

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## Red Sox gear up for home opener to empty stadium

By Lauren Bennett

Though Friday, July 24 is the long-awaited Red Sox home opener against the Baltimore Orioles, Fenway Park will be empty save for the players and personnel, and will not be filled with the same sounds, sights, or smells that a live crowd typically provides—but those elements will be closely replicated.

In place of the live crowd—which is not permitted due to health regulations—sounds of people cheering will be piped in over the PA system, and instead of peanuts and Fenway Franks inside the stadium, spectators can experience the game from outside at venues on Lansdowne St. at a

safe distance from one another, or from the comfort of their own living room with enhanced elements on the broadcast.

Baseball, like nearly every other industry, activity, and sport, will look very different this year. The Major League Baseball 60-game regular season kicks off on July 23 with Opening Night, followed by Opening Day on July 24.

With so many changes to the regular season this year, the Red Sox have put together a neighborhood FAQ that was sent out to residents in the area.

The MLB has announced that each team will play a total of 60 games this season, and the Red Sox will be playing 30 of their games at Fenway Park. All Mon-

## PLAY BALL! KINDA...



Masked up and ready to play baseball once again were Red Sox legends Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky outside of Fenway Park this week as the home team prepared for its Fenway Park opener on Friday, July 24. Major League Baseball had the okay to return to the diamond this year on July 23, but alas, there will be no fans and no Lansdowne Street vibe this year. All games will be televised and on radio, and businesses around the Park are trying to draw people down creatively, but America's pastime remains a "new normal." The stature pictured here was unveiled 10 years ago, done by David Halberstam, and is titled: "The Teammates: Portrait of a Friendship."

day through Friday games will begin at 7:30pm, except for Saturday, July 25, where the game will begin at 1:35pm, and August 13, where the game will begin at 4:30. Sunday games will begin at 1:35pm, the Red Sox announced.

(RED SOX, Pg. 10)

## POP-UP BIKE LANES



PHOTO COURTESY BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

A pop-up bike lane emerged on Charles Street Extension by the Boston Common this week as part of the Healthy Streets program. The initiative was released in May as part of Mayor Martin Walsh's COVID-19 responses. On Tuesday this week, these lanes around the Common were the first to pop up. They stretched from Tremont to Boylston to Charles and Beacon Streets. A more permanent plan for such lanes has been discussed prior to COVID-19 as part of the City's Connect Downtown planning.

## Police staffing costs top \$5 million for responses to protests

By Seth Daniel

The additional costs for Boston Police staffing for the many protests that have unfolded in Boston – mostly in the downtown areas – since late May are close to \$6 million over and above normal police staffing costs for this time of year.

As of this week, Boston Police reported to the newspaper that police costs over and above normal costs for responding to protests since May 29 now run at \$5,795,518.21. Much of that comes from overtime costs, and there have been some "Full Call Up" situations where all officers on the force were called to respond if protests became large enough or violence was anticipated.

That comes as there is currently a debate about the use of overtime within the Police Department, and after the Police budget was diverted within the current Fiscal Year 2021 budget to reflect calls for restructuring police response.

A City Council Ways and Means hearing on police overtime expenditures is scheduled for July 28 at 10 a.m. under

(PROTEST RESPONSE COST, Pg. 10)

## A City Exodus? Not quite say the real estate professionals

By Seth Daniel

As COVID-19 rocked dense urban neighborhoods, and racial unrest fueled some violent protesting and looting over the last several months, most in the downtown neighborhoods were bracing for what could be an exodus from city life.

Young families, retired empty nesters, long-time homeowners all who had invested and rooted down in the neighborhood were crossing their fingers that people who could wouldn't flee from city neighborhoods amidst all of the uncertainty. Some recent numbers, especially in the rental market, seem to suggest such an exodus could be happening. Anecdotal stories around the neighborhood also seem to confirm condo sales are rising in some buildings too.

However, those numbers and stories may not be what they seem on the surface, as real estate professionals said most of what is going on is just the strange new ebb and flow of life related to COVID-19.

Massachusetts Listing Service (MLS) data shows there is a

(CITY EXODUS, Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## CHANGE MILITARY BASE NAMES IMMEDIATELY

If you're like us, then it truly has been a revelation in these past few weeks to learn that U.S. military installations throughout the South were named in "honor" of Confederate heroes in the Civil War.

Whenever we would hear the name, "Ft. Benning, Georgia," for example, we never gave it a second thought. However, it turns out that Henry Benning was a general in the Civil War who led a number of campaigns against the North.

In short, he sought to destroy the United States -- so how does a guy like that get a U.S. military base named after him?

Well, the short answer is that Benning was an avowed racist who wanted to destroy the Union so that the South could maintain slavery.

Here's what he said at the Secession Convention in Virginia in February, 1861: "If things are allowed to go on as they are, it is certain that slavery is to be abolished. By the time the North shall have attained the power, the black race will be in a large majority, and then we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that?"

It was not a coincidence that almost all of the military bases in the South are named after Confederate war heroes who, like Benning, also were notable for the roles they played in advocating for slavery before the Civil War and for white supremacy after the Civil War, including one general who was a founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

Almost all of these military installations came into existence during WWI and WWII when the U.S. was mobilizing millions of Americans from all around the country. The naming of the bases for Confederate war heroes was a concession to southern political leaders, who wanted to send the message that although the South had lost the Civil War, their belief in white supremacy nonetheless had prevailed.

And why did the military and Northern political leaders placidly go along with such a disgraceful tactic? The short answer is that racism was (and is) endemic in our country from North to South and East to West. During both WWI and WWII, the entire U.S. military was segregated, something that did not change until 1948 when President Harry S. Truman desegregated our armed forces.

These military base names are not merely a vestige of slavery, they also represent the entire history of our country's racist past.

The sooner they go, the better.

## A DEPRESSING THOUGHT – SUMMER IS HALF OVER

The summer of our discontent -- the summer that hasn't been -- is just about half over. June has come and gone and we are just past the midway point of July, which means that there are only seven weekends left until Labor Day.

The arrival of summer has been a blessing for just about all of us during this pandemic. We can go outside and enjoy the fresh air (which, by the way, has been the cleanest it has been in decades in our area thanks to the reductions of emissions from automobile, jet aircraft, and cruise ship traffic).

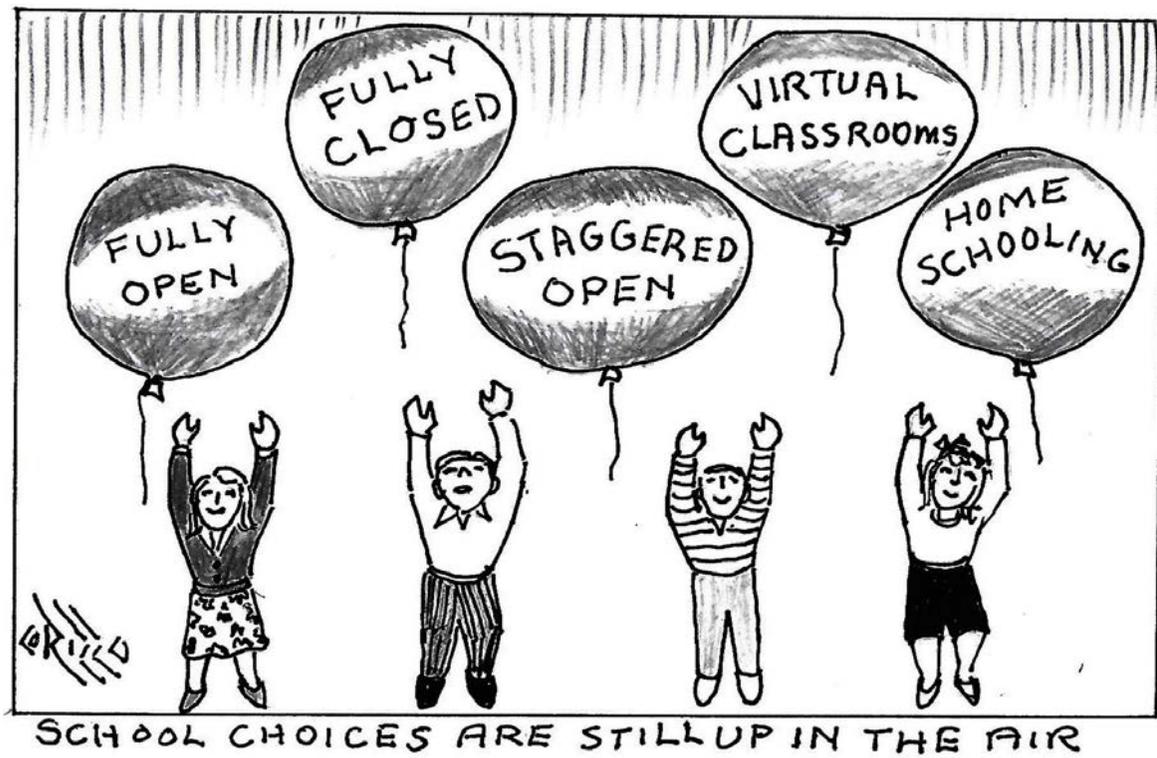
Although our gyms have been closed, we can run, walk, bicycle, and swim for exercise. Our children can go outside and be children. And for those who simply like to relax, the beaches and our boats have been a welcome respite from our months of lockdown.

But if we look beyond these next seven weeks, the future does not seem to be very pleasant.

The lockdowns and quarantines that first began in mid-March were ameliorated by the imminent arrival of spring weather. But as the weather soon begins to turn colder and stormier after Labor Day, and the days grow shorter, our outdoor activities will be limited.

The phased reopenings this summer have been difficult enough, but as the weather turns for the worse, we fear that so too, will our mental and physical health worsen. The winter of 2020-21 promises to be the most challenging of our lifetimes on many levels.

So as we enter the second half of the summer season, let's make the most of the weeks we have left -- always with masks and social distancing -- to create memories for ourselves and our children that will bolster us for the difficult days to come.



## GUEST OP-ED

### How many friends do you have?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

How many friends do you have? Thousands? If you are on Facebook you may have close to 5000 friends and tens of thousands of more "friends" via Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or various other social media connections. Are you really connected? Can you really call these social media friends, "friends?"

How many of these people do you talk to or have ever had a verbal conversation, in person or on the telephone? How many of them have you met or would like to meet? In most cases if your social media "friends" wanted to meet you and visit you it would scare you to death. Although, I know a little bit about most of mine and in most cases I think I would probably enjoy it. If I wouldn't enjoy it then why have that person in my circle of "friends?" The larger the number of people you have in your social media circle the less likely you are to know much if anything about them and then you have to ask yourself "why?" Most people would never have that much time to talk on the phone with all their social media friends.

I receive friend requests everyday but seldom accept many because often they are from people who I'm clueless about. Why do I want to know what they are doing or what I'm doing if I don't even know anything at all about the person?

There is a verse from scripture that says "A friend sticks closer than a brother." Often in life you discover your friends aren't who you thought they were but often are the people you might never imagined. A true friend steps in when the others have walked away. All you need to do is fall on your face, make some mistakes in life and you'll lose the majority of your "friends." They'll disappear. The handful of people who stay with you or show up to help you will become the greatest people in your life.

I once heard someone say, "The person who loves God most is at his post when all the others have walked away." It's true with a friend. A real friend will be there regardless. How many people do you have in your life who will come to you if you are 200 miles away and your car is broke down? Who will try to wire \$500 to you if you are in a distant town and lose your wallet?

What if your business fails, you file bankruptcy, divorce, get a terminal illness or do some stupid things in your life? You may have already found out how people shy away from you during life upheaval. Often, they don't know what to say or do and so they walk away or become distant. They aren't real friends. A real friend doesn't walk away. A real friend doesn't tell you what you want to hear but may tell you their thoughts without trying to wound you. They talk to you in love and in friendship.

How many friends do you really have?

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

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# Councilor Flynn hosts Census information session for South End

Staff report

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn will be hosting a 2020 Census information session for South End civic organizations and residents next Wednesday, July 29, 6 p.m. State Representative Jon Santiago will be joining, and Sebastian Zapata, Mayor Walsh's Census Liaison will be the featured speaker. This meeting will focus on the importance

of responding to the 2020 Census, ways to respond to the Census, and next steps in the process.

A complete and accurate count of the 2020 Census is crucial in determining the distribution of federal funds to our communities, which includes funding for our schools and programs such as SNAP. Immigrants and residents who speak a language other than English are traditionally hard to

count populations, and with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are more challenges in getting an accurate count. The South End has a vibrant immigrant community that needs to be included in the 2020 Census, and it is imperative that all South End residents respond to the 2020 Census. Residents are encouraged to attend this information session to learn more about the 2020 Census, the current response

rate, and what to expect in the next steps for Census operations.

"It is critical that we get everyone counted in the 2020 Census, so that we receive the resources our residents and families deserve from the federal level," said Councilor Ed Flynn. "It is important that we get our civic organizations and residents involved in our 2020 Census efforts, especially for a diverse community like the South End. I hope that residents will

be able to join us in this 2020 Census information session, and encourage their friends and family to complete the Census. Everyone counts."

This information session will be conducted over Zoom. To register, please visit [shorturl.at/hioyX](http://shorturl.at/hioyX), or email [Sophia.Wang@Boston.gov](mailto:Sophia.Wang@Boston.gov). For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 and [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov).

## CITY EXODUS (from pg. 1)

tremendous amount of apartments available now in the Back Bay and South End – leading some to believe people are leaving and not returning.

As of July 19, there were 543 apartments available in the Back Bay, as compared to last year at the same time when there were 173. The average days on the market had also increased from 36 days last year to 43 this year.

In the South End, as of July 19, there were 390 apartments listings, as opposed to 100 at this time last year. The average days on the market increased from 26 to 40.

In Cambridge, there are more than 700 on the market now.

Realtor Marty Scott of Gibson/Sotheby's in the South End has been in the rental market for 35 years, and said there isn't so much of an exodus as late decision-making. Where people normally had decided by March or April where they would rent in September, now they are holding out and still deciding.

"It's all happening very, very late this year," he said. "Normally by now the market would be dying down and people would have made their choice for September 1. From the second week in June to July 4 it was total pandemonium. I did three months of business in three weeks. Then it got quiet and now we're in Round 2. It's extremely late for all this."

Scott said he was busy in April and May, but not to the extent he normally would be. He said he believes most of the huge amount of inventory results from people being in lockdown and working from home. With so much uncertainty and having to stay inside in April and May, few people were going to take the chance of giving up their living situation and trying to find a new apartment. It was simply hunker down mode.

As things have relaxed with COVID-19, there is now much more of an appetite to make that change.

"I think we'll be very busy right into August," he said. "This is nothing like 2007 and 2008. We saw that coming slowly but surely. This year it was like they flipped a switch and turned off the world... Very few people around here have lost their job. Everyone is working from home. I would tell everyone to be cautious...There is an enormous amount of inventory on the market. They will get absorbed by Sept. 1. Some apartments won't get chosen and landlords will feel the pinch."

To that, Scott said he is having heart-to-heart conversations with his landlord customers as the market is dictating the situation. An apartment that doesn't look right or is priced poorly will sit in this market.

"I've been having realistic conversations with landlords about this not being the year for a rent increase," he said. "They still try to increase it and then they figure it out. They've been so used to raising the rent every year for so long, it's hard for them. But they get realistic really quick. Still, I think the real estate market will be fine and the sky isn't falling just yet."

The national apartment tracking service, ApartmentList.com released a report last week that found Americans are not abandoning cities in the wake of COVID-19. They analyzed data from their location preferences of millions of Apartment List users, and in contrast to the popular narrative of the city exodus, there was no data trends to back that up. In fact, on their service, they found there are more people nationally looking to move to higher-density cities. The share of those wanting to move to less dense locations outside of cit-

ies has declined nationally.

Nationally, searches going from the suburbs to the central cities are up 11 percent, not the other way around.

There was a finding, however, that Boston city-dwellers had an increased interest in the suburbs – more so than New York City and San Francisco.

Scott agreed that some people

are wanting to leave the city following COVID-19, but not everyone. He said many that are leaving had probably been talking about it before, or young single professionals who have moved back in with their parents.

He said in the Back Bay, with Wayfair offices closed for the near future, many are surrendering their apartments and going back

with parents or relatives.

"They're not going to be back in the Back Bay until at least January and that could likely mean June," he said. "We're seeing a lot of that. The young people are going back and living with their parents. That is happening, but the majority of people I know are not leaving here."

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# Commission moves forward with plans for statue removal, identifies five more pieces for further review

By Dan Murphy

Following its landmark vote on June 30 to remove the controversial Emancipation Group statue that depicts a freed black slave crouching at the feet of President Abraham Lincoln from its current location in Park Square, the Boston Art Commission will assemble two subcommittees – one to create an event to inform the public of the piece’s history and permanent relocation and another to find it a new home – as well as consider the future of five other works of public art in the city’s collection.

Mark Pasnik, the commission’s chair, said during a July 14 virtual hearing, the commemorative event would perhaps take place virtually, rather than as a public gathering at the monument itself, in keeping with social distancing, and that the event would take place after the piece’s removal.

(The commission is also accepting public testimony on ideas for relocating the statue via email at <http://www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/public-art-under-review>.)

Karin Goodfellow, director of the Art Commission, said after the statue’s removal, permanent signage to interpret the piece, with proposed measurements of 24-by-36 inches, is being considered for installation at the site.

“A few signs are being considered for the site, three to four depending on their placement,” added Kara Elliot Ortega, a commission member and the city’s chief of arts and culture.

As for finding a new, publicly accessible home for the sculpture, Ekua Holmes, the commission’s vice chair, said the commission had already received offers to take it from other states, with descendants of both President Lincoln

and Archer Alexander, the crouching slave depicted in the piece, expressing interest in it.

Ideally, Pasnik said the sculpture would be relocated to another site in the city.

“We should explore local options first...perhaps a long-term loan, or it could be on city property, such as a library,” he said.

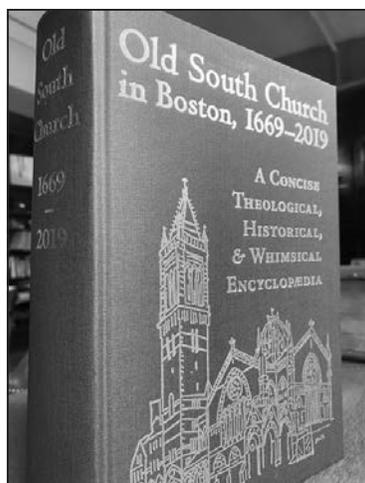
Goodfellow said she expected the commission would be able to secure some funding from the city to install a new piece of public art at the current location of the Emancipation Group sculpture. She added that she would draft a comprehensive “policy memo on more equitable statues” to the city, which she would share with the commission at its next hearing.

“We should be more careful about this process and listen to a lot of people about what we need for this site...to shape an eventual [Request for Proposals] for a call for artists,” Pasnik said.

During public testimony, former State Rep. Byron Rushing said he doesn’t believe the Emancipation Group statue should be removed from its current location until after a new home has been found for it.

Instead, Rushing suggested covering the statue or “boxing it up” at its current location. “It would save a few dollars on storage fess,” he added.

Meanwhile, the commission has identified five other pieces of public art in its collection for further review – The Founders Memorial on the Boston Common; the Christopher Columbus Monument in Christopher Columbus Park in the North End; the Boston Common Tablet (The Blackstone Tablet); the Samuel Eliot Morison statue on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall; and the Francis Parkman Memorial in Jamaica Plain.



A copy of “Old South Church in Boston: 1669-2019, A Concise Theological, Historical, and Whimsical Encyclopedia by its Members, Ministers, and Friends.”

# New book recounts 350-year history of Old South Church

By Dan Murphy

Three years in the making, an exhaustive new book chronicles the story of Old South Church and how as one of the oldest religious communities in the U.S., it has helped shape the history of both Boston and the nation.

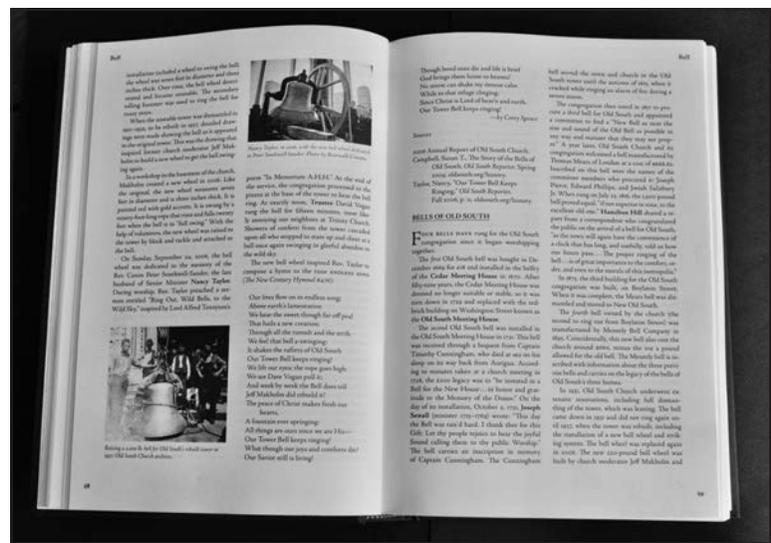
“As we approached our 350th anniversary, we were doing so much research and discovering so many stories, we asked: How can we preserve all we have learned and pass it down to the next generation,” said Elizabeth Morgan, chair of the church’s Tell the Story Task Force of the 350th Anniversary Committee and a South End resident. “We decided on an ‘open source’ encyclopedia. Our 106 unique authors range in age from 10 into their 80s.”

The illustrated, 696-page tome titled “Old South Church in Boston: 1669-2019, A Concise Theological, Historical, and Whimsical Encyclopedia by its Members, Ministers, and Friends” collects 400 essays on the noteworthy events and individuals that collectively tell the story of the church.

Captain William Kid, a notorious Scottish sailor who was executed for piracy in 1701, is among the individuals who played a role in this story, according to Rev. Nancy S. Taylor, the church’s senior minister and CEO, as well as a resident of Back Bay.

Several members of the church’s congregation helped apprehend Kidd after Richard Coote, the first Earle of Bellomont, lured him to Boston with false promises of leniency. After Kidd was captured, his booty was temporarily stored at the church until Kidd was deported to the UK to face questioning by the Parliament of England.

Old South Church welcomed many African Americans, some of whom were freed slaves, to its congregation in the 17th and 18th



A look inside the new book.

centuries, including Phillis Wheatley, said Larry Bowers, a member of the Tell the Story Task Force and the congregation since 1974, as well as a Back Bay resident.

Wheatley, a member of the church during the American Revolution and the first published African American author, was kidnapped from her African homeland at around the age of 7. She learned English and Latin on her own, as well as how to write from white children. Wheatley began writing poetry as a teen and went on to become a celebrated poet.

“She refuted the notion at the time that black people were intellectually inferior to whites, and that women were intellectually inferior to men,” Bowers said.

Today, Wheatley, along with Abigail Adams and Lucy Stone, a prominent U.S. orator, abolitionist, and suffragist, is immortalized at the Boston Women’s Memorial on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Moreover, historian Richard J. Boles determined that in the 1600s and 1700s, Old South Church welcomed more African Americans, many of whom were former slaves, than any other church in Boston, Taylor added.

Another one-time parishioner who graces the pages of the book is Joseph Hardy Neesima.

Born into the samurai class in feudal Japan in 1843, Neesima wanted to explore the world as a boy, Walker said, but he was unable to do so because Japan was a closed society at that time.

Neesima, at around the age of 20, stowed away to China before catching another boat to Boston commanded by Captain Horace Taylor (no relation to Rev. Taylor). Upon his arrival here, two members of Old South Church, Alpheus and Susan Hardy, took him in and paid Neesima’s way to attend Philips Academy in Ando-

ver, Mass., Amherst College and the Andover Theological Seminary (which was also based in Andover and merged with Newton Theological Institution in 1965 to become the Andover Newton Theological School).

Neesima went on to become the first ordained Japanese minister in the U.S. in 1875 before returning to his homeland, where he founded the Doshisha English School (later Doshisha University) – the first school in Japan to adopt Western teaching practices.

“He left Japan illegally, but went on to become an ambassador to help open Japan up,” Rev. Taylor said of Neesima.

Between 60 to 90 students from the Doshisha English School and its satellite schools travel to Boston from Japan each year to sing at Old South Church, with one memorable performance falling on the Sunday following Sept. 11, 2001.

“When everyone was pulling back and isolating, this group of kids from Japan came and sang, and we had an international experience,” Bowers recalled.

Another one-time parishioner was largely deprived of formal schooling and instead educated himself by drawing from the sermons he listened to at Old South Church.

Benjamin Franklin attended the church as boy, Bowers said, and while he attended the Boston Latin School for two years before being forced to drop out to work, he attended church every Sunday and listened to the sermons of Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton, who served as senior minister during this time.

“He was one of the first ministers of the time to preach from popular literature, not just the bible,” Bowers said of Rev. Pemberton.

Franklin eventually earned a printing apprenticeship and

# Baker announces new funding, first round of food insecurity grant recipients

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Charlie Baker provided an update on COVID-19 and announced new funding at a press conference on July 16. He said that face coverings continue to be the “best and most important thing we can all do here in the Commonwealth,” as well as distancing whenever possible, to be outdoors instead of indoors, practicing good hygiene, and disinfecting surfaces.

On July 1, a \$20 million fund was launched for rental and mortgage assistance for low income households from a mix of federal funding from the Cares Act and federal reserves, Baker said. He said that the money “will invest in more access to emergency housing resources for families who need it.”

Additionally, another \$20 mil-

lion in rental assistance and support is currently in a supplemental before the legislature, he added.

On July 16, he said that an additional \$20 million was added on top of the other money, and will be distributed across 181 communities in Massachusetts for food assistance, homelessness prevention, and for hard-hit small businesses through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

“This funding is for non-entitlement communities as defined by [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] as municipalities with less than 50,000 people and is an important part of how we’re leveraging state and federal assets to meet this moment,” Baker said.

“This new funding will also help micro-enterprises; very small

businesses that have five or less employees with up to \$10,000 in grants,” he added. Some communities will also be able to use the funds for job training in areas such as health care.

“Funding will help communities support households who have lost employment, households who are struggling to access food, homebound seniors who are unable to get to the grocery store, and much, much more,” Baker said.

He added that he is “pleased that in addition to the funding the state received, our 37 federally designated entitlement cities and towns and general communities that exceed 50,000 people in population that receive funding directly from HUD also received another \$40 million. Those communities are using these resources in many of the same ways that today’s

funding will be used to support small businesses, community services, and people in need.”

On July 22, Baker held a press conference at the the Salvation Army in Lynn, where he announced that the first round of grant applicants for the \$36 million Food Insecurity Infrastructure Grant Program has been selected.

Nearly \$3 million will be awarded to 26 organizations such as farms, school meal programs, food pantries, and organizations that work on food sourcing and distribution, the governor said.

The grant program is a part of \$56 million in investments to implement recommendations of the state’s Food Security Task Force, which was announced this May.

Applications for the grant funds opened in June, and Baker said

they will be “evaluated on a rolling basis through September 15.”

Baker said that “other investments include increased investments for the Healthy Incentives Program, \$3 million in funding for immediate relief for food banks, and \$12 million for the provision of 25,000 family food boxes per week through a regional food supply system.” Each of these food boxes contains between 30 and 35 meals.

“That work will continue throughout the summer as needed,” Baker said, and he said the state and its partners will continue to bring resources to where they are needed to help with the effects of COVID-19, “and at the same time do the work we need to do to help people who are dealing with food security issues.”

## OLD SOUTH CHURCH (from pg. 4)

stopped attending church, but he educated himself by reading every book that Pemberton mentioned during his sermons.

“A critical part of [Franklin’s] education took place because he was a kid at this church,” Bowers said.

After a fight with his master, Franklin then fled to Philadelphia, Pa. But he never forgot Old South Church, and upon his death at age 84 in 1790, Franklin left some money behind to the church in his will.

More than 150 years later, Coretta Scott King, who was the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sang in the Old South Church choir while her husband studied systemic theology as part of a doctoral program at Boston University.

Dr. King apparently worshipped at Old South Church enough times, Rev. Taylor said, that two of his sermons included in the Mather Luther King, Jr., Papers Project were based on those of Frederick M. Meek, who served minister of Old South Church from 1946 to 1973.

Meek’s successor, James W. Crawford, stood 6 feet, 8 inches tall, but would “fold himself up,” as Bowers describes it, to ride with black children being bused to the city’s white neighborhoods in the 1970s to personally ensure their safety.

“I don’t know the impact I had on kids,” said Bowers, who taught Sunday School at Old South Church for 16 years, “but I see the impact that Nancy and James



A woman adorned in a Marathon Scarf, courtesy of Old South Church, is seen embracing a supporter at the finish line.

W. Crawford had on the kids, and they changed their lives for the better.”

While the positive influence Old South Church has had will be readily apparent to readers, the book also doesn’t shy away from less favorable accounts of some one-time members of the ministry and congregation.

“We know we’ve had church members, including ministers, who were slave owners,” Rev. Taylor said. “It’s a sobering history... and we face historical complicity in being part of the problem, not always the solution.”

Meanwhile, Old South Church is located next to the finish line for the Boston Marathon, which Rev.

Taylor said has earned it the special distinction as “The Ministry to the Marathon.”

The church holds two services for runners on the Sunday before the Marathon, which Rev. Taylor said are typically a bigger draw than its Easter Sunday services.

“We built up a ministry to the athletes right outside our door where the bombs went off,” Rev. Taylor said, adding that members and friends of the church were injured during the tragic events of April 15, 2013, when two bombs exploded near the finish lane during the Marathon.

The “Marathon Scarf Project” was launched before the footrace the following year by two parishioners, Marilyn Adams and Diane Gaucher, who led an effort to knit scarves for runners in blue and yellow – the official colors of the Boston Athletic Association, the footrace’s official sponsor.

“Every one of the scarves was knit with love and courage,” Rev. Taylor said.

Volunteers from every state and several countries outside the U.S. knit the scarves, and on some days, full postal trucks arrived at the church that contained nothing but scarves.

The next year, runners who attended the Sunday services prior to the Marathon were “scarfed,” as Taylor puts it. Each runner was presented with a scarf, and the parishioner bestowing it on them would say, “This scarf was knit with love. Be safe and run well.”

Many runners returned to Old South Church for the pre-Mara-

thon services the following year wearing their scarves, Morgan added.

What makes the story of Old South Church so unique, Rev. Taylor said, is that at 350 years old, it has already far surpassed the 75-year lifespan of most churches.

“We talk about the church’s 350-year history as a relay race where each generation picks up the baton, does the best it can and then passes it into the next generation,” she said. “Part of what we’re curious about is when there were moments when the church could have failed, what allowed it to navigate these treacherous moments in history, and we’ve had many over 350 years.”

But perhaps more importantly, the new book is a testament to all the people and events that have brought Old South Church into the present moment.

“The church, from the beginning, has had an interest in history,” Rev. Taylor said. “We just keep doing this because I think our congregation honors those who came before us and know we didn’t come from nowhere, and that we’re indebted to them. We’re not the inventors; we’ve inherited so much, and we’re building on that.”

To purchase a copy of “Old South Church in Boston: 1669-2019, A Concise Theological, Historical, and Whimsical Encyclopedia by its Members, Ministers, and Friends,” visit <https://tinyurl.com/OSC-Encyclopedia>.

# BAA construction site back in action; structure work expected to be completed soon

By Lauren Bennett

Construction on the new Boston Arts Academy (BAA) building is back in full swing, despite having to take a nearly 9 week hiatus due to COVID-19 orders from the City and State.

The Sun spoke with Lee Michael Kennedy of Lee Kennedy Co. Inc. to find out more about the status of the project.

As previously reported by the Sun, the state-of-the-art school building will be five stories tall, and include dance studios, a black box theater, a gymnasium, a 500 seat theater, recording studios, and much more. BAA is the only high school in the City focusing on visual and performing arts, and as one of the project's big supporters, Mayor Walsh has expressed his excitement and pride for the project many times over the past couple of years.

The \$125 million project broke ground on October 16, 2018, and

was originally expected to be fully finished and open for classes by fall of 2021.

Construction updates have been provided to the surrounding community over the past two years, but the pandemic has caused the project to fall a little bit behind schedule.

Kennedy said that before the COVID shutdown, the construction of the building was about 25-30 percent complete. He said that construction ceased the week of March 15, and did not resume again until mid-May, when Mayor Walsh allowed construction to resume for places like hospitals, public schools, small residential buildings, and other open air work.

No construction work at all happened in those weeks in between, he said.

Prior to the shutdown, the work had been focused on the foundation and structure, including the steel and concrete frame structure,

which has now resumed construction. Kennedy said that the work on the structure is "nearing completion in another month or so."

He said he could not speak on whether or not the setback will affect the opening date, as they are "working with the City to see what we can do."

In the coming weeks and months, he said neighbors can expect to see a continuation of work on the structure, and once that is completed, work on the building envelope will commence to enclose the building. This is the work that will continue for the remainder of the year and into the first quarter of next year, he said.

"It's been a great project with really tremendous partnerships," Kennedy said, adding that the BAA team, the City of Boston, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), and others have "really worked hard and worked well together on this very complex project."



Cranes, mixers, and other construction vehicles can be seen at the Boston Arts Academy site again as construction resumed following a 9-week shutdown due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Despite the schedule being pushed back, he said he's excited for the final product and all eyes remain on the prize.

"I envision a very successful project," he said. "It's going to be a wonderful building; a treasure for the neighborhood and the City."

# City launches pilot program to provide more off-campus housing for colleges and universities

By Dan Murphy

The city launched a pilot program Monday, July 13, to ease restrictions on off-campus housing for colleges and universities, and to help alleviate the city's housing crunch during the pandemic, which has prompted Northeastern University to pursue leasing all of the Midtown Hotel and entire floors of the Westin Copley Place to provide additional student beds.

Nupoor Monani, senior institutional planner with the Boston Planning and Development Agency, said during a virtual hearing of the City Council's Public Health Committee on July 9 that participating colleges and universities must submit an application found on the agency's website at [www.bostonplans.org](http://www.bostonplans.org) to request off-campus housing outside of their specific, individual Master Plans. The applications would outline plans for safety precautions that the schools would be taking against the spread of COVID-19, as well as for off-site housing management. The city's Inspectional Services Department would then review each application and, if approved, grant the school a six-month certificate for housing. And if the need for off-campus housing extends into the spring of '21, the schools must apply to renew the approval, which would be subject to review by the BPDA, ISD and community stakeholders.

Hotels would likely accommodate most of the off-campus student beds, Monani said,

which would give the industry a much-needed boost, since it has seen occupancy dwindle in the city from 90 percent a year ago to just 5 percent now. She added that the move would also create around 100 jobs and generate an estimated \$12.5 million in additional income for the city's hotels.

Kathy Spiegelman, Northeastern's vice president and chief of campus planning and development, said the university intends to lease all of the Midtown Hotel, located at 220 Huntington Ave. in Back Bay, and entire floors of Westin Copley Place, which along with apartment buildings it owns the master lease for, would provide off-campus housing for around 2,000 students.

"We'll treat it like a dormitory, and there will be staff on every floor," Spiegelman said regarding plans to occupy the Westin Copley Place. "There will be a lot of programming and a lot of staff that will make sure they have everything they need access to."

As for the Midtown, Spiegelman said the hotel has provided off-campus housing for Northeastern students since the spring of 2018, "so we already figured out how to have an area that was private for the students."

Spiegelman added that 70 to 75 percent of students would continue to live on campus in the fall, meaning not many more students would be living off-site as did before the pandemic struck.

Ted Tye, managing partner of Newton-based National Development, which operates the Mid-

town, wrote in an email: "National Development has committed all rooms in the hotel to Northeastern for the coming academic year. This will assist Northeastern in distancing their students when they return for the fall semester. The commitment is for this academic year. The hotel has had a long standing relationship with Northeastern and we were glad to be able to assist them during this challenging period."

Meanwhile, Councilor Kenzie Bok, who co-sponsored the hearing with City Councilor Liz Bredon and Council President Kim Janey, raised concerns about the potential density of off-campus housing for students.

"There is a lot of savings in the student economy with fitting as many students in as small a place as possible, and there's a public health concern here," Bok said. "And how do you support students in off-campus housing and enforce school standards when they aren't living in dormitories?"

Councilor Bok suggested that colleges and universities might want to step up supervision in neighborhoods that many students call home as a proactive step.

John Tobin, Northeastern's vice president of city and community affairs, as well as a former Boston city councilor, said all students and staff returning to campus would have mandatory screenings for COVID-19, and that the university expects to have the capacity to test upwards of 2,500 people each day.

Northeastern will have an inter-

nal contact testing team trained by the John Hopkins University School of Medicine in coordination with the Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission, said David Luzzi, Northeastern's senior vice provost for research.

Besides reconfiguring the cafeteria and other campus common areas for social distancing and in following Center for Disease Control guidelines to ensure they stay sanitized, Tobin said in the fall, Northeastern would introduce Hybrid NuFlex – a new teaching approach that aims to limit the number of students in the classroom whereby they will alternate between learning on campus in the traditional sense and remote learning.

Face coverings also must be worn in campus common areas at all times, Spiegelman added, and proctors will be on hand to ensure that no visitors are allowed in the dorms, which will have reduced occupancy in adherence with safety guidelines.

Rita Nieves, interim executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission, said the city is still waiting for safety guidelines for schools from the state's DPH.

City Councilor Michelle Wu said she is disheartened at how little input Boston has had in this process to date.

"I'm not very comforted or impressed by the state's pace and acknowledgment of what the safety concerns are," Councilor Wu said. "I'm also disappointed that the city wasn't asked to partici-

pate and by the lack of transparency in the process and the moving between phases. We should push that Boston be more proactive and have more seats at the table, too."

Nieves said: "Testing, tracking and tracing are vital tools in the fight against the virus. At a minimum, low barrier-testing should be available for students who have light symptoms or are asymptomatic, as well as for staff, workers and those [not directly employed by schools]."

Nieves added that the Boston University School of Public Health has offered to assist the Health Commission's Infectious Disease Bureau in contact tracing by reaching out to thousands of possible infected individuals.

"It would be helpful for institutions to maintain databases of cases within their communities to allow for quick responses," Nieves said. "We're also counting on robust communication campaigns from colleges and universities, with a highly visible message underlying that students are part of a bigger community here in Boston, and that they have a responsibility to that community."

Councilor Bok, who is also a part-time professor at Harvard University, said she is concerned that the "ramp-up period" for testing might not be in place when students return to the city's colleges and universities in the fall.

"One of the greatest moments [for the virus to spread] is the moment of influx," she said.

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# Fenway purveyors get creative without Red Sox Nation at the door

By Seth Daniel

No fans in the seats of Fenway Park at this summer's Red Sox games means fewer, if any, customers at the adjacent businesses that live off of the nation's pastime each summer.

To try to make up the difference, they're getting creative.

The Lion's Group announced last week they were opening a new pop-up restaurant on Lansdowne Street called 'Under the Green Monster.' Working with the City, Vice President of Operations Ryan Jones said they plan to put up

large LED TVs so people can see the game from the new restaurant and it will become a pedestrian zone similar to what exists now in the North End.

Under the Green Monster has 90 seats in a patio setting with Sam Adams as a partner with a beer truck. The hours will be on gamedays and weekends from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Jones said they are trying to do something to get people as close to the game as possible to enjoy a little bit of summer baseball, even if they can't have the traditional fan experience.



Restaurants and bars in the Fenway area are getting creative this summer to try to reap some business in the wake of having no in-person baseball games. Home games start July 24, but fans won't be coming to Fenway. Here, the Lion's Group has created Under the Monster pop-up restaurant to try to bring fans down to the Park.



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"It's the first major professional sport to start, so we're excited about that," he said. "As a business, it's huge for us. We're continuing to work with the City about what we can do for radio and other solutions too...For Lansdowne Street, it's critical. Our bars and restaurants totally depend on Fenway events, Red Sox games and tourists. That's not going on this year. You have to think out of the box...This is the closest you'll get to going inside the Park this year."

He said salvaging something of the summer at Under the Monster, the existing Bullpen Bar (which is the only place on can actually see the live game through a window) and the Lansdowne Pub and Rita's Last Call down the street are essential. They were closed down March 16, and that meant they lost St. Patrick's Day, March Mad-



The Deck on Lansdowne has been created by The House of Blues to draw in customers to the area.

ness business and the opening of baseball season.

"The timing couldn't be worse for us," he said.

Nearby, The House of Blues has created The Deck on Lansdowne out of what was the top floor of

a parking garage. With the Green Monster in the background, tables and picnic benches have been set up socially distant to allow people to enjoy a game as close to the game as possible.



Benita Dewing and Gabby Wootten enjoy a drink at Under the Monster last week as the new pop-up restaurant prepared for its grand opening Friday.



In the Bullpen Bar, there are a few spots where one can actually see the live game.

## Harvard international student recently stranded abroad now committed to helping immigrants navigate difficult system

By Dan Murphy

As an international undergraduate student at Harvard University studying abroad, Lavinia Teodorescu found herself a woman without a country in March when her semester in Denmark was cut short due to the pandemic.

Teodorescu, age 20, was then informed that her academic program, which was set to run from January through May, had been cancelled, and that she would need to leave Denmark the following Friday. She also learned that her home country of Romania had closed its borders, and that she would be unable to enter it because her health insurance is only valid in the U.S. Teodorescu was eventually allowed to live in the UK because of the nation's relationship with Harvard until she could return to Denmark earlier this week.

"It really resonated with me that when [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – a U.S. immigration policy that

grants temporary immunity to certain individuals who came to the country illegally as children] tried to dismantle, a lot of people had to renew immediately," Teodorescu said during a virtual call Monday from Denmark, where she had returned to collect her belongings before traveling back to Romania to await the fall semester. "It was a matter of weeks where they would be deported, so every day and every moment mattered. For me, I had to [resolve my situation] that day."

Experiencing this dilemma firsthand led Teodorescu to join the newly established Immigrants Like Us – a nonprofit made up of lawyers and technologists who offer predominantly low-income individuals pro bono assistance in preparing their immigration application forms. Besides Teodorescu, who holds an F-1 visa as an international student at Harvard, the nonprofit also includes Fernando Urbina, a Harvard student whose parents are immigrants from Mexico; Yao Yin, Harvard student who

is an immigrant from China; and Jonathan Petts, the team's attorney whose wife is an immigrant from Romania.

Teodorescu likens the services that Immigrants Like Us offers to those of Turbo Tax, such as answering simple questions for users and helping them prepare forms before returning "the whole package" to them with step-by-step instructions on how to file the paperwork.

And for those users who would prefer to fill out the forms themselves, the nonprofit offers links to resources on its website, such as a DACA renewal guide, as well as a Green Card renewal guide.

Since its January inception, Immigrants Like Us has assisted a few hundred in navigating the immigration process, beginning with DACA and first-time applications. The group's work grew to include helping 150 "Dreamers," whose individual DACA status was uncertain, within the last two weeks.

"Now that they can renew



Lavinia Teodorescu, a 20-year-old international undergraduate student at Harvard University and member of the nonprofit Immigrants Like Us.

DACA, a lot of people have applied [for our services]," Teodorescu said.

In the future, Immigrants Like Us plans to help users navigate the Violence Against Women Act as well, she said.

Meanwhile, Teodorescu is encouraged by the Trump Administration's reversal on its stance last week that will now allow international students to reenter the U.S. to study, even if they are only attending classes remotely.

"The Trump Administration took a big step forward in international politics with that," she said.

Visit <https://www.immigrantslikeus.org> to learn more about Immigrants Like Us and the pro bono services it offers, including its DACA renewal guide (<https://www.immigrantslikeus.org/immigration-resources/how-to-renew-your-daca-2020>). Teodorescu's bio page can also be viewed at <https://www.immigrantslikeus.org/our-team-1>.

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# Deeb's Corner: Ernest Deeb was a hero from old Shawmut Avenue

By Cary Shuman

Ernest "Ernie" Deeb, a highly decorated U.S. Army veteran of World War II and retired Boston firefighter, died on July 5.

He was 97 years old.

Deeb and his wife, the late Rose Nassif, lived at 287 Shawmut Ave. in the South End for many years and raised their four sons, Ernie, Billy, Bobby, and Sammy in the three-story building that had a family-owned variety store on the first floor. They lived in what was the heart of a now mostly-forgotten Lebanese community in the Eight Streets neighborhood by Peters Park. Aside from the excellent Syrian Grocery importing that remains on the street, there are few vestiges of what was once a strong, vocal and powerful community.

For the Deeb family, a sign bearing their name still remains though.

The corner of Shawmut Avenue and Hanson Street was named "Deeb Corner" in 2007 in a tribute to Ernest Deeb's heroism in the war and his 31 years of outstanding service in the Boston Fire Department as a firefighter and inspector.

Deeb was the last surviving member of the United States Army's 150<sup>th</sup> Combat Battalion,

an all-New England outfit. He fought through six major European campaigns, including "The Invasion of Normandy" and "The Battle of the Bulge."

Deeb and his fellow soldiers served under the command of General George S. Patton, and along with surviving members of his Battalion, later received "The Presidential Unit Citation" from President Harry Truman for their contributions to the war effort and many outstanding achievements.

## Growing up in the South End

Ernest Deeb was the son of Shaheen and Zahee Deeb, who immigrated from Lebanon through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. He was the youngest of four children and had two brothers Jim and Nat, and a sister, Alice, who were all born in Boston.

The family settled in the South End. Deeb attended Mechanic Arts High School. His brothers attended Boston English High School, which was also located in the South End at the time.

"My grandparents had a little grocery store downstairs in the brick building and they took in roomers and rented rooms for \$2 a week and that's how they earned a living," said Deeb's son, Ernie. "My grandfather also worked in a

shoe factory."

Deeb and his siblings helped out at the family store and joined their mother in taking good care of the roomers who lived above the store.

"They would feed the residents and clean the rooms," said Ernie Deeb. "A lot of these folks didn't have any place to go and didn't have a lot of money, so my grandparents would rent the rooms by the week for them. It was really something back then."

Ernest Deeb met Rose Nassif, who lived on nearby Bradford Street in the South End. Ernest Deeb and Rose Nassif got married and lived in the home at 287 Shawmut Ave. where they raised their four children.

Interestingly, Deeb's son, Ernie also met his wife, Deb, who grew up on Hanson Street, in the South End.

"It was a very close-knit neighborhood and it was kind of a melting pot," recalled Ernie. "People from all sorts of backgrounds migrated to the South End. Everybody seemed to know each other. It was a great place to grow up. There was nothing like the South End. I attended the John J. Williams Elementary School on Shawmut Avenue and the Abraham Lincoln School. The [Williams] school burned down and Peters Park is



Ernest "Ernie" Deeb stands adjacent to the "Deeb Corner" sign at the corner of Shawmut Avenue and Hanson Street in the South End in 2007.

now located there."

## City honors Ernest Deeb

In a tribute to his heroism during World War II and his service in the Boston Fire Department, the City honored Deeb in 2007 by naming the corner of Shawmut Avenue and Hanson Street "Deeb Corner." On June 6, the anniversary of D-Day, the City Council proclaimed it "Ernest Deeb Day" in the City of Boston. During his

firefighting career, Deeb was stationed in the South End, Brighton, the Back Bay, and Charlestown. In an act of bravery, Deeb rescued a 3-year-old child from a burning building in Charlestown, saving the child's life.

In 1984, the Deeb family moved to Winthrop where other relatives were living at the time. The Deeb family continue to live in Winthrop and to thrive there.

## RED SOX (from pg. 1)

The MLB has announced that the postseason format will remain the same as it has since 2012.

Even though no spectators will be inside the park, music and board announcements will be played as usual. "In addition, we plan to play simulated crowd noise to enhance the game experience for the players and for those watching at home on TV," the Red Sox wrote in the FAQ. "Sound levels in and around the ballpark will not differ much from seasons

past."

NESN and WEEI 93.7 FM will broadcast all games, and "this season's NESN broadcasts will feature new, innovative elements to add to the viewer's experience..." the FAQ states.

For those curious about street closures, the Red Sox reported that five hours prior to the first pitch, Jersey Street adjacent to Fenway Park between Van Ness St. and Brookline Ave. will be closed to vehicular traffic. Seven hours prior

to first pitch, Van Ness St between Jersey St. and Ipswich St. will also be closed to vehicular traffic. After the game is over, both portions will reopen within two to three hours, the Red Sox said.

"As in the past, there will be full pedestrian access on one side of Van Ness Street, and local residents will be given pedestrian access on Jersey Street," the Red Sox said.

The Red Sox advised people to not gather outside of the ballpark

"seeking photos or autographs."

The MLB has also released protocols that will be implemented to prevent spreading COVID-19 during the season. Some of those protocols include testing players, coaches, and other staff for the virus "every other day during Summer Camp, the regular season and postseason," according to the MLB's official website. In addition to the regular testing, antibody testing will take place once a month, and players will have their tempera-

tures checked and be evaluated for symptoms twice a day.

"Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible both on the field and off," the MLB stated. "Players and other team personnel not participating in the game will be sitting in the stands, at least six feet apart."

For more information on the rules and regulations of this season, as well as answers to more frequently asked questions, visit [mlb.com](http://mlb.com).

## PROTEST RESPONSE COST (from pg. 1)

Chair Kenzie Bok. It is likely that the costs of responding to protests this year will be included in that conversation.

Several City Councilors and some community activists were asked to respond to the expenditure with their own thoughts on it, but none gave comment except

District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn.

Flynn said he believes it is important to maintain such expenditures when people exercise their rights to free speech.

"I believe that when we have protests and demonstrations, it's also important that we have a

police presence to maintain public safety for all, including our protestors exercising their rights, our neighbors, residents, businesses and institutions - so that the city is able to respond quickly to any emergencies or incidents," he said.

Mayor Martin Walsh did also

comment on the matter, and he said spending that money was a primary function of government - giving people their Constitutional right to peaceably voice their opinion and also making sure they were protected by police in doing so.

"Protests in Boston have been centered on the fundamental issue

of racial justice, and I support the residents who have been making their voices heard peacefully throughout our City, and the public safety officials who have been protecting residents' right to assemble and advocate for change," he said.

# Walsh addresses COVID-19, equity, violence in the City

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on July 16 to give an update on COVID-19 and talk about the City's continued work on equity, as well as address the increase in violence in the City in recent weeks.

Walsh said that COVID-19 testing "remains one of our most essential weapons in this fight," and urged everyone to get a test, which he said is covered by insurance if you have symptoms or have been exposed. There are also several sites around the city that offer free testing for everyone.

He said that getting tested benefits not only an individual, but their family and the city and state as well.

Walsh said testing has been expanded in black and immigrant communities, as well as language and communication access. He also talked about the COVID-19 Immigrant Collaborative that has been created. "Any outbreak that occurs ultimately impacts everyone," Walsh said. "Equity has been a significant reason for our success in containing the virus to the extent that we have."

There has been an increase in positive test rates among Latinx communities, Walsh said. He said that more than \$400,000 from the Boston Resiliency Fund will be invested in an equity plan for more testing in the Latinx community. This money will help get "testing to where it's needed" and help "families facing barriers,"

Walsh said. He said the "best way to do this" is through grassroots organizations like IBA in the South End and Hyde Square Task Force in Jamaica Plain, who are already working on the ground with the communities.

Samuel Acevedo, Executive Director of the Boston Higher Education Resource Center, said that "many families reported having symptoms but were afraid of getting tested because of their status."

He said that prior to COVID-19, Massachusetts was already the number one state for Latinx inequalities, and the pandemic has exacerbated that. "Some don't have health insurance or a dedicated health care provider," Acevedo said.

He said that working with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, the goal is to strengthen the work the health center is doing among the Latinx community. He said that they are going to "embark on a bilingual campaign to promote mask wearing among the Latino community," and thanked Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez for his "leadership early on."

Walsh also called out City Councilor Michelle Wu for speaking on the radio about the Boston Resiliency Fund.

"Normally I would not confront something I hear on the radio, but an hour ago, there was a city councilor talking about the Resiliency Fund and I think the ineffectiveness of it," Walsh said

last Thursday. "And if the city councilor took time out of her schedule just to give me a call or maybe go on a call to talk to us about the Resiliency Fund, she would understand what the resiliency fund has done. And I want it to be very clear: the Resiliency Fund has raised \$33 million, all privately raised by 1700 different donors."

Walsh added that to date, \$24 million has been distributed from the fund, and 53 percent of grants have gone to organizations led by people of color. The Fund has provided grants for things like expanding testing, making sure people have food, expanding Telehealth medicine, buying Chromebooks for Boston Public Schools students for online learning purposes, and donations to places like the Greater Boston Food Bank and Project Bread, among others.

"I am proud and I want to thank the thousand plus people who have donated to the Boston Resiliency Fund," Walsh said.

On July 21, Walsh held another press conference where he addressed the previous weekend's heat wave. Several Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) were open at 40 percent capacity as cooling centers. He said that while they did not see heavy use, they "encourage people to not be out in the middle of the day during the heat wave," especially those who are elderly. He called on residents to check on their elderly neighbors or others who are housebound, and to call 911 immediately if they

see someone experiencing difficulty in the heat.

He also said that outdoor spaces are essential to getting fresh air and staying healthy, so the City is working on expanding outdoor opportunities. He reminded everyone to continue wearing face coverings and "do not become part of a crowd," as was seen over the weekend at beaches in South Boston.

He also talked about the City's Healthy Street Initiative, which has allowed for the creation of temporary bike lanes connecting several locations in downtown and the Back Bay, extended bus stops, created more outdoor dining locations, food truck locations, and pickup spots. It has also allowed for the distribution of mobility ramps for outdoor dining to ensure it is accessible for all.

"This is the work of many different partners," Walsh said, including the Boston Transportation Department, the Public Works Department, the Office of Economic Development, and other local community and small businesses.

Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross also addressed the ongoing increase in violence in the City last Thursday.

Last Tuesday night, a 21-year-old store clerk was shot in Roxbury during a robbery. Walsh said the victim was an immigrant from Bangladesh, and was in the hospital "fighting for his life" as of Thursday afternoon.

"We've seen too many homi-

cides this summer," Walsh said. "We've seen too many shootings this summer. The violence in our city needs to stop. There's no excuses for violence in Boston."

Commissioner Gross said that the man working at the convenience store is an "innocent young man." He continued: "the mayor's right: we're tired of this. The mentality in the streets is you can do what you want because the courts are closed. Repeat violent offenders should be held accountable."

He said that the Boston Police Department (BPD) will continue working with the community. He also said he has met with the store owner and will talk with others about how all convenience stores should be equipped with security cameras.

On July 21, Walsh said that the previous weekend had been a "tough weekend" in the City, with the death of a 16 year old and a 17 year old due to gun violence. He said the Boston Police Department is continuing to ask for the public's help, and tips can be given anonymously.

"Violence of any kind is certainly unacceptable in our communities," Walsh said, adding that resources are being focused on "our most highly impacted communities in the city. This is a coordinated strategy."

"Our communities are not desensitized to violence; they do care," Gross said on July 16. "Let's continue to stick together and work together."

## South End to create their own MOU to check Roundhouse Residents said to have the support of Mayor Walsh

By Seth Daniel

In the wake of the surprise, new homeless shelter at the Roundhouse Hotel on Mass/Cass in the South End, residents and business of the South End are combining forces to create their own standards of conduct for the 180-person shelter, and they are said to have the backing of Mayor Martin Walsh.

That in opposition to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was crafted with Pine Street Inn, the Roundhouse and the Newmarket Business Association.

"The South End will be drawing up our own MOU that specifically addresses the key concerns of the commercial and resident commu-

nity of the South End," said Steve Fox, moderator of the South End Forum.

The move is in response to an unexpected announcement by Pine Street Inn on July 10 that they had procured a one-year lease to use the Roundhouse Hotel on Mass/Cass – the epicenter of the opiate epidemic in New England and a place that was tabbed to have fewer social services and not more. The plan relocated 180 individuals to 92 rooms in the hotel from the Suffolk University dormitory and was to start on Aug. 1 if not sooner.

The move caught many in City Hall by surprise, including upper level managers and cabinet mem-

bers. It has also bred distrust in the neighborhood for residents and business owners alike. The announcement of a separate MOU seems to be the beginnings of a breaking between some partners on Mass/Cass and the neighborhood. Some in the South End said the Newmarket MOU had more protections for that area than the South End, and pushed the planned Business Improvement District (BID) program along with identified fees that could have to be paid of more than \$18,000.

Fox said Mayor Walsh is in support of the South End MOU process and has asked Pine Street to recognize and abide by it.

Some of the things that South

End businesses and residents would be looking for in the MOU would include a promise not to backfill rooms when those living there are placed elsewhere in permanent housing – an overall goal of the Pine Street plan. That would mean once a person leaves, no one can take their place.

Another point would be to get Pine Street to agree to no renewals of the lease after 12 months, and finally, that there would be some fail safes built into the plan. For example, if they were to begin discussions about extending the lease or buying the property, the community would be notified.

"I think we want to hear about it even if they're just talking," said

Fox.

A final piece would be information sharing and metrics to show the community the real progress of relocating clients to permanent housing – along with goals to meet by the six-month mark.

The situation has actually brought businesses and residents in the South End closer on issues related to social services. Fox said there are currently discussions between the South End Business Alliance (SEBA) and the South End Forum.

"Discussions are underway between SEBA and the Forum to create a unified approach to both commercial and residential interests in the South End," he said.

# Peters Park turning into a mess this summer, neighbors say

By Seth Daniel

Peters Park – the king of open spaces in the South End – has taken a turn for the worse this summer as the homeless population increases and more drug activity has shown up.

Neighbors in the area and from the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) said there has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of homeless people living

in the park this summer. Likewise, they said there are more needles being found, and the garbage is everywhere.

This is compounded by the fact that long-time D-4 Officer Richie Litto has not been on his regular patrols, as he is out with an injury as a result of protest activity in late May. Likewise, South End Baseball usually has a major presence in the park during the evenings – driving away questionable activity – but

they are not there this summer.

Neighbors said there are children who use the park from day-care centers that have re-opened, and there is a fear they could pick up the needles being found.

One neighbor said they haven't gotten many answers from the City, but Councilor Ed Flynn told the Sun he planned to have a community meeting at the park – which came after Sun deadlines. He said he is working to make sure

the situation changes quickly.

“Our parks and open spaces are vital to the quality of life and well-being for residents in the City of Boston, and Peters Park is a jewel for the South End community,” he said. “It's critical that we keep the park safe, clean and welcoming to all. I know that neighbors all across the South End, especially around the East Berkeley area, have worked hard to ensure that it's well-maintained and remains

a space for residents, families and children to enjoy. I'm meeting with Captain Sweeney at the park to discuss public safety and quality of life issues such as needles, our homeless population, and cleanliness. I will continue to work closely with the Parks Department, officers from D-4, and neighbors to see how we can improve conditions at Peters Park.”

## Red Cross seeking local volunteers before peak of hurricane season

Staff report

Hurricane season doesn't stop because of a pandemic, and 2020 has been widely predicted to be even busier than recent years. Now, the Red Cross of Massachusetts is looking to virtually train new volunteers in sheltering, health services, and other crucial aspects of mission delivery.

The Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters per year, with a workforce that is 95 percent volunteer. Usually, that

gives us the ability to deploy specially-trained disaster volunteers from all over the country – but with COVID-19 travel restrictions in place, we're looking to local residents to answer the call and train up for emergencies that may arise in our region.

The biggest areas of need are in sheltering and health services. Tasks may include registration, feeding, dormitory and information collection in both associate and supervisory roles. The Red Cross is also looking for RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramed-

ic, MD/DO or PA with active, current and unencumbered licenses to help assess the health of shelter residents.

Since the beginning of July, more than 60 disaster volunteers have already been deployed in Massachusetts, many of those in response to severe flooding from recent storms. A heavy rain storm on June 29 caused a partial roof collapse at a Malden apartment building, forcing the residents of 30 apartments to seek shelter with the Red Cross.

The Red Cross provided rooms

at a nearby hotel for all affected residents, as well as a few people displaced by flooding in other communities. In-person volunteers helped serve residents three meals a day and made sure all areas used by Red Cross clients were properly cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. At the same time, our virtual teams were working with the apartment's property management company to ensure residents had regular updates on the status of repairs and access to alternate housing arrangements as needed. While the immediate need for shel-

tering services has been met, our recovery casework teams will continue to follow up virtually with clients as needed.

Volunteering with the American Red Cross is a rewarding and life-changing experience that benefits everyone we serve in a time when many Americans feel helpless in the face of this coronavirus pandemic. To make a difference in your community, email [MAVolunteers@redcross.org](mailto:MAVolunteers@redcross.org), call 1-800-564-1234 or reach out to us online.

## Baker-Polito administration announces new Housing Choice Communities

Staff report

On July 16, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the inclusion of eight new communities in the Housing Choice Communities program and the re-designation of 56 Housing Choice Communities.

Included in the designation were Everett, Chelsea and Boston.

This brings the total number of current Housing Choice Communities to 74 across the Commonwealth. This program is designed to recognize communities who have made substantial progress towards housing development goals and for the implementation of housing best practices to encourage sustainable development. The Housing Choice Designation is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's strategy to produce 135,000 new housing units by 2025 to meet the high demand

of housing across the state.

The newly designated communities are: Amesbury, Belchertown, Medfield, Middleborough, Newburyport, North Attleborough, Salem, and Sunderland.

Between 2015 and 2019, this year's 64 Housing Choice Communities built 73 percent of all new housing units in Massachusetts. This designation affords Housing Choice Communities access to an exclusive, competitive capital grant program, and points on applications to nine other state capital grants, including MassWorks, MassDOT Complete Streets, EEA Community Investment Grants, and more.

Communities that receive this designation have either produced at least 500 new housing units or saw an increase of 5 percent or more in new housing units from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019, or, alternatively, produced at least 300 new housing units or saw an increase of 3 percent or more new housing units from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 and met 7 of 14 Housing Choice Best Practices, two of which must be related to affordability. Most communities in today's announcement have increased their housing production by 5 percent or more or have built over 500 new units since 2015.

Many of the Housing Choice Communities are implementing best practices to produce new housing. Over 70 percent of the 2020 Housing Choice Commu-

nities now make it easier to build new multi-family housing through by-right zoning or a robust special permit pipeline of approved projects. Many others have invested Community Preservation Act funds in local projects, often in combination with local Affordable Housing Trusts to support new affordable housing development in the future.

The administration's Housing Choice Initiative, which was announced in December 2017, is a package of technical assistance for communities, the Housing Choice Communities (HCC) designation, new capital grant funding, and pending legislation, An Act to Promote Housing Choices. This initiative complements the investments made by the Department of Housing and Community Development in affordable housing production across the state, and supports local government actions to meet the demands of a growing and aging population in Massachusetts.

The legislative proposal An Act to Promote Housing Choices, which was also filed as part of the Administration's economic development legislation in March, will advance new housing production and promote equitable access to opportunity by enabling cities and towns to adopt certain zoning best practices related to housing production by a simple majority vote, rather than the current two-thirds supermajority. While this legislation will lower the voting threshold to change zoning for commu-

nities in the Commonwealth, it does not require cities and towns to make any of these changes. With the proposed simple majority threshold, municipalities that pursue rezoning efforts, including those enabling transit-oriented or downtown-oriented new housing, would gain approval if they achieve more than 50 percent of the vote, as opposed to the current supermajority of more than 66 percent. Massachusetts is currently one of only a few states to require a supermajority to change local zoning. The legislation does not apply to the City of Boston, which has its own zoning regulations.

Zoning changes that promote best practices for housing growth that would qualify for the simple majority threshold include:

- Building mixed-use, multi-family, and starter homes, and adopting 40R “Smart Growth” zoning in town centers and near transit.
- Allowing the development of accessory dwelling units, or “in-law” apartments.
- Approving Smart Growth or Starter Home districts that put housing near existing activity centers.
- Granting increased density through a special permit process.
- Allowing for the transfer of development rights and enacting natural resource protection zoning.
- Reducing parking requirements and dimensional requirements, such as minimum lot sizes.

• This legislation also includes a provision, added by the Joint Committee on Housing last session, that would reduce the voting threshold for a special permit issued by a local permit granting authority to a simple majority vote, for certain multi-family or mixed-use projects with at least 10 percent affordable units in locations near transit, or in centers of commercial activity within a municipality.

The Baker-Polito Administration has shown a deep commitment to increasing the production of housing across income levels. Since 2015, the administration has invested more than \$1.1 billion in affordable housing, resulting in the production and preservation of more than 18,000 housing units, including 16,000 affordable units. In 2018, Governor Baker signed the largest housing bond bill in Massachusetts history, committing more than \$1.8 billion to the future of affordable housing production and preservation. The Baker-Polito Administration has also advanced the development of more than 14,000 mixed-income housing units through the successful MassWorks Infrastructure Program, reformed the Housing Development Incentive Program, and worked with communities to implement smart-growth development and planning efforts.

2020 Housing Choice Commu-

- Boston
- Chelsea
- Everett

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# Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees Endorse Ed Markey

Staff Report

Both Boston Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic Committees voted Tuesday night to endorse Senator Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate. Their announcements come as mail-in and early voting nears in the primary election.

Both vote results were overwhelming: Ward 4 voted in favor of endorsing Senator Ed Markey 20-3, with 3 abstentions, while Ward 5 voted 30-5.

“We are moving forward gain-

ing support daily now in these last weeks approaching the primary, and the voters are responding to the building momentum,” said Senator Ed Markey. “With the new, official backing of both Boston Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees, our movement is highlighting our shared progressive agenda.”

Said State Representative and Ward 5 Executive Committee member Jay Livingstone, “It’s not surprising that the Boston Ward 5 committee overwhelmingly endorsed the productive,

progressive champion in this race - Senator Ed Markey. I proudly support Senator Markey because of the profound impact his legislative victories have had reducing greenhouse gases and his continued leadership on one of the most pressing issues of our time.”

Said Councilor Kenzie Bok, “I am proud that the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee -- my home ward -- joined me in endorsing Senator Markey Tuesday night. Senator Markey has been consistently fighting for justice throughout his career, from

increasing access to affordable housing to pushing for universal health care to co-authoring the Green New Deal. In this moment, he’s a champion against eviction and police brutality and for direct financial support to our families. As we look to recover from this crisis, the City of Boston and the whole Commonwealth of Massachusetts need his leadership now more than ever.”

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee includes parts of Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End. The Boston Ward 5 committee

includes Beacon Hill, Bay Village, Back Bay, and parts of the South End, Chinatown and Fenway.

“The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee is proud to endorse Ed Markey for his history of progressive leadership,” Ward 4 Chair Jonathan Cohn said. “Ed Markey brings an ideal combination of experience, commitment, and progressive values, and we need his leadership in crafting legislation to get us out of the mess of the Trump administration.”

# ZBA approves Motor Mart Garage project; residential building on Boston Street

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) has been holding virtual hearings after gathering a backlog of cases during the first couple months of the COVID-19 pandemic. At first, the focus was on smaller scale projects, but the hearings now include larger scale projects such as the Motor Mart Garage project in the Bay Village area and the Scape residential building proposal for Boylston St. in the Fenway, both of which were heard at the July 21 virtual ZBA hearing.

## 201-241 STUART ST.

At 201-241 Stuart St., attorney Michael Flannery and architect Phil Casey presented the proposal for the Motor Mart Garage, which includes the construction of a new residential tower with approximately 231 units. There will be 672 total parking spaces.

The eight story residential tower consists of 39 studio units, 75 one bedroom units, 80 two bedroom units and 29 three bedroom units. The building will feature basement level retail space, and Flannery said that the required FAR is 10 but the proposed is 13.1.

Flannery said that there are no affordable units on site, but the developer will be contributing funds towards the 85 units of affordable housing being built at 288 Harrison Ave. in Chinatown.

Faisa Sharif from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said this project was subject to “lengthy community review” during the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) Article 80 review process. She did mention that the Bay Village Neighborhood Association has written and submitted a letter outlining its concerns about construction management, particularly with the fact that the 212

Stuart Street mixed use building construction will be happening concurrently. The mayor’s office went on the record in support of the project.

Councilors Flynn and Essaibi-George are also in support, along with several other unions.

An attorney representing 20 Park Plaza, which is across from the Motor Mart Garage, said that he is opposed to the project because the project is “too tall and too dense for this location” and the “proponent cannot show any valid special circumstance” to build the building in the way it is proposed.

The ZBA also reported that eight letters of opposition were received.

The ZBA voted to approve this proposal with the proviso that it undergo continued BPDA design review.

## 1260 BOYLSTON ST.

The proposal at 1260 Boylston St. has been adjusted since first presented in April of 2019, when British-based developer Scape proposed a dormitory building for the space that was not affiliated with any particular university in the City.

The site is also home to Ramrod/Machine, an LGBTQ+ friendly nightclub and performance venue. Those involved with the nightclub were not happy with the originally proposed replacement space, and the community as a whole was vehemently against the dormitory proposal.

The current proposal includes around 477 rental units with retail on the ground floor, and a 10,000 square foot ‘Boylston Black Box,’ an “LGBTQ-centric venue for the performing arts—anchored by a 156-seat theater which will be delivered and operated on a not-for-profit basis,” according to the

BPDA project site.

Attorney Victor Baltera said that there are 68 total affordable units as part of the project, and added that the Baseball Tavern will be relocated into this new property.

He said that the allowed height is 115 feet “with bonuses,” but the proposed project is 163 and 15 stories at some parts. From west to east, the building steps down 13 stories and from the front of Boylston back, it steps down to 11 stories.

Baltera said that an FAR of 5.5 is allowed, but they are requesting an FAR of 7.1 with the theater as the benefit in exchange for going over.

Architect Rich Curtiss said that on the second floor, there will be a 12,000 square foot area with common space for the residents, including a gym, a communal dining area, work areas, a library, and outdoor dining space. There is also a small outdoor area on the 14th floor.

No parking is proposed for the area as it is “well serviced” by public transit and other modes of transportation, the team said.

The ZBA reported that they had received 16 letters of support.

Shanice Pimentel from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that this project has gone through an “extensive and successful community process,” and has been supported by organizations like the Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Kenmore Square Business Association, and the Boston Arts Academy. She said the Mayor’s office is also in support of the project.

Dolores Boogdian, a resident of Audubon Circle, voiced some of her concerns about the project, including that she is “concerned about a concentration of students

in our neighborhoods as opposed to university campuses” and had concerns about the height and the “nature of the relief sought” by the

applicants.

The ZBA voted to approve the project with continued BPDA design review.

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Before you know it, the new school year will begin. In this climate of crisis there are so many new factors to consider before classes resume. Parents are anxious to learn about new protocols and options for their children. We have created Safely Back to School as a way for schools to reach out to parents to help them learn about all of the new safe education options that are available for the year ahead

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# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window in the last clue is on 111 Cummington Mall designed by architects Soms and Parsons as an automobile showroom in 1909. The architects made good use of a new material, concrete! Today it houses the Boston University Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Boston Properties proposes observation deck, public pavilion for Prudential Center

By Dan Murphy

Boston Properties has approached the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) with a proposal to add an observation deck at the top of the Prudential Center, as well as to build a public pavilion on the South Garden, which would facilitate access to the observatory and provide

year-round programming, sources told the Sun.

The BPDA has determined that this would require an amendment to an existing Planned Developments Areas (PDA), which is defined by the BPDA as “an overlay zoning district that establishes special zoning controls for large or complex projects.” The city as

subsequently instructed Boston Properties to file the amendment, as well as to submit a “framing document” outlining the project’s design parameters in the coming weeks.

Upon hearing the news, State Rep. Jay Livingstone told the Sun, “I am looking forward to reviewing the details and understanding any impact on the community.”

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Swierczynski, Alan	Porcello, Dean	163 Beacon St #9	\$563,000
Pakes, Ariel	Drothers RT	242 Beacon St #6	\$1,940,000
Rudin, Gregory	Santa Maria RT	169 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$2,910,000
Marlborough Home LLC	321-323 Marlborough St	321 Marlborough St	\$18,000,000
Marlborough Home LLC	321-323 Marlborough St	323 Marlborough St	\$18,000,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Bian, Boyang	Kevin Divney 2005 RET	88 Beacon St #5	\$1,320,000
Mcmahon, Susan C	Sambuco, Nicholas J	21 Bowdoin St #1C	\$617,500
Abbas, Atif	Tepper, Carol	45 Garden St #4	\$527,000
Wang, Ligu	Foti, Marcia	36 Myrtle St #7	\$680,000
Nirmal Kanta Kapur RET	Tierney, Ann M	145 Pinckney St #225	\$570,000
69 Pinckney Street 4 RT	Nadol, Benjamin N	69 Pinckney St #4	\$1,900,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
BRM 40 Realty LLC	Eighteen Realty LLC	40 Lawrence St #3	\$665,000
Jayne, Rachael K	Melrose RT	19 Melrose St #2	\$400,000
Atelier 613 NT	Klein, Joshua	505 Tremont St #613	\$1,200,000
Patel-Shah RET	Jani, Shreya	28 Claremont Park	\$3,300,000
Sargent, Randall	Mckinney, Andrew M	37 E Concord St #4	\$1,515,000
Chai, Li	Rebeiz, Elie E	80 Fenwood Rd #809	\$658,000
Vora, Darshan	Thakkar, Hemali	80-82 Fenwood Rd #706	\$665,001
Li, Bing	Garvey, Harold J	39 Hemenway St #4	\$470,000
Bousquet, James	Piretti, Peter L	19 Milford St #4	\$951,000
Zhao, Kun L	Tracey Ann Smith T	425 Newbury St #N89	\$124,500
Aubuchon, Deirdre O	Lobkowitz, Richard	133 Pembroke St #5	\$799,999
Wallace, Bradford R	Murphy, Elaine	22 Rutland Sq #1	\$1,500,010
Steven J Tromp RET 2020	Bousquet, Jennifer J	59 Rutland St #1	\$2,060,000
Duncan, Grace	Rosenberg, Randall A	469 Shawmut Ave #6	\$620,000
Grodin, Alan R	Housman, Jacob	597 Tremont St #5	\$790,000
Koenigsberg, Sheryl A	Orbon, Everett R	147 W Canton St	\$4,575,000
Rincon LLC	Meyer, Jeffrey	80 W Concord St #4	\$420,000
Stefano, Mari	Meyer, Jeffrey	80 W Concord St #5	\$870,000
Sun, Peter	Foley, William	13 Waltham St #B309	\$575,000
Welsh, Patricia	E W&M Brenninkmeyer RET	83 Waltham St #1	\$1,750,000
Borin, Mitchell	Wettemann, Rebecca	6 Wellington St #3	\$665,500
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Markos, Elias	Capobianco RT	357 Commercial St #609	\$1,050,000
Derrouche, Marisa	Tiberi, Cesidio P	392-394 Commercial St	\$1,300,000
Law, Kenneth	Gray, Patricia	85 E India Row #29A	\$647,000
Johnson, Nathan	Maloney, Tina B	181 Essex St #E204	\$700,000
Sepol BG Axquisitions LLC	Theta Delta Chi Educatnl	214 Lewis Wharf #218	\$625,000
Beyen, Gil	Rich, Brodie	96 South St #4	\$1,000,000
Friedman, Clarence D	Liu, Tong	151 Tremont St #25D	\$1,071,375
Horwitz, Nathaniel	Marincovic, Coppelia	151 Tremont St #7M	\$650,000

# Walsh announces ordinance allowing plastic bags extended to Sept. 30

Staff report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced recently the City of Boston's executive order to exempt all establishments from the plastic bag ban ordinance will stay in place until September 30. This transition period will allow stores to use up any single-use plastic

bags that they have purchased during the emergency. The five-cent per bag fee will also not be in effect.

"In March, we suspended the City's ban on plastic bags and the 5-cent fee for paper bags in order to give both stores and customers more flexibility during this difficult

time," said Mayor Walsh. "While we're extending that suspension to best serve businesses and residents, I want to be clear that the Boston Public Health Commission and the state Department of Public Health have said that reusable bags are safe and people should feel free to use them."

On October 1, all provisions of the plastic bag ban ordinance will come back into effect. This includes the elimination of most single-use plastic bags and the requirement for the five-cent fee. The ordinance still allows the ISD Commissioner to grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis. Residents in Boston are

now able to use reusable bags if they would like to.

More information about the City's plastic bag ban is available on [boston.gov](http://boston.gov). The City's previous guidance on allowing plastic bags during the COVID-19 health emergency is available on [boston.gov](http://boston.gov).

# Walsh announces final preservation of Newcastle Saranac with Fenway CDC

Staff Report

Building on his commitment to creating and maintaining affordable housing in the City of Boston, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the preservation and the start of the rehabilitation of 97 affordable rental units at the Newcastle Saranac Apartments in the South End.

Newcastle-Saranac is an existing urban residential development comprising two, four-story buildings on two city blocks.

"In Boston, we are committed

to creating safe, stable housing for all Boston residents. I am proud that, together with our partners, we have been able to preserve the affordability of 97 homes in Boston," said Mayor Walsh. "We will continue to preserve and grow our affordable housing stock in Boston, and the acquisition and renovation of this building will ensure that residents living here will not be priced out of their homes."

Through the joint efforts of CEDAC, MassHousing, and the

City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development's Housing Preservation Program, the development was acquired by Fenway CDC in early 2019. Last month, the Fenway CDC and their development partner, The Schochet Companies, successfully finalized the financing needed to rehab the development, while preserving affordability in perpetuity by utilizing additional State and City resources.

"Closing on this project the

midst of COVID-19 did not make this already very complex transaction any easier, but the public partners for this project truly went above and beyond to make sure it could close in time to get construction safely started. At one point I think we had someone from nearly every Department at the City working on this project - during COVID - to make sure it crossed the finish line," said Leah Camhi, Executive Director of Fenway CDC. "I want to extend my sincerest gratitude

and thanks to everyone at the City of Boston, CEDAC, MassHousing, and DHCD who helped make the Newcastle-Saranac Apartments project feasible. We could not have preserved and rehabbed these units without working with our public partners."

The Schochet Companies provided development services for the transaction and will continue in that role through construction. Schochet also serves as the management agent.

## For the Record

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:** Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

### From the July 22 Public Facilities Commission meeting, online:

- Contract to Gale Associates, Inc.: To provide architectural design and construction administration services associated with the Josiah Quincy Elementary School Envelope project located at 885 Washington Street, Chinatown. Contract Price: \$464,998.

- Contract to CSS Architects Inc.: To provide architectural design and construction administration services associated with the Fire Alarm Building Roof and Antenna project located at 59 Fenway, Back Bay. Contract Price: \$110,000.

- Contract to Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott Incorporated: To perform a master plan and programming study associated with the Boston Public Library (BPL) McKim Building Improvements project located at 230 Dartmouth Street, Back Bay. Contract Price: \$640,000.

### From the July 23 Public Improvement Commission hearing, 10 a.m., Online:

- On a petition by Mark Kenmore LLC for the making of Specific Repairs within the following public ways in Boston Proper, consisting of curb realignment, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, as well as new and relocated pedestrian ramps and driveway curb cuts: Commonwealth Avenue – at address no. 560-574, generally at Beacon Street/Kenmore Square; Beacon Street – generally at Commonwealth Avenue/Kenmore Square.
- On a joint petition by Scape Boyl-

ston LLC, Boylston Kenmore 1260 LLC, and Roofdeck LLC for the acceptance of a Pedestrian Easement adjacent to Boylston Street (public way), Boston Proper, located on its southerly side at address nos. 1252-1270, generally west of Ipswich Street.

- On a joint petition by Scape Boylston LLC, Boylston Kenmore 1260 LLC, and Roofdeck LLC for the making of Specific Repairs within Boylston Street (public way), Boston Proper, located on its southerly side at address nos. 1252-1270, generally west of Ipswich Street, consisting of curb realignment, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, as well as new and relocated pedestrian ramps, specialty pavement, street lights, street trees, planters, landscaping, street furniture, bike racks, and a protected cycletrack.

- On a petition by the City of Boston Transportation Department for the making of Specific Repairs within Boylston Street (public way), Boston Proper, located on its southerly side at address no. 1340, generally between Jersey Street and Richard B. Ross Way, consisting of curb realignment, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, as well as new and relocated street lights, bike racks, protected bicycle facilities, and a pedestrian island.

- 566 Columbus Avenue, 450 Massachusetts Avenue, West Springfield Street; South End – Pedestrian Easement, Specific Repairs, Projection License, Temporary Earth Retention License – On a set of petitions by CKG Columbus LLC.

- 611 Tremont Street; Boston Proper – Grant of Location – On a petition by Crown Castle.

### From the July 28 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, 10 a.m., Online:

- 28 Exeter St., Back Bay. Applicant: Exeter Towers LLC. The work will consist of an addition to a 9 story building. It will be a renovation and addition of a rooftop of approx.4870sf., of which 2130sf is exposed. bldg.is non-conforming and addition will require relief from ZBA

as to height and FAR.

**From the July 28, 10 a.m., (Online) CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING:** A hearing regarding Boston Police overtime. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Kenzie Bok, and the sponsors are Councilors Kenzie Bok, Andrea Campbell, and Matt O'Malley.

**From the July 28 Boston Landmarks Commission meeting, 4 p.m., Online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88664823684):**

- Back Bay Fens - 31 Park Drive: Replace existing concrete street light with metal street light and small cell wireless infrastructure including radio cabinet and antenna.

- Christian Science Church Complex - 210 Massachusetts Avenue: At fountain remove and replace bricks in-kind to accommodate replacement of trough grates, and waterproof trough.

**From the July 30, 10 a.m., (Online), THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HEARING:** Order for a hearing identifying restorative justice practices and the role of the police in our schools. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Essaibi-George and the sponsors are Councilors Mejia and Janey.

**From the July 30 South End Landmarks Commission, 5 p.m., Online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86755512013):**

### DESIGN REVIEW HEARING

- 566 Columbus Avenue. Construct a new building

- 566 Columbus Avenue/ 450 Massachusetts Avenue. Proposed Work: Modifications to sidewalk including utilities, light poles, sidewalk material and blue bike stations; installation of bike racks and street trees; removal of bus stop on Massachusetts Avenue.

### BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

### REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

- Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

### •HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.



# SOUTH END PENTHOUSE

**201 W BROOKLINE STREET #PH402**  
**3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,804 SQFT**  
**\$7,200,000**



**86 MARLBOROUGH STREET #3**  
**3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,520 SQFT**  
**\$3,250,000**



**54 PINCKNEY STREET**  
**5 BEDS | 4F 2H BATHS | 3,825 SQFT**  
**\$5,995,000**



**4 JOY STREET #PH**  
**4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,622 SQFT**  
**\$5,999,000**



**26 HOLYOKE STREET**  
**5 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 5,090 SQFT**  
**\$6,990,000**

