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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Mayor Michelle Wu (far right) and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space (far left) are seen with winner in the Storefront, Organization or Main Street District category, including representatives from first-place winner, Garden Enthusiasts at Primus of Beacon Hill; second-place winner, the Hancock Garden Club, also of Beacon Hill; and third-place winner, Comfort Kitchen of Dorchester.

MAYOR WU'S GARDEN CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, and Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods on Monday, Aug. 21, in the Public Garden for the Mayor's 2023 Garden Contest Awards Ceremony.

Beacon Hill winners in this year's contest included Garden Enthusiasts at Primus and the Hancock Garden Club, which placed first and second place, respectively, in the Storefront, Organization or Main Street District category.



Right, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, is seen flanked by Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

The Young Friends Shindig – has been RESCHEDULED to Friday, November 10th, 7-10pm; UMass Club.

Join other Young Friends members at The Shindig for a night of cocktails, bites, and dancing, with a spectacular view of the nighttime skyline from the elegant UMass Club! All tickets include one complimentary drink at the cash bar. Non-Members are wel-

come and creative black-tie attire is encouraged! Tickets purchased for the August date will be honored for November.

Tickets will be available at www.bhcivic.org.

Board of Directors – Monday, September 11th, 7pm, 74 Joy Street

BHCA Fall HillFest - Sunday, September 24th, 12-4pm; Mt. Vernon Street at Charles Street

Meet & Greet – Monday, October 2nd, 6-8pm, location

TDB

Founders Reception - Thursday, October 5th, 6-8pm; Harvard Musical Association (for Founders Circle members only)

Let the Children Sing: A Tribute to Susan Paul (in collaboration with the Museum of African American History) - Sunday, October 15th, 3-5pm; MAAH

Garlands & Greens - Wednesday, November 15th, 6pm,

(BHCA Pg. 6)

Charles Street businesses hit with four break-ins and one attempted break over weekend

By Dan Murphy

A spate of four break-ins and an attempted break to Charles Street businesses took place over the course of two evenings last weekend.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, at about 9:34 a.m., officers responded to a radio call to investigate the premises at Soodee, located at 63A Charles St., after receiving word of a breaking and entering at that address, according to Boston Police.

Upon arrival, officers observed that a windowpane adjacent to the

lock on the front door had been shattered, and that a brick was lying on the floor of the business. Police found items located near the cash register scattered across the floor, as well as drops of blood on a plastic container near the cash register.

Police contacted the shop's owner, who responded to the scene and conducted an inventory of the store, which revealed that a box of rings previously located near the front door, and the cash register containing an unknown sum, were

(BREAK-INS Pg. 3)

BHAC approves revised application for reconstruction of Vilna Shul front plaza

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission unanimously approved a revised application for the proposed reconstruction of The Vilna Shul's existing front plaza along Phillips Street during the commission's monthly public hearing held virtually on Aug. 17.

The proposed work now comprises a "monolithic concrete pour across the plaza," along with installing a removable handrail system, as well as new electrical outlets on the back of one of the plaza's piers (rather than in the window wells, as was previously proposed), said Doug Manley, a preservation architect for the project.

The commission had previously heard an advisory review on this project at its virtual public-hearing on April 20. The applicant subsequently modified and refined their plans in response to feedback received from commissioners before filing an application at the commission's May 18 virtual public-hearing. The matter was then

remanded to a subcommittee comprising Commission Chair Mark Kiefer and Commissioners Maurice Finegold and Ralph Jackson.

The Vilna Shul had originally planned to use a "pile system with pedestals" for the surface of the plaza, said Manley, but that plan was ultimately scrapped due to budget constraints. The plaza's surface currently comprises poured concrete so the proposed change would essentially be in kind, added Manley.

The removable handrail system, which had previously been discussed among the subcommittee, would be installed at the top of the stairs "to keep people from falling in the stairwells," said Manley, and would only be used during special events. ("Sleeves" would be installed in the plaza's concrete surface to mount the railing system in place, said Manley.)

Moreover, the latest application includes plans for the installation of three drains in the plaza's sur-

(VILNA SHUL Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

TRUMP AND BIDEN: WORST CANDIDATES EVER?

As it becomes increasingly apparent that the candidates for President in 2024 will be Joe Biden and Donald Trump in a rematch of their 2020 campaign, it is understandable why Americans are so pessimistic about the future direction of the country.

Both men by far will be the oldest presidential candidates ever in our history, with Biden clocking in at 82 and Trump at 78. (Ronald Reagan was 69 when he first ran for President). And please, don't tell us that we're being ageist. The job of President of the United States is 24/7/365 and requires stamina and energy, traits that both men are sorely lacking.

Both are barely able to put together a complete sentence, let alone two (just read the transcripts of any of their interviews or speeches without a teleprompter) and Biden's mental faculties are diminishing almost on a daily basis. Biden has barely held any press conferences and when he does, he only responds to questions that mostly have been submitted in advance, a sign that his handlers know fully well that his mental acuity is severely diminished.

However, even more troubling than their advanced age are the scandals and legal troubles that will become the focus of their upcoming campaigns. We do not need to go into Trump's well-known myriad of legal problems, but Biden's issues with his son Hunter have become front-and-center in recent weeks.

What is most troubling about the Hunter Biden matter is Joe Biden's insistence, "My son has done nothing wrong," the President said on MSNBC in May. "I trust him. I have faith in him, and it impacts my Presidency by making me feel proud of him." (Whatever that's supposed to mean.)

However, Hunter Biden was willing to plead guilty to income tax charges, acknowledge his guilt in obtaining a handgun in violation of the law, AND wanted to be cleared of other possible crimes in a plea bargain deal that ultimately fell apart -- yet Joe Biden insists his "son has done nothing wrong"?

Even more significant and troubling are the many shady business deals by which Hunter Biden enriched himself based solely on his father's position. For example, when Hunter Biden flew with his father, who was then the vice-president, to China, he met with his "business associates" and 10 days later made a deal that netted him millions of dollars.

Although the majority of Americans would like to move on from both Biden and Trump, it would appear that we're stuck with them -- creating a campaign that will feature the most unpopular, and arguably the worst, candidates in American history -- one of whom is running to keep himself out of jail and the other to keep his son out of jail.

OUR AGE OF ANXIETY

The Wall St. Journal this past week featured a front page story entitled, "The Booming Business of American Anxiety." The issue of New York Magazine two weeks ago touched on the same subject with the cover story, "Trauma: America's Favorite Diagnosis."

Just this week, CNBC released a survey that reveals that confidence in the future of business conditions by small business owners is at an all-time low.

Statistics suggest that American society is coming apart, both mentally and physically. Our life expectancy has been declining for the past few years -- the pandemic had a lot to do with that -- but the opioid crisis, gun violence, and alcohol abuse also are factors playing a huge role in our collective demise.

More Americans than ever between the ages of 35-50 report that they are binge-drinking and more Americans over the age of 65, especially women, are succumbing to premature deaths from alcohol.

In addition, 40 percent of Americans are considered obese and another 32 percent are overweight -- which means that almost 3/4 of Americans have lifestyles that will lead to a future of diseases (diabetes, cancer, etc.) and physical limitations that will create a lifetime of anxiety and depression.

Our unhealthy food -- i.e., high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar -- is addictive, no less so than opioids. Just as the Sacklers gave us Oxycontin, the fast-food industry has given us triple-bacon-cheeseburgers with fries and super-size soft drinks -- the more we eat, the more we crave them.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average male in 1960 and the average female today weighs the same as that man in 1960 -- and in those same 60 years, the number of fast food franchises has grown exponentially. (In 1960, there were about 400 McDonald's and Burger King franchises in the U.S. and today there are about 20,000).

When you add in all of the "big picture" challenges presented by climate change, economic inequality, the conflicts with Russia and China, and the elimination of individual rights by a reactionary Supreme Court, it is not surprising that Americans are feeling more anxious than ever before.

It is not an exaggeration to say that anxiety is our new national disease -- and there is no cure in sight.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMMING AT MYRTLE STREET PLAYGROUND CONCLUDES

Friends of Myrtle Street Playground will conclude its summer programming season on Thursday, Aug. 24, starting at 4 p.m., with Color Me Funky face painting.

Visit myrtlestreetplayground.org for more information on the Friends of the Myrtle Street Playground.

'LINCOLN AND BOOTH: LIVE MUSIC PLAYED TO FILM' COMING AUG. 25

The West End Museum presents an unforgettable theatrical experience when members of the New England Film Orchestra combine the magic of film with the power of music as they perform live music in-sync to two films highlighting the lives of Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth on Friday, Aug. 25, from 7:30-9 p.m. at The Hub on Causeway community room at 52 Causeway St. (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

The first film is an early silent short by Thomas Edison from 1915 entitled, "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," which spans the famous president's life from his marriage to his assassination by Booth. The second, "The Man in the Barn," is a speculative docudrama from 1937 that asks if John Wilkes Booth didn't die by gunshot while trapped in a burning barn just days after Lincoln's assassination, but rather escaped to live another 38 years.

Odie Henderson, Boston Globe Film Critic and author of 'Black Caesars and Foxy Cleopatras: A History of Blaxploitation Cinema' (out in January 2024), will join us to provide his insights on the films.

Seating is limited. Tickets are available for \$15 each at crescendoproductions.com.

WARD 5 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPT. 5 AT BOSTON PARK PLAZA

The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee will hold its 2024 Republican U.S. Presiden-

tial Primary meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 6-8 p.m. at the Boston Park Plaza.

Register today for Beacon Hill Seminars fall courses

Beacon Hill Seminars is offering 20 courses this fall on a range of topics including art, history, literature, religion, economics, politics, and more. Classes meet in person in historic venues in Back Bay and Beacon Hill, or online via Zoom. The deadline for registration is Sunday, Sept. 10. Visit <https://beaconhillseminars.org/> or call 617-523-0970 to learn more.

PICKLE BALL GROUP LESSONS OFFERED ON THE COMMON

Pickle ball group lessons are offered every Friday and Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. at the pickle ball/(tennis) court on the Boston Common.

Register and pay in person \$24 per session, or \$80 for four sessions.

Call 585-448-2005 or email vessy.jivkova@gmail.com for more information.

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., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month 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).

CALL FOR WALKERS: REGISTER FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, funds

(ROUNDUP Pg. 10)

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PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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PHONE: 617-523-9490

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com

Esplanade Association's Moondance Gala set for Sept. 23

The Esplanade Association (EA) has announced its highly anticipated annual event, the Moondance Gala, an evening of elegance, celebration, and heartfelt appreciation for downtown Boston's iconic state park, the Charles River Esplanade. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the Charles River and the city lights, the Moondance Gala will again take place in a grand tent on the Esplanade's Fiedler Field on Saturday, Sept. 23.

This year's Moondance Gala holds a special significance as the Esplanade Association will honor its co-founder Jeryl Oristaglio with the Charles Eliot Award, conferred only on special occasions to those who have made significant contributions to the Esplanade or to the care and preservation of green space. Since the organization's inception in 2001, Jeryl has been a driving force dedicated to nurturing the park's growth and enriching the lives of the broad community it serves. Her visionary leadership has propelled the association's initiatives, including the launch of the Moondance Gala itself, which she conceived to

provide a memorable night in the park with supporters who share her love for the Esplanade.

"We are immensely proud to celebrate Jeryl's profound impact on the Charles River Esplanade to all of those who visit the park from across the region and the world," Jen Mergel, James and Audrey Foster Executive Director of the Esplanade Association, said in a press release. "Her two decades of commitment have helped further EA's mission to work in partnership with state partners and local organizations to enhance and revitalize the Esplanade. Her vision, to not only sustain this green space, but to build community in the park by providing educational, cultural, and recreational programs for everyone, continues to ground our work in what exemplifies Jeryl most: care. We cannot wait to express our appreciation for her ongoing legacy."

During this celebratory evening more information will be shared about Charlesbank Landing on the Esplanade, the newest, and largest, project undertaken in the history of EA. This welcoming



MICHAEL BLANCHARD PHOTO

A scene from last year's Moondance Gala.

year-round facility and landscape will bring to life so much of what Oristaglio envisioned for the park and the people of Boston when she began the organization over 20 years ago.

The gala will feature cocktails, a delicious dinner, a captivating presentation and an auction to raise funds in support of EA's park improvements and free programs. The night will conclude with dessert and dancing at Moondance

After Dark. This unique after party will be in the grand tent as well, adding to the evening's festivities for everyone. For more information and tickets for Moondance After Dark, visit esplanade.org/afterdark.

BREAK-INS (from pg. 1)

both missing.

A surveillance video that the business furnished to police shows a male suspect wearing a blue sweatshirt and black pants throwing a brick through the store's glass on Saturday, Aug. 19, at around 11:53 p.m.

Diane Agoun, the shop's owner, had always wanted to have a presence on Beacon Hill before expanding her business from its original Newbury Street location to her second store on Charles Street, but in light of recent events, she said she no longer feels safe there.

"It makes me scared that he or someone else can come back at any time," said Agoun, who expressed deep concern since the same preparator had perhaps returned to target Charles Street businesses for a second night in a row, even after police had responded to the earlier incidents. (Soodee on Charles Street was also targeted by vandals who broke a window more than a year ago, added Agoun.)

Tellingly, Agoun has now invested in a deadbolt for her Charles Street store.

REMY Creations at 96 Charles St. also fell prey to a breaking and entering overnight that same evening.

Upon responding to the store for a reported breaking-and-entering at around 10:41 a.m. on Sun-

day, Aug. 20, the officer observed that one of the glass panels in the business's front door had been shattered, just below the door-knob.

A store employee told the officer she was walking down Charles Street at about 9:20 a.m., when she initially observed damage to the front door. She went home to retrieve her key and along with her father, returned to the store at about 9:55 a.m., when she photographed its condition with her cellphone. Photos showed a mannequin had been knocked over, and that several items behind the counter were in disarray. An iPad, valued at \$900, was also reported missing from the store.

The culprit again apparently left behind some blood on a door-knob, which was collected as evidence by Boston Police, said Remy Schaefer Stressenger, the store's proprietor who was working at her other store on Nantucket when the employee called to tell her about the Charles Street break-in.

E.R. Butler & Co. at 38 Charles St. was hit shortly after midnight on Sunday, Aug. 20.

While the perpetrator attempted to smash the window, safety glass ultimately thwarted the entry. The alarm was activated, however, alerting police to the scene.

In response to the incident, Nina Castellion, the store's show-

room manager, said, "We can each help to support the safety of Beacon Hill by removing loose bricks, downloading the 3-1-1 application to reporting incidents, and calling 9-1-1 when it is warranted."

Lana Barakat, owner of December Thieves, a women's clothing boutique at 51 Charles St., as well as Thieves Next Door at 53 Charles St., was notified at about 11:43 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19, that the alarm had sounded at December Thieves. Apparently the culprit had attempted to throw a brick through the window, she said, but instead, it hit the frame and perhaps grazed the window without breaking the glass.

Thieves Like Us was hit overnight the following evening.

At around 4:40 a.m., officers already in the area in response to another Charles Street business break received word that a commercial alarm had been sounded at Thieves Next Door, according to Boston Police.

Upon arrival, officers observed that a window in the front door was broken, and that the door had been left unlocked. Police were able to enter the building and secured the premises until Barakat arrived.

Barakat later furnished police with a surveillance video showing a male suspect wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, along with

black pants and black-and-white sneakers, breaking into the store.

The brick apparently used to break the shop's window was found left on a counter inside the store, said Barakat, who added that a brick had been used to access or in an attempt to access the premises in all three instances involving her stores.

Besides last weekend, December Thieves was also hit overnight on May 7. A cash register was looted during that incident, said Barakat, while a loose brick apparently used to shatter the window was found on the ground next to the door inside the store.

An exasperated Barakat told this reporter she has called the city "multiple times" to fix the brick sidewalks in front of both of her stores to no avail. She believes that bricks from the sidewalk were likely used in all three incidents that targeted her stores.

Additionally, Barakat said, "An increased police presence on Charles Street is critical. The police presence needs to be there, patrolling the streets."

Moreover, on Monday, Aug. 21, at around 4:37 a.m., officers responded to an alarm sounded at J. Grady Home at 133 Charles St., according to Boston Police.

Upon arrival, officers observed that one of the front door's glass panels had been shattered, but the

front door was still secure.

Jeff Grady, who, together with his wife, Joan, owns J. Grady Home, which has another location in Gloucester, reported to police that he had a surveillance video showing a suspect inside his business. The suspect was seen searching the cash register to no avail and didn't take any items from the store before leaving emptyhanded. In the video, the suspect is seen walking over to the cash register, which contained no money, as a sign posted outside the store clearly attests.

This was the third break-in to the store, following earlier incidents in August of 2021 and March of 2022, respectively, said Grady, but in all three cases, the would-be thieves left emptyhanded, since there was never any money in the register.

"It's disconcerting," said Grady. "I have no issue with the police response and how they followed up. I generally feel safe here, but I'm concerned about our property and our store, and other people here. It's how do we avoid it from happening again and seeing if we can do anything about getting more of a police presence [in the neighborhood]."

VILNA SHUL (from pg. 1)

face, each measuring 8 3/8 inches in diameter, said Manley, as well as for the in-kind replacement of the existing cast-stone stairs at the gate.

In another matter, the commission voted 6-1 to approve an application for new signage for Vico Style, a vintage women's clothing boutique located on the lower level of 125 Charles St. in the former home of Bostan.

The commission had unanimously denied without prejudice Vico Style's previous application for a blade sign at this location at the May 18 virtual public hearing, instructing the applicant to return with a revised design.

The applicant considered modifying the design to a circular sign, said Adam Knauer of Somerville-based SRP Sign Corporation, before settling on a square sign, measuring 40 inches in diameter. The proposed sign will have white lettering on an orange background, added Knauer.

Commissioner Maurice Finegold, who cast the only vote opposing this application, objected to the large size of the proposed sign, adding that he would prefer a sign measuring 3 feet in diameter instead.

While the applicant had proposed manufacturing the sign using HDU (High-Density Urethane) in an effort to stave off deterioration, the commission's determination on the revised application came with provisos that the sign be made of wood, and that it be flush-mounted four brick courses above the granite on the building's façade.

On an application for 1928 Beacon Hill, a restaurant located at 97 Mt. Vernon St., the commission voted 6-1 to approve a new double-sided, hanging 2-by-3-foot sign to replace the existing sign there now while denying without prejudice the proposed lighting. The sign approval came with a proviso that its S-bracket be installed in the wall's mortar joints, rather than through the brick, while the applicant was also instructed to return to the commission with a new lighting design, with the lighting above the sign to be minimally obtrusive to neighbors.

Kristin Jenkins, the applicant and restaurant's primary owner, said the new wood sign would be manufactured by Yankee Woodcarvers of Plymouth, and that it would replace an existing sign, which shares the same dimensions as the proposed sign but is made of a "compressed non-wood material."

The new sign would have carved, metallic gold-lettering on a black background, said Jenkins,

who added that the existing sign, which is enclosed inside a canopy fixture, was only meant to be temporary upon the business opening in the fall of 2021. (The canopy would be removed as part of the proposed new design, said Jenkins.)

Commissioner Alice Richmond, who cast the only dissenting vote on this application, indicated she didn't believe that the commission was adequately prepared to make a determination on it at the time of the hearing based on the information they had.

Meanwhile, the commission voted unanimously to approve as submitted an application for 68 Beacon St. for the in-kind replacement of the front door, which comprises two parts - a fixed door and an active door.

The new door would be crafted from African mahogany and painted black, as it is now, said John Carlton of Brighton-based Historic Door, who added that the original door, which dates back to 1917, had deteriorated beyond repair.

The new door design also includes eight panes of clear, tempered glass (four each on both the fixed and active doors), said Carlton.

Commissioner Ralph Jackson requested that the street numbers now affixed to the front door be instead centered on the lintel above the door; Carlton said he would speak with the applicant regarding this request.

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved as submitted an application to restore the community basketball court at the Peter Faneuil House at 60 Joy St.; the proposed work entails the repair and restoration of the brick retaining wall, brick piers, and iron fence along the South Russell Street sidewalk, as well as the in-kind replacement of existing signage, the refurbishing of existing benches, and the installation of a new basketball pole, backboard, and rim.

Kenneth Crisafulli of Roslindale-based Rogerson Communities, which developed and manages Faneuil House, said only the center portion of the basketball would need to be rebuilt, and that the applicant intends to reuse as much salvaged brick as possible.

This determination came with a proviso that the applicant submit shop drawings to staff (Nicholas Armata).

On an application for 30 Lime St., the commission voted 6-0 (with Commissioner Annette Given recusing herself) to approve the proposed work, which entails installing a hand railing on the

right hand-side wall leading up to the door.

The new railing would be painted black and exactly replicate the symmetry of the existing handrail next door at 26 Lime St., said Jim Fay, property manager, although it would be located on the opposite wall, making it a mirror image of the existing railing.

This determination came with a proviso that the applicant submit staff drawings to staff. (Armata said he was awaiting shop drawings from the city for the hand railing at 26 Lime St.)

The commission voted 6-1 (with Vice Chair Arian Allen casting the only dissenting vote) to approve as submitted an application for 7 Louisburg Square, with proposed work entailing the replacement of two historic six-over-six windows on the fourth floor with two new six-over-six, wood, true divided-light, double-hung windows.

Alexander Sassaroli of New York-based Steven Harris Architects said the commission had previously approved the replacement of nine of 11 windows on the building's front and back facades but wanted the applicant to preserve the other two windows. But since he estimates that the remaining two windows had deteriorated a minimum of 50 percent, Sassaroli said they could no longer be salvaged. He added he would contract the manufacturer of the nine replacement windows to exactly replicate them for the two, new replacement windows.

The commission voted unanimously to approve as submitted an application for 17 Louisburg Square, with proposed work including the installation of an 2N



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St.

IP Verso intercom system with a camera inside a brass box, as well as the removal and replacement of the doorknob, locking cylinder, and rosette. This determination came with a proviso that the applicant attempt to make the brass box for the intercom system as narrow as possible.

A violation for 147-149 Charles St. for the installation of unapproved windows with reflective film, an improper pane configuration, and simulated divided lights, along with the removal of its roof, chimney and party wall without the commission's approval, was removed by staff from the agenda.

An application to replace the

shutters at 14 Louisburg Square was removed from the agenda by the applicant.

Moreover, an application to paint the front door and surround at 83 Mount Vernon St. black and red wasn't heard due to the applicant's failure to appear at the hearing, as was also the case with an application to replace the current, non-operational callbox with a new intercom and brass box at 1 Chestnut St.

On hand for the hearing were Chair Kiefer and Vice Chair Allen, along with Commissioners Finegold, Given, Jackson, Richmond, and Ed Fleck.

BHWF 2023-2024 season kicks off

By Marianne Salza

For a decade, the Beacon Hill Womens Forum (BHWF) has been empowering women through motivational lectures, as well as uplifting social activities and adventures. The organization is celebrating its 10th anniversary of building meaningful friendships, with the first meeting of the 2023-2024 season being held on September 12.

"We have the good fortune to live in a beautiful and historic neighborhood. The Beacon Hill Womens Forum grew from the idea of bringing women together to hear from an inspiring neighbor, create 'backyard' events to allow us to mix in smaller groups -- and just like that -- friendships are made," said Wendy Oleksiak, Forum Advisor/Past President. "The Bea-

con Hill Womens Forum not only creates opportunities, but also has a magical mix of women of all ages and backgrounds who come together to support the neighborhood and each other."

Oleksiak encourages neighbors to join in the welcoming atmosphere and engaging conversations of the BHWF, where she has formed lasting bonds.

"As the surgeon general recently advised, one of the biggest threats to our well-being is loneliness and isolation. Many of us are swept up in busy work or family routines," acknowledged Oleksiak, Vice President and Global Real Estate Advisor, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty.

After meeting her husband, and having their first date at The Sevens, Oleksiak settled in the suburbs

to raise a family. Upon their return to Beacon Hill, she wished to rekindle her connection to the community.

"I first served on the Beacon Hill Womens Forum helping with membership, and then as co-president, which allowed me to get to know many of the members," Oleksiak recounted. "I have since created a circle of friends that I socialize with on a weekly basis. Having neighbors to go for a walk on the Charles with, meet up with after a snowstorm at 1928, or to grab a cup of coffee with at Tatte makes life better."

Beacon Hill Womens Forum meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May at the

(BHWF Pg. 5)

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN COMMITTED TO ONGOING TREE CARE IN THREE PARKS



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

With 1,700 trees in the three parks, tree removals are a regular and healthy part of the parks care cycle for the Friends of the Public Garden. Fourteen trees are currently being removed from Boston Common. Tree removal happens for a variety of reasons – because a tree is a public safety hazard, is experiencing disease pressure and is unresponsive to treatment, or it is at the end of its lifespan and its health is in decline. There will be 16 new trees, each specifically chosen for their location, planted in the spring using funds from the Boston Common Maintenance Trust Fund and generous Arbor Day donations.

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

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Each office is independently owned and operated.



BHWF (from pg. 4)

Hampshire House, 84 Beacon Street, from 6-8pm. Attend the first BHWF on Tuesday, September 12, for cocktails and socializing before a presentation by award-winning chef, Lydia Shire.

"We looked to create a series of conversations with women from Beacon Hill and beyond who will inspire and enlighten the audience in an array of topics," shared Lorie Conway, Programs-Co-Director. "We are delighted with the outcome: a group of compelling

women representing entrepreneurship, a love of food, spirituality, science and technology, movies and entertainment, the value of 'doing good while doing well,' and channeling anxiety into strength as we face life's challenges."

Visit www.BeaconHillWomensForum.org/join/ to apply for membership and have access to monthly activities: Feast with Friends, Book Group, Backyard Adventures, Laughs & Libations, and Sunday Funday. Scan the QR code on

BHWF posters in local restaurants and boutiques along Charles Street for easier registration for monthly lectures and events.

"Like anything in life, you must start somewhere; and if you are seeking meaningful friendships – even if you've lived in the neighborhood for years, the Beacon Hill Womens Forum is the right place to start," encouraged Oleksiak. "You will be warmly welcomed by others who are seeking the same."

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Hayden announces Youth Advisory Council; encourages Suffolk County teens to apply

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced the creation of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Youth Advisory Council, which will meet regularly throughout the school year to give Hayden's office insight into issues such as youth violence, gun possession, bullying, peer pressure, and substance abuse.

Applications for the council are available on the SCDAO website. Hayden is encouraging high school-aged teens throughout Suffolk County to apply.

The council will augment the office's other juvenile-focused initiatives, such as the Juvenile Alternative Resolution (JAR) program, which provides diversion options to eligible juvenile offenders.

"We are always seeking to better understand the factors that lead some of our young people down dangerous paths. We want to ensure that our youth have the resources and support in our communities to be safe. A helpful tool in doing so is to hear directly from them. We've seen over the past

few weeks some disturbing incidents involving violence committed by teens, including attacks on strangers and on police, and other young people being harmed. Our hope is to hear directly from our young residents what they think might be contributing to these types of behaviors and experiences. Arraigning young people on criminal charges is, sadly, something we sometimes need to do, but never something we want to do," Hayden said.

Members of Hayden's commu-

nity engagement team and juvenile unit will guide the council discussions and solicit participation and input from members on the array of issues facing teens throughout the county. Recent societal events have presented teens with particular challenges, Hayden said.

"The COVID pandemic has had a unique impact on today's young people. Put simply, teenagers in Boston and Suffolk County—and across America—have had their lives impacted in ways unlike any other time in our history, and our

goal is to learn directly from them the pressures they face on a daily basis. The Youth Advisory Council will not only provide our youth with an opportunity to voice concerns, but can empower them to take on a greater initiative. We're hoping their insight will help us develop approaches that keep teens away from behavior that can short-circuit their futures," Hayden said.

Healey-Driscoll Administration announces updates to MBTA communities guidelines

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) has announced updated Guidelines relative to the MBTA Communities law. In response to feedback from municipal leaders in several MBTA Communities, EOHLC is revising the Guidelines to offer cities and towns either directly served by or adjacent to MBTA services a path to receive some credit for residential unit capacity in mixed-use zoning districts. The guideline revisions also specify 13 additional discretionary grants that will take noncompliance of the law into consideration when awarding funds.

The MBTA Communities law (Section 3A of the state's Zoning Act) defines 177 cities and towns as MBTA Communities. These are municipalities that either host MBTA services or abut a city or town that hosts MBTA services. The law requires that an MBTA community shall have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria set forth in the statute. The lack of zoning for multi-family housing is a barrier for new housing development in Massachusetts. By allowing multifamily housing near transit, we can create new housing options for families in

walkable neighborhoods closer to transit options.

"The MBTA Communities law is a vital tool to incentivize and expedite much-needed housing development across the state," said Ed Augustus, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. "These updated guidelines demonstrate a collaborative effort with MBTA Communities to implement the law, ensure compliance, and provide reasonable adjustments to zoning requirements without reducing the total number of required housing units. Nevertheless, compliance with the law is mandatory and today's updates specify thirteen additional discretionary grant programs that will now take 3A non-compliance into consideration when awarding funds."

To date, EOHLC and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership have provided more than \$2 million in technical assistance to over 50 cities and towns. A total of 176 MBTA Communities are currently compliant.

New Consideration for Mixed-Use Development

Under the updated Guidelines, EOHLC will take into account the existence and impact of "mixed-use" zoning that requires ground floor commercial uses in build-

ings that also allow residential use as-of-right on other floors. MBTA Communities always could allow ground floor commercial in their proposed multi-family zoning districts. However, before the changes, residential unit capacity in a property that required ground floor commercial could not "count" in any way towards its compliance with the law.

The updated Guidelines specifically:

- Allow an MBTA community to "offset" the minimum multi-family unit capacity requirement in certain multi-family zoning district(s) by up to 25%, based on the unit capacity of a mixed-use zoning district that meets key requirements of Section 3A and the Guidelines, but for requiring a ground floor non-residential component. Such "offset" – only available where existing village-style or downtown development is essential to preserve pedestrian access to amenities – still requires a municipality to demonstrate the same total amount of unit capacity.

- Protect the financial feasibility of achieving housing goals where mixed-use zoning requires ground-floor non-residential uses by (i) setting forth location criteria for mixed-use development districts and requiring that EOHLC has pre-approved the location before the MBTA community's vote on its zoning changes; (ii) capping the percentage floor area of each development that may be required

to be non-residential (ground floor only); (iii) requiring a broad mix of non-residential uses allowed as of right; and (iv) prohibiting minimum parking requirements for non-residential uses.

These revisions to the Guidelines are intended to provide greater flexibility to MBTA communities to adopt new zoning districts in mixed-use neighborhoods, and to promote housing opportunities for residents in such neighborhoods. The revisions do not reduce the total unit capacity required by the Guidelines.

"We urgently need to clear the way to build more housing in our suburban communities, but we don't want to squeeze out our restaurants, retailers, and other merchants in the process. These guideline adjustments will go a long way towards protecting our mom-and-pop merchants and small downtowns while – thanks to additional housing – will also create the vibrancy and foot traffic our small businesses need to thrive. We appreciate that the Healey-Driscoll administration listened to the concerns many of us shared and put forth this thoughtful solution." Greg Reibman, president, Charles River Regional Chamber (Serving Newton, Needham, Watertown, and Wellesley).

Additional Discretionary Grant Programs Where Non-Compliance Will Be Considered

Section 3A states that any MBTA Community not in compli-

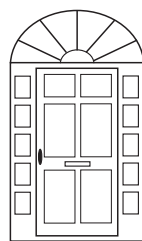
ance with the law will not be eligible for three state discretionary grant programs: MassWorks, the Housing Choice Initiative, and the Local Capital Projects Fund.

The updated Guidelines list 13 discretionary grant programs that will take compliance with Section 3A into consideration when making grant award recommendations, emphasizing the seriousness with which the Healey-Driscoll Administration views compliance.

Those 13 additional grant programs are as follows:

- 1 Community Planning Grants, EOHLC,
- 2 Massachusetts Downtown Initiative, EOED,
- 3 Urban Agenda, EOED,
- 4 Rural and Small-Town Development Fund, EOED,
- 5 Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, MassDevelopment,
- 6 Site Readiness Program, MassDevelopment,
- 7 Underutilized Properties Program, MassDevelopment,
- 8 Collaborative Workspace Program, MassDevelopment,
- 9 Real Estate Services Technical Assistance, MassDevelopment,
- 10 Commonwealth Places Programs, MassDevelopment,
- 11 Land Use Planning Grants, EOEEA,
- 12 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grants, EOEEA, and
- 13 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning and Project Grants, EOEEA.

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Rentals

BHCA (from pg. 1)

Hampshire House
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Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd
Contact the BHCA at info@
bhcciv.org for details on any of
these activities.

**Upcoming In-person meetings
on Charles Street**

Meet the City's Active Transpor-

tation Team in-person on Charles Street on the following days with dates added through October:

- Monthly on Wednesday evenings at the Charles Street Meeting House:

- 9/6 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- 10/11 from 4:30-6pm due to earlier sunset
- Monthly on Tuesday morn-

ings at the intersection of Charles and Cambridge Streets:

- 9/19 and 10/17 from 7:45 - 9:15 a.m.

In the case of inclement weather, including a heat emergency, these hours will be cancelled. To learn more, visit boston.gov/connect-downtown.

Women's Lunch Place, city unveil community garden at Newbury and Berkeley streets

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Monday, Aug. 14, at the new community garden in front of Women's Lunch Place. Funded by a grassroots grant from the City of Boston's Office of Urban Agriculture, the garden will be maintained by Women's Lunch Place guests during Horticultural Therapy exercises.

"We are honored to have been awarded grant funds from the City of Boston to create a wonderfully landscaped garden for our community," Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, executive director of Women's Lunch Place, said in a press release. "Gardening nurtures physical and mental health, and the support of our neighbors in creating this space empowers women in creative and impactful activities."

The design for the garden was donated by Perennial Gardens, a local company that is a longtime partner of Women's Lunch Place. Perennial Gardens was also tasked with building the garden and sourcing the plants and materials. Careful selections were made to match the historic Church of the Covenant building.

"Everyone deserves to have access to beauty," Nancy Armstrong, senior director of operations and programming at Women's Lunch Place, said in a press release. "We are so thankful to Perennial Gardens for their long-time partnership and their stead-

fast work in bringing this project to life, as well as to the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay's Homelessness Taskforce for their enduring support."

The Neighborhood Association of Back Bay had members in attendance at the ceremony, which was also supported by more than a dozen Women's Lunch Place guests. In addition to Wigon, Armstrong, and WLP guest Erica, the Mayor's Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon addressed the crowd.

"I'm proud of the many Back Bay residents who lent their goodwill toward the completion of this community garden," said Dillon. "Most of all, I want to recognize the women who come to Women's Lunch Place every day to receive vital services. Thank you for being here, and for enriching this neighborhood."

Kathleen Young, chair of NABB's Homelessness Task Force, said: "The Homelessness Task Force is honored to partner with the Women's Lunch Place on projects such as this garden to further our mutual goal of ensuring services to prevent increased homelessness in our city," "

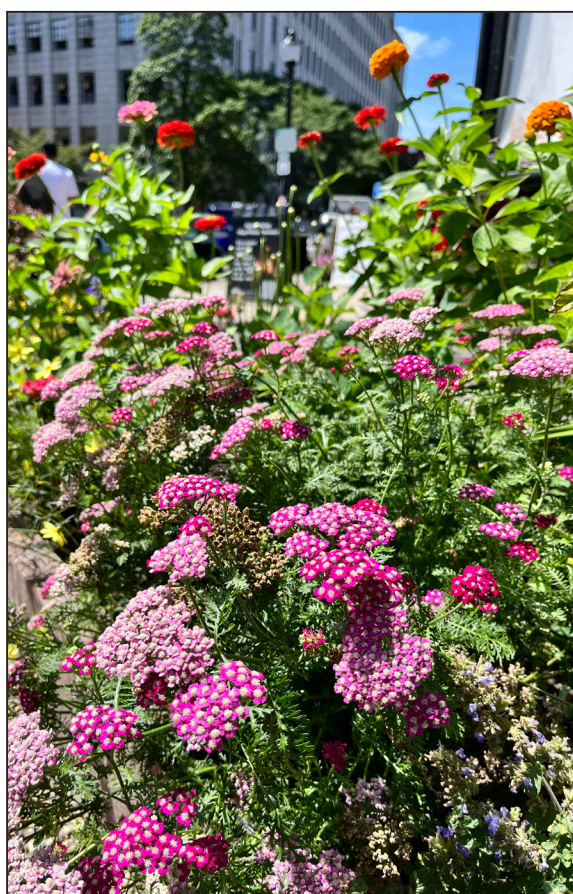
An educational forum will be held on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston St., where the Mayor's Chief of Housing will present plans to increase services and permanent supportive housing in the city, added Young.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Sheila Dillon, chief of housing for the City of Boston; Erica, a Women's Lunch Place guest; and Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, executive director at Women's Lunch Place, are seen at the Aug. 14 ribbon-cutting for the new community garden.

The garden is now open for visitors at the intersection of Newbury and Berkeley streets. Those who wish to learn more about or support Women's Lunch Place are encouraged to visit womenslunchplace.org.



A look inside the new community garden at Newbury and Berkeley streets.

Stacey Zellen, program manager for Women's Lunch Place.

CITY PAWS

Tasty treats

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Most dogs will work for rewards. We pay them with treats and praise. Both are important. Did you know some researchers and behaviorists recommend finding three levels of treats to tempt your dog?

Behaviourist Cathy Madson, MA, FDM, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, writing for www.preventivevet.com, rates treats as high, medium, and low value to dogs. She explained that the correct value treat can make a big difference in your training sessions' success.

Madison recommends using high-value treats when training a new behavior, when there are distractions, and when working on counter-conditioning. Use your medium-value goodies for everyday rewards, to maintain a learned behavior, and as a part of enrichment activities. Low-value treats are a C grade in training. The dog did what you wanted but could have done better. She also recommends lower value "When you're working on fading out the use of treats for a specific behavior."

How to Test Treat Value

You can do an at-home test to determine what rewards work best for each animal. You do this by letting the dog choose between two tidbits. (All training treats should be small, even for large dogs.)

Put a different treat in each hand or under a cup. Present those options and give the reward that the dog sniffed, licked, or pawed at the most. Test the winner against other treats until you have a win, place, and show option.

Popular with Dogs

Some foods that dogs treasure the most are not necessarily popular with people—dogs like stinky treats. We resorted to highly odoriferous dried mussels for our second Westie, Maggie Mae, who turned her little black nose up at most foods.

Other high-value dog treats are bits of cheese, dried liver, hot dog pieces, small pieces of meat, and peanut butter. It's easy to have treats ready to grab at home, but when you are out and about, you'll need to store treats in a pocket or pouch. Think about testing options that will work in both situations.

Check the Ingredients

When considering choices, check the ingredients. For example, suppose you use peanut butter in a Kong when working on separation anxiety. In that case, you have to be sure it doesn't contain Xylitol which is toxic to dogs and requires immediate veterinary care if ingested.

You also have to think about allergies. We only buy oat-based



Eyes on the prize! Find the treats that will capture your dog's attention despite distractions. (Photo by Sofiia Potanina)

treats for Westies since some of them have an allergy to other grains. We choose commercial treats where all the ingredients are real foods, not chemicals and additives.

Single Ingredient Treats

Those of us in the Boston area have had a great source of single-ingredient dog treats for many years from Polkadog Bakery. Today, in addition to eight shops in the Greater Boston area, they

have a kitchen that makes Polkadog-branded treats on the Boston Fish Pier. These are available by mail order.

Your taste test might include dried cod skins, salmon chips, chicken strips, pork liver jerky, or dried silverside fish. With many distinct flavor options, you can avoid treat burnout when, in time, a high-value treat slips into medium-value territory.

You may have single-ingredient treats in your kitchen. Our

first Westie Sassy would cry for raw rutabaga. Weight control was always an issue with her, so we used crunchy carrots as a reward. Check the online lists of human foods that are safe for dogs and see if any of these fit into one or more of the treat levels as you get your taste tests underway.

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

B.H.S

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Councilors plan hearing to discuss increasing emergency services

Special to the Times

Boston City Councilor Gabriella Coletta and Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy will hold a hearing to discuss increasing emergency services on Wednesday, September 6, at 10 a.m. in the Iannella Chamber, Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall.

“My office has received numerous calls from constituents about concerns regarding emergency service staffing and resources. District One has seen an uptick in delayed medical emergency assistance with arrival times close to an hour after dispatch. Our city must grow responsibly and ensure we can provide adequate services to all residents, especially emergency services, so every resident has access to lifesaving care within minutes,” said Councilor Coletta. “I look forward to the upcoming hearing with EMS, BFD, BPD and members of the Wu Administration to collaboratively work in planning for our city’s growth,

which must coincide with planning for increased emergency services. Every second matters when it comes to saving lives.”

“A swift and timely response from medical personnel is crucial and, in some instances, lifesaving. Our EMS work tirelessly every day to respond to the medical needs of all of the residents in Boston, but they are not always able to respond as quickly as they need to across the City. By properly funding our Emergency Medical Services, and responding properly to growth in different areas of the City, this will ensure response times within minutes, which will save lives.” said Councilor Murphy.

The Councilors efforts underscore the urgency in supporting EMS with the resources needed to deliver high-quality care. During the hearing, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Boston Fire Department, Boston Police, and the Boston Planning and Development Agency will join to

discuss increasing Boston’s emergency services, particularly as the BPDA leads planning efforts for each neighborhood, while uplifting the incredible service and commitment our emergency service departments have led for our city.

Highlights of the Order Include: “WHEREAS, In January, Mayor Wu shared a vision for Boston to sustainably reach its peak population of 800,000 residents with the housing, schools, parks, and public transit to support that growth; and

WHEREAS, The current population of the City of Boston is more than 650,000, which would mean growing in population by 150,000 new residents; and

WHEREAS, Yet, there has been less focus on a plan to ensure there are adequate city services and infrastructure to absorb this growth responsibly. It is incumbent upon the City to review and analyze how this anticipated growth will impact our ability to provide basic

city services such as public safety responses under fire, police, and emergency services.; and

WHEREAS, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the City of Boston’s municipal ambulance service, caring for patients with clinical proficiency, professionalism and compassion. Member’s of Boston EMS answered the call for over 134,000 medical emergencies in 2022, serving residents across every neighborhood of the city. Our EMS responders also served admirably as frontline workers during the pandemic and deserve adequate support from the City; and

WHEREAS, On Friday, May 19, a Charlestown elderly woman was in need of assistance following a medical emergency. While Boston Fire services arrived around 15 minutes after an emergency call was made, Boston EMS arrived about an hour after they were dispatched. The delay resulted in delay of care; and

WHEREAS, The resident later found out EMS transport was coming from a different neighborhood because Charlestown’s ambulance was occupied with a different call. This incident highlights the necessity in assessing city service needs in tandem with investments in city growth; and

WHEREAS, Effective growth requires a holistic approach in how the city will invest in more resources to successfully support its growing number of citizens, particularly in instances of distress. We must ensure that we have the appropriate ratio EMS cars, equipment, and personnel to provide residents with appropriate, life-saving response times;”

The hearing will be held under the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, chaired by Councilor Michael Flaherty. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written or oral comments.

Fire officials emphasize safety for college students during the start of a new school year

As thousands of young adults make their way to Massachusetts colleges and universities, fire service leaders are reminding students and parents to be sure their living spaces have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and that they know two ways out in an emergency.

“In the weeks and months ahead, many young people will be living away from home here for the first time,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “We’re particularly concerned about off-campus housing because that’s where the data shows the greatest loss of life, but fire safety is vitally important whether you live in a dorm, apartment, single-family home, multifamily dwelling, sorority, or fraternity. Everyone should have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of their residence and know two ways out in an emergency.”

Hyannis Fire Chief Peter J. Burke, Jr, who serves as president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, echoed that message.

“If your rental doesn’t have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, insist on them,” said Chief Burke. “Landlords are required to provide them, but don’t spend a single night unprotected in the meantime. For the price of a pizza, you can go to a hardware store and pick up smoke and CO alarms that could save your life. Choose photoelectric smoke alarms with sealed, long-life batteries, and test

them once a month to be sure you’re protected. And if you hear that alarm, leave everything and get out right away. Waiting to evacuate or stopping to retrieve personal items increases your chances of being trapped.”

State Fire Marshal Davine said 2,608 fires occurred in student dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in Massachusetts between 2018 and 2022, causing six civilian injuries, 11 fire service injuries, and more than \$3 million in damages. He also noted that fire safety precautions should remain in place all through the year. Windows, doors, and stairways should always be clear of boxes, furniture, bicycles, and anything else that might hinder an escape. Fire doors should never be blocked or chocked open. And smoke and carbon monoxide alarms must remain operational all year long, as required by law.

“Never, ever disable a smoke alarm,” said Chief Burke. “Modern fires burn and spread faster than they did in past decades, and we have less time than ever before to escape a fire at home. Smoke alarms give you the warning you need to get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1.”

Working alarms, clear exit routes, and practicing a plan for using them are crucial for when a fire breaks out, but students can also take steps to prevent them from starting in the first place:

Smoking: There is no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don’t flick

them on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

Electrical: Always plug appliances such as air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don’t overload outlets with multiple devices.

Heating: Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

Cooking: Stand by your pan! Don’t leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Cook only when you’re alert, not when you’re drowsy or impaired.

Candles: Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

Lithium-Ion Batteries: Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries, and other devices on a hard and stable surface – never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If you can

do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call your local fire department.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

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ROUNDUP (from pg. 2)

raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: a 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); a 10K walk (from Newton); a Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and a Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to

raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

'JAZZ ALONG THE CHARLES' SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Celebrity Series of Boston opens its 2023/24 performance season with the return of "Jazz Along the Charles" - a free jazz event open to all, featuring more than 100 musicians in 25 local jazz ensembles, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. along the Esplanade (rain or shine). Lead sponsors for the event are the Esplanade Association and the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation.

Performances will be staged in a 1.5 mile loop from Community Boating Inc. along the Dr. Paul Dudley White Shared Use Path to the Esplanade paths around the Storrow Lagoon, past Fiedler Field and back along the Charles River.

Visit www.celebrityseries.org/jatc for more information.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead for the North Washington St. Bridge until September 2 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Installation of concrete bridge barriers and sidewalks
- Off-bridge utility work and cutover to permanent bridge
- Off-bridge approach barrier and curb work

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:

- Other Events: 8/19 at 6:30 p.m., 8/22 at 11:00 a.m., 8/23 at 3:00 p.m., and 9/2 at 7:00 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID - BELL TOWER RESTORATION

American Shim Gum Do Association 203 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02135, requests bids for the structural stabilization and masonry restoration of their belltower. The tower and the adjacent building are listed as a Historical Asset of the Commonwealth and are governed under a Preservation Restriction with both the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the City of Boston's Landmark Commission.

The project is being partially funded with grants from the City of Boston Community Preservation Act program

(CPA), the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other grant programs yet to be confirmed. All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc., 60 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970 and meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. A copy of the bidding documents may be obtained by writing or telephoning Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc. at the above address.

Pre-bid access and a pre-bid meeting will be held at American Buddhist Shim Gum Do Association at 203 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02135 Tuesday August 15, 2023. Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work in a timely manner, and references. All bids must be delivered to the Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc office at the above address prior September 1, 2023; to be eligible for consideration and all of the grant-funded work must be completed June 30, 2024. 8/10/23, 8/17/23, 8/24/23 BH

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Real Estate Transfers

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Ciampi, Mary | Hegarty, Michael | 361 Beacon St #1 | \$2,025,000 |
| Hoeck, James T | Hochman, Daniel J | 2 Clarendon St #706 | \$1,025,000 |
| Mako Nt | Unit 4 Marlborough 185 L | 185 Marlborough St #4 | \$5,200,000 |
| Stephen M Jenks Ft | Lafayette Square LLC | 400 Stuart St #16J | \$2,048,000 |
| Vogelzang, Daniel | Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC | 430 Stuart St #1601 | \$950,000 |
| Raffby T | Ts Residences Hld LLC | 430 Stuart St #29G | \$9,520,000 |
| Raffles Unit 30b LLC | Ts Residences Hld LLC | 430 Stuart St #30B | \$1,856,694 |
| Hegarty, Michael | Ciampi, Mary | 401 Beacon St #1B | \$1,100,000 |
| Damesek, Jayne | M Schwartz Lifetime Ft | 416 Marlborough St #203 | \$813,000 |
| BEACON HILL | | | |
| Neseralla, Jameson | Bond, Matthew P | 18 Garden St #4 | \$995,500 |
| Katherine M Majzoub Ft | Clifford, Timothy | 145 Pinckney St #123 | \$632,500 |
| Weatherford, Robert D | Stone, Jennifer | 19 Revere St #6 | \$614,500 |
| BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE | | | |
| Resor, Charles | Div Shawmut LLC | 100 Shawmut Ave #903 | \$2,232,000 |
| Leoutsakos, Nicholas | Bilican, Bilada | 16 Symphony Rd #5 | \$665,000 |
| Fitzgibbon, Sean P | Holland, Jeffrey R | 156 W Brookline St | \$5,800,000 |
| Lapalme, Nicholas | Mahoney, Christopher F | 25 Clark St #2 | \$825,000 |
| Krohn, David T | 103 Appleton St LLC | 103 Appleton St #3 | \$745,000 |
| Mercurio, Christopher | Chandler Realty LLC | 60 Chandler St #2 | \$2,660,000 |
| Boering, Kristie A | Duval, Tom | 8 Garrison St #311 | \$585,000 |
| Davis, Edward F | Hall, David P | 16 Gray St #6 | \$1,820,000 |
| G Randall Chamberlain RET | Chamberlain, Judith F | 1 Huntington Ave #204 | \$2,000,000 |
| Lapardis, Martha | Mone, Nell B | 38-40 Saint Botolph St #47 | \$489,000 |
| Alexandra Jelic Novak T | Panic, Milan | 188 Brookline Ave #20H | \$1,295,000 |
| Ross, Franklin | 3kwl Boston LLC | 188 Brookline Ave #70 | \$35,000 |
| Savage, Christine | Putnam 234 Associates LL | 234 Causeway St #1014 | \$688,250 |
| Prasad, Pranav S | Ckg Columbus LLC | 566 Columbus Ave #201 | \$213,700 |
| Yip, Chi C | Ckg Columbus LLC | 566 Columbus Ave #202 | \$326,000 |
| Jane A Brown Marital T | Ckg Columbus LLC | 566 Columbus Ave #314 | \$2,025,000 |
| Yang, Yun | Ckg Columbus LLC | 566 Columbus Ave #412 | \$850,000 |
| Marin, Sergio E | Mauro, Jordan | 405 Commonwealth Ave #10 | \$750,000 |
| Shi, Lan | Wang, Jing | 416 Commonwealth Ave #120 | \$595,000 |
| Drop Ship Logistics Inc | Mintz, Daniel | 22 E Springfield St #3 | \$630,000 |
| Ghoreishi, Seyede F | Huq, Najmul | 16 Miner St #601 | \$1,220,000 |
| Dopulos, Peter | Gavilanes, Matthew | 60 Queensberry St #B | \$535,000 |
| Aubuchon, Chloe D | Schoenberger, Michael A | 98 W Springfield St #1 | \$1,304,000 |
| Pereira-Kamath, Nikhil L | Yancheck, John M | 212 W Springfield St #2 | \$2,675,000 |
| Rubio, Priscila A | Gustafson, Erik K | 1411 Washington St #12A | \$412,000 |
| White, Cynthia E | Barrett, Jacqueline N | 1597 Washington St #610 | \$1,200,000 |
| Sareddy, Bhanuprakash | Sherbet, Eric | 9-11 Worcester Sq #3 | \$2,350,101 |
| WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN | | | |
| Emerson College | Pacs Rt | 2 Avery St #26E | \$5,250,000 |
| Nappa, Edward | 40 Battery Wharf Nt | 40 Battery St #304 | \$2,650,000 |
| Mentor, Christina | Kenny, Ryan | 406-418 Commercial St #6 | \$665,000 |

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The sculptural image in the last clue is on the Cambridge Street side of City Hall Plaza. A granite sculpture marks the place where, in 1875, "Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson first transmitted sound over wires." Bell later went on to invent the first usable telephone.

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



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NORTH END CELEBRATES THE FISHERMAN'S FEAST

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The historic neighborhood of Boston's North End celebrated the Fisherman's Feast. An annual event that began in 1910, it is a tradition that dates back to the 16th Century in Sciacca Sicily with

fishermen honoring the Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady Of Help). The Madonna del Soccorso statue is led through the streets of the North End with music, food and celebration abound.



Claudia and Jerry, owners of Spagnolio's, with Madonna del Soccorso Society members after putting a ribbon on the statue.



The North End Marching Band appear in Pagliuca restaurant on Parmenter Street to perform to unsuspecting diners.



Adriana DeStefano, owner of Cafe Paradiso with Madonna del Soccorso Society member Jimmy Bono Geany Street putting a ribbon on the statue.



The Madonna del Soccorso statue is brought down Hanover Street.

NEMO brings CFA show to MetroWest on August 27

What do community organizer and radio talk show host Ron Bell and Boston Globe travel writer and columnist Christopher Muther have in common? On Sunday, August 27, the answer will be CATS!

Both men are guest judges for an event that's always the highlight of New England Meow Outfit, Inc's (NEMO) annual cat show – the Cat and Owner Costume Contest! The contest celebrates the human-animal bond in a most a-mewsing way: Participants and their cats in coordinated (or otherwise related) outfits will slowly parade past the two judges, each of whom will select a different winning pair to receive a \$40 Petsmart gift card. Russell Webb, allbreed judge and Vice President of the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA), will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. It's all part of a two-day cat show being held at The VERVE Hotel Boston, 1360 Worcester Street, in Natick, August 26 and 27. (Costume contest participants must be entered in the cat show in order to compete.)

Bell is a prominent community organizer and activist from Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood. He is also a tireless advocate for social justice, best known as the founder of the Dunk the Vote organization, which focuses on increasing participation and voter

turnout. He is affiliated with Boston Black News and co-hosts the Morning Crew radio show on WBPG-LP 102.9 FM Radio.

Muther is a travel writer and columnist for the Globe, a part-time DJ and a full-time feline enthusiast. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, he formerly covered fashion and style for the G section of the Globe and served as an Adjunct Professor at Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

The contest is just one small part of the cat show, which is expected to bring together over 100 cats and over 30 pedigreed breeds, as well as a clowder of household pets. Eight professional judges affiliated with the Cat Fanciers' Association (the world's oldest and largest registry of pedigreed cats) will present and evaluate the cats for awards. Pedigreed cats will be judged based on their breed standard, which details the "perfect" example of each breed – for example, head shape, body length, coat quality, and color. Household pets are judged on an individual level – their looks, personality, and grooming come heavily into play. Any cat may be entered in this class – it is very inclusive and fun to watch.

Breeders will be on hand to meet spectators and help them learn about the different breeds.

Vendors of cat-related articles will also be on hand for your shopping pleasure, and a raffle will offer visitors a chance to win everything from cat trees to jewelry to wine.

For kids, there's even a stuffed animal contest with prizes, held on Saturday afternoon. Also on Saturday afternoon, Show Manager Iris Zinck (who is a CFA affiliated judge) will conduct the Kitty Playoffs, a contest to determine the most playful cat or kitten entered in the show.

Area cat lovers are welcome to enter their own cats (by August 21) so they can participate in the show, too. Kittens and Household Pets can be entered without a registration number, but all others must obtain a number from CFA. (More info at <https://cfa.org/blog/events/new-england-meow-outfit-aug23/>)

Spectators are welcome throughout the event, which runs from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children under 12, and those under 5 are FREE!!

Advance tickets are highly recommended due to limited capacity!

Tickets are available via: <https://nemocatshow.ticketleap.com/dont-miss-bostons-only-cfa-cat-show>.

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