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Geraldine O'Hagan, proprietor of Rugg Road Paper Company (on right), with her daughter, Maureen, and their dog, Axel.

Rugg Road Paper Company approaches a three decade run on Charles Street

By Dan Murphy

Geraldine O'Hagan purchased Rugg Road Paper Company in May of 2018, and less than two years later, the operation was running relatively seamlessly.

At first, she had to contend with the shop's declining orders for custom stationary, which had long been one of its most reliable money-makers before falling off due to the increasing ease of ordering those items online, especially since Rugg Road doesn't have a full-ser-

vice website.

Through positive word of mouth from customers, Geraldine was able to rebuild that side of the business, she said, and to help Rugg Road overcome what was then its biggest obstacle until the pandemic hit. The public-health crisis then brought the postponement of many weddings, along with the cancellation of many orders for custom invitations to those nuptials.

When lockdown went into effect, and the shop's employ-

ees were put on temporary leave, Maureen, Geraldine's daughter and a seventh-grader at Newton Country Day who has pitched in at Rugg Road practically since the day her mother took over the business, began making deliveries of jigsaw puzzles, notebooks and other small items around the neighborhood.

It also wasn't unusual during lockdown, Geraldine said, for people walking by to knock on

(RUGG Pg. 3)

COVID Grip Tightens

Walsh announces city will remain in Step Two, Phase Two of reopening plan for "at least" three more weeks

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh announced on Tuesday that Boston will remain in Step Two, Phase Two of the state's reopening process for "at least another three weeks," until January 27.

Walsh said that as of Monday, Boston had 431 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two more people had died from the virus. The current community positivity rate is 8.8 percent, which he said was up from last week.

Walsh called the rise in cases "concerning," adding that hospital rates are also rising. He said that 93 percent of non-surge adult ICU beds in the city are currently occupied, which is the "highest

we've seen in quite some time."

Walsh said that "this is one of the most serious points in the pandemic so far," and if the positive cases do not go down, "we will need to look at more restrictions."

Walsh originally announced in mid-December that the city would "temporarily" revert to Phase Two, Step Two to help slow the spread of the virus and ensure hospitals would be able to adequately care for patients.

Boston will now remain in this phase until January 27, after which the public health data will be reevaluated. The restrictions include a 10 person limit on indoor gatherings and a 25 person

(WALSH, Pg. 5)

City Councilor Bok reflects on her first year in office

By Dan Murphy

When she was sworn in as the District 8 City Councilor on Jan. 6 of last year, Kenzie Bok never could have anticipated the unprecedented trials ahead during her first year in public office.

"I came in thinking that I would be very focused on affordable housing," said Bok, who prior to becoming the youngest serving member of the Boston City Council at age 30, worked as the Boston Housing Authority's Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning, "because that's what really drove me into running in the first place."

In her first month on the job, Councilor Bok began "laying the policy groundwork for hous-



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON
District 8 Boston City Councilor
Kenzie Bok.

ing-related initiatives we'd end up launching later in the year," she said, which included one propos-

(BOK, Pg. 5)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Happy 2021 to our members and Beacon Hill neighbors!

We are all looking forward to a better year, and working together we will get there.

As we begin this new year, here are a several things to remember:

1. We need you to join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join. If you have called our

office for assistance with an issue, you will know that we are a valuable resource for our neighbors. Your input in quality of life issues on the Hill is important to us, and we rely on you to bring your comments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Most

importantly, you join a community of residents and businesses who want to preserve this special neighborhood. Please visit bhcvic.org or call the office to become a member.

2. Contractor Parking

We have heard from many neighbors about their continuing

(BHCA Pg. 7)

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

EDITORIAL

EMISSIONS BILL IS A BIG STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders' attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet's very existence.

IT WAS A GREAT RUN, PATS' FANS

The 2020 season for the New England Patriots came to a merciful close this past weekend. The woeful Pats finished with a 7-9 record, their first losing season since 2000, and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

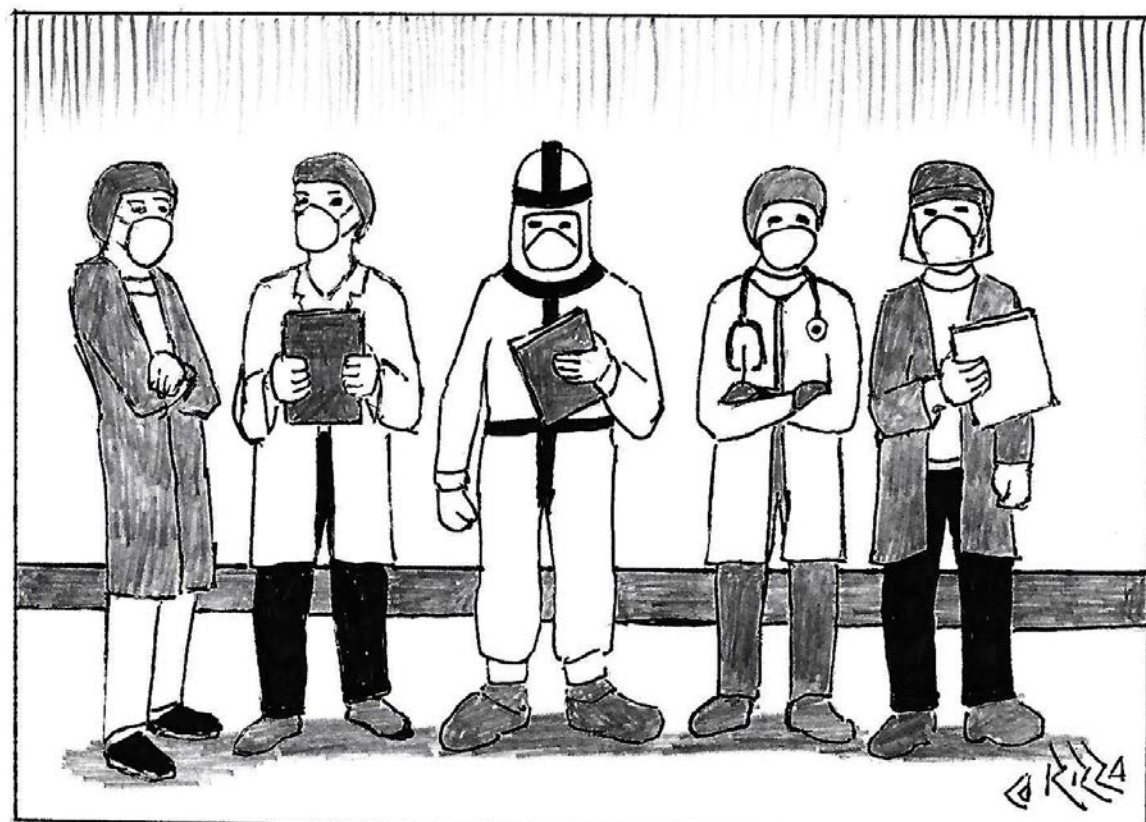
We have to admit that we feel badly for young Patriots' fans, those born after 1990, who have become accustomed to the dominance and excellence, year-after-year, by Bill Belichick's crew. This season has been the equivalent of having an ice bucket thrown over your head, a rude wake-up call to the reality of the ebb-and-flow of professional sports that the Patriots alone among all sports franchises in the modern era have managed to avoid for an unprecedented two decades.

Admittedly, even for those of us who are long-time Pats' fans who can recall all of the decades of ignominy, from Braves Field to Fenway Park to Harvard Stadium and then to Schaefer Stadium, the relegation of the Patriots to the bottom tier of the NFL this season, in which Foxboro and Gillette Stadium no longer were the epicenter of the football universe, was jarring.

So let's be grateful for the two decades of fun that Bob Kraft and his team brought our way.

But as the proverb says, all things must come to an end -- and so they have for our Patriots.

It was a nice ride -- and those championship banners always will be there to remind us of the good times.



NOTHING FINER THAN A FRONTLINER

GUEST OP-ED

What six dollars can do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was sixteen years old, I was invited to speak at a little country church in rural Denver Kentucky, not far from Paintsville.

The church had all but closed its doors but one man, Harold Rice, and his family wanted to see the church stay open and do well.

A church with few to almost no people typically does not attract too many interested ministers. I had spoken in my home church a few times and was a guest speaker in a few others. Mr. Rice asked if I would consider speaking at the church on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 2:00. I agreed, and brought a message to maybe seven or eight people my first Sunday. The crowd consisted of Harold and his wife June Rice and their family. The church was an old building with a pump organ and a sign behind the pulpit that said, "Preach the Word."

I stayed with the little congregation called Liberty Baptist Church throughout high school. By the time I was seventeen Mr. Rice was talking to me about being the official pastor and about ordination. In time I would become the pastor and would be ordained. I was too young, too inexperienced and unskilled for such a responsibility but youth is adventurous and will try what those of us who know

better would never consider.

The church grew and we started having 20 to 30 people and often more. People literally received Christ, joined the church and were baptized. This was all amazing.

Even more amazing was Mr. Rice offered me a grand salary of \$60 a month to help buy my gasoline. The trip one way from home was over 30 miles so this was appreciated. He also presented me with paperwork for a perk. The church was going to put 10 percent or \$6 of my salary into the church denominational retirement plan, then known as The Annuity Board. It's called Guidestone today. He had me to complete a form solidifying my agreement to this monthly contribution. I was about seventeen at this stage and had zero interest or thoughts about retirement. Six dollars a month kind of seemed like a joke.

I was with Liberty church a couple of years or more and about ten to twelve of those months Mr. Rice made that \$6 contribution to my retirement faithfully. Although, I never thought another day about it from the moment I signed those papers.

Seven or eight years ago I did wonder if that account even existed. I called up The Guidestone retirement people and with my Social Security number they

told me in a few seconds that the account did indeed exist and my balance was \$31,000. Shocked would not describe how I felt. I almost had to pick myself off the floor. If Mr. Rice had made as many as 12 contributions the total invested would have been \$72. Now, years later I was looking at over \$31,000. Since that day of first inquiring that little \$6 account now has over \$46,000 and still growing.

The point of all this is save some money when you can. Start as young as possible but even if you are old put something away every month. If you can save hundreds every month that is wonderful, please do. However, don't ever underestimate the growth potential of saving a little bit of money every month, even if it's just \$6. And yes, every time I look at that account, I remember Mr. Rice and the good people of Liberty Baptist Church who not only encouraged me then but are still encouraging me today with just \$6.

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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Beacon Hill COVID update listed

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods dropped but the weekly positive test rate rose slightly.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall 36,974 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 4.6 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 54.4 percent decrease from the 10.1 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,967 residents were tested and 3.6 were positive—a 9 percent increase from the 3.3 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 8.8 percent were found to be COVID positive last week.

“The average number of positive tests each day for Boston residents was 413,” said Mayor Martin Walsh at a press briefing Tuesday. “That’s up slightly compared to the week before. Our current community positivity rate was 8.8 percent. That is up from the week before. Our case numbers are concerning, and our hospital numbers are higher than we’d like.”

The Mayor said that 93% of adult Non-Surge ICU Beds are

occupied, the highest Boston has seen in a long time. The Mayor said that he and his team are in constant contact with local hospitals, and that he needs everyone to do their part.

“This is one of the most serious points of the pandemic so far and if numbers don’t improve, we’ll have to look at more restrictions. So everyone needs to wear a mask, avoid crowds, and stay six feet apart,” said Walsh. “Every time you do these things, you could be saving a life. We will beat this thing, if everyone buckles down.”

The Mayor also discussed the need for personal safety while indoor dining. He said that the City of Boston continues to monitor the data closely and limit indoor dining capacity to levels the public health experts say are safe.

He thanked local restaurants for following safety protocols, saying that they have been very cooperative. The City continues to support them with small business relief funds, technical support, and outdoor dining programs, and making it easier for them to offer safe pickup and delivery.

But, the Mayor said, he needs patrons to do their part, too.

The Mayor said local contact tracing efforts make it clear that even though indoor dining itself isn’t a high risk factor, too many people are going out to dinner

with people outside their bubbles, increasing the risk for COVID-19 transmission. He said that sometimes they see other people they know and “table hop,” which has to stop.

“We can keep local restaurants open... but only if people follow the public health guidance,” said Walsh. “So, if you’re indoor dining; only go with people in your bubble; keep your mask on when you’re not eating; and don’t mingle with other tables. It’s not just about your safety... It’s about our hardworking waiters and waitresses, hosts, and busboys who are working hard so that you can have a good time. Be respectful and help us spread the word about this.”

The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 7.5 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

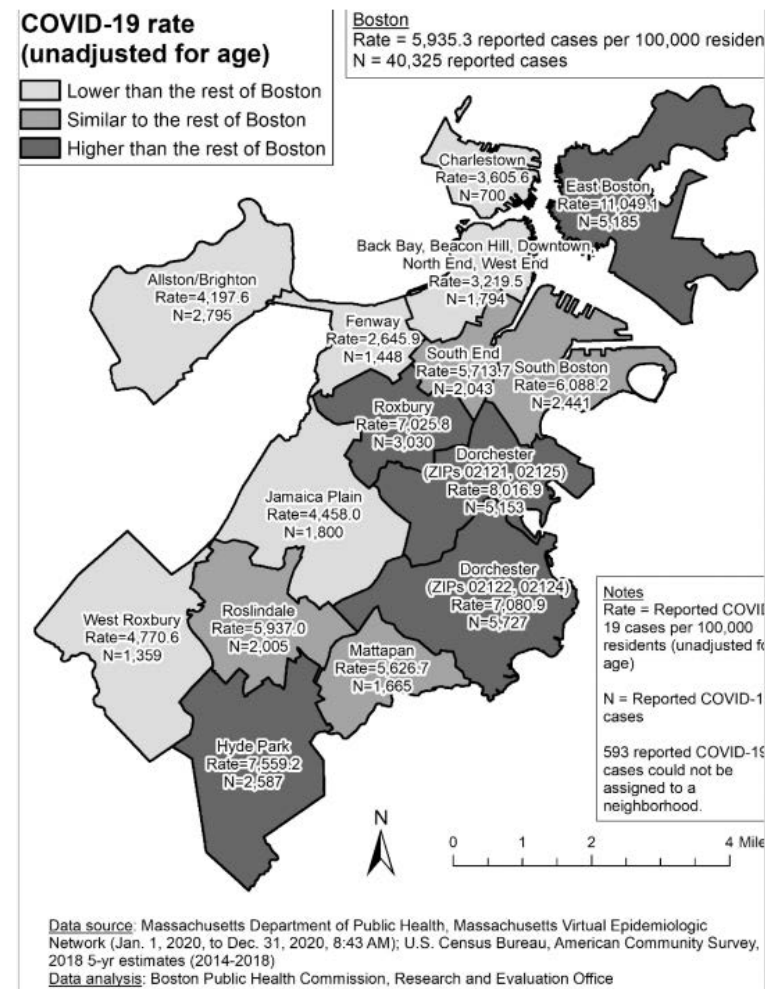
The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 321.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 299.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred twenty-six additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 1,668 cases to 1,794 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by

COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

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



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

the BPHC 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 8.5 percent last week and went from 38,872 cases to 42,195 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-seven more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,025 total deaths in the city from COVID.

RUGG (from pg. 1)

the shop’s door when they would see something in the window that caught their eye. She would then make arrangements to put the desired item in a bag and leave it outside the customer’s door for delivery.

Other times, Geraldine would receive a call from a passerby who saw an item they wanted to buy while she and Maureen were at home in Charles River Square watching a movie, and Geraldine would be at the shop moments later to handle the transaction personally.

When Rugg Road was allowed to reopen in early June with limited occupancy, it began, Geraldine said, with a “small rollout with limited hours because we didn’t know what to expect,” even though she had already taken the steps of installing a “tap-and-go” credit card reader, a screen in front of the cash register and a hand-sanitizing station.

The first week back was admittedly slow-going, Geraldine said,

but by the next week, customers felt more comfortable and began returning to the shop in greater numbers.

Rugg Road went on to do a brisk business in November and December, and Geraldine was able to hire back her staff for the holiday season.

“It was all about community because people wanted to shop locally,” Geraldine said. “[Rugg Road] is very welcoming, and people like it here. I’ve gotten to know many wonderful families and people since I’ve been here. Some people come in every day just to chat.”

Rugg Road first opened in the Allston-Brighton area approximately 30 years ago, Geraldine said, and relocated to Charles Street around two years later. Since that time, it has become one of Charles Street’s longest-standing retail establishments.

The shop, under Geraldine’s ownership, meanwhile, began stocking items made by local art-

ists, which have proven popular with customers.

“You can buy a card made locally by all these amazing artists,” she said. “I find that people are looking to support [them].”

As she looks ahead to 2021, Geraldine eagerly awaits welcoming tourists to Boston again, and with vaccinations looming, she has high hopes for increasingly more weddings to get back underway.

“We’ll always have our door open, and I’d like to be able to see the tourists come back and discover Boston and come into the store,” Geraldine said. “I feel like I represent Boston by meeting them and talking to them. Hopefully, we’ll also go back to having weddings, and a lot of disappointed brides and grooms will finally have their day.”

Rugg Road Paper Company (ruggroadpaper.com) is located at 105 Charles St., and can be reached at 617-742-0002 or via email at hello@ruggroadpaper.com.

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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.

Baker signs police reform legislation

Gov. Charles Baker signed "An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth," a controversial piece of legislation that creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants.

"This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus' leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the nation," said Baker. "Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it."

Former Speaker Bob DeLeo added, "I am proud that the House lived up to its vow of listening to folks with lived experience in enacting one of the most comprehensive approaches to police reform in the United States since the tragic murder of George Floyd. My unyielding gratitude to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Cronin, Michlewitz and González for their persistent effort to improve our law enforcement system. I am confident that the House of Representatives will build on this achievement in the time ahead and am humbled that legislation which promotes fairness and equality are part of the House's legacy."

"I am grateful to the Governor and key leaders in the House and Senate for their wisdom in coming together to carry this bill across the finish line," said Sen. William N. Brownsberger (D – Belmont). "I believe that within five years, the Commonwealth will be a significantly better place as a result of this legislation."

"This law represents a mile-marker, not an end," said Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz (D – Boston). "Among the 50 states, it will create the first civilian-led police oversight board with subpoena power and decertification authority; it will ban chokeholds and limit no-knock warrants; it will create a duty-to-intervene for police officers and a duty to

de-escalate; it will ban racial profiling and put enforcement powers behind that ban; it will end the requirement of police officers in schools. But no one bill will dismantle structural racism—in policing, or in all the other places it exists. As much as we celebrate these hard-won steps forward today, we must equally resolve to keep walking the road of racial justice in 2021."

"The members of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association are eager to turn the page on what has been an unprecedented and incredibly difficult and enduring year on so many different levels," said Chief Edward A. Dunne, President of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association. "We are extremely confident that this comprehensive legislation signed into law by the Governor today will serve to renew an elevated sense of faith, confidence, and trust that the residents of the Commonwealth will have in their law enforcement agencies across the state. The MCOPA fully realizes and wholeheartedly agrees that the general public deserves nothing less than the highest level of professionalism, accountability and transparency in their respective police departments and this legislation will assist in enhancing our long-standing position as what are viewed by many national experts as model police departments across the entire country."

This legislation will, for the first time, create a mandatory certification process for police officers through the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST). The Commission, through a majority civilian board, will certify officers and create processes for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The nine-member commission will include six individuals from outside of law enforcement, and will also be responsible for investigating and adjudicating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification, employment, and internal affairs records for all officers, and certifying law enforcement agencies. By creating a central entity to oversee officer certification, the Commission will ensure that those officers' training and misconduct records are available both to the Commission and to those officers' current

and future employers, improving accountability.

Gov. Baker amended the bill to strengthen its due process protections for law enforcement, added police labor representation on the commission, and strengthened the bill's facial recognition provision ensuring law enforcement agencies can continue to access these potentially lifesaving tools responsibly.

The new law identifies the general circumstances under which police officers can use physical force, and specifically bans the use of chokeholds and prohibits firing into a fleeing vehicle unless doing so is both necessary to prevent imminent harm and proportionate to that risk of harm. The bill also generally precludes officers from using rubber pellets, chemical weapons, or canine units against a crowd. Violations of any of these provisions may provide grounds for an officer to have their certification suspended or revoked.

The bill places strict limits on the use of so-called "no-knock" warrants, requiring such warrants to be issued by a judge and only in situations where an officer's safety would be at risk if they announced their presence and only where there are no children or adults over the age of 65 in the home. The legislation provides for an exception when those children or older adults are themselves at risk of harm. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to seek a court order when conducting a facial recognition search except in emergency situations.

The legislation includes key provisions of the State Police reform legislation the Administration filed in January that provide new tools to improve accountability and discipline within the Department and to enhance diversity in the Department's recruitment and promotional practices. Those key provisions include establishing a State Police cadet program, enhancing the Colonel's ability to address and correct misconduct, updating rules governing promotions of uniformed members to officer positions, removing the requirement that the Governor look exclusively within the State Police when appointing a colonel, and creating a new criminal offense for police officers who knowingly receive payment for a fraudulent claim of hours worked.

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BOK (from pg. 1)

al to build new public housing in the city and another to enhancing Boston's commitment to cooperative housing.

"Cooperative housing is something that stabilizes a lot of folks in the district and anchors a lot of our neighborhoods," she said.

But when COVID-19 took hold of Boston during Councilor Bok's third month, the city was faced with an unprecedented and unforeseen public-health crisis.

"When the pandemic hit, in some ways, it shifted everything," Councilor Bok said. "In other ways, especially with housing, it deepened the needs of what was already there."

In the spring, Councilor Bok and her colleagues found emergency housing for the homeless and raised the need for public housing vouchers for families while the threat of eviction for families loomed as they struggled to pay the rent.

"We became focused on cooperative housing as part of the solution," she said, "along with buying apartments that were going into foreclosure [to house residents]."

When asked what accomplishment regarding housing she's most proud during her first year in office, Councilor Bok doesn't hes-

itate in her reply: the city's "Fair Housing Zoning Amendment."

"It has really been a partnership with Councilor [Lydia] Edwards and the Mayor's Administration to make Boston the first city in the country to embed a commitment to fair housing in our zoning code and in our development process," said Councilor Bok, adding that the policy experience she brings to the job was useful in drafting language for this.

The amendment, which passed last month, is scheduled to become law next week via the city's Zoning Commission.

"What's so exciting is that it's a really important tool for the city, but zoning has historically been used across Boston and nationwide at times for the purpose of segregation and racial discrimination in housing," Councilor Bok said. "So it's extremely powerful to reverse that dynamic and use zoning proactively to bring about a more inclusive city."

Moreover, she added: "We're the first in the country. We've come up with a really original mechanism for making sure as we grow as a city, and that we grow inclusively and take active steps to make sure every project is a part of building a Boston for all."

Helping residents of her district as they have struggled with food insecurity over the last year also topped Councilor Bok's first-year priorities.

"It was immediately clear that we were hit by a tsunami of need when it came to food in the city," she said, "and I'm proud to have partnered with the city departments to imagine what we could do at a larger scale of magnitude to really transform assistance from providing one-off food needs...to delivering thousands of boxes of meals to our most vulnerable population."

And it all started with a pilot program in the Fenway, Councilor Bok said, "with a bunch of partners to show it could be done."

In the new year, Councilor Bok will be working with Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Administration to get a commitment to undertake an evaluation of the city's Payment of Lieu of Tax (PILOT) program for major universities, hospitals and cultural institutions because, she said, their real estate assessments haven't been updated since 2009.

"It's an important part of the equity puzzle when you think about how real-estate tax rates have gone up for the rest of the city," Councilor Bok said. "And

also, we have an acute need for resources as we come back from the pandemic and to tackle serious inequality in our city that has only deepened because of COVID."

In this budget year, Councilor Bok also worked tirelessly to secure \$8 million for a first-time homebuyers program that, she said, has already helped a lot of families in its first three months, 80 percent of whom were people of color.

Councilor Bok said she looks forward in 2021 to "accelerating" the work she started last year. "A lot of initiatives have real traction and will give me plenty more to do in the year to come," she added.

These initiatives range from forming an Urban Climate Conservation Corps to requiring greater police accountability, and Councilor Bok has also proposed the creation of the Boston Sestercentennial Commission to provide a wider and more equitable lens on history in planning for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026 while encouraging the city to take a closer look at the "tools" it now has to ensure historic preservation.

"I'm really leading a major push on historic preservation on the commemoration front," she

said.

Councilor Bok, whose office launched an impromptu youth job program over the summer and advocated for 1,000 year-round youth jobs this school year, also remains committed to creating more youth employment opportunities in the city.

"Youth employment is something that's going to be important as young people recover from the current crisis, she said, "and that's one thing I'm going to push for in the current year."

Councilor Bok began her service in public office during what has undeniably one of the most tumultuous years in Boston's history, but through her resolve and unwavering commitment to her city, she rose to the occasion and now looks forward to tackling the challenges ahead.

"It's been a challenging year to be a first-year councilor, but I've also loved getting up every day and thinking about how to help people in our district in this time," she said. "It has given me a really strong sense of purpose through this crisis, and I've felt very humbled by the trust that the people of District 8 have put in me."

WALSH (from pg. 1)

limit on outdoor gatherings, both in public and private spaces.

Activities and businesses to remain closed include gyms, indoor fitness centers, museums, aquariums, and indoor gaming and arcades, among others. One on one training sessions may continue, Walsh said, and indoor recreational and athletic youth activities may continue with a 10 person limit for those 18 and under.

The state's additional restrictions that went into effect on December 26 also still apply, the mayor said. This includes office space at 25 percent capacity, indoor dining at 25 percent capacity with a 90 minute time limit, and places of worship at 25 percent capacity. Bar seating is not allowed in Boston without written permission from the Licensing Board. For the complete list of restrictions, visit boston.gov/reopening.

Walsh reiterated that these restrictions are "not about targeting specific sectors as a cause of the virus spread," but the goal is to limit spread and reduce the amount of time people spend outside of their homes with others.

"If metrics get worse we might

have to implement further restrictions," Walsh said.

He also talked about safe dining and thanked Boston's restaurants "for following the safety protocols," but added that "we need patrons to do their part."

He said that "too many people are going out to dinner with people outside of their bubble," and said that people should not "table hop" if they see someone they know in a restaurant. People should also keep their masks on when they are seated at their table and not actively eating or drinking.

"We need to keep local restaurants open, but only if people follow the public health guidelines,"

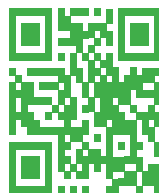
Walsh said.

He also said that everyone should be getting tested for the virus, as the state has more than 30 testing sites. "We're asking you to make it a New Year's resolution," he said.

Walsh also said that he will be delivering his annual State of the City address next week, but this year it will be "completely virtual." The event will be on January 12 at 7L30pm, and will be live-streamed on boston.gov, as well as TV news stations.

"2020 was one of the hardest years in Boston's history," Walsh said, and thanked "everyone for doing their part."

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The Esplanade Association celebrates 20th Anniversary

Special to the Beacon Hill Times

Boston-based creative studio MF Dynamics to debut “Hatched: Breaking through the Silence,” a projection-mapping and sonic public art work during 300+ outdoor showings on the Esplanade Jan. 22 to Feb. 21.

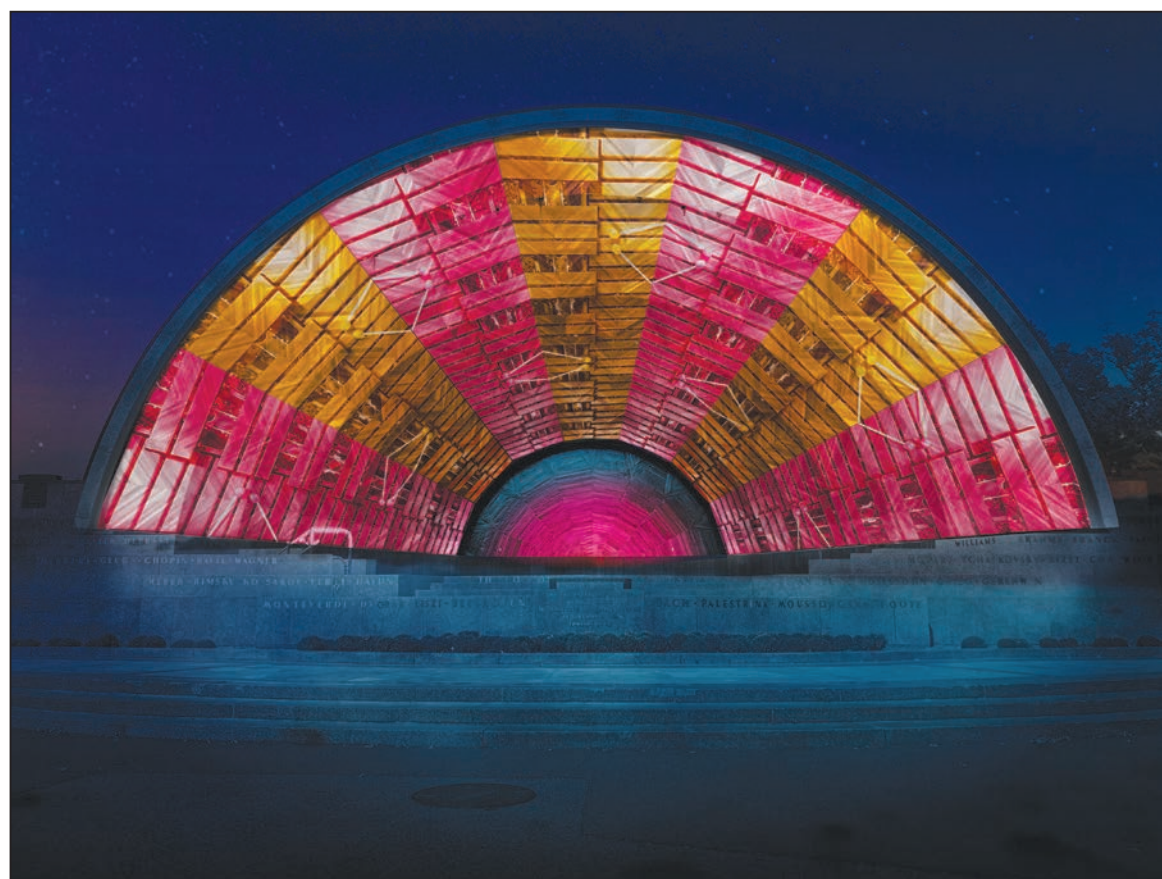
To mark the 20th Anniversary of the Esplanade Association’s successful public-private partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Esplanade Association (EA) will present “Hatched: Breaking through the Silence,” a four-week illumination and sound experience to provide a family-friendly and physically-distant celebration at the famed DCR Hatch Memorial Shell.

“Hatched” will cut through the darkness of the winter months, offering a public space for joy and optimism in the New Year. The work is an original 15-minute visual and sound performance led by Boston-based creative Maria Finkelmeier of MF Dynamics and is shaped specifically for the 80-year-old amphitheater itself.

Link to digital assets

“Hatched” is free and open to the public, taking place nightly from Jan. 22 through Feb. 21. Viewers will be able to tune in to the original synchronized soundtrack on their personal devices while watching the illuminations. The work, made possible by collaborations with LuminArtz and projector sponsor Epson, will begin nightly at 5 p.m., and restart every 20 minutes until 9 p.m. ET, offering over 300 opportunities to enjoy the work in the open-air landscape of the historic Hatch Shell Oval Lawn.

“Hatched” is the fifth and most ambitious offering in the Esplanade Association’s public art program, which includes four art murals currently on view in locations throughout the 3.2-mile linear park. Public art has become a core element of the Esplanade Association’s mission to support the ongoing health and vitality of the 64-acre Charles River Esplanade through capital restoration work, park improvement projects, horticultural care, public program-



“Hatched: Breaking through the Silence” will spotlight DCR Hatch Memorial Shell.

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ming, concessions enhancements, volunteer engagement, and much more. In total, the Esplanade Association has raised \$16 million towards this work, which is accomplished through a public-private partnership with DCR. The partnership will mark 20 years of successful stewardship and collaboration on the second-to-last night of Hatched on Feb. 20.

“This year the Esplanade was as essential as ever before to the physical health and mental well-being of our visitors,” said

Michael Nichols, Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. “Hatched” will provide a safe, open-air destination for people and their families to experience art while enjoying the tranquil beauty of the Esplanade in winter. This spectacular illumination experience is the perfect way to mark the Esplanade Association’s first 20 years of lighting the way forward for Boston’s riverfront park.”

The projection-mapped visuals for “Hatched” will celebrate the many sounds that Hatch Shell performers have expressed over the facility’s impressive musical history. Finkelmeier and her team will feature geometric shapes of musical instruments as kaleidoscope pieces, human hands magically tapping, scratching, and creating beats on the surface itself, and colorful animations accentuating the Shell’s Art Deco form – all set to new music composed by Finkelmeier and recorded by local musicians. Featuring a team of predominantly female-identifying artists and directors, Hatched will bring to light a balanced pedestal, an opportunity for underrepresented communities to “break through” and share their skills, vision, and voice.

Artistic Director and Composer of Hatched, Maria Finkelmeier, says, “Creating Hatched for one of my favorite pieces of architecture in the city has been a huge honor.

When I think of the Hatch Shell, I envision gorgeous music, community, and a love for my city. Memories of concerts, walks, and bike rides along the Esplanade come to mind. With Hatched, my team and I are elated to create a new type of expression that brings original music, visuals, and new technology to the iconic structure, encouraging viewers to form a new memory of the space - a memory that will carry us into the New Year and beyond, celebrating creativity, resilience, and joy.”

“The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Charles River Esplanade serves as an incredible natural resource offering countless recreational opportunities for visitors to enjoy year round,” said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery. “Engaging visitors in unique ways like public art displays ensures the park remains timeless, and the Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to continue its public-private partnership with the Esplanade Association.”

Powered by Epson laser projectors, “Hatched” will bring vibrant color and form to the inner surface of the Hatch Shell. With custom-built weather housing for the projectors, the experience presents a rare opportunity to experience projection mapping in the winter months and will bring joy no matter the New England winter weather.

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BHCA (from pg. 1)

concerns about contractors working on the Hill inappropriately taking up many resident parking spaces for long periods of time. We are working with the City to tackle this ongoing and long-standing problem. Because of Covid restrictions, contractors no longer come in to the BHCA office seeking renewals of their parking permits. When that was the case, we were able to meet with contractors in person and convey any concerns to the contractor that had been raised by members and neighbors on the Hill about that contractor's work in the neighborhood.

Now that the renewal of parking permits by the BHCA office has become an online process only, we are dealing with parking space abuses by contractors on a case by case basis and are visiting problem areas to speak with the owners or their contractors directly and in person, and working with the City on enforcement as well. As always, we depend on you to inform us of any abuse you are seeing so that we can address it. Thank you for helping us bridge the gap between owners who need to get work done and residents who are entitled to on street parking.

3. Contractor and Moving Permits

If you see paper permits on trees or gas lamp poles issued by the City of Boston for moving or construction vehicles that are EXPIRED, please feel free to remove and discard them. Every little bit helps!

4. BOS:311

311 is an easy to remember telephone number that will connect you with the City's Constituent Service Center. The center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. It is the best way to report an issue that the City should resolve.

311 provides access to all non-emergency City services. You can call 311 from any telephone, or you can call directly to 617-635-4500. You can also connect with 311 by downloading the mobile app, or by submitting a request or concern online at <https://www.cityofboston.gov/311/>. The mobile app allows you to easily send a photo of the problem you are reporting. You can even Tweet @BOS311.

We recommend that our neighbors use this service whenever they have a question or concern to which the City can respond.

5. Upcoming BHCA Events:

There will be no Zoning & Licensing meeting in January 2021. January Board of Directors



A view of Louisburg Square in the snow.

Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2021, by Zoom

Members of the public are welcome to attend our board meetings. If you are interested in attending

this month's Zoom meeting, please email us at info@bhcivic.org, with your contact information.

*Visit the Beacon Hill Civic

Association website www.bhcivic.org or call the office (617-227-1922) for more information on any of these events.

State announces availability of \$4 million to fund electric-vehicle charging infrastructure

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that an additional \$4 million has been made available to support new and enhanced electric-vehicle charging infrastructure programs across the state, as part of the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP). These programs, funded by the 2017 settlement of the Volkswagen (VW) diesel emissions court case, will provide \$1.5 million in funding for fast-charging stations, \$1.5 million for public-access charging stations, and \$1 million for workplace and fleets charging station infrastructure.

"Shifting a zero-emission transportation system is essential as we seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The electric vehicle charging programs announced today will also provide economic development opportunities across Massachusetts and support the growth of innovative clean energy jobs," said Gov. Charles Baker. "This announcement builds on our recent commitment to launching the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program to reduce transportation emissions and invest in cleaner, more afford-

able transportation options for Massachusetts residents."

The Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan announced last December committed the Commonwealth to designating 15 percent of the VW funding to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, totaling approximately \$11.25 million. The Administration has previously made \$5 million in VW funds available for various MassEVIP programs, and today adds \$1.5 million in funding for a new competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, \$1.5 million for a new rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, and an additional \$1 million for a revamped Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program.

Administered through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), MassEVIP is making these funds available to private, public and non-profit employers, and educational and multi-unit residential property owners in the Commonwealth in order to install standard Level 1 (120-volt) and Level 2 (240-volt) EV charging stations,

as well as Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations.

"Adding more charging stations to our current network will accelerate and increase market demand for electric vehicles," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "Drivers will have greater access to convenient and reliable public fast-charging locations, reducing range anxiety and allowing them to travel without concern about where to charge."

Under this new and enhanced funding under the VW settlement, MassEVIP will fund electric vehicle charging equipment and installation costs through the following programs:

- A new \$1.5 million for a competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, with an application deadline of March 19, 2021.

- An additional \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, extending a prior fully subscribed \$2 million competitive version of this program. Improvements over the prior PAC program include accepting applications on a rolling basis and adding Level 1 charging stations as eligible equipment.

- An additional \$1 million for a rolling-enrollment Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program, extending the existing \$1.5 million program, for a total of \$2.5 million. Improvements over the prior Workplace Charging and Fleets programs include allowing private and non-profit fleet owners to apply, adding Level 1 stations as eligible equipment for fleets, and adding coverage of installation

costs for workplaces.

- An existing \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Multi-Unit Dwelling and Educational Campus charging program. Improvements over the prior program include reducing the minimum number of residential units from 10 to five, allowing educational campuses to apply, and adding coverage of installation costs.



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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)

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)

'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.

Filmed 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

The office will be closed Thursday Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

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Canning, Ann E		Krause, Frederick T	265-275 Dartmouth St #4M	\$590,000
Walker, Bruce		Samborn, Kevin	290 Commonwealth Ave #25	\$1,560,000
LCLD 362 Comm Ave LLC		Handsman James B Est	362 Commonwealth Ave #LC	\$561,400
LCLD 362 Comm Ave LLC		Handsman James B Est	362 Commonwealth Ave #LD	\$561,400
BEACON HILL				
Dorris, Emily A		Pare, Gregory M	51 Anderson St #B	\$485,000
Gross, Michaela		Day, Deirdre	13 Bowdoin St #5C	\$530,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE				
Lam-Plattes, Sasha		Nelson, Peter L	1 Saint Charles St #GDN	\$450,000
Amornsiripanitch, Nita		Low, Lenny	188 Brookline Ave #22E	\$2,000,000
Henderson, Dustin E		Edlund, Anna K	30-34 E Concord St #3	\$709,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H	903 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H	905 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H	907 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Walat, Elizabeth		Ballou, Abigail G	31 Upton St #2	\$954,000
Moskowitz, David		Uribe, Jill K	216 W Springfield St #1	\$2,050,000
Rubio, Manuel J		Suzanne M Brendle	91 Waltham St #5	\$690,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN				
Riley, Sean A		Tower Road LLC	300 Commercial St #213	\$690,000
Katz, Philip		Saia Commercial Street	300 Commercial St #703	\$1,370,000
Spenceley, Richard		Hubbard, John A	300 Commercial St #805	\$1,795,000

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.

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ACTUAL SIZE



Baker-Polito administration announces First Week Hikes at all state parks

For the 30th year in a row, the State will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the great outdoors through the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) First Week Hikes program in celebration of the start of the New Year.

An alternative to the traditional First Day Hikes, First Week Hikes encourage visitors to enjoy outdoor activities on their own throughout the first week of the New Year, until Friday, Jan. 8. This year, DCR celebrates 30 years of this tradition in the Commonwealth. Additionally, it marks 10 years that all 50 states have adopted this happy, healthy New Years' tradition.

"First Day Hikes are a time honored tradition for many people across the Commonwealth, with thousands of visitors ringing in the New Year with a hike in a state park," said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "It is with pleasure that the tradition continues and we are pleased to offer safe, healthy, recreational opportunities through these First Week Hikes."

Historically, First Day Hikes are popular adventures guided by DCR staff. In an effort to provide residents and visitors with out-

door recreation opportunities for the New Year in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, DCR will implement the following changes for this year:

- Extending the traditional one-day hike to any day or multiple visits during First Week 2021 to prevent crowds forming at parks;
- Introducing self-guided adventures to encourage social distancing in place of guided offerings, for a list of recommendations visit the DCR website.

"Taking a stroll in your local park for First Week Hikes is a great way to kick-off the new year, build tradition, and discover the stunning natural and recreational resources that Massachusetts has to offer," said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery. "For the 30th year, the state parks system has provided hiking opportunities on January 1, and while this year may look a little different, DCR still encourages people to get outdoors safely."

Ahead of an adventure outdoors, watch the DCR First Week Hike video and see the following guidance:

- Pick a local park near you, not necessarily a state park;
- Print or download a trail map;
- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately;

- Keep your hike short and safe;
- Be flexible – if a park is busy, visit another park or return at a later time; and,

- Return to your car by 4:30 p.m. before the sun sets;

DCR asks visitors to park in designated areas only, if a parking lot is full come back another time. Many visitor centers remain closed. However, restrooms or porta-johns within many DCR parks remain open. Dogs are to be on leash in state parks unless signage designates otherwise. Dogs are not permitted on DCR Water Supply Protection areas. To find a dog-friendly park, visit the DCR website.

First Day Hikes were started at the Blue Hills Reservation in the Town of Milton in 1992 in an effort to promote year-round outdoor recreation, and to motivate the public to explore the Commonwealth's awe-inspiring natural resources. A growing collection of participating states culminated in 2012 when all 50 state park systems joined together to sponsor America's State Parks First Day Hikes Initiative, which has since become the signature nationwide program for the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD).

OBITUARIES

Robert M. Matson

Father, brother, grandfather, and great grandfather

Robert "Bob" M. Matson, passed away Thursday, December 10, 2020, at Winchester Hospital in Massachusetts.

Bob was born in Concord, Massachusetts, on August 4, 1937, to Matti and Mary Matson. He attended local schools, graduating from Maynard High School in 1955.

In keeping with family tradition, Bob joined the United States Army in 1956. After completing basic training, he served with the 10th Mountain Division as a light infantryman in Bamberg, Germany. Bob was on active duty for two years and then transitioned to the Army Reserve, where he concurrently worked for Raytheon Technologies. Bob retired from the reserves in 1962, after having achieved the rank of Sergeant (E5). He earned a Good Conduct Medal and received an honorable discharge.

Bob left Raytheon to spend the next 20 years in the insurance and securities business, working for New York Life, Travelers, and Prudential. He was highly regarded and received numerous awards and accolades.

Bob stepped away from the insurance and securities industry to pursue a career working for city government organizations in the Greater Boston area. He worked for the Boston Fire Department, assisting the city's first responders. Throughout his time working for the city he also kept himself busy as an independent contractor in property management from which he recently retired.

Serving the community was a central focus for Bob; he dedicated his time and talents to The Boys Club of America and the March of Dimes. He was honored by those organizations and received many awards and praise for his service. Bob also served in a leadership role with Waltham Jaycees. Political campaigns and neighborhood watch programs all benefited from Bob's passion for his community.

Bob had an insatiable appetite for reading; he particularly loved reading news articles and financial periodicals. He found great joy in staying connected with his fellow veterans. He cherished time celebrating special occasions with family and traveled throughout the country to be present for family events. He had a passion for



all local sports teams and enjoyed cheering on the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Celtics, and Bruins. His hobbies included collecting coins, maps, and stamps.

Bob held a special place in the hearts of many people. Bob's sister, Mary Ann, said, "He truly blessed me in many ways, particularly in my running career. He was always supportive and a great encourager." Bob was proud of his children and had his own way of showing it. He was dependable, generous, and a pillar in his community. Bob will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bob is survived by his longtime companion, Judith Carlson, of Reading, MA; his sisters, Mary Ann Matson of Nashua, NH; and Joan (Matson) Willett and her husband Richard of Ludlow, VT; his sons, Rob Matson and his wife Elizabeth of Castle Pines, CO; Glenn Matson and his wife Stephanie of Las Vegas, NV; and his daughter, Elizabeth Van Vechten and her husband Brian of Castle Pines, CO; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his father, Matti Matson, in 2013; his mother, Mary (Zelukiewicz) Matson, in 2006; and a grandson, Jacob Van Vechten, in 2019.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Bob's name to an organization that he was devoted to: The Happy Crew (<http://thehappycrew.org>) or your preferred charitable organization.

Visitation will be held at Fowler-Kennedy Funeral Home, 42 Concord Street, Maynard, MA. 01754 on Friday, January 15, 2021 11:00am-12:00pm, followed by a graveside service at 12:30 pm at Glenwood Cemetery 260 Grant Road, Maynard, MA 01754.

Area A-1 sees 20-percent drop in Part One crime as '20 draws to a close

As 2020 was drawing to a close, Area A-1 had seen a 20-percent decrease in violent and property crime from the previous year, according to Boston Police.

Between Jan. and Dec. 27 of last year, 1,905 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district that includes Beacon Hill, Chinatown Downtown and the North End as opposed to 2,393 during the same timeframe in 2019.

No homicides were reported in 2020, down from one the previous

year, while rapes and attempted rapes fell around 33 percent as the number dropped to 18 from 27 in 2019.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a nearly 21-percent decrease, with 122 incidents reported in 2020 as opposed to 154 the previous year.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down slightly in 2020, with the number dropping to 23 from 24 the year before, while non-domestic aggravated

assaults were down almost 29 percent as the number to 210 from 270 in 2019.

The rate of commercial burglaries, on the other hand, nearly doubled as the number climbed to 127 in 2020 from 66 the previous year.

Residential burglaries, meanwhile, were down slightly as the number dropped to 46 from 50 in 2019, while incidents of other burglary dropped to none from nine.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw a nearly 39-percent uptick as the number climbed to 291 in 2020 from 209 the previous year.

In contrast, other larcenies were down around 33 percent as the number fell to 997 from 1,490 in 2019.

Auto thefts were down about 19 percent, with 71 in 2020, compared to 93 the previous year.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 5 percent as the number of incidents dropped to 16,491 from 17,415 in 2019.

OBITUARIES

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Dining chair travel

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With trips to far-flung destinations on the back burner for a while, we can still enjoy some “dining chair travel.” This approach takes armchair travel to the next level by stimulating more of your senses as you enjoy the food of your imaginary destination.

For many years this has been a favorite way to explore foodways we find interesting, but far too much effort to visit in person. We’ve developed a fun way to explore countries, regions, and cultures with friends.

First, think of friends who are open to learning about a place and its foodways and plan a day around exploring that topic. Typically, we would begin with someone suggesting a place, culture, beverage, or food they want to experience in context.

Next, comes research to learn more about the dining table destination. In the years we’ve been doing this, the resources for continuing education about food have expanded beyond library books and visits to shops for authentic ingredients, to free ebooks, travel, and cooking videos. We’ve also enjoyed the expansion of the cultural food scene in this area. Now we can find, for example, Thai, Indian, Ethiopian, and regional Chinese restaurants serving less Americanized food.

A Visit to Spain

For example, one virtual visit to Spain found us planning a menu around paella. Even a complex dish like this is easier with more minds to read the how-to and hands to execute the steps.

On that particular day, our

shopping trip took us to Formaggio Kitchen for their recommended Spanish wines, cheeses, cured meat, spices, and accouterments to add to the flavor of the experience. From there we visited New Deal Fish to pick up the seafood for our main course.

When wine, cheese, and cured meat is part of a foodway, we try to begin the day in the kitchen by pouring a glass of wine and setting up a serving board of goodies for nibbling while we work. (If it’s a culture without these items, we might start with the street food of the area. In some cases we make it, in others, we order takeout.)

In this instance, the other couple had a patio and grill. That made our main course more authentic by cooking it over glowing coals. The delicious pan of paella with its crusty bottom was placed in the center of the table where (in pre-COVID days) we all ate the section in front of us in proper Spanish communal fashion. We all shared what we’d learned about the dish, the wine, the cheese, and the flan we made for dessert over hours of table conversation.

Other Options

If cooking is not your passion, you can still learn about the food and beverages of a specific place and choose a local restaurant to taste what appealed to you. If you are open about wanting to learn and it is a small family-owned and operated spot, you have built-in teachers.

On our first visit to Lucy Ethiopian Cafe near Symphony Hall in Boston, we ordered the food our gracious host recommended and shared it with friends using pieces of lovely injera bread to pick



At Lucy Ethiopian Cafe, we shared a meal with friends using pieces of lovely injera bread to scoop up bits of food.

up and bring bits of food to our mouths.

As the host came by to see if we were happy with his food, he told us about the cafe’s role as a social center for the local Ethiopian community and the role of coffee and cafes in his culture. It was a memorable afternoon of enjoyment and education.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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Larceny - Shoplifting

12/28/20 - A Charles Street pharmacy reported that two female suspects stole beverages and cosmetics from the store at

about 11:51 p.m. The store manager stated the suspects wandered around the store and placed the items in plastic bags before fleeing on foot.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION
NOTICE

Docket No.
SU20P1881EA

Estate of:
Lydia L. Tang
Also Known As:
Lydia Li

Date of Death:
April 19, 2020

To all persons interested in
the above captioned estate by

Petition of Petitioner Kristin
W. Shirhama of Framingham,
MA.

A Will has been admitted to
informal probate.

Kristin W. Shirhama of
Framingham, MA has been
informally appointed as the
Personal Representative of the
estate to serve without surety
on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal
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 interested parties 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. Interested parties are
entitled to petition the Court
to institute formal proceedings
and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers
of Personal Representatives
appointed under informal
procedure. A copy of the
Petition and Will, if any, can be
obtained from the Petitioner.

1/7/21
BH

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