



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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DANIELA EBNER PHOTO

Myles Silverman is seen snowboarding during a recent Europa Cup competition in Simonböhe, Austria.

## One-time Hill resident training to compete in Olympics

By Dan Murphy

A one-time Beacon Hill resident, Miles Silverman is now in Austria training in Alpine snowboard racing, with the goal of competing in the sport as a U.S. Olympian.

Silverman, now 23, began skiing as a 1-year-old and took up snowboarding at age 6. He was living with his parents on Cedar

Lane Way at the time, and his father would make the four-hour drive from Boston to Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine nearly every winter weekend, weather permitting.

Silverman's family relocated to Brunswick, Maine, when he was around 7, but each summer until he was 10, his parents would return for the summers to live on Cedar Lane Way.

Silverman's father took him as an 8-year-old to Torin, Italy, to see Seth Wescott, a family friend, who snowboarded in the 2006 Olympics – a trip that Silverman now credits for his decision to pursue the sport competitively.

When he was 10, Silverman decided to abandon skiing entirely to focus solely on snowboarding.

(SILVERMAN Pg. 3)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Our latest edition of the Neighborhood Guide was mailed to all members and businesses recently. In addition to being a Beacon Hill business directory, the Guide is packed with useful information for Beacon Hill residents. If you'd like to receive a copy, please contact our office at 617-227-1922.

### Join a BHCA Committee!

The Beacon Hill Civic Association has various committees that focus on a targeted range of issues and initiatives aligning with the BHCA's mission of Community Building, Civic Engagement, and Historic Preservation. Committee chairs are board members who volunteer their time and share their expertise to implement plans that relate to the goals of the organization for the good of our neighborhood. The BHCA encourages interested neighbors to become members of the BHCA and to join any of our Committees that match your interests.

### BHCA's Zoning & Licensing Committee

The Beacon Hill Civic Association seeks to preserve and enhance Beacon Hill as an eco-

(BHCA Pg. 6)

## BHAC approves application to rebuild West Cedar roofdeck

By Dan Murphy

During its most recent monthly public hearing, which was held virtually on Jan. 21, the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved an application to rebuild a roofdeck at 64 West Cedar St., with the proviso that an existing mockup remain in place and be remanded to staff for final approval.

The commission also approved an application to demolish and rebuild the elevator headhouse designed by Cambridge architect Graham Gund at 4-5 Byron St. This determination came with provisos that the new headhouse be built with a flat roof (instead of a sloped one), which would lower its height from 14 feet to 10 feet,

6 inches, and that the structure is wrapped in copper with no items painted except the door. The commission also requested that the applicant minimize the height of the new headhouse as much as possible.

In another matter, the commission denied an application to install new shutters on a Greek Revival-style brownstone at 69 Hancock St., since there was no proof of any shutters previously at that location, and said if the applicant can find any evidence to the contrary, they should submit shop drawings to staff.

On an application to replace a skylight in kind and build a new shed dormer on the rear façade of

(BHAC, Pg. 3)

## New zip code quota would mean half as many seats available in 02114

By Dan Murphy

The new zip code quota adopted by the Boston School Committee for the 2021 incoming classes at Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science would mean a 50-percent decrease in seats available for students living in 02114, according to a study commissioned by the Boston Parents Coalition for Academic Excellence, a fledgling nonprofit organization recently formed by a group of concerned parents.

Under this new allocation, a total of 10 students in the zip code that covers the North Slope of Beacon Hill and the West End would be invited to attend the city's three exam schools (six of whom would be admitted to Boston Latin) as incoming students, down from a total of 19 students the previous academic year, while only one Boston Latin seat would be allocated for 02108 - the zip code covering South Slope and Flat of Beacon Hill and part of Back Bay - for the

next academic year.

The Boston School Committee voted on Oct. 8 to adopt the zip code quota proposed by the Boston Public Schools' Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group, which was convened after the entrance exams to the city's three exam schools were postponed due to the coronavirus.

"I respect health and safety - that's important," said Bruce McKinnon, a spokesperson for the newly formed coalition. "But I firmly believe the answer isn't a zip code quota."

For the past 30 years until the pandemic struck, admission to the three exam schools was weighed equally between the student's exam results and their GPA, but under the new guidelines, 20 percent of all students citywide (approximately 175) with the highest GPAs would be admitted to the three schools, McKinnon said, while the remaining 80 percent of all seats (approximately

(ZIP CODES, Pg. 3)

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check

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

# EDITORIAL

## THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

## LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

## HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience first-hand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.



CELEBRATE GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2, 2021

## GUEST OP-ED

### Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes,

NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebrity Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars. Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If ten million people buy a book with a \$6 to \$9 profit for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book

publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what he has awakened to almost every morning of his life. Although now, he will sit in the Oval Office.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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**BHAC** (from pg. 1)

20 Chestnut St., the commission granted the request, with provisos that the dormers are rebuilt in kind or preserved, and that a new shed dormer be constructed in between them to create a Nantucket-style dormer. The applicant also must submit shop drawings to staff.

The commission voted to continue an application to increase the height of the headhouse, as well to re-clad the headhouse, new seating, wall sconce and pergola at the

roof level of 83 Phillips St., after commissioners raised numerous concerns and requested a mockup.

Moreover, the commission approved an application to rebuild the roofdeck in the existing footprint at 64 West Cedar St., with the new structure sitting on perlites to increase the height by 16½ inches. This determination came with the proviso that an existing mockup stay in place and be remanded to staff for final approval.

**ZIP CODES** (from pg. 1)

700) would be allocated based on a combination of the applicant's zip code and their GPA.

While the traditional entrance exams to the three schools would only be postponed for one year per the School Committee's determination, Michael O'Neil, the committee's chair, said prior to Oct. 23 when the vote was finalized: "We think there should be a working group going forward to look at it how we can do it permanently for these three schools."

The proposal was first presented on Oct. 8 and finalized a little more than two weeks later, McKinnon said, without any public input.

"It's never been presented at public hearing," McKinnon said. "It's never been voted on, and that's the criteria."

Additionally, according to information that the coalition obtained via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, there were 554 students with a perfect 12-point score applying to the city's three exam schools for the last year academic year (2019-20) for only 205 available seats.

"Welcome to the lottery," said McKinnon, who added that each of the city's 29 zip codes would go through a 10-round process to determine the applicants' fates. "Where is the quota for those 554 excellent students? Where is their equity? What do you say to students who have committed themselves to academic excellence?"

The coalition also asserts that the zip-code quota isn't "race neutral," McKinnon said, as is the case in Chinatown's 02111 zip code, which would be allocated only 12 total seats, including seven for Boston Latin, for the next academic year - a 50-percent reduction from the previous academic year. (Conversely, Mattapan's zip code of 02126 will see a 180 percent increase in admittance to three schools for the next academic year after being allocated a total of 36 seats, including 26 for Boston Latin.)

The new "projected shift" would also result in a 24-percent reduction in seats available to Asians, as well as a 18-percent reduction in seats for whites, according to the Admissions Crite-

An application to install a metal horizontal structural support at lower portion of the door at 31 Mt. Vernon St. appeared on the agenda but wasn't heard since the applicant failed to appear to hearing.

Meanwhile, Nick Armata, senior preservation planner, said the city has approved the commission's new online application, which, he said, "should be rolled out in the next month or so."

ria Working Group's own projections, which were presented during the Oct. 8 School Committee meeting, while seats for Black and Latinx students would increase by 50 and 14 percent, respectively.

At the very least, the coalition would now like the city to provide a list of students accepted to the three exam schools by zip code.

"How about a list by zip code?" McKinnon said. "That seems reasonable."

Moreover, McKinnon points to the seeming contradiction of the BPS adopting this policy at a time when, according to the Massachusetts Department of Education, approximately one third of its nearly 17,000 students are attending schools ranked in the state's bottom 10 percent.

"I believe the focus should now be, 'how do we improve equity for Boston Public Schools' fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders through academic excellence?," McKinnon said.

Visit [www.bpcae.com](http://www.bpcae.com) to learn more about the Boston Parents Coalition for Academic Excellence.

**"Nine Days" local author Stephen Kendrick featured at Beacon Hill Village forum**

Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested in October 1960 and held for nine days in a Georgia jail. When Jack and Bobby Kennedy were told his life could be in danger, they helped engineer his release. The Kennedys broadcast their success to Black voters in churches all over the North and South. On election day, grateful for King's safety and freedom, Blacks voted overwhelmingly for Jack Kennedy for president of the United States, giving him a crucial edge in his victory over rival Richard Nixon.

The Reverend Stephen Kendrick, minister at the First Church, Boston, and his son Paul Kendrick have written a new book about this dramatic story and the people involved. Stephen Kendrick will tell that story at the Beacon Hill Village-sponsored "Conversations With..." on Monday, February 1,

at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. This event is free and open to the public.

Reviewers have praised the book. "No brief review can do full justice to the Kendricks' masterly and often riveting account of King's ordeal and the 1960 'October Surprise' that may have altered the course of modern American political history. Suffice it to say that any reader who navigates the many twists and turns and surprises in this complex tale will come away recognizing the power of historical contingency," wrote Raymond Arsenault in the New York Times.

This free virtual program is presented with support from Cambridge Trust. Registration is required in advance by signing up at [www.beaconhillvillage.org](http://www.beaconhillvillage.org) and clicking on "Upcoming Events." Or call Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713.

**OP-ED** (from pg. 2)

lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions, just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

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.

**SILVERMAN** (from pg. 1)

As for why he made this switch, Silverman said, "My Dad always had extreme skiing movies going when I was younger so I thought those guys were super cool, and I thought snowboarding was cooler than skiing, I guess."

Silverman has been training in Austria for about a month now, and will remain there until mid-March. Besides training five or six days each week, he has also competed in two Europa Cups - one in Simonhöhe, Austria and another in Davos, Switzerland - during his time abroad.

"Striving for the Olympics is an expensive goal," Silverman said. "I want to thank my family, who

have been supporting me, and a great group of friends who've been supporting me as well."

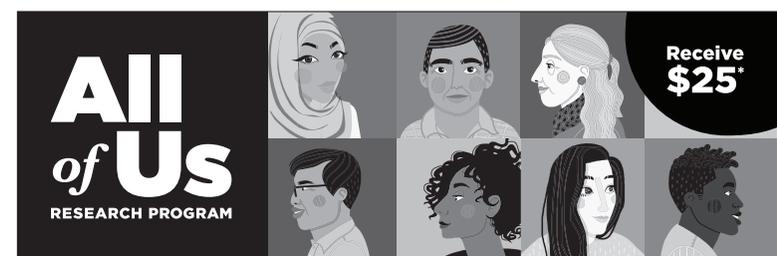
When he returns to the U.S., Silverman hopes to hit Sugarloaf until the end of the snowboarding season, and then he has his sights on attending camps in Europe or South America.

And if he keeps going at his current pace, and with a few more competitions under his belt, Silverman thinks he has a shot at making the 2022 Beijing Olympics, or otherwise, he's confident that, with six years of training, he can reach the 2026 Olympics in Milan, Italy.

"I'm just stoked to be on the journey," Silverman said.

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## LOCAL STUDENTS

### EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

#### TSYVIN NAMED TO HAMILTON COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Daniel Tsyvin, of Beacon Hill, has been named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College for the 2020 fall semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.

Tsyvin, a junior majoring in

economics, is a graduate of Belmont Hill School.

Originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, Hamilton College offers an open curriculum that gives students the freedom to shape their own liberal arts education within a research- and writing-intensive framework. Hamilton enrolls 1,850 students from 49 states and 49 countries. Additional information about the college can be found at [www.hamilton.edu](http://www.hamilton.edu).

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627  
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#### Vandalism

01/22/21 – A construction company foreman reported he parked his mini excavator on Charles street at around 4 p.m. on Jan.

21, but when he returned the site at about 7 a.m. the next day, he observed that unknown person(s) had thrown a rock through its side window.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Docket No. SU20C0319CA  
In the matter of: Yang Li  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Yang Li of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: John Robert Leigh  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and

Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/02/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 19, 2021  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate  
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## BOOK REVIEW

### Ernest Cataldo's "A Life on Beacon Hill"

By Karen Cord Taylor

What's it like choosing to renovate a home and raise a family in the middle of the city in the last half of the 20th century when the trend among lesser imaginations is to high-tail it out to some suburb?

Fifty-year Beacon Hill resident Ernest Cataldo answers that question and many others in his new self-published memoir, "A Life on Beacon Hill: An Unauthorized History of Phillips Street."

First, let's get the complaints you'll raise out of the way. Yes, Ernie could have used a good copy editor. And yes, some matters in the history sections might be questionable. So what? Following the path of other Beacon Hill residents such as Samuel Eliot Morison in "One Boy's Boston," this is one charming book.

Ernie, a contractor with many satisfied clients on the Hill, tells the story of his childhood in Winthrop, his chopped-up education

at MIT, his happy marriage to Donna, their chance encounter with a building to buy on Phillips Street, the many characters he encounters, their raising of three children, two of whom are adopted and who have all turned out well, the ups and downs of renovating their homes, the problems of being a landlord, and finally—and beyond the statute of limitations—the hitherto undisclosed current location of the stolen communion rail that survived the 1968 fire at the First Church, Boston on Marlborough Street.

He juxtaposes his own history with a history of Boston and the North Slope of Beacon Hill, which is engaging and often accurate. The entire book is full of good humor, a cheerful outlook when facing adversity and gratitude for a good life.

Full disclosure: I've known Ernie for almost 50 years, and he has completed two renovations for us. So I can vouch for his

intelligence, character and skill in rebuilding houses. But I didn't know he liked to write books, two of which he completed before this one.

Ernie said he wrote this book for his grandchildren. But unintentionally he wrote it for us as an example of what we also can do.

I hope that other long-time residents will follow Ernie's example and write their own memoir, their history of living in the neighborhood and their encounters with its quirks, characters, surprises and satisfactions. I hope they will publish that memoir on a platform like Amazon so it is accessible to all. We need books with personal experiences, private histories and the stuff of everyday life that won't usually make it into conventional history books but will tell individual stories that make more scholarly publications come to life.

Ernie's book is available on Amazon for \$7.99. It's probably the best bargain on Beacon Hill.

## State awards another \$37M in grants to 638 businesses

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced \$37.4 million in awards to 638 additional small businesses in a fourth round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

Restaurants, bars and retail stores, which have been especially impacted during the pandemic, are among the key industries to lead this round.

The Administration announced an extension of the existing, across the board 25 percent capacity limits for most businesses and current limitations on gatherings through 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 8. The Administration also announced that effective Monday, Jan. 25 at 5 a.m., it would rescind an existing Early Closing order requiring many businesses to close at 9:30 p.m. each evening, and that at the same time it would also withdraw

its related Stay At Home advisory urging residents to remain at home between the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

All other orders and safety guidance remain in place throughout the Commonwealth as the state continues to fight COVID-19 and vaccines ramp up in all regions.

### COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

To date, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$232 million in direct financial support to 4,757 small businesses. This funding has been made available through a \$668 million business relief fund set up in December, as well as \$50.8 million for small and diverse businesses included in the economic recovery package announced in October.

Additional grants will be announced in the coming weeks for thousands of additional busi-

nesses.

On Monday, the Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program, a new program also administered by MGCC that targets industries experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue, closed for new applications. MGCC will continue to review applications to both programs in the coming weeks, and applicants will be able to review the status of their application through the Submittable portal. Award notifications for the sector-specific program will be made in February.

### SECTOR-SPECIFIC CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS AND GATHERING LIMITS

Capacity Limits: Under the current restrictions that are being extended, most customer-facing businesses operating in Massachusetts remain subject to a 25-percent capacity limit.

Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits in place since Dec. 26 are also being extended to Monday, Feb. 8. Indoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

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# Esplanade Association celebrates 20th anniversary

By Dan Murphy

With this year marking its 20th anniversary, the Esplanade Association recently debuted “Hatched: Breaking through the Silence” – an ongoing visual and audio experience at the DCR Hatch Shell – while also looking forward to resuming other activities in the park as soon as safely possible.

Michael Nichols, executive director of the nonprofit that works in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to maintain the Esplanade, described “Hatched,” an original 15-minute visual performance led by Boston-based creative Maria Finkelmeier of MF Dynamics and specifically designed for the 80-year-old Hatch Shell, as

the Esplanade Association’s “marquee item” for 2021.

“We have to tinker with the light a little, but now, it’s awesome,” Nichols said of the free program, which opened on Jan. 22 and runs through Feb. 22, beginning nightly at 5 p.m., and restarting every 20 minutes until 9 p.m.

“Hatched” also allows viewers to watch the illuminations at the

Hatch Shell in a physically safe manner while tuning in to an original synchronized soundtrack on their personal devices to create a multi-sensory experience.

In anticipation of a return to normalcy, Nichols looks forward to the return of the Esplanade Association’s regular programming, including fitness classes, concerts, tours and its volunteer

program. “We hope to have all of those back in a COVID-safe fashion with smaller gatherings,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Esplanade Association will be taking a look back at its major accomplishments over the last two decades, Nichols said, on social media and in its newsletter throughout 2021.

## Beacon Hill COVID update listed

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods increased while the weekly positive test rate decreased once again.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 41,684 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.3 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 3.9 percent increase from the 5.1 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,582 residents were tested and 3.5 were positive—a 2.8 percent decrease from the 3.6 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 37,455 residents were tested this week and 7.2 percent were found to be COVID positive last week.

At a press briefing Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of 5,351 people were tested each day. This number is down compared to the week before and does not include college testing.

The Mayor said positive test rates have gone down in every

neighborhood, which is a good sign, but reported the numbers with caution.

“While there has been some improvement in recent weeks, it’s still vital that everyone remains vigilant,” said Walsh. “We should all continue to wear our masks, avoid gatherings, and wash our hands and disinfect surfaces. We should think about the simple steps we can take on a daily basis to protect ourselves and our loved ones.”

The Mayor also gave an update on Boston’s reopening plans. In mid-December, he announced that Boston would temporarily pause our reopening, and move back into a modified Phase 2, Step 2. He said city officials anticipated an increase in cases around the holidays, so they took action to slow the spread, protect hospital capacity, and avoid a more severe shutdown later on.

“This pause was set to expire tomorrow, January 27, and we are extending this pause through the end of this month,” said Walsh. “On Monday, February 1, Boston will move forward into Phase 3, Step 1. At that point, all businesses and activities that are allowed to operate in Phase 3, Step 1 can re-open, with capacity limits in place. Most businesses will still

be subject to the 25% capacity limits the State extended through February 8. In addition, all gatherings and events remain subject to capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, which applies to public and private spaces.”

For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, visit [Mass.gov/Reopening](http://Mass.gov/Reopening).

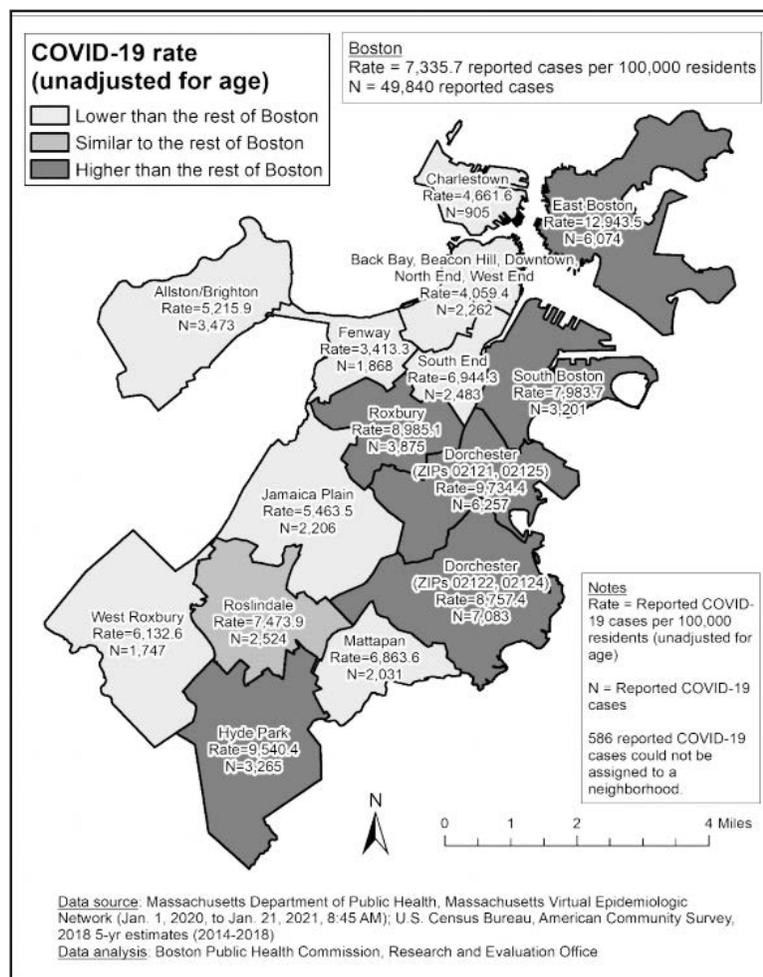
The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 9 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 405.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up 6.6 percent from 380.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred forty additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,122 cases to 2,262 cases as of last Friday.

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

Citywide positive cases of



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

coronavirus increased 5.2 percent last week and went from 49,137 cases to 51,718 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-four Bos-

ton residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,136 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## Walsh announces new ZBA tracker to update residents on projects

By John Lynds

For the past decade Boston has experienced a development boom that can be hard to keep track of for the average resident.

Unless you attend community group meetings regularly held each month in the neighborhood it can be difficult to keep abreast of development projects in Beacon Hill until now.

This week Mayor Martin Walsh announced a new Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) project tracker that

will allow residents to gather information about ongoing projects.

The new online tool that can be found at [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page\\_0/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/) fulfills the requirements set forth in Mayor Walsh’s Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Walsh said this new tool will increase access to information related to proposed projects seeking relief from the ZBA. The tracker is designed for anyone to quick-

ly search for a specific appeal that has been submitted to the ZBA, or to search for appeals based on criteria such as location or applicant, in order to identify the status of the appeal.

“Increasing access to the workings of municipal government is important for our residents to have access to resources about the city’s role in the development and livelihood of our residents,” said Walsh. “The Zoning Board of Appeals’ online tracker will increase our city’s transparency

and our residents’ understanding of our neighborhoods.”

The Beacon Hill Times took a look at the new, easy to use ZBA Tracker Monday. The new feature allows viewers to use an interactive map of Beacon Hill or other Boston neighborhoods to view projects seeking relief or by typing in the address which provides the following additional details for each proposed project: The status of the appeal; Community process; Date and location of an appeal application; Hearing scheduled; Address

of the proposed project; Status of project; Deferral date; Hearing result; Application numbers; Zoning district; Contact information; Appeal type; and Date of submission.

For example a quick search of recent hearing results in Beacon Hill showed one project that was recently approved by the ZBA.

The project at 112 Myrtle St. was approved last month. The ZBA ruled in favor of confirming

### BHCA (from pg. 1)

nomically mixed residential neighborhood served by the designated commercial areas on Charles and Cambridge Streets. Preservation of the neighborhood as one suitable for persons and families who reside on Beacon Hill is its principal objective.

The mission of the Zoning and Licensing Committee (ZLC) is to help in that process by assisting property owners who desire to make changes to their properties that require variances from the Boston Zoning Code. Such owners and their representatives are asked to appear at a ZLC meeting, where they are given the opportunity to describe their projects and rationales for requesting variances and, in turn, receive input and insight from the community.

The ZLC reviews requests by local restaurants and merchants for liquor licenses in a similar manner to the review of zoning variances. It encourages the location of varied permitted business and retail uses in the designated traditional commercial locations on Charles and Cambridge streets.

ZLC may act when it believes requested zoning or licensing changes may adversely affect all or a significant portion of the Beacon Hill community either directly or through the precedential nature of the change. It may also act where the concern is expressed solely by affected neighbors.

The ZLC's recommendations are subsequently presented to the Beacon Hill Civic Association directors for discussion. The board in turn communicates its decision to the Zoning Board of Appeal who has the authority to determine whether a variance is granted.

Tom Clemens and Katherine Judge are the co-chairs of the BHCA Zoning and Licensing Committee.

#### Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet (virtual) – Monday, February 1st, 6pm \*

Zoning & Licensing (virtual) – Wednesday, February 3rd, 7pm \*

Board of Directors (virtual) – Monday, February 8th, 7pm \*

\* Email [info@bhcivic.org](mailto:info@bhcivic.org) for joining instructions.

#### Become a member!

If you have yet to become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join. 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, businesses, and volunteers who work to preserve this special neighborhood. Please visit [bhcivic.org](http://bhcivic.org) or call the office at 617-227-1922 to become a member and get involved today!

### ZBA (from pg. 5)

the occupancy of the building as a 10-unit residential apartment. The project also calls for a full gut rehab of the interior of the building—including new plumbing, electrical mechanical installation, and a new fire alarm sprinkler system with a dedicated water line. Exterior work includes building of a roof deck, replacing windows, as well as repointing and restoring exterior brick

The tracker also shows a ZBA hearing has been set for the project at 47 to 149 Charles St.

Here the proponent is seeking to change occupancy from a restaurant and bar to nine residential units. The plan also calls for building a rear addition and renovating the interior and exterior.

“This newly developed tool will further Mayor Walsh’s commitment to increase transparency to department processes and community development,” said Inspectional Services Commissioner Dion Irish. “ISD will continue to create digital tools that will provide real time information related to permits.”

All permits issued after January 1, 2021 will display a QR Code which will allow passersby to access detailed information of the property in question on their smartphone.



The latest edition of the Neighborhood Guide was mailed to all members and businesses recently.

Please Recycle



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# Upstairs Downstairs moves down the street

Upstairs Downstairs at 93 Charles St. is moving...but happily only a block away to 69 Charles St. to the location that until recently was occupied by The Red Wagon.

For 28 years, Upstairs Downstairs has been a beloved fixture on Charles Street, providing a cozy and welcoming atmosphere for those seeking antiques and a unique mixture of old and new home decor products that can transform, beautify and accessorize any living place.

You will always find a wide range of lovely antique, vintage and new home furnishings and decorative objects, china, stemware, silverplate and sterling silver...and just the perfect gift for anyone on your list in any season for any occasion. The move to 69 Charles St. with its increased square footage will open many exciting possibilities to showcase even more new items.

Furniture has always been a most sought-after commodity.

Upstairs Downstairs furniture styles span three centuries including Federal, Sheraton, Americana, Asian, French Country, Cottage, Shabby Chic, Art Deco and Mid-Century Modern. We offer a true eclectic mix, combining old with new. The variety delights our customers. Whether you are a Beacon Hill resident with a brownstone or a studio apartment, a college student with a dorm room, a Bostonian with a summer house, or a retiree who is downsizing or a visitor from out

of town there is something for everyone at Upstairs Downstairs.

Owner Laura Cousineau has a 20-year background as a professional interior and textile designer, as well as 10 years owning Upstairs Downstairs. Her vision for designing her store has always been to present a cozy, warm family home like atmosphere with theme designed rooms of furniture and the use of accessories in creative vignettes where customers can gather new ideas to decorate their own homes. With the increase in square footage, there will be more room than ever to showcase a greater variety and unique selections of merchandize.

In addition to more room to feature the work of local artists, a truly eclectic mix combining old with new with extraordinary local artists, Marcia Corey, William Cloutman, Niki Ferrell, Theo Francis, Andrea Guay, Robert Douglas Hunter, Cate Hunter Kashem, Eleanor Scores, Sitka and John Young. Post covid, Laura pledges to resume hosting once again their Artist Reception Events and trunk shows for jewelry and other fun things and to continue their charity activities that support the neighborhood. The variety of merchandize, in-house events and a committed mission to support the neighborhood has made Upstairs Downstairs a cherished institution and has delighted customers for 29 years and has inspired and energized a loyal and dedicated staff to make it all happen. This will be the continuing

mission and commitment at 69 Charles St.

For more 10 years, Upstairs Downstairs was only downstairs, but always with an upstairs attitude.

“Now,” Cousineau said, “we’ve found our upstairs and plan to utilize every square inch and to replicate the feeling that you are entering a home of distinction. Now at street level at last, and with two large floors to fill we have our work cut out for us to provide just the perfect furnishings for your home. Our new name will be Upstairs Downstairs Home!”

Please look for the new sign.

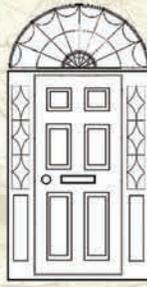
Upstairs Downstairs Antiques will close its door at 93 Charles St. on Jan. 31. At some point, there will be a soft opening at the new location in February...and then a grand opening in March. You can follow them on Instagram to track progress and announcements and to fill out a survey on what pieces you might be looking for.

“We wish the absolute best to our friend of many years,” said Suzy O’Brien, owner of The Red Wagon.

“Thank you so much for your continuous support,” Cousineau said. “You are always welcome here at Upstairs Downstairs. Let all of us welcome the spring and new beginnings. So please come and visit our new location at 69 Charles Street and step in to see for yourself the many surprises we have in store for you.”



The new home of Upstairs Downstairs at 69 Charles St.



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**B** | Mayor Martin J. Walsh      **#BOSCanHelp**      **BOS:311**

# Red Cross urges blood donation to maintain supply amid pandemic

The American Red Cross typically has a tough time keeping the blood supply strong during the winter months when inclement weather and seasonal illnesses can impact donors. This year the pandemic adds in another challenge in keeping the blood supply strong. The Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to make an appointment to give blood or platelets this month.

Every day there are thousands of patients who rely on lifesaving blood donations – people like Leslie Johnson. In 2005, a farming accident left Johnson with broken bones and massive bleeding. In the first 24 hours after the accident, she received 10 units of blood and platelets. Additional transfusions and surgeries followed.

Johnson's high school-age daughter, Emily, hosted a blood drive last semester because she recognizes the role of blood in helping save her mom's life. "If blood had not been available when she needed it, she might not be here today. I might not have had my mom growing up. It's my honor to be able to promote blood donation and help pay it forward to others in need."

As Leslie Johnson faces additional surgeries to address ongoing injuries from the accident, she may need more blood transfusions.

"It's so important, especially as we navigate this pandemic, to make sure there is blood available," said Emily. "Blood is such a meaningful gift to give."

One heartwarming gesture deserves another

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, those who come to give this February will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon. (Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Together](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Together).)

Make your appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies

may be used to help COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 25 - Feb. 16

Suffolk County  
Boston  
1/27/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
1/28/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Cen-

ter, 274 Tremont Street  
1/29/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
1/29/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Big Night Entertainment Group, 110 Causeway Street  
1/30/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
1/31/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/1/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/2/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/3/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/4/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Boston Park Plaza, 64 Arlington Street  
2/4/2021: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza  
2/4/2021: 12:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/5/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/6/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/7/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/8/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/9/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.,

Boston College Club, 100 Federal Street, 36th Floor

2/9/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/10/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/11/2021: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Northeastern University, 77 St. Stephen Street  
2/11/2021: 12:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/12/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/12/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Big Night Entertainment Group, 110 Causeway Street  
2/13/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/14/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/15/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
2/16/2021: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m., Flynn Cruiseport Boston, 1 Black Falcon Ave, Black Falcon Cruise Terminal  
2/16/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street  
Winthrop  
2/8/2021: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Cottage Park YC, 76 Orlando Ave

## Cardinal O'Malley announces appointment of Michael Scannell as Executive Director of the Clergy Trust

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap, has announced the appointment of Michael Scannell as the Executive Director of the Clergy Trust (formerly the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust). Mr. Scannell succeeds Mr. Joseph D'Arrigo who has led the Trust for the past 12 years.

"We are pleased that Mike Scannell will lead the Clergy Trust going forward," said Cardinal Seán. "Mike has more than 30 years of experience in financial management, human resources and service on nonprofit boards. Combined with his strong faith and business experience, Mike brings the necessary skills and vision to ensure that the Trust will continue to provide care and support to all our priests in their retirement and at times of medical needs."

Mr. Scannell said, "I'm

extremely excited for the opportunity to lead the Clergy Trust as its next Executive Director and supporting the high quality of care and wellness of the priests of our Archdiocese. Healthier priests mean stronger communities for all of us. I look forward to following Joe D'Arrigo and working with an exceptionally dedicated team and outstanding Board of Trustees to fulfill this important mission."

The Cardinal expressed his gratitude for Mr. D'Arrigo's achievements of stabilizing and strengthening the Trust during very challenging years. "Joe D'Arrigo has worked in service on behalf of our priests and established a sure foundation for the Trust now and in the future. His having led the renovation of the Regina Cleri Residence with care and concern for our senior priests, is a blessing

for the Archdiocese."

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Clergy Trust these past many years caring for our priests," said Mr. D'Arrigo. "The Cardinal and the Board's direction was clear from the beginning and with their support and active involvement we accomplished much to insure we meet our commitment to care for all our priests who give so much to our parishes, schools and ministries." Mr. D'Arrigo will lead the Rodman for Kids Foundation, an organization he has long been involved.

Cardinal Seán thanked the Clergy Trust Board for their time and effort given to the search for new leadership, particularly Board member Jean Tempel and Board Chair Mark Vachon for leading the process.

Raised in West Roxbury, the

youngest of six children, Scannell and his wife are the parents of three college-aged children and active parishioners with Holy Name Parish. He is an 18-time marathon finisher (Boston and New York).

Most recently, Scannell was a Senior Vice President of Global Human Resources for State Street Corporation and President of the State Street Foundation, the company's charitable giving entity where he executed a global corporate philanthropy and employee giving program granting \$25 million annually. He earned a BA in Economics and Business Management from Stonehill College and a graduate certification in Human Resources Management from Northeastern University. He completed the Human Resources Management Certification pro-

gram with the Institute for Applied Management and Law.

Active in several nonprofits, he serves as Vice Chair of Ellis Memorial Board, on the Stonehill College President's Advisory Council and on the Board of Catholic Memorial School.

The Clergy Trust is an independently managed trust that provides ongoing care and support for the health, well-being, and retirement needs of 536 active and senior diocesan priests in good standing across the Archdiocese of Boston. The Clergy Trust draws support from special collections and an annual Celebration of Priesthood that fund the high-quality programs. To learn more about the Clergy Trust, visit [www.Clergytrust.org](http://www.Clergytrust.org).

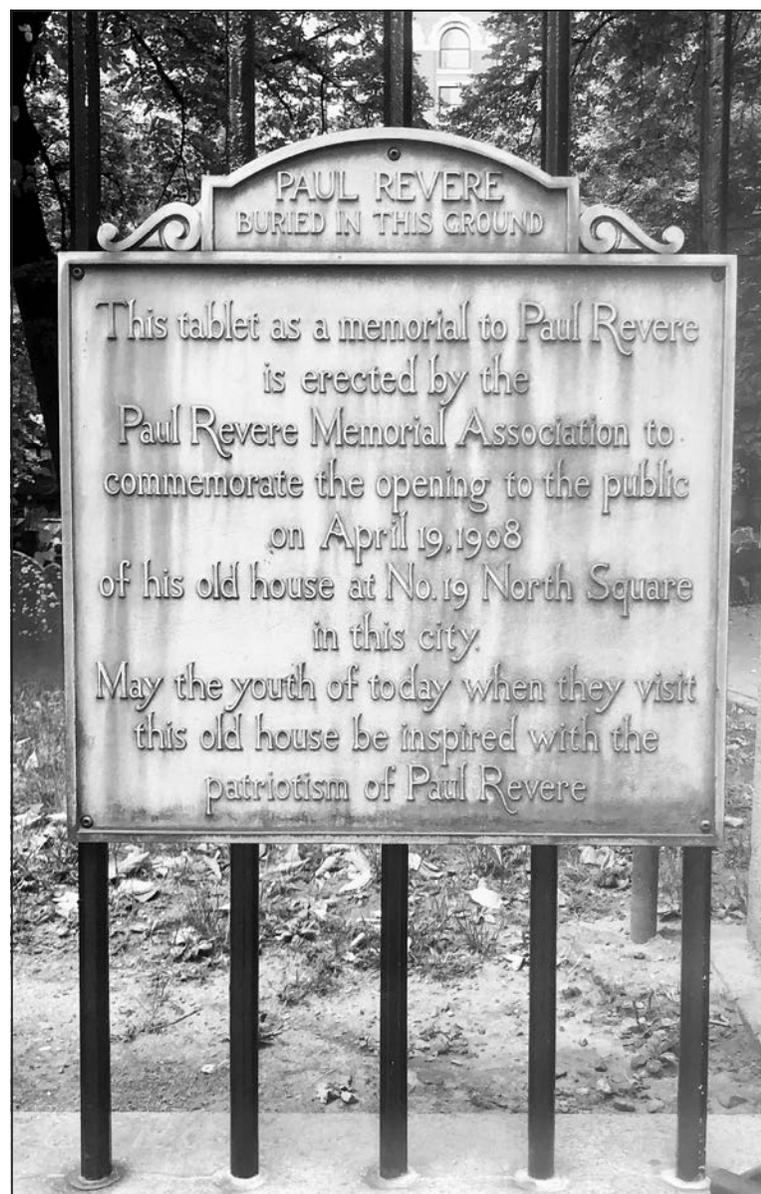
# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
DGL Beacon Properties LLC	Brown, Douglas R	196 Beacon St #3	\$4,450,000
Steinway 162 LLC	B Minor LLC	162 Boylston St	\$18,350,000
232 Clarendon LLC	Hodgins William L Est	232 Clarendon St	\$3,969,000
Powley FT 2019	Webster, Clifford S	298 Marlborough St #6	\$1,155,000
Grimaldo, Alexandra C	Apostol, James F	52 Charlesgate E #169	\$470,000
Kau Charlesgate East LLC	377 Commonwealth LLC	377 Commonwealth Ave #P	\$200,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
73 Beacon Street LLC	LGC RT	73 Beacon St #1	\$6,200,000
73 Beacon Street LLC	LGC RT	73 Beacon St #2	\$6,200,000
Song, Christian	William F Griffin Jr	10 Bowdoin St #14	\$1,299,450
Boiselle, Philip	3-5 Joy LLC	3 Joy St #2	\$2,500,000
Truedson, Tina	Kelleher, John J	145 Pinckney St #413	\$525,000
Nalini Sharma RET	Brummer, Michael G	15 River St #505	\$645,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
113 Appleton Street LLC	113 Appleton RT	113 Appleton St	\$2,500,000
Ledermann US RE Corp	527-529 Beacon Street	527 Beacon St	\$10,500,000
Gomez, Fermin M	Stoner, Amanda M	529 Columbus Ave #14	\$500,000
Scherer, Carl B	Jeffrey M Johnston LT	26 Hanson St #1	\$1,750,000
Willow, Lucia T	Cacase, Sharon L	62 Queensberry St #107	\$347,000
Daniels, Julian	Schwartz, Paul	12 Stoneholm St #332	\$440,000
Hunt, Kristin F	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #404	\$1,375,000
Dupre, Michael E	Orlove, Marni S	76-82 W Rutland Sq #402	\$1,165,000
Turner, Christine D	Hoover, Adam	141 Worcester St #1	\$1,490,000
NBMF LLC	Masse, Diana	17 Worcester St #5	\$945,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Davis, Landon	Bibikow, Walter	76 Batterymarch St #5	\$850,000
Ketabi, Amir A	Rana Assoc	386 Commercial St #2D	\$315,000
Ketabi, Amir A	Rana Assoc	65 E India Row #10E	\$615,000

# Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The words in the last clue are from a plaque honoring Paul Revere. The sign is located on the fence of the Granary Burying Ground on Tremont Street. This is the site of Revere's grave. However, the plaque directs people to his home in the North End and commemorates the opening of that historic site to visitors in 1908.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



## Mass. National Guard selected to provide additional assistance in Washington, D.C.

At the request of federal authorities, members of the Massachusetts National Guard, alongside National Guard members from other states, will provide additional assistance in Washington, D.C., to support the United States Secret Service beginning this week.

Governor Charlie Baker today signed an order approving up to 700 Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard personnel for the mission, which was requested by the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, and Secret Service. These guard members will be traveling to Washington in the coming days and are expected to return to the Commonwealth on

February 23.

This mission is separate from the 500 personnel who served last week in DC in support of inauguration events and returned home to Massachusetts over the weekend.

The Massachusetts National Guard will ensure all appropriate force health protection measures are implemented leading up to, and throughout, the mission. This includes pre-departure screenings, COVID-19 testing, and mandatory mask wear. Additionally, Soldiers and Airmen will have individual rooms while deployed to the D.C. area to further reduce risks during this pandemic.

Today's activation will not

interfere with the Massachusetts National Guard's ability to respond to and assist in emergencies within the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts National Guard trains regularly with military, law enforcement, and civilian agencies to provide a broad spectrum of services in support of security, logistics, disaster relief, and other missions. The Guard has a proven track record of success supporting civilian authorities and their frequent side-by-side training with state and local first responders makes them well-suited for this mission.

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JANUARY 21, 2021  
**THE BEACON HILL TIMES**  
THERE ARE NO TIMES LIKE THESE TIMES

**One-bedroom rentals see sharp price decline**  
By Dan Murphy  
Boston has seen, according to one study, the median price for a one-bedroom fall by 17 percent citywide between January 2020 and this month, and Beacon Hill hasn't been immune to this trend. According to Zumper, an online marketplace for apartment rentals, the median price for a one-bedroom in the city had fallen to \$2,150 in January 2021 from \$2,610 during that same month last year, and Will Natoli, who has worked as broker with Compass Real Estate on Newbury Street for the past five years and rents about 50 apartments each year, said that prices for one-bedroom rentals on Beacon Hill have similarly declined, which, he said, "is 100-percent COVID related, obviously."  
(RENTALS, Pg. 4)

**Boston Consignment helps refresh living spaces**  
By Dan Murphy  
People have been spending an unprecedented amount of time at home during the pandemic, which has inspired many to redesign their living areas, and for Boston Consignment, this trend means that business has been booming. "We're busier now than we've been in 20 years," said Stacey Lai, who, together with her with her parents, Bob and Sheila Roy, owns the North Beverly-based high-end consignment store that specializes in antiques, furniture, art and jewelry (upscale furnishings, light  
(CONSIGNMENT, Pg. 3)

**Only 47-percent of gas lamps are fully functioning**  
Special to the Times  
On Nov. 21, a team of six Northeastern University students fanned out all over Beacon Hill to survey the status of all of the gas lamps in the neighborhood. The survey project was conceived of by Rob Whitney, the Chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association ("BHCA"), as a comprehensive way to determine the working status of all of the gas lamps within the Beacon Hill National Landmark District. "The BHCA had heard a lot from our members about non-working gas lamps in the neighborhood," Whitney said, "and we learned from the City that they typically only hear about broken gas lamps from 311 reports or through individual resident calls." Whitney said the BHCA decided to do a comprehensive review of all the Beacon Hill gas lamps and hired Northeastern University students to conduct the survey. "We did a short training with the students using a free app called 'Map Marker' to record the street location of each gas lamp, each gas lamp's GPS coordinates, and the condition of each gas lamp," Whitney said. The six students then went out in teams of two, and recorded the  
(GAS LAMPS, Pg. 6)

**Beacon Hill positive COVID tests 6.25 percent increase**  
By John Lynds  
Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods increased while the weekly positive test rate decreased slightly. According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 40,555 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 5.1 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 6.25 percent increase from the 4.8 percent two weeks ago. Last week 5,151 residents were tested and 3.6 were positive—a 5.2 percent decrease from the 3.8 reported two Fridays ago. Citywide, 50,439 residents were tested and 7.6 percent were found to be COVID positive last week. The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 9 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics. The BPHC data released last  
(COVID, Pg. 5)

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

# FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# U.S. Attorney's office returns more than \$235 million to crime victims

U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling has announced that the District of Massachusetts collected more than \$235 million in criminal and civil actions in Fiscal Year 2020. Of this amount, \$208,282,537 was collected in civil actions, including \$77,933,472 in restitution for crime victims, and \$27,194,175 was collected in criminal actions.

"I'm proud of the work the civil and criminal prosecutors in my office have done to secure more than \$235 million in collections, restitution to crime victims, and asset forfeitures, in 2020 alone," said U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. "The District of Massachusetts has long been a leader in

financial recoveries in the areas of health care fraud, securities fraud and civil settlements, and we will continue to aggressively pursue collections that return money to victims of crime and U.S. taxpayers, and deprive criminals of their ill-gotten gains."

The 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices jointly collected over \$8 billion in civil and criminal actions in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2020. The \$8,064,931,805 in collections in FY 2020 represents nearly four times the appropriated \$2.25 billion budget for the 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices.

The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases by the Office's

Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit, which recovered government money lost to fraud or other offenses. Settlements with three pharmaceutical companies for illegal use of third-party foundations as conduits to pay kickbacks account for the office's largest civil collections. In September 2020, Gilead Sciences paid \$97 million and Novartis paid \$51 million in July 2020, and Sanofi-Aventis paid \$11.85 million in February.

In addition to these civil and criminal collections, in Fiscal Year 2020 the Office's Asset Recovery Unit was responsible for the collection of \$77,933,472 in restitution for crime victims, as well

as forfeiture of \$22,449,306 in criminal proceeds or other property involved in crimes. The Asset Recovery Unit locates, seizes, and forfeits proceeds of crime, including health care fraud, securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, drug trafficking, as well as money and property involved in money laundering. The Unit pursues forfeiture of ill-gotten gains both domestically and abroad and works closely with units across the Office and its law enforcement partners to ensure that crime doesn't pay. Forfeited assets deposited into the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law

enforcement purposes.

U.S. Attorneys' Offices, along with the Department's litigating divisions, are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the U.S. and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the Department's Crime Victims Fund, which distributes the funds collected to federal and state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

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**CITY PAWS**

# What to do if your dog becomes lost

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

On a morning walk late in December, Penny came upon a neighbor searching for his lost dog, a Corgi named Happy. Penny and another dog lover began providing suggestions for websites to post the information and have more neighbors added to the search. He copied those sites into his phone as quickly as they were given. By the time Penny returned home, she found posts about the situation in a number of the places suggested.

Soon the young man posted good news on the Next Door site. Happily, the pup had been found by the Boston Police and reunited with his family. There were also dozens of comments from caring neighbors added to the lost dog

post suggesting other places to post the information and reporting that they had searched a specific area.

**Be Prepared!**

If you ever face the horrible situation of having your dog slip its leash, collar, harness, or dart out an open door, you'll make a faster start if you are prepared to spread the word in the right places.

Naturally, your first call should be to animal control or animal services in your city or town. Next, call any 24-hour emergency animal hospitals in your area, like the MSPCA or Animal Rescue League. Those are the most likely places for someone to bring a found dog.

Other places Penny suggested were Reddit Boston and the local

groups on the Next Door website. Both have large followings of local people who might help in the search or at least spread the word. One of the commenters on Next Door suggested, "Missing Dogs Massachusetts" saying that they were a group of highly trained volunteers who would be able to support the search. There are also dozens of national sites that collect lost dog information.

Spend a few minutes to prepare a poster that gives all the important information about your dog with a good photo or two that you would be able to print and post around the area where your dog was last seen. We hope you'll never need it!

**Prevention**

We have a very skittish dog and have had to take extra precautions to prevent her from escaping when frightened. In addition to a double



Those who saw this poster around the Back Bay will be glad to know that Happy was found and is back with his family.

leash harness, attached to both her chest and back, she wears a well-fitted collar connected to that harness with an extension clip.

We suggest you purchase your collars and harnesses from a local shop where they will help you select accessories that are right for your breed and that fit securely. For example, owners of dogs with thin heads like some hounds are often advised to use martingale collars. You can also ask your veterinarian to suggest the right walking equipment for your breed and show you how to fit it securely.

Above all, throw out any pinch collars and flexible leashes. Both of these can add to the likelihood of escape. We have seen so many

instances of pinch collars that have detached under normal activity. Expandable leashes can snap or wound the person or the dog using them. If they are still attached, they can also cause a dog to run away faster with the hard plastic handle banging along after him.

One final suggestion is to provide a trusted friend with all the information you gather and have that person spend the time posting and calling. Add their phone number to your postings, and they can sit by the phone while you are out trying to find your pup.

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

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