



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Dan Murphy

While the pandemic continued to dominate the news in 2021, it also proved to be a watershed year as the City of Boston elected former City Councilor Michelle Wu as the first female, as well as the first woman of color, to ever serve as Mayor.

On Beacon Hill, Charles Street's retail landscape also experienced a renaissance in 2021, with numerous new businesses opening on the street.

After taking last year off due to the pandemic, several beloved neighborhood traditions returned as in-person events, including the Beacon Hill Business Association's annual Beacon Hill Sidewalk Sale, which came to Charles Street over the weekend of June 25 and 26, as well as the Beacon Hill Art Walk, which returned (albeit later than usual) on Sept. 26. The Beacon Hill board of directors held its first in-person monthly meeting since the pandemic struck on Dec. 13 at the Boston Athenaeum as well.

The year also saw what could mark the beginning of another annual tradition in the neighborhood when the inaugural "Spring Eternal!" event came to Charles Street on May 22.

*On Jan. 22, the Esplanade Association commemorated its 20th anniversary by debuting "Hatched: Breaking through the Silence" – an original 15-minute visual performance led by



D. MURPHY

The former home of Danish Country & Modern at 138 Charles St., which was proposed as a new location for Bluemoon Smoke Shop until that plan was ultimately abandoned amid widespread community opposition.

Boston-based creative Maria Finkelmeier of MF Dynamics that was specifically designed for the 80-year-old DCR Hatch Shell. The free program ran through Feb. 22, with multiple showings each night.

*In February, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, together with Rep. Jay Livingstone, filed new, updated legislation that would allow the state to lease Lee Pool on the Charles River Esplanade for a 30-year term, thereby return-

ing the long-shuttered two-acre site to public use. The bill would allow the designated lessee to enter into a long-term agreement with the Esplanade Association, the nonprofit that manages the park in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, with the stipulation that it only be used for the proposed Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion.

*On March 22, Mayor Marty Walsh gave his final farewell as Boston's mayor, as he prepared to head to Washington to serve as President Biden's Secretary of Labor. City Council president Kim Janey then became the first person of color and first woman to lead Boston.

*On March 22, Rep. Jay Livingstone and City Councilor Kenzie Bok co-hosted a virtual meeting to discuss a proposed new

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City considering making changes to five intersections around Public Garden

By Dan Murphy

After making changes to walk signals and creating separated bike lanes on the streets around the Public Garden last year via its multi-phase Connect Downtown project, the city is now considering making permanent design changes at five intersections near the Public Garden.

At the intersection of Boylston Street at Charles Street, where separated bike lanes and new bike signals were introduced last fall, the city is now seeking to significantly expand the sidewalk next to the Boston Common to create a gateway entrance to the Common with the potential for new plantings and benches, according to the city, which is working closely with the Boston Common Master Plan.

All crosswalks at the intersection will be widened, while all the curb on the north side of Boylston Street would be rebuilt and widened. A slight change would be made to the traffic signal operations as well, although no changes would be made to the vehicle capacity at the intersection from current conditions.

Additionally, southbound bicycle access would be introduced on Charles Street to Boylston Street – a change that, according to the city, would improve access to Downtown, as well as provide an alternative to riding bikes through the Boston Common, which is not allowed.

At the Charles Street crosswalk between the Public Garden and Boston Common, which was expanded last year while the fre-

quency of the Walk signal was doubled, the proposed design changes include: widening the curb ramps to match the existing 60-foot-wide crosswalk; adding another pedestrian signal; and installing a bike signal to stop southbound bicyclists while pedestrians are crossing Charles Street. No changes to traffic signal operations, nor to vehicle capacity, would be made at the crosswalk, according to the city.

At the intersection of Beacon Street at Charles Street, proposed changes include: building two raised islands – one located on the west side of Charles Street just south of the crosswalk between the Common and Public Garden, the other on the south side of Beacon Street between Charles Street and River Street – to protect pedestrians and bicyclists; retaining existing crosswalks and curb ramps; and introducing southbound bicycling on Charles Street between Beacon Street and Boylston Street. The existing separated bike lane on this block will be made two-way – again, to improve access to Downtown, as well as to provide an alternative to riding bikes through the Common. No changes to traffic signal operations, nor to vehicle capacity, would be made at this intersection.

Last year, the city installed a one-way, separated bike lane on Charles Street and on Beacon Street.

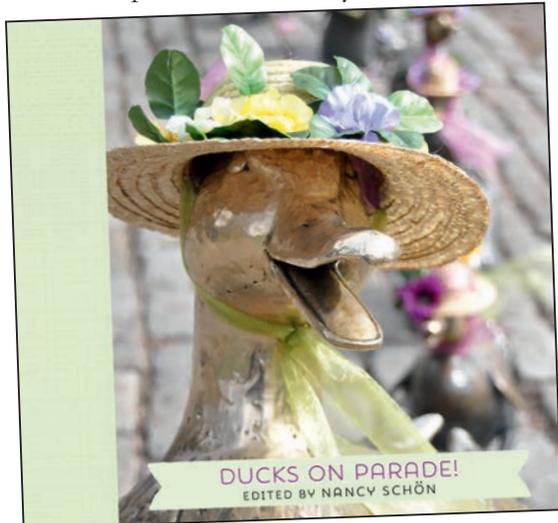
At the intersection of Beacon Street at Arlington Street, proposed design changes include:

(CHANGE Pg. 3)

First Night Boston

Organizers of First Night are thrilled to welcome back our Celebrate Boston Procession, the people's parade that will take colorful and celebratory groups from Copley Square to Boston Common at 6 pm. Once the performers pass by, the public is invited to walk along to the Boston Common, where fireworks will begin at 7:01 p.m. The event is open to all. Ice sculptures make their daz-

zling return to First Night Boston! This year's sculptures, themed "Wonders of the Frozen Ocean" will bring the animals of the icy poles to Copley Square. Sculptures will be located in the Copley Square fountain on New Year's Eve, and available for public viewing from 12:00 noon to 12:30 AM. Additional sculptures will be displayed around Boston Public Library.



COURTESY OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS

"Ducks on Parade!" – a photo book exploring the ongoing phenomenon of the iconic "Make Way for Ducklings" sculpture in the Public Garden and its ever-changing array of topical attire and its ever-changing array of topical attire – was published by Brandeis University Press on April 1.

EDITORIAL

YES, LET'S RING OUT THE OLD AND RING IN THE NEW

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about 2021 and our hopes for 2022.

Although it was published in 1850, its verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here's hoping that 2022 brings health and happiness to all of us.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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GUEST OP-ED

Our most difficult decision for 2022

Dr. Glenn Mollette

2022 will be over almost quicker than you can say Happy New Year! Just look how fast 2021 sped by us all. Time rarely feels as if it's standing still unless we are waiting on something to happen. Time only drags when we need something to happen like a cure for a disease, a job to open or a relative to come home. When time drags, we make the mistake of wishing it away.

We only have a little bit of time. We all have the same in a day, a week or a year. Every year that we live we are extended the same number of days and minutes. We do all kinds of things with time. We waste time, kill time, try to make up time, lose track of time or don't pay attention to time. Regardless of how we treat time it's only doing one thing moving swiftly through the hourglass one grain or second at a time.

I'm thankful for time. I'm grateful for time with my wife and each family member. I'm grateful for this moment to sit here and type a few words out on my keyboard.

I suppose one of my problems is how do I fit all I want to do into my time? I guess I enjoy doing too much. If I only enjoyed doing one or two things then my time spent might be a little easier. Each day and moment I would simply devote my full attention to one particular aspect of life. Actually, that might not be a bad idea. Could I devote 24 hours a day to my family? I could, but they really don't want me in their hair 24/7. I could devote 24 hours a day to prayer and reading the Bible or reading other good books. But then, I don't want to be an isolated religious person who never enjoys this incredible world or people. I could devote 24 hours a day to my educational work and do a lot of the work that others do. However, institutions are stronger and better when the work is spread around to others. I could spend more time simply writing books or pursuing other hobbies I enjoy.

Somehow, we have to determine what is best. I heard about this farmer who hired a man to sort potatoes. The man's job was to put the bad potatoes in one pile,

the good potatoes in another pile and the best potatoes in another pile. The man agreed to the job. At the end of the day the farmer came to see how his new employee was doing and he had not done anything. He was simply standing looking back and forth at two potatoes. The farmer bewildered asked? "Why haven't you done what I asked you to do?" The hired man responded, "I just can't decide between the good and the best potatoes."

Our dilemma in 2022 may not be in deciding between good and bad but between good and best. There are a lot of good things we can do with our time in 2022. Using our time to do the best things may be our most difficult decision.

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.

LETTER to the Editor

MY APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO THE COMMUNITY

To the Editor,

In the December 16th issue of The Beacon Hill Times in an article, "The Last Shepard Celebrates 10 Years of Wonder" by Mary Jo Rufo, it was mentioned in the last paragraph that "The Last Shepard project was truly a group effort from start to finish."

As the author of the book, I wish to underscore that sentiment. I must add with gratitude that the entire Beacon Hill community, residents, and businesses, and The Beacon Hill Times came to assist me over the five years as we raised money for childhood cancer.

With the publication of the article I have received many messages like this one: "Mark, your Last

Shepard and Tales of the Tenth Ornament, is more than a book. It is the foundation of a project whose enormity cannot be underestimated."

From its inception, writing the book, finding an illustrator, editing, securing a publisher, followed by distribution was, as any writer knows, an undertaking all to itself. Added to this, the book's intriguing puzzle provided clues in the form of unique and beautiful Christmas ornaments that were purchased by a cadre of enthusiastic followers throughout the United States. The celebration and culmination of this project to recognize the person who solved the puzzle happened 10 years ago on Christmas Eve with many folks traveling great distances to be part of this special occasion.

"Your own benevolence com-

plements the project with proceeds benefiting cancer research. Simply put, you designed and delivered a Christmas tale that will be remembered and passed along for generations many years to come," said Mark and Ruth Vosburgh. This comment and so many others from those in this, my beloved neighborhood, has reminded me of the kindness and infinite goodwill of this community that cannot be overstated.

Saying thank you to you all or I love each and everyone of you doesn't seem enough. Gratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions especially, when it runs deep. I hope when you read these words that my thanks, appreciation and gratitude for each of you is deep and most sincere.

Happy New Year,

Mark Duffield

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LETTER to the Editor

YES, CAROLYN, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS ON CHESTNUT STREET

To the Editor,

On a dark evening last week as I hurried down Chestnut Street after doing a few errands, I pulled off my hated mask and immediately realized that I had also pulled off a hearing aid which I had inadvertently yanked out of my ear and dropped on the brick sidewalk. The aid is a tiny fragile expensive thing that I would hate to lose any time but particularly at Christmas when am looking forward to seeing children, grand-

children and friends. Without it I am reduced to asking everyone to repeat most of what has been said.

I turned on my cellphone flashlight and started to search when two young men carrying bags of tools, who must have been on their way home from some sort of a difficult job, came along and asked about my problem. Each produced an industrial sized flashlight and joined my search. One got on his hands and knees and pulled up a sidewalk grate. He proceeded to use his hands to sift through a lot of gravel, dirt, cigarette butts, dog poop and who knows what else. I was touched at their willingness to

delay their trip home for my small problem and impressed by their efficiency. Within a couple of minutes one had identified the hearing aid that had bounced about 10 feet out into the street where it would surely have been crushed by a car in moments. I wanted to kiss them both but thought that they would be dreadfully embarrassed by that display so I settled for profuse thanks.

Beacon Hill is a friendly place, but this was a show of neighborly kindness that was unexpected and wonderful. A real Christmas gift.

Carolyn Osteen

CHANGE (from pg. 1)

simplifying the pedestrian crossing between the Public Garden and the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge; building two new crosswalks – one across Arlington Street on the south side of Beacon Street, the other across Beacon Street between Arlington Street and Mugar Way; replacing the island with a mountable island, which will allow for larger trucks to turn while keeping most drivers in their lanes as they enter onto Arlington Street; adding a separated bike lane on the south side of Beacon Street from Arlington Street to Mugar Way to close the existing gap in the bicycle network (bicyclist movements will not be in conflict with pedestrian movements); and adjusting signal timing to accommodate the new design. People walking and biking will also be protected from turning vehicles. No changes will be made to vehicle capacity at this intersection.

The proposed changes at this location, according to the city, comes into response top feedback received on how difficult it can be to cross this intersection, especially because people walking from the Public Garden to the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge have to cross Beacon Street via a small island.

At the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue at Arlington Street, where, according to the city, 50 percent of pedestrians walk

directly between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Public Garden gates despite the absence of a crosswalk, proposed design include: creating a “new, iconic crosswalk” between the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Public Garden, with a wide crosswalk and curb ramps to improve accessibility for pedestrians crossing Arlington Street; retaining the existing crosswalks across Arlington Street on the north and south sides of Commonwealth Avenue; replacing diagonal curb ramps with directional curb ramps to improve accessibility; and adding a new bike crossing across Arlington Street north of the new crosswalk.

Minor changes would be made to traffic signal operations, but there will be no change to vehicle capacity at this intersection.

“This project will help families explore Boston’s neighborhoods and iconic parks from the Esplanade to the Boston Common to the Southwest Corridor,” a city spokesperson said of Connect Boston. “It will improve pedestri-

an crossings, provide comfortable routes for bicyclists, and enhance access for residents and visitors alike.”

Of the plan, Rep. Jay Livingstone wrote, “I’m pleased that the bike lanes are being made permanent. I think it has generally been a success. I hope now the city will invest in more bike specific stop lights to improve pedestrian safety around the Public Garden.”

Connect Boston, meanwhile, is conducting a survey to solicit feedback on all or one of the intersections, or you can talk one-on-one with a member of the project team, which take place between 3 and 7 p.m. every other Wednesday through January. Sign up for a 15-minute phone call or virtual meeting.

Comments can also be sent to: Boston Transportation Department, ATTN: Stefanie Seskin, 1 City Hall Square, Room 721, Boston, MA 02201, or via email to connect-downtown@boston.gov.

Visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/004d5a37796144f89-b32d895d39e6aa1>.

Beacon Hill, surrounding area’s COVID positive test rate nearing 10 percent

By John Lynds

A week after Mayor Michelle Wu imposed new restrictions on certain indoor activities due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, nearly 1 out of every 10 residents from Beacon Hill and the surrounding area tested for COVID were found to be positive last week according to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, Wu announced that beginning on January 15 the City of Boston both patrons and employees of indoor venues—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—will be required to show proof of vaccination. Wu said individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. Boston’s indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,684 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 9.7 percent were positive. This

was a 56 percent increase from the 6.2 percent that tested positive between December 13 and December 20. The weekly positive test rate is up 102 percent in the area since December 13.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also neared 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 36,806 residents were tested and 9.4 percent were COVID positive—this was a 40 percent increase from the 6.7 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on December 20.

Three hundred fifty seven additional residents have been infected with the virus between December 20 and December 27 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 5,203 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 8.2 percent last week and went from 95,790 cases to 103,667 confirmed cases in a week. There were 12 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,503.

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location of Bluemoon Smoke Shop, which had signed a 10-year lease to occupy the ground-level storefront at 138 Charles St., the previous home of Danish Country & Modern. But in response to the outpouring of opposition that the plan received from the community, especially given the proposed location's close proximity to several nearby schools, Blue Moon ultimately opted not to open the new store on Charles Street, and the property owner allowed them to dissolve the existing lease.

"I respect the opinion of the neighborhood and am not going to pursue the plan," Malik Hayat, one of the business owners, told this publication following the meeting. "We're sorry for any inconvenience, or bad feelings, we have caused the neighborhood, and we respect their opinion."

*On April 1, "Ducks on Parade!" – a photo book exploring the ongoing phenomenon of the iconic "Make Way for Ducklings" sculpture in the Public Garden and its ever-changing array of topical attire – was published by Brandeis University Press.

Nancy Schön, the West Newton sculptor who brought the family of aquatic birds from Robert McCloskey's classic children's book "Make Way for Ducklings" to life in the Public Garden, edited the book, which is divided into two sections – "Four Seasons of Ducks" and "Ducks with a Message."

"Four Seasons of Ducks" follows Mrs. Mallard and her kin over the course of a year. They wear green for St. Patrick's Day, all dress as bunnies for Easter, don medals for the Boston Marathon and even masquerade as pilgrims for Thanksgiving, while showing their support for all the home teams, including the Bruins, Celtics, Sox and the Pats, with a changing array of uniforms.

The book's second section, "Ducks with a Message," shows the aquatic creatures taking a political stand in costume, such as the knitted pink hats they wore in conjunction with the Boston Women's March for America, which drew a crowd estimated at 175,000 to the Boston Common on Jan. 21, 2017 – one day after President Donald Trump's inauguration – in support of women's rights. Or, during a guerilla art installation in August of 2019, when the Ducks were caged in chicken wire to show solidarity with immigrants facing mistreatment at the border.

The book's forward was also penned by former Mayor Martin J. Walsh, who wrote, "On any



COURTESY OF MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL
Dr. Peter Slavin, Mass General's outgoing president.

given day, you can walk through the Public Garden and find the Mallard family dressed up to reflect the current cultural moment and adorned with props to signify historic milestones in Boston's history. You'll see whimsical, over-the-top tributes to holidays and sports teams, and you'll see serious reflections on our country's political climate, too. In that way, Nancy Schön didn't just create one of our city's most beloved works of public art; she also gave us a living record of life in our city, and encouraged us all to become artists and reflect on the moment we're living in."

*On April 7, Dr. Peter Slavin announced he was stepping down as president of Mass General after spending 18 years at the helm of the hospital.

At that time, Dr. Slavin said he had agreed to stay on until MGH could find "a new captain for the ship, someone with new energy and new ideas, who can ably steer this great hospital forward."

In August, Mass General Brigham Names David F. M. Brown President of Massachusetts General Hospital.

*On May 7, former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski announced his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to the Esplanade Association for a complete renovation of the Charlesbank Playground on the Esplanade.

*On May 22, the inaugural "Spring Eternal!" event took place on Charles Street.

Thirty-five businesses, all of which donated gifts for an event raffle, took part in the street-wide celebration, organized by longtime neighborhood resident, Mark Duffield, to welcome the onset of spring.

Among those in attendance for the event, which Duffield said he hopes will become a neighborhood

tradition, were City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Rep. Jay Livingstone, and then-City Councilor Michelle Wu, as well as Darrell Byers, CEO of Interise.

*On May 28, the Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial reopened on the Boston Common after undergoing a \$3 million renovation.

The extensive restoration work, which was undertaken through a partnership between the Friends of the Public Garden, the City of Boston, the Museum of African American History and the National Park Service, entailed removing the brass memorial from its stonework encasing and transporting it to Skylight Studios in Woburn for refurbishing, as well as installing supplemental steel within the monument itself and a protection system for the existing beams within the plaza. The monument was also "retro-fitted seismically" to withstand earthquakes.

*On June 25 and 26, the Beacon Hill Business Association's annual Beacon Hill Sidewalk Sale returned to Charles Street.

*On June 30, the Beacon Hill Garden Club's Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Tour, which traditionally took place on the third Thursday in May during pre-pandemic times, returned as a virtual tour featuring seven members gardens.

*In July, Brewer Fountain returned to life on the Boston Common after lying torpid for nearly two years due to the pandemic.

"We are delighted to be able to reopen this outdoor community space. How wonderful it is to see people enjoying the outdoors, using the tables and chairs



D. MURPHY

The Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial reopened May 28 on the Boston Common after undergoing a \$3 million renovation.

under the umbrellas, and hopefully, everyone will be enjoying the Berklee College musicians again," said Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden, which has programmed the fountain since 2012.

*On Aug. 25, then-Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the winners of the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest, including first-time contestant, Sally Reyerling of Pinckney Street, who took first place last week in the Shade Garden category. Reyerling was

also the only contest winner from the neighborhood.

Additionally, another Beacon Hill representative, Miguel Rosales, was inducted into the Garden Contest Hall of Fame for receiving recognition in the competition three times. This distinction will allow him to participate in the competition as a judge in the future, but as a three-time winner, he's also now ineligible to partici-

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D. MURPHY

Pictured, left to right, DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery; Gov. Charlie Baker; former New England Patriot Ron Gronkowski; Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association; Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides; Rep. Jay Livingstone; and former Sen. Sal DiDomenico are seen on May 7, when Ron Gronkowski announced his \$1.2 million gift on behalf of the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation to the Esplanade Association for a complete renovation of the Charlesbank Playground on the Esplanade.

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pate in it ever again.

* On Aug. 29, the eagerly awaited Esplanade 5K, which was held virtually in 2020 due to the pandemic, will return to the park as an in-person footrace.

Proceeds from the event, which was again presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, went directly to support the work of the Esplanade Association to revitalize and enhance the park.

*On Sept. 26, the Beacon Hill Art Walk, which typically took place in June in pre-pandemic times, returned as a live, in-person event.

*On Sept. 22, "What Do We Have in Common?" – a new park-wide art installation to mark the Friends of the Public Garden's 50th anniversary – opened on the Boston Common - one year later than originally planned due to the pandemic.

The centerpiece of the art installation, curated by Now + There, a Boston-based nonprofit public-arts group, and created by Brooklyn, N.Y., artist, Janet Zweig was a massive wooden cabinet, with 200 compartments, each containing an illuminated, blue marker asking a poignant question. The first three questions, which were posed in Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as in English, during the Sept. 22 launch for the installation were: "who owns this park?"; "who owns the moon?"; and "who owns the air?."

Twelve guides were on hand in the park each day for the exhibit, which ran for 30 days until Oct. 22, to answer questions from guests, who were also invited to take a free book from the cabinet.

*On Sept. 25, more than a dozen kids turned out for the city-



The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Color Guard is seen in a sea of flags as the Flag Garden made its full return for Memorial Day Weekend. In anticipation of Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, volunteers planted more than 37,000 flags – one in honor of each of the Commonwealth's fallen veterans - at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Boston Common, marking a full return to the tribute, which was scaled back in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Since 2010, Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund has been the driving force behind the Memorial Day Flag Garden, and this year, the nonprofit organization partnered with staff and volunteers from Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program to create this tribute, with financial support from John Hancock.

wide finale of "We Sing: Boston" - a series of free, outdoor singing events presented by the Friends of the Public Garden in partnership with Boston Children's Chorus - at Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

Participants included newcomers, as well as children who had attended one of the previous "We Sing: Boston" interactive live-music experience, which took place over five weekends from Saturday, July 17, through Sunday, Aug. 15,

at outdoor public spaces in neighborhoods in and around Boston.

"We Sing: Boston" also received additional support from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

*In October, some 65 participating Beacon Hill businesses stepped up to show their support for The Jimmy Fund as part of the neighborhood's "Get in the Spirit" campaign organized by longtime neighborhood resident Mark Duffield, which raised around \$17,000 to support the Jimmy Fund.

*On Nov. 13, the Beacon Hill Civic Association sponsored its annual Garlands & Greens cocktail party at Hampshire House to raise money for the garlands and wreaths to decorate the neighborhood's more than 1,100 historic

gas lamp-posts during the holiday season over the weekend of Dec. 4-5.

*On Dec. 13, the Beacon Hill board of directors held its first in-person monthly meeting since the pandemic struck at the Boston Athenaeum.

At this time, the board awarded \$39,500 in annual grants to 10 deserving community-based nonprofit organizations from its Beacon Hill Community Fund.

Additionally, the board voted unanimously on a motion to support the enactment of a Home Rule Petition by the City Council to amend the language for the Enabling Act that created the Beacon Hill Historic District to expand its boundaries, among other changes.



The team behind the inaugural "Spring Eternal!" event, which took place May 22 on Charles Street.

SHARON DUFFIELD

Advertisement for Dave Poutre Fine Framing featuring silver heirloom frames and the text: "The finest quality silver heirloom frames. —Made in America. .999 fine silver. The best of the best!"



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WINTER WONDERGLAM AT BEACON HILL WOMEN'S FORUM

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

By Ariana Hanley

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! To celebrate the holiday season, the Beacon Hill Women's Forum gathered on December 21 for their annual holiday celebration - Winter Wonderglam. Guests arrived in their festive fancy attire to toast this holiday season! We wish all neighbors a joyful holiday and a healthy New Year! Cheers!

The Beacon Hill Women's Forum is a nonprofit organization established to help bring women in and around Beacon Hill together to form a close community of support and inspiration. We welcome a speaker, always a woman with a unique, formidable story to tell, to our monthly Forums which



Maura Harty and Carolyn Shannon.

meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 6pm to 8pm at The Hampshire House (6pm cocktail/social hour, followed by the program starting at 7pm sharp). Visit The Beacon Hill Women's Forum website to learn more about our membership options. www.beaconhillwomensforum.org.



Lorie Conway.



Tom Patterson and his wife, Lorie Conway, speaking with another BHWF member.



Siblings, Ian and Julia Oleksiak.



Wendy Oleksiak, Co-President, and Cindy Sullivan, Programs Director.



Robin Martin, Richelle Gewertz, Choz Young-Shin, and Michelle Burian.



Hajera Amatullah, Tim Habboub, and Namrita Kapur.



Tim and Julie Morse, Steve and Wendy Oleksiak, Melani Bertani, Beth Sanders, and Jane Damesek.

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Imagine Van Gogh

By Marianne Salza

Imagine Van Gogh the Original Immersive Exhibition in Image Totale will be on display now through March 19, 2022, at the SoWa Power Station for its U.S. premier in Boston. Created in France by Artistic Directors, Annabelle Mauger and Julien Baron, the show welcomes guests to explore Southern France as perceived by the 19th century impressionist painter, Vincent Van Gogh.

“It is not a classic exhibition or a retrospective. It is an immersive exhibition,” explained Mauger, who has directed for over 20 years.

“The most important thing was to fragment the images. In art history, a painting is a movement. If you put more movement in a painting, you are changing the painting. That’s not what I am doing. I am a director, not an artist. I am not choosing the same canvas. Image Totale is a vision of the paintings.”

Image Totale guides viewers to focus on the details of the works that Van Gogh painted in the last two years of his life. Mauger and Baron first presented the exhibition in 2008 in hopes that people could better interpret the Dutch artist who was misunderstood during his time.

“We chose this part of his painting life because we thought that Vincent decided to paint the people he loved in the Southern France landscape,” Mauger described. “When you look at the brush strokes, you will see the softness and sweetness. I am not sure that all people know that this man was just suffering; and not the mad man we are used to hearing.”

Image Totale is like wandering through a radiant dream, absorbed into Van Gogh’s paintings momentarily in the expansive 24,000-square-foot space of the SoWa Power Station. Initially, audiences can amble through



PROVIDED BY IMAGE TOTALE, AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAWRENCE LABAT



PROVIDED BY IMAGE TOTALE, AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAWRENCE LABAT



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA
Artistic Director Annabelle Mauger.



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA
Producer Paul Dupont-Hébert.

a hall that provides information about the history of Van Gogh, and the show’s creators.

The expansive building was formerly a power station built in 1890 to provide electricity for the subway system until 1900. Mario Nicosia, President/Director of the SoWa Art District, purchased the property from the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) some 20 years ago. The Power Station was vacant for a century, until now.

“You needed a use that would keep the building open, as opposed to creating housing, office space, or retail. There was a demand for event space in Boston, so we restored the building for one big, open space,” said Nicosia. “Now the building is going to be used for interesting events. This building can’t be duplicated in the city. A lot of people are going to enjoy it.”

Image Totale has been a traveling exhibition for two years during the pandemic.

“We are considered by some health authorities to be a covid-proof activity,” added Producer Paul Dupont-Hébert. “Last year, we were in Vancouver, and we

were the only cultural activity in Canada recommended by the Minister of Health. We care that our customers feel extremely comfortable here. This is done to make people happy and relax during a difficult period we live in.”

Dupont-Hébert blissfully described the arrival of couples who enter the winter exhibition quickly for reprieve from the biting air; and within ten minutes intimately hold each other nearer as they explore. He feels that Image Totale -- accompanied by Schubert, Mozart, and Prokofiev pieces -- inspires closeness because of its elegance and uniqueness.

“It is unbelievable,” Dupont-Hébert gushed. “It’s like life stops for that hour. You will live a moment of beauty and grace.”

Imagine Van Gogh the Original Immersive Exhibition Image Totale -- on display at the SoWa Power Station, 550 Harrison Avenue, South End, Boston -- is a contactless experience with timed entries to ensure social distancing. Face masks are required upon entry, regardless of vaccination status. Tickets can be purchased at www.Imagine-VanGogh.com.



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA
Mario Nicosia, President/Director of the SoWa Art District.

Latest BWSC sampling shows lead in tap water exceeds MassDEP standards

By John Lynds

Looking at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) Lead Service Map, Beacon Hill residents would be shocked to see how many old lead pipes still enter homes across the neighborhood and bring in drinking water.

The map, which can be found at www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map, allows users to search for specific properties in Beacon Hill that are known or suspected to

have a private lead service line.

The map is dotted with dozens of Beacon Hill homes that still have private lead service lines that connect to the BWSC main water lines in the street.

At the source of supply Beacon Hill's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead.

Lead can enter the drinking

water when the water remains unused for long periods of time and water service pipes and household plumbing containing lead dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.

The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

This week the BWSC reported the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from four Boston properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 17.4 parts per billion. Due to the excess, the BWSC is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

Under State and Federal regulations, the BWSC must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. "This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead."

Sullivan said all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

The BWSC continues to work with Beacon Hill property owners and recently increased the financial assistance it provides to property owners toward the cost of lead removal through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The Program provides owners with up to \$4,000.00 towards the cost of

removal of the private lead service lines. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

This past year, BWSC has replaced over 400 lead service lines through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of all lead service lines in Beacon Hill.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888 or (617) 989-7000. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at www.bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water. The website also has the Lead Service Map (<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map>) where residents can see if their home has a lead service line.

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District 8 Councilor Kenzie Bok outlines end of year policies

By Kenzie Bok

As you've likely seen by now, Mayor Wu made a major public health announcement on Monday. Starting January 15th, proof of vaccination will be required for entry into indoor restaurants, gyms, and performance venues in Boston, and all city workers will be required to be vaccinated. I was proud to stand with the Mayor on this; public health in public accommodations and city services is essential. You can find more on the policy in detail on the City website. The City also has a list of many upcoming vaccine clinics on the schedule – whether you need your first dose or a booster shot. I also hope you've seen that the City is distributing rapid tests at certain community locations; the three in District 8 so far are the Tobin Community Center in Mission Hill, the BPL Copley Square in Back Bay, and the Fenway Community Center.

I was also proud to stand with the Mayor yesterday as she announced a whole raft of housing policy initiatives that the Administration will be working on next year, in partnership with us on the Council and the whole community of local housing advocates. You can read more of the details in this press release, and you'll hear more from me on each of these steps in the new year, but suffice it to say that I'm excited and pleased to be in close touch with the Mayor's policy advisers on all these fronts.

Finally, on the housing policy front, yesterday the zoning amendment we've been working on since the spring became law! This change, which I introduced alongside my departing colleague Councilor Matt O'Malley, will ensure that when affordable housing developments are proposed anywhere in the City of Boston, parking minimums are not used as an excuse or a hook for bad-faith lawsuits to block their construction. We have been dealing with a very frustrating situation like this in Jamaica Plain, where 38 desperately-needed units for low-income seniors are being held up indefinitely on such a basis. This fall, our zoning amendment received unanimous support at the Boston City Council, the BPDA Board, and the Boston Zoning Commission – and yesterday Mayor Wu signed it into law! Through this signing, we've just made it easier to build affordable housing in the City of Boston without unnecessary and costly delays – a tangible, important action step in response to our housing crisis.

I am so grateful for the large coalition that made this possible with their impactful testimony

and advocacy at every stage: Mass Senior Action, Abundant Housing MA, City Life / Vida Urbana, Action for Equity, the Livable Streets Alliance, Transit Matters, MACDC, Fenway CDC, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, and Housing Forward MA – which is led by my predecessor, Councilor Josh Zakim! We also got expert help and guidance along the way from city staff at the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Boston Transportation Department, and BPDA. And of course a big thank you to my Policy Director Emily Brown, who did so much behind the scenes!

This shared effort is a good reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together. As we reach the end of the year, I hope many of you received our physical newsletter in the mail looking back on my first two-year term. If you didn't, you can read a digital copy; I'm very proud of all that we've achieved!

One holiday note: before the next term begins, we are taking a little breath. Council President Janey has closed the Council from Friday, December 24th until Monday, January 3rd, so my office will not be open during that week. Should you have an urgent issue, my staff will be checking the office voicemail daily from December 27th through 30th. You can also always call the City at 311 with any issue.

I hope you find time for reflection and community with family and friends in these final weeks of the year. The pandemic continues to cast a pall over this season, but I'm looking forward to continuing our work together in 2022.

Historian's Corner

Each year, a Christmas Tree is given to Boston from Nova Scotia and lit by the Mayor. This tradition started in 1918, when Nova Scotia sent a Christmas Tree to thank Bostonians for their assistance in the recovery from a large explosion in Halifax that killed more than 1,000 people and destroyed neighborhoods. In December 1917 two ships, including one stocked with munitions to use in WWI, collided causing this major explosion. Boston sent doctors, nurses, aid workers, and medical supplies. Many of the aid workers decorated the hospitals for Christmas. In 1971, a second Christmas tree was sent to commemorate these events, and Nova Scotia has continued to send a Christmas Tree every year.

Read more from the Boston City Archives and Boston Parks

Announcements

Community Updates and Events

- On behalf of the Fenway Civic Association, Operation P.E.A.C.E.

/ Peterborough Senior Center, and Fenway CDC, thank you for your participation at the Fenway Bus Community Meeting.

Participate in the upcoming MBTA Bus Network Redesign

Details at mbta.com/busnetworkredesign

• Pediatric Vaccine Clinics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone age 5+ receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are one of the most important tools we have to protect ourselves and each other from COVID-19. However, vaccination rates in specific city neighborhoods and among youth ages 5-15 remain below the City of Boston average.

More information and schedule of clinics.

• Connect Downtown: Public Garden Crossings

The City is working on changes at five intersections near the Public Garden:

Boylston Street at Charles Street, Charles Street crosswalk between the Public Garden and Boston Common, Beacon Street at Charles Street, Beacon Street at Arlington Street and Commonwealth Avenue at Arlington Street

You can give feedback about one or all of the intersections.

• Beacon Hill Civic Association Winter Clothing Drive

Our friends at the Beacon Hill Civic Association are currently having a Winter Clothing Drive! All items will be donated to the Old West Church and Bay Cove Human Services who assist those challenged with mental illness, homelessness, aging-related needs and/or drug and alcohol addiction. All "like-new" donation items must be cleaned before they are dropped off! Please bring your clothing donations to the BHCA office lobby at 74 Joy Street between 9am and 5pm, where the BHCA will have a contactless drop-off for you there.

• Mission Hill Crime Committee Meeting, 12/30 at 6:00pm

Officer Michael O'Rourke from BPD will be in attendance to give a report of recent activity in the neighborhood.

Join using this zoom link. Meeting ID: 833 8899 4116 Passcode: 241224

• Boston Cannabiz 101: January 18th, 19th and 20th at 9:30am - 4:30pm

This free workshop series will provide guidance on the History of Legalization, Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry, Corporate Structure, State and Local Licensing, and Standard Operating Procedures, through the lens of minority-owned Boston cannabis business

owners.

Seating capacity is limited and reservation for each Session is required -- be sure to RSVP as soon as you can.

• Fenway Community Center is fully open

The Fenway Community Center (FCC) is now fully open. Stop by 1282 Boylston Street, #123 Monday through Saturday for a host of programming.

The FCC has a variety of opportunities for engagement and fun for all ages. Sign up for bingo, painting, or other activities on their website.

FCC's staff is fully vaccinated and masks will be required for all regardless of vaccination status

• The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has begun meeting to review the FY2022 applications and recommend projects for funding to the Mayor and City Council by February 2022.

COVID Booster Shot Information

•The CDC recommends that everyone ages 18 and older get a COVID-19 booster shot either 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine.

• Celebrate Vaccinations at the Museum

The Science Museum Museum is partnering with Cataldo Ambulance Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for new vaccination clinics for anyone age 5 and older, with booster and adult vaccines also available (if eligible). During our clinics, the Pfizer – BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine will be administered by Cataldo Ambulance Service.

Registered guests receiving a vaccine will be allotted two hours of free parking and two free tickets to the Museum, where you can also explore the science behind vaccines in our Project Vaccine: Our Best Defense exhibit.

Check the Massachusetts Vaccination Finder portal for available dates and times.

Please Note: Registration for vaccination is required.

• Visit the VaxFinder tool at vaxfinder.mass.gov for a list of locations to receive a booster. Residents will be able to narrow results to search for locations that are offering the booster of their choice.

• If you are unable to use VaxFinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet, please contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line (Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) by calling 2-1-1 and following the prompts. The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators avail-

able in approximately 100 additional languages.

Housing Resources

- The City of Boston's Office of Food Access has a COVID-19 food resources page with lists of organizations and phone numbers to call. They can be reached by email FOOD@BOSTON.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Graffiti NABbers (Neighborhood Association of Back Bay) Seek More Volunteers!

Graffiti NABbers are a network of resident volunteers, business and/or institutional partners that work to rid the Back Bay Historic District of graffiti vandalism.

Using red pails of graffiti removal supplies, they remove or paint over small-scale graffiti as well as removing expired signage, stickers, posters, flyers, tape, Zipties, string, gum, trash, and other clutter from the streetscape.

If you wish to volunteer, please send an email to graffitinabbers@nabbonline.org.

Beacon Hill Village is looking for folks who can help members with seasonal chores such as raking, clearing out a planting bed or planting bulbs, and snow shoveling.

We will put your name on a list and you can help based on your availability, no commitment is required.

For more information please call 617-723-9713, or email info@beaconhillvillage.org.

- Rescuing Leftover Cuisine needs Food Rescuers to transport food from Back Bay to Cambridge

Information about volunteering.

- Harvard's Elderly 1-2-1 is back for the Fall semester and the program is currently in the process of looking for senior pairs!

The program pairs college students (largely from the Boston/Cambridge area) with older adults to foster meaningful friendships over the phone, Zoom or in-person.

The program is looking for older adults who are interested in getting to know a student buddy through 1-hour weekly meetings at a time that is mutually convenient for the pair. Please contact elderly121@pbha.org.

Career, Education and Financial Resources

- Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation and X-Cel Education are partnering to offer a unique training opportunity to earn two green job-related certifications:

The National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) training, and a Wastewater Operator License Training.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY

Longwood Towers RT
Pendergast, Elizabeth
Yazdi, David
Fadus, Matthew
Downey, Allison J
Bilal, Safa Y
Lee, Ann L
Connolly, Paul T
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC
395-399 Comm Avenue LLC
Hackley, Donna M

SELLER 1

Jones, Jason
Mattingly, Elliot
Kosmo, Mark N
Zhang, Juanjuan
DeGreef, Laurent G
Dicarlo, Gregory G
347 Commonwealth Ave
Daher, John
Trimount Foundation Inc
Trimount Foundation Inc
Trimount Foundation Inc
341 343 Marlborough St

ADDRESS

180 Beacon St #9C
44 Clarendon St #2
160 Commonwealth Ave #419
188 Commonwealth Ave #56
171 Marlborough St #5
38-40 Saint Botolph St #B3
347 Commonwealth Ave #B
393 Commonwealth Ave #1
395 Commonwealth Ave
397 Commonwealth Ave
399 Commonwealth Ave
341-343 Marlborough St #1

PRICE

\$780,000
\$1,460,000
\$715,000
\$780,000
\$2,000,000
\$587,500
\$3,875,000
\$3,825,000
\$12,500,000
\$12,500,000
\$12,500,000
\$920,000

BEACON HILL

Mckenna, Karen A
83 Myrtle Street LLC
Sinicropi-You, Lara
Shaye, David A
Ren, Hui

K W Dornburg First T
83 Myrtle Street NT
123 Pembroke Dev LLC
Hussey, Philip
Agostinelli, Donald C

33 Hancock St #2
83 Myrtle St
123 Pembroke St
36 Pinckney St
8 Whittier Pl #22F

\$910,000
\$2,550,000
\$5,475,000
\$3,995,000
\$530,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Smith, Caleb
Carter, Allison R
Schrage, Jonathan
7 Durham Street NT
Duffy, William S
Asselin, Timothy
146 W Newton LLC

Iglowski, Andrew
Falla, Jacqueline A
Emanuel, Michael S
CK Durham LLC
Alverson, Lily N
Rosalind Rustigian LT
Frishkopf, John J

54 Appleton St #4
114 Chandler St #G2
182 W Canton St
7 Durham St #4
427 Shawmut Ave #5
565 Tremont St #28
146 W Newton St

\$1,875,000
\$750,000
\$5,025,000
\$1,360,000
\$770,000
\$935,000
\$6,300,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

R&B Pier 4 RT

Petroni Maureen Est

300 Pier 4 Blvd #8E

\$3,195,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The lovely etched glass door panels in the last clue are on 13 Hancock Street. This federal rowhouse was designed by Benjamin Asher and was built in 1808. Over the years it went from a single-family home to the "Hitchcock Boarding House" and today is assessed as a two-family residence

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



Virtual Public Meeting

Government Center Urban Renewal Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 12
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3F6srEJ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 467 0002

Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency is inviting the surrounding neighbors of the Government Center Urban Renewal Plan Area to a community meeting to gain feedback on a request to extend the terms of the plan. Translation/Interpretation will be available upon request with 7 day advance notice.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4202

email: chris.breen@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through January 8, 2022

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.

SCHEDULED WORK

- Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains and barges in the water
- Inside warehouses – repairing backwall substructures
- North abutment (near Chelsea Street) – drilling, drainage work, and barrier slab installation
- Resuming week of

1/3/22 after holiday pause: installing north fender piles, utility work on Charles River Ave

WORK HOURS

- Most work will be done during the daytime and evening (6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

MARINE IMPACTS

- Routine closures of the north and south channels continue. Only channel will be closed at a time.
- Work hours are during the day (6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- Vessels may continue to transit through the work site through the open channel.
- While transiting through the open channel, pay close attention to signage and the multiple boats,

barges, cranes, and other work vessels on site.

Use VHF-FM Channel 13 to contact work- and push-boats. If access to the commercial lock is required and work barges are in the channel, 24-hour notice to J.F. White is required to clear access to the lock. The on-scene Superintendent for the J.F. White Contracting Company is Patrick Wilson, and can be contacted at (617) 680-7537.

TRAVEL TIPS & THE WINTER SEASON

As winter starts, we will be clearing the bridge during & after snow events. In November, we reapplied the anti-skid coating to

the bridge walkway. For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

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. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

For your awareness, the following events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- BRUINS: 1/1/22 at 1:00 p.m., 1/4/22 at 7:00 p.m., and 1/6/22 at 7:00 p.m.
- CELTICS: 12/29 at 7:30 p.m., 12/31 at 1:00 p.m., 1/2/22 at 6:00 p.m., 1/5/22 at 7:30 p.m., and 1/8/22 at 7:30 p.m.
- EVENTS: 12/28 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Violent Part One crime up 20 percent other Part One crimes up 10 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Police released its end of the year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through December 19, 2021 with the same time period last year and found both Violent Part One Crime and Non-violent Part One Crime to be up in District A-1, which includes Beacon Hill and Downtown.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and in Boston and the overall Violent Part One Crime in District A-1 is up 20 percent

with a few days left in 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020.

According to the statistics, there were 2 Homicides reported in A-1 through December 19, 2021. This was a 100 percent increase due to there being zero homicides in 2020.

Robbery or Attempted Robbery was up 62 percent with 119 incidents reported in 2020 and 193 reported in 2021.

Domestic Aggravated Assault is up 43 percent with 21 incidents reported in 2020 and 30 reported so far this year.

Rape and Attempted Rape is up

5.5 percent in the neighborhood with 18 being reported last year and 19 reported in 2021.

However, Non-domestic Aggravated Assault dropped 6 percent with 206 incidents reported during 2020 and 194 incidents reported so far this year.

Overall there were a total of 438 Violent Part One Crimes between January 1, 2021 and December 19, 2021. This was up 20 percent from the 364 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are up 10 percent in A-1. These crimes include

Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary is down 39 percent and went from 126 incidents reported during 2020 to 77 incidents reported in 2021.

Residential Burglary is down 17 percent and went from 46 reported incidents during 2020 to 38 incidents reported in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles, which was a huge problem last year, has dropped 11 percent with 286 incidents reported in 2020 and 255 incidents reported this

year.

However, Auto Theft is up 57 percent percent in A-1 with 74 incidents being reported during 2020 and 116 incidents reported this year.

The other spike in Non-Violent Part One Crimes was Other Larcenies, which has risen 16 percent during 2021. Last year there were 990 incidents reported but that number has grown to 1,145 reported incidents this year.

Overall there were 2,069 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, up 10 percent from the 1,886 reported during 2020.

Give a child a home for the new year

The Home for Little Wanderers is offering a required education program for people interested in becoming adoptive or foster parents in the new year. People interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents can apply to attend the free, 30-hour Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) education program from 5:30-8:30 PM every Monday and Thursdays starting on January 10, 2022 and ending on February 10, 2022.

In Massachusetts, there are over 2,800 children in foster care with a goal of adoption and over 1,200 of these children have no identified adoption resource such as a relative or foster parent.

“There is no better time to welcome a child in need of love and support into your home than the start of a new year.” said Lesli Suggs, LICSW, President and CEO of The Home for Little Wanderers. “Children need to know that they

have a permanent adult in their life to take care of them and to help them grow into well-rounded adults. Children who grow up without a permanent family and “age out” of the child welfare system are more likely to experience homelessness, substance abuse, and be involved in the criminal justice system. The love and support of a family can make all the difference.”

According to the Chapin Hall

University of Chicago Voices of Youth Count report, 56 percent of Suffolk County’s homeless and unstably housed young people have been in the foster care and/or juvenile and criminal justice systems.

The Home’s adoption and foster programs provide all the necessary training, licensing, matching, and supportive services for families to adopt or foster. The Home encourages adoptive and foster

parents from all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic backgrounds and religions. Adoptive or foster parents can be couples or single individuals. Children come from a variety of backgrounds and many have experienced multiple types

of maltreatment such as neglect or abuse.

To learn more about becoming an adoptive or foster parent, visit www.thehome.org/adoption or contact The Home at (617)-288-7450, adoptioninfo@thehome.org, or fostercareinfo@thehome.org.

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Webinar planned with rare book specialist Ken Gloss

Kenneth Gloss, proprietor of the internationally known Brattle Book Shop in Boston's Downtown Crossing section, will give a Webinar presentation on Friday, January 7, at 4 p.m., for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. Ken will discuss the value of old and rare books.

Ken, a rare book specialist and appraiser who is frequently seen on national TV, will talk in part about the history of his historic bookshop (www.brattlebookshop.com/about), which goes back to

circa 1825. He is a second-generation owner. Ken will discuss growing up in the book business, show some of his favorite finds while enjoying "the thrill of the hunt," and explain how he appraises books and manuscripts. He has many fascinating anecdotes to share about private and institutional collecting as well as guidelines for building and maintaining a significant collection. There is also a Q&A session before the conclusion of his talk.

To register for the Webinar,

NEHGS asks that all interested parties visit <https://americanancestors.org/events>.

Yankee Magazine Editor's Choice Award for Best of New England, the Brattle Book Shop is one of America's oldest and largest antiquarian bookstores. 2022 is the 73rd year of Gloss family ownership. Kenneth Gloss succeeded his late father, George Gloss, a well-known figure both in Boston and national antiquarian circles. He had worked in the store since childhood and chose to go into

the book business rather than pursue a doctorate in chemistry. He became the sole proprietor upon his father's death in 1985. "I found that books were in my blood and that I would never be really happy if I abandoned the business."

Among the many organizations in which Kenneth Gloss is a member are the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, the New England Antiquarian Booksellers of America, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Antiquarian Booksellers Association, the Committee for the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair and the Boston Society. He also is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society as well as serving on the Board of Overseers of the USS Constitution

Museum.

The Brattle Book Shop is proud to have been a contributor to the WGBH Annual Auction each year that the station has held this fund drive. Ken has appeared on national and local TV numerous times over the years and has been a popular guest on WBZ Radio as well as other radio, TV, and cable stations numerous times. His bylined articles continue to appear in various antique journals and in print and online consumer publications. The Brattle Book Shop is also the recipient of several "Best of Boston" awards in the categories of Best Book Shop or Best Antiquarian Book Shop. In addition, it has been included in a list as one of North America's best bookstores.

For further information about this talk and more about book-collecting, appraisals, and future free and open talks, call the store toll-free at 800-447-9595,

B·H·S

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