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The proposed future home of Parm at the Copley Mall.

Fast-casual Italian restaurant set to open in the Copley Mall

By Dan Murphy

A fast-casual Italian restaurant known and named for its signature chicken parmesan is tentatively set to open in the Copley Mall in the next couple of months, according to representatives for the venture on hand for the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee's March 7 meeting, which was held virtually.

Parm plans to open in the for-

mer Tender Greens space across from the Back Bay MBTA station on the Dartmouth Street side of the mall, just down from Neiman Marcus and adjacent to The Salty Pig, in April or May, "but we're really at mercy of all our suppliers," said Julia Pei, president of business development for the Major Food Group (MFG), the New York-based restaurant group that owns Parm, as well as Contessa, the restaurant at The

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BPDA community meeting focuses on proposed Frederick Douglass Peace Garden

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency held a community meeting virtually on Tuesday, March 8, to discuss the proposed Frederick Douglass Peace Garden.

The project site consists of approximately 8,498 square feet of vacant land, comprising two parcels, and is abutted to the southwest by the Bessie Barnes Garden owned by non-profit land conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations; to the northwest by a cobblestone street and a condominium building at 1008-1012 Tremont St.; and to the east by privately owned rowhouses.

Through a license agreement with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (the BPDA's forerunner), use of the property, which the city acquired after townhouses burned down, was granted to the South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust (now merged into the Trustees) from 2009 to 2016.

After the license agreement expired, the BPDA held a community meeting in November of 2019 to discuss the site's future, as well as a follow-up meeting in February of 2020 to explore the possibility of building affordable housing there. Communi-

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A new chapter begins for family-owned DeLuca's Market

By Dan Murphy

A new generation has taken the reins of DeLuca's Market.

Caroline and Victoria Aiello, respectively the 41-year-old and 32-year-old daughters of longtime owner Virgil Aiello, assumed ownership of both locations of the market - 11 Charles St. and 239 Newbury St. - at the beginning of the year, although they've both been on board since last October in preparation for this transition.

Under their ownership, shoppers can expect to see more humanely raised animal products while the store will also be trying to keep its products' packaging, especially plastic, to a minimum.

"We also try to be responsive to customers," said Caroline. "If there's a product they want and we don't have it, we'll do our best to bring it in...and they'll see it on the shelf the following week."

Besides putting an emphasis on fresh products, DeLuca's also plans to expand its prepared food options to appeal to young professionals, families, and particularly, older clientele.

"We want to make sure our older clients know we're here and continuing the business," said Caroline. "It's really nice

they can walk to a grocery store, and it makes Beacon Hill really feel like a village."

Both locations of DeLuca's also cater to many tourists and

visitors, so Caroline said she hopes the market will become a destination where residents bring

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PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

Victoria (left) and Caroline Aiello are seen inside DeLuca's Market on Charles Street.

Licensing Board holds public hearing regarding 16 concerts proposed for Fenway

By Lauren Bennett

The Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing (MOCAL) held a virtual public hearing on March 2 to allow residents to weigh in on the 16 proposed summer concerts at Fenway Park this year.

The Red Sox filed the application for 16 concerts on Jan. 4 this year, and the comment period went from Jan. 5 to Feb. 4.

The concerts are proposed for the following dates between the hours of 5pm-10:30pm:

- June 7-8
- June 10
- July 1-2
- July 14-16
- August 5-6 - Def Leppard/Motley Crue (rescheduled)
- August 7
- August 18-20
- September 8 - Aerosmith (rescheduled)

- September 10 - Red Hot Chili Peppers

"My decision on the approved number of concerts is not just a rubber stamp," said MOCAL Executive Director Kathleen Joyce. She said the purpose of this hearing was to provide the public with "an additional chance" to provide feedback on the proposal. The ultimate decision on

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EDITORIAL

PUTIN: PURE EVIL

As regular readers of this column know, we do not view events in terms of “good vs. evil.”

Over the years, we have referred to tobacco companies, polluters, et als as greedy and despicable, but describing them as “evil-doers,” as former President George W. Bush did in referring to the plotters behind the 9/11 attacks, or labeling Iraq, Iran, and No. Korea as the “axis of evil,” as Bush did in his 2002 State of the Union speech, always struck us as an overly-simplistic way to refer to those with whom we disagree, a verbal short-cut to avoid trying to explain complex matters.

But sometimes words cannot be found to discuss events for which there is no rational explanation. The more we try, the more we realize that sometimes, words are nothing more than hollow, shallow, and meaningless keystrokes on our laptops.

The actions of Hitler and the Nazis before and during WWII fit into this category.

And so too, is the tragedy that is unfolding hour-by-hour in Ukraine, where the civilian population is being wiped out by the whims of a semi-mad and sociopathic 70 year-old dictator.

Evil -- pure “evil” -- is the only word that comes to mind when we think of Vladimir Putin.

That’s all we’ve got. But that says it all.

ENERGY RELIEF IS NEEDED -- SUSPEND THE GASOLINE TAX

Other than a couple of on-air Fox TV personalities, the vast majority of Americans are outraged about the situation in Ukraine.

But there isn’t much that we in the U.S. can do about it directly, whether individually (unless we want to join the Ukrainian army) or collectively (unless we want to start a nuclear World War III).

Yes, the U.S. is working with other nations in supplying weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. We also have imposed unprecedented and devastating economic sanctions upon Russia that already are wreaking havoc with the Russian economy.

But what has not been done is the big one: Shutting-off the spigot of Russian natural gas and oil, the means by which Putin is able to finance his war and his hold on the Russian people.

Congress is in the process of passing a bill that would ban the import of Russian oil into this country. Apparently, we get seven percent of our oil from Russia.

The Biden administration has been hesitant to do so because it fears that this would cause a huge spike in the price of gasoline, which would further fuel inflation.

However, we cannot offer platitudes to the Ukrainian people and talk about our commitment to democracy and peace if we are unwilling to make sacrifices ourselves.

Congress and the Biden administration can soften the effect upon average Americans of skyrocketing energy costs in a number of ways, either through direct payments to income-qualifying Americans or even subsidies to domestic energy producers, with the caveat that they need to increase production here in America. (In fact, our domestic oil producers are engaging in nothing less than crass war-profiteering by refusing to produce more oil and natural gas, which they easily can do and as they have done in the past, in order to flood the world market and bring prices down.)

The state and federal governments also can suspend the tax on gasoline. In California for example, the per-gallon state tax is 51 cents and the federal tax is 18 cents. Here in Mass., our state tax is 24 cents.

If the world is to turn the tide against the Putin regime, we must be willing to make sacrifices on an individual level. If that means paying more for gasoline, then that’s what we have to do.

But governments can soften the blow upon average Americans of soaring energy costs, which will have ripple effects throughout the economy, and should take action to do so immediately.

GUEST OP-ED

Is Vladimir Putin the Devil?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

There is nothing good to be said about the Devil. If you don’t believe me, check out Bible. Or, just turn on the television for a reporting of the evil he spreads throughout the world. You will likely see his picture, Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

Some people say they don’t believe in the existence of the Devil. I do, his name is Vladimir Putin.

Look at the face of Putin. You will see the Devil. Look at his dark eerie eyes and his pointed ears. When he attempts to smile, you’ll notice his tongue rolls out like a serpent’s. His smile is never genuine but is always forced as he has no heart to produce any kind of a human gesture. The head of Putin is shaped like a Devil’s head. The one thing you’ll never see is his rear end because his long tail gives his identity away.

The appearance of Putin unfortunately is not what gives his identity away. The lifelong

actions of Putin give him away. He is the chief producer of the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and possibly millions before this invasion is over, if it’s ever over. Anyone who can take the lives of innocent people simply because he wants to control a particular part of the world is again, evil.

Putin wants the Ukrainian people to live like Russia’s people and to control their lives, their government, what they do and where they go. He is our modern-day Adolph Hitler. There is nothing good to say about him.

The Devil wants to control our lives. He wants to bring us down to where we are under his dominion. He wants our lives to be filled with darkness, hopelessness and bound to his wishes. We see this in everyday life. People are in slavery to addiction, greed, perversions, hatred, jealousy, depression and more. We war within ourselves but our inward war often turns outward and impacts people around us.

People kill people. People hurt people. People maim others with words and attitudes and actions that often destroy themselves and others. This is the work of the Devil. He is about devouring and destroying. He often comes across as an angel of light. He pretends he wants us to be fulfilled by not being denied anything. This is how the serpent approached Eve in the Bible. The Devil still uses this trick all the time and it still works much of the time.

Is Putin the real literal Devil? You judge for yourself or ask someone from Ukraine.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

REGARDING THE GAS LAMPS

Thank you for the excellent story on electrifying gas lamps! It sets out so clearly the criteria for a pilot project: preserving the look and feel of our beloved lamps, finding a plan that would work for the entire city, and ensuring community input. But there’s more to the story.

As a resident of Temple Street, I’m passionate about this topic. In December 2019, Temple Street residents petitioned the City to support a pilot project to electrify the lamps on our street, which is only one block long. We were prompted initially by the smell of gas leaks, then by the discovery

that gas leaks were significantly hurting our trees, and then by a broader understanding of the many harms caused by our uses of fossil gas. The City set aside \$400,000 for that pilot project, responding to advocacy on our behalf from Mothers Out Front, a grass-roots organization fighting climate change. The project fell into limbo during the mayoral transitions, but we can expect the new mayoral team to revive consideration of a pilot project.

Why did the City agree to fund such a pilot, and why should it? The City foresaw substantial reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and expenses.

Boston has approximately

2800 gas lamps, which burn 24 hours a day. The City estimated that electrifying gas lamps would reduce emissions by 410,000 metric tons of CO2 a year—approximately equivalent to the yearly emissions of 1170 gas-heated homes. Gas lamps produce 38% of the City’s emissions from lighting although they are only 4% of the City’s lighting units. (Overall, lighting contributes 9% of the City’s emissions).

Moreover, the City expected to save nearly \$1 million annually in fuel costs and maintenance. At 2019 rates, it estimated costs of \$865,000 for gas and only

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Eight Streets Assoc. hears of plans for 80 E. Berkeley St.

By Stephen Quigley

The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association held its winter meeting this past Tuesday and heard an overview of the development planned for 80 East Berkeley St. from Druker Company representatives Harry Collings and Barbara Boylan.

The development is slated for the northwest corner of East Berkeley and Washington Sts., spanning to Shawmut Ave. The project dates back to 2013, but recently has been changed to market the space to the life sciences industry. The nine-floor structure will have a garage

and retail space included in the 265,000 square foot building.

Association member Emily Ryzak expressed concern about shadows that might be cast on Ringgold Park. Druker's representatives said that the massing and height of the building has not changed, and no shadows will fall on the gardens.

Another concern expressed by the members was the use of the dock spaces for loading and unloading. Boylan said that the docking space is on private property with extra space and will be a managed docking area, so that any impact on street traffic should be eliminated.

Association member James Heroux was more concerned about the changing of the building's use to life sciences. He thought that the loading dock could be an issue because of increased traffic and noise.

"One would never find this anywhere near Back Bay and Beacon Hill," he said.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency will be holding a virtual public meeting on Monday, March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Residents are requested to participate with their questions and comments.

Please register in advance for

this meeting through the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/80e-berkeley>.

The public comment period will run through March 28.

In a separate matter, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz told members that because of an increase in the population size of his current district, he no longer will be representing the Eight Streets neighborhood. Michlewitz has represented the community for the past dozen years, but this part of the district now will move into the district of State Rep. Jon Santiago.

All of those on hand agreed

that the three local parks are in need of a good clean-up following a long winter. At Ringgold Park, there is no official date for the cleanup or the Easter egg hunt. At Watson Park, plans are being finalized for the public meetings to talk about the redesign and the date of the first cleanup. At Peters Park, two cleanups are planned with the first being Saturday, May 14, with a rain date of May 15. The second clean-up will take place Oct. 15 with a rain date of Oct. 16.

Community events also are being planned at the parks with more details to follow.

CSN hears from Alison Barnet; discusses Mass Ave Coalition festival in Chester Park

By Lauren Bennett

Chester Square Neighbors (CSN) met virtually on March 2, where members and residents had a talk with South End resident and author Alison Barnet about some history on Massachusetts Ave., as well as talked about the Mass Ave. Coalition Festival planned for Chester Park in September.

ALISON BARNET PRESENTATION

Alison Barnet has lived in the South End since 1964, when she came to the city to attend Boston University. She provided some historical information about the Mass. Ave. area of the neighborhood, saying that "I care more about people than architecture."

Much of what she spoke about came out of her 2019 book *Once Upon a Neighborhood: A Timeline and Anecdotal History of the South End of Boston*.

She talked about several

buildings in the area, including 397 Mass. Ave., where Martin Luther King, Jr. lived. She said he also lived at 170 St. Botolph St., but when he and Coretta Scott got married, they lived at 396 Northampton St. "until King left to take a post in Alabama."

At 409 Mass. Ave. was Chicken Lane restaurant, which was the second location for owner Syvalia Hyman. Hyman's son Val washed dishes at the restaurant on W. Newton St, she said.

Barnet said that Hyman was "always very kind, respectful, and considerate of Muslims, allowing them to congregate at his restaurant."

At 428 and then 427 Mass Ave. was Wally's Paradise, which Barnet said had a difficult time getting a liquor license, but was able to do so with the help of Mayor James Michael Curley.

"Wally's Paradise became Wally's Cafe, moving across the street to 427 in 1979," Barnet said. The establishment has been

closed, "which is really too bad," she said, adding that there are plans to open it again.

She also mentioned that in 1958, the NAACP bought 451 Mass Ave. Barnet showed a number of old photos to go along with her remarks as well.

Barnet's books can be purchased at Gifted on Dartmouth St. and at Frugal Bookstore in Roxbury, or right from her.

MASS AVE COALITION FESTIVAL IN CHESTER PARK

The Mass Ave. Coalition is planning a festival in Chester Park for Sunday, September 18, though a time has not been selected yet, according to Bob Barney of the Claremont Neighborhood Association.

The CSN discussed different ideas for the festival at their March meeting, including having sensory activities for children as well as interactive exhibits on

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DELUCA'S (from pg. 1)

their friends from out of town.

There are plans to renovate the Charles Street store, although Caroline said customers would have to wait six months to a year before they'll be able to see any discernible changes.

"In a perfect world, we'd already be investing in coolers, equipment, and shelving," added Victoria.

Both Caroline and Victoria are Beacon Hill residents and have fond memories of coming to the store as children.

"We really love the neighborhood and appreciate what a great asset a well-stocked and welcoming grocery store can be to the community," said Caroline.

Added Victoria, "Our background is as an Italian specialty grocery store that preserves the Old World [sensitivity]. We really want this to be a pleasant shopping experience where people can discover unique products and know that they're healthy."

In addition to Virgil, the Aiello sisters also expressed their gratitude to their uncle, Robert, as well as Wojtek Dzienis, the long-time manager of the Newbury Street store, for their unwavering support.

Virgil, now 80, who along with his brother, Robert Aiello, represent the second generation of the family business that dates back to 1905, still remains a regular presence at DeLuca's. After working there tirelessly for so many years, this could likely be chalked up to habit, his daughters said.

Said Virgil: "I am very pleased that they have chosen the exciting challenge of running DeLuca's, to serve the people of Bea-

con Hill in particular and Boston in general."

Above all else, Caroline and Victoria want DeLuca's to embody community.

"We want DeLuca's to be a place where we recognize your face and know your name, and there's a sense of community," said Victoria.

Caroline added, "We want the community to feel like it's their store."

DeLuca's Market has locations at 11 Charles St. (617-523-4343) and 239 Newbury St. (617-262-5990). For more information, visit delucasmarket.com.

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LETTER (from pg. 2)

\$159,000 for electricity—a saving of \$706,000 a year on fuel. The City was also spending an additional \$200-250,000 yearly to maintain the gas lamps—and can't keep up. LEDs would rarely need maintenance; LED bulbs operating on average 8 hours a day would last for years. Finally, it has cost the City \$750 to replace a single tree. On our one block alone, we lost 6 trees to gas leaks.

The City and the proponents

of this pilot were and are committed to an open public process. Since the primary concern will be the look and feel of electrified lamps, the downtown chapter of Mothers Out Front has been working with a lighting consultant and gathering data to ensure accurate comparison. Its members have measured the lumens at various distances from representative gas lamps throughout Beacon Hill and have been assured that current LED

technology can convey the same warm and low-light atmosphere we have now.

Note, by the way, that the current use of gas in Beacon Hill lamps is not as historic as many think. Almost all of Beacon Hill's gas lamps were installed after 1960 by Boston Gas; those on Temple Street not until 1977. Beacon Hill lamps have previously been fueled by oil, coal, naphtha gas, or electricity.

Betsy Peterson

Mayor Wu holds first Neighborhood Media Roundtable

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Michelle Wu held her first Neighborhood Media Roundtable virtually on Monday, March 7, allowing local reporters a chance to ask her questions in an informal setting.

Asked whether her administration would stay the course with the ambitious housing goals set by the Walsh Administration, Mayor Wu said her administration is trying to be “intentional” by putting federal funding that the city receives into “deeply affordable housing” targeted to specific demographics, such as seniors or artists.

“We trying to be very specific about housing and not just focus on the numbers,” she said “At the root of all this is planning. We need to build the equitable, sustainable, holistic communities that each one of our neighborhoods deserves.”

One of the immediate next steps for her administration is an audit of city-owned properties, said Mayor Wu, with an

eye on which ones could become the sites of future affordable and supportive housing to help end the cycle of displacement from the city.

“There are folks who have built our community, who are embedded in our community, and who can no longer afford to live in our city,” said Mayor Wu. “Unfortunately, I’ve heard countless stories from former staff members, from friends, and from former neighbors who are no longer in our city because of housing instability.”

The Rent Stabilization Working Group is moving forward to look at what policies other cities and towns have been implemented around rent stability, she said, as well as how they would work in Boston.

Mayor Wu said housing can’t be built without sufficient infrastructure and transportation in place beforehand, however, and that any city plan would look at housing on both the citywide and the neighborhood levels with a “holistic view.”

Like other cities, Boston should solicit public input in developing a master plan, said Mayor Wu, and “then build and permit according to that”

On the topic of climate change, Michelle Wu advocated for taking preventive measures today to avoid more costly repercussions in the future.

“We know it takes money to implement these changes... but the bigger picture is about avoiding much bigger costs down the line,” said Mayor Wu, adding that in the current international political climate, it makes even more sense for the city to wean itself off fossil fuel as a step towards achieving “environmental stability.”

Regarding her decision to sunset the city’s existing urban renewal designations, Mayor Wu said the Boston Planning & Development Agency’s “maps don’t tie to the places where we see the most potential for growth,” and that “urban renewal always represented an enormous tilt towards inter-

national-decision makers in a moment of urgency.”

Mayor Wu has already requested that five of the 14 urban renewal plans be sunset immediately, while the remaining plans would be extended until the end of the year as land deeds there expire, allowing the City Council time to consider its next steps.

, the maps focused mainly on downtown and largely ignored some places now ripe with development, like the Allston 1-90 interchange and parts of Hyde Park, she said.

Mayor Wu admitted the city is currently lagging a bit behind in its search for a chief of planning.

“We’ve met internally, but we’re not at the point of a defined short list at this point,” she said, adding “more internal vetting and conversations” would be happening first.

The city hopes to name a new Boston Police superintendent by June as well, said Mayor Wu, and they are now in the process of deciding between two search

firms.

Monday, March 7, was also the first meeting of the co-chairs of the Schools Superintendent Search Committee, chaired by Jeri Robinson, and one of its first orders of business was rolling out a Request for Proposals [RFP].

With the City Council now in the midst of an ongoing process about the future of the School Committee, Mayor Wu said she wouldn’t support a fully elected School Committee because she believes it needs “mayoral accountability in the governance structure.”

Meanwhile, in tackling the ongoing opioid crisis, Mayor Wu said she still considers the Long Island campus a key component in the city’s plan to deliver long-term and supportive housing for individuals in recovery, although a timeframe for the transformation of the site still remains uncertain.

Ricardo Patrón, Mayor Wu’s press secretary, said Media Roundtables would take place regularly going forward.

Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament set to begin April 21

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2022 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April public school vacation week. “We’re looking forward to providing a year-

round schedule of healthy outdoor activities for all ages in our neighborhood parks,” said Parks and Recreation Department Commissioner Ryan Woods. “Thanks to our partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, our young street hockey players will once again get the opportunity to meet kids from throughout

the city and compete for the title of ‘Boston’s Best’ in the Mayor’s Cup.” The Tournament will begin April 21 and continue through the April school vacation week. All games will be played at Garvey Playground at 340 Neponset Avenue in Dorchester. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette. Teams will compete in

three age groups: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12). Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division. To register or for more information, please contact Damien Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov, Jennifer Misiaszek at jen-

nifer.misiaszek@boston.gov, or call (617) 961-3083. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @boston-parksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

PEACE GARDEN (from pg. 1)

ty members expressed a strong preference for the parcel to be preserved as a garden, however.

In October of 2021, the BPDA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the parcel for community garden uses and received one proposal in response from the Frederick Douglass Peace Park Stewardship Committee and the Boston Food Forest Coalition – a self-described “coalition of neighbors working to transform vacant lots into locally-run, public, edible parks protected by our land trust.”

Morgan McDaniel of the BPDA said the city would designate the Boston Food Forest Coalition ownership of the site and then give them a year (which could be extended) to secure

funding for the Peace Park project. The land would then be conveyed to the Boston Food Forest Coalition as the permanent owner of the land, she said.

Asked about the current status of funding the project, Nataka Crayton, president of the United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury (UNLR), said they already have a \$20,500 for the first phase of the project from partnering community organizations.

McDaniel added funding from the city’s Grassroots Open Space Program for capital garden construction, as well as from the city’s Community Preservation Act fund, could be potential monetary sources for the project, but the city doesn’t have the money for ongoing maintenance

of the site.

Chavella Lee-Pacheco, a community planning manager for Roxbury in Motion, an offshoot of the nonprofit Madison Park Development Corporation, said the project would have two phases: the first would focus on basic needs and public safety, while she described the second phase as “a very robust process” where input would be solicited from the community over 18 months to “hear from folks what they want in the space.”

Robin Blatt-Eisengart, a resident of Greenwich Street for the past 13 years, said that any plans to offer food at the site “should be serious about the war on rats.”

In addition, Blatt-Eisengart

said as part of the plan, he would like to see the creation of an accessible path between Warwick and Tremont streets.

Likewise, Mark Oliver, a Warwick Street resident, said the project is a “great opportunity for a paved, accessible, lit path... that gets us around to Tremont [Street].”

Oliver also said he would likely only support the project if it included plans for an accessible path.

Aziz Robinson-Goodnight, chair of the Frederick Douglass Monument and Sculpture Project, as well as UNLR board member and a Peace Park team member, said while the first phase of the project doesn’t currently include plans for a path,

they could be part of the second phase, depending on community feedback.

Orion Kriegman, executive director of the Boston Food Forest Coalition, said they are currently in the “visioning phase” of the project, while the “gathering of ideas” would determine what is ultimately implemented on the site.

District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson expressed her support for the project and said she “would be happy to help in any way I can.”

Public comments on the project can be submitted until March 22 to Morgan McDaniel of the Boston Planning & Development Agency via email at morgan.e.mcdaniel@boston.gov.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOSTON TO OFFER RESIDENTS WEEKEND CURBSIDE TEXTILE COLLECTION

Building on the success of the neighborhood textile dropbox program, Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston will begin offering weekend curbside collection of household textiles at no cost to residents. The Boston Public Works Department has again partnered with Northeast textile recycling company, Helpsy, which will coordinate pick-ups across the city. Residents looking to schedule a pick-up can simply fill-out an online request form at boston.gov/textiles. Once a date is scheduled and confirmed, household textiles should be left on the curb by 7AM on the scheduled pick-up day.

WU ANNOUNCES 2022 OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the return of the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program, a collaboration of the Licensing Board, Boston Fire Department, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Transportation Department, Public Improvement Commission, Disabilities Commission, Public Works, Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. The Outdoor Dining Program is a citywide initiative that allows restaurants the use of expanded public spaces for outdoor dining. The applications for the 2022 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program are now open. Those interested can apply here. Visit boston.gov/outdoordining for more informa-

tion and ongoing updates about the 2022 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program. Questions and concerns about the program can be sent to outdoordining@boston.gov.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AT THE ANNUAL MUDDY RIVER CLEANUP

Registration for the 2022 Muddy River Cleanup is now live! Each year since 2009, the Conservancy's largest annual volunteer event has brought hundreds together to pick up litter, remove invasive plants and assist with park maintenance throughout all 1,100 acres of the Emerald Necklace. This year's cleanup takes place Saturday, April 23 in each park of the Necklace, from Franklin Park to Charlesgate Park. The Muddy River Clean-

up is part of the larger Charles River Cleanup, which was recognized nationally from 2016-2019 by American Rivers for the Most Pounds of Trash Collected and Most Volunteers Mobilized. Register at <https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/mrc2022/>

CHARLESGATE PARK TOURS

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) has added two guided tours of Charlesgate Park for the month of March, one on March 15 from 4:00-5:30pm, and one on March 18 from 10:00-11:30am. Both tours will be led by ENC President Karen Mauney-Brodek and Parker James, co-founder of the Charlesgate Alliance.

On this tour, you will:

- Learn about the history of Charlesgate Park, Olmsted's gateway to the Back Bay Fens

(see images below)

- Explore a historic Boston park you've likely driven by hundreds of times but never visited on foot!

- Appreciate the size and potential of the Park's approx 13 acres

- Preview the Conservancy's and Charlesgate Alliance's vision, working with architects Marie and Dan Adams of Landing Studio, for a restored Charlesgate Park, with visitor amenities like a universally accessible playground, walking and bike trails and dog play area; green infrastructure improvements and new connections to adjacent park systems Charles River Esplanade and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

To register for the free tours, visit emeraldnecklace.org/events/

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 7)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation announces new board members, grant program officer

Staff Report

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors and also welcome a new senior staff member of the grantmaking team.

The new board members are South End resident Zamawa Arenas, founder and CEO of marketing consultancy Flowetik, and Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO of Lynn Community Health Center.

Arenas is a skillful marketing strategist and entrepreneur who guides public health and health care organizations to engage with stakeholders and consumers for greater impact. In leading Flowetik, she actively collaborates in the Greater Boston business and nonprofit communities, partnering with clients to advance equity and drive change in health care, education and economic development.

Across more than two decades, Arenas' work has connected her with the Boston Public Health Commission, Hunger to Health Collaboratory, Massachusetts Coalition for Serious Illness Care, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and RIZE Massachusetts, among other organizations.

Arenas is a five-time Emmy award winner who has been

inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers and recognized as a "Hispanic on the Move" by a leading business publication. She is the recipient of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's Pinnacle Award honoring women for their outstanding contributions in the workplace and to enhancing the region's quality of life. She earned a master's degree in broadcast administration from Boston University.

"I am honored by the opportunity to join such a talented and diverse group of individuals who are dedicated to the Foundation's important mission," Arenas said. "Even with all of the progress in broadening access to care as a direct result of the Foundation's leadership, there is still more work to be done to improve health care access and coverage for all residents of the Commonwealth."

Dr. Mahaniah is an experienced family physician and health care leader. He has served as CEO of Lynn Community Health Center since 2017, rising from the role of chief medical officer focused on quality care and the patient experience in the community health setting. He began his career as a staff physician at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, before becoming the chief medical officer of North Shore Community Health.



South End resident and newest board member at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Zamawa Arenas.

Born in Philadelphia, Dr. Mahaniah draws inspiration from his childhood divided between the conflict-challenged African country of Congo and his education in Switzerland. He is passionate about ending health disparities and his clinical interests include teaching and integrating opioid addiction treatment into primary care.

After graduating from Haverford College, he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia as a National Health Service Corps scholar, and graduated from the Family Medicine Residency program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Among other honors, he was named the Massachusetts Academy of Family Medicine Physician of the Year in 2012-13.

"I am thrilled to join the Foundation's board and bring my perspective as a physician and community health leader to its important work, particularly in the focus areas of addressing racial inequities in health and pursuing social in health care," said Dr. Mahaniah. "As leaders in our society, we have a responsibility to recognize and address any structural gaps that persist as disparities in access to quality, affordable health care."

Reena Singh recently joined the Foundation as Senior Program Officer. Singh oversees grant programs designed to expand access to health care for racially, ethnically, economically and socially marginalized communities Massachusetts. In 2021, the Foundation's grantmaking activity totaled nearly \$4 million and included the launch of the Racial Justice in Health program to support grassroots nonprofit community organizations led by people of color.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Singh served as the director of campaign planning and communications at Voices for Healthy Kids, an initiative of the American Heart Association. She previously provided coaching and technical assistance while working for Community Catalyst, a national nonprofit advocacy organization based in Boston.

Singh holds a master's degree in public policy and administration from Columbia University, where she received the Harvey Picker Prize for Public Service. She also participated in the Boston University Institute for Non-profit Management and Leadership.

"Reena has tremendous experience advancing advocacy campaigns and collaborating with health justice organizations," said Audrey Shelto, President and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. "Her focus on policy initiatives involving coverage, access and equity makes her an ideal addition to our team and will help propel the Foundation's mission through her role supporting our major grantmaking programs."

The mission of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is to ensure equitable access to health care for all those in the Commonwealth who are economically, racially, culturally or socially marginalized. The Foundation was established in 2001 with an initial endowment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It operates separately from the company and is governed by its own Board of Directors. For more information, visit www.bluecrossmafoundation.org.

Sen. Edwards holds second meeting with Transition Committee

Second virtual meeting focuses on transportation

By John Lynds

Nearly 50 people turned out for Sen. Lydia Edwards' second Community Transition Committee virtual meeting last week to discuss transportation. Edwards kicked off the series of meetings last month with the first being on the topic of housing. At each meeting Edwards is asking residents to advise her on constituent and public policy issues impacting the Senate district.

While last week's meeting focused on transportation, the committee will cover issues including addiction and recovery, Massport, seniors, education/youth services, public safety, and environmental justice through-

out 2022.

"I can't believe we have 46 people on the meeting tonight," said Edwards as she kicked off the meeting. "That's almost 16 More people than we had on housing. So this is a growing conversation."

Local resident Alex DeFronzo kicked off the community conversation on transportation with an emphasis on adding more designated bike and bus lanes in the area.

"The developments that have happened in Downtown Boston with dedicated bus lanes and new bike infrastructure with protected bike lanes is excellent," said DeFronzo. "It would be so incredible to see more of this and I think it will really help with the congestion and traffic issues. So whatever we can do to keep equity there and have the same sort of stuff that's happening downtown happening here would be great."

DeFronzo also added that adding more bus lanes, increasing funding to the MBTA for more rapid transit as well as funding the Red-Blue Line Connector will all help reduce traffic and congestion regionally.

GreenRoots's John Walkey said there needs to be more transparency when it comes to increasing capacity at Logan Airport. While the state and the Port Authority year after year commissions studies and reports that call for increasing flights and passengers under the argument that Logan is the state's 'economic engine', more needs to be done to protect communities surrounding the airport.

"There are tremendous benefits and there are lots of very expensive reports that have been produced to show what the benefits are to the region," said Walkey. "What they don't do is say who gets those benefits? And

what they don't do is say what are the costs and who bears those costs? I think if we were to actually do a cost benefit analysis of the airport and take a look at who is getting the benefit of having international flights coming in here—and there are some benefits for local residents who have jobs and we want to see those jobs increase—there are some downsides. And those downsides are the noise pollution, the air pollution and the health impacts of those downsides."

AIR, Inc. Vice President Chris Marchi added that the same sort of tenacity from elected officials that went into fighting the utilities in Environmental Justice Communities needs to be applied to focusing on Massport's recent expansion. Marchi argues that no other entity will contribute more to traffic woes and transportation issues in the region than an increase in flights and

passengers coming and going at Logan.

"We will need you (Sen. Edwards) to use this opportunity now to begin to pressure the Port Authority on every front," said Marchi. "I would ask that what you began with the utility companies extends to Massport. Massports 2018-2019 environmental data report disclosed that the airport emitted 35,481 pounds of pollution every single day into the air. They also disclosed that as far as greenhouse gasses, the airport emitted 810,000 metric tons—and that's just one year in 2019. So it's so important to me—and I'm really grateful that you're having this session—that we really strengthen the relationship between our elected officials and our community's perspectives on airport issues."

LBU COMMITTEE (from pg. 1)

Newbury Boston hotel.

Parm launched its first location in 2011 in New York City's Little Italy and will open its sixth location in the next few weeks at the Burlington Mall. The chain of eateries has been lauded by multiple publications for having one of the best chicken parmesan sandwiches in the U.S., while

one-third of its entries, which will have price points between \$15 and \$25 are some spin on the chicken parmesan, said Pei.

The Back Bay outpost of Parm would have seating for 70 inside, including a separate bar right by the entrance with 10 to 15 seats, said Pei, while the outdoor patio would seat between 30 and 40

patrons. (MFG is in the process of securing a permit for the outdoor patio from the MBTA, said Pei.)

The restaurant would be open for lunch and dinner, said Pei, with proposed hours of 11 a.m. to midnight (with a 1 a.m. license).

Dennis Quilty, the applicant's attorney, said he expects that Parm would seek the same patio hours as The Salty Pig's outdoor dining space, although he didn't know their hours offhand.

Parm is seeking the transfer of a liquor license from Boston Chops in the South End, said Quilty, while the liquor license from Boston Chop's soon-to-be-shuttered second location in Downtown Crossing would be transferred to its South End restaurant.

In another matter, representatives from Raising Cane's, a chicken finger-themed restaurant chain that plans to open a new location in the old Forum space on Boylston Street, were back before the LBU Committee regarding their outdoor patio space. (The same applicant made their presentation to the committee about a year ago, and NABB didn't oppose their proposal at that time.)

Marci Costa, the applicant's



PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

The proposed location of Raising Cane's future outpost at 775 Boylston St.

attorney, said they would be going before the city's Zoning Board of Appeal for an extension of the non-conforming use, as well as to add two seats to the patio for a total of 14 seats.

The Back Bay Architectural Commission has already approved the applicant's plan, said Costa, while the applicant also had an abutters meeting

scheduled for March 8.

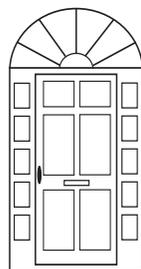
Raising Cane is expected to open in August at 775 Boylston St., said restaurant spokesman Adam Caracci.

Conrad Armstrong, chair of NABB's LBU Committee, told the applicant he would get back to them by Friday with a decision.

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SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE TRAFFIC ADVISORY

The St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as the South Boston Boys and Girls Club Road Race, will be held in South Boston on Sunday, March 20, 2022. The parade and road race will result in street closures and traffic detours in South Boston and reduce on-street parking availability. Those coming into South Boston for the festivities are strongly encouraged not to drive their personal vehicles. Information on the MBTA may be found at www.mbta.com/, and information on Blue Bikes, the regional bike share system, may be found at <https://www.blue->

bikes.com/. The parade kicks off at 1:00 p.m. and will start at West Broadway, to East Broadway, ending at Farragut Road. Broadway will be closed to traffic from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Saint Patrick's Day Road Race begins on West Sixth Street at the Boys & Girls Club at 11:00 a.m. and will end at noon. Traffic will be delayed along the route as runners make their way to the finish line. "Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event Sunday" parking restrictions will be in

effect as follows:

- Dorchester Avenue, both sides, from Gillette Park to Old Colony Avenue
- Foundry Street, both sides, from Greenbaum Street to Dorchester Avenue
- West Second Street, both sides, from Dorchester Avenue
- A Street, both sides, from Binford Street to West Second Street
- Binford Street, both sides, from A Street heading northwesterly to end at 45 Binford
- West Fourth Street, both

sides, from A Street to Dorchester Avenue

- West Broadway, both sides, from Dorchester Avenue to Dorchester Street
- East Broadway, both sides, from Dorchester Street to P Street
- Farragut Road, both sides, from East Fourth Street to East First Street
- Summer Street, Financial District, Atlantic Avenue to the MBTA bus stop near 245 Summer Street
- Summer Street, South Bos-

ton, East First Street to the end of 776 Summer Street

- E Street, from West Broadway to Athens Street
- L Street, from East Third Street to East Broadway

Delays due to Boys & Girls Club Race route are expected as follows:

- West Sixth Street, both sides, from F Street to Dorchester Street
- F Street, odd side, West Sixth Street to Bowen Street

NEWS IN BRIEF Continued From 5

DEMOLITION DELAY: FENWAY/KENMORE

The Boston Landmarks Commission has received the following applications to demolish buildings in this neighborhood: 300 The Fenway, Fenway/Kenmore, 02115, parcel #0401842001, demo application date: 2/28/2022. If a building is determined to be historically significant, the Boston Landmarks Commission will schedule a public hearing. You can view notices about upcoming Boston Landmarks Commission public hearings online.

SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH HOCKEY TRYOUTS

Be sure to join the fun and join the one of the most storied programs the City has to offer, Kids from all ages, from Learn to Skate to Midgets. Evaluations for the 2022-2023 Travel Hockey Season are being held

the week of March 14, 2022 @ the Murphy Rink. Online registration is required for all participants and will be available at 6:30PM tonight!

Please be sure your player arrives for the level they will be playing in the 2022-2023 Season.

Monday, March 14: 6pm - Mite Evaluation 7pm - Peewee Evaluation 8pm - Bantam Evaluation

Tuesday, March 15: 6pm - Squirt Evaluation 7pm - Peewee Evaluation 8pm - Bantam Evaluation

Wednesday, March 16: 6pm - Mite Evaluation 7pm - Squirt Evaluation 8pm - Midget Evaluation

Qualifiers: *You must register your child online prior to the evaluation.*Only those players that have registered will be considered for rostering. *Everyone who is registered will be rostered on a team.*There will be only one team at any particular level

if the Board determines there are not enough skaters to sustain a second team. Similarly, the Board may roster more than two teams

at any particular level if there are enough players registered at that level to sustain further teams. *The Board reserves the right to

add/subtract teams and/or alter rosters at any time until finalized as required by MA Hockey <https://www.sbyhl.org>



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CHESTER SQUARE NEIGHBORS (from pg. 3)

things like history or tree equity. CSN president Carol Blair suggested a popcorn machine as one of the food options, and also spoke about a presentation the CSN heard in Jan. from Northeastern students about data they have collected on the neighborhood. She said that some historical information could potential-

ly be placed on the fence in the park.

"There will be a festival," Blair said, and "the things people find fun and easy will happen," while "the things people do not find fun or easy won't happen."

She also said that the group is looking for volunteers to help out with the festival as well.

"It might be kind of fun to have a mini tour," Bob Barney said. "People who attend the festival might get a sense of key people on Mass. Ave. That could be pretty easy to do." There were also suggestions to have Northeastern students who are studying history to lead it, or other youth leaders who are aware of

the history of the area.

Another suggestion included seeing if the South End Historical Society would be willing to "open their doors" and show historical films about the neighborhood.

South End resident Steve Jerome said that he believes Alison Barnet "would be a wonder-

ful resource to have in the festival. I would be very happy to help with the posting the history part of it, but also looking at the fabric of the neighborhood since it was first conceived in the 19th century."

FENWAY CONCERTS (from pg. 1)

how many concerts are approved lies solely in Joyce's hands.

The 16 proposed concerts include the typical 12 that the Red Sox have proposed in the past few years, plus an additional four to make up for concerts that were postponed due to the pandemic.

City Councilors Michael Flaherty and Erin Murphy submitted written letters of support, Joyce said, while Councilor Kenzie Bok, whose district includes the Fenway, provided arguments both in favor and against the proposal in her letter, as well as advocated for a longer term licensing agreement.

Joyce also reported that the office received 23 letters in opposition from abutters, as well as 16 letters of support from abutters. She also said that letters in support were received from restaurant employees and stagehands, saying that these concerts help to pay their bills.

Residents who are against the number of concerts proposed say that there are noise and quality of life issues due to the concerts.

"I have read every single piece of testimony that has been submitted to this office," Joyce said, before allowing Dave Friedman, Senior Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs for the Red Sox, to present the proposal.

Friedman said that the goal of having 16 concerts is to focus on "recovery" for the Fenway. He said that concerts have been

going on at Fenway Park for 19 years and are "now nationally recognized."

He said that the "concert business is very unpredictable and fluid," and that "in normal times," the Red Sox believe that 12 concerts is the appropriate amount. He said that in future years, the Red Sox do not plan on asking for more than 12 concerts, but this year should be an exception because of loss from the pandemic.

In 2020, there were no concerts with live audiences at Fenway Park, and in 2021, there were seven.

"Many people and businesses are making up for lost time," Friedman said, adding later that "We do recognize that hosting large concerts has an impact on the neighborhood."

In response to past complaints about noise levels, the Red Sox have "installed heavy buffering curtains," Friedman said, to which some residents have responded positively.

He also said that they "work closely with Captain Sweeney," the Boston Police Department, and the Boston Transportation Department and "do our best with traffic, parking, and post concert behavior issues."

There is also a hotline for residents to call with any noise complaints, and Friedman said that Red Sox employees personally walk the neighborhood to monitor sound levels.

Joyce said that in the past she has heard Billy Joel's concert from her house in Dorchester, and understands that some things such as the wind, cannot be controlled.

"It's very important to me that our business community thrives," said Councilor Kenzie Bok. "I'm very sympathetic to the needs there."

However, she said she also understood that there are issues of noise, sanitation, security, and traffic.

"I want to give credit to the Red Sox for the significant improvement that has happened in. A number of those areas she said," but "it really feels to me like we need a long-term resolution of this issue."

Fenway resident John Bookston said that "this is an issue which benefits a huge number of business people, the Red Sox number one, but lots of neighborhoods. I agree with Councilor Bok that it needs to be done to help the bottom line. However, there needs to be compensation to residents in the neighborhood.

He suggested that a "professional sound company" measure the noise levels in the neighborhood, and also suggested that the Fenway Civic Association be compensated "for making things easier for residents; not necessarily just on those days, but maybe so." He also suggested that residents of the neighborhood be given \$100 to "get out of the

neighborhood and have a nice dinner that night."

Bookston also spoke about how "horrendous" the traffic is on nights when there are concerts.

Licensing Board secretary Danny Green said that the board cannot consider monetary benefits in the decision making process for approving these concerts.

Many other residents provided commentary as well, such as Tim Horn of the Fenway Civic Association, who said "we don't really formally oppose the concerts this year. It is COVID. We do understand that there is some need." He did, however, agree that a longer term plan or agreement is necessary to deal with the concerts.

Long-time Fenway activist Kristen Mobilia said she was speaking on behalf of herself as well as some of her neighbors who could not make it to the hearing.

"The argument for Fenway Sports Group missing out on four concerts last year is just a real stretch," she said. "Unfortunately, we've all suffered." She said that while it is true that residents should have had some expectation of noise when they decided to move into a neighborhood with a baseball park, she believes more compromise is needed when it comes to the concerts, and would prefer to see a maximum of six concerts per year.

She also said that "if businesses need support," then a "year-round plan" should be put into place to give employees the stability they need.

"Where's the transportation study?" she asked. "Where are the facts?" She also said she supports a "good neighbor agreement."

Mobilia also mentioned the use of "pyrotechnics" at a concert that she said "were not announced until after the concert had started."

Resident Joe Arbeely wrote in the chat: "Disagree (mostly) with Kristen. I am annoyed. I am a local resident that also works in the Fenway and frankly I am shocked. With all due respect, we are residents of an inner-city neighborhood and noise levels are expected to be high. That said, pyrotechnics and anything having to do with those should be taken very seriously."

Charles Ferrara said that the "model of a once a year hearing...is insufficient and not a good model to represent what we should presume is good intent on both sides of the argument. A neighborhood agreement would be an objective, mutually beneficial agreement" that would "make sure that best interests of all stakeholders are honored in a fair and reasonable way as much as possible."

Joyce said that while "I do appreciate these comments, it's not my role to work on a neighborhood agreement."

Others, like Pam Beale of the Kenmore Association, Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the owner of Audubon Circle Restaurant, spoke in support of the proposed number of concerts.

No decision has been made yet regarding the number of approved concerts for this summer.

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FEMA awards more than \$1.9 Million to City of Boston

Staff Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$1.9 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse City of Boston for purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to city workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city will receive a total of \$1,941,707 in federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse the costs of supplying Boston Police Department (BPD),

Boston Fire Department (BFD), Boston Emergency Medical Services (BEMS), the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) between March 2020 and July 2021, including:

- Purchasing and distributing (PPE) and related supplies like such as N95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, Tyvek suits, face shields, boot covers, hair bouffants, gloves, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, Clorox wipes & drapes; and

• Purchasing an electric pallet jack and manual jack required for moving the large amounts of inventory from the loading dock to the storage area where the stock was stored and distributed

"FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the City of Boston with these costs," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success, and our success as a nation."

FEMA's Public Assistance pro-

gram is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided

almost \$867 million in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

FEMA awards nearly \$23.4 million to MBTA

Staff Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending almost \$23.4 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for the additional costs of operating safely during the pandemic.

The MBTA will receive a total of \$23,379,695 in federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse some of the costs associated with keeping public transportation services operating safely between March and June 2020.

Those measures included:

- Purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment

(PPE) to staff;

- Overtime costs for employees;
- Buying disinfecting supplies;
- Dissemination of essential public health and safety information as barriers, signs, safety yellow paint & barricade tape; and
- Providing testing equipment for staff and the public such as privacy screens, thermal cameras, and thermometers.

"FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the MBTA with these costs," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Keeping public transportation operating during this time period was critical to allow emergency workers, medical personnel, and others to continue

getting to work."

FEMA's Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided nearly \$867 million in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

Additional information about FEMA's Public Assistance program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in Massachusetts, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4496>

Back Bay, surrounding areas weekly COVID positive test decreases

By John Lynds

Three weeks after the city ended Boston's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 would be lifted, new infections continue to decline in the Back Bay and the rest of Boston.

On Saturday, the city's mask mandate for indoor spaces was also lifted and that move hasn't led to an increase in cases thus far.

According to the BPHC 12,478 residents were tested city-wide last week and 2.3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 36 percent decrease from the 3.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 28. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 50 percent in Boston since February 21.

The weekly report released Monday by the BPHC showed that 1,839 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.2 percent were positive. This was a 20 percent decrease

from the 4 percent that tested positive between February 21 and February 28.

Fifty-nine additional residents have been infected with the virus between February 28 and March 7 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 8,449 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 0.52 percent last week and went from 165,226 cases to 166,087 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were 9 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,727. Deaths decreased 57 percent in Boston last week with 12 less deaths compared to the 21 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Baker signs order to review contracts, agreements with Russia

Staff Report

Governor Charlie Baker signed Executive Order 597, which directs all executive branch agencies to review and terminate any contracts with any Russian state-owned company. The executive order also directs agencies to review any partnership, affiliation, or exchange with any Russian state-owned company, Russian government controlled entity, or Russian governmental body.

"With this order, we hope to build on the sanctions the federal government has already placed on Russia for their unjustified attack on Ukraine," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts condemns the actions of Russia and stands firmly with

the free and democratic nation of Ukraine."

"The Commonwealth will continue to offer its support Ukraine and stand with them in the face of Russian aggression," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "My thoughts are with all the Ukrainian people during this horrific time."

The Governor's executive order encourages independent agencies and authorities, public education institutions, and other constitutional offices to adopt similar policies.

The order also directs the Office for Refugees and Immigrants to work with the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and other stakeholder agencies to support Ukrainian immigrants and refugees fleeing the conflict.

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Chen, Mengnan	Bahri, Ajay	416 Commonwealth Ave #408	\$940,000
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Wisdom Willow LLC	Polin, Janice E	27 Bowdoin St #1D	\$385,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Fanfan, Stanley	10 Brinton Street LLC	10 Brinton St	\$1,205,000
Aggarwal, Jyoti	Robert, Rita	1 Charles St S #10A	\$3,475,000
Gebrian, Eileen P	Voss, Peter S	1 Charles St S #7H	\$1,800,000
Morse, Christopher G	Lashar, Sarah	15 Warren Ave #6	\$1,280,000
Prica, Ivana A	Prica, Ivana A	21 Father Francis Gilday St #105	\$197,717
Rokoff, Lisa B	Orazio, Anthony J	35 Fay St #217	\$785,000
Haagensen, Alexandra	Hakansson, Kurt F	79 Gainsborough St #401	\$605,000
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Franz, Toni	Kopfler, Michael	8 Rutland Sq #2	\$3,675,000
Gan, Yicheng	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #807	\$1,550,150
Link, Jurgen	Graham, Elizabeth L	75 Waltham St #5	\$852,000
Hayes, Lily	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #204	\$750,000
Laz-Romo, Matthew	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #603	\$769,000
Vazirani, Yash A	Varney, Robyn C	1692 Washington St #1	\$900,000
Lin, Benzhi	1950 Wa Street LLC	1950 Washington St #2D	\$221,900
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Hall, Ann	Pfau, Raymond	42-44 Beach St #8D	\$699,000
ACDC 64 Beach LLC	Beach 64 Realty LLC	64-68 Beach St	\$7,100,000
Sorensen Lee FT	Callahan, Jill M	110 Broad St #403	\$1,400,000
Tregoning, David	Laheeb, Fariha	99-A Commercial St #1	\$475,000
Wu, Kevin J	Harris, Michael C	386 Commercial St #2B	\$422,000
Ebert, Kristiana H	Stevens, Marc P	40 Commercial Wharf #40	\$1,420,000
Su, Yaxin	Miara, Joseph A	1 Franklin St #1708	\$2,160,000
Stdenis, David	Phua Cheng S Est	100 Fulton St #3S	\$837,500
Fiorentini, Louis A	Dassori, F Davis	100 Fulton St #5N	\$730,000
Burke, Patrick	Lund, Erik	100 Fulton St #5W	\$2,250,000
Bisson, Marybeth	Pui-Maria, Lou T	580 Washington St #12B	\$2,450,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

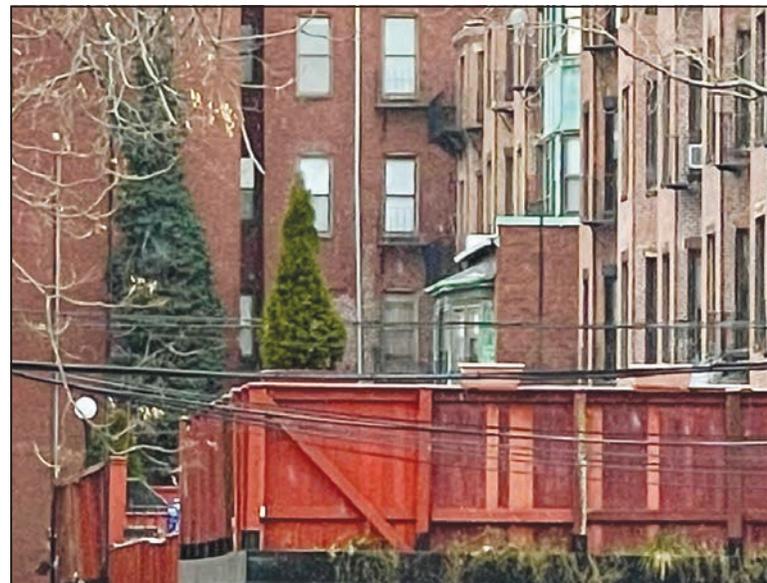


The diamond-shaped details in the last clue are in the doorway to 9 Columbus Square. According to the 1910 Boston Record of Streets, this street was laid out as part of Warren Avenue then named Columbus Square on April 4, 1871.

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



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274 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE 7R

2 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 1,890 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$3,299,000



88 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE 3

4 BEDROOMS | 4 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 3,857 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$7,900,000

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