



# 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

**BOOK YOUR  
POST IT**  
Call Your  
Advertising Rep  
(781) 485-0588

## Agency releases draft project proposal for Hurley Building redevelopment

By Dan Murphy

The state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance presented its draft project proposal for the redevelopment of the Charles F. Hurley Building during a virtual meeting on Dec. 17.

Bound on three sides by Staniford, Cambridge and New Char-don streets, the Brutalist building occupies about 327,000 gross square-feet, and has an additional 241,000 square footage of unused space on a 3½-acre site. The building, which opened in 1971, and now faces an estimated \$225+ million in capital renewal needs, currently provides office space for around 680 employees working in the Department of Unemployment Assistance, MassHire and several other state labor and workforce departments.

DCAMM expects to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) early next year, said Abi Vladeck, a senior project manager with the agency, and then to designate a private redevelopment partner for the project in late '21. . Construction is subsequently scheduled to commence in 2023, she said, and to wrap up around two years later.

The project's goals, Vladeck said, include finding a cost-effective solution for renewing and replacing the outdated building, as well as to provide office space for the state under long-term leases, as well as to reduce the "super-block" effect through which the site was conceived to secure it from automobiles.

In an effort to address neighborhood and preservation concerns, DCAMM will offer the entire site as part of the project, including the open space surrounding the abutting Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center (although no permanent structures will be allowed there, and could result in the termination of the lease).

The redevelopment project must include 200 parking spaces

(HURLEY, Pg. 4)



## SNOW ON THE HILL

*The Dec. 17 snow turned Chestnut Street into a winter wonderland. For some, the snow meant shoveling, but for Cosmo Shattock (photo right) it meant time to get out and play.*



## Joel Pierce receives 24th annual Beacon Award

By Dan Murphy

Joel Pierce, who served on the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission for nearly three decades before stepping down earlier this year, has been named the recipient of the Beacon Hill Civic Association's 24th annual Beacon Award for his "significant and sustained contribution" to the community.

"I never thought I'd be in the running," Pierce said. "I saw the names of the previous winners and was surprised to be in such distinguished company."

Pierce moved to Beacon Hill in 1978 and joined the Civic Association's board of directors the following year, serving as its

chairman for one year circa 1983. In 1993, he began his tenure as the Civic Association's nominee to the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission and would go on to dutifully serve in that role until his retirement in July of this year.

"I've lived on the same block for almost 43 years now," Pierce said, "and I served on the Architectural Commission for about half that time."

Unlike some other commissioners he served alongside, Pierce wasn't an architect by profession, but instead an attorney, and while he said his legal background sometimes came in handy during his

(AWARD, Pg. 3)

## BHAC approves application for Suffolk University's awnings

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved Suffolk University's application to install new awnings at 22 Beacon St. at its monthly hearing that took place virtually on Thursday, Dec. 17.

John Nucci, Suffolk's senior vice president of external affairs, said the signage would be minimal and intended only to identify the location, which be designated solely for administrative use and operate only between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new awnings, which would be marine blue in color and identical in style as the blade banners found at 8 Ashburton Place and 73 Tremont St., would replace existing awnings at the proposed location, Nucci said, and be installed there using existing hardware.

"We're not attaching anything to the façade of the building," Nucci said. "We're simply using the awning for signage purposes."

The commission also approved an application for 104 Mt. Vernon St. to install two granite window wells with removable, flush steel grates at the ground level on the building's front facade, keeping the top of the granite and the grates flush with the brick sidewalk.

A piece of wood was secured in front each of the two basement-level windows, said Brigid Williams, the project's architect, during the installation of the sidewalk, which sits "quite a bit higher than the window sills.], and this has subsequently caused rainwater to accumulate on the wooden

(BHAC Pg. 4)

**Wishing you & your families  
a safe and healthy Christmas**

**The office will be closed Thursday Dec. 24 and  
Friday, Dec. 25 & Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1.**

**Advertising deadlines for New Years week:  
Weds. Dec. 23**

**To submit ads: [deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)  
To submit copy: [dave@reverejournal.com](mailto:dave@reverejournal.com)**



# EDITORIAL

## THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season usually is the most wonderful time of the year. But Christmas, 2020, is anything but wonderful.

We are undergoing a degree of hardship unlike any that we have experienced in our lifetime. More Americans are dying each and every day from the coronavirus than perished in any of our wars or on 9/11. As the cumulative death toll inexorably continues to climb, the total number of Americans who will have been killed by the virus likely will exceed all of the combat deaths in all of our wars against a foreign enemy.

The death count from the pandemic only tells part of the story, however. Those who have survived a bout with the virus face an uncertain future because of the serious long-term health effects on their vital organs.

The burden that has been placed upon our doctors, nurses, and other front-line workers has been enormous and continues to grow as the virus relentlessly attacks our populace and fills our hospitals to overflowing.

In addition, the economic impact of the pandemic has been profound for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs, their businesses, and their homes. Millions of Americans, including one in five children, do not have enough to eat. The lines of cars at food banks stretch for miles.

For our nation's young people, the virus has disrupted their lives to such an extent that economists say the effects upon their education and future job prospects will linger for years to come.

The pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to the mental health and anxiety issues, especially for older Americans, that are a by-product of the constant stress in our lives.

But amidst all of the chaos and danger that society is facing, this holiday season has provided us with an opportunity to discover a new-found appreciation for the things that really matter in our lives.

With the usual holiday frenzy of parties, gift-shopping, vacations, and other self-indulgent pursuits no longer viable, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on what is really important: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

If we do these things, we will come to a true understanding of what the Christmas season really is all about.



GUEST OP-ED

## Staying safe during the holiday season

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season, and hope that the remainder of this year brings you the opportunity to reflect on this year, and take time to prioritize your health and wellness. We know that this is a very different holiday season. This is usually the time for traditions and gathering with friends and family, and many people will be hoping for some normalcy. But, as we all know, this isn't a normal year. That's why this holiday season has to look different.

We must continue to stay focused, and follow all the public health precautions, to keep our families, our communities, and ourselves safe. That means continuing to wear a mask, wash your hands on a regular basis, disinfect frequently touched surfaces, stay six feet apart from others, and avoid gatherings — especially indoor gatherings.

This vigilance is needed now more than ever. Since Thanksgiving, we've seen significant spikes in coronavirus cases, both in Boston and across Massachusetts, on a daily basis. We are also seeing more patients admitted to our hospitals. A big source of transmission is coming from indoor,

private gatherings. That is something we can all avoid, and that responsibility sits on all of our shoulders.

So, like we did before Thanksgiving, we are urging everyone to only celebrate with the people you live with. There should be no holiday parties — that means no family gatherings or assemblies of more than 10 people who aren't a part of your household. And we are strongly encouraging all Boston residents not to travel. Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19.

I know that we are all tired of living with this virus, after nine long months of patience and sacrifices. Many of us look to the holiday season as a break from this pandemic, but we cannot let our guard down. This may lead to some difficult conversations with our families about what to expect this year, and the stakes are too high to take chances. But just because you can't gather in person, doesn't mean you can't come together in other ways. Consider making these connections virtually. This is a time to be creative, and keep the holiday spirit alive.

When you are doing your holiday shopping, we encourage you to shop locally. Our small businesses are the backbone of our neighborhoods, and they have

been struggling during this difficult time. We are encouraging people to find safe ways to support neighborhood businesses. As a reminder, we offer free, two-hour parking on Saturdays at all parking meters across the City, and this will be available until the end of the year.

I also ask everyone to think about the families who are struggling to make ends meet. With the needs in our communities greater than ever this year, collecting toys will be a challenge for families who can't afford it. We have Toys for Tots donation boxes all across the City: at City Hall, firehouses, stand-alone BCYF centers, and City of Boston Credit Unions. If you can, please donate new, unwrapped toys to help Toys for Tots meet their goals, and help ensure every child and family can experience the joy of the holiday season.

So as you are making your holiday plans this year, I hope you will keep these points in mind. We are all in this together. Let's do our part to have a safe holiday season, so we can get back to seeing the ones we love in the new year. Thank you, and I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

*Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

© 2007 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

PHONE: 617-523-9490 • FAX: 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: [www.beaconhilltimes.com](http://www.beaconhilltimes.com)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KINGS CHAPEL  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE LIVES

To the Editor,

As a long-time member of Beacon Hill, I know that hundreds of Beacon Hillers come to the beautiful Christmas Eve Service at Kings Chapel.

With all the lockdowns, I want everybody to know that this Service is up and running virtually anytime on the 24th, when you and your family would like to participate.

Here is how to do it:

Spotlight On:

Celebrate Christmas with King's Chapel

Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 26

On Christmas Eve we offer again the long-standing King's

Chapel Lessons and Carols service, one of our most beloved services of the year. Led by Music Director Heinrich Christensen and our professional choir, we tell the Christian story in word and song, ushering in Christmas with reverent candlelight and carols. Although we cannot gather physically this year in our beautifully decorated sanctuary, you can participate fully, relish the organ and poinsettias, and thrill to the music via our website, anytime after 9 AM on Christmas Eve. ([www.kings-chapel.org](http://www.kings-chapel.org))

John Appleton

NICHOLS HOUSE  
MUSEUM GRATEFUL  
TO THOSE WHO MADE  
HOLIDAY WREATH  
TOUR A SUCCESS

To the Editor,  
The Nichols House Museum

extends thanks and appreciation to the homeowners, sponsors, businesses, ticket buyers, and volunteers, who made this year's Holiday Wreath Tour fundraiser on Dec. 6 such a success! The outdoor walking tour of 15 homes, including the Nichols House, featured exquisite wreaths and other decorations, along with architectural histories written and compiled by NHM governor, Brigid Williams. Cade Murray, executive director of the Back Bay Ringers gave a festive solo bell ringing performance in front of the Museum. It was a wonderful afternoon and we're appreciative of the efforts of so many in the neighborhood and beyond.

Sincerely,

Linda Marshall,  
Executive Director  
and the Board of Governors

READER CALLS  
COVID-19 COVERAGE  
'ALARMIST'

To the Editor,

I have noticed two recent alarmist headlines in articles written by John Lynds- this is in addition to the one from the summer. For example, On Dec. 10 the headline on Page 4 states: "Beacon Hill's positive test rate increases dramatically post Thanksgiving." The Dec. 17 issue ran a story with a headline "COVID positivity test rate in Beacon Hill increases over 50 percent." These headlines are sensationalist and lead a reader to believe that positivity rate in Beacon Hill alone increased dramatically. This is not true since Mr. Lynds is utilizing data from all surrounding neighborhoods collectively. It is really important to report objective and factual information regarding

COVID. The Headlines should be factual. Mr. Lynds' headlines imply dramatic increase of positivity in Beacon Hill. As we know, the city (BPHC) does not widely release neighborhood data specific to Beacon Hill. They have released information by zip code-to other neighborhood groups. Perhaps Mr. Lynds could reach out and obtain this information as other neighborhoods have received it? That would be helpful and interesting. It may provide a more accurate positivity rate for Beacon Hill.

For example, we do know that there were less than 100 cases in zip code 02108 since the beginning of the pandemic through Oct. 20, 2020.

Meanwhile, please stop printing these alarmist headlines that only help exacerbate this situation.

Thank you,

Diana Coldren

## AWARD (from pg. 1)

time on the commission, ultimately, he said, "I'm grateful to have been entrusted in some small part to helping to preserve the neighborhood."

Added Pierce, "I've learned a lot from my fellow commissioners, some of whom are architects, and over course of my work, I had the opportunity to meet lots of neighbors and see a lot of the community."

His work with the commission made for good exercise, too, Pierce said, since he made it a habit to visit every building that appeared on that month's agenda beforehand to see the conditions for himself.

Russ Gaudreau, chair of the Beacon Award nominating committee, said while there were many other candidates in the running for the award this year, Pierce was the "obvious" choice to all involved.

"As far as making a 'significant and sustained contribution to the community,' it was Joel Pierce, and it didn't take us much time [to arrive at that conclusion],"



Joel Pierce, recipient of the 24th annual Beacon Award

he had served the community so well in that role."

Moreover, Gaudreau said of Pierce: "He did his homework and understood the purpose of the commission and understood the concept of architectural preservation, but he was also able to strike a balance between preserving architecture and making changes from time to time to accommodate families and so forth."

In the end, Gaudreau said, "He was a real leader on the commission and did an outstanding job of how everyone felt."

For his part, however, Pierce is not only humbled to have been honored as the recipient of this year's Beacon Award, but also to serve his neighbors and the community for so many years.

"It's good to have the opportunity to give back to the neighborhood," he said. "What's impres-

sive about the neighborhood is how nice the residents are. People are very respectful of each other, and there's a lot of camaraderie among neighbors...and there are many people who have lived here for a lot of years and appreciate what they have, myself included."

Gaudreau said. "He understands the community and the purpose and role of the commission [in regard to] protecting the architecture and beauty of Beacon Hill. He had it right, and we really felt that

**BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ**  
REAL ESTATE

Charles Street Meeting House  
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108  
617-367-0505 [www.brewberk.com](http://www.brewberk.com)

Sally Brewster      Betsey Barrett  
Ron Berkowitz      Toni Doggett

THINK OF IT AS AN  
OWNER'S MANUAL  
FOR YOUR MONEY.



The free *Consumer Action Handbook*. It's in print and online at [ConsumerAction.gov](http://ConsumerAction.gov). Order your free copy online at [ConsumerAction.gov](http://ConsumerAction.gov) or write to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009.

# ART SALE

**SHOP FOR ART SAFELY**  
25 MYRTLE ST. | 857-919-4278  
COMMISSIONS ACCEPTED | FINAL SALE

**GIVE ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
PAINTINGS OF BEACON HILL  
REALISM & IMPRESSIONISM  
10% OFF

SATURDAY & SUNDAYS | 12-4PM  
[WWW.THEHIDDENARTGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.THEHIDDENARTGALLERY.COM)

# All of Us

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Receive \$25\*

Why have some communities not  
been a part of medical research?

You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us.

Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the *All of Us* Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

**JoinAllOfUs.org/NewEngland**  
**(617) 768-8300**

\*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

*All of Us* and the *All of Us* logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**All of Us**  
New England

BRIGHAM HEALTH  
BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL  
MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

BOSTON  
MEDICAL

# Beacon Hill Seminars completes its first successful virtual semester

By Amy Tsurumi

With the pandemic forcing a choice between taking a long hiatus or quickly adopting virtual programming, Beacon Hill Seminars (BHS) – an organization aimed at offering liberal arts college-type seminar courses and creating a “community-based program for lifelong learning” – decided to do the latter. Given that BHS had only offered in-person courses in its 20 years of existence, it was a risk; however, one that has now proven to have been one worth taking. In April, it tested a few pilot virtual courses and received positive feedback from attendees. In the fall semester that followed, it was ready to roll out a full panel of 15 courses. The first BHS virtual semester that recently ended, was a tremendous success. Members enjoyed the flexibility of being able to join locally from Boston, or all the way from Florida and beyond. Among the various course offerings in the fall, “Design with Nature – an Approach to a

More Sustainable City,” taught by Scott W. Horsley, was about a topic relevant to local infrastructure. A water resources consultant and adjunct faculty at Tufts and Harvard, Horsley taught about the evolving field of Green Infrastructure (GI), a community-based approach to integrating alternative, nature-based technologies into city design and lifestyle. GI practices include public parks, street trees and community gardens, as well as lesser-known ones such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and wastewater recycling. Often, they provide cost-effective alternatives to conventional infrastructure such as storm sewers and wastewater treatment plants, and result in enhanced living environment at lower public costs. On the topic of local infrastructure, Horsley spoke about the constructed wetlands of the Longfellow Bridge designed to treat stormwater runoff and simultaneously, enhance aesthetics. He also held a discussion session about current and possible future

GI practices in the Boston Public Garden, and encouraged members to share their creative ideas with The Friends of the Public Garden. Members enjoyed learning about these innovations locally and re-thinking of ways they could contribute to GI practices and aid in promoting a sustainable future.

With fall’s proven success, BHS will continue with its virtual programming in the spring semester. A total of 18 online courses will be offered, encompassing a wide range of disciplines including art, music, film, literature, history, science and more. Members can register for up to four courses per semester, giving them ample opportunities to learn. The annual Spring Kickoff event will be held over Zoom on Wednesday, January 6. During this event, those teaching will introduce their spring semester courses to the membership. For more information about the upcoming event and spring semester courses, please visit [beaconhillseminars.org](http://beaconhillseminars.org).

## BHAC (from pg. 1)

window frames, which, she said, “have rotted badly” and can’t be restored.

“It’s not aesthetic, it’s technical,”

Williams said of the applicant’s request. “The reason we’re doing this is because it’s bad for the window and essentially bad for the house to have the water sitting there. I don’t know of another way of keeping the windows from rotting all over again than managing the water away from the façade.”

The motion passed pending the staff’s approval of the granite to ensure it looks “cohesive,” according to Commissioner Alice Richmond, who proposed it.

Likewise, the commission approved an application for 7 Byron St. to recondition the front door, and to install new door hardware, as well as to install a security panel, a fire-bell and a connection for the fire-hose.

This motion passed with provisos that the door be repainted to match the existing color, and that the security panel be installed on the right-hand side to obscure it from public view.

The commission also accepted as submitted an application for 77 Chestnut St. to repaint the garage and entry doors on the first level to match their existing colors; to repaint the wood windows and architectural ironwork on the second and third levels; and to clad the elevator headhouse in standing-seam copper and replace fiberboard surrounding the chimney flue with brick on the fourth level (and if brick doesn’t work, the applicant would need to work

with staff to find an acceptable material).

On an application for 62 Chestnut St., the commission approved work at the rear façade, including proposed modifications to the fire escape; the installation of a simple black railing on the roof-deck area; and the creation of new skylights on the top floor (with mock-ups requested to show they’re not visible from a public way).

The commission, however, denied the same applicant’s request to create a new second-story door opening in a large bay window on the building’s rear façade to access a private garden.

In another matter, the commission approved as submitted an application to install a roofdeck at 51 Hancock St., which it had previously approved in 2015.

Additionally, the commission approved an application for 1 Spruce St. to replace the trellis, and to repair the fence and fourth-floor window shutters, with the proviso that the applicant would relay to staff if the shutters are deemed beyond repair.

Moreover, the commission didn’t hear a scheduled application for 69 Hancock St. to install window shutters on the front façade because the applicant wasn’t in attendance, while an application for 74 Beacon St. to repair a leak in the rooftop pool, as well as to remove and replace the roof-deck and railing in-kind (which the commission reviewed last month), was removed from the agenda at the applicant’s request, and will be heard at the January hearing instead.

## HURLEY (from pg. 1)

es to replace those in the existing underground parking garage, Vladeck said, and in accordance with the RFP, the state would have first rights to lease up new office space to offset its loss of same amount of office space it now occupies in the Hurley Building.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok said the site is “tremendously important to the fabric [of the neighborhood],” since it was the location of the “clearance of the historic West End” more than 60 years ago.

The redevelopment project provides new opportunities for a school and more affordable housing in the neighborhood, Councilor Bok said, and could serve to break up the ‘super-block’ by “knitting it into the more bike-

able, walk-able streetscape we’re creating.”

Echoing Jim Campano of the Old West End Housing Corporation, Ron Iacobucci said he hoped that priority for affordable housing would be given first to the 20,000 former West Enders who were displaced by Urban Renewal more than 60 years ago.

“Something should be done for these folks,” Iacobucci said. “It’s long overdue.”

Clarissa Demore of Historic New England requested that any future development there face Cambridge Street and said she “appreciates the open space consideration, but worries that if the lease can be terminated at any time, it would discourage [poten-

tial tenants].”

The public comment period for the proposed redevelopment project ended yesterday, Dec. 23.

Visit the project website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/charles-f-hurley-building-redevelopment>.

## New online platform aims to help seniors connect

By Dan Murphy

With isolation and loneliness, both of which have been scientifically linked to declining health, becoming even more commonplace during the pandemic, a first-of-its-kind online platform designed exclusively for seniors intends to help them improve their physical and mental wellbeing by connecting them with their peers via meaningful activities and shared interests.

Secure Seniors Group will help facilitate the formation of groups of like-minded seniors, said Kay Dougherty, director of member engagement, as well as River House resident who is among the platform’s desired demographic of ages 65 and older, allowing them to bond over volunteer activities (many of which have now gone

virtual), or shared interests like gardening, health and wellness, or fitness.

The platform will also allow users to check in and see what other users in their zip code might also be taking in a particular event, like an exhibit or a performance.

“For people who don’t have a built-in social system, it can provide a way to connect with others,” Dougherty said, “or for somebody who does have one and wants to expand it.”

For instance, while Dougherty has many friends, she said, few of them enjoy reading as much as she does, so she could use Secure Seniors Group to connect with fellow bookworms.

The platform also connects users with not only with others

in their immediate area but also links them virtually with seniors nationwide. “They can be anywhere [in the U.S.], not just on Beacon Hill,” Dougherty said.

And its services won’t be offered directly to the public, but instead, Medicare insurers can make its services available to customers. Community members won’t be charged to join or participate, and the company also won’t have ads, be selling anything, or collecting any financial information.

Ahead of its official launch in February, Secure Seniors Group is now hoping to enlist 50 or so seniors to participate in the Pioneers Group for the platform; to take part in this unique opportunity for people ages 65 and older, email Kay Dougherty at [kay@secureseniorgroup.com](mailto:kay@secureseniorgroup.com).

**Want Neighborhood News delivered right to your hands?**



**Subscribe to The Beacon Hill Time's Newsletter and never miss a thing!**

*Visit [thebeaconhilltimes.com](http://thebeaconhilltimes.com) or scan the QR Code*



# BHWF shares 'Favorite Beacon Hill Things'

The Beacon Hill Women Forum held a meeting via Zoom on Dec. 15 that included cooking recipes for the holidays, a self-care tutorial by Follain on Charles and evergreen flower arranging by Rouvalis, and ended with the following song:

"These are my favorite Beacon Hill Things!"

Music by Rogers and Hammerstein/ Lyrics reimagined by Lisa Macalaster

Charming brick sidewalks with tree wells and flowers

Quaint Hidden gardens we look at for hours

Lampposts all wrapped up with garlands and greens

These are the prettiest Beacon Hill scenes

Upstairs and Downstairs and stores that sell fashion

Rugg Road and Black Ink

indulge all our passions

Tatte for Lattes, Persona for rings

These are my favorite Beacon Hill things

Jack has the Hardware and Blackstones helps cooking

Crush and Ouimille they keep us good looking

Frog Pond for splashing or skating on ice

These are the these that make Beacon Hill nice

When the dog poops, on the sidewalk, when I trip and fall

I simply remember these Beacon Hill things and then I'm not sad... at all

Grogans will sell all your old stuff for money

Starbucks will brew you a hot tea with honey

Gary Drug makes sure prescriptions are filled

Deluca's has chocolate and wines that are chilled

Follain is healthy and makes you feel pretty

Thieves of December has cool little ditties

Ducklings all dressed for the seasons with care

Townhouse will groom you and fix up your hair

Focus your thoughts now on peace, love and laughter

Things will get better next spring and thereafter

Keep all the magic of this time of year

Smile with your eyes friend and be of good cheer!

When the days seem dark and dreary when I'm feeling sad

I simply remember these Beacon Hill things and then I don't feel... so bad!



Beacon Hill Women's Forum members (left to right) Lisa Macalaster, Debra Hussey, Amy Tsurumi, Lisa Purcell, Lori Conway and Julia Morse

## Baker announces new capacity restrictions "for most industries" across the state

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday announced additional statewide restrictions following the increase in COVID-19 cases after the Thanksgiving holiday and the potential for another increase following the Christmas and New Years' holidays.

Baker said that these restrictions are in addition to his previously implemented restrictions, which include a stay at home advisory from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., and more restrictions for restaurants. The would go into effect on Dec. 26 at 12:01 a.m. and would reduce capacity at Encore Boston Harbor casino and at all restaurants to 25 percent.

Baker said that prior to Thanksgiving, "acute hospital beds" were 67 percent occupied, but by December 15, they were 83 percent occupied and have "only recovered one percentage point since that peak."

Baker said that since "hospitals are under significant pressure," the administration feels that it is "appropriate to take action now," and "do so in a way that we can avoid over running our hospital system."

The new restrictions announced will be in place for "at least two weeks," according to Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and they do affect Encore Boston Harbor. An emergency meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) was held late Tuesday to put the new measures into place.

"Together, the intent of these

restrictions will be to pause activity and reduce mobility so we can reduce the spread of the virus without closing our schools or our businesses," Baker said.

The new restrictions include a lowering of capacity limits to 25 percent "for most industries," he said, and also includes new restrictions for both indoor and outdoor gathering limits. The new outdoor gathering limit is 25 people, and the new indoor limit is 10 people, which includes events.

"This is part of what we must do during this critical period when the vaccine is just a few months away to slow the spread," Baker said.

"Nothing we're announcing today affects K-12 education," he continued. "As the science and

medical data have made very clear, all school districts, even those with high infection rates, can and should bring students back into the classroom. In fact, these measures today will help districts bring students back, and bring them back soon."

He said that "the decision to restrict capacity at so many businesses is an enormously difficult decision," and that his administration recognizes the impact it has on people's "livelihoods and families."

The Baker-Polito administration is "putting together a significant economic relief fund for the Commonwealth's small businesses that will be the most negatively impacted by these decisions," Baker said.

Polito said of the new restrictions that "it is our goal to keep these measures temporary," and that the industries impacted by the restrictions include: restaurants, personal services, theaters, performance venues, casinos, office spaces, places of worship, retail, libraries, common areas in lodging, and more.

"Workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants, personal services, places of worship, and retail businesses such as grocery stores," Polito said.

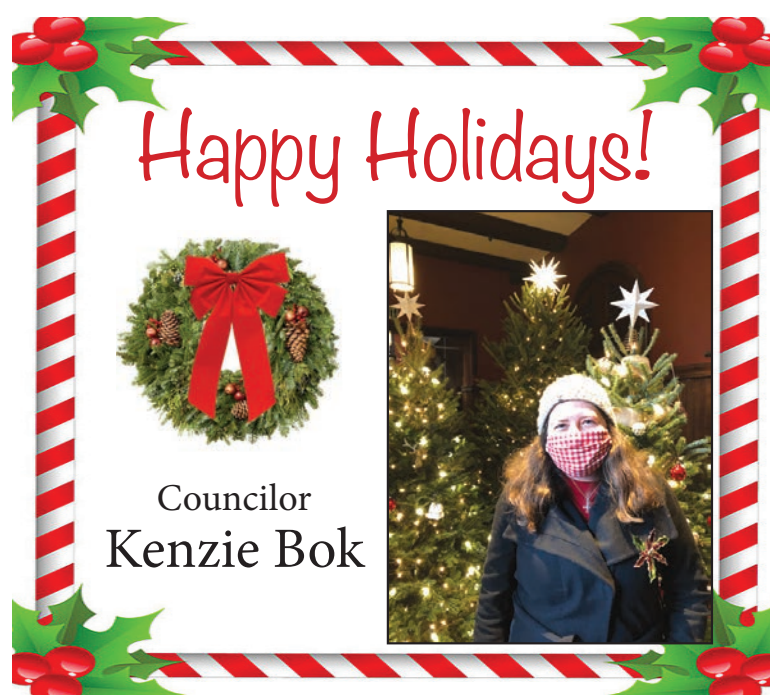
She told residents to plan on purchasing gift cards from local restaurants and shops to continue

to support them, as well as getting takeout meals from local restaurants. "Do everything you can to support..." these businesses, she said.

"I know this pandemic has been hard for everyone, but here is light at the end of this tunnel," she said, with "thousands" of people in Massachusetts having already received their first dose of the vaccine and more on the way.

"We all know there are better, brighter, and healthier days ahead," Polito said.

For more information on the new restrictions, visit [mass.gov/covid19](https://mass.gov/covid19).



Councilor  
Kenzie Bok





# Shops & Services in Beacon Hill

**In these tough times, please support local businesses,  
they are the life blood of our community**



## BEACON HILL LOCK & KEY

Mobile Locksmith Service  
Repairs, Installations, Rekeys, Lockouts  
Bob Whitelock  
617-851-6721  
acurabob@yahoo.com  
www.BeaconHillLock.com

## BEACON HILL WINE AND SPIRITS

63 Charles Street, Boston Mass 02114  
www.beaconhillwine.com  
@beaconhillwine on Instagram  
We are open for regular business hours, with the exception of closing and observance of mandatory curfew. We are open 7 days a week, 363 days a year and will be open Christmas Eve.  
We offer online e-gift cards via our Instagram page, And we always offer gift wrapping as a courtesy!

## BIN 26 ENOTECA

Italian Fare & Wine Bar  
26 Charles St, Boston, MA 02118  
Hours Sun-Thurs 4pm-8pm, Fri - Sat 4pm- 9pm  
Virtual wine tastings & Dinners, Gift certificates.  
Mobile ordering available through UBEReats or call for pick up - wine and beer to go!

## BLACKSTONE'S OF BEACON HILL KITCHENWARES BY BLACKSTONES

Blackstone's of Beacon Hill ~ 617-227-4646  
and KitchenWares by Blackstones ~ 857-366-4237  
46 Charles St. | Boston | 02114  
Extended hours starting Friday, December 18th:  
Friday, 18th - 10am to 7pm  
Saturday, 19th - 9am to 6pm  
Sunday, 20th - noon to 6pm  
Monday thru Wednesday - 9am to 7pm  
Christmas Eve - 9am to 5pm  
Our offerings are: Gift Cards that can be purchased online at www.KitchenWaresBoston.com or via phone at 617-227-4646  
We offer curbside pickup too for orders placed online or via phone.

## BOSTON ANTIQUES

119 Charles St., 02114  
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sunday 12-5  
617-367-9000

## CHARLES STREET FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

Ideal Weight Loss Boston  
Address: 102 Charles Street, Boston 02114  
Hours: open most days-check website for daily hours  
Phone: 617-720-1992  
Website: www.drquigley.com or www.thebostonwellness-group.com  
Gift Certificate Info: gift certificates available for massage or supplies such as support pillows and nutritional supplements. We are open for services following all CDC guidelines in addition to air filtration using the Surgically Clean Air Jade filter (https://surgicallycleanair.com)  
Nutrition services and weight loss programs available virtually

## CRUSH BOUTIQUE

131 Charles Street  
10am to 6pm Monday through Saturday,  
Sunday 11am to 6pm  
617-720-0010  
Website: shopcrushboutique.com  
Gift Certificate Info available for purchase on website  
Anything special! 30% off Denim and Dresses!

## DAVE POUTRÉ FINE FRAMING

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
82 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-723-7263  
dave@davepoutrefineframing.com  
www.davepoutrefineframing.com  
Gift Certificates available!

## DECEMBER THIEVES

Fashion boutique showcasing global emerging designer apparel and personal accessories  
51 Charles St  
Boston, MA 02114  
Phone: 857-239-9149  
Hours: Monday- Friday: 11-7, Saturday: 10-6, Sunday: 12-5  
Website: www.decemberthieves.com  
Gift wrapping and shipping offered

## DELUCA'S MARKET

11 Charles Street  
239 Newbury Street  
Open Daily 9am to 7pm

617-523-4344  
Delucasmarket.com  
Fresh meals prepared daily.  
WE DELIVER!

## GOOD

98 Charles Street  
Wednesday - Saturday | 11am - 6pm  
Sunday - Tuesday | private shopping by appointment  
617-722-9200  
WEB: shopatgood.com  
IG: shopatgood  
Gift Certificates available  
Anything special!: "purveyors of New England-made goods"

## GROGAN & COMPANY, FINE ART AND JEWELRY AUCTIONEERS

Address: 20 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114  
Hours: By appointment, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm  
Phone: 617.720.2020  
Website: groganco.com

## INFINITY PORTRAIT DESIGN

59 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108  
Hours: By appointment Tuesdays through Saturdays  
Phone: 617-367-9432 or 339-217-6055  
Website: www.InfinityPortraitDesign.com  
Gift Certificate Info: Double your dollars for purchase of gift certificate through January 1st, 2021  
Anything special: Check out our new legacy fine art studio portraits at our sister website here: www.BeaconLtdPortraits.com

## KODOMO BOSTON

70 Charles Street, Suite #4 Boston MA 02108  
December Hours: 11-6 daily; January Hours: (closed Mon/Tues), Wed-Sat 11-6, Sunday 11-5  
617-530-1140  
https://www.kodomoboston.com/  
"gift cards may be purchased both online or in-store, for either an electronic or physical gift card. these never expire and can be used both online or in store"  
"anything special": we carry sustainably & ethically made clothing, shoes, toys & accessories for babies, kids & tweens



# Shops & Services in Beacon Hill

## LUXOR HAIR STUDIO

137 Charles st, Boston- MA 02114  
857-239-9065

Online [book@luxorhairstudio.com](mailto:book@luxorhairstudio.com)

We are offering 10% OFF throughout the Holidays.

Gifts Certificates are available.

## PERSONA JEWELRY

62 Charles St  
11-6 Mon-Sat Sun by appt  
617.266.3003

Website: [www.personastyle.com](http://www.personastyle.com)

We are offering 25% more on each gift certificate bought (ex. 500 gets you 750)

We do custom design, all jewelry made and serviced in house by Gary.

Holidays Special: Complimentary Appraisal  
Gift Certificate 25% bonus.

## PRESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

17 Myrtle Street Boston, MA 02114

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm and by scheduled appointment  
Sat & Sun

857-362-7306

Website: [www.YourBostonApartments.com](http://www.YourBostonApartments.com)

Schedule a showing with The Presidential Team! Lowest rental prices #Boston has seen in the past decade!

## SCAMPO

Scampo is offering a Christmas and Christmas Eve feast created by James Beard Award-winning Chef Lydia Shire. The menu can be ordered starting Wednesday, December 9th through December 20th and can be picked up on Christmas Eve from noon to 4p for the Christmas and Christmas Eve holidays.

Chef Lydia has created a feast that serves 6-8 people, and includes items such as: Sherried Lobster Stew, Crisp Roasted Christmas Goose, Crackling Sicilian Porchetta, or Cote de Boeuf. Scampo's signature tiramisu and home-made holiday cookies are both options for dessert. The holiday orders can be placed by calling Scampo at 617-536-2100 or by logging onto [www.scampoboston.com](http://www.scampoboston.com). Scampo is located inside the Liberty Hotel at 215 Charles Street in Boston.

Monday- Wednesday 4pm-9:30pm/ Thursday- Saturday 12pm-9:30pm Closing on Sunday

Gift card promotions: For the month of December Take home a free Gift card of \$20 for every \$100 spent in Gift card purchases.

## THIEVES NEXT DOOR

Lifestyle boutique showcasing handcrafted and artisanal home, jewelry and gift curations

53 Charles St

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 857-250-4161

Hours: Monday- Friday: 11-7, Saturday: 10-6, Sunday: 12-5

Website: [www.decemberthieves.com](http://www.decemberthieves.com)

Gift wrapping and shipping offered

## UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS ANTIQUES

93 Charles Street

Boston, MA 02114

+1 (617) 367-1950

Mon-Sat 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sunday 12 pm - 5pm

[upstairsdownstairsboston.com](http://upstairsdownstairsboston.com)

Find us on:

Instagram @upstairsdownstairsantiques

Chairish: Upstairs Downstairs Antiques

## "THE EYE IN THE SKY"

WRITTEN BY GERARD DANIELS

The Perfect Gift for the Holidays!

A Beacon Hill thriller!!

Now available at Charles Street Supply

54 Charles Street

617-367-9046

[acehardware.com](http://acehardware.com)

## TOWNHOUSE BEAUTY BAR

28 Charles Street

Boston Ma. 02114

857-250-4433

e-mail is [Townhousebeautybar@gmail.com](mailto:Townhousebeautybar@gmail.com)

our website is [Townhousebeautybar.com](http://Townhousebeautybar.com)

Special on Gift Certificates when you purchase one for \$150, you get one for \$20 for yourself!

## VINTAGE TASTE LLC

103 Charles Street

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-367-9191

Email: [info@vintagetasteboston.com](mailto:info@vintagetasteboston.com)

Web: [www.vintagetasteboston.com](http://www.vintagetasteboston.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VINTAGETASTE](http://www.facebook.com/VINTAGETASTE)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/VINTAGETASTEBOSTON](http://www.instagram.com/VINTAGETASTEBOSTON)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/VINTAGE\\_TASTE](http://www.twitter.com/VINTAGE_TASTE)

## WHITNEY + WINSTON

113 Charles Street

10am to 6pm Monday through Saturday,

Sunday 11am to 6pm

617-720-2600

Website: [whitneyandwinston.com](http://whitneyandwinston.com)

Gift Certificate Info available for purchase on website  
Anything special! Gifts for all ages!

## THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

*understand your healthcare options.*

Together, we can navigate your healthcare plan options to find the best fit for you. For more information about this and other resources you may qualify for, visit [www.boston.gov/benefits](http://www.boston.gov/benefits) or call 311.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311



SCENES FROM WINTER SOLSTICE

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Downtown Boston was a wintry feast for the eyes on Monday, Dec. 21.



*The Commonwealth Avenue Mall.*



*The Commonwealth Avenue Mall.*



*The Boston Common.*



*A snowman on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall pays tribute to Batman.*



*The Boston Common's Parkman Bandstand.*

**Handmade for the holidays.**

19 ARLINGTON ST, BOSTON   617.224.1245   THOSMOSER.COM

*Thos. Moser*  
HANDMADE AMERICAN FURNITURE



*The Boston Common.*



## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>				
Chen, Chapmann		Gief RT	244 Beacon St #2B	\$680,000
Matraji, Wassim		Otilia S Ferreira LT	255 Beacon St #2	\$663,000
Demeter, Evangelia		290 Beacon LLC	290 Beacon St #2	\$560,000
Burchfield, Jennifer G		Alkhereiji, Tarik A	53 Clarendon St #1	\$1,195,000
Paradis, Jason		Greenblatt, Randy	70 Clarendon St #2	\$735,000
Yang, Jing		Martinece LLC	160 Commonwealth Ave #216	\$480,000
Adams, George W		Orourke, Doris	191 Commonwealth Ave #43	\$1,950,000
Chen, Jiali C		Elissa S Singer RET	283 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$1,900,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$9,000,000
Haney, William		Hey Babe LLC	315 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$9,000,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>				
Halterman, Ronald		Hartman-Mcdermott,	53 Grove St #4	\$1,820,000
Dunton, Julia		Blatter, Nina J	20 Hancock St #3	\$980,000
Thadhani, Ravi		Faxon, David P	56 Mount Vernon St	\$2,100,000
Zeidman, Mark		Bennett, Martin	41-43 Phillips St #1	\$2,350,000
Floyd, William H		Obrien, Erin K	15 River St #306	\$675,000
Wayne, Nancy		Wolfson Joan G Est	8 Whittier Pl #12D	\$528,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>				
Watson, Connor D		Nemiah, James C	12 Braddock Park #1	\$1,410,000
Snider, Andrew E		Shaer, Stephen B	1 Charles St S #8H	\$1,800,000
Gilkey, Duncan A		Holbrook RET	16 Saint Charles St #1	\$1,151,000
Sufi, Arshad H		Wu, Di	110 Stuart St #18B	\$1,812,400
Winer, Merle		VanUmmersen, Scott D	110 Stuart St #18G	\$2,150,000
SCD 380 Stuart Street LLC		John Hancock Life Ins Co	380 Stuart St	\$177,000,000
Afshar, Roshi		Janowitsch, Melissa M	193 W Canton St #2	\$652,500
Sheets, Ellen		Taylor, Jeremy	249 W Newton St #3	\$710,000
Harris, Katelyn		Krotinger, Alexandra	37 E Springfield St #1	\$672,500
Chan, Chin		Mutlu, Cem	35 Fay St #405	\$605,000
Napcon Capital Mgmt LLC		FWI Dream LLC	31 Hanson St #5	\$770,000
Shao, Mingzi		Sentas, Brianne M	416 Massachusetts Ave #2	\$705,000
Smith, Claire E		Troost, Juan	258 Shawmut Ave #3	\$835,000
Jacks Fenway Apt LLC		Boston Better Living LLC	12 Stoneholm St #621	\$670,000
MTB Washington LLC		Mullen Timothy D Est	1111-1113 Washington St	\$1,500,000
343 L&S Realty LLC		Bromfield Associates LP	333 Washington St #103A	\$1,050,000
Janowitsch, Melissa M		Rowe, Garry	21 Worcester Sq #2	\$855,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>				
Taylor Devin LLC		185 Devonshire Street	185 Devonshire St #M102	\$730,000
Massoni, Carol H		Pendergast, Peter R	85 E India Row #7D	\$700,000
Hidden Sky LLC		Tall, Caroline	1 Franklin St #3702	\$2,600,000
Yao, Carl		Tkebuchava, Teymuraz	1 Franklin St #5403	\$4,925,000

## Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on 79 Joy Street which was the home of the Rev. Samuel Snowden from 1818 to 1843. In her book, *Exploring the Legacy*, Rosalyn Delores Elder lists this as a stop on the Underground Railroad where, "... his doors were always open for those who sought shelter."

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





# Neighborhood locksmith moonlights as published author

BY Dan Murphy

While many residents know Bob Whitelock, owner of Beacon Hill Lock & Key, as the neighborhood's faithful and long-serving locksmith, not all of them may realize he's also the author of two published novels.

His second offering, "T.E.I.T.S: The Eye in the Sky," edited by The Boston Globe's John Harrington and published in 2015, tells the story of Eddie Curtis, a vigilante handyman on Beacon Hill who uses a network of nanny cams and his laptop to keep an eye on the neighborhood and avenge wrongdoings he witnesses (any similarities between this character and the author, said Whitelock, writing under the pen name "Gerard Daniels," are purely coincidental).

But when Curtis steps over the line and murders a small-time thief, it comes to the attention of a nefarious party who uses this information to blackmail him into doing their own personal

dirty work. Matters are further complicated, Whitelock said, when Curtis begins receiving payments for the work, which he has grown to enjoy, thus making him a paid assassin.

His first book (also attributed to "Daniels"), "110 db," which was published in 2012, explores the world of sex, drugs and rock and roll and draws loosely from his earlier days as an aspiring young rock star.

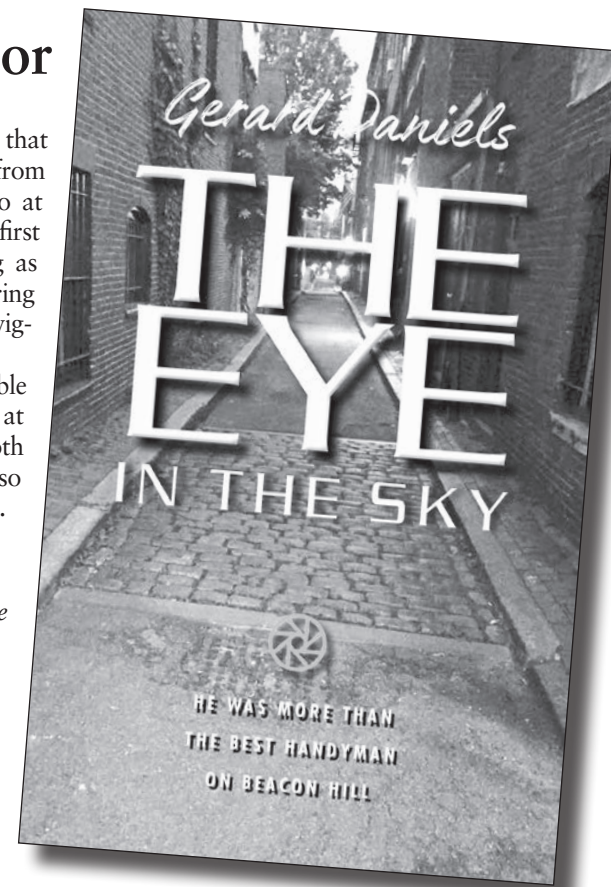
Whitelock spent much of the early '80s in Boston as a touring and recording musician and, before the pandemic struck, was performing solo gigs at Panificio Bistro & Bakery on Charles Street, among other local venues, and additionally, he is the frontman, "playing David Lee Roth," he said, in the Van Halen tribute band, Everybody Wants Some, and also still performs sporadically as the lead vocalist of the Usual Suspects, an outfits that specializes in what he describes as "progressive classic rock," including covers by Kansas, Styx and Genesis.

Today, Whitelock (or Daniels) is hard at work

on a sequel to "T.E.I.T.S" that finds Curtis returning from Mexico where he fled to at the conclusion of the first novel and now working as an Uber driver before being drawn back into his old vigilante ways.

"T.E.I.T.S" is available at Charles Street Supply at 54 Charles St., and both of Daniels' books are also available at amazon.com.

*"T.E.I.T.S: The Eye in the Sky," by Gerard Daniels (a.k.a. Bob Whitelock), with cover illustration by Beacon Hill's Joanne Legge.*



## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH KING'S CHAPEL

King's Chapel presents a Christmas Eve video called "Lessons and Carols" on Thursday, Dec. 24.

Led by Musical Director, Heinrich Christensen and the King's Chapel choir, the program will tell the story of Christmas in word and song, as well as candleVisit www.kings-chapel. Org anytime after 9 a.m. on Christmas Eve to participate.

### BEACON HILL SEMINARS REGISTRATION AND KICKOFF

Beacon Hill Seminars is offering 18 online courses this spring and

the public is invited to learn more at their Spring Semester Kickoff on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 2 p.m. via Zoom. The course leaders will share brief introductions to their classes on art, history, science, politics and more.

For more information, visit beaconhillseminars.org or email info@beaconhillseminars.org.

### 'MEMOIRS' ARTWORK NOW ON EXHIBIT AT THE BARRY GROUP'S OFFICES

The Hidden Art Gallery presents "Memoirs" - a collection of paintings by Patrick Anderson and Zoe Arguello that are a mix of realists cityscapes of Boston, Beacon Hill and impressionist

paintings of nearby public parks - for viewing during the week or by appointment at The Barry Group offices at 98 West Cedar St. through Dec. 31. Feel free to stop by in person or call 617-308-5966 for an appointment.

### HILL HOUSE OFFERING SEMI-PRIVATE CLASSES FOR FAMILY PODS

Hill House, Inc., located at 127 Mount Vernon St., recognizes that many families have formed pods to keep groups smaller/reduce exposure.

To acknowledge that, Hill House is now offering semi-private classes and athletics for small cohorts of children. From art to

science and Pre-K sports, there are open opportunities for you to come into the Firehouse at flexible times and enjoy the wide array of enrichment programs and athletics with the comfort of knowing who you're in the class with in an individualized space. These semi-private classes are open to all ages and led by our trained staff. For further information and to sign up, call the Front Desk at 617-227-5838, or visit www.hillhouseboston.org.

### HISTORIC CHRISTMAS EVE HANDBELLS WILL BE SILENT THIS YEAR

Due to state COVID-19 guidelines limiting outdoor gatherings, bell ringing on Louisburg Square Christmas Eve has been canceled,

but the proprietors of Louisburg Square hope to resume the beloved tradition in 2021.

The tradition began in 1924 with Margaret Nichols Shurcliff, who was raised at 55 Mount Vernon St., which is currently home to the Nichols House Museum. On Christmas Eve of that year, Margaret and her children, including her youngest daughter, 9-year-old Alice, rang Christmas carols in front of their home, then, joined by a joyful gathering of neighbors, strolled the streets of Beacon Hill ringing carols. This celebration grew in such popularity that Margaret's family has continued for many years, passing bell ringing down to new generations. Some of her grandchildren still observe the Christmas Eve ringing on Louisburg Square, the perennial home of this tradition on Beacon Hill.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

**Geek For Hire**  
Computer consultant available for home or business.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- PC support & networking of all types with focus on secure Internet access (wired & wireless),
- broadband router & firewall technology,
- virus detection/prevention,
- spam control & data security/recovery.

**617-241-9664**  
**617-515-2933**

**JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING**  
Interior/Exterior  
Commercial/Residential

Fully Insured  
Quality Work  
Reasonable Rates  
Free Estimates  
reccapainting@hotmail.com  
**781-241-2454**

**BEACON HILL PLUMBING & HEATING**  
Meeting all your mechanical needs

**24/7 emergency service**

M9304  
**617-723-3296**

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627  
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911

Breaking and Entering - Residence

12/13/20 - A Phillips Street resident reports that while she was away from home between approximately 7:20 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 12:30 p.m. the next day, she found the front and rear doors ajar, and that unknown person(s) entered her apartment and stole her personal property, including a laptop, a jacket and a wallet containing U.S. currency and bank/credit cards.

Breaking and Entering - Commercial

12/17/20 - Two male suspects were caught on security video breaking a window and entering a Charles Street liquor store at about 4:24 a.m. They stole various bottles of alcohol and fled. The owner said he would give police a full, itemized list of items stolen after taking an inventory.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM



# Beacon Hill COVID update; Mayor addresses Boston's hospital capacity ahead of the holiday

By John Lynds

The post Thanksgiving COVID-19 surge across Boston has slowed a bit but Mayor Martin Walsh is urging citizens to be vigilant ahead of Christmas.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 35,934 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 12.5 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 38.8 percent increase from the 9 percent testing positive the week of Thanksgiving. The citywide positive test increased 17.2 percent last week and went from 17.3 percent of Boston residents testing positive for the virus to 20.3 percent.

Overall since the pandemic began 4.1 percent of Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End

and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

At a press briefing last week the Mayor said that the number of COVID patients in Boston hospitals has continued to rise and the latest data has crossed our thresholds for concern on some metrics.

"Daily Emergency Room visits for COVID-19 have gone up for eight days in a row," said Walsh. "That's a concern. The number of available adult hospital beds has gone down, and that's a concern. Our hospitals are not in danger, at the moment, of being overwhelmed, but the trend is concerning."

Walsh said this data confirms why Boston moved back into a temporary, modified Phase 2, Step 2 of the reopening plan, in coordination with other cities and towns.

"Our focus is to keep the people of Boston safe," he said. "That's

what every decision we make is about. We have to reduce opportunities for COVID transmission so fewer people get sick, and so hospitals can continue to treat everyone, whether they have COVID or any other serious condition. That's the path to a strong recovery for our city."

The Mayor said that this is, and must be, a collective effort.

"We need everyone to be part of this. We cannot let our guards down, even a little bit," said Walsh. "Everyone must keep wearing masks, handwashing, and avoiding crowds. When you go out, only go out for essential needs; and please follow this guidance while visiting any business."

He also asked everyone to make a decision to commit to safety over the holidays.

"We are living with what happened over Thanksgiving right now, and we can't let that hap-

pen again," said Walsh. "People should not be traveling for Christmas or hosting or attending parties of any kind. Everyone must limit gatherings to their current households."

Walsh said the city's rollback to tighter restrictions is about making individual sacrifices for the greater good.

"That's how we have to approach the holidays as well," he said. "The holidays are a time of collective renewal during the dark winter months. That's what we're focused on this year, more than ever before, only in a different way."

The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 11.2 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and

Downtown had an infection rate of 273.1 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 245.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred fifty-four additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 1,368 cases to 1,522 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 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 increased 9.5 percent last week and went from 33,323 cases to 36,476 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-two more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 972 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## Charles River receives A to D-: New Charles River grading system offers clearer picture of river health

In coordination with the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), U.S. EPA has developed a new grading system that for the first time is reporting on the entire length of the Charles River, and is also taking more pollutants into account.

Since 1995, U.S. EPA has graded the Lower Charles River Basin—Watertown to Boston—using only E. coli data from water samples collected monthly by CRWA volunteers. Starting this year, the grade encompasses all 80 miles of the river and two tributaries, based on data from thirty-nine sampling sites. Grades are being issued for four sections of the Charles River mainstem: the Upper Watershed (Hopkinton to Medfield), the Upper Middle Watershed (Sherborn to Dedham), the Lower Middle Watershed (Newton to Waltham), and the Lower Basin (Watertown to Boston). Two tributaries of the Charles have also been graded: the Stop River in Medfield, and the Muddy River in Boston. The Muddy runs from Jamaica Pond, through Olmsted Park's ponds, the Riverway, the Back Bay Fens, under the MassPike to the Charlesgate and then through two old 200-foot pipes under Storrow Drive to its connection into the Charles River. Other tributaries to the Charles were not graded as there is insufficient data on them.

The new grading system demonstrates the variability in water quality in different stretches of the river. Based on 2019 data,

grades range from an "A" in the middle reaches of the Charles River (Sherborn to Waltham) to a "D-" in the Muddy River, a tributary in Boston and Brookline. The Upper Watershed received an "A-". The Lower Basin of the Charles River, the popular reach between Watertown and Boston, received a "B"—remaining steady from the 2018 grade.

Also new this year, in addition to E. coli bacteria, the river is also being graded on cyanobacteria (toxic blue-green algae) blooms and combined sewer overflows (CSOs), which are both public health hazards, especially for boaters and anyone who comes into contact with the water.

"CRWA has been measuring water quality since 1995. The new grading system uses our robust dataset to identify trends over time and along the river that allow us, and now the public, to better understand the river system as a whole and identify problem areas," said Lisa Kumpf, Aquatic Scientist at CRWA. "We were grateful to have the opportunity to work with EPA to expand and modernize the Annual Charles River Grade. We have come a long way with cleaning up the Charles, but as we can see from the new grades, there is still work to be done."

"While E. coli bacteria levels are an important water quality indicator, they do not tell the whole story," said Emily Norton, Executive Director of CRWA. "People have a right to know

about the additional public health risks caused by toxic algae blooms and raw sewage discharges. And knowledge is power! The more people know what is happening to the river, the more motivated they'll be to support the investments necessary to clean it up."

"Previous iterations of the report card obscured the very poor water quality in the Muddy River," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "This highly impacted waterway faces challenges from untreated roadway runoff, urban challenges and aged infrastructure. The Muddy River Restoration Project and its restoration of Charlesgate Park will improve water quality with new shoreline vegetation and even open up this covered section of river, bringing light and air. It is great to have this clear information, it tells us what needs to be done, let's get to work!"

Grading the river in segments demonstrates that water quality is worse in the Lower Basin than in the rest of the river, due in part to more impermeable surfaces—roads, roofs, parking lots, etc.—and stormwater outfalls that carry pollution from city streets into the water. This is especially apparent in the Muddy River tributary in Boston, which received a "D-" grade. The Upper Watershed has poorer water quality than the Middle Watershed, receiving an "A-" grade compared to "A." This reflects the land use in these areas:

the Upper Watershed including the densely developed 495 corridor, while the Middle Watershed has large expanses of open space and marsh land that acts as a filter, removing pollutants before they enter the river.

"We are pleased that the Charles River Watershed Association continues to use science to pinpoint the remaining challenges in the river," said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey.

"The river has come a long way, but there is much more work to be done, especially in the Lower Basin," said Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor of Cambridge. "The City of Cambridge is making significant investments in our stormwater infrastructure that will not only protect Cambridge residents from flooding, we fully expect it to improve water quality in the Charles River as well."

As the 2018 National Climate Assessment predicted for the Northeast, a changing climate is bringing more extreme precipitation events, drought, and heat. Increases in precipitation mean increased volumes of stormwater runoff and CSOs, while drier, hotter weather combined with the excess nutrients that stormwater carries into the river cause longer and more severe cyanobacteria blooms. Including CSOs and cyanobacteria in the report card presents a more complete picture of current river conditions and more clearly demonstrates the impacts of our changing climate.

"We have this beautiful resource right here in our backyard," said Norton. "But the data make it very clear that significant threats to the river still remain. We are far from 'mission accomplished' on the Charles River and if we want to protect it, we have to step it up."

U.S. EPA has taken two important actions recently to reduce stormwater pollution into the Charles River. On December 7, 2020, EPA finalized the revised Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which governs the discharge of stormwater collected in municipal systems into local rivers and streams. CRWA, along with Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), had intervened in the lawsuit over the permit to ensure that stormwater pollution entering the Charles will be significantly reduced over the next two decades. Under the revised permit, cities and towns must take increasing steps to reduce stormwater runoff and the pollution it carries—including nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, and other toxins—into storm drains that empty into the Charles River and other water bodies. Additionally, in response to a petition filed by CRWA and CLF, EPA is currently considering requiring large private properties that are significant sources of stormwater pollution to obtain stormwater discharge permits under the Clean Water Act, which would require them to also do their part to reduce stormwater pollution.

ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES. CALL 781-485-0588



# FOPG's Commonwealth Avenue Mall lighting project moves forward

By Dan Murphy

The Friends of Public Garden has made substantial progress in its ongoing effort to illuminate the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, with 85-percent completion on the lighting of the Patrick Collins Memorial located between Clarendon and Dartmouth streets.

The construction fencing has been removed from the site, which has been returned to public use, according to the nonprofit that works in partnership with the Boston Parks Department to maintain

the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, as well as the Public Garden and the Boston Common, although access to some areas around the memorial might occasionally still be limited to allow the contractors to complete a few remaining tasks on site. While the light fixtures themselves aren't expected to arrive until February, the Friends group anticipates their installation will be relatively quick and seamless, since the necessary infrastructure is already in place.

"The Friends has embarked on a capital project to light seven statues on the Mall and enhance the surrounding landscape for each," said Liz Vizza, president of the Friends. "We hope this will amplify the beauty of each statue as well as make the Mall safer during the evening hours. We are so grateful for the support of Bostonians who believe in our mission of caring for these special spaces."



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

*The Friends of Public Garden making progress to illuminate the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.*



DAVE POUTRE  
FINE FRAMING

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
82 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02114

617.723.7263

dave@davepoutrefineframing.com  
www.davepoutrefineframing.com

The City of Boston reminds you:  
**The legal drinking age is 21.**



**Thanks for not providing  
alcohol to teens.**

Proudly sponsored by The Patrón Spirits Company.

WWW.DONTSERVETEENS.GOV

## LEGAL

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
APPOINTMENT OF  
SUCCESSOR  
PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
Docket No.  
SU19P0931EA  
Estate of:  
Terese M. Cappello  
Date of Death:  
12/19/2018  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by:

Gennaro Roberto of Pepperell, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Gennaro Roberto of Pepperell, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 01/25/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return

date, action may be taken without further notice to you. The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 14, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

12/23/20  
BH

CALL US  
TODAY FOR YOUR  
**FREE**  
CONSULTATION.

**I COULD REALLY USE HELP  
DECLUTTERING. I'M TOO EMBARRASSED  
TO LET ANYONE IN MY HOUSE!**

**OH DARLING EVERYONE USES  
SIMPLIFIED LIVES.  
THEY'RE VERY DISCREET.**

Insured  
& Bonded

Simplified Lives can help you  
de-clutter or make that move!



**SIMPLIFIEDLIVES**™

508-332-8601 or 401-480-1532 • info@SimplifiedLives.com • www.simplifiedlives.com

**GET 12 WEEKS OF ONLY  
EYES ON YOUR AD \$100**

CHOOSE FROM 4 COMMUNITIES  
TO ADVERTISE IN!  
Don't miss out on our Professional  
Service Directory Special!

**2-PAPER  
BUY \$150  
3-PAPER  
BUY \$200  
4-PAPER  
BUY \$250**

ACTUAL SIZE

THE BOSTON SUN  
THE BEACON HILL TIMES  
CHARLESTOWN  
THE NORTH END  
REGIONAL REVIEW

