

THE BOSTON SUN

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King Boston breaks new ground on 22-foot sculpture

By Lauren Bennett

King Boston broke ground on the Embrace memorial, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Coretta Scott King, on April 27 with a ceremony at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common.

Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of King Boston, was joined by colleagues from King Boston, as well as Boston's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Embrace designer Hank Willis Thomas, Amandi Music, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Charlie Baker, and US Attorney Rachael Rollins, as well as supporters and funders, for the celebration, which took place on what would have been Coretta Scott King's 95th birthday.

The Embrace memorial will be a 22 foot bronze sculpture depicting the hands and arms of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, based on a 1964 photo of the two after

King found out he had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The design was chosen out of 126 submissions from around the globe by an art team at King Boston and the City of Boston, after being narrowed down to five finalists. The Embrace was designed by Hank Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group, and will be located near the Tremont Street side of the Boston Common.

According to a press release, "The monument will be the country's largest memorial dedicated to equity representing Boston's path to becoming the city where all are welcome and a place of opportunity for everyone."

Imari Paris Jeffries said at the event, "this moment represents the power of all of us and is part of a vision to create a radically and equitable and inclusive Boston, by 2030, the city's 400th birthday."

Along with the Embrace

(EMBRACE Pg. 5)



RENDERING COURTESY OF MASS DESIGN GROUP

The Embrace by Hank Willis Thomas.

GREEN & WHITE BALL RETURNS



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Lauren and John Barkan, with Tess and Sam Atkinson shown during the Green & White Ball. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

Old South Church to celebrate Phillis Wheatley Sunday

By Dan Murphy

Old South Church will again celebrate one its most notable past parishioners this May 8, with the return of Phillis Wheatley Sunday.

A member of the church during the American Revolution, as well as the first published African American author, Wheatley was kidnapped from her African

homeland at around the age of 7. She learned English and Latin on her own, as well as how to write from white children. Wheatley began writing poetry as a teen and went on to become a celebrated poet.

"She was an extraordinary American and an extraordinary Christian," Rev. Taylor said of Phillis Wheatley.

Old South Church wasn't the

"church of the Wheatleys," however, as Rev. Nancy S. Taylor, senior minister and CEO of Old South Church, is quick to point out. But instead, it's the church Phillis Wheatley (born circa 1753) chose for herself as a free woman and where she would be baptized into on Aug. 18, 1771. (As was usually the case, freed

(PHILLIS WHEATLEY Pg. 8)

NEHGS plans to open café next door at 97 Newbury St.

By Dan Murphy

As part of its expansion into the building next door at 97 Newbury St., the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), located at 99 Newbury St., intends to open a café, which would sell offer coffee, soft drinks, and prepared food items, with no onsite

cooking.

Ryan Woods, executive vice president and Chief Operating Officer of the American Ancestors and NEHGS, detailed the proposal on Monday, May 2, during the monthly hearing of the Neighborhood Association Licensing and Building Use

Committee, which was held virtually.

Several years ago, the NEHGS acquired the building at 97 Newbury St. from the owner of John Lewis, a jewelry store that previously occupied the first-floor retail space, said Woods,

(NEHGS Pg. 4)

Mayor Wu, BPL announce \$200 one-hour wedding ceremonies

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Michelle Wu announced on May 2 that the Boston Public Library (BPL) will offer \$200 one-hour wedding ceremonies in the Central Library's Guastavino Room.

"...our libraries are homes away from home for so many Bostonians," Wu said at the press conference. "To make sure that this space and all the features and resources and history here is free to all, the library system has continued to find ways to return

the space to the people of Boston."

Minister Carla Firestone, who has officiated past BPL wedding giveaways, said that "how amazing is it that couples can begin their journey together in a place

(BPL WEDDINGS Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

ALCOHOL IS STILL #1

Americans have been dying prematurely at unprecedented levels in the past two years from a number of causes.

COVID-19 has taken away almost one million of our fellow Americans, with the number still rising daily for the foreseeable future.

Fatal accidents on our roadways, as we noted last week, have skyrocketed over the past two years.

Drug overdose deaths, mainly attributable to the lethal synthetic drug fentanyl, have exploded, exceeding 100,000 in 2021, compared to about 60,000 in 2019.

However, another statistic came to our attention in an article in the New York Times which is equally tragic and worrisome:

Among adults younger than 65, alcohol-related deaths outnumbered deaths from COVID-19 in 2020. Alcohol-related causes accounted for the deaths of 74,408 Americans ages 16 to 64, compared to 74,075 deaths of individuals under 65 who died from COVID.

More ominously, the rate of increase for alcohol-related deaths in 2020 — 25 percent — outpaced the rate of increase of deaths from all causes, which was 16.6 percent.

Alcohol-related deaths went up for men and women, as well as for every ethnic and racial group. Deaths among men and women increased at about the same rate, though the absolute number of deaths among men was much higher.

However, death rates alone don't tell the whole story of the direct and negative impacts that alcohol abuse has upon individuals, their family members, and our society as a whole.

Alcohol abuse is a crucial factor in just about every negative context one can imagine, ranging from domestic abuse, to violence among unrelated parties, to non-fatal traffic accidents that leave victims severely injured, to lost productivity in the workplace, to mental health issues, to health-care costs, to fetal alcohol syndrome.

Clearly, our society needs to undertake a public health campaign similar to what we did in the 1990s when the American public and politicians finally got tough on the tobacco companies by means of public health campaigns, increased taxes, and stricter enforcement of the laws prohibiting sales to minors.

Unlike tobacco or drugs, alcohol abuse impacts more than just the user -- and it's time that we acknowledge that reality and do something about it.

IS NUCLEAR WAR INEVITABLE IN UKRAINE -- AND BEYOND?

We don't want to sound like alarmists, but in our opinion, the escalation both in military weaponry and rhetoric by the Western powers and the Kremlin is bringing us closer and closer to the brink of nuclear warfare in Ukraine.

We fully support the effort of the U.S. and NATO to help the Ukrainian people defend themselves against the Russian genocide that is occurring in their country.

But none of the politicians or the experts have prepared the public for the possibility that Vladimir Putin will use tactical nuclear weapons to avoid what is looming as a significant military defeat.

The conventional wisdom is that Putin will restrict his army only to the use of conventional weapons.

But that is the rational thinking of those who do not have the mindset of a sociopath for whom rules do not apply.

History has shown us time and time again that sociopathic leaders have no limits. Just when we think, "They will never go THAT far," the sociopaths indeed cross the line and push the boundaries further.

Putin has at his disposal tactical "mini-nukes" that have the explosive power of just a fraction of the bombs we dropped on Japan in WWII.

So our question is this: If Putin uses one on the battlefield, what do we do?

CORRECTION: Photos from the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay's Spring Members Reception on April 24 were from The Newbury Boston. The location of the event was misidentified as the Taj Hotel in last week's edition.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

Friday evening was a spectacular night for our beloved parks. Thanks to all of you, the Green & White Ball returned in magnificent fashion after two long years, raising nearly \$500,000 to support the care of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

From the stunning Marc Hall design to the artful lighting provided by Frost Production, a sumptuous dinner by the Four

Seasons, and the dance-all-night sounds of Night Shift, the 2022 Green & White Ball was truly an evening to remember.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this very special event happen, especially our co-chairs Tess Atkinson and Kate Enroth and their dedicated committee. As Tess so eloquently put it, "it was an evening of beauty, joy, and gratitude."

With this year's ball falling on Arbor Day, it seemed appropriate to celebrate how the Friends cares for 1,700 trees in the three parks.

If you haven't yet had a chance to support the ball and would like to support the trees directly, you can make a gift here.

On behalf of the #threeparks and the entire Friends of the Public Garden staff, board, and community, thank you. You can join us in celebrating the generous sponsors who support the event and the committee who makes this all possible here.

With Gratitude,
Liz Vizza, President
Leslie Singleton Adam, Board Chair

GUEST OP-ED

Celebrate Mother's Day

By Glenn Molette

Celebrate Mother's Day anyway you can but don't miss the opportunity to honor mom. The opportunities pass us by. While mom is alive is the time to do something for her. Too often someone dies and we want to make sure we attend their funeral and buy flowers. We talk about missed opportunities. While your special person is alive is the time to cherish and make a big deal about that

person.

Do what you can do. Mom's simply want to know you care. You could clean out the garage or clean the house. Spend a day working in the yard or trimming shrubbery. People buy flowers and take mom out to dinner typically on Mother's Day. It is no secret that flowers have become even more expensive and many restaurants are having employee issues. If you had to wait to be served in the past this Mother's Day may be

challenging. Consider taking mom a card and writing her a letter. Tell her how you feel about her and thank her for being a great mom. The main thing is don't forget the day. If you are a long way from home by all means make a phone call.

I know some great mothers. My wife is a phenomenal mother. I have sisters, daughters and a daughter in law who are great

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

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EBNA hears licensing proposals; history of South End News from Alison Barnet

By Lauren Bennett

The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) met virtually on May 3 to discuss a liquor license request at The Quinn/The Harris, as well as a new retail tenant in the same building. The group also heard from South End resident and author Alison Barnet as she discussed the history of the South End News, which she was once the editor of.

After a public safety report from Boston Police D-4 Captain Steven Sweeney, Demetri Tsolakis, owner of Greek restaurants GreCo and Krasi, talked about a liquor license request for his new Greek restaurant concept set to open in the summer of next year.

The restaurant will be located in The Quinn/The Harris building, and will feature about 120 indoor seats with a proposed patio of 40 seats, he said.

He said the team is seeking a full liquor license as “we really want to introduce Greek spirits and a Greek wine program.”

Dinner service is expected to be from about 5pm to 10:30 or

11pm from Monday through Sunday, and weekend brunch will be served from 10am-3pm.

The outdoor seating will share a courtyard with the entrance to the Quinn, and will be “partially in the front, and partially in the courtyard,” Tsolakis said.

Right now, the restaurant has an anticipated opening of late summer of next year. “There’s just a lot of delays right now with the equipment,” he said, but this “gives us more time to really do this right and build up the anticipation for it.”

Instead of appetizers and entrees, the menu will feature all small plates, ranging in price from \$6-\$22, Tsolakis said. He said this small plate structure “goes well with somewhere that serves liquor.”

While the restaurant will not be offering delivery of its food, deliveries to the restaurant will go to the loading dock in the back of the building, and “won’t interfere with any of the traffic on Harrison [Ave.],” he said.

Additionally, Will Grosvenor of Related Beal spoke about a new

retail space coming to The Quinn, called One Medical. He called this “more of a modern take on a medical office,” and that it is “very sort of technologically advanced.”

People pay for a membership, and then procedures are covered by the individual’s medical insurance. One Medical is not an urgent care clinic, but rather “sort of the alternative” to a primary care physician, Grosvenor said. There will be two “flexible” parking spots that can be used for staff or patients, and even “some ability for Demetri [Tsolakis]” to use the spaces, he said.

Proposed hours of operation are 10am-7pm.

ALISON BARNET

South End resident, historian, and author Alison Barnet has written several books about South End history, and was the former editor of the South End News. She dropped into the EBNA meeting to discuss the history of the South End News.

She first spoke about some of the South End News’ predecessors, including the East Springfield

Gazette, which she described as a “small Xerox sheet” that “served one block” of the neighborhood from May 1978 to early 1980.

Another one was The Beck, which was “based on the city’s neighborhood cleanup,” she said, and featured sections like “Neck After Dark”—the art section, “Neck to Neck”—the sports section, and “Pain in the Neck”—a medical column.

The first issue of the South End News was published on Feb. 15, 1980, and was published by Skip Rosenthal and edited by Barnet. It featured arts and history columns, and nearly every article written by Barnet herself. “I had no byline,” she said, “because Skip thought it would be funny for all the stories to have my name on them.”

A few front page articles included “Digital’s new Crosstown plan,” Barnet said, as well as “Court to rule on condo eviction.”

She also spoke about some folks who worked on the paper over the years, including Dick Card of the South End Historical Society,

Cyndi Koebert, who was a columnist, “though her name never appeared” in the paper, Barnet said, and Officer John Sacco who wrote a police report.

Frank Leopold had an interest in the arts and wrote a column about that, David Adlerstein had just graduated college and was working several part-time jobs and was “fascinated with old South End-types,” she said, and Lynne Potts is the “only early South End News writer who still lives in the South End.”

Writers wrote for \$5 an article—“\$10 for something really big,” Barnet said, and photographers earned \$5 per photo.

Rosenthal got an office for the paper at 1515 Washington St., after it had been put together at home. The paper was eventually sold to James Hoover in 1985.

Barnet also showed some photos from those days, and her books on various aspects of South End history are available at Gifted at 2 Dartmouth St.

Fenway Health receives \$50,000 MassDevelopment grant

Staff Report

MassDevelopment has awarded grants totaling \$1,056,010 to 22 community health centers across Massachusetts including Fenway Health through its Community Health Center Grant Program. The program offers grants of up to \$50,000 each to fund capital improvement projects including construction, renovation, equipment, furniture, technology-related projects, as well as facility needs related to the COVID-19

pandemic.

“The Commonwealth is fortunate to be home to many first-rate community health centers that provide critical care to families and individuals,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to support these health centers that have proven themselves invaluable partners in our collective efforts to combat COVID-19 and address

social challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.”

“By providing affordable health care and social services to vulnerable populations across Massachusetts, community health centers are indispensable assets in our neighborhoods,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. “As we try to bounce back from the pandemic, it’s as important as ever to support the critical capital projects

(FENWAY HEALTH Pg. 7)

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

mothers. So, there are plenty of people around for me to honor this weekend. I suspect you may know one or two. Even if they aren’t family, wish them a happy Mother’s Day.

My mother has been in heaven for a long time and so has the mother of my two sons. Mother’s Day is a tough day for them as they lost their mother when they were 20 and 17 year’s old. My wife’s mother passed just a few years ago. It happens. The chair at the table suddenly is empty and all you are left with are pictures and memories.

I miss the long telephone conversations with my mother. We talked on the telephone for 30 minutes sometimes twice a week.

When I was a child, she was my advocate. She was my school tutor. We didn’t eat out growing up so she kept food on the table three times a day. When I was a small child, we still had a wringer washing machine and the water was not great. We caught rain water in large tubs and then carried it in to wash clothes. I remember a couple of summers of carrying water from the creek to wash clothes. She ironed clothes for an entire day every week. It was a great day when we were finally able to have an automatic washer and dryer.

Mom worked hard and about twice a week dressed up really nice and she and dad went to church. Like most of our mothers I could write a lot about her but Eula

Hinkle Mollette was a wonderful mother. She loved me, corrected me and supported me. I know there were times I disappointed her but she never disconnected from me. She was always there as best as she could be.

The point is don’t miss celebrating Mother’s Day. You only have one mom. Cherish every minute.

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.

BPL WEDDINGS (from pg. 1)

that specializes in new beginnings? COVID has made couples rethink how they want to get married and this opportunity offers to many more couples the opportunity to get married in an inspiring space.”

The ceremonies, which will be one hour each, will be offered on the first Monday of each month, starting on June 6. Registration begins on May 1, and registration must be completed at bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony. Ceremonies will be available on a first-come, first serve basis.

Couples are welcome to invite up to eight guests to the ceremony, and the Guastavino Room will be available for formal photos after the ceremony.

“We are excited to have this opportunity to offer couples want-

ing an intimate ceremony a chance to have the Boston Public Library become a special part of their life together,” David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library, said in a statement. “The McKim Building has always been the ‘palace for the people,’ and we are excited to be able to make it available to couples that might not otherwise have access to this space.”

More details about the package can be found at bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony.

Questions can be relayed to the BPL Special Events Office at events@bpl.org or at 617-859-2212.

“The library takes seriously the words on the front of the building,” Leonard said: “Free to All.”

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NEHGS (from pg. 1)

and the organization has been identifying steps for its redevelopment since then as part of its Cornerstone Project – a self-described “multi-faceted endeavor with components that include: community outreach; diversification of content; in-person and virtual learning opportunities; and capital expansion.”

The Learning Commons Complex - an approximately 305 square-foot public space with food service - would be located at the rear of the first floor of the new building, said Woods, after entering through the main entrance at 97 Newbury St. and passing through a narrow retail-space on the right-hand side.

Its operating hours would mirror the current hours of NEHGS – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday – to start and for the immediate future, said Woods.

For the new café, the applicant only intends to add a service counter with a sink and disposal, said Woods, and since it would offer prepared food only, with no cooking on site, there are no plans for exterior hoods or ventilation. Alcohol also wouldn't be served at the café, added Woods.

The proposed café would require a conditional-use permit from the city, said Woods, since the space is currently zoned as retail. Elliott Laffer, chair of NABB's board of directors, also advised him that the applicant would also need to secure a Common Victualler (CV) license from the city for the proposed café.

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, told Woods he could notify him of how NABB's Executive Committee votes on the application within the next two weeks.



PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

The property at 97 Newbury St., where the rear of the first floor is proposed as the future home of a café to be operated by the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



PHOTOS BY PAIGE BOYNTON

Residents and those from neighboring cities gathered on the Common and made their way into Boston outside of the Statehouse on Tuesday evening to protest their dissatisfaction with the leaked Supreme Court decision. More than 1,000 people made it out to support reproduction rights and the right to safe abortions.

Local officials react to Roe v. Wade leak

By John Lynds

The unprecedented leak to Politico Monday that five Supreme Court Justices may be gearing up to reverse the court's landmark decision that has protected a woman's right to choose for a half century has set off a firestorm of condemnations from pro-choice advocates and elected officials.

In 1973 the Roe v. Wade case, the Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. The decision struck down many U.S. federal and state abortion laws at the time.

The first draft of a majority opinion written by Justice Alito leaked to Politico on overturning Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey calls the Roe decision "egregiously wrong from the start". Alito's opinion would allow states to decide on abortion restrictions or guarantees after nearly fifty years of federal constitutional protection.

"This is a devastating moment for our country, when lives are being threatened by a fringe minority determined to drag us back to the dangers of decades past," remarked Mayor Michelle Wu. "It's also a call to action—that Massachusetts must continue to lead. In Boston, we affirm our absolute commitment to protecting reproductive rights as core to building a city for everyone. We are here. We are ready. And we will continue to organize and legislate and fight for the future our

communities deserve."

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who represents East Boston, called Roe v. Wade, a woman's right to choose and protecting women's health a 'fundamental' right. With conservative attacks on Roe v. Wade ratcheting up in recent years, the House has passed legislation to protect women's health and a woman's right to choose.

"Abortion care is a fundamental human right and we must legislate like it," she said. "The Senate must act before it's too late. Abolish the filibuster. Pass the Women's Health Protection Act."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren asked every member of the Senate, "What other judicial outrage must we endure from this illegitimate majority before we act? A stolen, illegitimate, and far-right Supreme Court majority appears set to destroy the right to abortion, an essential right which protects the health, safety, and freedom of millions of Americans."

Warren said there was no

other recourse but to expand the Supreme Court.

Warren was backed by Sen. Ed Markey who called for the end of the filibuster.

"Codify Roe v. Wade with a national law protecting abortion rights," he said. "Expand the Supreme Court and stop this horrifying injustice in its tracks."

Last week, the House reaffirmed its commitment to reproductive care by providing funding for reproductive care providers in its FY23 budget.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden said he fully supports Roe v. Wade.

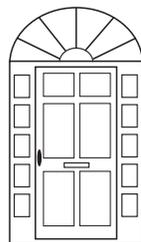
"As a prosecutor and the chief law enforcement official in Suffolk County, I will always work in support of laws that protect access to reproductive healthcare," he said. "Equitable access to health services – not just in Massachusetts but across our nation – helps ensure the rights and wellbeing of every woman. Public health is key to public safety, and it is a priority of my office."



Attendees listen to the organizers of the event as they speak on the steps of the Mass. State House.

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Rentals

EMBRACE (from pg. 1)

memorial, King Boston has plans for a Center for Economic Justice, which, according to the King Boston website, will be “grounded in community engagement and aimed at generating the data and knowledge needed to inform movements at the grassroots level and beyond.” The center will eventually become a “research institute,” and partner with “community groups, coalitions, and other stakeholders,” the website states.

Sam Giarratani, a public art manager who worked closely with Hank Willis Thomas on the design side of the memorial process, is a Revere native and moved to Winthrop when she was a teenager.

“It’s been incredible, for lack of a better word,” Giarratani told the Sun. “I started this in 2018 and through the pandemic, through mayoral shifts, it’s still happening and there’s a huge hole in the ground and I’m just really proud of my city that it’s actually happening.”

Giarratani is a founder of Negative Space, LLC, a NYC-based production management company for public art campaigns.

“I operate behind the scenes for the artwork,” she said—“coordinating the vision.”

She added, “It’s a really interesting arts administrative role.” She said she works “really closely and collaboratively” with those involved in the project, including landscape designers and the visionaries behind the idea to put a memorial on the Boston Common.

Giarratani said she was happy to see “so many people come out in support of this project” at the groundbreaking last Wednesday.

“Just like seeing people from all industries show up, I think, is telling that this is a really important groundbreaking thing that’s happening—not only to put a monument in one of the oldest parks in the country, but to sort of talk about the racial history that we have and I know Boston can sort of gloss over some of the issues it’s had in the past,” she said. “This is sort of a show that they’re ready to actually commit and do the work.”

She praised King Boston for

its work in “uplifting the Black community in Boston,” and said she looks forward to people interacting with the memorial, which is set to be officially unveiled on Martin Luther King, Jr. day next year.

She said she hopes the Embrace memorial will become as important to the park as the Make Way for Ducklings statue has become.

“I’m hoping that it becomes part of the ecosystem of the park, and I’m excited to see people taking pictures underneath it and reading around it and just kind of adding to the backdrop.”

Giarratani said that construction will continue through December, when the piece is expected to be fully installed.

“I’m just super grateful,” she said.

At the groundbreaking, Rev. Mariama-White Hammond led a land acknowledgement, reminding those in attendance that the land that is now the Boston Common is the “traditional homelands of the Massachusetts tribe.” She added, “we are so glad today to celebrate the legacies of the Kings and their love.”

Embrace designer Hank Willis Thomas thanked those who were involved in making this memorial possible, saying “this is an amazing amalgamation of so many people’s love for humanity; love for the possibility of what we can do and what can happen when we work together.”

Barry Gaither, a member of the art selection committee of King Boston, spoke about the selection process and why The Embrace was chosen as the winner.

“We came to the Embrace,” he said, “and it presented us with the great problem of ‘how do you express love in an intimate and global sense simultaneously?’ The Embrace represented that distillation of gesture.”

Governor Charlie Baker also made remarks, saying that “this is the sort of thing that requires everybody to embrace the notion that every day, if you’re not moving forward, you’re moving back.”

He continued, “and I really do hope this memorial and all



On April 27, King Boston, City of Boston officials, and supporters dug the ceremonial dirt in front of the future site of the Embrace memorial, signifying the groundbreaking of the sculpture on the Boston Common.

it stands for, and the work that will be done by the center going forward, will be there as a constant reminder to all of us what’s left to be done and why it’s so important that it be done here in the Commonwealth and here in the City of Boston.”

Mayor Michelle Wu quoted Corretta Scott King in her remarks. “The birthday matriarch we are celebrating today said once, ‘the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members.’”

Wu continued, “What I love about this moment and what we are about to do, to break ground in a season of breaking fast, in a season of reminding each and every one of us of our place of belonging rooted in the greater community is that not only are we embracing our history, our role as a city in this partnership that changed the world forevermore between the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King, our history in crating the spaces that would get passed down generation after generation, but also our role in signifying every single day that we embrace everyone who finds their way to Boston.”

She added, “this is a city that is a city for everyone.”

For more information about the memorial and about King Boston, visit kingboston.org, and for more information about Sam Giarratani’s company, visit <https://negativespace.rocks>.

ELECTRONIC WASTE AND PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, May 7, 2022 | 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
1205 VFW Pkwy, Boston MA

NOTE:

- Proof of Boston residency is required.
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- We will only accept electronic waste and paper at this event.

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boston.gov/hazardous-waste

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Public Works

FOPG'S GREEN & WHITE BALL RETURNS AFTER TWO-YEAR ABSENCE

Courtesy of Friends of the Public Garden

The Friends of the Public Garden's Green & White Ball returned April 29 after a two-year absence.

Chaired by Beacon Hill residents Tess Atkinson and Kate Enroth, the event drew more than 170 people to the Four Seasons – with the Public Garden right outside the windows – as just the perfect venue to celebrate our parks and the people who believe in them.

Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Friends President Liz Vizza said, "The Green & White Ball is our single largest event raising funds for direct parks care. The Four Seasons – with the Public Garden right outside the windows – was just the perfect venue to celebrate our parks and the people who believe in them."

Added Board Chair Leslie Adam, "These parks mean so

much to all of us and it was so evident in the commitment of our amazing committee. They have spent months preparing for this event and we are so grateful to them all, especially our co-chairs Tess and Kate."

Co-Chair Tess Atkinson summed up the sentiment shared by all attendees with, "It was a beautiful evening, where we were all so filled with joy and gratitude to come together in celebration of Boston's parks. Kate and I were honored to be chairs of the first Green & White in two years."

The Friends of the Public Garden was founded in 1970 to renew, care, and advocate for the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. One of the first parks advocacy groups in the nation, the Friends works in partnership with the City of Boston and its more than 3,500 Members to advance a vision of welcoming and accessible parks for all.

Visit www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org to learn more.



Friends President Liz Vizza and Allen Snyder.



Shown above, Sam and Tess Atkinson, Kate Enroth, and Dana Schmaltz (Tess and Kate were event co-chairs).

Shown to the right, Maud Cabot and Suzie Tapson.



Leslie Adam, Beth Johnson, and Alex Hastings.



Jenna and Scott Signore, with Mona Kumar.



Namrita Kapur and Tom DeWinter.



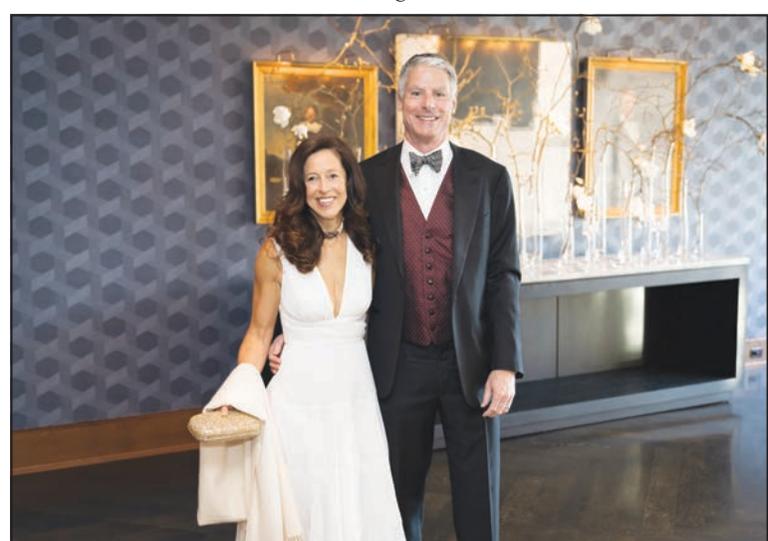
Kenda Coleman and Gloria Coleman.

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Walter and Sarah Donovan.

Back Bay, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test-rate climbs again

BPHC recommends precautions

By John Lynds

With the neighborhood and city's weekly COVID positive test rate still climbing, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is recommending residents take precautions to stop the spread.

The BPHC also renewed its recommendation that masks be worn in indoor public settings, including public transportation and transportation hubs, government buildings, and crowded indoor venues. The recommendation is especially important for those who are at high risk for severe illness or who live with someone who is high risk.

"With COVID-19 cases rising, we are urging all Bostonians to take extra precautions to protect yourselves, your family, and our community. If you are feeling unwell, get tested at one of our free City sites or take a rapid test. It's also important to stay up to date on your vaccinations," said Executive Director of the BPHC Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "We are recommending that individuals protect themselves and others by masking indoors, particularly in

crowded places. These precautions are how we protect the progress we've made in our community."

Last week, 1,282 Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, Downtown, and West End residents were tested for the virus last week and 10.4 percent were positive--this was a 53 percent increase from the 6.8 percent that tested positive as reported by the BPHC on April 25.

One hundred thirty three additional residents contracted the virus between April 25 and May 2 and there are now 10,104 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week and is still above the 5 percent threshold.

According to the BPHC 16,256 residents were tested citywide last week and 7.8 percent were COVID positive--this was a 13 percent increase from the 6.9 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on April 25.

The BPHC reported there has been a 65 percent increase in COVID-19 cases over the past three weeks.

Health experts are saying the new subvariant of the omicron strain, known as BA.2, is now the dominant strain in the US and 30

percent more infectious than the BA.1 omicron strain responsible for the last surge.

Dr. Ojikutu and the BPHC also reported last week the amount of COVID-19 particles in local wastewater samples has increased by 109 percent over a 14-day period, suggesting that cases could continue to rise in the coming weeks. New hospitalizations have also slowly risen in Boston during this time period.

With higher transmission levels, wearing a mask can prevent individuals from getting sick, staying can help stop the spread of COVID-19, and vaccination with boosting reduces the risk of severe illness and hospitalization.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.5 percent last week and went from 175,628 to 178,291 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,458.

South End Branch Library temporarily closed

Staff Report

The South End Branch Library is temporarily closed due a basement flood that has damaged mechanical and electrical systems in the building. Although contrac-

tors are working to make repairs, it is unclear how long the closure will last, according to the Friends of the South End Library

In the meantime, the Friends asks readers to hold on to any donations for the group's Book

Sale and said they will notify those on its mailing list with information on when the library is expected to reopen or with an alternate donation drop-off site, if necessary. For now, the Book Sale is still scheduled for June 18.

FENWAY HEALTH (from pg. 3)

and improvements of these organizations through our Community Health Center Grant Program."

The Community Health Center Grant Program is funded by the MassDevelopment/Massachusetts Health Educational Facilities Authority (HEFA) Charitable Trust. MassDevelopment offers other financing options to community health centers, including tax-exempt bond financing and TechDollars, a loan program to help nonprofits buy and install technology equipment.

"These grants are critical in the ongoing work of community health centers to serve their

under-resourced communities," said Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers President and CEO Michael Curry, Esq. "Funding that invests in medical equipment upgrades and facility improvements for community health centers means more care for more patients in need."

The following organizations received Community Health Center Grant Program awards in FY22.

Fenway Health, Boston - \$50,000

Fenway Health advocates for and delivers innovative, equitable, accessible health care, support-

ive services, and transformative research and education to more than 34,000 people annually. The organization centers LGBTQIA+ people, BIPOC individuals, and other underserved communities; for 50 years, Fenway Health has remained one of the few federally qualified health centers with an explicitly LGBTQIA+ focus and an unparalleled commitment to providing culturally competent care. The organization will use this grant to support the renovation of space in its primary building into a centralized sterile processing center.

BOSTON GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE RETURNS TO BOYLSTON STREET



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

The annual Boston Greek Independence Day Parade was held Sunday, May 1, on Boylston Street, commemorating Greece's march to freedom, which began March 25, 1821.



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PHILLIS WHEATLEY (from pg. 1)

slaves, like Phillis Wheatley, didn't often choose to become a part of the churches of their former enslavers, said Rev. Taylor.)

"During the American Revolution, when Sam Adams, who was also a member of the church, was seeking freedom from the Crown, Phillis Wheatley was saying, 'excuse me, what about my freedom?'" said Rev. Taylor. "And she held the feet to the fire of these great American Patriots."

Moreover, Rev. Taylor said, "Reading the Bible on her own, Phillis Wheatley saw the story about the enslaved people in Egypt being freed by God and Moses, and she said to Sam Adams and the other Patriots, 'where am I in your fight for freedom?' and 'why does God, who chose to free the Hebrews in Egypt, not want us free?'"

Old South Church started the tradition of Phillis Wheatley Sunday circa 2010 to honor a woman Rev. Taylor describes as "one of the saints of the church" and whose legacy she hopes Old South will keep alive by teaching Wheatley's story to every child who passes through the church's doors.

Phillis Wheatley Sunday begins at Old South Church at 645 Boylston St. with the First Worship by The Rev Dr Emmett G. Price III at 9 a.m.

Price is Berklee College of Music's inaugural dean of Africana Studies, as well as an internationally recognized expert and accomplished writer, lecturer, scholar, educator, and speaker on the subject of Black music and culture.

"One interest of his is hip-hop music, which created a path for people with different experiences to express themselves," said Rev. Taylor.

At 10 a.m., parishioners and guests will promenade about four blocks from the church to the Boston Women's Memorial on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which immortalizes Wheatley, alongside Abigail Adams and Lucy Stone, a prominent U.S. orator, abolitionist, and suffragist. As they make their way there, participants will hold up signs declaring "Happy birthday, Phillis," and they'll sing "Happy Birthday" to her and share cupcakes upon reaching the monument, said Rev. Taylor.

At 11 a.m., the church will hold its Festival Worship with Emmett Price preaching, along with the presentation of its annual Open Door Award.

The annual Open Door Award was, according to Rev. Taylor, was created in 2014 to "honor people who have jacked, pried, or sweettalked their way to open previously closed doors and allow new people to walk through them." Past award recipients have included Boston Globe Metro Columnist Adrian Walker; Callie Crossley, pioneering broadcast journalist and host of "Under the Radar with Callie Crossley" on WGBH; Sarah-Ann Shaw, Boston's first African American female TV reporter; Sen. Elizabeth Warren; and former State Rep. Byron Rushing, among others.

This year, the Open Door Award goes to Price, as well as to June Cooper, Old South Church's Theologian in the City.

Cooper recently retired from her long-held position as executive director of City Mission, the second oldest nonprofit organization in the U.S., and she also previously managed the Boston Health Start program, which has been credited with significantly decreasing the infant mortality rate in the City of Boston in the late '90s.

At noon, a second promenade will make its way from the church to the Boston Women's Memorial on the Common-

wealth Avenue Mall, where once again Wheatley will be feted by guests.

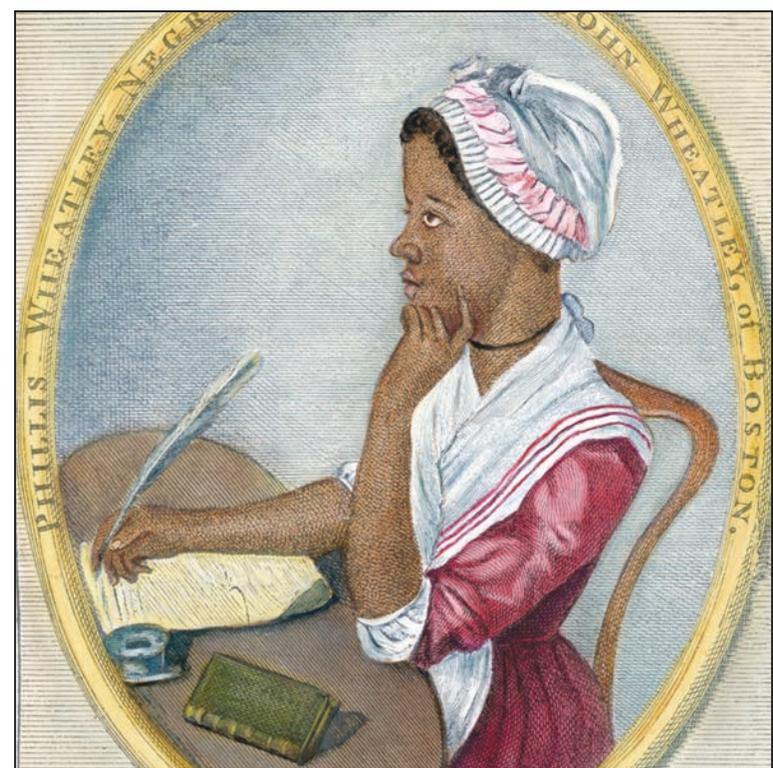
Also on hand for Phillis Wheatley Day will be a film crew making a full-length OMNI documentary (running between 30 and 40 minutes) for the Museum of Science, which celebrates New England and its people.

The documentary, which is being made exclusively for viewing on the large format dome-screen at the museum's Mugar Omni Theater, will feature Dr. Paula Hammond, a professor at MIT, as well as a member of the Old South who asked that her church be featured in the film.

"Dr. Paula Hammond of MIT, who will be the voice of science, education and innovation in New England," according to Old South Church. "One of the angles of innovation that interests them is the idea of social innovation - the history of revolutionaries who refused to accept the way things were and challenged New England society through their words and actions."

To this end, the documentary will look at the region's "social innovators and revolutionaries, as Hammond is in medicine," and as Phillis Wheatley was as a poet and an early civil rights trailblazer, said Rev. Taylor.

Visit <https://www.oldsouth.org/news/phillis-wheatley-sunday> for more information on Old South Church's Phillis Wheatley Sunday.



Phillis Wheatley.

COURTESY OF OLD SOUTH CHURCH

SEDLC discusses 41 Berkeley proposal during advisory review

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met virtually on April 28 for a second advisory review of the proposed new building and addition at 41 Berkeley St., the site of the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, which has plans to move to a purpose-built campus in Roxbury's Nubian Square.

Architect David Hacin led the presentation, reminding commissioners that this project features three buildings: a senior care building that will be operated by Atria Senior Living, the existing Franklin Union building, which is proposed to have an addition on top, and the Appleton building, for which several options were presented.

Hacin said that the existing "site has been closed to the public for many years" while it functioned as the college. The goal of the project is to "open it up" and create a "robust public realm" with outdoor spaces for the public to gather, as well as serve as a place to have the annual Christmas tree market.

He said that the "main access" for vehicles remains on Appleton St., but there will be "limited vehicular access off of Berkeley" for a potential shuttle bus for the senior care building.

He explained some changes to the design of the senior care build-

ing since the last time it came before the commission, including lengthening the building to reduce the height, as well as removed a floor on the Franklin Union addition as requested by the commission.

"We have created a new arcade passageway from the corner of Appleton and Tremont that leads into the courtyard space that is lined with a new community space and the retail spaces," Hacin said. He also said that previous feedback included to "create a more animated street frontage along Tremont St.," which he said the team tried to do with this new proposal.

The height of the senior care building is now at 110 feet—it was previously proposed to be 145 feet. It has also gone from 13 stories to 10. The Franklin Union building is now proposed to be five stories including the single story addition, instead of the six stories previously proposed.

The site will feature 24 percent open space, even though only 20 percent is required as part of the Planned Development Area (PDA) that the parcel is subject to.

Hacin also talked about the arcade entrance and showed various renderings, explaining that the arcade will be a "passage for the public to walk all the way through this building," leading to Appleton St. and the community garden. He talked briefly about materials, say-

ing that there will be brick and the potential for metals or terra cotta, but nothing has been decided yet.

For the Appleton building, Hacin said that the building's existing windows are metal replacement windows, and the interior of the building has been "very heavily modified," and it also does not meet fire standards.

"We're trying to think about how best to work this building into the composition," he said, and there are several options proposed: one that would raze the entire building and construct a new one in-kind, one to preserve or reconstruct the existing arches, one to create an all-new facade, and one that would preserve the historic facade.

"We believe the only portion of the project that is significant, if you will, and unaltered is the facade," Hacin said. "That facade has some structural issues."

SELDC Chair John Amodeo said that any demolition of a historically significant building would have to be "extremely well-justified."

During commissioner comments, Commissioner Catherine Hunt said that she noticed a "massive difference from the first presentation," and she said that the changes to the Franklin Union building are "much appreciated."

Commissioner Fabian D'Souza said that "I think my favorite is the Union building." He said

he likes the recessed mechanical equipment that's proposed, but also said that the "senior care and Appleton buildings affect each other," so the design team needs to keep that in mind.

Commissioner John Freeman said he is pleased with the massing of the proposed senior care building, but said that the team needs to preserve the facade of the Appleton building.

"When you come before us for an application, I'd like you to remind yourself," Amodeo said, that "you're coming before a preservation commission," and that two of the buildings that are part of this project are "existing contributing buildings. I would advise you to start with those rather than the senior care when you're presenting. The most important job we have here is the preservation of the Franklin Union building and the building on Appleton St."

Amodeo also said that he likes the removal of one of the floors on the addition for the Franklin Union Building and the pushing back of the mechanical equipment. He requested more views from farther away for the next time the applicants come before the commission.

He also advocated for the preservation of the Appleton St. facade.

For the senior building, "I agree with John that the massing is there as far as I'm concerned," Amodeo

said. "I don't love mechanicals going above the top of the building," he added, though he acknowledged that it has been done before in a landmarks district. He urged the applicant to "work as hard as you can to lower the penthouse screen."

He praised the "increased open space" at the corner of Tremont and Appleton Streets and the corner of Tremont and Berkeley Streets, calling it "brilliant."

Julie Arnheiter, an abutter on Appleton St., raised concerns about the project that she said were brought up at a previous meeting about the project, including safety concerns with the entrance for trucks, as well as the fact that she and others have expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of affordable housing proposed.

"If you're familiar with this neighborhood," she added, "I think you'll know that there is a considerable amount of community space provided for a number of different functions and reasons and in facilities."

Hacin said that he and the rest of the team will take all of this feedback into consideration before coming back to the commission again. Since this was an advisory review, no vote was taken on the proposal. When the project team is ready, they will come for an official design re-view after which a vote will be taken.

SELDC approves new six-story mixed-use building at 1395 Washington St.

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) approved—with provisos—a new six-story building at 1395 Washington St. at its hearing on May 3, after three previous advisory reviews.

The proposal includes the demolition of the existing one-story commercial building at the address. The new six-story building will feature three commercial spaces on the ground floor, with 33 residential units on the floors above. The units will be a mixture of studios, one bed-room, and one bedroom plus dens.

Attorney Marc LaCasse said that the project has received Article 80 Small Project Review approval by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

Architect Dartagnan Brown explained that the height has been "brought down below the 70 foot threshold," and now sits at 69 feet, 11 inches.

The building is located in the

middle of two taller buildings; the one on the right is a more contemporary building and the one on the left is a contributing historic building.

There had previously been issues with proposed windows and the abutters next door, but Brown said that the team "hosted a bunch of meetings" with their representatives and that issue has been resolved.

Changes have been made to the sidewalks outside the building, to comply with the city's Complete Streets program.

Small changes have been made to the ground floor facade as well, moving from a lighter brick to a more "iron spot magnesium brick" that is "playing off the reddish tones" of historic brick in the neighborhood without replicating it exactly. The top floor will be a lighter color, and the ground floor retail features darker gray, while the residential entry features sandstone and brass.

The top cornice line has been "pulled slightly down from the

first floor residential windows," Brown said, "to allow that sill expression to occur below the windows." The retail signage bands are wide enough for signage for future tenants, and feature gooseneck lighting from above where a sign would go. The top floor has also been stepped back, and the originally proposed seventh floor has been removed.

The rear elevation features OKO fiber cement panels in a light color, with balconies on the rear facade as well.

Commissioners asked a variety of clarifying questions about different parts of the proposal, but overall the feedback was positive on the changes that have been made to the design.

There is a roof deck proposed, but the Commissioners said they would like to see a mockup of it once the building is constructed to ensure it will not be visible from a public way.

"I think this kind of started out as a showy project," said Commissioner John Freeman,

"but I think it's turned into something that's very sophisticated." He called it a "nice example of new construction in the South End."

Commissioner Catherine Hunt agreed, saying that there are "lots of nice improvements here."

Commissioner John Amodeo said that he likes the sidewalk extensions, but wondered whether or not there was room for a potential restaurant tenant to have tables outside the restaurant while still allowing pedestrians to walk up and down the sidewalk. There was discussion about this, but it was determined that a future tenant would work those details out if and when the time comes.

Amodeo also said he would like to see more views of the proposed head house on the roof, and wondered what details are included in this design that draw from the historic building to the left.

"I haven't seen a gesture other than the height of the building that responds to the building on the left," Amodeo said.

Brown discussed some details that are still being worked out, including "trellis detailing that creates the deck spaces," as well as floor transitions that match up with the windows on the building on the left.

"Anything you can do that doesn't compromise the organization of the building but can relate to the building to the left, that would be great," Amodeo said.

Amodeo also talked about the "glass in front of the door frames" on the front facade, saying that it "feels uncomfortable to me." The doors will open to let fresh air in, but there is no room for anyone to step out.

During public comment, Stephen Jerome said that "I really feel that it's come a long way," but expressed concerns with the top floor and the white color that it appears to be in the renderings. He also echoed concerns from commissioners about the Juliette balconies, saying that getting rid

UPNA discusses neighborhood updates; elects board of directors

By Lauren Bennett

The Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) held a general meeting on April 28, where it discussed updates from the past year, the Tremont Redesign Project, and voted for its board of directors.

The group first heard from State Rep. Jon Santiago, who, if elected again this November, would now represent the UPNA area because of redistricting. Currently, the area's rep. is Aaron Michlewitz.

Santiago said he lives on Claremont St., and has been on the legislature for two terms. He is now seeking a third, and told residents that he is also an emergency room physician at Boston Medical Center.

He said his goal is to have a member of his staff at UPNA meetings if he himself cannot attend, and anyone with questions, comments, or concerns can reach out to Santiago at jon.santiago@mahouse.gov, or his office through Cory Azmon at cory.azmon@mahouse.gov or Nick Bornstein at nick.bornstein@mahouse.gov.

ing out solutions to the problem.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

UPNA President Abigail Cohen talked about the Rodent Remediation Committee, which held a neighborhood walk-through with the city in March. Cohen reported that the committee is looking into a potential subsidization of trash bins for residents in the neighborhood to help with the rat problem, and she also spoke about the city's new compost drop-off program, called Project Oscar. The South End Library is one of the drop-off locations for this program.

"The city asks for continued 311 reporting," Cohen said, and though one does not yet exist, "the city is considering creation of a task force focused on rodent remediation."

She said that Councilor Ed Flynn participated in the walk through, and other local representatives have been helpful in figur-

A slide presented at the meeting reminded neighbors of some things they should be doing to help as well, such as stopping and reporting dumping in the neighborhood, making sure that dog waste is put into a trash receptacle, using sink disposals, personal compost bins, or city composting programs for food waste, and removing bird and other animal feeders from their property.

If possible, residents should also be using trash bins with fitting lids. Rodent sightings and dumping should be reported to 311, she said, and another meeting of the rodent remediation committee will be held in coming weeks.

UPNA member Jamie Fox said that he has still seen "overflowing" trash bins and "a lot of bags on the ground." He recommended an industrial strength trash bin that would prevent the rats from having access to the trash.

Cohen said that the committee is looking into approval for reimbursement for these bins, as well as birth control for rodents as another potential solution.

Other updates included upcoming activities, such as a park event tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21, and the Fete de la Musique on Saturday, June 25.

She also said that a group worked on graffiti removal in the neighborhood last year, and another round of cleanup will happen if necessary.

Cohen also talked about the Tremont St. redesign project, which is now underway. She said someone from the city's transportation department was invited to the meeting, but no one could make it due to scheduling conflicts.

She clarified that there will be an ADA accessible raised crosswalk as well as bike lanes on Tremont St., with traffic going down to one lane in either direction.

"We at the end of Union Park have lost two parking spots," Cohen said, because of new curb extensions for the raised crosswalk and "increased visibility."

She said that any questions about the project should be directed to the Boston Transportation Department at btd@boston.gov, or

617-635-4680.

"This is in progress; they're not going to change the design, but they can explain elements to you," she said.

Finally, the board of directors was elected, which included current board members up for re-election: Lenny Alberts, Nancy Blaisdell, Michael Bojanowski, Abigail Cohen, Jamie Fox, Sue Ann Fox, Greg Herrema, Jay Leopold, Christine Parker, and Barry Rock. Three new members were also elected; Erin Azrack, Monika Wirtz, and Andrew Veneziano.

Patrick Dooling, Kristen Massimine, and Joseph Raccuglia are leaving the board this term, and UPNA thanked them for their "many years of support" in a recent email.

For more information about UPNA, its meetings, and its events, follow the organization on Instagram @friendsofunionpark, or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/UPNABoston](https://www.facebook.com/UPNABoston). The UPNA website is still under construction, but will be up and running sometime in the near future.

Juveniles connected to Downtown Crossing, Common attacks arraigned

Staff Report

Two 13-year-old juveniles were arraigned on Monday, May 2, before Suffolk County Juvenile Court Judge Peter Coyne on various assault charges related to recent attacks in Downtown Crossing and Boston Common.

One of the juveniles was charged with 14 counts from nine incidents and ordered held on \$5,000 bail, according to District Attorney Kevin Hayden, while the other was charged with nine counts from five incidents and ordered held on \$3,500 bail.

Both juveniles were also ordered to wear GPS tracking bracelets, to

leave home only for school or service provider reasons, and to stay away from Downtown Crossing and other areas where the attacks occurred, said DA Hayden.

The charges are in relation to numerous violent incidents at Downtown Crossing, Boston Common and other areas of the city over the past month.

"Our hope and practice is always to keep children from getting involved in court. But the frequency and seriousness of these incidents demanded an approach that would address the immediate public safety threat presented by these juveniles," added Hayden.

SELDC (from pg. 9)

of the "horizontal band...would be really helpful." Jerome also said he appreciated the lowering of the height to conform with the limit in the district.

Brown assured him and the Commission that white is not the color that will be used on the top floor; rather it is a lighter gray color.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve this proposal "substantially as submitted tonight with some provisos," which include that there is to be a site mockup for all materials as well as

"some options for the treatment of the glass railing," there is to be a mockup of the rook deck prior to placing the final posts, and there will be "one more meeting and presentation on the facade" when 75 percent of the design is complete that addresses the view of the mechanical head house from Washington St. Freeman also said that the Commission would like to see more details on the facade that reflect the contributing building to its left. The Commission approved the motion.

DA Hayden announces \$400,000 funding for Mass and Cass alternative-to-prosecution program

Staff Report

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden on May 2 announced the allocation of \$400,000 from his office's Asset Forfeiture Fund to expand an innovative alternative-to-prosecution program with the goal of aiding individuals who reside in and frequent the Mass and Cass section of Boston.

Hayden called the extraordinary expenditure "a fitting use of assets seized from drug dealers to directly address the most visible and problematic drug-related geographic area in Massachusetts today."

"It's clear that traditional court involvement is not the answer for many of the vulnerable individuals in the center or fringes of Mass and Cass. We need to present alternative solutions that identify and address the issues that brought them there in the first place. I'm confident this program does that, and I think money seized from drug-related convictions is a fitting method to fund it," Hayden said.

The funds will expand Services Over Sentences (SOS), a program begun in Suffolk County district and municipal courts by the Suffolk DA's office last year in partnership with North Suffolk Mental Health

Association. Under SOS, non-violent offenders with mental health or substance use disorders can volunteer to work with clinicians and recovery coaches on an intensive recovery program. The program's motto is "modify the behavior, treat the disease."

Program participants are assessed based on their level of risk – referring to their likelihood of participating in criminal or otherwise dangerous behavior – and their level of need for services. Current SOS programming is available to those who present as low risk, low need. The program expansion will create a new, more intensive track of services and programming available to individuals up to the highest risk and need categories.

Prosecutors will retain discretion to determine whether diversion through the SOS program is appropriate based on the assessment of the individual and their criminal case. Depending on the case, an eligible individual may voluntarily participate in the SOS program on a pre-arraignment or post-arraignment basis. If pre-arraignment, a completed program can prevent an individual from acquiring a court record. If post-arraignment, a completed program can mitigate or replace a conviction or traditional sen-

tencing.

The appropriation from Hayden's office will fund a program coordinator, two recovery coaches, a clinician, computers and other equipment. The expansion increases the program's capacity to absorb the anticipated influx of cases arising in the Mass and Cass area during the spring and summer months. Program workers would be present in court and on site.

Audrey Clairmont, Director of Addiction Services at NSMHA, said the SOS program will help identify and treat the factors involved in bringing individuals into the Mass and Cass area with the goal of providing them the support to leave it. SOS personnel will work with program participants on establishing a source of income, ensuring safe and stable housing, developing skills and educational training, ensuring access to healthy food and access to healthcare, detox and sobriety services, she said.

"The individuals at Mass and Cass are complex, high risk and high need. The SOS program brings the worlds of treatment, recovery and criminal justice together for a full system of care approach to empower these individuals to lead healthy, fulfilling

(FUNDING Pg. 11)

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Shepherd, M Craig	Marlborough 6 RT	29 Marlborough St #6	\$6,900,000
McGinty, Mary E	Byrne, Brian J	409 Beacon St #4	\$870,000
Rinard, Martin	Joan E Bragen FT	8 Gloucester St #12	\$1,228,000
Strieb-Ankermann, C M	Stoddard, Meredith	364 Marlborough St #4	\$621,000
BEACON HILL			
7 Chestnut Street LLC	First Church In Boston	7 Chestnut St	\$4,250,000
Love, Malcolm G	Reilly Jr, Thomas E	25 Chestnut St #4	\$1,250,000
Ho, Jessica	Barbara A Hyde T	2 Hawthorne Pl #6P	\$420,000
Brick&Brownstone LLC	Santoro, Vincent J	9 Hawthorne Pl #14N	\$845,000
Mazzocchi, Joseph T	Lafarge, Thomas	40 Joy St #5	\$1,150,000
Nestle, Frank	Wayne, Pamela A	3 Myrtle St #4	\$920,000
Belisle, Anthony	JDM Owner LLC	45 Temple St #207	\$1,350,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Sznajstajler, Jeffrey	Wadsworth Village LLC	52 Gray St #2	\$1,209,000
Ferretti, Michael A	Oconnor Ryan J Est	38 Lawrence St #17	\$110,000
Barnard, Christopher S	Middle Melrose LLC	18 Melrose St #2	\$1,800,000
201 W Brkline St 203 LLC	Navaratnam, Arvind	201 W Brookline St #203	\$4,485,000
Tsui, Winnie W	Temple, Kelly	187 W Canton St #2	\$670,000
BVD Group LLC	P&T Group LLC	8 Winchester St #3	\$1,000,000
Allen, Joel T	Cirkot, Joel	85 E Brookline St #2	\$740,000
Whitney, Robert T	Madsen, Peter	33 E Springfield St #1	\$1,075,000
Arguello, Carlos	Soong, Allen C	78 Gainsborough St #106E	\$569,000
Diez, Jose L	Diaz, Francisco J	121-127 Portland St #501	\$1,006,250
Syed, Aleeza	America Realty LLC	390 Riverway #6	\$585,000
Lakin, Thomas C	Reichenbach, Charles B	21 Rutland Sq #2	\$2,570,000
Chand, Dhan S	Sultana, Razvan	201 Saint Botolph St #4	\$500,000
Sholkin, Lisa J	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #502	\$1,145,900
Quinn, Barbara	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #510	\$1,409,900
Tongbaiyai, Pornpit	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #602	\$1,208,900
Anthony Jardim RET	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #802	\$2,274,900
Palombi, Maria T	Hanak, Joseph A	516 Shawmut Ave #2	\$700,000
Vetrano, Daniel	Pingitore, Abbie	604 Tremont St #1	\$2,055,000
Distefano, Dan	Karpel, Ashley	77 W Brookline St #3	\$1,292,000
Mccann, Christopher	Clayton, Nicholas G	143-145 W Concord St #2	\$2,947,000
Karl, Jennifer	West Newton Street 2 RT	121 W Newton St #2	\$2,350,000
Dimitrakopoulos, Georgios	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #502	\$1,169,000
New England Legal Fndtn	New Eng Anti-Vivisection	333 Washington St #850	\$1,100,000
Haggerty, Zachary J	Bertozzi, Steven	1313 Washington St #420	\$1,500,000
Zhou, Stella H	Patel, Cheerag	1692 Washington St #2	\$939,000
Kinney 2nd, John	1950 Wa Street LLC	1948-1950 Washington St #5F	\$936,000
Isaac, Brian	Park, Seo Y	25 Worcester St #3	\$2,120,000
Kantor, Joshua A	Mcmahon, Brian	154 Worcester St #5	\$1,405,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Belisle, Anthony	Mazzola, Colin L	110 Broad St #501	\$1,470,000
Biancarelli, Dea L	300 Com St Re Assoc LLC	300 Commercial St #512	\$550,000
M Susan Grnberg SP T	Kowalczewski, Yvonne	65 E India Row #25A	\$670,000
Kowalczewski, Yvonne	Johnson, William	65 E India Row #38D	\$660,000
Volwiler, Adam S	Hawkins, Deborah	1 Franklin St #3203	\$3,000,000
New Spring Dev Corp	Chang, Anderson	100 Fulton St #3K	\$805,000
Succi, Marc D	Lagosh, Sarah B	134-136 Fulton St #5	\$1,425,000
Bansal, Rahul	New England Legal Fndtn	150 Lincoln St #6B	\$1,341,000
Wei, Shu	Suffredini, Caryn	580 Washington St #505	\$1,265,000

FUNDING (from pg. 10)

and productive lives in their communities," Clairmont said.

Hayden said the money from his office's Asset Forfeiture Fund is designated to fund the first year of the program. His office helped draft a state budget amendment that would help fund the program's second and subsequent years and is exploring private funding and other options as well. "We'll be looking at every pos-

sible funding source because the needs of community members and vulnerable individuals at Mass and Cass demand it. Our hope is that the success of the program will be its greatest advertisement for additional funding," Hayden said.

Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston), a member of the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, called the mental health and substance use dis-

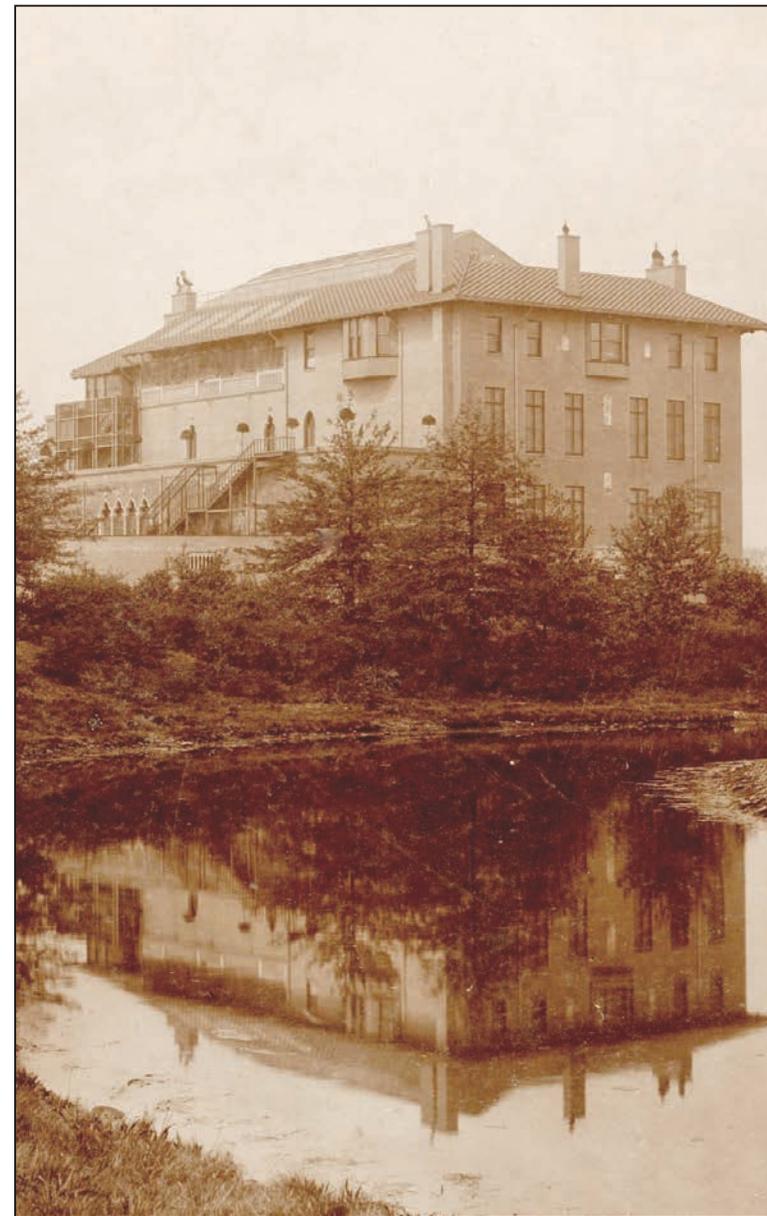
order crisis at Mass and Cass "a battle we must win."

"It will take creative solutions and stakeholders from all levels of government to prevail. The expansion of the SOS initiative sponsored by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office is an important way to intervene with resources to ensure the public's health and safety needs are being addressed holistically," Collins said.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window in the last clue is on Fenway Court, today known as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. It was designed by architect Willard Sears and completed circa 1901. Today's answer is from the Boston Public Library collection and was taken before 1928.

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 with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



273 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE ONE

2 BEDROOMS | 2 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 2,500 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$3,250,000

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

12:00PM - 1:00PM



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

88 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE THREE

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

LISTED AT \$7,900,000



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