

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY PERFORMS AT HATCH SHELL



PHOTOS BY ROBERT TORRES

The Handel and Haydn Society performing at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. They premiered a new text for Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9" to a crowd of over 10,000 people on Friday, Aug. 27. See more photos on Page 5.

## MBTA holds virtual open house for Better Bus Project

By Lauren Bennett

The MBTA held a virtual open house regarding the Better Bus Project on August 26, where bus riders had a chance to hear nine mini-presentations on different aspects of bus improvements, before splitting up into breakout rooms to chat with MBTA employees.

"The MBTA wants to make the bus better for its riders," said

MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. "It's important for us to talk about our good intent here."

He also said that the bus is the mode of transportation that has "come back the most" after the height of the pandemic, and is now between 55 and 65 percent ridership.

The mini-presentations focused on everything from the bus network redesign to fare

transformation to amenities at bus stops. Different members of the MBTA team were on hand to present on each of the topics.

Caroline Vanasse talked about the bus network redesign, saying that the MBTA is "focused on the service overall and it's really just serving streets and connecting them in ways that are better for our riders."

(BETTER BUS PROJECT Pg. 3)

## Fenway-Kenmore sweeps Community Garden category in Garden Contest

By Dan Murphy

Fenway-Kenmore entries swept the Community Garden category when acting Mayor

Kim Janey announced the winners of the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest last week.

(GARDEN CONTEST, Pg. 2)

## New 'Cornerstone Project' at New England Historic Genealogical Society calls for public participation

By Lauren Bennett

Researching lineage and genealogy in the Back Bay is going to become even more interactive and user friendly.

The New England Historic

Genealogical Society (NEHGS) has plans to expand its programming offerings after purchasing the building at 97 Newbury St. adjacent to its existing headquarters at 99 Newbury St.

The Society presented initial

plans for the building's facade to the Back Bay Architectural

Commission (BBAC) on August 11, where the team received feedback on the design.

(NEHGS Pg. 8)

## Mayor Janey welcomes students to Boston

Staff Report

Mayor Kim Janey along with representatives from several city agencies today greeted college and university students moving into Boston on September 1, and helped ensure they have a smooth transition into their new homes. The City's Inspectional Services, Transportation, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Fire, Police and Public Works departments are conducting housing inspections (upon request), trash inspections, and distributing informational brochures in neighborhoods with large student populations. Mayor Janey and other City officials conducted a walkthrough at 12:00pm beginning at 20 Linden St. in All-

(WELCOME STUDENTS, Pg. 2)

## WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK



Titus Sparrow Park was full of activity as the Ward 4 Ice Cream Social attracted many residents to join in. Shown to the left, Chip Huhta awaits some ice cream served by Prakhar Gupta as Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone contemplates his ice cream selection with Ben Seigal. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

# EDITORIAL

## ENJOY A SAFE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

There's a temptation for people to splurge at the end of things. We all are familiar with the idea, "If this is the last, let's make it a blast!"

We don't have anything against that sentiment, but all too often that sort of mindset leads to risky behavior and tragic outcomes.

If there is nothing else we have learned after being in the newspaper business for more than 50 years, it is this: A person can do everything right and live by the book for their entire life, but all it takes is one mistake of judgment that can change everything, both for themselves and others.

Persons who otherwise might not have a drinking problem can indulge just a bit too much at an event such as an end-of-summer celebration and -- presto, in the snap of a finger -- they have killed or maimed themselves or others in a driving, boating, or other accident.

And then there are the problem drinkers among us who look for any excuse to "celebrate," which means getting hammered at a Labor Day weekend gathering, instantly making them a threat to the safety of themselves and others.

However, the usual excessive partying is not the only danger we face this Labor Day weekend. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is lurking everywhere and no one -- not even the vaccinated -- are safe from infection.

As we are writing this, the forecast calls for a sunny Labor Day weekend with pleasant temperatures in the 70s (a welcome respite after our washouts of the Memorial Day and July 4 holiday weekends), which means that we will be able to engage in our Labor Day activities outdoors where we can socialize safely -- though from a distance.

But if our festivities are not outside, all of us need to be wary of gathering indoors unless everybody is masked.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

## THE 13 SERVICE MEMBERS WERE TRUE HEROES

Every American was saddened last week upon hearing the news of the suicide bombing by a terrorist in Afghanistan that claimed the lives of 13 U.S. service men and women, 11 of whom were Marines and one each from the Army and Navy.

If any of our readers have not had a chance to read the personal stories of these brave and dedicated young men and women, we encourage you to do so. Their life-stories are inspirational and demonstrate the high-quality of the dedicated individuals who serve in our armed forces today. They were amazing young men and women who came from disparate backgrounds and from all across the country, but who stood united in their desire to show the world the best that America can be.

These 13 service members knew of the danger they were facing outside of the Abbey Gate at Kabul's Hamid Karzai Airport, yet they continued to process the hundreds of Afghan nationals who were seeking to come to the United States to flee persecution from the Taliban.

They did their duty in the face of danger for which they made the ultimate sacrifice.

Contrary to what the pundits and usual-suspect politicians are saying, the incredible effort by these 13 soldiers and their comrades that resulted in the airlifting of more than 125,000 of our Afghanistan allies stands as a testament to the ability of our military to complete its mission.

No other nation on earth could have accomplished what we did in Afghanistan over the past two weeks -- and no other nation even remotely will be able to come close in the future.

Our military could have packed its bags and said, "Good luck," when the Afghan government fled, but instead we made a herculean effort to get our people and allies out of the country.

The Supreme Sacrifice made by those 13 servicemen and women forever will stand as a reminder to the world of America's resolve and strength, which once again has proven that we are the greatest and strongest nation on earth by any measure.

## WELCOME STUDENTS *(from pg. 1)*

ston and proceeded to Pratt and other neighboring streets.

The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) have up to 50 inspectors canvassing areas heavily populated with students including: Allston, Brighton, Fenway, Mission Hill, South Boston, Back Bay and the North End. Inspectors will visit addresses with a history of violations, as well as units identified through random selection. They will conduct on-the-spot inspections upon request, and confirm that units are registered with the City of Boston in compliance with the City's Rental Units Ordinance, which requires that all private rental units are registered annually.

"Boston is proudly home to colleges and universities that attract students from all over the world," said Mayor Janey. "For those students living off campus in our city, we work to ensure they have safe housing, are informed about services the City

provides and understand how to be good neighbors."

City officials would like to remind students to avoid used furniture, and to notify their landlord immediately in the event of a suspected infestation. The Code Enforcement Division of PWD is issuing citations for trash violations, including improperly placed trash, and trash placed on the curb on the incorrect trash day. Trash trucks are circulating through key student move-in neighborhoods to collect discarded items that have been placed on the curb. New residents can visit [boston.gov/trash-day](https://www.boston.gov/trash-day) to find their trash and recycling dates. In addition, information pertaining to rodent control can be found on our Rodent Control website.

Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services will be staffing tents at several locations to answer questions about city services and to distribute informational handouts, including at:

- Speedway, 219 Cambridge St. in Brighton
- Whole Foods, 413 Cambridge St. in Jamaica Plain
- Andrew Station in South Boston
- Forest Hills Train Station
- Star Market, 45 Morrissey Blvd in Dorchester

The Boston Transportation Department have implemented on-street parking restrictions on several streets in Allston, Brighton, Fenway, Mission Hill, South Boston, Back Bay and the North End. In addition, on-street parking restrictions signage have been posted in affected neighborhoods. For more information on street restrictions, visit [boston.gov/moving](https://www.boston.gov/moving).

Students are encouraged to visit <https://www.boston.gov/moving> for more information regarding parking restrictions and permits, trash removal and restrictions, and rental requirements.

## GARDEN CONTEST *(from pg. 1)*

The neighborhood's Craig and Kimberly McNulty won first place in this category, while John Ruiz took second place, and Dionna Di Pierro and Steven Davy took third place, respectively.

In the South End, Doug Gifford and Jill Christians were the second- and third-place winners, respectively, in the Small Yard Garden category, while Alex and Stephanie Tsalagas took first place and Bev Christians and Chris Hartmann third place in the Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden category.

Winners from Back Bay include Christa Comeau, who was the third-place winner in

the Shade Garden category, and Cindy Joyce, second-place winner in the Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden category.

"I am proud to carry on Boston's tradition of commemorating those who help keep our neighborhoods vibrant and inviting," said Acting Mayor Kim Janey in a press release. "I first learned the joys of gardening from my grandmother and have continued in my own community. This contest is a great way to affirm our city's dedication to beautifying urban spaces, and plant a seed of interest in the next generation of gardeners."

First-place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel"

award from Mayor Janey while second- and third-place winners were awarded certificates. First-place winners were also entered into a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston, and they also received a pair of tickets to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Gift certificates were provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers to the top three winners in each category, as well as to the 2021 Hall of Fame winners, according to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

## THE BOSTON SUN

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# SELDC approves facade changes for 809-811 Harrison Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

A subcommittee of the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on August 31 to discuss a project previously presented at the August 3 full Commission hearing.

The proposal is to remove and replace windows and wood molding, remove the awning, and paint the facade at the former Andre's Cafe location 809-811 Harrison Ave. El Barrio Mexican Grill will be taking over

the space.

At the previous SELDC hearing, the Commission had questions regarding the lighting and the windows, as well as the signage.

Applicant Yessy Feliz said that "so far, we have applied for permits from the city," and most of the changes to the building will take place on the outside.

The main entrance to the restaurant has windows to the right, which overlook the kitchen, as well as windows in the

lefthand side.

Feliz said that the existing green awnings will be removed, and though the lighting design itself will not be changed, the fixtures will.

The proposed sign, which was discussed at the previous hearing, is "on hold," Feliz said, as the restaurant needs to move through the signage process with the city before coming to the SELDC.

"The sign, even though it's presented here, is not part of the

current plan right now," she said.

Preservation Planner Gabriela Amoe said that the commission does not have jurisdiction over the light fixtures.

Commissioner Fabian D'Souza said he wants both proposed windows to match, and asked what kind of windows they would be, to which Feliz replied they would be aluminum.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt agreed that the windows should be identical to each other, and the "detail around it should

be symmetrical."

The proposed painting around the doors is meant to look like a cactus and will be painted green, but the Commission can only recommend paint colors and not enforce them.

The subcommittee voted to approve the project with the proviso that the "window openings must be symmetrical in terms of detail and divider." The proposal for the sign will come before the Commission at a later date.

## BETTER BUS PROJECT (from pg. 1)

She said that a survey was recently conducted, and further conversation will be had this coming fall. The goal is to "create a more equitable network that better serves transit-critical populations," she added.

Melissa Dullea spoke about service changes planned for the fall, as reductions in service were made during the pandemic to accommodate for lower ridership. She said that during the pandemic, the "MBTA also reallocated service to different parts of the system to maintain quality service for transit-critical popula-

tions," and now service is being brought back to 93 percent of what it was before the pandemic. For more information on changes to specific routes, visit [mbta.com/servicechanges](http://mbta.com/servicechanges).

On the topic of fare transformation, Heather Hume, Director of Transition for MBTA Fare Transformation said that future plans include being able to board and pay at the rear door "at the busiest stops on select bus routes." Additionally, Charlie Cards will become available to obtain and reload at an increased number of retailers. Further information can be found at [mbta.com/faretransformation](http://mbta.com/faretransformation).

Accessibility will also be improved on buses, according to Laura Brelsford, who talked about a pilot already in place on 10 buses throughout the system for automated securement of wheelchairs and other mobility devices. This will be quicker than the current system of the driver having to stop the bus to manually secure mobility devices.

Karti Subramanian spoke about some amenities at bus stops, including solar powered e-ink screens that will be added to more stops this year to pro-

vide up-to-date information on buses right at stops themselves.

He said that there are 18 signs in six municipalities that are providing "real-time" information about bus arrival. Approximately 20 more stops will receive these screens this year, and "high-priority service alerts & other stop-specific information" will also be added.

Subramanian also spoke about "new 'gold standard' bus shelters," such as the ones being installed on Columbus Ave. in Roxbury that feature seating, fare vending machines, as well as an overhang for shelter from the weather. Real time information is also provided at these stops, he said.

Shelters like these will also be added to other "bus priority corridors" as well, he said.

The MBTA also has a new "street furniture" program that includes a partnership with ad company Intersection "to deliver ride amenities at bus stops & raise new revenue," according to a slide presented at the meeting. It also allows for "co-investment opportunity with municipalities for system-wide rollout."

The first two are planned for this coming winter, and additional kiosks will come in the future.

For more information about the Better Bus Project, visit [mbta.com/projects/better-bus-project](http://mbta.com/projects/better-bus-project).

### Clinical Research Study for Male Cancer Survivors

- Do you have Fatigue (tiredness)?
- Do you have a previous history of cancer?
- Has your cancer been in remission for at least 1 year?
- Did you receive chemotherapy or radiation therapy for your cancer?

Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are looking at the effects of **testosterone therapy** in cancer survivors who have fatigue and low testosterone.

There are up to 8 study visits over 9 months. Study participants will undergo an extensive health evaluation, blood tests and screening for various health conditions during the screening period. Study compensation of up to \$700, parking and meal vouchers will be provided.

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# EBNHC provides update on CEO transition process

COO Greg Wilmot to serve as interim CEO

By John Lynds

Since East Boston Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Manny Lopes made the shocking announcement earlier this month that he would be leaving his post to serve as Executive Vice President at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Lopes and the Health Center's Board of Directors provided an update on the transition process.

Lopes and the board's chair, Rita Sorrento, reported after a series of discussions and interviews, the Board has voted unanimously to appoint EBNHC Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Director of Neighborhood PACE

Greg Wilmot as Interim President and CEO effective November 1, 2021.

"Since joining the health center in 2017, Greg has made a considerable positive impact on staff, patients, and the EBNHC organization, as a whole," said Lopes and Sorrento in a joint statement this week. "Greg's leadership has contributed to a more than 48 percent growth in the Neighborhood PACE program, which now boasts a 95 percent satisfaction score – among the highest in the nation."

Lopes and Sorrento said after his promotion to COO last September, Wilmot played a key role in helping to design and execute EBNHC's COVID-19 vaccination strategy, which resulted in over 100,000 doses administered in communities hit hardest by the

pandemic.

"Additionally, in the wake of last year's national reckoning on racial injustice, Greg led EBNHC's Racial Equity Project, bringing an intentional and strategic focus to the health center's efforts to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a healthcare institution, business leader, and community partner," they said. "We feel strongly that given his experience, background, and history at the health center, Greg is a strong, dedicated, capable leader and is well-prepared to support this transition."

Prior to November, Lopes and Sorrento said the Board will work closely with Wilmot to ensure he is familiar with key initiatives and to make introductions where necessary.

"Concurrently, EBNHC's



EBNHC COO Greg Wilmot to serve as interim CEO after Manny Lopes leaves at the end of October.

Board of Directors will continue to develop and define next steps to establish a permanent replacement," they said. "We estimate that this process will take several months."

Prior to joining EBNHC in 2017, Wilmot worked at All-

Ways Health Partners, a member of Mass General Brigham, where he led the organization's Mass-Health Accountable Care Organization strategy and operations. Additionally, Wilmot previously served as Boston Medical Center's director of business development, where he partnered with clinical and administrative leaders at the hospital and across key partners to create new opportunities for growth and expand clinical services and quality goals. Wilmot also worked for former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Executive Office of Health and Human Services as senior advisor and director of strategy and performance management and held various operational and management roles at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

# Joe Boncore will step down from State Senate seat for MassBio CEO position

By Cary Shuman

Sen. Joseph Boncore, who has served in the First Middlesex and Suffolk District senate seat since 2016, announced Wednesday that he will be resigning from his position. He will be submitting his official letter of resignation next week.

Boncore is leaving the Senate to become the new chief execu-

tive officer at the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio).

"I'm excited to start this new chapter in my life, but I'm a little sad to close the chapter of my life as an elected official," said Boncore. "I really loved serving the people of Winthrop, Revere, Cambridge, and Boston for the last 5 1/2 years in the State Senate. But I'm excited to join MassBio

and work in a thriving industry that's had tremendous growth over the last decade. I really look forward to taking this organization to the next level.

"As many people are aware, I've had the experience with my twin boys, who were born severely prematurely, to see firsthand the impact that the life science industry can have on patients and patients' families

across the Commonwealth, so it just seemed the right time for me to take my advocacy skills and move on to advocate for patients in Massachusetts and across the country" said Boncore.

Boncore won a special election for the Senate seat in May, 2016. He put together an impressive record of accomplishments in the State while rising through the ranks to a leadership position as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on transportation.

"I've had an incredible opportunity to get a lot accomplished with the entire Senate and Senate President Karen Spilka, for issues that were near and dear to my heart like criminal justice reform and housing affordability and finding a way to deal with the transportation infrastructure woes that have plagued the Com-



State Sen. Joseph Boncore will be stepping down from his Senate seat effective next week.

monwealth."

Boncore said he what he will most about his work as a senator

(BONCORE, Pg. 9)



## Virtual Community Meeting

### Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

**Monday, September 13**  
6:00 PM - 7:45PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/Sept2021RSMPOC](https://bit.ly/Sept2021RSMPOC)

**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864

**Meeting ID:** 160 406 2203

#### Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. Vote on P3 RFP on 9.13.21. To read the Draft RFP visit [bit.ly/DraftP3RFP](https://bit.ly/DraftP3RFP).

All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

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

- Sept./Septiembre/Septanm 13 (P3 RFP Vote/Votar sobre la solicitud de propuesta para P3/Vote sou demann pou pwopozisyon Pou P3)
- Oct./Octubre/Oktòb 4
- Nov./Noviembre/Novanm 1

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.

Si w bezwen sèvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

#### Contact:

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One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201  
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# HANDEL + HAYDN SOCIETY PREMIERE NEW TEXT OF BEETHOVEN'S NINTH TO THE HATCH SHELL



The Handel and Haydn Society performing at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade.

Photos by Robert Torres

The Handel and Haydn Society premiered a new text for Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9" to a crowd of over 10,000 people on Friday, Aug. 27, at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade.

Led by conductor Marin Alsop, H+H performed former U.S. Poet Laureate and Massachusetts native Tracy K. Smith's new version of "Ode to Joy." Smith was on hand for the premiere.



Tracy K. Smith with soloists.

# Markey holds Climate Action Conversation at NE Aquarium

By John Lynds

At a Climate Action Conversation at the New England Aquarium last Thursday U.S. Sen. Ed Markey called the global warming crisis a 'Code Red' and outlined steps needed to be taken now to ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

Markey was at the Aquarium to call for the passing of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package in congress.

"We join together at the New England Aquarium to talk about the severe reality of climate change and the urgency of this moment," said Markey. "The budget resolution represents our best opportunity to confront the climate crisis with jobs and justice. Let's get it done."

Markey, co-author of the Green New Deal resolution and Chair of the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety, said all the signs of a warming planet are evident, the science is pretty conclusive and

the need to act is now.

"This is a code red," said Markey last week. "We are also seeing the real impacts of the climate crisis in our country. With the wildfires in the West, where people have lost homes and families have been broken apart, these extreme weather events are causing crises like the Dixie Fire in California. This is real, whether it was in 2020 or today the United States is experiencing extreme weather events regularly."

Most recently Hurricane Henri, said Markey, could have been a catastrophe for Downtown and other Boston coastal neighborhoods.

"If the tide was just five feet higher the day Henri hit we would have had a storm surge that would have put downtown and other Boston neighborhoods under water," said Markey.

Of the budget resolution Markey said, "This (budget resolution) will be a generational investment in the future of our people and our planet. It confronts our

climate crisis and gives working people a fair shake, all while making corporations and the ultra-wealthy finally pay their fair share. For too long, the playing field has been tilted towards the rich and powerful and against working Americans who bear the brunt of climate change, economic inequality, racial injustice, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This budget resolution puts us on a path to address these interlocking crises, including taking meaningful and powerful action on the climate crisis. We can create millions of good, union jobs and unleash clean energy technologies that are made in America. I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to pass this budget for the American people."

Markey said recently the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its Sixth Assessment Report, which details how human activity is unequivocally driving global temperature rise and changes in weather at unprecedented rates. The IPCC report finds that global temperatures will continue to increase until at least mid-century, exceeding 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius unless we take the steps to ensure deep reductions in carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases this decade and next.

"This IPCC report reaffirms what we are seeing and suffering right now across our country: climate change will continue to cost us lives and livelihoods if we don't respond with the scope and scale this moment demands," said Markey. "From increasing intensity and frequency of

extreme heat, to catastrophic precipitation and devastating droughts, no person or community will be able to hide from the serious and most dire impacts of our human-driven climate crisis. Previous IPCC reports should have been roadmaps for action -- the scientists have spoken clearly for more than a generation about the damage humans are doing to our planet. This report must be the final warning to the world that time has run out to save the planet from dangerous and irreversible climate change."

Markey said the government and people, "can't agonize" but "must organize" to save the planet.

"Just like the young people across the country and world who are demanding action from

their leaders, an intergenerational movement of climate leaders are calling on Congress to include major climate action in the budget reconciliation package — which is our best opportunity to respond with solutions to the impacts outlined by the IPCC," he said. "With policies to drive deep cuts in emissions, protect communities from climate impacts, and provide equity and justice to overburdened communities, we can respond to overwhelming evidence and take the necessary action to save our people and our planet. If Senators truly followed the science in this report, we'd have 100 votes for climate action to match the 100 percent certainty that human-caused climate change is destroying our planet."



U.S. Sen. Ed Markey hosted a Climate Action Conversation at the New England Aquarium last Thursday

## ALEX GRAY

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# WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

After a hiatus from last year's Covid Pandemic, the annual Ward 4 Ice Cream Social was held at the Titus-Sparrow Park in the South End. It was a chance for neighbors and voters to partake in ice cream, conversation and to meet candidates endorsed by the Ward 4 Democratic Committee. It was also the inauguration of the Ward 4 Scholarship Awards, a scholarship granted to students who either reside or go to school in Ward 4. The event was co-hosted by Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu.



A group shot of the Ward 4 candidates and volunteers for the Ice Cream Social.



Carol Lasky, State Auditor Candidate Chris Dempsey, Massachusetts State Representatives Jay Livingstone and Jon Santiago (3rd from right), Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Rick Richter, and Leslie Pond.



Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu speaks with voters.

Shown to the right, Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu was the co-host and highly anticipated speaker at the Ward 4 Ice Cream Social.



Meg Vaidya and Luke Kaplan



Haroon Khan and Emma Krug



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Raina Sohur with her mother Suzanne.

# WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK



Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok speaks with voters about their concerns.



Recipients of the Ward 4 Scholarship: Alison Chen, Katherine Martin, Preston Musoke, and Raina Sobur. Students who either live or go to school in Ward 4 are eligible.



Boston City Council candidate David Halbert speaks with Larry Bell and Andrea Olmsted, former Democratic Party Chair of Ward 4.



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Raina Sobur looks at one of the Monarch Butterflies being released in a moment where both will spread their "wings".



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Preston Musoke watches as a Monarch Butterfly takes off from the hand of Elizabeth Bertolozzi.



Andrea Olmstead speaks to the gathering about voter registration outreach.



Elijah Cadeau and Emily Polston enjoy some ice cream and conversation.



Boston City Council candidate Tanya Anderson speaks with voters.



Suffolk County Sictrect Attorney Rachel Rollins (right) speaks with voter Marissa Luse.



Elizabeth Bertolozzi brought some Monarch Butterflies to let loose and enlisted the help of the Ward 4 Scholarship recipients Katherine Martin and Raina Sobur.



Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu with volunteerrs Janet Slovin and Jane Siegal.



Kelly Bates campaign manager Shivani Chakrabarty and resident Edie Bowers

## NEHGS (from pg. 1)

The Sun spoke with NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, as well as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ryan Woods, to learn more about what's proposed for the interior of the new space at 97 Newbury St.

Simons said that he wanted to stress "how excited we are to work with the BBAC and our neighbors," and that NEHGS is "happily on the same page with the direction of the design of this building."

The existing headquarters

facility has been open to the public since 1964, though the institution itself was founded in 1845 as the world's first genealogical society, Simons said.

Over the past 176 years, NEHGS has worked with millions of people in 139 countries across the globe on genealogical topics, and the society also features collections dedicated to American history. The organization's staff of about 100 professional genealogists and historians helps hundreds of thousands of people of all ages



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANCESTORS/NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A cross-section of what programming will look like in the new NEHGS space at 97 Newbury St.

LUNCH AND DINNER



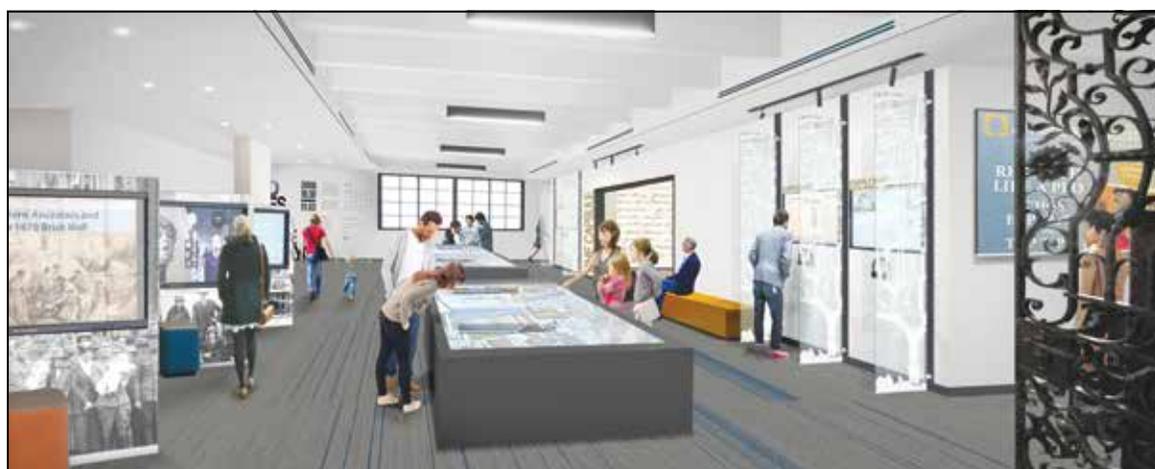
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A rendering of the future NEHGS Discovery Center at 97 Newbury St.

and backgrounds learn about their lineage, and there is a huge emphasis on education for "local residents, visitors, families, students, and scholars," he said.

In-person and online lectures and tours are available, as is a youth education program.

Additionally, NEHGS holds a "unique manuscript collection" that is larger than that of the Library of Congress, Woods said. People can come and use research areas inside the center, or access more than 1.4 billion searchable digital records.

The new space will allow NEHGS to expand on these offerings in a friendly, welcoming environment that is open to the public.

"Part of the impetus or our physical expansion," Woods said, is that research has shown that there are social and emotional benefits of "generational history," and helping young people understand their family history can positively impact cognition.

The planned project, called the Cornerstone Project, is "really an outgrowth of all that we do here at New England Historic Genealogical Society/American Ancestors," Woods said.

Woods said that the existing building has been "really collection focused," but the new space will allow for a dedicated "people-centric" space.

He said that a welcome center will be located at the front of the building, and a Discovery Center will "feature computer kiosks and interactive exhibitions that will tell the stories of the American experience to immigration to westward expansion and beyond."

The building will also feature different interactive exhibits such as one on DNA, as well as other "science skills that are applicable to family history," Woods said.

There will also be an "expanded and dedicated learning center for both youth and adult audiences," a dedicated lecture hall,

and "a new home for our publishing center," he said, adding that NEHGS currently publishes "family and local history somewhere in the range of 20-25 titles a year" along with a quarterly magazine and two scholarly journals.

The new building will also be the "new dedicated home for our Jewish Heritage Center," Woods said, which features "collections related to New England Jewish families and institutions."

Simons spoke about a feature of the Discovery Center that he is "really excited about." There will be a "story booth" or "story lab" where people can come and record stories that can be archived for future generations to access later.

"We find that this is a really inspiring way to have people participate in family history," Simons said. A digital copy can be sent to the participants in addition to the archival.

NEHGS is also the "anchor location" of the PBS Series Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. A lot good deal of the research for the show is done at NEHGS, Simons said. "That's the kind of thing that we're doing."

When it comes to the design of the exterior of 97 Newbury St., "we're very appreciative of the

constructive feedback received from the BBAC and the Architecture Committee at the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)," Woods said, adding that they "understand what the charge is and purview of that group is." Simons said that "we're a history and a preservation organization, so their advice resonates with us."

He added that NEHGS has researched the building in depth and discovered that "it's been altered many, many times."

The building still needs to move through the zoning process with the City, as well as a full design review and vote from the BBAC. Woods said "depending on that process," the project may be able to commence late next year, but he said the goal is to "make sure the design is right."

Woods said, "inspiration is at the center of what we're trying to do," as well as provide information and engaging activities to the public.

"We're excited to give new life to a first generation building on Newbury St.," Simons said. "I want everyone to know that we're a very welcoming, open door organization and that's really one of our goals here; to make sure the public knows what we have to offer, and local residents and visitors can take advantage of it."

## Real Estate AUCTION



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AUCTIONEERS

# Back Bay, surrounding area's COVID cases jump 30 percent

By John Lynds

It's a good thing the City's new mask mandate policy for indoor venues went into effect last Friday because the Back Bay and the surrounding area's COVID numbers increased dramatically between August 23 and August 30.

City health officials are scrambling to knock down the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID virus here and across Boston as infections among the unvaccinated and breakthrough infections among the vaccinated continue to climb.

Ahead of the new mask mandate Beacon Hill and the surrounding area's weekly positive COVID test rate decreased 21 percent between August 16 and August 23 but skyrocketed last week.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2083 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.4 percent were positive. This was a 31 percent increase from the 2.6 percent of residents that tested positive between August 16 and August 23.

Overall since the pandemic started 61,415 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of

those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on August 13.

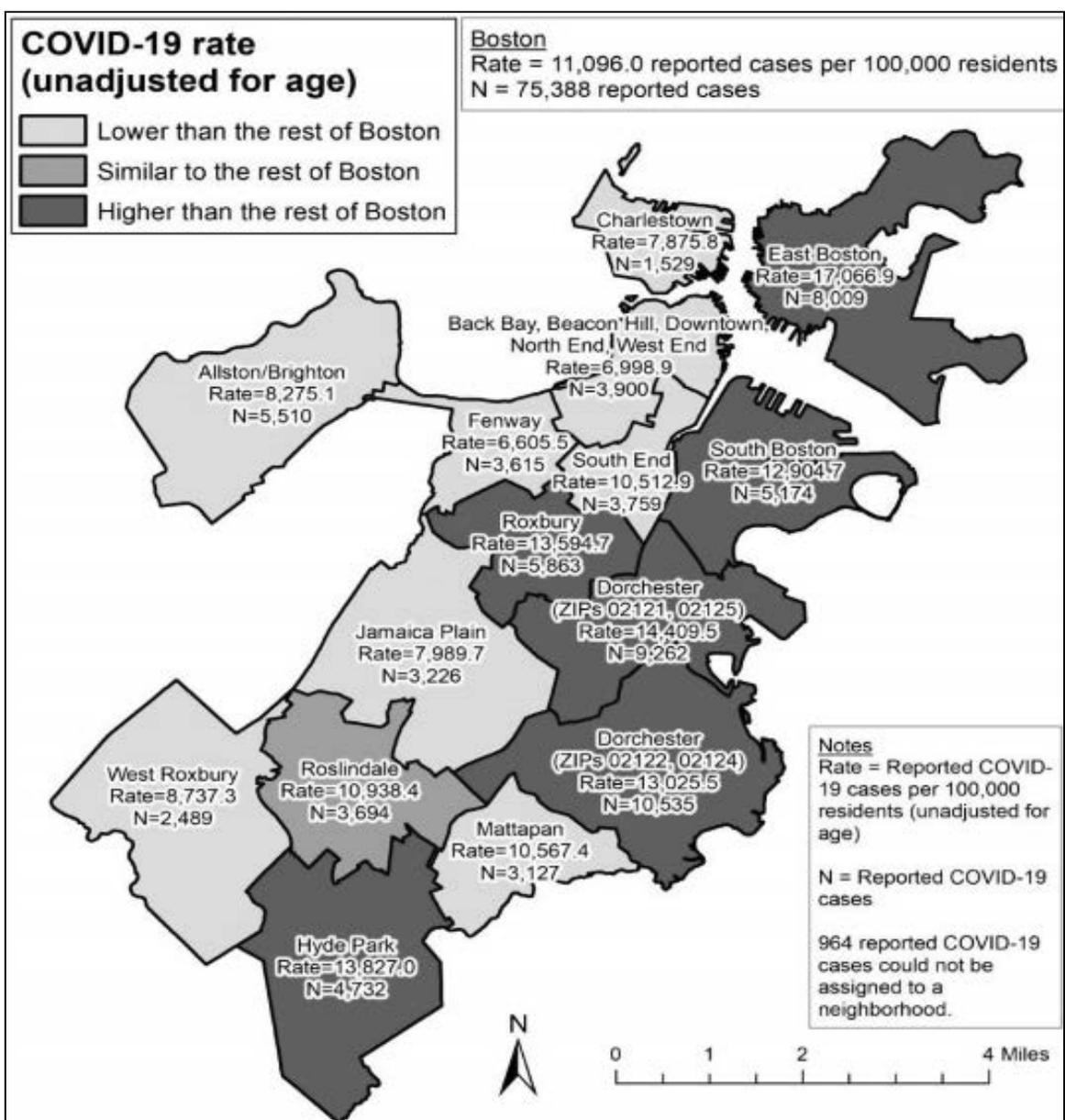
Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 22,636 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 3 percent increase from the 3.5 percent reported by the BPHC on August 23.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 699.8 cases per 10,000 residents--a 2 percent increase from the 685.5 cases per 10,000 residents reported on August 23.

Eighty additional residents have been infected with the virus between August 23 and August 30 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 3,900 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 1.3 percent since August 23 and went from 74,940 cases to 76,036 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past two weeks and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,406.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

## BONCORE (from pg. 4)

is the constituent services "and dealing with constituents that I've grown to know and love in a lot of cases over the past 5 1/2 years."

"I think any elected official will tell you that there's no better feeling that being able to help people in their time of need," said Boncore.

He thanked his colleagues in state government in the district, including former House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo ("He was an incredible advocate for the Town of Winthrop and the City of Revere," said Boncore), and State Reps. Jeffrey Turco and

Jessica Giannino, as well as State Reps. Adrian Madaro and Aaron Michlewitz for their support and teamwork.

"It's been a pleasure to not only represent the constituents, but having the opportunity to serve on Senate President Spilka's leadership team and work with that team on policy issues and driving the Commonwealth forward," said Boncore.

Finally, he expressed his appreciation to his father, current Winthrop Town Council President Philip Boncore. "My father has obviously had a long career in public service and in some

ways he guided me into a life of serving and helping others," said Boncore. "That's what piqued my interest to run for the State Senate, and that's what got me to a position where I'm able to take the next step in my life and help so many patients. Patient advocacy is really at the core of the job I'll be doing, and I'm looking forward to doing it, and I guess, in the image of my father that he set out for me. Helping people has always been something that's been ingrained in me since I was a child."

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# Boston Election Department announces preparations ahead of the 2021 municipal elections

Early voting, ballot drop boxes both avail.

Staff Report

The City of Boston's Election Department on August 30 announced its preparations ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections, including the availability of vote by mail and early voting for both the Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election and the Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Municipal Election. The City of Boston has also installed 20 ballot drop boxes across the city for voters to drop off completed vote by mail ballots.

Applications for vote by mail ballots have been mailed out to every registered voter in Boston. Voters are asked to fill out the application, including their signature, as applications received without a signature will not be accepted. To be eligible to vote by mail in the Preliminary Municipal Election, applications must be returned to the Boston

Election Department by Wednesday, September 8, at 5 p.m.

Vote by mail applications can be returned by U.S. mail with the prepaid postcard or in-person at the Boston Election Department, City Hall, Room 241.

If a registered Boston voter did not receive or lost their application, they can request a new ballot application by completing the form available on the City's vote-by-mail website. The form can be sent to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, fax, or in-person. The Boston Election Department is located at

Boston City Hall

City Hall Square, Room 241

Boston, MA 02201

Fax: 617-635-4483, Tel: 617-635-VOTE (8683)

Email: [absenteevoter@boston.gov](mailto:absenteevoter@boston.gov)

## Vote By Mail

The Election Department will send out vote by mail ballots as soon as the application requests are processed. Once a voter receives their ballot package,

they should follow the enclosed instructions. It is important to sign the yellow ballot affidavit envelope. Unsigned ballot affidavit envelopes will cause a ballot to be rejected. To return ballots by U.S. mail, make sure to apply sufficient postage. While ballot package weight can vary, two First Class stamps is generally sufficient.

To be counted, ballots must be received by the Boston Election Department or in a ballot drop box by the close of polls on Election Day, Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8 p.m.

## Tracking Your Ballot

Boston voters can track their ballot request through the state's website. We will continue to mail ballots as applications arrive, until the application deadline of 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

## Ballot Drop Boxes

The Boston Election Department has placed 20 ballot drop boxes around the City, includ-

ing at both the first and third floor entrances of Boston City Hall. All drop boxes are monitored under 24 hour video surveillance. Drop boxes will also be available at each early voting location during the scheduled voting hours. To find a location of a ballot drop box, visit [here](http://here).

## In- Person Early Voting

Voters registered in Boston can vote during the early voting period from Saturday, September 4 through Friday, September 10, 2021, at any of the early voting sites. Hours and locations for early voting can be found [here](http://here).

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check in. Early voting locations are well staffed with poll workers and language interpreters, and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

## Voting on Election Day

Polling locations for the Boston Preliminary Municipal Election will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sep-

tember 14, 2021. Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation phone bank. Those interested in volunteering can apply to be a poll worker [here](http://here).

## On the Ballot

The September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election includes eight candidates for the Office of Mayor, 17 candidates for Office of City Councilor at-Large and the following City Council Districts: District 4, District 6, District 7, District 9. The remaining districts are not required to have a preliminary election as there are already only one or two candidates running.

For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

# City of Boston Credit Union invests \$350,000 to support women's student athletics

Staff Report

City of Boston Credit Union has committed to investing

\$350,000 to support women student-athletes at two of the city's renowned higher educational institutions, Boston College and

Northeastern University.

"As a community credit union based in Boston, we're proud to support the great women athletes that attend school and play sports in our city," said Gregory Rooney, Chairman of the Board for City of Boston Credit Union. "We're dedicated to helping these young women thrive and ultimately be successful. This campaign is part of our mission to support equality, inclusion, health and wellness in our community, but more importantly to invest in women."

As Women's Equality Day is recognized on Thursday, Aug. 26, the City of Boston Credit Union has entered into sponsorship agreements to support women's student athletics at both Boston College and Northeastern University. The investment supports 27 women's collegiate sports teams across the two schools, including 10 at Northeastern University and 17 at Boston College.

"Women's athletics is an integral and exciting aspect of the Boston College community," said Patrick Kraft, William V.

Campbell Director of Athletics at Boston College, "as demonstrated by our women's lacrosse team winning a national championship just a few months ago and many of our other women's programs experiencing unprecedented success. The generosity from the City of Boston Credit Union will help us to build on this momentum and impact our women's programs for years to come."

As part of the expansive sponsorship, the City of Boston Credit Union logo will appear on the ice at Northeastern University's Matthews Arena. The City of Boston Credit Union logo will also appear at four Boston College Athletics facilities where the top six women's programs compete. The investment includes many other sponsorship opportunities, including spots on NESN.

"Our female student-athletes have excelled in the classroom, in collegiate, professional and Olympic sports and in the community," said Northeastern University Deputy Athletic Director Regina Sullivan. "This support will ensure that they continue to access incredible

opportunities both in college and beyond. We are so appreciative of the City of Boston Credit Union for recognizing and investing in women athletes."

In honor of National Girls and Women in Sports Day in February, the City of Boston Credit Union will present a sports clinic for female student-athletes at Boston College and will also participate in events at Northeastern University. It's important to note that City of Boston Credit Union has long-standing partnerships with a variety of non-collegiate girls' youth sports in and around the City of Boston, including softball leagues, youth hockey, and more.

"Investing in women's student athletics is an investment in our city's future," said Neil Gordon, President & CEO of City of Boston Credit Union. "Women are increasingly becoming the sole or primary income earners in their homes and are responsible for making their family's financial decisions. Supporting women at the collegiate level helps set them on a path to a brighter future and will only help our city's economy."

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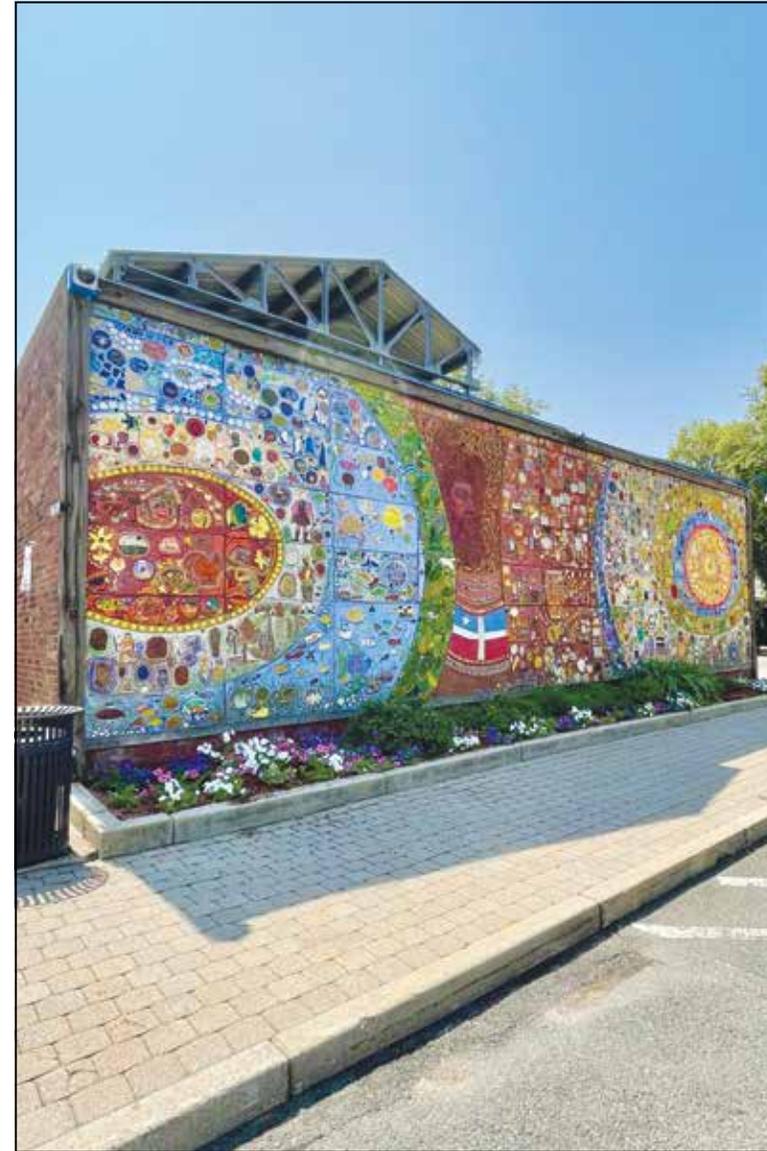
# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Akbarian, Cyrus	Coppelman, Daniel P	324-332 Beacon St #26	\$608,000
Alperin, Marsha	Geraldine E Gerson T	100 Belvidere St #11A	\$5,300,000
Audrey K Fitzgerald RET	JFR NT	205 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$2,650,000
Yalcin, Ilker	Hughes, Kevin S	13 Gloucester St #4	\$1,350,000
Bleu, Leanne	Reed, Michael T	121 Saint Botolph St #4	\$1,350,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
King, John	Sylvetsky, Ian	10 Bowdoin St #311	\$748,000
Boston South Prop LLC	Selmasson Holdings LLC	37 S Russell St	\$2,725,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
24 Appleton St LLC	Frake, Debney M	24 Appleton St	\$2,550,000
Wurzbacher, Owen	59 Appleton Street LLC	59 Appleton St	\$3,995,000
Woodruff, Margaret	N R Schottland 2012 T	1 Charles St S #702	\$965,000
Property Possible Inc	19 Gray Street Unit 1 RT	19 Gray St #1	\$1,225,000
Fulp, Carol	Frieling, Lori	1 Huntington Ave #201	\$1,225,000
Sellers-Yates, John	Sheets, Ellen	249 W Newton St #3	\$710,000
Kronlund, Eric K	Gray, Bruce W	21 Aberdeen St #D	\$370,000
Farrar, Zanchery J	Walker, Duncan	5 Albemarle St #1	\$770,000
Han, Gang	65-5 Burbank Street LLC	65 Burbank St #5	\$410,000
Mann, John	Wahid&Julie Tadros LT	10 Charlesgate E #401	\$1,150,000
Reiser, Margaret M	Maffei, Rosemary K	4 Charlesgate E #603	\$739,000
SAF Boston LLC	Maithieu, Amy	103 Gainsborough St #407	\$720,000
Hughes, Amy T	Mamta D Sutariya RET	700 Harrison Ave #513	\$730,000
Wilde, Timothy J	761 Harrison Church	771 Harrison Ave #105	\$1,643,050
Katebi, Aatur R	Dawn Enterprises LLC	125 Park Dr #44	\$425,100
Derouen T	121 Portland LLC	121-127 Portland St #609	\$730,000
Remenschneider, Aaron	Damiano, Michael J	411 Shawmut Ave #6	\$1,250,000
761 Harrison Church LLC	Wilde, Timothy J	40 Traveler St #603	\$1,320,000
Dexter, Sarah R	Sullivan, Brian D	81 Waltham St #2	\$650,000
Augustine, Mark	David L Coleman RET	130 Appleton St #2F	\$1,225,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
JLD Grace Prop Corp	Lawson, Phillip O	1 Avery St #29D	\$2,525,000
Chen, Geoffrey	Kirwan, Kyle A	2 Avery St #28A	\$950,000
Ghaly, John	Li, Yi H	65 E India Row #16D	\$675,000
Nimisha M Patel LT	Tihalas, Donna	122-124 Fulton St #13	\$725,000
Chen, Ojuhua	Manasha, Ben	1 Nassau St #2003	\$730,000

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The mosaic detail in the last clue is on the Betances Mural at Plaza Betances, in Villa Victoria, at 100 W. Dedham Street. Boston Public Art tells us that it was installed in 1988 and that artists, "... Ann Killen Rosenberg, Nora Valdez, and Roberto Chao were assisted by Villa Victoria residents, children as well as adults, who made the ceramic tile pieces."

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



# NEWS BRIEFS

## WELCOME BACK TO SOWA

The SoWa Artists Guild welcomes the public back to its First Fridays and Second Sundays, when more than 90 artists at 450 Harrison Ave. in SoWa open their doors so you can meet the artists in person, view the work they created over the past year, and have the opportunity to buy directly from them.

Artists will open for First Fridays and Second Sundays all year long. The next First Friday takes place on Sept. 3 from 5-9 p.m., and the next Second Sunday is on Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit <https://www.sowaartists.com/calendar/> for more information.

## CO|SO TO HOST FRESH PAINT ART SHOW

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) will host its 33rd annual Fresh Paint event as a virtual, live auction on September 23 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The event will be hosted by leading auctioneer and general appraiser of Skinner Auctioneers, Stuart Slavid. All paintings will be available for bidding online from September 9 - September 23 at [www.liveauctioneers.com](http://www.liveauctioneers.com).

Established in 1988, ColSo's Fresh Paint was one of the first plein air painting events with an accompanying auction. The fundraiser supports inno-

vative exhibitions of emerging and established artists, lectures, scholarships, residencies, and outreach programs. Fresh Paint is the gallery's biggest and most important fundraiser.

The Copley Society of Art, America's oldest non-profit arts organization, is committed to the advancement, enjoyment, and promotion of its member artists and the visual arts. The organization, founded in 1879, comprises juried artists who are selected by a credentialed art committee. ColSo provides artists with a gallery for exhibiting and selling their work and a platform for engaging and educating the community.

# CAMPION AND COMPANY



**110 Sudbury Street, Unit 3901**  
4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,766 SQFT  
\$5,800,000



**1 Franklin Street, Unit 4702**  
3 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,172 SQFT  
\$6,995,000



**13 Hancock Street**  
5 Beds | 4 Baths | 4,212 SQFT  
\$3,790,000



**48 Commonwealth Avenue #2**  
2 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,983 SQFT  
\$4,450,000



**52 Beacon Street, PH**  
4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 5,438 SQFT  
\$9,500,000

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY PERFORMS AT HATCH SHELL



PHOTOS BY ROBERT TORRES

The Handel and Haydn Society performing at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. They premiered a new text for Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9" to a crowd of over 10,000 people on Friday, Aug. 27. See more photos on Page 5.

## Fenway-Kenmore sweeps Community Garden category in Garden Contest

By Dan Murphy

Fenway-Kenmore entries swept the Community Garden category when acting Mayor

Kim Janey announced the winners of the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest last week.

(GARDEN CONTEST, Pg. 2)

## Mayor Janey welcomes students to Boston

Staff Report

Mayor Kim Janey along with representatives from several city agencies greeted college and university students moving into Boston on September 1, and helped ensure they have a smooth transition into their new homes. The City's Inspectional Services, Transportation, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Fire, Police and Public Works departments are conducting housing inspections (upon request), trash inspections, and distributing informational brochures in neighborhoods with large student populations. Mayor Janey and other City officials conducted a walkthrough at 12:00pm beginning at 20 Linden St. in All-

(WELCOME STUDENTS, Pg. 2)

## New 'Cornerstone project' at New England Historic Genealogical Society will engage the public

By Lauren Bennett

In the Back Bay, learning about lineage, history, and genealogy is going to become even more interactive and user friendly.

The New England Historic

Genealogical Society (NEHGS) has plans to expand its programming offerings after purchasing the building at 97 Newbury St. adjacent to its existing headquarters at 99 Newbury St.

The Society presented initial

plans for the building's facade to the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) on August 11, where the team received feedback on the design.

(NEHGS Pg. 8)

## MBTA holds virtual open house for Better Bus Project

By Lauren Bennett

The MBTA held a virtual open house regarding the Better Bus Project on August 26, where bus riders had a chance to hear nine mini-presentations on different aspects of bus improvements, before splitting up into breakout rooms to chat with MBTA employees.

"The MBTA wants to make the bus better for its riders," said

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "It's important for us to talk about our good intent here."

He also said that the bus is the mode of transportation that has "come back the most" after the height of the pandemic, and is now between 55 and 65 percent ridership.

The mini-presentations focused on everything from the bus network redesign to fare

transformation to amenities at bus stops. Different members of the MBTA team were on hand to present on each of the topics.

Caroline Vanasse talked about the bus network redesign, saying that the MBTA is "focused on the service overall and it's really just serving streets and connecting them in ways that are better for our riders."

(BETTER BUS PROJECT Pg. 3)

## WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK



Titus Sparrow Park was full of activity as the Ward 4 Ice Cream Social attracted many residents to join in. Shown to the left, Chip Huhta awaits some ice cream served by Prakhar Gupta as Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone contemplates his ice cream selection with Ben Seigal. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

# EDITORIAL

## ENJOY A SAFE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

There's a temptation for people to splurge at the end of things. We all are familiar with the idea, "If this is the last, let's make it a blast!"

We don't have anything against that sentiment, but all too often that sort of mindset leads to risky behavior and tragic outcomes.

If there is nothing else we have learned after being in the newspaper business for more than 50 years, it is this: A person can do everything right and live by the book for their entire life, but all it takes is one mistake of judgment that can change everything, both for themselves and others.

Persons who otherwise might not have a drinking problem can indulge just a bit too much at an event such as an end-of-summer celebration and -- presto, in the snap of a finger -- they have killed or maimed themselves or others in a driving, boating, or other accident.

And then there are the problem drinkers among us who look for any excuse to "celebrate," which means getting hammered at a Labor Day weekend gathering, instantly making them a threat to the safety of themselves and others.

However, the usual excessive partying is not the only danger we face this Labor Day weekend. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is lurking everywhere and no one -- not even the vaccinated -- are safe from infection.

As we are writing this, the forecast calls for a sunny Labor Day weekend with pleasant temperatures in the 70s (a welcome respite after our washouts of the Memorial Day and July 4 holiday weekends), which means that we will be able to engage in our Labor Day activities outdoors where we can socialize safely -- though from a distance.

But if our festivities are not outside, all of us need to be wary of gathering indoors unless everybody is masked.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

## THE 13 SERVICE MEMBERS WERE TRUE HEROES

Every American was saddened last week upon hearing the news of the suicide bombing by a terrorist in Afghanistan that claimed the lives of 13 U.S. service men and women, 11 of whom were Marines and one each from the Army and Navy.

If any of our readers have not had a chance to read the personal stories of these brave and dedicated young men and women, we encourage you to do so. Their life-stories are inspirational and demonstrate the high-quality of the dedicated individuals who serve in our armed forces today. They were amazing young men and women who came from disparate backgrounds and from all across the country, but who stood united in their desire to show the world the best that America can be.

These 13 service members knew of the danger they were facing outside of the Abbey Gate at Kabul's Hamid Karzai Airport, yet they continued to process the hundreds of Afghan nationals who were seeking to come to the United States to flee persecution from the Taliban.

They did their duty in the face of danger for which they made the ultimate sacrifice.

Contrary to what the pundits and usual-suspect politicians are saying, the incredible effort by these 13 soldiers and their comrades that resulted in the airlifting of more than 125,000 of our Afghanistan allies stands as a testament to the ability of our military to complete its mission.

No other nation on earth could have accomplished what we did in Afghanistan over the past two weeks -- and no other nation even remotely will be able to come close in the future.

Our military could have packed its bags and said, "Good luck," when the Afghan government fled, but instead we made a herculean effort to get our people and allies out of the country.

The Supreme Sacrifice made by those 13 servicemen and women forever will stand as a reminder to the world of America's resolve and strength, which once again has proven that we are the greatest and strongest nation on earth by any measure.

## WELCOME STUDENTS *(from pg. 1)*

ston and proceeded to Pratt and other neighboring streets.

The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) have up to 50 inspectors canvassing areas heavily populated with students including: Allston, Brighton, Fenway, Mission Hill, South Boston, Back Bay and the North End. Inspectors will visit addresses with a history of violations, as well as units identified through random selection. They will conduct on-the-spot inspections upon request, and confirm that units are registered with the City of Boston in compliance with the City's Rental Units Ordinance, which requires that all private rental units are registered annually.

"Boston is proudly home to colleges and universities that attract students from all over the world," said Mayor Janey. "For those students living off campus in our city, we work to ensure they have safe housing, are informed about services the City

provides and understand how to be good neighbors."

City officials would like to remind students to avoid used furniture, and to notify their landlord immediately in the event of a suspected infestation. The Code Enforcement Division of PWD is issuing citations for trash violations, including improperly placed trash, and trash placed on the curb on the incorrect trash day. Trash trucks are circulating through key student move-in neighborhoods to collect discarded items that have been placed on the curb. New residents can visit [boston.gov/trash-day](https://www.boston.gov/trash-day) to find their trash and recycling dates. In addition, information pertaining to rodent control can be found on our Rodent Control website.

Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services will be staffing tents at several locations to answer questions about city services and to distribute informational handouts, including at:

- Speedway, 219 Cambridge St. in Brighton
- Whole Foods, 413 Cambridge St. in Jamaica Plain
- Andrew Station in South Boston
- Forest Hills Train Station
- Star Market, 45 Morrissey Blvd in Dorchester

The Boston Transportation Department have implemented on-street parking restrictions on several streets in Allston, Brighton, Fenway, Mission Hill, South Boston, Back Bay and the North End. In addition, on-street parking restrictions signage have been posted in affected neighborhoods. For more information on street restrictions, visit [boston.gov/moving](https://www.boston.gov/moving).

Students are encouraged to visit <https://www.boston.gov/moving> for more information regarding parking restrictions and permits, trash removal and restrictions, and rental requirements.

## GARDEN CONTEST *(from pg. 1)*

The neighborhood's Craig and Kimberly McNulty won first place in this category, while John Ruiz took second place, and Dionna Di Pierro and Steven Davy took third place, respectively.

In the South End, Doug Gifford and Jill Christians were the second- and third-place winners, respectively, in the Small Yard Garden category, while Alex and Stephanie Tsalagas took first place and Bev Christians and Chris Hartmann third place in the Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden category.

Winners from Back Bay include Christa Comeau, who was the third-place winner in

the Shade Garden category, and Cindy Joyce, second-place winner in the Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden category.

"I am proud to carry on Boston's tradition of commemorating those who help keep our neighborhoods vibrant and inviting," said Acting Mayor Kim Janey in a press release. "I first learned the joys of gardening from my grandmother and have continued in my own community. This contest is a great way to affirm our city's dedication to beautifying urban spaces, and plant a seed of interest in the next generation of gardeners."

First-place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel"

award from Mayor Janey while second- and third-place winners were awarded certificates. First-place winners were also entered into a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston, and they also received a pair of tickets to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Gift certificates were provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers to the top three winners in each category, as well as to the 2021 Hall of Fame winners, according to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

## THE BOSTON SUN

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# SELDC approves facade changes for 809-811 Harrison Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

A subcommittee of the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on August 31 to discuss a project previously presented at the August 3 full Commission hearing.

The proposal is to remove and replace windows and wood molding, remove the awning, and paint the facade at the former Andre's Cafe location 809-811 Harrison Ave. El Barrio Mexican Grill will be taking over

the space.

At the previous SELDC hearing, the Commission had questions regarding the lighting and the windows, as well as the signage.

Applicant Yessy Feliz said that "so far, we have applied for permits from the city," and most of the changes to the building will take place on the outside.

The main entrance to the restaurant has windows to the right, which overlook the kitchen, as well as windows in the

lefthand side.

Feliz said that the existing green awnings will be removed, and though the lighting design itself will not be changed, the fixtures will.

The proposed sign, which was discussed at the previous hearing, is "on hold," Feliz said, as the restaurant needs to move through the signage process with the city before coming to the SELDC.

"The sign, even though it's presented here, is not part of the

current plan right now," she said.

Preservation Planner Gabriela Amoe said that the commission does not have jurisdiction over the light fixtures.

Commissioner Fabian D'Souza said he wants both proposed windows to match, and asked what kind of windows they would be, to which Feliz replied they would be aluminum.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt agreed that the windows should be identical to each other, and the "detail around it should

be symmetrical."

The proposed painting around the doors is meant to look like a cactus and will be painted green, but the Commission can only recommend paint colors and not enforce them.

The subcommittee voted to approve the project with the proviso that the "window openings must be symmetrical in terms of detail and divider." The proposal for the sign will come before the Commission at a later date.

## BETTER BUS PROJECT (from pg. 1)

She said that a survey was recently conducted, and further conversation will be had this coming fall. The goal is to "create a more equitable network that better serves transit-critical populations," she added.

Melissa Dullea spoke about service changes planned for the fall, as reductions in service were made during the pandemic to accommodate for lower ridership. She said that during the pandemic, the "MBTA also reallocated service to different parts of the system to maintain quality service for transit-critical popula-

tions," and now service is being brought back to 93 percent of what it was before the pandemic. For more information on changes to specific routes, visit [mbta.com/servicechanges](http://mbta.com/servicechanges).

On the topic of fare transformation, Heather Hume, Director of Transition for MBTA Fare Transformation said that future plans include being able to board and pay at the rear door "at the busiest stops on select bus routes." Additionally, Charlie Cards will become available to obtain and reload at an increased number of retailers. Further information can be found at [mbta.com/faretransformation](http://mbta.com/faretransformation).

Accessibility will also be improved on buses, according to Laura Brelsford, who talked about a pilot already in place on 10 buses throughout the system for automated securement of wheelchairs and other mobility devices. This will be quicker than the current system of the driver having to stop the bus to manually secure mobility devices.

Karti Subramanian spoke about some amenities at bus stops, including solar powered e-ink screens that will be added to more stops this year to pro-

vide up-to-date information on buses right at stops themselves.

He said that there are 18 signs in six municipalities that are providing "real-time" information about bus arrival. Approximately 20 more stops will receive these screens this year, and "high-priority service alerts & other stop-specific information" will also be added.

Subramanian also spoke about "new 'gold standard' bus shelters," such as the ones being installed on Columbus Ave. in Roxbury that feature seating, fare vending machines, as well as an overhang for shelter from the weather. Real time information is also provided at these stops, he said.

Shelters like these will also be added to other "bus priority corridors" as well, he said.

The MBTA also has a new "street furniture" program that includes a partnership with ad company Intersection "to deliver ride amenities at bus stops & raise new revenue," according to a slide presented at the meeting. It also allows for "co-investment opportunity with municipalities for system-wide rollout."

The first two are planned for this coming winter, and additional kiosks will come in the future.

For more information about the Better Bus Project, visit [mbta.com/projects/better-bus-project](http://mbta.com/projects/better-bus-project).

### Clinical Research Study for Male Cancer Survivors

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- Has your cancer been in remission for at least 1 year?
- Did you receive chemotherapy or radiation therapy for your cancer?

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 Age 18-50 years  
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Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are looking at the effects of **testosterone therapy** in cancer survivors who have **fatigue and low testosterone**.

There are up to 8 study visits over 9 months. Study participants will undergo an extensive health evaluation, blood tests and screening for various health conditions during the screening period. Study compensation of up to \$700, parking and meal vouchers will be provided.

To see if you may qualify, please call 1-617-525-8407 or email [hkackley@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:hkackley@bwh.harvard.edu).

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# EBNHC provides update on CEO transition process

COO Greg Wilmot to serve as interim CEO

By John Lynds

Since East Boston Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Manny Lopes made the shocking announcement earlier this month that he would be leaving his post to serve as Executive Vice President at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Lopes and the Health Center's Board of Directors provided an update on the transition process.

Lopes and the board's chair, Rita Sorrento, reported after a series of discussions and interviews, the Board has voted unanimously to appoint EBNHC Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Director of Neighborhood PACE

Greg Wilmot as Interim President and CEO effective November 1, 2021.

"Since joining the health center in 2017, Greg has made a considerable positive impact on staff, patients, and the EBNHC organization, as a whole," said Lopes and Sorrento in a joint statement this week. "Greg's leadership has contributed to a more than 48 percent growth in the Neighborhood PACE program, which now boasts a 95 percent satisfaction score – among the highest in the nation."

Lopes and Sorrento said after his promotion to COO last September, Wilmot played a key role in helping to design and execute EBNHC's COVID-19 vaccination strategy, which resulted in over 100,000 doses administered in communities hit hardest by the

pandemic.

"Additionally, in the wake of last year's national reckoning on racial injustice, Greg led EBNHC's Racial Equity Project, bringing an intentional and strategic focus to the health center's efforts to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a healthcare institution, business leader, and community partner," they said. "We feel strongly that given his experience, background, and history at the health center, Greg is a strong, dedicated, capable leader and is well-prepared to support this transition."

Prior to November, Lopes and Sorrento said the Board will work closely with Wilmot to ensure he is familiar with key initiatives and to make introductions where necessary.

"Concurrently, EBNHC's



EBNHC COO Greg Wilmot to serve as interim CEO after Manny Lopes leaves at the end of October.

Board of Directors will continue to develop and define next steps to establish a permanent replacement," they said. "We estimate that this process will take several months."

Prior to joining EBNHC in 2017, Wilmot worked at All-

Ways Health Partners, a member of Mass General Brigham, where he led the organization's Mass-Health Accountable Care Organization strategy and operations. Additionally, Wilmot previously served as Boston Medical Center's director of business development, where he partnered with clinical and administrative leaders at the hospital and across key partners to create new opportunities for growth and expand clinical services and quality goals. Wilmot also worked for former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Executive Office of Health and Human Services as senior advisor and director of strategy and performance management and held various operational and management roles at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

## September is designated as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Staff Report

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and for many the subject of suicide is off limits. They believe the mere mention of suicide around friends and family can cause suicidal thoughts for them. Nothing

could be further from the truth.

Approximately 47,500 Americans died by their own hand in 2019, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death in this nation. Suicide rates in the US have climbed 33% in the last decade. One of the ways to reduce that number is by talking

about suicide and suicidal ideation, which can spur meaningful conversations about mental health and potentially save lives.

Even more concerning is that suicide and suicide attempts among our nation's youth (ages 10-24) are on the rise. According to information released last year

by the CDC, 19% of youth had seriously considered attempting suicide, 16% had made a suicide plan, 9% had made a suicide attempt, and 2.5% had made a suicide attempt that was significant enough to require medical treatment.

Join the conversation, and reach out to those who have been personally affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect those struggling with suicidal ideation to professional counselors and treatment services that can help them.

If your child or someone you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help now. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), is a free resource,

available 24 hours a day for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. The Crisis Text Line is a free 24/7 text line where trained crisis counselors support individuals in crisis. Text "Jason" to 741741 to speak with a compassionate, trained Crisis Counselor. Confidential support 24/7, for free.

The Jason Foundation (JFI) is another available resource. Although September is set aside as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, JFI works toward suicide prevention all year long. JFI is dedicated to the awareness and prevention of youth suicide through educational programs that equip youth, parents, edu-

(SUICIDE PREVENTION, Pg. 9)



### Virtual Community Meeting

#### Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

**Monday, September 13**  
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/Sept2021RSMPOC](https://bit.ly/Sept2021RSMPOC)

**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864

**Meeting ID:** 160 406 2203

#### Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. Vote on P3 RFP on 9.13.21. To read the Draft RFP visit [bit.ly/DraftP3RFP](https://bit.ly/DraftP3RFP).

All meetings are held on zoom and open to the public. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

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

- Sept./Septiembre/Septanm 13 (P3 RFP Vote/Votar sobre la solicitud de propuesta para P3/Vote sou demann pou pwopozisyon Pou P3)
- Oct./Octubre/Oktòb 4
- Nov./Noviembre/Novanm 1

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Para los servicios de interpretación, comuníquese con el planificador que se indica a continuación una semana antes de cada reunión.

Si w bezwen sèvis entèpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak reyinyon.

#### Contact:

Kelly Sherman  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.5493 | [kelly.sherman@boston.gov](mailto:kelly.sherman@boston.gov)

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**HANDEL + HAYDN SOCIETY PREMIERE NEW TEXT OF BEETHOVEN'S NINTH TO THE HATCH SHELL**



*The Handel and Haydn Society performing at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade.*

Photos by Robert Torres

The Handel and Haydn Society premiered a new text for Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9" to a crowd of over 10,000 people on Friday, Aug. 27, at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade.

Led by conductor Marin Alsop, H+H performed former U.S. Poet Laureate and Massachusetts native Tracy K. Smith's new version of "Ode to Joy." Smith was on hand for the premiere.



*Former U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith with soloists.*

**Markey holds Climate Action Conversation at NE Aquarium**

By John Lynds

At a Climate Action Conversation at the New England Aquarium last Thursday U.S. Sen. Ed Markey called the global warming crisis a 'Code Red' and outlined steps needed to be taken now to ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

Markey was at the Aquarium to call for the passing of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package in congress.

"We join together at the New England Aquarium to talk about the severe reality of climate change and the urgency of this moment," said Markey. "The budget resolution represents our best opportunity to confront the climate crisis with jobs and justice. Let's get it done."

Markey, co-author of the Green New Deal resolution and Chair of the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety, said all the signs of a warming planet are evident, the science is pretty conclusive and

the need to act is now.

"This is a code red," said Markey last week. "We are also seeing the real impacts of the climate crisis in our country. With the wildfires in the West, where people have lost homes and families have been broken apart, these extreme weather events are causing crises like the Dixie Fire in California. This is real, whether it was in 2020 or today the United States is experiencing extreme weather events regularly."

Most recently Hurricane Henri, said Markey, could have been a catastrophe for Downtown and other Boston coastal neighborhoods.

"If the tide was just five feet higher the day Henri hit we would have had a storm surge that would have put downtown and other Boston neighborhoods under water," said Markey.

Of the budget resolution Markey said, "This (budget resolution) will be a generational investment in the future of our people and our planet. It confronts our

climate crisis and gives working people a fair shake, all while making corporations and the ultra-wealthy finally pay their fair share. For too long, the playing field has been tilted towards the rich and powerful and against working Americans who bear the brunt of climate change, economic inequality, racial injustice, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This budget resolution puts us on a path to address these interlocking crises, including taking meaningful and powerful action on the climate crisis. We can create millions of good, union jobs and unleash clean energy technologies that are made in America. I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to pass this budget for the American people."

Markey said recently the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its Sixth Assessment Report, which details how human activity is unequivocally driving global temperature rise and changes in weather at unprecedented rates. The IPCC report finds that global temperatures will continue to increase until at least mid-century, exceeding 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius unless we take the steps to ensure deep reductions in carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases this decade and next.

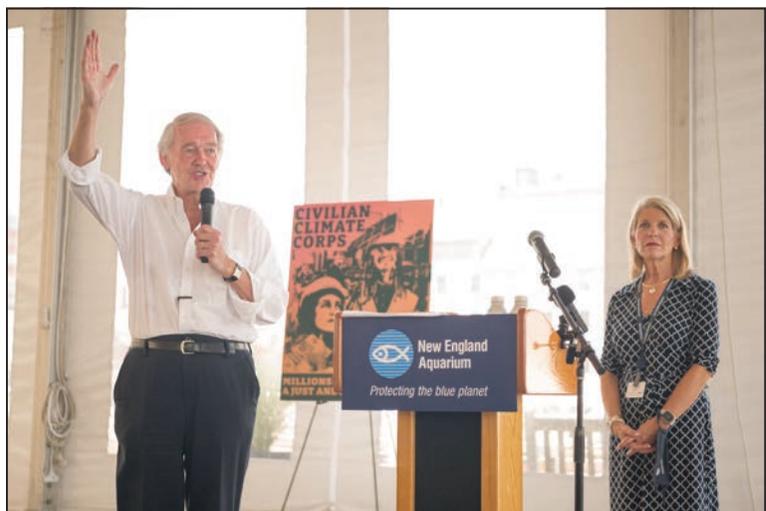
"This IPCC report reaffirms what we are seeing and suffering right now across our country: climate change will continue to cost us lives and livelihoods if we don't respond with the scope and scale this moment demands," said Markey. "From increasing intensity and frequency of

extreme heat, to catastrophic precipitation and devastating droughts, no person or community will be able to hide from the serious and most dire impacts of our human-driven climate crisis. Previous IPCC reports should have been roadmaps for action -- the scientists have spoken clearly for more than a generation about the damage humans are doing to our planet. This report must be the final warning to the world that time has run out to save the planet from dangerous and irreversible climate change."

Markey said the government and people, "can't agonize" but "must organize" to save the planet.

"Just like the young people across the country and world who are demanding action from

their leaders, an intergenerational movement of climate leaders are calling on Congress to include major climate action in the budget reconciliation package — which is our best opportunity to respond with solutions to the impacts outlined by the IPCC," he said. "With policies to drive deep cuts in emissions, protect communities from climate impacts, and provide equity and justice to overburdened communities, we can respond to overwhelming evidence and take the necessary action to save our people and our planet. If Senators truly followed the science in this report, we'd have 100 votes for climate action to match the 100 percent certainty that human-caused climate change is destroying our planet."



*U.S. Sen. Ed Markey hosted a Climate Action Conversation at the New England Aquarium last Thursday*

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# WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

After a hiatus from last year's Covid Pandemic, the annual Ward 4 Ice Cream Social was held at the Titus-Sparrow Park in the South End. It was a chance for neighbors and voters to partake in ice cream, conversation and to meet candidates endorsed by the Ward 4 Democratic Committee. It was also the inauguration of the Ward 4 Scholarship Awards, a scholarship granted to students who either reside or go to school in Ward 4. The event was co-hosted by Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu.



A group shot of the Ward 4 candidates and volunteers for the Ice Cream Social.



Carol Lasky, State Auditor Candidate Chris Dempsey, Massachusetts State Representatives Jay Livingstone and Jon Santiago (3rd from right), Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Rick Richter, and Leslie Pond.



Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu speaks with voters.

Shown to the right, Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu was the co-host and highly anticipated speaker at the Ward 4 Ice Cream Social.



Meg Vaidya and Luke Kaplan



Haroon Khan and Emma Krug



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Raina Sohur with her mother Suzanne.

# WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TITUS SPARROW PARK



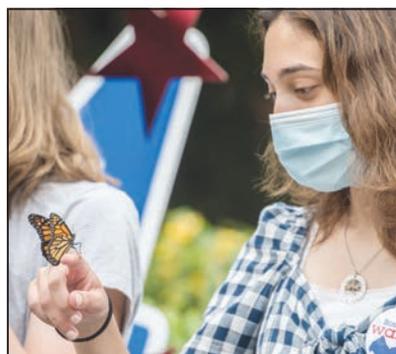
Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok speaks with voters about their concerns.



Recipients of the Ward 4 Scholarship: Alison Chen, Katherine Martin, Preston Musoke, and Raina Sobur. Students who either live or go to school in Ward 4 are eligible.



Boston City Council candidate David Halbert speaks with Larry Bell and Andrea Olmsted, former Democratic Party Chair of Ward 4.



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Raina Sobur looks at one of the Monarch Butterflies being released in a moment where both will spread their "wings".



Ward 4 Scholarship recipient Preston Musoke watches as a Monarch Butterfly takes off from the hand of Elizabeth Bertolozzi.



Andrea Olmstead speaks to the gathering about voter registration outreach.



Elijah Cadeau and Emily Polston enjoy some ice cream and conversation.



Boston City Council candidate Tanya Anderson speaks with voters.



Suffolk County Sictrect Attorney Rachel Rollins (right) speaks with voter Marissa Luse.



Elizabeth Bertolozzi brought some Monarch Butterflies to let loose and enlisted the help of the Ward 4 Scholarship recipients Katherine Martin and Raina Sobur.



Boston City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu with volunteers Janet Slovin and Jane Siegal.



Kelly Bates campaign manager Shivani Chakrabarty and resident Edie Bowers

## NEHGS (from pg. 1)

The Sun spoke with NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, as well as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ryan Woods, to learn more about what's proposed for the interior of the new space at 97 Newbury St.

Simons said that he wanted to stress "how excited we are to work with the BBAC and our neighbors," and that NEHGS is "happily on the same page with the direction of the design of this

building."

The existing headquarters facility has been open to the public since 1964, though the institution itself was founded in 1845 as the world's first genealogical society, Simons said.

Over the past 176 years, NEHGS has worked with millions of people in 139 countries across the globe on genealogical topics, and the society also features collections dedicated to American history. The orga-



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANCESTORS/NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A cross-section of what programming will look like in the new NEHGS space at 97 Newbury St.



A rendering of the future NEHGS Discovery Center at 97 Newbury St.

nization's staff of about 100 professional genealogists and historians helps hundreds of thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds learn about their lineage, and there is a huge emphasis on education for "local residents, visitors, families, students, and scholars," he said.

In-person and online lectures and tours are available, as is a youth education program.

Additionally, NEHGS holds a "unique manuscript collection" that is larger than that of the Library of Congress, Woods said. People can come and use research areas inside the center, or access more than 1.4 billion searchable digital records.

The new space will allow NEHGS to expand on these offerings in a friendly, welcoming environment that is open to the public.

"Part of the impetus for our physical expansion," Woods said, is that research has shown that there are social and emotional benefits of "generational history," and helping young people understand their family history can positively impact cognition.

The planned project, called the Cornerstone Project, is "really an outgrowth of all that we do here at New England Historic Genealogical Society/American Ancestors," Woods said.

Woods said that the existing building has been "really collection focused," but the new space will allow for a dedicated "people-centric" space.

He said that a welcome center will be located at the front of the building, and a Discovery Center will "feature computer kiosks and interactive exhibitions that will tell the stories of the American experience to immigration to westward expansion and beyond."

The building will also feature different interactive exhibits such as one on DNA, as well as other "science skills that are applicable to family history," Woods said.



A rendering of the interior of the future entry to NEHGS's new space at 97 Newbury St.

There will also be an "expanded and dedicated learning center for both youth and adult audiences," a dedicated lecture hall, and "a new home for our publishing center," he said, adding that NEHGS currently publishes "family and local history somewhere in the range of 20-25 titles a year" along with a quarterly magazine and two scholarly journals.

The new building will also be the "new dedicated home for our Jewish Heritage Center," Woods said, which features "collections related to New England Jewish families and institutions."

Simons spoke about a feature of the Discovery Center that he is "really excited about." There will be a "story booth" or "story lab" where people can come and record stories that can be archived for future generations to access later.

"We find that this is a really inspiring way to have people participate in family history," Simons said. A digital copy can be sent to the participants in addition to the archival.

NEHGS is also the "anchor location" of the PBS Series Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. A lot good deal of the research for the show is done at NEHGS, Simons said. "That's the kind of thing that we're doing."

When it comes to the design of

the exterior of 97 Newbury St., "we're very appreciative of the constructive feedback received from the BBAC and the Architecture Committee at the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)," Woods said, adding that they "understand what the charge is and purview of that group is." Simons said that "we're a history and a preservation organization, so their advice resonates with us."

He added that NEHGS has researched the building in depth and discovered that "it's been altered many, many times."

The building still needs to move through the zoning process with the City, as well as a full design review and vote from the BBAC. Woods said "depending on that process," the project may be able to commence late next year, but he said the goal is to "make sure the design is right."

Woods said, "inspiration is at the center of what we're trying to do," as well as provide information and engaging activities to the public.

"We're excited to give new life to a first generation building on Newbury St.," Simons said. "I want everyone to know that we're a very welcoming, open door organization and that's really one of our goals here; to make sure the public knows what we have to offer, and local residents and visitors can take advantage of it."

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Uber Eats  

# Back Bay, surrounding area's COVID cases jump 30 percent

By John Lynds

It's a good thing the City's new mask mandate policy for indoor venues went into effect last Friday because the Back Bay and the surrounding area's COVID numbers increased dramatically between August 23 and August 30.

City health officials are scrambling to knock down the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID virus here and across Boston as infections among the unvaccinated and breakthrough infections among the vaccinated continue to climb.

Ahead of the new mask mandate Beacon Hill and the surrounding area's weekly positive COVID test rate decreased 21 percent between August 16 and August 23 but skyrocketed last week.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2083 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.4 percent were positive. This was a 31 percent increase from the 2.6 percent of residents that tested positive between August 16 and August 23.

Overall since the pandemic started 61,415 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of

those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on August 13.

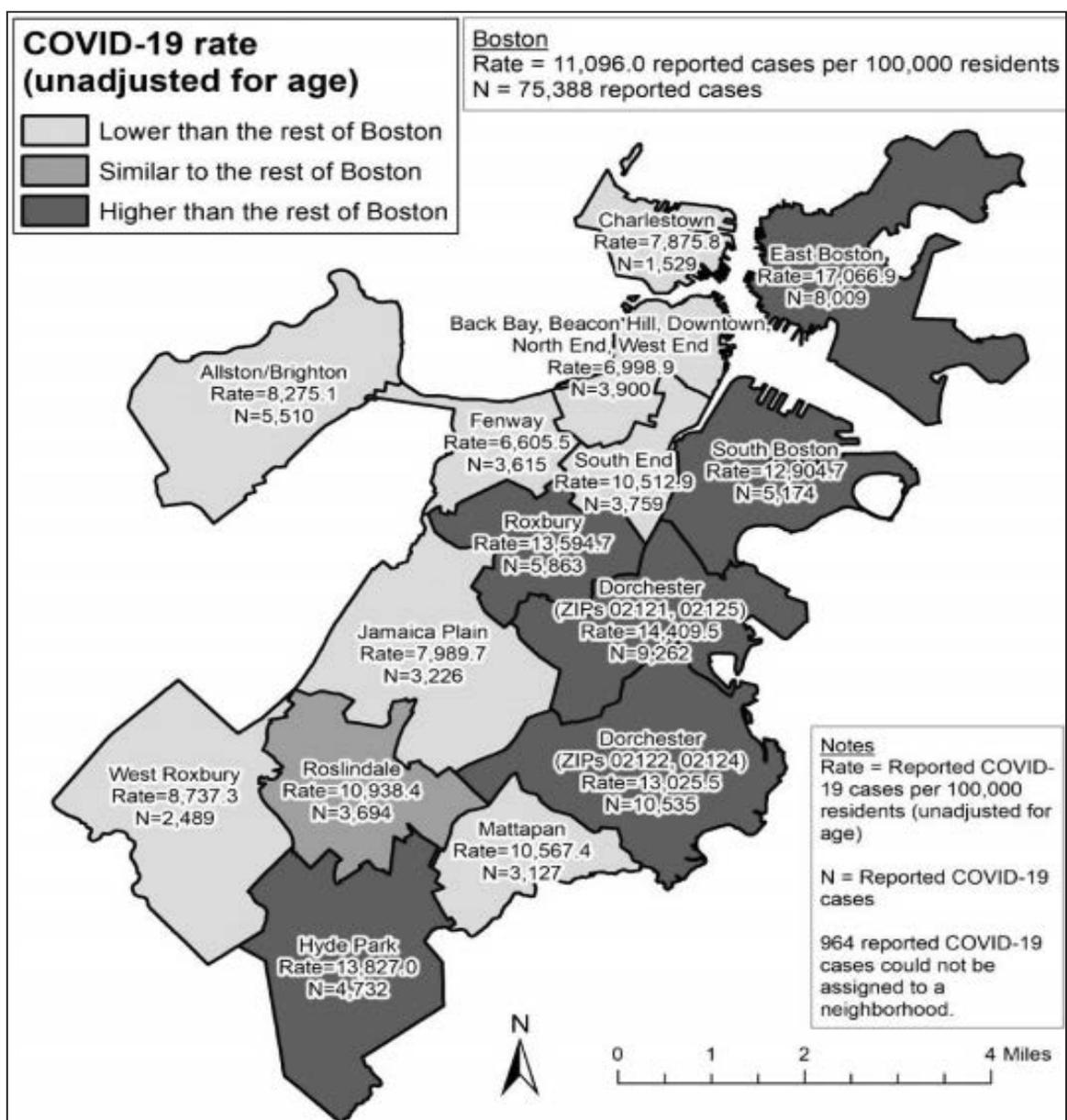
Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 22,636 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 3 percent increase from the 3.5 percent reported by the BPHC on August 23.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 699.8 cases per 10,000 residents--a 2 percent increase from the 685.5 cases per 10,000 residents reported on August 23.

Eighty additional residents have been infected with the virus between August 23 and August 30 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 3,900 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 1.3 percent since August 23 and went from 74,940 cases to 76,036 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past two weeks and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,406.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

## SUICIDE PREVENTION (from pg. 4)

ators, and the community with the tools and resources to identify and assist at-risk youth. Many times, young people exhibit clear warnings signs prior to an attempt. By knowing the warning signs and knowing how to

help, you could save a life. Visit The Jason Foundation's website to learn more about youth suicide, the warning signs, and how you can help make a difference.

JFI has never charged a school, community, or individual for the use of their programs or resources. <http://www.jasonfoundation.com>

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# Boston Election Department announces preparations ahead of the 2021 municipal elections

Early voting, ballot drop boxes both avail.

Staff Report

The City of Boston's Election Department on August 30 announced its preparations ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections, including the availability of vote by mail and early voting for both the Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election and the Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Municipal Election. The City of Boston has also installed 20 ballot drop boxes across the city for voters to drop off completed vote by mail ballots.

Applications for vote by mail ballots have been mailed out to every registered voter in Boston. Voters are asked to fill out the application, including their signature, as applications received without a signature will not be accepted. To be eligible to vote by mail in the Preliminary Municipal Election, applications must be returned to the Boston

Election Department by Wednesday, September 8, at 5 p.m.

Vote by mail applications can be returned by U.S. mail with the prepaid postcard or in-person at the Boston Election Department, City Hall, Room 241.

If a registered Boston voter did not receive or lost their application, they can request a new ballot application by completing the form available on the City's vote-by-mail website. The form can be sent to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, fax, or in-person. The Boston Election Department is located at

Boston City Hall

City Hall Square, Room 241

Boston, MA 02201

Fax: 617-635-4483, Tel: 617-635-VOTE (8683)

Email: [absenteevoter@boston.gov](mailto:absenteevoter@boston.gov)

## Vote By Mail

The Election Department will send out vote by mail ballots as soon as the application requests are processed. Once a voter receives their ballot package,

they should follow the enclosed instructions. It is important to sign the yellow ballot affidavit envelope. Unsigned ballot affidavit envelopes will cause a ballot to be rejected. To return ballots by U.S. mail, make sure to apply sufficient postage. While ballot package weight can vary, two First Class stamps is generally sufficient.

To be counted, ballots must be received by the Boston Election Department or in a ballot drop box by the close of polls on Election Day, Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 8 p.m.

## Tracking Your Ballot

Boston voters can track their ballot request through the state's website. We will continue to mail ballots as applications arrive, until the application deadline of 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

## Ballot Drop Boxes

The Boston Election Department has placed 20 ballot drop boxes around the City, includ-

ing at both the first and third floor entrances of Boston City Hall. All drop boxes are monitored under 24 hour video surveillance. Drop boxes will also be available at each early voting location during the scheduled voting hours. To find a location of a ballot drop box, visit [here](http://here).

## In-Person Early Voting

Voters registered in Boston can vote during the early voting period from Saturday, September 4 through Friday, September 10, 2021, at any of the early voting sites. Hours and locations for early voting can be found [here](http://here).

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check in. Early voting locations are well staffed with poll workers and language interpreters, and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

## Voting on Election Day

Polling locations for the Boston Preliminary Municipal Election will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sep-

tember 14, 2021. Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation phone bank. Those interested in volunteering can apply to be a poll worker [here](http://here).

## On the Ballot

The September 14, 2021 Preliminary Municipal Election includes eight candidates for the Office of Mayor, 17 candidates for Office of City Councilor at-Large and the following City Council Districts: District 4, District 6, District 7, District 9. The remaining districts are not required to have a preliminary election as there are already only one or two candidates running.

For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

## City of Boston Credit Union invests \$350,000 to support women's student athletics

Staff Report

City of Boston Credit Union has committed to investing

\$350,000 to support women student-athletes at two of the city's renowned higher educational institutions, Boston College and

Northeastern University.

"As a community credit union based in Boston, we're proud to support the great women athletes that attend school and play sports in our city," said Gregory Rooney, Chairman of the Board for City of Boston Credit Union. "We're dedicated to helping these young women thrive and ultimately be successful. This campaign is part of our mission to support equality, inclusion, health and wellness in our community, but more importantly to invest in women."

As Women's Equality Day is recognized on Thursday, Aug. 26, the City of Boston Credit Union has entered into sponsorship agreements to support women's student athletics at both Boston College and Northeastern University. The investment supports 27 women's collegiate sports teams across the two schools, including 10 at Northeastern University and 17 at Boston College.

"Women's athletics is an integral and exciting aspect of the Boston College community," said Patrick Kraft, William V.

Campbell Director of Athletics at Boston College, "as demonstrated by our women's lacrosse team winning a national championship just a few months ago and many of our other women's programs experiencing unprecedented success. The generosity from the City of Boston Credit Union will help us to build on this momentum and impact our women's programs for years to come."

As part of the expansive sponsorship, the City of Boston Credit Union logo will appear on the ice at Northeastern University's Matthews Arena. The City of Boston Credit Union logo will also appear at four Boston College Athletics facilities where the top six women's programs compete. The investment includes many other sponsorship opportunities, including spots on NESN.

"Our female student-athletes have excelled in the classroom, in collegiate, professional and Olympic sports and in the community," said Northeastern University Deputy Athletic Director Regina Sullivan. "This support will ensure that they continue to access incredible

opportunities both in college and beyond. We are so appreciative of the City of Boston Credit Union for recognizing and investing in women athletes."

In honor of National Girls and Women in Sports Day in February, the City of Boston Credit Union will present a sports clinic for female student-athletes at Boston College and will also participate in events at Northeastern University. It's important to note that City of Boston Credit Union has long-standing partnerships with a variety of non-collegiate girls' youth sports in and around the City of Boston, including softball leagues, youth hockey, and more.

"Investing in women's student athletics is an investment in our city's future," said Neil Gordon, President & CEO of City of Boston Credit Union. "Women are increasingly becoming the sole or primary income earners in their homes and are responsible for making their family's financial decisions. Supporting women at the collegiate level helps set them on a path to a brighter future and will only help our city's economy."

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# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Akbarian, Cyrus	Coppelman, Daniel P	324-332 Beacon St #26	\$608,000
Alperin, Marsha	Geraldine E Gerson T	100 Belvidere St #11A	\$5,300,000
Audrey K Fitzgerald RET	JFR NT	205 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$2,650,000
Yalcin, Ilker	Hughes, Kevin S	13 Gloucester St #4	\$1,350,000
Bleu, Leanne	Reed, Michael T	121 Saint Botolph St #4	\$1,350,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
King, John	Sylvetsky, Ian	10 Bowdoin St #311	\$748,000
Boston South Prop LLC	Selmasson Holdings LLC	37 S Russell St	\$2,725,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
24 Appleton St LLC	Frake, Debney M	24 Appleton St	\$2,550,000
Wurzbacher, Owen	59 Appleton Street LLC	59 Appleton St	\$3,995,000
Woodruff, Margaret	N R Schottland 2012 T	1 Charles St S #702	\$965,000
Property Possible Inc	19 Gray Street Unit 1 RT	19 Gray St #1	\$1,225,000
Fulp, Carol	Frieling, Lori	1 Huntington Ave #201	\$1,225,000
Sellers-Yates, John	Sheets, Ellen	249 W Newton St #3	\$710,000
Kronlund, Eric K	Gray, Bruce W	21 Aberdeen St #D	\$370,000
Farrar, Zanchery J	Walker, Duncan	5 Albemarle St #1	\$770,000
Han, Gang	65-5 Burbank Street LLC	65 Burbank St #5	\$410,000
Mann, John	Wahid&Julie Tadros LT	10 Charlesgate E #401	\$1,150,000
Reiser, Margaret M	Maffei, Rosemary K	4 Charlesgate E #603	\$739,000
SAF Boston LLC	Maithieu, Amy	103 Gainsborough St #407	\$720,000
Hughes, Amy T	Mamta D Sutariya RET	700 Harrison Ave #513	\$730,000
Wilde, Timothy J	761 Harrison Church	771 Harrison Ave #105	\$1,643,050
Katebi, Aatur R	Dawn Enterprises LLC	125 Park Dr #44	\$425,100
Derouen T	121 Portland LLC	121-127 Portland St #609	\$730,000
Remenschneider, Aaron	Damiano, Michael J	411 Shawmut Ave #6	\$1,250,000
761 Harrison Church LLC	Wilde, Timothy J	40 Traveler St #603	\$1,320,000
Dexter, Sarah R	Sullivan, Brian D	81 Waltham St #2	\$650,000
Augustine, Mark	David L Coleman RET	130 Appleton St #2F	\$1,225,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
JLD Grace Prop Corp	Lawson, Phillip O	1 Avery St #29D	\$2,525,000
Chen, Geoffrey	Kirwan, Kyle A	2 Avery St #28A	\$950,000
Ghaly, John	Li, Yi H	65 E India Row #16D	\$675,000
Nimisha M Patel LT	Tihalas, Donna	122-124 Fulton St #13	\$725,000
Chen, Ojuhua	Manasha, Ben	1 Nassau St #2003	\$730,000

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The mosaic detail in the last clue is on the Betances Mural at Plaza Betances, in Villa Victoria, at 100 W. Dedham Street. Boston Public Art tells us that it was installed in 1988 and that artists, "... Ann Killen Rosenberg, Nora Valdez, and Roberto Chao were assisted by Villa Victoria residents, children as well as adults, who made the ceramic tile pieces."

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



# NEWS BRIEFS

## WELCOME BACK TO SOWA

The SoWa Artists Guild welcomes the public back to its First Fridays and Second Sundays, when more than 90 artists at 450 Harrison Ave. in SoWa open their doors so you can meet the artists in person, view the work they created over the past year, and have the opportunity to buy directly from them.

Artists will open for First Fridays and Second Sundays all year long. The next First Friday takes place on Sept. 3 from 5-9 p.m., and the next Second Sunday is on Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit <https://www.sowaartists.com/calendar/> for more information.

## CO|SO TO HOST FRESH PAINT ART SHOW

The Copley Society of Art (ColSo) will host its 33rd annual Fresh Paint event as a virtual, live auction on September 23 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The event will be hosted by leading auctioneer and general appraiser of Skinner Auctioneers, Stuart Slavid. All paintings will be available for bidding online from September 9 - September 23 at [www.liveauctioneers.com](http://www.liveauctioneers.com).

Established in 1988, ColSo's Fresh Paint was one of the first plein air painting events with an accompanying auction. The fundraiser supports inno-

vative exhibitions of emerging and established artists, lectures, scholarships, residencies, and outreach programs. Fresh Paint is the gallery's biggest and most important fundraiser.

The Copley Society of Art, America's oldest non-profit arts organization, is committed to the advancement, enjoyment, and promotion of its member artists and the visual arts. The organization, founded in 1879, comprises juried artists who are selected by a credentialed art committee. ColSo provides artists with a gallery for exhibiting and selling their work and a platform for engaging and educating the community.



**CAMPION  
AND COMPANY**



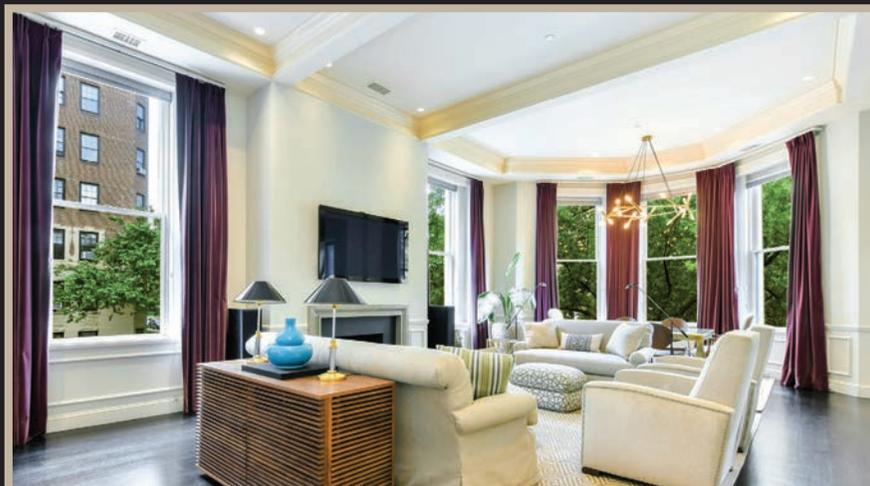
**110 Sudbury Street, Unit 3901**  
**4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,766 SQFT**  
**\$5,800,000**



**1 Franklin Street, Unit 4702**  
**3 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,172 SQFT**  
**\$6,995,000**



**13 Hancock Street**  
**5 Beds | 4 Baths | 4,212 SQFT**  
**\$3,790,000**



**48 Commonwealth Avenue #2**  
**2 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,983 SQFT**  
**\$4,450,000**



**52 Beacon Street, PH**  
**4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 5,438 SQFT**  
**\$9,500,000**