

## More Colleges Are Reopening



By Charlie Wilson

Administrators from Suffolk University (SU) and Emerson College (EC) presented their schools' reopening plans at a meeting of the Downtown Boston

Residents' Association (DBRA) Monday. Both schools plan to use regular viral testing and hotels to try to reopen safely.

"There has been a very rigorous and robust process to get us to this point right now," said John

Nucci, SU's senior vice president of external affairs. "We have found that sharing our plan with individuals and groups around the neighborhood has been very helpful to us."

*Continued on Page 3*



## Graffiti Incidents Have Not Increased

By Ian Stevenson

Though graffiti appeared along protest routes during this summer's rallies against police brutality, spray-painted incidents in downtown neighborhoods and parks have not increased from earlier years. Over the weekend of May 29th, walls, statues, and sidewalks were tagged with graffiti

amidst city and nationwide Black Lives Matter protests. In early June, some painted writing appeared on the signage surrounding the Boston Common's famous 54th Regiment Memorial, which commemorates the first African American Civil War regiment and is currently under repair.

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## MGH Faces Opposition to Destroying 3 Old Buildings



By Ian Stevenson

As Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) plans a major expansion, some of its West End neighbors are outraged about the destruction of three historic buildings that the expansion would entail. After exploring other

options, MGH is set on putting up a structure that would involve demolishing three 19th and early 20th-century structures; the West End Settlement House, West End Tenement House, and the former public Winchell Elementary School.

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## Kenmore Square & Downtown Crossing Named by One Family

by Jordan Frias

Two bustling areas of the city now known as Kenmore Square and Downtown Crossing earned their names thanks to the efforts of one family.

John Druker, grandfather of Ronald Druker of The Druker Company, Ltd. in Boston, sought to rename Governor's Square on Commonwealth Avenue after his hotel, The Hotel Kenmore, on the same block.

"[John] was born in Scotland and named the Hotel Kenmore and the Hotel Braemore on Commonwealth Avenue after Scottish castles," Ronald said. "So the square was named after the hotel, not the hotel named after the square. The hotel came first then the name was changed sometime after." John worked as



Cut: Governor's Square, now known as Kenmore Square, in 1915.

Photo: Courtesy of the Boston Public Library, Leslie Jones Collection

a developer at Snider & Druker Co., which became John Druker & Son and now The Druker Company, Ltd. Ronald, president of the prominent real estate and management company, said

decades later he and his cousin got involved in the branding of Downtown Crossing, at a time when the area was simply known as Downtown.

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## MGH

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At a community meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) last Wednesday, Tom Sieniewicz, of the architectural firm NBBJ, and lead architect for the proposal, said that over the past year the hospital had looked to preserve the site's history by building around the structures, relocating them, or keeping only the facades. All of the proposals, it concluded, were too expensive and impractical.

The proposed 12-story building, which would cost more than \$1 billion, would house operating rooms and cancer treatment facilities, private rooms for inpatients, medical imaging equipment and a large underground garage.

"We recognize [demolishing] the three West End structures would represent a significant loss to the community," said

Sally Mason Boemer, MGH's senior vice president for administration and finance, at the meeting. "But we were unable to find a path to preserve these structures."

Since the hospital expansion was first proposed in 2019, community members have raised concerns about the three buildings, two on Blossom Street and one on North Anderson Street. These are some of the last old buildings remaining in the neighborhood, which underwent drastic changes during urban-renewal projects that began the 1950s.

"At the mid-century, there was a perception that cities were dying and there was a need to reinvigorate them," Martha McNamara, an architectural historian who lives in Beacon Hill and teaches at Wellesley College, told The Boston Guardian. "Because [the West End] was immigrant and working class, the neighborhood was perceived as destitute and obsolete....The answer was to just sweep the slate clean, take everyone out, tear down all

the buildings and rebuild them."

Much of the past expansion of MGH, which has been in the neighborhood since the early 19th Century, and is New England's largest hospital, happened in tandem with the city's urban-renewal efforts. "It is a textbook case for where urban renewal went terribly, terribly wrong," McNamara said. Those [remaining] buildings are touchstones for the community."

At Wednesday's meeting, most local residents, many of whom have lived in the West End since the 1940s and '50s, were sharply critical of the hospital's proposal.

"We're here, and you keep taking and taking," said a West End resident at Wednesday's meeting who requested her name not be used. She was born in the neighborhood in 1944 and was raised a few blocks from the site of the remaining houses. "We're tired of it."

"We cannot let these buildings be destroyed," said Paul Senecal, who was born

in 1935 and whose father was a nurse at MGH. "There will be nothing left, literally, of the West End."

MGH will now file a Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR), which will initiate another public-comment period. While the project is under review by the BPDA, more community meetings will be scheduled and held on such topics as transportation to and from the facility and managing traffic on Cambridge Street, a major thoroughfare that runs along the south end of the site.

Though many residents were critical of the current proposal, many were careful to note that they understand the hospital's need to modernize its facilities and that they value the hospital's services.

"Maybe there's another way to thread this needle," said Greg Galer, executive director of the Boston Preservation Alliance, at the meeting. "It is a challenge, but challenges can be surmounted."

## Kenmore Square

Continued from Page 1

Research from Ronald's cousin Steven Simon led to the discovery of the name Washington Crossing, which was referenced in some articles read at the Boston Public Library in the 1970s.

Simon, in between undergraduate and graduate school, was interning at The Druker Company, Ltd. when he was tasked with researching the former name of the popular downtown area.

"It never really had a name,"

Ronald said. "Before it became Downtown Crossing people might have referred to it as simply the Downtown. The area had gone from being a normal zone to an auto-restricted zone."

With the change from a multi-modal system to a pedestrian-only system, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), now known as the Boston Planning & Development Agency, had their

own suggestion and logo in mind for the area.

"The BRA wanted to name Downtown Crossing the Downtown Freedom Mall since it was an auto-restrictive zone and I thought that was not a good name," Ronald said. "They proposed to have a logo with a foot on it ... I voiced my opinion and came up with an alternative and everyone liked it."

Thus was born Downtown Crossing, which was described as "the city's first 'urban mall'" in a 1978 Boston Herald American article. The article's front-page

headline was "Walkers rule downtown," followed by the sub-headline "Downtown Crossing' gives shoppers a carefree, car-free haven" inside the paper.

"For five blocks along Washington, and on all of Winter and part of Summer Streets, not an auto was in sight... just thousands of people ambling along in the sunshine," a reporter wrote.

The same newspaper, known now as the Boston Herald, reported in 2006 that the city toggled with another name change for the area suggested by a marketing consultant and developers. The

idea never took off. Rosemarie Sansone, president and CEO of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, said the name "Downtown Crossing" followed the revitalization of Quincy Market during the mid-1970s.

"Following Quincy Market's successful revitalization, city planners turned their attention slightly south, to the central business district," she said. "During 1978-79, they created Boston's first, and only, pedestrian zone. In the process, they renamed the area 'Downtown Crossing.'"

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## College Reopening

Continued from Page 1

SU began moving out-of-state students into residence halls last week; and all were tested immediately and asked to quarantine until they received a negative result. The university's testing, processed through a partnership with the Broad Institute, has produced zero positive results as of Wednesday.

Students who live on campus will be tested twice per week and commuters will be tested weekly, Nucci said. Additionally, the university has expanded its housing footprint to make it more difficult for the virus to spread among students. Shigeo Iwamiya, SU's director of residence life and housing, said residence halls that typically house 1,400 students are now holding 750. The university has accomplished this partly by placing about 300 students in hotels: The Wyndham, The Boxer, and Doubletree.

As for enforcing social distancing measures, SU Vice President for Student Affairs Ann Coyne said there will be "zero tolerance."

"Any students involved in large gatherings on or off campus will be immediately removed from campus and may be sent home," Coyne said. "We're not hearing about any plans for the craziest that we've seen from other large schools that have been reported in the media. We expect that they will be responsible."

Despite these precautions and Coyne's faith in the students, City Councilor Ed Flynn said he is still concerned for the well-being of his residents with a large influx of potential virus

carriers moving into the neighborhood. "We have a community in Chinatown, in terms of social distancing, they've done their part over the last six months," Councilor Flynn said. "I hope these students know this isn't coming to Boston and having a good time and going out to parties. I take the public health of the Chinatown area and the Downtown area very seriously, and I have zero tolerance for students that want to jeopardize the public health of residence in my district."

Nucci said his team has heard Flynn's concerns "loud and clear" and said SU will hold community virtual office hours for residents to come forward and register concerns.

Peggy Ings, EC's vice president for community relations, presented a largely similar plan for her institution's reopening. EC students, though, will be tested weekly. EC is making use of the W Hotel to spread its students out. She said the university will enforce quarantine measures, which apply to students upon move-in and after they test positive, by deactivating their ID cards so they can't access any buildings other than their residence hall. EC and SU are two of many Boston colleges that are ramping up reopening plans this month. Northeastern (NU) is moving hundreds of students into the Midtown and the Westin hotels, as well as conducting up to 5,000 COVID-19 tests per day. Boston University (BU) is running a similar testing program and both NU and BU have a hybrid in-person instruction model. Harvard opted for a more conservative approach, bringing just 40% of undergraduates back to campus and going with all online instruction.

## New Health Clinic Coming to Chinatown

By Ian Stevenson

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) last week approved opening a clinic run by the Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC) on the basement level of the China Trade Center, at 2 Boylston St.

The clinic, called the Diagnostic and Sexual Health Center (DASH), will be one of the nation's first to offer sexually transmitted infection (STI) rapid testing, Carl Sciortino told The Boston Guardian. FCHC's vice president for government and community relations. Clients can receive the results of chlamydia or gonorrhea tests via text in a matter of hours.

Modeled after a clinic in London, FCHC is opening DASH to address sexually transmitted infections that have been rising for a decade across America, said Sciortino. In Massachusetts, chlamydia cases rose 25%, syphilis cases 94% and gonorrhea cases 109% in 2014-18, according to state Department of Public Health data.

Though there has been a rise across the general population, the clinic has seen much higher rates of infection

amongst LGBTQ people and people of color, Sciortino said.

"As HIV has become a chronic treatable condition where people are not dying at the same level they were earlier

**Modeled after a clinic in London, FCHC is opening DASH to address sexually transmitted infections that have been rising for a decade across America,**

in the epidemic, a lot of the public health messaging and effectiveness of that has decreased," Sciortino said. "The fear of death around sexual risk taking is decreasing." He acknowledged this improvement but also said that it has led to a decrease in use of condoms. "As a population we've let down our guard."

Continued on Page 8



### Virtual Public Meeting

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- By providing ongoing COVID-19 testing for all Suffolk community members coming to campus

Learn more about our plans: [suffolk.edu/reopening](https://suffolk.edu/reopening).





# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

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Excluding drug related crime on and near Methadone Mile, it's been a quiet August week for our police. Bicycle thefts are up, shoplifting down, an occasional credit card scam and some obnoxious drunks. We're still waiting to see a report about someone committing a random act of kindness.

### Obnoxious Drunk

On August 17 at 8:47 in the morning, police were called by a construction crew at 18 Newbury Street to deal with an obnoxious, intoxicated man who had thrown chairs from the site into the street while swearing and threatening the workers. Forget reeking of booze and being belligerent to both the crew and the police, you can't be all there when provoking a group of

construction workers who all look like the Incredible Hulk.

Officers made numerous attempts to explain to our clueless drunk not to return to Newbury Street. He finally agreed to walk to St. Francis House for the day.

### Stealing Weird Things

Also on August 17, police were called about two shoplifters at Walgreens at 741 Boylston Street. A woman wearing grey leggings and a blue hoodie and a guy wearing all black came into the store and copped items worth \$550. Not quite the clothing normally worn on a hot summer afternoon. They made off with \$200 of baby formula, \$100 worth of deodorant, and \$250 of Aveeno lotion. Yup, a strange combination of items.

They exited the store walking towards the

Hynes Convention Center and disappeared.

### Going Mobile

August 17 saw a rash of reports about bicycle thefts. The list includes a black Trek 7.1 two-wheeler which was locked to a railing in front of 397 Beacon Street; a \$600 black Sienna 59cm bike locked to a street sign in the area of 70 Northampton Street; and a Blue Bike outside 324 Newbury Street which was stolen when the rider went into a restaurant to pick up some dinner. Regrettably, the song Going Mobile by The Who may become this summer's most appropriate tune.

### Ironic Justice

At 8:01am on August 8, police responded to an attempted breaking and entering at a construction site at 276 Newbury Street. Someone had used a wooden plank to attempt to gain access to the building undergoing rehab. Nothing was taken but a mobile phone belonging to the unsuccessful thief was found. Imagine the irony when the suspect is caught and is permitted to use his own phone to call his attorney.

### Loving Chinos

During the lunch hour on August 18, a homeless man walked into Free People at 899 Boylston Street. The guy was something of a regular. This time he was asked to leave. Three days before, however, he made off with seven pairs of chinos valued at \$560. Mr. Chino had become a "customer" just prior

to the COVID shutdown and obviously missed his favorite store. After all, the word "free" is in the shop's name.

### An Honest Thief

Store security stopped a shoplifter at Nordstrom Rack at 497 Boylston Street on August 18 and called the police. The thief put on a pair of black Nike running shoes and then tried to walk out. She explained to police that she needed a new pair of shoes since her old ones were wet from the rain and that she had no intention of paying for them. My god, honest people are such a rarity these days that if she were to run for elected office, we'd consider endorsing her.

### Always Reliable

Every police report we write about shoplifting at 1 Ring Road. This week, on August 19, a known shoplifter entered the department store and stole two pairs of Prada sunglasses valued at \$800. Police searched through area but did not see the thief.

### When Time Flies

Time stands still when you are having a good time. Just ask the manager of Krasi restaurant at 48 Gloucester Street. Seems the Licensed Premise Unit noticed revelers still enjoying themselves at 11:15pm on August 19 on the temporary outdoor patio when closing time was at 10pm. Think the owner will have a good time when appearing before the Boston Licensing Board?



## Parcel 12

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As the project moves forward and the construction process becomes more visible, please visit [buildP12.com](http://buildP12.com) for the latest updates.



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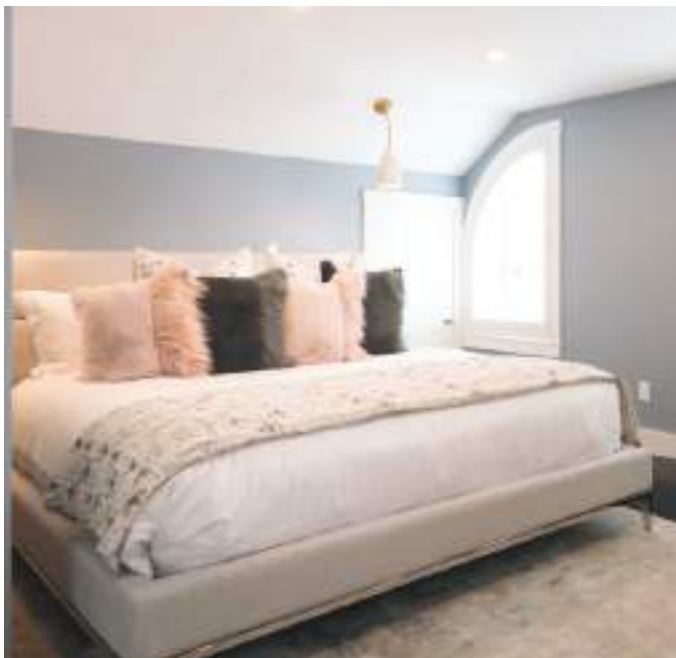
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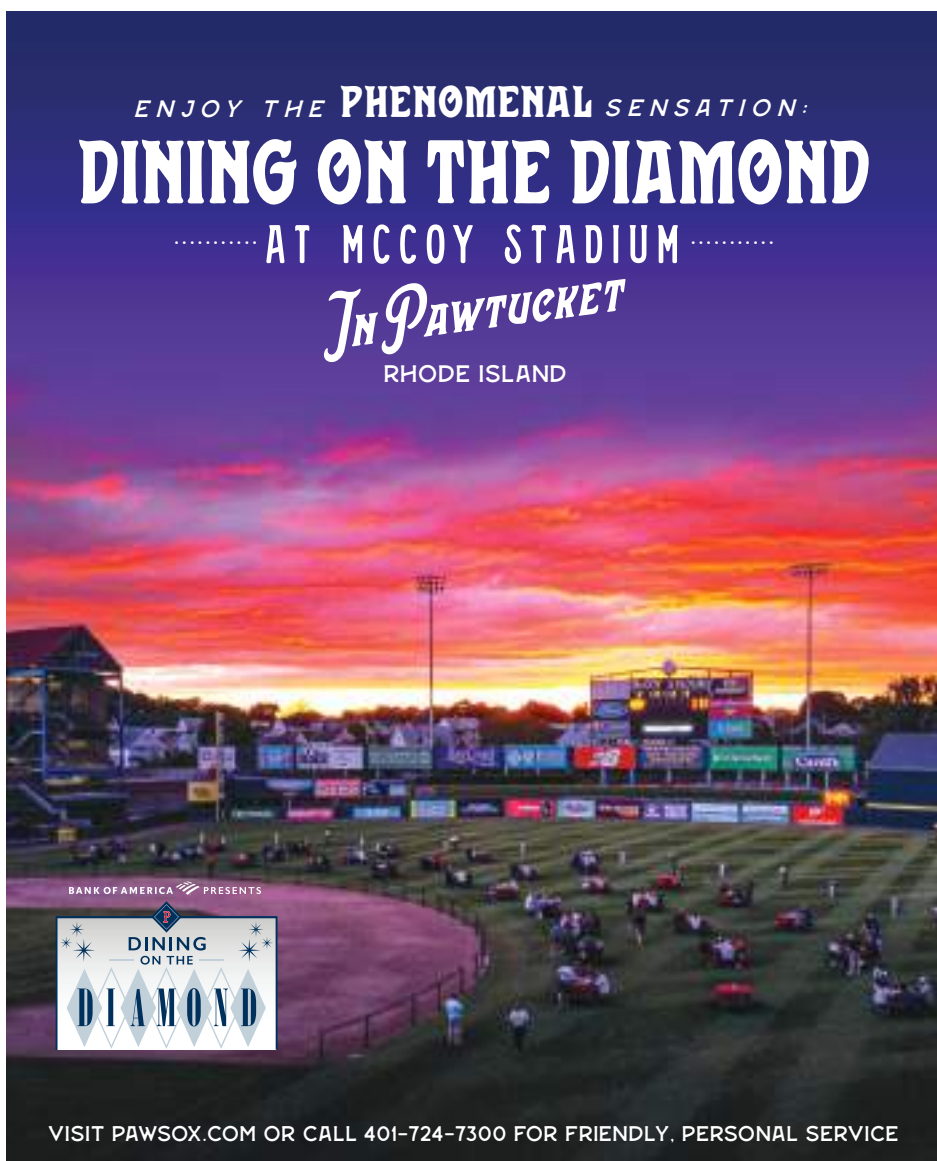
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## Graffiti Incidents

*Continued from Page 1*

Since that upheaval in May and June, graffiti incidents in downtown areas have been low.

At city parks like the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall, there has been no more graffiti this year than in past years, according to Susan Abell, director of communications for the Friends of the Public Garden, an organization which helps maintain those three downtown parks.

On the Charles River Esplanade, though many more people have been using the park this year, there has been less graffiti.

“The more hours of the day people are in the park, the less likely [it is] that someone will try to vandalize the park,” said Michael Nichols, the executive director of the Esplanade Association, which advocates for the park.

Since 2017, 4 murals have been installed on open surfaces in the Esplanade, which Nichols said has also been a deterrent. “Even graffiti vandals respect good, curated art and so they’ve largely been left alone.”

Boston’s historic neighborhoods have long been targets for graffiti. “The South End and the downtown area in particular are an easy target because there is so much exposed brick,” said Stephen Fox, the chair of the South End Forum, a coalition of

neighborhood groups in the South End.

Efforts by neighborhood groups in recent years have helped limit the appearance of new spray-painted vandalism. Neighborhood associations in the South End, Beacon Hill, the Back Bay, and Fenway all reported no increase in graffiti from last year.

In Beacon Hill, Patricia Tulley, the executive director of the neighborhood civic association said that she has received only one call about graffiti in recent months.

Fenway has not “noted a big change” in graffiti prevalence, according to Marie Fukuda, a board member of the Fenway civic association.

“In general, I think the incidence has been less,” said Anne Swanson, the chair of the graffiti NABBERS, a team within the neighborhood association of the Back Bay which has been working with city employees to clean up illegal graffiti since 2006.

During the pandemic, Swanson said that she thinks the scarcity of college students in Boston has reduced the amount of graffiti reported to her. In recent years, faster responses by the city to the appearance of vandalism has curbed its prevalence in the Back Bay.

“What these people are craving is attention,” said Swanson. “Just getting rid of it is really the best defense.”

“In the pantheon of issues that face the South End, graffiti at this point is not on the top shelf,” Fox said.

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## Health Clinic

*Continued from Page 3*

FCHC conducted focus groups in Boston and found that for many in the LGBT community, more testing is needed, but patients might feel more comfortable having it done outside their own neighborhoods.

“It offers more privacy to be able to go to a storefront outside of your own neighborhood,” Sciortino said. By locating the clinic in a busy area downtown, Fenway Health hopes to be accessible to other neighborhoods while also being open to local drug users, who tend to have elevated STI, HIV and Hepatitis C rates, he said.

“Because of its proximity to public transportation, I think it’s an ideal location,”

said Rosemarie Sansone, president of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District. “Whenever we can provide health services to the residents and students in the downtown area that’s always a help.”

“Fenway Health plays an important role in providing healthcare to our residents, particularly those who are in our LGBTQ+ community,” wrote City Councilor Ed Flynn, who represents Downtown and

Chinatown, in a statement to The Guardian. “I look forward to working with Fenway Health and our Chinatown community on this issue.”

The city is currently repairing water leakage into the building from the street, according to the BPDA. With the clinic’s approval this month, the new tenants are planning to begin construction this winter and hope to open sometime next spring.



## Our Silver Couple

Back Bay residents Alice and Bill Bancroft celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last week in North East Harbor, Maine where they were married. Their love is the same even if the hair styles and the cars have changed.

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# CLEANING HOUSE

*Since January, life has been eerily quiet for businesses and residents of Chinatown. Not anymore as the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center organized neighbors to thoroughly clean their community on August 22 to welcome back diners and shoppers.*



Photos: Ning Zhao





**Back Bay**



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# BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ REAL ESTATE



## 6 West Cedar Street - Beacon Hill Townhouse

This handsome townhouse built in the late Federal period by Cornelius Coolidge is located on one of the most beautiful blocks of Beacon Hill. This row of houses is known for their arched entryways, elegant fan lights and first floor triple windows. There is a wonderful garden with a door out to Cedar Lane Way and great views of picturesque Acorn Street from the front. This house, with lovely period detail, has five bedrooms, an attractive living room and study, a bright formal dining room and a full basement.

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This grand parlor 2 bedroom duplex on most sought after Marlborough Street is conveniently located steps to Newbury Street and the Charles River Esplanade. Enter into the spacious living area with high ceilings, recessed lighting, fireplace and gleaming hardwood flooring. The adjacent open kitchen is a chef's delight with gas cooking, lots of counter space and cabinets and newly installed stainless appliances including a wine cooler. Also on this level is a powder room and the master bedroom suite with excellent closet space and a large lavish bathroom. The lower level includes a den perfect for relaxing or watching tv and a very good sized second bedroom and bath. There is also a very large storage closet off the den area. Direct access to one deeded parking space.

### WHALEY | RING TEAM

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