



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Above and below, Igloo Village at 75 on Liberty Wharf.

## Igloo Village at 75 on Liberty Wharf offers unique outdoor-dining experience

By Dan Murphy

Markus Ripperger first conceived of Igloo Village at 75 on Liberty Wharf – the restaurant’s cluster of eight heated, self-contained plastic bubbles designed for private outdoor dining – about two years ago, but the dream didn’t become reality until this past fall when the restaurant was looking for unique ways to stay in business amid the pandemic.

Ripperger, president and CEO of Hampshire House Corporation, which owns and operates the Seaport restaurant, as well as 75 Chestnut and Cheers Beacon Hill, said the first bubble, which measures around 12 feet in diameter, arrived from Florida-based Gardenigloo USA in October and was soon deemed such a success that 75 on Liberty Wharf ordered eight more that arrived in early December.

“As a small restaurant, we wanted something so we can continue having people enjoy outdoor dining, even though the summer season is no more... [so] we’ve reinvented our outside tables for the wintertime,” Ripperger said. “People love to have some-

(IGLOO, Pg. 7)



## 2020 Year in Review

Staff Report

What a year it has been. 2020 has become the year we wish to forget, but, will undoubtedly be forever remembered as the year of drastic changes. Schools, businesses, socializing all have been effected by COVID.

Here are some of the highlights of 2020:

\*On Jan. 10, the Friends of the Public Garden, which celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 2010, entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Boston Parks Department that strengthened their partnership and shared commitment to caring for the Public Garden, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Boston Common together over the next 50 years.

\*On Jan. 27, the State Administration held a hearing regarding the future of the John B. Hynes Convention Center, which the state intends to sell.

\*On March 13, Gov. Charlie Baker’s order that banned all gatherings of over 250 people in the Commonwealth in response to the pandemic.

\*On March 28, Blackstone’s of Beacon Hill and its sister establishment, KitchenWares by Blackstones, consolidated under one roof at 46 Charles St.

\*In late March, the Vilna Shul launched “Virtual Vilna,” which brought its programming online to reach more than 1,200 visitors in its first two weeks.

\*In late March, longtime neighborhood resident Diana Coldren joined Ali Ringenburg, co-president of the Beacon Hill Business Association, to launch a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to cover the electric bills for the

(YEAR IN REVIEW, Pg. 3)

## ‘City Hall’ offers a revealing glimpse of the people of Boston

By Dan Murphy

While the title of Frederick Wiseman’s monumental four-hour-and-32-minute documentary, “City Hall,” refers to the seven-story Brutalist building that has served as the nerve center of Boston city government since it opened in 1968, the film, which debuted on WGBH-TV on Dec. 22, is in essence about the people of Boston, including those who work for the city, as well as the nearly 700,000 constituents they serve.

Filed over the fall of 2018 and winter of 2019, the documentary opens as workers in the titular building are seen fielding 311

city services calls that range from a report of a nonfunctioning traffic signal in West Roxbury to a call from a tenant alleging their landlord has shut off the utilities before the viewer sees Mayor Martin

(CITY HALL Pg. 4)

**Wishing you & your families a safe and healthy New Year**

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# EDITORIAL

## HAVE A HAPPY -- AND SAFE -- NEW YEAR

The arrival of a new year marks a time for reflection, as to both the year that has passed and the year that lies ahead.

In the words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

To put it another way, we might ask ourselves, "Where have we been -- and where are we going?"

The latter question asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay to waste even the best-laid of our plans for the year to come.

Who among us imagined on December 31, 2019, that 2020 would bring a world-wide pandemic that already has killed more than 330,000 of our fellow Americans, devastated our economy, and directly impacted the lives of each and every one of us?

As bad as 2020 has been, we dread to contemplate what 2021 might have in store for us. There is no certainty that 2021 will be any better.

However, the former question is equally as tricky. Answering it requires both introspection and self-awareness, two qualities that typically are in short supply, even during a pandemic when most of us are house-bound for more hours of every day than we ever have experienced.

But trying to figure out the, "Why?" of what we have done with our lives is essential if we are to meet the challenges of the future.

As the philosopher said, if we do not learn from our mistakes, we are condemned to repeat them.

We do not pretend to have all (or any) of the answers, but we do know that in the difficult days ahead one thing is true: Each of us must step up to do our part to ensure the safety of ourselves, our loved ones, and everyone around us.

We all have a role to play in combating COVID-19 (by wearing masks, not gathering in large groups, and maintaining a physical distance from others wherever we may be) AND in helping those who desperately are in need of assistance because of the devastating economic effects of the pandemic.

Although a New Year is here, our problems are not magically going away.

We wish all of our readers a happy, safe, and healthy New Year.



~ HAPPY NEW YEAR ~

GUEST OP-ED

## Decisions for 2021

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

2021 is here, and will it be just another year? If it's just another year then that won't be bad at all because too many will not have another year. The opportunity and privilege to have another year is the gift of life. Being alive and living your life is about as good as it gets. Aim for being alive this time next year.

Make some decisions about 2021. Where do you want to be this time in 12 months? Would you like to be ten pounds heavier? Maybe you would like to be ten or twenty pounds lighter? If you cut back on your portions and get off the couch you can lose a pound a week on average. This is daunting but just think about where you can be the first of March if you start today? Don't start tomorrow. Start right now. Today. This minute. Throw all that junk cake and pie in the trash. This is a tough decision because we hate to say goodbye to all those holiday cookies and candies. Your body will thank you and you will feel so much better very soon.

Decide about financial habits. Millions of Americans carry credit card debt. Minimum payments on

\$3,000 of credit card debt is like swimming up river. If you have missed a few payments your credit card company may be anxious to hear from you. Ask them if they will consider a settlement payoff. A friend of mine owed \$5,000 and his credit card company settled for a \$2800 payoff. Your company might or might not but it never hurts to negotiate. You might be able to sell some things in order to erase that back breaking high interest debt.

Make some money in 2021 - if you want to. Most Americans need to make money in 2021. Work on job applications. Peruse the newspaper. Search online. Consider places you have heard about and call them, go see them. Knock on doors of opportunity. You get nowhere if you do not try. You might complete 20 or 30 applications to get one job interview. Complete the application thoroughly. Give them a reason to consider you. Put together a good biographical sketch, resume. Have a friend or two to review and edit because two heads are better than one. Have some good trusted references. Wherever you work do a good job because you want them to say a good word about you. A

good word may seal the deal on your next job opportunity.

Jobs sometimes are scarce. Consider your personal knowledge and abilities and what might you do to make a dollar or two? What do you know that others need to know? What can you offer that others need or might want? Can you make something? Can you fix things? How can you help others? Creating your own life and business might be the financial and mental sanity answer for you. If you create your own work and are good at what you do, you will not run out of something to do.

Our decisions determine our destiny. Whatever decision we make we have to put into action. Faith without works is dead. May your life be good, healthy and filled with wonderful love, family and friends in 2021. Let's work together for a good year.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

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**YEAR IN REVIEW** (from pg. 1)

month of March for small businesses that operate within the Historic Beacon Hill District.

\*On April 16, the Beacon Hill Civic Association sponsored a virtual hearing regarding the state's plans to launch a redevelopment process for the Charles F. Hurley Building.

\*On May 10, the Friends of the Public Garden hosted a "virtual" Duckling Day in lieu of the traditional yearly event at the Public Garden.

\*On May 20, work commenced on the \$2.8 million restoration of the Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common via a unique partnership that includes the City of Boston, National Park Service, Friends of the Public Garden, the Museum of African American History and the Friends of the Public Garden,

\*In June, Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Jay Livingstone filed a bill authorizing the long-term lease of the former Lee Pool Complex on the Charles River Esplanade.

\*From June 1 to 7, the Esplanade Association held its first Virtual 5K that slowed around 300 participants to make the trek at their own pace and on any route they choose, instead of the usual footrace, which typically draws around 1,000 runners to the Charles River Esplanade.

\*On July 21 and 22, the city installed temporary bike lanes around the Public Garden and the Boston Common as part of its Healthy Streets initiative, which reconfigures streets to allow more



SEPTEMBER - Shoppers during the September 26 Sidewalk Sale.

space between vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

\*In August, Everett's Night Shift Brewing partnered with the Esplanade Association to open the Owl's Nest beer garden for its third season in the park.

\*On Aug. 6, the Friends of the Public Garden held its 50th annual meeting virtually, at which time Liz Vizza was promoted to president of the nonprofit organization.

\*On Aug. 25, Beacon Hill resident Miguel Rosales was recognized in Mayor Martin Walsh's annual Garden Contest for the third consecutive year during a virtual ceremony. Rosales received second place in the Shade Garden category this year, and had previously received first and second place awards in the same category in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

\*In September, the Blessing Barn, a thrift and antique shop, and self-described "sharing center," opened at 144 Charles St.

\*On Sept. 15, the city

announced that it would transform the temporary bike lanes around the Boston Common and the Pubic Garden into permanent infrastructure.

\*On Sept. 25 and 26, the Beacon Hill Business Association's long-running and eagerly awaited Sidewalk Sale returned to the neighborhood, albeit with social distancing and other new public safety protocol in place.

\*On Sept. 27, the Beacon Hill Civic Association's Fall HillFest took place virtually.

\*On Oct. 22, the city held the first of several planned meetings to plan for the future of the West End Branch Library, including the possibility of creating new affordable housing as a component of the project.

\*On Nov. 2, Thieves Next Door – the sister establishment to next-door neighbor December Thieves – opened at 53 Charles St.

\*On Nov. 5, voters on Beacon Hill, and throughout the country, supported Democrat Joe Biden in his victory over the incumbent, President Donald Trump, in the race for the White house.

\*On Dec. 6, the Nichols House Museum held its first-ever Holiday Wreath Tour.

\*On Dec. 12, the Beacon Hill Business Association held its Safe Holiday Stroll.

\*On Dec. 14, Joel Pierce, who stepped down earlier this year after serving on the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission for nearly three decades, was awarded the Beacon Hill Civic Association's 24th annual Beacon Award for his "significant and sustained contribution" to the community.



Courtesy of the Friends of the Public Garden

MAY - Duckling Day became a virtual event this year, unlike past years pictured above.



MARCH - Major hospitals like Boston Medical Center (BMC), are preparing for a potential surge in patients with coronavirus. Here, outside the emergency room, they have set up a triage and testing tent to aid in any potential surge. Right now, it is being used for drills, but is being prepared for real use.



DECEMBER - Ophelia Navarro, and her son, Alessandro Navarro Gatti, shopping at Rugg Road Paper Company on December 5, during the Beacon Hill Civic Association Safe Holiday Stroll.

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\*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.

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# Church on the Hill increases annual giving to unprecedented \$500,000

By Dan Murphy

When it came time to balance the budget for 2020, Church on the Hill found itself in the fortunate position of having a surplus and decided to pay its good fortune forward by increasing its annual line item for giving to an unprecedented \$500,000.

The funds were earmarked for this purpose following a vote by the board in December, said Kevin Baxter, the church's pastor, and this is twice the amount allocated

for giving last year, as well as more than an eight-fold increase from the \$60,000 four years ago when Baxter came on board. The large surplus this year was left over, he said, in part from the free concert series and the in-house meals it provided to the community before the pandemic struck and have subsequently been put on hold since March.

Besides the usual beneficiaries like the Cooperative Metropolitan Cathedral, a self-described "interfaith, interracial coalition of urban

and suburban congregations in metropolitan Boston"; Common Cathedral, an outdoor congregation that worships on the Boston Common and includes members of the city's homeless population; and the United Way, which was awarded \$100,000 this year, Church on the Hill also lent its support nonprofits focusing on homelessness and food insecurity.

"In April, we started looking at ways to respond to the pandemic and how to focus our efforts," Baxter said. "We felt that it wasn't

morally good to just invest it, and that we ought to give it to people who needed it instead."

These include, Baxter said, the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Women's Lunch Place, the Greater Boston Food Bank, Community Servings, the New England Center and Home for Veterans, the Pine Street Inn, Project Bread, St. Francis House and the Family Nurturing Center in Dorchester, as well as

Chelsea Eats – a program to combat food insecurity in that city.

Specific to COVID, Church on the Hill also supported the Boston Resiliency Fund; the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund; and the Massachusetts Council of Church's COVID-19 Response which, Baxter said, functions "to keep churches open during the pandemic."

"We're a little church, but we're trying to do good things," he said.

# 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 Year's 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](http://mass.gov/covid19).

## CITY HALL (from pg. 1)

Walsh juggle myriad responsibilities, such as planning for the Red Sox's 2018 World Series championship parade or talking about the urgency of climate resiliency with a roomful of developers.

A first-generation Irish American and lifelong Bostonian, Mayor Walsh discusses his and the city's critical response to President Trump's hardline policy on immigration, and while Mayor Walsh never invokes him by name, the White House and its policies cast a pall over the entirety of "City Hall."

Mayor Walsh's enduring character, meanwhile, is on display throughout the film.

In one revealing moment, Mayor Walsh stands outside City Hall in solidarity with local nurses in support of Massachusetts Ballot Question 1 in 2018, which would have limited the number of patients assigned to a single nurse, while sharing memories of the nurses who cared for him at Bos-



COURTESY IMAGE

Boston City Hall.

ton's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute when he was diagnosed with cancer at age 7.

During a Veteran's Day Service, Mayor Walsh also candidly discusses his struggles with alcohol as a young adult, including once being ejected from a Bruins game for drunkenness, as well as his subsequent recovery.

Elsewhere, city staffers are seen discussing the addiction-plagued intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard while presciently suggesting that

a victory in the then-impending court case to reopen the Long Island Bridge could provide some much-needed relief for not only the afflicted, but also for residents of that neighborhood.

A wedding is ordained at City Hall, and in another scene, a new father makes a sympathetic pitch that successfully gets him out of two tickets he received after parking in front of a hydrant overnight.

While much of the film is confined to City Hall itself, it also shows city employees in the field, including an Inspectional Services Department worker responding to a 71-year-old veteran whose home is infested by rats as he faces imminent eviction at the hands of his landlord – his own brother.

"My spirit is broken," says the forlorn man in the film's most heart-wrenching scene that sheds light on the city's marginalized population.

Mike Ross, the former District 8 city councilor who ran against

Walsh in 2013 to succeed Thomas M. Menino as the 54th mayor of Boston, makes a cameo as an attorney for the prospective operator of a Dorchester recreational cannabis dispensary in a segment that also underscores the frustration that many have felt with the byzantine process surrounding this burgeoning new industry in the city.

The city's fraught racial history, especially the strife surrounding busing in the 1970s, also comes to the fore when Mayor Walsh, in anticipation of the NAACP's national convention coming to Boston, is seen discussing how the city can promote itself while also acknowledging its sometimes polarized past.

"It's all about marketing," Mayor Walsh says. "How we do we take the past and celebrate it and also understand where the problems are?"

At the end of Wiseman's absorbing opus, which leaves the

viewer with a fully realized picture of just how much it takes to keep the City of Boston up and running, Mayor Walsh emerges as a humble public servant who, after his first five years in office, still appears genuinely honored to represent the people of his hometown.

"I love my job," he emphatically tells the crowd during his State of the City address in January of 2019 at Symphony Hall. "Every day I get to go out into the neighborhoods to talk, listen and work with the people of Boston. In our five years together, we've made Boston a more compassionate, a more dynamic and a more democratic city. We've listened, we've learned and we're leading."

As a documentary, "City Hall" is an engaging and fitting testament to Boston (as well as a flattering endorsement of its city government) in these times that ultimately justifies its daunting running time.

# Massachusetts, New England States, and D.C. commit to groundbreaking regional program to reduce pollution, invest in clean transportation

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to a groundbreaking multi-state program that will reduce motor vehicle pollution by at least 26 percent and generate over \$1.8 billion in Massachusetts by 2032. The bipartisan Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P) will allow participating jurisdictions to invest in equitable, cleaner transportation options, and create significant new employment opportunities while substantially improving public health across the Commonwealth and New England.

Underscoring the importance of regional action, other Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) jurisdictions released a joint statement committing to continued collaboration on the development of the regional program, as well as working to identify additional regional strategies to reduce air pollution, create healthier communities, and invest in cleaner, more equitable transportation systems. Significantly, the State of North Carolina joined the joint statement, committing for the first time to working with the other TCI jurisdictions on the development

of the program. With the issuance of the MOU, the remaining TCI jurisdictions have the ability to formally sign the MOU at any time. The program is slated to begin in 2023 after a reporting year to allow for additional jurisdictions to sign on.

“As a Commonwealth, we have an obligation to address climate change head on and a challenge this great requires action across our region and nation. That’s why I am proud to join Governor Lamont, Governor Raimondo and Mayor Bowser to launch this trailblazing program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while building the clean, resilient transportation system of the future,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “By partnering with our neighbor states with which we share tightly connected economies and transportation systems, we can make a more significant impact on climate change while creating jobs and growing the economy as a result. Several other Transportation and Climate Initiative states are also committing to this effort today and we look forward to these partners moving ahead with us as we build out this first in the nation program.”

In a region with nation-leading climate goals, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C. are committing to bold action to ensure the

achievement of emissions reduction targets while positioning the jurisdictions and region as leaders in the clean transportation economy. Accounting for 73 percent of the transportation emissions, 76 percent of the vehicles, and 75 to 80 percent of the gross domestic product in New England, the three states and Washington D.C. are taking this action at a time when the impacts of climate change continue to be felt across the country and region.

In New England, transportation is responsible for over 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and exposure to air pollution exacerbates lung and heart ailments, causes asthma attacks, and increases the risk of a stroke and other serious health conditions. To address these challenges, the new program will make available over \$160 million in allowance auction proceeds to Massachusetts by 2023 — money to provide better transportation options that result in less pollution, improved health, and a growing economy.

The TCI-P jurisdictions have committed to invest 35 percent of annual revenue in communities underserved by current transportation options, and with disproportionately high levels of pollution. To ensure equitable clean transportation outcomes, Massachusetts will designate an advisory body

with diverse representation to identify underserved and overburdened communities, provide guidance for investments, and define goals and metrics for measuring progress.

“Tackling a challenge as big as climate change requires regions to work together and both the Memorandum of Understanding and joint statement represent a commitment by a broad group of states to continue collaborating on strategies that can bend the curve on transportation greenhouse gas emissions, which continue to be the largest and fastest growing source of climate-altering pollution,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.

TCI-P will require large gasoline and diesel fuel suppliers to purchase “allowances” for the pollution caused by the combustion of fuels they sell in the regions. The total number of emission allowances would decline each year, resulting in less transportation pollution. Each participating jurisdiction will independently decide how to invest program proceeds. These

proceeds will be invested in ways that help both urban and rural residents, including improving and expanding public transportation; zero-emission buses, cars, and trucks; electric vehicle charging infrastructure; development of interstate electric vehicle charging corridors; improving high speed wireless internet in rural and low-income areas to allow for teleworking; repairing existing roads and bridges; and providing safer bike lanes and sidewalks.

TCI-P was developed with extensive outreach and input from thousands of residents, stakeholders, businesses, and organizations, as part of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a multi-jurisdictional collaboration of Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast states and the District of Columbia. With the signing of the TCI-P MOU, there will be many additional opportunities for the public to provide feedback during the subsequent development of a model rule, and program implementation.

## Baker-Polito administration announces \$668 million small business relief package

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration launched a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program in part relies on the pending federal COVID-19 relief bill recently passed by Congress. Regardless of the developments at the federal level, the Baker-Polito Administration will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as this week.

Earlier this week, the Administration announced nearly \$49 million in grants through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) COVID-19 Small Business Program to support over 1,158 small businesses. More than 10,000 applicants had sought relief in this grant round.

Additional grants will be made available to eligible small businesses through MGCC. The Small Business Grant Program was established in the fall, and currently has a pool of eligible applicants awaiting funding. This additional funding will allow the Administration to award more of those pending applicants. Eligible businesses that already applied to the program, but were not funded due to limited funds available, will be prioritized for funding first and do not need to reapply.

The funds will also be used to stand up an additional grant program at MGCC. This program will target the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic.

Eligible industries for the new program include:

- Restaurants, bars, caterers
- Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments

- Gyms and fitness centers
- Event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.)
- Personal services
- Retail

The new business relief program would offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months’ operating expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefits costs, space-related costs, and debt service obligations.

The online application portal for the new program will open on Thursday, December 31, and will close on Friday, January 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February.

More details on how to apply and eligibility requirements are available at [www.empowering-smallbusiness.org](http://www.empowering-smallbusiness.org).

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# Beacon Hill COVID update

By John Lynds

Last week the overall COVID-19 positive test rate in Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods dropped slightly but Mayor Martin Walsh said there's still a long way to go in this worldwide crisis.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 36,974 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 10.1 percent of those tested were COVID positive--a 19.2 percent decrease from the 12.5 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,967 residents were tested and 3.3 percent were positive.

Citywide, 36,332 residents were tested and 7.3 percent were COVID positive.

Overall since the pandemic began 4.3 percent of Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

Governor Charlie Baker announced a 25 percent capacity limit for most industries. These restrictions went into effect on Saturday, December 26 and will last until January 10.

At his daily press briefing Mayor Walsh reminded residents that on December 16, Boston moved back into a modified Phase 2, Step 2 of reopening, for at least three weeks.

"We are also going to be following the State's rollback on capacity but that does not change the industries temporarily closed to in-person use in Boston," said Walsh. "Museums, movie theaters, gyms, etc. will not reopen to in-person use until at least January 6."

Walsh said on Saturday, in accordance with the State's new restrictions, restaurants, close contact personal services, places of worship, indoor golf facilities, and retail businesses in Boston will be reduced to 25 percent capacity. Office spaces will be reduced from 40 percent to 25 percent as well.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the goal of these rollbacks is to slow the spread of the virus now, so the city can avoid a more severe shutdown later.

"We still have a long way to go in this crisis. But we have turned a corner in this pandemic. And we have reasons to be optimistic," said Walsh. "The vaccine is rolling out. Every day, people are getting vaccinated -- including right here in Boston. When the time comes, I ask everyone to follow the lead of our health care heroes and medical experts and take the vaccine. It's another act that we can all take as individuals to protect ourselves and our families, and bring our community safely through this crisis. We are finally at a point where we feel like we have less days ahead of us in this virus, than we do behind us. And while we don't know exactly when this pandemic

will end, we know that better days are coming. So I am asking everyone to hang in there. Take care of yourself, and look out for one another. Listen to the public health officials and keep doing your part to stay safe and protect those around you. We will get through this difficult time, if we all continue to work together."

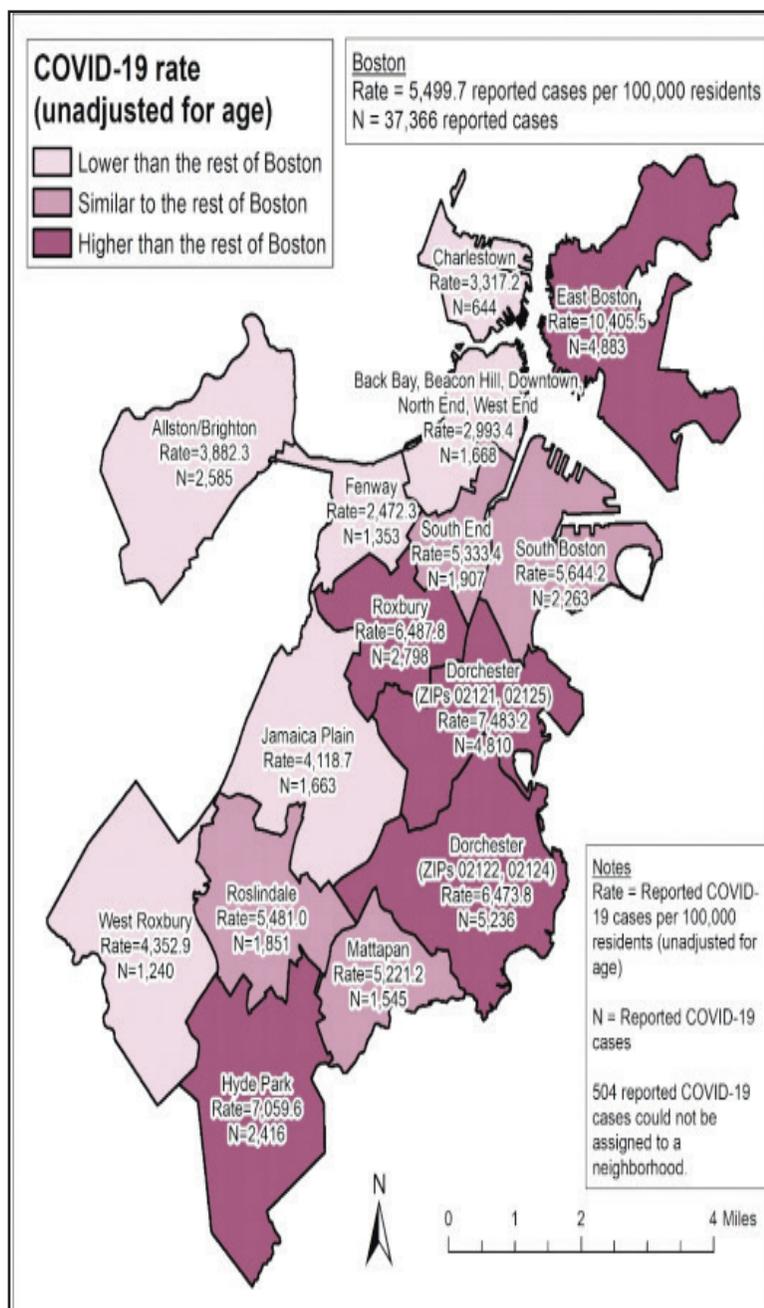
The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 9.5 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 299.3 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 273.1 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred forty-six additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 1,522 cases to 1,668 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 10.4 percent last week and went from 35,201 cases to 38,872 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-three more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 988 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

## IGLOO (from pg. 1)

thing new, especially in this crazy year...and it's also extremely safe because you're sitting in a private igloo by yourself with a party of six or less."

The bubbles, which are

equipped with interior lighting for nighttime use, are open for lunch, brunch and dinner, seven days a week, Ripperger said, providing an ideal and serene setting for celebrating a birthday or anniversary,

enjoying dinner with the family or just having a night out on the town, and each one comes with a Bluetooth speaker that enables diners to enjoy the music of their choice while inside their bubbles.

Moreover, the restaurant is offering "Bubbly Brunch in the Bubble" – a lavish brunch spread in the bubble with bottles of bubbly and surf-and-turf Eggs Benedict.

Bubbles at Igloo Village at 75 on Liberty Wharf can be reserved at no cost by visiting <http://75on-libertywharf.com/reservations/>, or by requesting "outdoor dining" on the Open Table app.



Igloo Village at 75 on Liberty Wharf.

COURTESY OF HAMPSHIRE HOUSE CORPORATION

# Greater Boston building trades unions and contractors and partners in health promote COVID-19 safety in construction

Building upon the strong base of COVID-19 preventative measures and standards established by a union construction labor-management partnership in the spring and summer, the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions and their construction industry partners have teamed up with internationally renowned nonprofit Partners In Health (PIH), local non-profit public health agency Harbor Health Services, and City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh to forge a national model for COVID-19 safety and prevention.

“Safety is always our top priority, both on and off the job, which is why we’re excited to launch Construction Stops COVID. We thank Mayor Walsh for connecting us with global and local public health experts to create the strongest possible safety protocols in order to win the fight against COVID-19. The Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, along with our union contractor partners, are honored and excited to be teaming up with Partners In Health, Harbor Health Services, the City of Boston, and the City of Cambridge in order to kick-off what we believe will become a national model for COVID-19 safety and prevention within our industry and beyond,” said Brian Doherty, General Agent of the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions.

The innovative collaboration will introduce testing hubs where there are high concentrations of construction activity throughout

the region, and an industry-specific public awareness campaign to keep workers and their families safe at work and at home. The multi-platform public awareness campaign will be being promoted through a range of platforms across the entire Boston metropolitan area.

The collaboration was forged with support from the City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s office and following a process that brought together building trades union leaders and PIH experts. The collaboration has since received strong support from the office of City of Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui along with other Cambridge elected leaders and stakeholders.

In March 2020, Mayor Walsh was widely praised for making the bold, early decision to pause construction sites in Boston, allowing labor unions, union contractors, and developers the time to collaboratively develop new safety and training protocols, and to eventually establish a safer path back to work when job sites reopened through a phased-in approach.

In consultation with industry stakeholders, the City of Boston’s Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and Inspectional Services Department (ISD) also set some of the strictest guidelines and regulations in the nation to promote worker and community safety.

Now, those regulations will be further bolstered by the creation of

testing, tracing and treatment hubs in areas with high concentrations of construction activity, along with a sweeping public messaging effort, all aimed at keeping workers, their families, and their communities safe by preventing further COVID-19 spread. The multi-platform messaging campaign seeks to bolster public health and showcases best practices to slow the spread of the disease by prioritizing safety both at work and at home. The goal is to minimize pressure on our healthcare system and to protect the health of Boston and surrounding communities.

The Construction Stops COVID initiative has underscored the power and importance of joint labor-management partnerships. Construction Stops COVID has been coordinated and launched with the support of construction managers John Moriarty & Associates, Suffolk, and Turner Construction, along with support from several key stakeholders who have been working collaboratively since March 2020, when the industry came together to launch the first round of safety protocols as part of the COVID-19 Construction Subcommittee. That subcommittee is made up of construction unions and area construction companies, and has now joined forces with local and global health experts to form Construction Stops COVID.

The collaboration was formally announced as part of a virtual kickoff event on Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

“We applaud Partners In Health, the building trades unions, the contractors and developers, and all of the other stakeholders who are making this initiative a reality,” said City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh in a statement. “The building trades unions have a strong culture of safety and they will be natural allies to Partners In Health in documenting and strengthening a model of workplace protections that will help other industries raise standards.”

“Like all essential workers who play a key role in our economy, construction workers are at high risk for being infected with COVID-19,” said Dr. Joia Mukherjee, Chief Medical Officer of Partners In Health. “Unions are critical in the fight for health equity, and we applaud the Building Trades for developing this innovative program to keep con-

struction workers safe in this pandemic.”

Specifically, Partners In Health is supporting public health awareness efforts by providing expert and scientific messaging to inform the industry about sound safety measures aimed at keeping this vital workforce on the job while keeping themselves, their families, and the community safe.

Boston-based Harbor Health Services will provide COVID testing and follow-up services from the testing hubs.

“Community health centers have played an incredibly important role in expanding access to COVID testing in Greater Boston,” explains Harbor Health Services’ President and CEO Chuck Jones. “We look forward to this new and innovative partnership to help keep essential construction workers safe and healthy.”

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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### 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 Chardon 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 "superblock" 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)

### 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 facade 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)

### 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.

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)

# FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>				
JDunne, Michael		Mcdonnell, Edward	342 Marlborough St #1	\$2,150,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>				
Antico, Rosette J		JDMD Owner LLC	45 Temple St #211	\$2,400,000
Callahan, Ronald J		Mccafferty, Kevin M	8 Whittier Pl #6E	\$765,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>				
Lawless, Hannah		435 Columbus Ave LLC	435 Columbus Ave #1	\$850,000
Delgiacco, Elizabeth		Menegatti, Christian	14 Follen St #3	\$1,425,000
Frelich, Michael A		Willett, Ellen D	15 Lawrence St #2	\$1,100,000
SCD 380 Stuart Street LLC		John Hancock Life Ins Co	380 Stuart St	\$177,000,000
Crampton, David		Patti B Silver T	400 Stuart St #18L	\$860,000
ackman, Derek		Morse, Guy W	139 E Berkeley St #602	\$1,020,000
Daynard, David		Stevenson T	28 Greenwich Park #3	\$2,030,000
Bryant, Jonathan		Rowe, Rebecca	5 Hanson St #5	\$900,000
9 Keswick LLC		Fredriksen, Paula L	9 Keswick St	\$2,275,000
Zaniboni Prvte Single FT		Katherine L Pinard T	50-52 Rutland Sq #3	\$1,510,000
Krug, Guyon		Byrnes, Christopher C	711 Tremont St #4	\$1,105,000
Glynn, Tricia M		Ricks, Alan A	52 Union Park #4-5	\$3,436,875
Delgiorno, Alexander V		Walsh, Kimberly	106 Union Park St #1	\$715,500
Merselis, Jeffrey S		Morgan, John	90 Wareham St #308	\$755,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>				
Holland, Emily H		Juliano, William	106 Commercial St #1	\$975,000
Nino, Richard		Hunsicker, Brian	57 Fulton St #1	\$619,000

# Attention to Detail

By PENNY CHERUBINO

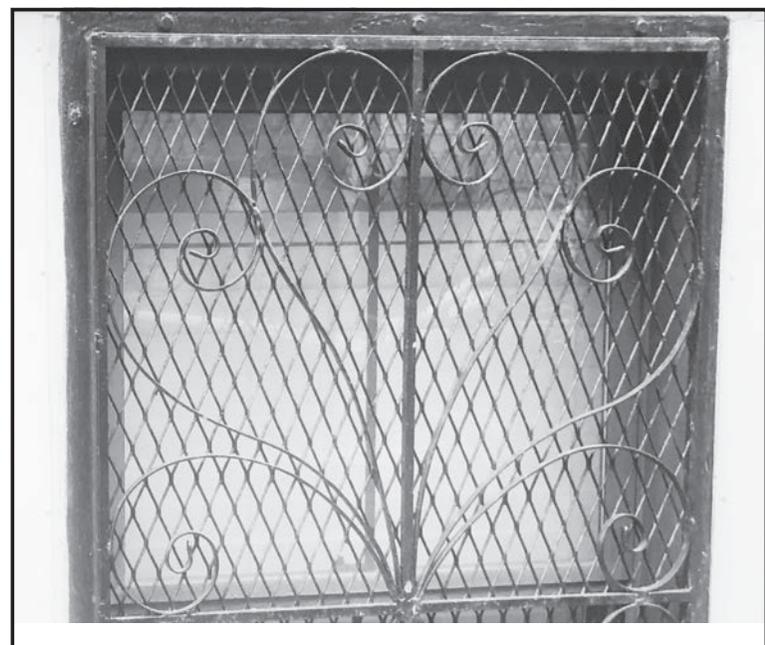
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The stained glass in the last clue is on 78 Beacon Street built circa 1848. Until 1992 it was the office of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. It has been a single-family home since 1994.

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



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ACTUAL SIZE

# Massachusetts unemployment and job estimates for November

The state's November total unemployment rate is down 0.7 percentage points at 6.7 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 12,200 jobs in November. This follows last month's revised gain of 9,500 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 15,600 jobs as gains occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Construction; Education and Health Services; Leisure and Hospitality; Information; Financial Activities; Manufacturing; and Other Services. Government lost jobs over the month.

From November 2019 to November 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 337,900 jobs. Losses occurred in each of the private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Construction; and Education and Health Services.

The November unemployment rate was the same as the national rate of 6.7 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force decreased by 43,900 from 3,622,200 in October, as 18,000 fewer residents were employed and 25,900 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 3.9 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – dropped to 63.1 percent. Compared to November 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 4.8 percentage points.

November 2020 Employment Overview

- Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 6,800 (+1.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 36,100 (-6.2%) jobs.

- Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 3,500 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 21,500 (-3.6%) jobs.

- Construction added 2,900 (+2.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has

lost 13,500 (-8.3%) jobs.

- Education and Health Services gained 1,000 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 64,000 (-7.8%) jobs.

- Leisure and Hospitality added 600 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 132,800 (-35.1%) jobs.

- Information gained 300 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 3,600 (-3.8%) jobs.

- Financial Activities added 200 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 1,600 (-0.7%) jobs.

- Manufacturing gained 100 (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 8,900 (-3.6%) jobs.

- Other Services added 100 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down 25,600 (-18.5%) jobs.

- Government lost 3,400 (-0.8%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 30,100 (-6.6%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview  
The November estimates show 3,337,200 Massachusetts residents were employed and 241,100 were unemployed, for a total labor

force of 3,578,300. The unemployment rate at 6.7 percent was down by 0.7 percentage points from the October estimate of 7.4 percent. The November labor force decreased by 43,900 from 3,622,200 in October, as 18,000 fewer residents were employed, and 25,900 fewer residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was down 0.8 percentage points over the month at 63.1 percent. Over the year, the labor force was down 256,800 from the 3,835,100 November 2019 estimate, with 391,400 fewer residents employed and 134,600 more residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends. The Bureau of Labor Statistics implemented the Current Population Survey level-shift outliers into the estimation models to incorporate the state claims and CES inputs starting with the revised March estimates. These level shifts preserved move-

ments in published estimates that the models otherwise would have discounted as sampling error. Seasonal factors, which were suspended beginning with the March estimates, have been resumed and were applied starting with the June estimates.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

For further information on seasonal adjustment methodology, please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics website <https://www.bls.gov>.

Local area unemployment statistics for November 2020 will be released on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. The preliminary December 2020 and revised November 2020 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Friday, January 22, 2021. See the 2020 Media Advisory annual schedule for a complete list of release dates.

## DA Rollins invites high school students to apply for paid internship in memory of fallen prosecutor

In memory of Suffolk prosecutor Paul McLaughlin, and in honor of his commitment to using the law as a means to improve the communities he served, District Attorney Rachael Rollins has created the Paul R. McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship and invited high school students in their junior year from Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop to apply.

"I never had the privilege of working with Paul, but more than

25 years after his murder, his passion for justice and second chances still stand as an inspiration to all of us. This scholarship opportunity is one way that we can continue the work that Paul dedicated his life to," District Attorney Rollins said. "He saw the role of the prosecutor as more than just holding individuals accountable for their actions. He knew that serving the community means engaging with the community not just on the

worst days of their lives, but every day; not just in courtrooms, but in neighborhoods."

Beginning in the Summer of 2021, McLaughlin Scholars will have the opportunity to join District Attorney Rollins' office for a two-month, paid internship. The program pairs each student with a mentor within the office and allows the Scholars to work alongside SCDAO staff. Scholars will be immersed in one of five internship focus areas: Public Policy and Strategy, Community Affairs and Relationships, Child Protection and Advocacy, Neighborhood Safety and Strategic Prosecutions,

and an Executive Team placement.

This office's relationship with the McLaughlin Scholars will continue well after their internship ends. Upon acceptance into college, the Scholars will receive financial assistance toward their higher education.

"Paul's legacy lives on in the work that we are doing here at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, at the Dorchester youth center that bears his name, and now with the McLaughlin Scholarship. This fund will help the next generation of aspiring civic leaders achieve the education necessary to continue the work that Paul com-

mitted his life to. Paul's work continues through all of us, and with this scholarship fund, we're able to ensure that his work continues for generations," District Attorney Rollins said. "We've reached out to our partners at Suffolk County high schools and the community nonprofits we work with to spread the word about this high school scholarship opportunity. We also made sure that our partners at the Department of Youth Services are aware of this opportunity. I encourage all youth to apply for the Scholarship, regardless of their interactions with the criminal legal system. I want to ensure that eligible young people in every neighborhood my office serves are able to apply for this opportunity. It is my hope that our pool of applicants reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our community, as well as the commitment to service that Paul's legacy embodies."

The deadline for applications is February 5, 2021. An online information session will take place on January 6, 2021. For more information or to apply for the Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship, please visit [suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship](https://suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship).

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

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

**Assault and Battery**  
12/18/20 - A victim reported he was punched in the face at around 6:53 p.m. on Mt. Vernon Street by a male suspect who was operating a gray Ford Fusion. The victim said the suspect got out of his vehicle following a verbal altercation that transpired after the suspect's vehicle almost struck the victim while he was walking. The suspect struck him on his cheek and fled in the vehicle. The

victim declined medical attention at this time.

**Larceny - Shoplifting**  
12/21/20 - A Cambridge Street store reported three suspects stole items from the "tech" aisle, including a battery Charger, two Bluetooth devices, two Fitbit Versa/Logitech combos and one Fitbit charger before fleeing on foot at approximately 8:08 p.m.

Want Neighborhood News delivered right to your hands?



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# First Night Boston announces full broadcast schedule

First Night® Boston, New England's longest-running New Year's Eve celebration, announced today its full performance schedule for its New Year's Eve broadcast, and features an array of performers from Boston and beyond across all genres of music.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until 2:00 a.m., a stream of musical and artistic performances will showcase a diverse range of talents for audiences celebrating from home as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt everyday life. Held every year since 1975, First Night Boston is an annual celebration of the city's arts, culture, and people. Since 2015, the event has culminated with lights, fireworks, ice sculptures, and music in Copley Square.

"First Night Boston has been a cherished tradition for more than four decades, and a celebration of this size simply doesn't just cancel," said Dusty Rhodes, event director. "This city is packed with brilliant artists and rising stars who depend on events like First Night to showcase their talents, and we're thrilled to move part of the show online and to the air." In addition to the online stream, a special First Night Boston broadcast will air on NBC10 Boston from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and on NECN and NBC

Sports Boston from 11:00 p.m. - 12:01 a.m.

The show kicks off at 6:00 p.m., and the first hour will feature performances from the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association (GBCCA), jazz from the Makanda Project, a booming organ performance from the Church of Christian Science, and a dance set by North Shore's Guardians of Isadora.

From 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., it's the Boston Youth Chamber giving way to highly acclaimed pianist Yelena Beriyeva, while Boston Gay Men's Chorus closes out the hour after additional performances by GBCCA and Makanda Project.

The Skating Club of Boston kicks off the 8:00 p.m. hour with a lineup of figure skating routines from Olympic hopefuls. Hyde Park's Sweet Harmony performs their first of two upbeat sets before vocalist Maddi Ryan takes the stage, and East Boston's Veronica Robles represents Boston's first all-female mariachi band.

The countdown continues with rising star Alli Haber kicking off the 9:00 p.m. hour, before giving way to the African and Caribbean beats of Zili Misik. The all-men quintet On the Outside performs a short set before the local Dempsey Sisters and Mandi Crimmins rock

the house.

The fifth hour features segments from Lori McKenna and Kemp Harris shot at Boston's Boch Center, while Boston hip-hopper Nancia drops some beats with local scenes. Performances from rockers Sons of Levin and soulful Of Sea and Stone bring us to the 11:00 p.m. hour, when NECN and NBC Sports Boston pick up the final countdown.

The online stream will resume after midnight with some of the evening's most popular performances re-airing until 2:00 a.m. The latest stream schedule is attached to this release, and available at [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

In a normal year, hundreds of thousands of guests visit Copley Square and the surrounding area on New Year's Eve. The event showcases Boston's beauty in a night of light, music, and First Night Boston is supported entirely by contributions from the corporate community and the general public. Event sponsors for 2021 include the City of Boston, Xfinity, Conventures, The Boston Foundation, The Greater Boston Visitors and Convention Bureau, Strega Entertainment, and NBC Boston. Donations can be made to help support the event at the event website, [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### 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](http://www.hillhouseboston.org).

### 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](http://beaconhillseminars.org) or email [info@beaconhillseminars.org](mailto:info@beaconhillseminars.org).

Stream Schedule, December 31, 2020 <a href="http://www.firstnightboston.org">www.firstnightboston.org</a>			
Performer	Performance	Estimated Hit Time	Style
<b>6:00 - 7:00 p.m.</b>			
<a href="#">GBCCA Kick-Off Parade</a>	First Night 2020 Parade Clip	6:00 p.m.	Interpretative Dance
<a href="#">Boston Guzheng Ensemble</a>	Peng Ba Ban	6:01 p.m.	Traditional, virtual performance
<a href="#">Makanda Project</a>	It Takes a While	6:05 p.m.	Jazz
<a href="#">First Church of Christ, Scientist</a>	Fugue in E-Flat Major, by Bach	6:17 p.m.	Organ Recital
<a href="#">Guardians of Isadora</a>	Dance Set	6:23 p.m.	Avant Gard Women's Dance Group
<a href="#">Makanda Project</a>	Caribe	6:32 p.m.	Jazz
<a href="#">GBCCA Chinese Music Ensemble</a>	Divination	6:44 p.m.	Chinese Virtual Ensemble
<a href="#">Chu Ling Dance Academy</a>	Dance Set	6:49 p.m.	Chinese Dance
<a href="#">Chester Brezniak &amp; Yelena Beriyeva</a>	Donald Martino's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano	6:53 p.m.	Piano and Clarinet Duo
<b>7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>			
<a href="#">Boston Youth Chamber</a>	Holiday Favorites	7:01 p.m.	Violin Trio
<a href="#">Yelena Beriyeva</a>	Aram Khachaturian's Toccata	7:07 p.m.	Piano Solo
<a href="#">Chu Ling Dance Academy</a>	Dance Set	7:12 p.m.	Artistic
<a href="#">GBCCA Choral Society</a>	Yueqin	7:16 p.m.	Choral
<a href="#">Makanda Project</a>	Why Not	7:20 p.m.	Jazz
<a href="#">GBCCA Yo-Yo Troupe</a>	Dance Set	7:33 p.m.	Artistic
<a href="#">Kim Tavares</a>	Don't Know Why	7:44 p.m.	Female Vocalist
<a href="#">Old South Church</a>	Pops and Pipes	7:48 p.m.	Organ Recital
<a href="#">Boston Gay Men's Chorus</a>	Prayer for Peace	7:54 p.m.	Choral
<b>8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</b>			
<a href="#">Skating Club of Boston</a>	Performances	8:00 p.m.	Figure Skating Performance
<a href="#">Sweet Harmony</a>	Set 1	8:26 p.m.	Song and Dance Troupe
<a href="#">Boston Synchrony Chinese Percussion Ensemble</a>	Drum Performance	8:35 p.m.	Artistic
<a href="#">Maddi Ryan</a>	Set	8:39 p.m.	Female Vocalist
<a href="#">Veronica Robles</a>	Set	8:49 p.m.	Female Mariachi
<b>9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</b>			
<a href="#">Alli Haber</a>	Set	9:00 p.m.	Female Vocalist
<a href="#">Zili Misik</a>	Set	9:08 p.m.	R&B/Soul
<a href="#">Sweet Harmony</a>	Set 2	9:16 p.m.	Song and Dance Troupe
<a href="#">Paco</a>	Set	9:27 p.m.	Oldies
<a href="#">On the Outside</a>	Set	9:33 p.m.	Boy Band
<a href="#">Boston Gay Men's Chorus</a>	Prayer for Peace	9:38 p.m.	Choral
<a href="#">Dempsey Sisters</a>	Set	9:45 p.m.	Pop
<a href="#">Mandi Crimmins</a>	Set	9:52 p.m.	Rock
<b>10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.</b>			
<a href="#">Kemp Harris</a>	Boch Center's Ghost Light Series	10:00 p.m.	Solo Piano
<a href="#">Boston Gay Men's Chorus</a>	Relax!	10:10 p.m.	Choral
<a href="#">Lori McKenna</a>	Boch Center's Ghost Light Series	10:16 p.m.	Solo
<a href="#">Boston Synchrony Chinese Percussion Ensemble</a>	Drum Performance	10:26 p.m.	Artistic
<a href="#">Nancia</a>	Get Low	10:30 p.m.	Hip-Hop
<a href="#">Sons of Levin</a>	Set	10:35 p.m.	Rock Band
<a href="#">Of Sea and Stone</a>	Set	10:46 p.m.	Alternative Duo
<b>11:00 p.m. - 12:01 a.m.</b>			
Recorded Stream on NECN			
Recorded Stream on NBC Sports Boston			
12:01 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.			
Re-Air of 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.			

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## CITY PAWS

# Learn from your animals in 2021

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Have you ever read one of the many versions of “All I Really Need to Know I Learned from my Dog?” Or, as the case may be, “... from my cat?”

Some of the lessons included in these collections are pure humor. Like the cat saying, “When you go out into the world, always remember, being placed on a pedestal is a right, not a privilege.” Or, the dog philosophy that “If it lands on the floor, it’s mine!”

Others are life lessons for humans. Think about the things a dog or cat does each day that contributes to a better life for them (or for you) to see what you can learn.

### Play, Rest, and Always Stretch

Every day our animals show us a pace of life we should emulate. Like them, we should “Run, romp, and play daily.” After that activity, they believe they should, “Take naps and stretch before rising.”

Even when Penny entices Poppy

out of bed in the morning with the promise of cookies, our food-obsessed Westie will pause for a long, complete-body stretch before racing for the promised treat.

### Provide Quiet Comfort

One of our favorite axioms from the dog list is, “When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.” Cats would say, “Curl up in their lap and purr away.”

Throughout this challenging year, many of us have benefited from the unconditional love and creature comfort of cats and dogs. People cleared the animal shelters during the pandemic. They were seeking companions to lessen their feelings of isolation, distract them from constant anxiety, give them a reason to get out and walk their dog, or take time to play with their cats.

While Westies as a breed are not lap-dogs, our Poppy is a loyal cuddler. She’ll sense when one of

us needs her and hop up next to us on the sofa or chair. She settles in with a sigh and offers her presence like a balm for our sad moments.

She’ll also celebrate when we’re happy. Some anonymous person describes this as, “The best thing about dogs is you can act like something really good just happened and they’ll instantly start celebrating. They have no idea what the context is, they’re just always ready to party.”

### Provide Early Warnings

The dog version of this is, “Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.” Cats might say, “Arch your back and give a little hiss before you scratch.” This is a lesson so many of us have to learn after an era of anger and confrontation.

Humans often fail to give the early signals that might prevent a blow-up. They hold things inside far too long and then shock people when they lose control of their



When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

anger. Yes, some dogs will snap first and some cats don’t want anyone near them. However, these animals do use body language to ward off pushy people even in those cases.

Years ago, we made business cards for our dog Sassy and listed her as Vice President of Security and Morale. She usually loved everyone but offered a soft growl and walked away when a certain man visited the office. Eventually,

we learned we should not have trusted him and fired him as our client.

We hope that in 2021 we’ll continue to learn from the animals who are a part of our community. They can be a form of continuing education and inspiration.

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

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RESILIENCY, AND  
HEART.  
BRIGHTER DAYS ARE  
AHEAD.

WISHING YOU A SAFE,  
HAPPY, AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR.

-MAYOR MARTIN J.  
WALSH

