



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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## BRINGING HOLIDAY CHEER TO TEMPLE STREET



KATHERINE SIMS PHOTO

Temple Street residents spent Saturday, Dec. 3, decorating the street and Temple Street Park.

## City Council hearing focuses on rodent infestations

By Dan Murphy

Ubiquitous rodent infestations throughout Boston was the topic at hand during a City Council hearing held on Thursday, Dec. 8, at City Hall, as well as virtually.

The meeting, sponsored by the City Council's Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology, chaired by Councilor Kenzie Bok, came in response to two recently filed orders. The first order, filed by Council President Ed Flynn and Councilors Liz Breadon and Erin Murphy, called for a hearing to discuss pest control in the city. The second order, filed by Councilors Bok and Ruthzee Louijeune, and Council President Ed Flynn, called for a hearing to discuss trash containerization in the city.

Council President Flynn described rodent infestations in his district as the issue he's likely focused on the most since joining the City Council six years ago.

"It's a significant quality of life and a significant public health issue that could cause people to move out of the city," said Council President Flynn, who represents District 2.

At-large Councilor Murphy, now in her first year on the job, echoed Councilor Flynn's sentiments, saying rodent infestations are "in every neighborhood, even if construction isn't going on."

Likewise, Councilor Bok described the city's rodent problem as "a critical public health issue and one of the most basic things about city services."

The problem, said Councilor Bok, is exacerbated by a couple of factors. First, in parts of the city like Beacon Hill, there isn't adequate room for large trash barrels to be left on the sidewalk or inside homes. Another factor, she said, is that since the city changed the trash pickup time from 7 a.m. to 6 a.m., residents often leave their trash out overnight; that issue has been compounded with trucks coming later in the day to pick up trash, creating "longer "windows" of trash left on the street, she added.

"Leaving thin plastic bags out for 24 hours, which is the status quo, isn't a workable solution," said Councilor Bok, who recommended scheduling trash pickup for late morning so that residents "wouldn't have any excuse for

leaving it out the night before."

Diana Coldren, a 22-year resident of Beacon Hill who has been active in recycling and trash efforts in the neighborhood since 2009, said in her public testimony that "the rodent issue is probably the number-one quality-of-life issue right now in the city and definitely on Beacon Hill."

Coldren recently started an online petition urging the city to adopt an 8 a.m. pickup time on Mondays and Fridays for trash and recyclables on Beacon Hill, as well as to mandate same day-placement of trash for pickup by residents. Trash and recyclables are now picked up in the neighborhood on Mondays and Fridays at 6 a.m. The petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-rat-buffet-in-beacon-hill>.

"I think this will really cause a reduction, maybe even an acceptable number, of rats in the neighborhood," Coldren said of same-day trash pickup. She also recommended that trash be first removed from Charles Street, where it would be most visible to tourists and shoppers.

(COUNCIL Pg. 3)

## BHAC ponders future of district guidelines for intercom systems

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Committee (BHAC) held a subcommittee meeting regarding district guidelines for intercom systems virtually on Monday, Dec. 12.

The subcommittee comprised Commission Chair Mark Kiefer, Vice Chair Arian Allen, and Commissioner Annette Given.

Nick Armata, BHAC staff, was on hand and discussed intercom options for both single-family and multi-family dwellings, along with "site specific" conditions.

Armata said by establishing new guidelines, applications would be able to move more quickly through the BHAC process without each applicant being required to present their proposal at a monthly public hearing, although the commission would still be reviewing these matters.

Under the new guidelines, some applications would be able to forego a full design review and instead go to an administrative review, said Armata.

The district guidelines currently mandate that "buzzers, key keepers, and intercom panels shall be

contained if possible within the entryway of the building, and preferably shall be flush-mounted in the wood trim."

Intercom panels must now also have brass or bronze faces, said Armata, while lighted or backlit buzzers are prohibited.

Individualized buzzers are also "more appropriate" than large panels per the existing guidelines.

Prior to the subcommittee meeting, Armata said he took a tour of the neighborhood and identified two common options for single-family homes.

The ring/nest video doorbells he observed were simple and reversible, he said, with installation usually involving simple screws.

These doorbells had "small-scale dimensions" ( i.e. around 6.5-by-1.5 inches), and on both of the common models Armata looked at, the LED lights could be dimmed but not turned off.

The doorbells could be angled to a "desired location" to suit different doorway configurations, said Armata, and while the covers vary in color, the stock covers are generally plastic.

(BHAC Pg. 3)

## YOUNG FRIENDS SUPPORT PARKS AT ANNUAL WINTER PARTY



Over 125 Young Friends and the young at heart came out to celebrate and support the parks this past Friday (Dec. 9) at the fourth Annual Winter Party. See page 2 for more photos.

# YOUNG FRIENDS SUPPORT PARKS AT ANNUAL WINTER PARTY

Over 125 Young Friends and the young at heart came out to celebrate and support the parks this past Friday (Dec. 9) at the fourth Annual Winter Party.

Attendees were dressed to dazzle, and conversation definitely sparkled all night, highlighted by the annual raffle with the traditional "arm's length" ticket sales. People enjoyed the music and the food, merriment and mingling, all to raise funds for the Common, Garden and Mall.



PHOTOS COURTESY HURLEY EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY



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## COUNCIL (from pg. 1)

Moreover, Coldren asked if the city is considering any other types of rodent prevention, such as ContraPest— a birth control product for rodents used in Washington, D.C. She also urged residents to call or text 3-1-1 to notify the city of any rat sightings.

Dennis Roache, assistant superintendent of waste reduction for Boston Public Works, as well as a panelist at the hearing, said, “There’s no regulation for storing trash on the sidewalk, so we’ve been trying to educate people over the last six months or so to containerize it.”

The city launched its “first pilot in containerization” on July 1, said Roache, when 10,000 registered for the newly created composting program. It has since proven so successful that 7,000 residents are already on the waiting list for the “next rollout” on July 1, 2023, he said.

Roache said he expects the composting program would be a “very effective tool” for depriving

rodents of their food source, but he added that rodents also feast on dog waste and on feed from bird-feeders.

As for the results of the city changing the trash pickup time to 6 a.m. from 7 a.m. per the terms of the five-year, \$28 million contract that it entered into with East Boston-based Capitol Waste Services on July 1, 2019, Roache said, “I don’t think it’s gotten the results the city wanted.”

John Ulrich, assistant commissioner of environmental services for the Inspectional Services Department, as well as a panelist, said, “Over the last couple of months, we’ve increased night trappings and baitings, applied over 500 ponds of dry ice, and deployed the use of our Burrow-RX [rodent control] machine.”

Ulrich added that the city has been looking at data related to rodents, and that ISD plans to hire two more inspectors to bring its staff to full capacity. A “trash fellow,” funded by Public Works, will also

be hired in the near future, he said.

The city has also had conversations with Modern Pest Services, the Woburn company that worked with the City of Somerville earlier this year to deploy 50 SMART boxes described as “non-toxic, industrial-grade traps that catch rodents above ground and provide real-time data for proactive pest control.”

Asked what parts of Boston see the most rodent activity, Ulrich pointed to the downtown neighborhoods and added that Brighton has also seen an increase in respect to commercial trash.

On a related note, Roache said that fines levied to landlords for improper trash storage have done little to deter the issue as “bad actor” landlords simply allow their fees to pile up.

Parker James, a longtime Marlborough Street resident, said he supports the idea of the city launching a trash containerization pilot, but he added, “There might not be a single solution. We might

need to try different things.”

One outside-the-box solution, according to James, was the construction of a “feral cat house” in Chelsea. The windproof structure, designed by Dan and Marie Law Adams of the Landing Studio of Somerville, is elevated in the trees to provide shelter for the feral cats that previously resided in a Chelsea junkyard, where they feasted on the rodents living there, said James.

Another longtime Marlborough Street resident, Conrad Armstrong, said the city needed to make exceptions for dense neighborhoods like the Back Bay, where residential buildings don’t have trash pickup in the alley, in addition to having no rear yards or interior space to store trash. In these cases, he recommended that the city deploy “hard, plastic rollable [trash] bins” that would be “essentially left on the sidewalks at all times.”

Armstrong also asked if the city could notify residents via text of

the approximate time when their trash would be picked up to limit the period of time that trash is left out.

Alexandra Crevon, who represents the residents of 425-427 Marlborough St., requested that trash be removed from Marlborough Street, which, she said, is the only street in the Back Bay where trash is collected from the street, as opposed to from the back alleys. She suggested the use of locked trash containers accessible to residents and the city and offered the use of her block for a pilot program.

Councilor Bok, meanwhile, underscored the urgency for the city to address the ongoing rodent problem before the current trash removal contract expires.

“We can’t wait 18 months [for the city’s existing trash removal contract to expire] so anything we can attempt together we really, really need to be doing,” said Councilor Bok.

## BHAC (from pg. 1)

At multi-family buildings, Armata said he understands doorbell and intercom systems “can be more of a challenge,” given that they would need to provide access for multiple households at the same location.

Likewise, intercom and buzzer systems are more difficult to install because of their larger size, added Armata.

The systems for multi-family dwellings that Armata observed ranged in size and color, he said.

Armata asked the subcommittee members if it seems likely that systems for multi-family buildings would be ineligible for going directly to an administrative review, just given the wide range of models available and “variables involved.”

Commissioner Given responded that she believes systems for multi-family buildings should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis considering the range in number of dwelling units.

With ever-improving technology, Armata said the subcommittee should be looking at systems with cameras, which are becoming increasingly more commonplace in the neighborhood.

“Site-specific challenges” for

installing new systems are often encountered at some of the tenement buildings built in the early 20th century, according to Armata.

In these instances, doors are often “flush with the front, with no bays or vestibules,” said Armata, while some of these homes also have “double-door systems.”

Door sidelights, which range in style, can present another challenge for installing intercom and buzzer systems, said Armata.

Solutions for multi-family buildings that the commission has seen include “brass-box systems” to conceal the panels, said Armata.

One problem with this option is that the commission doesn’t have the power to mandate that an applicant fix the intercom covers if they break, said Armata.

Chair Kiefer pointed out that many intercom and buzzer systems in the neighborhood are unapproved, which is something that the commission is actively trying to remedy by citing them as violations. (Armata said there are currently between 15 and 20 outstanding violations regarding non-conforming intercom systems in the district.)

Chair Kiefer added that “one

bit of homework” for Armata would be to “establish how bright the nest and ring doorbells are when they’re at their least bright” to gauge their visual impact.

Moreover, Chair Kiefer suggested that the commission could take a similar approach with intercom and buzzer systems as it has with tree guards by establishing “certain standards for design.”

Chair Kiefer added that “nothing with a video screen would be approved.”

Phillips Street resident Rob Whitney cited larger intercom systems with video screens as the most egregious example of violating the district standards, as well as a personal “thorn in [his] side,” since the one across the street from his house has been shining in his window around the clock for the past three years.

“One of the biggest issues for the commission to look at is the fact that there are scores of intercoms being installed without any approval or request for approval and how the commission can deal with that,” said Whitney.

Keeta Gilmore, a Garden Street resident and Beacon Hill Civic Association board member, said she thinks it’s important to dis-

tinguish between Ring-type doorbells, which, she said, number in the “hundreds” throughout the district, and other intercom systems.

Richelle Gewertz of the Beacon Hill Civic Association said throughout the district, she had counted 104 existing Ring video doorbell systems, in addition to four others that have been approved (only one of which has been installed), as well as 16 iPad-style intercom systems. She said some other systems might’ve been subsequently installed as well.

Timothy Casavant, one of the trustees of an eight-unit building at 19 Revere St., said they had been trying to get a buzzer intercom system installed there for more than a year, but their efforts have been

stymied so far due to regulations in the district.

Casavant said he believes it would be helpful if the commission identified some examples of system models that it would approve and also asked that the commission take into account how costly some models can be.

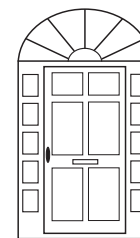
“It can be really challenging to get any kind of design approved while working with someone who can actually install it,” said Casavant.

For the Thursday, Dec. 15, public monthly hearing of the BHAC, Armata said he would work on coming up with several model options to discuss whether or not they can be approved administratively by the commission without a full design review.

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# EDITORIAL

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 18, and will culminate on Monday, December 26.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We want to take the opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.

## LET'S GO MOROCCO!

Even those who have been casually following the World Cup for the past few weeks are aware of the amazing run by Morocco, a team that has ignited the imagination of sports fans around the world after knocking off two European powerhouses, Spain and Portugal, this past week en route to becoming the first team from Africa ever to reach the cup's semi-final round.

The most-inspiring aspect of Morocco's ascent to the Final Four of the World Cup is that unlike many of the other teams, who are led by superstars such as Messi, Mbappe, Ronaldo, or Harry Kane, the Moroccans do not rely on one man to win. Their unselfish play and team defense (the Atlas Lions have conceded only one goal in the tournament, and that was an own goal) epitomize the notion of what the "beautiful game" is all about -- 11 players working in sync and harmony to vanquish more highly-regarded opponents.

Morocco's success is a life-lesson not just for aspiring athletes, but for all of us in whatever endeavor we undertake.

Morocco's next contest is this Wednesday at 2:00 EST when they take on defending world champion France in what promises to be the Moroccans' most challenging contest of the tourney.

We know we join with sports fans everywhere who love to root for the underdog in wishing the Moroccan team and their fans good luck -- h'ad saaid!

## 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).



## GUEST OP-ED

## Celine Dion, Kirstie Alley, Christmas, good news and bad

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Award winning actress Kirstie Alley was diagnosed with cancer shortly before her untimely death at the young age of 71. Grammy award winning Celine Dion has recently been diagnosed with a neurological disease called Stiff Person Syndrome. The disease attacks about one in a million and is a very debilitating disease. She is 54 years old.

Disease, death and bad news can attack anyone at any age and none of us are immune.

Good news came to Britney Griner who spent 10 months in a Russian prison for allegedly having hashish oil in her suitcase at a Moscow airport. She was recently released and is now back in the United States. The Bad news is that arms dealer Victor Bout who smuggled millions of weapons to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa was released from prison in exchange for Griner's release.

Paul Whelan a former United States marine received bad news in that he is still being held in a Russian prison accused of spying. Russia is apparently holding onto him for another deal with the United States. It's tragic that he wasn't released with Griner.

Please stay out of Russia, North Korea, Iran and China. There are other places to avoid as well but

there are plenty of nice places to visit.

My deceased wife was 37 when she received the bad news that she had multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis was very bad news and Karen died one day at a time for 12 years. The last four years of her life she could do nothing. She required 24-hour care. She became a person trapped inside a body. She died at the age of 49. The toll that such a disease took on our family and my young sons was severe. Such an ill-

ness changes the lives of the entire family. Everyone to some extent is involved in the caregiving and are changed by the emotional drain of sickness and death. However, no one suffers as much as the person struggling with the disease.

Such life struggles play havoc with holidays such as Christmas. Our family never had a normal Christmas for at least 12 years. However, it became our new nor-

(Op-Ed Pg. 5)

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# First Night Boston expands: Annual celebration returns to Copley Square, adds second day

First Night Boston, New England's largest New Year's Eve party, returns to celebrate the start of 2023 in Boston's Back Bay. The free and family-friendly event runs from 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 31, 2022 through 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 1, 2023, and resumes on New Year's Day with live performances in Copley Square from 11:00 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. The event features a wide range of local musicians, artists, and performers at indoor and outdoor venues through the Back Bay.

Annually uniting hundreds of thousands of Boston's visitors and residents, First Night brings

dazzling ice sculptures, the "First Night Boston Parade", a laser and pyrotechnic show, and two sets of fireworks to excited audiences. Local performers will step into the spotlights at Boston Public Library, Copley Place, Boston Common, and surrounding churches. From organ concerts to hip-hop, country music to figure skating, a full schedule and event details are now available at [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

New for 2023, the event's main stage in Copley Square will move across the park to the front of Boston Public Library. Dartmouth Street will be closed to vehicle traffic between St. James St. and

Boylston St. during the hours of the event. The ice sculpture pavilion will be centrally set in front of Trinity Church, and built to honor the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.

Steeped in tradition, the world's longest-running First Night celebration showcases the beauty of Boston and its performers in a night of light, music, and ice. Among the event's leading sponsors are the Greater Boston Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mass General Brigham, Amazon, and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. Interested donors are invited to visit [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org), where dona-

tions of any amount can be easily made.

For more information on First Night Boston 2023 please visit [www.FirstNightBoston.org](http://www.FirstNightBoston.org) or follow on Facebook, @FirstNight on Twitter, @firstnightboston on Instagram, or follow the conversation using #FirstNightBoston.

First Night Boston is a project of Boston Celebrations, Inc. Boston Celebrations is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization that hosts the annual New Year's Eve celebration in the city of Boston. The citywide celebration features family-friendly traditions such as a parade down Boylston Street; handcrafted ice sculptures; perfor-

mances from local musicians and artists, and of course, the highly anticipated "Copley Countdown" to the New Year, that kicks off the much-anticipated spectacular midnight pyrotechnic show. Family friendly entertainment options will be offered at Boston Public Library, at Old South Church, Trinity Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the Copley Place Mall. All First Night Boston activities are free and open to the public. For more information and a list of events, visit [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

## OP-ED (from pg. 4)

mal.

Jesus is good news at Christmas. He was bad news to King Herod of Judea. Herod was a mental illness case who ordered the death of all male babies two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. He hoped to eliminate Jesus because wise men from the East had come to worship him.

We must pray for the families of Kirstie Alley, Celine Dion and Paul Whelan and many others. These families are suffering. Fame and fortune never provide a way of escaping bad news and the results of bad news. We should also pray for one another and rejoice with any good news that comes each other's way.

We are all sojourners in this life. The message of Christmas is a Savior is born, Christ the Lord, peace on earth and good will toward all.

May good news find its way to you this season of the year and may we all with God's grace be there for each other when the news is not so good.

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

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# UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS ENJOYS RECORD STROLL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOME

Quoted often in the raucous, fun-filled rooms of Upstairs Downstairs, "this is the place to be" during the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll.

Street shop brought brisk and heavy sales, surprise visitors, and for the third year running, a constant stream of holiday revelers to open one of 25 windows of the now-famous Faneuil Hall giant

advent calendar to find a Kennedy half dollar, A buffalo nickel and an Indian head penny.

"We are so grateful for our loyal customers and our amazing staff," said Laura Cousineau, the

shop's proprietor. "We thank you all and wish you a happy holiday season."

Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Charles



Mark Duffield and Melissa Magner, with her dog, Olivia.



Taryn Corey (rear) and the gang from Boston University.

## Play it again, Sam!

KCME Classical Music Radio Theater rebroadcasts *A Christmas Carol* on Dec. 20 and Christmas Eve

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Mark Duffield, with Priya and Divya.



Taryn Corey and Mark Duffield.

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# UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS ENJOYS RECORD STROLL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOME



Marc Polk, Tawnia Marguerite, and Mark Duffield.



Laura Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs, with Jeremy Bell.



Mark Duffield and Holly Foster.



Eleanor Score.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT  
GROWING UP WITH AN  
UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years

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# Ordinance signed requiring captions on public-facing TVs to increase access for people with disabilities

Mayor Michelle Wu last Friday signed an ordinance requiring that places of public accommodations in the City of Boston such as restaurants, bars, banks and gyms turn on the closed captioning function on any televisions in public areas. The ordinance, sponsored by Council President Ed Flynn, was unanimously approved by the Boston City Council this week with the goal of removing barriers in public spaces related to communications access for people with disabilities.

“Improving communications

access in public spaces across Boston is critical to Boston truly being for everyone,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This ordinance removes barriers for people with disabilities, and I am grateful to the Disabilities Commission, Disability Advisory Board and the entire Boston City Council for their leadership and advocacy.”

“This ordinance ensures persons with disabilities have full access to information and resources shared to the public,” said Council President Flynn. “I want to thank my City Council colleagues, Mayor

Wu, and Commissioner McCosh for their leadership, and to the advocates for their work on this issue. This is a step towards accessibility. We will continue to focus on equity for residents and visitors with disabilities. Disability rights are civil rights.”

When businesses enable the “captions” function on their TVs, a live transcript of the program’s audio content is shown scrolling across the bottom of the screen. Requiring visible captions to be turned on will remove a significant communication barrier for people with hearing loss and other disabilities. This will also be beneficial to the general public, as it increases access to information in crowded and noisy commercial spaces where it may be difficult to hear.

“Lack of communication access on TVs in public places existed before COVID-19, but it is now recognized as a critical issue of equity,” said Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. “All televisions have the ability to enable

closed captions for broadcasts, and cable and streaming services offer captions so this is something that is entirely free for businesses to do. This ordinance is a win-win that will ensure Boston’s businesses are more accessible and more welcoming to thousands of residents, workers and visitors. I want to thank our dedicated Disability Advisory Board members, past and present, for their advocacy on this issue, especially our Chair Wesley Ireland.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, TV stations broadcasted daily or weekly municipal press conferences, important public health updates, breaking news reports, emergency alerts, and other crucial information and timely instructions related to the pandemic response. However, that audible content was not accessible to the Deaf community, people with hearing disabilities, seniors experiencing hearing loss, people with developmental or sensory disabilities, and people who speak a language other than

English.

In 2020, then Board Member Wesley Ireland raised the issue of requiring captions at a monthly Advisory Board meeting. After discussion, the Board requested that the Disability Commission look into how other municipalities have handled it. The Commission researched more than half dozen cities and one state who have instituted a similar captions requirement and worked with other departments to develop a proposal. The proposal was further refined after a City Council hearing took place in November 2021.

“I am excited to see Boston joining the ranks of other big cities like Seattle and San Francisco to require captioning on public facing televisions,” said Disability Advisory Board Chair Wesley Ireland. “It is an equity issue I have faced in the past and it is finally addressed.”

The Disabilities Commission will work with other City Departments including the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Office of Neighborhood Services to conduct outreach to businesses across the City with information about the new ordinance. The Commission will assist businesses with coming into compliance by providing resources on enabling captions.

“This is an important moment in the ongoing push of our small businesses to ensure that all of our spaces are inclusive of everyone,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “Our team is committed to working with our small businesses to help them become more accessible for all. I am grateful to Commissioner McCosh and the Disabilities Commission and Disability Advisory Board for pushing this forward.”

The Commission will assist businesses by providing resources about how to enable captions in an effort to assist them with coming into compliance. For more information and future announcements regarding captioning in public spaces, please visit the City’s Disabilities Commission webpage.

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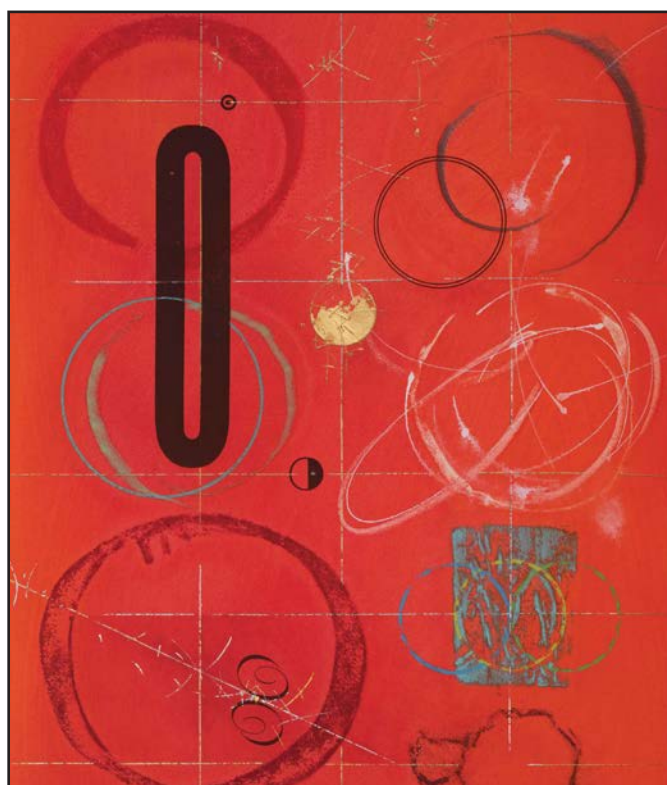
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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## HOLIDAY ART SHOW AT COBBLESTONES

Cobblestones at 30 Charles St. will hold its Holiday Art Show on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The event will feature artists Mary Keating, Karen Lee Sobol, Brigid Williams, Rachel Chaflin and Clara, Eleanor Score, and Paul Donnelly.

A percentage of proceeds from the event will be donated to Globe Santa.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAM EXPLORES LIVES OF DOMESTIC HELP AT THE NICHOLS HOUSE

The Nichols House Museum hosts "Uncovering Stories of Domestic Staff at 55 Mt. Vernon" - a virtual program on recent research into the individuals who lived and worked at the Nichols House - on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Hear about the lives of those

who worked "downstairs" and lived on the top floor of the Nichols House at this virtual talk. Join us as we dive into the archives, local to national, and explore the narratives of a handful of these individuals before, during, and after their employment by the Nichols family. Also, catch highlights of holiday seasons past.

This talk is presented by Nichols House Museum Visitor Services Representative and Suffolk University History student, Annaliese Arnsten. Annaliese spent the last 10 weeks diving into these histories to better share them with you. This project is a work in progress, and the museum hopes to share even more with you in the months to come.

Tickets are \$6 for members and those on a tighter budget, \$12 for a general ticket, and \$18 for a supporter ticket. Registration is required through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uncovering-stories-of-domestic-staff-at-55-mount-vernon-tickets-465890520087>.

## SILENT HOLIDAY FILMS WITH LIVE SCORE AT LYMAN ESTATE IN WALTHAM

Join Historic New England in the Lyman Estate Ballroom, located at 185 Lyman St. in Waltham, on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m., for a live (or livestream) performance as members of the New England Film Orchestra play an original score by composer Alan Kryszak to accompany a collection of four enchanting silent holiday films. These picturesque comedies and tender dramas, produced as cinematic Christmas cards to moviegoers of the silent era, evoke the Victorian charm of Currier and Ives prints and offer a nostalgic peek into the Yuletide pleasures of the early 1900's.

Tickets are \$20 each for members and \$30 each for non-members, while the livestream costs \$10. Visit <https://my.historicnewengland.org/13871/silent-film> for more information.

# City of Boston traffic advisory to December 18

Events happening in the City of Boston this week will bring some parking restrictions and street closures. People attending these events are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the Bluebikes website and information on the MBTA may be found online. The MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket for a faster return trip. Walking is also a great way to move around.

### BEACON HILL

National Guard's Birthday Celebration - Tuesday, December 13, 2022

An event celebrating the birthday of the National Guard will take at the

Massachusetts State House. Parking restrictions will in be in place from 6 am to 3 pm on the following street:

- Beacon Street, Both sides, from Walnut Street to Park Street

### CHINATOWN

Josiah Quincy School Event - Tuesday, December 13, 2022

The Josiah Quincy School will be hosting a wheelchair basketball game and parking restrictions will be in place to allow for buses to have curb-side access close to the school from 8 am to 12 pm on the following street:

- Shawmut Avenue, East side (school side) from Oak Street West to Marginal Road

### DORCHESTER

Shop with a Cop Event - Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Boston Police Department will host the annual "Shop with a Cop" event. Temporary parking restrictions will be in place from 3 pm to 6 pm on the following streets:

- Worrell Street, Both sides, from Pope's Hill Street to the Murphy School (where Worrell Street bends and heads towards Tillesboro Street

- Popes Hill Street, Both sides, from Worrell Street to Selina Road

FENWAY  
Football at Fenway Park, Wasabi Bowl - Saturday, December 17, 2022

Fenway Park will be hosting the Wasabi Bowl which is a football game between the University of Louisville Cardinals and the University of Cincinnati Bearcats. For various public safety reasons and logistical needs of the event several temporary parking restrictions will be in place at the following locations:

- Lansdowne Street, Both sides, from Brookline Avenue to Ipswich Street

- Ipswich Street, Northside (Fenway Park, Mass Pike side), from Charlesgate East to Van Ness Street

- Van Ness Street, Both sides, from Ipswich Street to Kilmarnock Street

- Jersey Street, Both sides, from Van Ness Street to Brookline Avenue

# State Fire Marshal reminds residents to handle candles with care this holiday season

Special to the Times

Candle Safety Day is observed on the second Monday of December, and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is reminding residents to follow safety guidelines as we enter the period when most candle fires start.

"There have been more than 1,000 candle fires in Massachusetts over the past 10 years," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "Together, they caused nine deaths, 192 injuries, and over \$32 million in damages. More of these fires started in December than in any other month, and especially on the days leading up to Christmas. If candles are part of your celebration or decoration, be sure to use them carefully."

Candles are part of many holiday traditions this time of year, including Christmas, Hanukkah,

and Kwanzaa. State Fire Marshal Ostroskey offered the following safety tips to reduce the risk of fire:

- No matter the season, have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside bedrooms, at the top of open stairs, and at the base of cellar stairs.

- Keep a one-foot "circle of safety" around candles, free of anything that can burn.

- Always extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to sleep, and don't leave them unattended.

- Use a non-combustible saucer or candleholder.

- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets, and store matches and lighters up high where kids can't access them.

- Consider switching to battery-operated flameless candles.

There were 93 candle fires in Massachusetts last year and 75

took place in residential settings. The most common location was the bedroom, followed by the kitchen, bathroom, and living room. One such fire in Boston began when a candle ignited bedroom curtains and spread, causing half a million dollars in damages and displacing five people from their home.

"Candle fires peaked in Massachusetts in 1999, when we recorded 342 of them," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "The following year, we began observing Candle Safety Day on the second Monday of December to promote awareness of the problem. Since that time, we've observed a 73% decrease in candle fires. Let's continue to practice safe candle use, especially around the holidays."

For more candle safety resources, including Spanish-language information, visit the DFS website.

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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).

# City Council praised for unanimously passing resolution calling for immediate action on IDP

Special to the Times-Free Press

At the December 8, Boston City Council meeting, lead sponsors Councilors Kendra Lara, Ruthzee Louijeune, and Liz Breadon introduced a resolution calling for immediate action to improve the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) to remedy Boston's affordable housing crisis.

Several councilors signed on to support the resolution: Councilors Arroyo, Bok, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Mejia, Murphy, and Flynn; and the resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution asks for two immediate changes to IDP:

1. Lower the 10-unit threshold so that new construction of 5-9 unit buildings are included; and

2. Decrease the income limit for rental units from 70% AMI to an average of 40% AMI, and decrease the limit for ownership units from 80-100% AMI to 50-100% AMI, so that the IDP units are truly affordable.

The Mayor's Office of Housing and Boston Planning and Development Agency hired a consultant to complete a feasibility study, which will inform an overhaul of IDP, and codify the policy in Boston's Zoning Code (currently IDP exists as an executive order). CTAB and Boston City Council are asking for Mayor Wu to make immediate changes with an updated executive order while the study is completed and an updated policy is formed. It could take until

next summer for a policy overhaul; meanwhile, development continues at breakneck speed. Without immediate changes to IDP, Boston's residents will continue to miss out on opportunities for affordable housing.

The Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston (CTAB) has advocated for updates to IDP since 2017. That advocacy has included: organizing to pass a state law that gives the City of Boston more flexibility to reform IDP and to add it to the Boston zoning code; delivering 1000+ postcards to the Mayor and other City officials; and testifying at City Council hearings and meetings about the need for increased IDP.

"This resolution is ultimately a call to action to the administration... we're a year in, and we haven't received an updated timeline to the reform for the Inclusionary Development Policy from the administration" said Councilor Kendra Lara at the Boston City Council meeting.

"We see evictions are increasing, income inequality is an issue, of course, and we have people day in and day out moving out of the city because it is too expensive. And so this is one of the tools that we have squarely within our toolbox as a City to try to help affordability" added Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune at the Boston City Council meeting.

In this housing crisis, we have an urgent need to use all tools

available to increase the stock of affordable housing across the city. We are proud of the city using public land for public good in requiring deeply affordable rental housing on public land in Roxbury's Nubian Square. We need changes to IDP policy to create more affordable housing city wide in new developments- as soon as possible." says Armani White Reclaim Roxbury Executive Director. Reclaim Roxbury is a founding member of the Coalition for Truly affordable housing.

"Luxury developments have been pricing low income, Black, Brown and BIPOC communities out of Boston neighborhoods for a long time. Thank you City Councilors for unanimously passing a resolution urging the Wu administration to strengthen the Inclusionary Development Policy. Truly affordable standards for IDP are long overdue and we hope the Wu administration will act quickly to lower the threshold of units to trigger inclusionary development and deepen the AMIs for rental and home ownership units. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Mayor and her housing team to build affordable housing to meet the need for Bostonians today." said Markeisha Moore, organizer with Dorchester Not For Sale.

The Coalition for a Truly

Affordable Boston (CTAB) has identified the following ways to strengthen the IDP, to benefit those most impacted by racism and the displacement crisis.

1. Increase the affordability requirement to one-third. The City must increase the percentage, so that 33% (or one-third) of units are affordable.

2. Deepen the affordability of the affordable units. Rental units should be affordable at an average of 40% AMI, within a range of 30% to 70% AMI. Ownership units (condos) should be affordable at a range of 50% to 100% AMI.

3. Lower the 10-unit threshold. Right now developers only have to build affordable units if their development is 10 units or larger. Many developers have built multiple 9-unit projects to get around the affordability requirement.

4. Ensure that affordable units are permanently affordable. Right now affordable units stay affordable for 5 years.

5. Increase the number of family-sized units. 80% of IDP units should be 2, 3, and 4+ bedrooms.

The Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston is made up of over 20 housing justice organizations to advocate for a stronger Inclusionary Development Policy to build a truly affordable Boston.

Coalition members include:

- Action for Equity
- Allston/Brighton CDC
- Asian American Resource Workshop
- Boston Tenant Coalition
- Chinatown Community Land Trust
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Dot Not 4 Sale
- Fenway CDC
- Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association
- Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
- Homes for Families
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Jamaica Plain Progressives
- Keep It 100 for Real Affordable Housing and Racial Justice
- Mass Affordable Housing Alliance
- Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
- Mass Coalition for the Homeless
- Mass Senior Action Council
- New England United 4 Justice
- Project RIGHT
- Reclaim Roxbury
- Right To The City Boston
- South Boston en Acci3n
- Urban Edge

## Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, presents Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong

In Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong, heroes face off in mighty clashes with their enemies; charming animals growl at one another, vying for superiority; and troubled souls retreat into murky caves, searching for inner peace. The exhibition, on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), starting January 13, 2023, marks the artist's U.S. museum debut.

Wu (born 1978) grew up in a family of artisans who created sculptures and murals for local temples in their southern Chinese village. Immersed in China's folklore throughout his childhood, he became fascinated with European painting and the heroes of ancient Greek mythology after arriving in art school. His work reflects all these influences, seamlessly blending diverse historical traditions with his contemporary experience to express human emotions, conflicts and aspirations that transcend time and borders.

Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong features more than a



dozen mixed-media works on paper, where, beneath playful imagery, exuberant brushstrokes and riotous color, dark truths hide and serenity awaits in secluded haunts.

Museum visitors will have a unique opportunity to see painting performances by the artist at the MFA's Lunar New Year celebration on February 2. The annual event will offer \$5 admission for the evening (5-10 pm), lion dances

and Spotlight Talks in the galleries.

The press release is available in English and Chinese on mfa.org.

"Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong" is generously supported by Bonnie Huang. Additional support from Eva Hu, the Joel Alvord and Lisa Schmid Alvord Fund, the Diane Krane Family and Jonathan and Gina Krane Family Fund and the Dr. Robert A. and Dr. Veronica Petersen Fund for Exhibitions.

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# Real Estate Transfers

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Boston Wolf LLC	391 Beacon Street RT	391 Beacon St #2	\$4,275,000
Spahija, Junida	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #11D	\$314,000
Dinh, May	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #2B	\$770,000
White, Zuri	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #3E	\$164,800
Tuyet-Vo, Nhung	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #3J	\$164,800
Luu, Samson	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #408	\$242,200
Allen, Justin M	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #5F	\$635,000
Saville, Luke	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #5G	\$269,200
Lindhe, Pamela	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #6B	\$242,200
Tejada, Kate S	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #6D	\$314,000
Parent, Matthew J	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	47-55 Lagrange St #7H	\$242,200
Gadh, Adit	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	55 Lagrange St #1008	\$889,000
Finz, Rakel L	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	55 Lagrange St #1509	\$980,000
Sun, Ding	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	55 Lagrange St #205	\$585,000
Washington 3rd, Philip	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	55 Lagrange St #407	\$795,000
Huang, Christie X	FPG Lagrange Owner 1 LLC	55 Lagrange St #606	\$780,000
Lunder, Elissa	C N&Elsa Reddy FT	400 Stuart St #26E	\$5,000,000
528 Tremont LLC	Gillis, Jennifer L	528 Tremont St #2B	\$365,000
52 Beacon Street RT	52 Beacon Street Dev LLC	52 Beacon St #2	\$7,700,000
Wang, Alexander Z	Rochford, Timothy	534 Beacon St #307	\$635,000
Siegel, Matthew	Cucinatti, Steven	234 Causeway St #718	\$1,000,000
Hanley FT	Hanley, Ariana R	121 Charles St #4	\$74,161
Yolanda Villamil 2017 RET	Kabir, Chuttani	362 Commonwealth Ave #21	\$335,000
Chamut, Facundo	Eikenberry, David K	21 Father Francis Gilday St #307	\$3,100,000
Parrish, Aaron J	Miller, Daniel	100 Jamaica St #2	\$749,000
McNulty, Kimberly	Decimo Terry O Est	41 Park Dr #1B	\$695,000
Forrest, Allison E	Clerico, Robert J	143 W Brookline St #302	\$950,000

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The handbell in the last clue is a reminder of the tradition of Christmas caroling and bell ringing on Christmas Eve in Louisburg Square. Some onlookers sing along while others just watch and listen. Today's answer is a 1941 photo by Richard Merrill.

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





## Christmas

### at King's Chapel

**Christmas Eve Services**  
 5:00 PM Family Service  
 8:00 PM Candlelit Service with Lessons and Carols  
**Christmas Day Service**  
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58 Tremont St. | [www.kings-chapel.org](http://www.kings-chapel.org)

## CITY PAWS

## Dog training season

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Positive Training,  
Not Pain

The Humane Society of the United States warns, "Some trainers use aversive collars to train 'difficult' dogs with correction or punishment. These collars rely on physical discomfort or even pain to teach the dog what not to do. They suppress the unwanted behavior but don't teach him what the proper one is. At best, they are unpleasant for your dog, and at worst, they may cause your dog to act aggressively and even bite you. Positive training methods should always be your first choice."

## First, Train Yourself

After years of having dogs,

training dogs, and writing about dogs, Penny recently took an online course in positive dog training. She learned new ways to approach specific issues we still have with our Westie Poppy, like barking inside our home. This approach proved worth the time it took to train the human.

There are excellent resources online, available through library cards, and in-person classes that train you and your dog together. You might need a veterinary behaviorist or qualified positive trainer if you have serious issues.

## Motivation

Whatever positive method you



Training your dog to sit quietly under a table without begging is something you can do over the winter.

choose, you must determine what motivates your dog. Since many treats are needed to keep up the training, they should be small.

Tiny bits of cheese, sausage, or jerky might work. It should be something reserved for training and that your dog loves. Naturally, you can double up the reward with lots of praise and a pat here and there.

## Have Fun!

You can invent your helpful interactions. Penny taught Poppy to back up using the cue, "Beep Beep." It's useful when our little dog climbs like a goat on the arm of a sofa or tries to invade the kitchen.

You might teach your dog to dance with you, do funny tricks, or play fun games like finding a hidden treat. As long as your dog enjoys the activities and it makes both of you happy, it's good training.

## Favorite Tips

Whatever you decide to teach your dog, add a sound to indicate you want your dog to pay attention to you. A hand signal, in addition, to each verbal cue, is helpful when you're on Zoom or engaged in conversation. Hand signals are valuable in later years if a dog's hearing fails.

For some training, you might need another dog or person to act as a distraction. When your dog is dependable inside, it's time to add the challenge of doing the same outside around other dogs and people. Consider partnering with another dog family to refine some behaviors.

Dogs need to learn and remember how to behave in public, and it's more critical with city dogs because they spend so much time out and about. Training should begin at the start of your relationship and continue for a lifetime.

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

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