

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

THE DONNA SUMMER DANCE PARTY IN COPLEY SQ.



Copley Square Plaza became a disco dance party free for all to join in during the 8th annual Donna Summer Disco Party.

Copley Connect draws mixed response from community leaders

By Dan Murphy

Copley Connect – the city's pilot program which shut down a section of Dartmouth Street to motor-vehicle traffic for 10 days earlier this month to temporarily provide expanded pedestrian space at Copley Square Park – has so far received mixed reviews from community leaders, with some applauding the additional of new public event space and

others expressing deep concern over its traffic impact.

Between Tuesday, June 7, and Friday, June 17, the city and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) shut down Dartmouth Street between Boylston Street and St. James Avenue to cars and other motor vehicles, allowing numerous activities to be hosted in the area for the public to enjoy, including a Celtics "watch party" in Copley Square

on June 11, as well as the Donna Summer Disco Party on June 16.

The pilot program also set the stage for the city's plans to revitalize Copley Square Park by adding a "durable and flexible plaza for popular events, tree groves for shady relaxation, many seating opportunities, and sustainable planters around the Square," according to the city.

(COPLEY CONNECT Pg. 3)

Fr. Unni takes temporary sabbatical from St. Cecilia Parish

By Dan Murphy

Fr. John Unni of Saint Cecilia Parish is leaving on sabbatical at the end of June, but will return in late September.

According to the Saint Cecilia website, Fr. Unni was selected as a Barr Fellow in 2019 via the program that recognizes the city's leaders. The two-year program culminates in an individual sabbatical for Fr. Unni that takes him to Italy and France ahead



COURTESY OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH

Fr. John Unni of Saint Cecilia Parish.

of the "group learning journey," which was delayed due to the pandemic.

"This is NOT the 'Irish/Italian goodbye, or a sneaky way to leave the parish! I'm planning to be back at the end of September and be present at the liturgies, baptisms, and weddings that weekend of October 1-2," Fr. Unni wrote on the Saint Cecilia website. "In the meantime, I

(Fr. UNNI Pg. 2)

Hotel Vendome Fire 50th anniversary ceremony honors nine fallen firefighters

By Lauren Bennett

On June 17, A remembrance ceremony was held for the nine firefighters who lost their lives in the four alarm Hotel Vendome Fire 50 years ago—the largest tragedy in the history of the Boston Fire Department.

Fire Lieutenant Thomas J. Carroll, Fire Lieutenant John E. Hanbury, Firefighter Charles E. Dolan, Firefighter Joseph P. Saniuk, Firefighter John E. Jameson, Firefighter Thomas W. Beckwith, Firefighter Paul J. Murphy, Firefighter Richard B. Magee, and Firefighter Joseph E. Boucher, Jr., all died after a portion of the Back Bay hotel building collapsed. They left behind eight

wives and 23 children.

The 50th anniversary remembrance ceremony was held at the Vendome Hotel Fire Memorial on the Dartmouth St. section of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which was dedicated in 1997 on the 25 anniversary of the fire.

The event was emceed by former Boston Herald columnist and current writer for The Athletic Steve Buckley, and featured several speakers, including Edward Kelly, president of the International Association of Firefighters, and Richard Magee, a retired district fire chief whose father, Richard B. Magee, passed away in the fire. He recalled his

(HOTEL VENDOME FIRE Pg. 5)



After the name of each of the nine fallen firefighters were called, this bell was rung one time.

Public meeting held for dispensary proposed for 565 Columbus Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

Sweet & Sour, LLC is proposing a retail cannabis dispensary for 565 Columbus Ave. Unit C3 in the South End. At a virtual community meeting on June 21, proponents Gabriel Viera, Elis Omoroghomwan, and Christian

Nicholson were on hand to present their proposal and address comments and questions from residents.

Omoroghomwan explained that Sweet & Sour is a social equity company whose owners

(SWEET & SOUR LLC Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

AMERICA IS IN A MAELSTROM WITH NO WAY OUT

America and the world are in a bad place, with no easy way out. Although the worst of the coronavirus is behind us, the unprecedented economic after-effects of the pandemic continue to afflict every aspect of our lives.

The Great Resignation has disrupted supply chains for goods of all kinds and made air travel, which formerly used to be a pleasure, a fraught experience, with thousands of flights cancelled every week because of a shortage of pilots and crew.

All of us are griping about the high cost of energy, but with oil refining capacity at an all-time low relative to demand, it is all but certain that gasoline prices will remain at record levels for the foreseeable future.

Electric cars are still a long way off from becoming practical for most Americans for a host of reasons.

The war in Ukraine, the largest in the world since WWII, is exacerbating shortages of commodities of all kinds, especially food.

Avian flu, the worst on record, continues to devastate both domesticated and wild bird populations.

Our health care system, which proved so inadequate during the pandemic, is completely incapable of handling the coming influx of aging Baby Boomers -- just visit any ER, anywhere and everywhere.

Our public educational system not only has fallen far behind because of the pandemic, but the looming teacher shortage means that catching up will be all but impossible.

Drug overdose deaths are at their highest rate ever, with no solution in sight.

Mass shootings are a routine occurrence with [pjiticians too-cowed by the gun lobby to take even the simplest, most common-sense action.

Climate change continues unchecked and unabated. Life on the planet as we know it never will be the same.

And last but not least, it is apparent that a large percentage of Americans are committed to overthrowing our democracy. What happened on 1/6 is just a prelude to what is to come in the 2022 and 2024 elections.

Yes, the present is tough going -- but the future is even bleaker.

BOATING AND DRINKING DON'T MIX

A national news headline caught our attention recently:

"Five people, including four from the same family, died in a boating collision on Saturday along a river popular with boaters outside Savannah, Ga., the authorities said. Four other people were injured, including one who was charged with operating a boat while under the influence."

This story, coming at the start of the summer season, should serve as a sober reminder (pun intended) that alcohol consumption on a boat is never a good idea.

For far too many boaters and their guests, heavy drinking and boating go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately however, the proverbial "booze cruise" all too often ends up with tragic consequences.

Boating under the influence -- BUI -- is every bit as dangerous as DUI (driving under the influence) and also is a criminal offense.

We urge all of our readers who are either boat owners or their guests to ensure that someone on board will be a designated "sober sailor" in order to avoid becoming another sad, grim statistic.

City offers single-stream recycling, as well as curbside food-waste collection beginning in August

By Sun staff

The city provides residents with curbside collection for recycling of metal, glass, plastic, and paper, and since this is a single-stream service, there is no need for residents to sort their recyclables.

All recycling must be placed in a container with a lid. The city supplies large, 64-gallon recycling containers to residents of buildings with six units or less, which can be requested from Boston 311, or you can also use a smaller than 32-gallon trash can as a recycling bin with a sticker from Boston 311.

Items that don't belong in bins include plastic bags (plastic shopping bags and black or white trash bags cannot be recycled); clothes and textiles; clothing hangers, ropes, hoses, and tanglers; scrap metal; batteries; small items (anything smaller than 2-by-2 inches); food waste

and liquids; and electronics.

Heavy-duty clear plastic bags are only allowed if you do not have enough space in specific neighborhoods, including Back Bay/ Bay Village, Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Fenway, Mission Hill, North End, Roxbury, South Boston, South End, and West End.

All City of Boston recycling is sent to the Casella recycling facility in Charlestown.

Additionally the city will begin offering curbside food-waste collection citywide in August, but space is limited, so residents are encouraged to sign up today at <https://www.bostoncomposts.com>. To qualify, residents must live in a building with six-units or less. Approximately 9,000 have signed up so far for the program, which will be capped at 10,000 households for the first year, with the goal of adding 10,000 or more every year, depending on

demand.

In July, the city will deliver compost bin "starter kits" to residents who have enrolled in the program, which include an onboarding manual, a roll of liners, kitchen bin, collection bin, and a magnet outlining what food scraps are and are not accepted in the program. Accepted materials include common household food scraps such as coffee grounds, fruits and vegetables, meat and seafood, and eggs.

Food scraps collected curbside will be used to make nutrient-rich soil and clean energy, according to the city, which is collaborating with Garbage to Garden and Save That Stuff to offer curbside food waste collection.

To learn more about the curbside food-waste collection program, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/curbside-food-waste-collection#sign-up>.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

JUNE 28 CELEBRATION AT CHARLES-GATE PARK

The Charlesgate Alliance, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation invite the public to “New Trees and a Brighter Future for Charlesgate” – celebration of milestone achievements in the park, including 15 trees newly planted there with community support, as well as recently proposed investments by the MassDOT for the transformation along the Charles River and over the Mass Pike – on Tuesday, June 28, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at “The Grove” area of Charlesgate Park, located at the southwest corner of Beacon Street and Charlesgate East. Remarks begin at 10 a.m., followed by an optional tour of the park for guests. (The rain date for this event is Wednesday, June 29, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.)

Register for the event at

<https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/charlesgate-6-28/>.

COPLEY SQUARE FARMERS MARKET REOPENS

The Copley Square Market runs on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11AM - 6PM for more information, go to massfarmers-markets.org.

MAYOR WU ANNOUNCES A VERY PROUD CITY

Mayor Michelle Wu, in partnership with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Office of Equity and Inclusion, and Men of Melanin Magic, announced A Very Proud City, an LGBTQ+ Pride series with events to take place throughout Downtown Boston. “I’m so excited to be in community and celebrate Pride this month,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “A Very Proud City series will center

our LGBTQ+ residents, support local organizations and amplify events that highlight and serve our LGBTQ+ community. I’m grateful to all of our partners for working to ensure that we are celebrating our queer communities and I encourage everyone to stop by these events.” Learn more at boston.gov.

FETE DE LA MUSIQUE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Saturday, June 25, Community Music Center of Boston is having their annual Fete de la Musique, a free outdoor festival hosted by CMCB with performances and family-friendly activities at parks throughout Boston’s South End neighborhood. One site has a sensory-friendly tent for families and children to enjoy specially tailored performances. Events run from 3-6pm, with many volunteer opportunities, ranging from helping move equipment, being an usher, headcounts of attendees, scooping ice

cream, and more. Naturally, all volunteers get to enjoy the lovely music and some fun on the summer solstice! Contact Jessica Chen at CMCB to sign up.

APPLICATION FOR POP-UP COOLING KITS

The City of Boston, acting through Climate Ready Boston (CRB), is granting 30 Pop-up Cooling Kits (“cooling kits”) to community based organizations (CBOs) that have public

events this summer with access to potable water. The cooling kits are mobile water misting tents designed for short-term use to easily set up and disassemble and provide immediate cooling. Each cooling kit includes a hose, misters, and a tent to set up at public outdoor events throughout the summer. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Please apply ASAP as kits are limited. Apply at <https://tinyurl.com/TBS-cooling-kit-app>.

Rollins selected as vice-chair of National Advisory Subcommittee on Civil Rights

Staff Report

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins for the District of Massachusetts has been selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Civil Rights Subcommittee for the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee (AGAC).

“I am honored to have been asked to serve as Vice-Chair of the Civil Rights Subcommittee. It is my sincere hope that we seize this moment in history to facilitate meaningful dialogue and action to combat the uptick in hate-based violence. Civil rights are at the forefront of so many of the issues dividing our nation today. Under the leadership of U.S. Attorney Brown, we will provide guidance to the Department of Justice. Our goal is to fulfill the promise of equality for everyone,” said U.S. Attorney Rollins.

United States Attorney Nick Brown for the Western District of Washington has been selected to serve as Chair the Civil Rights Subcommittee. The Subcommi-

tee will play an important role in advising the AGAC on civil rights matters of importance to the Department of Justice and United States Attorney’s Offices across the country.

“I am gratified that my colleagues and Attorney General Garland selected me for this important role,” said U.S. Attorney Brown. “The Department of Justice came into being to protect civil rights, and I look forward to helping shape our focus. There are a number of important issues for the Department to address, including the rise in hate crimes, ensuring voting rights, and developing strategies to ensure accountability and trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.”

The Attorney General’s Advisory Committee was established nearly 50 years ago by Attorney General Elliott Richardson. The Committee’s purpose is to give United States Attorneys a voice in Department policies and to advise the Attorney General of the United States.

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Rentals

COPLEY CONNECT (from pg. 1)

“My kids loved it,” said Rep. Jay Livingstone of the newly created public space, who added that the Donna Summer Disco Party and the Celtics viewing party were popular events that took advantage of the expanded pedestrian area.

“It was great to see people enjoying the space,” he said, adding that he had seen guests reading, eating, and spending time there.

In contrast, Rep. Livingstone said he had also heard some complaints from area businesses and residents regarding the city initiative’s impact on vehicular traffic.

“I’m interested in hearing about the data the city collected regarding any changes to traffic patterns and further discussion on the best configuration of that block of Dartmouth Street – whether it’s entirely pedestrian or expanded pedestrian space with still space for curbs,” said Rep. Livingstone. “I’m pleased that Mayor Wu tried this experiment, and outdoor space is at such a premium in the area that connecting Copley Square with the library’s front steps was an interesting concept.”

Elliott Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association board of directors, was less

enthusiastic about Copley Connect, as well as what it might mean for future closures of that part of Dartmouth Street.

“That block is a vital connection, and it is one of only four pathways from the South End side into the Back Bay – Berkeley Street; Dartmouth Street; Ring Road; and Belvidere Street to Dalton Street,” said Laffer. “Of those, Berkeley is very frequently congested and not somewhere to put any more traffic. Ring Road is a very small, technically private street that backs up with about 10 cars. Belvidere to Dalton is a long way around for a lot of people, and it’s a really small street.”

Moreover, Dartmouth Street is the “key connector” between the Back Bay and the District 4 police station on Harrison Avenue, as well as with the fire station on Columbus Avenue, he said.

“It’s also a key connector that can produce spillover in a whole bunch of places,” added Laffer, such as rerouting traffic to Copley from Allston via Storrow Drive.

Along with Berkeley Street, Dartmouth Street is also one of the “key connectors” between the Mass Turnpike and Copley, he said.

“As far as using [this section

of Dartmouth Street] as an extension of the park, I’m sure everyone enjoys it, but the question is not enjoying the park – it’s getting traffic where it needs to go,” added Laffer. “It’s certainly not inconceivable and might be nice to close the street on some weekends, as has happened before, but to close it on weekdays is very problematic.”

Jonathan Cohn, chair of the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee, on the other hand, was among those who applauded Copley Connect as another pedestrian-friendly initiative by the city.

“I think Copley Connect and the other pedestrian-only pilots are a great initiative from the city, reflecting the strong public support for past initiatives like Open Newbury,” Cohn wrote in an email. “Whenever I passed by, Dartmouth was active, with people chatting, doing work, or taking advantage of activities. It was an example of devoting public space to people, as opposed to cars. I hope the City continues the initiative and continues to reflect on how to make the City a more pedestrian-friendly space, both for the sake of vibrancy and for the sake of the modal shift we need for public safety and sustainability.”

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

By John Lynds

The Back Bay and surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test rate dropped once again according to the latest data by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, 1,029 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West

End and Downtown residents were tested for the virus last week and 10.2 percent were positive--this was a 12 percent decrease from the 12 percent that tested positive between June 6 and June 13.

One hundred five residents contracted the virus between June 13 and June 20 there have

now been 11,264 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week

According to the BPHC, 14,523 Boston residents tested citywide and 7.7 percent were positive—a 19 percent decrease from the 9.5 percent that tested

positive between June 6 and June 13.

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 0.4 percent last week and went from 191,740 to 192,591 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

SWEET & SOUR LLC (from pg. 1)

"strive to create opportunities for people of color and communities that have been impacted by the war on drugs and marijuana prohibition."

The dispensary is proposed to be located near the site of the former Harriet Tubman House, which has since been demolished to construct a mixed use building.

"We chose this location to recreate a safe haven and place of opportunity for Black/Brown residents of the South End since what they once had has been destroyed," a slide read.

Viera said that the team has received community feedback on a number of different issues, and presented how they have responded to that so far.

He said that the proposed hours of operation for the dispensary will be 10am-9pm, and the originally proposed rear loading area was "inefficient for community members and direct abutters." As a result, the site plan has been modified to create a new loading zone about 200 feet away from the store. It will feature a loading zone sign in front of the BURN Fitness studios location, where there will be space for two vehicles to park. Viera said that a smaller van will be used to make deliveries rather than an 18-wheeler.

Viera also spoke about trash accumulation, as that has been an issue with other businesses in the area. He said that the team has committed to overnight trash pickup, which is also part of its Good Neighbor Policy. He said that Sweet & Sour labels will be placed on all products so they are easily identifiable, and if packaging or wrappers are found in nearby parks such as Wellington Green, Sweet & Sour employees will clean them up promptly.

Concerns about odor had also been raised, but Viera said that "this is a standalone retail location," and no cultivation will take place on site. When products are delivered to the store, they are already packaged and sealed, so odor should not be an issue.

Mitigation of traffic was another large concern from the community, and Viera said that Sweet & Sour will be employing its online ordering system to allow for shorter wait times at the store, which will also help reduce congestion from traffic. Customers can order their products online ahead of time and pay online as well, and then pick them up in person. Viera said that this decreases checkout times "from five to roughly two to three minutes."

Additionally, there will be a

three member team on site that will consist of an ID checker, a traffic agent, and a cleanup person. A two-strike rule will also be enacted to help with traffic issues. If a person is caught double parking within the vicinity of the dispensary, they will be given a warning. If that same person double parks again, they will be banned from the store.

Viera said that customers will be "strongly encouraged" to utilize public transportation.

IDs will be checked twice before a customer can make a purchase, and all packaging is tamper-proof, the team said.

The team also discussed a variety of community commitments, which include providing a five figure annual contribution to the South End and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities in the city, to "bring about awareness of the lack thereof of Black businesses" in the cannabis industry and in "affluent" neighborhoods in Boston. The team will also prioritize hiring South End residents, with a goal of hiring 75 percent South Enders. All employees will be required to participate in community service days, and the team will continue to engage in communication with members of the South End Community.

Omoroghomwan said that the team also operates Zip Run, a cannabis delivery warehouse, so they have entrepreneurial experience. They are also looking to create programs and incentives for employees, as well as "partner with local organizations."

The team said that aside from hiring 75 percent of employees from the South End, 100 percent will be Boston residents, 50 percent will be people who are BIPOC, and 50 percent will be women. Salaries will start at \$18 an hour, and employees will be

provided with monthly MBTA and BlueBikes passes, as well as credits for ridesharing apps and access to mentorship programs.

The team also said that there will be a monthly cleanup crew for Wellington Green and other surrounding parks, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been sent to Bob Barney of the Claremont Neighborhood Association to "ensure we adhere to the concerns of the community and keep an open dialogue."

During the public comment, concerns ranged from traffic and parking issues to the location of this dispensary.

Bob Barney, president of the Claremont Neighborhood Association, said that one of his "main concerns" is that this dispensary is cited in a "multi-use building" that has nine residential units and five commercial spaces. He said he has concerns regarding "full alignment" with the condo association, as this had been an issue with a previous cannabis proposal in another part of the neighborhood. He said he would like to ensure there is agreement between all parties before this moves forward.

Steve Fox of the South End Forum said that "the idea of an MOU is something that was invented in the South End," and was used for the Albany St. cannabis location.

He said that the community would "like to be consistent" when it comes to ensuring community concerns are addressed for any cannabis location in the neighborhood.

Karen Hohler, a resident at 545 Columbus Ave., said she has concerns about the parking and loading zone, as it is located in front of her home.

"We are a multigenerational family home," she said, and her young grandchildren are con-

stantly coming and going from the location. She said she is worried about the "security" for the dropoff of the product, and she also has general concerns about parking.

The team said that per the Cannabis Control Commission, a member of the Sweet & Sour team is required to check in with the delivery person to ensure that the delivery happens properly. It is not an armed security guard or anything of the sort, they said.

On the parking concern, the team said they understand the concerns and that's why they will have the traffic agent on site to ensure there will be no double parking in the general area around the store.

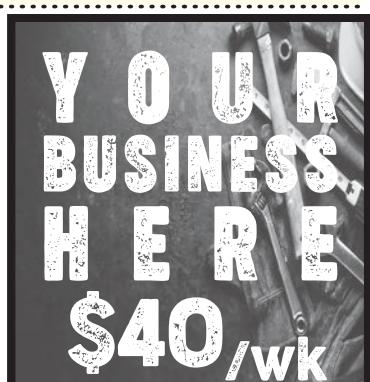
In the chat, resident Cris Moneyron said that "My first concern is that a cannabis dispensary isn't as beneficial for the community as the Harriet Tubman center was or something else could be. My other concern is the location. From what I've heard, there are already several other dispensaries in the neighborhood with the closest being 1/2 mile away. Also, I am concerned about the impact it will have being so close to the troubled Mass/Cass intersection. I hope you can understand my thoughts as a local South End resident."

Others also commented about their concerns for this particular location as well, but some, like Adam Tewdrose, said that "young professionals buy condos, and young professionals buy cannabis. I think this can be positive for property values."

Anyone with questions or comments about this proposal can reach out to the mayor's South End liaison, Kim Crucoli, at kimberly.crucoli@boston.gov or at 617-635-4517.

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HOTEL VENDOME FIRE (from pg. 1)

memories of that day when he realized his father did not survive the fire.

Magee said he was 17 years old the last time he saw his father. He was coming home from work, and his father was on his way out to the Vendome fire. Later that day, his sister came to the corner where Magee was hanging out with friends and told him that "dad's been hurt at a fire," he said. "A chill went through me. I thought, 'something bad happened.'"

He said his father was in the rear of the building when the collapse happened after the fire had blazed for nearly three hours. Magee said his grandfather had found Richard B. Magee's helmet. "He knew he didn't make it," Magee said.

Remarks were also provided by Boston Fire Commissioner Jack Dempsey, Boston Fire Chaplain Rev. Daniel J. Mahoney, as well as Mayor Michelle Wu, who became emotional as she told the crowd about her own loss of family members to a fire.

"I'm struggling to keep it together today," Wu said, through tears. "A little over one year ago, my family lost three of our own seemingly in a flash when flames overwhelmed their home in the early hours of the morning."

Wu said she lost an uncle, an aunt, and their daughter, who was the flower girl in her wedding.

"I know personally just what your family members gave up so that someone else would not have to experience this," she said. "We are forever grateful."



Mayor Michelle Wu delivered emotional remarks to the crowd.

No firefighter fights alone."

Wu also talked about that day in 1972. "It was Bunker Hill Day," she said. "While our city was celebrating in Charlestown or watching the Red Sox game, the Boston Fire Department did what they've always done. They rushed to the call. They continue to do this today: rushing toward danger to keep the rest of us safe."

Photos of each of the nine firefighters were displayed in front of the stage, and flowers were placed at each of their names on the memorial at the end of the ceremony.

The City Council also "adopted a resolution commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Hotel Vendome Fire with grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition and memory of the lives of the nine firefighters lost in the line of duty," according to the City of Boston website.

The full recording of the ceremony can be found on the Boston Fire Department YouTube channel.



Boston Fire Department Honor Guard opened the ceremony on June 17.



Fr. John Unni provides the invocation.



Boston Fire Chaplain Rev. Daniel J. Mahoney, who recently retired, provides remarks.



Members of the Boston Fire Department salute.



Several members of the Boston City Council were in attendance, including Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Frank Baker, and Kenzie Bok.



Steve Buckley, former Boston Herald columnist and event emcee.

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THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DONNA SUMMER DISCO PARTY

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The 8th Annual Donna Summer Disco Party was held at the Copley Square Plaza instead of City Hall this year due to the construction there. That didn't keep the crowd of disco and dance fans who had to wait 2 years for the party to resume. Honoring Donna Summer, who born and raised in Boston before setting off to Europe and becoming the Disco Queen she's famous for being, music was played, dancing highly encouraged, and a party I'm sure that worldview impressed her was held.



Jacqueline Myers is a true Disco Goddess.



Members of Donna Summer's family Jeanette Yancey, Sheila Grant, and Dara Bernard hold the new street sign the City Of Boston has created to designate Donna Summer Ave in Mission Hill, her old neighborhood.



Flanked by friends happy to see her again, Priscilla Kapacaus (center) has been attending the Donna Summer Dance Party since it began.



The music definitely brought out the better emotions in people.



Professor Human Leslie Rosenberg showed an abundance of energy that was beautifully contagious.



The mood got festive quickly as disco standards played. The classic Donna Summer song Hot Stuff received an enthusiastic reaction.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DONNA SUMMER DISCO PARTY



A couple dance, reliving younger days.



Shown above, Renee Carr's sweatshirt bears the Disco Queen who hailed from Mission Hill that this disco dance party was in honor of.



Shown to the left, Cookie Colon and Vee Negron were ready to party Donna Summer style.



With Donna Summer's family on stage, her niece (also assistant and mentee) Taihisha Grant thanked the City Of Boston for remembering her and for officially naming a street in Mission Hill Donna Summer Ave.



Shown to the right, Hammad Ahmed and Josh Smith enjoyed dancing with the hula hoop.

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FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S ROSE GARDEN PICNIC RETURNS

Photos by Genevieve Day

Around 750 to 800 guests were on hand for the Fenway Civic Association's annual Rose Garden Picnic on Tuesday, June 14, outside the Kelleher Rose Garden.

The event featured food, music, and friends as well as a live performance of bluegrass and America music by The Bagboys.

Sen. Will Brownsberger, Rep. Jon Santiago, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, and Corey Jordan from Rep Chynah Tyler's office offered remarks to guests in attendance.

Sponsors included: Samuels & Associates, Berklee College

of Music, Suffolk Construction, and Star Market Fenway. D-4 Police also provided their ever-popular Hoodsie truck with free ice cream.



Rep. Jon Santiago.

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City Councilor Kenzie Bok offers remarks to guests.



The Bagboys.



Guests enjoy a performance by The Bagboys.



Shown above, and right (below and top), residents from around the area and friends enjoyres their time at the Kelleher Rose Garden during the Fenway Civic Associations Rose Garden Picnic.

Residents continue to push for 55 bus to stop at Copley

Many residents frustrated with new proposed route for the bus

By Lauren Bennett

The 55 Bus Coalition, which consists of neighborhood groups such as the Fenway CDC, the Fenway Civic Association, Operation PEACE, and other residents, held a meeting on June 15 regarding the proposed changes to the 55 bus. Representatives from the MBTA were in attendance to speak about the proposal and answer questions from neighbors.

Marie Fukuda of the Fenway Civic Association provided a bit of recent history regarding the 55 bus, saying that the 55 Bus Coalition held protests at the Jersey and Queensberry St. stop when service was suspended on the 55 in March of 2021, after which service was restored on a limited schedule.

The Coalition also led a community meeting in December of last year to discuss the results of a neighborhood survey it had created, and also continues to be in touch with residents and stakeholders.

Andrew McFarland, Manager of Bus System Enhancements for the MBTA, said that "we really want to hear from you" regarding these proposed changes to the bus.

A draft map is available for viewing and public feedback, and the MBTA said it will consider this feedback before creating the final map.

"We know that the MBTA bus area has definitely changed a lot over the last few decades," McFarland said, with "growing job sectors and destinations" in areas like the Fenway, the Longwood Medical Area, Kenmore, and the Seaport. Additionally, "people's travel patterns have

changed" due to the pandemic.

The Bus Network Redesign is a component of the MBTA's Better Bus Project, which aims to reach five goals: put equity first, create more service in busy neighborhoods, create more all-day service, create new connections to more places, and create a network that is more user friendly.

McFarland explained that right now, the MBTA has proposed to "commit to a 25 percent increase in bus service across the network," as well as a 70 percent increase in weekend service.

As a result of this, 115,000 residents of color would have access to high frequency service.

Melissa Dullea of the MBTA spoke specifically about the proposed changes to the 55 bus route.

According to a slide presented, "Route 55 has tended to be under-productive," as well as have "low ridership" and "most of the route duplicates the Green Line at six stations pre-COVID, and now duplicates it at three stations due to Forging Ahead changes."

The MBTA said that "the new route in the redesign improves connectivity to the Fenway neighborhood, while providing other value to the network by creating cross-town connections that complement rather than duplicate the subway." Additionally, it calls for a left-hand turn from Boylston St. onto Mass. Ave., which currently is not allowed.

This route is also "contingent on completion of planned accessibility at Hynes," the MBTA said.

The new 55 route will go to the Longwood Medical area, and the connection to the Hynes Convention Center would provide access to the Green Line.

Dullea said there is a "Plan B" option for before the Hynes is made accessible that would connect the bus at Kenmore Station.

This new 55 route is proposed to run every 30 minutes for 20 hours a day, seven days a week, she said. "Our intention is to restore this back to being a full service," she said.

After the presentation, attendees were split into breakout groups for discussion before coming back to the whole group for more questions and comments.

Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association, said he is a "daily rider of this route," and said that "the Green Line, under normal circumstances, is basically unrideable...oftentimes I have to wait four or five trains to get on in a reasonable manner."

He added that the 55 bus was "always full" when he rode it, and said that the bottom line is that this line needs to connect the Fenway to downtown.

State Rep. Jay Livingstone said he has "heard from a lot of constituents" about this proposal. He said that people like the "increased service level," especially the increased weekend service, as well as the connection to the Longwood Medical Area. He said that folks have really expressed the need for "a stop that's more in the middle of Fenway," and people really want the bus to continue to stop at Copley Station.

Many residents, such as Brenda Clark, expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that this route eliminates the stop at Copley Square.

"We need the bus to go to Copley and to downtown and those areas as we've been doing for years," she said.

A resident of St. Cecilia's House said that "you cannot say that we are running parallel to the Green Line—it's a mile to Longwood and about three quarters of a mile to Huntington Ave.," she said, which is especially difficult for seniors and those with mobility issues.

"Listen carefully, all you representatives," she said. "We want the old service from here to downtown Boston."

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok said that "I have heard from many folks, especially our seniors," who "really rely on the 55" to get around. "I want to amplify the really strong desire to get this line to Copley," she said, "not just as a T connection, but as a connection to the Boston Public Library, to Copley Square," and to the Orange Line.

"Frankly, a lot of folks are frustrated that the line no longer runs downtown," Bok said. "It's really important for us to get that connection to Copley."

Bok did praise the proposed increased frequency, saying that she is "hugely supportive of a high frequency bus network that makes a bunch of connections that are not made today. The idea of this bus running more regularly and reliably is great."

She said that vulnerable residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years should not be discounted and really do

rely on this route to get them to where they need to go.

Ajay Singh from the Mayor's Office said that he "would request the MBTA follow through" on its commitment to equity that it discussed in the presentation.

"It's clear that the new redesign does not sort of fulfill the request of the residents who are most vulnerable in Fenway."

Resident Conrad Ciszek said that "I just want to echo the sentiment that the majority of the Fenway residents are not pleased with the plan to reroute the bus through Mass. Ave."

He said that the Green Line is "congested, overcrowded," and often delayed, and is "not always a viable option" for seniors and those who use mobility equipment.

The MBTA's online survey can be found at mbta.com/bnrdfeedback, and feedback can also be submitted to betterbusproject@mbta.com.

For more information, visit mbta.com/betterbus, as well as mbta.com/bnrd.

SEN. SONIA CHANG-DIAZ AT ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WALK



Jamaica Plain resident and gubernatorial candidate Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz joined the Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on Boston Common on June 15 to lend her voice to the prevention of abuse and exploitation of older residents in Boston and America. Each year more than 5 million older adults in the U.S. are subject to abuse. The walk was organized on Worldwide Elder Abuse Awareness Day by Central Boston Elder Services in partnership with Ethos, which is based in JP, Boston Senior Home Care and Boston Age Strong Commission. Shown left to right, Ray Santos, Ethos Chief Development & Community Relations Officer; Paulean Alison, CBES Director of Protective Services; Sen. Chang-Diaz; and Fatima Rodrigues, CBES Assistant Director of Protective Services.

Wu announces results of the 2022 homelessness census

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu on June 22 announced the results of the 42nd annual homeless census. On the night of February 23, Mayor Wu led a group of volunteers, including City and federal officials, homeless service providers,

and public health and safety first responders in conducting the City of Boston's 42nd annual homeless census. During the annual census, the City of Boston collects data on individuals spending the night unsheltered on the street, and individuals and families staying in emergency

shelter, transitional housing, or domestic violence shelter programs. This point-in-time count is a national requirement for cities who are receiving funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(HOMELESSNESS CENSUS Pg. 10)

HOMELESSNESS CENSUS (from pg. 9)

"This year's census data helps us better shape Boston's work to support our unhoused residents, coordinate effectively with our state and federal partners, and move closer to ensuring everyone has a safe, healthy home," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we continue our work to tackle housing across all of our neighborhoods, these results will guide our efforts to serve all of our residents and end homelessness in our city."

Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Boston on the night of the census decreased by 2.4 percent, from 1,659 individuals in 2021 to 1,545 individuals in 2022. This reduction builds on a decrease of 24.7 percent from 2020 to 2021 which was due in part to a coordinated effort by city agencies and homeless service providers to create alternative housing, shelter and healthcare options that de-concentrated shelters during the first wave of the pandemic. It also reflects sustained and successful efforts in housing individuals experiencing homelessness and at-risk individuals and diverting individuals from emergency shelter to safe alternatives when possible.

The number of unsheltered persons staying on the street on the night of the census decreased by 30 percent, or 51 individuals, from 170 individuals in 2021 to 119 individuals in 2022. There were no unsheltered families on the streets of Boston on the night of the census, as has been true for more than the past decade. After two years of increased unsheltered homelessness, this year's street count is slightly lower than the total of 121 in 2019. The number of veterans experi-

encing homelessness decreased by 15.5%, from 213 veterans in 2021 to 180 veterans in 2022.

"The homeless census is an important tool in understanding the status of unsheltered veterans," said Andrew McCawley, president of the New England Center and Home for Veterans. "As an organization deeply engaged in efforts to end homelessness among veterans, this data provides us with a further understanding of the trends in our community so that we can plan for and deliver services. Even with this decrease, ONE unsheltered veteran is too many. We appreciate the City's work to conduct this census and its collaboration with our organization to move forward a coordinated strategy to end veteran homelessness in the City of Boston."

In 2021, the Mayor's Office of Housing, Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Boston Housing Authority and a collaborative of homeless services and housing providers launched the Street-to-Home (S2H) Initiative focused on placing persons experiencing long-term unsheltered homelessness in permanent housing with wrap-around services. Participants were identified from a city-wide list of unsheltered individuals with a particular focus on the area centered at Massachusetts Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. By the night of the unsheltered count in late February, 150 individuals had been housed. The Street-to-Home Initiative is an ongoing part of a larger effort by the Mayor's Office of Housing to invest Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding from the CARES Act to provide housing assistance and stabilization services. As a result of this funding, an additional 215 adult individuals experiencing homelessness were housed

through ESG-CV rapid rehousing (RRH) programs over the 12 months prior to the 2022 census.

In November 2021, Mayor Wu brought in a special advisor, Dr. Monica Bharel, M.D. to accelerate efforts to mitigate the growing encampment crisis in the Newmarket triangle area at Mass Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. The Boston Public Health Commission, Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, and numerous public health, behavioral health and health care agencies worked with the Mayor's Office of Housing to support six low-threshold sites providing interim housing, access to much needed medical and substance-use disorder care and ongoing housing navigation. This effort resulted in placement opportunities for more than 150 individuals who had been living in unsafe and dangerous encampments in the depth of winter. By focusing on public health, substance-use and trauma-informed approaches, persons suffering from substance use disorder and other challenging life struggles were able to transition to safety and begin to navigate treatment, safe shelter, family reunification and housing pathways. Both the Boston Street-to-Home initiative and the low-threshold housing sites continue to work to assist and stabilize clients as they transition to treatment and supportive housing, helping break the cycle of homelessness for vulnerable unsheltered individuals.

"This census data is a valuable tool in devising strategies to solve homelessness in Boston," said Lyndia Downie, president and executive director of Pine Street Inn. "We are pleased to see a decrease in Boston's numbers, especially given the national pic-

ture, where street homelessness is at 39%. We know we still have work to do, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Mayor Wu and the Mayor's Office of Housing to scale up permanent supportive housing. Moving individuals off the street and out of shelter into the safety and stability of housing is the solution and will benefit not only those experiencing homelessness, but all residents and businesses in the city."

With insights gained from addressing the intersecting crises of unsheltered homelessness and the substance use epidemic during the last two pandemic years, the Wu administration will invest new resources and strengthen partnerships to address low-threshold shelter access, substance use treatment access and permanent supportive housing strategies to improve unmet needs for outreach, engagement, and intervention. In the coming year, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Boston Police Street Outreach Unit, Boston EMS, Fire and Public Works and Parks will work with a newly appointed Coordinated Response Director, Tania Del Rio, and her team to ensure a continued coordinated response to street homelessness and the successful implementation of the plan developed over the last six months by former Senior Adviser Dr. Monica Bharel. The Mayor's Office of Housing will invest up to \$1 million in funding to work with Pine Street Inn, Eliot Community Health Services and other street outreach providers to strengthen diversion and housing navigation for unsheltered individuals, and to enhance housing stabilization for individuals who

transition into permanent supportive housing. Additional funds will be dedicated to ensure ongoing client engagement, behavioral health and substance use treatment access, housing navigation and rehousing for participants in the six low-threshold sites set up to mitigate last year's encampment crisis.

The number of homeless families increased slightly this year, from 843 to 929, and Mayor Wu, the Boston City Council and a number of dedicated family homelessness providers, people with lived experience of family homelessness, and advocacy agencies have joined a Commission on Ending Family Homelessness to explore strategies and develop a plan to address the housing, childcare, education and family support needs of homeless children and adults in families.

The census helps inform the City of Boston's policy development and allocation of resources. The information gained through the census is shared with other homeless service providers to aid in the coordination among the Continuum of Care members. Boston has one of the lowest percentages of unsheltered people living on the street of any major city conducting a census, with under 4 percent of Boston's homeless population sleeping on the street in 2021, the most recent year for which HUD has published national data. HUD did not publish national data for the total number of homeless persons who were unsheltered in 2021, because many Continua of Care waived their unsheltered count due to COVID-19. In 2020, 39 percent of all homeless persons were unsheltered nationwide.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE	BS	Michael Steven Pandolfi Date of Death: 02/09/2022	appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/25/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by	which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised	vised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS , Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 13, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo,	Register of Probate 6/23/22 BS	description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Michelle Saulnier unit #455; Sami Tayeh unit #529; Benjamin Tariri unit #742. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details. 6/23/22, 6/30/22 BS
LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU22P1125EA Estate of:		The Petitioner requests that: Anne Marie Gabriele Pandolfi of Los Angeles, CA be					

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagegettreasures.com on 7/13/2022 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Mary Cribb-Powell unit #1101; Nicole Farrell unit #3033; Quonell Brown unit #3154; Diane Barrera unit #4080; Myesha Blevins unit #4169; Enoch Od. Woodhouse unit #4201; Elina Yakovleva unit #4306; Yesenia Gonzales Torres unit #4316. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

6/23/22, 6/30/22

Real Estate Transfers

**BUYER 1
BACK BAY**

Grua, Peter
Wicked Smaht LLC
Myers, Charles
Nomicos, Nicholas G
Nomicos, Nicholas G
Truong, Duc
Kotalik, Mia
S P Kelliher 2008 RET
Olcott, William
27 Comm Ave LLC
Lucca, Mario
Pyle, Nye S
Max J Brown RET
Russom, Morgan
Donovan, Carrie
Victoria, Teresa
Reed, Angel H
Lucca, Mario
Ng, Stacey B
Oats Family 362 Comm Ave

SELLER 1

SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Unit 1C Realty NT	100 Beacon St #1C	\$3,100,000
Gay, Kyle W	223 Beacon St #4	\$3,075,000
Martin, Ellen M	244 Beacon St #1C	\$600,000
Champlin, Kirsten	314 Beacon St #5	\$2,785,000
Champlin, Kirsten	314 Beacon St #6	\$2,785,000
Bbreh LLC	371 Beacon St #7	\$715,000
Zohar, Daphne	2 Clarendon St #102	\$924,000
Yanagi, Grace M	75 Clarendon St #207	\$1,000,000
Werner Goese RET	285 Columbus Ave #801	\$935,000
Gmvmcomm LLC	25 Commonwealth Ave #27	\$12,000,000
Destiny MA Properties LL	180 Commonwealth Ave #23	\$1,295,000
95 Beacon Capital LLC	197 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$1,762,500
Gross, Paul	239 Commonwealth Ave #21	\$1,225,000
Fernandez, Conor	46 Dartmouth St #3	\$1,550,000
Kelley, Megan	1 Marlborough St #4	\$2,155,000
HBP LLC	110 Marlborough St #3	\$3,350,000
Jones, Michael	220 Marlborough St #6	\$4,225,000
Destiny MA Properties LL	180 Commonwealth Ave #23	\$1,295,000
Sherman, Heather A	333 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$1,700,000
K B Eakin RET 2021	366 Commonwealth Ave #5H	\$761,000

BEACON HILL

Odonnell, Catherine A
Li, Kevin B
Sheilds, Anna B
Kwon, Young-Min
Ciecko, Mariusz A
Marc, Anouald

Silverman, Maretta Y	32 Anderson St #2	\$1,100,000
Daggenhurst, Richard	27 Chestnut St #2A	\$2,050,000
Sung A Kim Park T	41-43 Phillips St #13	\$2,150,000
Mckenna, Karen A	15 River St #603	\$700,000
Wood, Ryan	8 Whittier Pl #22G	\$430,000
Whittier Place Condo	8 Whittier Pl #6A	\$390,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Rauh RT
Hanlon, Shannon
Ferraro, Neil P
Xu, Jian B
Braga, David A
Koffel, Anne C
John N Alekna RET 2017
Tedeschi, Ralph M
Baras, Rachel
Deck, Tyler J
Krishnan, Naveen M
BRS National Realty LLC
Atrius MSO LLC
Neuniversal LLC
Howard, Tanya
Grebenc, Robert F
Miller, Michael
Miller, Michael
Kljat, Angelina
Thompson ATJ LLC
Kakar, Sanjeev
Kumaran, liango
Wispelwey, Bram
105 North Wa Street LLC
105 North Wa Street LLC
Corso, Anthony F
Hildenbrand, Nicholas R
Kwon, Young-Min
Stinson, Ross
Jensen, Randy G

Peterson, Kevin L	220 Boylston St #9016	\$3,037,375
114 Harold 114 Chandler	114 Chandler St #G1	\$662,500
Witkes, Alice	301-319 Columbus Ave #1002	\$2,600,000
Jodie C Zussman RET	8 Garrison St #507	\$730,000
Kraft, Philip	71 Montgomery St	\$4,400,000
Flores, Carlos	79 Montgomery St #1	\$2,711,000
505 Tremont St Unit 304	505 Tremont St #304	\$2,500,000
Healy, Ryan P	548 Tremont St #5	\$1,225,000
Asaria, Rafael	223 W Newton St #4	\$1,275,000
Britton, Peter C	131 Warren Ave #2	\$2,420,000
Chang, Edith Y	173 Warren Ave #1	\$1,708,000
Thein, Mimi W	511 Beacon St #1	\$215,000
Atrius Health Inc	133 Brookline Ave	\$164,518,074
Lee, Jamie C	188 Brookline Ave #19G	\$1,179,000
Chabrier, Louis	234 Causeway St #903	\$1,075,000
Majka, Antoinette	20 Concord Sq #2	\$694,000
Husson, Herve	139 E Berkeley St #302	\$855,000
Husson, Herve	35 Fay St #302	\$855,000
Xiao, Zhiwen	70 Fenway #26	\$890,000
M&R Boston Assoc LLC	79 Gainsborough St #308	\$850,000
Narayanan, Suresh	492 Massachusetts Ave #21	\$670,000
Iranmanesh, Nima	492 Massachusetts Ave #32	\$649,000
Iranmanesh, Ali	492 Massachusetts Ave #51	\$705,000
Moonstone Investments In	97-99 N Washington St	\$600,000
North Wa St Rty Vent LL	105 N Washington St	\$2,100,000
Guzovsky, Lee J	30 Peterborough St #34	\$565,000
Ong, Virgilio	25 Ridgeway Ln #1	\$635,000
Mckenna, Karen A	15 River St #603	\$700,000
Rita E Smith RET	195 Saint Botolph St #1	\$675,000
Ren, Ying	25 Saint Stephen St #6	\$640,000

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The stairs and railing in the last clue are on 186 West Brookline Street. Today's answer is a Boston Landmarks Commission photo circa 1960-1980.

The next clue is 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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