



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

Our office will be closed on Monday Sept. 7, for Labor Day. Have a Safe Day!

EVENING AT THE ESPLANADE



An evening walk through the Esplanade along the Charles River.

Our History, Our Selves

By Leah Rosovsky
Stanford Calderwood Director,
Boston Athenæum

When I started working at the Boston Athenæum, I didn't entirely appreciate one of the benefits: looking up close at history's treasures.

The special collections include dazzling things—and also some plain ones. I get to see them in person, like all members—and everyone can join or visit the Athenæum. Our curators mount exhibitions in the building and online. They focus attention on items that connect us to Boston's

history, and they spark conversations of critical importance.

We recently launched (Anti) SUFFRAGE, an online exhibition viewable at bostonathenaeum.org. Curated by Theo Tyson, the Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art and Culture at the Athenæum,

(HISTORY, Pg. 4)

Area A-1 sees 21-percent drop in Part One crime

By Dan Murphy

As August of 2020 was drawing to a close, Area A-1 had seen a 21-percent reduction in violent and property crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 1,252 incidents of Part One crime were reported between Jan. 1 and Aug. 30 of this year in the district

that includes Beacon Hill, Chinatown Downtown and the North End - down from 1,583 during the same timeframe in 2019.

No homicides were reported in the district either this year or last, while rapes and attempted rapes were down nearly 32 percent as the number dropped to 13 from 19 in 2019.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a more than 9-percent decline, with 88 so far in 2020 as opposed to 97 last year.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to 14 from 13 last year, but non-domestic aggra-

(CRIME, Pg. 3)

Happening on Charles Street

Longtime neighborhood merchant says 'everyone needs to pitch in' to save Charles Street

By Dan Murphy

A lot has changed on Charles Street since the late '60s when Jack Gurnon's father put him to work at the family business, Charles Street Supply Co.

"My brother and I started working there when we were kids - we were free labor so it was like summer camp for us," said Gurnon, who signed on as a full-time employee at the family hardware store, now located at 54 Charles St., upon earning his undergraduate degree from UMass in 1977.

Traffic was so bad a few years before then, as Gurnon recalls, that it resulted in a logjam from about 4 to 7 p.m. each day. But when Kevin White, then Boston's mayor and a Beacon Hill resident, changed the direction of traffic on Charles Street sometime around 1974 or '75, it went from being the main thoroughfare through the

city to the Mass, Turnpike and a somewhat seedy neighborhood that was home to a couple of adult bookstores to the haven for boutique shops and other high-end businesses that is today.

"After the change, it went back to being a neighborhood again," Gurnon said.

Encouraged by this development, Gurnon's father, Jack Gurnon Sr., and Tom Kreshaw, chairman of the Hampshire House Corporation, launched a trash collection program that repurposed whiskey barrels as garbage receptacles until the city eventually took over the task.

Charles Street businesses, meanwhile, have traditionally benefitted from what Gurnon describes as an "incredibly loyal clientele who live here and want to shop locally for that reason, to keep the neighborhood clean, quaint...and a fun

(CHARLES STREET, Pg. 4)



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES STREET SUPPLY CO.

Jack Gurnon, owner of Charles Street Supply Co. at 54 Charles St.

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check
www.beaconhilltimes.com

EDITORIAL

DO NOT LITTER YOUR MASKS

For those of us who take note of the problem of litter (and who often bring along a bag to pick up litter when we are walking along a beach), we are accustomed to the plethora of styrofoam cups and single-use plastic bottles that have been discarded carelessly by our fellow citizens, some of whom seem to treat the environment as their personal trash bin.

But in the past few months we have noticed a new kind of litter that has become prevalent along our roads and on our beaches: Discarded face masks.

The masks that comprise most of the littering problem are the light-blue, layered masks with elastic bands for the ears. These are lightweight, single-use masks that blow easily in the wind and often end up along the shoreline and eventually in our waterways.

If the stuff that comprises litter is representative of our disposable society, then it is a good thing to see that people are using face masks, an indication that we are heeding public health warnings about the best way to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

However, being a good citizen in that regard does not absolve mask-users of the obligation to dispose of their masks properly, let alone give them the right to toss them onto public property.

So please be sure to toss those masks into a trash-bin -- that's as simple as it gets.

COLLEGE SPORTS HAS SERIOUS RISKS FOR ATHLETES

When President Trump was in New Hampshire for a campaign rally two weeks ago, he implored the Big 10 athletic directors to reconsider their recent decision to postpone their college football season from fall until the spring.

"Big Ten, get with it! Open up your season, Big Ten. These are young strong guys -- they're not gonna' be affected by the virus...These are big, strong guys. They will be just fine," Trump said.

However, as with so many comments made by Trump these past seven months concerning the coronavirus, the reality is the opposite of Trump's pronouncements.

At least 10 Big 10 football players have been diagnosed with myocarditis, a viral infection of the heart muscle caused by a Covid-19 infection. This is the same condition that has afflicted Red Sox star starting pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez, who contracted Covid-19 on August 1 and who now suffers from myocarditis, forcing him to end his season.

Rodriguez is 27 years old and was an otherwise healthy young man who won 19 games for the Sox in 2019. However, the virus invaded his heart, as it has with so many others who have contracted this dreaded disease, and forced him to rest and recuperate.

We are learning more and more every day about the damage that Covid-19 does to just about every human organ, but one thing that has become clear is that the heart muscle is a favorite site for it to attack. A recent study in Germany showed that of 100 otherwise-healthy persons under the age of 49, 76 percent suffered damage consistent with the effects of a heart attack.

Another study recently demonstrated that there are certain, long-stringed cells unique to the heart that the virus attacks, chopping them up into tiny pieces. It is not clear whether the heart can repair this damage or whether it is permanent.

Further, as to football players in particular, while it may be true, as Trump proclaimed, that as a group they are "big strong guys," many of them are, to put it bluntly, grossly obese, weighing upwards of 350 pounds if they are linemen.

One thing we definitely know about the virus is that the single-biggest risk factor for a serious outcome from Covid-19 is being overweight -- and that would seem to place many college football players at serious jeopardy if they contract the disease.

If college football can put into place procedures that isolate football players from their campuses (where Covid-19 has been running wild in some places since schools reopened), then perhaps football can be played without risk to the young athletes.

But to encourage them to play as things stand now is simply reckless behavior that places them in jeopardy of serious, lifelong consequences affecting their health.



PATRIOT DAY 9-11 WE WILL NEVER FORGET

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COUNCILOR FLYNN OPPOSES REMOVAL OF BOWDOIN STREET LOCUST TREES

To the Editor,

I'm writing to oppose the request to remove six honey locust trees located at 11-45 Bowdoin St. in Beacon Hill.

I have heard from residents in the area who are concerned about the removal of these trees, as they treasure these trees, and believe that this will negatively impact their quality of life in the neighborhood. Trees not only beautify our

landscape, but they also provide filters for pollutants, absorb excess stormwater runoff, provide shades during hot summers, and other environmental benefits.

Residents care about the trees in their neighborhoods, but many are concerned about how the current community process for tree removals is not vigorous enough, since residents often didn't know about the public hearing for tree removals. The residents near 11-45 Bowdoin St. were surprised to find out that six trees are being considered for removal due to a water-main replacement project, which had

already been going on for months. They believe that these trees are part of the neighborhood's fabric, and are opposed to their removal.

As the District 2 City Councilor representing the area, our urban tree canopy is important to me, and I would like to oppose the removal of these trees as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 617-635-3203, or at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

City Councilor Ed Flynn

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Alverson, Katherine G	Irene Tayler 2006 T	180 Beacon St #16E	\$1,900,000
Solamuthu, Martheswaran	Ruffin, Robert L	259 Beacon St #51	\$775,000
Hsaio, Yu-Ting	Garnitz, Jessica	50 Berkeley St #5	\$705,000
Piltch, Richard	Barry F Cohen RET	220 Boylston St #1013	\$4,300,000
Layman, Melissa A	Black, Josiah M	50 Commonwealth Ave #901	\$1,728,750
Griffin, Michael	Farmer, Matthew H	61 Dartmouth St #2	\$2,445,000
Wallen, Jonathan L	Tavakkoli, Ali	201 Newbury St #506	\$1,899,000
329 Beacon LLC	Sproul, Elliott W	416 Marlborough St #604	\$760,000
BEACON HILL			
Hopewell T	Hurley, Neil F	70 Brimmer St #118	\$460,000
Lobylka, Justin	Lucent LLC	31 Irving St #5	\$535,000
329 Beacon LLC	Sproul, Elliott W	416 Marlborough St #604	\$760,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Jeanel, Marlene	Jones, Helen	130 Appleton St #2C	\$1,000,000
Cohen, Joshua F	Vanarsdale, Courtney E	22 Appleton St #1	\$1,512,500
Constigan, Edward	Brennan, Patricia J	26 Montgomery St #3	\$680,000
Brennan, Patricia J	Beck, Christopher M	26 Montgomery St #6	\$875,000
Martin, Roberta	401 Beacon LLC	401 Beacon St #1A	\$610,000
Yu, Qing	Boyajian Realty LLC	534 Beacon St #203	\$525,000
Ju, Zhihui	Aberdeen CCW RT	1111 Boylston St #48	\$321,888
Ross, Franklin A	Fenway 22K NT	188 Brookline Ave #22K	\$2,150,000
Schneider, James R	Benjamin, Christopher J	4 Charlesgate E #107	\$590,000
Buerman, Greta	Krouner, Matthew	17 Claremont Park #1	\$2,895,000
Katz, Mitchell	Verry, Chad	51 E Springfield St #4	\$772,000
Nacca, Brittany	Singer, Howard M	24 Milford St #1	\$1,470,000
Hwang, Jenny	Kahn, Melissa J	1 Rollins St #C103	\$581,894
Lotter, William E	Mckelvey Rutland Square	12 Rutland Sq #2	\$924,000
Stephenson, Robert P	Pilcher, Webster	26 Upton St #3	\$1,820,000
Berarducci, David	Millington Angela S Est	154 W Concord St #2A	\$345,000
Marcotte, Matthew L	Mezer, Edward	15 Waltham St #B603	\$1,585,000
Rundel, Gabrielle	Bennett, Melissa	79 Waltham St #3	\$912,500
Stolarski, Allan	Adler, Jessica A	1682 Washington St #2	\$825,000
Maxfield, David	Golden, Barry J	14 Worcester Sq #5	\$1,098,000
Cravero, Joseph P	Worcester Street Keh	94 Worcester St #1	\$2,415,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Ryan, Maryruth	2401 Battery Wharf RT	2 Battery Wharf #2401	\$850,000
Chen, Chen	Lorusso, Antonio J	80 Broad St #408	\$602,500
Taylor, Alexis	Con-Jude LLC	343 Commercial St #209	\$2,100,000
357-5 Commercial Foti RT	Della, Rocca P	357 Commercial St #5	\$487,500
Badawi, Basel	Hoang, Chau	100 State St #5	\$1,635,000

CRIME (from pg. 1)

vated assaults were down more than 19 percent as the number fell to 145 from 180 in 2019.

Commercial burglaries saw a 145-percent increase, with 98 incidents this year, up from 40 last year, though, while in contrast, residential burglaries saw a minor decline, with 27 incidents this year, down from 29 in 2019.

No other burglaries have been reported in 2020, meanwhile, compared with nine last year.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle were up 20 percent as the number climbed to 174 from 145 last year, while other larcenies were down around 33 percent, with 644 this year as opposed to 995 in 2019.

Occurrences of auto theft also dropped nearly 13 percent, with 49 in 2020, down from 56 last year.

With its 21-percent reduction in violent and property crime Area

A-1 saw the most pronounced decline in Part One crime in any of the city's 12 districts so far this year, while Area 15 (Charlestown) experienced the biggest uptick at 40 percent as the number of incidents there climbed to 279 from 200 last year.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 5 percent, with 10,847 incidents this year, as opposed to 11,383 in 2019.

Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The vent in the last clue is on the Bromfield Pen Shop at 5 Bromfield Street. This family-owned shop has served Boston writers, pen collectors, artists, and gift buyers since 1948. In this time of throwaways, this shop offers repair services on fine pens.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



REPS now offering online fitness programming, in-person cycling classes

By Dan Murphy

REPS' Beacon Hill location has adjusted to the pandemic by introducing online workout programming and resuming its in-house cycling classes - albeit in a more limited capacity than before.

The neighborhood fitness studio is now offering a wide range of virtual programming daily via Zoom, including classes with Renvil Damon, its owner and lead instructor, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m.

These classes have been promoted only via word of mouth since

their mid-March launch immediately after gyms throughout the Commonwealth were mandated to close down during the pandemic, Damon said, but the number of participants per class has already swelled from between three and seven to between 15 and 30 each session.

And it's an interactive experience, Damon said, so all participants are required to log in so the instructors can track everyone's progress and adjust their regimens in real time.

"I demonstrate the exercise, and let them go at their own tempo,"

Damon said. "When people log on, they have to turn the video on, so I can make sure they have good form and execute the exercises the right way, and so that they maintain the proper muscle groups I want them to work."

Participants have ranged in age from their 20s to 60s to date and followed a personalized regimen designed in such a way that, Damon said, "everyone across the board can execute."

Damon added: "I'm caring for several different fitness levels. I tell them to go at their own tempo and apply modified

formation so someone in their 60s can do the exercises the same way everyone else does."

The cost is \$10 for single drop-ins, and prorated weekly and monthly packages are also available; visit <http://www.repsfitness-studio.com/rep-beacon-hill> for more information.

Also, REVS Beacon Hill has also brought back in-person cycling classes in its approximately 2,000 square-foot studio on the second floor of 1 Grove St., with Damon on hand as the instructor on Tuesdays at 7 a.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. (Classes with other instructors are also offered on Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. [Matt] and Thursdays at 7 a.m. [Laura];

masks and gloves are mandatory at all in-person classes.)

While the number of participants has dropped to a maximum of five per class in keeping with social distancing guidelines, and the sessions tend to fill up quickly, REVS Beacon Hill has still managed to keep the cost down to \$3.15 per class.

For those seeking a more individualized exercise regimen, Damon also offers personal training and can be reached via email at renvild@gmail.com while REVS sister studio, Beacon Hill Yoga (www.yogabeaconhill.com), located at 57 Phillips St., also has a wide range of programming.

CHARLES STREET (from pg. 1)

place to live."

"Retail has always been pretty good here because it's a nice walking street," Gurnon said. "Especially pre-internet, people liked to walk around and shop at individual, boutique stores on Charles Street that aren't chain stores and where they can find things no one else has, and they're of good quality."

Yet Charles Street hasn't been immune to the economic downturn that the pandemic has wrought either, as evidenced by the nearly 20 businesses on the street that have shuttered since mid-March.

"A lot of stores turn over for different reasons," Gurnon said. "It's a lot of work working retail on this street."

Another factor adversely contributing to the mass exodus of

businesses on the street, Gurnon said, is "people simply aren't going out anymore" while some Charles Street establishments have had difficulty updating their websites to adapt to the times.

And as a hands-on proprietor of a Charles Street business himself, Gurnon said would-be business owners can expect to put in an 80-hour work-week and have "no family life."

While some have suggested that landlords need to cut would-be retail tenants a break on rent in order for the market to recover, Gurnon, who owns the building that is home to Charles Street Supply Co., as well as a real estate broker on the second floor, views this as merely a band aid.

"That's kind of a kneejerk reaction," Gurnon said. "It would

be great if landlords could curtail what they're looking for in rent, but they have taxes, insurance and other fixed costs...and the bank isn't going to forgive them."

Instead, Gurnon suggests the city's meter maids could ease up by not enforcing parking restrictions so rigorously.

"A \$40 parking ticket really leaves a bad taste in your mouth," Gurnon said, "and when people get a ticket, they're likely to turn to Amazon."

And although Gurnon is pleased that lifting restrictions on outdoor dining has been a boon for Charles Street, he points out that the al-fresco dining season will undoubtedly end as soon as the cold weather sets in. "It's great to see tables on the sidewalks, but once October or November rolls around, they're going to be done," he said.

Gurnon also implores the city to provide more assistance to small businesses that have few employees on the books, but are so integral to the character of the neighborhood.

"The Sevens [Ale House at 77 Charles St.] has been closed the whole time. They can't reopen because of how small they are, and they're a huge part of the neighborhood," Guenon said. "These businesses need any relief from anywhere - the government, other big businesses, city officials, even benefactors that live close by."

In fact, some neighbors have been so gracious, Gurnon said, as to deliberately overpay Charles Street businesses while in other instances, Good Samaritans have even handed out checks to merchants on the street.

"They need any relief from anywhere - the government, other big businesses, city officials, even benefactors that live close by," said Gurnon of struggling Charles Street businesses. "Everyone needs to pitch in where they can."

HISTORY (from pg. 1)

it's timed to coincide with the 19th Amendment's centennial.

The items on view represent many sides of the complex struggle toward securing voting rights for women and people of color. Of course, issues of voting rights are still making headlines. Seeing some of the nineteenth-century arguments in detail is informative, because critically examining our history helps us understand our own times.

One evocative item is suffragist Susan B. Anthony's account of her trial on the charge of illegal voting in the presidential election of 1872. Three things make this old volume special.

First, it provides one window into women's struggle for the vote. Anthony's case helped draw national attention to the suffrage question. It seems she wanted the story of her arrest, trial, and conviction widely known. By publishing her account afterward, she increased the suffragists' visibility and advanced their arguments.

Second, the Athenæum's copy of this broadly-distributed account is made special by Susan B. Anthony's autograph, adding a layer of meaning and political purpose to the document.

Third, the recipient of the inscription is "Mrs. C. H. Dall" - that's Caroline Healey Dall, who grew up on Beacon Hill, at 6 Hancock Street. A women's rights

advocate, Dall co-edited *The Una*, a journal "devoted to the elevation of woman," in the 1850s. She gave copies of that to the BA, too. You can come see it, if that interests you.

I learn every time I look at the special collections. Multiple perspectives are represented in items like Susan B. Anthony's trial account; a photographic portrait of Sojourner Truth that she commissioned and sold to support the cause of suffrage; a signed letter by Booker T. Washington; and even a 2018 artist's book by Boston artist Laura Davidson, *We've Been Holding This Sign for 100 Years*.

This history reverberates for me, as I suspect it might for many women—and men, too. It compiles layers of activity: someone speaking out, someone being tried and convicted, someone writing a documentary account, someone preserving that book in an archive, someone reading it and drawing conclusions or fueling their own work.

At the Athenæum, people work in the reading rooms every day. Some use our collections for research. Some are writing histories or fiction. Some may be taking care of business matters or simply reading email. Together, here on Beacon Hill, we are sitting amid histories that absorb and inform us, even as we create new histories ourselves.

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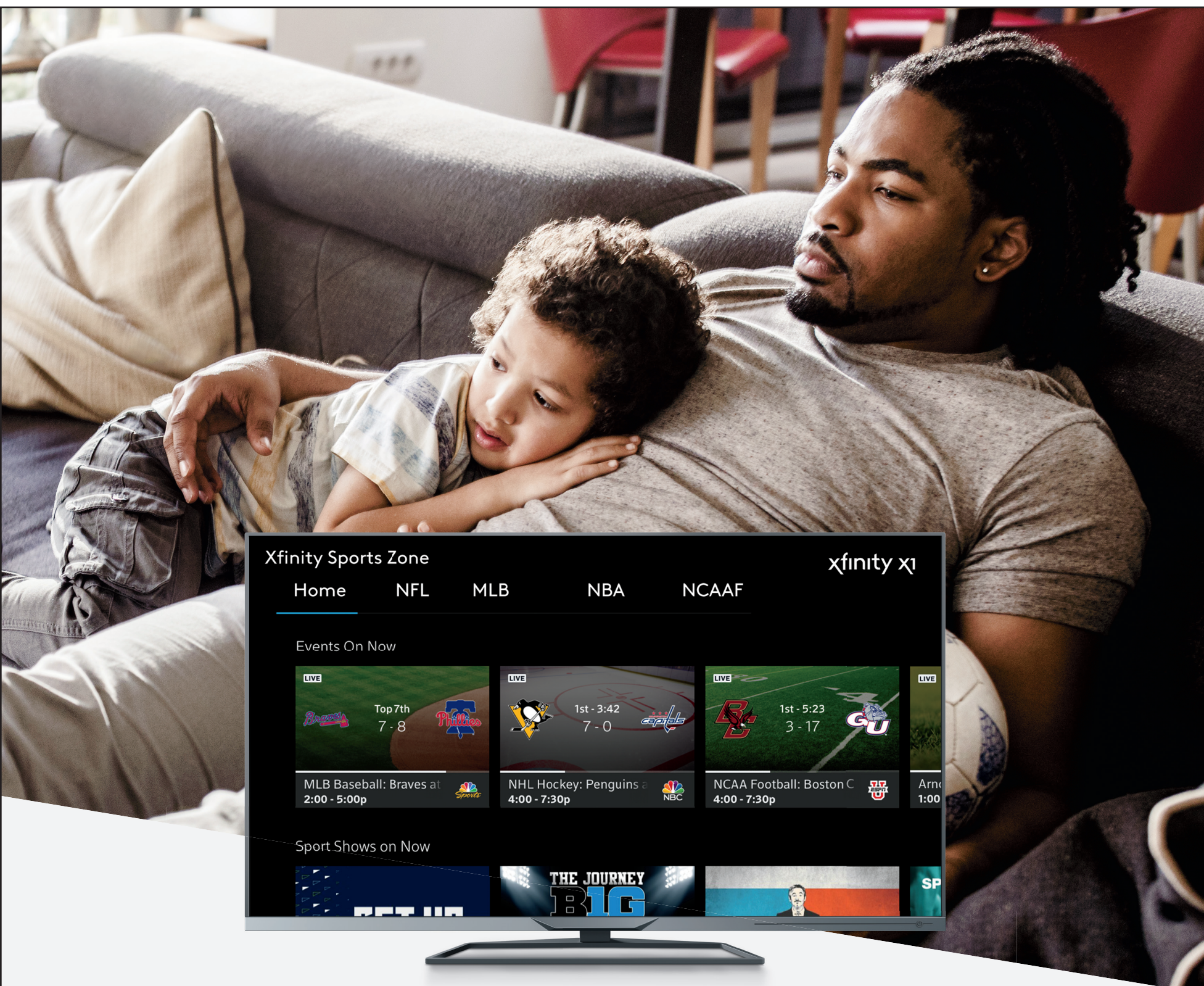
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PARK STREET SCHOOL WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK IN-PERSON FOR 2020-2021!



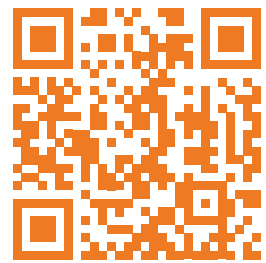
Park Street School (PSS) was excited to open its doors on September 8 and 9 for in-person learning, with an option for remote learning for some families. While COVID-19 has restructured the school day with students and staff wearing masks, desks are distanced at six feet apart, frequent hand-washing, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, and keeping cohorts at small numbers, everyone was thrilled to begin the school year! "Our theme this year is 'Better Together,' shared Tracy Bradley, Head of School, "which we firmly believe! It's so good to see everyone - we are truly better together! We all need to work together to keep our students and staff safe and healthy!"

Re-designing classes to support cohort-learning, PSS is rolling out several exciting initiatives: Artists in Residency - with specialists enjoying in-person "residency," giving students a more immersed experience in the at discipline during that time; Flexible Fridays where all elementary students will join their classes remotely on Friday - either in-person or at home.



BEACON HILL WE'RE BACK

RESERVE A TABLE NOW



We will be closed
Monday, Sept. 7 in
observance of Labor Day

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handmade breads :
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patrick's naan w/ prosciutto 19
naan 9

pizza :
classic tomato, fior di latte & basil 18
lamb 20
lobster 28
white pizza of burrata, chanterelles, pears & pear mostarda 24

spaghetti :
spaghetti aglio e olio 15
spaghetti pomodoro 15
spaghetti cacio e pepe 15
spaghetti bolognese 19
spaghetti vongole 20
spaghetti w/ cracklings & hot pepper 17
spaghetti carbonara 19

starters :
cup of chestnut & celery root soup ... crisp duck leg confit 17
calamari fritto w/shishito peppers .. peppercornini & spicy lemon aioli 19
caesar salad 15
arugula salad 14

mozzarella bar : *Piatto!*
w/ vine ripe heirloom tomatoes & basil 15
w/ prosciutto, corn panna cotta .. dulce de leche & brown butter hazelnuts 29
w/ beef carpaccio, beet hummus, poppy seeds & red sorrel * 26

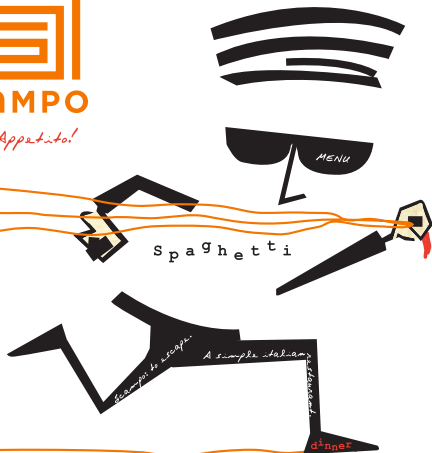
PLATES
rare roast salmon .. curried spinach, yuzu vinaigrette * 37
swordfish w/ char-grilled octopus .. smoked paprika polenta 39
brick chicken , white pumpkin puree w/ black truffles .. chinese celery leaf pesto 31
scampo duck .. red cabbage pierogi .. cider syrup * 40
kurobuta pork chop torched w/ brown muscovado sugar .. parsnips & light miso mustard * 41
prime skirt steak w/ crisped shishito peppers, japanese perfection sauce & polenta 'fries' 38

handmade pasta e risotti :
sugar pumpkin agnolotti in white truffle pasta .. candied chestnuts & toasted sage 24
lobster risotto, tomato 'powder', guanciale 'leaves' .. crisped brussels sprout leaves 28
spinach gnocchi gnudi w/ shaved moliterno cheese, golden raisins ... spot of pistachio pesto 23

sides :
green beans tempura w/ 2 dipping sauces 10
french fries .. spritz of vinegar & duck fat .. garlic aioli 9



SCAN FOR OUR
ONLINE MENU



* Denotes these items are cooked to order or may be served undercooked.
Consuming raw or undercooked shellfish, seafood, poultry, eggs or meat may increase the risk of foodborne illness.

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Boston Common master plan public process continues

Special to the Times

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department today announced a series of public events in partnership with the Friends of the Public Garden to gather feedback on the proposed improvements to Boston Common as part of the Boston Common Master Planning Initiative. Mayor Martin J. Walsh has committed \$28 million from the sale of the City's Winthrop Square garage to renovate and enhance Boston Common.

As America's first public park, Boston Common is one of the most treasured greenspaces in the world. The goal of the new Master Plan is to create a Common that will serve all people of Boston and visitors to our city while protecting this special place for decades to come.

The first public meeting of the virtual open house will be held on Wednesday, September 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will have interpretation services available in Español, kreyòl ayisyen, kriolu, Tiếng Việt, 简体中文, 繁體中文, and ASL. The event will be recorded and posted online along with the park improvement plans and supporting graphics. Links to access virtual events will be posted

ed through the Event List page of the Boston Common Master Plan website at www.bostoncommon-masterplan.com in advance of each meeting.

This will be followed by smaller, interactive open forum discussions over the coming weeks where members of the public will have an opportunity to review proposed improvements, ask questions, and share ideas with the project team panelists. These next steps in the process follow a series of events engaging the public and collecting their input led by Weston & Sampson's design studio via open houses and public meetings.

The schedule for the open forum discussions is as follows:

Tuesday, September 22, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.: Park-wide Strategies for Improvements

Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Visitor Activities and Play

Tuesday, September 29, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Performances and Active Recreation

Thursday, October 1, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.: Gateways and Edges

For the latest information as the process continues, please visit www.bostoncommonmasterplan.com.



Open house series begins September 16.

OPEN SUNDAY
12:00 - 1:30


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COVID-19 update for Beacon Hill

By John Lynds

For a second week in a row the COVID-19 infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods has risen only slightly.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday Beacon Hill, as well as the North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown the infection rate rose 1.7 percent since last week. The last increase week over week was 2 percent.

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, North

End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown had an infection rate of 105 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 103.2 cases per 10,000 residents two week ago.

The number of confirmed cases in the area increased from 575 cases to 588 cases last Friday.

However, compared to other neighborhoods Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown have the second lowest infection rates among residents second to only Fenway.

Beacon Hill is also still well below the city's average infection rate of 231.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

Last week the BPHC reported that 17,711 Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were tested

for COVID-19 and the data shows that only 0.5 percent of those tested were COVID positive.

Overall since the pandemic began 3.4 percent of Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive. This was down from 4 percent reported last week.

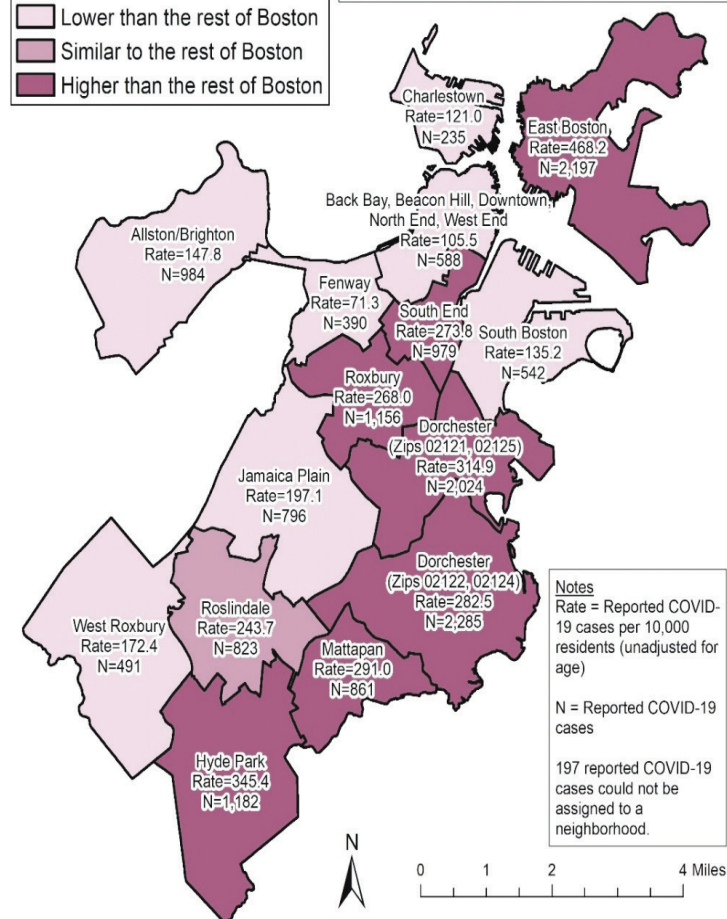
The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose 2.1 percent last week from 15,625 cases to 15,967 cases. So far 12,366 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and the deaths from COVID remain at 754.

COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

- Lower than the rest of Boston
- Similar to the rest of Boston
- Higher than the rest of Boston

Boston
Rate = 231.5 reported cases per 10,000 residents
N = 15,730 reported cases



Notes
Rate = Reported COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents (unadjusted for age)
N = Reported COVID-19 cases
197 reported COVID-19 cases could not be assigned to a neighborhood.

Data source: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan. 1, 2020, to Sep. 3, 2020, 12:41 PM); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020, to Sep. 3, 2020, 11:39 AM); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)
Data analysis: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

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State revenue collections total \$1.992 billion in August

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder last week announced that August revenue collections totaled \$1.992 billion, \$6 million or 0.3% more than the actual collections in August 2019.

Of the \$1.992 billion August collections, approximately \$13 million is income tax payments and refunds that will be recorded as FY2020 revenue, pursuant to section 3 of chapter 78 of the Acts of 2020. Such amounts consist of payments and refunds originally due in FY2020 but received in FY2021, including payments made with final 2019 income tax returns, extension payments and estimated payments originally due in April and June 2020. Therefore, approximately \$1.979 billion in August revenue will be recorded in FY2021, which is \$7 million or 0.4% less than the collections in

August 2019.

For the fiscal year-to-date through August, revenue collections totaled \$6.448 billion, \$2.437 billion or 60.7% more than the same fiscal year-to-date period in 2019. Of the \$6.448 billion year-to-date collections through August, approximately \$2.313 billion, or 36%, is income tax payments and refunds that will be recorded as FY2020 revenue pursuant to legislation. Excluding these income tax amounts that will be recorded as FY2020 revenue, August year-to-date collections total approximately \$4.135 billion, which is \$124 million or 3.1% more than collections in the same period of FY2020.

"Revenues for the month of August were mainly driven by withholding, part of which is attributed to withholding on unemployment insurance benefits, as well as the regular sales

tax. These increases were offset by decreases in non-withheld income tax, meals tax, corporate and business taxes, and 'All Other' tax," said Commissioner Snyder. "August year-to-date total collections were also impacted by corporate and business tax payments attributable to returns due in April, following the waiver of late filing and payment penalties until July 15 for such returns. DOR will continue to monitor revenue collections closely."

August is one of the smaller months for revenue collection, because neither individual nor business taxpayers make significant estimated payments during the month. On average for the past several years, roughly 6.7% of annual revenue has been received during August.

However, this August is different from previous years because of the impact of COVID-19 on tax

bases and because revenues collected in this month include deferred payments on personal income tax and corporate excise payments, but exclude some regular sales, meals and room occupancy taxes which are postponed to September. As noted above, deferred personal income tax payments and refunds will be booked back to FY2020 by the Comptroller.

Details:

Preliminary August Revenue Collections

•Income tax collections for August were \$1.151 billion, \$61 million or 5.6% more than August 2019. Of the \$1.151 billion August income tax collections, about \$13 million was income tax payments and refunds originally due in FY2020 but received in August 2020, including payments made with final income tax returns, extension payments and estimated payments originally due

in FY2020.

•Withholding tax collections for August totaled \$1.119 billion, \$83 million more than August 2019.

•Income tax estimated payments totaled \$33 million for August, \$4 million less than August 2019.

•Income tax returns and bills totaled \$46 million for August, \$9 million more than August 2019.

•Income tax cash refunds in August totaled \$46 million in outflows, \$26 million more than August 2019.

•Sales and use tax collections for August totaled \$608 million, \$3 million more than August 2019.

•Corporate and business tax collections for August totaled \$31 million, \$27 million less than August 2019.

•Other tax collections for August totaled \$202 million, \$32 million less than August 2019.

Passim opens up applications for grants

Staff Report

Passim, the legendary music listening room in Cambridge, is opening up the application process for the annual Iguana Music Fund. The Iguana Music Fund awards grants annually to musicians for career building projects and for projects that provide community service through music. Established in 2008 after an anonymous donor approached Passim with the idea to start a program to support local artists' career growth, the fund provides grants from \$500 to \$2,000 for musicians with a strong New England connection. Applications are open now through Oct. 14. Artists may apply for free at passim.org/iguana.

"This year has been challenging. Being a musician in 2020 has led to more uncertainty than ever before. What remains clear is that art helps us understand ourselves, connects us, and makes life worth living," said Jim Wooster, Executive Director of Passim. "The

world may have stopped in a lot of ways for the time being, but Iguana is here to help."

Over the past 12 years, Passim has awarded more than \$430,000 in grants, funding more than 200 projects for artists including Della Mae, Oompah, Lake Street Dive, and Awaaz Do. Grants are allocated in the areas of recording or manufacturing assistance, publici-

ty and marketing support, equipment and instruments, songwriting retreats, tour support, special projects and other specific activities that promote artists work and/or professional growth.

Applications for the Iguana Music Fund are open now through Oct. 14 at passim.org/iguana. The grants will be distributed in late December.

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Walsh gives COVID-19 update; addresses weekend violence

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on September 8—his first one in nearly two weeks—to update the public on COVID-19 and other happenings in the city, including the uptick in shootings over the Labor Day weekend.

Walsh reported that as of Tuesday afternoon, there were 25 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Boston, and no new deaths have been reported for a full week, which he called “very encouraging.”

He said that testing went from about 1500 people a day to about 3000 people per day, and that much of the increase can be attributed to students coming back to campus for the fall semester.

He said that colleges and universities in the City are repeatedly testing students and monitoring the results to help prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 in the neighborhoods. He said that the City will “contin-

ue to maintain increased testing capacity” at places like community health centers and mobile testing sites across the City.

Walsh also continued to warn against large gatherings, calling them “dangerous.” He urged college students to follow the guidelines of their schools, and for households with multiple generations to be “extra cautious.”

He said that while he “understands the need to socialize,” he stressed the importance of staying six feet away from others and wearing a face covering.

“If you’ve been to a party or gathering of any kind, I want you to assume you’ve been exposed to the virus,” he said, and to get tested. “COVID-19 is still very much with us.”

He said that the economic impacts of the virus are also still being felt by the community, and the City will continue to provide free meals to youth, families, and seniors as well as other other

investments in the communities.

He said that the Boston Public Library (BPL) has “been an essential source of support for residents,” with the recent reopening of safe computer access at the Copley branch, and the BPL to go program. He said that 94,000 physical items have been reserved through the program, and around 9,400 people are making use of library services daily.

He announced that the moratorium on late fees for adult library card holders that was put in place in March has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

He also talked about the importance of responding to the US Census, as the last day to respond is September 30. He said that so far, 57 percent of Boston households have responded, which he said he attributes to the pandemic. He stressed the importance of responding, as it only takes a few minutes, and will help provide

adequate funding and legislators to the City’s districts.

President Trump has cut the count short by a month, and Walsh said he has signed onto an amicus brief challenging the decision.

“It’s been estimated that for every resident who doesn’t fill out the Census, we’ll lose \$2400 in Boston in funding every year for the next ten years,” Walsh said. “Those are the resources our community needs and deserves.” To fill out the Census, visit my2020census.gov.

Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross addressed the shootings over the long weekend.

“One act of violence at any time is unacceptable,” Walsh said. “Our goal is always to get to zero.” He said that 15 mental health clinicians have been added to respond to mental health calls across the City, and that the City is “dedicated to eliminating the root cause of violence, including poverty and

systemic racism.”


Commissioner Gross said that there were 12 “independent shootings” in the City over the Labor Day weekend. “At tis time, our investigating reveals that none of the 12 shootings are connected art this time,” he said. He said that they have seen the “Same repeat violent offenders committing the crimes” in recent months.

“These individuals causing violence in our neighborhoods should be locked up,” he said. He also said that the courts should open back up, even if virtually. “That’s why you have two shootings within three days—it’s the same individuals. There has to be some accountability,” he said.

Walsh said that there has been an uptick in shootings and homicides this year, and that he wants to send the message that “if you do something bad in the city you will be brought to court and prosecuted by the appropriate authorities.”

SAFELY BACK TO SCHOOL

Our annual Guide to Schools for 2020 is a different type of resource. The COVID pandemic has brought a whole new way of learning and we hope to share the ways your school has adapted to ensure student safety and efficient learning with the parents and guardians of the Boston area.



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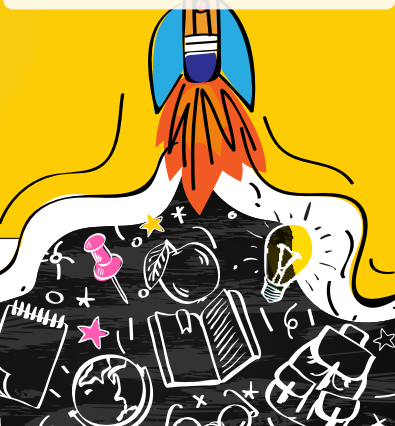
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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

Work of artist Yoahn Han on exhibit at Barry Group's West Cedar Street offices

The Chase Young Gallery will be showcasing artist Yoahn Han of yoahnhan.com at an exhibit called “Soils of Tinctured Embod-

iment” on display at the Barry Group Real Estate’s offices at 98 West Cedar St. An opening reception for the exhibit, which runs through Oct. 31, on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 6 p.m. This unique and hybrid live/virtual event will welcome four to five spectators to take at a time in keeping with social distancing.

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BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold its monthly public hearing on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually.

• Design Review APP # 20.0189 BH 40 Charles Street

• Proposed Work: Install new storefront signage and window decals.

APP # 20.0190 BH 88 Mount Vernon Street

• Proposed Work: Replace four, 6 over 6, wood windows and two, 4 over 4 wood windows, for a total of five windows in unit 22 facing Willow Street, with new wood windows with the same pane configuration. Remove existing storm windows on these windows.

APP # 20.0191BH 89 West Cedar Street

• Proposed Work: Replace existing roof deck in the same dimensions. The roof deck is being

removed in order to repair the roof.

APP # 20.0192 BH 66 Chestnut Street*

• Proposed Work: At rear el, visible from Branch Street, Replace four, 4 over 4, wood windows, three 6 over 6 wood windows, three, 1 over 1 wood windows, one, 10 over 10 wood,

APP # 20.0193 BH 75 Chestnut Street*

• Proposed Work: At front and side façade level four, replace five, wood 6 over 6, wood windows with five, 6 over 6 wood, single hung windows.

APP # 20.0194 BH 11 Irving Street*

• Proposed Work: Install security gate at entrance to front door.

• Administrative

• APP # 20.0195 BH 65

ANDERSON STREET: Repoint brownstone lintels and columns.

APP # 20.0196 BH 68 BEACON STREET: At side façade, remove brick in order to access internal plumbing. Once completed, Rebuild brick wall using existing bricks and match mortar joints.

APP # 20.0197 BH 23 BRIMMER STREET #3: At front façade level 3, replace 2 non-historic 2 over 2 wood windows with like replacements. At rear façade level 3, replace 1, non-historic, 2 over 2, wood window with like replacements.

APP # 20.0198 BH 78 CHARLES STREET: At front façade repaint door and surround and windows to match existing BM HC-36 Hepple white Ivory.

APP # 20.0199 BH 30 CHESTNUT STREET: Rebuilt Chimney in kind.

APP # 20.0200 BH 82 CHESTNUT STREET At Chestnut Street side level three, replace non-historic 6 over 1 wood windows in kind and at Chestnut Street Façade, replace one 10 over 1 wood windows at Charles Street façade level four, replace five, wood, 6 over 6, wood windows with five, 6 over 6 wood, windows.

APP # 20.0201 BH 42-44 GARDEN STREET: Grind and repoint masonry in kind, spot repointing as necessary, rebuilding portion of brick wall on second level that is currently failing, replace one window sill in kind, replace window trim in kind, restore front entry lintel.

APP # 20.0202 BH 60 JOY STREET: At front façade masonry repointing, repair spalled brick. Repair deteriorated stone elements, sand and repair metal lintels in kind.

APP # 20.0203 BH 58 PINCKNEY STREET: At rear façade, level two replace non-original 24-light arched window and one center transom window in kind, at front façade level two, replace one, 6 over 6, non-historic, wood window in kind.

APP # 20.0203 BH 69 PINCKNEY STREET: At front façade level 4 and 5, replace 6 non-historic 2 over 2 wood windows with like replacements.

APP # 20.0204 BH 34 RIVER STREET: At front façade cut and repoint façade in kind.

APP # 20.0205 BH 41 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET: Repair or replace headers and sills, repoint brick to match existing.

•RATIFICATION OF 8/20/2020 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

• STAFF UPDATES

State agencies, 13 communities find ways to cut construction costs on mobility

Staff Report

The MBTA, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Massport, the City of Boston, the City of Cambridge, the City of Somerville, the Town of Brookline, the City of Everett, the Town of Watertown, the City of Quincy, the City of Chelsea, the City of Revere, the City of Medford, the City of Malden, the Town of Arlington, and the City of Lynn last week announced a new collective purchasing agreement for

bus and bike lane road markings in order accelerate multimodal infrastructure throughout the metropolitan area.

This collective procurement effort will allow public transportation agencies to cooperate and achieve a greater economy of scale in building projects, ultimately bringing costs down.

“This is another example of the region working together to move everyone forward. Increasingly, we all need to collaborate in new ways to better serve our riders and constituents,” said General Manager Steve Poftak. “This agreement will

ensure that public agencies like the MBTA will be using their funds as cost effectively as possible, especially throughout the current public health and economic crisis.”

“Establishing more bus and bike lanes is critical for the region as we continue to re-open the economy during this pandemic,” said MAPC Transportation Director Eric Bourassa. “By reducing costs for the MBTA as well as cities and towns, we can stretch our public dollars further to make public transit and cycling better and safer.”

The winning bid from construction firm K5 – \$4.70 per square foot for red bus lane material – is very competitive and will aid an unprecedented expansion in multimodal projects at a critical time. Previous costs ranged from \$7 to \$12 per square foot, depending on the municipality.

Combined, the participating municipalities represent more than one-fifth of the Commonwealth’s total population and account for most major regional transit corridors in the metropolitan region. Based on past construction costs across the region and projected project budgets, the MBTA estimates that this joint procurement effort could save taxpayers over \$2 million next year, or about 10 percent of what the MBTA plans to spend on the Rapid Response Bus Lanes Program. Additional savings are expected if the procurement is renewed for future years and potentially expanded to more municipalities.

The MAPC has led collective

purchasing efforts in the past to procure often expensive equipment like emergency vehicles and parking meters for cities and towns. As Massachusetts municipalities have implemented more quick-build design solutions like bus and bike lanes through road markings, flexposts, and signage in recent years, costs have remained a barrier for some localities.

The MBTA is partnering with many of these cities and towns over the next year to advance projects that make regional roadways more reliable for tens of thousands of daily bus riders. The MBTA and the Cities of Boston, Somerville, Everett, and Chelsea previously announced several projects to be implemented by spring 2021, adding up to fourteen new miles of bus-only infrastructure for routes with some of the highest ridership since the pandemic began. For many projects that include transit priority measures, the MBTA provides funding for design costs and

for bus lanes’ red paint while the municipality pays for other multimodal corridor improvements.

The MAPC is the regional planning agency serving the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. The MAPC works toward sound municipal management, sustainable land use, protection of natural resources, efficient and affordable transportation, a diverse housing stock, public safety, economic development, clean energy, healthy communities, an informed public, and equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds.

The MBTA Transit Priority Group was created in 2019 with support from the Barr Foundation to further bus priority projects around the region. Since its creation last year, the group has partnered with municipalities to implement nearly four miles of dedicated bus lanes, alongside transit signal priority and other speed and reliability improvements.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Extenet Systems, INC. is proposing to construct a 28-foot overall height small cell pole telecommunications structure near 583 Beacon Street, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts (42° 20' 59.2", 71° 05' 34.6"). Extenet Systems, INC. invites comments from any interested party on the impact the tower may have on any districts, sites, buildings,

structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Megan Gomez, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Gomez can be reached at

(770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. CCM W2355 Atlanta, GA- Corporate Headquarters | 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Alpharetta, GA 30004 (770) 667-2040 | www.eca-usa.com

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CITY PAWS

Why does my dog ...?

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Does your dog do zoomies? These are also known as FRAPs or Frenetic Random Activity Periods. This is one of many behaviors that sets people to wondering, "Why does my dog do that?"

Zoomies and Tail Chasing

Marc Bekoff, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and co-founder with Jane Goodall of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Writing for Psychology Today, he describes zoomies as, "... high-energy bursts of activity in which a dog looks like s/he is possessed, after which they often lie down exhausted as if they've run a marathon or played to their heart's content and need a break."

Bekoff considers these a safe way for a dog to expel energy and get some stress out of their system. He recommends that guardians be sure this is happening in a safe place, remain alert, and stay with the dog when it occurs.

Barking at TV

This is an issue with our Westie Poppy. She will bark at a dog photo on a computer screen. She races across the condo and does a barking dance when she hears music from a TV commercial that she remembers contains a dog.

The higher frame per second rate on newer televisions created the problem. Now your dog has a clear, moving view of another animal in their home and reacts. Once upon a time, that screen may have looked like a flip-book to canines.

Eating Grass, Etc.

You may have heard that dogs eat grass to induce vomiting or because they're not feeling well. Researchers have concluded that eating grass is normal dog behavior. The Bark Magazine reported, "... researchers who compared the grass-eating behaviors of dogs

with mild gastrointestinal disturbances to those without concluded that a healthy dog was more likely to eat grass than one with an upset stomach."

Your job with grass is to be sure it hasn't been treated with chemicals and is free of animal or bird waste before you let your dog dine on it.

Sticks are another matter. AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein, an emergency veterinarian for 36 years, warns of the dangers of sticks. "Many times people would bring their dogs into the emergency clinic because they were at the park and a stick literally impaled the dog at the back of its mouth." What's more, swallowed bits of wood can cause intestinal blockages.

Bred for Behaviors

People often forget that many dog breeds were created by man to perform specific tasks. Today, when a dog's main job is "human companion," some people are dismayed when their canine acts like a working dog of their breed.

On the list of items we check when we visit a potential home for a Westie or Cairn Terrier is fencing. We remind prospective adopters that terriers are diggers and could tunnel their way out of a yard.

You may see a Shetland Sheepdog or Australian Shepherd try to herd people, bikes, or other dogs. Keeping the herd together is an intentional behavior of their breed.

In the case of retrievers, both the instinct to bring something (be it a dead bird or a ball) back to you is inbred. What's more, their ancestors were selected because they had the energy and spirit to do it relentlessly and endlessly.

Does your dog have a behavior you'd like us to research? Send a request our way at the address below, and we'll see if we can help explain it.

Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com.



Zooming can be contagious in an off-leash spot with one dog joining in another's fun as with this pair of frolickers! (Photo by Mark Galer)

Nine Probate and Family Court Registers' offices operating virtually

Nine Probate and Family Court Registers' Offices, including Middlesex and Suffolk Counties, are now using Zoom videoconferencing to operate virtual registries to assist the public.

On June 15, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey and Probate and Family Court Chief Justice John D. Casey announced a virtual registries pilot program in Barnstable, Essex and Middlesex Counties. The success of the pilot program led to its expansion to the counties of Bristol, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Worcester.

The pilot program, developed by Probate and Family Court Field Coordinator Keith Nalbandian, creates a virtual registry for Probate and Family Court matters using a recurring Zoom vid-

eoconference meeting link that operates during normal business hours when a host from a register's office is logged in. Virtual registries offer all of the assistance normally available during an in-person visit, including face-to-face contact, the ability to obtain and get assistance with court forms, and access to court documents and docket information.

Court users who enter the virtual registry are placed into a waiting room and appear as participants to the host, who admits individuals into the virtual registry. The host is able to answer general questions and send a participant into a pre-designated breakout room for additional assistance on more complex matters. Breakout rooms are staffed with registry employees, and if available, a lawyer with

a Lawyer for the Day program, to answer questions. The breakout rooms are managed by the host, so as one guest leaves a room, another guest is able to enter. With the exception of Hampshire and Barnstable Counties, the virtual registries are available Monday through Friday.

In addition to virtual registries, members of the public can also reach Probate and Family Court Registers' Offices by phone or email. The public can also call the Trial Court Help Line to ask general questions about their cases and help them navigate the court system. The Help Line is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached by calling 1-833-91COURT.

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