



Oct. 25, 2021

MMC to Repair Wall at 940 Congress Street to Address Hazard

Maine Medical Center contractors will replace the exterior west-facing wall of the building at 940 Congress Street within the near future. This work is prompted by ongoing water intrusion problems with that wall, causing bricks to fall on the adjacent lot, presenting a potential life-safety hazard.

MMC has currently blocked access to the area.

MMC bought 940 Congress, the building that houses Pizza Villa restaurant, in 2019. A 2021 engineering study of the west-facing exterior wall noted that the brick wall was originally an interior wall, before an adjacent building had been demolished.

The bricks were not intended to be exposed to the elements, contributing to the failure. In addition, areas on the wall that had been painted with commercial signage for the now-closed Greyhound Bus Station and Pizza Villa are also showing greater brick failure, as the painted bricks retain moisture and hasten failure, according to the study.

The bricks will be removed as soon as the city permits are received and the wall will be encapsulated with a neutral-color stucco-like material.

MMC has discussed with St. John Valley Neighborhood Association leadership the potential to collaborate on a mural or other decoration on the wall, with a spring 2022 timeframe.