

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## FENWAY CDC BALL



Fenway Ball organizer and CDC Marketing Director Iris Tan gets the energy going. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

## Back Bay, Fenway, South End, Chinatown among neighborhoods to get added polling locations

By John Lynds

In October of last year the City of Boston conducted a precincting initiative to restructure polling locations in neighborhoods across the city aimed at increasing voter participation and equity as well as reducing

wait times in some wards.

On Tuesday Mayor Michelle Wu announced new proposed polling locations for the Back Bay, Fenway, South End, and Chinatown as well as new polling locations in other neighborhoods based off of the precinct realignment completed last year.

Wu said the new proposed precinct in Back Bay, Fenway, South End, and Chinatown was redrawn in October to increase voting accessibility by distributing voters equitably across the precinct.

New voting locations will be

(POLLING LOCATIONS Pg. 2)

## Mary Skipper selected as new BPS superintendent

By John Lynds

In a 4-3 vote at last Wednesday night's Boston School Committee meeting, Mary Skipper edged out Boston Public School Region 1 Superintendent Tommy Welch to become the next BPS Superintendent.

With BPS recently avoiding

receivership, School Committee members voting in support of Skipper pointed to her current post as Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools as a huge positive.

At last week's meeting, School Committee Vice Chair Michael O'Neill praised both candidates' qualifications and work to

improve education but said BPS needs someone who is currently leading a school district and knows the monumental work that entails.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to lead the district that raised me as an educa-

(BPS SUPERINTENDENT Pg. 4)

## FROG POND SPRAY POOL OPENS FOR THE SUMMER



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Shown above, Mayor Michelle Wu enjoys a quick dip in the Frog Pond with some young residents on opening day in the Boston Common. Shown right, Mayor Wu plays the cello with one of the attendees. See more photos on Page 5.

## Sheriff candidate, Zamor-Calixte on hand for virtual discussion

By Dan Murphy

Sandy Zamor-Calixte, one of two candidates who will vying for the Suffolk County Sheriff's seat in the Sept. 7 State Primary, was on hand Tuesday, June 28, for a virtual discussion sponsored by the Boston Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic committees.

A 16-year veteran of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department who last served as Chief of External Affairs and Communication, Zamor-Calixte was joined for the discussion by the event moderator, Danielle Allen, who is the James Bryant Conant University professor at Harvard University, as well as a director of the Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics. (The online event was originally planned as

an online debate between Zamor-Calixte and Steve Tompkins, who currently serves as Suffolk County Sheriff, but Tompkins was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict, according to Allen.)

Asked how she would explain the most important roles of the sheriff's office to her 11-year-old child, Zamor-Calixte replied "care, custody, and control."

As sheriff, Zamor-Calixte said she would look closely at "evidence-based programs" as opposed to assessing. She said she also evaluate the sheer volume of programming currently operating under the auspices of the sheriff's office and suggested that rather than 80 different pro-

(SANDY ZAMOR-CALIXTE Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## ANOTHER WEEKEND...

### ...ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA

As we are writing this, we are watching the news reports about the mass shooting that occurred in Highland Park, Illinois, during a Fourth of July parade on Monday morning.

We initially were disappointed with the news coverage of this horrific event because there was no mention by the reporters and commentators that Highland Park is well-known for its large Jewish community. We had many friends in college who were from Highland Park and who were members of the Jewish faith. Our daughter at a local university also has friends from Highland Park and they stated their belief in the immediate aftermath of the shooting that their community was targeted because of its large Jewish population. The Israeli Foreign Minister offered his nation's condolences to the citizens of Highland Park.

The reason we mention this is because of the possibility that the motivating factor by the shooter was his desire to commit yet another hate crime similar to the targeting of a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, N.Y., a few weeks ago by a young man who adhered to white nationalist beliefs. Whether authorities will be able to find definitive "proof" of an anti-Semitic motive in the Highland Park shooting may never be known.

However, we recall when the neo-Nazis went to court in the 1970s in order to march in nearby Skokie, Illinois, another community with a large Jewish population, including Holocaust survivors (which is why the neo-Nazi group deliberately targeted that town for their march).

Fast forward almost 50 years, and it was a bunch of neo-Nazis who gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, and who were chanting, "The Jews will not replace us."

Anti-Semitism has existed for centuries and it still is prevalent today, but now is reaching record levels. The anti-Defamation League reports that anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. reached a record-high of 2,717 in 2021. That's a 34 percent increase from the year before and averages out to more than seven anti-Semitic incidents per day in our country.

Even if one accepts the pro-gun lobby's self-serving and silly mantra that, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," the reality is that the easy accessibility to military-grade weapons of mass death by those who seek to target our fellow Americans who are members of Black, Latino, Jewish, LGBTQIA+, and other minority communities provides the means by which they can perpetrate these horrific attacks.

Until our government leaders are willing to take a stand against limiting the sale of these weapons, a measure that the vast majority of Americans support, Monday's tragedy in Highland Park, Illinois, will be repeated again...and again...and again.

## THE EXPERTS KNOW NOTHING

Listening to the so-called experts, both in and out of government, who opine these days about the present and future state of the economy, can leave your head spinning.

For every self-described expert who says that the economy is strong, there is another who will say that we are headed for a deep and long-lasting recession.

Well, here's our view: No one knows what they're talking about because these are unprecedented times for which there is no ready comparison to any other period in the modern era.

Today's labor shortages, in every industry from trucking to aviation to hospitality to health care to teaching and more, have not been seen since WWII, when millions of American men and women went off to fight the war and women filled the slack to meet our war production needs.

But today, there is the added twist that many of these jobs are highly-skilled -- such as airplane pilots, nurses, doctors, and teachers -- that require specialized training and college degrees.

The housing shortage is reminiscent of the immediate post-WWII era when servicemen returned home to start families and there was nowhere to live. Back then, the government built public housing for veterans and their new families in every community and also offered low-interest mortgages for those who wanted to buy a home pursuant to the GI Bill (which also helped pay for a college education for vets). But there is no ready answer today to negate the housing shortage, which means that home prices and rents will continue to soar.

The continuing after-shocks of the pandemic, most notably the hastened retirement of millions of Baby Boomers, likewise are unprecedented for the simple reason that we never have experienced a pandemic event in the modern era. The Baby Boomers continue to have an outsized effect on the economy, as they have from the day they were born -- but in a reverse direction.

Inflation is higher than it has been in 40 years, but the Fed's ability to tame rising prices via higher interest rates is minimal, thanks to the unprecedented disruptions in supply chains and shortages of many natural resources caused by the pandemic and enhanced by the war in Ukraine (the first major war in Europe since WWII).

Then we have to consider the effects of climate change -- the droughts, wildfires, and major storms -- that have the collective impact of creating shortages that ripple throughout the economy and which will only get worse.

In short, none of the textbooks that these economic experts studied when they got their degrees taught them anything about today's economic environment. If the economists are looking for comparisons from previous eras, the appropriate box to check is, "All of the above."

In short, we are in uncharted waters and, in the words of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates, the only thing we know is that we know nothing.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### PROPOSAL TO CLOSE DARTMOUTH STREET IS WRONG

Dear Editor:

This is to record my strong objection to a proposal to close off Dartmouth Street at Copley Square. This is a "solution" in desperate need of a problem.

As you know, realistically there are only two streets -- Berkeley Street and Dartmouth Street -- plus the marginal contribution of Charles Street that cross the South End and points east to and through the Back Bay. And of course there is also the off-ramp from the Mass. Pike. We have years, indeed decades, of experience in what happens with traffic when Dartmouth Street is closed off even for a couple of days for special occasions.

There is ample space already in front of the library and in the park itself, including providing additional seating and space for booths, for all but exceptional events. And implementation of the Copley Connect as a permanent activity would not qualify to be one of them.

Why on earth anyone rational would want to concentrate essentially all the Dartmouth Street traffic, including trucks, on the already jammed Berkeley Street and adding further congestion needlessly on more blocks of Newbury Street 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for no particular reason is beyond me. And it should be beyond you, also. Please give this inane proposal the appropriate disposition.

Edward Jay Allan

### POLLING LOCATIONS (from pg. 1)

added throughout the City as a result of new precincts being created.

The new proposed polling location in Back Bay is at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St in Ward 5.

In Fenway, the new proposed polling locations are the Fenway Center, 77 St. Stephen St. in Ward 3 and the Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave in Ward 4.

In the South End the new proposed polling location is at Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St in Ward 4 and 5.

Finally, in Chinatown, the new proposed location will be at the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, 120 Shawmut Ave in Ward 3.

The City previously created 20 new voting precincts for municipal elections last fall--increasing the number of voting precincts from 255 to 275.

"This new structure is a big deal for voter access and I look forward to working with the State and our Elections department to ensure that every registered voter knows where to vote," said Wu.

Before the process completed in October of last year, Boston last redrew its precincts in 1924, when a commission appointed by the state legislature created the wards and precinct structure. Because of this, some of the City's precincts had disproportionately

higher numbers of voters, which posed challenges for administering elections.

Following the 2020 U.S. Census, the City's Election Department worked with community groups and the state legislature on the adopted precinct changes. These changes focus on equity in the voting populations of each precinct to reduce wait times and increase voter access.

"Voting is an essential part of democracy," said Elections Commissioner Eneida Tavares. "The equalization of the city's voting precincts is fundamental to the proper conduct of elections, and ensures that every voter has easier access to the ballot box on Election Day."

The City of Boston is advising voters that they may experience a change in their precinct and polling location. The Elections Department will be conducting outreach in the coming months to ensure that residents are aware of any change to their polling location ahead of the elections.

The City of Boston held four virtual community engagement sessions regarding the new precinct lines and how the realigned voting precincts will impact voting in the 2022 elections. The sessions were held on Tuesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 30.

For more information about the new precinct structure, please visit [www.boston.gov/elections](http://www.boston.gov/elections).

THE  
BOSTON SUN

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# Spikeball comes to Boston Common

By Mark Duffield

Spikeball - a game once introduced on Shark Tank - is a new sport that's sweeping the nation and has now found its way to the Boston Common.

The first day of summer brings many delights and activities to the Beacon Hill neighborhood. Two main attractions nearby - the Public Garden and the Boston Common - draw residents and tourists in droves. Two historic pieces of real estate with two different ways to experience the great outdoors.

The Public Garden is devoted to a leisurely, shaded walk down quiet paths lined with stately trees, beautiful flower gardens and majestic Swan Boats floating peacefully across placid pond waters. Sunbathing, reading a book, snoozing on a bench...ah so peaceful.

But the pastoral Boston Common, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. Spinning carousels, joyous children splashing around in the Frog Pond, people jogging, exercising themselves and with their dogs chasing sticks and frisbees, the common tennis courts alive with competitive games...and now...SPIKEBALL?

Yes, Spikeball! Players Taryn Corey and her friends Kai Simmons, Lucas Tejada and Dominick Farino are graduate students at Boston University in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program (DPT) and their friend Connor Hannemann works in Boston and on occasion in Beacon Hill. Together, they have brought and introduced this new portable sport to the Boston Common. At first glance to the uninitiated, the game takes place on a small piece of ground and resembles a sports hybrid. It is volleyball, tennis, badminton, handball and acrobatics, and goodness knows what else all rolled into one. All the equipment you need is packed neatly into a very small bag. It is performed by four players at a frenetic pace circling 360 degrees around a small Hula Hoop sized trampoline net a foot off the ground. It involves spiking a soft yellow softball size ball back and forth ricocheting off the net towards and skillfully escaping the hands of opponents to score points!

As explained by participant Connor Hannemann, the game is played two versus two with the small round net placed between the two teams. A player starts a

point by serving the ball down on the net so it ricochets up at his opponents. This side has up to three hits between them (just like volleyball) to control the ball and bounce it back off the net to the other side. When they miss, you score a point. There are no boundaries so players can circle the net anywhere to return the ball. The game can be played to a score of 11, 15, or 21. In case of a tie, you must win by two points.

Taryn Corey says, "I played a lot of sports in my day, but Spikeball is the best because it is so easy to play and portable. It is a great way to get out, be social, exercise and a fantastic way to relieve stress."

Spikeball, now called Roundnet by some, is less than a decade old but it has definitely caught on, with leagues popping up all over the U.S. There is now a Roundnet National Championship that features a Pro Division. The game has been featured on ESPN.

Thank you to Taryn Corey and her friends for bringing the sport to the Boston Common and educating us all on this new sport that is slowly becoming global.



PHOTO BY MARK DUFFIELD

Pictured, left to right, are Lucas Tejada, Connor Hannemann, Taryn Corey, Kai Simmons, and Dominick Farino.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UNION PARK PICNIC IN THE PARK RETURNS

After a two-year hiatus because of COVID, the Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) will once again be holding concerts in Union Park, featuring a live band playing popular songs. The Picnic in the Park will take place on Sunday, July 31, from 4-6pm. We will also have a face painter there for children. Rather than scooping out ice cream as in the past, for safety reasons we ask you to bring

your own picnic (BYOP). The event is open to all: residents and friends from the neighborhood or beyond. More details will follow as the date gets closer.

### HAYES PICNIC IN THE PARK RETURNS

Please join the Friends of Hayes Park for our Annual Summer Picnic in the Park on Thursday, July 7 from 5:30-7:30pm. Pizza will be provided, but guests

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 4)

### SANDY ZAMOR-CALIXTE (from pg. 1)

grams, they could perhaps offer half as many programs while allocating surplus funds elsewhere.

Additionally, Zamor-Calixte said she would work to help the previously incarcerated overcome "systematic barriers" upon reentry, such as obtaining a Massachusetts ID, which is needed to secure employment and housing. The goal, she said, would be upon reentry, for individuals to reintegrate into their families and communities to become successful.

Zamor-Calixte said the majority of those incarcerated have a fifth- to seventh-grade education level, suggesting that not having the resources they needed is what landed many of them behind bars in the first place.

During her lengthy tenure with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Zamor-Calixte said she came to realize their



Candidate for Suffolk County Sheriff Sandy Zamor-Calixte.

offices need to be more "transparent," and that "more voices need to be heard."

In an effort to overcome what

she described as "implicit and explicit biases," Zamor-Calixte said she believes training in the department is imperative.

Zamor-Calixte said she didn't support Sheriff Tompkins' plan to build a courtroom and addiction treatment facility at the South Bay House of Correction to help address the ongoing opioid crisis at nearby Mass and Cass. Instead, she has recommended renting or leasing the ICE building to the state's Department of Public Health, where they could deliver day-to-day wraparound services to patients.

But her suggestion was firmly rejected, said Zamor-Calixte, and this is why she is now coming out from "behind the scenes" to seek the sheriff's seat.

"I didn't have the power to implement a lot of things I thought we needed for the community," she said.

If elected, Zamor-Calixte

said she would look at human resources, as well as the staffing shortages now facing the department. She added that the department is also now lacking a recruitment department.

Moreover, Zamor-Calixte said she intends to establish an Advisory Board for the department comprising representatives from both the Department of Public Health and the state's Education Board; someone from the business world, as well as from religious world, respectively; someone who has been previously incarcerated; and a family member of a previously incarcerated individual.

As for the most-important leadership lessons she has learned thus far on the job, Zamor-Calixte responded, "You have to be empathetic. You have to be able to see things through different lenses. You have to listen...and understand everyone's journey is

different and respect that."

Zamor-Calixte also underscores the importance of sharing "knowledge."

"Knowledge is key," she said. "You need to present them with knowledge rather than implementation change to make them understand why the change is being made."

On the lessons she has learned from the pandemic, Zamor-Calixte said more than ever before, leaders need to be "present, proactive, and active."

This discussion was preceded by a virtual candidates forum for the Suffolk County district attorney's race and debate between interim Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden and Boston District 7 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, his challenger in the Sept. 7 State Primary, which was also sponsored by the Boston Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic committees.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 3

are welcome to bring their favorite dish to share. Live music will be provided by Wayne Potash and the Music Fun Band.

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIVING HEALTHY SATURDAY MORNING WALKS

Attend Saturday Morning Walks hosted every Saturday

beginning Saturday, June 4 and ending Saturday, September 24. The group will be meeting at the Franklin Park Golf Course Clubhouse located on 1 Circuit Dr, Dorchester, MA at 9:15 AM and walking starts at 9:30 AM. This is a great way for people to get fit and build connections with others in the Greater Boston area.

### WU ANNOUNCES CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Building on her commitment to make Boston a Green New Deal City, Mayor Michelle Wu and the Public Works Department announced that a curbside food waste collection program with rolling online enrollment is

now available. Food waste collection will align with residents' scheduled trash and recycling collection days. This program will reduce the City's reliance on landfills and incinerators, and make it more convenient for Boston residents to dispose of their household food waste. The food waste, which will be collected through a partnership between Garbage to Garden

and Save That Stuff, will be sent to Save that Stuff's composting site in West Bridgewater to be turned into compost that will be made available to Boston parks, gardens, and schools, and sent to Waste Management's CORE Facility in Charlestown where it will be made into clean energy. Learn more on the city's website.

### SUPERINTENDENT (from pg. 1)

tor and solidified my passion for making a difference in the lives of students," said Skipper. "This is a pivotal time in Boston and BPS' history, and nothing less than our student's and our City's future is at stake. I look forward to working with our families, educators, community leaders and our students to ensure every BPS student has the opportunity for a great education that sets them up for success in school and in life."

However, the close vote left some with a sour taste as many BPS staff and principals in Region 1, which includes East Boston, the North End and Charlestown, were pulling for Welch.

Region 1, which Welch has led since 2015, has experienced an enormous transformation during his tenure. Nine of the 15 schools in his Region have been recognized for the EdVestors citywide "School on the Move" Prize.

Others pointed out that even though Welch isn't a sitting superintendent his Region within BPS alone is twice the size of the entire Somerville Public School distinct that Skipper oversees, which has less than 3,000 students.

While Welch supporters were disappointed in the vote, Welch himself congratulated Skipper after the vote.

"My utmost congratulations

to Mary Skipper, who will soon serve as the next Superintendent of Boston Public Schools," said Welch in a statement. "Her dedication to BPS kids and families and her storied career in public education make her the leader BPS needs at this time. Despite the process not ending how I would have preferred, I have a renewed sense of commitment to my work in Region 1, and am encouraged more than ever before about the future of BPS."

Welch said as BPS heads toward the upcoming school year, he will continue his work with the school communities in Eastie, Charlestown, and the North End.

"It is my goal to further support the students, families, staff members, leaders, and school communities of BPS," said Welch. "Superintendent Skipper and I both care deeply about the future of Boston's children. I look forward to working with our new leader and her team to improve educational outcomes for our young people in every neighborhood of our great city."

According to BPS, Skipper must formally accept the offer for the position in order to begin the process of negotiating the conditions of her contract with the School Committee, including salary, benefits and starting date



New Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper.

with BPS.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Superintendent Mary Skipper as the experienced leader and dedicated partner that Boston needs for our young people and families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "In this moment of challenge and opportunity, Mary is uniquely prepared to drive forward the systemic reforms and immediate results our students deserve. Her knowledge and relationships from serving at every level in BPS—as a classroom teacher, school leader, and long-time district administrator—and as a successful superintendent in the area, will supercharge our work."

Skipper has served as the Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools (SPS) for seven years. She joined SPS in July 2015 following years of service at BPS.

She quickly made her mark in Somerville as an innovative and visionary thinker, a passionate advocate for all youth, and a strategic systems builder whose approach includes leveraging community resources to support students. Under her ten-

ure, Somerville has emerged as a leader in using data to inform continuous progress and ensure a student-centered approach to teaching and learning driven by an unfailing commitment to equity of opportunity and access for all students.

"Tonight's decision by the School Committee is a huge step forward for the District," said Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. "On behalf of the School Committee, congratulations to Mary Skipper on becoming Boston's next Superintendent. Under her leadership we will continue prioritizing the needs of our students so that they can receive the support and quality education necessary to excel inside the classroom. I would also like to thank Dr. Tommy Welch for his continued commitment to BPS, our students and our City."

Before coming to Somerville, Skipper was Network Superintendent of High Schools for BPS, where she oversaw 34 high schools serving approximately 19,500 students. During her time as Network Superintendent, Boston's public high schools

achieved the lowest drop-out and the highest graduation rates in BPS history.

Among her most notable accomplishments while at BPS, Superintendent Skipper helped launch TechBoston Academy (TBA) as the founding Headmaster in 2002. Under her leadership, TBA grew from a 9-12 high school serving 75 students to a 6-12 school with a staff of more than 100 serving a diverse student population of more than 1,000, 30% of which were English Language Learners and 25% of which were Special Education students. The school's success was marked in 2011 with a visit from then-President Barack Obama where he delivered a major education policy speech.

During this leadership transition, Skipper will work closely with Dr. Drew Echelson, who will serve as Acting Superintendent following the June 30 departure of Dr. Brenda Cassellius.

"I'm deeply committed to working closely with Ms. Skipper to ensure a smooth transition," Dr. Echelson said. "Mary has always been a very empathetic listener who leads with purpose, humility and an unwavering belief in our children. I look forward to strengthening our work and leveraging much-needed reinforcements to accelerate reforms in BPS, especially as it relates to racial equity, Special Education, native language access, and improved transportation systems."

Skipper holds a Bachelor's in English and Latin from Tufts University. In addition, she earned a Master's in Education Policy from Harvard and a Master's in Education Leadership from Columbia Teachers College.

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# FROG POND SPRAY POOL ON THE COMMON OPENS FOR SUMMER

Mayor's Office Photos  
by Jeremiah Robinson

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods, and The Skating Club of Boston welcomed children and guests back to the Frog Pond spray pool on the Boston Common on Tuesday, June 28, to kick off its 2022 summer season.

The daylong celebration was sponsored by H.P. Hood LLC,

Xfinity, REI Co-Op, LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston, and Polar Beverages. Additional support was provided by Boston Music Project, N.E. Dairy Council, the JCC Greater Boston, and the PJ Library.

The Frog Pond is a year-round facility that operates via a public-private partnership between the City of Boston and The Skating Club of Boston.



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\*\*\$50,000 minimum deposit \*\*\*\$500 minimum deposit

# FENWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOSTS 'THE FENWAY BALL'



Bill Brauner of CEDAC with Albert Rodiger and Brian Tewksbury of Schochet.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Fenway Community Development Corporation held its first gala, The Fenway Ball, after a two-year absence at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Ave. The attendees celebrated their organization's mission to justice in housing by promoting affordable housing. Two projects that were featured were Burbank Terrace, their first ground-up project in more than two decades, providing 27 affordable housing units for families and the renovation of 97 apartments at Newcastle Sarnac. A great cause for a night to celebrate.



Kyle Richard and Saya Ameli Hajebi.



Robert Mann, Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone, Sara Reilly of Operation PEACE, Tracy Hunt, and Mallory Robing of Wingate Companies.



Chidinma Onukwugha and Isabel Wesman with Sally and Peter Gladden of The First Church Of Christ Scientist.

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Volunteers Ishraq Boutaleb of Fenway CDC and Therlande Loussaint from Northeastern University.



Katrina Peebles of The Pebbles Company and Carolyn Spicer of McDermott.



Fenway CDC volunteers Samantha Greene and Diego Soler.



Dr. Shruti Panjini and Erika Lawless-Stoner of Wellesley Hospital.



Fenway CDC Board Members Greg Haig and Mia Jean-Sicard.



Heather Calcagni and Kelly Wollinger of Peabody Properties.

# FENWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOSTS 'THE FENWAY BALL'



Fenway CDC Executive Director Leah Cambi addresses the Fenway Ball and thanks attendees for their support outlining the mission of Fenway CDC.



Fenway Ball attendees listen to Fenway CDC Executive Director Leah Cambi give an update to the progress achieved by the organization.



Fenway CDC Board Treasurer Tim Coakley and Deputy Director Suneeth John lead a celebratory toast.



Anant Jain with Centaur Labs and William Hornberger with EXP Realty.



Deputy Director of Fenway CDC Suneeth (2nd from right) with Laura Cella-Mowatt, Miranda Stuckey, Paul Warkentin, and Nina Schwartzchild of Davis Sq Architects.



Aisha Miller from Related Beal with Fenway Ball organizer Iris Tan are enjoying the evening.



Julia Collins with Brookline Bank makes a donation to Fenway CDC through volunteer Henry Nguyen.



Fenway CDC Board Member James Smith (2nd from left) and his wife Rosalie with Peter and Johanna Roveto from Brookline Bank.



Ludmilla Tracey with Wingate Companies is looking stylish.



Charles Courtney, Stephanie Ash, Matt Troiano, Dave Kelleher, Kaitie Noll with AAFCPAs

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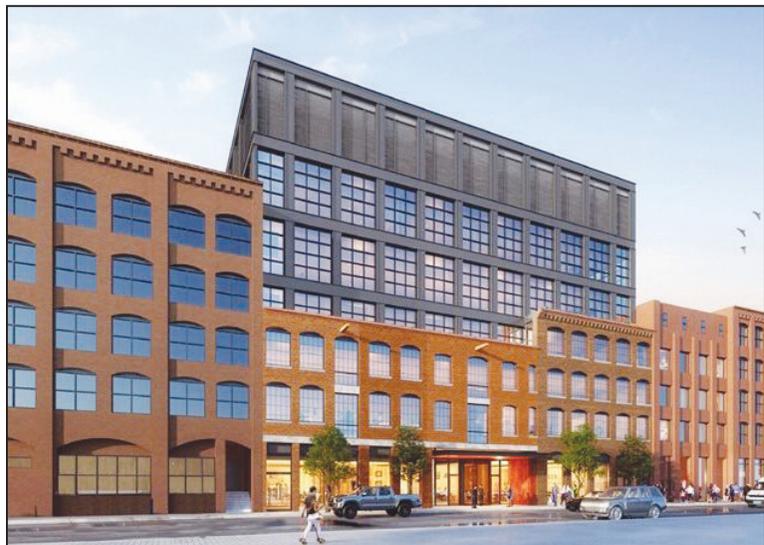
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COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the five-story officelab building proposed for 65 Wareham St.

# Development partnership files PNF with city for 65 Wareham St. project

By Dan Murphy

A partnership between two local developers and a Connecticut private real estate investment firm filed a Project Notification Form (PNF) with the city on June 28 for a proposed project, which would raze five dilapidated South End buildings to make way for a five-story office/laboratory building.

South End-based Transom Real Estate and Camber Development of Boston, together with Wheelock Street Capital of Greenwich, Conn., intend to build a new 79,600 square-foot building containing approximately 2,000 square feet of first-floor retail and around 44 below-grade parking spaces at 65 Wareham St.

(The existing building on the site contain approximately 43,425 square feet of space and

a surface lot with approximately 20 off-street parking spaces, so the net gain will be 35,175 square feet of net new gross floor-area and 24 additional off-street parking spaces.)

The project site is an approximately 19,921 square-foot parcel comprising 65-69, 71-73, and 75-79 Wareham St. and 52-56 Plympton St., and the site is bordered by Wareham and Plympton streets between Albany Street and Harrison Avenue.

The Boston Planning & Development Agency has invited the public to submit their comments through Aug. 1 on the project website, which can be found at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/65-wareham-street>. Upcoming public meetings on the project sponsored by the BPDA will also be posted there.

# FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE RETURNS TO THE SOUTH END

Staff Report

The first in-person Fête de la Musique since 2019 was held on June 25, with activities at Ringgold Park, Union Park, and a block party on Warren Ave. The free festival, hosted by Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) and sponsored by several companies and organizations, brought live music, a raffle, and activities to the South End.

Musical acts included Mr. Twister Opera, Michelle Tucker Quintet, Standards Quartet, and Branches Steel Band, as well as the Matt Bailin Party Band, Uku-lele Ensemble, Woo Ching White Crane, Lauren Kaufman, and the Russell Elementary.



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM GOUDEAU

The Party Band plays at Fête de la Musique on June 25.

Next year's Fête de la Musique will take place on Saturday, June 24.

CMCB is also still looking for donations to provide music education to kids across Boston.



Bassoonists showed off their skills at Fête de la Musique.



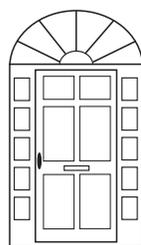
Fête de la Musique's young attendees enjoyed the activities offered.



Many musicians were on hand to provide live music throughout the event, which celebrated the importance of music and helped support CMCB in the South End.

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Rentals

# Mayor Wu announces Paul F. Burke as Fire Commissioner

Staff Report

On June 30, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of longtime Boston firefighter Paul F. Burke as Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department. He will officially begin in his new role tomorrow.

“Paul is a trusted leader in this department and has served in many roles leading our fire response,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m proud to welcome this

Roslindale native into leadership as a partner to build a healthy environment for our firefighters and a diverse, connected workforce serving our communities in moments of need.”

“It is a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to lead our Fire Department,” said Commissioner Paul F. Burke. “I want to thank Mayor Wu for the opportunity to serve the residents of Boston in this role. I look forward to working with all of our



Fire Commissioner Paul Burke.

firefighters to deliver this critical service to our city.”

Commissioner Burke has been a member of the Boston Fire Department for 32 years, having served in multiple leadership capacities. Most recently he served as Deputy Chief, Fleet and Facilities where he was responsible for all Boston Fire Department vehicles and buildings, including budget, purchases, maintenance, safety, and renovations.

Previously, Commissioner Burke served as a Technical Rescue District Chief with responsibility for managing technical rescues and emergencies throughout Boston.

Commissioner Burke has a BA from University of Massachusetts and a MA in Homeland Security from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. He grew up in Roslindale and is a Boston Public Schools alum. He is married with 3 grown children.

# Rep. Livingstone, House passes reproductive rights bill in the wake of Roe v Wade being overturned

By John Lynds

In response to the US Supreme Court’s (SCOTUS) recent decision to overturn Roe v Wade, Rep. Jay Livingstone joined his House colleagues last Wednesday to pass a bill to uphold reproductive justice and gender-affirming care.

The bill, H.4930 “An Act expanding protections for reproductive rights”, passed 136-17 and aims to safeguard people seeking abortion, shield healthcare providers who treat people coming to Massachusetts for care, and prohibit co-pays or cost sharing for abortion and gender-affirming services.

“Massachusetts is going to stand out as a beacon to the rest of the country. If people need reproductive care, if people need gender affirming care, they can turn to Massachusetts and people can get that care regardless of financial means,” said Rep. Livingstone, who is Vice Chair of the Joint Committee of Healthcare Financing. “I was proud to speak in support of H.4930 and express my unwavering commitment to expanding reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare services and increased protections for residents and those who travel to the Commonwealth for such care. Thank you to my colleagues who voted overwhelmingly in favor of this legislation and for prioritizing this legislation less than one week after the SCOTUS decision. This was a bipartisan victory for reproductive justice and LGBTQIA rights. Thank you Kate Dineen for shar-

ing your story and bringing to our attention that there was a loophole to close. You made a huge positive difference for the bill addressing this issue.”

House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy) said although abortion remains legal in Massachusetts due to the Legislature’s efforts in 2020 to codify and expand access, the Massachusetts House took additional efforts to further protect these rights and establish additional safeguards following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. “The Supreme Court’s decision to completely overturn Roe v. Wade represents a fundamental attack on women’s rights. Now, more than ever, it is the responsibility of leaders in Massachusetts to ensure that the Commonwealth can serve as a sanctuary for women seeking reproductive health care, and for providers whose licenses could be at risk because of this recent Supreme Court decision,” said Speaker Mariano. “I want to thank Chairs Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Rep. Michael Day, as well as all my colleagues in the House, for their commitment to protecting a woman’s right to choose, and for their hard work that facilitated the passage of this legislation.”

Day, who chairs the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, said the bill passed in the House makes it clear Massachusetts is going to continue to champion reproductive rights for women.

“Five members of the Supreme Court recently said states can

decide whether millions of American women should be treated as second class citizens,” said Day. “Today, we in the Massachusetts House answered that question by reaffirming that our constitution and our laws make clear that women control their own bodies and that we will always step up to protect the fundamental rights of our residents here in the Commonwealth.”

“An Act expanding protections for reproductive rights” allows providers to apply to the Secretary of State to shield the health care professional’s address from public disclosure and designates reproductive health care and gender-affirming services as legally protected health care activity.

The bill reaffirms that access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming services are a right secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth.

The bill also Requires insurance coverage for abortion and abortion-related care without being subject to deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or other cost-sharing requirements and requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue a statewide standing order to authorize licensed pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception.

The bill also provides additional protection for out-of-state patients coming to Massachusetts in search of reproductive health care.

The bill prohibits the Boards of Registration of various health professions from disciplining

or taking adverse action on an application for registration of any person who assists with reproductive health care or gender-affirming services.

It also prohibits Massachusetts law enforcement from providing information related to an investigation or inquiry into legally protected health care services to federal or another state’s law enforcement agencies, quasi-law enforcement agencies, or private citizens.

Other highlights of the bill includes:

- Prohibiting medical malpractice insurers from discriminating against a provider that offers reproductive or gender-affirming health care services.
- Protecting Massachusetts residents from efforts to enforce court rulings from other states based on health care activity that is legally protected in Massachusetts.
- Prohibiting any Massachusetts court from ordering a person in Massachusetts to give

testimony or produce documents for use in connection with any proceeding in an out-of-state tribunal concerning legally protected health care activity.

- Protecting Massachusetts residents and providers from lawsuits seeking to penalize health care activities legally protected in Massachusetts.
- Prohibiting a justice from issuing a summons for a person in Massachusetts to testify or appear in a court in another state in prosecutions or grand jury investigations related to legally protected health care activity.
- Limiting the Governor’s authority to surrender persons to acts that would be punishable under Massachusetts law and prohibiting them from surrendering a person charged in another state as a result of engaging in legally protected health care activity.
- Updating language from the 2020 ROE Act to ensure that impacted patients are able to receive in-state care.

# Free, English-language 'Romeo and Juliet' performances set for Aug. 11 and 13

Staff Report

A free, public opera adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" on the historic Boston Common opens Boston Lyric Opera's 2022/23 season with two performances on Aug. 11 and 13 at 8 p.m.

Based on Charles Gounod's 1867 musical setting of the

classic drama with a libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré, and an English translation by Edmund Tracey, the production is co-presented in partnership with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) and the City of Boston. Ricardo Garcia makes his BLO company debut as Romeo; Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumna Vanessa

Becerra is Juliet. CSC Artistic Director Steven Maler will direct the production and BLO Music Director David Angus will lead the BLO Orchestra and Chorus. The performance, sung in English with surtitles, coincides with the 20-year anniversary of BLO's last free Boston Common show, "Carmen."

Considered alongside Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello* and *Falstaff*, and more recently Brett Dean's *Hamlet* as among the most successful opera adaptations of Shakespeare, Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet" highlights the story's most operatic plot points: young lovers forbidden to be together and finding love against the odds, only to perish at their own hands. The story inspired more than two dozen opera treatments but Gounod's lush music – in love duets like the one sung the morning after the young lovers' first night together, arias like Juliet's well-known waltz and Romeo's passionate Act II declaration of love, and the scene-setting orchestral interludes and dramatic choral moments – ensures his version a place of continued prominence.

The libretto compresses Shakespeare's storyline and cuts the number of roles nearly in half. The result is a brisk tale that moves from the rivalry between the Capulets and Montagues to



COCO JOURDANA PHOTO

*Boston Conservatory at Berklee alumna Vanessa Becerra, who will portray Juliet in the upcoming performances of "Romeo and Juliet" on the Common.*



ELLE LOGAN PHOTO

*Ricardo Garcia, who makes his BLO company debut as Romeo in the Aug. 11 and 13 performances of "Romeo and Juliet" on the Boston Common.*

## District 4 sees 1-percent drop in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

With the first six months of 2022 on the books, District 4 had seen a 1-percent decrease in Part One crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 1,211 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district, which includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury and the Fenway, between Jan. 1 and July 3 of this year, compared to 1,229 incidents during the same timeframe in 2021. This year has also seen an approximately 13-percent decrease from the five-year average of 1,393 Part One crime incidents.

(Part One Crime includes violent crimes [homicide, rape and attempted rape, robbery and attempted robbery, and aggravated assault], as well as property crimes [burglary and attempted burglary, larceny and attempted larceny, and vehicle theft and attempted vehicle theft.])

The number of homicides held steady, with one incident both this year and last, which was also the same as the five-year average for this category.

Rapes and attempted rapes were down nearly 36 percent as the number fell to nine from 14 in 2021. Fourteen was also the five-year average for this category.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a minor decrease, with 46 this year, compared to 49 last year. This year has also seen an approximately 31-percent decrease from the five-year average of 67 incidents in this category.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were up 10 percent as the number climbed to 22 from 20 in 2021. This year has still seen an almost 19-percent decrease from the five-year aver-

age of 27 incidents in this category.

The rate of non-domestic aggravated assault remained the same, with 79 incidents both this year and last. This was a nearly 23-percent drop from the five-year average of 102 incidents in this category.

Commercial burglaries were up 54 percent as the number climbed to 37 from 24 last year. But this year also saw a nearly 10-percent decrease from the five-year average of 41 incidents in this category.

In contrast, residential burglaries were down 46 percent, with 34 this year, compared to 63 in 2021. This year has also seen a nearly 55-percent drop from the five-year average of 75 incidents in this category.

Larcenies from a motor vehicle saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to 155 from 149 last year, although this year has still seen an approximately 29-percent decrease from the five-year average of 219 incidents in this category.

Other larcenies were down nearly 3 percent as the number dropped to 745 from 765 in 2021. This year has also seen a nearly 16-percent increase from the five-year average of 883 incidents in this category.

Auto theft was up almost 28 percent, with 83 incidents this year, compared to 65 last year. This year has also seen a nearly 39-percent increase from the five-year average of 60 in this category.

Citywide, Part One crime is up 3 percent as the number of incidents climbed to 7,098 from 6,910 last year. But this year has still seen a nearly 9-percent decrease from the five-year average of 7,792 Part One crime incidents across the city.

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

By John Lynds

With summer in full swing and many residents enjoying numerous fun in the sun activities, health officials are bracing for another summer surge as the omicron sub variants of the COVID-19 virus are again spreading rapidly.

After weeks of progress knocking down COVID infections through increased vaccination efforts and public awareness campaigns the numbers are once again on the rise.

However, according to the latest data by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) Back Bay and the surrounding area's weekly COVID infection rate decreased slightly last week.

the masked ball where the title characters meet and fall in love, through the lovers' surreptitious courting and marriage, the street fight that sheds both families' blood, and the tragic finale in Juliet's tomb.

BLO Acting Stanford Calderwood General and Artistic Director Bradley Vernatter says the production draws distinctively on the strengths of both artistic institutions, and results in a unique version that blends the talents and storytelling of each. This opera production, for example, adds two actors to the staging who perform spoken text from the original play and add some of Shakespeare's sonnets for context and texture.

"This bold interpretation of the classic tale of star-crossed lovers, told under a starry New England sky, celebrates the rich legacy of

this opera in a modern context," Vernatter says. "In collaboration with our friends at CSC, we are creating something completely unique for our city, something neither company could make on its own. These performances demonstrate the creative power of the performing arts in Boston and the importance of coming together as a community."

Stage Director Steven Maler says the production is inspired by busker culture – and comprises a gathering of street musicians, singers and actors whose desire to entertain in public makes for surprising and spontaneous moments of joy. Performers play on three stage levels, with the full 47-piece orchestra in view and a 20-plus-member chorus enhancing scenes like the masked ball,

(ROMEO AND JULIET Pg. 11)

Last week, 921 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for the virus last week and 9.9 percent were positive–this was a 10 percent increase from the 11 percent that tested positive between June 20 and June 27.

Ninety one additional residents contracted the virus between June 27 and July 4 and there have now been 11,423 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate increased last week according to the BPHC.

According to the BPHC, 12,787 Boston residents tested citywide and 7.5 percent were positive—a 3 percent increase

from the 7.3 percent that tested positive between June 20 and June 27.

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 193,870 to 194,604 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

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

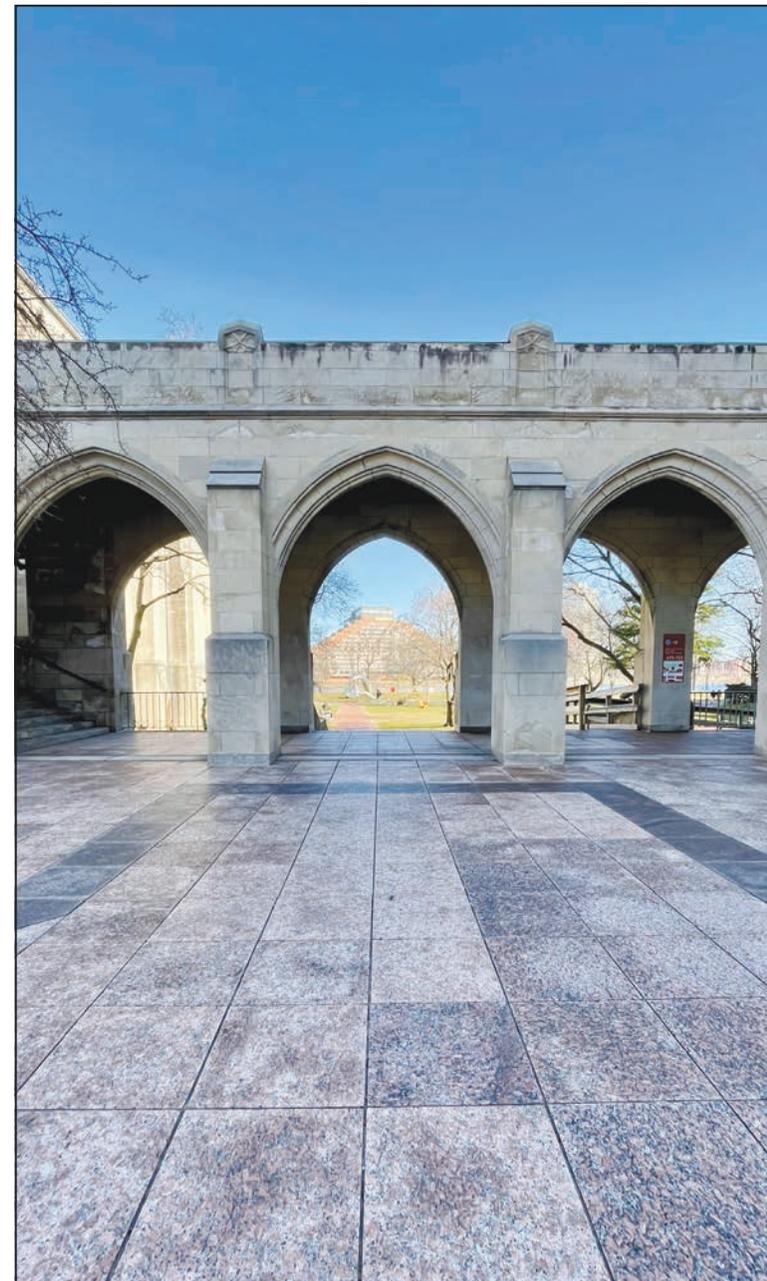
# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
JT Arnold Ent 11 LLLP	Liptrot, Christopher	179 Beacon St #5	\$1,575,000
Zbitskii, Pavel	Harrington, David E	295-297 Beacon St #74	\$1,080,000
Capone, Patricia	361 Beacon Unit 3 LLC	361 Beacon St #3	\$8,000,000
Shajii, Ali	Ivie Properties LLC	160 Commonwealth Ave #314	\$1,350,000
257 Commonwealth Ave LLC	Garde, Tanuja V	257 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$1,785,000
257 Commonwealth Ave LLC	Josh Zakim LT	257 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$1,225,000
Hassett, William R	T&C Bulman NT	167 Marlborough St #4	\$2,200,000
Klein, Michael	Johnson, Robbin	311 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,700,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Anne Lewis T 2021	Funston, Daphne	116 Charles St #3	\$2,226,000
Blecher, Jeffrey	86 Chestnut Street LLC	86 Chestnut St	\$5,525,000
Uremek, Nazli	Probolus, Susan G	29 Grove St #3	\$545,000
Joncas, Julie A	Sapphire T	93 Mount Vernon St #3	\$2,122,000
Reichenbach, Charles B	Voda Childrens Exempt T	77 Myrtle St	\$3,525,000
Wong, On Y	Valentin, Lucia	70 Phillips St #2	\$615,000
Cariaga, Anthony J	Henderson, Thomas A	43 Revere St #3	\$847,500
Gan&Yuan LT	Samuel, Bassem	390 Riverway #1	\$520,000
Schwartzberg, Theodore	Devine, Michael	38 S Russell St #4	\$2,130,000
Sherden, Molly	Ford 3rd, Daniel B	21 Walnut St #M	\$1,600,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Toscano, Christine	Leonov, Sergei	34 Appleton St #2	\$633,100
Rajendran, Krishna	Shields, John R	1 Charles St S #12D	\$2,527,500
Britton, Peter C	Myers, Michael D	2 Clarendon St #604	\$1,895,000
Fernandez, Conor	Simson, Jacob	429 Columbus Ave #2	\$2,125,000
Hernandez, Christopher	Stamples, Matthew S	433 Columbus Ave #1	\$849,000
400 Stuart Street 27D LLC	Clarendon BB 2020 RT	400 Stuart St #27D	\$2,800,000
Rodman, Jeffrey	Wray, Shirley H	505 Tremont St #904	\$4,250,000
Garrett, Barry	White, James M	207 W Canton St #1	\$780,000
Fitzgerald, Gail M	Ivaskevicius, Edgaras	5 Albemarle St #2	\$795,000
Thompson, Reed	234-1212 Causeway LLC	234 Causeway St #1212	\$1,275,000
Powers 3rd, Robert W	Highline 52 Dwight LLC	52 Dwight St #2	\$2,300,000
Lilac Stone LLC	Olsen, William M	29 E Springfield St	\$3,295,000
J Enrichment RET	Gupta, Vinod	58 E Springfield St #3	\$635,000
Rosenblatt, Ben S	288 Pineapple LLC	288 Shawmut Ave #1	\$2,150,000
Goodrich, Cynthia	Azrack, Nicholas	288 Shawmut Ave #2	\$3,350,000
Pereira, Andrew P	Meixner, David P	24 Upton St #1	\$1,630,000
Nevins, Brian O	Masselink, Benjamin	110 W Concord St #3	\$2,060,000
Tarr, Michael C	Nevins, Brian	143-145 W Concord St #1	\$1,975,000
Clark, Collin	Kelly, Jason C	70 W Rutland Sq #1	\$1,999,000
Gunther, Atsu S	Horenstein, Henry	1140 Washington St #3B	\$925,000
10 Wellington Street LLC	Tullov RT	10 Wellington St	\$2,550,000

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

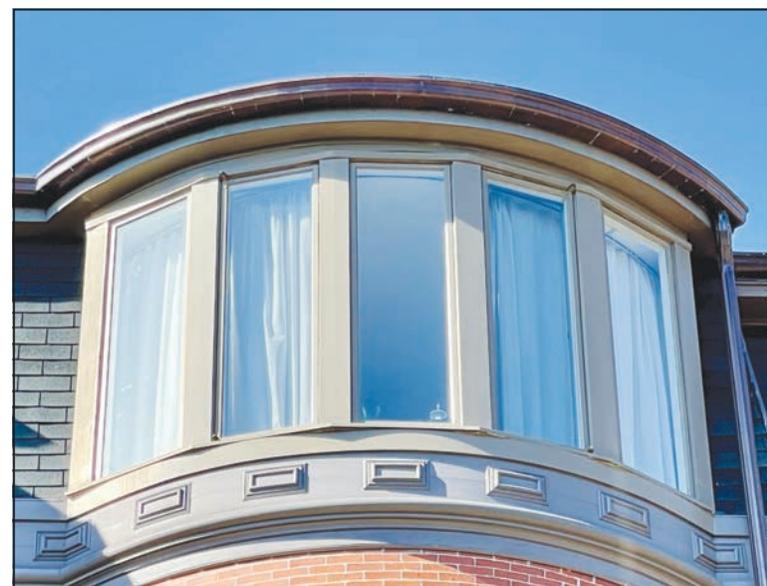


The arch and tilework in the last clue are part of the covered walkway or cloister alongside Boston University's Marsh Chapel. The Chapel was designed by Ralph Adams Cram and was completed in 1950. The cloister tilework is an excellent example of a Guastavino tile arch system.

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



### ROMEO AND JULIET (from pg. 10)

ing scenes like the masked ball, the town plaza and others.

“CSC’s vision has always been to bring performances to the people’s park, the Boston Common, this shared public space and the nation’s oldest park,” Maler says. “Democratizing art is central to our mission. Early opera, like Shakespeare’s work, was populist in its time...vital and vibrant parts of the culture. I am happy we can do artistic collaborations with partners like BLO, which continues to democratize their artform and make it

more accessible.”

Seating and access “Romeo and Juliet” will be performed on the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company stage, located north of the Parkman Bandstand in the Boston Common. MBTA access is at the Green Line Boylston Street stop, and the Red Line Park Street stop.

Audience members may bring blankets and chairs or rent chairs on site for \$10. Picnics are permitted at the show. The performance’s runtime is approximately two hours.

The Boston Common is accessible. For help with special seating or mobility and access needs, BLO Audience Services can be reached at 617-542-6772 or boxoffice@blo.org.

Digital programs will be available in advance at blo.org. Weather alerts and other updates about Romeo & Juliet are available by signing up here.

A limited number of reserved seats are available in the Friends Section with a donation of \$100 per seat to Boston Lyric Opera. Visit blo.org for details.

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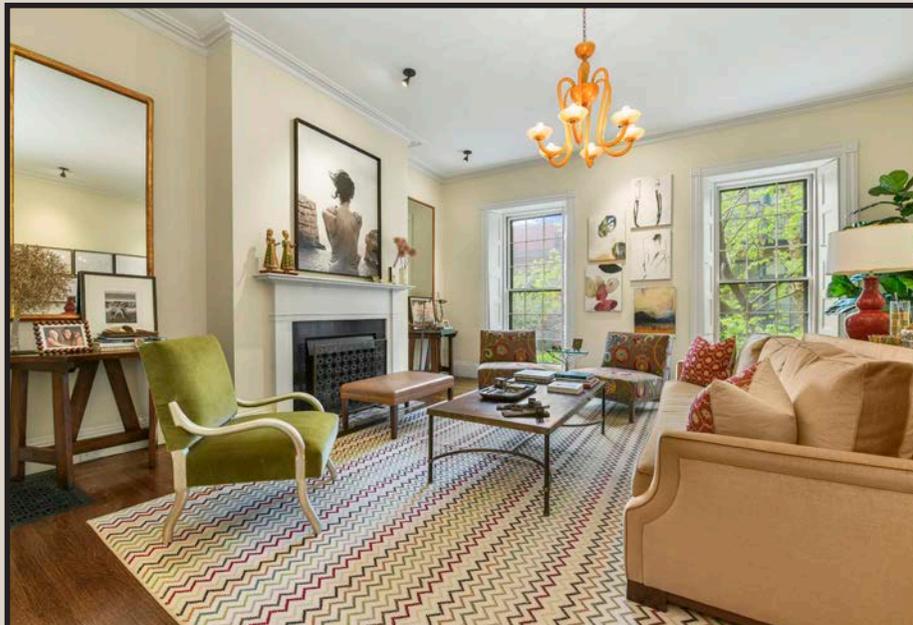


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