



MAY 4, 2023

# 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

**BOOK YOUR POST IT**  
Call Your Advertising Rep  
(781) 485-0588

## COMMUNITY BOATING HOLDS OPEN HOUSE



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Nicholas Valayannopoulos-Akrivou demonstrating how to rig a Cape Cod Mercury during the April 22 Community Boating Open House. See page 8 for more photos.

## Duckling Day 2023 returns Mother's Day

By Susan Abell

Duckling Day is a beloved tradition since the late 1970s; we now have people who attended as children all grown up and bringing their own kids. Duckling Day is always on Mother's Day, and this

year it is Sunday, May 14 - the fun starts at 10 a.m.

When the weather looks good, we often sell out, so we recommend buying your family admission sooner rather than later. We celebrate rain or shine - any weather is nice weather for ducks!

We cap the event attendance at 1,000 children to ensure the comfort and safety of our ducklings!

Duckling Day is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Public Garden. It begins with "Playtime on

(DUCKLING DAY Pg. 2)

## Bok's staff will continue to serve District 8 constituents

By Dan Murphy

While Kenzie Bok stepped down as District 8 City Councilor on Friday, April 28, to assume her new role as administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, her office at City Hall will continue to serve constituents during the summer in Bok's absence.

"My staff, with the help of summer interns, will continue to perform constituent casework and community services, and will still liaise with City and State departments for assistance whenever

necessary," Bok wrote in her April 24 weekly email newsletter. "The chief difference, for this period between Councilors, is that the office will no longer be able to take positions on legislative matters or matters related to the Licensing Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, or the Boston Planning and Development Agency. The staff will, however, be happy to connect constituents with the appropriate forum for public comment on any of those matters."

The remaining District 8 staff  
(BOK Pg. 2)

## 'Cheese Guy' on duty at DeLuca's

By Dan Murphy

Since arriving on the job at the end of October, Laurence Spitzer is already well ensconced as the self-described resident "Cheese Guy" of DeLuca's Market at 11 Charles St.

Spitzer, who lives in Holliston, just outside Framingham, has been a self-described "cheese monger" for a little more than 10 years now, working in the industry extensively

during this time. He received The Crompton Scholarship, a national award from the American Cheese Society, in 2018 as top retailer in the nation. Spitzer has also had the opportunity to tour some well-known creameries, including The Cellars at Jasper Hill, in Greensboro, Vt., as well as the Vermont Creamery in Websterville, Vt., over the course of his career.

"I've has the opportunity to meet

(CHEESE GUY Pg. 2)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### 2023 Annual Appeal

BHCA members and neighbors will soon be receiving the 2023 Annual Appeal in the mail. For more than 100 years, the BHCA has worked to enhance the quality of life for residents through community building, civic engagement, and historic preservation, and by serving as a voice of the community. We ask for your continued support and generosity!

### First Friday Coffee Hour

Nick Armata, Senior Preservation Planner at the City of Boston's Landmarks Commission, will be our guest at our First Friday Coffee Hour on May 5th at 8:30am at 74 Joy Street. Holland Ward, the Chair of the BHCA Architecture Committee, will also participate. Come with your questions and thoughts about historic preservation on Beacon Hill. A BHCA member will also bring a special Polish breakfast treat!

### BHCA 101st Annual Meeting for Members

This year's Annual Meeting will take place at the Somerset Club on Monday, May 15th at 6pm. A reception will precede the meeting, and the 26th Annual Beacon will be presented. Our Keynote Speaker will be Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of Historic New England. All active members will receive invitations;

(BHCA Pg. 2)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Laurence Spitzer, the head of the cheese department at DeLuca's Market at 11 Charles St., is seen in his workspace.

# Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours Series returns for '23 season

Mayor Michelle Wu was on hand on Tuesday, May 2, at the Chinatown Branch of the Boston Public Library to kick off the 26th season of the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hours Series.

The event was originally scheduled for Elliot Norton Park, and during his remarks, Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods acknowledged Thomas Kauycheck, a Bay Village resident who died last October, for his longtime commitment to caring for the park.

Like other upcoming Coffee Hours, guests enjoyed Dunkin' iced coffee and Dunkin' donut offerings, along with fresh fruit from Star Market. Additional support is provided for the series by City Express courier service.

Each family in attendance also

received a free flowering plant from the Parks Department, while supplies lasted, and residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'.

All Coffee Hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., weather permitting, including City Hall Plaza, 1 City Hall Square, on Friday, May 19; and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall (Arlington Street entrance), 15 Commonwealth Ave. for Back Bay/Beacon Hill, on Wednesday, June 21.

For more information and updates on possible rain locations, contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-635-4505 or @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, or by visiting [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks).



Mayor Michelle Wu.



Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods.

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

please RSVP by May 5th to secure your spot.

### Upcoming BHCA Meetings

First Friday Coffee Hour, Friday, May 5th, 74 Joy Street. Invited Guest – Nick Armata, Boston Landmarks Commission

Board of Directors, Monday, May 8th, 7pm, via Zoom

BHCA Annual Meeting of Members, Monday, May 15th, 6pm, Somerset Club

Architecture Committee, May 16th, 5pm, via Zoom

Events Committee, Wednesday, May 17th, 6pm, via Zoom

For details and zoom information on any of these meetings, please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.

## BOK (from pg. 1)

who will be available to assist constituents includes Kennedy Avery, chief of staff and liaison to the Fenway; Anthony Baez, director of operations and liaison to Back Bay and Mission Hill; and Jake Werner, director of communications and liaison to West End and Beacon Hill.

"While the District 8 office will be temporarily without a political representative until the next D8 Councillor is elected, basic city services will remain uninterrupted for

D8 residents," Avery wrote in an email. "In fact, our office has hired interns for the summer, so we will have even more capacity to tackle and resolve everyday constituent requests. Talking to residents and working with City Departments to make necessary improvements throughout the district has always been my favorite part of the job. Residents themselves provide a huge service to the district in identifying and reporting issues to our office, so please keep calling and

emailing -- we'll be here."

Likewise, in her April 24 email newsletter, Bok added: "So much of the work we have been able to accomplish in District 8 is thanks to the active participation of residents from across the District; our team looks forward to continuing that partnership over the months to come."

To reach Bok's former staff at City Hall, call 617-635-4225.

## CHEESE GUY (from pg. 1)

many local artisans who practice their craft and engage with them on a regular basis," said Spitzer, the head of the cheese department for DeLuca's on Charles Street.

DeLuca's offers "passive" cheese tastings each day, with samples provided on platters for passing shoppers, as well as "active" tastings, which usually take place on Saturdays after 2 p.m., with Spitzer on hand to discuss that day's cheese selections with patrons.

"I love all things cheese," said Spitzer. "I like to engage with customers and give them the opportunity to explore the world of cheeses I have presented. I help them navigate the cheese world because a lot of times that's not only something I enjoy, but it's something that the

customers enjoy as well."

At any given time, DeLuca's stocks between 85 and 90 different cheeses from around the world, said Spitzer, although these selections "vary by customer preference, availability, and seasonality."

Said Spitzer: "Now, it's spring so I have a lot more soft cheeses than I normally would have in the winter. That's not say, I don't like to give customers as wide a selection as possible."

DeLuca's also just began receiving regular air shipments of new cheeses from France and Italy, said Spitzer, so the shop's customers now have even more options to choose from.

"They're harder-to-get items that are more typical of Italian

and French markets that customers would see if they're actually in Italy or France," said Spitzer.

Besides bringing back the shop's white-glove cheese service of the past, Spitzer is also responsible for handpicking DeLuca's selection of specialty jams and crackers, as well as charcuterie, which, he said, includes "everything from U.S. artisanal to Spanish and Italian [offerings]."

Caroline Aiello, who, together with her sister, Victoria, owns and operates DeLuca's on Charles Street, wrote: "Laurence has a deep knowledge of cheese, but it's his passion for the department and for sharing his knowledge with our patrons that makes him such a great addition to our team."

## Bay Village Historic District Commission meeting set for May 9

The Bay Village Historic District Commission will hold its next public hearing virtually on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Please note: This hearing will be held virtually and not in person. To participate, please go to our Zoom meeting link or call 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID 954 2449 4639 #. You can also email comments through email at [bayvillageac@boston.gov](mailto:bayvillageac@boston.gov)

Public testimony begins at

4:00pm

I. Advisory Review

16 Piedmont Street: Construct rooftop addition, headhouse and deck.

Ii. Status Of Revised Regulatory Standards

Iii. Ratification Of 4/11/2023 Public Hearing Minutes

Iv. Staff Updates

V. Projected Adjournment: 4:45 PM

## DUCKLING DAY (from pg. 1)

the Common," which is almost two hours of family fun, from circus games to cookie decorating to live entertainment from Jenny the Juggler and the Harvard Marching Band. There is even a sensory-friendly tent where kids can relax and hear a volunteer read "Make Way for Ducklings."

This year, we are thrilled to welcome children from the Lion Dance team at the Woo Ching White Crane School in our neighboring Chinatown! Families will be able to visit with these Lion Dancers and see their costumes and drums prior to enjoying a live performance.

Then the famous part of the event, the Duckling Day Parade, begins at noon. Everyone is welcome to come out and watch the parade – it is the most adorable event in Boston, to see hundreds of children and their families marching through the Common and then into the Public Garden. Many children are dressed up as characters from Make Way for Ducklings, and you will see why the



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

A scene from a past Duckling Day.

parade is such a beloved Mother's Day tradition.

We are appreciative of our many sponsors including lead sponsor Feast & Fettle.

Susan Abell is Director of Communications & Outreach for the Friends of the Public Garden.

# Kenzie Bok endorses Sharon Durkan to succeed her as next District 8 City Councilor

Special to Times

On Friday, April 28, her last day in office before leaving to become administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, outgoing District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok announced her endorsement of Sharon Durkan to succeed her in the role as city councilor.

Durkan, a Beacon Hill resident, announced her candidacy to represent District 8 on the Boston City Council over two weeks earlier.

"I'm very proud to endorse Sharon Durkan to succeed me as District 8's Boston City Councilor," said Bok. "I've watched Sharon's excellent grassroots organizing over her time as Chair of the Boston Ward 5 Democrats, working to make our city and state a better, greener, fairer place for everyone. As a neighbor, I also know her deep interest in the quality-of-life issues



COURTESY PHOTO

*Outgoing District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Sharon Durkan, a candidate vying to fill the seat who has received Bok's endorsement.*

that affect all our local communities, from repairing our streets and sidewalks, to implementing better trash management systems, to pro-

tecting our parks. Sharon will be a passionate advocate for Mission Hill, the Fenway, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the West End at City Hall."

Of receiving Bok's endorsement for the seat, Durkan said: "I'm honored to earn the endorsement of Councilor Kenzie Bok. Kenzie has been an incredible city councilor, and champion for District 8. From housing to the environment to historic preservation and much more, Kenzie has left her mark on the City of Boston. I know her impact, and I would be honored to continue the important work she has begun to ensure District 8 is well represented on the Boston City Council."

Durkan continued, "I'm running for Boston City Council, District 8, because I want to make meaningful progress on the issues that matter most to Beacon Hill,

Back Bay, Mission Hill, the West End and Fenway. Since I moved to Boston, I have found my passion in building relationships across my community, listening to my neighbors, and advocating for all residents. I am running for City Council because it will allow me to apply these skills and make a real difference."

Throughout her career, Durkan has worked to transform Boston's leadership and win important progressive victories. She began working for then-Councilor Michelle Wu in May 2015, and has since organized and planned winning strategies to advance bold leadership across the state, including for Sen. Ed Markey and for Councilors Bok, Ruthzee Louijeune, and Josh Zakim. As Chair of Ward 5, she is proud to have organized on behalf of the first woman elected Mayor of Boston, the first all-fe-

male team elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and the first woman to represent the Third Suffolk State Senate district.

This announcement is the second endorsement of Durkan's campaign since launching over two weeks ago. Durkan has also earned the endorsement of Rep. Jay Livingstone. Since her launch, Durkan has already raised over \$40,000 towards her campaign from supporters throughout the district. She is running to represent District 8 on the Boston City Council, which includes Back Bay, Beacon Hill, West End, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, and Fenway-Kenmore.

To learn more about Sharon Durkan and her campaign, visit [sharondurkan.com](http://sharondurkan.com) or connect with her on Twitter, or Instagram.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### UPCOMING CONCERT AT THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul presents the fifth annual "Voices of Humanity" concert - an interfaith performance featuring extraordinary local choral groups with national recognition - on Sunday, May 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 18 Phillips St. This concert is co-sponsored by the Old North Church.

Tickets are \$25 each general admission, or \$18 each for students, and can be purchased at <https://vilynashul.org/events/event/voices-of-humanity2>.

Visit <https://vilynashul.org/events/upcoming> to learn about more upcoming programming at The Vilna.

### PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER RETURNS MAY 7 TO THE BOSTON COMMON

After going virtual for the past three years due to the pandemic, Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger returns on Sunday, May 7, from 9-11 a.m., as a three-mile walk around Boston Common, with proceeds benefitting the fight against food insecurity in the Commonwealth.

The fundraising event, which dates back to 1969 and traditionally takes place on the first Sunday in May, has set a target of \$1 million this year.

Visit <http://support.projectbread.org/site/> to register and for more information on the event.

### WECA MEETING SET FOR MAY 11 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its next meeting in-person on Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Amy Lowell Apartments at 65 Martha Road.

The guest speaker will be City Council President Ed Flynn, City Councilor, District 2.

Masks are encouraged.

### WEST END 'GREEN CORRIDOR' LISTENING SESSION ON MAY 12

The West End Civic Association (WECA) Greenspace Committee has completed three community listening sessions to study a 'Green Corridor,' which would connect the Esplanade to the Greenway.

The sessions were conducted in partnership with the UMass Amherst Landscape Architecture Department and will be presented on Friday, May 12, at 11 a.m. at the Hub House community room on Causeway Street. The public is welcome to attend; responses will be collected and refreshments served. For more information, contact Duane Lucia at 617-416-0718

### HILL HOUSE'S ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 16

Hill House will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 16, at the Firehouse at 127 Mt. Vernon St. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. requested to Katy by May 10 by calling 617-227-5838 ext. 102, or by emailing [kkeches@hillhouse.org](mailto:kkeches@hillhouse.org).

### MOZART AND HAYDN AT KING'S CHAPEL ON SUNDAY, MAY 21

Crescendo Productions presents the music of Haydn and Mozart brought to life by renowned Viennese fortepianist Daniel Adam Maltz on Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m. at King's Chapel at 58 Tremont St.

Maltz is in demand worldwide with 50 tour dates per year and hosts Classical Cake, the podcast about Viennese classical music and culture. He specializes in Wiener Klassik (Viennese Classicism), especially the works of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, and performs on Viennese fortepianos typical of their time. He studied historical performance at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

The program will include Sonata in Bb Major, Hob. XVI:25 by Joseph Haydn; Sonata in F Major, K. 332 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI:23 by Haydn; and Sonata in C Major, K. 330 by Mozart.

The price of admission for the event is discretionary, but there are suggested donations for guests of \$10, \$15, and \$25, respectively. Visit [www.crescendoproductions-arts.com](http://www.crescendoproductions-arts.com) to reserve your spot at the event, or for more information on other upcoming events presented by Crescendo Productions.

### OPEN NEWBURY SET TO RETURN JULY 2

Newbury Street will again be closed to vehicle traffic every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from July 2 to Oct. 15 for the return of Open Newbury, according to the city.

The route will be the same as previous years, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. Parking will be restricted on Newbury Street and adjacent streets, with enforcement beginning at 5 a.m. Signs will be posted informing drivers of the change.

Since the city first piloted Open Newbury Street in 2016, it has returned and grown every year (with the exception of 2020 due to the pandemic). Thousands of people have enjoyed food, shopping, and dining in the street since the

program's inception.

"The Back Bay Association is pleased that Open Newbury will welcome pedestrians, shoppers, diners and visitors to Boston's iconic Newbury Street for more than three months of Sundays," Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the Back Bay Association, said in a press release. "Many retailers, restaurant owners and businesses have quantified the success of Open Newbury, that led to increased sales, customer engagement and an overall creative use experience of this public way."

Visit <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzG-smNZDkqPgWqTWwLlvFTZL-GQbd> for more information on Open Newbury.

### FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., once every two weeks in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman ([artedeman@gmail.com](mailto:artedeman@gmail.com)) or Julia Forbes ([jmaforbes@gmail.com](mailto:jmaforbes@gmail.com)).

ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES. CALL 781-485-0588

# EDITORIAL

## THE EQUATION IS VERY SIMPLE: MORE GUNS = MORE SHOOTINGS

Although mass shootings -- especially in schools -- typically draw the most attention from the media, the reality is that these shootings account for a very small percentage of death-by-firearms in our country.

The recent spate of random, isolated shootings -- the 16 year-old boy who was shot by an 84 year-old man in Kansas City when he mistakenly knocked on his door; the 20 year-old young woman who was shot by a 65 year-old man in upstate NY when her car mistakenly drove up the wrong driveway; the six year-old girl and her father who were shot by a 24 year-old man when her basketball rolled onto his property in No. Carolina; the high school cheerleader who was killed when she mistakenly approached the wrong car in a parking lot in Texas; and the murder of a family of five in Texas by a man who was target shooting with his AR-15 late at night -- are more typical of the manner in which innocent Americans (in shootings that are not crime-related) are killed by firearms.

Gun murders have climbed sharply in recent years. About 80% of murders in the U.S. in 2021 -- 20,958 out of 26,031 -- involved a firearm. That marked the highest percentage since record-keeping began in 1968 and represents a 75% increase in the past 10 years.

However, fatalities in mass shooting incidents in 2021 totaled only 706 Americans, accounting for a small fraction of the 20,958 murders-by-guns.

Similarly, while mass shootings in schools make the headlines, they account for only a very small proportion of gun deaths among children. The number of American children killed by firearms has risen dramatically in the past two years by almost 50%, from 1,732 in 2019 to 2,590 in 2021.

It should surprise no one that the states with the highest rates of gun-related deaths -- counting murders, suicides and all other categories -- include Mississippi (28.6 per 100,000 people), Louisiana (26.3), Wyoming (25.9), Missouri (23.9) and Alabama (23.6), all of which have lax gun ownership laws (as well as "open carry" and "stand your ground" laws).

By contrast, the states with the lowest rates include New York (5.3), Rhode Island (5.1), New Jersey (5.0), Massachusetts (3.7) and Hawaii (3.4), all of which have strong gun laws.

More tellingly, our death rate by firearms of about 10 per 100,000 Americans is far higher than in countries with strict gun ownership laws, such as Canada (2.1 per 100,000) and Australia (1.0), as well as European nations such as France (2.7), Germany (0.9) and Spain (0.6).

The equation is very simple: More guns = more shootings -- a trend that is increasing in our country with no end in sight.

## DIANNE FEINSTEIN SHOULD RESIGN

California senator Dianne Feinstein, who is 89, has been too ill to show up to the Senate since February. As a result, the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Feinstein is a member, has been unable to move forward on scores of judicial nominations by President Joe Biden.

And just this past Thursday, the Senate voted 50-49 to overturn a critical Biden administration effort to control truck emissions.

Feinstein, who has been in the hospital with shingles, has missed 75 percent of the Senate votes this session, and has not indicated when (if ever) she plans to return.

In addition, Feinstein's mental acuity has been in question for many months.

We wish to make two points about elected public officials who clearly are incapable of performing the duties of the office to which they have elected and for which they have taken a solemn oath:

First, elected public officials are not "owed" anything, regardless of how many years they have served in office. When a person runs for office, the obligation is strictly one-way: They are public servants, and if they no longer are capable of serving their constituents, they should place the public interest above their own ego and should leave.

Second, a public office is not like any other job. If any of us call in sick or go on leave, someone else will step in to do our job. But that is not true of a public official, for whom there are no "subs."

Dianne Feinstein has had a long and laudable career of serving our country -- and she should continue to do so by resigning forthwith.

## WEST END NEIGHBORS TURN OUT FOR 'LOVE YOUR BLOCK' EVENT

West End neighbors young and old participated in "Love Your Block 2023" at the Greatest Neighborhood Park on a chilly Saturday morning April 29; the park is one of the targeted green spaces along the West End Civic Association's proposed "Green Corridor."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DUANE LUCIA



Volunteers of all ages were out cleaning the neighborhood.



The volunteers did a great job picking up not only garbage, but also many downed branches.



## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

© 2007 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

PHONE: 617-523-9490

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com



COURTESY OF WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Scene from past 'eat LUNCH give' fundraisers, sponsored by Women's Lunch Place, at the Park Plaza Hotel.

# Women's Lunch Place fundraiser and networking luncheon set for May 12 at Park Plaza Hotel

By Dan Murphy

When Women's Lunch Place holds its 12th annual 'eat LUNCH give' fundraiser and networking luncheon at the Park Plaza Hotel on Friday, May 12, the event will be a celebration of the tireless work for the city's homeless women that the Back Bay women's shelter has performed in the four decades since its inception in November of 1982.

"This year, we're celebrating our 40th anniversary, and the focus is on the impact that people have made over the past 40 years to get us to where we are today," said Paula White, Chief Development Officer for WLP.

This year's event will also serve as a networking event in response to the many companies and organization that have expressed interest in getting involved in WLP over the past few months or so.

As the pandemic has waned, local companies and organizations have come to WLP "looking for ways to build their corporate culture by working towards common goals and spending time with like-minded people," said White.

"A lot of people are coming to us looking for opportunities to make a difference and engage in our work," she added. "They're missing the camaraderie they used to have in the office. We've invited groups and individuals who would like to make an impact and engage in our work."

As White points out, the event's tagline is 'Ending homelessness is everybody's business.'

The event, said White, will include "fun activities, networking, opportunities to hear stories from the field, and really outline ways organizations, businesses, and community leaders can contribute and make an impact on

## Your Neighbor and Real Estate Expert

Trust and accountability are the foundation of Wendy's career as a top-selling agent. Her in-depth knowledge of the market and extensive network provide Wendy's clients with a competitive advantage, and exceptional results.

Wendy Oleksiak  
Vice President | REALTOR®  
781.267.0400  
WendyO@GibsonSIR.com



Each office is independently owned and operated.



ending homelessness."

This year's event, which includes lunch for guests, as well as a raffle, will also honor the inaugural members of the Presidents' Council, which recognizes the contributions of past WLP leaders and celebrates the dedication of those who have enriched and improved the quality of life of the city's most vulnerable women. The members of the President's Council have embraced WLP's mission and supported the advancement of women through their leadership and philanthropy.

Notable attendees of the event will include Karen Spilka, president of the Massachusetts Senate, and Alexandra Valdez, executive director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement. President's Council members include business, philanthropic, and non-profit leaders from across Greater Boston. Among them are Marty Walz, Ande Zellman, Hannah Grove, J.W. Carney Jr., and Eileen C. Reilly, co-founder of WLP.

"We'll be highlighting the contributions of the people, all for-

mer board members, who have been building the foundation for how the next 40 years are going to move forward," said White.

Women's Lunch Place will celebrate our 12th annual eat LUNCH give fundraiser at the Grand Ballroom, Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Park Plaza, on Friday, May 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

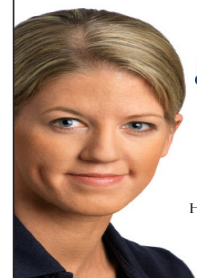
Join the event by purchasing tickets or a sponsorship at: <https://womenslunchplace.org/eat-lunch-give>.

### A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years



on view

April 7, 2023 – July 29, 2023  
in the Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery

# Revisiting the Ruins

## The Great Boston Fire of 1872



Enter the red doors at 10½ Beacon Street  
(617) 720-7604 | [bostonathenaeum.org](http://bostonathenaeum.org)

Member supported • Everyone is invited to join.

## BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB ART CONTEST

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Nearly 50 Park Street School students visualized their ideal landscaping for Codman Island in a March 28 Beacon Hill Garden Club art contest. Sandra Gilpatrick, Vice President, Beacon Hill Garden Club, and Ali Ringenburg, Owner and Director of Sloane Merrill Gallery, were impressed by the vibrant pastel and watercolor artwork that featured lush trees, flowing water fountains, and chirping birds.

“The colors are beautiful. I love the imaginations of what could be on the island,” gushed Gilpatrick, fascinated by the multi-tiered levels of flowers. “I would love to see any of these become Codman Island.”

Winners received JP Licks gift certificates. Reed Fullerton, 5th grade, received first place, Tucker Childs, second grade, achieved second place, Ava Turner, 5th grade, earned third place, and Emily Ling, kindergarten, received an honorable mention.

“Reed Fullerton’s Codman Island looks like it has a spectacular, happy apple tree in the middle of the island, surrounded by daffodils and gorgeous flowers,” exclaimed Ringenburg, who appreciated the overlapping background watercolors. “You can feel



Ali Ringenburg, holding the artwork of first-place winner, Reed Fullerton, Sandra Gilpatrick holding Tucker Childs’s artwork, and Kim Twitchell holding Ava Turner’s piece.

the essence of the island. The perspective on it is beautiful. It looks like a sanctuary.”

Ringenburg -- who judged the elementary artwork that was created under the guidance of Park Street School art teacher, Louise Trombetta – felt like she was standing in the midst of Childs’s painting.

“This I love because you feel like you’re walking into the garden,” observed Ringenburg. “You can smell the flowers. I think it’s

spectacular. The sky is beautiful, too.”

Ringenburg was astonished by the realistic representation of Codman Island illustrated in Turner’s painting.

“I love that you can feel that it’s an urban garden, with the brick and blue sky,” Ringenburg explained. “It’s its own little, happy place within the city. The historic lampposts are very Beacon Hill. The tree is remarkably beautiful.”

Kim Twitchell, Director of Communications, Park Street School, is proud of the appreciation students have towards protecting the planet.

“We have units on recycling and taking care of the Earth,” said Twitchell. “We have helped clean the Esplanade in the past.”

Codman Island was constructed in 1987, at the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets, where the Boston Common and Boston Public Garden meet. Volunteers from the Beacon Hill Garden Club, Beacon Hill Civic Association, and Friends of the Public Garden preserve its trees and plantings.

The three committees collaborate with the Boston Public Works Department to maintain the beauty, and prioritize the safety of the traffic island that now has new lampposts to camouflage Wi-Fi equipment.

“We are having our annual Garden Tour on May 18,” mentioned Gilpatrick. “I wanted to highlight that the Beacon Hill Garden Club does civic planting. “We help maintain tree pits, the Post Office window boxes, the Peter Faneuil [House] garden, and the Old North Church. We give out marathon daffodils to businesses on Charles Street. We do wonderful things for the community, and appreciate everyone’s support.”



Ave Turner, fifth grade, Tucker Childs, second grade, Emily Ling, kindergarten, and Reed Fullerton, fifth grade holding their art.



Ali Ringenburg and Sandra Gilpatrick reviewing Park Street School artwork submissions at Sloane Merrill Gallery.

*Celebrating the Month of May!*

**May 6th ~ Derby Day**  
**Kentucky Derby Day**  
**11am-5pm**

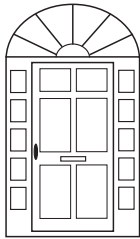
*Derby Bonnets,  
 Gentlemen’s Hats and  
 Bouquets of Roses*



**UPSTAIRS  
 DOWNSTAIRS  
 HOME**

**69 CHARLES ST., BOSTON MA, 02114**  
 617-367-1950  
 LAURAUPSTAIRSDOWNSTAIRS@GMAIL.COM  
 UPSTAIRSDOWNSTAIRSANTIQUES

**BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ  
 REAL ESTATE**



**Sally Brewster  
 Betsey Barrett**

**Ron Berkowitz  
 Mary Dunlavy**

121 Mt. Vernon Street • Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
 www.brewberk.com

**Sales 617.367.0505 Rentals**

## BPHC announces scale down of standing COVID-19 sites

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced it is scaling back vaccination and testing site operations starting May 13, due to a sustained decline in site utilization and patient volumes.

Two sites, the Bruce C. Bolling located in Roxbury and Boston City Hall will remain in operation.

The following sites will cease operations on May 13:

- BCYF Hyde Park
- Josephine Fiorentino Community Center

• Lena Park Community Development Corporation

The Boston City Hall and the Bruce C. Bolling Building sites will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, boosters, and take-home rapid antigen testing kits. The Bolling site will close temporarily on

Friday, May 12 and reopen on Thursday May 18 with new hours of operation – Thursdays

# BHCA ORGANIZES LOVE YOUR BLOCK CLEAN-UP

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Community members, equipped with trash bags and grabber tools, joined the Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) in the City of Boston's Love Your Block neighborhood clean-up on April 29.



Tanya and Tom Hayes, Beacon Hill residents, collecting debris along Charles Street.



Geraldine O'Hagan, of Rugg Road Paper, and Kim Lowthers, of The Whitney Hotel.



The Beacon Hill Civic Association gathering in Charles Circle on April 29 for the Love Your Block neighborhood clean up.



Diana Coldren, Beacon Hill resident, collecting leaves on the corner of Charles and Revere Streets.



Elisabeth and Ramsay Fretz, Beacon Hill residents, collecting debris along Charles Street.



**DAVE POUTRE  
FINE FRAMING**

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
82 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02114

617.723.7263

dave@davepoutrefineframing.com  
www.davepoutrefineframing.com



**Boston  
Antiques  
& Lampshades**  
Custom Paper & fabric  
shades  
Affordable Silk shades  
Fine Antiques & Jewelry

119 Charles St.  
617-367-9000  
**BostonAntiques  
@yahoo.com**

**Looking to purchase  
one item to entire estates.**

**ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES. CALL 781-485-0588**

# COMMUNITY BOATING HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Community Boating, Inc. (CBI) held its first Open House of the season on April 22 for friends to enjoy a tour of the boathouse, attend an orientation, and learn about the Charles River. According to staff member, Nicholas Valayannopoulos-Akrivou -- who explained how to rig a Cape Cod Mercury -- the most important rules of sailing are to be safe and have fun.

Community Boating is the oldest public sailing organization in the United States, and provides a supportive environment for junior sailors (ages 10-17) and adults. Those in need of additional assistance can take sailing lessons or reserve sailboats for recreation through the Universal Access Program. During adult program hours, visitors are welcome to explore the Charles River Basin and Storrow Drive lagoons during two-hour kayak, paddleboard, or sailboat rentals.

Community Boating, Inc. is located at 21 David G. Mugar Way, Boston, along the Charles River Esplanade between the Hatch Shell and Longfellow Bridge. Visit [www.Community-Boating.org](http://www.Community-Boating.org) or call (617) 523-1038 to learn more about opportunities.



Front desk staff: Liam D'Souza, James Chang, Parin Shaik, and Isabel Parker.



Staff member, Nicholas Valayannopoulos-Akrivou, explaining how to raise a sail.



Elizabeth Edwards, of Acton, and Matt Doelp, of North Andover preparing their sailboats.



Visitors learning how to tie knots and raise a sail of a Cape Cod Mercury with Peggy O'Connor.

**LUNCH AND DINNER**

*Open May 21*

**LUNCH & DINNER**  
11 am - 9 m

**ANTONIO'S**  
CUCINA ITALIANA

**Congrats Grads!**  
Make your reservations today!

**288 Cambridge Street**  
**Boston, MA 02114**  
**617-367-3310**

Uber Eats DOORDASH GRUBHUB



By ZEN Associates, Inc.  
800.834.6654 | [gardisans.com](http://gardisans.com)

*The Gardisans*  
GARDEN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Keep your garden looking it's best in every season with the Gardisans. Our team of certified arborists, horticulturists and landscape professionals know exactly what needs to be done, when it needs to be done.

Call today to schedule a consultation.



Volunteer, Peggy O'Connor, demonstrating how to rig a Cape Cod Mercury.



Jamie Gracie, Elissa Scherer, and Elaine Jeon, of Cambridge.



# Public restrooms now open on the Common

Special to Times

This summer, the Friends of the Public Garden are excited to again welcome back the public restrooms on Boston Common, this year featuring artwork from Artists for Humanities.

The restroom trailer is easily accessible for visitors to both Boston Common and the Public Garden. It is located along MacArthur Mall, halfway between the Charles/Beacon entrance to the Common and the mid-block crossing of Charles Street.

They will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. through the fall.

The restroom trailers feature: three women's stalls and a sink; two men's stalls, three urinals, and a sink; and one ADA restroom with one toilet, one urinal, and a sink;

A security person will be on site, in a kiosk next to the unit, during hours of operation.

The restrooms are cleaned every four hours while open.

The restroom trailer is a unique site for public art. For the 2023 season, the Friends are thrilled to

partner with Artists for Humanity to feature the artwork of Angel Koirala in a special mural on the exterior.

The title is 'Heelo Fool,' and in the words of the artist: "The word 'Heelo' in my native tongue Nepalese, means mud. The word 'Fool' means flower. 'Heelo Fool' is a personification of my challenges as an adolescent, 'A flower blooming in the mud.'"

The Friends wishes to thank the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust for their generous gift to fund this program.



The public restrooms on Boston Common, this year featuring artwork from Artists for Humanities.

# Outdoor performance venue and beer garden set to open May 4 on the Common

By Times staff

A new seasonal performance space and outdoor beer garden offering music, food, and beverages is set to open Thursday, May 4, on the Boston Common, the city announced two days earlier in a press release.

The city released a Request For Proposals (RFP) in January 2023 "calling for vendors with experience running a successful food and beverage service program to operate and manage a hospitality destination that would enhance the southeast corner of the park," according to the city. Emerson College UnCommon Stage and the

Trillium Garden on the Common were ultimately selected, and they will occupy the corner of the park at Tremont and Boylston streets near the Boylston Street MBTA station. The venue will operate through Nov. 1.

On Thursday, May 4 at 5:15 p.m., Mayor Michelle Wu will join the Parks and Recreation Department, Emerson College and Trillium Brewing, and community members for a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of the venue.

"This new performance venue and beer garden on Boston Common will activate the historic park, and our Downtown, with perfor-

mances that represent all of our residents of Boston and a new, beautiful outdoor gathering space for all," Mayor Wu said in the press release. "The City is proud to partner with Emerson College and two family-owned local businesses—Trillium Brewing and Taqueria El Barrio—to bring new joy and renewal to Downtown Boston."

The partnership between the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) and Emerson College is aligned with the recently released Boston Common Master Plan, which, according to the city, "called for introducing new activities to reimagine underutilized

spaces in the park."

"The Boston Common, or the 'People's Park,' is a crucial historic central gathering space in our city," Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space, said in the press release. "The new partnership with Emerson College and Trillium is creating a space that allows people to connect with each other while supporting local artists in our country's first public park."

Added Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods: "UnCommon Stage and the Trillium Garden on the Common are perfect spots to grab a bite or spend time with friends and family. The activation also creates a new revenue stream that will help support our recreational programs for youth and adults citywide."

The 5,000 square foot performance space, designed by Elkus Manfredi Architects, will feature

daily entertainment and programming at the Emerson College UnCommon Stage. Performances will range from local musicians and WERS 88.9 broadcasts to DJs, comedy shows, book readings and more, according to the city.

The Trillium Garden on the Common will be open Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 9 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The outdoor garden, which seats more than 400, is open to all and will offer a variety of beverages and food by Taqueria El Barrio.

"We know that positive activity in a park pushes out negative activity and behavior," Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden, said in a press release. "This new attraction will bring more people to this part of the Common while the income generated will support projects such as the Brewer Fountain activation."

# Esplanade Association names Jen Mergel as first James and Audrey Foster Executive Director

Special to Times

The Board of Directors of the Esplanade Association has announced Jen Mergel as the nonprofit organization's new Executive Director, according to a press release from the group.

Beginning June 1, Mergel will lead the non-profit dedicated to revitalizing and maintaining the iconic 64-acre park along the Charles River while providing engaging programming that benefits the broad community.

Mergel is a nationally respected cultural leader and contemporary art curator dedicated to her hometown of Boston. Prior to joining the Esplanade Association, she served as Senior Advisor for Cultural Partnerships and Parks Equity, Director of Experience and Cultural Partnerships, and Guest Curator for the award-winning exhibition, Fog x FLO Fujiko Nakaya, at the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. She built the Conservancy's capacity to invite more inclusive and impactful park expe-

periences through partnerships with history keepers, change agents, and thought leaders in public art and design as well as cultural stewardship.

Mergel holds degrees with honors from Harvard University and Bard College. She was selected as a Fellow of the Center for Curatorial Leadership and the Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing, and in 2022, she accepted the Charles Eliot Conservationist of the Year Award on behalf of Olmsted Now: Greater Boston's Olmsted Bicentennial.

"The Esplanade Association is thrilled to have Jen Mergel's leadership and talent. Her commitment to Boston and outdoor space is unique, and we are confident that she will be an outstanding steward during this transformational time. We are eager for her to steer the development of Charlesbank Landing, which will add new amenities and vibrancy to the park," Esplanade Board Chair Alexi Conine said in a press release.

About her appointment, Mergel noted, "I am honored to serve as the Esplanade Association's very first James and Audrey Foster Executive Director. I look forward to close collaboration with our team and board, with the Commonwealth and Department of Conservation and Recreation, with ancestral stewards, neighbors, supporters, civic and creative partners, and all park users old and new, in affirming the Esplanade as a welcoming, inspiring, and thriving cultural landscape that fosters belonging for all in Greater Boston and beyond."

The newly endowed position was established by a generous contribution from philanthropists James and Audrey Foster, and Jen Mergel will be the first James and Audrey Foster Executive Director.

Mergel succeeds interim director Margo Newman. The Board thanks Margo for providing exemplary leadership during a transitional period and deeply appreciates her service.

# DA Hayden appoints Edmond Zabin as first assistant district attorney

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden today announced the appointment of Edmond J. Zabin as first assistant district attorney, a key legal and administrative position in the office.

"Ed brings an unmatched depth of experience, institutional knowledge and professional achievement to this vitally important position. His guidance and acumen will be tremendously helpful as we set the course of the office in all of its many aspects—crime prevention strategies, illegal firearm initiatives, juvenile and young adult diversion efforts, trial preparation and community outreach and engagement. Ed is the ideal person to oversee our many teams and programs," Hayden said.

Zabin, a graduate of Colby College and Northeastern Law

School, joined the Suffolk DA's office in 1993, working first on the appeals team and then as a prosecutor and supervisor at Dorchester District Court. He served on the general felony unit and the senior trial unit before moving to the homicide unit in 2002. He became deputy chief of the homicide unit in 2006. He has served as chief of the homicide unit since 2008.

Zabin was named a Super Lawyer Rising Star by Boston Magazine in 2005 and received the Suffolk Award for Outstanding Superior Court Prosecutor the same year. In 2013, Zabin was named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, as well as the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association prosecutor of the year.

Zabin and his wife, who have three children, live in Boston.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Whileaway Rt	Janet M Casey T	357 Beacon St #5	\$1,549,000
Bain, Colleen	Carolyn O Carlson T	220 Boylston St #9018	\$2,000,000
263 Clarendon LLC	Dacokaso LLC	263 Clarendon St	\$5,500,000
Malik, Hassan B	Coxe, Peter M	224 Marlborough St #6	\$2,125,000
Higgins, Joseph A	Dagres, Elizabeth	63 Saint Botolph St #5	\$2,500,000
Iselin, Sarah	401 Beacon LLC	401 Beacon St #4	\$4,900,000
Chakravorti, Bhaskar	Andres Realty LLC	416 Commonwealth Ave #401	\$3,310,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Lewis, Tyler	Simmons, Douglas C	52 Beacon St #3	\$4,060,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Forest, Ashley	K J Phelan Irt Gift T	25 Follen St #1	\$1,530,000
Lu, Lan	Francois, Cedric	188 Brookline Ave #23A	\$2,900,000
21 Cumberland Street 2 Nt	Hiltz 2nd, Thomas L	21 Cumberland St #2	\$882,500
Popova, Sophia	Zuckerman Rt	16 Greenwich Park	\$3,650,000
Pearson, Robert R	Bjoernstad, Martine	111 Jersey St #12	\$649,000
Bina, Azita	Park Drive Ring Rt	125 Park Dr #34	\$460,000
Spangenberg, John T	Molgaard, Peter T	121-127 Portland St #208	\$761,000
Bazylewicz, Mary	Clark, Daniel	62 Saint Rose St #1	\$899,000
Holen, Kyle D	Hamilton Herbert Est	32 Saint Stephen St	\$1,800,000
Yao, Chunhua	Lewis, Peter C	50 Saint Stephen St #2	\$950,000
Harrison, Mary C	Taylor, Amelia B	686 Tremont St #1	\$1,510,000
Michaelson, Robyn L	Cameron, Ryan	6 Wellington St #2	\$1,600,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Griffin, Sean	Richard A Cooper T	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4510	\$2,075,000
Meslow, Andrew M	Decourcy, Patrick	42-44 Beach St #10C	\$625,000
Kofos, Brigitte	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #4501	\$4,755,000
Engel, Justin L	Rosati, Anthony G	65 E India Row #10B	\$1,000,000
Kevin M McClintock Ft	Jns Rt	65 E India Row #24H	\$850,000
Oliviajuliet LLC	Qb Holdings LLC	129-131 Fulton St	\$4,350,000
Swindell, Loren C	Chan, Grace	120 Lincoln St #3B	\$795,000
Johnson, Edward	Az Tremont Rt	151 Tremont St #23K	\$790,000

## Parks and Recreation summer programs now online

Looking for outdoor fun this summer? Check out the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's complete schedule of free events and activities for all ages. Visit [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks) to learn more.

You can select from a variety of free activities such as concerts, movies, fitness classes, sports centers, watercolor painting workshops, and fun children's activities.

Highlights include:

- Summer Fitness Series
- The opening celebration at

the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool on June 27

- Arts & Craft Workshops for children ages 3 to 10
- Boston Children's Summer Festival at Franklin Park
- Paint Nights at our golf courses in June
- Movie Nights in parks city-wide
- ParkARTS Neighborhood Concerts
- Sports Centers in East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain
- Intimate concerts on our golf

clubhouse patios

- The Tito Puentes Latin Music Series in the South End, East Boston, Mission Hill, and Jamaica Plain
  - Leagues and tournaments for basketball, pickleball, baseball, softball, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, and street hockey
  - And much more!
- For more information, please view the full summer guide and other Parks Department events and programs at [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks).

## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on Acorn Street. Today's answer is a photograph from 1890. While today, Acorn Street homes are assessed at 2.5 to 5 million dollars, these buildings were originally used as housing for coachmen and others who served the residences on Chestnut Street.

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

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



## COVID (from pg. 6)

through Saturdays from 12-6pm. City Hall's hours of operation will remain the same.

The standing sites were established to improve access to life-saving COVID-19 resources, particularly in areas of the city with high rates of COVID-19 and lower vaccination rates. The increased access to care helped close persistent disparities in the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination primary series and fostered greater health equity at a particularly crucial time in Boston. BPHC distributed more than 6,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in 2022 due in large part to the accessibility of the standing sites.

Boston's COVID-19 metrics continued to decline:

- New COVID-19 cases per day decreased by 22% over the past seven days, and by 38% over the past 14 days (data through April 28).

- Boston hospitals had a total of 49 new COVID-19 related hospitalizations this past week, which is a 6.2% decrease over the past seven days and a 42% decrease over the past 14 days (data through April 27).

- Boston is averaging 140 RNA copies/mL in its wastewater, which is a 68% decrease over the past 14 days (data through April 23).

- Seven out of the 11 communities tested are below the citywide average (data through April 19).

BPHC also wants to highlight new guidance from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health on COVID-19 bivalent boosters for Boston residents:

- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 6-months and older. Everyone 6 months and older should get at least one dose of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to be up to date, with different recommendations by age and vaccine series for children -new guidance from the CDC

- Individuals ages 65-years or older who have already received a COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccine are eligible to receive one additional bivalent booster dose at least 4 months following their initial bivalent dose.

- Individuals with moderate to severely immunocompromising conditions who have received a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive one additional dose of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months following a

dose of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine.

Additional age-appropriate doses may be administered to immunocompromised individuals at the discretion of, and at intervals determined by their health-care provider. Per CDC's webpage at the time of this press release, "Information about the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised will be available soon."

- Adults and children ages 6-years and older are considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations if they have received one dose of a bivalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Ahead of the scale down, BPHC encourages everyone to make sure they are up to date on their vaccinations, and for newly eligible individuals to get their second bivalent booster before the three standing sites shut down. All services are free with no prior appointments or identification necessary. There are rarely lines or long wait times at any of the standing sites.

"The sustained decline in our COVID-19 metrics is a testament to the protection afforded by the vaccines and boosters," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "Strong immunity against COVID-19 is vital for decreasing hospitalizations and severe illness. I encourage all individuals who are 65-years or older or who are moderately or severely immunocompromised to get the second bivalent booster as recommended."

BPHC would like to extend its gratitude to CIC Health and LCG Boston for their partnership in operating these standing sites. Thanks to their collaboration, the City of Boston was able to break down barriers to care and ensure that our residents, particularly those from communities that were hit the hardest by COVID-19, had access to lifesaving resources. The standing site program is proof of how far public health and health care organizations can advance health equity when we break down silos and work together.

Free COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and testing will still be available at all standing locations until May 13. Visit [boston.gov/covid19-vaccine](http://boston.gov/covid19-vaccine) for more information.

# Lane closures start on Tobin Bridge

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced it has implemented evening and overnight lane closures on the Tobin Bridge on Route 1 southbound on the upper deck's left lane, from the Everett Avenue on-ramp to approximately the old toll plaza area. The closures will occur during the months of May and June, (and is a continuation of work that began last month.) The closures are occurring weekly, Mondays through Thursdays, starting each night at 6:00 p.m. and concluding the following day

by 5:00 a.m. Two lanes of traffic will remain open at all times during these lane closures.

The lane closures are needed to support Tobin Bridge structural repairs and safety walk rehabilitation operations.

Advance warning signs will be used onsite to notify drivers about the planned closures and provide updates.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encour-

aged to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

- Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through May 13

The Construction Look-Ahead for the North Washington St. Bridge through May 13 is as follows:

#### Scheduled Work

- Installation of concrete deck placements
- Installation of bridge deck formwork
- Installation of electrical utility conduits on bridge structure
- Installation of gas and water utilities on bridge structure

#### Work Hours

- Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

#### Contraflow Pilot

- The MassDOT-implemented contraflow pilot will continue to be in effect during evening peak traffic (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.),

Monday through Friday.

- Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic during set up and operation of the contraflow.

#### Travel Tips

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.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- CELTICS: May 9 time to be announced, and May 14 time to be announced.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

**BEACON HILL**  
**PLUMBING AND HEATING**  
Meeting all your  
mechanical needs



**24/7**  
emergency  
service

**617-723-3296**

**JOHN J. RECCA**  
**PAINTING**  
Interior/Exterior  
Commercial/Residential

Fully Insured  
Quality Work  
Reasonable Rates  
Free Estimates  
[reccapainting@hotmail.com](mailto:reccapainting@hotmail.com)  
**781-241-2454**

**RECLAIMED SOLID WOOD FLOORING STARTING AT 2.99/SQ.FT.**

**ANTIQUE LUMBER OF NEW ENGLAND**

MANTLES | SHELVES | BEAMS  
**617-838-2455**  
235 OLD WEBSTER RD.  
OXFORD MA • 01540

20 Years on Beacon Hill

**Blue Sky**  
Window Cleaning & more

Luis Ramos  
617-212-6141  
[lramos932@icloud.com](mailto:lramos932@icloud.com)  
References - Insured

**Geek For Hire**  
Computer consultant available for home or business.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- PC support & networking of all types with focus on secure Internet access (wired & wireless),
- broadband router & firewall technology,
- virus detection/prevention,
- spam control & data security/recovery.



**617-241-9664**  
**617-515-2933**

**DI PIERRO CONSTRUCTION**  
Design • Build • Remodel  
Boston, MA

**In business for over 40 years!**

**Let us turn your house into a home**

Schedule a free estimate  
**617-592-6447**  
[www.dipierroconstruction.com](http://www.dipierroconstruction.com)

# WEST END LIBRARY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Photos by Marianne Salza

Friends of the West End Library celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by tending to the two library gardens. Herbs, strawberries, kale, carrots, beets, and lettuce were sown in raised beds; and members of the North Eastern University Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (NUSAA-CS) joined volunteers in planting vegetables, flowers and shrubs. Passersby were welcome to collect free books and take home starter plants, such as marigolds, jade, and geraniums.



Byron Sipe, West End resident, bringing home his starter basil plant.



Adam Switek, of North Eastern's chemistry club, planting lettuce in a raised bed, with volunteer, Kimberly OLeary, of Quincy, looking on.



Jean Lawrence and Anne Fitzgerald, Friends of the West End Library.



Friends of the West End Library helping Bowen, 3, of Cambridge, select books.



North Eastern chemistry club volunteer, Audrey Murphy, planting flowers in the front yard of the West End Library for Earth Day on April 22.



Women sifting through a display of free books outside of the West End Library on Earth Day.