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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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## BPL HOSTS LITERARY NIGHTS DINNER



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

The Copley Plaza Hotel served as an elegant background for the Boston Public Library's 34th Literary Lights Dinner on April 22. See more photos on Pages 6 through 8.

## Executive Director Steven Farrell charts path forward for Fenway CDC at 51st annual meeting

By Dan Murphy

Exactly one month after arriving on the job, Steven Farrell, the newly named executive director of Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation), delivered his first keynote address and outlined his ambitious vision for using community input to help shape the future of the organization during its 51st annual meeting on Thursday, April 25, at Simmons College.

The Fenway CDC's Strategic Plan wrapped up last year, so the nonprofit now needs a new process to help guide its next Strategic Plan, which expected

to cover a period of three to five years. With the Fenway CDC embarking on this next chapter, Farrell shared his plan at the annual meeting for 'Community Vision Conversations,' which he described as a "10-month-long conversation" regarding the future of the organization.

This outreach will include a series of Town Hall meetings intended to create a 'common vision' for the Fenway CDC, said Farrell, with a strong emphasis on community and resident input via surveys, focus groups, interviews, and 'community-needs

(FENWAY CDC, Pg. 5)

## Schön Family Art Show coming Mother's Day Weekend to West Newton

By Dan Murphy

Nancy Schön, the sculptor whose works includes the iconic 'Make Way for Ducklings' statue in the Public Garden, will join six other female artists from her kin for a Schön Family Art Show over Mother's Day Weekend, from Friday, May 10, through Sunday, May 12, at 291 Otis St. in West Newton.

Besides Nancy, the art show will feature works by two of her daughters, Ellen Schön and Susan Schön, a ceramic artist and a designer, respectively. (Susan also collaborated with her mother on an 8-foot bronze caterpillar, which was installed in

December of 2022 in the Waban Common in Nancy's hometown of Newton.)

The art show will also feature four of Nancy's artist granddaughters, including Jackie Schon, a painter and photographer; Mia Schon, a mosaic muralist; Hannah Schön, a photographer; and Charlie Dov Schön, a mixed media artist.

Each artist will display a few pieces from their particular medium at the art show.

"I think all of us, our family and Nancy, have always encouraged art and pursuing art as a profession," said Mia, age 37, who has worked as a mosaic artist for around the past 10 years.

She works mainly with tiles, glass, and mirrors, among other repurposed or found objects and creates mainly "large-scale murals," which as pieces of public work, she said connect directly to what Nancy does.

"Personally I learned to make public art directly from my grandmother," said Mia. "Many artists have mentors, and we are lucky enough for our mentor to be our grandmother, which is very unique."

And since the art show is an intergenerational outing for the Schön family, Mother's Day seemed like a fitting time to stage

(ART SHOW, Pg. 3)



AMY POWELL PHOTO

Pictured in the first Row, left to right, are Ellen Schön, Nancy Schön, and Susan Schon; second Row: Hannah Schon, Charlie Dov Schön, Jackie Schon, and Mia Schon.

# EDITORIAL

## COLLEGE PROTESTERS SHOULD EMBRACE BEING ARRESTED

Acts of civil disobedience by definition imply that a person knowingly is breaking the law and is willing to accept the legal consequences.

When Rosa Parks took a seat at the front of that bus in Alabama and was arrested in 1955, she set off a legal battle -- which eventually resulted in the striking down of the segregationist law as unconstitutional -- that ignited the modern civil rights movement.

Photos of Parks being fingerprinted at the police station galvanized Americans everywhere (well, except in the Deep South) and made her an icon of the struggle for justice and equality.

Just a few years ago, the 1960s peace activist Jane Fonda, now in her 80s, was at it again, being arrested on the steps of the Capitol building weekly, this time to protest the lack of action by the government to tackle climate change.

Being arrested has been a badge of honor by protesters for whom being placed into handcuffs represents the ultimate act of defiance of those in power.

But the students today who are occupying college campuses in violation of university policies want to have it both ways: They want to defy the authorities, but feel that they are entitled to have carte blanche to do so without any consequences.

Admission to a prestigious school does not entitle a person to special treatment when it comes to laws that apply to everybody. Yes, the students have a right to protest. But school officials also have the obligation to keep their campuses open and safe for all students. When these protesting students break the law and the rules of their campuses, they should be willing -- with defiant joy -- to accept the consequences.

Unless these students are willing to have some skin in the game, so to speak, their moral outrage amounts to nothing more than a frivolous exercise.

## OPPONENTS OF AID TO UKRAINE SHOULD WATCH FRANKLIN

Here's the plot-line: A world superpower, led by a ruler-for-life who does not tolerate dissent, invades a young sovereign nation, which at one time had been part of the superpower, with a large military force in order to restore the young nation to its sphere of influence. The young nation seeks the aid of another superpower in the world in order to fight off the invading force and to assert its claim to independence and freedom.

This very well could describe the situation today among Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, but that's also the scenario that unfolded 250 years ago when the United States proclaimed its independence from England and needed military assistance from France in order to fight back against the might of the British Empire.

The new Apple TV+ series, *Franklin*, chronicles the effort by Benjamin Franklin (who is played superbly by Michael Douglas) to enlist the aid of France in our fight against King George, who invaded America with a vastly-superior army and navy to squash our quest for freedom and democracy.

The Americans lacked everything -- uniforms, muskets, artillery, ships -- that they needed to fight off the British. Without Franklin's diplomacy that persuaded the French to provide America with the means to defend itself, we never could have won the Revolutionary War, which lasted a long eight years from the firing of the first shots at Concord in April, 1775, to the Treaty of Paris in September, 1783.

Prior to the French government formally declaring its alliance with the United States, French citizens who sympathized with the Americans, most notably the Marquis de Lafayette, defied their country's official policy and fought with the Americans, providing both moral support to our army and highlighting the justice of our cause to everyone around the world.

Those who oppose our aid to Ukraine (which Congress finally approved after a delay of six months) in order to help the Ukrainians repel the barbarous invasion by Vladimir Putin would do well to watch the *Franklin* mini-series on Apple TV+.

They would be reminded that the lesson of history is plain: Freedom isn't free and, to paraphrase Martin Luther King, tyranny anywhere is tyranny everywhere.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD UPCOMING EVENTS

SoWa First Friday, which is part of Design Week, with artist talks and demos, takes place on May 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. while SoWa Sundays take place on May 12, 19, and 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, the SoWa Art Walk takes place on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

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

### WLP'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND NETWORKING LUNCHEON SET FOR MAY 10 AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Women's Lunch Place Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon and M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, will have a fireside chat at WLP's annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, eat LUNCH give on Friday, May 10, in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:15 p.m.

Hanlon Wigon and Pelton will address the pressing issues of the housing crisis in Boston, including the shortage of affordable units and the critical need for safe, gender-specific housing for women in the community. The event will be held in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

This luncheon will include a delicious meal, an opportunity to network with Boston's best and brightest leaders, and an inside look at the context behind Women's Lunch Place's life-changing work from two experts in their fields. There will also be a raffle with local prizes.

All proceeds from the fundraising luncheon will be donated to Women's Lunch Place.

Tickets cost \$200 each and

are available online at [womenslunchplace.org/elg](http://womenslunchplace.org/elg), along with sponsorships, program advertisements, and opportunities to support the raffle.

### GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM TO OFFER FREE OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, MAY 11

The Gibson House Museum, located at 137 Beacon St., will offer an Open House in celebration of Preservation Month on Saturday, May 11, from 1 to 4:00 p.m.

Select rooms will be open for viewing, and certain items in the collection will be highlighted.

The Open House is free to attend, and no reservations are necessary for guests.

### DUCKLING DAY RETURNS MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 12

Join the Friends of the Public Garden on Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, for the return of Duckling Day -- an annual celebration of the children's classic book 'Make Way for Ducklings' by Robert McCloskey.

Duckling Day is a family-friendly celebration held each year on Boston Common. Duckling Day features activity booths, lawn games, magic, and live music all at Parkman Bandstand. The event ends with a parade retracing Mrs. Mallard's steps to the Ducklings sculpture in the Public Garden.

Registration for a family of any size is \$35 and includes a goody bag for every child and entertaining Duckling activities for the whole family; register online at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/ducklingday/>.

### SAVE THE DATE: GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY'S TWILIGHT GARDEN PARTY SET FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 4, AT THE NEWBURY HOTEL

The Garden Club of the Back Bay will present its annual Twilight Garden Party on Tuesday,

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 3)

# BPDA to host May 8 virtual meeting on city's plan to update residential zoning codes to allow for more ADU development

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency Planning team will lead a virtual conversation on its plans to update residential zoning codes to allow for the development of more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on Wednesday, May 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The City of Boston and the BPDA are now working to eliminate barriers for creating ADUs by updating zoning to make these small homes as-of-right citywide. The ADU program allows owner-occupants to build smaller, independent units inside

their homes or in their yards.

The Citywide ADU Zoning staff hosted a kickoff meeting in March that focused on what ADUs can offer for Boston homeowners, as well as the necessity of updating the zoning code to allow for the by-right development of ADUs. The team also discussed the key tasks, goals, and overall timeline of the ADU Zoning Initiative at that time.

During next week's meeting, BPDA Planning and Urban Design staff will share results of analysis on existing building and lot patterns across Boston, which are helping to shape future draft zoning recommendations.

A consultant is also now in the process of producing an ADU guidebook, along with zoning recommendations for implementing ADUs citywide. The illustrated manual is intended to help guide Boston property owners who may want to build an ADU on their property.

The Citywide ADU Zoning initiative builds on five years of work with the Mayor's Office of Housing under the ADU Program. The current ADU program allows owner-occupants to build an ADU using only existing space within their homes (such as within an unused attic or basement). This effort also builds on work

by the Boston Mayor's Office of Housing through its Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program, as well as ongoing work in Boston's Mattapan neighborhood to advance by-right ADU development.

The zoning initiative "aims to expand this opportunity, increase lower-cost housing options, empower residents to build wealth, and foster diverse, multi-generational living spaces," according to a BPDA spokesperson. "ADUs are a key part of the Mayor's policy goals, which recommend allowing ADUs so that homeowners can utilize their property to its full-

est potential, adding more room for growing families or providing opportunities for generating additional income if it is used as a rental unit."

Staff is hoping to release draft recommendations for Citywide ADU Zoning this summer, and the ADU guidebook is expected to be finalized this fall, according to a BPDA spokesperson.

Register for the online event at <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc2prDgrG-GzSJq-TQvfydXqlTqr1ilk#/registration>.

## State House passes bill to remove outdated and offensive terms in general laws, changes Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's name to 'Massability'

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed two bills that update the Massachusetts General Laws by removing out-of-date and offensive terms related to persons with disabilities, and by renaming the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) as MassAbility.

"As lawmakers, we know that words matter," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano

(D-Quincy). "This legislation is our latest effort to ensure that our state laws do not use antiquated words that carry negative connotations, words that also serve as a reminder of past injustices. I would like to thank Chairman Livingstone and the entire Joint Committee of Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, as well as Governor Healey and the bill sponsors, for their work on this important legislation."

"The name 'MassAbility' will help to reduce stigma and better reflect the strengths and capabilities of the people we serve," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful to Speaker Mariano and the House for advancing this critical legislation."

"The language we use reflects our values, and this legislation will ensure that our laws and institutions are updated to treat the individuals they serve with dignity and respect," said

Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). "Outdated and offensive language has no place in our statutes, and these changes underscore our commitment to advancing and uplifting persons with disabilities in our communities across the Commonwealth."

An Act relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities removes out-of-date and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws when referencing people with disabilities. The language in the bill removes all variations of outdated terms such as "handicapped,"

"disabled," and "retarded." The bill replaces these terms with current terminology such as "person with a disability" and "person with an intellectual disability." Additionally, the term "autistic" is replaced with "autism" in reference to Autism Awareness Month. Originally filed by Governor Healey, the House also passed legislation to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to MassAbility and to update the outdated terms included in its enabling statute.

"Removing out-of-date, anti-

(MASSABILITY, Pg. 4)

### ART SHOW (from pg. 1)

the event, said Mia.

These same seven artists also collaborated at an art show in July of 2022, which was supported via a grant from the Boston nonprofit Combined Jewish Philanthropies and took place at The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI) at Brandeis University in Waltham.

For Nancy, now 95, her venerable career in public art in

itself is almost too much to comprehend, let alone displaying her work alongside other female artists from her multiple generations of her family.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be a professional 'Public Art Sculptor,'" Nancy wrote in an email. "But to be showing my art with not only my children but my grandchildren seems like sheer magic -

simply marvelous. Or is it about genes? Or did they catch the bug because they watched me in my studio from the time they were little?"

Meanwhile, Nancy is also quick to add that she likely inherited the artistic 'bug' from her own mother.

"My mother did some painting but whatever she did had an artistic way. The way she dressed, the way she set a table, always beautiful flower arrangement on the table and around the house. She was a beautiful woman and had all her hats made by a woman named Fanette, whose clients went to Newbury Street."

An opening reception for the Schön Family Art Show will take place on Friday, May 10, from 5 to 8 p.m., and gallery hours are on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, from noon to 5 p.m.

## NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 2

June 4, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Newbury Hotel at 1 Newbury St.

The Twilight Garden Party is the Garden Club's largest source of funds that go directly towards tree care and community outreach while this year's event also

celebrates the Garden Club's 60th anniversary.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/twilight-garden-party-tickets-851099289887?aff=oddtcreator>.

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# MBTA announces shuttle bus replacements along Red Line at start of May

Special to the Sun

The MBTA is today announcing an update to the upcoming Red Line service change that begins next week. Previously scheduled to begin on May 1, the Red Line will now be suspended daily between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations from May 2-10. In addition to that, from May 2-9, evening Red Line trains will not operate between Park Street and Ashmont stations from approximately 8:30 PM through the end of service every day. Shuttle buses will instead operate to accommodate riders. This update is to accommodate the two-day extension of Track Improvement Program work currently taking place on the Blue Line.

The MBTA is also announcing an update to the planned weekend Red Line service change on May 11-12. Red Line service will be replaced with free and accessible shuttle buses between JFK/UMass and North Quincy (instead of the previously announced locations of Broadway to Braintree) during the weekend of May 11-12 to accomplish work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the

Track Improvement Program.

As previously announced, the Red Line service change beginning next week is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more. Riders can learn more at [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://mbta.com/TrackProgram).

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between

stations. There will be free fares at Park Street and JFK/UMass stations with the fare gates open. The Commuter Rail will be fare free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree. A page with dedicated information for riders is available at [mbta.com/RedLine](https://mbta.com/RedLine) with additional information available at [mbta.com/alerts](https://mbta.com/alerts).

The important work accomplished during this Red Line service suspension means riders will experience a more reliable trip with fewer unplanned ser-

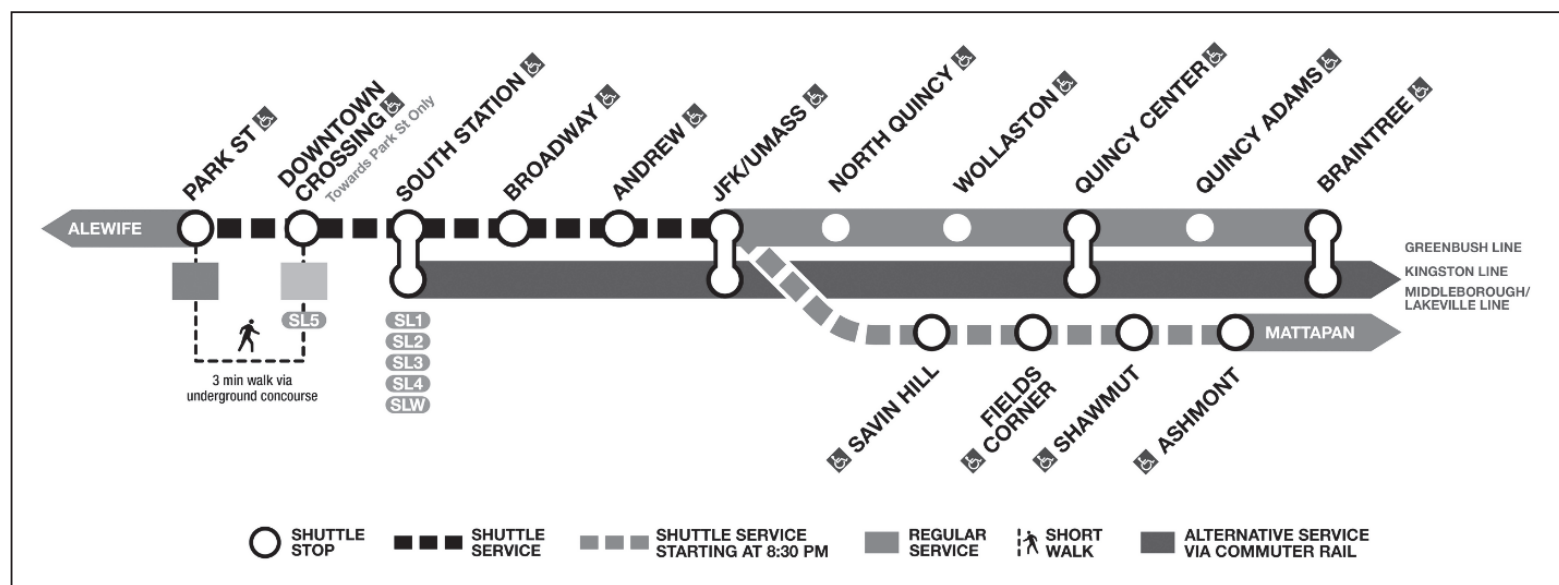
vice disruptions related to older tracks, older infrastructure, signal issues, or power problems. Riders will also be provided with a safer ride as a result of this state of good repair work.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

More information is also available through in-station sig-

nage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://mbta.com/TrackProgram) or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA\_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.



## MASSABILITY (from pg. 3)

quated and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step in ensuring that our values, as a Commonwealth, are also reflected in statute," said Representative Jay D. Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. "As legislators, it is our job to

help make sure that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so. I am appreciative of all those who have worked on this effort before me who helped make this possible. I'd also like to thank the Speaker, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Honan, and all of my colleagues in the

House for their support on this important issue."

The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities heard from many advocacy organizations in the disability community in support of the bill and all changes were vetted with relevant agencies, including Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Education, and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

"Today with the passage of this legislation the Commonwealth is taking a critical step towards fostering inclusivity and upholding our long-held principles of dignity and respect for all who call the Commonwealth home," said Representative Michael J. Finn (D-West Springfield), a lead sponsor of the bill. "We can all celebrate that it is long past time for the Commonwealth to update its General Laws, ensuring that no individual is subjected to negative and harmful language"

"Today the House of Rep-

resentatives takes a transformational step towards a more inclusive Commonwealth," said Representative Sean Garballey (D-Arlington), a lead sponsor of the bill. "By removing outdated words like 'handicapped', 'disabled', and the 'R Word' from MA General laws, we make a collective statement that Massachusetts is a place for all."

Having passed the House of Representatives, the bills now go to the Senate for their consideration.

Statements of Support:

The Arc of Massachusetts:

"The Arc of Massachusetts is grateful for the passage of the Archaic Language Bill. This legislation has been a priority to The Arc and we appreciate the efforts made by the sponsors of the bill and our legislative champions at the MA State House. Thank you to the past and present Chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Special recognition to the self-advocates who led the way and never gave

up. Words hold power! The language people use is important and influences thoughts and attitudes about people and their capabilities. The use inappropriate language in society and in our Massachusetts General Law perpetuates negative stereotypes about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This legislation will not just create legal change but also social change. The Arc strongly supports the passage of this bill as a sign that Massachusetts is listening and will support people with IDD by using thoughtful and positive language in the laws."

Barbara L'Italien, Executive Director of the Disability Law Center:

"Removing archaic language in legislation plays an important role in reducing social stigma and ensuring that state agencies and courts view people with disabilities as entitled to full, equal, and integrated lives in the community."

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# FENWAY CDC (from pg. 1) assessment.'

The first Town Hall meeting, focusing on the 'community vision' for the Fenway CDC, will take place this fall, most likely in October or early November. Community input will be gathered between the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2025.

A second Town Hall meeting to test the concepts is scheduled for spring of 2025, and the Strategic Plan will be adjusted during the spring and summer of 2025.

A third Town Hall meeting to finalize the Strategic Plan, as well as to discuss next steps, is then scheduled for the summer of 2025.

Moreover, the Fenway CDC is committed to future conversations with the community past next summer, pledged Farrell.

"More listening has meant more community engagement, with not just us listening to the community but also the community listening to each other," Farrell said in a May 29 phone interview. "The key is authentic community input. We've had lots of success recently with real estate development, and now, we're looking to deepen our organization and its engagement work, including different ways to build community."

Farrell took over as executive director of the Fenway CDC on March 25, assuming the reins from his long-serving predecessor in the role, Leah Camhi. Prior to assuming his current position, Farrell, a Watertown native who earned his undergraduate degree from Northeastern University, worked with Metro Housing Boston for 11 years, most recently serving as its Chief Operating Officer.

Farrell's arrival at Fenway CDC comes amidst a time of great transition for the group as six long-serving board members are stepping down from their leadership roles with the group.

At the annual meeting, one of the group's Community Service Awards was given to departing Fenway CDC board members, including exiting board president and chair Nikki Flionis, along with other long-serving board members, including Ryan Boxill; Brian Clague; Sheneal Parker, PhD; Gregory Paulson Haig; and Matthew Wildman (who wasn't in attendance).

In presenting this Community Service Award, Tim Coakley, treasurer of the Fenway CDC board, noted that the six departing board members represent



IMAGES COURTESY OF FENWAY CDC

Pictured, left to right, are departing Fenway CDC members Sheneal Parker, PhD, Brian Clague, Gregory Paulson-Haig, Ryan Boxill, and Nikki Flionis (exiting board president/chair), who were on hand to receive a Community Service Award for their many contributions to the Fenway CDC (not present: departing board member Matthew Wildman).

72 years of combined service to the organization, all of whom, like Flionis, are leaving because they've reached the end of their terms.



Steven Farrell, the Fenway CDC's newly named executive director, delivering his first keynote address.

Coakley added that Boxill and Clague will stay on in the interim to help new, incoming board members get acclimated within the group.

"We wanted to honor the service of the departing board members but also to acknowledge the incoming board members and the experience, skills, and talent they bring to the board and the organization," Farrell told this reporter.

Juan Pérez, a community artist, was awarded another Community Service Award by Sage Carbone, Fenway CDC's director of community programs. The Northeastern Co-Ops in Service to Our Neighbors Program was presented a third Community

Service Award by Cassie White, the Fenway CEC's lead community organizer.

Fenway CDC improves the lives of over 2,500 adults, children, and youth each year through 5,000 services and a wide range of community activities, as well as through its significant housing development and preservation projects.

Last year, the Fenway CDC, in partnership with the city's Planning Office for Urban Affairs, purchased Our Lady's Guild House (OLGH), a 140-unit single-room occupancy building near Kenmore.

Fenway CDC also acquired a six-unit, market-rate rental building at 43 Hemenway St. for conversion into six affordable home-ownership units, while Burbank Terrace, comprising 27 affordable units, is now under construction. With its opening targeted for some time this year, Burbank Terrace will be Fenway CDC's "first ground-up development in decades," according to the group's 2023 annual report.

Additionally, Fenway CDC connects residents to social services, career-furthering education opportunities, employment, fresh foods, and community organizing, such as efforts to advocate for the expansion of hours for the MBTA's 55 bus line. The organization also helps Boston residents build job skills, gain financial literacy, and learn self-described 'healthy habits,' among other services.

For more information on Fenway CDC, visit fenwaycdc.org.



Rep. Jay Livingstone greets the crowd.

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# BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDS 34TH LITERARY LIGHTS DINNER AT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The Associates of the Boston Public Library held the 34th Literary Lights Dinner at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. The annual event celebrated writers from the Northeast and their contributions to literature. The event also raised funds to support the preservation of the Library's Special Collections.



Author and Creative Director of GrubHub Christopher Castellani introduces Literary Lights recipient Alison Bechdel.



Literary Lights Emcee, GBH Arts Editor, and host of the Culture Show Jared Bowen and BPL President David Leonard bring BPL Director of Research & Special Collections Beth Prindle, Curator of the Arts Kristin Parker (BPL Lead Curator of the Arts), and Conservation Officer Mary French up to the podium to talk about the exciting things going on at the Library.



BPL Associates Board Chair Alyce Lee (center) with Roberta King and Janet Haines.



Jaci Conry and Francesca Purcell with Dinner co-chairs Christy Cashman and Lisa Pierpont.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MAKING HISTORY gala

JUNE 6, 2024

5:30 cocktails | 6:30 dinner program  
Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston

[www.masshist.org/gala](http://www.masshist.org/gala)



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Literary Lights recipient Kevin Young, poet and Director of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African History and Culture. He quoted Jorge Luis Borges "I have always imagined paradise will be a kind of library."

# BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDS 34TH LITERARY LIGHTS DINNER AT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL



Author Stephen McCauley, who has written seven books including *The Object Of My Affection* which was made into a Hollywood movie, introduces Literary Lights recipient William Landay.



Historian, author, and educator Heather Cox Richardson introduces the Keynote Speaker Stacy Schiff.



Margot Berman, Sharon Cantor, and Bob Lipp.



Social media influencer AJ Hernandez, Katherine Kranenburg, and Marci Darling.



Literary Lights recipient William Landay, author of *Defending Jacob* which was developed into an Apple TV series.



Literary Lights recipient Dan Shaughnessy, Author, Sports Columnist and Associate Editor at the Boston Globe.



Steven Thomas and wife Pam Smith with Beth Prindle, BPL Director of Research and Special Collections.



The tables were adorned with books written by the honorees and guests were encouraged to take them home.



Literary Lights recipient Alison Bechdel (right) with Holly Taylor. Alison Bechdel is a cartoonist who created *Dykes To Watch Out For* and whose graphic memoir *Fun Home* was adapted into a musical which won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2015.



Literary Lights recipient and Keynote Speaker Stacy Schiff (2nd from left) and her husband Mark De La Bruyere with Honorary Dinner Chair Tom (right) and his wife Tricia.

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# BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLDS 34TH LITERARY LIGHTS DINNER AT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL



Members of the Literary Lights Dinner Committee with friends.



Maggie Lawler and Natalie Lemle.



Pullitzer Prize winning author and the 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States Tracy K Smith introduces Literary Lights recipient Kevin Young.



The Keynote Speaker was Stacy Schiff. The author is responsible for 5 biographies including *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America* which had been adapted to a mini-series *Franklin* starring Michael Douglas.



Former Massachusetts Secretary Of Education Paul Reville, US Congresswoman Catherine Clark, and BPL Associates Board Chair Alyce Lee.



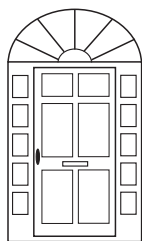
Literary Lights recipient William Landay with Dinner Co-Chair Lisa Pierpont.



Joseph Finder, TV newscaster Hank Phillip Ryan, and Jonathan Shapiro.

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# Coletta holds hearing on Mayor's proposed legislation regarding property tax classification

Special to the Sun

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta (District 1) chaired a Government Operations committee hearing last week to discuss a petition for a special law regarding property tax classification in the City of Boston. This Home Rule Petition was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and is a temporary tool seeking to protect residents from property tax increases to mitigate potential revenue shortfalls from declining commercial valuations.

Boston's proposed FY 2025 operating budget totaling \$4.46 billion dollar budget is largely funded by increased property tax growth. Boston receives 71% of its revenue from property taxes. Of the 71%, 58% of that is funded by commercial property taxes. Recent reports illuminate a potential nationwide decline in commercial property valuations due to slow economic growth following the pandemic and shifting dynamics in downtown cores. This makes Boston's fiscal buoyancy uniquely vulnerable due to the fact that we are heavily reliant on commercial property tax revenue to fund day-to-day operations and city services.

The proposal seeks to regulate the property tax classification limits in the City of Boston



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

to increase the percentage of tax burden that may be shifted to commercial properties. This is an effort to ensure that homeowners and residential property owner's taxes will not increase by upwards of 30 to 40% in one fiscal quarter. The legislation is stipulated to go into effect this upcoming fiscal year until fiscal year 2029 only if the current minimum residential factor would result in residential properties paying a higher percentage of the total property tax levy than what they paid the year prior.

Councilors shared concerns during the hearing about the success of raising commercial property taxes and potential unintended consequences. Some raised questions about finding alternate financial strategies to avoid the increase in property taxes. Additionally, Council-

ors raised concerns over how increasing taxes on commercial property owners could impact small business owners.

"This proposal by the Mayor is well-intentioned to protect our residents from exorbitant increases in their property taxes and generally support relieving pressure on our seniors who are usually house rich and cash poor," said Councilor Coletta. "I am concerned that additional taxes, especially on smaller commercial property owners, will unintentionally stifle necessary economic growth within our City."

"While the 2003 proposal was largely categorized as successful, we must consider the long-term impacts of our changing economy and impacts the pandemic has had on workplace vacancies and tenancy. Boston must prioritize additional sources of revenue as part of a suite of solutions for a long term plan. I look forward to continuing the conversation with my council colleagues and the administration to ensure Boston has all the tools in our toolbox to protect residents while assisting in our overall recovery."

In 2003, residential property values were increasing more quickly compared to commercial properties. This gap led to a significant increase in the residential

class's share of the tax burden in many communities. To address the gap, Boston Mayor Menino and the City Council filed a Home Rule Petition requesting a temporary increase to the percentage of tax burden that could be shifted to commercial properties. The following year, in 2004, the State passed legislation that adjusted the split tax rate formula which allowed a temporary increase in shifting the tax burden to commercial classes.

The passage of this legislation was successful in limiting residential tax increases for adopting communities, with 62 percent experiencing below-average increases in the 2004 single-family tax bill. Boston saw the largest increase in the average bill at 14 percent due to decreased values in the city's large commercial class and the rapid appreciation in the residential class.

Councilor Coletta highlighted the need for additional tax data as the council continues to review the proposal. Public testimony was offered by various organizations such as the Boston Municipal Research Bureau and the Greater Boston Real Estate Board who shared concerns about Boston's commercial real estate market following the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for the city to diversify

revenue sources. Written testimony was also provided by the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP).

Members of the administration present included:

- Ashley Groffenberger, CFO of the City of Boston
- Nicholas Ariniello, Commissioner of the City of Boston Assessing Department

Councilors in attendance included Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia and District Councilors Ben Weber (District 6), John Fitzgerald (District 3), Brian Worrell (District 4), Ed Flynn (District 2), Liz Breadon (District 9), and Sharon Durkan (District 8).

A recording of the hearing can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKKsoXB6Tak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKKsoXB6Tak)

City officials indicated that they were looking to send the Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature before the end of the formal session, July 31, 2024. The home rule petition first needs approval from the Boston City Council then it would be sent to the State Legislature who also needs to approve it before it can take effect.

## Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden Pays \$5,000 Civil Penalty

Special to the Sun

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden has paid a \$5,000 civil penalty for violating the conflict of interest law by failing to stop his staff from issuing and by failing to withdraw a DA's Office press statement aimed at discrediting his opponent in the 2022 Democratic primary election. Hayden signed a Disposition Agreement in which he admitted the violation and waived his right to a hearing.

After an August 23, 2022 newspaper article described allegations that Hayden's opponent in the September 6, 2022

Democratic primary, Ricardo Arroyo, had been investigated by the Boston Police Department for alleged sexual assaults when he was a teenager, the allegations became a focal point of the primary race. Arroyo sued the City of Boston for Boston Police Department investigation files he claimed would show the allegations were unfounded.

On September 2, 2022, four days before the primary election and 90 minutes before a court-ordered deadline for the City of Boston to provide investigation files to Arroyo, the Suffolk DA's Office issued an official statement to the press

announcing that the office had "reviewed the entire unredacted file regarding the sexual assault allegations," that "nothing in the file suggests the allegations were unfounded," and that "the campaign to sabotage the victim's credibility is shameful." The Suffolk DA's Office statement was widely published by multiple news media outlets, many using it as a response to Arroyo's claims. An article published in one outlet reported that "Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden released a statement saying prosecutors never deemed the case 'unfounded.'"

Hayden was aware that his

DA's Office staff intended to issue a statement directly contrary to Arroyo's public claims that the allegations against him were unfounded and challenging his credibility. Hayden took no action to prevent his staff from doing so and did not withdraw the statement after it was released. By these failures to act, Hayden knowingly or with reason to know used his official position as Suffolk District Attorney to secure for himself the unwarranted privilege of using valuable public resources for his own personal political advantage and violated the conflict of interest law.

"The authority and prestige of a District Attorney's office and the worktime of its staff are valuable public resources to be used for the public good," said Executive Director David A. Wilson. "Their use to discredit a political opponent in order to gain advantage in an election or for any other private purpose is prohibited by the conflict of interest law."

The Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict of interest law may apply to them.

# Massachusetts House passes bill authorizing Chapter 90 Funding

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts House of Representatives today passed a bill that includes \$200 million for the state's Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs, as well as \$175 million for specific programs. The bill also appropriates \$25 million for the rural roads program established in last year's Chapter 90 legislation, which provides funding to rural communities in addition to the standard Chapter 90 distribution.

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the Commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the

most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities. I want to thank Chairman Straus and my colleagues in the House, for prioritizing this vital legislation."

"Through this bill, the House provides cities and towns funding to maintain bridges and roads while advancing transportation accessibility and electric vehicle acquisition," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). "I look forward to seeing the City of Boston use these dollars to address our transportation

network."

"The Legislature continues to be responsive to the transportation needs of our towns and cities," said Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "This legislation demonstrates a commitment to funding for local transportation projects with again, our new program especially for funding to rural towns. I am pleased to support this important piece of legislation which provides more tools for towns to tackle their project backlog in time for the new fiscal year starting in July."

This legislation authorizes \$150 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects. This includes \$25 million for each of

the following:

- Municipal Pavement Program, which focuses on the improvement of municipally owned state numbered routes

- Municipal Small Bridge Program, which provides financial support to cities and towns for small bridge replacement, preservation, and rehabilitation projects

- Complete Streets Funding Program, which provides technical assistance and construction funding to municipalities for streets that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes such as walking, biking, transit, and vehicles

- Municipal Bus Enhancement Program, which provides grant funding to towns to build out infrastructure related to mass

transit by bus, such as bus shelters, curb reconfiguration, bus lanes, and signal prioritization

- Mass Transit Access Grant Program, which provides grants to municipalities for design and construction for improvements to access commuter rail stations or other mass transit stations, such as parking lots, drop-off and pick-up zones, bike storage infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure

- Municipal/RTA EV Grant Program, which provides grants to Regional Transit Authorities and municipalities for the purchase of electric vehicles and related charging equipment

Having passed the House of Representatives 155-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for their consideration.

## CITY PAWS

### Staying Legal

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recently, we received an email asking if we could address the issue of dog guardians not picking up after their dogs. This person was not a dog hater, as is often the case with those complaining about dogs. This reader was thoughtful and simply asked for help. The email began, "It is obvious that dog ownership is deeply rewarding for many in our neighborhood and that many of those with a dog are caring and responsible owners." It contained a photo of the bagged waste.

It's good to hear from some-

one who addresses the issue with balance, recognizing that many of us with dogs are responsible. Some of us even pick up the waste left by scofflaws since they give all dog lovers a bad name.

Little or no enforcement makes the problem worse. What's more, one bad apple, taking a dog out three or four times a day, can pile up a lot of waste in an area. When a second entitled person sees the waste left behind as permission to use that spot for their bags, we have a compounded problem.

#### Other Concerns

In addition to not picking up, readers have asked us to write about off-leash dogs, dogs on leash but not under control, dogs in inappropriate places, dogs allowed to jump on people, and dogs allowed to approach other dogs without permission.

One of the least popular phrases among people with reactive dogs is, "Don't worry, he's friendly." Your dog may be friendly, but you don't know how the dog you approach will regard a friendly sniff. If your

dog is off-leash or at the end of an extendable leash, there may be nothing you can do to prevent an unpleasant situation.

#### Licensing

If you live in Massachusetts, you should have obtained a 2024 dog license by April 1st. If you don't have one, apply now. Licensing your dog has many benefits. Think of it as a form of advocacy.

Adding your residence to the list of homes with dogs in your local area supports organizations fighting for services for those who share their lives with dogs. It's easy for politicians to ignore dogs as they set budgets for recreational space and services when the official number is vastly decreased by those who don't have a license.

On the most superficial level, it reminds you to keep your dog's critical rabies vaccination current. In addition, some dog walkers, kennels, dog parks, and residential buildings require licensing.

Finally, the lack of a license says something about you should



Dogs look to us for leadership and protection. Dogs are not the problem. The problem is people who think that rules do not apply to them. (Photo by Rhiannon Elliott)

you ever face a legal situation regarding your dog. Something that might result in a warning could escalate to a fine when an enforcement official sees you as a scofflaw. In the case of a lawsuit or an insurance issue, your lack of a license could undermine your credibility.

#### Should Dogs or People Be Licensed?

Over the years, we have often proposed having people licensed as legal caretakers of animals rather than attaching the license to the dog. Then, the responsible caregivers could register the

animals under that license and receive tags for each. Beyond denial for outright abuse, a caregiver's registry might deny licenses to those who are constant scofflaws or who have a history of dangerous dog offenses.

Of course, some enforcement of the current rules and regulations for picking up after your dog and keeping dogs on a leash would have to be a part of any program like this.

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

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## Do you need to place a Legal Notice?

Don't Forget to check with the Courts to see if you qualify for a FEE WAIVER

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BOSTON</b>			
Kochanowski, Kirby	Smith, Stephanie D	180 Beacon St #1A	\$1,070,000
Vigreux, Jocelyn	Acker David B Est	188 Beacon St #6	\$3,250,000
Martin, Griffyn	Mangum, William C	341 Beacon St #2C	\$999,999
Thomas & Lisa Hedger Ft	Leblanc, Mark F	56 Commonwealth Ave #53	\$515,000
Yablonovsky, Elena	Yablonovsky, Lina	47-55 Lagrange St #7E	\$600,000
Honkonen, Erik D	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #504	\$1,243,617
Yablonovsky, Sasha	Yablonovsky, Boris	110 Stuart St #16l	\$600,000
Bafaro Jr, Joseph J	Sack, Joseph W	400 Stuart St #17K	\$1,200,000
430 Stuart Street Rt	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #22H	\$3,400,000
Digirolamo, Sarah	Foran, Ann M	80 Worcester St #3	\$1,700,000
Beantown Hotel Owner LLC	Pim Boston Back Bay LLC	24-30 Belvidere St	\$134,469,000
V S Haseotes li RET	Remondi, Amy L	70 Brimmer St #335	\$500,000
Huang, Li	Rydman, Kaj H	65 Burbank St #14	\$495,000
Yetra, Lauren	Julian, Benjamin	26 Chilcott Pl #1	\$785,000
Beantown Hotel Owner LLC	Pim Boston Back Bay LLC	40 Dalton St	\$134,469,000
Provanzano, James	Gutierrez, Rosben L	100 Lovejoy Wharf #5Q	\$650,000
Mccullagh, David	Isanic Fisher Island Inc	360 Newbury St #410	\$1,300,000
Hartwell, Benjamin	Pearson, Georgia A	55 Pinckney St	\$4,420,000
Zhang, Yuanchao	Montiz-Witten, Tanya D	45 Province St #1506	\$1,575,000
Dittman, Jennifer	Hench, Holly	451 Shawmut Ave #2	\$1,510,000
67 Farm St LLC	Jacksonsd Cedar LLC	6 W Cedar St	\$8,300,000
Stern, Angela J	Kasper, Mia M	27 Wareham St #206	\$320,818
Albert-Rozenberg, Daniel J	Pao, Charles	43 Westland Ave #607	\$840,000
Gaudreau, Scott	Lotfi, Mostafa	1 Franklin St #4507	\$2,200,000
215 Harrison LLC	215 Harrison Avenue Nt	215 Harrison Ave	\$1,580,000
Singh Dev Holdings LLC	Xia, Tian	580 Washington St #8F	\$920,000

## LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Self Storage Sale  
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 5/14/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household

goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Melissa McDonald unit #210; Jamil Abdallah unit #311; Kay Sullivan unit #412; Philip Martignetti unit #448; Chelsea Mackie unit #602; Rosalynd Scott unit #635; Leasia McKnight unit #640; Harrison Rodriguez unit #704; Marc Malpeli unit #805. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and condi-

tions apply. See manager for details.  
4/25/24, 5/2/24  
BS

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Self Storage Sale  
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston South End located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by

the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 5/14/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Juan Soto unit #1010; Ashley Woods unit #1055; Lenroy Bruce unit #3204; Kathrina Gold unit #3227; Damara Robinson/Womens Lunch Place unit #3301; Regina Hinson unit

#4049; Jennay Campbell unit #4058; Carol Rodriguez unit #5003; Manuel Reyes Almonte unit #5017; Francisco Carmona Melo units #5033 & #5037; Darrell Smith unit #5041. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.  
4/25/24, 5/2/24  
BS

## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

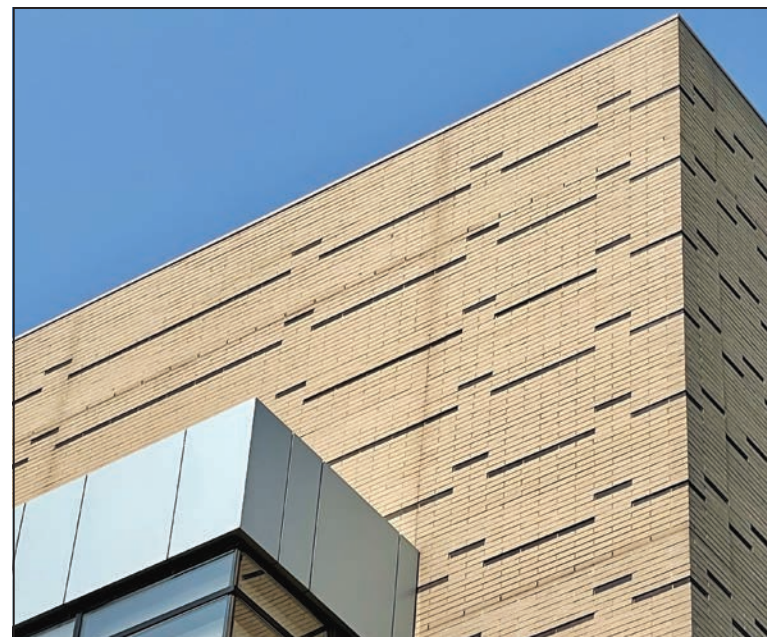


The vents in the last clue are on the stone bench that runs around the Boylston and Dartmouth sides of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. Today's answer is a photo from circa 1957 of the Dartmouth side of the building with the bench in use.

The next clue is in the Fenway/Symphony neighborhood.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# NEW LISTINGS!

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