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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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BHCA HOLDS THE PARTY IN THE SKY EVENT



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) Young Friends presented The Party in the Sky on October 18 at the UMass Club. Shown are Young Friends Sub-Committee: Courtney Colonese, Alex DeOliveira, Paola Rossetti, and Richelle Gewertz. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

FOPG celebrates legacy and support at annual Members Reception

Special to Times

Last Thursday evening, Oct. 18, the Friends of the Public Garden (FOPG) held its annual Members Reception, an event dedicated to honoring the loyal supporters who make the organization's vital work in our three beloved parks possible.

This year, the gathering took on a special significance as it celebrated FOPG President Liz Vizza and her remarkable 15-year legacy.

The reception, hosted at The Newbury Boston, was an inspiring evening filled with respect and

(FRIENDS Pg. 12)



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Friends of the Public Garden President Liz Vizza (second from left) is seen with, left to right: Mayor Michelle Wu; Friends Board Chair Leslie Singleton Adam; and Rhondella Richardson from WCVB, as well as emcee for the program.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

HALLOWEEN BARRICADE PLACEMENT 2024

As in past years, the Beacon Hill Civic Association has worked with the City and local police to block off many streets on Beacon Hill for the safety of our trick-or-

treaters on Halloween.

The following streets will be barricaded and closed to traffic from 4 to 8pm on Thursday, October 31st, and vehicles parked there cannot be moved during this time:

Branch Street (barricade @ Charles Street)

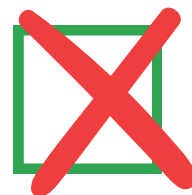
Chestnut Street (no barricade needed as access is blocked from Mt. Vernon)

Mt. Vernon Street (barricade

(BHCA Pg. 4)

Paid for by Hampshire House, Cheers, 75 Chestnut, & 75 on Liberty Wharf Staff

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City renames North Washington Street Bridge in honor of Bill Russell

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Mrs. Jeannine Russell, Gov. Maura Healey, state and local officials, and Celtics leadership and players Monday, Oct. 21 to rename the North Washington Street Bridge as the William Felton 'Bill' Russell Bridge.

Russell, a civil rights activist and Celtics legend, passed away in 2022. The bridge renaming honors his dedication to civil rights, justice, and the fostering of Boston's youth and young athletes.

This bridge, currently under construction, spans the Charles River and connects Charlestown to the West End and North End near TD Garden. A plaque on the northbound side of the bridge will be installed in summer of 2025.

"Bill Russell was a champion not only on the basketball court, but in his daily life fighting for equality and serving as a role model for future athletes and activists," said Mayor Wu. "It's fitting that a man known for his vision and determination to create bridges to our future will now always be commemorated on the gateway



Mayor Michelle Wu.

into Downtown Boston. I'm grateful to Mrs. Jeannine Russell who worked with us to find the right way to memorialize his legacy, and all who helped create this tribute to a beloved Boston figure."

Jeannine Russell, the widow of Bill Russell, said: "This bridge, like Bill, stands strong and enduring. It connects people with purpose, just as he connected the struggles of the past with the hopes of the future. It symbolizes progress—moving us forward while reminding us of



PHOTOS COURTESY MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Unveiling the plaque on the bridge that will bear the name of William Felton 'Bill' Russell Bridge, a Boston Celtic legend and civic rights activist.

the foundations that hold us up. I am so pleased & grateful for all involved who made this day happen."

Gov. Healey said: "Bill Russell was a giant. On the court, he was an unmatched defender, facilitator and leader. The intensity and passion he brought to the game made him a natural leader off the court as well, making powerful contributions to the Civil Rights movement and inspiring millions, even today. It is so meaningful to stand with the Russell Family to rename this bridge in his honor, and I'm grateful to Mayor Wu for making this happen. I hope that everyone who travels across this bridge will take a moment to think about the man that made such a positive impact in Massachusetts and beyond."

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz said: "Bill Russell built his legacy in Boston on his civil rights leadership and with his prowess on the basketball court. His leadership paved the way for athletes today to not only thrive on the basketball court but also as advocates off the court. This dedication will cement that legacy in Boston forever."

"I am proud to witness the renaming of the North Washington Street Bridge to the William Felton Bill Russell Bridge," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "Bill Russell's legacy

extends far beyond basketball—he was a champion for equality, justice, and uplifting the most vulnerable members of society. Renaming this bridge in his honor is not only a tribute to one of Boston's greatest sports icons, but also a lasting symbol of his commitment to making our nation more just and inclusive. Charlestown will now forever be connected to his incredible legacy, serving as a reminder of the greatness we can all aspire to achieve on and off the court. I want to thank Mayor Wu for bestowing this honor on one of Boston's greatest champions."

Sen. Lydia Edwards said: "Bill Russell [was] a great man and icon. He represents overcoming and coming together. His legacy is cemented as a symbol of sportsmanship and hope."

Rep. Danny Ryan said, "Bill Russell epitomized what it meant to be a leader and a champion both on and off the court. What Russell meant to his teammates and the City of Boston while he was here, and the contributions he continued to make throughout his life were immense. I want to thank Mayor Wu for such a thoughtful tribute and Governor Healey for prioritizing this project's completion. When finished this bridge will inspire awe the way its namesake did for generations."

District 1 City Councilor Gabri-

ela Coletta Zapata said: "Bill Russell's legend went beyond the basketball court. His legacy as a social justice activist and bridge builder transcends sports. There is no better individual to represent connectivity between two of my neighborhoods in Boston. Thank you to his family for sharing him and his likeness with us for so many years, and to everyone who work tirelessly to build bridges every day."

An instrumental part of the Celtics' dynasty in the late 1950s and '60s, Bill Russell was a part of 11 NBA Championship teams as both a player and a coach. He was twice inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. He was a trailblazer for Black athletes and a fierce supporter for civil rights, later earning the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. Off the court, he was devoted to MENTOR, an organization that works to foster quality mentors for youth, for which he was a founding board member.

Bridge construction, led by MassDOT in partnership with the City's Streets Cabinet, is expected to be completed in early 2025. The bridge is partially open to drivers and pedestrians as the construction finishes. A plaque with Bill Russell's name will be installed in summer of 2025.

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BHAC approves proposed Union Club roofdeck

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved as submitted a new roofdeck for the Union Club on Park Street at its monthly public hearing held virtually on Thursday Oct. 17.

Timothy Burke, the project architect, said the proposed roofdeck would look out west over the Boston Common, and that it would be only “minimally visible” from the park. The deck wouldn’t be visible from Park Street whatsoever, he added.

Burke had previously presented preliminary plans for the proposed roofdeck during an advisory hearing at the commission’s Feb. 15 virtual public hearing. Since then, the railing has been pulled back 2 feet, 8 inches, and the size of the deck has been reduced, said Burke.

In making his motion to approve the application, Chair Mark Kiefer noted that the proposed roofdeck would be only minimally visible from one pathway on the Common and even then obscured by the buildings or mechanical features behind it, among other mitigating factors.

Chair Kiefer also noted that the commission had recently approved two other minimally visible roofdecks proposed at 54 Pinckney St. and on 7 Chestnut St., respectively.

Chair Kiefer’s motion to approve the application as submitted was unanimously supported by himself, in addition to Chairs Maurice Finegold, Annette Given, and Ralph Jackson. Commissioner Edward Fleck recused himself from this matter.

(The application had previously appeared on the agenda for the commission’s Sept. 19 virtual public hearing, but the matter wasn’t heard at the time due to a lack of quorum.)

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved as submitted an application from the Club of Odd Volumes – a long-standing, self-described ‘private social club and society of bibliophiles’ located at 77 Mount Vernon St. – to install an iron handrail to the front of the property, spanning the length of the sloped sidewalk from the gate to Mount Vernon Street.

During his presentation for this application, Jeff Makhholm, a club member, told the proposed handrail would be largely for the benefit of the club’s many elderly members who wish to enter the club through the front door. The club also has a handicap accessible entrance in back, which is large enough to accommodate a wheel-



Club of Odd Volumes at 77 Mt. Vernon St.

chair, he added.

The motion to approve this application as submitted came with several provisos, including the posts be installed to the left of the stone curbing, with the foundations fully covered by topsoil; that the ‘volute’ option is selected for the endings of the rail; and that the handrail be constructed in accordance with ADA accessibility standards, specifically an elbow joint that positions the rail away from the vertical supports and towards the path of travel.

The commission also unanimously approved an application from the American Meteorological Society at 45 Beacon St., with proposed work including replacing the existing manual gates with a pair of motorized gates; resetting pavers in driveway; and removing a small portion of the garden wall at rear of property, among other changes.

The motion to approve this application, put forth by Chair Kiefer, came with several provisos, including that the existing gate be retained or repaired; that an existing guard stone be retained; that the swing arms and mechanicals be located so as to minimize visibility; that the gate control-box be installed within a curved section of the wall and perhaps painted black to reduce its visibility; that the paving stones and brick pavers be reset in their original locations; and that drawings be submitted to staff, among other stipulations.

In making his motion, Chair Kiefer noted that the removal of the garden wall would only be visible from a small portion of Beacon Street; that the garden wall isn’t an original feature; and that its proposed alteration doesn’t constitute creating a new façade opening.

An application for 2 Byron St.

also came before the commission, with the proposed work including a 20-inch increase to the 7 foot, 3 inch ceiling height on the third floor at the rear of the building to provide more habitable space for a proposed dining room; the addition of new balconies at the rear of the property; the installation of new door hardware and an intercom panel, as well as the restoration of an existing lantern, on the front façade; the addition of new shutters at the front of the property; and the repainting of the door with Hale Navy, among other changes.

On this application, Chair Kiefer made the motion, which was passed unanimously, to deny the proposed balconies and intercom panel without prejudice to give the applicant time to explore alternatives while approving the balance of the proposed work. This motion came with a proviso that the new shutters aren’t ‘bi-folded,’ and that they reflect the scale of the windows above.

The commission also approved an application as submitted to install new HVAC equipment at the rear of 34 Myrtle St., which would be minimally visible only from a high-walled, dead-end public alleyway next to the Myrtle Street Playground.

This motion, put forth by Chair Kier, came with a proviso that per the applicant’s suggestion, they explore finding a cover for the condenser, which would be black, or a color to match the brick, to further mitigate its visibility.

Besides himself, Chair Kiefer’s motion on this application was unanimously supported by Commissioners Finegold, Fleck, and Given. Commissioner Jackson recused himself from this matter.

In another matter, the commission heard an application for 94



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

The Union Club of Boston at 8 Park St.

Mount Vernon St. – a property undergoing a “gut renovation,” according to the project architect, Mark Van Brocklin of Embarc Design.

Proposed work per this application includes repainting the entry surround using Benjamin Moore HC-87 ‘Ashley Gray’; replacing the mail slot in its existing location; replacing the keyed deadbolt hardware; replacing the address numbers; adding a new pendant light; and at the rear garden wall facing Acorn Street, replacing the window with four-lite wood case-ment window; installing new rear door hardware and a new wall mounted lantern; and replacing the screen on top of the garden wall with a new, decorative metal-railing.

The commission voted unanimously to approve all of the proposed work, besides the replacement of the screening fence on the garden wall at the rear façade; this motion also came with provisos that the fence extension be made of wood, rather than metal; and that the lattice design be used and finished with a dark finish, with details to be delegated to and approved by staff prior to the start of construction. Shop drawings would also be provided to staff per another proviso.

Regarding an extensive application for 15 Temple St., which entails the replacement of all of the varied windows on its front façade, the commission voted by a majority to allow all but the second-floor, ‘left-most’ window, which staff deemed to be “old, if not original.” A one-over-one window configuration on the top floor would also be replaced with

two-over-twos while the other windows would be retained per the motion.

Provisos for this motion included that the balance of the windows not use low-e glass, or dark spacer bars, and that the muntins used be no wider than 7/8 inch. The applicant would also need to submit drawings to staff prior to the start of construction.

Commissioner Finegold, who expressed a strong preference for having the window configuration match that of the neighboring building, cast the sole dissenting vote on this motion.

In regard to a violation issued to The Sevens Ale House at 77 Charles St. for the unapproved rebuilding of its existing storefront, the commission voted unanimously to deny without prejudice its ratification and asked the applicant to return with a new design that better reflects the original conditions of the storefront.

Regarding a violation at 10 Joy St., the commission voted unanimously to ratify the unapproved Pilaster paint color change and unapproved tree guards, and to dismiss the violation.

An application to replace storefront windows at 210 Cambridge St. also appeared on the hearing agenda, but that matter ultimately wasn’t heard because the applicant, who was present, had to leave beforehand.

An application to install new planters at The Whitney Hotel at 170 Charles St. was again slated for design review, but that matter wasn’t heard due to the applicant’s failure to appear at the hearing as scheduled for the second month in a row.

EDITORIAL

IT'S HALLOWEEN SEASON -- ENJOY IT SAFELY!

With the Halloween season reaching its peak of festivities this weekend through Halloween Night next Thursday, we urge all of our readers to celebrate the season in a safe and responsible manner.

Halloween has become big business in recent decades (Americans will spend \$11.6 billion celebrating the holiday this year, up from \$3.3 billion in 2005) not only for children, but for adults as well. The holiday has come a long way since we carried those little cardboard UNICEF donation boxes for starving children while trick-or-treating in our neighborhood, which we then would turn in the next day to the sisters at our parochial school. Halloween today has become as much a party season for adults as for kids.

There are two things that are absolute musts for every adult who will be partaking in the festivities. First and foremost, no one should be driving under the influence. Arrests for drunk driving typically spike during the Halloween season. If you plan on drinking, either go with a designated driver or use an Uber or Lyft. Moreover, those who are hosting Halloween parties should make sure that their guests are okay to drive -- friends don't let friends drive drunk.

Second, as for Halloween Night itself, every person operating an automobile should take care to drive with extreme caution and care and to be on the look-out for little trick-or-treaters. Every motorist should be sure to drive slowly, well below the speed limit.

We also would add that parents of teenagers have a big responsibility to ensure that their children -- and yes, teens are children -- are home early and are not drinking. Parents should set an early curfew for their children (after all, Halloween is a school night this year) to make sure their teens stay out of trouble.

All of us need to do our part to make sure that neither ourselves nor our loved ones are added to the grim statistics of the Halloween season.

A RECORD-HIGH TEMP THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT

We've been aware that the temperatures have been unseasonably warm for this time of year, but we were surprised to hear that Boston set a record-high temperature on Monday when the thermometer hit 83 degrees, breaking a mark that had stood for 104 years.

In addition to enjoying the great weather, which was incredibly perfect for this past weekend's Head of the Charles Rowing Regatta, the good news about the unseasonable warmth is that we have not had to turn on our furnaces, which not only helps keep down our heating bills, but also reduces our use of fossil fuels to heat our homes.

But the advantages of the record-setting warm weather belie the simple reality that our planet is undergoing climate change at an ever-increasing rate. Every month since June 2023 has been hotter than the one preceding it, resulting in a global average temperature from July 2023 to June 2024 that has been 1.64 C (about 3 F) above what it was before the start of the Industrial Revolution, when humankind started burning the fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Climate experts for years have told us that 1.50 C above the pre-Industrial Revolution temperature is the threshold for catastrophic and irreversible damage to our environment -- and now we are at 1.64.

We have written many times that there is no place on our planet that is safe from the effects of climate change. Hurricane Helene wrought devastation in western sections of No. Carolina, wiping entire communities off the map with epic flooding, even though those places are hundreds of miles from the coastline and were far away from where Helene made landfall in Florida.

So yes, the great weather in October has been wonderful. But none of us should be lulled into thinking that this is a good thing.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

REP. LIVINGSTONE TO HOLD VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS ON OCT. 24

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold his virtual Office Hours via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 5:30 p.m.

To receive the link for Rep. Livingstone's virtual office hours, or to set an alternate time to meet with him, email Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.org.

WEST END MUSEUM TO SCREEN 'GODZILLA' ON OCT. 27

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St. Suite 7 (on Lomasney Way), will offer a screening of 'Godzilla, King of the Monsters!' (1956) on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The program will begin with a short talk on Executive Producer Joseph E. Levine's connection to the West End neighborhood.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

@ Charles Street and @ Joy Street)

Pinckney Street (barricade @ Joy Street)

West Cedar Street (barricade @ Revere Street)

Myrtle Street (barricade @ Revere Street and @ Joy Street)

South Russell Street (barricade @ Cambridge Street)

Anderson Street (barricade @ Revere Street)

Grove Street (barricade @ Revere)

Irving Street (barricade @ Phillips)

Revere Street (barricade @ Garden Street)

We'd be grateful for anyone living near these barricade locations to move them into place at 4:00pm and remove them at 7:30pm. The police will come by to retrieve them in a day or two.

Please call the Beacon Hill Civic Association at 617-227-1922 if you have any questions or concerns, and Happy Halloween!

Dr. Jim O'Connell to speak at the BHCA

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is pleased to announce that Dr. Jim O'Connell, President of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School will join us for a discussion on Tuesday, October 29th, at 6pm at 74 Joy Street.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/godzilla-film-screening-tickets-1028361666427> for tickets and more information.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HENRY LEE SET FOR NOV. 1 AT KING'S CHAPEL

A memorial service for Henry Lee has been set for Friday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. at King's Chapel at 58 Tremont St. Lee, who helped establish the Friends of the Public Garden, died on Aug. 12 at age 99.

LINE DANCE CLASSES AT THE WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The City of Boston's Age Strong Commission has once again partnered with Boston Rhythm Riders to bring line dance classes to the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library on Cambridge

Street. Classes for adults 60 and over will be held every Saturday until Nov. 9 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org to register, or call 617-523-3957 for more information.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

We will be collecting new men's and women's athletic tube socks that Dr. O'Connell and his team distribute on their daily van trips throughout the city. Please bring them with you to the discussion, or you can drop them off before October 29th at the BHCA.

Please RSVP for this event at info@bhccivic.org.

Beacon Hill Community Fund Grant application period open!

The Beacon Hill Civic Association administers and operates a Beacon Hill Community Fund that gives grants to community-based Beacon Hill, Cambridge Street and adjacent neighborhood non-profit organizations, community development corporations, and other civic groups dedicated to promoting and enhancing quality of life

in the community through projects and programs for residents involving the arts and education, youth sports and recreation, day care centers, playgrounds, activities for seniors and persons with special needs and disabilities, community gardens and spaces, affordable housing, social services, and whatever the Board of Directors of the Beacon Hill Civic Association deems appropriate. The 2024 grant period is accepting grant applications until November 1st. Visit bhccivic.org/community-fund to learn more about this important community program and to apply.

Upcoming Meetings

Traffic & Parking Committee -- Wednesday, October 23rd, 6:30pm via Zoom

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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WLP'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS TO FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL

Nearly 300 people attended Women's Lunch Place's annual fall gala, Spaghetti Dinner, on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

On this special night, WLP celebrated the donors and partners who have invested in building a healthy community for women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty. City Councilors Ed Flynn, Sharon Durkan, and Julia Mejia, and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune presented WLP with a proclamation in honor of the organization's mission at the event.

From nutritious meals to addiction recovery and housing, WLP's programming and partnerships help Boston's most vulnerable women find stability in a supportive community. The organization's thanks go out to all who attend-



Chef/Partner Douglass Williams of MIDA Restaurants serving as the event Welcome Speaker.



Kate Walsh, Secretary of Health and Human Services, who served as the event's Special Guest Speaker, is seen with Dr. Jim O'Connell, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and an assistant professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

ed, sponsored, and volunteered to make the event a success.

For more on Women's Lunch Place, visit womenslunchplace.org.



KEIKO HIROMI PHOTOS

City Councilor Ed Flynn at the podium, alongside (left to right) Council President Ruthzee Louijeune; Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, Chief Executive Officer of WLP; and City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



The staff of Women's Lunch Place.

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BHCA HOLDS THE PARTY IN THE SKY SOCIAL GATHERING

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) Young Friends presented The Party in the Sky on October 18 at the UMass Club. The elegant social gathering featured expansive views of the night skyline, oldies and soft rock music performed by Amber Cokash, and cocktails and gourmet pizza.



Alex Garcia, Claudia Polgar, Yulia Rybalka, and Sally Bestor.



Michelle Lavers, Melanie Bertani, and Patricia Tully, Executive Director.



Denton Drechsel, Julie Barberio, Keira Beatty, Haley Wenk, and Henry Sanders.



Griffin Beck, Maya Guru, and Gina Lambert.

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Henry Swain, Courtney Jones, Rachel Von Neida, and Brad Wisser.

BHCA HOLDS THE PARTY IN THE SKY SOCIAL GATHERING

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Janine Jay and Jackie Knapp.



Laura Misra, Tina Adly, Michelle Burger, Ali Treen, Elenma Beati, Rory O'Brien, and Sarah Mickool.



Javier Gervas and Briana Landry.



Amber Cokash performing oldies and soft rock.




Lisa Krauss twirling in her gold dress.

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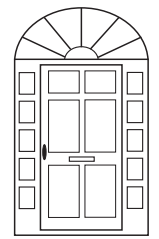
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Miguel Rosales unveils three options for new Evans Way Bridge

By Dan Murphy

A newcomer to the project, venerable bridge designer Miguel Rosales unveiled three design options for a new, pedestrian-only Evans Way Bridge on the Back Bay Fens during a meeting sponsored virtually by the city on Oct. 9.

The erstwhile Evans Way Bridge, located in the park near both the Museum of Science and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, has been missing “since probably the 1970s or ‘80s,” said Rosales, designer of the conceptual bridge, as well as founding principal of the Boston-based firm, Rosales + Partners.

The bridge was once part of a trio of bridges in the Fens, he said, which also includes the Middle Bridge and the North Bridge, two narrow structures that still function today.

Located in the same general area as the old bridge, the new Evans Way Bridge would have a longer span than the former cross-

ing and stretch across the entire river, said Rosales, with a 10-foot minimum to allow for pedestrian crossing in both directions.

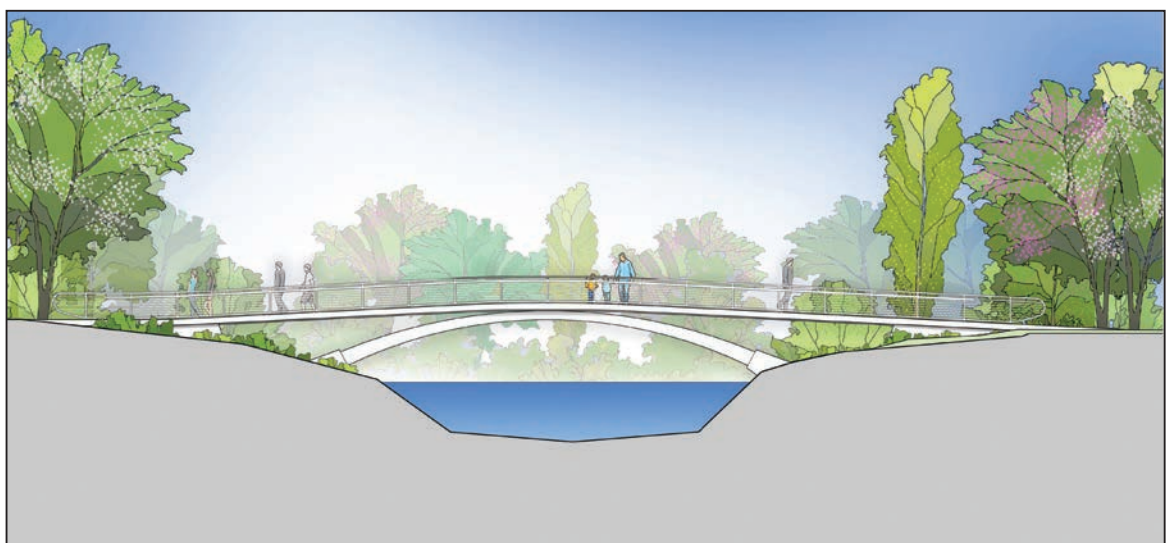
“It’s a small but very important crossing,” said Rosales. “I think it will be a perfect connection to the whole system of paths in the entire park.”

All three design options Rosales presented at the meeting would fall within the \$1.2 million budget for the project, although he said they are “very different.”

Rosales described the first option as “a steel-box system,” topped with concrete, that would cross the entire waterfront. It would have a span of about 70 feet, or 122 feet altogether, making this option longer than the two existing bridges, he noted.

Vertical pickers would be used for the 42-inch minimum railings in an effort to make them as “transparent” and simple” as possible, said Rosales.

For the second option, two narrow, steel arches would be pre-



COURTESY OF ROSALES + PARTNERS

Bridge designer Miguel Rosales’ second design option for a new Evan Way Bridge in the Back Bay Fens, which several in attendance at an Oct. 9 city-sponsored meeting expressed a preference for.

fabricated and brought on site for installation, said Rosales, and the bridge would rely on a stress-driven system, with precast planks attached to a steel ribbon.

Cables would be used for the

railings, which Rosales described as “light and transparent.”

Rosales called this second option “more contemporary, more vanguard.”

Lastly, the third option would be a truss bridge, drawing inspiration from the original trio of wood bridges in the Fens, which were built in the 1930s but didn’t last due to deterioration, said Rosales.

The truss would be prefabricated off site before being brought in for installation, said Rosales, while the deck would be installed afterwards.

Rosales described this option as a “completely different approach,” as well as a “gracious way to cross.”

This design option would have a longer span at 93 feet because the whole truss is the structure itself, said Rosales, compared to 71 and 80 feet respectively for the other two concepts.

Moreover, Rosales said this design option includes plans for a metal system where concrete can be poured on top to help keep the cost down.

Regardless of which option is selected, a 6-foot change in elevation at the location exists, said Rosales, so the grade would need to be modified to make the new bridge ADA accessible.

Rosales added that a color for the new bridge would also be selected, pending further study and feedback.

After the team has received and evaluated feedback on the three options, the project would then advance to the 30-percent design phase, said Rosales.

Lauren Bryant, project manager for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, said some CPA (Community Preservation Act) funding is in place for the project, but no capital budget has been ear-

marked for it yet.

“It is not fully funded right now for construction,” said Bryant.

“What the thought is that once we have the final conceptual design, we’ll have a better sense of what exactly the budget is.”

Bryant added that once finished, Rosales’ drawings would likely go a long way towards fundraising, as well as towards securing eligible grants. But the project’s timeline now hinges on the final conceptual design, as well as fundraising, she said.

Longtime Fenway resident and neighborhood activist Marie Fukuda said she liked the second option for its curves, which, she said, complements the other bridges in the Fens. She also expressed a preference for third concept, noting how it “goes back” to previous bridge concepts.

Fukuda likened the railing in the first option as something more fitting for an airport and said she would prefer to see something more historically appropriate.

But Fukuda added she would be happy with any of the three options presented.

Genevieve Day, co-executive director of Fenway Alliance, expressed a preference for the second option as well because of its curves, along with its design, which, she said, “looks traditional and modern at the same time.”

In contrast, Day added that she felt the third option felt “a little intense.”

Alison Pultinas of Mission Hill also expressed a preference for the second option because of its curves.

Besides the Evans Way Bridge, the scope of the project entailing proposed improvements to the Back Bay Fens pathways was

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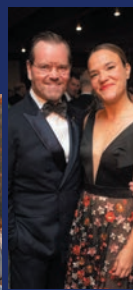
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MBTA successfully completes critical track work on Orange Line

The MBTA today announced the successful completion of critical track work on the Orange Line while service was suspended between Forest Hills and Back Bay from October 8 to October 20 with the service suspension extended between Forest Hills and North Station during the holiday weekend of October 12 through October 14. As a result of unencumbered access to track areas, crews accomplished important work to lift 20 speed restrictions, bringing the track infrastructure into a state of good repair in this area, resulting in a safer, more reliable trip for riders. As the result of the year-long Track Improvement Program, only 1% of the entire MBTA transit system remains speed restricted.

“General Manager Phillip Eng, his leadership team, and the MBTA workforce are delivering results for customers, eliminating 20 slow zones during the Orange Line surge and continuing to complete foundational capital projects system-wide,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “Under the General Manager’s leadership and with the support of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the MBTA is restoring reliable service and creating an equitable system.”

“We are committed to giving the public what they expect and deserve: safe, reliable, and improved service. This Orange Line diversion allowed us to perform long-deferred infrastructure work, eliminating all the speed restrictions to provide a smoother ride with shorter travel time, giving people precious time back in their lives,” said MBTA CEO and General Manager Phillip Eng. “As we rebuild the T, I hope to restore public trust and confidence, making the MBTA the preferred choice of travel. Soon, the Orange Line will be completely free of slow zones. With only 1% of our system remaining with restrictions, we are on our way to fulfilling our promise to the public we serve, eliminating all the speed restrictions systemwide under this Track Improvement Program.

This service change was in place

to support critical track and tie replacement work as part of the Track Improvement Program. Workers also maximized the outage by performing signal upgrades, security enhancements, station amenity upgrades, and more.

With unencumbered access to Orange Line stations, crews accomplished the following work:

- Replaced approximately 27,594 feet of rail
- Resurfaced and tamped approximately 1,900 feet of track
- Replaced more than 336 ties
- Inserted 19 full concrete direct fixation panels, 38 half concrete direct fixation panels, and 53 quarter concrete direct fixation panels
- Added over 250 core X shoulder posts

A variety of other work also took place along the Orange Line to further enhance the rider experience:

- Replaced six switch machines at track crossover locations
- Replaced and repaired approximately 80 feet of handrails at the Forest Hills upper lobby and repaired the stairway at the end of the platform leading to the right of way.
- Repaired stairs at Jackson Square Station.
- Crews also repairs other areas throughout the station and at Forest Hills that cause trip hazards.
- Inspected and cleared drains at stations and platforms throughout the diversion area.
- Performed preventative maintenance and cleared drains in public restrooms.
- In-station painting of customer facing assets like poles, doors, benches, walls, restrooms, and sign frames.
- Replaced and installed LED light fixtures in various stations.
- Power and signal modernization work.
- Tested and upgraded security cameras.
- Built out and completed new unistrut framing at the Ruggles southbound platform.
- Installed rub rail on the southbound side of Jackson Square, Roxbury Crossing, and Stony Brook as well as on the north-

bound and southbound sides of Forest Hills.

- Replaced third rail signs between Forest Hills and Massachusetts Avenue.
- Replaced doors at the South Cove pump room and on the Stony Brook platform.
- Inspections of tunnel areas throughout the suspension area as well as emergency egresses.
- Cleared roof drains in various locations at Forest Hills.
- Workers assisted Capital Delivery at Jackson Square, coring holes on the platform to assess the integrity of the bricks and mortar bed in preparation for a future Capital project.
- Removed scrap rail from the

tunnel area.

Riders are also encouraged to connect with MBTA staff at upcoming Track Improvement Program pop-up events. Events through the end of the year are below:

Thursday, October 31

Station Pop-Up

Broadway Station

8 AM – 10 AM

Tuesday, December 3

Station Pop-Up

Medford/Tufts

4 PM – 6 PM

For more information, visit mbta.com/TrackProgram or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA,

Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America’s first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, commuter rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility.

Free flu and Covid-19 vaccines available throughout Boston

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is encouraging all Boston residents ages 6 months and older to get vaccinated for Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 ahead of the peak of respiratory virus season. Vaccines are especially recommended for residents who are ages 65 and older, at high risk for severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.

To increase access to vaccinations, the Boston Public Health Commission in partnership with the City of Boston and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) are hosting several free flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics across the city. Appointments are not necessary, and residents are encouraged to bring their health insurance cards if they have one. However, insurance and identification are not required.

The dates and locations are:

- Thursday, October 24, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at City Hall Room 115
- Tuesday, October 29, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center
- Saturday, November 2, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the BCYF Mattahunt Community Center
- Monday, November 4, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the BCYF Paris Street Community Center
- Thursday, November 7, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the BCYF Curley Community Center

More dates and locations will be added, and residents can visit boston.gov/respiratory-protection

for the latest information and additional resources.

“Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and the flu,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. “During the fall and winter months, we strongly recommend all Boston residents receive updated vaccines and stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory viral illness.”

“We are happy to continue our partnership with BPHC on these clinics to ensure that Boston residents have access to these vaccines in their own neighborhoods,” said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth and Families.

The Boston Public Health Commission is also launching a new multilingual campaign that features community members providing tips about how to stay healthy. The Stay Healthy Boston campaign will be in MBTA subways and buses this fall and winter and include information about the small, daily choices that residents can make to keep their bodies healthy and prevent illness.

The Commission continues to monitor COVID-19 and flu levels in wastewater. Wastewater monitoring helps with early detection and provides an early warning of severe infections that can lead to hospitalization and death in high-risk populations. Current data show COVID-19 levels are low or moderate in all Boston neigh-

borhoods except Allston-Brighton, where COVID-19 wastewater levels are currently considered high. In the past week, BPHC found the flu virus in wastewater from Mattapan and Roxbury, indicating that the flu virus is already in Boston and people should get vaccinated before it spreads more widely.

Because there are now effective vaccines and better treatment options for viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu, COVID-19, and RSV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its recommendations.

Everyone ages six months and older is encouraged to get the updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines. This includes those who received previous vaccinations or had COVID-19 because protection and natural immunity wanes over time. Pregnant parents, babies, and older adults should consult their health care professional about RSV vaccinations.

Symptoms like fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue are commonly associated with viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu and COVID-19. Adults aged 65 and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant people, and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for severe infections. Anyone who is recovering from a respiratory illness or is high-risk should take additional precautions.

BRIDGE (from pg. 8)

expanded to also include the War Memorial, along with its paths and accessibility; and the John Boyle O’Reilly Memorial.

While the city controls most of the land and pathways within the project site, the War Memorial and its pathways are under the jurisdiction of the Boston Trust Office, and the state’s Department of Con-

servation and Recreation owns the land around the perimeter of the park and on the edges of Agassiz Road.

For more on city’s project to improve the Back Bay Fens pathways, including plans for the new Evans Way Bridge, visit boston.gov/fens-pathways.

Beacon Hill Times Drop-Off Locations

- Antonio's 288 Cambridge St.
- Simmon's Liquors 210 Cambridge St.
- Jobi Liquors 170 Cambridge St.
- 7-Eleven 122 Cambridge St.
- West End Library 151 Cambridge St.
- Charles St. Liquors 143 Charles St.
- U.S. Post Office 136 Charles St.
- Gary Drug 53 Charles St.
- Bank of America 39 Charles St.
- Charles St. Supply 54 Charles St.
- Cobblestones 30 Charles St.
- DeLuca's 11 Charles St.
- Cheers 84 Beacon St.
- Beacon Hill Market 61 Anderson
[corner of Myrtle St.]
- Beacon Capitol Market 30 Myrtle St.
- City Convenience 23 Beacon St.
- Capital Coffee House 122 Bowdoin St.

Apartment Building locations:

- 8 Whittier Place 1 Emerson Place
- 6 Whittier Place 5 Emerson Place
- 150 Stanford St. 45 Temple St.
- 1 Longfellow 10 Bowdoin St.
- 4 Longfellow 144 Bowdoin St.
- 5 Longfellow 130 Bowdoin St.
- 2 Hawthorne Place 45 Myrtle St.
- 9 Hawthorne Place 19 Myrtle St.
- 4 Emerson Place 65 Martha Rd.

To place a memoriam
please call 781-485-0588

NEWS BRIEFS

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WEST END LIBRARY

Artful Meditation with Age Strong Connect, Be Creative, and Socialize with local floral/craft artist Jan Gadson.

Fall Bowl Floral Arts Workshop includes:

- Meditation
- Hand exercises
- Self-care activity
- Music
- Demo and a good time!

Tuesday, October 29th, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the West End Library.

Advanced registration required as spots are limited.

Please contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org or call 617-523-3957 to register.

The Friends of the West End Library Present: Briana Cash in Concert

Come see singer/songwriter Briana Cash perform her original songs, hear the stories behind them and about her new single, For Your GRAMMY® Consideration - Bad Dream. Her eclectic style covers Jazz, Pop / Adult Contemporary and Americana, and more. Her music has been licensed for TV and film and has been considered in eight Grammy Award

categories.

Thursday, November 21st,
6:00-7:00 PM

JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 177TH DRAGONS F.I.R.E. FUNDRAISER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Join the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on Thursday, November 21 as they celebrate 177 years in the Boston community with their annual Dragons F.I.R.E Fundraiser and their quest to raise \$177,000 to support more than 725 students grades K0 to grade 5! Enjoy a 10-course Chinese banquet dinner and open bar (beer and wine included), and a live JQES student-led lion dragon dance performance! In addition to buying individual tickets to the event, we also have lots of other ways to show your support, including program book advertisements and several sponsorship opportunities.

Thursday, November 21 | 5:30PM-9:00PM | Empire Garden Restaurant, Chinatown
SupportJQES.org

BOSTON-AREA LANDLORD ARRAIGNED ON PANDEMIC RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

A landlord with properties in East Boston, Chelsea and Revere was arraigned on charges related to fraudulent applications for pandemic-era housing relief in Suffolk Superior Court on October 17, 2024.

Steven Stoico is charged with 3 counts of Larceny Over \$1,200, 4 counts of Attempt to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200, and 1 count of Solicitation to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200 for allegedly filing seven false applications for rental assistance during the pandemic. Three of the seven fraudulent applications were granted allegedly resulting in payments of \$95,400 to Stoico. The remaining four applications that sought \$136,200 in rental assistance were denied.

"I want to thank Attorney General Campbell's team and the OIG investigative team for pursuing this case," Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro said. "Given the high cost of housing, misuse of rental assistance, as alleged in this case, is egregious. Therefore, it is imperative that people who abuse these government resources are held accountable."

The Office of the Inspector General investigated the case and the Attorney General's Office is prosecuting the case.

The charges are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The City of Boston reminds you:
The legal drinking age is 21.



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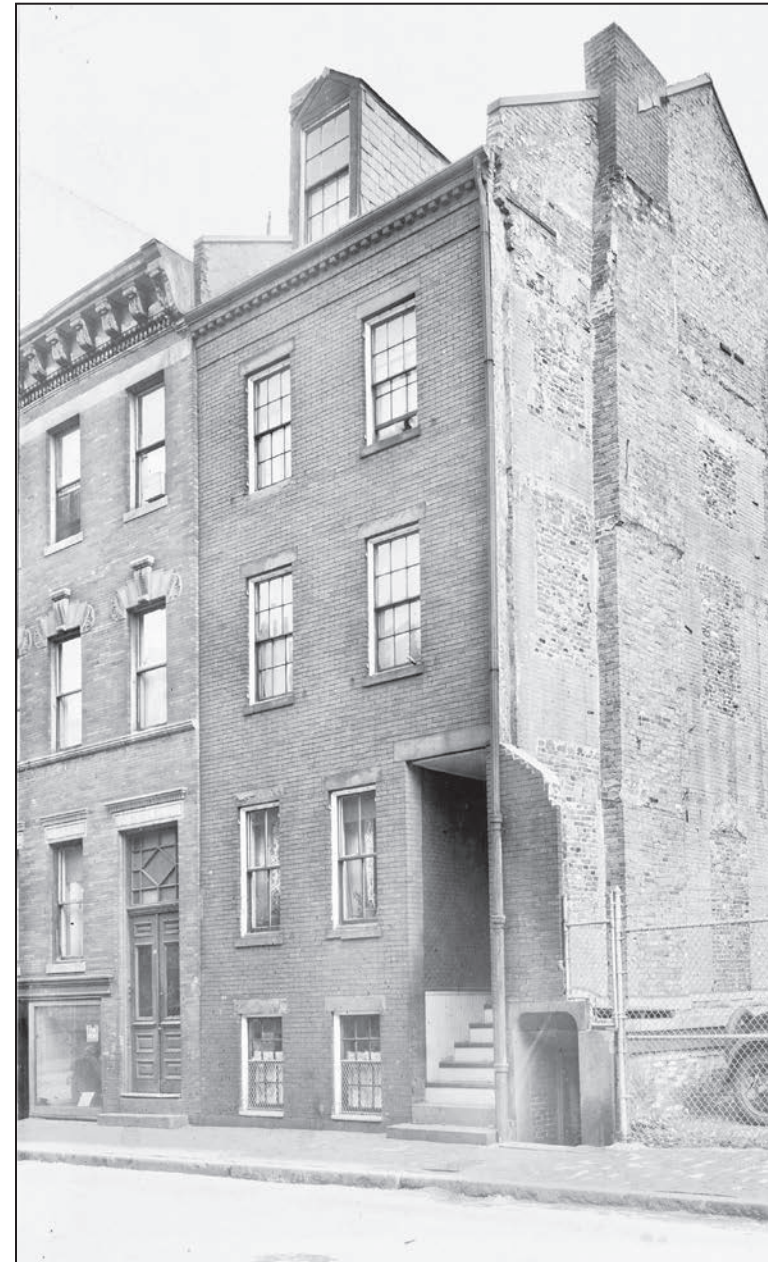
Real Estate Transfers

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Agnihotri, Arvind K	Stankovits, Mary-Therese	265-275 Dartmouth St #2D	\$635,000
Dartmouth 271 Unit 2f Rt	Pine Cone Properties LLC	265-275 Dartmouth St #2F	\$657,125
Anthofit Training LLC	Gibbs, Alison J	425 Newbury St #PS182	\$85,000
BEACON HILL			
Spector, Kirsten L	Berson Rt	9 Hawthorne Pl #17P&R	\$985,000
Spector, Kirsten L	Berson Rt	9 Hawthorne Pl #9-17R	\$985,000
Lin, Chao-Chung	20 Jway LLC	6 Whittier Pl #7B	\$390,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Kurt, Joanne L	Driggin, Seth J	150 Appleton St #1D	\$795,000
Madoff, Lauren	Harold F Langell RET	35 Braddock Park	\$3,500,000
Swartz, Jeffrey	Harriet G Tolpin T	505 Tremont St #703	\$2,750,000
Tellier, Liane E	Nyrop, Jason L	18 Concord Sq #1	\$1,475,000
Abdelaal, Mohammed	Quinn South End LLC	370 Harrison Ave #1105	\$710,000
1903 Realty Holdings LLC	Tetlow Realty Assoc Inc	14 Palace Rd	\$22,800,000
137 To 143 Park Dr LLC	Gilbert Rt	137 Park Dr	\$30,000,000
137 To 143 Park Dr LLC	Gilbert Rt	143 Park Dr	\$30,000,000
Popovic, Miodrag	Rogue Endeavours LLC	108 Peterborough St #6E	\$735,000
Shuga LLC	Martinez, Enid E	108 Peterborough St #3F	\$720,000
Choi, Wansuk	Schonwetter Barry Est	2 Rollins St #D505	\$790,000
1903 Realty Holdings LLC	Tetlow Realty Assoc Inc	11 Tetlow St	\$22,800,000
Soares, Guilherme V	Andrew J Dean T	1313 Washington St #322	\$1,875,000
Westland Ave LLC	Joy Realty Associates In	24 Westland Ave	\$26,900,000
Westland Ave LLC	Joy Realty Associates In	28 Westland Ave	\$26,900,000
Westland Ave LLC	32 Westland Ave LLC	32-34 Westland Ave	\$8,800,000
Westland Ave LLC	46 Westland Ave LLC	46 Westland Ave	\$16,800,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Lewis, Lisa	William L Saltonstall T	8-32 Atlantic Ave #339	\$1,100,000
Teh, Mark	Wax LLC	99-105 Broad St #3C	\$1,229,000
Logan Prop Ent LLC	Harvey, Matthew C	110-112 Commercial St #6	\$1,215,000
Trinita Investments LLC	New Meadows Rt	232 Commercial St #A	\$700,000
Cairn Cote Rt	Newfound Starr LLC	300 Commercial St #904	\$2,450,000
Tupelo Honey LLC	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5709	\$3,080,000
99 Kneeland St Ma Owner L	1 Greenway PR LLC	99 Kneeland St #67	\$123,424,698



The doorway in the last clue is said to be on the house where Edgar Allan Poe was born at 62 Charles Street South (previously 62 Carver Street.) Today's answer is a 1930 photo from the Boston Public Library Collection. The more you research this subject, the more contrary opinions you find. Other sources say the house was razed.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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FRIENDS (from pg. 1)

gratitude. Attendees were privileged to hear from notable guests, including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Ed Flynn. They expressed their appreciation for FOPG and its supporters' dedication.

A longtime friend of the organization, Rhondella Richardson from WCVB, served as emcee for the program, guiding guests through an evening marked by heartfelt remarks from Friends of the Public Garden Board Chair Leslie Singleton Adam and Liz Vizza herself.

Highlights of the evening included a special tribute video from board members, supporters, friends, and family that captured Liz's impactful contributions over the years and showcased her unwavering commitment to the

parks and the community.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of our members and are proud to recognize the remarkable leadership of Liz Vizza during her tenure," said Leslie Singleton Adam, Friends of the Public Garden Board Chair. "Her passion and dedication have truly transformed our parks and the experiences they offer. Liz laid a strong foundation for the organization, setting us on a bright and successful future."

The Friends of the Public Garden sincerely thank all attendees, particularly The Newbury Boston, for graciously hosting this impactful event.

For more information on the Friends of the Public Garden and their initiatives, visit www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org.



Friends of the Public Garden President Liz Vizza and Friends Board Chair Leslie Singleton Adam.



City Councilor Ed Flynn is seen at the podium, flanked by Friends of the Public Garden President Liz Vizza (at left) and Rhondella Richardson (on right).



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Friends of the Public Garden President Liz Vizza receives a hug from Rhondella Richardson, along with a standing ovation from the crowd.

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Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tour the school with current parents, meet classroom teachers, school administrators and play in our playground. Children are welcome!

The application deadline is January 15, 2025 - financial assistance is available



for more information or to register to attend, scan below (drop-ins welcome too!)




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