



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E   A R E   N O   T I M E S   L I K E   T H E S E   T I M E S



## Rep. Livingstone and Councilor Bok step up to help feed those in need

By Dan Murphy

State Rep. Jay Livingstone and City Councilor Kenzie Bok helped distribute more than 200 boxes of food to residents in need at the Anderson Park apartments at 250 Cambridge St. and the Blackstone Apartments on Blossom Street Tuesday morning.

Rep. Livingstone and Councilor Bok joined volunteers and staff from their offices, as well as staff from Sen. Sal DiDomenico's office, to distribute boxes of produce and dry goods at that time in partnership with the Boston Resiliency Fund through the Greater Boston Food Bank.

"The city has really had to step up in fighting food insecurity," Councilor Bok said, "and that is an aspect of this crisis that will be with us a while."

The food distribution also comes at a time when, among other resources, the food pantry that ABCD (Action Boston for Community Development) operates at the West End library is currently closed. "There's been a



State Rep. Jay Livingstone, City Councilor Kenzie Bok and others are seen distributing food boxes Tuesday morning.

big effort to try to replace some of that food access," Councilor Bok said.

"I've been doing lot work to make sure we know about pockets of acute food need in the district because in this crisis, when

people have so many concerns, no one should be worried about going hungry," Councilor Bok added. "And also, especially vulnerable elders shouldn't be risking their health to get food."

Rep. Livingstone said it

was "great to coordinate" with Councilor Bok and Sen. DiDomenico on the effort, and that he is "really appreciative to the Boston Resiliency Fund for providing this great resource."

(FOOD Pg. 6)

## BHCA goes virtual for 98th Annual Meeting

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Civic Association's 98th Annual Meeting took place virtually Monday night in lieu of the traditional gathering at the Union Club.

Rob Whitney, who was named chair of the organization at that time, took the opportunity to reflect on what the Civic Association had accomplished over the past year, including awarding its first round of Community Grant funds totaling \$22,500 to support community projects and programs in December.

Last month, Whitney said he and Patricia Tully, executive

(MEETING Pg. 9)

## GoFundMe campaign raises \$36,000 to help neighborhood's small businesses

By Dan Murphy

A GoFundMe campaign has raised more than \$36,000 to date to help an estimated 100 small, independent Beacon Hill businesses struggling in the face of COVID-19 pay their electricity bills for the month of March.

"We haven't distributed the checks yet, and we're in the process of contacting businesses to see if they want to opt in or out," said longtime neighborhood resident Diana Coldren, who spearheaded the effort with Ali Ringenburg, co-president of the Beacon Hill Business Association. "It's maybe only going to be \$300 per busi-

(HELP, Pg. 9)

### BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

#### BHCA Annual Meeting Held

The Beacon Hill Civic Association's 98th Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors was held on May 18th via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Eve Waterfall, BHCA Chair. Over 70 members attended the virtual meeting where the year's accomplishments were highlighted by Rob Whitney, BHCA President.

Rob spoke of the importance

(BHAC Pg. 2)



New BHCA Officers L-R: Robert A. Whitney, Chair; Meghan Awe, President; Andrew Kirk, Treasurer; and Joshua Leffler, Clerk.

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check [www.beaconhilltimes.com](http://www.beaconhilltimes.com)

# Baker-Polito administration releases phased reopening plan

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Monday announced the phased reopening plan for Massachusetts, and urged residents to continue being vigilant to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The plan has been the task of the governor's Reopening Advisory Board for the past several weeks, where it has met with leaders from many sectors and industries across the Commonwealth.

"Our collective success depends on everyone," Baker said. "We cannot move forward until we commit to slowing the spread."

Before getting into specifics of the plan, Baker said that it will progress through four phases, each lasting at least three weeks but could last longer "if the public health data doesn't support moving forward."

He also said that the plan lays out what businesses and individuals must do in order to be able to reopen during each phase. "The advisory board made every effort to be as clear and direct as possible," Baker said. "This is something no one's ever done before."

In Phase One, called "start," which began on May 18, places of worship were allowed to open "with guidelines," and "outdoor services are encouraged." Additionally on May 18, essential businesses, manufacturing, and construction were allowed to operate.

Beginning on May 25, lab space, office space (except in Boston), limited personal services—hair salons, pet grooming, and car washes—and retail with remote fulfillment and curbside pickup are allowed to open. On June 1, office space can open again in Boston.

Last week, Baker announced a list of employers who have committed to continuing their work from home policies "for the foreseeable future," including Wayfair, Blue Cross Blue Shield of

Massachusetts, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Liberty Mutual, and several others. He encouraged employers to continue work from home policies where it's possible to reduce the number of people coming into contact with each other.

On May 18, hospitals and community health centers were also permitted "upon attestation" to "provide high priority preventative care, pediatric care and treatment for high risk patients and conditions," and on May 25, additional health care providers will be permitted to do the same.

On May 25, beaches, parks, drive-in theaters, some athletic fields and courts, many outdoor adventure activities, most fishing, hunting, and boating, and outdoor gardens, zoos, reserves, and public installations will be permitted to open with specific guidelines.

Baker said that people are still to cover their noses and mouths when six feet of distance cannot be maintained, wash their hands and surfaces often, continue to social distance, and stay home if sick.

"Sticking with these critical tasks is everyone's responsibility," Baker said. "State and local governments will continue to step up testing capabilities alongside the community tracing program. Positive case rates are moving in the right direction," he added.

Baker said that the steps taken in the first phase are for businesses that have "limited face-to-face and customer interactions." He said that people are going to have to change their behaviors and things will not be the same as they were before the virus.

"At some point there will be treatments and a vaccine," he said, but "for the foreseeable future, everyone needs to continue to do the same thing."

This goes hand-in-hand with the Baker-Polito administration's new "Safer At Home" advisory, which advises people to stay at home "unless going to a newly opened facility or activity," he

said. Those over the age of 65 and who are at high-risk for the virus should remain at home.

"The virus will be with us throughout the reopening process," Baker said. "How well everyone does these things will determine how well we move into later phases."

He also said that "we'd all prefer to believe that the virus is less serious now and that it's behind us," but "if we don't keep up the fight and do things we know we have to do and can do we run the risk of creating a second spike in the fall."

He thanked those who have been vigilant in playing their part to reduce the spread of the virus and asked that everyone continue everything they've been doing.

"This plan required a tremendous amount of thought, planning, and preparation by the board," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "Our work would not have been possible without an extensive municipal engagement," she added.

Polito said that things like campgrounds, community pools, playgrounds, restaurants and more, could resume in Phase Two with specific guidelines, and in Phase Three, arts and entertainment, gyms, and other activities "push us towards Phase Four of all resumption of activity," in what will be called the "new normal."

However, as the governor has said several times over the past few weeks, public health data will determine whether the state will enter a new phase, and he said it is possible to revert to a previous phase if necessary.

Polito said that a restaurant, accommodations, and tourism work group has met and will continue to have discussions with these industries about "industry specific protocols for meeting safety standards."

She also said that the business community will continue to be supported "as they implement the mandatory workplace safety

standards" that the administration announced last week. She added that businesses opening up in Phase One will be required to comply with these standards before they are allowed to open.

"The administration will require businesses to self-certify," Polito said, adding that they must develop a COVID-19 control plan and implement the safety standards.

The state has also created sector-specific guidance that "aim to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions in each industry." Materials for these guidelines and safety standards are available on the Reopening Massachusetts section of the mass.gov website.

## Childcare And Transportation

Polito also said that "key components" of beginning to reopen the state include childcare and public transportation.

In March, the administration created an emergency childcare system for children of essential workers and others on the frontlines of fighting the virus.

She said that the emergency childcare system already in place will be used to meet the needs of "people with no alternative for care" as people slowly return to work in Phase One. She also encouraged families to find alternatives to group care, and that currently, only 25 percent of emergency childcare is occupied. "The system we established has capacity for 10,000 children statewide," Polito said.

"Summer camps serve an important purpose," Polito added, saying that additional health and safety standards are being reviewed in preparation for the opening of summer camps. She said that these health guidelines could be implemented in over 1400 camps across Massachusetts, and "pending public health data," camps could open in Phase Two "with limitations and standards in line with CDC guidance."

On the transportation front, "the MBTA has been and will

continue to implement measures to prevent the spread," Polito said. "We cannot significantly reduce transmission" without the support of everyone in the state.

She said that riders of the MBTA are required to wear face coverings, and employers should implement work from home practices and stagger the workday to "reduce demand on rush hours."

Polito said that in Phase One, the MBTA will "support the transit needs of essential workers and those returning" by continuing with limited service. By Phase Three, there will be a modified version of full service, and the MBTA will continue to provide protective supplies to workers and clean stations and vehicles often, as well as "actively communicate public health guidance in stations, online, and over social media," Polito said.

"Today, as we move forward in implementing this plan for reopening, I am confident in everyone's ability to play their role," Polito said. "Everyone must do their part."

She said that the "next few weeks are really important," and by helping businesses incorporate workplace safety standards and making sure everyone follows guidelines, "the Commonwealth can stay ahead of this virus," Polito said.

"As we balance the shared goals of activating economy and public safety...our roadmap provides us with a plan and a direction point to get started," Polito said. "The people of Massachusetts are strong; we're resilient, we've come through tough times before and we will come through this tough time again."

To download the full Reopening MA report with details about which industries fit into which phase, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

of the many BHCA committees and the work they do. We will publish in more detail the excellent work of our committees in upcoming issues of the Beacon Hill Times, as well as information about the Beacon Hill Community Fund and the availability of grants for non-profit groups.

New board members Melanie Bertani, Patrick Lee and Ali Ringenburg were introduced to the membership. The BHCA Board of Directors is made up of 25 profes-

sionals, all neighbors and leaders in the Beacon Hill community, who work together to sustain the mission of the association in community building, civic engagement and historic preservation.

James Ewing, Director and Co-Chair of the BHCA Architecture Committee, and Timothy Pingree, Director, will both be stepping off the BHCA Board this year. We are grateful to Jamie for his contributions in arguing for and preserving important architectural context

on Beacon Hill, and to Tim for his involvement in several special projects.

The Beacon Award, traditionally awarded at the Annual Meeting, has been postponed until later this year. Our intended guest speaker, City of Boston Archaeologist Joseph Bagley, will hopefully be able to present to us soon.

## Upcoming BHCA Meetings & Events

Young Friends Social – Wednesday, May 27th

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet – Monday, June 1st

Call the BHCA office at 617-227-1922 for further details on any of these events.

## Join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join online at [www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member](http://www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member).

Your input in quality of life issues on Beacon Hill is important to us, and we rely on you our neighbors to bring your com-

ments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at [patricia.tully@bhcivic.org](mailto:patricia.tully@bhcivic.org) with any questions, comments or concerns, to receive the BHCA News eblasts, or to learn more about how you can join a BHCA committee and get involved in your community.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Hegarty, Michael	361 Beacon LLC	361 Beacon St #1	\$2,050,000
Kelly, Veronica T	Hanna, Daryl G	82 Berkeley St #1	\$1,510,000
Millie Park 2019 RET	Deutsch, Clayton G	29 Fairfield St #2	\$2,625,000
Hall, Elizabeth A	Colombo, Roberta	146 Marlborough St #8	\$695,000
Franzetta, Sharon A	Quigley, Thomas P	373 Commonwealth Ave #302	\$839,000
Warshauer, Mark E	Pellegrino, Jason	12 Gloucester St #2	\$749,000
Starr, Richard N	Tracey Ann Smith T	425 Newbury St #A46	\$126,500
Conte, Kaitlyn	Friedl, Andrew P	197 Saint Botolph St #3	\$710,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Serizier, Yula	Prezioso, Adrian H	1 Garden St #5	\$700,000
Ossowski, Mallory A	Furst, Edward	22 Irving St #5	\$791,000
ElShabrawi, Yosuf	Topalian, Julia	97 Mount Vernon St #24	\$631,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Zhao-Isaacson T	Shagoury, John D	32 Fayette St	\$2,100,000
Miller, Dane	Englander, Elizabeth	1 Melrose St #1	\$542,000
Partridge, Terri	Eisenberg, Neil J	223 W Canton St #3	\$1,625,000
Logan, Prescott H	Proud, Graham	173 Warren Ave #2	\$2,500,000
Brown, Jeffrey M	Gliserman, Michael	187 Warren Ave #3	\$1,175,000
Ciampi, Mary	401 Beacon Street LLC	401 Beacon St #1B	\$1,050,000
Chang, Feng	Onnie, Bernadette L	4 Charlesgate E #204	\$1,152,500
Karim, Abu S	Bailey, Jennifer	96 Gainsborough St #205W	\$790,000
Rocheleau, Brett M	Coe, Lawrence D	472 Massachusetts Ave #1	\$1,520,000
Dickey, Stephen J	465 Park Drive RT	465 Park Dr #19	\$500,000
Rutland Square 20 NT	Nagel, Gregg M	28 Rutland Sq #3	\$2,010,000
Steinman, Maurice	Schroeder, William R	46 Rutland Sq #1	\$1,675,000
Quigley, Scott N	Russo, Joseph D	157 W Brookline St #4	\$1,250,000
Jeffrey H Saef 2013 FT	201 West Brookline St	201 W Brookline St #204	\$3,975,000
DeLadurantaye, Daniel	Persaud, Ramona	153 W Canton St	\$3,580,000
Shah, Anosh	98 West Springfield Rlty	98 W Springfield St #3	\$1,185,000
Fortin, David E	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #224	\$288,700
Hunter, Sivika	Tse, Louis	3531 Washington St #506	\$627,500
Pierce, Joshua	Senovich, Dennis J	7 Worcester Sq #3	\$2,275,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
O'Neill, Elaine	Deruyter FT	142 Commercial St #601	\$907,500
Quattromani, Alexandra	Mcgrath, Damien	300 Commercial St #509	\$720,000
Devos, Adam S	Vincent, Jonathan	376 Commercial St #4F	\$1,115,000
Barber, Richard T	Fondas, Peter	55 Commercial Wharf #6	\$1,500,000
Catherine R Norcott T	Polese, Marcia	65 E India Row #4D	\$611,000
JWF Property Investments	Baker, Scott R	1 Franklin St #1608	\$1,750,000
Yu, Jessica	Trahan, Jonathan	171 South St #B19	\$282,000

## Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window in the last clue is on 128 Chestnut Street which was built as an apartment house in 1922. It was designed by architect Edward B. Stratton who also designed the Lenox, Somerset, and Puritan Hotels in Boston and has properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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# EDITORIAL

## MEMORIAL DAY, 2020

This will be a Memorial Day unlike any that Americans have known.

Ever since the official inception of the holiday on May 30, 1868, when the practice of decorating the graves of the fallen Union soldiers with flowers, wreaths, and flags officially became recognized by the order of General Logan at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) has been a time for all Americans to come together to commemorate and honor those who made the Supreme Sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

When Memorial Day was moved to the fourth Monday of May starting in 1971, the three-day weekend also came to mark the official start of the summer season for Americans of all ages, who gathered for cookouts and other outdoor activities with friends and family.

But in this year of the coronavirus pandemic, all of the usual parades and festivities have been cancelled. With much of the nation still sheltering in place, gatherings of families and friends have been limited to the faux-reality of Zoom.

The pandemic also has brought another set of challenges to our nation, however. The stress we all are feeling, both from the threat of the virus itself and from the economic anxiety it has created, has brought into full view the many, deep fissures in our society which have been lurking beneath the surface for decades.

It is fair to say that America is as disunited as we ever have been since the end of the Civil War itself 155 years ago. This pandemic, rather than bringing us together to face and fight the common challenge of the coronavirus, is threatening to tear us apart and bring to an end the great American experiment.

In searching for appropriate words to capture this moment in which we find ourselves, the Gettysburg address that was delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on the site of the battlefield on November 19, 1863, rings most true, both in terms of honoring those who gave their lives in our nation's wars and for healing the wounds created by the current pandemic crisis.

We hope our readers take a moment to absorb Lincoln's words and reflect upon the meaning of Memorial Day in light of our current situation:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2020

## Sen. Brownsberger says caution must be taken as economy reopens

By Dan Murphy

Given the uncertainty surrounding both the financial situation and the direction that the COVID-19 pandemic will ultimately take, Sen. William Brownsberger said reopening the economy must be undertaken with caution and in incremental steps.

"We have to make decisions on conditions in the face of great uncertainty, both in terms of the virus situation and the economic situation," Sen. Brownsberger said. "In reopening the economy, everyone must go slowly and modestly, and take the situation step by step."

While what causes transmission rates to rise remains unknown, Sen. Brownsberger believes the virus can't be completely contained through self-isolation and testing, which he said isn't at the level it should be now.

Besides the physical capacity for testing in the Commonwealth not being able to meet the current demand, Sen. Brownsberger also pointed to the potentially large number of asymptomatic carriers who could now have the virus and be unwittingly spreading it to others.

"People who don't know they have it are roaming around spreading the virus," he said. "There's a

lot of virus out there now, and if we allow people to have contact, transmissions will go up, but we can't know by how much."

Sen. Brownsberger cited the recent statistic that 10 percent of Boston residents might have already been exposed to COVID-19.

"But what about the 90 percent not exposed?" he asked. "That's a whole lot of virgin territory for the virus to go wild in so we have to be very vigilant moving forward."

Sen. Brownsberger also believes more data should be collected and carefully analyzed as more businesses reopen.

"We have to make modest adjustments and look at all the data we can," he said, "and we have to preserve sanitation measures as we get out going to some work places."

As more people return to work, Sen. Brownsberger said they still must maintain social distancing and other safety measures to help contain transmission rates.

"Given our inability to test and track everyone, we have to be zealous about social distancing as we return to work in some places," he said. "We'll have to keep wearing masks, regularly washing our

### THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# City Councilors propose cap on fees for third-party restaurant delivery services

By Dan Murphy

Several City Councilors are proposing that Boston follow the example set by Cambridge and other cities by capping fees for third-party delivery services for restaurants.

City Councilors Ed Flynn, Matt O'Malley and Michael Flaherty participated in a virtual public hearing Friday focusing on how to rein in the fees currently charged by the four biggest services - Uber Eats, Grubhub, DoorDash and Postmates.

City Councilor Flynn said restaurants have informed him that delivery fees range from 25 to 35 percent.

"We currently pay hundreds of thousands of dollars every year on these third-party delivery fees," he said. "Restaurants pay a significantly larger portion of their revenue to delivery services...and they are dependent on these services."

Third-party delivery fees have been capped at 10 percent in Cambridge and 15 percent in San Francisco and New York while Baltimore is considering taking similar action.

"Here we are in Week Eight of the pandemic with no sit-down service, and we have restaurants that are getting absolutely killed by these fees," Councilor Flynn said. "If you're a small restaurant and you use third-party delivery services, you might have to close because the costs associated with these can outweigh it when you don't have enough pickup and delivery business."

Amy Healy, Grubhub's senior director of public affairs and the only representative of a third-party delivery service on hand for the virtual meeting, said this initiative was an example of "overstepping by government officials, and will face a legal challenge [from Grubhub]."

Healy described Grubhub as

a "fee-based service" that offers restaurants a range of options, such as marketing assistance.

"There's a menu of services restaurants can choose from when they decide to work with us," she said. "The fees are totally transparent and the contract with restaurants is completely transparent."

Healy said Grubhub charges all restaurants a 10-percent processing fee, and that drivers keep 100 percent of their tips per the current fee structure.

Grubhub pays for Personal Protective Equipment, as well as background checks and insurance, for drivers, she said, and the company incurs additional costs, such as providing customer service 24/7 and protecting the security of its platform.

"We also lose \$10 million a year in credit card fraud, and that's \$10 million that the restaurants don't have to eat," Healy said.

John Schall, owner of El Jefe's Taqueria, which has locations in Cambridge and Bethlehem, Pa., said until March 16, deliveries accounted for only 25 percent of sales at both restaurants, with between 7 and 8 percent of revenue going towards delivery fees.

Now, delivery accounts for about 75 percent of sales at both restaurants, and he has paid \$86,000 in delivery fees in the past eight weeks, he said.

Schall said 8 percent of his revenue went towards paying third-party delivery fees before the pandemic hit, but that number has since spiked to between 18 and 19 percent of his total revenue.

He said opening restaurants at reduced capacity would be the only way for them to offset what they are now paying in third-party delivery fees.

"If it's not addressed permanently, there will be a second wave of restaurant closures and thousands more jobs lost," Schall

added.

Steve Clark, director of government affairs for the Massachusetts Restaurants Association, said according to a recent study, 46 percent of restaurants statewide are now closed, and that 30 to 40 percent of the state's restaurants might not reopen.

As one alternative to third-party restaurant delivery services, City Councilor Kenzie Bok suggested creating a coop for delivery drivers that would "take care of the drivers' wages and needs, separate from the giant platform."

Councilor Bok also requested a "more-detailed breakdown" of how the fee structure works for third-party services, as well as "more transparency in pricing to help [people] make fully informed decisions on how to support restaurants."

City Councilor O'Malley proposed transitioning [to a working session to more thoroughly explore the matter.

## As the state begins to reopen, Walsh continues to ask for "caution and commitment" from residents

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on Tuesday, a day after Governor Baker released his four phase reopening plan for the state.

Walsh said that as of Monday, Boston had 11,958 cases of COVID-19 and 587 people had passed away. "The number of active cases in the City continues to decline," he said.

The City continues to ramp up testing in neighborhoods and "continues to build a Citywide strategy."

Walsh urged residents to keep staying at home and working from home "as much as possible." He also said that "we need to continue to practice physical and social distancing," as well as washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, and wearing face coverings in public.

"Reopening means bringing the same caution and commitment to stopping the spread," Walsh

said, and "continuing to follow the science and the public health guidance."

Walsh said that although Baker's plan allowed for the start of construction on May 18, the City of Boston has implemented a phased plan for the restarting of construction.

Similarly, the governor's plan allows for the opening of office space starting on May 25, with 25 capacity, but Boston's offices will not be allowed to reopen until June 1, which Walsh said gives the City more time to "work collaboratively on safety plans." He said that Boston's population of roughly 700,000 nearly doubles in size every day as people come in for work, so office space reopening in Boston will be carefully thought out to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible.

Walsh said that this will include things like continuing to work from home wherever possible, communication with employees, cleaning protocols, ventilation in

office spaces, and more.

He said detailed guidelines for office buildings will be released next week.

For small businesses, retail stores will be able to open for curbside pickup on May 25, and the City is "developing creative public space solutions in business districts," he said.

"Reopening must only happen in a way that's safe for you, your workers, and your customers," Walsh said. He added that just because the date will come where businesses are permitted to open doesn't mean they have to if they do not feel safe doing so. He said that the City will continue to offer assistance and support to small businesses.

Governor Baker's plan also allowed for the reopening of houses of worship at 40 percent capacity beginning on May 18. "I know that people are missing their in-person services," Walsh said, but he advised seniors and those at high risk to skip the in

person services and connect with their religious leaders to continue participating in services remotely.

For those who will be attending in person services, social distancing should be in effect and face coverings should be worn "at all times."

Walsh said that the City "will not take steps that put anyone under risk," and assured residents that the City will "continue to reach out to you with information and resources to help you and your family. Our goal is to not return to what existed before, but build a more equitable and resilient City."

He also made note of the 46th annual EMS week, saying that Boston's EMS workers "deserve a special thank you" this year for everything they have done to help keep Boston safe and healthy during this pandemic.

When asked about the Boston Marathon that has been rescheduled for September 14, Walsh said that when the original decision

was made to move the marathon, the hope was that COVID-19 would no longer be a health risk. Walsh could not provide any specific updates regarding the marathon, but he said that he is having conversations with stakeholders "on the best way to move forward."

At Fenway Park, Walsh said that he'd "love to see games played with no fans" this summer as long as players are comfortable doing so, but nothing official has been announced yet.

Walsh urged residents to keep up the work that they have been doing so far to stop the spread of the virus, and he said he appreciates the governor's phased in approach to reopening the state, which has been criticized by some for being too quick, and by others for being too slow.

"I think the phased-in approach that the governor is taking is a very thoughtful approach," he said.

### CAUTION (from pg. 4)

hands and distancing from each other at work."

But despite the necessity, Sen. Brownsberger admits adhering to this safety protocol can seem counterintuitive at times.

"Wearing a mask takes a whole lot to get used to, and there's a natural desire to go in for a hug, which isn't something

we can do now," he said. "These things aren't second nature to all of us."

Yet Sen. Brownsberger doesn't expect this will change anytime soon.

"I think it's entirely likely that we're going to have different lifestyles and engage in different ways for months if not years," he said.

## Myles' Musings

By Myles Striar

### Hard to be wise

It's a difficult time to be wise  
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## FOOD (from pg. 1)

Added Livingstone, “Blackstone in particular was very cooperative, and we hope it helps everyone get through this time.”

Meanwhile, Rep. Livingstone, Councilor Bok and others plan to distribute approximately 350 more boxes of food to residents of Beacon House, the Peter Faneuil House and the Amy Lowell Apartments tomorrow, Friday, May 22.



Volunteers (above and below) helped to distribute food boxes Tuesday morning.



## Livingstone holds first virtual office hours

By Dan Murphy

State Rep. Jay Livingstone connected with constituents during his first virtual office hours last Thursday, May 14.

The virtual office hours drew around 12 to 14 participants from Beacon Hill, the West End, Back Bay and Cambridgeport. But unlike his normal office hours, which Rep. Livingstone typically holds once a month in the neighborhoods he represents to speak individually to those in attendance, this new format allowed him to interact with everyone tuning in at once in real time.

Participants from the West

End were eager to discuss the closure of Lechmere station on May 24 for almost a year to work on the MBTA Green Line, Rep. Livingstone said.

Shuttle buses will run between the Lechmere area and North Station for the duration of construction, and Rep. Livingstone said he has worked with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to situate a new bus stop in front of Whittier Place in accordance with the wishes of West End residents.

The virtual discussion also touched on reopening the economy and associated health concerns, Rep. Livingstone said.

“At the state level, I’m looking at if restaurants are allowed to reopen, how they could have an easier time receiving approval for outdoor space,” he said. “And if restaurants have a liquor license, they now need approval from both the city and the state, so I’m working on streamlining the state process to lessen time.”

Otherwise, Rep. Livingstone said his virtual office hours were relatively standard fare.

“People had questions about pending legislation,” he said. “It was typical office hours.”

Rep. Livingstone said he intends to hold virtual office hours once a month going forward.

## COVID Relief Coalition offers pro bono legal work to state’s small business and nonprofits

By Dan Murphy

One neighborhood lawyer has joined a number of fellow attorneys to provide pro bono work to the state’s small businesses and nonprofits in the age of COVID-19.

Christian Westra, an attorney with the Ropes & Gray and a Charles River Square resident, helped establish the COVID Relief Coalition – an alliance of Massachusetts law firms, nonprofits and government agencies established in late March to help small businesses and nonprofits statewide access emergency loans and other sources of relief during the pandemic. As of May 16, the Coalition had already received 200 requests for pro bono legal work, he said.

“We’re eager to help as many people as we can,” he said. “Small businesses and nonprofits can go fill out an intake form on our website (at covidreliefcoalition.com), and that will go out to the law firms, Then we’ll contact you and set up an appointment, assuming you qualify and most people qualify.”

Westra added, “We’re a pretty

broad-based group, so we try to be as inclusive as possible and get the word out to as many people as we can.”

Through the Coalition, referrals are shared between participating law firms, and they communicate on how to help guide clients through the process with the Small Business Administration, among other entities.

“We also help people how to deal with challenges of not being able to pay rent or utilities, and help with situations that are specific to their businesses,” Westra said.

But, as Westra concedes, even the Coalition members are trying to grasp how the constantly changing and seemingly ambiguous process works.

“Our guidance is continuing to evolve,” he said. “People don’t have a clear understanding of how loan forgiveness works so we help people assess the risks and figure out what makes the most sense for their business and organizations.”

Of particular interest to many of the Coalition’s clients are the terms of the Small Business Administration’s Payment Protection Program (PPP), which

provides forgivable loans to small businesses to help pay employees during the pandemic. “We expect to get more questions as people start to think about loan forgiveness for the PPP,” Westra said.

To help small businesses and nonprofits navigate this terrain, the Coalition has “tried to capture some key documents,” as well as providing contact information for other sources of relief specific to their circumstances. The Coalition also provides information on how to access unemployment benefits and other resources to help individuals.

Westra said his commitment to the Coalition was spurred by his desire to help the neighborhood he loves recover from the ongoing pandemic.

“As a neighbor and someone who lives right next to Charles Street, it was heartbreaking to see all the closed shops and how it impacted people in such a significant way,” he said. “But one of the things I can do as a lawyer is help marshal my colleagues to give free legal advice through the coalition.”

To learn more, visit covidreliefcoalition.com.

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## The Hill Tavern marks quarter-century milestone

By Dan Murphy

The Hill Tavern marked a quarter-century milestone Friday when its founding partners assumed ownership of the now iconic Beacon Hill bar and restaurant.

"May 15, 1995, was when we passed papers and money, but we didn't open until that September 15," said Mark Murphy, who together with fellow Pittsfield, Mass., native Peter Culpo, continues to own and operate the establishment at 228 Cambridge St.

Before then, the space was home to Sporters, a longtime gay bar that Murphy recalls was so popular it sold around 200 cases of Budweiser each week. And in paying homage to that chapter in history, several vintage posters from Sporters' heyday donated by

patrons of the erstwhile establishment now adorn the walls of The Hill Tavern, Murphy said.

Upon opening, the Hill Tavern quickly cultivated a regular clientele from around the neighborhood, along with college students and workers from Mass General and other area hospitals.

"Everybody says we're like 'Cheers,'" Murphy said. "We're pretty neighborhood-ish, and many people have worked here for years. It's a friendly place."

As a testament to this, The Hill Tavern has been repeatedly named "The Best Neighborhood Bar" by the Improper Boston, along with earning countless other accolades.

Murphy also takes pride in knowing that many employees have stayed with the restaurant long-term, including several staff

members who started working there as Suffolk University students and continued on for 10 or 15 years, as well as a manager who just stepped down from his post after nearly 20 years on the job.

In the end, though, Murphy credits The Hill Tavern's steady success to the neighborhood for embracing the establishment from the start.

"I try to keep the neighbors happy, and the neighborhood has been good to us" he said. "I always wanted to be a good neighbor, and that is one of the keys to our success."

The Hill Tavern is now offering delivery via the DoorDash and UberEats delivery services, or takeout by calling the restaurant ahead at 617-742-6192. To view the menu, visit [thehilltavern.com](http://thehilltavern.com).



The Hill Tavern located on 228 Cambridge St.

## Seven neighborhood businesses receive grants from Small Business Relief Fund

By Dan Murphy

Seven Beacon Hill businesses are among the recipients of the initial round of funding from the city's Small Business Relief Fund.

La Carte Massage by Toe2Heal, Black Ink, Inc., bonne chance café, North Station Barbers, Ouimillie, Suds N Duds and Weston Eyecare, LLC (d.b.a. Yosemite Eyewear) were among 561 businesses to receive a total of \$2 million in funding through the program.

"The Small Business Relief Fund grants are critical to help struggling small businesses across the city address challenges brought on by COVID-19," Mayor Martin Walsh said in a statement. "These businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the lifeblood of our communities. I'm proud we are able to assist them during this time, and am grateful to our

partners who have stepped up in a big way to support Boston's neighborhood business community."

Moreover, 58 percent of the businesses receiving grants through the program are owned by people of color while 48 and 44 percent are owned by women immigrants, respectively. And 95 percent went to businesses with 15 or fewer employees. The top 10 zip codes with the most recipients were East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Brighton, South End, Dorchester, Roslindale and Roxbury.

An additional \$5.5 million in funding is being added to fully fund all eligible grant requests submitted during the application process, which combines newly available federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; as well as commitments from Citizens Bank and Eastern Bank, according to Mayor Walsh's office.

## Parks parcel priority plan survey now underway

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging park users and open space advocates to take part in the City of Boston's new Parcel Priority Plan (PPP) using an online survey. The survey results will be used in developing the open space acquisition Parcel Priority Plan, and the City of Boston encourages residents from every neighborhood to share their feedback.

Enhancing and enlarging Boston's network of resilient public open space is critical, and the Parcel Priority Plan will identify and evaluate lands in the city that should be acquired or protected as open spaces. This will be used for

the development of the update to the City of Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Questions that are a part of the survey include:

- Where would you like to see open space?
- What should the City of Boston focus on when acquiring or protecting open space?

Residents' responses will shape the future of Boston's park system.

Survey responses will be combined with data modeling and the City's priorities to create the Parcel Priority Plan. This is an essential first step in understanding where the Parks and Recreation Department has opportunities to

expand the open space network. Creating new open space and protecting existing open space will move forward as opportunities and funding are available.

The online survey is available in six languages in addition to English. To participate, please visit [boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan](http://boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan).

Interpretation and translation services are available at no cost. To access these services or learn more about the project, please contact Maggie Owens at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617) 961-3025 or email [maggie.owens@boston.gov](mailto:maggie.owens@boston.gov).



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## CITY PAWS

# Help prevent animal surrenders

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In difficult times, some people have to make a heartbreaking decision to surrender their animals to a shelter or rescue organization. They may have lost a pet-friendly residence, they may have taken on a second or third job to make ends meet, or they may be simply no longer able to afford the expense of having an animal.

We have also noted all the people who saw their time at home as the perfect opportunity to adopt a dog or cat. People literally emptied shelters. On April 13th, Mother Nature Network reported, "As more people are sheltering at home, they're deciding to do it with a new temporary or permanent family member. Many rescue groups and shelters across the country are reporting success in finding homes and fosters for their furry residents."

When normal times return, some of those animals will need to be rehomed. Foster families will work with shelters and rescue groups to find permanent homes for the animals in their care. Some of those who adopted animals will discover that a dog or cat that fit into a work-at-home, stay-at-

home lifestyle is not manageable when they return to a regular workday, social life and travel schedule.

## How to Help Those You Know

Begin close to home by keeping a watchful eye on the problems friends and family face caring for their animals. You might be able to use your connections, in addition to theirs, to discover a way forward.

If housing is the issue, you could help find a pet-friendly place. You might know of a second friend or family member who could use a housemate.

When time is the issue, consider matching-making a pet share that would let someone without a dog take over a few of the daily walks, or let the dog visit while their guardian works some extra shifts. If your dog gets along well with a neighbor's dog, you might offer to take the two for a walk from time-to-time.

Offer to play cat sitter for someone who has to work long hours. By checking on and playing with the cat during the day, you can help ensure a friend a bit more sleep when they don't have to deal with a cat who is a bit too full of energy at night.

When money is the problem, consider gifts that will allow those who need to care for their animals to do so. Instead of a specific physical gift that they might not need or want, try giving a gift card that could let them buy pet food, pay for a vet visit, or grooming if that's more important to them.

## Collect and Support Community Resources

There are some community resources in place that might help support the effort to keep animals with their families. Something as simple as using a low-cost rabies clinic rather than paying for a full veterinarian visit to update that required vaccination helps. There are also some lower-cost spay and neuter programs.

However, we are going to need more community-based programs to assist families to keep their animals as they recover from a loss of income and opportunities. In the Greater Boston area, the MSPCA and Boston Animal Rescue League will take a leadership role and will need all of us to support their efforts.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place

Hill House, located at 127 Mount Vernon St., is running a Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place on Harrison Avenue.

Participants can either make their own masks or purchase through a local shop, 4Good Vibes, based in Somerville. They have offered to sell their hand-made masks to Hill House and then donate 50 more masks if the nonprofit can reach 100 masks donated. You can purchase masks on their special Rosie's Place site <https://4goodvibes.bigcartel.com/product/rosies-place-face-mask>.

After payment is received, 4 Good Vibes will send the masks directly to Rosie's, but if you plan to make your own, you can send them to: Rosie's Place, Attn: Sandy Mariano, 889 Harrison

Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

Contact Meredith Adamczyk at [madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org) with any other questions.

## Hill House running free virtual family events

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., has launched a series of free family events at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday, Family Fun events will include how to make your own Playdough, a Kitchen Fridge Art show and more. On Fridays, get your athletic juices flowing with live dance parties, camp sing-alongs and more.

These events are free, and registration links available at [www.hillhouseboston.org](http://www.hillhouseboston.org). To register or to learn more about Hill House virtual events, contact Meredith at [madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org).

## SBA and Treasury release paycheck protection program

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, released the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application and detailed instructions for the application.

The form and instructions inform borrowers how to apply for forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). SBA will also soon issue regulations and guidance to further assist borrowers as they complete their applications, and to provide lenders with guidance on their responsibilities.

The form and instructions include several measures to reduce compliance burdens and simplify the process for borrowers, including:

- Options for borrowers to calculate payroll costs using an "alternative payroll covered period" that aligns with borrowers' regular payroll cycles.
- Flexibility to include eligible

payroll and non-payroll expenses paid or incurred during the eight-week period after receiving their PPP loan.

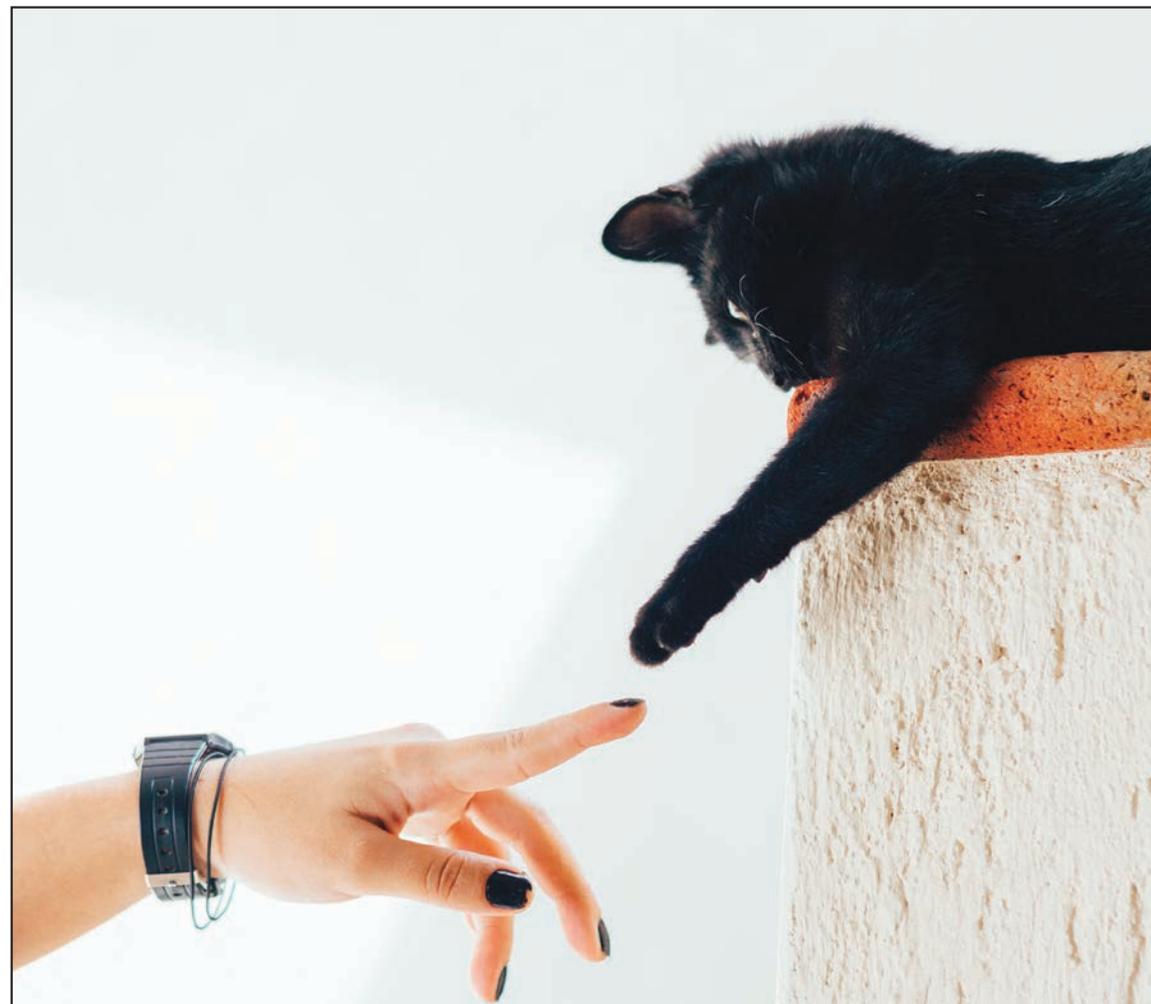
- Step-by-step instructions on how to perform the calculations required by the CARES Act to confirm eligibility for loan forgiveness.

- Borrower-friendly implementation of statutory exemptions from loan forgiveness reduction based on rehiring by June 30.

- Addition of a new exemption from the loan forgiveness reduction for borrowers who have made a good-faith, written offer to rehire workers that was declined.

The PPP was created by the CARES Act to provide forgivable loans to eligible small businesses to keep American workers on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. The documents released today will help small businesses seek forgiveness at the conclusion of the eight-week covered period, which begins with the disbursement of their loans.

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You could offer to play cat-sitter for a friend who is working extra shifts. (Photo by Humberto Arellano)

# Flaherty holds Community Preservation Committee Hearing to review \$24.3 million in CPA funding

Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty recently held a hearing of the Boston City Council's Community Preservation Committee, in his role as Chair of the committee, to review and recommend the passage of the appropriation of \$24,309,000 in FY20 Community Preservation Fund revenues. The City of Boston's Community Preservation Committee recommended these funds be used to support 40 projects across the city. This year \$15,750,000.00 will be used to support 9 affordable housing projects; \$3,440,000 for historic preservation projects; and \$5,119,000 for projects focused on the creation and preservation of recreational use and open space projects.

Following a very productive virtual hearing on Tuesday May 5th with testimony from project advocates, neighborhood leaders,

and representatives from the City of Boston, Councilor Flaherty is prepared to recommend passage of all 40 projects at the amounts designated by the Mayor. "I was pleased with the quality of the applications we received this year. Each and every project we reviewed was fully deserving of funding," said Councilor Flaherty. "Community Preservation Funds are all about making sure residents have a voice in the betterment of their communities and I am confident that each of these projects will go a long way towards improving the quality of life in our City."

The Community Preservation Fund was created upon the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B in November 2016. In just three rounds of funding to date, over \$67 million has been awarded

to 131 projects spanning across every neighborhood of Boston. Councilor Flaherty is proud of the success of this program thus far, having taken a leadership role in the campaign alongside the Yes for a Better Boston Coalition for its passage by popular vote in the City of Boston in 2016 and as the Chairman of the City Council's Community Preservation Committee since its inception. Many projects from earlier rounds of funding are at or nearing completion and have had a transformative effect on their neighborhoods already.

Among these 40 projects are three historical preservation projects in Boston City Council District 1, two projects in Charlestown, and one in East Boston totaling \$820,000. In Charlestown, these funds will contribute to a sprinkler relocation project at the USS Constitution Museum to ensure

that this cultural resource is available for generations to come, as well as critical roof repairs to the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center which offers early education, Head Start, and a range of crisis response, anti-poverty services to low-income families and seniors. In East Boston, these funds will contribute to the purchase and acquisition of the Donald McKay House, which will become the new home of the East Boston Museum.

"In district one, I'm thrilled to see CPA funds utilized for critical investments in historical preservation. Congratulations to both the Kennedy Family Services Center and the USS Constitution Museum for their respective grants to renovate vital learning environments for local children in Charlestown", said District One Councilor Lydia Edwards. "Thank you to the CPC for it's \$600,000 award to buy,

preserve, and renovate the Donald McKay House in historic Eagle Hill to be utilized as the East Boston Museum. We are thankful to the East Boston Museum and Historical Society, the EBCDC, and generations of activists who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. East Boston is one step closer in securing space for a museum that celebrates our neighborhood's rich history."

"These historic preservation projects are important to keeping our communities connected to places that reflect the rich histories of Charlestown and East Boston", said Councilor Flaherty. "As our City grows and changes, it's important that we preserve spaces where we can honor our history and build and continue to serve our communities."

## MEETING (from pg. 1)

director of the organization, also donated 250 protective masks, courtesy of the Civic Association, to residents of Beacon House, the Bowdoin School Apartment Homes on Myrtle Street, the Peter Faneuil House and the Anderson Park apartments at 250 Cambridge St., as well as to the Church of the Advent, which offers a free meal each Wednesday to the underserved. And the Civic Association has ordered 200 more masks to distribute throughout the neighborhood, Whitney said.

Also, the Civic Association's various committees kept busy last year, Whitney said, including the Architecture Committee, which reviewed numerous applications, such as one submitted by ownership of the Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro that aims to transform the street-level experience; the Zoning and Licensing Committee, which recently held its first-ever virtual meeting to review requested variances being sought by the owners of a proposed Charles Street bookstore; the Streets and Sidewalks Committee, which partnered with the city last year on a pilot program that brought plastic, collapsible trash bins to the neighborhood; and the Planning Committee, which continues to provide input on the planned expansion of Mass General Hospital.

The Civic Association had great success over the past year sending out 89 e-blasts to approximately 2,000 subscribers, which were viewed by 35 percent of recipients as opposed to the indus-

try standard of 18 percent, Tully said.

While every previous year since the program's inception in 1997, the Civic Association has awarded the Beacon Award in recognition of the recipient's "significant and sustained" contribution to the community at the annual meeting, the decision was made to postpone its presentation for now "so it can have the in-person attention it deserves," said Eve Waterfall, who stepped down from her post as chair of the organization, but will remain on as a board member.

An appearance by the annual meeting's scheduled featured speaker, Joseph Bagley, the city's archeologist was also postponed, but Waterfall said the Civic Association would invite him back to speak in the future.

Meanwhile, Ben Starr, the Civic Association's outgoing clerk, presided over the election of its officers for the upcoming year, including Whitney as chair; Meghan Awe as president; Andrew Kirk as treasurer; and Joshua Leffler as clerk.

While Starr and Emi Winterer are leaving their respective posts as clerk and treasurer, both will stay on as board members.

New incoming board members include Melanie Bertani, Patrick Lee and Ali Ringenburg, who also serves as co-president of the Beacon Hill Business Association, while Erik Erlingsson, James Ewing and Tim Pingree are stepping down from the board.

## HELP (from pg. 1)

ness, but even that amount is very meaningful to them."

The goal now is to determine how many businesses will opt in or out for the program by Monday, May 25, and Coldren requests that businesses notify Ringenburg at beaconsmallbusiness@gmail.com with their answers by that time.

"We're also asking businesses to submit their most recent electric bill, as well as the recipient's name," Coldren said.

Afterwards, \$500 will be put towards plantings on Charles Street while the remaining balance be equally divided amongst eligible businesses; only independent businesses paying rent in the neighborhood, having less than 35 employees and that were open before March 24 when Gov. Charlie Baker issued his stay-

at-home order and who plan to reopen are eligible to receive funding.

The GoFundMe page for the campaign can still be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ep67vh-supporting-beacon-hill-small-businesses>, and will stay open for those who would still like to support the cause. Donors can also opt to send a check payable to the Beacon Hill Business Association to Cambridge Trust, Attn: Stacy, 65 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

"People can still contribute, and we'll do another round of checks in June if we raise enough money," Coldren said.

Coldren and Ringenburg also expect to learn in the coming weeks whether GoFundMe would match the money raised through their online campaign.

Meanwhile, Coldren said many owners of eligible businesses have already reached out to express their gratitude.

"They're very appreciative and can't believe the generosity," she said. "They don't have the bandwidth to set up GoFundMe pages on their own because they're focused on maintaining and figuring out their businesses."

Francisco Medrano, who owns Adela's Hair Studio on Pinckney Street, is among those who will benefit from the fundraising campaign.

"It's nice to know that people in then neighborhood really care about their small businesses," Medrano said, "and there are a lot of [business owners] who could use not only the financial support but emotional support from knowing that people care."

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**HARVARD GARDENS AND RED BULL SHOW GRATITUDE FOR MGH NURSES**  
 Photos courtesy Emily Burke  
 In an effort to show support and gratitude on National Nurses Day, Harvard Gardens and Red Bull provided a free grab-and-go lunch to the nurses at Mass General Hospital on Wednesday, May 6. A station was set up outside the Cambridge Street restaurant, where MGH nurses stopped by to pick up lunch and Red Bull from the team.  
 Lunches included a variety of sandwiches, a Red Bull Energy Drink and assorted snacks, and the meal coincided with a flyover by the 104th Fighter Wing.  
 On April 1, Harvard Gardens also gave away hundreds of free, bagged lunches to MGH doctors and staff in a display of gratitude to healthcare professionals working in the age of COVID-19.

**Walsh cancels all festivals and parades for the summer; Boston Pops to hold virtual July 4th event**  
 By Lauren Bennett  
 Mayor Walsh on May 8 announced that all festivals and parades scheduled to be held on city property this summer, up to and including Labor Day, will be cancelled. He encouraged organizers of these events to create virtual versions so people could still participate without gathering in large crowds.  
 “This is a public health decision and it’s the right decision,” he said at a press conference last Friday. He said that smaller scale events may be able to happen later in the city, but everything will be evaluated on a “case by case basis.”  
 Walsh said in a statement, “While we’re planning a healthy reopening and an equitable recovery process, I know this announcement...”  
 (SUMMER CANCELLED Pg. 5)

**Rep. Livingstone to hold virtual office hours**  
 By Dan Murphy  
 While holding traditional office hours at coffee shops in the neighborhoods he represents isn’t an option now, State Rep. Jay Livingstone is connecting with his constituents via virtual office hours today, Thursday, May 14, from 4 to 6 p.m.  
 “I normally have office hours at least once a month in each neighborhood I represent, but I’m not able to do so now because I can’t meet them in person,” Rep. Livingstone said.  
 As in previous office hours,  
 (LIVINGSTONE Pg. 3)

**Candidate for 8th Congressional district hopes to achieve single-payer healthcare system**  
 By Dan Murphy  
 Dr. Robbie Goldstein said his decision for seeking the 8th Congressional district seat boils down to just one thing: assuring that all citizens have access to universal and comprehensive healthcare coverage.  
 “I’m a firm believer in a single-payer healthcare system, which is the only way to both guarantee access and controls cost,” Dr. Goldstein, a primary care physician at Mass General Hospital and South Boston resident, said of his decision to challenge the incumbent, Stephen Lynch. “One thing I often say in this race is my goal is to bring healthcare to all Americans, but I think of that as being much larger than an insurance card in everyone’s pocket.”  
 A native of Pittsfield, N.Y., outside Rochester, Dr. Goldstein relocated to the Boston area nearly two decades ago to attend Tufts University, from where he earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a PhD in cancer genetics. He then came to MGH for his medical training before eventually joining its faculty.  
 Today, Dr. Goldstein is a primary care physician at Mass General, as well an infectious disease specialist focused on treating those living with or at risk of contracting HIV. Besides seeing his own patients and overseeing a staff of 10, he teaches at Harvard Medical School, where he has helped create an additional LGBTQ curriculum. He is also the author of numerous articles published in the New England Journal of Medicine.  
 Dr. Goldstein said the COVID-19 pandemic is an issue that now often preoccupies him not only as a medical professional who specializes in treating infectious diseases, but also as a Congressional hopeful who would represent the eastern portion of the state and includes portions of Bristol, and  
 (GOLDSTEIN Pg. 11)

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# FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# John D. O'Bryant School youth group wins award at virtual Kick Butts Day

This year, the annual Kick Butts Day event at the Massachusetts State House could not take place. However youth from The 84 Movement still wanted an event to celebrate their efforts to reduce the influence of the tobacco and vaping industries in their communities. So the young leaders created and participated in a virtual training and awards ceremony via Zoom on April 29. The 245 participating youth and adults from around the Commonwealth all work to educate and mobilize young people in their communities about tobacco and vaping industry targeting.

The 84 Movement virtual event celebrated the groundbreaking legislation in Massachusetts that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products, including mint and menthol products. The importance of the new law and other efforts to protect youth is heightened during the time of the coronavirus as evidence grows that smoking and vaping can harm the body's ability to fight COVID-19.

Opening remarks at the virtual Kick Butts Day: Take Down Tobacco awards ceremony were delivered by Senator John Keenan and Representative Danielle Gregoire, co-authors of An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control. They emphasized that youth activism played a pivotal role in the development and passage of what Senator Keenan called "the nation-leading law." Senator Keenan explained that the strong bill became a law because "quite simply we had an incredible group of young people standing up for their generation."

During the awards ceremony, awards were presented to individuals and chapters of The

84 Movement for their dedication to reducing the impact of tobacco in their communities and across Massachusetts. The 2020 Community Change Award went to PUSH-Up Peer Leaders from the John D. O'Bryant School in Boston. The Community Change Award is presented to a chapter for demonstrating exceptional efforts in advancing local policies that reduce youth exposure to tobacco industry tactics.

Students from the PUSH-Up Peer Leaders attended bi-weekly chapter meetings, went to rallies and visited the State House to make their voices heard. They promoted health and wellness in their community and partnered with other organizations to host peer-to-peer trainings. Especially noteworthy, the PUSH-Up Peer Leaders attended a hearing of the Boston Public Health Commission as it considered restricting where flavored tobacco products, including mint and menthol products, are sold. Giving testimony in a room that included fifty tobacco store owners and workers, the young leaders spoke about why the flavor restriction is important and why public health should be a priority. They consistently stand up for racial justice and health equity, addressing how people of color, particularly black people, are targeted by the tobacco and vaping industries.

John Daley, the adult advisor and founder of the PUSH-Up Peer Leaders program expressed his gratitude for the award and his pride for what the youth have accomplished. "It feels amazing the youth are being recognized for their hard work. They have a passion and strength when they speak, and it really makes a differ-



*Pictured from left to right: Seteven Wu, Adult Advisor John Daley, Shali Holiday, Ciarra Frederick, Paula Villarruel, Saniya Antoine, Congresswoman Ayanna Presley, Gabriel Dell'Isola, Nashari Rogers, Armani Rivas, Alexis Walls, and Yerimar Bethancourt.*

ence. Youth voices are the spark for change, and it feels amazing to see the effect the youth have had on local policy change."

The youth of the program were also very happy to be winning the award. Paula Villarruel, a member of the PUSH-Up program, stated "I was not expecting it but it really shows all the work we have been doing and it feels nice to be recognized. I am proud of how much we have done in the PUSH-Up Peer Leadership Program and I am really excited about the things we will do in the future. I really enjoy being part of the PUSH-Up program because we are trying to make our community a better and safer place for teens."

At previous Kick Butts Day events at the State House, hundreds of youth from The 84 Movement visited their legislators

telling stories of tobacco industry influences that concern them and explaining their work to pass protective local policies in their communities. Following this year's online event, The 84 Movement chapters are virtually thanking their legislators for hearing their voices, listening to their local stories over the years, and doing their part to protect youth from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

The 84 Movement is a program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program, developed and managed in partnership with Health Resources in Action. Created in 2007, The 84 represents the 84% of Massachusetts youth who did not smoke cigarettes (in 2017 that number was 93%). For more information on The 84 Movement

and the work being done throughout the Commonwealth to reduce tobacco and vaping industry influence on youth, visit [www.The84.org](http://www.The84.org), [mass.gov/vaping](http://mass.gov/vaping) and [www.makesmokinghistory.org](http://www.makesmokinghistory.org)

The Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership supports communities' efforts to lower smoking prevalence and exposure to secondhand smoke; enhance state and local tobacco control efforts by exposing tobacco industry tactics; mobilizing the community to support and adopt evidence-based policies; and changing social norms. Funded by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program, Community Partnerships serve as a resource for local coalitions, health and human service agencies, municipalities, and workplaces on tobacco intervention efforts

## Hill House United travel soccer teams go virtual

Hill House, Inc., an independent, nonprofit community center in downtown Boston has adapted its more than 100-plus enrichment and athletics programs into synchronous virtual learning opportunities, including its travel youth soccer league, United.

Realizing the importance of health and wellness during the COVID-19 shut down, Hill House's United teams, consisting of approximately 100 players in Grades 3-6 from around the City of Boston, continued their training virtually. Occurring twice a week from player's homes, these trainings allow participants to keep up and advance their foot skills while navigating the use of small spaces.

Working with Hill House's top coaches, Coach Pat, Coach Mike and Coach Jonny, players have welcomed the change and continued to excel in the sport.

"The transition has gone smoother than we imagined," said Hill House Athletics Director Marshall Caldera. "Our coaches are being creative with exploring everything you can do with limited supplies and limited space. They also emphasize real-time interaction with peers and coaches, speaking to different players throughout the session to keep them engaged. In a lot of ways, the focus level has been higher than when they're all in person during live practices."

The change also has been welcomed by parents of players.

"Coach Pat was engaging. His lesson was well planned and physically demanding. The training drills were excellent and the instruction was clear over the Zoom call. I was closely watching the session and I got inspired to do my own stretches and drills too! I can tell you [my daughter] was super happy after the session, she would not stop talking about the drills, and she was exhausted. The sessions are a great way for the children not only to work on personal skills, but also to release some of their energy," said one parent of players in Grade 3 and Grade 5. "I highly recommend all

United players participate in the sessions next week."

Hill House will continue these trainings throughout the spring season, and plan to keep it up during the summer as well for the health and well being of all players and families. For more information about Hill House's United travel youth soccer teams or any of its other virtual athletic programs, contact Marshall Caldera by email at [mcaldera@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:mcaldera@hillhouseboston.org). For full listings or more information about all of Hill House's virtual spring programming including enrichment and athletics, visit <http://www.hillhouseboston.org>.

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# Bay Village HDC hears townhome proposal for 132 Arlington St. parking lot

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission held its first virtual meeting via Zoom on May 12, where an advisory review for the construction of nine rowhouses on the existing parking lot at 132 Arlington St. was heard. The Commission was in favor of the proposal, but they did not take an official vote.

David Goldman of New Boston Ventures said that the project team's "goal from the very beginning" was to create a project on this site that was "not controversial," "complies with existing zoning," and "fits into the neighborhood."

The project consist of nine three story adjacent townhouses with garage parking that, according to Goldman, comply with Floor Area Ratio and "all other applicable law" except for Groundwater Conservation Overlay District requirements. He added that the team has

met twice before with Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, to get input and feedback on the direction of the proposal, and this was the first time the full Commission had seen it.

Goldman added that there is an 1890 Sanborn map of Ederly Place that was lined with townhouses in this location. "In some ways, it's a nod to the historic nature of the street and what once stood there," he said.

Architect Jonathan Garland explained that the project fronts on Ederly Place, and he went through some of the design features that the team has chosen so far.

"We want to be very compatible with the scale of the neighborhood," he said. "The use of materiality is important." The townhomes will be red brick, with a warm colored metal used on the rear facade and the window bays

on the front.

He discussed other buildings in the neighborhood where inspiration was drawn from, including the building across the street with the "green datum line above the entry," which Garland said "strikes a balance of the base of the building and the upper levels." He said they are looking at a similar datum height for the townhouses, as it "feels connected and compatible between the proposed and the existing."

He also referenced the Boston Center for Adult Education building, which is adjacent to this proposed development. That building is around three stories high, so Garland said the townhouses would appropriately fit in with the scale of existing buildings.

"There are a lot of three and four story buildings in the area," he said.

Additionally, there will be a single garage door for each of the townhomes, and brick and possibly cobblestone paving will be used to "make this feel pedestrian," Garland said.

There will be a backyard garden patio that works with the cornice lines, with a six foot high fence between each of the townhomes.

Garland said that a plate metal with a certain gauge would be used on the building to provide rigidity, and it would have a finish on it that prevents discoloration.

"At this moment, our thinking is that the yard space is the primary outdoor space, said

Dennis Kanin of New Boston Ventures. He said that they are currently leaning against the idea of installing roof decks, but that could change at a later date. However, there will be mechanical space on the roof that is "very low profile" and the parapet on the building would not allow the equipment to be visible from the street, Goldman said.

"I like what I see," Commissioner Stephen Dunwell said, adding that the fact that it is zoning compliant is a plus, especially for the neighborhood residents. "There's a lot to like here."

Dunwell also said that a lot of housing in Bay Village is industrial

turned residential, and Commissioner Thomas Hotaling said that these townhomes are a chance for housing to be differentiated even more.

"I think it's a lovely design," said Commissioner Ruth Knopf. "A lot of thought went into it," she added, and said it "fits into the space" and is "not exceeding boundaries like we're used to seeing."

Dennis Kanin said he has talked to someone who represents the new buyers of the abutting Boston Center for Adult Education building, and said that they are planning to keep the same height as the current building.

Goldman said that they are looking to build this "as quickly as possible," as all the financing is in place. This hearing was purely advisory and was a chance for Commissioners to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The project proponents must come back before the Commission with their final presentation for an official vote before they can proceed.



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