Hotel Alexandra Finds a Buyer
By Sue O'Connell

The dilapidated Hotel Alexandra, at the corner of Washington Street and Massachusetts Avenue, may have a buyer. Currently owned by The Church of Scientology, it is now under agreement for sale to Common Management.

"Common Management is delighted to have the opportunity to redevelop the iconic Alexandra building," the company said in a statement. "Like so many of the residents who have patiently waited for this building to be brought back to life, we see its beauty and promise, and very much look forward to engaging with our neighbors and other stakeholders to restore this property."

The Church of Scientology bought the once-grand hotel in 2006 for $4.5 million, hoping to renovate and use it as its New England headquarters.

A high spirited Romeo and Juliet

By Jules Becker

Allegra Libonati is in a theatrical romance with "Romeo and Juliet." In rehearsal notes, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's first guest director calls this great love tragedy "my favorite written work of art." It should come as no surprise, then, that this "wild fan" of CSC's annual Shakespearean production of what is arguably the world's most poetic examination of love. Theater lovers of all ages will find that Libonati, whose husband has 12 seasons behind the outdoor Winter Theatre of New Canaan, has made the latest Holbein examination of love look fresh and surprising.

Summer Theatre of New Canaan has made the latest Holbein examination of love look fresh and surprising.

Continued on page 2

BPS announces new bus routing
By Tommy Chang, ECLC BPS Superintendent

Hope you are enjoying the summer and getting a chance to spend some time relaxing and recreating with your family and friends. I am informing you about some exciting news at the Boston Public Schools. As you may know, this past spring BPS launched our first-ever Transportation Challenge in an attempt to make our transportation system more efficient.

We are proud to announce that a team of analysts and optimization experts from the "Quantum Team" at the MIT Operations Research Center (ORC) has won the challenge by developing a revolutionary computer-based model that more efficiently routes school buses, potentially generating millions of dollars in cost savings that will be put back into our classrooms.

Overall, the new routing model is expected to improve the on-time performance rate for BPS buses, getting students to and from school on schedule much more consistently. The distance that students walk to and from their bus stops is not anticipated to change, on average. In certain cases, bus stops locations might change slightly for some students, while remaining the same for others. Your student's overall transportation experience will not change to any significant degree.

The MIT team took steps to ensure that no bus stops are added to unsafe traffic locations. The average commute time for students to and from school will remain the same as it was last year: approximately 24 minutes. The new solution could also lead to a 20,000-pound reduction in carbon emissions produced by BPS buses each day, and could

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Boston Public School First Day Info
Thursday, September 7: Students in grades 1-12 report, including grade 1 in ELCs and EECs.

Monday, September 11: Kindergarten students report, including EECs, ELCs, and special ed.

Full calendar and more at www.bostonpublicschools.org
Theater
Continued from page 1

both high spirited and haunting—particularly thanks to Giacomo Manzoni’s stunning debut as Juliet.

Love and conflict vie continually for center stage in Shakespeare’s Verona, a factor that Liberi now gives rich blocking at the Boston Common. Quick transitions not only make for sharp pacing but also make the contrasts between happy moments and ominous situations affecting the Montagues and Capulets all the more vivid. For example, Mercutio and his comrades are in place for the upcoming fight with Tybalt and his men as pre-matinal guidance and prayer with Peter Lawrence at the church conclude elsewhere.

Liberi also inserts a quick and stunning summary fight after interpolation of key first act moments leading up to the announcement by Erculis, Prince of Verona, that Romeo is banished for killing Tybalt.

Shyly and in sharp movement complement Liberi’s buoyant direction, Peter DiNuzzo’s stylish choreography has Romeo, cousin Mercutio, and especially Banquo’s Mercutio wearing and frolicking with flint at the pivotal Capulet party where love at first sight occurs. Angèle Juhon’s light choreography is properly light and fierce—notably for the Mercutio-Tybalt face-off, though some stereotypes may feel the fencing between Romeo and Paris could go on a bit longer.

As remarkable as these staging elements is a strong cast. John Zdravetko has the right agility, youthfulness, and passion as Romeo. He eventually reaches the kind of combination of impetuous spirit and unaffected vulnerability that Gwyneth Paltrow’s from the start. Max’s vulnerability is heartbreaking as Fred Sullivan. He’s tough love Capulet verbally attacks Juliet. Her post-love-making bath exchange with burney Zdravetko and their “sweet sorrow” parting are fully involving. Max is revelation

that CEC should factor into future efforts.

With African-American actors playing such striking roles as Nurse, Benvenuto, Balthasar, Tybalt, and Paris Lawrence, the CEC production makes the play’s universal messages about the power of unconditional love and the danger of irrational hate all the more forceful. Ramona Lora Alexander replicates all of Nurse’s rich complexity—loyal to her employer Capulet but fully sympathetic and comforting to Juliet about her sibling love for Romeo despite formidable challenges.

Brandon G. Green’s entrance as Romeo’s kin and Mercutio’s friend Koi Hamilton has terrific authority as Escalus. Her rage during the Prince’s threat regarding the deaths of Romeo and Mercutio and Capulet contains Tybalt as well as the humiliation of Romeo is breathtakingly palatable. Kai Tishocket is properly volatile as Tybalt. Equiano Moore is a standout as Friar Lawrence, vigorous and very attentive to both Romeo and Juliet. Another standout is Mario Marcel, electric and charismatic as Balthasar.

Audiences know his fate will fall, but Marcel makes this insightful if often clumsily scripted so appealing that they

Continued on page 5
As O’Connell reported, Tipta gave broad parameters for middle-income ranging from $50,000 to $100,000 annually per family, with low income being below $50,000 per year. Tipta claimed these are inventors who want to build a lower- and middle-income housing in the South End and in Boston and that such development can be profitably. Tipta called upon the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment housing, which he observed, both lower- and middle-income housing and the Second End and in Boston and that such development can be profitably. Tipta called upon the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment housing, which he observed, both lower- and middle-income housing and the Boston Housing Authority has approved. Tipta urged the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment housing, which he observed, both lower- and middle-income housing and the Boston Housing Authority has approved. Tipta urged the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment housing, which he observed, both lower- and middle-income housing and the Boston Housing Authority has approved. Tipta urged the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment housing, which he observed, both lower- and middle-income housing and the Boston Housing Authority has approved.
Police seek information on murder

Submitted by BPD

At about 10:30 PM on Saturday, July 15, 2017, officers assigned to District 04 (South End) responded to a call for a person shot in the area of Kendall Street and Shawmut Avenue in Roxbury. On arrival, officers located a victim in his twenties suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

BPS

Continued from page 1

remove nearly 1 million miles of traffic-congesting bus trips from the road each year — creating a cleaner environment for Boston and easing congestion on our roadways.

BPS sponsored the Transportation Challenge — it was kicked off on April 1 during an event at District Hall in Boston's Innovation District — as a way to harness cutting-edge optimization solutions from some of the nation's leading experts. BPS challenged participants to create a more efficient routing algorithm using the current parameters of our system.

Currently, BPS Transportation staff manually build school bus routes using what is considered an industry leader in pupil transportation software. This is a process that takes several weeks to complete. The new MIT solution produces the routes in approximately 30 minutes. However, we are not relying solely on this new solution. Our experienced team of BPS bus drivers are feeding the data produced by the MIT system into our existing software in order to pressure test the new model and ensure reliability. By implementing the Quantum Team's solution, BPS could save as much as $5 million through the reduction of 50 or more bus routes, which helps provide more funding for schools.

As an experiment, we will issue notices later this month to all families indicating your student’s bus and bus-stop assignments for the 2017-18 year. We will also be taking additional steps to communicate to families of students whose bus stops have changed from last year to ensure they fully understand the new assignments.

This is a sign of a new era in government where we utilize the benefits of cloth-curtaining and work collaboratively with some of the brightest minds in academia and industry to solve complex, challenging problems. The Boston Public Schools is committed to finding innovative approaches that help us create efficiencies, reduce costs and better serve our families and schools.

Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

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without incident," he recalled. Citing his service in the United States Army, which he called the "most diverse organization in the world," he understands Boston's diversity. "I'm a good listener and I treat people with respect and dignity," he said.

Kelley said that while Boston has made great strides, racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and transphobia still prevail. "This is something I have talked about in my campaign, making sure every person feels welcome and respected." He condemned President Trump's rhetoric toward transgender persons in the military earlier that day, as did naval veteran Flynn in his closing remarks. "It matters to me," he said, and that there have been great improvements in recent decades, but there is much more to be done on the problem of institutional racism.

Kelley said that she witnessed institutional racism in the experiences of many of her clients in pursuing housing, education, and health care. "We have come a long way, but we still have work to do." She pointed to the racial imbalance in Dorchester, where there were no students of color in his high school, and moving to much more diverse Boston. "The city council has to reflect the diversity of our city. We have three women of color on the city council and we need more women. We have two openly gay men running, which is unprecedented in the history of this city council seat." Referring to his competitors, he said, "The group that we have sitting here is incredible and I think any of us will work hard to improve the problem of racism in our city."

The candidates were asked to critique the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and comment on district schools, universal K through 3 and solutions to the problems in the schools. Kelley stated that 70 percent of BPS students come from economically distressed homes. "It's important to fight for a school that a good school and every kid has access to a good education." She also expressed support for pre-K to improve children's performance through the elementary years. "It matters to me," he said, and that education is key to employment. "It's important to fight for a school that a good school and every kid has access to a good education." She also expressed support for pre-K to improve children's performance through the elementary years.

Kelley said that while there have been great improvements to BPS in recent years, 28 percent of students are not passing school. Pointing to the vast number of technology jobs and the disconnect in the school system, he said that education is key to employment. "We need the city to guarantee that all students graduate and that to offer trauma services, English Language Learners support and other supports to help students complete their education."

Kelley, the wife of a public school teacher, likes the idea of neighborhood schools, but said, "We can't just go to neighborhood schools until we elevate all of the schools. We need all of the schools raised up so that they are all good schools." She also supports universal K through 3 and an earlier school starting time. Kelley would discontinue the MCAS test, as he feels that students are being taught to pass the test rather than get a well-rounded education, and wants civic and vocational education to become required subjects.

Flynn described his involvement with the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, where he drops his son off, talks with his teachers and volunteers. He supports K through 3 as well as before- and after-school programs. Dinopoulus, whose parents are longtime teachers, supports universal pre-K and collaboration rather than rivalry between public and charter schools. He wants the City Council to be more active in collecting P.I.O.T. payments as a means of funding improvements to public schools.

O'Connell asked candidates about crime in Boston, which is down from previous years and relatively low compared to other similar cities, while there remains a flood of guns on the street and a fear among crime victims to give information to the police. Flynn stressed the need for mutual trust between police and residents and the importance of community policing. "As a public servant, you never give up on anybody. I want to work hard to see that everybody in the community is safe and that everyone is treated fairly and with respect." Kelley said, "Crime is a symptom of poverty," adding that Boston is third only to Atlanta and San Francisco in income inequality. He again referred to the hiring requirement formula to be inclusive of city residents, minorities and women to promote better income equality.

Kelley recalled the "Boston Miracle" of the 1990s when crime dropped significantly and called for job youth programs and on-demand addiction and trauma treatment. Dinopoulus was skeptical of gun buyback programs, preferring the presence of police on bicycles and walking the beat, getting to know neighbors as well as jobs and other programs to help keep youth occupied. Kelley called for police community engagement to establish trust with the public from a young age. Kelley agreed with his rival's ideas, adding that the city should connect youth with tech, construction and other well-paying jobs.

Dinopoulus reflected the grassroots spirit of the District 2 candidate forum, a collaboration by the Ward 4 Democratic committee, South End Forum, South End Development Collaborative, and the South End News when he closed his statement. "We have more impact on your daily lives than Trump ever will.

The general election will take place on September 26, and the registration deadline to vote in the primary is September 6. The general election will be held on November 7 and the deadline for voter registration is October 18.
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