

Plans filed for Wareham Street building



Rendering by SGA.

Facades from 19th-century woodworking shops would remain

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
www.universalhub.com

Two developers have filed plans with the BPDA for their proposed

five-story life-sciences building at 65-69 Wareham Street in the South End, in what would be the latest outpost in a life-sciences corridor along Albany Street.

The new building, which would replace a warren of smaller buildings that started going up around 1875 in

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South End Honor Roll

Avery Elisabeth Greig named to University of Utah's Dean's List

Avery Elisabeth Greig, of Boston, MA, was named to the University of Utah's Spring 2022 Dean's List.

Greig, whose major is listed as Art History BA and Pre Business BS, was among more than 8,900 students named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List at the U. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in

at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

Curry College Spring 2022 Dean's List

Curry College congratulates of who was named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List.

Isaiah Dasilva of Boston, MA
Ariana-Jade Odwara of Boston,

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A first look at *A Beautiful Noise*

A Beautiful Noise, pre-Broadway tryout at Emerson Colonial Theatre, Boston, through August 7. 888-616-0272 or emersoncolonialtheatre.com. Broadway run at Broadhurst Theatre begins November 2 in preview with opening December 4.

BY JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Imagine Neil Diamond-Now (the current Neil Diamond, as compared to the 'Neil Diamond-

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Will Swenson and the cast of *A Beautiful Noise*, The Neil Diamond Musical. Photo credit: Matthew Murphy.

Developers win approval for plans to convert what's left of historic Alexandra Hotel

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
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The Zoning Board of Appeal today unanimously approved developers' plans to retain the shell of the former Alexandra Hotel on the Roxbury/South End line at 1767-1769 Washington Street as cladding for a new 13-story condo building.

Under the latest proposal by developers Jas Bhogal and Thomas Calus for both the old hotel and the neighboring parcel where the Ivory

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Festival Betances—Everyone to Plaza Betances!

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ups and kids:

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Honor Roll

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MA

Kevin Peete of Boston, MA
About Curry College

Curry College Celebrates the Class of 2022

On Sunday, May 22, Curry College honored 661 graduates from the Class of 2022 in its 142nd Commencement celebration. The ceremony was held at the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, Mass., with family members, friends, alumni, faculty, and staff, among other Curry community members in attendance.

Congratulations to Isaiah Dasilva of Boston, MA

Grant Kibel was named to Lehigh University Dean's List

Dean's List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Grant Kibel, Boston, MA in the Spring 2022 semester.

Jean Azar-Tanguay Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Jean Azar-Tanguay, a native of Boston, was recently initiated into the University of Richmond Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 1,971 new initiates from 78 universities during April 2022.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea—the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society's national headquarters are located in Lexington, Virginia.

Festival Betances

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And starting at 2 pm, From Bomba to Reggaeton music unleashes with:

Juan Nieves, the beloved maestro cuatrero breaking new ground with Bomba, Plena, Salsa and Merengue rhythms: 2 pm
Sharina Sanabria y su Conjunto Gua-

jiba, trovadora and representative of the 4th generation of the great Sanabria family of trovadores: 3:15 pm

Frankie Ruiz Jr. the son of salsa and his motto, "Long live salsa and always keep positive!": 4:30 pm

And we close with Enyel C & Gyanma, young, A-1, independent Reggaeton artists, starting at 6 pm

Wareham

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a then industrial section of the South End, extends to Plympton Street.

Transom Realty—itsself based at the corner of Wareham and Albany streets—and Camber Development, headquartered downtown, say their proposed 79,600-square-foot building would have a 44-space underground garage.

In their filing, the developers say they will pay homage to the area's industrial past by retaining the facade of the old buildings for their new one.

From the filing:

"The Project represents a unique opportunity to preserve and enhance the historic character of Wareham and Plympton Streets as a light industrial area, as contemplated in the Harrison Albany Corridor Strategic Plan and memorialized in Article 64 of the [Boston zoning] Code. The existing facades

along Wareham Street will be preserved, with the new building incorporated seamlessly into this preserved façade. Furthermore, the Project continues the integration of previously approved public realm improvements along Wareham Street, creates the only through-block connection between Plympton and Wareham Streets on this block, and provides for an activated and engaging ground floor on Wareham Street through retail and publicly accessible lobby areas."

The project would be just across Albany Street from the under-construction Exchange South End complex, which will include life-sciences lab space next to Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory, which in turn is next to BU Medical School's campus and research facilities, which lead into the campus of Boston Medical Center.

The Wareham Street developers hope to begin two years of demolition and construction in mid-2023.

Alexandra Hotel

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Beane building used to be, the new structure will have 70 condos, rather than the 76 they had earlier proposed. They reduced the number of "compact" units—smaller than normally allowed under city zoning codes—from 33 to 19. The number of units they'll sell as affordable will remain at 10.

When Bhogal and Calus bought the long abandoned building from the Church of Scientology in 2018, they proposed using the facade as a shell for a boutique hotel. But those plans foundered with the arrival of the pandemic and they proposed condos instead.

City Councilors Frank Baker, Tania Fernandes Anderson and Michael Flaherty supported the latest iteration of the condo plans today, as did state Rep. Jon Santiago of the South End. Santiago said more housing is just what the area needs and that the new Alexandra would be the herald of a revived Washington Street into Nubian Square.

Also supporting the proposal: Steve Fox of the South End Forum, who agreed with Santiago: "This will bring residential ownership opportunities to the South End, which are really missing, which we desperately, desperately need."

However, several Roxbury residents opposed the proposal, saying that besides being an example of the South End claiming something that is really in Roxbury—which they said meant Roxbury residents were not included in earlier discussions—the building would tower over the area. And they noted it would have no parking. They called for the whole project to go back before the BPDA for a new public-hearing process, because the change from hotel rooms to condos was not a minor change.

Board Chairwoman Christine Araujo addressed the neighborhood line issue: "You should take up the conversation with the BPDA and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services about what is Roxbury and what is the South End and what is that middle area," but it's not a matter for the zoning board, she said.

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Will Swenson and the cast of A Beautiful Noise, The Neil Diamond Musical. Photo credit: Matthew Murphy.

Theater

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Then) sharing armchairs and reflections with a therapist simply called Doctor. This is the striking frame structure of author Anthony McCarten's book for "A Beautiful Noise," a high energy pre-Broadway tryout at the Emerson Colonial Theatre. Diamond fans will not be disappointed as gifted Will Swenson ("Hair," "Waitress" among others) portraying Neil Diamond—Then captures the vocal distinctiveness and performance intensity of the deep-voiced singer-songwriter. Notwithstanding Michael Mayer's sharp direction of a first-rate cast, "A Beautiful Noise" is currently a very entertaining if not fully satisfying musical.

Admittedly, "A Beautiful Noise"—which takes its title from a Diamond 1976 album—does not shortchange theatergoers when it comes to the legend's iconic hits. Swenson catches the edginess of "Solitary Man" and the spiritual feel of "Holly Holy." His "Cherry, Cherry" is properly exuberant, and his strong build-up on the first act-closing "Sweet Caroline" leads to rousing audience responses of "so good" in what has become a kind of Fenway Park anthem. Swenson captures all of the heart and immigrant promise of "America." He delivers Diamond's tender and more thunderous songs with such authority and passion that he becomes the "Jewish Elvis" (as some referred to the sequined performer)—losing himself in a performance for the ages.

At the same time, the armchair sequences that run throughout the musical do allow for a self-examination of sorts by Neil Diamond—Now. Veteran talent Mark Jacoby ("Showboat" and many others) does as much justice to (now 81) Diamond's wide-ranging misgivings about himself as a husband and parent as Swenson does to the performer's perseverance and determination with regard to his career. Jacoby has the right reluctance to talk about himself with Doctor, played with a convincing combination of patience and persistence by Linda Powell. Revealing to the therapist that he puts everything he has into his songs, Diamond—Now—forcefully self-

critical in Jacoby's rich portrayal—proceeds to look back at his rise from Flatbush, Brooklyn poverty and difficult years in Tin Pan Alley to a talent gaining recognition writing songs made famous by others—"I'm a Believer" for example—and ultimately performing his own material before large audiences.

Along the way, McCarten's fairly informative book gives proper emphasis to the pivotal guidance and support of singer/songwriter/record producer Ellie Greenwich and the contrasting perilous association with Bang Records. Bri Sudia brings an appealing balance of sardonic wit and good natured caring to Greenwich. There are very different depictions of Diamond's first and second marriages. Jewish first wife Jayne Posner could do with more complexity in the book, though Jessie Fisher provides affecting vulnerability and understanding. Second wife Marcia Murphey, admittedly married much longer to Diamond before their divorce, still receives a fuller treatment—particularly as a strong-willed mate. Robyn Harder finds all of Marcia's earthiness and tenacity. She also displays vocal appeal on "Forever in Blue Jeans," a number that needs better moves for the ensemble tellingly known as "The Beautiful Noise."

The choreography for that ensemble is an ongoing issue. While the ten dancers are hardworking and talented, Steven Hoggett—an Olivier choreography award notwithstanding—often seems to give them repetitive configurations—though a number where they sport transistor radios to hear a Diamond song proves vivid. Another problem involves several numbers where the ensemble distracts from Swenson's charismatic deliveries. Admittedly, audience members did not seem to mind this kind of ensemble overkill as they cheered on dynamic Swenson.

Near the end of "A Beautiful Noise," Jacoby and Swenson come together in a very moving "I Am...I Said" duo after which Diamond—Now speaks of counting all his blessings. Count Swenson and Jacoby two terrific blessings. Diamond—Now notes that Brooklyn was not built in a day. So it goes with "A Beautiful Noise." With the right changes, this enjoyable tryout will make everyone a believer.

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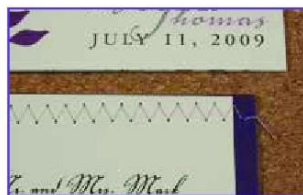
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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 30, 2022 <i>Felix D Arroyo Register of Probate</i>	

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