Roundhouse fight may not be over, but Janey heard 'loud and clear'

By Seth Daniel

A plan for using the former Roundhouse hotel as a shelter or transitional housing is not completely off the table, according to Acting Mayor Kim Janey, but the neighborhood concerns were heard "loud and clear."

In a press conference conversation about federal Rescue Plan dollars being spent partly

on the homelessness and opioid crisis on Tuesday, Janey said the Roundhouse proposal might get a second airing.

However, she also said that the former plan by Victory Programs and the City that was soundly defeated by neighborhood and elected official opposition had been noted by the Administration.

"We will continue to work with residents in the area and

non-profit leaders in this space to see if there's an opportunity to do this as supportive housing," she said during the press conference. "We heard loud and clear in the last community engagement process that there were concerns about this. We are doing supportive housing in other parts of our City as well. I know residents of this area felt like a lot was happening there. We're

also working with mayors in other cities to make sure there's a regional approach. Too much of this problem has fallen on Boston and we're encouraged by the investment of Gov. Baker to make sure there is more support across the Commonwealth."

The plan for Victory Programs to use 14 to 35 units in the hotel at 891 Mass Avenue in the Newmarket Business District was

roundly believed by the neighborhood and elected officials to also be a place the City wished to expand its low-threshold shelter operations – though no one from the City had ever said that publicly.

In a private meeting, Victory Programs officials indicated that Chief of Health Marty Martinez had indicated not using the

(ROUNDHOUSE, Pg. 9)

Supt. Cassellius addresses expired licensure, will take test Aug. 14

By Seth Daniel

Supt. Brenda Cassellius apologized to the School Committee at the Aug. 4 meeting for letting her superintendent's license expire on July 31, and pledged to take the licensing exam on Aug. 14 to bring her into the proper certification.

The news was first reported by the Boston Globe last week, noting that Cassellius' temporary and emergency superintendent's license had expired on July 31. When informed, Cassellius said she wasn't aware of it, and there had been a misunderstanding of the emergency licensure rules.

"There is news about my license and I'd like to personally apologize to the School Committee chair and vice chair and members that I allowed my license to expire," she said. "There was a misunderstanding between me and my team about the category of a temporary or emergency license – and the emergency licenses given during the pandemic. As you know I came from Minnesota. I was a fully licensed educator and superintendent and have been so for 30-plus years. I intended to take the exam in my first year, but as you know we shifted to support our students and families during the pandemic. I devoted my full attention to addressing the health crisis and the license requirements were waived during the time of the pandemic."

Cassellius said the pandemic response is still her focus, as well as getting school re-opened in September. She said she has been in contact with the state Education Commissioner about the situation, and is finding out if there will have to be an interim superintendent put in place until she takes the test on Aug. 14, and then finds out the results later.

"I have in fact scheduled the test for Saturday, Aug. 14," she

said. "I take this very seriously and I am resolved to complete this task immediately so it's not a distraction...We have a school opening in a few weeks and we cannot afford any delays in ensuring the health and safety of our children, making sure our teachers and school leaders have what they need. I apologize for this distraction."

School Committeeman Ernani DeAraujo said he was disappointed in himself and the School's infrastructure for not finding this issue and informing the Committee when Cassellius' contract was renewed in June.

"So, we may need to be prepared for an interim if that's not successful," he said of her taking the test this weekend. "I think this is a very significant disclosure. We evaluated the superintendent and from my perspective, I presumed when I read the contract those requirements were met in terms of licensure. That clearly wasn't the case. At what point should we have asked those questions and done our own due diligence during the evaluation process? Clearly we didn't do that and that's a very key piece of information. I understand the superintendent's response, but for us as a Committee, that's pretty fundamental and we did miss that."

Chair Jeri Robinson said she was also disappointed, and called for a checklist of basic items to be presented by the Administration when doing evaluations.

"The licensure of all staff is the responsibility of the Human Resources Department and it was our assumption that was being taken care of by them," she said. "They have usually alerted us that there was an issue, and since there was none, the assumption was that everything was in place...Since we have just learned this, we are now taking the steps relevant to moving forward.

I would agree with you this is a lesson learned for all of us that even though there are assumptions we should have a checklist to make sure all these things are in place and we did not."

School Committeeman Michael O'Neill said it was a distraction from the immediate work, but did expect Cassellius to clear it up quickly.

"Upon reflection I appreciate the superintendent talking about her licensing issue," he said. "It is a unnecessary distraction unfortunately, and I'm sorry there appears to be miscommunication or misinterpretation of the emergency waivers versus the temporary waivers...When we voted in June on your contract you were in compliance and this just happened as of July 31, but it's something that could have been taken care of ahead of time with the right information. I appreciate, like many of our students and our teachers, you have to take a make-up exam. I have no doubt you'll pass with flying colors."

Cassellius said she would inform the Committee about whether she can remain superintendent while waiting to take the test and to get the results. That is something, she said, that state and City attorneys are studying.

SUMMER PROGRAM NOT AS ROBUST AS EXPECTED

The Summer Stuff program meant to accelerate learning and fun this summer for thousands of Boston Public Schools (BPS) students did not necessarily achieve its lofty goals, school officials and Committee members said at the Aug. 4 meeting.

The schools used an influx of funding and partnerships to create what they hoped would be a groundbreaking summer session of learning, fun and activity for students this summer – hoping to have as many as 80 percent of

the district's 52,000 students participating in some program.

In the end, there were robust programs for many students, but only 13,000 participated and parents complained that the hours of the programs were limiting and the lack of transportation was a major barrier.

There was also a need for better outreach, Cassellius said.

School Committeeman DeAraujo said he had an embarrassing moment this summer when visiting one of the programs, and it was said there was no transportation. He said he believed there was, only to find out that he was wrong.

"Of course I followed up and there was only transportation for a certain subset of kids," he said. "I don't know if I misheard or misunderstood, but my understanding from the beginning was transportation would be provided and I don't want that to happen again. We kind of promised the world because we had had resources, and what we delivered, even if it was strong for the subset of families able to access it, there's a real disconnect there. As a Committee member, I need to learn how to prevent that from happening going forward if I can."

FEDERAL FUNDING PLAN

The ESSER 2 federal funding plan was submitted to the state on July 30 after a number of public meetings and district roundtables – as well as discussions by school leaders at the community level.

In the plan, Cassellius said \$61.5 million would be going directly to school communities for them to determine the best uses within the guidelines. This is the second of three distributions of monies from the federal government, with the larger ESSER 3 funding coming in the fall and to be used in 2022.

For ESSER 2, the three priorities identified included social/emotional supports, academic acceleration and recovery, and facility improvements.

"We have also got a lot of feedback about facility improvements," she said.

The facility improvements identified included installing air conditioner units in every classroom that does not currently have a/c, tracking air quality, investing in libraries, and upgrading access to drinking water.

BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Supt. Cassellius said her team has taken no breaks in planning for the September return to school.

"We have taken no breaks and have been planning all summer for the return to school," she said. "We want the message this year to be about joy, about community and re-connecting and accelerating learning, understanding the last 18 months will take far longer to overcome. Yes, there will be COVID protocols in place, but we want to make sure our focus is on creating an excellent student experience for our students."

She said students would likely be in masks, and there would be a much different rhythm to the school day – including special times made for social/emotional discussions and limited time working on a computer. She said they will be stressing masks, vaccines and testing.

"Working with our public health officials, we want our topline message to be that the best approach to a safe school year is mask, vaccines and testing," she said. "Those are the three most effective methods we have to stopping the spread of COVID in our schools and you'll hear those three things repeated often."

AG Healey calls for more leadership from state, city on Mass/Cass

By Seth Daniel

Attorney General Maura Healey visited the South End last week on the heels of an historic, \$500 million opioid manufacturer settlement, to check in with the kids at St. Stephens Youth Programs (SSYP) and call for more action at Mass/Cass.

Healey's visit came just after she had announced a \$26 billion resolution to a lawsuit levied by 14 states, including Massachusetts, against four manufacturers and distributors of opioids. The suit was meant to "hold accountable several corporations that flooded Massachusetts with dangerous opioids and bring desperately needed relief to people who are struggling with substance use disorder."

The suit promises more than \$500 million in funding to come to Massachusetts for recovery efforts and prevention over 10 years.

In the South End, she said it's time for better leadership from the state and the City on Mass/Cass, and she hoped that the settlement will be directed to those suffering in the area.

"We were a few steps away from Mass and Cass and it's really distressing what's going



AG Maura Healey was in the South End last week visiting the SSYP summer program to hear the concerns of youth, but also to discuss the issues at Mass/Cass. After reaching an historic settlement with opioid manufacturers, she called for more leadership on Mass/Cass from the state and City.

on there," said Healey. "We need urgent action over in that area. We need leadership from the City and the state – convening public safety officials with public health officials and with people on the ground. I give credit to people on the ground over there trying to do what they can to help, but we need to do a better job. I think we need leadership big time on the issue from the City and the state, and it would start with bringing all those people together; public safety with public health. What's the game plan? What's the approach? Because you cannot let this continue."

She said the proceeds from the suit should be directed at correcting the problems seen on Mass/Cass.

"Every single penny I want to see go to treatment and recovery

and the need could not be greater," she said.

Before speaking to reporters, AG Healey stopped by SSYP to visit with the kids in the annual summer program there. She listened to their concerns, she said, and then the former Harvard University basketball standout played some hoops with them in Ramsey Park.

"The kids talk about finding needles in the playground, even where we were playing basketball today (in Ramsey Park)," she said. "They talked about trash and litter and a range of issues. I told them to keep speaking up. The power I believe is with our young people. We in government need to do a better job listening...We need to listen to our young people and what they're telling us."

Family calls for justice for Mass/Cass murder victim

By Seth Daniel

Family members of Ricardo Garcia are asking that justice be served for their sibling and son that was stabbed and killed on Mass Avenue in the Mass/Cass area on Sunday morning.

"We all want justice to be served and people are very, very upset," said Heidi Garcia, the mother of Ricardo, in a phone interview. "We're waiting to hear from the police and hoping to get more

information, but there hasn't been an arrest yet. We simply want to see justice being served."

At about 8:35 a.m. on Sunday, August 8, officers assigned to District B-2 (Roxbury) responded to a call for a person stabbed in the area of Pierson Street and Massachusetts Avenue in Newmarket. On arrival, officers located, Ricardo Garcia, 34, of Boston, suffering an apparent stab wound. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Boston Police Department continues to review the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is asking anyone with information relative to this investigation to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463).

ROUNDHOUSE (from pg. 8)

remainder of the hotel for similar low-threshold services. Residents and elected officials, such as Councilor Frank Baker and State Rep. Jon Santiago, indicated they did not support the proposal – among many others.

The hotel use at the Roundhouse has been abandoned due to the pandemic pressures and the long-time homelessness and opioid quality of life issues that seemingly pinpoint outside the Roundhouse. Last year, Pine

Street Inn temporarily used the hotel as overflow shelter space for homeless individuals that were in the process of transitioning to supportive housing elsewhere. They vacated the property on July 1.

Cappucci announces run for Mayor of Boston

Bob Cappucci has announced his candidacy for Mayor of Boston. The following is his announcement.

Bob Cappucci, a lifelong resident of East Boston, a retired Boston Police Officer, and a veteran of the US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service, is running for mayor as the

Law and Order candidate. He has experienced the hopes and struggles of many people in Boston: as a Boston police officer; as an elected member of the Boston School Committee; as a substitute teacher in the Boston Public Schools, and as a director of a community housing program in East Boston.

These experiences give Bob a clear and personal understanding of the issues facing Boston's neighborhoods, including education, crime, addiction, domestic violence, and the small businesses that struggle. As mayor he will make sure all neighborhoods have much more input concerning any real estate development projects. Bob warned, "Each Boston neighborhood has its own unique identity. Oversized new construction is threatening to change them beyond recognition. I will give neighbors more of a say in the approval process that affects their lives."

Bob is Pro-Life, Pro-Police, Pro-Veterans, Pro-Exam Schools. He will represent every person in every neighborhood, he will fully fund the Boston Police Department and he will always support



Bob Cappucci, candidate for Mayor of Boston.

our children, our seniors, and our special needs community.

Bob states, "I love America and I love Boston. Please vote for Bob Cappucci on September 14th, #7 on the ballot. Thank you. God Bless you and yours."

Learn more at www.bobcappucciformayor.org

Contact Bob at cappucciformayor@gmail.com

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'We Sing Boston' continues in neighborhood parks ahead of Sept. 25 citywide singing event

By Dan Murphy

"We Sing Boston" – a program made possible by the Boston Children's Chorus in partnership with the Friends of the Public Garden - is continuing to bring interactive live-music experiences to outdoor public spaces in and around Boston, leading up to a citywide singing event on Saturday, Sept. 25, beginning at 2 p.m. at Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

The series kicked off on July 17 with "We Sing: Chelsea" at Clark Avenue Middle School in Chelsea and has also included singing events in Roxbury, Dorchester, Chinatown, and Mattapan. Remaining neighborhood dates leading up to the citywide event include "We Sing: Mattapan" on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Harambee Park, 930 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan; and "We Sing: Chinatown" on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Chin Park on The Greenway Surface Road and Beach Street, Boston. (Two other scheduled events, "We Sing: Roxbury" on July 18,

and "We Sing: Dorchester" on July 25, respectively, were both cancelled due to rain.)

At each stop, the event organizers and audience members learn and sing different composition together, as opposed to a traditional concert.

The all-ages events, which will comply with local COVID safety guidelines, will also include games and prizes, including a raffle for gift cards from Black- and brown-owned businesses in the neighborhoods where they will be taking place.

Attendance has been smaller than expected, with 10 to 15 people at each event to date, said Patrick Hanafin, associate producer of the Boston Children's Chorus.

And while the turnout has been less than anticipated, Hanafin said, "The kids who are coming are having a blast. They're playing games and learning to sing songs, as well as movement and dance while singing."

In some locations with easy pedestrian access, unbeknownst passersby have stumbled across the singing events before joining

in as participants.

"We Sing Boston," which began as an offshoot of the outdoor rehearsals that Boston Children's Chorus resorted to holding during the pandemic, is also bringing new exposure to the organization, which currently has over 300 young artists from over 100 different zip codes in and around Boston in eight choirs. BCC is now inviting singers, ages 7 to 18, to join them this fall for the 2021-2022 season. (Contact info@bostonchildrenschorus.org or visit <https://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/our-programs/now-is-the-time/> for more information.)

Even though "We Sing Boston" has yet to wrap up its inaugural season, Boston Children's Chorus is already looking to next summer.

"We definitely want to do something over next summer where we engage the community and keep singing throughout [the season]," said Hanafin. "Our normal programming ends after the school year, but we love to get together at various outdoor places to continue the singing

and the fun over the summer."

Unlike other "We Sing Boston" outings, the Sept. 25 event on the Common will feature a concert by BCC singers and choirs following the traditional interaction with the audience, said Hanafin, which they hope will include all the individuals who attended the previous singing events.

"We want everyone who came to one of the singing events, or who wasn't able to, to attend to come to the event on the Common," said Hanafin. "We also want people to see what Boston Children's Chorus is all about by coming to see our singers sing on the Common for free."

Andrés Holder, executive director of the nonprofit Boston Children's Chorus, said, "The experience we envision on the Common is to connect us and [participants] across all neighborhoods."

From the onset, the goal of "We Sing" has been to link Boston Children's Chorus with communities across the city, said Holder, while connecting kids from neighborhoods across

Greater Boston with each other. "We're really trying to broaden this message and connect across barriers," he added.

The program will include some of the songs learned and taught in multiple languages at the earlier events, said Holder, to reflect the diversity of the Greater Boston communities where they took place.

Holder credits all the work that Boston Children's Chorus has done this summer to the "generous support" of the Friends of the Public Garden, especially Liz Vizza, its president, adding that he looks forward to a "long-lasting" partnership between the two groups.

"The We Sing Boston events are truly wonderful, encouraging kids of all ages to participate in community singing outdoors in public parks and schools throughout Boston this summer," said Vizza. "What could be better, singing, socializing and sharing together in your local park?"

Visit <https://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/our-programs/we-sing/> for more information.

Violent part one crime up 30-percent; other part one crimes down 13-percent

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Police released its half-year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through July 25, 2021 with the same time period last year and found Violent Part One Crime is down in District D-4 as is Non-violent Part One Crime.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and in D-14, which includes the Back Bay and South End, the overall Violent Part One Crime is down 30 percent so far this year when compared to the same six months in 2020.

According to the statistics, there were 2 Homicides reported in D-4 through July 25, 2021. This was an increase as there were no Homicides in the district between January 1 and July 25 of last year.

Rape and Attempted Rape is up 23 percent in the area with 13 being reported during the first half of last year and 16 reported so far in 2021.

Robbery or Attempted Robbery is down 32 percent with 79 incidents reported in the first half of 2020 and 54 reported so far this year.

Domestic Aggravated Assault is down 18 percent with 28 incidents

reported in the first half of 2020 and 23 reported so far this year.

Non-domestic Aggravated Assault is down 37 percent with 146 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and 92 incidents reported so far this year.

Overall there were a total of 187 Violent Part One Crimes between January 1, 2021 and July 25, 2021. This was down from the 266 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are down 13 percent in Charlestown. These crimes include Commercial Bur-

glary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary is down 79 percent with 118 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and only 25 reported so far this year.

Residential Burglary is down 8 percent and went from 71 reported incidents during the first half of 2020 to 65 incidents reported so far in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles, which was a huge problem last year, has dropped 38 percent with 283 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and 175 inci-

dents reported so far this year.

However, Auto Theft is up 41.5 percent with 53 incidents being reported during the first half of 2020 and 75 incidents reported so far this year.

Other Larcenies are up 7 percent during the first half of the year. There were 819 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and that number decreased to 880 reported incidents so far this year.

Overall there were 1,407 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, down 13 percent from the 1,610 reported during the first six months of 2020.

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 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.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - BPS

- Sept. 6: Labor Day
- Sept. 7-8: Teachers/Paras Report to school.
- Sept. 9 (Thursday): Grades 1-12 first day of school.
- Sept. 13 (Monday): Pre-K and Kindergarten first day of school.
- Oct. 11 (Monday): State Holiday, no school.

From the Aug. 10 Zoning Board of Appeals, online:

- 39 Appleton St., South End.

Applicant: John M. Moran, Esq. Purpose: Amend ALT1157969. Excavate new basement below seven (7) feet above Boston City Base to finish garden level per plans.

- 5 Durham St., St. Botolph. Applicant: Duane Lefevre & John Burke. Purpose: Renovate kitchen and bathroom. Headhouse addition on roof deck. Extend existing stairway.
- 276-278 Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Kojam, LLC. Purpose: Add Restaurant occupancy to accommodate the requested fit out on the ground and first floor. A total of 4600 square feet, the work to include a full service bar, 2 restrooms and prep kitchen in the ground level. 1st floor work to include a full service bar, hot kitchen line and full service dining room.
- 962-968 Massachusetts Ave., Newmarket. Applicant: Joseph Feaster. Purpose: Change occupancy from Warehouse, Wholesale Business, Offices and Food Processing and Retail Store and add one (1) apartment dwelling unit." Removal of existing floor-

ing and drop ceiling; install new flooring; carpentry & installation of cabinets and fixtures; new appliances and related plumbing & electrical work; painting and drywall repairs.

- 903-909 Massachusetts Ave., Newmarket. Applicant: WeDriveU, A Division of National Express. Purpose: No construction change from taxi parking lot back to bus parking lot.
- 10 Northampton St., South End. Applicant: Christopher Corey. Purpose: No proposed construction. Commonwealth Community Care currently leases this space as Office space. They would to add Clinic to their approved uses. The Tenant occupies this building as well as the building next door at 30 Northampton Street, which received a change of use for Clinic in 2015.
- 661-661A Tremont St., South End. Applicant: James Christopher. Purpose: To construct a rear addition, and head house as per the attached plans. No change to occupancy.

From the Aug. 17, 11 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING: Order for a hearing on the status of the Zoning Board of Appeals Executive Order and Home Rule Petition.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Lydia Edwards, and was referred to the Committee on February 24, 2021.

From the Aug. 19, 10 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: Ordinance on surveillance oversight and information sharing, referred to the Committee on March 3, 2021. The sponsors of this docket are Councilor Ricardo Arroyo and Councilor Michelle Wu.

From the Aug. 19 Back Bay Architectural Commission Subcommittee, 1 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83439084002):

- A subcommittee of the Commission will hold a virtual public meeting on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 1 p.m. to discuss the proposed rooftop addition at 761-793 Boylston Street.

From the Aug. 19 South End Landmarks meeting, 5 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81128892203):

DESIGN REVIEW

- McKinley Elementary School, 90 Warren Ave. Proposed work: Raise the thru-wall flashing where roof meets brick walls, clad walls above the flashing with prefinished aluminum panels.

ADVISORY REVIEW

- 595 ALBANY STREET - Proposed work: Raze the existing 2-story brick structure and replace with a 6-story mixed use building with residential units on the upper 5 stories and parking and commercial use space on the street level.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Oriolus LLC	Selmasson Holdings LLC	265 Clarendon St	\$3,800,000
Commonwealth 190-7 NT	Clickstein, Gregg S	190 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$1,800,000
Fess, Darryl J	Sullivan, Francis J	14 Dartmouth Pl #2	\$485,000
Anukul Haveli LLC	BCJC LLC	15 Marlborough St #4	\$4,200,000
Kwon, Hyukmin	Sullivan, Christopher A	272 Marlborough St #4R	\$774,000
BEACON HILL			
Tang, Hao	Shan, Yi	13 Lindall Pl #3	\$1,000,000
Cabral, Colin G	JDMD Owner LLC	45 Temple St #208	\$2,000,000
Hu, Bo	Tala Lipshutz IRT	6 Whittier Pl #9B	\$385,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
New England Urban LLC	KB Boylston LLC	132 Boylston St #4	\$1,310,000
Charles St South Hldg LLC	RGM Ventures T LLC	1 Charles St S #706	\$1,750,000
Knight, Eric H	Susannah Levine Jones	290 Columbus Ave #2	\$410,000
Caldwell, Jeffrey S	Macri, Edmond R	197 W Canton St #4	\$900,000
Timothy R Sullivan RET	Beaven Church Court RT	492 Beacon St #21	\$1,025,000
Willow Condo LLC	52-209 Charlesgate E	52 Charlesgate E #209	\$380,000
Mullin, Caroline	Tucker, Andrew J	508 Columbus Ave #1	\$2,250,000
Gheiler, Moises	Malerba-Smith, Kristen	529 Columbus Ave #6	\$845,000
Bakish, Robert	Kilic Nuri Est	416 Commonwealth Ave #706	\$895,000
Kolman, Olga	Marsha R Cohen LT	24 Cumberland St	\$3,750,000
Wetzel, Ariana	Place, Emily M	30-34 E Concord St #4	\$710,000
Leitir Moir LLC	DYS LLC	670 Massachusetts Ave	\$2,550,000
Mehta, Adwait G	Minasian, Leslie K	684 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$650,000
2021 RT	Lucsher-Blotnick, Judith	10 Otis Pl #6B	\$3,325,000
Bai, Aiping	Dutil, Dana R	65 Park Dr #11	\$400,000
Quinten L Nufer T	Dever, Brian	114 Pembroke St #3	\$2,200,000
Pond, Jennifer	121 Portland LLC	121 Portland St #710	\$1,050,000
Bhat, Arvind	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #911	\$807,900
Butmaru, Avner	Cannellos, Stephanie K	247 Shawmut Ave #3	\$559,000
Campbell, Nicholas J	Begen, Richard M	42 Union Park #1	\$4,250,000
Lee, Grace Y	Sutherin-Huebner, Laura	76-82 W Rutland Sq #202	\$1,100,000
Dai, Amanda J	Oelschlager, Ingrid	1313 Washington St #410	\$749,000
Karamitis, Gregory	Kassels, Steven J	15 Wellington St	\$3,290,000
Kawahara, Kaye K	Pond, Daniel T	43 Westland Ave #506	\$1,662,000
Golob, Aaron J	Mitchell, Mary S	139 Worcester St #2	\$805,000
Ahn, Kihong	Sullivan, Brian D	53 Chandler St #4	\$850,465
Tian, Hung	McLachlan, Glen	4 Charlesgate E #103	\$600,888
ANZ Investments LLC	Cameron, Ryan P	12 Claremont Park #3	\$825,000
Kesner, Matthew	Braemore Condo Assn Inc	464 Commonwealth Ave #74	\$621,000
Watters, Christopher	Keegan, Charles	26 Concord Sq #3	\$905,000
Bixby, Tai	Cigan, Eric W	30 Edgerly Rd #2	\$859,000
Nabbout, Karine	Derow, Robert	95 Gainsborough St #8	\$740,000
Bobrowich, Eli	Karthikeyan, Suri	126 Jersey St #301	\$749,000
Pull-Miller, Jeffrey	8 Joy St Development LLC	8 Joy St #2	\$1,750,000
Booker, Matthew A	Andrea E Bell RET	668 Massachusetts Ave #4	\$685,000
Hoffstein, Jeffrey	Pastore, Fabio	120 Norway St #12	\$900,000
Higgins, Courtney A	Caldwell, Jeffrey S	2 Rollins St #D605	\$765,000
Yuan, Victoria	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #512	\$837,800
Bash, Ryan B	Quinlan, Nicole	437 Shawmut Ave #2	\$820,000
Dippon, Christian	Moses, James A	110 Stuart St #17B	\$1,850,000
Cohen, Marsha	Fieger, James M	400 Stuart St #20E	\$3,550,000
27 Tremont Street LLC	Linear Retail Boston 24	127 Tremont St #127	\$2,325,000
505 Tremont Street 210 RT	Bourne, Ira R	505 Tremont St #205	\$1,900,000
Debiasi, Gerard A	Kritzman, Mark P	129 W Newton St	\$4,011,843
Huebner, Laura	Malin Family LP	76 W Rutland Sq #301-30	\$1,950,000
Ezgar, Geoffrey M	46 Wareham Street LLC	46 Wareham St #5D	\$2,700,000
Baker, Joshua	Mcparland, Stephen	7 Warren Ave #6	\$1,900,000
Bell, Madeline	Rosmarin, Daniel	76 Warren Ave #76	\$1,000,000
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	45 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	57 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	59-61 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	65-67 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	66 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	68 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	72-74 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	76-78 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
New Fenway Westland LLC	Westland Ave Apt LP	83 Westland Ave	\$15,224,925
Adams, James J	Lichtenstein, David R	1 Worcester Sq #2	\$1,940,000
Parsons, Samantha	Stephanie L Oliari RET	65 Worcester St #3	\$755,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Curcio, Robert A	Vinios, Louis N	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4310	\$2,100,000
Hylant, Gregory	Sevich, Jeffrey S	134 Beach St #6	\$1,545,000
Higgins, Morgan	Daly, Mary B	357 Commercial St #115	\$475,000
Morabito, Adam R	Haskell, Scott E	122-124 Fulton St #1	\$725,000
Lin, Meidan	Row House Investments	29 Oak St #3	\$227,900

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window in the last clue is located at 463 Massachusetts Avenue. Since 1919 this has been the home of the Women's Service Club (WSC) which began during World War 1 to knit scarves and gloves for soldiers. Today, the group writes, "... as one of the state's oldest organizations of, and for women of color, the WSC is proud to continue serving in the rich legacy of its predeces-sors and the WSC still upholds its motto, "The Open Door," by welcoming the community to avail itself of its many offerings." You'll find the next clue in the Back Bay.

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



BEACON STREET PENTHOUSE



52 BEACON STREET #PH
4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 5,438 SQFT
\$9,500,000



16 EXETER STREET #1
4 BEDS | 4 BATHS | 3,882 SQFT
\$5,450,000



1 FRANKLIN STREET #4702
3 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 3,172 SQFT
\$6,995,000



120 NORWAY STREET #7
1 BED | 1.5 BATHS | 690 SQFT
\$649,000



48 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #2
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 1,983 SQFT
\$4,450,000

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