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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Wu highlights initiatives in State of the City address

By Adam Swift

The future of Franklin Park, one of Boston's open space and recre-



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the crowd during the State of the City.

ational jewels, took center stage at Mayor Michelle Wu's State of the City address at MGM Music Hall on Tuesday night.

Wu also highlighted new initiatives to house families, expand homeownership, and plan for a green and growing city during her second annual address. She outlined partnerships with employers, higher education, and cultural institutions she said will transform public schools and BPS athletics and expand opportunities for students and families from pre-K

to college, including summer jobs and unprecedented access to spaces for learning and curiosity.

"Last summer, Boston scored a huge goal: landing the National Women's Soccer League's newest franchise in 2026," said Wu.

With the city's partners at Boston Unity Soccer Group, Wu said the city is excited to renovate the historic White Stadium at Franklin Park into the first sports venue in the country that will co-house a pro sports team and a public school athletics program.

"Our students will have a world-class grass field, eight-lane track, brand new locker rooms, and conditioning and study spaces to call home," said Wu. "We'll also create a new booster fund for BPS athletics to cover expenses for uniforms, extra equipment, and dedicated transportation."

Wu noted that the plans for a revitalized Franklin Park extend beyond bringing a professional soccer team to a renovated White Stadium.

"For my family and many others, there is no more magical place in the city, with its historic stone bridges; wooded trails; and beloved community spaces," said Wu. "But our biggest park has suffered from decades of disinvestment."

This year, the mayor said the city will act on recommendations of the Franklin Park Coalition and community members to begin restoring Franklin Park to its fullest potential.

The city will hire a park administrator and six new maintenance staff, bringing dedicated park staffing to its highest level in over 50 years, Wu said. In

addition, she said the city will begin the community process to reimagine and invest in a home of the Elma Lewis Playhouse.

"Every young person deserves to grow up in a city with wide open spaces that coax our legs into running – that remind us to breathe deep and look up at the sky," said Wu.

Rickie Thompson, the President of the Franklin Park Coalition, said her organization is thrilled to celebrate the mayor's significant new investments in Franklin Park.

"The Coalition has been advocating for renovations and additional staffing for a significant time," said Thompson. "We're very grateful that Mayor Wu is responsive to these requests and

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Dillon's notifies NABB of plans to expand Boylston Street restaurant

By Dan Murphy

Representatives for Dillon's were on hand for the Jan. 8 virtual meeting of the Neighborhood of the Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee to outline their plans to expand the space occupied by the Boylston Street restaurant.

Lesley Delaney Hawkins, an attorney for the applicant, said the restaurant, which spans several levels at 955 Boylston St., intends to expand into the building's lower level formerly occupied by Boston Architectural College, which has elected to not renew its lease for the space. (Dillon's owns the building, said

Hawkins.)

The new, additional space would span around 2,200 square feet and have 120 seats scattered among tables and the bar area, said Hawkins, which would bring the occupancy from the current 260 on the upper levels to a total of 384. The planned expansion would also include the installation of an internal elevator to bring the building into ADA compliance, she added, along with the addition of five, new, lower-level washrooms.

Dillon's also intends to expand its existing live entertainment license, which also allows for a

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THE ADVENT SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT



MARIANNE SALZA PHOTO

The Advent School performed its Winter Concert, "Elements: Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, Love," on December 15 at The Church of the Advent. Shown are the third and fourth grade singing, "Autumn Fires." See Pages 5-7 for more photos.

EDITORIAL

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NEVER GAVE UP

For those of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2024 will mark 56 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when he first heard the news of Dr. King's murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the Civil Rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. He was in Memphis working with striking sanitation workers, whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

If Dr. King were alive in the present era, there is no doubt that he would have been in the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement that has highlighted the ongoing racism and economic inequality that oppresses Americans of all races today.

Dr. King's words ring as true today as they did two generations ago; his "I Have A Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches are among the most powerful not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should learn from the example set by Dr. King that in each of us is the power to change the world -- that each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place.

Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead. So as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day this Monday, let us recall not only his memory and the many things that he accomplished, but let us also resolve never to give in to the forces of intolerance, prejudice, and hate that continue to plague our country and the world today.

REPLACE BELICHICK? GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

As we are writing this at the beginning of the week, there is rampant speculation that the Patriots are going to fire Bill Belichick, who undeniably is the greatest football coach of all time.

Yes, he had a great quarterback in Tom Brady, but Belichick's genius was in taking players such as Brady (who, after all, was the 200th pick in the draft) and turning them into pros who could fill a niche (Teddy Bruschi, Julian Edelman, and Kevin Faulk being prime examples) on his teams. Belichick's Patriots were a classic case of the sum of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts in much the same way that Red Auerbach, another coaching genius, did for the Celtics.

Belichick's attention to detail was unparalleled, which explains why he routinely could allow great players to leave -- think Lawyer Milloy, Ty Law, Richard Seymour, Vince Wilfork, etc. -- and still be able to turn unheralded replacements into top-notch players.

To be sure, Bill Belichick wasn't perfect -- we still have never heard a logical explanation for why he did not play Malcolm Butler in that Super Bowl with Philly -- but when you look around at all of the so-called "new wave" of football coaches, there is a lot of mediocrity, and even the best are not in his league. (The only current coach who comes close to Belichick is an old school guy, Andy Reid of Kansas City.)

The Patriots need to rebuild and if there's anyone who knows how to do that, it is Bill Belichick (although even he will have a hard time unless the Pats can draft a quarterback who can compete with Ryan Allen, Mahomes, Tua, Joe Burrow, Lamar Jackson, Justin Herbert, and C.J. Stroud).

Our prediction is this: If Belichick goes, whoever is his replacement will last about three years -- and the Pats and their fans will realize that there was only one Bill Belichick, the G.O.A.T.

Susan Abell bids farewell to Friends of the Public Garden

By Dan Murphy

After spending the past eight years promoting and spreading public awareness of the Friends of the Public Garden as its director of communications and outreach, Susan Abell retired from the role at the end of December.

Prior to joining the organization in the spring of 2016, Abell had worked for the Boston Harbor Alliance (the forerunner of the present-day Boston Harbor Now), so she was generally aware of parks friends groups, she said, although she was then admittedly unfamiliar with the Friends of the Public Garden itself.

"It was familiar, yet unfamiliar, ground," said Abell, who added that as a Boston-area resident, she was already well acquainted with the three parks that fall under the umbrella of the Friends of the Public Garden -- the Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Among the first challenges Abell tackled upon joining the Friends staff was helping to bring the organization into the modern age, including entirely revamping the website.

"When I arrived, one of the things I wanted to do, and one of the things that the Friends wanted me to do, was overhaul the website because it hadn't been addressed in a number of years and was desperately in need of an update," said Abell. "There were a lot of technical decisions that needed to be made that are critical to how people use [the website]."

While Abell was able to successfully fulfill her goal of overhauling the Friends' website, she added, "It probably needs to be updated again."

At a retirement party for Abell hosted by Leslie Singleton Adam, board chair, on Dec. 20 at Gibson Sotheby's, Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden, credited Abell for enthusiastically taking on existing programming and working



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Susan Abell, who recently stepped down from her longtime role as director of communications and outreach for the Friends of the Public Garden.

with consultant Karin Turner to make signature events, like Making History on the Common and Duckling Day, "bigger, better, and much more fun" than they ever were before.

Of this work, Abell said, "It's really been a great partnership working with Karin and the Friends staff to make these events fun because it's a lot of hard work and planning."

As for promoting the work of the Friends, Vizza credited Abell for getting the group's name in the parks, especially through new signage.

In particular, the 'Friends at Work' signs, with the approval of the Boston Parks Department, have popped up around ongoing projects in the three parks over the past few years to inform visitors that ongoing work and maintenance projects there can be credited to the Friends. "Otherwise, they'd have no way of knowing," said Abell.

Abell also helped develop and grow the Friends' tour program, which Vizza called "such a successful asset for the public, including the neighbors who

(ABELL Pg. 5)

NEWS IN BRIEF

RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR JAN. 11 TO DISCUSS DPIR FOR PROPOSED 2 CHARLES GATE WEST PROJECT

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will host a virtual public meeting to discuss the Draft Impact Project Report (DPIR) for the housing development with ground-floor retail proposed for 2 Charlesgate West on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Scape, the British real estate developer which is also redeveloping 1252-1270 Boylston St., into a 477-unit apartment building, is proposing a 251,000 square-foot building, comprising 400 residential housing units, 3,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and 75 below grade parking spaces, at the corner of Ips-

wich Street, where Charlesgate turns from the Bowker Overpass onto Boylston Street.

The upcoming meeting was rescheduled from an original date of Dec. 21 of last year.

Visit bit.ly/47TPaSy to tune into the Jan. 11 meeting, or <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/2-charlesgate> for more information on the project.

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE SET TO MEET JAN. 16 AT UNION CHURCH

Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. at Union Church at 485 Columbus Ave.

Join the group for conversations with elected officials and opportunities for progressive

activism. Speakers will include Kelly Turley of Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Kade Crockford from the ACLU of Massachusetts, and State Sen. Lydia Edwards.

BPDA TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETING ON JAN. 16 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED FENWAY CORNERS PROJECT

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will hold a joint Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public meeting to discuss the proposed Fenway Corners (West) project on Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m.

WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture LLC – a partnership comprising the Fenway Sports Group, which owns the Red Sox; the D'Angelo family, who own the 47 sports apparel and memorabilia company; and New-

ton-based WS Development, which led the redevelopment effort in the Seaport - intend to redevelop 13 parcels located south of the Massachusetts Turnpike near Fenway Park on four major blocks along Jersey Street, Brookline Avenue, Van Ness Street, and Lansdowne Street, respectively, and collectively total around 5.32 acres.

The proposed project would contain a total of 266 dwelling units, including 53 affordable units; 10,000 square feet of civic space; and the creation of the Fenway Family Center, a day-care/early childhood center that could accommodate up to 100 children.

Visit bit.ly/4ar6BvV to tune into the Jan. 16 virtual meeting, or bit.ly/Fenway-Corners-West to learn more about the project.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD JANUARY EVENTS

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its SoWa Sundays on Jan. 14, 21, and 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit <http://sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/sowaartists>

SoWaArtistsGuild, or <https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/> for more information.

SECOND BACK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON FEB. 1

The Esplanade Association will hold its second Back Street Neighborhood Project Meeting to discuss ongoing safety projects at Esplanade entrances on Back Street. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

During this gathering, EA representatives will review progress made to-date, hear neighborhood feedback, and discuss proposed plans for additional safety improvements. Your presence and insights will greatly contribute to the success of the meeting, and the project.

Register for the meeting via zoom at <https://bit.ly/BackSt-Meeting>.

To learn more about the project, visit esplanade.org/crosswalks; and to learn about other pathway safety initiatives, visit esplanade.org/pathways.

DILLON'S (from pg. 1)

deejay, to also cover the lower level, said Hawkins, as well as petition the city to change its existing liquor license, which mandates that all alcohol orders must be accompanied by food and currently prohibits alcohol

service on Sundays, to "bring the license to where the law is now."

Hawkins added, "We're not trying to change the concept. It's just an expansion. There will be no changes to the way we operate, whether it's inside or outside."

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, advised the applicant that he would notify them of NABB's determination (i.e. whether to oppose or not to oppose the application with the city) in the near future.

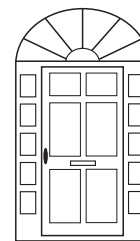


Dillon's restaurant on Boylston Street.

D. MURPHY PHOTO

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STATE OF THE CITY (from pg. 1)

trolling partner of Boston Unity Soccer, applauded Wu's vision and the partnership to revitalize White Stadium.

"The transformation of the stadium into a world-class sports facility presents an incredible opportunity for BPS student-athletes, the communities around the park, and our soccer club," said Epstein. "We are building our team for Boston and the diverse communities represented here, and we thank the City for its leadership. Working together with the City and members of the community, we look forward to delivering a reimagined White Stadium that enhances our city and contributes positively to the vibrancy and activation of beloved Franklin Park."

Throughout Wu's address, there was a focus on housing, education, and the future for young people in the city.

"Time and again, we have proven the future is ours to shape," said Wu. "And day by day, we're following through on Boston's promise to be a green and growing City for everyone. As a mom—and a BPS parent—I know that to truly be the best City for every family, we have to give our young people the world: in the classroom, in community, in every corner of our City."

Wu announced that the City will eliminate barriers to building accessory dwelling units (ADUs) this year by changing zoning to make these small homes as-of-right citywide. The ADU program allows owner occupants to create smaller, independent units inside their homes or in their

yards.

The mayor also announced plans to identify locations for nearly 3,000 new, modern, energy-efficient public housing units that will be built over the next decade, which she said will be the first new net public housing units built in Boston in more than 40 years.

"From Chinatown to West Roxbury, public housing makes it possible for so many of our seniors, and veterans, and residents with disabilities to stay in our city, and for so many of our young people to grow up here—including two of our newest city councilors," said Wu.

Across the city, Wu said too many families are getting displaced when their apartment buildings are scooped up by private investors.

"We're launching a fund to make these buildings permanently affordable—doubling down on our success last year keeping 114 families in their homes in East Boston," said Wu. "This year, we will deploy the fund to protect 400 more families citywide."

For students, Wu said several new partnerships with higher education institutions will ensure that BPS high school students have access to early college and career pathways.

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) will broaden its partnership with Charlestown High School by offering every student the opportunity to take college courses either through dual enrollment or early college pathways in business, technology, and health.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JOHN WILCOX

The State of the City was given before a full house at MGH Music Hall. Pictured above, Boston City Councilors Gabriela Coletta and Henry Santana, along with other officials.

In September, BHCC and Charlestown High School will launch the City's second Year 13 program, which provides a full year of free college courses to Charlestown graduates. Roxbury Community College will partner with Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINCA), the Margarita Muñoz Academy, and English High School to launch the first early college incubator designed specifically for multilingual students.

Mass General Brigham will deepen its partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers to ensure Boston's healthcare professions reflect the community, Wu said.

Wu also announced that Boston Public Schools has signed an agreement with UMass Boston and Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco to transform the BCLA-McCormack High School into the district's first University-Assisted Community Hub School.

The mayor also introduced a new program to help students and their families continue their education outside the walls of the school and some of the city's most famous institutions.

Starting in February 2024, on the first and second Sundays of each month, every BPS student and up to three family members will get free admission to the Boston Children's Museum, the Franklin Park Zoo, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, and the New England Aquarium. Families will show a BPS school ID or an electronic pass to gain admission.

The mayor also hit upon the city's continuing commitment to

being a green city.

"Last year, I promised to ban fossil fuels in new city buildings, and we did: Already, two new community centers and two libraries in progress will be fossil fuel free," said Wu. "And this year, we will introduce zero net carbon zoning to make Boston the greenest city in the country."

In her speech, Wu also highlighted several public safety issues.

The mayor said the city is collaborating on a public health-led approach at Mass & Cass that has removed encampments and helped hundreds of people find housing and begin a path to recovery; and partnering on a community-driven safety plan that has achieved the lowest levels of gun violence on record. Wu also noted that a new police contract sets a national precedent for community policing, including discipline reform, detail reform, and investing in officer education.



Members of the Boston EMS attended the State of the City address.



Suffolk Sheriff Steven Tompkins (right) talks with guests during the State of the City address.

THE ADVENT SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

Photos by Marianne Salza

The Advent School performed its Winter Concert, “Elements: Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, Love,” on December 15 at The Church of the Advent. Students celebrat-

ed the brightness of the seasons through song, poetry readings, and a sword dance. They described letting one’s spirit be free, compared friendship to gold, and expressed the importance of harmony.



Emma and Ava singing, “Corner of the Sky.” See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



Vivienne and Kiri, Class of 2024, reciting the poem, “Water, Water Everywhere.”



Kindergarteners, Sia and Josie, singing, “Put Your Hand in My Hand.”



Fifth-grade students performing a sword dance.

ABELL (from pg. 2)

have learned so much about the Garden in their midst.”

Together with two volunteers - Sidney Kenyon and Sherley Smith - Abell created the ‘Untold Stories of the Public Garden’ tour program, which Abell said was based on a “wonderful idea from Sidney and Sherley to educate the public about the history, horticulture and sculpture in the Public Garden.”

Abell was charged with finding volunteer tour guides; training and educating them on the history of the Public Garden; and then designing the tours.

“We sort of created it out of nothing,” said Abell. “Some modifications have been made along the way, but it’s basically the same program that exists today.”

Additionally, Abell helped nurture the Young Friends into a “committed cohort of supportive stakeholders” who will help bring the three parks into the next generation, said Vizza. Abell also mentored two staff members - Beth Jordan and then her successor, Jan Trouselek, who now serves as the Friends’ communications, outreach,

and design associate - during her time with the organization. (Abell credits Trouselek for taking the reins of the Friends’ social media presence and allowing it to expand significantly.)

In expressing gratitude to Abell at her retirement party, Vizza said, “Most importantly - I have appreciated, and will miss, your straight talk, your honest assessment of what might work and what might be a disaster. Your humor, your smarts, and your ability to roll with the punches - as working in this crazy world of caring for public greenspaces requires of us.”

Of Abell and her contributions to the Friends group, Adam said, “Sometimes when I think about the Friends, I think about the images you see and the work we do, and so much of what comes to people’s minds is the brand Susan was so important in developing. She really helped develop the brand...through the Young Friends, the docent tours, and our programming, like ‘Making History on the Common’ and ‘Duckling Day’ - all things that Susan had an important role in.”

Adam credits Abell’s work

with the Young Friends and staff members, like Trouselek, for setting up the organization for future success.

Also, Adam pointed out that Ryan Woods, commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, was on hand for Abell’s retirement party, underscoring the ongoing “hard work and partnership” between the city and the Friends of the Public Garden.

Likewise, Woods wrote in an email: “The Boston Parks Department has been partnering with the Friends of the Public Garden for 54 years. For the past eight years, it has been great to work with Susan Abell. Since Susan arrived, the Friends have reimagined their website, improved their communications, strengthened their social media platforms, enhanced their programming, and made sure everyone felt welcome in the Common, Garden and Comm. Ave. Mall. I wish her the best in her retirement, and I am sure we will see her volunteering in the parks.”



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THE ADVENT SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Max, Tagg, and Eleanor singing, "Autumn Fires."



Second graders, Tara and Sabine, singing, "My Shadow."

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Second grade singing, "My Shadow."



First grade singing, "The Water is Wide."

THE ADVENT SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Eleanor and Yvonne, Class of 2024, reciting the poem, "Light & Shadow"



Emma, Alexandra, and Vivienne singing the finale song, "Get Together"



Alexandra and Jemin, Class of 2024, reciting the poem, "A Golden Chain"



Alex and Daria, Class of 2024, reciting the poem, "The Plough of Time"



Emma and Ava singing, "Corner of the Sky"

BPDA staff discusses Squares + Sidewalks initiative during virtual Chester Square Neighbors meeting

By Dan Murphy

Boston Planning & Development Agency staff was on hand for the monthly meeting of Chester Square Neighbors held virtually on Wednesday, Jan. 3, to discuss the Squares + Sidewalks initiative, which intends to modernize planning and zoning regulations for future development within the city's commercial centers.

The objectives of this initiative include "modernizing and diversifying land uses; reducing regulatory obstacles and reliance on variances for mixed-use development and renovations; supporting more diverse hous-

ing options; ensuring alignment with building code and safety standards; encouraging sustainable design and green building standards; and [creating] zoning that represents and codifies community visions for growth for the near future," according to Eileen Michaud, a BPDA planner.

As part of the initiative, the BPDA is now soliciting feedback on a draft zoning text amendment released last month, which aims to "allow for a mix of active uses and other modernized land uses in main streets and squares" and "create a set of new zoning options for main streets and squares that promote housing, community and pub-

lic spaces, businesses and active streets," said Andrew Nahmias, BPDA senior planner. (Visit

<https://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/e0edcdb4-1866-46ec-8fc8-e3d565dced5> to view the draft document.)

The draft zoning text creates a range of new district types, said Nahmias, including 'Transition Residential,' which comprise housing only, with no more than 14 units, on smaller parcels; 'Main Street Living,' which comprise mixed-use buildings with mainly housing, as well as some small ground-floor storefronts and local services allowed; 'Main Street Mixed Use,' which comprise mid-rise, mixed use build-

ings that fill the front of the lot, with small to medium ground-floor active uses required; 'Active Main Streets,' which comprise taller, mid-size buildings that fill the front of the lot, with housing, hotels, and commercial uses allowed on the upper floors, as well as medium-scale, ground-floor active uses required; and 'Active Squares,' which allows for taller, mid-rise buildings that fill the front of the lot, with a "wider" range of ground-floor, active uses allowed.

While the draft zoning text creates these new zoning types, they can only be applied via 'Small Area Plans,' which focus on specific squares and streets

throughout the city "to make detailed-action-oriented plans," said Nahmias. The plans would concentrate on the local level, rather than on a particular neighborhood, to "support housing growth, and provide investment opportunities supported by city services," he added.

Moreover, the BPDA intends to release a map amendment informed by the community process for the 'Small Area Plans' in the near future, said Nahmias, which would look at zoning changes within specific geographical areas. Both the proposed zoning text amendment

(SQUARES + SIDEWALKS Pg. 8)

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Plastic Free Mass urges legislators to fix recycling system

Special to the Sun

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Just Zero, Be the Solution to Pollution, and other members of Plastic Free Mass are calling on legislators to update the state's beverage container deposit return system (aka Bottle Bill), which remains unchanged from when it was passed in 1982. Under the Bottle Bill, consumers make a deposit of 5 cents on some beverages, which they can redeem when they return the empty containers for recycling. If the program were updated to include all beverage containers and the deposit were increased to 10 cents, litter would be reduced in Massachusetts by as much as 85%.

"Massachusetts beaches and waterways are choking with trash," said CLF attorney Mara Shulman. "Across the state, volunteers are spending countless hours picking up litter. This is unsustainable. Updating the Bottle Bill will not only slash litter, but it will also reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions. It's time for legislators to meet this moment and stop relying on volunteers to clean up litter when a legislative solution is at our fingertips."

"The data is clear," said Kirstie Pecci, Executive Director of Just Zero. "Modernizing Massachusetts' Bottle Bill will drastically reduce litter, curb pollution, improve recycling, and create local green jobs at no cost to taxpayers. But even better than that,

Bottle Bills set us up to transition to refillable beverage systems. In Europe, countries are collecting, washing, and refilling glass bottles because they know that this is where we get the most climate impact. Massachusetts can be a regional leader and blaze the way right now towards a future where single-use beverage containers are a thing of the past."

"Month after month, our volunteers return to the same beaches and rivers," said Mary Lou Nicholson, coordinator for Be the Solution to Pollution. "In 2023, my group cleaned up over 3,000 pounds of litter on just 6 Massachusetts beaches. It's a Sisyphean task, coming back again and again to clean up the same spots. But it doesn't have to be this way. With a better Bottle Bill, we would see litter in Massachusetts reduced by leaps and bounds."

Single-use beverage containers, a common source of litter, comprised a large proportion of the trash that resident volunteers cleaned up in Massachusetts in 2023. Massachusetts is one of 10 states in the U.S. with a Bottle Bill. But our Bottle Bill is sorely outdated. Not only does the deposit program include only 40% of the beverage containers sold in our state, but the deposit hasn't changed from when it was established at 5 cents in 1982.

Legislators can stop this problem at its root by expanding the program to include all beverage containers and raising the deposit to 10 cents.

SQUARES + SIDEWALKS (from pg. 7)

and the proposed map amendment for each area would require the approval of both the BPDA board and the Boston Zoning Commission before they can be implemented.

The BPDA's Squares + Sidewalks initiative will eventually be rolled out in around five different neighborhoods, including Mattapan, which recently adopted a residential zoning amendment. This matter is still under discussion at the city level, said Nahmias, but it will be presented to the public in the near future.

Once implemented, the initiative wouldn't affect either large- or small-project review and instead only impact land-use regulations within the zoning itself,

added Nahmias.

Carol Blair, president of CSN, said she was initially "attracted" by the BPDA's Squares + Sidewalks initiative because it would ideally create consistent zoning on both sides of Massachusetts Avenue, unlike today, where the South End side of Mass Ave is subject to different city zoning regulations than those for the Lower Roxbury side.

The BPDA is soliciting public input on draft zoning until Sunday, Jan. 28. To submit public comments, or for more information on the BPDA's Squares + Sidewalks initiative, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/squares-streets>.

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CITY PAWS

A dog for all seasons

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Some dogs enjoy our changeable New England weather. They are adaptable and happy to go out and explore as long as they are with you. Others are happier basking in the warm sun on a beach or frolicking in the snow in winter.

Did you ever consider that your relationship with weather conditions should influence your choice of dog? If you hate the cold, ice, and snow, a high-energy dog who needs a lot of exercise any time of the year might be difficult. On the other hand, if you love the summer and want to take long dog walks on sunny days, a flat-faced dog like a Bulldog might have breathing problems trying to keep up with you.

Origins Make a Difference

The seasonality of a dog depends, in part, on genetics and breeding. A dog's body, tail, coat, and personality depend on the work humans refined the breed to perform. Among the best examples of this are sled dogs. A clue to the weather adaptation of the Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Husky is in their name and their work. They originated in

cold places to pull sleds.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) points out the necessary qualities of a sled dog. "One of the most important is good feet. Long-distance races are tough on a dog's body, and the feet bear the brunt of the work." AKC continues, "A healthy appetite and a thick coat are also important. Picky eaters might not take in the necessary calories on the trail, which reduces their performance ability. A healthy coat with a thick undercoat helps keep a dog warm and protected from the elements and preserves those essential calories."

However, while genes are one factor, within breeds, you'll find dogs who adapt to seasons in far different ways. Our first Westie, Sassy, loved basking in the sun. Number two, Maggie Mae, adapted to any season as long as she could be outside socializing, whereas Poppy loves playing in the snow.

Adaptations Can Help

We can help a dog adapt to our seasonal conditions. In winter, if you have a short-haired dog who needs a lot of exercise, like a greyhound, you must protect her from the cold and wet.



AKC says for a sleddog, "A healthy coat with a thick undercoat helps keep a dog warm and protected from the elements and preserves those essential calories." (Photo: Getty Images.)

Friends with a former racing dog use a layered coat system for winter walks. It has a thin layer for cool days, a thicker layer with a snood to keep her ears and neck warm on cold days, and a rain jacket that fits over either or both for wet days.

Aside from adaptive clothing, you can vary the time of your exercise walks. Take that husky out anytime in winter but in the coolest hours in summer.

Age and Health

Other adaptations are for age and health. You may have specific exercise directions from your veterinarian for a dog with a specific medical condition. Ask about this on your next vet visit, especially if you and your dog have moved here from an area with very different weather.

Carriers and strollers can make longer walks possible for dogs with injuries, health conditions, and as they age. Years ago,

friends with an aging Airedale bought her a little red wagon to transport her to a favorite park. Recently, we spotted a gentleman pushing his Bulldog in a low-to-ground stroller. It enabled the big boy to step in and out by himself, a perfect adaptation for both the dog and the guardian.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

On the 28th of August, 1963, a century following Abraham Lincoln's historic Emancipation Proclamation that liberated the slaves, a young Martin Luther King ascended the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. There, he shared his dream for America. Over 200,000 individuals, both black and white, gathered to hear him. The vision shared on the steps of the Memorial that day became the aspiration of an entire generation. Below, please find the full text of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.



I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to millions of slaves, who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the colored America is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the colored American is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation and the chains of discrimination.

One hundred years later, the colored American lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the colored American is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile

in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we have come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the

bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

Now it is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

Now it is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children.

I would be fatal to the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment

and to underestimate the determination of its colored citizens. This sweltering summer of the colored people's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hope that the colored Americans needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the colored citizen is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.

We cannot be satisfied as long as the colored person's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one.

We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for white only."

We cannot be satisfied as long as a colored person in Mississippi cannot vote and a colored person in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of your trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecutions and staggered by the winds of police brutality.

You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

(I HAVE A DREAM Pg. 11)

Healey-Driscoll Administration advances tuition equity

Special to the Sun

The Healey-Driscoll Administration took a significant step forward in expanding access to higher education for all Massachusetts residents by launching the new Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA). The Department of Higher Education released the form on their website today, which will allow currently-enrolled undocumented college students in Massachusetts to apply for state need-based financial aid for the first time. Students can access the application at mass.edu/MASFA.

The MASFA is an alternative form that provides students who cannot complete the Free Application for State Financial Aid (FAFSA) due to their immigration status a way to apply for state need-based financial aid. The application launch follows the August 2023 passage of Massachusetts' Tuition Equity Law, which allows students who have completed at least three years of high school in Massachusetts and received a high school diploma or its equivalent in the Commonwealth to access in-state tuition and be eligible for financial aid, regardless of immigration status.

Eligible students began receiving the in-state tuition rate in Fall 2023. The MASFA released today is for additional need-based financial aid opportunities. It is based on the FAFSA for the 2023-2024 academic year and should be completed by students who are beginning college in Spring 2024 or were enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester and may qualify for financial aid. To receive financial aid for the 2023-2024 school year, students are encouraged to apply by May 1, and no later than June 30, 2024.

Students who apply for need-based state financial aid under the new "High School Completer" pathway created by the Tuition Equity Law must meet the existing eligibility criteria for each financial aid program for which they are seeking access.

"Quality higher education should be accessible to all Massachusetts high school graduates," said Governor Healey. "Students who have long been part of our communities in Massachusetts should be eligible for the historic financial aid programs we have launched this year, and they

should have every opportunity to grow their careers and be part of building our state's workforce. We're grateful for the Legislature for their partnership in passing this historic policy, and we're proud to be launching this application so that students can start accessing financial aid."

"This has been a banner year for educational access in Massachusetts, following the passage of MassReconnect, MASSGrant Plus Expansion, and Tuition Equity," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "The MASFA will open doors to need based financial aid for students looking to attend any public or private Massachusetts college or university."

"Tuition equity is about giving students who have long called Massachusetts home equal access to higher education," said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. "With the MASFA form providing access to millions of dollars in need-based financial aid, we will be able to give the greatest number of students access to the life changing opportunities that our institutions of higher education offer here in the Commonwealth."

"The Department of Higher Education is committed to increasing socioeconomic mobility for all residents of Massachusetts, particularly those who have historically been underserved and underrepresented in higher education," said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. "The MASFA is a key tool for advancing equitable access to the Commonwealth's many great colleges and universities."

"Ensuring that all Massachusetts residents, regardless of immigration status, have access to the Commonwealth's higher education system is critical not just for those students, but for the betterment of Massachusetts," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank my colleagues in the House and our partners in the Senate for making this initiative possible, as well as the Healey-Driscoll Administration for working to implement it and for their support."

"Tuition equity is about giving every high schooler in Massachusetts who wants to go to college the same ability to do so, regardless of who they are or where they are from," said

Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I'm thrilled to see the Executive Office of Education take this important step in implementing what the Legislature included in the budget, and break down a major barrier for young people whose families have settled in our state."

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration's launch of the MASFA is groundbreaking, helping to provide state need-based financial aid for undocumented immigrants who aspire to higher education," said Representative David Rogers (D-Cambridge), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education. "This initiative will continue the Commonwealth's commitment to increased access to the life-changing opportunities within our higher education system."

"Every student should have the same access to higher education in Massachusetts," said Senator Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn). "The launch of this tool is another significant step forward, ensuring that our commitment to equal access is transformed into actionable opportunities. By breaking down barriers and extending financial aid to these students, we are not only shaping individual futures but also contributing to the collective prosperity of Massachusetts."

"As a first-generation, Cabo-Verdean American whose parents immigrated to Boston with nothing but hope in their hearts and a pair of working hands, I too come from a mixed status family, and access to state financial aid for all eligible students in the Commonwealth, regardless of immigration status, will be a lever of opportunity that shapes a generation," said Senator Liz Miranda (D-Boston). "This opportunity will enable thousands of talented, hard-working individuals to build a life of meaning and purpose here in the Commonwealth, embracing the very best of who we are as a state."

"On behalf of the state's 15 community colleges, we are excited to celebrate the launch of the MASFA," said Jim Vander Hooven, president of Mount Wachusett Community College and chair of the Community College Council of Presidents. "The new tuition equity law is already making a significant pos-

itive impact on our students, and we're thrilled that the MASFA will streamline access to state aid for eligible undocumented students."

"On behalf of the Commonwealth's State Universities, I am thrilled that the Governor continues to increase access to a college education for all people that reside in Massachusetts," said Salem State University President and Chair of the Council of Presidents for the Massachusetts State Universities John D. Keenan. "The Governor's leadership continues to make college more affordable than ever before to Massachusetts students. The MASFA provides students who are not eligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid access to state financial aid. This, along with in-state tuition for Massachusetts high school graduates, is another important financial aid tool to help them reach their goal of earning a college degree."

"The creation of a state financial aid application is another smart, common sense step by the Healey-Driscoll administration to break down existing financial barriers to higher education," UMass President Marty Meehan said. "The MASFA will make college more affordable for numerous Massachusetts students, empowering them to support their families and contribute to the state's economy."

"The MASFA is a crucial tool for advancing tuition equity in Massachusetts," said Rob McCarron, President and CEO of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. "Our private colleges and universities in Massachusetts are committed to serving all students who wish to attend college, as well as ensure that all students who are eligible can access need-based state financial aid, which for many students is essential to their goal of achieving a higher education."

"MIRA Coalition extends heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Higher Education for their inclusive and collaborative efforts in implementing monumental tuition equity reform," said Jonathan Paz, Policy Advocate for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition. "Tuition equity offers substantial benefits to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds,

as well as to our state's economy, which desperately needs more workers. We thank the Healey-Driscoll administration and the legislature for making this policy a reality and look forward to watching students from across the Commonwealth achieve their dreams."

Filling out the MASFA does not commit any student to enrolling in a college or university, but it is the essential first step to applying for the financial assistance for which they may qualify to make college a reality.

To be eligible, Massachusetts residents must meet the following criteria:

- Was admitted to a public or private institution of higher education within the Massachusetts system of public higher education.

- Have attended at least three academic years at a high school in Massachusetts.

- Have graduated from high school in Massachusetts or have received the equivalent of a high school diploma (for example, a GED) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- Have applied for military selective service, if eligible.

- If the individual is not a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States, that person must provide a completed the DHE Affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a citizen or legal permanent resident within 120 days after the individual becomes eligible to do so.

An updated MASFA for the 2024-2025 academic year will be available in late winter/early spring and will be based on the 2024-2025 FAFSA, which is due to be released by the federal government on December 31, 2023.

The MASFA ensures that all students who qualify can access the significant investments made into higher education by the Healey-Driscoll administration this year, including MassReconnect, which made community college free for Commonwealth residents ages 25 and older regardless of income, and MASSGrant Plus Expansion, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for low-income students and reduces out-of-pocket costs for middle income students.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Goodridge, Garrett	Doherty, Paul S	204 Beacon St #B	\$920,080
Powell, Robin	Damara, Michael	140 Chandler St #2	\$652,000
492 Beacon St Unit 56 LLC	Robin Rae Blank RET	492 Beacon St #56	\$2,450,000
BEACON HILL			
Growdon, Whitfield B	Ridgeway Rt	30 Hancock St #M	\$1,470,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Feng, Chi-Yen	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #403	\$1,550,000
1st Page LLC	Burke, John D	652 Massachusetts Ave #PH	\$1,365,000
River House 615 Nt	Heuser, Renate	145 Pinckney St #615	\$535,000
Blumenthal, Jack	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #806	\$1,676,000
45 Kenmere LLC	Trubetskoy Regina Est	121 Tremont St #B4	\$370,000
Weaver, Karen E	Clarkeson, James D	4 Worcester Sq #3	\$905,000
Humbert, Michael	Fugazzotto, Paul A	17 Worcester St #9	\$1,550,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Manickas, Krista	Carleton, Joseph	45-63 Atlantic Ave #10D	\$850,000
Douglas, Priscilla H	Piscitelli, Matthew J	45-63 Atlantic Ave #6C	\$1,659,000
Estia Properties LLC	Costello, Lee C	85 E India Row #22C	\$1,042,000
1818 Associates LLC	Kdfranklin U00 LLC	1 Franklin St #4500	\$11,150,000
Cohen, Andrew F	Rmaj Boston LLC	1 Franklin St #PH1D	\$3,687,000

I HAVE A DREAM (from pg. 9)

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our modern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you, my friends, we have the difficulties of today and tomorrow.

I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of free-

dom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; that one day right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be engulfed, every hill shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with.

With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!"

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that, let freedom, ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi and every mountainside.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

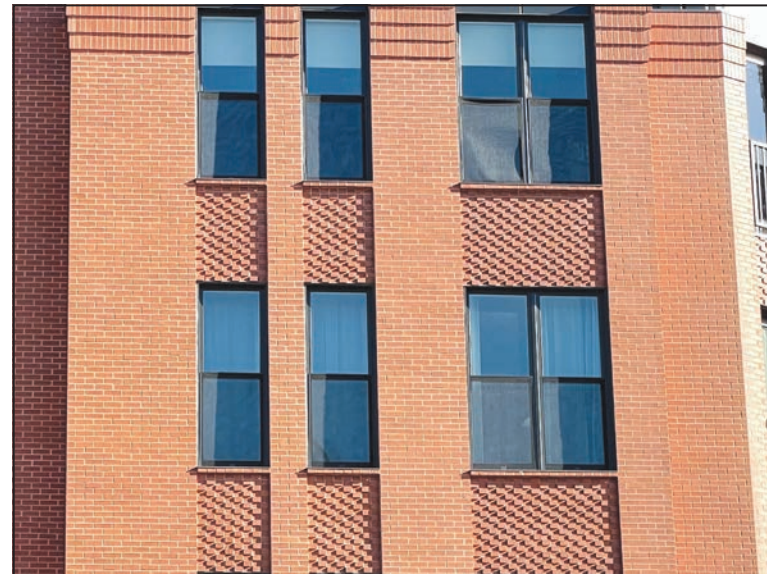


The sharp corner detail in the last clue is on One Kenmore Square's Commonwealth Building, which was completed in 2023. The outdoor terraces on the top two floors have a close-up view of the iconic Citco sign. It sits on top of the second building in this complex, the Beacon Building.

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



SERVICE DIRECTORY

COPPER SKYLIGHTS
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Patrick Asicus
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