

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY



*The BVNA's first Block Party since the pandemic was a well organized success. Shown above, residents enjoy food and mingling amongst themselves.*

*Shown to the left, Craig Davis adjusts the balloon display celebrating 49 years of the Bay Village Block Party. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.*

## Public receives update on Charlesgate Revitalization Project

By Lauren Bennett

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Charlesgate Alliance held a meeting on September 21 to update the public on the Charlesgate Revitalization Project.

Many hands are involved in this project, including members of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Emerald Necklace Conser-

vancy (ENC), the Charlesgate Alliance, Landing Studios landscape architects, MassDOT, the Conservation Commission, and the Esplanade Association, among others.

There are several projects slated to happen at the Charlesgate site, including the daylighting of the Muddy River north of Beacon St., by MassDOT the core

(CHARLESGATE PARK, Pg. 4)

## Some city restaurants must now ponder uncertain future of outdoor dining

By Dan Murphy

While some Boston restaurant have seen an uptick in business in recent months, they're now facing the uncertain future of new outdoor dining space created in the city in response to the pandemic as they still struggle to recoup lost business.

"We're definitely seeing an uptick [in busines]," said Babak Bina who along with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owns and operates Bin 26 on Charles Street, as well as jm Curley and its steakhouse, Bogie's Place, in

Downtown Crossing. "It was a great summer with outdoor seating, and we're grappling with the idea that the Governor is affecting covid restrictions, which will affect easy outdoor permitting."

The city's outdoor dining season ends Nov. 1, and Gov. Charlie Baker will at that time lift the special accommodations extended to some restaurants during the pandemic.

Obtaining a permit for outdoor dining through the city's Public Improvements Commis-

(OUTDOOR DINING, Pg. 5)

## Back Bay, surrounding area's COVID cases drop

By John Lynds

Three weeks ago, the Back Bay and the surrounding area's COVID weekly positive test rate skyrocketed nearly 50 percent but positive cases have dropped for two weeks in a row. Two

weeks ago the weekly positive test rate fell 37 percent and another 25 percent last week.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,376 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West

End and Downtown residents were tested and 1.8 percent were positive. This was a 25 percent decrease from the 2.4 percent of residents that tested positive between September 20 and September 27.

(COVID-19, Pg. 2)

## City making preparations to begin Tremont St. redesign project

By Dan Murphy

Don't be surprised if you see minor activity on Tremont Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Herald Street in the South End this season as the city makes preparations to begin construction on the street's long-anticipated redesign.

The Public Works Department

has contracted with D'Allessandro Corporation to build changes on Tremont Street, according to the city, and is working now to finalize details of the construction period.

According to the city, accessible ramps at all intersections; raised crosswalks at unsignalized intersections along Tremont Street, including new drainage

where needed; replaced brick sidewalks in the work area; pedestrian protection islands at crosswalks over Tremont Street; new curb regulations that provide more commercial and short-term access during the day; parking-protected bike lanes; and a complete repaving of the street

(TREMONT ST REDESIGN, Pg. 3)

## 2021 MOONDANCE GALA



Paul Odelson and Amy Sullivan during the Esplanade Association Moondance En Plein Air. See more photos on Page 10.

# EDITORIAL

## PROGRESSIVES ARE TRUMP'S NEW BEST FRIENDS

As our regular readers know, we have been fully supportive of everything that entails the Progressive agenda in Washington, from the Green New Deal to tax increases on the wealthy and everything in between.

If anything, we'd like to see the \$3.5 trillion Democratic spending bill be even larger in order to do what truly is needed to bring America into the third decade of the 21st century.

However, we recognize that not everyone agrees with our view, both as to the costs and goals of the legislation put forward by President Joe Biden.

In addition to some Democratic moderates in the House, there are the two U.S. senators, Joe Manchin from West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona, who publicly have stated that they only will support a scaled-down version of the \$3.5 trillion package.

Senator Manchin has been fairly specific in his position, whereas Senator Sinema has been silent and erratic -- both publicly and privately among her colleagues -- suggesting that her psychological fitness to be a U.S. Senator is in question.

But regardless of their motivations, Manchin and Sinema constitute a roadblock to passage of the \$3.5 trillion spending bill. So what is a Progressive to do?

We could suggest the usual cliches, such as, "Half a loaf is better than no loaf at all," or, "Don't make the perfect the enemy of the good."

But we prefer one of our own: Politics is the art of compromise.

If a politician who comes into office expects to be a rigid ideologue, then he or she is in the wrong business. Refusing to compromise is like the little boy or girl who doesn't like the way the game is being played and takes his or her ball home.

We urge the legislators from our districts in Congress to get their act together and get something done. We didn't send them to Washington to accomplish nothing.

In our view, the longer that this gets dragged out -- especially with the Democrats having no room to spare in terms of their majorities -- the more that the average voter will think that maybe Donald Trump wasn't so bad after all.

## SCHOOL MASKING IS NOT A PARENTAL MATTER

According to an interview in the Boston Globe, a member (who is a medical doctor) of the unpaid COVID-19 advisory panel to Gov. Charlie Baker made this statement regarding masking by children in public schools: "Regardless of science, and there isn't a lot of science, it's important that parents feel strongly and that needs to be at the forefront of decision-making."

We'll just state our view bluntly: That is the most idiotic statement we have heard from anyone (other than a Republican governor from the South) on the issue of whether students should wear masks in school.

There IS a lot of science about the benefits of masking to halt the spread of the disease. But beyond that, parents are the LEAST competent persons to weigh in on this issue. The average parent has no expertise about COVID-19, both as to the health of their own child and as to the overall health implications for other students and school employees.

Until we have the pandemic under control, masking (and vaccinations) should be mandatory in our public schools for everyone, a few ignorant and loudmouth parents notwithstanding.

## Hindus call for transparency and fairness in invocation scheduling by City Council

Staff Report

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, who has read invocations at United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., finds it quite disheartening on not being scheduled for reading invocation at a Boston City Council meeting despite multiple requests.

Boston City Council meets every Wednesday and opens with invocation.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, emailed all the 13 city councilors individually, including President Matthew O'Malley and Mayor Kim Janey on September 10 with his invocation scheduling request. He had also requested for this invocation scheduling in 2015, December 2020 and Feb-



Hindu statesman Rajan Zed.

ruary 2021 also.

On Sept. 10, besides councilors, Rajan Zed also emailed this request to City's Chief Diversity Officer Tavares, Chief Communications Officer Garrett-Stea-

rns, City Clerk Feeny, Chief of the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Barrios-Millner, Chief Information Officer Elges.

One of the responses Zed received stated: "Unfortunately, we are unable to fulfill your request at this time. Boston City Councilors have the responsibility of inviting a member of the clergy to deliver the invocation during their assigned Council meeting dates..." Another response included: "...each Councilor chooses a member of the faith community they have a relationship with..."

Talking about prayer in general, Rajan Zed, in a statement today, said that a reverent petition for help or expression of devotion-love-praise-thanks

(INVOCATION, Pg. 3)

## COVID-19 (from pg. 1)

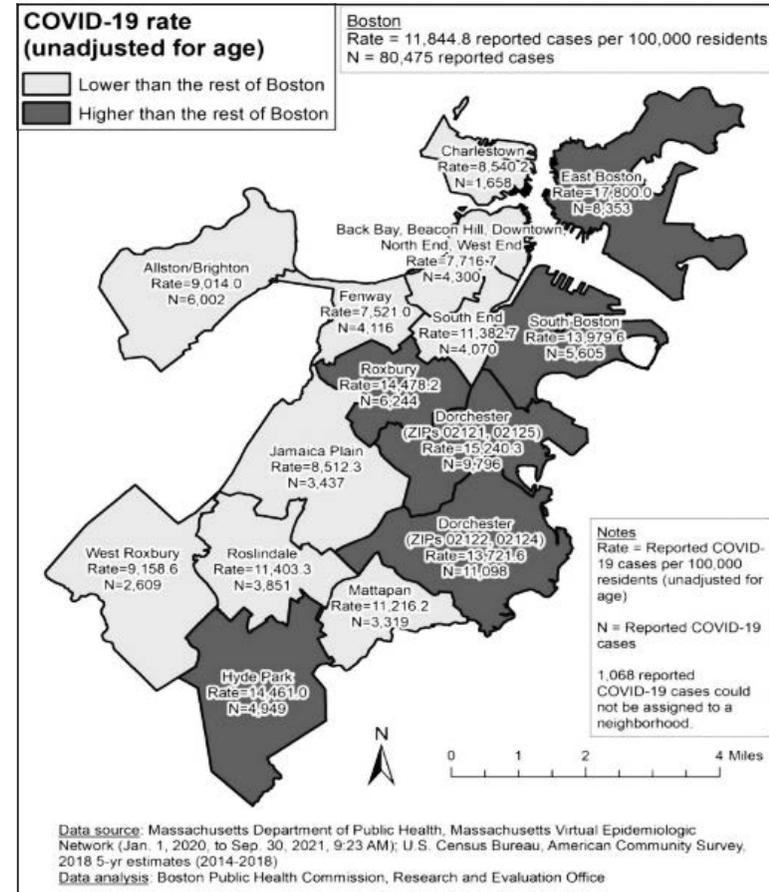
Citywide, the weekly positive test rate also decreased and dropped 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 24,496 residents were tested and 2.7 percent were COVID positive--this was a 10 percent decrease from the 3 percent reported by the BPHC on Sept. 27.

The BPHC data released Monday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 771.6 cases per 10,000 residents--a 1.5 percent increase from the 760.5 cases per 10,000 residents reported on September 27.

Sixty-two additional residents have been infected with the virus between September 27 and October 4 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,300 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



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

coronavirus increased 1 percent since Sept. 27 and went from 80,106 cases to 80,971 confirmed cases in a week. There

were nine additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,429.

INVOCATION (from pg. 2)

addressed to an object of worship was important, intensely valuable, significant and uplifting to many of us.

City of Boston should be more transparent and fair in its invocation scheduling and needed to find a common ground on this issue where various religions and denominations could find equitable representation in the scheduling and non-believers could be offered opportunity of expression where no deity was invoked or petitioned; Zed indicated.

Rajan Zed's legislative invocations in the past have been from ancient Sanskrit scriptures stress-

ing on unity, selflessness and leading from darkness to light, etc.

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.2 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about three million Hindus in USA.

Satanic Temple reportedly sued Boston few months back regarding invocation policy.

Boston City Seal contains the motto "SICUT PATRIBUS, SIT DEUS NOBIS" (which means, "God be with us as he was with our fathers"), which is also included in the City Flag.

# District 8 City Councilor Bok endorses Anderson for District 7 City Councilor

Staff Report

District 8 Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok has announced her endorsement of Tania Fernandes Anderson to serve as her colleague on the Council representing District 7.

"Tania would bring so much valuable experience to the Council - from her work advocating for small businesses as the Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets director, to her many years providing local social services and serving as a foster parent, to her own immigrant story of coming from Cape Verde to graduating from the Boston Public Schools and giving so much back to our com-



District 7 City Council candidate Tania Anderson and District 8 Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok.

munities.

"She knows what it means to overcome adversity, and she's

passionate about knocking down

(TANIA ANDERSON Pg. 5)



COURTESY OF CITY OF BOSTON

A rendering of a redesigned Tremont Street.

## TREMONT STREET REDESIGN (from pg. 1)

South End residents can expect from the project are among the benefits that South End residents can expect from the project.

"As work begins, we will provide updates as often as we are able," according to the city's website. "The contractor is aware that coordination with local businesses and residents is necessary. We will also work with the MBTA and BPS transportation to ensure everyone on buses can still travel safely during construction. We hope to minimize disruption as much as possible."

Bostonians had identified the Tremont Street redesign project as a priority project for the city's

Go Boston 2030 process, which aims to create more equitable travel options for residents city-wide.

Tremont Street is in the top 3 percent for pedestrian crashes on city-owned streets, according to the city, and two people lost their lives while attempting to cross Tremont Street at one of the many four-lane crosswalks in recent years. The city's data show that 53 crashes resulted in an EMS response in the last three years, including 19 incidents involving pedestrians.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/tremont-street-design-project> to learn more about the project.

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## CHARLESGATE PARK (from pg. 1)

of Charlesgate Park, where there are plans to create a playground and a dog park, and MassDOT's replacement of the bridge above the turnpike—the last portion of the Bowker Overpass that connects back to the Fens.

"This project is important because we want to improve both the day-to-day reality of the Charlesgate Park now, but we also want to work on sort of a bigger, long term vision," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the ENC.

Parker James, a member of the Charlesgate Alliance, spoke at the meeting about some permitting that is currently underway with respect to this project, including a tree planting plan for which a Fenway Park Demonstration Project grant was given, as well as the permitting for the removal of non-structural walls within the park that would open it up for the rest of the plans.

Additionally, developer Samuels & Associates has pledged \$250,000 towards the Charlesgate Revitalization Project, the team said.

Marie Adams of Landing Studios spoke about some of the design principles for the project moving forward, which aside from the dog park and playground, include improving the

water quality and habitat of the Muddy River, as well as "reconnecting the park systems in this area" as they were intended to be connected by Frederick Law Olmsted.

The overall plan includes the addition of "shared use pathways" that would create "one continuous circulation path" for those on foot or on bicycles, as well as "dedicated sidewalks and pedestrian connections," Adams said.

The project also includes "green stormwater management" that will employ "natural systems" such as various plants and soils that would filter stormwater before it enters the Muddy River. Additionally, the shoreline would be restored in areas as well, contributing to water quality and habitat.

Overall, this project would "reclaim over 13 acres of public parkland," according to the presentation.

The MassDOT bridge projects would "eliminate unsafe traffic merges and crossings," as well as "increase activity in the area," according to the presentation. Proposed climate resilience contributions include eliminating the flood choke point in the Muddy River, increasing flood water storage, and the planting of 500

trees.

The project also includes some historic preservation, including the restoration of "three historic monuments in the Fens Pond Bridge, the Fens Pond Gatehouse, and the Shurcliff Bridges," the presentation reads.

Adams then showed renderings of what the daylighting would look like and how it connects to the rest of the space.

The MassDOT project to rebuild the bridge over I-90 includes replacing the bridge, along with "re-decking the offramp from the bridge over the turnpike that runs up to the intersection of Charlesgate E. and Commonwealth Ave.," according to the presentation.

Adams said that this "creates the opportunity to have a park connection across with a shared use pathway as well as a dedicated pedestrian pathway."

The proposed dog park is about 17,000 square feet, "which is bigger than any other dog park in Boston," Adams said. Additionally, there is a new underpass connection proposed for "direct entry into Charlesgate Park" at Newbury St. at Charlesgate West.

At Newbury St. E at Charlesgate East, there is currently no sidewalk, but there is a proposal

for a raised intersection as well as a sidewalk that would connect to the bridge that would go over the Muddy River, Adams said.

State Sen. Will Brownsberger and State Rep. Jay Livingstone both attended the meeting and weighed in on the proposals, stating their support and eagerness for them to move forward.

"My focus these days," Brownsberger said, is to "build enthusiasm at the senior levels of MassDOT and above," as well as work with other leaders to ensure these projects get completed.

"I'm just so excited," Livingstone said, adding that he and others have been "trying to get big chunks of this paid for. We're in this position because of several years of work by everybody. I'm really pleased at how it's coming out and I cannot wait for the Muddy River to be daylighted; for all these parks to really be transformed."

Mauney-Brodek said that next steps include "continuing to work with our amazing elected officials...as well as public agencies. So far, we've been really, really fortunate with support and partnership, both with the DCR and also MassDOT."

The team is working towards getting permitting for the work to be done in Charlesgate Park for the dog park, playground, crosswalks, and other amenities. She said the permitting for the removal of the non-structural walls is expected to be granted in the spring.

Parker James told the Sun that while the Charlesgate Alliance is very excited to move forward with the project, "so much of it is out of our control," especially with respect to the MassDOT portions.

He said that the group has "made an executive decision" to move forward with permitting for the Charlesgate Park portion of the project "as if nothing else is going to happen." He said that "if everything else fell through, we still will have the permits in place to proceed with that."

He thanked the DCR, Landing Studios, Mauney-Brodek, and others who are involved for their commitment to these projects and getting them completed.

"Everything we're planning is beneficial to the environment

and therefore word has come down," James said, adding that "it will probably be a relatively quick permitting process."

But, "all of this is completely out of our hands," as the Charlesgate Alliance does "not own or control the land."

James added, "We're incredibly hopeful and optimistic, but we're also trying to be realistic. We hate to promise anything to our constituency that we can't follow through on."

The team is thinking about the project in different kinds of phases, from budgeting for different physical phases, but also "sort of thematically," with different "pots" of money for different aspects of the project, such as climate resiliency, stormwater management, transportation, and so on.

James did say that the first portion will be the removal of the walls, as that has its own separate permitting process that is underway.

He also spoke about some shorter term projects, including the tree project he had mentioned at the meeting. "My naive hope," he said, is that "once we've been successful in one round of tree planting, the next round will be quicker and easier."

While the park has offered more programming in the past few years with the introduction of moveable red chairs, a movie night, and some music programs, "we would love to get additional programming into the park," James said. "If people have realistic suggestions, that would be so great," but he added that DCR does have the "final say," as it is their park.

"The more people use it, the more invested they will become, and the safer the park will become," James said.

He added that Project Place's involvement with the park picking up trash has been "tremendously successful," as trash and sharps were not addressed prior to the group's involvement and had been a big issue in the park several years ago.

James also thanked the Muddy Water Initiative for all of their work in helping to keep the river clean.

"Persistence pays off and we're going to persist," he said.



## Virtual Public Meeting

# 1395-1405 Washington Street

Thursday, October 21  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/39L1nNy](https://bit.ly/39L1nNy)  
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864  
Meeting ID: 160 753 6365

### Project Proponent:

Georgantas Design + Development

### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a public meeting for the 1395-1405 Washington Street project located in the South End. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and take public comment on the Small Project Review Application. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. The proposed project consists of the development of a 6,938 square-foot lot located at 1395-1405 Washington Street in South End. The project proposal is to raze the existing one-story commercial space and to construct a new 7-story building that will include thirty-five (35) residential units with a common residential entry lobby and commercial retail spaces at the ground floor. Additionally, forty (40) bicycle storage spaces are provided at basement floor.

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[BostonPlans.org](https://BostonPlans.org) | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

## NEWS BRIEFS

### MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE OF HUD TENANTS TO RALLY FOR EAST CANTON RESIDENTS ON OCT. 9

The Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants will hold a rally in support East Canton who are now contending with luxury development in their neighborhood on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 11

a.m. at 79 East Canton St. (off Harrison, near Cathedral

According to MAHT, “Leggat and McCall, the developers of The Smith, have violated their written Agreements with East Canton Street residents to provide community outdoor space, save the trees, rebuild neighborhood sidewalks, and secure resident parking.”

Furthermore, the group attests

that “low-income neighbors are barred by an iron gate from use of a courtyard or a rooftop swimming pool” while “a promised public outdoor area is now a toilet for Smith residents’ dogs.”

The rally, which includes a performance by the Extraordinary Rendition Band, will call for developers and the city to “pause” on the construction or more luxury, high-rise buildings

until the city releases a comprehensive plan to build truly affordable housing for Boston residents.

### SOWA SECOND SUNDAY RETURNS OCT. 10

The SoWa Artists Guild has resumed First Fridays and Second Sundays. More than 90 artists at 450 Harrison Ave. in SoWa open their doors so you can meet the

artists in person, view their new work created over the past year, and buy directly from the artists themselves.

Artists will open for First Fridays and Second Sundays all year long. The next SoWa Second Sunday is Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m..

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

### TANIA ANDERSON (from pg. 3)

the barriers that keep all kinds of Bostonians from thriving. Tania also shares my conviction that housing affordability is the top issue the Boston City Council must tackle to preserve and strengthen our diverse communities, and I know she will be a

fierce advocate for housing justice,” said Councilor Bok.

“As the Councilor for District 8, I share vibrant neighborhoods like Fenway and Mission Hill with the District 7 City Councilor. I see in Tania someone who

will care about every square inch of her district and bring the right values, passion, and work ethic to representing her constituents in every neighborhood. With Tania as their Councilor, the residents of District 7 will have a

champion.”

“For the City to tackle its deepest policy challenges while also attending to all the daily details that affect life in our neighborhoods, we need excellent people on the City Council next term. Tania is far and away the best

person to represent District 7, so I urge everyone who lives in her district—from Mission Hill and Fenway to Roxbury and the South End – to vote for her on November 2.”

### OUTDOOR DINING (from pg. 1)

sion in pre-pandemic times was a burdensome process for applicants, said Bina, who added that “the list of things you have to accomplish is arduous and exhausting just to read.”

Moreover, Bina added, “It was an incredibly arduous process with no guarantees you’ll get [a permit]. The checklist alone is four-pages long under normal circumstances.”

Some restaurants that now have outdoor dining, including Bin 26, also never would have been allowed to offer it in the first place during pre-pandemic times.

“The neighborhood, in the old days, wouldn’t okay [our current outdoor dining provisions at Bin 26], so there was no point in going through that kind of process,” said Bina, “and there’s no guarantee we’re going to get to keep what we have now.”

Bina gives the city a lot of credit for making it work in the interim.

“The city, specifically the Licensing Board, did an incredible job while having to be totally remote in helping us restaurants get through the temporary process as quickly as possible,” he said. “I believe that the old, pre-covid process of [the city’s Public Improvements Commission] is too burdensome in our case and not business friendly.”

Since the new outdoor dining space was created, many restaurants have also invested large

sums of money in outdoor dining equipment and furniture like tables, chairs, umbrellas, heaters, and barriers, with no real assurances that they’ll be able to use them (or offer outdoor dining) again in the future.

But on Beacon Hill, Bina has heard nothing but praise for the new outdoor dining opportunities in the neighborhood.

“Our neighbors in Beacon Hill have been thrilled about living in the neighborhood and being able to walk down to their favorite restaurants to enjoy outdoor dining,” he said, “and without exception, every single diner who is our neighbor on Beacon Hill commented that they hope outdoor dining [in the neighborhood] is here to stay.”

Outdoor dining also benefits other businesses besides restaurants, Bina attests.

“In the summertime, Charles Street was normally dead at nighttime, and now, there is vitality in the community that everyone can benefit from, including retailers, so I have seen no downside to outdoor dining,” said Bina. “There’s no argument or pushback. It’s a win-win all around.”

One unprecedented challenge now facing Bina and other Boston restauranteurs is not only how difficult it can be to get a part replaced for an essential piece of equipment like an oven or a dishwasher, but also the difficulty of having the coveted item

installed by a service professional once it’s in hand.

“At jm Curley, one of our oven’s motors burned out and needed to be replaced,” said Bina. “We had to wait eight weeks for a part we were told people were fighting over and ultimately another two weeks for the service person to come.”

Bina added: “We had to wait 10 weeks for what would’ve been one week in the old days. We have two ovens, but the other one’s gone now. Luckily, they didn’t both go at the same time.” And Bina also knows he’s not alone in this: “People are grappling with supply-chain issues for grills, refrigerators – you name it,” he said.

On top this, the price of seafood has skyrocketed, with the cost of scallops quadrupling, while restaurants still struggle to find workers.

“There’s such a labor shortage out there,” said Bina. “There’s competitiveness in pay-rates, which has increased our labor costs in the restaurant industry.”

And restaurants now must find a way to absorb these additional costs without passing them along to patrons.

“Now, we have pushed the cost of everything across the board up – labor, parts, services and we’re able to support that without drastically increasing our menu prices,” said Bina. “But take out the outdoor seating income, and we’re going to

be upside down.”

Outdoor seating accounts for 25 to 30 percent of some restaurants’ overall revenue, said Bina, while some restaurants have more seating outside than they do inside.

“The Upper Crust [on Charles Street] is a perfect example,” said Bina, “as is Coppa in the South End and Little Donkey in Cambridge.”



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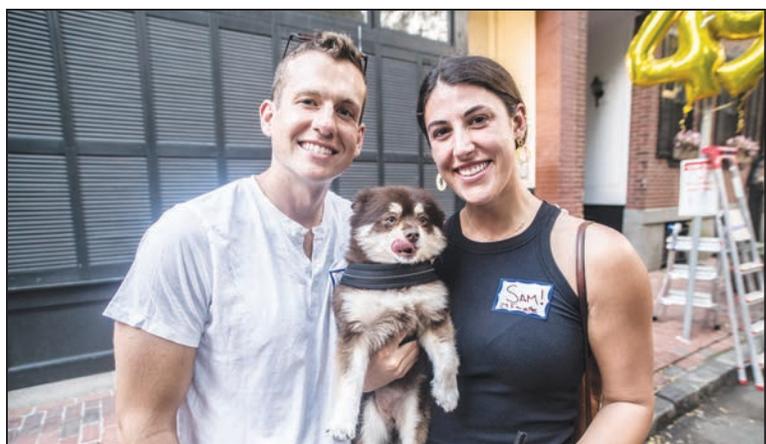
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school year is January 14, 2022

# BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 49TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association resumed their annual Block Party after skipping last year due to the Covid Pandemic. The 49th annual gathering was held at the start of Fall and was well received by neighbors. Food, activities, catching up on events, and simply seeing their neighbors made the Block Party a welcome tradition to see returned.



Robbie and Sam Capizzo with their furry friend Canoli.



President of Bay Village Neighborhood Association Tom Perkins with Molly Griffin and Kim Cruciola of City Hall Neighborhood Services.



Donny Goode and Mary Darmstaetter get some food provided by Redbones.



Bay Village residents shared food and good times.



Boston City Council candidate Ruthzee Louijeune with Rob Murray, Gaye Bok, and Bhamati Perkins



Jane and Lucy Preotle.



Steve Sampang and Andrew Sharpe.



Neighbors Daniel Krulewicz and Vicky Zhao.



President of Bay Village Neighborhood Association Tom Perkins (2nd from left) and his wife Bhamati, Officer Frank Ciampa and Sgt Paul Chevrette and Officer Darnell Toomer.

# BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 49TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY



Boston Mayoral candidate Michelle Wu chats with residents.



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn and his wife Kristen.



Molly Griffin and Kim Crucoli of Boston City Hall Neighborhood Services with Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michlewitz..



Ricardo, Oliver, Audrey, and Lucas Costello



Bay Village residents young and old partake in activities on the street.



Matt, Ryan, Blake, and Archie Hammond



After skipping last year due to the Covid Pandemic, the 49th Bay Village Block Party once again brought neighbors together for fun and community.

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# 'WE SING: BOSTON' SERIES WRAPS UP WITH FINALE ON COMMON



Photos by D. Murphy

More than a dozen kids turned out for the city-wide finale of "We Sing: Boston" - a series of free, outdoor singing events presented by the Friends of the Public Garden in partnership with Boston Children's Chorus for - on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

Participants includes newcomers, as well as children who had attended one of the previous "We Sing: Boston" interactive live-music experience, which took place over five weekends from Saturday, July 17, through Sunday, Aug. 15, at outdoor public spaces in neighborhoods in and around Boston.

"We Sing: Boston" also



received additional support from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.



## Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley endorses historic candidate Tania Anderson for Boston's District 7

Staff Report

Candidate for Boston City Council District 7 Tania Anderson today announced that her campaign has been endorsed by Representative Ayanna Pressley. Anderson won the preliminary election by nearly 800 votes, and would be the first Muslim and first African immigrant to serve on the Boston City Council if she prevails on November 2nd.

In a statement endorsing Anderson, U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley said: "Tania is a trailblazer. She is an advocate. She is a community builder. She has devoted her life to support-

ing and uplifting the residents of D7. Tania will bring all of her experience -- as a peer counselor for survivors of sexual violence; as a mother, foster mother, and parent advocate; as the Executive Director of Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets -- to the Boston City Council, and will ensure that the voices of every D7 resident and community have a champion in City Hall."

"Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley represents our communities with moral clarity and courage in Congress, and I am deeply humbled by her endorsement," Anderson said. "I look forward

to working with Congresswoman Pressley to build an economy that guarantees affordable housing, quality education, healthcare for all, equitable development, and good paying jobs for all people in District 7."

With her varied lived experience, versatile work history, and vibrant personality, Tania Anderson is an imposing presence in her community. Tania, born in Cape Verde, West Africa, has called the City of Boston home since the tender age of ten. While faced with the daunting fears of deportation as an undocumented



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Sally Brewster      Betsey Barrett  
 Ron Berkowitz      Toni Doggett

# Obituary

## Hal Trafford

Longtime South End resident

Hal Trafford, artist and art teacher, died on September 21 at age 89. He was a resident of the South End since the 1950s, and for the last fifteen years lived at the Franklin Square House on East Newton Street where he was artist-in-residence with a large studio in the basement. His Thursday morning classes included people who had studied with Hal for many years, some in his former class at the former Tubman House. They included residents of the building, people from outside the South End,

and, on occasion, a dilettante like me. As a teacher, he was non-direcive, making suggestions in a positive way and was well-liked.

Commercial and fine art were his specialties, and he painted many South End scenes, including people on the benches in Franklin Square. Hal liked to sit out in the park in the evening and watch people. His "Park People" drawings and watercolors were exhibited at the South End Branch Library in the winter of 2006-7.

### ENDORSEMENT (from pg. 8)

American, Anderson became a central provider for her family, often doing yeoman like labor during nights and weekends while attending school during the day. Her initial employment was as a Peer Counselor for survivors of sexual assault and rape at the esteemed Roxbury Multi-Service Center. Anderson's dogged determination paid off, as she graduated from the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, and she continued her pedagogical journey at Springfield College, where, as a single mother, she pursued her studies, and worked full time. Anderson engaged in a variety of essential work, including being a parent advocate in the Boston Public Schools, a program manager for a homeless women's shelter, and a child social worker. Furthermore, in the midst of this flurry of activity, she found the time, will, and stamina to foster seventeen children over the course of ten years while also raising her two biological children.

With this formidable work history and personal experience behind her, Anderson forged on, founding Noah's Advocate, where she brought deeply needed, trauma informed, mental health services to her community. With a rare empathy and energy, she created a non-profit to support and service at-risk youth through the aegis of theatre, fashion, and art. Her singularly spectacular productions routinely sell out the historical confines of the Strand Theatre in Dorchester. Today, Anderson is the incredibly proud mother of

a Marine and an aspiring artist. Furthermore, she is currently the Executive Director of Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets, where she supports and promotes the excellent and eclectic small businesses that contribute to her community.

Her life's work, incorporating stints as a non-profit executive, mental health provider, and community activist, has been in the service of fighting for people marginalized and oppressed by systemic racism, sexism, xenophobia, and class inequality. As a proud member of the working class, Anderson entered this race to fight for working families in City Hall. Her campaign is focused on platforming the policies and positions that, if implemented, will provide working Bostonians of all backgrounds with the things we all need; affordable housing, quality education, equitable development, and good paying, worthwhile employment.

She has been endorsed by State Representative Liz Miranda, Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Former Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson, and groups like SEIU 32BJ, SEIU 509, UAW Region 9A, Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 534, the Greater Boston Building Trades Council, and Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts.

District 7 covers parts of Roxbury, Dorchester, South End, and Fenway.

# SELDC seeks more info on structural integrity of 595 Albany St. before granting ability to demolish

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on October 5, where Commissioners heard a proposal for 595 Albany St. to demolish the existing two story brick building and replace it with a six story mixed use building that would feature commercial space and parking.

The building is located in the district's protection area, which does not have the same rules and regulations as the landmark district itself. However, Commissioners were first charged with deciding whether or not this building is a "significant structure" in the protection area before they can weigh in on any potential new building to take its place.

After discussion, it was determined that while the Commission believes this building has significance, there was not enough information for them to determine whether or not there are alternatives to demolition, as a structural report was not provided and a site visit by Commissioners had not been made.

Andrew Brassard presented the proposal on behalf of the owners of the building, saying that an advisory review had been held at the August SELDC meeting, after which some changes to the proposal had been made and presented to the Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association.

The proposed six story build-

ing would include nine units of housing and a commercial space with parking and a "private and public access roof deck with access enclosures and utility condenser units," Brassard said.

The existing two story brick building is currently the home of the Baha'i Center of Boston, which had been using the building "until a few years ago," when structural issues forced them to vacate the premises.

According to a slide presented at the hearing, a "structural survey" was completed in January of 2018 that indicated "that all of the existing wood structural beams on the main level showed signs of decay and were found to be soft, rotting and deteriorated with partial loss of Cross-sectional area."

Additionally, "significant perimeter foundation settlement" was found. In May of this year, the building's owners received a violation from the city's Inspection Services Department (ISD), "which deemed the building "Unsafe and Dangerous," and were asked to make repairs per a structural engineer or tear the building down.

The slide also reads "structural condition of building deems property hazardous and unsuitable for current use as a center for congregation and cost prohibitive for repurposing."

After hearing a historic analysis of the existing building by Boston Landmarks Commission Preservation Planner Mary Cirbus, Commissioner John

Amodeo said that "I would say it's pretty compelling to know it would be one of the last few remaining buildings that face the South Bay Piers...when those still existed. Losing the building would lose that valuable history."

Commissioner David Sheperd agreed, saying that he feels as though it's worth trying to keep, citing "several design features of the building" including details on the side and the "dentil work at the top. There's architectural significance here that would be lost," he said.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt said, "I do agree that this is a significant structure."

Amodeo said that since Commissioners seemed to agree the building has significance in the neighborhood, it was time to decide whether or not they believe there are other options for the building besides demolition.

"I think small buildings like this are very interesting buildings, and it's sad to be losing them in the district," said Commissioner John Freeman. "Many, many of them have had decades of neglect. It's really clear to me... that the building is at the end of its life," and suggested that it may not be practical to restore it.

The Commission also said they would like to see a structural report, as one had not been completed, and said that they need to do their "due diligence"

(SELDC, Pg. 10)

93141808

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CITY OF BOSTON/County of Suffolk Health and Human Services

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Facilitation services to create a community-led response to mental health crises

EV00009747

Contact Information

Krystal Garcia MSPH, Director of Policy & Research

617-635-3950

The City of Boston ("the City"), acting by the Chief of the Health and Human Services, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally describe, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids: Coordinate and facilitate with the Community-Led Design Group to meet the charge of designing an alternative model to respond to mental health crises to be submitted to the Mayor.

**The bid documents will be accessible on line from Monday October 04, 2021 through Friday October 29, 2021** by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website and Supplier Portal at the following link (<http://boston.gov/procurement> and accessing the event ID #EV00009747.

All sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00 pm on Friday October 29, 2021 by logging onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above event number.

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance and performance bonds as may be applicable.

**Sealed bids shall be opened electronically by the Official on Friday October 29, 2021 at 4:00 PM.** The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid will **commence on or about November 15 and will end on June 30, 2022.**

Marty Martinez, Chief of Health and Human Services  
(October 4, October 11, October 18, October 25, 2021)

# ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION 2021 MOONDANCE EN PLEIN AIR

By Marianne Salza

The Esplanade Association (EA), dedicated to the revitalization and enhancement of the Esplanade, presented, Moon-dance En Plein Air, on September 18, at the Hatch Shell. Although last year's fall gala was cancelled due to the pandemic, guests shaded with parasols were delighted to mingle during the elegant affair. The lawn party included dinner, music, cocktails and lawn games such as cornhole toss, croquet, and a mini golf course with

a Hatch Shell obstacle. "This is our 20th anniversary as an organization," said Jim Diverio, Director of Development. "The open air approach this year lets us gather in a safe and fun atmosphere for this annual fundraising event, enjoy the beauty of the Esplanade, and celebrate the community of supporters so critical to our efforts. We expect to raise over \$900,000 in support of the Esplanade Association with this event."



Chris Colbert, Kate Gilbert, and Michael Nichols, EA Executive Director.



Polly Litts, Lauren Miskiewicz, Bella Cinsoruli, and Casey Seidner.



Scott Usechek playing cornhole toss.



JD Patton, EA Board, Maryann Thompson, architect of the Charles Bank Landing, Julia Shivers, and Audrey Foster, EA Board.



Shown above, Alexi Conine enjoying laughs with her friends during cocktail hour.

Shown left, EA Board Members, Jim Foster, Tony Pangaro, and Audrey Foster, with State Representative Jay Livingstone.

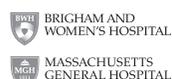
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\*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## SELDC (from pg. 9)

and conduct a site visit as well, as that it something the Commission typically does prior to making a decision about the demolition of a building.

Brassard said that the owners of the building have concerns about people going inside of the building with all of its structural issues, though "the temporary shoring is deemed to be safe," he said. He said that the Commission could most likely work something out with the owners so they could see the inside of the building, whether it be permission to enter or a video call with someone else inside.

Freeman said that it's "most important" for the Commission to see "the exterior bearing walls."

A resident who said he owns "the building between 587 and 595 [Albany St.]" said that the existing building and others in the area are "about to fall down" and "they're really not safe." He

said he has concerns about it "falling in and crumbling on my building."

Resident David Stone, who is also the president of the Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association but was speaking as a private resident, said that he "strongly supports the proposal" to build the six story building. He said "I love the history of my neighborhood," but he said he didn't agree with Commissioners that the building has any historical significance. "In our meeting, no one spoke in support of preserving the building," he said.

"Demolition is a big deal, and we want to make sure we do our due diligence here, everyone," Commissioner Hunt said. "I think we would be remiss if we did not do our due diligence."

Amodeo added that the Commission is "not saying that this won't lead to demolition," but the proper process must be followed.

The Commission ultimately voted to continue this application with the provisos that a site visit be conducted and that the applicant reach out to a structural engineer to do a structural report on the building, which is to be provided to the Commission.

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# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
128 Beacon A LLC	Egan FT 2006	128 Beacon St #A	\$5,310,000
Smith, Sabrina	Lucas, Julia A	180 Beacon St #2C	\$630,000
Beacon Dogs LLC	Chan, Sylvia	230 Beacon St #1	\$400,000
Alibrandi, Mark W	Ng, Shaun K	341 Beacon St #4A	\$1,968,000
Alibrandi, Mark W	Ng, Shaun K	341 Beacon St #4B	\$1,968,000
Marsh, Cynthia U	James R Ahlgren	2 Clarendon St #410	\$1,075,000
Stahl-Hannam, Deborah	Post, Alexandra	280 Commonwealth Ave #106	\$850,000
Achenar 36 LLC	36 Comm Avenue LLC	36 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$6,500,000
Townley, William D	Roush, William R	286 Marlborough St #1	\$3,155,000
300 Marlborough St LLC	Selmasson Holdings LLC	300 Marlborough St	\$5,900,000
Skendaj, Arber	Schaeffer FT	38-40 Saint Botolph St #7	\$452,000
Sherman, Michael	Ernest S Mathews 1999	333 Commonwealth Ave #15	\$2,390,000
Gildea, James	CMC RT	466 Commonwealth Ave #707	\$370,000
Mangan, Laurette E	Cioffi, Dylan	388 Marlborough St #1	\$495,000
Capodilupo, Emily	Frieze, Kenneth S	445 Marlborough St	\$8,600,000
Capodilupo, Emily	Frieze, Kenneth S	447 Marlborough St #4	\$8,600,000
Capodilupo, Emily	Frieze, Kenneth S	447 Marlborough St #5	\$8,600,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Rurode, Catherine	E Malievskaja 2010 RET	27 Anderson St #2	\$670,000
Lee, Chun J	Brien, Annette M	45 Garden St #2	\$615,000
Goodwin, Shawn B	Kohl, Jarrod	4 Goodwin Pl #1	\$790,000
Lee Thomas Merkel T	Patton, Ryan R	140 Mount Vernon St #6	\$2,276,000
Martins, Kevin J	Patel, Shonak	6 Phillips St #4	\$687,000
Conway, Adrian	Betty Boston T	35 Pinckney St #2	\$760,000
Keane, Michael	Macrae, Emilie	45 Revere St #4	\$927,500
62 West Cedar Street LLC	Mentakis Investments LP	62 W Cedar St	\$4,200,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Studer, Jacqueline	Gu, Xiang	17 Follen St #4	\$925,000
Studer, Jacqueline	Gu, Xiang	17 Follen St #4	\$925,000
Wu, Jianhua	761 Harrison Church LLC	771 Harrison Ave #404	\$1,100,000
Tam, Soi H	Giovanniello, Erika	120 Mountfort St #405	\$419,962
Ottenheimer, Daniel G	Whippy, David T	35 Queensberry St #18	\$329,000
Awad, Lana	Hennessey, Graham G	51-53 Saint Rose St #3	\$925,000
Shadow 88 LLC	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #405	\$969,900
Doyle, Michaela	Mitchell, Mark D	136-140R Shawmut Ave #3B	\$890,000
Dev Vardhan RET	Smith, Gregory D	32 Traveler St #313	\$765,000
Carter, Larissa M	David A Lampariello RET	27 Wareham St #301	\$940,000
Zhang, Zhenyuan	Anant, Priya	1721 Washington St #405	\$785,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
23D RT	Green, Aaron S	2 Avery St #23D	\$1,935,000
Chenkin, Sandra	Lucas, Gregory P	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4608	\$1,300,000
Delvecchio, Paul	Whetham, Geoffrey C	109-119 Beach St #2A	\$1,070,000
Munn, William D	Kowalski, Daniel	181 Essex St #E503	\$675,000
Bhagwansingh, Terry	Gerri Goodman RET	1 Franklin St #2307	\$2,047,000
Subbiah, Kanika	Millennium Tower 2408 N	1 Franklin St #2408	\$2,200,000
Ruhela, Vijay	Wang, Qingwen	70 Lincoln St #L413	\$870,000
Gautam, Vipul	Badawi, Basel	100 State St #5	\$1,585,000

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The ironwork gate in the last clue is in front of 191 Bay State Road. This residence was built in 1897 to a design by architects Little and Browne. Keith N. Morgan, writing for the Society of Architectural Historians notes, "The magnificent wrought-iron fence and arched gateway herald one of the city's unique interior spaces, a great two-story Roman atrium."

You'll find the next clue in the South End.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE




**CAMPION  
AND COMPANY**


**300 BOYLSTON STREET, UNIT 1201**  
 2 Beds | 2F 1H Baths | 2,492 SQFT  
 \$5,390,000



**THE BELVEDERE, UNIT 7D**  
 2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,493 SQFT  
 \$2,699,000



**393 COMMONWEALTH AVE, UNIT 1**  
 3 Beds | 2 F 1H | 2,670 SQFT  
 \$5,790,000



**403 MARLBOROUGH STREET, UNIT 15/16**  
 3 Beds | 2F 1H Baths | 1,860 SQFT  
 \$2,799,000



**1 CHARLES STREET S, UNIT 7H**  
 2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,571 SQFT  
 \$1,950,000