



THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

## THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## CELEBRATING PUERTO RICAN CULTURE



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Festival Betances celebrated its 50th year of celebrating Puerto Rican culture. Festivities included a concert that featured many luminaries in salsa music and there was much dancing to go with it. Shown are members of the audience engaged in salsa dancing. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

## Wards 4, 5, and 10 hold Council At-Large Forum

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

As we inch closer to election season, the Democratic Committees of Wards 4, 5, and 10 hosted a candidate forum for those in the City Councilor At-Large race to discuss several topics on Thursday, July 13.

The forum, which touched on topics such as housing, council collegiality, public transit, and more, was moderated by Abdallah Fayyad, an Opinion Writer at the Boston Globe who is a member of the media outlet's Editorial Board and was notably a Pulitzer-Prize finalist last year.

As part of the rules for the forum, each candidate was given

one minute to answer any questions and was muted following the timer's elapse.

Those participating in the forum included incumbent City Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy. Thursday's event also featured new candidates throwing their hats in the ring — Clifton Braithwaite of Mattapan, Henry Santana of Dorchester, and Bridget Nee-Walsh of South Boston.

Following opening statements from all of the candidates, Fayyad led off the event with one of the most important questions by asking all candidates to give one or two priorities they would

like to get done if elected.

The priorities Mejia mentioned if she were re-elected were building infrastructure for community engagement and being more responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations.

"What I'm really looking forward to doing in my third term on the council is really building some infrastructure for real community engagement. I think we're working toward that, but I still hear out in these streets that things are being done to them without them," said Mejia.

"So really working alongside a number of different depart-

(FORUM Pg. 8)

## BPDA Board approves Stanhope Hotel project

By Adam Swift

A proposed hotel at the site of the Stanhope Street Stables building across from Back Bay Station got the okay to move forward from the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors last week.

"The project is an approximately 124,000 square feet, 21-story, 300 key hotel with

restaurant space on the ground floor," said BPDA project manager Quinn Valcich. "The project will be compliant with the Stuart Street District zoning and will be making a \$450,000 contribution to support a Boston Transportation Department effort to explore improvements to a section of Stanhope Street adjacent to the

(BPDA Pg. 2)

## District 8 candidates at WECA meeting

By Dan Murphy

Twelve days ahead of the Special Election to fill the District 8 City Council seat vacated by Kenzie Bok, the two candidates — Montez Haywood and Sharon Durkan — were both on hand for the West End Civic Association's monthly meeting on Thursday, July 13, at the Amy Lowell Apartments.

Each candidate was allotted

just over a half hour to introduce themselves and outline their campaign priorities, as well as to respond to questions from around 40 meeting-goers.

Haywood, an assistant district attorney with the Suffolk County District Attorney's office since 2006 who launched an unsuccessful bid against newcomer Bok for the District 8 City Council seat,

(MEETING Pg. 4)



COURTESY OF SHARON DURKAN

Sharon Durkan.



COURTESY OF MONTEZ HAYWOOD

Montez Haywood.



# EDITORIAL

## YES, OUR DEMOCRACY IS ON THE EDGE

The national political scene is probably the last thing that any of us want to be thinking about in the middle of July, but some recent events are making it clear that the attack on the Capitol on January 6 was just the opening round of what promises to be an unprecedented assault on our democracy and Constitution not seen since the Confederates fired on Ft. Sumter in 1861.

For example, former vice-president Mike Pence has been greeted with a chorus of boos at recent gatherings of conservative groups, particularly when he told the crowd that he lacked the authority to overturn the Electoral College results of the 2020 Presidential election.

Similarly, former Arkansas governor Asa Hutchinson, who has been a vocal critic of former President Trump for the past few years, was booed repeatedly at a recent convention of young conservatives.

What these and other incidents demonstrate is that there is a solid percentage of our fellow Americans who do not believe in the basic principles of our democracy and who will use any means necessary to achieve their goals.

These folks claim to be "patriotic Americans," but being a patriotic American does not merely mean waving the flag -- it means respecting our Constitution and our laws -- and it is obvious to anyone paying attention that many of these folks are gearing up for what may be a violent uprising in 2024 that will strain our nation's democracy to a degree not seen since 1861.

## HERE'S SOME CONSOLATION FOR SOX FANS

With the Major League Baseball season resuming after the All-Star break, the Red Sox appear destined to relegation to the realm of mediocrity. Sure, they're above .500, but our Sox don't appear to have either the pitching or the hitting to make a run to the playoffs.

However, as we looked briefly at the standings on Monday, there was one ray of brightness -- the Yankees were in last place in the American League East with us!

There is a term for what we were feeling -- *schadenfreude* -- the concept that one derives happiness only from the misfortunes of others.

To be sure, we're disappointed that the Sox once again will be on the outside looking in.

But if the Yankees also are out of the playoff picture -- well, that's a cause for joy in and of itself.

## MORE BIZARRO COMMENTS BY RFK JR.

Well, as if right on cue, two days after our editorial last week ("RFK Jr. is a disgrace to his family name") about the delusional "campaign" for President by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., he made this disturbing comment at a luncheon in New York City, which was reported by the New York Post:

"There is an argument that it (COVID 19) is ethnically targeted. COVID-19 attacks certain races disproportionately. COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese."

As the Anti-Defamation League and others have pointed out, Kennedy's comments are not merely ludicrous, but they encourage those who might believe in his bonkers conspiracy theories to engage in dangerous racist and anti-semitic behavior.

It is obvious that Kennedy is on an ego trip -- his "campaign" for president is an old-man's version (he's 69) of a mid-life crisis. Hopefully, he'll continue to make even more nutty pronouncements so that soon enough he'll go back to where he came from and we won't have to put up with him.

## HAPPINESS

To the Editor:

Nations are unhappy: Ukraine, Russia, Iran, France US and Israel all fail the happiness test. Under siege, Ukraine wants more weapons, Russia craves stability after an alleged, failed coup, France pines for domestic tranquility, Iran militates for the hijab, the US and Israel respectively wish for a different Supreme Court.

There are no demonstrations in Ukraine's streets, only preposterous death. Zelinsky scours the globe seeking arms that will escalate the conflict ultimately into a NATO, nuclear confrontation. The latest obscene shipment from the US includes outlawed cluster bombs that can be used immediately unlike the tanks and fighter jets that require training and are months even years before being ready for deployment.

Russia is in the midst of a regime shake up, possibly a regime change instigated by Prigozhin and his mercenary criminals enlisted in lieu of jail time. Putin retains power, at least on the surface, and dispersed his lookalikes to appear on TV and in public, a transparent show of weakness fooling no one. Putin's relationship with Prigozhin, his

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

protégé, remains unclear, as does Russia's ominous, military strategy.

Iran persists in its digressory banning of the hijab, managing to deflect attention from its economic woes and the building of proxy armies that will lead to an inevitable war with Israel and the US. Forging alliances with Russia and China place Iran solidly in the axis-of-evil. Supplying drones to Russia for use in Ukraine closes the deal.

France is facing an immigrant surge from within, the price of nineteenth century colonialism that welcomed Algerians to the homeland, where they cannot be absorbed successfully by the social and economic systems. In frustration, youth broke from their ghetto and are rioting and looting to the tune of a billion dollars in destruction. Street violence is mostly in their own neighborhoods, where the devastation aftermath will thoughtlessly worsen their conditions.

Rulings by SCOTUS are in question. Biden informs us the court is not normal in abandoning "stare decisis" as a guiding principal. Conservatives are aggressively applying Originalist Legal Philosophy to undo settled law. Biden rejected packing the

court to counterbalance the conservative majority, but reforming the court, its ethics, lifetime appointments and secretive workings are still expected.

Israel's court dilemma is profoundly transformational. The Knesset, whose majority is controlled by religious parties is on the verge of passing a contentious, judicial bill that empowers the Knesset to override Supreme Court decisions giving Netanyahu, or any PM effective dictatorial power. The reform will have ruinous consequences to Israel's internal solidarity, world standing, US relations, foreign investment, and Diaspora Jews. Civil disobedience and mass demonstrations will be further inflamed by the power grab vote. The 20th Century miracle state is abandoning its balance-of-power Democracy, hitherto singular in the Mideast.

Discontent is *de rigueur* in Iran, France and Israel, and also in the US, where the majority of Americans prefer other candidates in the 2024 presidential election.

Alas, nobody is happy with their government!

Zaltman

## BPDA (from pg. 1)

project as a pedestrian plaza. The project will also incorporate the facade of the existing two-story brick stables building on the site into the design of the hotel."

Valcich said there were several well-attended public meetings on the project, and that several city councilors, including District 2 and Council President Ed Flynn have submitted letters of support for the project.

Paul Sullivan, chief of staff for Councilor-at-Large Michael Flaherty, said the councilor wanted to go on record in support of the project.

"He was impressed by not only the preservation of the facade, but also the improvements to the plaza as well as alleviating the need for more hotel rooms in the city," said Sullivan.

Project architect Harry Wheeler of Group One Partners said his team worked with landscape

architects and the city to create a pedestrianization plan in front of the building which is essentially an extension of Frida Garcia Park.

The architectural plans also sought to create a vibrant ground floor space with a restaurant and lobby, and to separate the look of the existing stable building with the hotel room floors above with a glass wall effect on the third floor. The majority of the building will have a gridded facade that ties into the architecture in

the neighborhood, Wheeler said.

The top floor of the building will have some meeting space and a club room, as well as an exterior terrace facing the park, Wheeler added.

"I'm really excited for this project, it's one of my favorite little parts of the city," said BPDA Board Chair Priscilla Rojas. "I appreciate all of the time and coordination (the developer) and the team did to create what I think is going to be a pretty cool space."

# THE BOSTON SUN

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# BPDA Board approves Fenway Corners project

By Adam Swift

A massive mixed-use development that promises to transform the area around Fenway Park was approved by the Boston Planning & Development Agency's Board of Directors at its monthly meeting on Thursday, July 13.

While the board approved the first 1.6 million square feet of the Fenway Corners project, it will be taking a vote on an additional 400,000 square feet of the project following the completion of the Fenway-Kenmore Transportation Action Plan. There was wide support for the project during the public comment period of last week's meeting, although several community leaders said there were unanswered questions about the project and the at the board should have delayed action on the entire square footage until the completion of the transportation plan.

The mixed-use development on four major parcels includes eight buildings ranging from 40 to 265 feet, an approach which developers said will make the overall development appear more organic within the Fenway neighborhood. The development will include office and lab space, retailers, major streetscape and ground level improvements, and 266 residential units, of which 53 will be affordable, along Jer-

sey Street, Brookline Avenue, and Van Ness Street.

One of the major highlights of the project will be the pedestrianization of Jersey Street to make it more of a community and city focal point outside of Fenway Park.

Fenway Corners is a joint enterprise of WS Development, the Fenway Sports Group (which owns the Red Sox among other national and international sports teams), and Twins Enterprises.

BPDA project manager Michael Sinatra said there has been a rigorous review process for the project over the last two years.

"The project has both evolved and improved significantly, and will greatly enhance some of the blighted areas around the park and create a more year-round destination," said Sinatra. "When completed, the project will deliver a fully pedestrianized Jersey Street, a newly reimagined Arthur's Alley, several streetscape improvements, as well as 266 units of housing, 20 percent of which will be designated as affordable housing through the inclusionary development policy."

The project also includes several on-site transportation improvements, as well as approximately \$10 million for Brookline Avenue and surround-

ing streets as part of the ongoing Fenway-Kenmore Transportation Plan, Sinatra added.

"The proponent has also committed several additional benefits in response to direct feedback from the community, key among them is a 10,000 square foot daycare center which will be available to all Fenway residents, as well as a renovation of a duck house located on Agassiz Way," said Sinatra.

Yanni Tsipis of WS Development said the overall project represents a commitment to "achieve social justice through design" in the city.

"We are here to embrace the need to create welcoming places that reflect the better angels of our Bostonian nature, the soul and character of the old matched by the innovation and creativity and promise of the future," said Tsipis. "There are opportunities for small businesses and startups to thrive and create generational wealth, opportunities for public events and programs and art that reflect the diversity of our city, and above all, a common ground ... where all Bostonians can feel welcomed and embraced and excited and empowered."

Kelly Brilliant, the executive director of the Fenway Alliance, which represents 21 cultural and academic institutions in the Fenway, said her group was heartily

endorsing the project.

"We like the way it has evolved over 21/2 years to address many of the community members' concerns," said Brilliant. "What we really like is the vibrancy it brings to this iconic neighborhood that, as iconic as it is, you can clearly see from the before pictures it needs some work to be brought into the 21st century."

The development plan creates a more pedestrian-friendly and vibrant place, Brilliant said, and she encouraged the developers to use the planned performance spaces to highlight local festivals, performers, and artists.

"We feel that this brings Fenway Park into the 21st century and gives it the kind of iconic feel, look, and experience it deserves," said Brilliant.

However, Dolores Boogdanian, president of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association, said she still had reservations about the project.

"I want to be a believer, I think this project has a lot of good aspects to it, there are some elements of it that are attractive, and I think the goals are lofty and ones I can fully support," said Boogdanian. "But there are some inconvenient truths here."

Boogdanian noted that while the project does comply with zoning for the neighborhood, the zoning was recently changed to

accommodate the Fenway Corners project.

"For a project of this magnitude, going on some supplemental filings after a draft project impact report is insufficient," she said. "If any project warrants a final impact report to take into account all of the concerns raised about the project (it's this one)."

Alex Sawczynec of the Fenway Civic Association said there still needs to be additional study of the traffic, specifically around traffic on days when there are games or events at Fenway Park.

"Traffic has yet to be fully addressed," he said.

Tsipis noted that the BPDA approvals last Thursday provide the zoning framework for the project, and that each of the eight individual buildings will be subject to a multitude of ongoing review processes.

"I want to thank WS for their really thoughtful and inclusive process that has brought together folks from various communities throughout the Fenway in moving this forward," said BPDA Board member Dr. Ted Landsmark. "They have put forward a very thoughtful conclusion here to develop with those sections of the neighborhood that could certainly use some improvements."

## Boston Planning & Development Agency Board approves IDP changes

By Adam Swift

Mayor Michelle Wu's proposal to increase affordable housing units in new construction in the city was approved by the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors at its monthly meeting last week.

The change to the city's inclusionary zoning policy would see the effective rate of affordable units in new developments increase from 13 to 20 percent, and codify the changes in the city's zoning ordinances. The inclusionary zoning amendment okayed by the board would require 17 percent of units in developments of seven or more units to be affordable, with an additional 3 percent set aside for Section 8 vouchers.

The proposal will next go to the City Council before heading

to the Boston Zoning Commission for possible approval.

The proposal passed the board by a 4-0 vote, but several members did raise concerns about how the change could impact market rate residential development in the city.

Inclusionary development programs require market rate developments to create affordable units on or off site, or in some cases require developers to pay into a fund that would be set aside for the development of affordable units.

"Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) was created by executive order during the Menino administration," said BPDA Planning Director Aimee Chambers. "It has been updated over time, most recently in 2015, when the current guidelines were established."

In 2021, a home-rule petition was passed which would allow the IDP to be incorporated into the city's zoning ordinances. That petition requires that the zoning text be approved and reviewed by the city council before going to the zoning commission.

In 2022, a feasibility study was initiated by RKG Associates and the mayor's office of housing to study potential changes to the city's inclusionary zoning policy, Chambers said.

"The financial model enabled the city to test prototypical developments to understand the financial implications of changing the existing IDP ordinance," said Chambers.

The current IDP policy applies to new developments of 10 or more units which require zoning relief. While the current policy allows for as low as 13 percent

of new units to be set aside as affordable, Chambers noted that developers are generally showing a greater commitment to affordability.

"On average, the current process is generating a set aside of 17 percent," Chambers said. "Because of the IDP, developers have created over 4,000 on-site and off-site income-restricted units, and 688 units are currently in construction."

Developers have also made over \$200 million in IDP contributions, she said.

Under the new policy, developments would not need zoning relief to trigger the income-restricted units, it would be based purely on the number of units. In addition, the income-restricted unit percentage could be satisfied either by the number of affordable units, or total square foot-

age of the development. Chambers said this could potentially create larger affordable units for families.

"I recognize that there are many strong views on what is that right percentage to both address the significant housing need that we have, particularly with affordability in the city, and still making Boston attractive for developers to want to invest in it and make sure it is financially feasible," said BPDA Board Chair Priscilla Rojas.

Boston Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said that while the city's goal is to increase the amount of affordable housing and mixed-income development in the city, it does not want to do it in a way that would impede market rate development. She said the consultant, RKG Associates, spent



# The INCE names award after Nancy Timmerman

The Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE) has named an award after Nancy Timmerman. This was announced at their meeting in Grand Rapids last month. She was honored for being their first woman president, board certified, fellow and having served on their board for many years.

Born in Chicago, she is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and MIT in Cambridge, MA. With an inter-

est in acoustics and noise control, her degrees are in Engineering and Ocean Engineering. She is also a member of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), the Audio Engineering Society (AES), Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, the Vibration Institute, and the National Council of Acoustical Consultants. She has served on the boards of INCE and AES. She has also had leadership roles in the ASA where she is a fellow.

She is a Professional Engineer

in Massachusetts and Board Certified INCE. During her engineering career, she worked for Shure Brothers (intern), Stone & Webster, doing power plant noise control, Bolt Beranek and Newman doing sonar, Massport doing noise monitoring and abatement, and after 9/11 independent consulting.

She has lived in the South End of Boston since 1975. She took a summer class at New England Conservatory in piano. She

is also a member of American Guild of Organists, the Society for the History of Technology, the South End Historical Society, and Alpha Gamma Delta. She is also a pianist, swimmer, singer, organist and seamstress. As an engineer, she is able to use tools. She is the mother of two children who both graduated from the Boston Latin School and have college degrees.



Nancy Timmerman.

## MEETING (from pg. 1)

cil seat in the fall of 2019, made his pitch first.

"I want to put us in the position where we can accomplish tasks and accomplish things," said Haywood, who added that he's "running to be a retail politician."

If elected, Haywood said his work as a city councilor would include tending to matters, such as fixing potholes on Nashua Street and addressing the "crumbling" condition of Thoreau Path.

On the matter of building usage in and around the West End, Haywood, who lives in the Avalon building, said he would adamantly oppose providing services for the homeless, as well as for drug treatment, out of a building owned now by Mass General Hospital at 75 Blossom Court, which was formerly home to J. Pace & Son, a small grocery store.

"That would be a non-starter for me," he said. (Despite Haywood's admonishment, no formal proposal has been made to site such services at this location, as was pointed out by those in attendance at the meeting.)

Instead, Haywood proposes providing 500 beds with wrap-

around services (but no kitchens) from a retrofitted cruise ship at an existing dock at North Jetty Pier previously used for aircraft carriers; this, he said, could be delivered at a cost of between \$30-40 million, according to a MIT white paper on cruise ship conversion into affordable housing drafted in February.

"We're already spending the money when we put them in jail. We're already spending the money when we put them in the hospital. I propose we spend the money better," he said.

Haywood suggested that the city employ the cruise-ship model while the bridge to the 800-bed Long Island Shelter Clinic is being reconstructed.

But he was skeptical when it came to a suggestion that the city ship people off to receive treatment on Thompson Island in the Boston Harbor, however.

"You can't force people to get on a boat," said Haywood. "If you take them to Thompson Island, they don't have any say. As a city, we're now violating their rights."

Regarding the Alcott Apartments in Bulfinch Triangle, Haywood said it's twice the size of what was promised to the com-

munity.

Haywood also expressed concern regarding two proposals for skyscrapers on Causeway Street, adding that while he's "all for housing, but there comes a point where [the city is] overdeveloped."

Likewise, Haywood pointed to the need for a "corridor of green space" in the West End, which, he said, could come as part of mitigation for Mass General's new building on Cambridge Street.

Haywood also said that development projects in the neighborhood, including Mass General's expansion, along with the proposed redevelopments of the West End Branch Library and the Hurley Building, need to be considered holistically.

While he emphasized that he's not "anti-bike" and acknowledged that opting for bicycles over cars can help combat climate change, Haywood said he would oppose any bike lane proposed for Charles Street, as well as for Berkeley and Boylston streets. He cited public safety concerns among his reasons for taking this position, saying that bike lanes could potentially hinder firefighters from easily accessing some addresses.

Meanwhile, Haywood said he would support a fully elected school board for Boston Public Schools, adding that there "needs to be someone who can be held directly accountable to neighbors and us."

Durkan, a longtime political organizer in the city who moved to Boston in 2015 to work for then-City Councilor Michelle Wu and has chaired the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee since 2019, followed Haywood.

She outlined her four biggest priorities if elected as creating "affordable, attainable housing"; promoting "quality tran-

sit and safe streets"; advocating for "mental health care for all"; and forwarding "climate resilient neighborhoods."

"I really care about being someone who is compassionate," said Durkan, who said she hopes to follow in Bok's footsteps by striking a balance between compassion and public safety.

If elected, Durkan committed on her first day in office to taking a close look at just how exactly mitigation funds are being spent and bringing the community to the table for this process.

"It shouldn't be this hard to get what the community wants and take countless hours to get what the community needs," she said.

On the matter of development, Durkan invoked a statement made by Elliott Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay board of directors, who said that project should be judged only on its own merits, instead of on the merits of its proposed mitigation.

Regarding public safety, Durkan said she would work with Boston Police to devise a "safety plan" and committed to forging a strong relationship with the department.

She also underscored the need to provide housing for those struggling with homelessness.

"If we don't provide housing for people, they will continue to be outside," said Durkan, who acknowledged that this would take collaboration at both the city and state levels.

Asked about proposed bike lanes on Charles Street, Durkan said while "public safety is of the utmost concern, especially on Charles Street," she couldn't really assess the plan without seeing a formal proposal first.

"I think opposing something not written on paper yet is not the

type of leadership I want to lend to this district," she said.

Durkan added that she would support "some bike infrastructure" but asserted that building bike lanes on "a very special street" like Charles Street would require "a very special process, which I'd be happy to convene."

Unlike Haywood, Durkan was less enthusiastic about the notion of providing accommodations for those in recovery on retrofitted cruise ships.

"If I can't line up any friends in government who support this, then I don't think it's a good idea," said Durkan, adding that she has secured a number of endorsements from elected officials, including Mayor Wu, Sens. Ed Markey and Lydia Edwards, and Reps. Jay Livingstone and Aaron Michlewitz, as well as from Bok.

While Durkan lives on Anderson Street on Beacon Hill, she said she hopes to become an "honorary WECA member." (Durkan said decided to run for office out of frustration after it took three seasons to get a rusty, abandoned bike removed from Anderson Street by the city under previous administrations.)

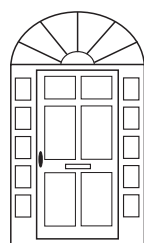
"I see myself as part of the West End," said Durkan, adding that the neighborhood finally would be united in time for the city's November general election as a result of redistricting.

"People don't give the West End credit for being such a tight-knit community," she said. "I want the West End to show up for this election. I want for the West End to have a real political voice."

Regardless of the outcome of the Special Election on July 25, Haywood and Durkan will again vie for the District 8 City Council seat in the Nov. 7 municipal general election.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Salads for supper

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We enjoy salads for supper all year round but much more often when the summer heat makes hot meals less desirable. That doesn't mean we skimp on protein or survive on bowls of greens. Many of our favorite salads have added protein, and some contain a few herbs instead of greens.

### Remember Chef's Salads?

Once, many restaurant menus had an item called a "Chef's Salad." The standard had lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, avocados, hard-boiled eggs, cheese, and meat. These ingredients will make a good salad. However, we use these as categories and call it a "Supper Salad." Often we make one to use up the bits and pieces in our refrigerator.

We also use the best of each vegetable available from the summer farmers' markets instead of the tasteless tomatoes, thick-skinned cucumbers, and high-fat meat and cheese that were

once used. That change alone improves our meals' appearance, flavor, and nutritional value.

Choose a more flavorful cheese like feta, parmesan, or blue cheese, and use less per portion. Replace the meat with a combination of a legume or bean and grain, and you have your protein with less fat.

### Prep Your Pantry for Supper Salads

We keep a few favorite items on hand to enhance salads. Think about what you love in salads and keep those items ready. Today we can pick up many of these items in a supermarket. We stock cans and packets of chickpeas, beans, lentils, mixed grains, flavored tuna, and olives.

We add a big flavor hit to our salads with capers, pickled onions, pickled ginger, and charcuterie, like cured chorizo. For texture and crunch, we might top a salad with fried shallots, croutons, nuts, or seeds.

For dressings, we keep a selec-

tion of oils and vinegar on hand. Our choice of vinegar may be decided by the cultural background of a particular salad or ingredient. We'll use sherry vinegar for a salad inspired by gazpacho and rice vinegar for a Vietnamese Bun Thit Nuong.

### Favorite Salads

That Vietnamese Bun Thit Nuong is one of our favorite salads. It combines cold rice vermicelli, grated carrots, napa cabbage, and bean sprouts, topped with grilled meat, fresh Thai basil, and mint. It's dressed with an oil-free nuoc cham sauce.

From Thailand, we enjoy a larb salad. This is a spicy hand-chopped meat salad seasoned with fish sauce, chili flakes, and lime juice. Traditionally it is made with pork and served with sticky rice, but we love a chicken version served with lettuce cups.

Ed loves a Salad Niçoise especially when it's made with fresh seared tuna. Penny prefers to have hers with a good tuna in



Once upon a time, this would have been called a "Chef's Salad." We call it a "Supper Salad" and make one often to use up the bits and pieces in our refrigerator.

olive oil. One of the great things about salads is that they are easy to adapt to food preferences.

Our version of Middle Eastern tabouli has chickpeas added. With the bulgar wheat included in the basic recipe, this makes for a complete protein. You can use a classic recipe like French grated carrot salad as a base and begin to add ingredients that will make it a meal.

### Prepare Portions

One final thought on salads

is to think about what can be made ahead and portioned out ready to dress when someone is ready to eat. So many times, one or more members of a household needs a meal at a different time. A salad that is prepped but not dressed can be a perfect answer to this scheduling dilemma.

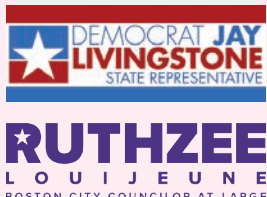
Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

# ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, JULY 25.

# VOTE SHARON DURKAN

# FOR DISTRICT 8!

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# SHARON DURKAN

FOR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 8



FESTIVAL BETANCES CELEBRATES PUERTO RICAN CULTURE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Sisters Maritza and Jacqueline Malvonado.



Kelvin and Yaritza Vasquez.

The Festival Betances celebrated its 50th year of celebrating Puerto Rican culture. Festivities included a concert that featured many luminaries in salsa music and there was much dancing to go with it. Held by Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción at the Plaza Betances Villa Victoria in the South End, Festival Betances reflected the pride, joy, and strength of the community.



Internationally acclaimed salsa preformer Jose “El Canario.” Alberto.



Pedro Santiago addresses the crowd and introduces Jose Alberto before his performance.



Fior Gonzales and José Bello.



Members of the audience engaged in salsa dancing.



Villa Victoria residents Daniel Valasquez, Agilson, and Gisseily Cataleya spend the evening relaxing and watching the fun.



Kevin Clarke, Debra Darden, Evelyn Cosne, and Lydia Reyes.



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FESTIVAL BETANCES CELEBRATES PUERTO RICAN CULTURE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



The crowd was happy to see Jose “El Canario” Alberto perform.



The crowd was happy to see Jose “El Canario” Alberto perform.



Martha Naomi dancing with Armando Landing.



The crowd was happy to see Jose “El Canario” Alberto perform.



Internationally acclaimed salsa preformer Jose “El Canario” Alberto have the crowd an excellent show.



Lionel and Aliana Montalban.



Amparo Montesino.



Mili Ciuc and Edwin Acevedo dance.



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FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN HOSTS ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

PHOTOS COURTESY PIERCE HARMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

On the gorgeous summer evening of Wednesday, July 12, the Friends of the Public Garden hosted their annual Summer Party. Enthusiastic supporters of the Common, Garden and Mall enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres outdoors in the beautiful and lush King's Chapel garden on Beacon Hill. This festive party is one of the highlights of the season, and all enjoyed the soiree while raising funds for the continued maintenance of Boston's #threeparks. The Friends extend a special thank you to sponsor Cambridge Trust.



Henry Lee, Anne Swanson, and Meg McClafferty.



Arjun Gupta and Rich Hornblower.

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Lauren Schultes, with Sally and Bennett Rogers.



FORUM (from pg. 1)

ments to really look at building infrastructure when it comes to development when it comes to education, I think that we can do a better job in that space,” she added.

Regarding being responsive to the vulnerable, Mejia said, “I’m really interested in looking at ways that we can also strengthen our ability to be more responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations — I like to say resilient populations.”

“I think that we have a lot of people who are coming here, and I’m not seeing the type of infrastructure in place to ensure that we’re able to get people to apply for schools, to get into good jobs. I think that there’s a lot of barriers that are still facing a lot of recent arrivals.”

As for Santana, his priorities focused on housing and public safety. “As someone who grew up here in the City of Boston and grew up a product of public housing. That really gave my family and me the opportunity to really not only stay here in the City of Boston but thrive here in the City of Boston,” said Santana.

“I want to make sure that more families, more youth, and everyone across the city is able to live here in the City of Boston if they wish to,” he added. Santana also made a point of saying he would like to create more homeownership opportunities.

Concerning public safety Santana said, “Again, as a product of public housing and as a black man here in the City of Boston and growing up here, I truly understand the dynamics that comes with public safety and really want to make sure that we’re investing in our youth providing affordable summer programs and after-school programs and other programs to really keep our youth engaged.”

Next up to answer the question was Murphy, who mentioned quite a few priorities, such as equitable before and after-school programming, constituent services, the connection between public health and safety, and more.

“I want to continue the work I’ve been focusing on, on children making sure we have opportunities — equitable before and after-school programming at

all schools across the city, which also will support our working families,” said Murphy.

Regarding constituent services, Murphy said, “Making sure that, you know, everyone feels that they have a voice at City Hall. One of the number one things our office does well and definitely makes sure we answer the call to a constituent service call.”

“It can be a tree in front of their house, or it could be, you know, a senior being displaced. So making sure that we are connecting the residents to the City of Boston, I feel like that is our number one job to make the quality of life for all of the residents of the City of Boston equitable,” she added.

As for Braithwaite, he said his top priority was family stabilization. “The reason why I say that — you have mothers, fathers, veterans, and children. I believe from seeing in my experience, the nucleus of the family should be taken care of first,” said Braithwaite.

His second priority involved strengthening programs like STEM. “There was a time that our ORC at Madison was one of the greatest technical schools. I would like to see that come back,” said Braithwaite.

Braithwaite also mentioned violence as a focus saying, “We should be able to feel safe to go to the corner store to take a walk in the park or just generally hang on the corner in front of your home. You should feel safe; we shouldn’t have to worry about violence, so we would have to dig deep in and dive into that.”

One of Louijeune’s priorities was housing, specifically anti-displacement, and she spoke about the Acquisition Opportunity program.

“The city has a great program called the Acquisition Opportunity program that works alongside Community Land Trust and non-profit developers to prevent displacement. Properties that are lived in by tenants that otherwise would be sold on the open market to someone with a profit incentive,” said Louijeune.

“Instead of doing that — selling it to a non-profit developer or Community Land Trust that’s subsidized by city dollars to ensure that tenants are able

to stay on the property and not have to move out of the city or not face rising rents with a new corporate entity so making sure we are earmarking money for Community Land Trust,” she added.

She also spoke about needing more loving adults in schools and hiring more positions, such as guidance counselors.

“Our students are walking into our school buildings every day with trauma with rising mental health issues with phones that are telling them X and Y Z things to do,” said Louijeune.

A huge priority for Nee-Walsh is public safety, and she spoke specifically about bringing police back into the neighborhoods.

“Starting like, well, with teaching the youth that they can trust the police and that the police are, you know, safe, that the police are safe and trustworthy, and that, you know, they’re there to keep the harmony and keep the streets safe,” said Nee-Walsh.

She also mentioned infrastructure and senior and constituent services as priorities, along with bringing vocation back to the city.

“We still only have that one vocational school people have talked about it for, you know, 20 years plus now, and I think kids really need another outlet and to know that there are other options than going to college where they can still make a sustainable living to afford to stay in the City of Boston,” said Nee-Walsh.

As previously mentioned, the forum touched on countless subjects in which candidate after candidate provided longer-form answers. However, there were times in which Fayyad asked yes or no questions.

One question concerned whether candidates would approve spending more money on fare-free bus programs when they expire. All candidates, except Nee-Walsh and Murphy, were emphatic with their yes answers.

Nee-Walsh said no, while Murphy indicated she wanted to say yes but wants to discuss where the money would come from — citing fiscal responsibility — and did not want to make any campaign promises that could not be followed through

on.

Another yes or no question was if candidates would support the state either partially or fully taking over Boston Public Schools. Every candidate opposed a state takeover of BPS except Murphy, but she said to look at her website for more of an explanation of why she would support it.

Overall, the forum seemed to be a great way for constituents to learn more about the candidates in the City Councilor At-Large race.

“It was just a wonderful event, so thank you so much to the six of you,” said Bob Binney, Chair of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee.

If you would like to see the

forum in its entirety, you can visit <https://youtu.be/lbVJB-gYyWlg> or <https://www.facebook.com/Ward4Dems/vid-eos/283830237639189>.

Moreover, information on each candidate can be found at the links below.

Clifton Braithwaite: <https://www.facebook.com/C1CLIFTONBRAITHWAITE/>

Ruthzee Louijeune: <https://www.ruthzeeforboston.com/>

Julia Mejia: <https://www.juliaforboston.com/>

Erin Murphy: <https://erinforboston.com/>

Bridget Nee-Walsh: <https://bridgetneewalsh.com/>

Henry Santana: <https://www.henrysantana.com/>

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# North to Boston

By Alison Barnet

Blake Gumprecht's "North to Boston," subtitled "Life Histories from the Black Great Migration in New England" is a book of interviews with 10 men and women who grew up in southern states and came to Boston in the 1950s and 1960s. (The years of the Great Migration are generally recognized as 1915 to 1970). He goes into great detail and pulls no punches. There is a lot to learn from this book.

Each personal story begins with a thorough description of their life in the South and ends with a thorough description of their life in Boston. He lets the interviewees speak out and say it like it is.

A few examples:

Geraldine W. was born in rural Clay County, Ala. Her family was "very, very poor" - so poor she had only two pairs of shoes, one for school and one for church. If Black people went

into a store and a White customer came in after them, they had to step aside. In movie theatres, Blacks had to sit downstairs and Whites in the balcony.

"They'd start throwing stuff on us," said Geraldine.

But her worst experience was being raped by an adult White boy in the house where she was a servant. When a sister already in Boston urged her to come and take a job as a live-in servant, Geraldine came to Boston in 1963. She says, "I felt like I came out of a cave. I'd never been out of the state."

At first, she "did not know how to act in such a different social environment. In a bus station, she once found herself looking around for the "colored" restroom. By the mid-1970s she had moved to Grant Manor on Washington Street, recalling by name all the nearby markets, restaurants, beauty salons, bars,

and Skippy White's Records.

Most people came to Boston because a relative already lived here. Only one of the 10 interviewees had nobody here. Charles G. came from Baton Rouge, La., because he liked a jazz radio program allegedly broadcast from the South End's Hi-Hat Club.

Ollie S. arrived in Boston in 1959 from Quitman, Miss., where Blacks had been prevented from voting for decades. Two of his siblings were already here and a third on the way. He believed "racism in Boston has diminished over time but still exists, even if it is expressed differently than in the South."

"Down there they let you know that they're racist," he said. "Here they hide it. They don't want you to know that they're racist. They do it in a sneaky way. It wasn't as great here as I thought it would be, but

I learned to live with it."

In the preface to "North to Boston," Gumprecht writes, "When I began conducting interviews in 2015, I was immediately inspired by the lives of the migrants I met and realized the value of what I was doing."

Because many of the interviewees were quite old, "I feared that if someone didn't record some of their stories before long, they would be lost forever."

He credits Rev. Gregory Groover of Roxbury's Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church with reconnecting him with people he originally interviewed, their family and friends, as well as new migrants.

Gumprecht wrapped up with: "We seldom hear voices like these. The experiences of ordinary people teach us far more about America than any number of histories...These are people like us: Why wouldn't you care

about them?" and his last sentence is: "But their importance and the significance of the Great Migration in Boston are undeniable. Isn't it time that Boston and Bostonians, particularly White Bostonians, acknowledged the contributions of its Black citizens to making the 21st-century city, especially Black people born in the South and their kin? It is past time. It's overdue."

Allan Rohan Crite's 1936 painting "School's Out" graces the book's cover. Even though Crite was born in New Jersey, it's a good match.

Gumprecht, who now lives in El Paso, taught geography at universities in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Oklahoma for more than 20 years.

*Alison Barnet is a longtime South End resident and author of five books on the neighborhood's history.*

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale  
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. 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](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 8/9/2023 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Kassidi Reyes unit #219. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time

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Notice of Self Storage Sale  
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otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Dustin Ward unit #2105; Jill Politano unit #3038; Rhydel Wright unit #3119; Gilberto Otero unit #3147; Bob Paret unit #3209; Johnathan N Smiley- Sr unit #3312; Edwin Sumpter unit #4305; Sarai Berrios unit #4316; Leo Matsis unit #5040. 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.

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## City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu today opened the application to fill the vacancy on the Boston School Committee for the remainder of the term ending on January 1, 2024 that was created by the resignation of Lorena Lopera. To serve as a member for the next full four-year term, individuals will have to reapply later this year. The Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, composed of families, educators, school leaders and representatives of the business and higher education communities, will receive and evaluate the applications and share recommendations with the Mayor. The Boston School Committee is the governing body of

the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancy are now due Monday, July 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the week of August 7, 2023, between 4:30-6:00 pm.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to [scnominatingpanel@boston.gov](mailto:scnominatingpanel@boston.gov) or mail/deliver to Room 612 of Boston City Hall. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.

## OBITUARIES

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The Boston Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to

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Popken, Jeffrey I	Daly Pension Rt	9 Hawthorne Pl #12P	\$430,000
Colton, Roger D	Back To Beacon LLC	145 Pinckney St #415	\$559,500
Advani, Sameer R	Perkins-Perrimon Lt	6 Whittier Pl #16L	\$395,000
Joyner Ft	Litchfield Properties LL	8 Whittier Pl #18K	\$745,000
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Caro, Roger	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #21E	\$3,240,000
Cf T	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #22C	\$4,581,503
Taylor, Harry D	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #27A	\$4,411,088
Pan, Ziheng	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #29F	\$3,541,503
Kennedy, David	Farnow, Cassandra	243 W Canton St #4	\$1,151,000
Erre E LLC	3KWL Boston LLC	188 Brookline Ave #22A	\$3,350,000
Pesanelli, Michael	Ren, Nianhua	69 E Berkeley St #1	\$535,000
Takunyaci, Ali C	Foley, Michael W	30-34 E Concord St #9	\$605,000
Mccormick, Keith W	Graver, Joshua G	10 Greenwich Park #2	\$2,530,000
Kambhampati, Krishna K	Pouch, Anne W	735 Harrison Ave #W306	\$895,000
Diane V Elliott 2022 RET	Lawler, Mary M	2 Haven St	\$2,700,000
Whitney, Joseph S	Anderson, Michael W	114 Pembroke St #1	\$2,942,500
Whitney, Joseph S	Anderson, Michael W	114 Pembroke St #2	\$2,942,500
Apsey 3rd, William S	Pf North End Rt	121-127 Portland St #511	\$825,000
Puri, Zoya	Kanwal, Amrit B	1 Saint George St #1C	\$850,000
Grossman, Lindsay	Conahan, Sara A	269 Shawmut Ave #4	\$1,300,000
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Deoliveira, Carlos H	Blatchley, Samuel P	166 Commercial St #3	\$975,000

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The perforated stainless steel in the last clue is part of the *Scrolls Sculpture* by David Phillips. It was installed in 2017 and is located on the New England Conservatory campus at the corner of Gainsborough and St. Botolph Streets.

You'll find the next clue in the South End.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE





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