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THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

City sponsors third meeting on proposed renovation of the South End Branch Library

By Dan Murphy

A third city-sponsored meeting on the proposed renovation of the South End Branch Library was held as a hybrid event on Wednesday, June 12, both in person at the Blackstone Community Center, as well as virtually.

The project has a capital budget of \$30 million, and at between 15,500 and 16,500 square-feet, the renovated library would mark a 40-percent increase from the branch's previous size of 8,400 square feet, said Brett Bentson, a principal at Utile Architecture.

In the renovated library space, the approximately 3,200 square-foot Adult Area, which includes a Local History section, will accommodate 12,500-13,000 volumes, as well as 36 seats, which marks a 33-percent increase from before; and 12 computer stations.

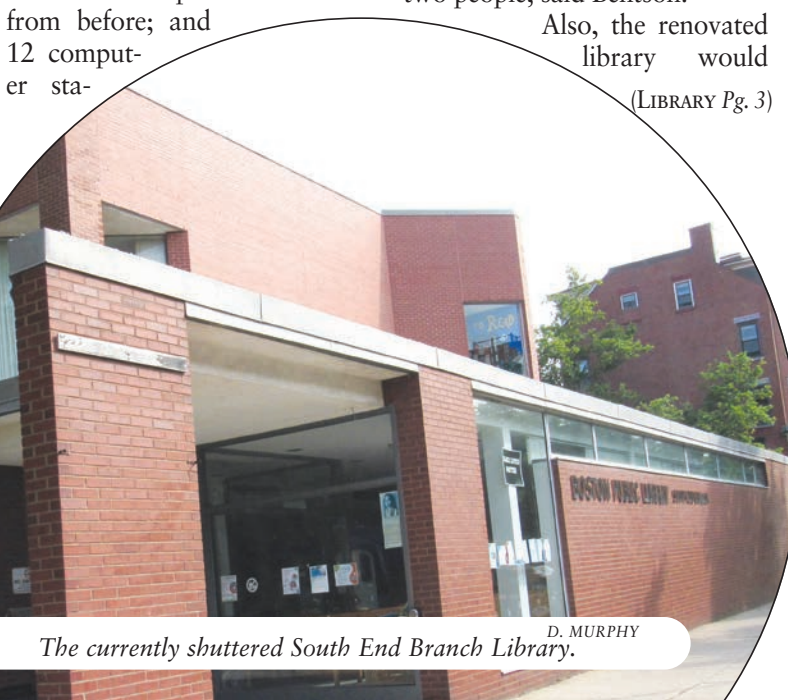
tions.

A 2,760 square-foot Children's Area, which includes the Tweens Area, Story Time Area, and Crafts Area, will comprise 13,250-13,750 volumes; 36 seats – a nearly 13-percent increase from before; and three AWE (early learning) computer stations, said Bentson, while an 835 square-foot Teen Area would include 3,000 volumes; 12 seats – a 200-increase from before; and four computer stations.

The renovated library will also offer 2,290 square feet of community space, including a meeting room that could accommodate up to 100 people; a multi-purpose meeting room, with eight to 10 seats; two study rooms, each with four to six seats; and a 'phone room' nook that can accommodate one or two people, said Bentson.

Also, the renovated library would

(LIBRARY Pg. 3)



The currently shuttered South End Branch Library. D. MURPHY

FENWAY PORCHFEST RETURNS



COURTESY PHOTOS OF FENWAY CDC

The fifth annual Fenway Porchfest - a collaboration between the Fenway Community Center and the Fenway CDC returned to the neighborhood on Saturday, June 15, for a day of good vibes and good music around the Fenway neighborhood. See more photos on page 8.

Roundhead Brewing and Fresh Food Generation Beer Garden to travel to various Boston parks this summer

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department have announced a partnership with Roundhead Brewing Company and Fresh Food Generation to bring Alianza, a first-of-its-kind traveling beer garden series, to seven of Boston's parks throughout the summer with food and beverages for all ages. The first activation will launch in South Boston at A Street Park on June 19.

"Our parks and open spaces create opportunities to build

community across generations," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "That's why I'm so thrilled for our traveling beer garden to make stops across the city to activate our parks in new ways this summer by bringing people together in partnership with Roundhead Brewing Company and Fresh Food Generation."

"We can't wait to activate our parks with this exciting partnership," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "Alianza presented by Roundhead and Fresh Food Generation is a unique opportunity for residents to enjoy great

local beer, delicious food, and the beauty of their neighborhood parks."

In January, the City issued a Request For Proposals for a seasonal mobile outdoor hospitality opportunity with alcohol service. Founded in 2017 and located in Hyde Park, Roundhead Brewing Company LLC is Massachusetts's first Latino-owned brewery. Fresh Food Generation is a woman-owned, Black-owned, small business located in Dorchester. They will offer a menu of Lat-

(BEER GARDENS, Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

IT'S HEATING UP

A heat wave officially comprises three straight days of 90+ temperatures and forecasters are telling us that we could have four 90+ days with little relief at night. Our readers may be surprised to learn that more than 1200 Americans die every year from extreme heat, making heat the deadliest kind of extreme weather. By contrast, flooding, though more sensational when viewed on our TV screens, kills fewer than 100 Americans each year. In addition, it is widely believed that those 1200 deaths are a significant undercount because persons with health issues who succumb to heat may not have been deemed to have died from heat.

Although senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions are the most susceptible to the dangers of excessive heat, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat stroke if they do not take it easy. With our region plunging from typically cool, spring weather right into the heat, those who work outside (or who work out on a daily basis) have not had time to adjust, both mentally and physically, to the onset of the extreme heat.

However, we are not the only ones facing extreme heat these days. Extreme heat is a world-wide phenomenon thanks to the effects of climate change. Heat records have been set in recent days across the globe, from Greece to India to the Philippines. Every month for the past 12 months has set a world record for that month (in other words, May was the hottest-ever May, April the hottest-ever April, etc.) and June is on track to make it 13 months in a row (which means that this June will break last June's record for the hottest-ever June).

The National Weather Service is providing a new way to gauge the risk from extreme heat. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it has launched a tool called HeatRisk which allows users to search a map of the United States to figure out their level of threat, ranging between one (little to no risk) and four (extreme risk).

For those of us lucky enough to live near the coastline, a dip in the ocean will offer a respite from the heat wave. But those of us who have sampled the ocean in the past few weeks have noticed another ominous sign of climate change -- the water temperature already has been far above normal. Instead of the extremity-chilling temps that are typical for May and early June, the water temp at the beaches around Boston Harbor actually has been pleasant. So the good news is that it's been warm enough to go for a swim -- but the bad news is that the record high ocean temps are a threat to all marine life and a major contributor to rising sea levels.

Finally, the combination of the hot atmosphere and the hot ocean increases the chances of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and inundating rainfall, which is occurring in southern Florida right now.

We urge all of our readers not to underestimate the effects of extreme heat and to take it easy over the next few days.

BANNER #18!

The Celtics' convincing victory in Game 5 on Monday that clinched the Celts' 18th NBA championship was great fun for fans old and young alike.

For those of us who cherish our "Havlicek Stole the Ball" album and who recall watching the Bill Russell-led Celts clinch their 1969 NBA title in Game 7 at Los Angeles in dramatic fashion (we had to stay up late on a school night because the game was played on the West Coast), the chance to surpass the hated-Lakers for the most NBA titles was one of the most-satisfying aspects of the 2024 title.

In addition, this edition of the Celtics laid to rest whether they had that special quality that separates champions from the rest of the pack. After the disappointment of being knocked out in the first round last year, and the collapse against Golden State in the finals two years ago, even the most-ardent Celtic fans had to wonder whether JT, JB, & Co. had what it takes to be the best -- and they answered that question in commanding fashion.

Still, when we consider that this was the Celtics' first title in 16 years and only the second in almost 40 years, it makes us realize how special these championship moments are in the world of sports today. By contrast, the Celtics won 16 NBA titles over a 30-year span from 1957 to 1986. That's more than half of the NBA crowns spanning two generations of Boston sports fans.

But those days when Bill, Dave, and Larry ruled the NBA are long gone. The NBA is big business now -- the extended playoffs literally are a second season -- and attracts the best players from all over the world. The post-game commentators noted that there are more excellent teams who will be shooting to knock off the Celtics than at any time in the history of the NBA. As good as this talented young group may be, we cannot expect that they can create the sort of dynasties that marked the Celtics' teams of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s.

So let's savor the moment -- and get ready for a joyous victory parade!

Summer in the City series returns to Boston Harbor Hotel

Special to the Sun

The vibrant pulse of Boston's waterfront has made a return as the Boston Harbor Hotel kicks continues its 25th Annual Summer in the City series, through Aug. 29.

"We are absolutely delighted to bring back this cherished summer tradition. Each year, Summer in the City encapsulates the essence of New England's magical summer nights," Managing Director, Stephen Johnson said in a press release. "Our waterfront comes alive with music and laughter, creating an unparalleled experience for both locals and visitors."

Tuesday through Friday nights, the waterfront will be alive with music from live bands performing on a floating barge stage. The Summer in the City music lineup boasts an elec-

tric mix, featuring Blues, Soul, Country, Rat Pack, Pop, R&B, and more. The widely popular and lively karaoke nights are also making a return, providing an exciting opportunity for people to showcase their singing talents.

Boston Harbor Hotel extends a special thanks to this year's sponsors: Volvo, Saratoga Springs, MGS Group Real Estate, and Entertainment Specialists, and media partner, Boston Magazine.

Summer in the City runs through Aug. 29 on Tuesday to Friday nights, with bands performing nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. On Saturday, enjoy the harbor ambiance and drinks from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., sans live music. For more information visit <https://www.bostonharbor-hotel.com/culinary/summer-in-the-city>.

BPHC promotes LGBTQ+ health and wellness during Pride Month

Special to the Sun

June is Pride Month, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) launched a new campaign to reduce the impact of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community. The campaign, led by BPHC's Infectious Disease Bureau and in partnership with Boston Pride for the

People, can be found in MBTA stations, buses, and various digital platforms, including social media and dating apps. The campaign's website, safersexyston.com, also has information on medical providers and additional resources. The goal of the campaign is to normalize conversations about sexually transmitted

(HEALTH AND WELLNESS, Pg. 3)

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

Text or attachments emailed to deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WALKING TOURS OF PUBLIC GARDEN RESUME

The Friends of the Public Garden is once again offering free walking tours of the Public Garden every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 4 p.m. Attendees should meet by the Make Way for Ducklings statue in the park.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD JUNE EVENTS

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its SoWa Sundays on June 23, and 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit sowaartists.com, face-

book.com/SoWaArtistsGuild, or instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/ for more information.

CHARLESGATE FARMERS MARKET KICKS OFF SUNDAY, JUNE 23

The Muddy Water Initiative will host its Charlesgate Farmers Market every Sunday between June 23 and Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in DCR Charlesgate Park at Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and West. (Berklee students will be performing at the opening event on June 23.)

Some of the 30 vendors on hand will be Dicks Market Gar-

den for fresh produce; Captain Madden's Seafood; and Cape Ann Fresh Catch for fresh fish; Too Shelf Cookies for their renowned cookies; Azuluna Foods for meat, chicken and eggs; and prepared and cooked foods from Samosa Man and Dumpling Daughters.

SUMMER JAZZ CONCERTS AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK

The Boston Public Library and Friends of the South End Library present

Jazz and Blues with Pat Loomis and Friends on Wednesdays, July 17 and 31; Aug. 14 and 28; Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at South End Library Park.

LIBRARY (from pg. 1)

include 970 square feet of staff space, added, Bentson, while 1,480 square feet is designated as Central Services space, including a borrower's desk and restrooms.

The building renovation will result in a "modest," 7,600 square-foot expansion of its footprint, said Bentson, extending 9 feet into the Library Park. This extension won't impact any of the park's existing trees, however, he added.

"Views into the park are tremendously important," Benston said of the renovated library branch's design.

Since the South End, and particularly the site of the library at 685 Tremont St., is vulnerable to flooding, both now and in the future, the first floor will be elevated around 29-30 inches above grade, said Bentson. In response to the proposed grade change, a ramp and elevator will be created to provide access from the sidewalk. (The library, which opened in 1971, has been closed since falling prey to flooding in September of 2023; it also suffered an earlier flood the previous April.)

Longtime South End resident and neighborhood activist Stephen Fox expressed disappointment that the third floor would be home to only exterior mechanicals, along with staff and support space, rather than serving as another usable level of the library that could serve the public.

Fox added that the conversation with the city surrounding usage of the third floor is "essen-

tially closed," although he said he has been continually asking to meet with the city on this since the 'test-fits' for the renovated library were unveiled during the city's second public meeting on the project held virtually in February.

("Test fits" were described then by Bentson as 3-D depictions, which are not design proposals and "fit together like Lego blocks" to show how different construction arrangements would fill the site.)

"I think it's flawed. I don't think it's worked for me as member of community," said Bentson, adding that he would like to see a "full-throated conversation [with the city] about the third floor."

Also, Fox predicted that the proposed 9-foot 'encroachment' into the alley would likely pose problems for neighbors who regularly access the alley.

Rep. John Moran requested that the renovated space offer a culinary program — something he believes could help foster a sense of community around the library — and suggested that a redesigned third floor could accommodate such a program. He added that if this isn't already in the budget, he'd be willing to see if he could secure state funding for the program.

Bob Barney, a longtime resident of the Claremont neighborhood, urged the project team to include a food pantry in their plans for the renovated building.

Barney also asked whether the project team had taken into consideration the growing pop-

ulation of the South End when determining the square footage for the renovated library branch.

"I think the library should not just be built for now but for the future," added Barney.

Carol Blair, a resident of Northampton Street in Chester Square and neighborhood activist, emphasized the necessity for the renovated library to offer ample room for the community, especially given the loss of so many other community spaces in the South End.

David Leonard, president of the BPL, replied that the renovated library would include one large community room, along with four smaller community spaces.

While the city states the project is now being fast-tracked per an 'accelerated process,' Leonard said it would likely be completed within 12 to 18 months, with a worse possible case-scenario of three years to finish the project. (Leonard said he would provide an exact timeline for construction at a future meeting.)

Judith Klau of the South End was dismayed by the expected timeline, saying that it is way too long for the neighborhood to be without a library.

"I don't understand why space can't be rented [in the meantime]," said Klau.

The next public meeting on the project is expected to take place in late summer, or possible early September, and will include more developed design plans, with furniture; landscape developments; and sustainability initiatives, according to the project team.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS (from pg. 2)

infections (STIs), encourage people to get tested and treated, and reduce STIs in Boston.

"It is important to have these conversations and to stay educated in order to ensure the safety of ourselves and our loved ones," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our goal as a City is to provide equitable access to educational resources and healthcare services to all residents."

"The rates of sexually transmitted infections, including gonorrhea, Chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV in Boston are among the highest in the state," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, the Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "This campaign is designed to decrease stigma and increase testing for everyone who is sexually active, including some members of the LGBTQ+ community who are disproportionately impacted."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime. People with certain risk factors should get tested at least once a year. Those who have multiple or anonymous partners should be tested more frequently. Testing-specific questions, such as how to get tested, who should get tested, and symptoms, should be discussed in detail with a medical provider. Find one near you at safersexystoboston.com.

"While HIV and STIs are not exclusive to the LGBTQ+ community, members of this community are disproportionately impacted because of heightened

stigma and significantly less societal supports," said Tegan Evans, Interim Bureau Director of the Infectious Disease Bureau of the Boston Public Health Commission. "We are proud to partner with Boston Pride for the People on this campaign so that on day groups such as the LGBTQ+ community will no longer be marginalized or impacted."

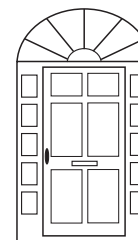
According to State data, the number of persons living with HIV infection in Massachusetts increased by 13% between 2012 to 2021. Compared to neighboring cities, Boston had the highest number of new HIV infection diagnosis from 2019-2021. Fewer than half of respondents said they received education on how to prevent HIV transmission and were taught how to talk to partners about using condoms.

"We aim to promote a safe and positive culture to reduce STIs in Boston," said Teakia Brown, Director of the Education and Community Engagement Division of the Infectious Disease Bureau at the Boston Public Health Commission. "That's why we partnered with theSTUDIO to develop authentic and empowering messages to advocate for HIV and STI awareness, testing, and treatment."

In addition to this campaign, BPHC will be participating in the Pride Parade on June 8 and giving out free sexual health education materials. BPHC is also encouraging people to participate in national HIV testing day on June 27 by scheduling an appointment with a trusted provider. Find more Pride events at boston.gov/pride.

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BEER GARDENS (from pg. 1)

in-influenced brews, paired with Caribbean and Modern American food.

Alianza (Alliance), the name for this beer garden series, speaks to the local business partnership, and invites attendees to travel and build community across neighborhoods. At each location, Alianza will operate from Wednesday to Sunday during the hours of 2:00 - 9:00 p.m for two consecutive weeks before traveling to the next City of Boston park.

“Roundhead is excited to bring people together across Boston’s neighborhoods,” said Luis Espinoza, co-owner of Roundhead Brewing Company. “I am very proud to combine our cultures, and be a part of something that can only happen here in Boston.”

“Every two weeks, not only will the location change, but we will be featuring a new menu item in honor of each neighborhood,” said Cassandra Campbell, CEO of Fresh Food Generation, a Boston native. “We’re excited to take our restaurant services on the road and create experiences in neighborhood parks as another

place for people to connect.”

The schedule is as follows and can also be found at roundhead-brewing.com/alianza-park-series:

- A Street Park, South Boston June 19- June 30, 2024
 - Forsyth Park - Fenway July 3-July 14
 - LoPresti Park - East Boston July 17- July 28
 - Marcella Playground - Roxbury July 31- August 4
 - Jamaica Pond Pine Bank - Jamaica Plain August 14 - August 25
 - Franklin Park (Giraffe Entrance) - Dorchester August 28 - September 8
 - Brighton Common- Allston-Brighton September 11 - September 22
- For more information about Boston’s parks please visit boston.gov/parks. Stay updated with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

BLO’s free outdoor “Street Stage” Series returns with free performances from Charlestown to South Boston

Special to the Sun

Boston Lyric Opera’s (BLO) popular mobile performance venue Street Stage returns for free live performances to locations throughout Boston this summer. Sponsored by HarborOne Bank and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, Street Stage brings opera and popular music performances to neighborhoods from Charlestown to South Boston; the series kicked off June 1 on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Conceived and created as a way to bring music to the public during COVID shutdowns, the 26-foot-long Street Stage vehicle is a semi-trailer engineered to open on three sides and offer a 270-degree view of performers. Audiences are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs to the open-air performances.

“There’s no more exhilarating experience than hearing beautiful music on a gorgeous warm summer day,” says BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen. “The artists performing this summer season are some of the

most accomplished performers in Greater Boston. Different programs and activities are planned at each site, so multiple visits are encouraged!”

Nelsen says support from HarborOne Bank and the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture is crucial to make the series available for free across the city. “It’s quite fitting that three of our concerts are in places where the Harbor figures prominently.”

Details on the performance listings below, and information on BLO’s other summer events is available at blo.org/events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Street Stage Debut at Charlestown Navy Yard

Date/Time: August 3, 2024 @ 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM

Location: Charlestown Navy Yard, 23 2nd Ave., Charlestown, Boston

Details: For the first time, Street Stage visits the historic Charlestown Navy Yard. In partnership with the National Parks Service of Boston, this event will feature operatic arias and music

inspired by the sea, set against the backdrop of the Boston Harbor. Performances will take place on the lawn of the 1805 Commandant’s House, with alternating musical sets at 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM. The program will also include meet-the-artist interviews and family-friendly educational content.

An Evening Concert at South Boston’s Moakley Park

Date/Time: August 7, 2024, 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Moakley Park Picnic Area, 450 Old Colony Ave., South Boston

Details: Street Stage brings a multicultural music program to historic Moakley Park for the first time. The event, perfect for a family-friendly evening, will feature food, games, and kid-centered art activities provided by Boston Harbor Now. Picnic tables and chairs will be available on a first-come basis, with attendees encouraged to bring their own seating. Registration is recommended at blo.org/events.

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Virtual Public Meeting

2 Charlesgate West

JULY
01
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3KbHilw
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 722 2542

Project Proponent: Scape Charlesgate LLC

Project Description: This is a joint virtual IAG and Public Meeting for the proposed 2 Charlesgate West project in Fenway. This meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, June 27, has been rescheduled for Monday, July 1. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) and its potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public. Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days before the meeting date.

Se encuentra disponible el servicio gratuito de interpretación de la información brindada en estas reuniones. Si necesita servicios de traducción, contáctese con: scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov (617.918.4271). La reunión está programada para el 7/1/2024. Por favor, solicite los servicios de interpretación a más tardar 5 días antes de la fecha de la reunión.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者,本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本会议的内容,您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务,请通过以下方式进行联系:scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov (617-918-4271)会议定于2024年7月1日,请在会议前5天内申请口译服务

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Zelkova tree removed from Boston Center for the Arts plaza for safety reasons

By Dan Murphy

A large Zelkova tree located at the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) plaza at the northeast corner of Clarendon and Tremont streets was scheduled to be removed by the city yesterday, Wednesday, June 19, for safety reasons.

A statement from the city reads in part: “After consultation with arborists, it was sadly determined that the Zelkova was dying due to restrictions to the root structure as a result of hardscape design. Seeing that this is a public safety issue, the tree will be taken down on June 19. We mourn the loss of this tree and are committed to working with the community, through outreach and due-process, to redesign/replant the plaza.”

Going forward, the city intends to work with its partners at the BCA, which manages the plaza; Banyan Bar + Refuge,



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Zelkova tree located at the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) plaza, is seen ahead of its removal by the city on Wednesday, June 19, for safety reasons.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN MORGAN

The Zelkova tree located in the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) plaza is seeing coming down on Wednesday, June 19.

which sits directly across from the tree; and the Ellis Neighborhood Association, which was instrumental in alerting the city’s

arborist to the state of the tree, “to plant...the next generation of flora for all to enjoy safely,” according to the city.

Help with phones, food and housing

How Commonwealth Care Alliance Massachusetts’s Community Health Workers help members stay healthy and live well in their homes



For many of us, a home is more than shelter—it’s a safe haven where family memories are made. Commonwealth Care Alliance Massachusetts (CCA) Community Health Worker Angelmina understood that when she first met Bonnie*, a CCA member in her 70s. Struggling to replace her oil tank, Bonnie would soon be left without heat or hot water.

Since the home had been in Bonnie’s family for many years, belongings had accumulated in the basement, blocking access to the tank, and the fire department could not approve a new tank until the old one was removed. With no family or friends nearby to help, Bonnie was losing hope. To help, Angelmina contacted local vendors to clear the basement. She also helped Bonnie apply for financial support for a new oil tank.

Housing issues such as these can have a significant impact on someone’s health and wellbeing. That’s why in recent years, CCA helped members receive more than 77,000 home modifications and supports, including helping members get air conditioners, homemaker services, ramp installations, and more.

CCA Community Health Worker Janette has seen the impact these issues can have on the members she supports, too. “Many people who struggle with issues at home also struggle with stress, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol,” she said. “When you’re anxious about paying your bills, keeping warm, or staying safe, you can’t focus on your health.”

Both Janette and Angelmina help members live safely at home, connecting people to food resources, transportation, or phones. It might also mean connecting them to a lawyer if they are facing eviction or helping them apply for housing.

“Community Health Workers provide the kind of support that a friend or family member would offer,” Angelmina added. Recently, she helped a member apply for a phone and assisted him with getting a social security card, which was required for the phone application. “He had to have a lot of trust in me to give me his ID and get this done for him,” she said.

While keeping members in their homes is an important goal for CCA, finding a new home is sometimes a better option. “I recently worked with a member who was living in a terrible environment,” Janette said. “His home was infested. He thought that his living situation was the best that he could do. We collaborated as a team and with our community partners and we helped him move to a safer home.”

CCA’s Community Health Workers live in the communities they serve and understand the conditions that impact the health and wellness of their neighbors. With this knowledge, they help members close gaps to get access to the programs they need. Janette’s number one goal is to be an advocate for her members, a role that requires trust and understanding. “I need to listen before I can talk. While housing might be their primary need, helping them fill out that application isn’t always step one.”

When asked what she loves most about her job, Angelmina said she was passionate about helping people. “I’m willing to go the extra mile to help support our members’ needs,” she said.

Janette agreed. “CCA’s mission is to help people with the most significant needs stay healthy and live well. That’s a mission I strongly believe in, and I’m proud to support it every day.”



*To protect the privacy of our member, this name is a pseudonym.

Commonwealth Care Alliance is a mission-driven healthcare services organization that supports older adults and individuals with the most significant needs. Visit: ccama.org/health.

MAYOR WU BRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR TO COMM AVE MALL

Mayor's Office photos by Mike Mejia

Mayor Michelle Wu, in partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, brought her annual Neighbor-

hood Coffee Hour Series on Tuesday, June 18, to the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, where she met with her constituents from Beacon Hill and the Back Bay.



Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the crowd.



Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden; Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board; and Mayor Michelle Wu.



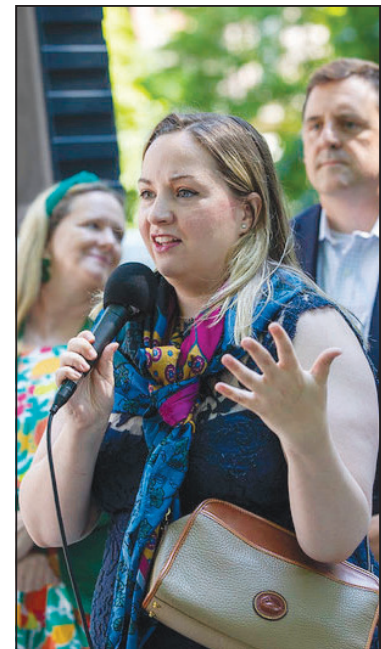
Pictured, left to right, are Ryan Woods, commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department; ; Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board; Mayor Michelle Wu; and : Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden.



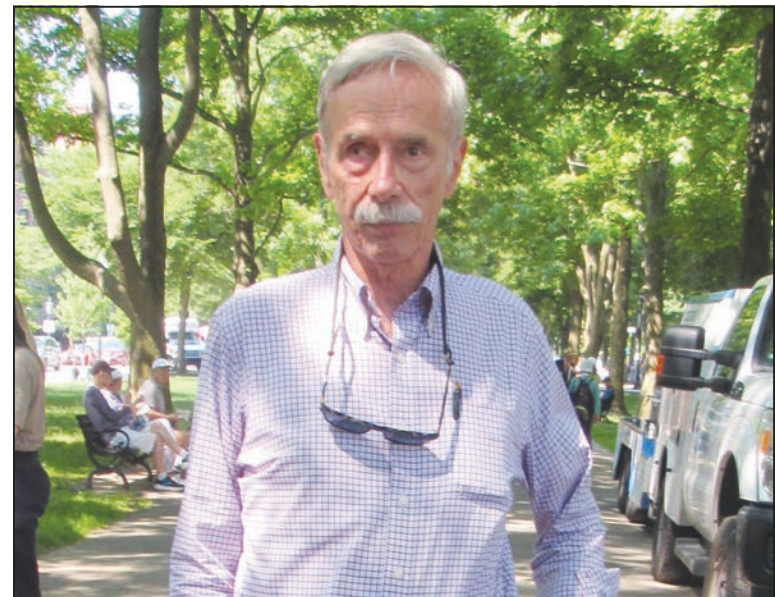
Macon Bonner, the city's liaison to the Back Bay and Beacon Hill, as well as Fenway-Kenmore and Mission Hill.



Rep. Jay Livingstone.



District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



Martyn Roetter, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay.

BOSTON PUBLIC MARKET

ON THE GREENWAY

THURSDAYS | 2-6PM
June 13th - Oct 24th

MILK ST & INDIA ST
on The Greenway

A rotating selection of more local New England farms, food producers & artisans!

SNAP • HIP • City of Boston Farmers Market coupons accepted on applicable items!

Healthy Incentives Program

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be e-mailed to deb@thebostonsun.com.

MAYOR WU BRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR TO COMM AVE MALL



D.MURPHY PHOTOS

Boston Parks and Recreation Department summer interns Jaden Mallagodi, Nicholas Jacobs, and Kendrick Echeverri.



Kennedy Avery, chief of staff for District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, with Elliott Laffer, past chair and a longtime board member of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

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*Offer valid until 9/30/2024. This offer is limited to new merchant customers only. Rebates are subject to the following qualifying minimum monthly processing volumes: \$10,000 - \$50,000 to earn a \$100 activation rebate; \$25,000 - \$50,000 to earn a \$100 rebate for new purchase or rented terminal (subject to qualifying terminals, Poynt) or purchase of Converge Software. Monthly processing volumes of \$50,000 and above qualify to earn a \$200 activation rebate and a \$200 rebate for new purchase or rented terminal (subject to qualifying terminals, Poynt) or purchase of Converge Software. Activation required within 30-days to receive activation rebate. A bonus rebate of \$500 is available to qualifying new merchants with \$100,000 in actual merchant sales in any one month during the offer period and that have completed activation within 30 days. A single merchant may only receive rebates for up to three locations. Rebate credits will be issued within 90-days of activation. Other restrictions and requirements may apply. Please refer to the additional disclosures received at account opening for complete terms, fees and conditions; or contact any East West Bank branch for additional details.

Wu shares Celtics Championship Parade preparations

Special to the Sun

The Boston Police Department is encouraging parade attendees to celebrate safely and be prepared for hot weather.

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston public safety officials, and Celtics leadership shared preparations for Friday's rolling rally championship parade to celebrate the Boston Celtics' 18th NBA Championships. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., Celtics players will ride on Duck Boats, starting at TD Garden on Causeway Street, passing by City Hall Plaza and the Boston Common, and ending on Boylston Street by the Hynes Convention Center.

"We are so proud of the Celtics players on and off the basketball court and are ecstatic to host a celebration for banner number 18," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "While we know how to host a parade in the city of champions, we are reminding everyone to celebrate responsibly, stay hydrated and mindful of the hot temperatures, and reach out to one of the many public safety officials who will be present along the route if you see something that needs attention."



2024 Boston Celtics Parade Route



In anticipation of hot temperatures, Mayor Wu and Boston public safety officials are reminding spectators to stay hydrated and use sunscreen. Underage and public drinking of alcohol will

not be tolerated. Boston Police and Boston EMS will have a large presence along the parade route. The Office of Emergency Management will have misting tents out to provide cooling relief

located at City Hall Plaza and the Boston Common, along with cooling towels. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert-boston emergency notifications at boston.gov/alertboston.

A full list of street closures can be found here. A parking ban on impacted streets will begin at midnight on Friday morning so crews can start securing the parade route. Streets will shut down to normal traffic beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday.

"Congratulations to the Celtics for their long deserved 18th banner. I want to make sure that we thank our State police partners, NEMLEC partners, and other public safety partners that have helped deal with the celebration last night, who will also help us in this year's rolling rally coming up," said Commissioner Michael A. Cox, Boston Police Department. "Please be aware of your surroundings in general -- if you see something that looks suspicious, please say something by dialing 911. This is a championship City and I'm sure our crowds will continue to show that Boston's the best in the world."

While the previously declared heat emergency will have ended by Friday, first responders will be ready to help those feeling adverse effects from the heat.

"As we celebrate the Celtics and their victory, it's important to do so responsibly," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "Remember to look out for one another, take care of each other, and make sure everyone is safe. If someone doesn't seem okay, get help right away."

City streets in the West End, Downtown, and Back Bay will be shut down to normal vehicular traffic for the parade route.

Commuters are encouraged to work remotely if possible and avoid driving through the downtown area during the late morning and early afternoon Friday. Parade attendees and commuters are encouraged to take public transportation.

To accommodate higher-than-normal ridership, the MBTA will operate increased subway service and modified Commuter Rail schedules with additional train times before and after the parade. Riders are strongly encouraged to purchase roundtrip fares in advance. Riders can find more information on MBTA service, parking, paying fares, and more for Friday's championship parade at mbta.com/Celtics.

Additional MBTA staff, Transit Ambassadors, Keolis personnel, and Transit Police will be deployed throughout the system to assist with safety and wayfinding. Station platforms may become crowded, and as a safety precaution, riders are reminded to stay behind the yellow line when on platforms and not to obstruct closing doors of subway vehicles. Bikes will not

JUNETEENTH TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Delayed pick-up service begins on Wednesday 6/19.

Neighborhoods on a **Regular** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Charlestown
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

Neighborhoods on a **Delayed** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

Please note that all neighborhoods will run on a regular collection schedule on Monday & Tuesday.

FENWAY PORCHFEST RETURNS

Photos Courtesy of Fenway CDC

The fifth annual Fenway Porchfest - a collaboration between the Fenway Community Center and the Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) - returned to the neighborhood on Saturday, June 15.

For one day each year, this free festival transforms outdoor spaces throughout the neighborhood into impromptu concert stages.

The inaugural Fenway Porchfest event in June of 2018 was a collaborative effort that included the Fenway Alliance, the Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation), and the Fenway Civic Association. It featured about 70 musical acts perform-




ing hip-hop, folk, rock and classical, among other styles, at unique outdoor venues, including The Verb Hotel, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and

on the Emerald Necklace.

The first Porchfest event nationally was held in 2007 in Ithaca, N.Y. and featured about 20 music acts.





Virtual Public Meeting

615 Albany Street

JULY

08

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3Rnnwra

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 646 5948

Project Proponent: 615 Albany Street LLC

Project Description: This is a Virtual Public Meeting for the proposed project located at 615 Albany Street in the South End neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application (SPRA) that was filed and its potential impacts. Additionally, the project is currently under review for a contract for Payment in Lieu of Taxes ("Pilot") which will provide the project a tax abatement under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 121B.


(The proposed project at 615 Albany is part of the Office to Residential Conversion Program. 615 Albany Street LCC (the proponent) is proposing the conversion of the existing 5 story, 19,200 square foot underutilized office space to residential use. Creating a 6 story ~20,000 square foot residential building with 24 units. Including: 12 studios, 1 1-bedroom, 6 2-bedrooms, and 5 3-bedrooms.)

How to Participate

Register in advance for this meeting: bit.ly/3Rnnwra

Toll-free call-in number: 833.568.8864 Meeting ID: 161 646 5948

Mail to: **Dylan Norris**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4464
Email: Dylan.norris@boston.gov



Website:
bit.ly/3Rnnwra

Close of Public Comment Period:
7/15/2024

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Massachusetts House passes opioid bill

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts House of Representatives today passed a wide-ranging opioid bill which covers the licensure of recovery coaches, makes opioid overdose reversal drugs more accessible, protects harm reduction providers, and removes barriers that new mothers in recovery face at the time they give birth.

“As families across Massachusetts know all too well, the impact of opioid addiction can be utterly devastating for the individual and for their loved ones, which is why a continued focus on combating substance use is a critical responsibility that we have as elected officials,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank Chairman Michlewitz and Chairman Madaro for their tireless work on this legislation, as well as all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the need for reforms that will help those dealing with addiction on their journey to recovery.”

“This legislation will help the Commonwealth to address the opioid epidemic by expanding treatment options and by making it easier for those in need to seek assistance,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means. “By making treatment options more accessible and by removing barriers for thousands of people seeking help, we can help people rebuild their lives and stay on the road to recovery. I want to thank Speaker Mariano for his commitment and dedication to this issue, as well as Chairman Madaro, and all my House colleagues for their

work and dedication to addressing substance use disorder.”

“The bill passed today builds on the commitment of the House to support individuals and communities across the Commonwealth who are dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis,” said Representative Adrian C. Madaro (D-East Boston), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. “By ensuring greater access to overdose reversal drugs, protecting harm reduction workers, removing barriers to mothers in recovery, and licensing recovery coaches, we are empowering health care providers, community members, and individuals to save lives. Thank you to Speaker Mariano for your leadership and guidance on this issue, and to Chair Michlewitz for your partnership in passing this critical legislation.”

In 2023, there were 2,125 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths, according to the latest data published by the Department of Public Health (DPH). In 2023, there were 232 fewer confirmed and estimated deaths than 2022.

Recovery coaches

Recovery coaches help people with substance use needs become and stay engaged in their recovery process. The bill passed today establishes recovery coach licensing and oversight within DPH, and mandates that all health plans cover recovery coach services without cost-sharing or prior authorization. The bill also directs the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) to study and report on barriers to certification, credentialing, and

other employment and practice requirements for recovery coaches, and requires them to create a peer support program for recovery coaches consisting of mentorship, technical assistance on billing and employment practices, and resources.

“Today marks a pivotal moment for our community and for those battling substance use disorders,” said Representative Jim O’Day (D-West Boylston), Fourth Division Chair and lead sponsor of the bill. “With the passage of H. 4743, we are taking significant steps to enhance treatment options, expand coverage, and, crucially, to recognize the indispensable role of recovery coaches. This legislation builds on our historical commitment to reducing stigma and providing comprehensive support for individuals in recovery. By embracing harm reduction strategies, patient education, and compassionate care, we are advancing public health and offering renewed hope to those affected by substance use disorders. Together, we are forging a path towards a healthier, more supportive future for all. Let us stand proud of this achievement and continue to champion the cause of recovery.”

Opioid overdose reversal drugs

The bill passed today mandates that all health plans cover opioid overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, without cost-sharing or prior authorization. It also requires substance use disorder treatment facilities to educate on and dispense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to an individual upon discharge, as well as requires hospitals to educate on and prescribe or dis-

pense at least two doses of opioid overdose reversal drugs to an individual with a history of opioid use or opioid use disorder upon discharge.

It also requires pharmacies in areas with high incidence of overdose to maintain a continuous supply of opioid overdose reversal drugs and to report to DPH if they are unable to maintain compliance with this provision due to insufficient stock or supply.

Patient education

In an effort to prevent opioid misuse, the bill requires prescribers to be educated on pain treatment, including appropriate non-opioid alternatives to pain treatment. It also requires pharmacists to provide printed educational materials issued by DPH on non-opioid alternatives for the treatment of pain to patients prior to dispensing an opioid.

Harm reduction

The bill protects public health or harm reduction organizations and their agents who provide drug-checking services, such as needle exchange programs, to reduce the risk of accidental overdose from civil liability or professional disciplinary action from a board of registration, as well as from being criminally charged or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of controlled substances, and conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substances Act (the CSA).

It also protects individuals who seek drug-checking services on substances intended only for personal use from being criminally charged or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of con-

trolled substances, and conspiracy to violate the CSA while on the premises of a public health or harm reduction organization providing said services.

Ensuring non-discriminatory treatment

The bill clarifies DPH’s authority to enforce anti-discrimination protections for people with substance use disorder who are on public health insurance. It also prohibits life insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage to individuals solely because they obtained an opioid overdose reversal drug for themselves or others. It also prohibits discrimination on the basis of lawful possession and use of a medication for the treatment of an opioid-related substance use disorder, such as methadone or buprenorphine.

Pregnant people on medications for addiction treatment

The bill passed today removes “physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth” from the conditions necessitating a child abuse and neglect report, thereby exempting pregnant people taking medications prescribed by their doctor from automatic investigation by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It requires DCF, in consultation with DPH, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), and stakeholders, to promulgate regulations on the care, treatment, and reporting of substance-exposed newborns (SENs).

Having passed the House of Representatives 153-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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 7/9/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Jose A Rivera unit #3116; Willy Bobo unit #3185. 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.
6/20/24, 6/27/24
BS

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 7/9/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the contents are household goods, furnishings and

garage essentials. Charles Winchester unit #275; Jamaal Rahmeen unit #348. 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.

6/20/24, 6/27/24
BS

CELTICS (from pg. 8)

be allowed on any subway or Commuter Rail trains on Friday. Riders can call the MBTA call center at 617-222-3200 for more information. To report an emergency, riders can dial 911, call the MBTA Transit Police Department at 617-222-1212, or use the SeeSay mobile app to anonymously report an issue.

Accessible seating will be

available to watch the parade on City Hall Plaza on the Cambridge Street side and outside of the Boston Public Library on Boylston Street.

“What stands out most about this group is their dedication to being team players and winning as a collective group,” said Rich Gotham, Boston Celtics Team President. “They achieved a his-

toric feat through hard work and dedication, and we couldn’t be more thrilled to celebrate with the most incredible fans in the world this Friday in Boston.”

More information can be found on boston.gov/celtics. A map of the parade route can also be found on the webpage.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The trees illustrated in the last clue represent the Jersey Street Elms. Today's answer shows one of the three trees planted in 1912 for the opening of Fenway Park. The commemorative sign notes that the average lifespan of an Elm tree is 300 years.

The next clue is in the South End!

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

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Ornamental feather
- 6 Surf paintings
- 15 Kept talking
- 16 Manifestations of a disease
- 17 Von Bismarck and Graham
- 18 ___ National Cemetery
- 19 Chatters
- 21 Generosity of spirit
- 22 Holbrook or Roach
- 23 Old horse
- 25 Clairvoyant
- 26 Seth's mother
- 27 Shaving-cream additive
- 29 Musical improvisations
- 33 Malleable metal
- 34 Lawyer in the Scopes trial
- 37 Thanks ___!
- 38 Chow down
- 39 Esteemed
- 41 Mining product
- 42 Put one's foot down?
- 44 Senescent
- 45 New Testament bk.
- 46 Egypt's Anwar
- 48 Individuality
- 49 Arctic surface
- 50 Starchy root
- 53 Jamie ___ Curtis
- 54 Condemnation from the church
- 55 Fast-food customers
- 59 Ski
- 61 Furniture with pockets?
- 63 Lone Ranger's sidekick
- 64 Howling lament
- 65 Of days gone by
- 66 Parted ways
- 67 Is a bookworm

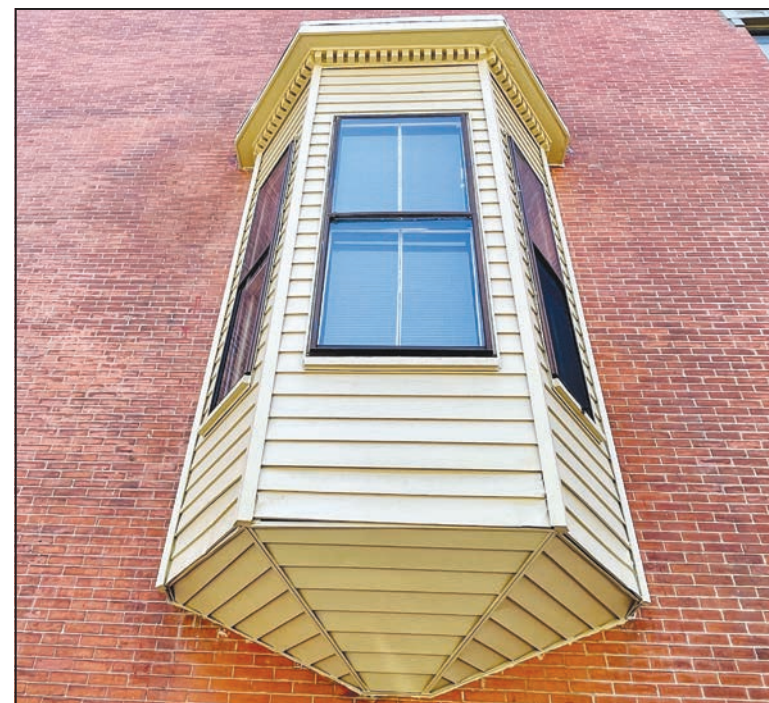
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- 14 Ago in the Highlands
- 20 Greens courses
- 24 Vocalist Eydie
- 28 Moran and Gray
- 30 Hybrid rose
- 31 Predicted
- 32 Robert Louis and Teofilo
- 35 Window on a corbel
- 36 "Citizen Kane" director
- 40 One who disowns allegiance
- 43 Kneecap
- 47 Sauce for fish
- 51 Ranch name in "Giant"
- 52 Planetary circuit
- 55 Numbered musical piece
- 56 Actor's part
- 57 Fasten, as buttons
- 58 Gin flavoring

- 60 Target on a green
- 62 Finish

S	D	V	E	R		D	E	T	A	R	V	E	R	S
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E	R	O				D	A	D	M	I	R	E	A	T
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S						C	A	P			S	E	A	

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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