



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

South End Historical Society House Tour returns in person Saturday, Oct. 21

By Dan Murphy

After three years of going virtual amid the pandemic, the South End Historical Society's 55th annual South End House Tour will return as an in-person event on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tour features an inside look at five restored and renovated homes in the largest Victorian rowhouse district in the U.S., which spans 300 acres, said Jason Amos, executive director of the SEHS, and which he estimates comprises around 3,000 buildings.

"We think we have some really interesting houses, and we think people will be excited to see them," said Amos, who added he couldn't divulge the locations of the featured houses ahead of the tour out of respect for the privacy of the homeowners.

Tour-goers will receive each a guidebook, which includes descriptions of the private homes

and a map, so that they can design a tour at their own pace or follow the suggested route.

In addition to the five single-family homes included on the tour, this year will also feature the South End Burying Ground, located on Washington Street between East Concord and East Newton streets, as one of the stops along the way. Its grounds will be open for the duration of the tour, while a talk about the Burying Ground will be offered at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.

"When the South End Burying Ground was opened in 1810, it was located on the narrow strip of marshland, Roxbury Neck, which connected the peninsula of Boston to the mainland," according to a description of the Burying Ground available on the City of Boston's website (<https://www.boston.gov/cemeteries/south-end-burying-ground>). "The gallows stood at the east edge of the burying ground, near

(HOUSE TOUR Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

The South End Burying Ground.

ANNUAL BVNA BLOCK PARTY



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

Bay Village neighbors took over the streets on Sept. 21 to celebrate their community. See more photos on Pages 6-8.

Hotel Alexandra owner pledges continuing commitment to building's redevelopment

By Dan Murphy

Despite the significant setbacks the project has endured, representatives for the former Hotel Alexandra on hand for the Sept. 18 virtual meeting of the South End Landmark District Commission pledged their continuing commitment to redeveloping the long-neglected building at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street.

"The building seems to have an economic cloud over it from time to time, and this seems to be one of those times, so let's hope

for clearer skies," said Marc LaCasse, the attorney representing Alexandra Partners, LLC.

Alexandra Partners purchased the historic building at 1767-1796 Washington St. in 2018 from the Church of Scientology for \$11 million. The five-story, late Gothic building, with its sandstone façade and cast-iron details, was built in 1875 as a residential hotel by Caleb Walworth, one of the Walworth Brothers who founded The Walworth Manufacturing Company, which helped pioneer steam technology in the late 19th century.

When a new elevated electric train began running past its doors, the Hotel Alexandra's slow decline throughout the 20th century began. The building had sat mostly vacant for more than 30 years (except for a longstanding retail tenant on the ground level) until 2008, when it was purchased, along with the historic brownstone next door known as the 'Ivory Bean,' for \$4.5 million by the Church of Scientology.

In March of 2019, a 10-story,

(HOTEL ALEXANDRA, Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

THE TRAGEDY IN ISRAEL

The incursion into Israel by terrorists from Gaza this past weekend, resulting in the indiscriminate and wilful slaughter of 900 innocent civilians, including young children, rates as one of the most heinous events in the world in this century.

The terrorists' actions had one and only one objective: To kill as many Israelis as possible and to capture dozens more to serve as hostages.

The terrorists' deeds could not have been accomplished without the support of the Iranian government, whose only objective on the world stage is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Both the terrorist thugs and Iran's leaders know fully well that the repercussions of their nefarious deeds will fall most heavily on the two million people of Gaza, of whom half are children, who are being used as pawns by the terrorists and the Iranians and whose land now will become the stage for a full-scale Israeli military assault that will be necessary to root out the terrorists and their leaders.

The sheer hatred exhibited by the Iranian-backed terrorists this weekend has shown to all the world that Iran and its proxies have no desire for peace with Israel. We trust that the perpetrators of this past weekend's horrors will be brought to justice -- and we can only hope that Iran's leaders somehow can be held to account for their role in this terrible event.

DEMOCRATS SHARE IN THE BLAME FOR THE CHAOS IN THE HOUSE

There are many who are to blame for the complete breakdown in the operations of the U.S. House of Representatives, but a large share of that blame belongs to the Democrats, all of whom voted to oust former Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his post.

Yes, McCarthy is a Republican, but sometimes, SOMETIMES — politicians have to put the interests of the country above their party. And yes, Kevin McCarthy is a sniveling snake on so many levels, but he did do the right thing in June when he achieved a compromise with President Joe Biden to raise the debt ceiling and again recently to pass a budget to avert a shutdown.

Democrats complain that McCarthy could not be "trusted" and that he's a liar (all of which are true) — but really? All politicians are liars, from Joe Biden on down. Do they think the people don't know that?

So for a few weeks — or however long it takes for the GOP to choose a new speaker — the Democrats will have their chance to gloat over the dysfunction of the Republicans. But absent some grand strategy on their part, the country will fail to function, while also leaving aid to Ukraine and Israel twisting in the wind — and the only ones who truly will benefit from our chaos will be Putin, Donald Trump, and the terrorist organizations.

In addition, as odious as McCarthy may be (in the eyes of Democrats), his possible successors will be far worse. By siding with the loathsome Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz -- whose only goal is to bring anarchy to our government -- the Democrats not only have plunged Congress, the country, and the world into darkness, but they also have forgotten the cardinal rule of politics: The enemy of my enemy is my friend. Or, to put it another way, sometimes you have to choose the lesser of two evils — and the devil you know is better than the devil you don't.

TV NETWORKS: PLEASE, NO MORE PATS' GAMES

For those of us who have been Patriots' fans since we were kids in the 1960s, the dreadful and pathetic performances of the Pats these past two weeks have resurrected painful memories of the era when the then-Boston Patriots were the worst team in football.

Thanks to the Pats' success during the first two decades of this century, we had blocked out the traumatizing thoughts of those pathetic teams from more than 50 years ago.

So the last thing we want to do is to watch the Patriots get hammered in the coming weeks. Unfortunately however, the TV networks will be televising the Patriots' games exclusively in this market each week -- which means that if a really good game between two real teams is being played somewhere else, we'll be blacked out in favor of the pathetic Pats.

So the best thing that a Pats' fan can do is to not tune into their games each week -- and perhaps the networks will realize that they can get better ratings by bringing us a game between two teams who will be entertaining.

In addition, any true Pats' fan should be rooting for them to lose. A worst-in-league record will give the Pats the chance to draft Caleb Williams, the Heisman Trophy quarterback from USC, who represents the only hope that our New England team will be able to compete in this decade with the likes of the Chiefs with Mahomes, the Bills with Allen, the Dolphins with Tua, and the Eagles with Hurts.

BWSC conducts annual tap-water tests for lead

Special to the Sun

In compliance with State and Federal regulations, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead. In the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from six properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 21 parts per billion. Due to the exceedance, the Commission is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

At the source of supply, Boston's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's water distribution mains contain lead. Lead can enter the drinking water when the property contains lead service pipes, lead solder used to connect pipes, and older brass faucets and fixtures. In addition, when water remains unused for long periods of time, lead contained in these fixtures can dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

The Commission continues to work with all property owners and has worked to remove barriers which may discourage the removal of lead service lines. This year, the Commission is offering eligible customers the opportunity to replace the lead service line in their property free of charge. In the past year, the Commission has removed over 240

lead service lines. Through the No Cost Lead Incentive Replacement Program, we expect that number to increase substantially for the health and safety of our customers. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of lead service lines in the city of Boston.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead.

It is strongly recommended that all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead, flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989- 7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water.

Boston is home to New England's oldest and largest water, sewer, and storm water systems, which are owned, maintained, and operated by BWSC. Established in 1977, BWSC provides portable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of We Are All Connected, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston's waterways. For more information please visit: www.bwsc.org.

Fall-O-Ween Children's Festival returns to Boston Common October 20

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host the third annual Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets on Friday, October 20, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston. Key sponsors are College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving, HP Hood LLC, and Xfinity. Additional support is provided by LEGO® Discovery Center Boston, One Boston Church, Celeb-

rity Series of Boston, WBUR - Boston's NPR, and PLAY-Boston.

Adults and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of free, fun, and spooky family-friendly activities. Test your courage in our Fun-house Maze and on the Spooky Mansion Slide, try the Jumpin' Pumpkin, test your skills at the bean bag toss, and enjoy nighttime fun in our Glow in the Dark Park with LED swings, LED seesaw, and LED cornhole.

A "monster mash" of activities will include music, arts and crafts, treats, rides on the trackless train, field games, individual, and group play facilitated

by Knucklebones, and LEGO® Discovery Center Boston will host giveaways and fun Halloween-themed LEGO building activities.

For more information please go to [boston.gov/falloween](https://www.boston.gov/falloween). To stay up to date with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks, sign

up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels @bostonparks-dept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

HOUSE TOUR (from pg. 1)

the tidewaters of South Boston Bay, leading to the persistent myth that primarily hanged pirates and other criminals were buried here. In fact, it is difficult to know exactly who is buried here. In the nineteenth century, people of modest means had recorded, but unmarked graves. They could not afford elaborate headstones or other types of monumentation. While there are only 20 grave markers, records indicate that over 11,000 are buried at this site. Successive filling of the marshy site permitted burials in several tiers. It has been reported that South End Burying Ground contains the graves of paupers from the Alms House and inmates from the House of Industry. Mostly, though, this site is known as a working man's burying ground, where families paid a small fee to the City for burials. Interments ceased in this graveyard in 1866."

While the Burying Ground has been featured before on the tour, the site wasn't actually open to the public then and instead only included a short description of its history posted just outside the gate. This year, however, tour-go-

ers will be able to actually access and enter the historic site instead.

"It will be exciting for people on the tour to go in and walk around, rather than just peering through the gate," said Amos.

And since this will mark the tour's first return as an-person event after going virtual for three consecutive years between 2020 and last year due to the pandemic, Amos hopes the event will again be graced by favorable weather, as it often has been in years past. (The South End House Tour dates back to shortly after the formation of SEHS in 1966, but it went on hiatus for a few years in the '90s, said Amos.)

"We just hope people come back," he said. "We just want to see people are out walking around the neighborhood and learning about the history of the neighborhood. We just hope people have a good time."

Tickets for the tour are \$30 in advance and available at www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour. Tickets will also be available on the day of the Tour for \$35 each at Sprogis & Neale Real Estate, 679 Tremont St.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Project File No. 606496

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Project, B-16-052, Bowker Overpass over Mass Pike, MBTA/CSX, and Ipswich Street in Boston.

WHEN: **October 26, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

WHERE: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Project B-16-052, Bowker Overpass over Mass Pike, MBTA/CSX, and Ipswich Street in Boston. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing and widening the bridge superstructure of the existing Bowker Overpass bridge that spans over I-90, MBTA's Worcester Commuter Rail Line, and Ipswich Street and reconfiguring the ramps to and from Commonwealth Avenue. The project includes bridge widening to the west and the elimination of the existing down ramp structure that spans the Muddy River to Commonwealth Avenue. The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements, increase vertical clearance, improve seismic resiliency, and enhance the public realm with improved multi-use pathway connections to the adjacent Charlesgate and Back Bay Fens parklands. MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain traffic and to accommodate utilities during construction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us or

via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 606496. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

NEWS IN BRIEF

'STORY TIME WITH LIBRARIAN MARGARET COMING TO USES IN OCTOBER

Story Time with Librarian Margaret will take place on Thursdays, Oct. 12, 19, and 26 at 10:30 a.m. at United South End Settlements, located at 48 Rutland St.

Storytime with Library Margaret welcomes babies to preschoolers and their caregivers to join in for stories, songs, dance, art, and play time (with *arts and crafts to follow for ages 2 years old and up). This program, which is presented in partnership with USES, is designed to draw children to love books, and to encourage interactive play with each other. This month's themes

include tales of fall, nature, leaf art and more.

For more information, visit www.bpl.org.

REP. LIVINGSTONE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold office hours on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Caffè Nero at 14 Edgerly Road in the Fenway; and on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the café in the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library in the Back Bay.

Additionally, Rep. Livingstone will hold virtual office hours via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 26, from 3 to 4 p.m.; email Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.gov to receive the link for virtual office hours.

OPEN NEWBURY CONTINUES

Newbury Street will be closed to vehicle traffic every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Oct. 15 for Open Newbury.

The route will be the same as previous years, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. Parking will be restricted on Newbury Street and adjacent streets, with enforcement beginning at 5 a.m. Signs will be posted informing drivers of the change.

Visit www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/open-newbury-street for more information on Open Newbury.

WARD 4 DEMS MEETING SET FOR OCT. 17 AT UNION CHURCH

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m. at Union Church, located at 485 Columbus Ave.

Join fellow Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End for the group's monthly meeting. State Auditor Diana DiZoglio and Partners in Democracy president Danielle Allen are both scheduled to be on hand for the meeting.

Email ward4dems@gmail.com for any questions or for more information.

WLP'S SPAGHETTI DINNER SET FOR OCT. 20, AT FAIRMONT COPLEY HOTEL

Women's Lunch Place (WLP) will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, Oct. 20, at the Fairmont Copley Hotel at 138 St. James Ave., with cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jim O'Connell, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Lisa Hughes, a news anchor for WBZ-TV News, will be the event's master of ceremonies.

Visit <https://womenslunchplace.org/spaghetti-dinner> to

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 5)

HOTEL ALEXANDRA (from pg. 1)

158-room boutique hotel, which would have far exceeded the 70-foot height limit for new construction in the South End Landmark District, was approved for the site by the Boston Planning & Development Agency board, but that plan was scuttled shortly thereafter when the pandemic struck.

The developer

subsequently considered selling the building after investors pulled out of the project, but instead it was reimaged as "Alexandra Residences," a 13-story, mixed-use development with ground floor restaurant and café space, a rooftop level bar/restaurant,

and around 70 condo units.

This iteration of the proposed project was approved by the South End Landmark District Commission on Dec. 6 of last year, but beginning in first quarter of 2022, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates 5.25 percent over a 14-month period, said LaCasse, "making construction financing extraordinarily expensive."

The Alexandra project was neither the first, nor the only, project in Boston to be "put on hold" because of the difficulty of construction financing, coupled with increasing construction costs amid the rising interest rates, added LaCasse.

Given the current economic climate, lenders are now "skittish" to help finance large condo projects, said LaCasse, although there seems to be some indication that the Federal Reserve might move in the opposite direction with interest rates beginning in the first quarter of '24.

In the spring of this year, Alexandra Partners put the building on the market without a "formal asking price" per Cushman & Wakefield, a Chi-

cago-based global commercial real-estate development firm, in hopes of attracting a partner or investor who could self-finance the redevelopment project.

"It's on the market, but we're not been much interest on that front," said LaCasse.

Thomas Calus, who, together with Jas Bhogal, helms Alexandra Partners said while the summer was "very slow," many interested parties had looked at the property then as other interested parties continue to tour the building now.

"We own the property...so we're certainly not giving up on it," he said. "We'd love to build this project. It's been many years that we've been working on it."

Added Calus: "We're hoping activity will pick up. We're open-minded, and we would totally entertain joint ventures with a partner that has a relationship with a bank, or a joint venture [where the investor buys the property outright and builds the building as approved]."

Calus said the project had faced an unfortunate streak of luck when first, the hotel market "tanked." Then after the project transitioned to a condo building, the condo market collapsed amid high interest rates, he said.

"We still believe in it," said Calus. "We love the design we worked on with you guys to get approved and everything we worked through. We'd love to find a way to build it, so we're working on it."

Commissioner John Freeman, who was on hand for the virtual hearing, along with Commissioners John Amodeo and Catherine Hunt, asked what could be done to secure the property for the winter regarding weather-proofing. Claus agreed to involve commission staff in this process per Commissioner Freeman's request.

Meanwhile, representatives for Alexandra Partners had an onsite meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street with Sen. Nick Collins, Rep. John Moran and Yvonne Hao, the Commonwealth's secretary of economic development, to discuss the future of the project, as well as how it might potentially qualify for, and benefit from, state assistance or state programs.

Fortuitously, Hao was touring the neighborhood at the time, looking for projects that might benefit from state assistance, said LaCasse, when she was summoned to the site.

While surveying the property, Hao also reiterated Gov. Maura Healey's "strong interest in creating housing everywhere in the Commonwealth," LaCasse told this reporter.

The meeting was "very productive" and encouraging, especially considering the high-level individuals involved, said LaCasse, and it resulted in "helpful ideas" about a path forward for the project.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The former Hotel Alexandra at Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 4

purchase tickets and for sponsorship opportunities.

HOWL-O-WEEEN DOG COSTUME CONTEST COMING OCT. 21 TO PETERS PARK

Howl-O-Ween – a Halloween dog costume contest – will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Peters Park in the South End. (Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 22).

Registration for the event, which will include vendors; puppies; and kids face-painting and balloon animals sponsored by the Bell Petrini Group, begins at 9 a.m., followed by the Family category (kids, dogs, parents) and costume parade at 10 a.m.; the Small Dogs category at 10:45 a.m.; the Big Dogs category at 11:30 a.m.; and the Group costume category (owner/dog-themed) at 12:15 p.m.

PUPkin spice lattes will be for sale at the event as well, with all proceeds going to Gals Best Pal.

VIRTUAL MEETING ON BOWKER OVERPASS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND NEW BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SET FOR OCT. 26

MassDOT (the Massachusetts Department of Transportation) will hold a virtual meeting on the Bowker Overpass Bridge superstructure replacement and new bridge construction on

Thursday, Oct. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The proposed project consists of replacing and widening the bridge superstructure of the existing Bowker Overpass bridge that spans over I-90, MBTA's Worcester Commuter Rail Line, and Ipswich Street and reconfiguring the ramps to and from Commonwealth Avenue. The

project includes bridge widening to the west and the elimination of the existing down ramp structure that spans the Muddy River to Commonwealth Avenue. The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements, increase vertical clearance, improve seismic resiliency, and enhance the public realm with improved multi-use pathway connections to the adjacent Charlesgate and Back Bay Fens parklands. MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain traffic and to accommodate utilities during construction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at the hearing.

Register for the online meeting at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7u03f9quSge6V1cXWwx-Orw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7u03f9quSge6V1cXWwx-Orw#/registration).

AUTHOR TALK WITH SARA DIVELLO SET FOR OCT. 26 AT COPLEY BPL

An author talk with Sara DiVello, who will be discussing her latest thriller "Broadway Butterfly," on Thursday, Oct. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Commonwealth Salon at the Central Library at Copley Square at 700 Boylston St. The talk begins at 6 p.m., followed by an author signing at approximately 7 p.m., facilitated by Trident Booksellers and Café.

True crime novelist, founder of Mystery and Thriller Mavens, and a lifelong fan of all things murder and mayhem, Sara DiV-

ello will spill the tea on the crime of the century in conversation with New York Times Best Selling Author Laura Zigman as they discuss Sara DiVello's 2023 thriller, "Broadway Butterfly." The authors will also discuss

creativity, process, and the wild, winding path to publication. Following the conversation, there will be time for audience Q&A.

This event is accessible to people with disabilities. To request a disability accommodation and/

or language services, contact: Christina Jones at southend@bpl.org, by Thursday, Oct. 12. Please allow at least two weeks to arrange for accommodations.

Registration is required at bit.ly/saradivello.

DOYLE

Auctioneers & Appraisers



Grandma (Anna Mary Robertson) Moses Over the River to Grandma's House, on Thanksgiving, 1943. Est. \$50,000 – 80,000. Auction Nov 8.
Daniel Christian Fueter New York Colonial Silver Teapot, circa 1762. Est. \$15,000 – 25,000. Auction Nov 9.

Boston Consignment Day Tuesday, October 24

Doyle achieves record-breaking prices in the global auction market. Our Specialists are collecting American Art, Furniture, Silver and Decorative Arts for auction consignment, outright purchase or private sale.



INFORMATION & APPOINTMENTS
Kathryn M. Craig & Chris Barber
Boston@Doyle.com
617-999-8254

New York Beverly Hills Boston Charleston Chicago Connecticut
New Jersey North Carolina Palm Beach Pennsylvania Washington DC



**EMERGENCY
ALL BLOOD
TYPES NEEDED.**

Give now.



BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY



Bodhi and Jake Lindsey.



Boston Police Captain Sean Martin and Sgt Rob DiRienzo.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association held its annual Block Party. After blocking off Mel-

rose Street to accommodate picnic tables and space for kids to play and neighbors to mingle, the scene was that of the community celebrating.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu connects with constituents in the Bay Village.



Diane Rooney, Alex Bok, Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, Nancy Morrisroe, George Klauber, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Jo-Ann Ross, and Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins.



Gaye Bok picks up her family's food.



Jayce was happy to be with his human Warren Freedenfeld, an architect designing the new animal shelter at Franklin Park.



It was a night to celebrate the Bay Village neighborhood..

BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY



Kathryn Caesar and Joan Keutzer.



Kendra Mar and Rocque Dion.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins (center) presents Bay Village Neighborhood Association Board member Nancy Morrisroe and President Trish Gillis with a Proclamation from the State Senate.



Visitors shop in the More Than Words mobile bookstore.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Monroe, Dashiell, and Elliot. Melissa Alexander.



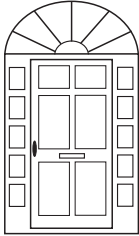
Matt and Andrea Ball.



Pauline Defresne with her sassy daughter Julia..

**BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE**

**Sally Brewster
Betsey Barrett**



**Ron Berkowitz
Mary Dunlavey**

121 Mt. Vernon Street • Boston, Massachusetts 02108
www.brewberk.com

Sales

617.367.0505

Rentals

BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY



Grant Simpson Karen and Kevin Manning with Kelli Rose selling raffle tickets.



Stefanie Howard, Aoife Austin, Nancy Morrisroe, and Leslie Colburn.



Nan Rubin with Michael Winston and Mara.



Tarik Alkhereiji and Jim McCormick.



Stephanie Howard, Ben Beck, and Grant Simpson.

SERVICE DIRECTORY



SOMERVILLE MASONRY & ROOFING
617-222-0755

FULL SERVICE ROOFING & GUTTERS
TOTAL home exterior work specialist
info@somervillemasonryroofing.com
somervillemasonryroofing.com

DOWNTOWN Roofing & Masonry RESTORATION

Red brick & masonry repairs, new roofs, siding, gutters, exterior painting

617 888 5359
downtownroofingandmasonry.com

JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING
Interior/Exterior Commercial/Residential

Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454



Teresa Haberstroh, Julian Raiford, Matt Shanks, and Kenna Jones .

BPL announces David Manfredi as 2023 Druker Award recipient

Special to Sun

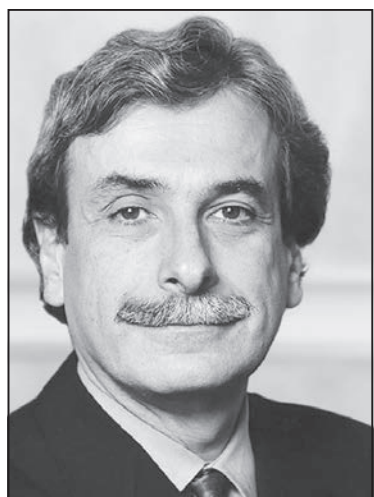
David P. Manfredi, CEO and founding principal of Elkus Manfredi Architects, has been announced as the 2023 recipient of the Druker Award Celebrating Design and Architecture, according to the Boston Public Library.

The award is "presented annually to a leader who has made outstanding and important contributions to the world of design," according to the BPL, and "each award recipient shares insights on the world of Architecture and Design at a corresponding lecture."

This year's awards ceremony will take place on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. in Rabb Lecture Hall on the lower level of the Boylston Street Building. The talk is free and open to the public.

Manfredi is known for his diverse portfolio of planning and design projects across the country and in the city of Boston, including Boston Landing (which features the New Balance headquarters, the TRACK at new balance, and the Bruins' Warrior Ice Arena, and the Celtics' Auerbach Center practice facilities), the Parcel 12 air-rights redevelopment (spanning the Mass Pike at the intersection of Newbury Street and Massachusetts Avenue), the Broad Institute in Kendall Square, and the research headquarters for Vertex Pharmaceuticals. He has received recognition from multiple preservation and design organizations for his leadership in renovating the South End's Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Women's Clinic at St. Anthony Shrine.

"It is an honor to bestow the Druker Award upon David Manfredi, a visionary whose impact on the world of design has been nothing short of transformative," BPL President David Leonard said in a press release. "His passion for creating spaces that inspire, unite, and uplift has



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
David P. Manfredi, CEO and founding principal of Elkus Manfredi Architects, who will be the recipient of the 2023 Druker Award during a ceremony on Nov. 4 at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall.

not only transformed physical landscapes but also the way we experience and interact with our urban environments."

In his presentation, Manfredi will discuss "how the design of commercial buildings, housing, public plazas, and retail spaces can influence and improve the urban environment, especially when they exist at the intersections between different communities or institutions, acting as anchors that connect Boston's historically parochial neighborhoods," according to the BPL.

Manfredi will be in conversation with BPL President David Leonard, followed by an audience Q&A. Druker Company President Ronald M. Druker will give welcoming remarks.

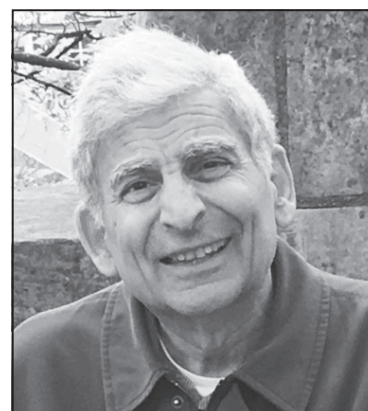
"David has had an impact on virtually every neighborhood in Boston, designing buildings in ways that connect to and enhance the traditional strengths of our region, while assuring that our urban environments continue to evolve as dynamic centers of connection, innovation, and community in a sustainable way," said Ronald Druker in a press release.

To register for the Druker Award & Lecture, visit: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6421f8f51c16ec3600d12dd0>.

John Bookston, longtime Fenway Civic board member, dead at 76

John M. Bookston Jr., a member of the Fenway Civic Association board since 2016 and longtime resident of that neighborhood, died on Oct. 8. He was 76.

John is survived by his wife Rosalie (Goodhart), son David (Samantha) and grandchildren Ellie, Robert and Becca. John is also survived by nieces, nephews and extended family. He was predeceased by his son Robert "Robin", and his sister Barbara.



The late John Bookston

A funeral service will be held at noon on Thursday, Oct. 12, at Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston (parking is available on Riverway). Burial will follow at Temple Emeth Memorial Park, 776 Baker St. in West Roxbury. Service will be livestreamed by Temple Israel. Shiva will be held at the home of David and Samantha. Donations in his memory may be made to any charity dealing with social justice.

SPOOKTACULAR SAVINGS

Now Thru **October 27**

IN THE BOSTON SUN

RESERVE TWO WEEKS GET ONE FREE

ALL AD SIZES!
Must run consecutive weeks in October. New advertisers only
Not to be used with ongoing campaigns

Call 781-485-0588 or email your Advertising Rep to get your campaign set up today!

October 2023	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31					

4 WEEKS LEFT
Don't Delay, Call today!!



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Wu announces \$11 million federal grant to enhance Boston's tree canopy

Special to the Sun

Mayor Wu joined Senator Ed Markey last week to celebrate that the City of Boston has received \$11.4 million in funding from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant. This grant will bolster Boston's workforce development in urban and community forestry and reduce technical and financial barriers to growing Boston's tree canopy. This funding will support improving tree care and accessibility; supporting workforce development opportunities, administered through PowerCorps Boston; and expanding Boston's newly created Tree Alliance. The City has received this funding through the Inflation Reduction Act.

"Having access to tree coverage throughout our neighborhoods provides cool, green, healthy spaces for residents to thrive," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant for their generous support to grow our workforce and expand our canopy over Boston to increase the livability of our neighborhoods."

"We shook the money trees, and we got green for green," said Senator Edward J. Markey. "I am so proud to celebrate \$22

million in federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for urban and community forestry and for equitable access to green spaces in Massachusetts. Extreme heat has been the deadliest symptom of climate change in this country to date, and frontline communities are feeling the burn without relief. This funding will help plant new seeds of environmental justice in communities that have been fighting for fresh air and fresh investments, and will create new green jobs and more resilient communities across our Commonwealth."

"This is the kind of green investment that we need to see more of. The return gets us jobs, cleaner air, and beautiful neighborhoods," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

Improving tree care and accessibility

This funding will be used for improving tree care and accessibility on Boston's sidewalks. The City is initiating strategies to proactively maintain the existing tree canopy and find creative ways, such as using flexible and porous paving materials, to increase tree canopy while providing accessible walking surfaces for those with visual and mobility limitations. Throughout the grant peri-

od, the City will meet quarterly with accessibility advocates to give updates and receive feedback to improve procedures and target future work.

Supporting workforce development opportunities

In 2022, the City released the Urban Forest Plan (UFP) to equitably grow the urban forest and the Heat Resilience Solutions Plan to address the impacts of extreme heat driven by climate change. Together, the plans provide an approach to build safe,

healthy, and resilient communities. This funding will facilitate three approaches to build inclusivity and increase access to trees and their benefits in historically marginalized communities. These approaches will ensure that our streets are accessible and support growth of urban street trees; build community resilience through workforce development opportunities for young people from Boston's environmental justice communities; and foster community with residents and community based organizations

through tree planting and care.

As part of the City's commitment to equitably growing the urban forest, PowerCorps Boston provides training in climate resilience and the green industry for young adults from environmental justice communities. An "earn and learn" program, PowerCorps Boston pays members to participate in hands-on training that prepares them for living-wage careers. Over the course of a 6-month training program, PowerCorps Boston teaches Corps members a variety of transferable soft skills and technical forestry skills. PowerCorps Boston aims to promote workforce development for youth in growing industries and support environmental stewardship and City of Boston climate policies.

This grant will support the expansion of PowerCorps Boston so the program can run two cohorts a year with 50 participants each. These funds will also allow for increased stipends, program necessities and incentives, and two new positions to direct and manage the program.

Expanding Boston's Tree Alliance

Lastly, this funding is aimed at expanding the community Tree

(TREE CANOPY Pg. 10)



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Michelle Wu thanks the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant, while Senator Ed Markey (right) looks on.

Wu seeks project management firm to oversee Long Island Bridge reconstruction

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City's Public Works Department is moving to the next stage in the effort to rebuild the Long Island Bridge by seeking firms to provide construction oversight and contract assistance services for the bridge superstructure replacement project. The City aims to have an Outside Project Manager (OPM) in place by the time the City secures its final bridge replacement approvals so that construction work can begin immediately to restore access to the Long Island public health campus. Applications are due October 20, and the City will review and select a team before the end of the year.

"Families around the city and region deserve access to a comprehensive network of care as so many experience substance use and mental health challenges," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited to bring on a project

management team to begin taking action in rebuilding a public health campus and coordinate with provider partners to bring these critical services online as quickly as possible."

"I want to thank Mayor Wu for prioritizing the needs of our communities and moving this project forward," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "In the past there was a lot of innovative work happening on the Long Island campus. This new campus will be a hub for further innovation and create a supportive and stable environment for long-term recovery for generations of people."

The outside project manager will be crucial for supporting the City of Boston to rebuild the bridge. The City is awaiting its final two reviews required for the Long Island Bridge project: a federal consistency review by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and

a bridge permit from the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has previously issued favorable preliminary determinations on the navigational and historic preservation elements of the City's bridge design.

"The reconstruction of the Long Island Bridge is a top priority for the City of Boston," said Julia Campbell, Deputy Chief of Infrastructure & Design for the City's Streets Cabinet. "We are seeking and expecting thoughtful and innovative responses from firms looking to help lead this signature construction project. This is a rare opportunity to help build a single structure that will provide direct access to care that will improve many people's lives."

The City of Boston recently led a tour of the Long Island recovery campus with a group of health-care providers. The purpose of the visit was to underscore the possibility of partnering with a variety of service providers to ensure a comprehensive continuum of

care that best meets the needs of individuals facing substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health challenges. As the City continues to plan for rebuilding the bridge and stabilizing the buildings on the island, the City of Boston will engage the many organizations already a part of the care spectrum.

"BHCHP is heartened to see this next step in Mayor Wu's plan to rebuild the bridge and reimagine and restore the critical health services on Long Island--services that will be transformational for individuals suffering from substance use disorder and other health issues. We look forward to working once again with the city of Boston to provide the much-needed, separate health care spaces for these medically vulnerable individuals, to promote healing for these individuals and for our Boston community at large," said Stephanie Sullivan, CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. "BHCHP

is committed to the care of our patients, wherever they are, geographically or in their recovery journey, and continue to advocate for those who are impacted by the opioid crisis or homelessness."

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced that the City of Boston secured its Chapter 91 License from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to reconstruct the Long Island Bridge. With this long-awaited license in hand, the City announced its intent to move forward with pre-construction to rebuild the bridge and restore access to the 35-acre public health campus on Long Island. With \$81 million already available in the FY24 capital budget for the bridge, the City is accelerating progress on construction immediately and set a goal that in four years the bridge would be rebuilt to a campus with a first phase of buildings ready to reopen for programming.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Carolyn C Morey T	Talbot Lago LLC	50 Commonwealth Ave #804	\$2,800,000
Carolyn C Morey T	Talbot Lago LLC	50 Commonwealth Ave #805	\$2,800,000
BEACON HILL			
48 Chestnut LLC	Nt TSvcs LLC	48 Chestnut St	\$7,300,000
Ragone, David H	Fanton, Lorraine	65 Mount Vernon St #5	\$818,000
Kafeneio Nt	Krupa, Jeffrey N	83 Mount Vernon St #2	\$6,550,000
Mantell, Mark A	Maloney, Monica P	106 Myrtle St #4	\$840,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Black Dog West T	Vik & Kamala Mani Ft	98 Appleton St #1	\$840,000
65-67 Berkeley Street LLC	Stm Properties LLC	65-67 Berkeley St	\$3,700,800
Bunandar, Darius	Shaer, Robert H	54 Gray St	\$2,925,000
Nehrbas, George E	Ginsberg, Shauna	148 Warren Ave #1	\$1,385,000
Amg Strada Rt	Ha, Seung K	234 Causeway St #1210	\$1,100,000
Rosen, Mark	Garrison, Kathryn T	234 Causeway St #701	\$1,025,000
Farrer, Zachary	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #609	\$2,050,000
Chan, Alex	Luppi, Joseph J	42 E Springfield St #B	\$313,100
Chb Properties Inc	Are-Ma Region No 112 Own	421 Park Dr	\$172,534,038
Anuam Manglik RET	119 St Botolph LLC	119 Saint Botolph St #1	\$2,125,000
Arcy Gdns-Symphony 3 LLC	Paffendorf, Stephan	20 Symphony Rd #3	\$740,000
Ayantek LLC	Gavrielidis, Fotini	126 Union Park St #4	\$639,000
Pleat, Benjamin	Wheeler, Alistair	3531 Washington St #226	\$915,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
L R Shulman Personal T	Triggs, Gail E	500 Atlantic Ave #17L	\$1,825,000
Capo, Christopher M	Mcdonnell, Catherine	300 Commercial St #409	\$610,000
Fort Aviation Limited	Wong, Maria	1 Franklin St #3106	\$1,300,000

TREE CANOPY (from pg. 10)

Alliance Program. With over 60 percent of Boston's trees privately owned, the City is working with the community to expand Boston's urban forest. In May, the City of Boston launched the Community Tree Alliance Program to support growth and care of the urban forest on private lands, focused on under-canopied neighborhoods. Since the program launch, the Alliance has implemented a new microforest with over 90 trees, 200 shrubs, and perennial plants of over 30 species at the Boston Nature Center in Mattapan. The City initially allocated funding for the Tree Alliance for three years. The new federal funding will allow for increased planting and maintenance, expanded public education and an outreach program, and bolstered program staff capacity through new and

extended existing staff positions.

Boston's urban forest is a critical part of the City's fabric, culture, and character. As the largest city in the state, trees play an essential role in balancing the impacts of urbanization with green infrastructure. While Boston's urban forest has remained stable overall in recent history at 27 percent coverage, the canopy disproportionately varies across neighborhoods. In environmental justice communities including Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury, tree canopy coverage is lower than other neighborhoods in Boston.

Through funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, the Forest Service has selected Boston as one of 385 grant proposals that are working to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces,

and the many benefits they provide. All of the funding will benefit historically disinvested communities, and funded proposals are located in all 50 states, two U.S. territories, three U.S. affiliated Pacific islands, and in several tribal communities.

In 2022, Mayor Wu provided funding for a new Urban Forestry Division within the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Since the creation of this division, the team has planted 1,226 new street trees, pruned 3,301 trees to help improve and preserve the existing canopy, and treated 1,165 mature ash trees to protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer. Additionally, the team has hired seven new team members including a Director of Urban Forestry, updated the Street Tree Inventory, and supported improved public access.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The roof cornice in the last clue is on 139 Bay State Road, built in 1895 and designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow. Elsewhere in the area, this firm designed the Hunnewell Visitor's Center at the Arnold Arboretum and the Cambridge City Hall.

You'll find the next clue in the South End. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



NEW LISTINGS AT CAMPION

134 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE 101

3 BEDROOMS | 3 FULL BATHROOMS | 2,815 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$5,650,000



400 STUART STREET, RESIDENCE 17K

ONE BEDROOM | ONE FULL BATHROOM | 850 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$1,300,000



CAMPION
AND COMPANY

CAMPION & COMPANY
EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

TRACY CAMPION
617-236-0711
TCAMPION@CAMPIONRE.COM