

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

BAY VILLAGE BLOCK PARTY TURNS 50



The Bay Village Block Party celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. Shown above, neighbors enjoy their food and some mingling at the Revere Hotel. With only hours notice, the Revere Hotel was happy to offer its space for the Bay Village Block Party to use when inclement weather made the outdoor neighborhood gathering unfeasible.



Shown to the right, Bay Village Neighborhood Association President Tom Perkins reads an official Proclamation from Boston City Council President Ed Flynn. See more photos on Page Δ.

Latest redevelopment plans for BFIT campus in South End discussed at public meeting

By Dan Murphy

The latest plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) campus in the South End were discussed on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at a virtual public meeting sponsored by the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Boston-based developer Related Beal is proposing a project at 42 Berkeley St. comprising three components: an approximately 210,000 square-foot, 193-unit senior care facility that would be operated by a national provider, Atria Senior Living, Inc., with ground-floor retail and accessory uses; the adaptive reuse of the Franklin Union building for residential purposes, including ground-floor retail and accessory uses; and an affordable residential building of approximately 20,000 square feet, with a 4,500 square-foot community space on its ground floor.

The projected timeline is around five years to allow BFIT

to stay on site until the completion of its new campus, which is now under construction in Roxbury's Nubian Square, said Alex Provost of Related Beal. (BFIT would lease its current South End campus back from the developer for approximately two years before construction at 41 Berkeley St. begins, which is then expected to take two to three years to complete.)

The project site is located within the Boston Center for the Arts-Franklin Institute Community Facilities Subdistrict of the South End Neighborhood Zoning District, as well as within the South End Landmark District.

For the project to move forward, the BPDA board would have to approve a change for Parcel 7 only from its current "institutional" (school) use to health care and residential uses, said Chris Breen, urban renewal manager for the BPDA. (The current usage is dictated by the South End Urban Renewal Plan,

(BFIT Pg. 3)

Esplanade Association's Pathway Safety Improvement Project getting underway tomorrow

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association is encouraging those planning on visiting the Esplanade tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 7, to be on the lookout for the implementation of

its Pathway Safety Improvement Project.

Traffic-safety striping will then be painted on park pathways, resulting in temporary lane closures on the Esplanade at the Massachusetts Avenue ramp, at

the Esplanade Playspace near the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge, and in the area of the Fanny Appleton Footbridge.

"We'll paint only one part of

(ESPLANADE Pg. 5)

La Neta on Newbury Street seeking entertainment license

By Dan Murphy

The owner of La Neta, a Newbury Street taco shop, appeared at the Monday, Oct. 3, meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) License and Building Use Committee to discuss his plan to petition the city for an entertainment license.

Allan Rodriguez said the restaurant would like to offer live music inside three or four times each week. The performances would be limited to one or two musicians due to space constraints, while he said he would give up space for one table to the left of the door to create a performance area.

"We can only fit one or two people max," said Rodriguez, who added that he would consider hiring Berklee College of Music students as musicians.

Rodriguez said he would seek an entertainment license for La Neta's current hours of oper-

(LA NETA Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the project proposed for the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology campus at 41 Berkeley St. in the South End.

EDITORIAL

TAKE A FOREST BATH

When we saw a headline about a “forest bath” in an on-line publication the other day, we initially took its meaning literally.

But the article was not about physically bathing in the woods. Rather, it pointed out that there have been some studies which have suggested that spending time in heavily-treed areas can decrease blood pressure and stress and boost overall mood, particularly if there is a stream or lake nearby. Exercising in the woods also has similar unique benefits (which made us recall some of our cross-country runs.)

The article further noted that the sounds and smells of the forest, as well as the chemicals released by trees, can have a calming effect. (Though we assume this does not include the growling of a bear...)

After we read the article, we realized that a “forest bath” simply is a new-agey term for taking a hike in the woods.

Here in New England, the change to the fall season provides us with the ultimate opportunity to take a nice hike. Summer’s humidity is gone and the cool, crisp air is perfect for taking a long walk amidst the splendor of the foliage season.

Although our most-memorable hikes have been in the mountains of northern New England, we don’t have to travel that far to enjoy a forest bath. The nearby Blue Hills, Arnold Arboretum, state parks, and parks under the auspices of the Trustees of Reservations provide many nearby opportunities to enjoy the solitude of nature with our friends and family members.

So whether you call it a hike -- or a forest bath -- we encourage all of our readers to get outside in the coming weeks.

SUNDAYS AREN'T FUN ANYMORE

Some years back, amid the Patriots’ long string of success, we wrote that New England fans should enjoy the ride, because it inevitably would come to an end.

We’ve been Pats’ fans since the 1960s, so unlike younger fans, we’ve known many more years of failure than success, which gave us a much-greater appreciation for the Pats’ amazing and unprecedented run of Super Bowl appearances and league titles from 2001-2019.

Societies have worshiped their athletic heroes dating back to the ancient Greeks. In the modern age, sports have served as a form of entertainment that uniquely brings people together, where we can forget ours and the world’s problems, even if it’s for just a few hours each week. In addition, success on the athletic field (or track or arena) is the ultimate meritocracy -- unlike just about every other aspect of our society -- which is why cheaters in sports are so reviled.

The Patriots’ success became part of the local culture, with fans -- and even non-fans -- partaking of game-day parties and tailgating that helped us endure the long fall and winter seasons. Studies have shown that sharing the experience of a successful sports team with friends brings noticeable psychological benefits that last for a couple of days -- and New England fans had almost 20 years of joy.

But New England no longer is the center of the pro football universe. We’re now the ones on the outside looking in, as was the case for so many others for two decades. When the hometown newspaper writes that your 1-3 team can take comfort in the positives after another loss -- well, you know that it’s going to be a long season.

We were listening to the 1960s station on our Sirius XM radio in our car the other day when we heard one of our favorite tunes, Sundays Will Never be the Same by Spanky and the Gang. The lyrics are about a lost love and how their Sundays together were special, but they seem appropriate for New England Patriots fans these days:

Now I wake up Sunday morning
 Sunday’s just another day
 Sunny afternoons that made me feel so warm inside
 Have turned as cold and gray as ashes
 As I feel the embers die
 Sunday will never be the same

GUEST OP-ED

Ian - when devastation happens

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Life changes all the time. Nothing is permanent. The only constant is change.

Hurricane Ian proved again that life is unpredictable and so is the weather. One reminder from Hurricane Ian is that we can’t fight the weather and come out very well. Category four hurricanes are certain to bring devastation and loss of life to what or who is in its path.

Dozens of people in Florida lost their lives to Ian last week. Hundreds of millions of dollars of damage occurred. We can always hope that the weather will not be as bad as forecasted. We can always hope we will hold out, hang on, and survive but bad weather is a formidable foe.

California fires, Midwest tornadoes, Appalachian flooding and now a gulf coast hurricane proves again that it’s best to get out of the way of mother nature. This often means hurrying to a

place of safety depending on the threatening weather.

Hindsight always sees better. It’s easy to say this is what people should have done. We hope that the bad weather won’t be as bad as forecasted. We hang on hoping we will be able to ride out the storm.

The best that we can do is try to stay ahead of dangerous weather if we can. Relocate, or put ourselves in as safe a place as possible is vital.

Ft. Myer’s Beach has been dear for many years. My wife and I have visited there often. We have become very familiar with the very small island that is only about seven miles long. We know some of the people impacted and who are hurting. We can’t imagine how they will ever overcome last week’s horrific hurricane. Some will likely never reopen their businesses or even consider trying to rebuild. Some will try but the climb back to any sem-

blance of normalcy will be long and hard.

Overcoming devastation is never easy, sometimes impossible and at best takes a long time. Your devastation may not be a hurricane. Your devastation may not be weather related. We all must keep in mind that if we live life long enough, we will face some kind of devastation that hurts or even cripples us. Rendering prayer, kindness, emotional and financial support is being a good neighbor and treating others the way we hope to be treated when it happens to us.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BOSTON VULNERABLE TO SEA-LEVEL RISE

Dear Editor

Hurricane’s Ida’s devastating impacts on Florida’s seacoast communities provide a stark warning to Boston which is similarly vulnerable to the combined impacts of storm surges and sea level rise which is universally predicted as inevitable.

Sea level rise is due largely from accelerated melting of the Greenland and Antarctic glaciers and ice sheets from global warming, and to a lesser but significant degree from ocean waters’ expanding volumes due to warming temperatures.

The consequences of sea level rise are ominous for Boston. Currently accepted scientific data indicate that by the year 2050

New England coastal communities will experience an average sea level rise of three to six feet. This would be a catastrophe for East Boston, a peninsula bordered by Boston Harbor and the Chelsea Creek, with a possible flooded area of over 300 acres. Charlestown, the North End and Seaport District would also be severely impacted as would Winthrop and Chelsea. Logan Airport, due to its massive filling of once-open Boston Harbor, has removed 2,000 acres of inner harbor that once served as a buffer between tidal surges and East Boston and Winthrop.

There is a brilliant proposal that would protect all of Boston Harbor, its adjoining communities, the seaport facilities and Logan Airport. A brilliant city

planner, Antonio DiMambro, has proposed an award-winning project, praised by noted oceanographer John Englander, that would not only protect the entire harbor and its neighborhoods from sea level rise but also protect its maritime dependent economic base. Mr. DiMambro has described his brainchild as “Boston’s Safety Belt”, a series of connected barriers linking Deer Island, Long Island, and Squantum into a bulwark across the harbor, with 15 foot gates that would rotate closed to protect the harbor and city from storm surges. The outer harbor would effectively become an encircled pond, shielding Boston and its harbor from storm surges and sea level

(LETTER Pg. 3)

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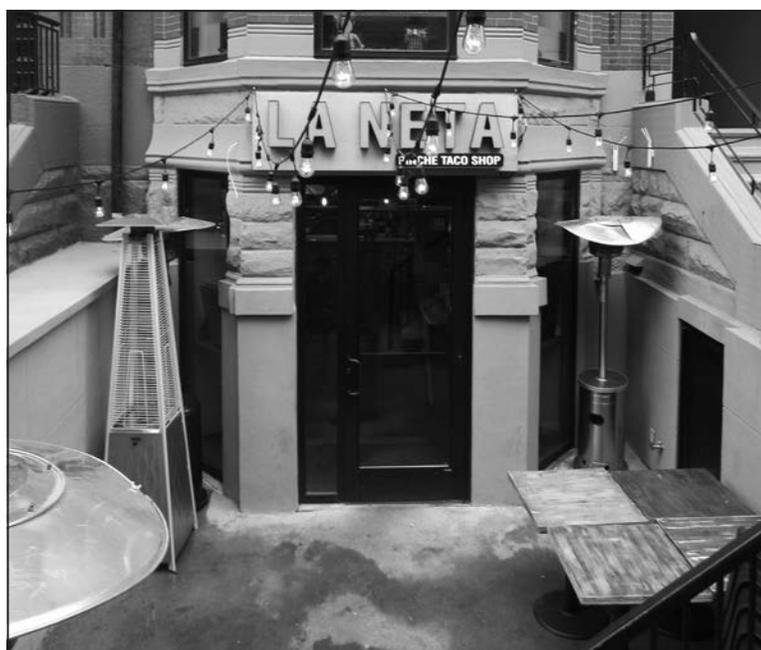
LA NETA (from pg. 1)

ation of 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (or a 1 a.m. closing once the building expands into the space next door).

The music would be acoustic, not amplified, added Rodriguez, and could provide the soundtrack for special events at the restaurant, such as a Tequila Night or for brunch (although La Neta doesn't currently offer brunch). But there would be no music before noontime, he added.

While Rodriguez indicated that he would like to install speakers to carry the music to the outdoor patio, Elliott Laffer, chair of NABB's board of directors, said this request would be a non-starter as far as his group is concerned.

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, said he would notify Rodriguez of their determination on his application (i.e. whether



La Neta taco shop on Newbury Street.

PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

to send a letter of opposition or a letter of the non-opposition to the city) before Friday, Oct. 13.

Rodriguez was previously before the committee on Dec. 6 of last year to outline his plan

BOSTON TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR WEEKEND

Events happening in the City of Boston this week will bring some parking restrictions and street closures. People attending these events are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the Bluebikes website and information on the MBTA may be found online. For a faster return trip, the MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket. Walking is also a great

way to move around.

BOSTON 10K FOR WOMEN – Saturday, October 8, 2022

“Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event Friday & Saturday” signs on the following street:

- Beacon Street, South side (Boston Public Garden side), from Charles Street to opposite Brimmer Street

- “Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event Sat-

urday” signs on the following streets:

- Beacon Street, Both sides, from Charles Street to Clarendon Street, excluding the section of Beacon Street referenced above (Charles Street to Brimmer Street, Public Garden side).

- Boylston Street, North side (Public Garden side), from Arlington Street to Charles Street.

- Charles Street, Both sides, from Boylston Street to Beacon Street.

LETTER (from pg. 2)

rise. Winthrop's inner harbor from Point Shirley to Court Road would also be protected, as well as the Bayswater Street neighborhood of East Boston.

Such an undertaking would not be inexpensive in the short term but would be critical in the long term as protection for the incalculably valuable seaport assets and irreplaceable neighborhoods of Boston. I believe that Massport, created by the legislature in 1956 to be the steward and protector of Boston Harbor assets, including Logan Airport which would be severely impacted by sea level rise to the point of closure, must play a vital role in the underwriting of an effective sea level rise protective system. In 2012 Boston narrowly escaped the massive destruction from Superstorm Sandy, endured

by New Jersey and New York, by six hours because the storm struck at low tide instead of high tide. The safety of East Boston, all Boston neighborhoods, and Winthrop as well as the security of the region's air transportation and maritime infrastructure should not be dependent on a chance tidal occurrence.

A moveable sea barrier system for Boston Harbor would not be precedent setting. Not surprisingly the Dutch have been leading the way in creating and operating real world moveable sea barrier systems. For example, one which has been operating successfully is the Maeslantkering Barrier on the Nieuwe Waterweg, protecting the major cities of Rotterdam and Antwerp from the ravages of storm surge and sea level rise.

Boston is not the only American coastal city facing the inevitability and consequences of sea level rise. Just recently New York and New Jersey have begun reviewing, on the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy's destruction, a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect their communities from sea level rise and storm surge devastation by constructing a huge gate system consisting of 12 movable sea barriers across New York Harbor. Estimated cost of the New York sea barrier proposal is \$52 Billion. While the Boston Harbor proposal would not approach that level

John Vitagliano
Former Massport Board Member
Former Boston Transportation Commissioner

to expand his La Neta at 255 Newbury St. into the adjacent retail space at 253 Newbury St., previously occupied by the Boston Olive Oil Company. He said he plans to add a bar in the new space, but that the restaurant's current 23-seat occupancy wouldn't increase as a result of the expansion.

In another scheduled agenda item, Back Bay Social at 867 Boylston St. is also seeking an entertainment license for live music from the city, but that item ultimately heard by the committee due to a scheduling conflict for the applicant's attorney, said Armstrong.

BFIT (from pg. 1)

which was established in 1965, and is set to expire March 31, 2023, said Breen.)

Lindsay Knutson, an analyst for Related Beal, said the project as currently envisioned is different from what the developer had proposed in 2020 in several respects, including that the planned use of the Union Building has been changed from office to residential home-ownership, and that the overall project has been reduced by 43,500 square feet from 314,000 square feet originally to 267,500 square feet now.

The height of the proposed senior care facility has also been decreased by 35 feet, or three stories, from 145 feet to 110 feet, added Knutson, while the proposed height of the Union Building has been reduced from six stories to five stories.

Other changes to the proposed project that came in response to community feedback, include moving the majority of loading from Berkeley Street to the below-grade garage or Tremont Street; and setting an age requirement of 55+ for the 16 affordable rental units in the Appleton Building.

Besides the 16 affordable units in the Appleton Building, which would all be studios or one-bedrooms, one of the 35 condo units in the Union Building would also be affordable, said Knutson. She added that 33 percent of the project's units would be income restricted, while 22 percent would be designated under the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP).

Stephen Fox, a member of the city's Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for the project, as well as chair of the South End Forum and of the Rutland Square Association, respectively, expressed concern that “very few South Enders are going to be able to afford this [level of] senior living.”

Julie Arnheiter, chair of the

Ellis Neighborhood Association board, asked whether two buildings located at 6 and 6A Appleton St., respectively, would be included in the project.

Knutson responded that the project doesn't include these two buildings, which, she said, will remain vacant and then become residential after construction.

Arnheiter countered that this approach was “disingenuous,” since if those buildings were included in the project, the developer would need to create additional affordable housing. “And I think it's a cheesy trick,” she added.

Robert Bryant, a 42-year resident of the South End, asked the developer to consider including a laundromat in the project.

Knutson relied, “The project is pretty far from being built, but we could definitely consider a laundromat.”

Another meeting-goer, Dave Phillips, expressed doubt that the proposed 60-space below-grade garage would provide adequate parking for residents of the Union Building, as well as for employees working at the senior-care facility.

With many of these employees expected to take public transportation to work, Mark Alexander, Atria's senior vice president of redevelopment, said he expects parking won't be a problem. But he added, “We have contracted garages before, so if we're faced with that, we'll absolutely do that.”

The IAG for the project is scheduled to meet again virtually on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

The public-comment period for the project runs through Oct. 12; send comments via email to Dana Whiteside, BPDA deputy director of community development, at Dana.Whiteside@Boston.gov, or visit the BPDA's website for the project at <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/41-berkeley-street>.

CNA and Commonwealth of Massachusetts honor several neighbors

Special to the Sun

On August 19 State Representative Jon Santiago joined Claremont Neighborhood Association (CNA) to honor three neighbors for their various works of advocacy. Donna Gadomski won a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation for her animated film for the Humane Society International called Save Ralph, which was awarded a Grand Prix for Good at the Cannes Lions Festival. Franco Campanella won a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation for his work as president of the Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy and garden manager for the stretch between Harcourt and Northampton Streets. And Jim Gronemus was awarded the Frank Jordan Community Service Award for his tireless efforts cleaning leaves, picking up trash, and supporting neighborhood activities.

Wellington Green Stays Green Because People Care

How water came to Wellington Green makes for a wonderful story of human initiative and per-

severance. This jewel of a garden patch now flourishes under the volunteer stewardship of Carey Erdman of Wellington Street and the ultimate oversight of the venerable Trustees of Reservations. But things were pretty rough in the beginning. Modest plantings replaced a rag-tag mostly vacant lot in the early 1990s, and Betsy Johnson of the South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust would occasionally tend to the much more modest plantings. In 1998 when Carey moved to the area, he planted a few additional flowers on his own and joined his neighbor Nanci Monahan maintaining the spot. To get water to the plantings, Nanci arranged for a firehose that she toted around in a wheelbarrow and hooked up manually to the nearby hydrant at a charge of \$400 per summer. After a few seasons, Nanci bought an ordinary garden hose and hooked it up to a more convenient outside spigot on the wall of her building at 6 Wellington and then finally to a water source installed right in the garden through Betsy's efforts. Even before retiring from his own landscaping busi-



South End residents Grace and Jau Taylor.

ness, Carey gradually became de facto manager, along the way donating a full irrigation system with financial help from his partner Carl. So Wellington Green is now kept nice and moist,

and Carey's ongoing work has brought amazing three-season color and texture to what started out as dirt, weeds, and trash. But in spite of occasional assists from groups of Northeastern students

and neighbors during "Boston Shines" and "Love Your Block," Carey could wish for more helping hands on multiple other chores. Consider this a shout-out to all CNA folks to step up when Bob Barney sends out his reminders about spring and fall clean-up!

All Muscles in Motion Keeps Older Adults Active and Connected

South End neighbors Grace and Jay Taylor had always known that human beings need regular activity and connection to stay happy and healthy. Finding no local service to address that need among older adults, they established All Muscles in Motion. AMIM Health offers a wide range of high-quality services and programs for seniors in Boston communities, including walkathons and weekly fitness classes led by professional personal trainers and yoga teachers. Already serving a network of over 200 families, Grace and Jay are eager to help additional folks set individual challenges and meet new friends to exercise

(HONORS Pg. 6)

ZBA unanimously denies application to expand occupancy of lodging house at 291 Beacon St.

By Dan Murphy

The city's Zoning Board of Appeal voted unanimously (5-0) at its Oct. 4 virtual hearing to

deny a controversial application to increase the occupancy of an existing lodging house at 291 Beacon St.

George Haroutiounian, the

building owner and managing director of SEE Real Estate, LLC, had proposed increasing the occupancy of the lodging house from the current number of 11 to 22 – down from his previous proposed occupancy of 31 guests.

The four-story, brick building currently comprises 11 units, ranging in size from around 225 square feet to the approximately 1,200 square-foot top unit. Each unit has a kitchen, as well as a bathroom, except for the two smallest units on the third floor, which share a bathroom.

Haroutiounian said there is no construction work currently planned for the building, although "renovations of the kitchens and bathrooms might come later."

The applicant's attorney, Tanya Trevisan of Doherty Law Offices, said Haroutiounian had also agreed to stipulations for the application's approval, including that guests would stay a minimum two-night stay on weekends, or a minimum two-night stay during the rest of the week.

Furthermore, Trevisan said a recent survey indicated that there

were seven other lodging houses in the immediate area, each with an average of 21 occupants.

Mark Fortune, ZBA secretary, said the city had received several letters of opposition regarding the application and none in favor of it.

Anthony Baez, the Back Bay liaison for District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok, said they also had received many letters of opposition to the application due to the requested increase in occupancy and added that Councilor Bok was opposed to the application.

Maggie Van Scoy, the city's neighborhood liaison for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, and Mission Hill, said she would defer to the ZBA on the matter, but added that the consensus from two abutters meeting, as well as from a "letter of strong opposition" from the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, was that the requested change in occupancy didn't sit well with most nearby residents.

Elliott Laffer, chair of NABB's board of directors, said that the application is clear in its inten-

tion to convert the building into short-term rentals – something that NABB hasn't opposed on Newbury Street in the past but remains steadfast against on this residential block of Beacon Street.

(NABB's License and Building Use Committee had previously reviewed the application at its Aug. 1 meeting, as well as the earlier iteration of the application, with a requested occupancy of 31, at its June 3 meeting.)

Carol Ann Hayes, a resident of 279 Beacon St., as well as a 60-year resident of the Back Bay, echoed this sentiment and said she believes the applicant's expansion plans intend to transform the building into "in effect an Airbnb hotel...with an absentee landlord."

This usage would also result in the reduction of much-needed long-term rental units in the city, added Hayes.

Haroutiounian's application had come before the ZBA once before several months ago but ultimately wasn't heard due to the absence of a quorum at the hearing.



PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

The existing lodging house at 291 Beacon St.

ESPLANADE (from pg. 1)

the focus areas so one pathway will always be open, and at no time will the pathways be fully closed,” said Alison Badrigian, EA director of projects and planning, “We’ll paint one pathway at a time to allow for continuous access.”

In 2018, EA commissioned transportation planning firm Nelson/Nygaard to conduct and analysis of the Esplanade’s pathway network and prepare plans to improve safety for the park’s visitors. And in November of the following year, the Esplanade Pathway Safety and Improvement Plan was completed.

“The Plan provides an assessment of conditions, such as current and historical landscape elements, pathway surface materials, and hazards at pathway intersections, as well as a set of potential policies, projects, and initiatives informed by best-practice multi-use pathway design,” according to the EA’s website.

The design and implementation of a set of recommendations

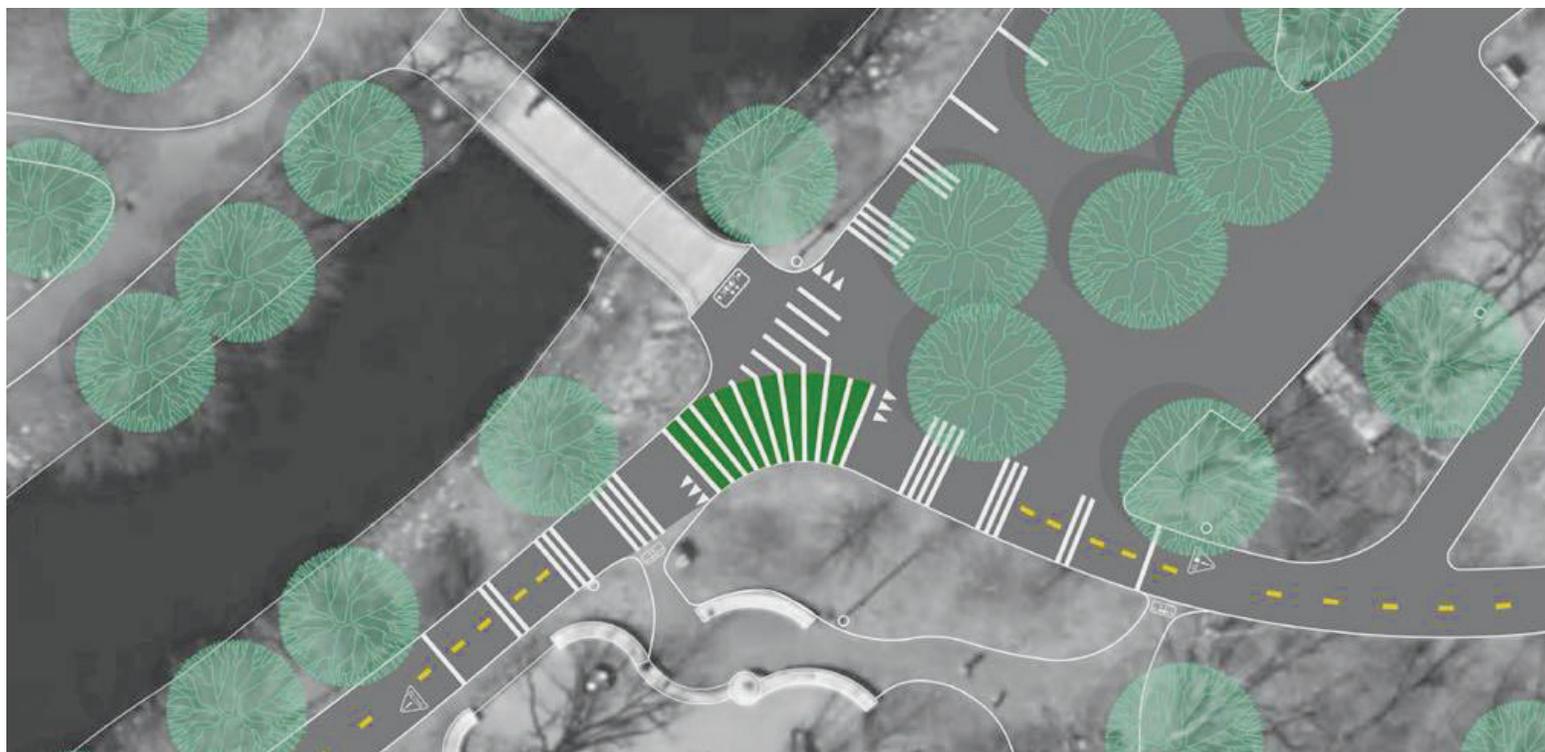


PHOTO COURTESY OF STOSS LANDSCAPE URBANISM

A rendering of the Esplanade Association’s Pathway Safety Improvement Project.

recommended in the Plan were originally slated to get underway in 2020 before COVID struck.

“The pandemic put the project on pause for a couple of years,” said Badrigian, until EA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project last year.

This resulted in the current partnership on the project, which now includes EA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), along with the main contractor, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, a Boston-based landscape design and urban planning

firm; and Neighborways Design, a Greater Boston design firm specializing in traffic calming and creating more welcoming streets.

While this is only the first step in implementing the Plan, additional projects are expected to follow in coming years.

“We hope to see more projects in the years ahead to encourage yielding and sharing, and to add to the regional network of multi-modal greenways,” said Badrigian.

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BAY VILLAGE BLOCK PARTY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian



Dominic and son Daniel Barakat



With only hours notice, the Revere Hotel was happy to offer its space for the Bay Village Block Party to use when inclement weather made the outdoor neighborhood gathering unfeasible.

The annual Bay Village Block Party celebrated its 50th anniversary indoors at the Revere Hotel due to inclement weather but that didn't stop the tight-knit community from celebrating. Activities, food, music, and conversation with neighbors were abundant as the neighborhood's perseverance overcame Mother Nature's rainy side.



Andy Isaacson (center) with his kids, Willow and Tess.



BPS students Trace McMarland, Nikita Yang, and Fiona Zhen provide some musical entertainment. Their music instruction is part of the Boston Music Project, a private funded organization working with Boston Public Schools dedicated to amplifying music education.



Teaching artist with Boston Music Project Sebastian Ridore.



Longtime Bay Village resident Jo Campbell with Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michlewitz.



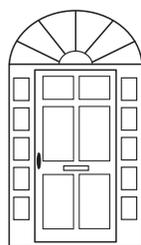
Proud parent Anne McGrath with her son Trace McMarland, music student in the Boston Music Project.



Jill Kacich and her son Chase.

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Rentals

HONORS (from pg. 5)

with. To get in touch about an organizational partnership or to learn more about participating in AMIM Health's programs, please contact Grace at grace@allmusclesinmotion.org, or fill out the contact form on the Web site at www.allmusclesinmotion.org.

Worcester Street Gardens Are a Community Success

Kory Wood moved to the South End in November 2020. He and his partner Dave live right behind the Worcester Street

Community Garden – and its proximity was one of the reasons for their choice of location. Graduating from a first year of community action through holiday wreath hanging, Kory and Dave were thrilled to join the garden and have been maintaining a plot there since. Kory nominally runs garden operations but is quick to stress that the success of the venture is a community effort – and that there is up to 70 years of family history behind many of the plots. Dozens of gardeners pitched in recently to trim

back bushes and plant hundreds of new perennial bulbs, along with a row of sunflowers right up to the Worcester Street sidewalk to put the garden's best face forward. Community gardens don't have trash pickup from the city, so Kory also helped institute a new compost service with Black Earth Compost. And thanks to Todd Erceg's service as liaison, they formed a partnership with Dias Restoration, whose owner generously volunteers to pick up trash for free.

BAY VILLAGE BLOCK PARTY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok (right) with her father Alex.



Khristina and Crew Lindsey.



Charlie and Charlotte Whitman.



State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz arrives to a celebrity's reception as his autograph was part of a scavenger hunt-bingo challenge for the kids.



Neighborhood dentist Sarah Lee (2nd from right) with neighbors Leslie Colburn, Robert Stinson, Daniel Kim, and Seth Kim.



Ann and Gene Hale.



Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michlewitz presents Bay Village Neighborhood Association President Tom Perkins with a Proclamation from the State Legislature acknowledging the civic work they've done.



Bay Village youth await to see if they were winners in the neighborhood raffle.

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PARKFEST AT THE BACK BAY FENS



Community Garden Compost Czar Victoria Stock and President of the Fenway Garden Society Pam Jorgensen

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Emerald Necklace is a series of public parks that run throughout the city designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy, an organization that maintains, restores, and protects these parks, held its first annual ParkFest: a celebration of these historic and vital green spaces with activities and performances held throughout the park system.

At the Back Bay Fens, ParkFest was a perfect time to open the new Pollinator Park. Organized by Fenway Victory Gardens, funded with a grant from Boston BPDA, and built by volunteers: the Pollinator Garden is



Scarlett Rogers with a balloon depicting one of the guests of honor welcomed in the Pollinator Garden.

stocked with flora to encourage flies, etc...to visit and spread pollen around. pollinators such as bees, butter-



Larry VandeVenter of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association shows a section of honeycomb



The Pollinator Garden.



Alex Clark with son Arthur Daehngel into the spirit of the natural cycle fostered at the Pollinator Garden.



Fenway Victory Gardens volunteers Igor Bauranov, Alex Simpson, and Victoria Puyat.



The Pollinator Garden was designed by Cameron Melo who brought his friend Hunter Wildrick to check it out.



Musicians Summer Bright and Connor Kennedy (right) provided music to compliment the serenity of the Garden. They stand here with event organizer Fenway Victory Gardens Treasurer Meredith Babine.



ric Morin, Laura Pollander, Amy Mendez, and Veronica Rendo are happy to visit the Pollinator Garden.

BBAC to hold virtual meeting on Oct. 12

The Back Bay Architectural Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in the meeting by going to [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84814793711](https://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/j/84814793711) or calling 301-715-8592 and enter meeting id 848 1479 3711 #. You can also submit written comments or questions to back-bayac@boston.gov

The agenda will be as follows:

I. VIOLATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 4:30pm

- 362 Marlborough Street: Unapproved rooftop HVAC equipment.

- 171 Newbury Street: Unapproved rooftop HVAC equipment.

II. DESIGN REVIEW PUBLIC HEARING - 5:00pm

- 23.0270 BB 745 Boylston Street:

Applicant: Kenneth Gruskin
Proposed Work: At front façade renovate storefront and replace signage.

- 23.0074 BB 7 Newbury Street:

Applicant: Mike Jammen
Proposed Work: At front façade install projected two-story storefront; and at rear elevation elevator and roof deck at rear addition.

- 23.0273 BB 30 Newbury Street:

Applicant: Roby Totten
Proposed Work: At front façade renovate storefront, replace signage and install flag holders and flags.

- 23.0271 BB 12 Commonwealth Avenue:

Applicant: Albert Rex
Proposed Work: At front façade install accessible ramp.

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BOSTON, MA 02201-2021 |
ROOM 709 | 617-635-3850 |
ENVIRONMENT@BOSTON.GOV

- 23.0195 BB 337 Commonwealth Avenue:

Applicant: Will Capachione
Proposed Work: At roof replace black rubber membrane roofing in-kind, erect penthouse and roof deck.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

REVIEW/APPROVAL: In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact on a building's appearance, to commission staff pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

- 23.0272 BB & 23.0264 BB

19 Arlington Street: At rear replace black rubber membrane

- 23.0229 BB 255 Beacon Street: Replace nine six-over-six wood windows in-kind.

- 23.0240 BB 274 Beacon Street: At front façade restore window sash and replace storm windows in-kind.

- 23.0244 BB 274 Beacon Street: At front façade restore window sash and replace storm windows in-kind.

- 23.0278 BB 275 Beacon Street: At rear elevation repair and re-point masonry, and repaint windows and fire escape.

- 23.0239 BB 295 Beacon Street: At rear elevation replace two one-over-one windows with wood one-over-one wood windows.

- 23.0279 BB 418 Beacon

Street: Replace twenty-three windows with appropriate wood windows, and repair eleven windows.

- 23.0136 BB 72 Commonwealth Avenue: At front façade repair entry steps.

- 23.0267 BB 174 Commonwealth Avenue: At front façade re-point and repair masonry, and repaint window trim and fire escape.

- 23.0259 BB 290 Commonwealth Avenue: At front façade re-point and repair masonry, repair copper cornice, replace copper gutter and downspout in-kind, and re-caulk and repaint window trim.

- 23.0256 BB 390 Commonwealth Avenue: At front replace black rubber membrane roof at balcony in-kind.

- 23.0245 BB 115 Newbury Street: At front façade replace signage.

- 23.0274 BB 126 Newbury Street: At front façade replace signage.

- 23.0263 BB 132 Newbury Street: At front façade repair masonry and paving.

- 23.0277 BB 135 Newbury Street: At front façade renovate storefront and replace signage.

- 23.0242 BB 331 Newbury Street: At front façade replace blade sign.

IV. RATIFICATION OF 9/14/2022 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

V. STAFF UPDATES

VI. projected adjournment: 7:00 p.m.

Josiah Quincy Elementary School's 175th Anniversary Celebration at Empire Garden

Staff Report

The Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) will be celebrating 175 years in the Boston community with its annual celebration banquet on Thursday, October 20 at Empire Garden Restaurant. The event will feature a 10-course Chinese banquet (beer and wine included) and a live student-led performance. A VIP Champagne Reception is also an exciting new option added this year.

This year's theme is "Together

Again" as we reconnect in-person to celebrate our school's rich history and our vision towards the future of our school. Our events have sold out in the past, so be sure to get your tickets early. Join us, and help us make it great!

The event will take place on Thursday, October 20 from 6:00-9:00PM at the Empire Garden Restaurant — 690 Washington St., Chinatown

To purchase tickets and donate go to: <http://supportjqes.org/>



Members of GN Crew: Luis "Take 1" Taforo, Genaro "Go Five" Ortega '09, Lee "SOEMS" Beard, and Rob "Problak" Gibbs stand in front of their mural *Intrepid*, at MassArt. Photo by Melissa Ostrow. Courtesy MassArt.

MassArt unveils new mural

Special to the Sun

Last week MassArt unveiled a new mural in the Atrium of the Design and Media Center, at the heart of campus. *Intrepid*, was created with members of Boston-based GN Crew, MassArt's inaugural Tyrone Maurice Adderley Artists in Residence, in collaboration with MassArt students.

This past spring, GN Crew - Genaro "Go Five" Ortega (MassArt alum '09), Rob "Problak" Gibbs, Lee "SOEMS" Beard and Luis "Take 1" Taforo - held black book sessions with students across disciplines. They gave the students a glimpse into their process and discussed what community engagement means to them. During these sessions concepts for MassArt's mural

took shape.

GN Crew's graffiti art appears in public spaces throughout the city of Boston, including most recently, "Breathe Life Together" on the Greenway in Dewey Square.

Neighbors in the Mission Hill, Roxbury, and Fenway neighborhoods are invited to come to campus and explore this monumental work.

West End House demolished as part of MGH expansion project

By Dan Murphy

Demolition of the West End House on Blossom Street – one of now less than a dozen structures in the old West End to survive urban renewal - got underway at around 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, as part of Mass General Hospital's planned \$1 billion expansion of its Cambridge Street campus.

Originally located at 9 Easton St., the West End House was established in 1906 as a headquarters for the Young Men's Excelsior Association, a group of 35 boys of Eastern European Jewish immigrants who all lived in the West End. The seed money for the settlement house was donated by James J. Storrow, the Boston attorney and investment banker who was chosen as the third president of General Motors. Storrow also served as a member of the Boston City Council from 1915 to 1918, but he was defeated in his sole bid for mayor in 1909.

Some speculated that Storrow was considering a run for mayor when he made this gift to the West End in 1906, which he hoped would land him in the good graces of Martin Lomasney, Boston's first and last ward boss "who made the West End the most politically unified neighborhood in Boston," said Sebastian Belfanti, executive director of the West End Museum.

In 1929, the West End House used funds bequeathed by Storrow's widow, Helen Osbourne Storrow, to relocate to a three-story Classic Revival building at 16-18 Blossom St. (Storrow had died three years earlier in 1926.) This building, which underwent renovations in the 1950s, was purchased by MGH in 1967 and originally housed the hospital's Child Development Laboratory. In recent times, it contained offices for MGH Safety Administration, Cancer Center Administration, Facilities Engineering, MGH Planning and

Construction, an addiction unit, and basement-level storage.

While the West End House was founded as a Jewish boys organization and never went multi-gender, it expanded out of the "Jewish silo" to become more integrated, especially between the First and Second World Wars when the neighborhood went from being predominantly an Eastern European Jewish enclave to becoming home to Italian and Polish immigrant as well, said Belfanti.

Leonard Nimoy, a West End native would go on to portray Mr. Spock on the classic TV series "Star Trek," took public speaking, ran track, and played basketball at the West End House, while the prominent 1940s singer, Buddy Clark (nee "Samuel Goldberg") sang, acted, debated, and played baseball and basketball at the West End House in his youth. Both Nimoy and Clark maintained their relationships with the West End House after achieving their respective stardoms.

Besides these marquee names, the West End House made a difference in the lives of countless boys before urban renewal, like Joe Greenberg, who was attending Boston Latin School until 1957 when, he said, "everyone was thrown out of the West End."

Recalling his boyhood experiences at the West End House, Greenberg, who was born in 1944, wrote in an email: "As a member and active participant in the West End House, I was exposed to a variety of learning experiences that became significantly important in my career. I learned how to play basketball, how to box, how to deliver a speech, how to improve my math skills, and so much more."

Added Greenberg: "A day rarely goes by that I don't think about my life in the West End and how growing up there impacted my entire life. I would not have wanted to live anywhere else. I spent 38 years as a professor at

The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. I credit the West End House with so many of the things that I learned there that I was able to use in my career."

Greenberg's family moved to Revere after they were displaced from the West End, and today, Greenberg lives in Israel, where he recently became a dual-citizen.

"Believe it or not, I live in a place that reminds me very much of the old West End," Greenberg said of Israel.

(Incidentally, Nimoy said he looked up at Joe's father, Harry "Buddo" Greenberg, who long served as a basketball coach and official at the West End House, as a boyhood mentor, according to Joe.)

After being displaced from the West End in 1966 during urban renewal, the West End House relocated five years later in 1971 to 105 Allston St. in Allston-Brighton, according to the West End Museum's website. In 1976, the West End House Boys Club became one of the first in the nation to include girls as full members and changed its name to become "West End House Boys & Girls Club."

Along with the Elizabeth Peabody House – another one-time West End settlement house that relocated to Somerville amid urban renewal - Belfanti said, "These institutions are part of why the West End produced so many successful people. It's the last settlement house in the West End...so it's symbolic of the fact that the West End mattered."

Besides the West End House, the planned MGH expansion is also resulting in the loss of two other historic West End buildings - the 1884 Winchell Elementary School (a.k.a. Ruth Sleeper Hall) at 24 Blossom St., and the tenement house at 23-25



PHOTO BY D. MURPHY

The West End House is seen undergoing demolition on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 2.

North Anderson St. The tenement house was razed over the summer, but a portion of the façade of the Winchell School will be integrated into the exterior of the new MGH project after that building's demolition next month.

Moreover, per the conditions of Massachusetts Historical Commission's approval needed to dismantle the West End House, Mass General agreed to incorporate the building's door surround at 75 Blossom Court, when it builds out a new West End Community Center there (which will be an interior renovation as opposed to a new building). The West End House's surround was removed prior to demolition, and is now stored offsite, according to an MGH spokesperson.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who, together with Rep. Jay Livingstone, worked closely to negotiate with the hospital and the community on the mitigation package for the Mass General expansion project, said the neighborhood must now find ways to help the spirit of the West End House endure after the

loss of the building itself.

"Obviously, this settlement house been a long-treasured building in the West End, and it's been very important for those of us who represent the West End to think about ways that the spirit of the house can continue," she said. "Even though it hasn't been used as a community center for many decades, it still represents the community gathering spaces that were lost with the demolition of the old West End."

Added Councilor Bok: "That's why I'm very glad that the stone entrance to the settlement house is being preserved and actually being moved to the site of a new community center for today's West Enders that's being financed as part of the mitigation package for this project."

Moreover, Councilor Bok said, "Additionally, it was important for us to ensure that the mitigation package included extensive resources for organizations that tell the story of the West End today, including the West End Museum, the Museum of African American History, and Old West Church."

BVHDC to hold virtual meeting

The Bay Village Historic District Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 4 p.m.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in the meeting by going to [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83181254722](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83181254722) or calling 301-715-8592 and enter meeting id 831 8125 4722 #. You can also submit written comments or questions to bayvil-lageac@boston.Gov

The agenda will be as follows:
I. DESIGN REVIEW

• 23.0075 BV 18 Shawmut Street (Continued from 8-9-2022):

Applicant: Alison Kispert
Proposed Work: At front facade install sign on existing bracket.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL: In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact

on a building's appearance, to commission staff pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

• Applicants whose projects are listed under this heading **NEED NOT APPEAR** at the hearing. Following the hearing, you will be issued a Determination Sheet to present at the Inspectional Services Department.

(BVHDC Pg. 11)

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Mast Property Mgmt LLC	398 Commonwealth Ave RT	390 Commonwealth Ave #101	\$3,650,000
Mast Property Mgmt LLC	398 Commonwealth Ave RT	390 Commonwealth Ave #A2B	\$3,650,000
PML L Street LLC	G G&M G Brancaleone RET	30 Gloucester St #C	\$1,000,000
BEACON HILL			
12 Derne LLC	Yee NT	12-12A Derne St	\$1,500,000
Barbara Ehret 2004 RET	JDMD Owner LLC	45 Temple St #601	\$4,500,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Verdine, Gregory	Condon, Dennis E	49 Appleton St	\$3,695,000
Tic Owner 1 LLC	Abraham Copley Square LP	581 Boylston St	\$19,550,000
Kim, Jae W	Helene E Garber 2002 FT	285 Columbus Ave #407	\$1,351,000
Ross, Matthew B	Patten, William S	19 Cortes St #12	\$489,000
Opal Kramer Ent LLC	Hanlon, Mary J	26 Isabella St #6	\$792,500
Longiaru, Ilsoo	JB Suffolk RT	110 Stuart St #24E	\$1,895,000
Hohar, Sachin	Acharya, Utkarsh	110 Stuart St #25H	\$1,255,600
Brown, Robert A	Bloch, Thomas P	188 Brookline Ave #24K	\$2,799,000
Summit, Emily	Head, Timothy S	474 Columbus Ave #2	\$1,650,000
Ross, Matthew B	Patten, William S	19 Cortes St #12	\$489,000
Huang, Zhen	Baggaley, Christopher D	120 Mountfort St #302	\$1,100,000
Mast Property Mgmt LLC	Welz Somerset Garage RT	425 Newbury St #C123	\$250,000
Mast Property Mgmt LLC	Welz Somerset Garage RT	425 Newbury St #C125	\$250,000
Landry, Philip J	Allison Mascia, James M	131 Pembroke St #1	\$1,450,000
Cardone, Kristal L	Landry, Philip J	137 Pembroke St #1	\$715,000
Alekseev, Gleb G	Roberts, Jordan E	121-127 Portland St #308	\$271,459
Liu, Xinhui	Amy&Quansheng LT	62 Queensberry St #306	\$514,000
Clifford, George	Sipe, Susannah	40 Traveler St #608	\$1,420,000
Mittleman, Robert S	Leslie S Frank 2009 RET	43 Upton St #1	\$1,800,000
Comstock, Cassandra	G Keyworth 2010 RET	110 W Concord St #2	\$1,500,000
Valentine, Derek	Delgado, Jennifer	73 Worcester St #1	\$960,000
132 Lincoln T LLC	TI Lincoln Loft RT	132 Lincoln St #10	\$625,000
85 TBH LLC	Broad 115 Equity Partner	85-87 Wendell St	\$1,750,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Nguyen, Chinh	Cain, Lawrence W	120 Commercial St #6-3	\$655,000
Albanese, Joseph J	Peter F Kiely T	85 E India Row #36E	\$2,230,000
Albanese, Joseph J	Peter F Kiely T	85 E India Row #36F	\$2,230,000

BVHDC (from pg. 10)

ment (1010 Massachusetts Avenue) as proof of project approval when applying for permits. ISD personnel will send an electronic copy of your building-permit application to the commission staff for review. (To avoid potential confusion, the text of your building-permit application should be consistent with the project description given below.) Commission staff will accordingly authorize the execution of the work, attaching any applicable provisos, reflecting the relevant guidelines and precedents.

• Please note that following issuance of the determination sheet no further correspondence will be issued for the applications listed below. The electronic building-permit application as annotated by commission staff will constitute your Certificate of Appropriateness; this will be valid for one year from the date of the hearing. The applicant is required to notify the commission of any project changes; failure to do so may affect the status of the approval.

• 23.0282 BV 16 Winchester

Street: Repair and re-point masonry.

III. REVIEW OF REVISED REGULATORY STANDARDS

IV. RATIFICATION OF 8/9/2022 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

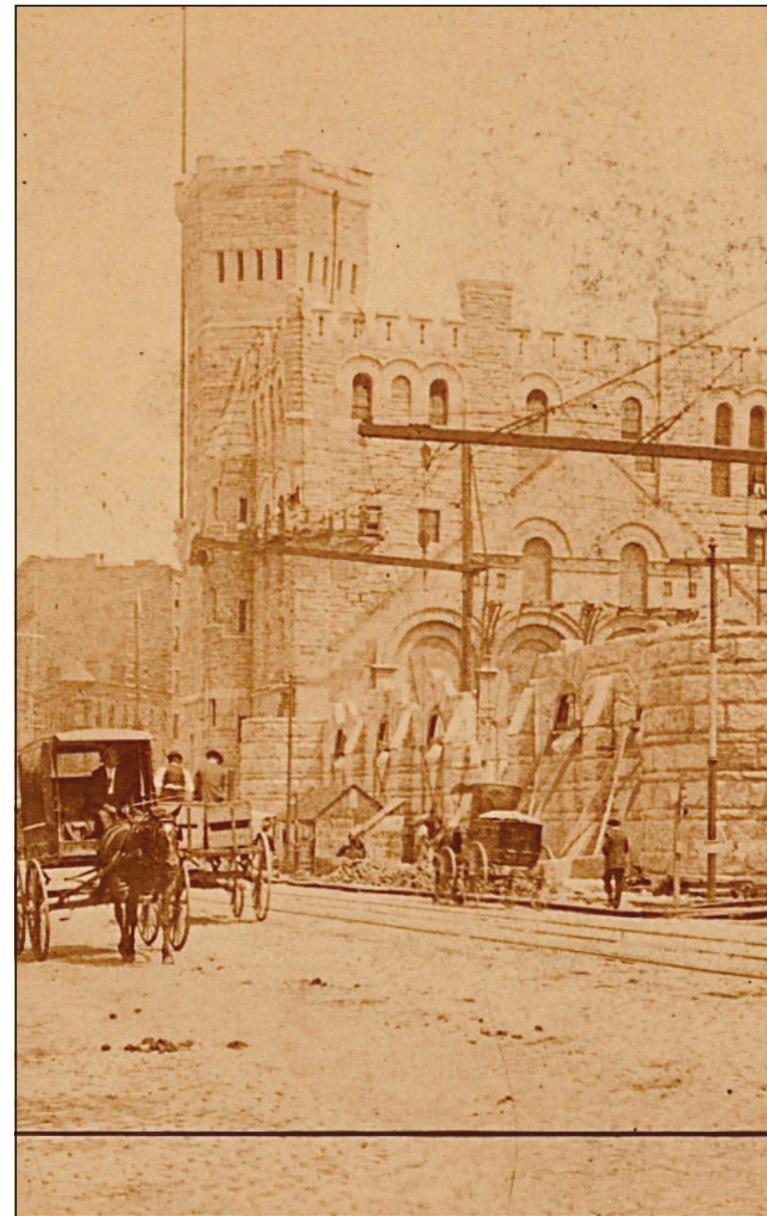
V. STAFF UPDATES

VI. PROJECTED ADJOURNMENT: 5:00 PM

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The lion in last week's clue is on 130 Columbus Avenue. The Armory of the First Corps of Cadets was designed by Architect William Gibbons Preston and built to withstand mob violence. Today's answer is from an August 1890's photograph.

The next clue will be found 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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