



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Bok leads in-person discussion on the future of zoning in the West Fenway

By Dan Murphy

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok sponsored a public meeting on Monday, Feb. 13, at the Fenway Community Center to solicit public input that will help inform the city as it considers the future of zoning in the West Fenway.

Joining Councilor Bok for the in-person meeting were Jake Werner, her communications director and neighborhood liaison; Maggie Van Scoy, Mayor Michelle Wu's Neighborhood Services liaison for Fenway-Kenmore, as well as for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Mission Hill; Kennan Rhyne, the Boston Planning & Development Agency's deputy director for downtown and neighborhood planning; and Kristina Ricco, the BPDA's neighborhood planner for the Fenway, as well as for East Boston.

At the meeting, the group of nearly 50 neighborhood resi-

dents broke into five groups led by Councilor Bok and the other city officials. Participants were asked to think about zoning and how to approach zoning and planning in development, as well as what they hope to gain and fear losing from the city's proposed new zoning guidelines for the West Fenway.

Meeting-goers were quick to point out that since the city's adoption nearly 20 years ago of Article 66, which established a zoning article in the Fenway for the first time, nearly every (if not all) large-scale development project built in the neighborhood has required a zoning variance or the creation of a PDA (Planned Development Area) to move forward.

Some suggested that developers sometimes didn't make a strong-enough case for needing a variance for their project, but the

(WEST FENWAY Pg. 3)

REMEMBERING TWO FALLEN BFD MEMBERS



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Mayor Michelle Wu was among those on hand on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Boston Fire Department's Engine 33 and Ladder 15 station on Boylston Street in the Back Bay for the dedication of a new heat-resistant firehose to the BFD in memory of Firefighter Michael Kennedy and Lt. Ed Walsh, who both perished on March 26, 2014, while responding to a nine-alarm blaze at 298 Beacon St.

The donated firehose was underwritten via a \$45,000 gift from the Last Call Foundation, which Kennedy's mother, Kathy Crosby-Bell, founded in honor of her late son.

Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival poised to return

By Dan Murphy

After making its auspicious debut last fall, the Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival is poised to return to Chester Square on Sunday, Sept. 17 (with a rain date set

for Sunday, Sept. 24).

This year's festival, which will again be free to attend, will likely see the return of several popular attractions from the event last year, including the popcorn

machine; a firetruck; the Boston Police Department's ice cream truck; and the Kit of Parks – a mobile kit containing 63 plastic pieces, such as a table, stools,

(MASS. AVE. COALITION Pg. 5)

Emerald Necklace Conservancy brings Emerald Glow back

Special to Sun

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is bringing back a wonderful reason to visit the Emerald Necklace parks this winter. "Lights in the Necklace" is a unique lighting exhibition, which began during the pandemic, and will return every evening beginning Feb. 18 and continuing through March 31.

There are more than 9,500

trees in the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's tree inventory across this 1,100-acre park system, which stretches from Franklin Park in Dorchester to Charlesgate in the Back Bay. This winter, the Conservancy is lighting the way to spring and celebrating the incredible work of the Olmsted Tree Society, the Conservancy's tree care program which provides maintenance

work of pruning, planting and inspecting trees throughout the park system's canopy.

"Lights in the Necklace" celebrates the power of urban parks to bring people together year-round. In partnership with Boston Parks and Recreation and Boston Public Works, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy hopes everyone can enjoy the emerald

(EMERALD GLOW Pg. 3)

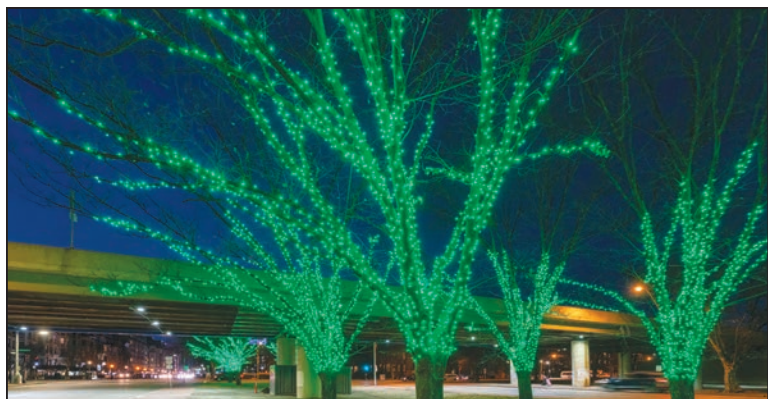


PHOTO BY MERRILL SHEA

Charlesgate trees lit green by underpass.

EDITORIAL

THE SKY IS FALLING?

With U.S. jets shooting down numerous unidentified flying objects seemingly every day over North American air space in the past week, we're all wondering, "What the heck is going on?"

As this is being written, the only thing we know for sure is that the first object that was shot down off the coast of South Carolina was a Chinese spy balloon.

Our military reportedly has adjusted its radar to try to spot more incursions -- which explains why the last three objects were picked up, whereas previously they may have gone unnoticed -- but one thing that these incidents have taught us is that our radar detection apparatus needs a serious upgrade.

It's tempting to joke about it -- Saturday Night Live did a funny skit about the Chinese spy balloon. And for our part, as we were watching the home videos and comments made by civilians, it made us think of the episode from the old TV show "F Troop" from the 1960s (yes, we are that old) when a balloon was shot down with bows and arrows, whereas this balloon was shot down by an F-22 Raptor fighter jet.

But there are so many unanswered questions and so many theories. Were the three other objects that were shot down also spy aircraft from another country? And if so, from where? Or were they owned by a private entity that also might be doing some sort of covert surveillance? How about aliens from outer space?

We'll only know the full story when all of those aircraft are recovered and analyzed. And it wouldn't be surprising if a few more objects are shot down in the coming days.

But in the meantime, let's hope we don't become a nation of Chicken Littles.

THE VICTIMS IN TURKEY AND SYRIA NEED OUR HELP

The ongoing tragedy because of the devastating earthquake that struck the nations of Turkey and Syria is the worst humanitarian disaster the world has seen in many years.

More than 35,000 people have died and that number is sure to rise even further in the coming days.

Natural and other disasters in our part of the world have been barely a blip compared to what the people of Turkey and Syria are dealing with. To put the earthquake in perspective, the combined death toll from the Surfside condo collapse in 2021 and Hurricane Ian in 2022 was 250. Both were terrible tragedies, but that number is less than one percent of the earthquake's death toll.

In addition, tens of thousands have been injured and millions more have been left homeless -- all told, this is a disaster of unimaginable proportions.

There are many international organizations from which to choose to assist with disaster relief efforts and we urge all of our readers who have the ability to do so to make a donation.

FOR PATS FANS, THE SUPER BOWL JUST ISN'T THE SAME

This past Sunday's Super Bowl game between the Eagles and the Chiefs certainly lived up to its hype.

But for those of us who were New England Patriots' fans for the two decades from 2001-19, the Super Bowl season just isn't the same.

Yes, on Sunday we marveled at Mahomes the Magician and rooted for Jalen Hurts, whose story has been so inspiring since his days at Alabama.

But the days when Foxboro was the center of the football universe -- the Pats were in nine Super Bowls in 18 years -- seem like only a distant memory, the likes of which never will be equaled again.

It was a good run, way better than anyone could have imagined when Adam Vinatieri kicked his game-winning field goal as time expired to win the 2002 Super Bowl.

Watching this past Sunday's Super Bowl served as a bittersweet reminder of our home team's former glory and the joy it brought to our region when our children wore their favorite Patriot player's jersey to school and everyone, it seemed, was glued to their TV sets.

But as we all know, all good things must come to an end.

And, not to be cynical, but with young quarterbacks like Mahomes, Josh Allen, and Joe Burrow in the AFC, it will be a long, long time before New England gets back to the big game.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BIKE LANE

Dear Editor,

The Ellis neighborhood received notice that Berkeley St. is soon to have a bike lane. This over reach by City Hall takes place without sufficient prior community input, or exhaustive consideration of impacts.

Berkeley St. has heavy vehicle traffic during the morning and evening rush hours, when Berkeley functions as an across town highway filling all available lanes. Taking away a lane will constrain traffic, backup cars, add to driver frustration and

promote road rage, already in marked evidence.

Further, Ellis Neighborhood pre-School parents double park on Berkeley for drop offs and pickups between Appleton and Chandler creating an unusable lane every morning and evening. Complicating traffic on that block are large, double-parked, delivery trucks across from the school taking yet an additional lane in the morning. At that time, the three Berkeley lanes would become one.

Berkeley does not have any bike traffic to speak of. The project is equivalent to a

"bridge to nowhere", and an instance of a heavy handed plan to promote bike usage with the consequence, among others, of erecting unsightly white posts throughout the city.

The project needs to be put on hold until the neighborhood meets with BTG to explore the rationale of the project, its impact, desirability and will of the community at large, and not the skewed view of the bike advocate minority, or misguided green initiative embraced by City Hall.

Barry Zaltman

GUEST OP-ED

How I became a streetwalker

By Alison Barnet

It happened one day on Washington Street. I had my eyes on the ground—not up at passing male motorists—sure that a chain of long brick lumps in the sidewalk was behind me. All of a sudden, I fell. Well, it wasn't the first time!

Most of the South End's sidewalks are uneven, rough, ragged, jagged, broken, hazardous, precarious, unreliable, icy and dicey. Some of them are worse than others: holes, loose bricks, ridges, dips, bulges, bumps, lumps, swellings, gaps, cracks, breaks, ridges, and puddles. Tree roots are a large part of the problem, apparently never addressed when the sidewalks were first laid down. Walking around here is what a friend sarcastically describes as "the joy of urban living."

Oddly, one of the worst is in front of Boston Medical Center, a stretch of loose and uneven bricks and holes. Once someone I know fell in a hole there while on a histo-

ry walk. Although the hospital filled it in, it didn't attend to the rest of the block. And this is where many people run to catch the bus!

"These brick sidewalks are a hundred years old!" a drunk neighbor once yelled at me, referring to their supposed historic value. "No, Tim, I was here when they laid them down in the late 1970s, 1980." Stabbing at the sidewalk: "You don't know anything! These brick sidewalks are a hundred years old!"

Worse than Tim for me are the people who say, "Oh, but they look so nice, just like Beacon Hill!" Well, no comment on the bricks of Beacon Hill, but why are brick sidewalks such a class issue with people? Shouldn't safety come before fashion?

In front of some of our new, expensive condo buildings are uneven bricks and hollows with big puddles of water when it rains. I'm tempted to add irony to realtors' signs: "Luxury condos, luxury sidewalks!"

Granted, young people seem to have no trouble walking on the sidewalks. They run, wear high-heels, hold a cell phone in front of their faces and somehow don't tumble.

Wanna go out? Suddenly streetwalker takes on a new meaning, and I've become one. I now walk out in the street, listening for cars behind me, moving over and pausing for delivery trucks and speeders, second-guessing parked cars and all those who don't use directionals. Occasionally, a driver yells, "Why aren't you walking on the sidewalk?" And I answer, "Have you seen the sidewalk?"

At least, there is social bonding. Streetwalkers, people in wheelchairs, on canes, and walkers, and us old folks all know why we're there and greet each other in a friendly fashion. How often does that happen on the sidewalk?

Alison Barnet is a South End resident and the author of five books.

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GUEST OP-ED

School bullying must stop, everyone must work together

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Four New Jersey teenagers have been charged in connection with the attack of a 14-year-old girl who later took her own life after video of the incident was posted on social media.

One juvenile is charged with aggravated assault, two juveniles are charged with conspiracy to commit aggravated assault and one juvenile is charged with harassment, Ocean County prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer told CBS News in an email. (cbsnews.com)

Adriana Kuch, 14, was found dead in her Bayville home on February 3, two days after the disturbing video of the attack at Central Regional High School was posted online. The video showed girls throwing a drink at the teen, then kicking and dragging her down school hallways. They pushed Adriana into red lockers lining the school hallways and one of the girls in a pink shirt punched Kuch repeatedly. (Source CBSNews.com)

When I was an elementary child riding the school bus, we had a few fights on the bus. One young man who didn't live that far from me was constantly getting into fights on the school bus. One day he had a kid down repeatedly punching him in the face. The bus driver stopped the bus and escorted both boys off the bus while still a couple of miles from their homes. We then drove off and left them on the road. I don't recall seeing the fight continue as they now had

to walk or hitchhike a ride to get home. Since the one boy was being beaten so bad, I don't think the driver made the best decision since the other kid could have finished him off on the rural road we were traveling. However, it did appear the fight had stopped as we drove off. Most likely not having a bus audience, bleeding and having to walk home changed the scenario.

In the sixties and seventies there were bad things that happened in schools that often got swept under the rug. With no social media kids usually ended up working it out or staying away from people we didn't like. Often many of us never took our school problems home because our parents had enough problems without having to worry about our school fusses. Or, we were afraid we might get in trouble at home.

School children face challenges. There are ongoing pressures from bullies who must be corralled and disciplined, dismissed from school or in some cases put in a place where they can get rehabilitation and help for their psychotic issues. Locking a 14-year-old up in jail for years solves nothing. However, kids that bring about injury or death to another student need mental help and rehabilitation before being freed to invoke pain on someone again. Most likely if your family has lost a family member to a bully you want the offender locked up for life.

Even though my school era was not a perfect world School-

teachers and principals had authority to paddle our butts. They had authority to discipline us, suspend us from school and could put bite with their bark. We knew the teachers ruled and we respected them. I can remember see paddling's that I never wanted to get and received a couple myself.

No school has the ability to patrol every corner of a school facility. Bullying, fights and bad things typically occur in unsupervised spaces. Schools can't hire enough security guards or have enough monitors to patrol ever corner.

Every day in every state in America a private school is starting or the ground work is being formulated.

Ten years from now almost every city and even small community in America will have a private or faith-based school. Some of these will only be elementary schools but many have or will develop junior and senior highs. Such schools are not free of their own issues but parents across America are desperate for safe places for their kids. Parents want a place where there is zero tolerance of bullies and an administration who means business about protecting the children. They want an environment where their children can be mentored, taught and prepared better for life, college or to move into adult jobs.

Parents don't want a school who they feel is working against them or hiding things from them.

Life is like this. The world is

like a jungle most days. There are bullies in the workplaces, neighborhoods and mean people can be found all over. This is why we have the right to call 911. We can file charges against people with the police. We should have the right to carry a firearm and defend ourselves. We have to work to help each other and protect each other.

Teachers, administrators, parents and students must work together for safety and security. Children and teachers must feel safe with an environment free from bullying, hazing or intimidation. Kids should not have to wake up every day fearful of

going to school. Neither should the school staff and parents.

The issue of bullying and school safety requires school boards, all staff, parents and students to work together. It's not a task for a few to accomplish but a job for us all.

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.

WEST FENWAY (from pg. 1)

city allowed them the variance anyway. Projects that were granted PDAs have proven even more resistant to challenge, they said.

Those in attendance also expressed a desire to see more housing, particularly affordable units, as a component of future development in the neighborhood. An elementary school or a neighborhood library branch created as part of future development would also be welcome additions to the neighborhood, they said, as would businesses of service to residents, such as a hardware store or a florist.

Future developers were also advised to consider the scale, architecture, and materials of their proposed projects to best fit the context of the neighborhood.

The large number of "uncoordinated" Institutional Master Plans that have been developed in the neighborhood pointed to a need for a "more coordinated planning strategy," according to

one Fenway resident in attendance.

Many traffic studies provided by developers also often don't take into account game days at Fenway Park, some said.

The Fenway-Kenmore Transportation Action Plan now being developed by the city will likely address some concerns regarding transportation challenges in the neighborhood, according to city officials.

While some said they felt there wasn't a clear or cohesive understanding of zoning in the neighborhood, those in attendance also expressed a desire to see development projects evaluated on an individual basis to ensure they "match the values of Article 66."

The BPDA had originally scheduled a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 15, to discuss the future of zoning in the West Fenway, but that meeting has been postponed to a future, yet-to-be-determined date.

EMERALD GLOW (from pg. 1)

glow in several iconic Emerald Necklace parks as they light the way through winter into spring. Illuminated locations (which

are subject to change so please check the website for the most up-to-date details) include: 10 trees at Charlesgate Park on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall; trees by the Shattuck Visitor Center in the Back Bay Fens; trees by the Jamaica Pond Boat-house; and trees at the Walnut Ave. Entrance at the northern tip of Franklin Park

Visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/necklacelights for more information.

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EBNHC introducing the Office of the Patient Advocate

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Equity is one of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's (EBNHC) biggest focuses this year in all facets. With equity in mind and to improve patient service, the EBNHC is creating the Office of the Patient Advocate.

In a press release, Greg Wilmot, EBNHC's President and CEO said the office will "provide patients, a significant number of whom are immigrants

and non-English speakers, with an additional access point to address and resolve any concern that may arise."

Elida Acuña-Martínez, EBNHC's Senior Director of Interpreter Services and the Office of the Patient Advocate, described what its creation means for over 100,000 patients that the health center serves.

"By creating this office, we send a clear message to our patients and empower them to

advocate for themselves and their families. Our team is here to support them in doing just that," said Acuña-Martínez in the same press release.

The creation of this office will undoubtedly be massive in the health center's emphasis on equity in that it will serve patients that may face barriers in the healthcare realm. For example, according to statistics provided by EBNHC, 71% of its patients are below 200% of the feder-

al poverty level, and 70% of patients are served best in a language that is not English.

Along with creating the Office of the Patient Advocate, the EBNHC has been hard at work in other areas to promote equity in its care.

The health center has created a diversified staff to better understand and serve its patients, with 50% of its 1,500 staff members being from its service area, 32% speaking Spanish, and 45% being Latinx.

EBNHC has also done tremendous work with its Interpreter Services Department, offering interpretation in-person, over the phone, and via video. EBNHC statistics revealed that the health center provided over 205,000 interpretations to patients in its last fiscal year with these services – a figure comparable to Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

As a new year gets underway,

it is evident that with the creation of the Office of the Patient Advocate, the EBNHC is taking significant steps to provide the best and most equitable care to its patients.

"I know that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is not just a medical provider, but a trusted-community-based organization that provides our neighbors with hope, care, and critical resources," said Acuña-Martínez in the press release.

"We want our community to know that there are people in every corner of our organization who are here to advocate for them and help them achieve the best health care for themselves and their families," said Wilmot in the press release.

For more information about the new office, you can visit <https://www.ebnhc.org/en/visitorpatient-info/patient-experience.html>.

Chief Jemison welcomes new Director of Planning

Staff Report

Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison today announced the hiring of Aimee Chambers, AICP as the new Director of Planning. Her professional experience includes a wide range of planning and urban design work from affordable housing development to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure design. The planning team led by Chambers, which is currently housed at the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), will move to a new City Planning & Design Department, which was announced by Mayor Wu in her 2023 State of the City, to restore planning as a core function of City government. As the City Planning & Design Department is being formed to drive the city's planning function, the BPDA will continue to build out a strong planning team to deliver on the Mayor's vision for resilient, affordable, equitable growth.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Aimee to our leadership team, where she will serve a critical role helping us create a more resilient, affordable, and equitable future

for Boston," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "Aimee's experience in other municipalities will bring new perspectives and momentum for delivering our bold vision for the city."

Chambers will be responsible for implementing the Mayor's vision for citywide land use planning strategies and action plans that shape equitable long-term growth. This vision includes a Citywide plan to rezone and enhance squares and corridors, creating the opportunity for thousands of new housing units and neighborhood small businesses, retail, and jobs. It also includes completing neighborhood plans, bringing them to zoning, and building out the zoning team to evaluate and modernize the zoning code.

"I am very excited to be joining the team at such a pivotal point in time for planning work in Boston," said Director of Planning Aimee Chambers. "Thank you to Chief Jemison for recognizing and valuing my passion for equitable planning principles, service delivery, and zoning analysis. I look forward to serving the Wu

Administration and delivering outcomes focused on resilience, affordability, and equity for the people of Boston."

As Director of Planning, Chambers will also work closely with Deputy Chief of Urban Design Diana Fernandez to ensure a seamless integration of planning and urban design policies to shape the built environment of the city. Another goal of this planning work is to make the development process more predictable for community members and developers, and to reduce the number of proposals that require relief from the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Chambers has worked across the non-profit and public sectors for 12 years as a planner and project manager and, prior to that, as a foster care case manager. She most recently served as the Director of Planning for the City of Hartford, Connecticut, where she led planning and zoning for the city. Chambers also has experience in climate change-related disaster resiliency working for the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance as a contractor for the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development - Disaster Recovery Unit. In each of the communities that she has served, Chambers has centered her work on the implementation of programs that engage with and advocate for residents and worked to amplify the voices of people of color and underserved populations.

Chambers is a 2019 Next City Vanguard (Newark, NJ) and was nominated in CT Magazine's 40 Under 40, Class of 2022. She graduated from Manhattan College with a degree in Sociology and Urban Studies. Her master's degree in Community Planning is from the University of Maryland-College Park.

Boston's COVID-19 metrics continue to trend downward

Staff Report

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) shared the following updates on the city's COVID-19 metrics:

COVID-19 particles in Boston's wastewater decreased by 47% over the past 14 days and are now at an average of 1,014 RNA copies/mL (data as of Jan. 29).

Seven out of the 11 neighborhood's tested are below the citywide average.

The XBB variant accounted for 83% of all viral particles sampled.

New COVID-19 cases per day increased by 1.4% over the past seven days, which is considered a stable trend, but have decreased by 16% over the past 14 days (data as of Feb. 5).

Boston hospitals had 179 new COVID-19 related hospital admissions through February 6. This trend decreased by 8% over the past seven days and by 15% over the past 14 days.

BPHC also announced it will continue to offer free COVID-19 vaccines at sites throughout the city at least through the end of 2023. The decision comes after the Biden adminis-

tration announced its plans to end the national public health emergency for COVID-19 on May 11, which will end federal funding for state and local COVID-19 responses. Free vaccinations have been a major part of BPHC's effort to control the spread of COVID-19, save lives, and remove barriers to care that led to major racial disparities in COVID-19 cases and mortality.

"Offering free COVID-19 vaccines has been an indispensable part of our pandemic response in Boston and will become even more important as the national public health emergency ends," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission and Commissioner of Public Health. "Equity-focused, public health policies like this are why we have been able to significantly reduce pandemic related racial and ethnic health disparities in Boston."

New data from BPHC show the city has made substantial progress over the past two years in narrowing the racial inequities in COVID-19 mortality rates. At the outset of the pandemic, Black and Latinx residents

(COVID METRICS Pg. 5)

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COVID METRICS (from pg. 4)

in Boston saw higher case and mortality rates due to COVID-19. In 2020, Black residents had an age-adjusted mortality rate of 171.2 per 100,000 residents, the highest among any ethnicity. Latinx residents had the second highest annual mortality rate in 2020 of 141 per 100,000 residents. These rates have decreased by more than 60% for both in 2022. COVID-19 mortality rates

among Black individuals in Boston are now down to 58.9 per 100,000 residents and 53.6 per 100,000 for Latinx residents. Though inequities have narrowed, age-adjusted mortality rates are still significantly higher among Black and Latinx Bostonians than white Bostonians (22% and 12% higher, respectively) due to COVID-19.

Much more work remains to

close these gaps and ensure greater health equity in Boston, namely increasing COVID-19 vaccination and booster uptake, which remains the most effective to prevent severe COVID-19 infection that can result in hospitalization and death.

Suffolk County remains at medium risk for community transmission according to the CDC. As such, BPHC reminds

residents to take proper precautions to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19.

Test for COVID-19 before and after gathering indoors.

Contact a health care provider about treatment options if you test positive.

Stay home if you're sick.

Wear a mask indoors and on public transportation.

Stay up to date on your

COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

If you have not received a COVID-19 booster since September 2022, you are due to receive the bivalent, omicron-specific booster.

Get your annual flu vaccination.

Wash hands and disinfect shared surfaces regularly.

MASS. AVE. COALITION (from pg. 1)

play-blocks, Jenga, and beanbag toss, which can be assembled to transform an open space into a temporary park, wrote Carol Blair of Chester Square Neighbors.

(In addition to CSN, the growing Mass. Ave. Coalition currently comprises three other groups - the Claremont Neighborhood Association, the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association, and the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association; leaders of these groups, including Blair, met via Zoom on Feb. 6 to begin planning for the 2023 Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival.)

The festival organizers are seeking musicians, perhaps a jazz or steel-drums ensemble, "to sound out over traffic to bring the two sides of Chester Park together" for the event, wrote Blair.

Additionally, festival organizers will be seeking participants to reenact events from Mass. Ave.'s history, added Blair, while the event will also "offer opportunities to explore possible futures for the Mass. Ave. corridor."

Like last year, the festival organizers will be reaching out to businesses within a walking distance to solicit donations of pizza to be provided free to guests, as well as for donations of prizes for a raffle.

"Last year, the generosity of our community, including Northeastern University and Boston Medical Center, allowed us to make everything free," wrote Blair. "We hope to expand sponsorship so that, again, all can fully enjoy the festival."

For this year's festival, the organizers are exploring the possibility of closing both carriage-ways "to make room for dancing and street play," wrote Blair, "and perhaps, for that Sunday afternoon, Mass. Ave. could be narrowed to one lane, to allow safer crossings from one side of the park to the other."

Billed as "a festival like no other," the inaugural Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival took place last year on Sunday, Sept. 18, in Chester Square. The well-attended event was graced by unseasonably warm weather and featured



"The Revolutionary Snake Ensemble Silver Quartet" provided music for last year's Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival..

free food, kids activities, and a raffle, as well as a music performance by Ken Field, president of Jazz Boston, and his "Revolu-

tionary Snake Ensemble"; "The Crosstown Jazz Exhibit" on display on the park's fences; and a presentation of Mass. Ave. data

by Northeastern University Professor Michelle Borkin, among other attractions and activities.

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BGCD to host 30th annual New England Women's Leadership Awards chaired by eternalHealth founder and CEO Pooja Ika

Special to the Sun

Boys & Girls Clubs of
Dorchester (BGCD) has named

Pooja Ika as this year's New
England Women's Leadership
Awards (NEWLA) Event Chair.
Pooja Ika is the founder and

CEO of eternalHealth. At the age
of 25, she is the youngest woman
to launch a new Medicare
Advantage Health Plan in the

United States. A 2019 Babson
College graduate, Pooja found-
ed eternalHealth to deliver high
quality, affordable care to her
fellow Massachusetts residents.
Committed to making health-
care simple and understandable
for all, eternalHealth is built on
trust, transparency, and integrity.
Pooja has been working tireless-
ly to increase healthcare acces-
sibility, while also acting as an
advocate and educator for her
members. Driven to make eter-
nalHealth a catalyst for change
in the health insurance indus-
try, Pooja is not scared to tackle
what some might call impossible.

"I am excited and grateful to
be the NEWLA Chair this year,
as myself and the women we get
to honor possess a shared mind-
set that nothing is impossible,"
said Ika. "Through NEWLA,
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorches-
ter has been honoring brilliant
and passionate women for the
last 30 years. As this year's Chair
I look forward to meeting some
of these inspirational women
who, alongside the Club, have
empowered youth to recognize
that hard work, determination,
and a big dream leads to suc-
cess."

"Pooja's passion and com-
mitment to making a positive
difference is admirable and inspi-
rational to our youth," said Bob
Scannell, President & CEO of
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorches-
ter. "We are so honored to have
Pooja as this year's NEWLA
Chair. She understands the
importance of having positive
role models and resonates with
the mission of our Clubs, which
is to welcome and connect young
people and families to opportu-
nities that embrace diversity, nur-
ture growth and inspire success.
Pooja's dedication to change will
encourage us all as we welcome
her to join an incredible group
of leaders who have been instru-
mental in enacting change in our
city over the past 30 years."

The New England Women's
Leadership Awards, hosted by
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorches-
ter, is celebrating its 30th Anni-
versary of recognizing and hon-
oring remarkable women who
meet challenges with confidence,



*eternalHealth founder and CEO
Pooja Ika.*

persistence and compassion.
NEWLA was among the first
events of its kind in the Boston
area, and so far has recognized
134 outstanding women. Emmy
Award-winning WBZ-TV news
anchor, Lisa Hughes, will emcee
this special evening and shine a
light on this year's honorees and
their contributions. Lisa, Pooja,
and our honorees are ideal role
models and mentors for Boys
& Girls Clubs of Dorchester's
young members, inspiring them
to dream big, work hard and
succeed. NEWLA will take place
on May 15, 2023, at the Seaport
Hotel in Boston. Tickets can be
purchased at <https://www.bgcdorchester.org/donations/tickets/>.

Boys & Girls Clubs of
Dorchester is dedicated to mak-
ing a positive impact on youth
and families in our communi-
ty. Inside our three clubhouses,
we are a place for Dorchester's
young people to learn, explore
talents, play and make friends.
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have access to 200+ activities
for just \$5 a year. Boys & Girls
Clubs of Dorchester serves over
4,000 children between the ages
of two months and 18 years each
year. During the school year, we
serve approximately 250 meals
every weekday. For more infor-
mation: www.bgcdorchester.org

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Pictured, left to right, are Kate Taylor, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Jean McGuire, Ben Taylor, and Lisa Hastings.



D. IRVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

City Councilor Julia Mejia and Emerald Necklace Conservancy board member Karen Bunch (front) with staff from the councilor's office

Olmsted Now awardees honored at 'Emerald Evening' event

Special to the Sun

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy honored the Olmsted Now Committee of Neighborhoods with the Olmsted Award of Excellence on Feb. 1 at the Curley House in Jamaica Plain. The Olmsted Now Committee of

Neighborhoods was formed to rectify a structural inequality in park decision-making in Greater Boston, on the occasion of Frederick Law Olmsted's Bicentennial in 2022. Comprised of intergenerational leaders working across a wide array of disciplines in the Roxbury, Mattapan, Grove Hall,

and Dorchester neighborhoods, the Committee re-centers programming decisions in the communities that are impacted the most by them and distributed over \$200,000 in grants to fund community-generated Bicentennial programs focused on parks equity and spatial justice.

The Olmsted Now Committee of Neighborhoods consists of Andrew Sharpe, Authentic Caribbean Foundation, Anita Morson-Matra, Baldwin in the Park, Ambar Johnson, Livable Streets Alliance, Barrington Edwards, Artist, Biplaw Rai, Comfort Kitchen, Jay Lee, Franklin Park Coalition / City of Boston,

John Linehan, Franklin Park Zoo/ Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, Karenlyn Bunch, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets,

Karen Young, Artist, Nakia Hill, 826 Boston, Paul Willis, 826 Boston, Pat Spence, Urban Farming Institute, Shavel'le Oliv-



Boston Parks & Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods and Emerald Necklace Conservancy Board Member Pam Beale.

ier, Mattapan Food & Fitness, and Kay Savage, Mattapan Food & Fitness.

"Last year was a moment for all of us to collectively reimagine how parks and public space could meet Olmsted's legacy ideals NOW: how greenspace could be truly open and accessible to all, where all feel they can fully

belong, express and be. Given our mission to steward not just these parks but Olmsted's ideas of healing and connection, especially coming out of a pandemic, the Conservancy was proud to co-organize Olmsted Now: Greater Boston's Olmsted Bicentennial with so many partners in 2022," Karen Mauney-Brodek, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, said in a press release.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a community-supported non-profit with the mission to restore and improve the Emerald Necklace for all. The Conservancy was proud to co-organize Olmsted Now: Greater Boston's Olmsted Bicentennial. Visit www.emeraldnecklace.org for more information.

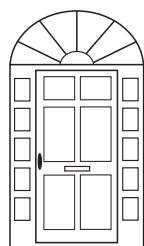


Jen Mergel, Andrew Sharpe, Eli Pabon, and Biplaw Rai.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

WARD 4 DEMS VIRTUAL MEETING SET FOR FEB. 21

The next Boston Ward 4 Dems meeting takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. via Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87916021587?pwd=Tk9hNFdROWlhc0Q4UTZjWjWJianpFQT09>).

City Councilors Julia Mejia and Kenzie Bok, Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and Program Manager for Boston's Community Choice Electricity program Theresa Teixeira will be on hand for the meeting.

IN-PERSON DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL SHADOW IMPACT OF LONGWOOD PLACE PROJECT ON EMERALD NECKLACE

The Fenway Civic Association will hold "Out of the Shadows" – a discussion regarding the potential shadow impact of Longwood Place on the Emerald Necklace – takes place as an in-person event on Monday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Fenway Community Center at 1282

Boylston St. (enter at Jersey and Boylston streets).

On Jan. 19, 2023, the Boston Planning & Development Agency voted to recommend approval of the Longwood Place project, despite it being in violation of city guidelines that limit shadows on public parks. The proposed project also garnered over 60 letters of concern from neighborhood residents and organizations, as well as from more than 2,700 petition signers.

"The filing contains language that prohibits any future challenges to the approved maximum heights and exempts itself from any new regulations that would restrict shadows on the Emerald Necklace," according to Fenway Civic.

Longwood Place will now move to a Boston Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for March 1.

The Feb. 27 discussion will include presentations on shadow information and a discussion on the Longwood Place development while guests will be invited to provide feedback and elected officials will be asked to help find solutions to protect the city's parks and open spaces.

Visit www.fenwaycivic.org for more information.

BFO'S CHAMBER SERIES COMES TO THE ATHENAEUM



LOVELY VALENTINE PHOTOS

On Thursday, Feb. 8, audiences were graced with the post-pandemic return of the Boston Festival Orchestra's beloved Chamber Series, performed in the intimate setting of the Boston Athenaeum's Henry Long Room.

It was the first of three chamber music concerts, designed to present the Athenaeum's exhibitions through the lens of chamber music. The performance's pieces ranged from selections of J.S.



Bach's Sonata for Violin & Keyboard No. 3 in E Major to Philip Glass's Violin Sonata's 2nd mvmt, while projections of the artists' books from the Athenaeum's current gallery exhibition Materialia Lumina/Luminous Books displayed on the wall behind the musicians.

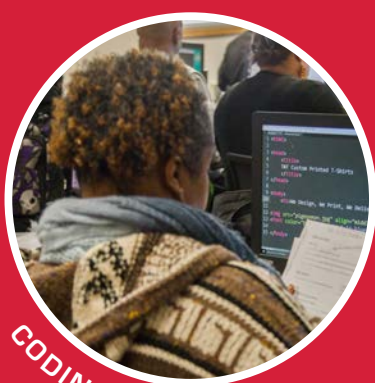
The next two concerts will be on April 8, at 3 p.m., and June 22, at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, but registration is required at bostonatheneum.org. For program details, visit <https://www.bforchestra.org/chamber-series>.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 3/8/2023 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Eolar Stewart unit #1109; Jorge A Montenegro unit #2068; Wayne Rice unit #3070; Justin Kelly/Insulet Corp. unit #3248; Walter Davis unit #3308; Alfred Miles unit

#4038; Kathryn Johnson unit #4048; Robert Kendrick unit #4070; Chosen O Ja'Mima'Ni unit #4075; David Everett unit #4174; Joanna Fernandez unit #4310. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

2/16/23, 2/23/23
BS

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located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 3/8/2023 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Andrew Roscillo unit #206; Jeff Landry unit #400; Jingyuan Wang unit #541. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

2/16/23, 2/23/23

Wu announces members of Steering Committee to advise on reforms to Article 80 Development Review Process

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu announced on Friday the members of a steering committee of real estate and civic leaders to advise on reforms to Article 80 of the Boston Zoning Code being undertaken by the Mayor's Office and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA). She announced her intention to create the committee during her State of the City speech last week as one piece of a comprehensive set of reforms to improve the planning and development process so Boston can meet its housing and economic growth needs.

Article 80 refers to a section of the Boston Zoning Code adopted in 1996 to establish a more extensive review process for development proposals of more than 20,000 square feet or more than 15 dwelling units. Mayor Wu is undertaking the first comprehensive review of the process after nearly three decades to ensure greater predictability and consistency.

"I'm grateful to these leaders for lending their expertise and working with us to improve our processes," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "From reforming planning and updating our zoning code, to streamlining development review and strengthening compliance, we are taking action to set Boston on a course for sustainable growth so all our communities are included in the city's opportunities."

"Working with this group will be integral to comprehensively reforming planning and development in our communities," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "I am confident that those selected will bring a unique perspective and help the BPDA reform this process in a way that improves the process and delivers more resilient, affordable, and equitable development across the city."

The steering committee will include:

- Joseph Bonfiglio, Business Manager of the Massachusetts and Northern New England District Council since 2009. The Council comprises more than 25,000 represented workers, including laborers working in numerous aspects of the general construction trade.

- Anthony D'Isidoro,

President of the Allston Civic Association. Among many other community roles, Tony also serves as Board President of the Veronica B Smith Multi-Service Senior Center, Inc., a member of the Allston Multimodal Project task force and Harvard Allston task force, and has served on a number of Impact Advisory Groups. He is a product of the Boston Public Schools both as a student and teacher, a small business owner, and author of a weekly community newsletter. As a community leader, organizer and activist, D'Isidoro advocates with the belief that empowering people can achieve great things to ensure a community that works for everyone.

- Fernando J. Domenech, Jr., President of DHK Architects, where he has worked on community-based urban housing. Domenech has focused primarily on affordable housing for over thirty years, specifically on the revitalization of inner city neighborhoods through creative planning, imaginative urban design and architecture.

- Colleen Fonseca, Executive Director of the Builders of Color Coalition, where she is responsible for leading the development and expansion of programming to increase access and diversity in Boston's commercial real estate sector. Prior to her role with BCC, she served as a Senior Advisor to Mayor Jorge Elorza on COVID Recovery and as the Director of Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity for the City of Providence. She currently sits on the Real Estate Finance Association (REFA) Board of Directors.

- Beyazmin Jimenez, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture for the Planning and Real Estate Department at Northeastern University. Jimenez is an urban planner and pro-housing organizer, formerly the Board President for Abundant Housing MA, an organization she co-founded in 2018. Her experience in housing policy and community development has led her to support resident engagement efforts at Madison Park Development Corporation in Roxbury, and lead statewide housing programs at CHAPA. She holds a Master's in Urban Planning from Boston University.

- Matthew Kiefer, land use attorney at Goulston & Storrs. Kiefer's practice focuses on obtaining site control and development approvals from

public agencies for complex urban projects. He co-chairs the firm's Climate Change Resilience Task Force. Kiefer serves on the Advisory Board and Manage-

ment Committee of ULI Boston; he is the immediate past Chair of the Boston Municipal

(STEERING COMMITTEE Pg. 10)

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Mayor Wu announces new PowerCorpsBOS career pathway in building operations

Staff Report

The City partners with Roxbury Community College and A Better City to further support workforce training to bolster a pipeline to local green jobs

BOSTON - Monday, February 13, 2023 - Today, PowerCorpsBOS joined A Better City and Roxbury Community College

(RCC) for an orientation event to receive an overview of the newest PowerCorps building operations career pathway, skills to support the transition to energy efficiency and carbon reduction in Boston buildings. This program is a partnership between PowerCorpsBOS, Roxbury Community College's Center for Smart Building Technology and A Better City (ABC). Program participants will study at RCC's Center for Smart

Building Technology and receive in-service learning opportunities within large buildings coordinated by A Better City.

"Creating career pathways through skills and job training is essential to growing our green workforce, especially as we work to transition more buildings to renewable, efficient energy," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to our partners for working with us and the students partic-

ipating for their commitment to helping lay the foundation for a clean, green future."

PowerCorpsBos works to train residents for green jobs after program completion, while focusing on career pathways into jobs that work to mitigate climate change to protect the environment. The first PowerCorps cohort graduated in December. All of the 21 program graduates either have a new green job or are enrolled in additional training. An 'earn and learn' program, PowerCorpsBos pays members to participate in hands-on training and provides them with career readiness support, and connections to employers in the green industry. PowerCorpsBOS is a partnership that is led by the Worker Empowerment Cabinet and the Environment Department, in collaboration with Community Safety, Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families. The goals of PowerCorpsBOS are to promote workforce development for young people in growing industries while supporting environmental stewardship.

"The core mission of PowerCorpsBos is to create pathways to earn a livable wage while also helping to care for the environment," said Davo Jefferson, Executive Director of PowerCorpsBos. "We are grateful to

partner with RCC and ABC to ensure PowerCorps graduates are able to move directly into careers in the green building industry."

"In Boston, 70 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the building sector," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "By creating a building operations career pathway through PowerCorps, these graduates are preparing for high quality careers which will support our carbon neutrality goals."

"Congratulations to PowerCorpsBOS for creating this innovative partnership with Roxbury Community College and A Better City," said Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Worker Empowerment. "Expanding opportunities for sustainable jobs at living wages is part of the City and Worker Empowerment's mission and we look forward to facilitating this new pathway."

The building operations pathway is training for jobs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in large buildings by teaching participants skills to maintain building operations at peak efficiency. The curriculum is being offered by RCC's Center for Smart Building Technology in their state of

(POWERCORPSBOS Pg. 11)

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STEERING COMMITTEE (from pg. 9)

Research Bureau, which supports best practices in municipal governance; and he co-chairs the Council of Advisors of Historic Boston, a non-profit redeveloper of historic buildings.

- Steve Samuels, Founder and Chairman of Samuels & Associates, a Boston commercial real estate developer, property manager, and leasing company. Samuels serves on the Board of Trustees at The Park School on Building & Grounds Committee in addition to his Board of Trustees role at Emerson College.

- Kairos Shen, Executive Director of the Center for Real Estate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining MIT, Shen worked at the then-BRA for 22 years, first as Boston's Chief City Planner, and

then as the Director of Planning. He worked on the development guidelines for the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the planning for the South Boston Waterfront Innovation District, the refurbishment of Fenway Park, and the revitalization of Nubian Square.

- Kirk Sykes, Managing Director of Accordia Partners, LLC, a Boston based real estate investment and development company. He also serves on the Boston Civic Design Commission and is the Real Estate Executive Council Chairman for the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. Sykes was formerly the head of an urban real estate investment fund called Urban Strategy America Fund, L.P. He was the Chairman of The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Board.

Real Estate Transfers

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Zhang, Qiong	Rios, Gloria P	267 Beacon St #1	\$1,300,000
Cheng, Yuxing	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	47-55 Lagrange St #9H	\$830,000
Kuppusamy, Karthikeyan	Columbus Condo LLC	565 Columbus Ave #2	\$1,085,000
Lee, Peter	Kopasz, Krisztian	139 E Berkeley St #601	\$1,125,000
Shabu And Ramen LLC	Double M Rt	102 South St #1	\$965,000

POWERCORPBOS (from pg. 10)

the art lab and includes topics ranging from conducting energy audits to maintaining electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems. Participants will learn on the job with the goal of transitioning to an employee at the end of the six month training program.

A Better City has supported this partnership by working with member businesses and institutions to establish in-service learning opportunities in Boston-based large buildings. Participating organizations include the City of Boston, Beacon Capital Partners and their building operator partner, NEWMARK, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, C&W Services, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, JLL, and MassGeneral Hospital. A Better City’s work has been made possible by support from the Linde Family Foundation and the Barr Foundation.

The inaugural PowerCorps cohort were trained in urban forestry. The 21 graduates assisted 87 acres of public land, removed 284 bags of invasive material, worked with 18 service project partners, planted 61 trees, underwent 16 hours of tree climbing training, earned three college credits from UMass Mount Ida in Arboriculture, talked to 68 employees in private to public industry, worked with four different City departments, pruned

32 trees, attended International Society of Arboriculture New England chapter conference, participated in 12 hours of mock interviews, and completed 16 hours of financial literacy courses. Graduates worked with Boston Housing Authority and UMass Mount Ida Campus to learn skills like tree protection, including pruning, felling, limbing, and bucking.

The City of Boston’s green jobs program is inspired by the Philadelphia PowerCorpsPHL model that builds opportunities for young people by tackling pressing environmental challenges and developing the skills required to secure meaningful work. The priority of PowerCorpsBOS is to create equitable and inclusive workforce pipelines into green jobs for historically marginalized young people. Priority populations include returning citizens, court-involved residents, youth who have experienced homelessness or housing instability, and young people who have been in foster care. In Boston, the program is designed with “earn and learn” practices to ensure that members enter and succeed in career green job pathways. Members go through specifically tailored phases, in a field of their choosing, that embed service and equity, as well as direct connections to job openings. The program also offers connections

to continuing education opportunities, including through the City’s Tuition Free Community College program. Not only current PowerCorps members, but also their families and alumni who are Boston residents, are eligible for TFCC.

“This partnership is not only a wonderful opportunity but essential to diversify the industry and create economic self-sufficiency for our community members,” said RCC Interim President Jackie Jenkins-Scott. “RCC is proud to offer both workforce and degree programs in Smart Building Technology, ensuring Boston residents are leaders in this growing field.”

“Public private partnerships are a vital strategy for building a green and growing city for everyone,” said Yve Torrie, Director of Climate, Energy & Resilience at A Better City. “This PowerCorpsBOS partnership is poised to enhance our City’s economic health and competitiveness, while promoting equitable growth for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow. We are immensely grateful to the City of Boston for their vision, to RCC for their curriculum expertise, and to the participating A Better City member companies and institutions for stepping up to provide real-world training and employment opportunities.”

“We are thrilled to support the City of Boston’s program to build and train a workforce that will run the energy efficient buildings of the future,” said Jim Tierney, JLL New England Market Director and A Better City Board Chair. “A Better City member companies are providing state-of-the-art buildings as a training opportunity for hands-on experience in building operations. These buildings showcase the latest in technology and sustainability preparing trainees for the jobs of the future.”

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The shaped parapet in the last clue is on 294 Newbury Street, built in 1885 and designed by George Wilton Lewis. On his own and as a part of the firm of Kirby and Lewis, this MIT graduate designed more than a dozen buildings in the Back Bay.

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway. 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



The Independent Newspaper Group Office will be Closed on Monday, Feb. 20th in observation of President’s Day. We will reopen on Tuesday at 9:30 am. Deadlines are Friday, Feb. 17 at 12 p.m.



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