



MAY 25, 2023

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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BHGC SIXTH ANNUAL SPRING SOIRÉE

PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA



Neighbors enjoying the Beacon Hill Garden Club's Spring Soirée on May 17 at the King's Chapel Parish House Garden. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

BHAC remands application to subcommittee

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission remanded an application from The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St., which has proposed modifying and restoring its existing front plaza, to a newly created subcommittee at the commission's monthly public hearing held virtually on Thursday, May 18.

The commission had previously heard an advisory review on this project at last month's virtual public-hearing on April 20,

and the applicant subsequently modified and refined their plans in response to feedback received then from Commissioners Maurice Finegold and Ralph Jackson.

The commission voted unanimously to remand the matter to a subcommittee comprising Commission Chair Mark Kiefer, along with Commissioners Finegold and Jackson.

Chair Kiefer said the subcommittee would schedule a pub-

(BHAC Pg. 9)

Mayor Wu announces Safety Surge

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

In a press conference at Thetford Evans Playground in Mattapan on Monday, May 22, Mayor Michelle Wu unveiled the City of Boston's Safety Surge, an initiative to make city streets safer for every-

one.

As part of this initiative, the city is committing to installing speed humps, redesigning intersections, and updating traffic signal guidelines throughout all neighborhoods to enhance street safety.

"We are looking to having safer

streets all across Boston. Not just here around one park as beautiful and as treasured a space as it is but every single neighborhood. We want to make sure our streets are safer for drivers, for cyclists,

(SAFETY Pg. 4)

COMMENTARY

Beacon Hill won't be able to ever solve its rat problem until the City changes the garbage pickup schedule

By Robert A. Whitney

I have lived on Beacon Hill since 1985, and I have been living with Beacon Hill's rat problem ever since moving here – and it's getting worse! An Axios report in December 2022 cited Boston as the "rat-tiest" city in the nation, according to 2021 American Housing Survey

data that ranked metro regions by the number of rodent sightings inside homes. With 21.6% of respondents reporting rodent sightings, Boston beats Philadelphia's 19.5% and New York City's measly 15.3%. According to WBUR, cities in the Boston region and across the northeast have recently been facing a worsening rat prob-

lem. WBUR recently reported that in the City of Boston, rat and rodent complaints increased by 48% from 2019 to 2021.

Boston City Council President Ed Flynn has described rat infestations in his district, which included part of the North Slope of Beacon

(RATS Pg. 3)



The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St.

D. MURPHY PHOTO

EDITORIAL

LET US REMEMBER THOSE WHO "GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE"

Although the Memorial Day weekend signifies the start of the summer season and is observed by families and friends who gather for barbecues and similar festivities, we should keep in mind that Memorial Day is our most solemn national holiday in which we remember those who gave their lives in defense of our country.

Their sacrifice in the many wars our nation has fought since our country's founding should serve as a reminder that freedom isn't free.

Although today we technically are at peace, the world feels anything but peaceful. Totalitarian adversaries either are wreaking havoc (Russia in Ukraine) or threatening to do so (No. Korea and China).

If the lessons of the past and present teach us anything, it is that we cannot take our freedom for granted. The same troops who at the present time are providing humanitarian and military aid in far-off places around the globe could be called upon to engage in a far different and far more dangerous mission at a moment's notice.

We should keep in mind too, that the willingness of our military personnel to serve in defense of our country not only places them in harm's way, but also imposes great sacrifices upon their families.

This realization made us think back to the roots of Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day in the aftermath of the Civil War, with the proclamation by Gen. Logan on May 5, 1868, in which he declared:

"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

In the aftermath of World War I, the term Supreme Sacrifice came into the national lexicon to describe those who gave their lives in that terrible conflict and has been associated with our wars for the past century.

However, prior to that time, President Abraham Lincoln coined a different phrase -- the "last full measure" -- in his speech at Gettysburg to honor the Union soldiers who fought and died to preserve the nation in that epic battle that turned back the Confederate Army.

Lincoln's brief oration rates as the greatest-ever testament to those who have given their lives in defense of their country. We never tire of reading his plain yet profound words, and as the years pass, they seem to take on new meaning. Similar to the state of the nation when Lincoln delivered his speech on November 19, 1863, at the official dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, we are divided along lines that seem irreconcilable. Not only are we facing challenges to our democratic ideals abroad, but here at home as well.

We are printing the full text of the Gettysburg address in the hope that our readers draw as much inspiration from it as we do:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

"We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

We hope our readers appreciate the eternal truths of Lincoln's sentiments, which are as relevant today as they have been since the founding of our nation.

We wish all of our readers a happy Memorial Day weekend.

GUEST OP-ED

Reevaluate your church mission spending

Dr. Glenn Mollette

For fifty years of my life, I've been associated with churches that have given over four million dollars collectively to outside denominational endeavors.

The typical mainline denominational church/parish will collect weekly offerings from their members. A percentage of this money each month is given to a state office. The state office will in turn keep a large percentage of the money for state denominational purposes. The rest of it will be sent to the national office. Some denominations have an international mission office and an American denominational office.

Local churches are always encouraged to give more of their weekly offerings to the state and national causes. The state and national entities employ people who do denominational work. They have full time salaries, medical insurance, retirement plans and usually newer model cars to drive. They need more money like most everyone else. Many churches will give ten and often as high as 25 percent of their general offering to these outside entities.

The denomination rewards the church by praising them. Patting them on the back. They will usually list the top 100 giving churches on their denominational website or state publication piece. They will work hard to enlist the pastor of the church to serve on state committees. This is done to make the pastor feel important and to keep their hand in the local church through the church's pastor. Executives from the denomination will come a couple of times a year to visit the church and praise them for their generosity. This usually is about the summation of what the local church gets back from their sacrificial 10 to 25% percent giving.

In far too many cases the local church deprives itself of needed money to fund their own local needs. The local minister often has to scrape to get by while the church is mailing a big check to the denominational hierarchy.

I've been a strong advocate of International and state missions most of my life. However, I'm tired of seeing so many small churches do without while the state and national entities regardless of the denomination, do and have more.

If your church has been mailing 15 percent of its money down to the state office every month then why not keep eight percent of that to do local mission work in your neighborhood? Will the state or national office come to your town and help the homeless? Are they in your town helping unwed mothers and ministering to pregnant teenagers? Are they supporting the local halfway house for drug addicts and safe house for abuse victims? Are they going door to door in your neighborhood telling people about God's love? Too many churches rationalize, "We are doing mission work by sending our money to the state office."

Churches should use more of their mission money at home. Your local area has needs. Jesus gave The Great Commission to go into the world but too often we miss what is right in our face. I'm for supporting mission work around the world but your greatest mission work is in your neighborhood.

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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RATS (from pg. 1)

Hill, as the issue he's likely focused on the most since joining the City Council some six years ago. Former City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who until recently represented Beacon Hill and is a Beacon Hill resident, has described the city's rat problem as "a critical public health issue." Councilor Bok also noted that the problem is exacerbated by a couple of factors, including the fact that 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, and as such, they can't be used to store resident's garbage overnight. Instead, plastic garbage bags must be used.

Another factor in the Boston's exploding rat problem is that since the City changed the garbage pickup time in the summer of 2019, from 7 a.m. to 6 a.m. on garbage pickup days, Beacon Hill residents now mostly put their garbage out the night before the pickup day, with the garbage sitting out overnight, thereby effectively feeding Beacon Hill's rats. In 2019, when the City announced that it was changing the garbage pickup time to 6 a.m. from 7 a.m., and that it was entering a five-year, \$28 million contract with East Boston-based Capitol Waste Services, effective, July 1, 2019, it represented that the garbage hauler was "contractually bound" to begin garbage pickups at 6am on Beacon Hill.

On Beacon Hill, a Town Hall sponsored by the Beacon Hill Civic Association ("BHCA") was held in June 2019, at which Beacon Hill residents came together and heard from City officials about the proposed change in garbage pickup times. Almost unanimously, Beacon Hill residents at that meeting opposed the change to an earlier garbage pickup time, stating that the earlier pickup time would likely compel Beacon Hill residents to put out their garbage the night before, so as to not have to get up before 6am on pickup days to put out their garbage bags. And in fact, this has occurred exactly as was predicted – more garbage is now being put out the night before garbage pickup day than ever before. Even before 2019, when the garbage pickup time began at 7am on pickup days on Beacon Hill, many residents put out their garbage the night before, thereby effectively feeding Beacon Hill's rat population overnight twice a week.

The BHCA spent many years before the summer of 2019 educating the Beacon Hill neighborhood that garbage should not be put out the night before pickup day because of the rat problem and encouraging residents to instead



Robert A. Whitney.

get up early on garbage pickup day before 7am and put out their garbage at that time. The education campaign was very successful, with many residents forgoing putting out their garbage the night before pickup day! But when the City changed the garbage pickup time from 7am to 6am in July 2019, all the many years of educational effort fell to the wayside, and many residents went back to putting out their garbage the evening before pickup day. For many residents, getting up before 6am on pickup day to put out their garbage was just too inconvenient.

New York City has had similar and increasing problems with its plastic garbage bags being left out overnight and thereby becoming an easy and reliable food source for its own large population of rats. According to NBC News, New York City health inspectors documented about 60,000 instances of rodent activity in the 2022, compared to about 30,000 rodent citations in 2021. New York's Mayor Adams, in late 2022, signed a legislative package aimed at eradicating rats in New York City, which included a provision to significantly reduce the number of hours plastic garbage bags are allowed to remain on public sidewalks at night before pickup.

At a hearing held at Boston City Council on April 11, 2023, on the rat issues in Boston's own neighborhoods, Councilor Bok noted that leaving thin plastic bags of garbage out overnight on Beacon Hill, which is the status quo in that neighborhood, isn't a workable solution to the neighborhood's problem with rats. Instead, Councilor Bok recommended scheduling garbage pickup for late morning on pickup days so that residents wouldn't have any excuse for putting out their garbage the night before. Councilor Bok was correct – the only real solution to the rat problem is to deprive the Beacon Hill neighborhood's rats of their overnight food supply.

Beacon Hill and other City neighborhoods have tried other

potential solutions, including the use of folding fabric "barrels" in which to place plastic garbage bags overnight, but this turned out not to be a realistic solution: many of the fabric barrels were stolen or damaged, and rats could still easily gain access to the garbage bags placed in the lidless barrels. John Ulrich, Assistant Commissioner in the City's Environmental Services Department, who heads the rodent control operation in Boston, has noted in testimony before the Boston City Council that rat activity in the City's neighborhoods is based on three things: "food, water, and shelter, which are typically easy for rodents to find in Boston because of its density." Assistant Commissioner Ulrich's comments are dead-on correct: unless the rat population's food supply is eliminated, the rat problem will never get under control in our neighborhoods.

Instead, the only solution that will actually work is to get the plastic garbage bags off the streets overnight in Beacon Hill and Boston generally. And the only way to accomplish this goal is to have a later pick up time on garbage collection days so that residents have time to put out their garbage bags on our sidewalks in the daylight hours of the morning just before pickup begins. Beacon Hill residents support this change. In 2021, the BHCA took a poll of Beacon Hill residents asking them about changing the garbage pickup time to help alleviate the rat problem. Over 85% of Beacon Hill residents polled supported the idea of having later pickup time in the morning on garbage and recycling days, thereby reducing the amount of garbage put out the night before and reducing the food supply available for rats on Beacon Hill.

Therefore, the City of Boston's next garbage hauling contract should include the requirement that garbage collection on Beacon Hill and other City neighborhoods that utilize plastic garbage bags cannot begin until 9:00am at the earliest on garbage pickup days. In addition, it should not be permissible for City residents to put out their plastic garbage bags the night before pickup days, and instead, garbage bags should only be allowed to be put out on the sidewalk during daylight hours immediately prior to 9:00am on garbage pickup days. If we make these simple changes, our City neighborhoods, including Beacon Hill, will at least have a fighting chance in their epic battle against the rats.

Rob Whitney is an attorney and lives on Phillips Street on Beacon Hill with his family. He is the former Chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association.

Boston traffic advisory for May 24-28

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.

BACK BAY/ DOWNTOWN/ SEAPORT

Boston Police Department's "Run to Remember Road Race" – Sunday, May 28, 2023

The "Run to Remember Road Race" is actually two (2) races combined into one (1) event.

The first race to start at 7:00AM is a Half-Marathon, thirteen and one tenth miles (13.1 miles) with the second race, a five (5) mile race, also starting at 7:00 AM.

Both races start at the World Trade Center on Seaport Boulevard and will follow the same route until all runners reach the Longfellow Bridge area, where the Half Marathon will run over the bridge into Cambridge, return over the same bridge, and follow the same route as the five (5) mile race onto Charles Street, back to the starting location at the World Trade Center.

The actual 5-mile route is as follows: Seaport Boulevard, right onto Atlantic Avenue, left onto State Street, right onto Cambridge Street, left onto Charles Street,

right onto Beacon Street, left onto Arlington Street, right onto Commonwealth Avenue Outbound, left onto Berkeley Street, left onto Commonwealth Avenue Inbound, right onto Arlington Street, left onto Boylston Street, left onto Washington Street, right onto State Street, right onto Congress Street, left onto Atlantic Avenue, right onto Seaport Boulevard.

Parking restrictions will be in place on the following streets and road closures should be anticipated to accommodate the runners:

- Beacon Street, Southside (Public Garden side), from Charles Street to Arlington Street

- Cambridge Street, Southside (even side), from Court Street to Charles Circle

- Court Street, Both sides, from State Street to Cambridge Street

- Seaport Boulevard, Both sides, from B Street to Atlantic Avenue

- State Street, Both sides, from Atlantic Avenue to Court Street

WEST END

Canal Street Pedestrian Way for Playoffs (Game 5)- Thursday, May 25, 2023

The Mayor's Office will be hosting a pedestrian-only event on Canal Street so fans can gather and celebrate in a car-free environment. This event will be repeated for both the Celtics as they progress through the playoffs. Parking restrictions and street closures will occur on the following street:

- Canal Street, Both sides, from Rip Valenti Way to Causeway Street.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

COUNCIL HOPEFUL MONTEZ HAYWOOD TO HOLD MEET-AND-GREET JUNE 6

Montez Haywood, a candidate for the District 8 City Council seat, will hold a meet-and-greet on Tuesday, June 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Blackstone's of Beacon Hill at 40 Charles St.

WARD 5 DEMOCRATS CAUCUS SET FOR JUNE 17

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee will hold a Caucus to elect delegates to the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention on Saturday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m. at Old South Church, located at 645 Boylston St. in the Back Bay. All are eligible Ward 5 Democratic voters can participate in the caucus but must be checked in by 10 a.m.

The Convention is scheduled

for Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

For more information, visit <https://bostonward5dems.org/>.

REP. LIVINGSTONE'S VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Rep. Jay Livingstone will hold virtual office hours on Thursday, June 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom.

To receive the link for Rep. Livingstone's virtual office hours, or to set an alternate time to meet with him, email Cassidy. Trabilcy@mahouse.org.

MAYOR WU TO HOST NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOURS

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2023 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin' in

parks citywide.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods. Through these conversations, and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Wu looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon parks, public areas, and City services.

Participants will enjoy Dunkin' Iced Coffee and assorted Dunkin' Munchkins Donut Hole Treats along with fresh fruit from Star Market. Additional support is provided by City Express courier service. Each family in attendance will receive a free flowering plant from the Parks Department, while supplies last. 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 at 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.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED 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) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

MOTHERS OUT FRONT MEETING SET FOR MAY 31

Please join us to learn more about Mothers Out Front (MOF) and how we can work together to make a difference.

The meeting entitled Coffee* and Conversation will be held at Cobblestone's at 30 Charles Street, Beacon Hill from 8:30-10am on Wednesday May 31.

Join your neighbors, Laurie Doyle, Suzie Tapson and Ginger Lawrence to hear why they are committed MOF volunteers working with others to mitigate the threats posed by Climate Change.

Ask questions, see if you'd like to volunteer or just satisfy your curiosity. We would love to see you.

The coffee is free.

Please come! No need to RSVP

Contact us at: info.ma.downtown.boston@mothersoutfront.org.

SAFETY (from pg. 1)

for pedestrians, and everyone who needs to get around," said Wu.

"Our streets should be a source of connection, not a threat to our safety, and we want to make sure that we're not rationing that safety in limited areas across the city

following when major incidents and injuries happen, but we want to be proactive, preventive and really work with communities at a much broader scale and much more accelerated pace to make this happen."

In terms of speed humps – the initiative will lead to the construction of 10 speed hump zones per year. These speed humps can be driven over safely at 20-25 MPH. It should be noted that, per the city's website, major arteries and roads that carry an MBTA bus route will not be included in this portion of the initiative.

Residents can visit <https://www.boston.gov/making-neighborhood-streets-safer> to view which streets are on the docket to receive speed humps over the next three years.

As for the intersections portion of the Safety Surge – this component will make it so the city designs 25-30 non-signalized intersections per year.

Regarding intersections, Boston's Chief of Streets, Jascha Franklin-Hodge, said, "Each year, we will design safer intersections using street safety tools that will allow for better sightlines, slower speeds, clear crossings, and defined spaces for all."

These safety tools include things like curb extensions, pedestrian warning signs, and much more which can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/street-safety-toolkit>.

Finally, the signals aspect of the initiative includes updates to the city's Traffic Signals Operations Design Policy.

These updates include an increase in the use of pedestrian head starts – meaning pedestrians will get the walk sign before drivers can proceed, an increase in no turn on red areas, and an increase in the use of "auto recall," which gives pedestrians the walk sign automatically without hitting a button.

The city plans to update at least 50 intersections a year with these new updates to the Traffic Signals Operations Design Policy.

The city is also doing major corridor projects in areas the city's website says have a "history of excessive speeds and crashes that have resulted in death and injury." These areas include Blue Hill Avenue, Centre Street in West Roxbury, Cummins Highway in Mattapan, and Tremont Street in the South End.

"The streets we build must reflect our belief that everyone, regardless of their age or ability, should have the freedom to travel safely and without fear," said Franklin-Hodge.

"The City of Boston is putting that idea into action in asphalt, in concrete, in paint, in flex posts, and signs and signals as we work toward a future where no family ever has to experience tragedy or trauma on our streets."

In terms of how the city is balancing safety and traffic – considering Boston's traffic was ranked

the fourth worst in the entire world in 2022 by INRIX – a transportation analytics company – Wu said, "Traffic is one of Boston's biggest concerns."

"We're building housing; we're investing in our schools; we're adding new jobs people have to be able to get around to where they need to go. As our city grows, it won't work if the only way you can get around is driving a car," she continued.

Wu alluded to the idea that the changes made through the new Safety Surge would make other forms of transportation more viable before saying there is also a need to continue pressuring the MBTA.

"It can't be an either-or conversation about whether people can reliably get to work or whether they can be protected and safe as they're walking around their communities. We need to do both; we know we can," said Wu.

For more information on the Safety Surge and all its components, you can visit <https://www.boston.gov/transportation/safety-surge>.

"I want to thank all of our residents across each and every neighborhood for your advocacy and looking forward to continuing that with the specific changes that we'll be making in the weeks to come," said Wu.

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WLP annual fundraiser returns to Park Plaza Hotel

Women's Lunch Place celebrated its 12th annual eat LUNCH give fundraiser on Friday, May 12, at the Grand Ballroom in the Park Plaza Hotel.

The event was 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, as well as a networking event for companies, groups, and individuals interested in supporting WLP's mission.

This year's fundraiser also honored the inaugural members of the Presidents' Council, , all former board members of WLP, including

many prominent, local business leaders from the past 40 years.

The event raised over \$300,000 for women experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

To learn more about WLP, visit womenslunchplace.org.



KEIKO HIROMI PHOTOS

State Rep. Jay Livingstone; Katharine Delaney, a partner at Brown Advisory; State Senate President Karen Spilka; and WLP Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon.




Nancy Schön, the artist who created the "Make Way for Ducklings" sculpture in the Public Garden, and her daughter, Susan Schön, an art and textile designer.



"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."
— Calvin Coolidge

Rep. Jay D. Livingstone
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BHGC SIXTH ANNUAL SPRING SOIRÉE

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Beacon Hill Garden Club (BHGC) held its Sixth Annual Spring Soirée on May 17 in the King's Chapel Parish House Garden in anticipation of the Hidden

Gardens of Beacon Hill Annual Tour. The evening raised funds for educational, environmental, and conservation organizations through the Tour grant program.



Karen Rotenberg, Lynda Schubert Botman, and Michael Rotenberg.



Jason and Hillary Kelly, and Becky and Jeff Tulman.



Kathy Norman enjoying conversation with friends.



Michael Carter, Chris DiBonda, Jesse Mattison, Colescott Rubin, Lisa Macalaster, and Steven Montecucco.



Jeremy Bell dancing with Cynthia Cox.

BHGC SIXTH ANNUAL SPRING SOIRÉE

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Ellen White, Jeremy Bell, and Cynthia Cox.



Jamie and Katie Fagan, President of the BHGC.



Mark Engelter, Leslie Adam, and Kevin Richard.



Stephen Quigley, Pel Stockwell, and Alicia Cooney.



Patrick Hickox and Tom Townsend.



Frank and Alicia Manning with David Waters, Assistant Minister of King's Chapel.



Sonja Yates, Mary Fran Townsend, and Jody Black.



Karen Hensey, Sandra and George Gilpatrick, and Susan Morse.

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FRIENDS' ANNUAL GREEN & WHITE MAKES RETURN OUTING TO THE NEWBURY BOSTON

Special to Times

Gray skies cleared in time to create a picture-perfect spring evening for the more than 200 guests who attended the Friends of the Public Garden's signature event, The Green & White.

Held on Friday, May 5 at The Newbury Boston, the annual fundraiser was led by co-chairs Leslie and Alastair Adam of Beacon Hill, and Gloria Coleman and Kenda Coleman, both of the Back Bay.

Guests enjoyed a festive cocktail reception, followed by an elegant dinner, and dessert and dancing

with DJ Dance with Lance. WBZ Chief Meteorologist Eric Fisher served as emcee for a brief program focused on the special partnerships that make the Friends' work possible. Embrace Boston President and CEO Imari Paris Jeffries and his wife, Miriam Ortiz, served as honorary co-chairs with the Commissioner of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Ryan Woods, and his wife, Lauren. "We are incredibly grateful to our co-chairs, our honorary co-chairs, and our stellar commit-



Cilla Sayd and Edward Willis.

(GREEN & WHITE Pg. 12)



President Liz Vizza, along with Honorary Co-Chair Ryan Woods and his wife, Lauren Woods.



MEREDITH NIERMAN PHOTOS

The Neckyfarrows.



Honorary Co-Chair Imari Paris Jeffries, FOPG President Liz Vizza and Miriam Otriz.



Rep. Jay Livingstone, FOPG President Liz Vizza, and Board Member Julie Livingstone.

Pictured; left to right, are Green & White Co chair Gloria Coleman, Friends President Liz Vizza, G&W Co chair Leslie Adam, Wayne Gaffield, and G&W Co-chair Kenda Coleman.

BHAC (from pg. 1)

lic hearing “as soon as it can be scheduled.”

On an application for 15R Charles St. – the former location of Rainbows Pottery Studio – the commission unanimously approved an application for a new blade sign and new banner sign for an incoming business, Barnaby’s Toy & Art Shack, a toy store and art studio for children that already operates another location on Nantucket.

The double-sided blade sign, measuring 30-by-20 inches, would use an existing bracket, said the applicant, while the new wall belt sign, measuring 18-by-9 inches, would be stud mounted and have no visible fasteners.

The commission unanimously denied without prejudice an application for a new blade sign at 125 Charles St., the former home of Bostan, for a recently opened business, Vico Style, a vintage women’s clothing boutique, and asked the applicant to return with a revised design.

(Per district guidelines, only one blade sign is allowed per building, and KM Hudson already has a blade sign at this address, Chair Kiefer noted.)

The proprietor of the new business and applicant, Cecilia Hermawan, said she will instead explore installing only a wall board sign directly above the windows of the basement-level storefront in place of the temporary signage there now (which has been permitted on a temporary basis, said BHAC staff, Nicholas Armata).

In another matter, the commission unanimously voted to ratify unapproved window well grates at 47 West Cedar St., and to approve the application to ratify the work as submitted.

The applicant told the commissioners that he had removed the wooden planks that previously covered the grates, and that he had also repainted the window trim a different color.

The commission also reviewed two violations for unapproved roofdeck alterations at 9 Temple St., units #2 and #3, respectively,

Frank McGuire, the architect representing only unit #2 (the lower unit), said that the contractor had indicated that he had received a permit from the city for the job, but this statement was determined to be false after construction had commenced.

The job, which is now complete, entailed replacing the roofdeck in kind; and removing and replacing the existing iron railing, said McGuire, who added that only a portion of the roofdeck for unit #2

is visible from Cambridge Street whereas the entire roofdeck for unit #3 is visible from the street.

The commission voted unanimously to dismiss the violation for the roofdeck for unit #2, and to approve the application as submitted.

Anthony McDermott, the property manager, said that the two roofdecks had to be replaced due to water damage they both sustained. Both roofdecks had been approved by the commission years ago, he added.

For the unit #3 roofdeck (the upper deck), the applicant intends to replace the wooden railing with a thin metal railing that would resemble the railing on the roofdeck below it (for unit #2), said McDermott.

The commission unanimously dismissed the violation for the unit #3 roofdeck and approved the application as submitted to ratify the work, with the proviso that the treatment of the space between the lattice and the deck be delegated to staff (Armata), who will work in consultation with the applicant to resolve the issue.

Likewise, the commission voted unanimously to ratify the unapproved removal of architectural element above first floor entry at 84 West Cedar St. This determination came with a proviso that the proposed lintel stop short of the party walls on either side of the building, and that the final design drawings be submitted to staff (Armata).

On an application for 40 Joy St., the commission voted 7-1 (with Commissioner Ed Fleck casting the single dissenting vote) to approve the proposed installation of metal security grates on the first-floor windows of a residential unit facing the street. This determination came with the provisos that the grills be installed to the mortar joints in the brick façade, rather than through the brick or in the wood frame, and that shop drawings be submitted to staff.

On an application for 107 Chestnut St., the commission voted to approve the proposed installation of a privacy fence with a trellis.

The fence is now proposed as 6 feet high, compared with a fence standing 7 feet, 3½ inches tall, which was unanimously approved by the commission at its Dec. 15 public hearing. (After living with a mockup of the fence with the originally approved height, the applicant is now opting for a shorter fence.)

The same applicant has also ratified a violation for the unap-

proved floodlight at the aforementioned Chestnut Street address by installing it inside a copper box. The commission subsequently voted unanimously to dismiss the violation, and to ratify the copper-box installation for the floodlight.

The commission also reviewed a pair of applications for 5 and 7 Louisburg Square to truncate the existing fire escape at the first address, and to remove the existing fire escape in its entirety at the second address.

(Both buildings are being converted to single-family homes, so the existing fire escapes can now be removed in accordance with the city’s fire codes, according to the applicant, who added that fire suppression systems will be installed at both addresses.)

The commission approved both applications as submitted.

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved as submitted an application for 83 Myrtle St., which included the exterior painting of all woodwork oriel and window frames using Benjamin Moore White Dove paint, as well as painting the front door, shutters, and window sash using Benjamin Moore Black paint. This determination came with a proviso that prior to any painting, the applicant install several samples displaying the proposed paint colors, along with alternative colors, for commissioners to view and consider.

On an application for 53 Beacon St., the commission unanimously approved as submitted the proposed work, which includes repainting the front door a shade of green using the Benjamin Moore Historic Paint Collection.

During the staff updates, Armata clarified a “popular misconception in the public realm” that the BHAC has a “paint collection” of pre-approved colors for the Beacon Hill Historic District.

“We don’t have a pre-approved selection of paints or a paint collection we allow people to use,” said Armata, adding that people often confuse this with Historic New England’s ‘Historic Colors of America’ paint collection.

Instead, the BHAC prefers to review paint colors on a case-by-case basis, said Armata.

Armata also bid farewell to Commissioner Wen Wen (who was on hand for most of the meeting but had left by this point) and thanked her for her service to the commission. (Wen was appointed to the commission on Dec. 11, 2019.) Wen’s departure will leave a vacancy on the commission for



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Vico Style at 125 Charles St.

a Boston Society of Architecture alternate, said Armata.

Two violations scheduled for the hearing – one to ratify the installation of an unapproved EV (Electric Vehicle) charging box at 6 Louisburg Square, the other to ratify the installation of an unapproved Ring doorbell system at 3 Charles River Square – were both rescheduled for the commission’s June hearing.

Two additional applications were withdrawn by their respec-

tive applicants – one to install a placard at 1 Chestnut St. acknowledging the property as the former residence of both Coretta Scott King and Henry Kissinger; and the other for 34.5 Beacon St. to install three bollards on Joy Street.

Besides Chair Kiefer and Commissioners Finegold, Fleck, Jackson, and Wen, Commissioners Commissioner Curtis Kemeny, Alice Richmond, and Annette Given were also on hand for the hearing.

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Elaine Despines T	T Monti & D M T Uni	354 Beacon St #1	\$459,000
Citrano, Richard J	Gleeson, Richard W	371 Beacon St #9	\$675,000
Gips, Jonathan	184 Comm Avenue Clark Rt	184 Commonwealth Ave #61	\$1,225,000
Azar, Riad	Han, Lu	486 Beacon St #5	\$655,000
Laird, Hannah	Johnson, Jay	362 Commonwealth Ave #2A	\$915,000
Mcquillan, Siena	Patrick, Michael	6 Milford St #1	\$1,815,000
Bridge, Timothy	State Fincl Services Inc	121-127 Portland St #302	\$940,000
Moncada, Guillermo L	10 St George Street LLC	5 Saint George St #101	\$368,500
Goldstein, Jennifer L	Troy M Cox RET 2019	136-140R Shawmut Ave #8A	\$3,750,000
Trompke, David	Granetz, Brian	36 Upton St #3	\$1,875,000
Oe Church Park LLC	United Co Apartments LLC	15 Westland Ave	\$439,000,000
Oe Church Park LLC	United Co Apartments LLC	35 Westland Ave	\$439,000,000
BEACON HILL			
Pyle, Jennifer M	Davis, Kassia A	75 Beacon St #2	\$11,900,000
Haseotes, Vasilius	Pas T	70 Brimmer St #212	\$500,000
Haseotes, Vasilius	Pas T	108-114 Chestnut St	\$500,000
Oram, Thomas	Sayare, Christina	73 Pinckney St #5	\$980,000
Quinkert, Jamie W	Debye, Philip	6 Whittier Pl #2G	\$440,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Amato, Maryanne	Lyons, Judith S	511 Columbus Ave #1	\$665,000
22 Cumberland Rt	Mfl RET	22 Cumberland St	\$4,400,000
Winick, Lisa	Aretz, H T	61 Dwight St #2	\$685,000
Lin, Zi T	Lei, Li H	700 Harrison Ave #214	\$339,500
Oe Church Park LLC	United Co Apartments LLC	199 Massachusetts Ave	\$439,000,000
Oe Church Park LLC	United Co Apartments LLC	221 Massachusetts Ave	\$439,000,000
Oe Church Park LLC	United Co Apartments LLC	255 Massachusetts Ave	\$439,000,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Freely, Deborah A	Enrico Petrillo T	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #2503	\$949,900
Harding, Patrick	Kathryn F Kalogerou RET	39 Commercial Wharf #6	\$1,650,000
Phitayakorn, Chet	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #4009	\$2,900,000
Lee, Chia H	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5001	\$6,125,000
Martin, Thomas	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5209	\$3,030,000

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

TOCCI NAMED TO SNHU DEAN'S LIST

Paul Tocci of Beacon Hill has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-

time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, grad-

uate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The door knocker in the last clue is on 6 Pinckney Street, built circa 1803 in the Greek Revival style. The simple oval shape is in keeping with the top of the glass panels in the door.

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



HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR MAKES RETURN TO BEACON HILL

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

The Beacon Hill Garden Club's 94th annual Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Tour returned to the neighborhood on Thursday, May 18.

This year's sold-out tour comprised 11 Hidden Gardens, as well as three additional "Ribbon Gardens," which were restricted or only viewable from the street.

Proceeds from the event each year go to support the Garden Club's efforts to "facilitate 'greening' Boston and beyond, through restoring public spaces and environmental educational outreach," according to Georgia Pearson and Aliza Samuels, the 2023 Garden Tour co-chairs.

The self-guided tour is expected to return to its traditional timeslot next year on the third Thursday in May.



A look inside the "Ribbon Garden" at 9 Brimmer St.



The wellhead at 48 Chestnut St. for the well that once supplied water to this home, and is one of the few remaining wells in the neighborhood.



A table display in the garden at 15 Chestnut St.



An art deco plaque of St. George and the Dragon, originally from a London bank building, now on display in the garden at 165 Mt. Vernon St.

A sculpture found in the garden at 165 Mt. Vernon St., which was originally in the Custom House in Liverpool.



A flag designating the Hidden Garden at 38 Chestnut St.



Beacon Hill Garden members and Hidden Gardens Tour event volunteers Deb Hanley and Lisa Ireland.



A look inside the Hidden Garden at 48 Chestnut St.



Jars of honey produced by pollinators at 58 Chestnut St.



The garden gazebo at 15 Chestnut St.



The garden fireplace at 58 Chestnut St.

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MAYOR WU'S COFFEE HOUR COMES TO CITY HALL PLAZA



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department hosted a neighborhood Coffee Hour on Friday, May 19, at the newly renovated City Hall Plaza.



MUSIC OF HAYDN AND MOZART COMES TO LIVE IN KING'S CHAPEL

COURTESY OF CRESCENDO PRODUCTIONS

Renowned Viennese fortepianist Daniel Adam Maltz brought the music of Haydn and Mozart to live on Sunday, May 21, at King's Chapel.

Memorial Day Weekend Sale 20% Off Furniture



Tiptoe thru the Tulips with Eleanor!

New Spring Paintings On view at Upstairs Downstairs 69 Charles Street Boston, MA

Featuring artwork by Eleanor Score May 24th until May 31st 4pm to 7pm

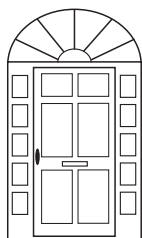
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GREEN & WHITE

(from pg. 8)

tee," said Friends President Liz Vizza. "The creativity and commitment shown by this group has allowed us to raise more than \$10 million since The Green & White began."

Vizza noted a special thanks to the evening's supporters, including Visionary sponsors Beth Johnson, Hope Sidman and Steve Wymer, and Victoria and Don Sullivan.

Event partners Marc Hall Atelier and Frost Productions dazzled guests with decor designed to recreate the magic of the three parks inside the ballrooms overlooking the Public Garden.

The Green & White is the Friends' single largest source of funds to support the care of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The Friends invests more than \$2 million annually in the stewardship of these three iconic parks. With work focused on tree and turf care, conservation and maintenance for the largest collection of public art in Boston, capital improvements, and ongoing advocacy for these public green-spaces, the Friends has served as a vital partner to the city and the Parks and Recreation Department since 1970.