



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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The popular Boston Swan Boats will open for the 2021 season at the Boston Public Garden lagoon on Saturday, May 8.

## SWAN BOATS ARE READY TO OPEN MAY 8

Mayor Kim Janey is pleased to announce that the popular Boston Swan Boats will open for the 2021 season at the Boston Public Garden lagoon on Saturday, May 8, at 10 a.m.

For the first time in its history, this annual rite of spring did not take place last year due to COVID-19 and the Paget family is pleased to bring this tradition back to the

Public Garden. In keeping with current health guidelines masks are required and passengers will be safely spaced both in line and on the Swan Boats.

Launched in 1877 by Irish immigrant and shipbuilder Robert Paget, the Swan Boats continue to be owned and operated by the Paget family. Mr. Paget designed the Swan Boats after attending

the opera Lohengrin in New York City. At the end of the opera, the hero crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan.

2021 marks the 144th season for the Swan Boats. The oldest and smallest boat in the fleet just celebrated its 111th season, while the newest was launched in 1993.

(SWAN BOATS, Pg. 3)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Please give to the BHCA Annual Appeal!

Donors to the BHCA Annual Appeal, whose donations are received by today, April 22, will have their names listed in our Annual Report. We depend on your generosity to continue our

important work. To make a donation, please visit [bhcivic.org](http://bhcivic.org), or call our office at 617-227-1922. We thank those who have already responded!

**Celebrate Earth Day every day!** To celebrate Earth Day, here are some of the most impactful

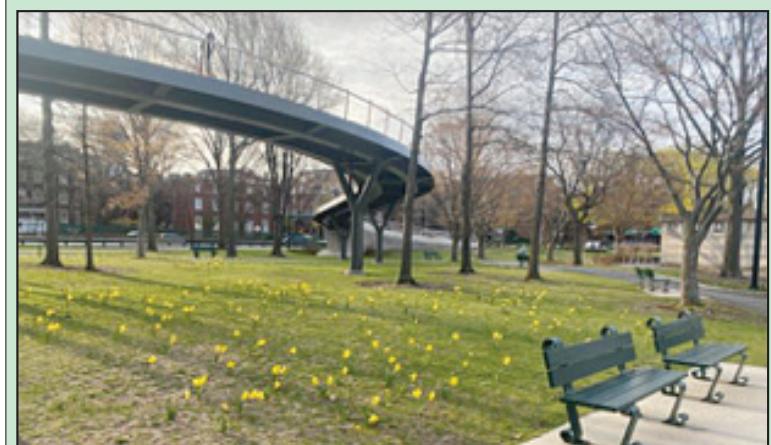
ways to become more sustainable:

1. Start composting! There are many curb-side recycling companies that will pick up right outside your front door on Beacon Hill. Once you start, you'll be amazed at how much of what you throw away can actually be composted.

2. Switch to 100% renewable energy. Earlier this year, Boston implemented their Community Choice Energy program through Eversource. Opt in to the 100% renewable energy option easily with their online form with no delay in service.

3. Skip the car and walk bike, or take the T. Especially now with the gorgeous spring weather, get outside and get moving! There are protected bike lanes and Blue Bike stations around downtown to get you to your destination safely.

(BHCA Pg. 2)



Signs of hope – This corner of the Esplanade is blooming with yellow daffodils, planted last fall by BHCA volunteers.

## City proposes sidewalk improvements at Beacon and Park Streets

By Dan Murphy

The city is now seeking approval for proposed sidewalk improvements at Beacon and Park Streets.

The project area includes the sidewalks on both sides of Beacon Street in front of the State House, according to the Boston Public Works Department, including the area directly abutting the Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common, as well as a portion of the Freedom Trail.

Existing conditions at Beacon

(SIDEWALK Pg. 3)



The sidewalk area near the State House at Park and Beacon streets that the city proposes to reconfigure.

## West End Museum reopens with new collaborative exhibit

By Dan Murphy

After remaining closed to the public for months due to the pandemic, the West End Museum reopened on Friday, April 16, with a new collaborative exhibit that spotlights a trailblazing 20th-century social worker.

"About a half-dozen people showed up, which was pretty good considering the snow, so I was happy," said Museum Director Sebastian Belfanti. "While we've connected virtually with our members and followers throughout

our closure, there is no substitute for the in-person experience at the Museum—even if we need to still wear masks."

The new exhibit, "Learned From Our Neighbors: Stories from the Elizabeth Peabody House," is the product of a partnership between the West End Museum, Simmons University and Boston City Archives. It was created by a team of students who worked with Simmons Professor Laura Prieto and University Archivist Jason

(MUSEUM Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## AT LAST, SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Spring officially may have arrived on March 21, but the past month has been anything but spring-like.

For those of us who live along the Massachusetts coastline, this is nothing new of course. The prevailing, on-shore sea breezes at this time of year transport air from the ocean that still is in the low 40s. So on days when the temperature may be in the 60s in central Mass., we're at least 10 degrees cooler, with a wind-chill factor that makes it feel 10 degrees cooler than that.

In other words, the 60s elsewhere feel like the 40s for us.

But this week finally brought a measure of spring, not only because of the warmth, but because of the daffodils, forsythia, and flowering trees that signal the end of winter and the promise of nicer days ahead.

With the coronavirus pandemic hopefully coming to an end, the arrival of spring is coming none too soon.

## MASS SHOOTINGS ARE OUR NEW EPIDEMIC

Mass shootings with high-powered weapons are nothing new in America. The recent tragedies in Atlanta and Indianapolis are just two more of a long string of the slaughter of innocent Americans who simply were going about their everyday lives at work, in school, or at a shopping mall.

But as horrific as these well-publicized incidents have been, they are just the proverbial tip of the iceberg when it comes to mass shootings all across the country, which have been occurring at ever-increasing rates.

In the past 30 days since the Atlanta massacre, there have been 45 mass shootings -- defined as incidents where four or more people have been shot -- across the U.S.

The vast majority of these shootings never make it into the national headlines to the extent of the Atlanta and Indianapolis incidents, but they are real. For example, on April 8 in Bryan, Texas, a gunman (who apparently was a disgruntled former employee) shot six persons at a cabinet-making company. One was killed and five were wounded, four critically.

We could go on and on, but the bottom line is that America is the only place in the world where mass shootings are a daily part of life. And the reason is very simple: America is the only country where there are more guns than people and a large percentage of those weapons are high-capacity, semi-automatic firearms.

Ardent supporters of gun ownership make the time-worn argument that if there are restrictions on gun ownership, then only criminals will have guns.

But the reality is that the perpetrators of mass shooting incidents are not criminals -- they're typically the guy next door who has some sort of mental health or anger issue, but who has been able to buy a high-capacity weapon on a whim and go on a shooting rampage a short time later.

The shooter in Atlanta, for example, had purchased his gun just a day before he went on his murderous spree.

Other nations -- principally narco-terrorist states such as Mexico and Honduras -- may have higher homicide rates, but mass shootings by, and of, ordinary civilians are a uniquely American phenomenon.

Countries with broad gun-ownership, such as Australia and New Zealand, have instituted common-sense laws that have eliminated mass-shootings. Australia did so after a school massacre in 1996 -- and there have been no similar incidents since then.

What will it take for America to reach the tipping point that will persuade Congress to implement common-sense gun legislation?

We're obviously not there yet. Our guess is it will occur only when Americans will be fearful of gathering such that it will affect travel and business. After all, who wants to travel to a state where people are allowed to openly carry high-capacity weaponry?

But in the meantime, America tragically will remain among the most randomly-violent places on the planet.

## BWSC offers property owners credit to replace lead pipes

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) announced that it is doubling to \$4,000 the credit for replacing lead pipes through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. A recent review conducted by the Commission estimates that as many as 4,800 property owners may be eligible for the program. For most customers, this credit will cover the total cost of the lead pipe replacement.

Lead water pipes can significantly increase a person's exposure to lead, a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health. The water provided by BWSC and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs because distribution pipes are made mostly of iron and steel. However, lead can leach into tap water through home service lines and internal plumbing, especially if water sits for long periods of time before use. People in homes and businesses built before 1950

should run their drinking water for two to three minutes if it has been stagnant for several hours, before drinking or cooking, to flush out any lead that might have leached into the system.

Under the Lead Replacement Incentive Program, properties owners who may have lead pipes will receive a letter outlining the program and urging them to reach out to the Commission to schedule an evaluation and estimate. Owners are responsible for all pipes on their property. The Commission is giving property owners 60 months interest-free to pay for replacement costs beyond the amount of the incentive. To be eligible for the program, property owners must be current in their payments and agree to have the work performed by the Commission. Lead pipe replacement is subject to availability and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information regarding the program and other

lead resources, property owners are encouraged to visit the Commission's website at: [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org), or call the LEAD HOTLINE at (617) 989-7888.

About the Boston Water and Sewer Commission: The BWSC manages the largest and oldest system of its kind in New England, providing drinking water and sewer services to more than one million people daily. The BWSC's goal is to provide residents and businesses in the city of Boston with the best water quality and sewer services available in a way that is both protective of the environment and financially prudent. BWSC was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1977, replacing separate water and sewer divisions of the city's Public Works Department. BWSC is overseen by a three-member Board of Commissioners that is appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council.

## BHCA (*from pg. 1*)

4. Eat a more vegan or vegetarian diet. Eating less meat and fish doesn't only have a positive impact on your health, it's one of the biggest impacts you can make for the planet! With the abundance of available plant based proteins out on the market today, it's a breeze to make the switch.

5. Skip single-use plastics. Plastic pollution is a serious global problem, and single-use plastics aren't just an oxymoron, they're the heart of the problem! Whenever you can, skip the disposables and opt for the reusables!

Be on the lookout for more sustainable tips from our committees in the BHCA Community Corner!

### Let's Keep our Neighborhood Clean!

We are receiving multiple reports of increased litter on the sidewalks and dog waste bags strewn on our streets, sidewalks, and tree pits.

Please secure your trash properly and put it out on the morning of

pick-up. This allows less time for exposure to rodents or opening of bags by others. If you see litter left behind on trash day, please report it to 311 via the 311 mobile app (sending a photo is best), by emailing [311@boston.gov](mailto:311@boston.gov), or by calling 311.

If you own or take care of a dog, please be neighborly and responsible - clean up after your pet and dispose of its waste in a trash can.

**Upcoming BHCA Meetings \***  
Events Committee – Tuesday, April 27th at 6pm (virtual)

Young Friends Social – Wednesday, April 28th at 6pm (at the Esplanade – weather permitting – call the office for details)

Save the Date - Beacon Hill Civic Association Annual Meeting of Members

Monday, May 17th at 6pm via Zoom

Topic: "Wells, Privies, and Diverse Histories: The Archaeology of Beacon Hill".

\* Email us at [info@bhcvic.org](mailto:info@bhcvic.org) or call the office (617-227-1922) for joining instructions or additional information on any of these meetings and events.

# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# Esplanade Association named Official Charity of 2021 Boston Marathon

Fifteen runners will receive bibs from the Boston Athletic Association to support the Charles River Esplanade.

The Esplanade is the premier running trail in Greater Boston. Each year, the excitement builds for the Boston Marathon among runners turning to the Esplanade's riverfront pathways and footbridges as the setting for their training runs. For the third year in a row, 15 runners will have the opportunity to give back to the park as they train for the 125th Boston Marathon.

The Esplanade Association ([esplanade.org](http://esplanade.org)), the nonprofit partner to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) that helps revitalize, enhance, program, and maintain the Esplanade, has been named an Official Charity for the 2021 Boston Marathon.

Through the Official Charity Program, the Boston Athletic Association ([baa.org](http://baa.org)) supports select nonprofit organizations that

strengthen the local community and provides these organizations with a significant fundraising opportunity.

In 2020, participants running the 124th Virtual Boston Marathon (including those who opted out of the virtual experience in 2020) raised \$32.1 million. As a member of the 2021 Boston Marathon Official Charity Program, the Esplanade Association will receive invitationals entries that will help the organization raise awareness and funds for its work to provide free programs for the community; care for the park's nearly 1,700 trees; encourage healthy lifestyles; promote arts and culture; and restore historic structures in the park.

"We are honored to be selected as an Official Charity by the Boston Athletic Association for the third consecutive year," said Michael Nichols, Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. "Every day of the year, thousands log their running miles underneath

the Esplanade's urban tree canopy and along the five miles of riverfront pathways in the park. This is an incredible way for the local running community to give back to the park that served as an essential place for so many this past year."

The Esplanade has long been a beloved running route in Boston. The Esplanade's pathways cover 64 acres from the Museum of Science to the BU Bridge, featuring breathtaking views of the Charles River and the Boston and Cambridge skylines. Data from Strava (a software used to track running activity via GPS) shows that the Esplanade is the region's most popular running route.

Applications for the in-person 125th Boston Marathon will open on April 20. Applications for the Virtual 125th Boston Marathon are open now. The in-person Boston Marathon will take place on Monday, Oct. 11, and the Virtual Boston Marathon will take place from Oct. 8-11. Learn more at [esplanade.org/bostonmarathon](http://esplanade.org/bostonmarathon).

## SIDEWALK (from pg. 1)

ect, which is in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), as well as the Massachusetts Access Board (MAAB), include wire-cut brick for the sidewalks; a cast-iron steel detectable warning panel near the intersection of Park and Beacon streets; and thermoplastic in both the poured concrete sidewalk abutting the Boston Common on the Freedom Trail and in the roadway pavement at the crosswalk to the State House.

Zach Wassmuth of the PWD

said the number of travel lanes on Beacon Street wouldn't change due to the project, which "has a very aggressive timeline," at the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission's April 15 online meeting.

Chris Coakley, public information officer for the PWD, said the city is currently in the process of approving three approvals for the project from the Architectural Commission, the Boston Landmarks Commission and the city's Public Improvements Commission, respectively.

## MUSEUM (from pg. 1)

Wood using the papers of pioneering social worker and Simmons University alumna, Eva Whiting White, who ran the Peabody House from 1909 to 1944. The Peabody House opened in 1896 and was one of Boston's first settlement houses for the city's poor and immigrant population, offering early childhood education, social services and clubs, among other activities and programming.

"Through Eva White's eyes, the students saw what a vibrant neighborhood the West End was," Prieto said in a press release. "We were drawn to the stories of the West Enders who used the many programs at the Peabody House—girls doing science projects, boys writing poems, mothers going to the Milk Station, and everybody getting involved in the big theater productions."

"It's also cool to have a student exhibit," Belfanti added, "because it's a little different than what we usually do."

The West End Museum's new hours are Tuesdays and Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. To learn more about the Museum and the West End, visit [www.thewestendmuseum.org](http://www.thewestendmuseum.org).

## SWAN BOATS (from pg. 1)

The swan on today's boats is made from either copper or fiberglass, depending on the age of the boat, and encloses a paddle mechanism that is used to foot propel the boat through the water.

Fully loaded, each Swan Boat weighs three tons and is powered by the driver using a foot-propelled paddle wheel. The Swan Boats are built on oak framed pontoons sheathed in copper just as they were initially constructed in 1877. After being stored in a safe place for the winter, the boats are returned to the Public Garden Lagoon in the spring.

For more information, please visit the Swan Boats of Boston online at [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com),

call (617) 522-1966, or email [info@swanboats.com](mailto:info@swanboats.com).

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## Friends of the Public Garden hold 51st Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Public Garden held their 51st Annual Meeting on April 16, a virtual event with over 115 people attending.

Leslie Adam, the Board chair, welcomed everyone and emphasized the importance of our parks for everyone this past year, as a place of respite, and a place to be outside and enjoy the seasons.

President Liz Vizza gave a presentation about all the work done by the Friends in the parks during

this past year as well as the virtual programs and activities hosted by the Friends, as well as in partnership with other organizations. She thanked our partners in government who work to support our parks every day, summarized how vital the parks have been during this pandemic, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the parks are welcoming to all. This year was an important year for the parks as theaters for social change,

embracing the long history of the Common as a place to make our voices heard.

Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of King Boston shared an inspiring presentation about The Embrace, a living memorial that will be on Boston Common, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and their time and work together in Boston.

## City resumes ticketing and towing for parking violations

By Times staff

On Tuesday, April 20, the City of Boston resumed ticketing and towing for parking violations that have been forgiven since the onset of the pandemic.

Beginning last March, the Boston Transportation Department hasn't ticketed or towed vehicles parked in spaces reserved for street cleaning, as well as for spaces reserved for vehicles with appropriate resident parking stickers.

"We are grateful that the City of Boston was able to provide extra support to residents and healthcare workers during this unprecedented time," said Commissioner Greg Rooney in a press release. "Residents should be advised that we are beginning to return to normal operations and they should follow all posted parking regulations."



*The City of Boston resumed ticketing and towing for parking violations.*

"As we continue to plan our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, I am grateful to all of our

residents for their cooperation in following our parking enforcement," said acting Mayor Kim Janey in press release. "As warmer weather comes, it's important that we take the necessary steps to keep our streets clean."

April 20 also marked the end of the city's ticket amnesty program for healthcare workers whereby they could have non-public safety violations dismissed upon appeal if the ticket was received while working.

The intent of the program, which also took effect at the beginning of the pandemic, was "to assist local healthcare workers as they dealt with the public health emergency," according to the city.

Meanwhile, the BTD won't be ticketing residents with expired parking tickets until May 31.

# BHAC votes to continue application on new lighting for Vilna Shul

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission voted to continue making its determination on The Vilna Shul's application to install new lighting for a walkway during its April 15 online meeting.

Susan Hurst, the architect for the project, said the Jewish Culture Center located at 18 Phillips St., has installed three lighting fixtures mounted to the wall about 10 feet off the ground in the east alleyway; they are each activated by individual motion detectors, said Hurst, and shut off automatically after about eight to 10 minutes.

John Hecker, another member of the applicant's team, said the light fixtures "were attached where others were, or are, located," and that he, along with Hurst, had been on a walk-through of the site the previous night.

"It's quite an improvement," Hecker said. "After seeing it in operation last night, I can say it was successful."

The Architectural Commission had previously heard – and continued - The Vilna's application on Jan. 16, 2020, at which time Nick Armata, senior preservation planner for the city, told the applicant they could temporarily install the new lighting fixtures, but would have to remove and replace them with the original floodlights if any resultant problems arose.

Rob Whitney, a direct abutter who has lived across Phillips Street from The Vilna Shul for the past 30 years and described himself as a strong supporter of the organization, said the original design had the lights "on a low level on the ground to light up the pathway, but for some reason they raised them high on the wall."

And as a result, the effect for some neighbors, Whitney said, is "like you're flashing a flashlight through their windows."

While Whitney, who spoke on behalf of several neighbors, as well as himself, agreed that the path needed to be illuminated, he said, "There's no reason it has to be 10 feet off the ground."

Additionally, Whitney said he preferred the lighting that was there before because "they could be pointed at the ground rather than at neighbors."

Hecker offered what he deemed as a simple solution to the problem: crafting a shroud, like street-lights have, that could be installed over the fixtures to direct more light downwards.

"It's a fairly straightforward process to do," said Hecker, who added that The Vilna Shul would need to contract a metal shop to make the pieces that would be painted black with three pitched or sloped sides to "slip over" the lighting fixtures.

Commissioner Miguel Rosales said the metal pieces would need to be "appropriate" with the historic district and recommended perhaps having them crafted in half-moon shapes out of copper or bronze.

The commission continued the application to allow The Vilna Shul time to make a mockup for the new lighting accessory, which it would return with at a future hearing.

In another matter, the commission approved as submitted an application from the Somerset Club to replace all the windows on the front façade of 42 Beacon St.

Frank McGuire, the architect for the project, said restoring the windows, which include some

from the 1940s and '50s mixed in with the originals from 1870, would "further loosen them in the frames."

Instead, the replacement windows, made by Historic Window & Door, would use "bent glass," added McGuire, to fasten the "template directly to the stone."

The sashes, which date back to between 1870 and 1890 and are "significantly deteriorated," would be replaced, McGuire said, while the frames, which are in "good shape," would be preserved.

The Somerset Club intends to use only high-quality materials for the project, including mahogany for the sashes, McGuire added.

Also, the commission approved as submitted an application for 102 Chestnut St. to replace the deteriorating historic, curved windows on the third floor of the front façade with new curved double-hung windows, as well as to install new door hardware, a new light, a new keypad and new shutters, and to rebuild the set of stairs in front, which serves both that address and the adjacent building.

Frank McGuire, the architect for this project as well, said that the steps are "misaligned" and that he "doesn't think there's much we can do with it," although that job would have to be undertaken after the homeowner finishes their intended work to repair the corroded wood-pilings that the buildings sits upon.

The door hardware, mail slot and keypad for an intercom system would all be made of bronzed materials and have a "uniform finish," said McGuire, while the keypad would be smaller than was previously proposed, since the building is now intended as a single-family home as opposed to a multi-unit dwelling. (As a proviso of the application's approval, the commission requested that drawings be submitted to staff showing the new, smaller keypad.)

The new "bespoke" windows would be tailor made to fit the building's existing openings, said McGuire, which have shifted over time due to the deteriorating state of the pilings.

Sean Cryts of Historic Window & Door said the windows had sustained significant wood damage, but that as much of the old glass as possible would be salvaged from them.

The applicant had also proposed replacing two top sections of the all-wood front door with two glass panes, which also passed as part of the overall application.

The applicant is also planning to build a new roofdeck at the location, but that item was taken

off the meeting agenda and not approved.

On an application to install a new roofdeck at 112 Pinckney St., the commission approved that the proposed work, with the proviso that a 42-inch railing be set back enough so it's not visible from Pinckney Street or any other adjacent public way.

The commission approved as submitted an application to install a blade sign at 123 Charles St. for Paws on Charles, a new pet care and supplies shop tentatively scheduled to open at that location in June.

While Megan Bradley of North Grafton-based Sunshine Sign had proposed crafting the sign, which includes images of both a dog bone and a pawmark, from high-density urethane, the commission's approval of the application came with the proviso that it instead be a carved-wood sign installed with a wrought-iron bracket, instead of the proposed aluminum materials, and that it be located between the shop's door and windows; these items were remanded to staff for final review.

Likewise, the commission approved as submitted an application for 83 Mt. Vernon St., which was previously heard on Feb. 18, to replace all the wood windows with windows with the correct pane configuration, as well as to install a new front door-light fixture and new intercom system, which was exempt for approval as it was moved to the interior of the lobby.

The commission also approved an application as submitted for 92 Mt. Vernon St. to replace the galvanized metal dormer sidewalls with standing seam-copper panels, which would be painted freedom grey and zinc-coated, as well as to replace the glass only on upper-level picture window with insulated glass windows.

An application to replace the largely deteriorated shutters with red cedar replicas at 38 West Cedar St., which is home to Rouvalis Flowers, as well as the three apartment above it, was approved by the commission as submitted, with the proviso that the applicant submit updated drawings of the shutter configuration.

On an application for 24-26 Hancock St. to install new handrails at both entryways, the commission approved the proposed work, with, in a motion made by P.T. Vineburgh, commission chair, the proviso that the handrails be black in color and "toned down," with as few posts or rods as possible to "still have a functioning rail." The applicant was also asked to provide staff with shop

drawings.

The commission also approved as submitted an application for 18 Grove St. to replace all the front windows with two-over-two wood, double-hung windows, with the proviso that the applicant confirm they are "historically compliant" before the commission issues a letter of approval. Commissioner Miguel Rosales will review the window shop drawings prior to the issue of the certificate of appropriateness as designated per the commission.

Moreover, the commission approved an application as submitted for 147-149 Charles St. to replace all the front windows with six-over-six wood, double-hung windows at 149 Charles) and eight-over-eight windows at 147 Charles, as well as to replace several doors.

Commissioners would first have to approve the windowpane configuration facing Charles Street, however, said Armata, before the full shop drawings could then be remanded to staff.

As a proviso for approval, Commissioner Rosales will review the window shop drawings for the 147-149 Charles St. applications prior to the issue of the certificate of appropriateness, as the application was incomplete.

On an application for 57A Chestnut St., the commission approved proposed work, including replacing three east-facing, eight-over-eight, wood dormer windows with three eight-over-eight, wood widows with true divided lites, as well as replacing two fourth floor, east-facing, six-over-six, wood windows with two, wood windows with true divided lites.

But the commission denied the applicant's plan to replace the galvanized-steel decorative soffit, installed in about 1914, with a fiberglass replica, which isn't acceptable in the historic district. This application passed, with the provisos that the dental work and trim be replaced with the same existing materials or similar materials, and if the applicant opts to replace the soffit, they would need to submit a sample of the intended material to staff for approval.

During an advisory review, Zach Wassmough detailed the city's plan to install wider sidewalks around the State House, as well as a new "caution plate with bumper ramp" at the west corner of Park and Beacon streets and a raised crosswalk at Park and Bowdoin streets.

The sidewalks would be made of wire-cut brick, said Wassmough,

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# New book looks at city's 50 oldest buildings, including one on Pinckney Street

By Dan Murphy

A new book that looks at the 50 oldest buildings in the city includes only one on Beacon Hill, which admittedly came as somewhat of a surprise to the author.

"I figured there would have been a least a couple of them, but Beacon Hill as a neighborhood kind of appeared out of nowhere around 1800," said Joseph M. Bagley, the city's archeologist and author of "Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them" (2021 Brandeis University Press). "The reality is if I had made it 'Boston's 100 Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them,' at least half of them would be in Beacon Hill or in Charlestown."

Coming in at #34 on Bagley's list of 50 is Beacon Hill's sole entry - the Glapion-Middleton House at 5 Pinckney St. (circa 1786).

In 1786 - just two years after Massachusetts abolished slavery - two Black men purchased an undeveloped lot at the corner of Pinckney and Joy streets, and they built the house at 5 Pinckney St. between 1786 and 1787.

Col. George Middleton was a free Black man who fought in the Revolutionary War as the leader of the all-Black rebel militia company, as well as a horse tender by profession, wrote Bagley, while Glapion was an abolitionist, who, in 1796, helped organize the Boston African Benevolent Society to support Black communities facing white resistance to integration.

Middleton and his wife, Elsey March, moved into the house at 5 Pinckney St. with Glapion, and when Glapion married Lucy Hawkins in 1793, the four of them apparently lived there together. This curious living arrangement, along with historic records and accounts, have led to the theory that Middleton and Glapion were both gay men, said Bagley, and as a result, their home at 5 Pinckney St. is the only building in the book



COURTESY OF HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND  
A 1934 image from the Pinckney Club's Christmas card.

with a possible LGBTQ connection.

A challenge with unrepresented and unrecorded history is often the only way is to back-engineer and read between the lines," Bagley said. "Unfortunately, that can lead to some guesswork and maybe even inaccuracies, but it's the only way we're going to come even close to getting there."

Middleton and Glapion added two other buildings at 1 and 3 Pinckney St., respectively, which extended the structures to the corner of Joy Street - an area that was then, Bagley wrote, "the core of the free Black community in Boston."

The two buildings later served as an addition to the men's main residence at 5 Pinckney St., which, Bagley describes as a two-story wooden building with four bay windows that has the distinction of being one of 11 remaining wooden structures in a neighborhood made up largely of brick buildings.

In 1855, the three properties were transformed with the demolition of the middle structure at 3 Pinckney St. and its subsequent replacement with a four-story brick building similar in character to the neighboring row-houses.

In the 1930s, 5 Pinckney St. became the Pinckney Club, a private establishment, while 1 Pinckney St. was transformed, wrote Bagley, into "an Italian restaurant that catered to Boston's bohemian residents."

A private home today, 5 Pinckney St. is a Boston Landmark, as well as a stop on Boston's Black Heritage Trail.

"The house wasn't on my radar when I started researching with a list of buildings from the state," said Bagley, who besides serving as the city's archeologist since 2011, is also a Boston Landmarks Commission staff member. "I'd taken a photo of it, but wasn't sure if it would make the cut. Then, I found the National Park Service website that put it in the 1780s, so that put it in the moment where it had to be in the book."

As an archeologist, Bagley said he focused on the chronology of the properties from the time they were built until the present, rather than on their architectural elements, in his book. Still, he admits, it wasn't always possible to determine the buildings' exact dates of construction by examining deeds, probates and other available data.

And since only 13.5 percent

(16,319) of the city's 121,000 buildings had been surveyed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission's historic building inventory as of the book's publication, Bagley wrote, "some of Boston's most hidden old buildings may have been missed," so subsequently, his list of Boston's oldest buildings might be altered or refined over time.

In fact, Bagley said prior to the book's publication, he was sure to make his publisher aware that the list could eventually change, if previously unknown historic buildings are uncovered in the city, or if published information come under scrutiny as new findings come to light.

Bagley's latest book, which he wrote as a companion volume to his first book, 2016's "A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts,"

begins chronologically with Blake House, a two-story building located at 735 Columbia Road in Dorchester that dates back to 1661, predating the city's second oldest structure, the Paul Revere House in the North End, by around 19 years.

The Old State House (#7, 1713); Union Oyster House (#9, circa 1716); Old North Church in the North End (#13, 1723); Old South Meeting House (#16, 1729); Faneuil Hall (#18, 1742); the Shirley-Eustis House in Roxbury (#19, 1746); King's Chapel (1750); the Warren Tavern in Charlestown (#31, Mindy Basinger Hill, circa 1780); and Memorial Hall in Charlestown (#45, 1791) all make the cut as well, and the 50th building on Bagley's list is the Salem Turnpike Hotel at 16 Common St. in Charlestown, circa 1794.

When he was researching his first book, Bagley said he discovered an online inventory of historic buildings and was able to download a list of all of them in Boston, which he was subsequently able to narrow down by date. He then compiled a list of the 100 oldest buildings in the city and posted it online, and that soon gained traction.

"People liked it and shared it," said Bagley of the impetus for his newest book.

Sue Ramin, director of Brandeis University Press, wrote: "The idea of writing a practical guide book that gathered Boston's oldest buildings together in one place was as appealing as the book is useful. I loved the fact that it's not only a guide book, but a reading book and a beautiful book to look at and browse in. And he took

## BOSTON'S



## Oldest Buildings



## and Where to Find Them



Joseph M. Bagley

COURTESY OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS

most of the photographs himself!"

Additionally, Bagley's "unique perspective as an archaeologist gives us insight into the lives of these buildings, the changes they have undergone, and the efforts made to preserve them," added Ramin.

Meanwhile, Bagley wants would-be readers to know his book doesn't just focus on the 50 oldest buildings in Downtown Boston but instead covers the entire city.

"The buildings are not only downtown, but they're all over the city," Bagley wrote. "Nine neighborhoods are represented in the book. We hit Roslindale, Mattapan, Brighton, Allston, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain - they're all in there."

Joseph M. Bagley's "Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them" is available at <https://www.brandeis.edu/press/books/no-series/bostons-oldest-buildings.html>, as well as at local bookstores and from Amazon.

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# Virtual Duckling Day Returns for 2021 Mother's Day Celebration

For its second year, the annual Mother's Day parade typically held in Boston's Public Garden will be happening online. The 2021 Virtual Duckling Day, hosted by the Friends of the Public Garden on Sunday, May 9 at 12 p.m., will feature an enhanced interactive program, celebrity readers, and online activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Duckling Day celebrates mothers everywhere! Inspired by the tenacity of Mrs. Mallard from the famous Make Way For Ducklings, the official children's book of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, everyone is invited to join the Friends for its signature virtual reading beginning at 12 pm, broadcast on the nonprofit's Facebook page. Friends has assembled an all-star cast to share this timeless story, including:

- First Lady Lauren Baker
  - Senator Elizabeth Warren
  - Jeff Kinney, author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
  - WCVB's Rhondella Richardson
  - Human helpers sharing the story with furry and feathered friends at the Franklin Park Zoo and the New England Aquarium
- "Part of the reason Mrs. Mal-

lard – in both book and statue form – so resonates with parents is the care she takes in finding the right home to keep her new ducklings safe and happy. In this past year, parents across New England have done heroic work to keep their children safe and happy amid a constantly changing environment," said Liz Vizza, President for the Friends of the Public Garden. "It is my hope that parks – from the Common and Public Garden to neighborhood parklets and playgrounds – have been a refuge for families during this difficult time. There is nothing like exploring a new outdoor space with a young child to reignite a sense of wonder and delight in all of us."

Following the reading, the program will continue with engaging and delightful entertainment for the entire family. Karen K and the Jitterbugs will perform their hit song "Get Down" with some special Duckling Day themed words, and Bonaparte the Magician will perform some duckling magic. More videos and activities, including a parks-themed coloring book, are available at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2021/04/13/may-09-2021-virtual-duckling-day/>.

Send in photos of you, your family, or any ducklings enjoying Duckling Day. Please submit your photos to <https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/fopg> with your name and the year (guessing is allowed!) and we'll include it in the social media celebration.

Tune in for the live virtual event!  
Sunday, May 9, 2021  
12 pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofthepublicgarden>

The Friends of the Public Garden has worked in partnership with the City of Boston for 51 years to restore, maintain, and advocate for the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The three properties are national treasures and they are located in the heart of our city. The Friends help care for 1700 trees, 42 pieces of public art, and more than 50 acres of lawn. In recent years, the organization has completed many capital projects in partnership with the City, including renovation and activation of the Brewer Fountain and Plaza by Park Street Station on the Common and restoration of the George Robert White Memorial fountain in the Garden.



*The 2021 Virtual Duckling Day, hosted by the Friends of the Public Garden set for Sunday, May 9 at 12 p.m.*

## Future of Chiofaro's Harbor Garage skyscraper uncertain after court ruling

By John Lynds

For years now the Chiofaro Company run by developer Don Chiafaro has been trying to replace the Harbor Garage on Boston's waterfront with a 600-foot skyscraper.

The Proposed Project would include approximately 865,000 square feet of residential space with up to 200 units, offices, ground-floor retail and other uses to activate the streetscape.

However, a recent court ruling has thrown the entire project in doubt after the state's

Last week Superior Court judge Brian Davis ruled against the state in a lawsuit regarding the Downtown Municipal Harbor Plan for Boston and the proposed skyscraper's place within the plan.

Davis ruled that the state's municipal harbor planning process unlawfully ousted the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as the exclusive agency for determining how to balance public and private

rights on the waterfront, making those decisions political rather than regulatory.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs signed off on the project, which opened the doors for Chiofaro's skyscraper to get off the ground.

However, in 2018 the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) sued, arguing state officials ignored decades-old rules governing public waterfront access and sidestepped the DEP.

Prior to the lawsuit Chiofaro was poised to get his development going but this worried many environmentalists that such development would harm the public's access to the city's waterfront.

The public's right to access waterfront areas has been protected under Massachusetts law and Davis ruled that the DEP is the only trustee authorized to protect and advance those public rights.

CLF argued that the planning process for waterfront development had arbitrarily abandoned

DEP's development principles that have been in place since 1990, particularly that waterfront buildings step down in height and provide meaningful public open space.

Davis noted in his ruling that DEP rules are clear that buildings can only be 55 feet high within 100 feet of the shore.

"Public access to Boston's beautiful waterfront won today," said Peter Shelley, Senior Counsel at CLF. "State officials acted unlawfully in coming up with the Downtown Municipal Harbor Plan and handed private developers a free pass to create new rules to benefit themselves. The judge saw right through this effort and affirmed that only the state's Department of Environmental Protection can make decisions that protect the public's centuries-old right to access the water and waterfront."

Per Davis's ruling the DEP will now have to revise its tidelands regulations to reflect the judge's ruling that it has exclusive, final authority over all development proposed for on tidelands.



*An artist rendering of the proposed Harbor Garage tower.*

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## BHAC (from pg. 4)

and the city is also having a conservation with the state about them continuing the work on the area of the sidewalk it has jurisdiction over near the State House on Beacon Street.

The number of travel lanes on Beacon Street wouldn't change due to the project, which, Wassmouth said, "has a very aggressive timeline."

Commissioner Alice Richmond expressed concern over where the vans for local news stations would park after the project is completed, since it would displace them from the area at the corner of Park and Beacon streets they currently occupy during big news events.

Rob Whitney, this time speaking as chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors, said a similar application had come before the commission in 2014, and that using poured concrete in either of the proposed sidewalks would be "inappropriate."

Whitney added that the BHCA is now working with the PWD to "minimize or eliminate concrete in those two ramps, and we're confident we can work with [them] to eliminate the issue."

Commissioner Rosales said he was "generally in support of the city's application and recommended that the same type of bricks be used to also replace the entry plaza to the State House, and that any underground vaults covers be clad with bricks for a consistent and uniform historically appropriate appearance."

In another advisory review for 42 Irving St., the would-be applicant detailed his proposal to replace an existing "dog house" dormer with a slightly bigger, more structurally sound dormer, as well as to replace the shingles on the side of the dormer with slate or some other historically appropriate material. Commissioner Rosales expressed concern with increasing the size of the dormer, since that type of visible change isn't allowed in the historic district per the BHAC guidelines.

Meanwhile, the commission didn't hear an application for 46 West Cedar St. because the application was withdrawn, while an application for 138 Charles St. - the location of the ill-fated Bluemoon Smoke Shop - was also withdrawn from the agenda.

## Hill COVID positive test rate stayed the same

By John Lynds

Last week Beacon Hill's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate stayed the same after posting 5.8 percent increase two weeks ago.

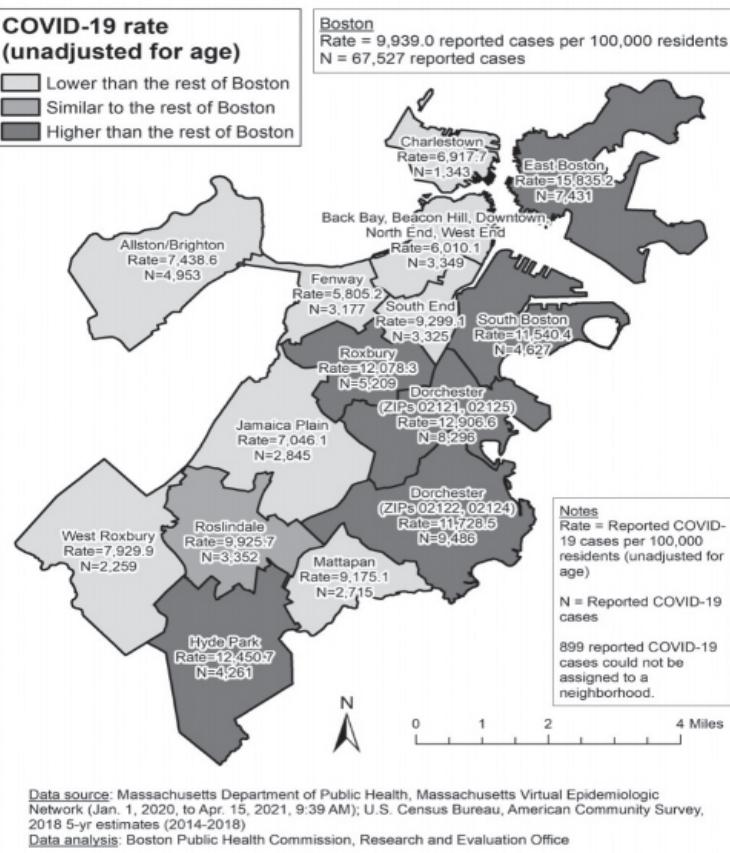
According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 2,412 residents were tested and 3.2 percent were positive--this was the same percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago. The area experienced a 17.2 percent and then a 5.8 percent increase week over week since the beginning of April.

Overall since the pandemic started 49,411 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.8 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 1.5 percentage increase from the 6.7 reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Positive test rates citywide decreased and fell below the 5 percent threshold.

According to the BPHC 26,430 residents were tested and 4.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 2 percent decrease from the 5 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. The 5 percent threshold has been used to plan Boston's phased reopening strategies.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 601 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2.5 percent from the 586.4 cases



Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020, to Apr. 15, 2021, 9:39 AM); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-year estimates (2014-2018)

Data analysis: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

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

per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional 81 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 3,268 cases to 3,349 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection

rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4 percent percent last week and went from 65,474 cases to 68,114 confirmed cases in a week. Five additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,361 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through May 1

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

## COMMERCIAL STREET LANE REDUCTION

•On Wednesday, 4/28, there will be a lane closure on Commercial Street to make room for a work zone near the Keaney Square section of the project site. The lane closure will occur to prepare for concrete work on piers. Closure begins at 4:00 a.m. and will end at 2:00 p.m.

## DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

## •Building the piers:

\*Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Footing formwork, rebar installation, and concrete placement

installation, and concrete placement

\*Pier 2: Footing formwork, rebar installation, and concrete placement

\*Pier 3: Column formwork, rebar installation, and concrete placement

\*Pier 4: V arms formwork, rebar installation, and concrete placement

\*Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): V arm formwork installation, rebar installation, and concrete placement

\*Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains in the water

## WORK HOURS

•Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

## WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

\*Prior to 4/18/21, completed work includes:

\*Pier 1 (closest to the North End): sealing and dewatering cofferdam

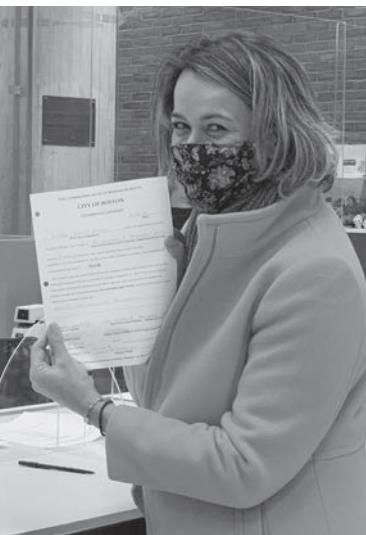
\*Pier 2: sealing and dewatering cofferdam

## TRAVEL TIPS

The Westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs, near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

For more information and project background please visit the project website.



Taking out Nomination Papers for Mayor on Tuesday were five of the six declared candidates for the open seat – including John Barros, Councilor Andrea Campbell, Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, Councilor Michelle Wu, and State Rep. Jon Santiago. Acting Mayor Kim Janey had not taken out Papers by presstime, but has until May 11 to do so.

## Five of six mayoral candidates take Nomination Papers on Day 1

**Early poll shows half of voters undecided, Wu with highest favorability**

By Seth Daniel

Five of the six declared candidates for Mayor of Boston took out their Nomination Papers on the first day of their availability, April 13, with only Acting Mayor Kim Janey still not yet taking papers.

The Boston Election Department showed that 11 people had taken out papers for the mayoral campaign, including the declared candidates John Barros, Councilor Andrea Campbell, Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, State Rep. Jon Santiago, and Councilor Michelle Wu.

Janey is the only other major candidate that has declared, but the only one as of Wednesday morning not to take out papers.

Others taking out papers included Michael Bianchi of Brighton; Robert Cappucci of East Boston; Joao DePina of Dorchester; Roy Owens Sr. of Roxbury; Richard Spagnuolo of the North End; and Patrick Williams of Dorchester.

Candidates for mayor and City Council have until May 11 to get their Nomination Papers, though many do it on the very first day, and must file them by the end of business on May 18.

Nomination Papers came just as a new voter poll from WBUR, the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston Foundation came out with interesting results – most notably that around 46 percent of voters were undecided about mayor.

Of all the candidates, Councilor Michelle Wu had a 47 percent favorability rate, but also the highest unfavourability rate of 11 percent. Only 21 percent had never heard of her before. Acting Mayor Kim Janey registered at 34 percent favorability, the second highest, and 5 percent unfavorable – with 35 percent having not heard of her before. Councilor Annissa Essaibi George landed in third place virtually tied in all metrics with Councilor Andrea Campbell. Essaibi George had a 27 percent favorability and Campbell had 26 percent. Some 44 percent had never heard of Essaibi George and 42 percent hadn't heard of Campbell.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Jon San-

tiago found himself at the bottom of the list with a 13 percent favorability rank, and 57 percent not knowing who he was. John Barros was ahead of him with 17 percent favorability, and 50 percent not knowing him.

Mayoral candidates must get 3,000 signatures of registered voters in Boston. At-large councilors must get 1,500 signatures and a District Councilor must get 200 signatures.

For South End, Back Bay and Fenway, Councilors Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok had taken out papers already and no one else had taken out papers in the districts as of yet.

Meanwhile, Richard Martell of the North End did take out Nomination Papers for a potential run.

The at-large Council race will have a full slate, with two seats vacated due to Wu and Essaibi George running for mayor.

Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julie Mejia are expected to run for re-election, but only Mejia had taken out papers on the first day.

Already, declared candidates Kelly Bates of Hyde Park; Alexander Gray of Jamaica Plain; Ruth-

zee Louijeune of Hyde Park; and Erin Murphy of Dorchester had taken out papers.

They were joined by new names James Colimon of Roslindale; Domingos DaRosa of Hyde Park; Raymond Vasquez of Dorchester;

Althea Garrison of Dorchester; Bridget Nee-Walsh of South Boston; Roy Owens Sr. of Roxbury; Donnie Palmer of Brighton; Nick Vance of Hyde Park; and Patrick Williams of Dorchester.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

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(617)788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21PO192EA  
Estate of: Christine Mildred

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Date of Death  
12/08/2020  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Carolyn Ann Patterson of Verona, PA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: Carolyn Ann Patterson of Verona, PA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate

to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/27/2021.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this pro-

ceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court.  
Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice

regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS**, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 13, 2021  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
4/22/21  
BH

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# Federal judge sides with School Committee on temporary Exam School Admissions policy

By Seth Daniel

Federal Judge William Young late last week issued his decision on the challenge to this year's altered Exam School Admission process, saying that the temporary admissions system did not discriminate by race against white and Asian students, but it should be a system in place only one year to accommodate COVID-19.

In a 48-page opinion, Judge Young stressed that the plan was well-thought out and accomplished the goals of making the school more geographically and economically diverse, and though race was spoke of, it wasn't a plan that sought to racially balance the Exam Schools – which would be unconstitutional.

"It comes down to this: This year, the best way for a rising seventh or ninth-grader to get into one of Boston's three prestigious exam schools is get excellent grades all around (the GPA Criterion), attend a school with a high level of grade inflation, live in a Boston zip code heavily populated with school-age children (geographic diversity) - but hopefully not too many rising seventh or ninth-graders (your direct competition), but a zip code encompassing the poorest residential area of the

city (socioeconomic diversity)," he wrote. "...Only the third and fourth criteria bear any correlation to racial demographics at all, and both have been approved by the Supreme Court...The fact that the policymakers appreciated the correlation does not render these diversity criteria unworthy of consideration as rationally advancing proper educational goals for Boston's children."

"Here, this Court rules only that this one year Plan has a rational basis and denies none of Boston's citizens the equal protection of the laws," he continued. "Nor does it violate Massachusetts General Laws. Judgment shall enter for the School Committee defendants."

That said, Judge Young also ruled that the plan should only be in effect for one year and the new mayor elected in November should champion a robust discussion about how these schools handle admissions in the future.

"The education of one's children is a matter of prime concern to any parent," he wrote. "Thus it is worthy of remark that the Plan the Court today upholds applies only to the 2021-2022 school year. All parties here concede there may be better race-neutral ways to handle Exam School admissions.

This is also the year of a mayoral election. As the mayor appoints the School Committee, these matters are sure to be, and of right ought be, the subject of lively civic debate."

The Admissions Process to the three Exam Schools – Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and O'Bryant High School – typically involved a standardized Admissions test and the consideration of grades for students, who all must live in Boston. This year, because of COVID-19, it became impossible to conduct the exam, so that was scrapped for a new system based on zip code and grades that also sought to make the school population more geographically and economically diverse – while at the same time likely increasing the racial diversity as a consequence.

In February, the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence filed suit against the School Committee and its plan, saying it – among other things – violated the 14th Amendment and discriminated against white and Asian students. The students and families were from West Roxbury, Chinatown, Beacon Hill and Brighton.

Judge Young said he did not agree with the arguments made by the attorney for those parents, that

there was an illegal racial diversity goal that was discussed when formulating the plan and that discussion influenced the plan.

"The School Committee's goal of a more racially representative student body, although more often discussed and analyzed, did not commandeer the Plan, and it in fact necessarily took a back seat to the Plan's other goals, which the Plan more aptly achieved," he wrote. "Consequently, any effect on the racial diversity of the Exam Schools is merely derivative of the Plan's effect on geographic and socioeconomic diversity -- not the reverse. This Court finds and rules that the Plan is race-neutral, and that neither the factors used nor the goal of greater diversity qualify as a racial classification."

That said, the judge did not take lightly the racial comments made by the School Committee members in formulating the plan, and even racially-insensitive comments toward Asian Americans allegedly made by the former Chair of the School Committee during a hearing on the Admissions Plan in October. He said some of the comments made by the Committee and the Admissions Working Group were cause for concern, but didn't drive the plan.

"...this Court does not take lightly the statements made by the School Committee and the Working Group," he wrote. "Without question, some statements raise cause for concern. The statement within the Equity Planning Tool, for example, about a hard pivot away from equality and towards equity simply has no support in the Equal Protection jurisprudence of the Supreme Court...Had this Plan unconstitutionally substituted equality of result for equality of opportunity along racial lines, this Court would not hesitate to strike it down. But that is not what happened here. Apparently well counseled, the School Committee considered diversity and developed its Plan within the permissible framework of the Supreme Court precedent."

The Boston Branch of the NAACP, The Greater Boston Latino Network, Asian Pacific Islander Civic Action Network, Asian American Resource Work-

shop, Anti-Defamation League of New England, and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, who are intervenors on the lawsuit, said the ruling was a victory for all students in Boston.

"Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed deep inequities in our education system, and created unprecedented and unforeseen challenges for students, educators, school leaders, and families," read the statement. "The admissions criteria that were the subject of this lawsuit were designed thoughtfully and intentionally to respond to this crisis in a way that is fair to all of our students. By upholding them, Judge Young has helped ensure that every student in Boston, despite the pandemic, will have the chance to attend some of the most selective schools in our city. We look forward to continuing our multi-racial coalition work with Boston Public School leaders, educators, students, and families to ensure that this policy is implemented with integrity and transparency."

Almost immediately, the Boston Public Schools sent out instructions about how they would begin issuing invites to students who had applied to enter the seventh grade or ninth grade at the Exam Schools. Due to the lawsuit, sixth grade to seventh grade assignments citywide were delayed for about a month.

"The court issued a ruling today in the exam schools admissions suit that means Boston Public Schools (BPS) can now proceed with the temporary Exam Schools admissions policy as adopted by the Boston School Committee in October 2020," read the letter. "This one-year policy was developed in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of administering the entrance exam during a public health crisis. We are in the process of finalizing exam school invitations and working with our external independent partner to make sure our final calculations are accurate. Invitations to the three exam schools will be sent via email and regular mail by the end of April as soon as that work is completed."

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### FREE PLANT SEEDLINGS FROM FRIENDS OF THE WEST END PUBLIC LIBRARY

Come to the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., on Earth Day, Thursday April 22, from 4 to 6 p.m.

If you have a sunny windowsill or outdoor space, you can enjoy watching the seedlings grow. Offerings nurtured by members of the Friends' Landscaping Committee include marigold, zinnia, kale, zucchini, or tomato seedlings.

And if you enjoy caring for a garden—the Friends can use more volunteers! Sign up on their website, <https://friendsofthewestendlibrary.org> or email friendswestendlibrary@gmail.com.

### FOPG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

In lieu of its traditional Green & White Ball this year, the Friends

of the Public Garden will present its 50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration via Zoom called "50 Years of Friends: Memories, Moments & Milestones" on Friday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$250 and sponsorships are also available for the event; visit [friendsofthepublicgarden.org](http://friendsofthepublicgarden.org) for more information.

### HILL HOUSE 2021 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon S., has officially opened up Summer Camp registration for 2021 campers.

Now in its 22nd year, Hill House Camps (Kiddie Kamp for 3-5 year olds and Day Camp for 5- to 12-year-olds) feature: weekly Day Camp field trips; Kiddie Kamp onsite adventures; expanded enrichment opportunities; sailing, theatre, sports and film camp options; weekly themes; extended day options for Day Campers; and expanded LIT program for 13- to

15-year-olds.

Visit Hill House's Summer Camp website ([www.hillhouseboston.org/Camps.htm](http://www.hillhouseboston.org/Camps.htm)) to learn more about all the fun. For more information on registering, contact Chelsea Evered at 617-227-5838 or [cevered@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:cevered@hillhouseboston.org).

### IMAGINE VAN GOGH COMING DEC. 21 TO SOWA POWER STATION

"Imagine Van Gogh," more than 200 of the Dutch artist's paintings, is making its debut in Boston on Dec. 21 at the SoWa Power Station.

The exhibition is a contactless experience spanning over 24,000 square feet, with a limited number of guests allowed in on a timed-entry basis, and it will adhere to all safety guidelines established by the Commonwealth.

Tickets start at \$33.99 (plus service charges and fees) and are on sale now. For more information, visit [www.imagine-vangogh.com](http://www.imagine-vangogh.com).

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# Real Estate Transfers

**BUYER 1**
**BACK BAY**

Apgar, Mahlon A  
Apgar, Anne N  
Busiek, Don  
Case, Andrea G  
361 Beacon Unit 3 LLC  
Hunter, Sarah L  
McClain, Jeffrey D  
Miller, Thomas B  
Hsieh, Diana P  
Weisman, Andrew B  
Goyal, Sanjeev

**BEACON HILL**

Beck, Susanne  
Kapetanopoulos, Alexandra  
Davis, Paul R  
Vasudevan, Shobha  
Rubino, Katherine A  
Dagher, Courtney M  
R&Pamela Donnelly RT  
Houlik, Elisabeth  
Davila, Carine C  
Ankner, Robert C  
Workie, Dawit

**BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE**

Schlesinger, Noah W  
Francoise Surel T  
Morrison, William  
Grimes, Daniel  
Reiss, Timothy C  
Schreurs, Ann-Sofoe  
Frigon, Josh  
Foster, Wayne  
Teague, McKenna  
Chang, Baolin  
Karst, Andrew  
Rausch, Emma W  
Yiyos LLC  
Kumaresan, Ilanko  
Wehling, Randall L  
Budden, Philip  
Brown, Harley  
Evan Peverly 2017 FT  
Elterich FT 2004  
Purdy, Ian  
Nguyen, Huy H  
Harbinger Ptnrs 2000 Wlt

Fallon, Peter J  
Veneziano, Andrew  
Moore, Elisabeth W  
Donohue, Bryce W  
Reiss, Timothy C  
Kumar, Neal  
Prum, Stone  
Waldau, Morgan  
Sipowicz, Phillip J  
Curley, Jonathon P  
Gehrke, Jason  
Rowles, Xiaoyan

**WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN**

Lawson, Phillip O  
Sato, Yuko  
Hill, Jess  
L R Talesnick Residence  
Fuentes, Carlos  
Costello, Lee C  
Dulac, Nicolas  
Li, Yau Y  
Salem, Karim  
Coghill, Shannan  
Balesh, Elie R  
Kanmert, Daniel K  
Nascimento, David

**SELLER 1**
**BACK BAY**

Sherin, Peter M  
Sherin, Peter M  
Baker, Erin  
Dieffenbach, Bryan V  
361 Beacon LLC  
Harrisberger, Kenneth J  
377 Commonwealth Ave LLC  
Cervin, Ronald  
Cullen, Michael M  
Mathew, Paul  
Alterovitz, Gil

**BEACON HILL**

Taff, Derek  
Fox, Christian F  
Chestnut Street RT  
Quint, Scott B  
Burnham, Diann C  
Valiveti, Prakash  
Patel, Jayeshbhai D  
Brimmer Chambers Condo  
Gabrek, Daniel  
Cherundolo, John C  
Fava, Scott

**BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE**

Rossi, Alexandra  
CRK Boston Properties  
Piantedosi, Lewis  
15 Woodbriar LLC  
McLoughlin, Peter J  
2451 Washington LLC  
Lofaro, Franca  
Hodgkins, Tucker  
Copeland, Aaron  
Campesino, Ana S  
11 Durham Street LLC  
Steven Mantelli IRT  
Baghai-Rad, David  
Feliciano, Linda  
Stojkovic, Nebojsa N  
Zhou, Jingyi  
Raphael Alice LLC  
Bcec LLC  
Leopold, Gary  
Alessi, Ellen M  
50 Symphony LLC  
125 Tremont LLC  
Curley, Jonathon  
Alves, Stephen E  
Satish R Maripuri RET  
King, Joshua  
McLoughlin, Peter J  
Meunier, John J  
Allied Residences LLC  
Hyde, Nathaniel A  
Delvecchio, John A  
Getchell, Phillip  
Seligman, David B  
JP Property 1 LLC

Abukhadra, Hazem  
Klaus, Stephen  
Caro, Anthony J  
Power, John  
Yaghoubi, Nader  
Watchtower RT  
Green, Lawrence A  
Zhang, Yi  
Millennium X T  
Gibson, Diana L  
Kry, Hadiza  
Macherides, Stamatina  
Vanderwerf RT

**ADDRESS**

122 Beacon St #3  
122 Beacon St #4  
163 Beacon St #7  
295-297 Beacon St #54  
361 Beacon St #3  
366 Commonwealth Ave #31  
377 Commonwealth Ave #1  
386 Commonwealth Ave #52  
405 Commonwealth Ave #2  
416 Marlborough St #103  
183-185A Massachusetts Ave #404

**PRICE**

\$1,875,000  
\$1,875,000  
\$560,000  
\$905,000  
\$7,800,000  
\$834,500  
\$2,625,000  
\$489,000  
\$660,000  
\$1,090,000  
\$1,163,000

\$3,100,000  
\$530,000  
\$1,700,000  
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\$650,000  
\$975,000  
\$770,000

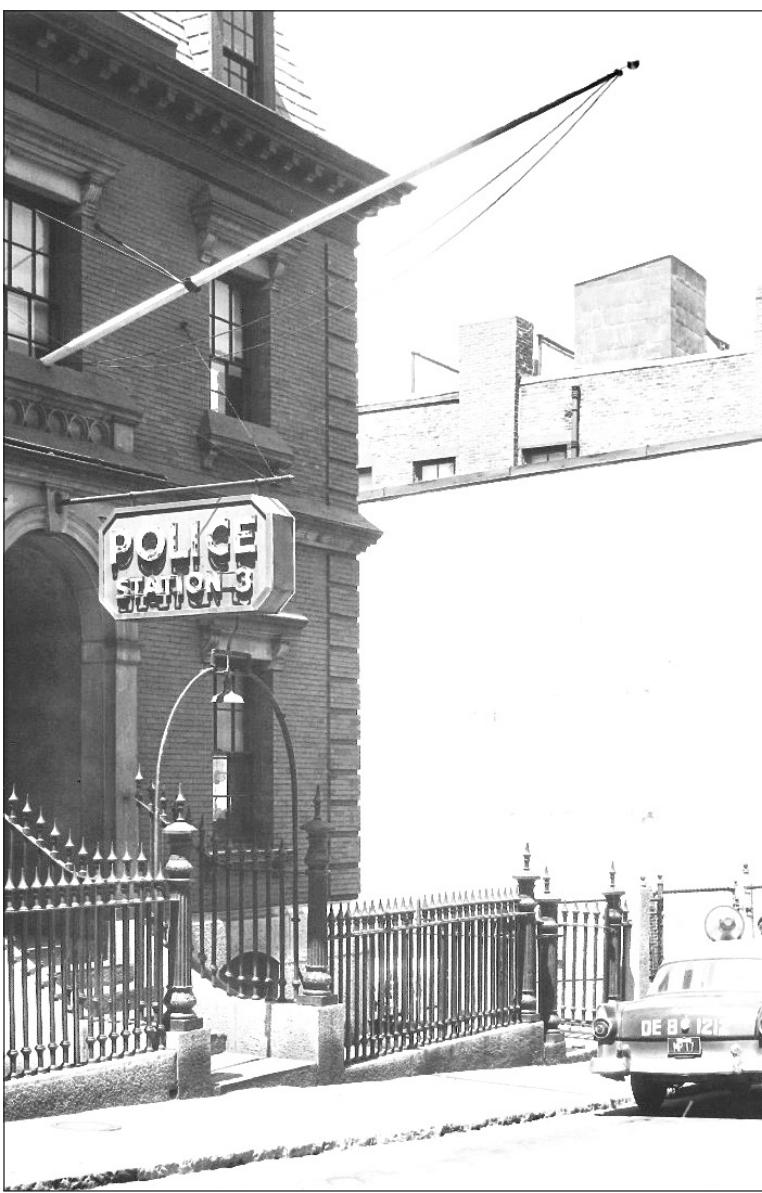
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\$1,425,000  
\$729,000  
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\$524,000  
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\$1,325,000  
\$359,000  
\$1,550,000  
\$1,580,000  
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\$705,000  
\$1,241,000  
\$1,220,000  
\$3,200,000  
\$3,069,000  
\$2,100,000  
\$545,000  
\$221,900  
\$8,500,000  
\$1,064,300  
\$1,175,000  
\$1,825,000  
\$1,410,000  
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\$680,000  
\$637,000  
\$675,000  
\$1,365,000  
\$1,775,000  
\$850,000

\$2,323,000  
\$1,220,000  
\$735,000  
\$1,595,000  
\$1,250,000  
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\$1,050,000  
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\$650,000  
\$1,085,000

# Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

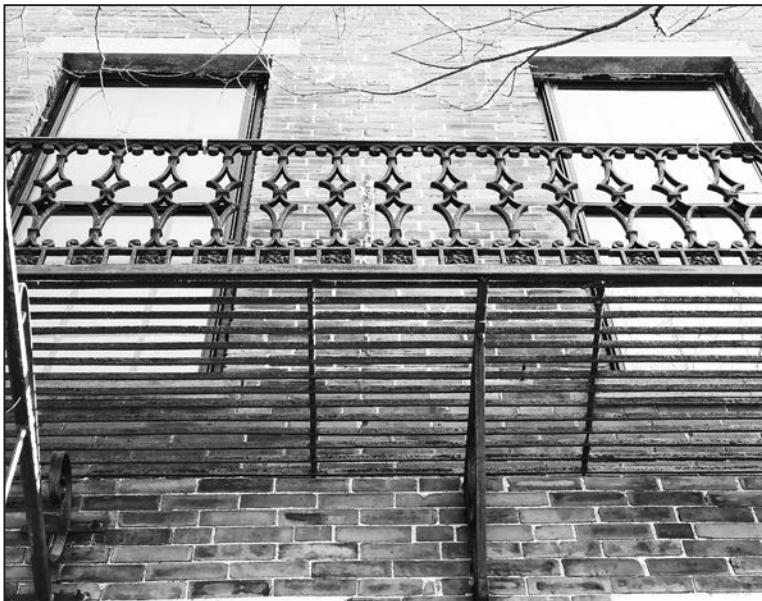
## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The light fixture in the last clue is by the side ramp entrance to 74 Joy Street. Today's answer is a photograph by Robert Neiley circa 1957. At that time the building was Boston's Division 3 Police Station and the address was 80 Joy Street.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



## Choosing toys

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For a few weeks this year, we had to put our dog Poppy's toys in storage. She had bumped her face into a wall on a walk and loosened a tooth. After examining her, the vet recommended waiting to see if the tooth stabilized when the area around it healed.

This meant no use of that tooth for Poppy's favorite activities – chew stick sessions and nightly games of fetch, keep away, and tug. It also caused us to think carefully about the toys we would reintroduce to her when it was over.

### Appropriate Toys

We've always had terriers who have been hard chewers and selected toys designed to take abuse. Some brands, like Kong, offer degrees of hardness for different dogs. We opt for the strongest of the strong to be sure we don't find pieces of the toy removed and possibly swallowed after a chewing session.

### More than Play

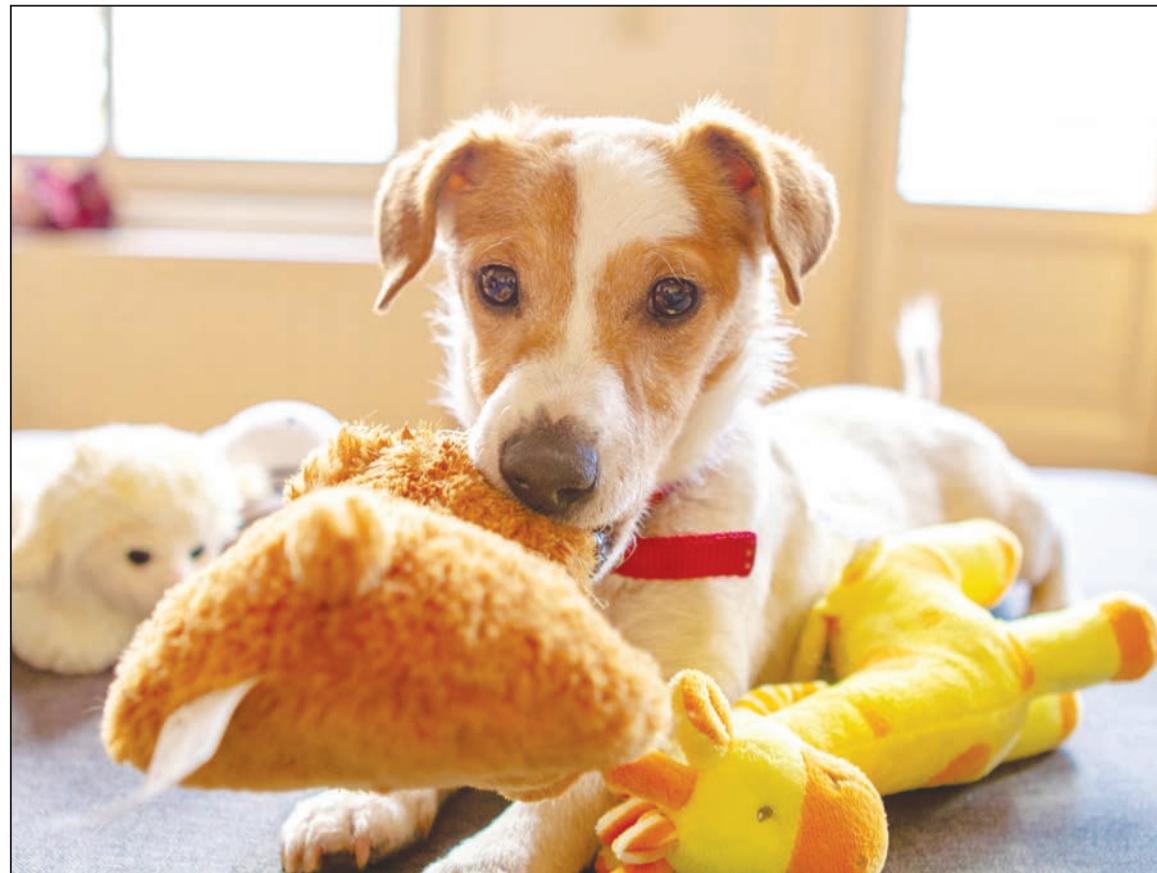
Some dogs love puzzle toys that challenge their minds. Many of these dispense treats. Some can even be used to feed a dog who eats too fast.

Other dogs turn a toy into a comfort blanket of sorts. We fostered a puppy mill mama who treated all soft toys as if they were her puppies. She would bring them to her bed, protect, and snuggle them.

Originally bred to be hunters, our Westies have all loved squeaky toys and would happily make them squeak until the human family members beg for mercy. Experts say this sound satisfies their prey instinct.

Other toys, like floating fetch toys for waterdogs can encourage exercise. Dog ball launchers, that enable people to throw a ball much farther than usual for a dog to fetch, add to how fast and far a dog will run. What's more, they let people pick up wet, slimy balls without touching them.

## CITY PAWS



*Small terriers, often bred to hunt rodents, love to make toys squeak. The sound satisfies their prey instinct. (Photo by Marieke Koenders)*

### Rotate Toys

Changing up the toys available to your dog is a good way to keep them interested. Every so often spread out all the toys and examine them for condition. Then you can discard those with damage, leave out a few, and pack away some to reappear the next time you do a rotation.

### Dangerous Toys

Tennis balls and sticks top the lists of dangerous toys for dogs. A dog can easily turn a tennis ball into a choking hazard. Tennis balls can also cause dental problems. The AKC quoted Dr. Thomas Chamberlain, a board-certified

veterinary dental specialist who warned that "... the fuzz is actually quite abrasive, and accumulated dirt and sand increases the abrasive quality of the ball. As your dog chomps on a tennis ball, the fuzz acts like sandpaper, gradually wearing down her teeth in a process called 'blunting.' This can eventually lead to dental problems such as exposed tooth pulp and difficulty chewing."

Many dogs love sticks but sadly, sticks can be dangerous. AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein wrote, "Many times people would bring their dogs into the emergency clinic because they were at the park and a stick literal-

ly impaled the dog at the back of its mouth ... While the stick was long gone, a huge laceration remained, and most times the owners were unaware of what was making their dog behave so out of sorts."

The lesson here is to choose your dog's toys with care. Consider toys that your dog likes and that are appropriate for their size, age, and needs. Rotate the ones you have to keep things interesting and offer safer replacements for tennis balls and sticks.

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

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## George Wright GC Junior Golf Lessons registration now open

clubs. Pre-registration is required.

Founded in 1938, the 18-hole par 70 Donald Ross-designed George Wright Golf Course is a hidden gem located at 420 West Street in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston.

The lessons take place Tuesdays through Thursdays with classes at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The series repeats weekly starting from July

6, 2021, until August 12, 2021.

Clinicians are highly qualified golf instructors. To register, go to the "Parks Online Activity Search" link at [www.boston.gov/calendar/junior-golf-daily-lessons](http://www.boston.gov/calendar/junior-golf-daily-lessons).

For more info, please contact Jennifer Widener at (617) 961-3047 or [jennifer.widener@boston.gov](mailto:jennifer.widener@boston.gov).

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to [deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com).