



NOVEMBER 30, 2023

# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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

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Irene Shwachman, 'The West End. 18th and 19th Century Buildings,' 1959, courtesy of the Boston Athenaeum.

## Lecture at Athenaeum explores evolution of West End over past nearly 400 years

By Dan Murphy

For his sold-out lecture on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Boston Athenaeum, Bob Potenza, the curatorial manager for the West End Museum, will discuss how that neighborhood has changed and evolved over the course of the last nearly 400 years.

In 1625, William Blaxton (surname alternately spelled 'Blackstone') first settled where the West End is located today. He was soon joined by Puritan settlers during their great migration to Boston, which took place roughly between 1630 and 1640, said Potenza ahead of his 'The West End: 400 Years of Urban Development' lecture.

As the Puritans took a closer

look at the West End, however, they soon realized its geography, in close proximity to the three steep hills that then comprised the Beacon Hill neighborhood, and the Mill Cove, a tidal basin of the Charles River, was less than inviting. The Puritans subsequently opted to settle on the east side of the Shawmut Peninsula, near Boston Harbor and a supply of fresh water.

"The West End became an industrial area because the Puritans thought it was like the outskirts of town," said Potenza.

Early industry in the West End started in 1643 with the damming of Mill Cove, which soon became home to two mills amid copper works; distilleries; and numerous ropewalks – specialized buildings

where rope was manufactured.

The West End was also "more spacious" in that the area could accommodate more space for buildings, said Potenza, so the area was transformed into an industrial zone with little settlement. And as several bridges across the Charles River were built, the West End opened up as a gateway to the city, especially along Cambridge Street, added Potenza.

In 1807, the decision was made to fill in Mill Pond, said Potenza, since the mills had by then closed while the pond itself became a stagnant pool filled with industrial waste and discarded animal carcasses.

It subsequently took around

(WEST END Pg. 9)

## North Washington Street Bridge nearing completion

By Times Staff

The end of construction seems to be coming into sight for the new North Washington Street Bridge. The project that has taken several years, and is years beyond the original completion date, is entering a significant milestone when vehicular pedestrian traffic will be relocated from the temporary bridge to the permanent bridge on the east side by next Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023.

Department of Transportation official John Romano announced the news at the November meeting of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council.

DOT officials laid out the work that has been completed by November 2023 that include:

- Cracked welds repaired
- All structural steel is installed
- Waterproofing of the bridge

deck

100% of concrete deck placements are completed

100% of the permanent utilities are installed and completed

Most concrete sidewalks are completed

The upcoming work to be completed in December 2023, includes:

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will move from the temporary bridge to the east side of the permanent bridge.

The left turn land inbound to Commercial Street off the bridge will remain open.

Demolition and removal of the temporary bridge to begin once all traffic has been shifted to the new bridge.

Lovejoy Walkway beneath the bridge will not be constructed or open until the end of the project in

(NO. WASHINGTON BRIDGE Pg. 5)

## Try a chew on this, at Charles Street Supply

By Susanne Beck

Take a walk down Beacon Hill's Charles Street today and it would seem the pandemic never happened. Cafes and restaurants are filled. Sidewalks are bustling, often with tourists taking in history or checking out some of the many boutiques that populate small storefronts.

But for the most discerning street regulars and observant Hill residents, before early September,

(GUM MACHINE Pg. 4)



Gum machine at Charles St. Supply.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### COMM AVE MALL HOLIDAY LIGHTS TO BE ILLUMINATED ON THURSDAY, NOV. 30

The Friends of the Public Garden is working with the community once again to produce Holiday Lights on the Mall. When Mayor Michelle Wu and Friends President Liz Vizza join with the Boston Parks Department to flip the switch on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m., the lights will stretch from Arlington Street to Kenmore Square.

The Nov. 30 celebration will immediately follow the lighting of the Boston Common holiday tree and will take place on the Arlington-Berkeley Street block of the Mall. Cocoa and cookies will be provided by The Newbury Boston, and all are welcome.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Charlesgate Alliance will once again bring their signature green lights to the Charlesgate Park block of the Mall.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. will offer "Exploring Sephardic Culture" on Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13, and 20, and Jan. 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Explore the history of Sephardic Jews through music, film, and literature. Experiment with the ancient Jewish language of Ladino, spoken by Jews in Spain and throughout the Ottoman Empire beginning in the 15th century. No background experience is required.

Additionally, The Vilna will offer "American Jewish Women in

Television" on Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, and Jan. 10 and 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

During this course, which costs \$120 per participant, attendees will analyze the ways in which contemporary American television is establishing a new take on Jewish female identity that challenges the stereotypes of Jewish femininity proliferated on television since its inception. Register online at [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).

The Vilna will also offer "A Meeting of The Arts: Live Guitar and Contemporary Dance for 20s/30s" on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of music, dance, and art celebrating the mysterious Catalan Mahzor, a 14th century Jewish illuminated manuscript from Spain. This program is offered in partnership with Boston Festival of New Jewish Music and features guitarist Ira Klein, dancer Rachel Linsky, and instrumentalist Beth Bahia Cohen. Admission is \$18 per person; register online at [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).

Additionally, The Vilna will offer its sixth annual Hanukkah A Cappella Concert on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

This special community event features a wide range of exceptional university groups from across the city and is truly a multigenerational concert experience. All are welcome. Admission is \$10 per person or \$25 per family; register at [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).

Moreover, The Vilna will offer Happy Hour on the Hill on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$18 per person; register at [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).

In addition, The Vilna will offer

its Hanukkah Celebration for Families with Young Children on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Admission is \$25 per family; register at [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).

For more information on The Vilna Shul, visit [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org) or call 617-523-2324.

### GIBSON HOUSE REPEAL DAY CELEBRATION, DEC. 1

Gibson House Museum at 137 Beacon St. will host its Etiquette's 12th annual Repeal Day Celebration on Friday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Eagerly awaited by cognoscenti who love historic preservation, Victoriana, cocktail culture, and Perfect Propriety, and proudly sponsored by Rhode Island Spirits, Etiquetteur Robert B. Dimmick's Repeal Day Celebration returns for a 12th year to the museum. Any time Kirsten "Miss Kitty" Amann is behind the speakeasy bar is a special event, but 2023 is also the 90th anniversary of prohibition's repeal, so count on an extra-special evening of celebrating.

Admission is \$90 per guest, with all proceeds benefiting the preservation of the Gibson House Museum. Period attire is encouraged. Register at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/events>.

### KING'S CHAPEL TO SPONSOR 'ADVENT CRAFTS' ON DEC. 3

King's Chapel invites neighbors to participate in its annual "Advent Crafts," where participants decorate cookies, make wreaths, and

### REMEMBERING COCONUT GROVE



PHOTO BY PATRICK O. CONNOR

Former Mayor Ray Flynn (speaking), Mayor Michelle Wu and City Councilor President Ed Flynn were the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Coconut Grove memorial in the Back Bay on Sunday, November 26 that is near the site of the nightclub tragedy that claimed the lives of 490 people on the night of Sunday, November 28, 1942.

create ornaments, on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at 64 Beacon St.. This will be a great opportunity for all-age craft fun. Email questions to [assistant.minister@kings-chapel.org](mailto:assistant.minister@kings-chapel.org).

### THE WEST END MUSEUM'S HONOREE NIGHT SET FOR DEC. 8

The West End Museum will be holding its 2023 Honoree Night on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at The Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway Street (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

Every year, the museum honors a few people who have made

meaningful and lasting contributions to the neighborhood and the city, including this year's recipient: Richie Hartnett, Claudia and Stephen Edgell, and Cathleen Griffin. Light refreshments will be served.

### YOUNG FRIENDS WINTER PARTY SET FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 8 AT 8 PARK ST.

The Young Friends of the Public Garden will hold its Young Friends Winter Party on Friday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at 8 Park St., fifth floor.

Enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres overlooking the holiday lights in the #threeparks. Gather with friends, meet new ones, and

**HOLIDAY  
POP-UP  
BOOKSHOP**

## BOSTON ATHENÆUM

**Saturday, December 2  
1pm-4pm**

Join Athenæum librarians for a review of this season's best books. Enjoy refreshments and cookies while you shop for your holiday gifts.

Gift wrapping will be available.

Enter the red doors at  
10½ Beacon Street  
[bostonathenaeum.org](http://bostonathenaeum.org)

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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

spread festive cheer at this annual celebration benefiting our continued care and maintenance of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

It's holiday time, so come dressed to dazzle; no sneakers, jeans, or athletic attire will be permitted inside the venue.

Ticket cost \$95 each and include two drink tickets and passed hors d'oeuvres. VIP tickets include four drink tickets, passed hors d'oeuvres, and two raffle tickets.

Visit <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2023/11/07/winter-party/> to purchase tickets and for more information on the event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

The Nichols House Museum will sponsor its annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour on Sunday, Dec. 10, from noon to 4 p.m.

Guests will have the rare opportunity to experience a select group of remarkable private residences at their festive best. Each year, the tour showcases outstanding examples of historic preservation, as well as creative modern interpretations and adaptations in a broad range of architectural and interior design styles throughout Beacon Hill.

For this day full of music and cheer, the museum at 55 Mt. Vernon St. will be open for self-guided tours for guests to experience historically inspired holiday traditions. Throughout the day there will be strolling performances by the Olde Towne Carolers. Solo performances on piano will be held at the King's Chapel Parish House and the William Hickling Prescott House, headquarters of the National Society of Colonial

Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Holiday House Tour reception will be held at the Kings Chapel Parish House from 3 to 5 pm.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Nichols House Museum's offices at 617-227-6993.

Also, the Nichols House Museum will kick off the holiday season with its traditional Eggnog Party on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 55 Mt. Vernon St.

Drop by for a cup of cheer and get a sneak peek at the museum's historically inspired holiday decorations. In honor of Arthur and Margaret Nichols' passion for handbell ringing, the Back Bay Ringers will be performing. Sponsors of the Holiday House Tour receive complimentary tickets to the Eggnog Pre-Party. Nichols House Museum Members have access to discounted tickets. Patron Members are free. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eggnog-pre-party-tickets-752100822807?aff=oddtcreator> to purchase tickets for the event.

## JOIN THE HIDDEN GALLERY FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND A CUP OF COCOA

The Hidden Art Gallery at 25 Myrtle St. will offer a warming cup of hot chocolate as you peruse the holiday and seasonal artwork for sale on weekend days, including Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 2 and 3; Dec. 9 and 10; and Dec 16. Hours are on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Greeting cards, prints, small paintings, and watercolors, are offered for unique gift giving this year. Enjoy shopping in person and feel the warmth of the holiday

## SKATING ON COMMON'S FROG POND OPENS



CREDIT: D. MURPHY

*The Frog Pond on the Boston Common kicked off its skating season on the morning of Nov. 27. Managed by the Skating Club of Boston in a public-private partnership with the city, the Frog Pond offers year-round, family activities, including the 2023-24 skating season, which runs through March, as the Frog Pond's summer spray pool and its historic carousel. Visit [bostonfrogpond.com](http://bostonfrogpond.com) for more information. Meanwhile, the Frog Pond Skating Spectacular is set for held tonight Thursday, Nov. 30, at 5 p.m., ahead of the 82nd annual lighting of the Boston Common tree at 6 p.m.*

spirit with a cup of cocoa as you discover some of the stories in the creation of the artwork.

## PLAN AHEAD BY SHOPPING FOR GOOD AT J. MCLAUGHLIN.

Shop J. McLaughlin at 34 Charles St. for Holiday Gifts on Saturday, Dec. 16, and your shopping will also benefit the New England Musicians Resource Fund, a non-profit formed in 2020 and dedicated to helping professional musicians. Stop by J. McLaughlin then for shopping, festive sips, music, and good cheer, with 15 percent of sales made from noon to 4 p.m. to benefit NEMRF, as well as your holiday gift recipients. For more about NEMRF, visit [www.nemrf.org](http://www.nemrf.org).

## GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Gibson House Museum at 137 Beacon St. will offer its annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come see the Gibson House decorated in all its finery, and experience 19th-century Christmas. Light seasonal refreshments will be served, and select rooms will be open for viewing. The event is free to attend, and no reservation is necessary.

## COFFEE HOURS FOR CITY'S BEACON HILL-BACK BAY NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Maggie Van Scoy, the city's

neighborhood liaison for Beacon Hill and Back Bay, will hold Coffee Hours on Friday, Dec. 29, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the West End Branch Library.

## 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](mailto:artedeman@gmail.com)) or Julia Forbes ([jmaforbes@gmail.com](mailto:jmaforbes@gmail.com)).

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Volunteers Needed for Holiday Decorating!

The holidays are upon us, and once again the BHCA will be organizing the decorating of the 1,100 gas lamps on the Hill, thanks to the generosity of our neighbors. Please respond to the flyer you've received in the mail with your availability to volunteer and sponsor a pole or two! We will meet at the BHCA (74 Joy Street) on Saturday, December 2, at 9am, where you can pick up your wreaths and bows. We'll also show you how to hang the wreaths. We'll repeat this on Sunday and work as long as needed.

We hope for good weather so that we can complete all the poles that weekend! Call the office (617-227-1922) if you have any questions.

### Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

Holiday Decorating – Saturday/Sunday, December 2 and 3.

Zoning & Licensing – Wednesday, December 6, 6pm via Zoom

Board of Directors – Monday, December 11, 7pm

Architecture Committee – Monday, December 18, 5:30pm via Zoom

Contact the BHCA at [info@bhca.org](mailto:info@bhca.org)

[bhca.org](http://bhca.org) for details on any of these activities or to sign up as a volunteer.

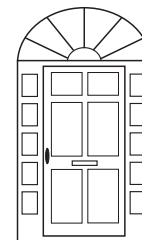
### Join the BHCA!

We invite you to join our growing membership of friends - young and old - who are contributing to make life better on the Hill. Your membership allows us to continue our efforts to preserve our unique and historic neighborhood, and your voice adds strength and credibility to our mission as advocates for Beacon Hill residents. Join or renew your membership today at [bhca.org](http://bhca.org) or by calling us at 617-227-1922!

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# EDITORIAL

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."  
-- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historically record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job. To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. One in eight households (12.8 percent) experience food insecurity, defined as the lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in these households. A recent Feeding America survey found that 80% of network food banks reported either increased or steady demand for emergency food services, with almost 35% of responding food banks reporting an increase in the number of people they serve.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold. Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston (most notably at the infamous Mass. and Cass intersection in the South End). Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.



Jack Gurnon of Charles Street Supply.

### GUM MACHINE (from pg. 1)

something still seemed off -- or at least missing.

Jack Gurnon, second generation owner of the beloved Charles Street Supply, sheepishly admits those people were right -- and that he was to blame.

Over the years, Gurnon's hardware store has developed a well-deserved reputation and a bit of a following for its unusual window displays (thanks to the design talents of Gurnon's wife Cassie), as well as its abundance of product, inside the store (close to 24,000 inventory units) and especially, out. Short of a hurricane, the colorful sidewalk displays have been as reliable as the sunrise, teeming daily with seasonal selections that appeal to all ages, from swim noodles and water pistols in the summer, to shovels and sleds and salt in the winter. COVID forced a pause on all of it, of course, but soon enough the spectacle was back.

Well, most of it.

Until some recent nagging from a bereft customer (in full disclosure: this reporter was that nag), Gurnon had neglected to put back in place one of the most cherished and certainly most colorful features of his sidewalk display: the oversized gumball machine. When asked about the oversight, the shopkeeper fumbled for an explanation. "Um, er, um," followed by some good-natured laughter. Pressed further, with an offer to buy the machine, and reinstall it elsewhere, Gurnon insisted, "I couldn't do that." Another chuckle. "My wife would kill me."

With that statement came a

promise: "I will clean it up and get it back on the street." Really? Yes, really.

A bit of history as to how this all came about. Gurnon can't remember the exact year -- maybe 1990? -- when he and Cassie were attending a three-day Ace Hardware event. They stepped into the conference center on the first day, only to be greeted by an array of gumball machines, not to sample but to buy. Cassie responded like any reasonable adult would, with a look in her eyes that said "let's!" As Gurnon remembers it, "I said, no, I'm not buying it. That's crazy. She was on me for the next three days."

On the last day, Gurnon was approached by an ACE representative. "He calls me over and goes, 'look, your wife's been asking you for three days to buy a gumball machine. What can I do to get it in your store?'" Gurnon's answer: ACE-provided gumballs whenever he needed them. "So I bought the gumball machine and put it outside and sure enough, it was a huge hit. I thought it was gonna be a huge hit with little kids. But it's everybody, [including] young women walking to work, which is so funny."

Since then, the machine has continued to entertain -- and delight. After plunking down somewhere between \$400 and \$500 for the equipment, Gurnon has been thrilled to discover that his initial investment has more than paid for itself. "Fifty times over," he chirps. Bulk-buy gumballs run between four and six cents apiece and sell for a quarter, a healthy margin and

possibly, one of the most lucrative items in the store's wide-ranging inventory.

One employee even used it to improve his dating life. "One of my employees was this handsome young guy in his twenties," Gurnon recalls. "I said, take [the machine] apart, clean it, and put it back together." The staffer filled the bottom of the orb, that was hidden from view, with yellow gumballs only. "So this guy was brilliant," Gurnon continues. "He mixed up the rest of the colors in the clear dome so you could see them. One day I'm watching him, and this cute girl walks up to the gumball machine and she goes to put a quarter. He runs outside and goes, 'wait a minute. I have a premonition about the color of your gumball.' He goes, if I can guess the color of your gumball, will you have coffee with me? She goes, yeah, sure." Gurnon still cackles at the memory. "Sure enough, yellow comes up. And from there on, he was pretty busy."

The machine has been restocked plenty of times since then -- in the more traditional mixed-up kind of way -- not to mention replaced twice, the first time when the original machine fell down the basement stairs while being stored for the winter. But the appeal remains meaning passers-by and shoppers, alike, can enjoy even a brief child-like thrill of guessing the color of their ball and the initial gush of sugar that comes with the first bite.

All for a quarter.

**CLARIFICATION:** Regarding 'BHAC denies request for enlarged garage door on rear façade of 46 Beacon St.' -- a story published in last week's edition of this publication -- a concern raised by Charlotte Thibodeau, among others, pertained to the potential precedent in the neighborhood that could be set by creating a new garage door opening as proposed via enlarging two existing openings in the building's rear façade, since Beacon Hill Architectural Commission guidelines don't specifically allow for the creation of new penetrations in building facades.

Also, on the side façade (the east elevation), the commission voted to deny both three new proposed window openings in the "block" of unpenetrated, blank façade determined to be visible from the street, as well as the removal and reconfiguration of the former connection to the mid-20th century squash court for the property, now a private residence at 8 Spruce Court. Last week's story erroneously stated that these two petitions were denied without prejudice, rather than a straight denial as was the case in both instances.

## NORTH WASHINGTON BRIDGE (from pg. 1)

Fall 2024.

The new bridge will be fully open to traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists in December 2024 with a project closeout in March, 2025.

District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta after the meeting said, “I’m pleased to see incremental progress and graduation from the use of the temporary bridge. I’ll still be advocating for the safety of all pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists as the project continues. We still encourage individuals to reach out to MassDOT and the offices of both the North End and Charlestown delegation should there be issues.”

The Construction look-ahead through December 9 includes:

Traffic and Pedestrian Shift to East Portion of New Bridge

- Beginning the morning of Saturday, December 9, 2023, all vehicle and pedestrian traffic will move to the east portion of the new bridge. The shift will be completed by the evening of Saturday December 9.

- The pedestrian sidewalk will be located on the east portion of the new bridge.

- Signs will be mounted to request that bicyclists dismount and walk their bikes along the

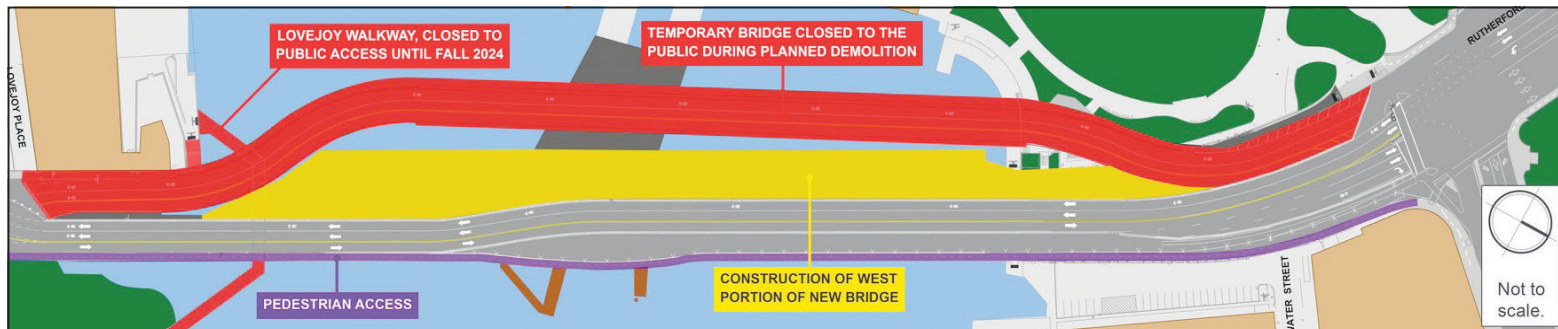


PHOTO COURTESY MASSDOT

pedestrian path as there is no bike lane during this stage of construction.

- After the weekend traffic shift, MassDOT will begin the process of demolishing the temporary bridge on Monday, December 11 in preparation for construction of the western portion of the new bridge.

- Please see the image below for more information.

- Scheduled Work**
- Off-bridge approach barrier and sidewalk work
  - Off-bridge utility work and cutovers to permanent bridge
  - Temporary line striping

**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 when traffic shifts onto the new bridge 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 and eventually the east portion of the new 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:

- BRUINS: Nov. 30 at 7 p.m., Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

- CELTICS: Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Potential tournament games (locations and times TBA): Dec. 4, 5, 6 and 8.

- OTHER EVENTS: Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 6 at 8 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.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us.

# DOYLE

Auctioneers & Appraisers

## Boston Consignment Day

Monday, December 4

Our Specialists will be collecting Jewelry, Watches, Art, Silver and more for auction consignment or outright purchase. Please contact us to schedule a private in-person or virtual appointment

Information & Appointments  
 Kathryn Craig & Chris Barber  
 Boston@Doyle.com  
 617-999-8254



Pair of Platinum and Diamond Flower Fringe Earclips. Est. \$20,000 – 30,000.  
 The Irving Berlin Platinum, Sapphire and Diamond Ring. Est. \$200,000 – 400,000. Auction December 14.

# BHCA HOLDS 'THE SHINDIG' AT THE UMASS CLUB

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) Young Friends gathered for cocktails, light bites, and dancing above the Boston skyline for The Shindig at the UMass Club on November 10.



Melanie Bertani and Patricia Tully, BHCA Executive Director, drinking champagne at the welcome desk



Laura and Chris Sands



Margaret Nubuor and Tara Opalinski



Kristin and Dave Pawlowski



Caroline Federer and Robert Craven



Rory Hanrahan, Morgan Michelson, and Adam Goulet.



Harris Rosenhein, Maggie O'Connell, Jessica Baldasaro, Caroline Federer, Drew and Ellie Bard, and Matthew Ostrow.

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Friends gathering for "The Shindig," a Beacon Hill Civic Association Young Friends social event at the UMass Club on November 10.

# BHCA HOLDS 'THE SHINDIG' AT THE UMASS CLUB

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Young Friends "The Shindig" Committee: Courtney Colonese, Paola Rossetti, Alex De Oliveira, and Richelle Gewertz.



Courtney Colonese, Kristin and Dave Pawlowski, Kennedy Lavour, and Rachel Subl



Courtney Colonese hugging Kristin Pawlowski

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## BEACON HILL WOMEN'S FORUM HOSTS GUEST SPEAKER MARINA CAPPI

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Marina Cappi is sharp, resilient, and assertive. After graduating from Suffolk University with a degree in finance, she became a commercial real estate broker in her hometown of Rochester, New York; and transitioned into the construction business. Cappi then launched into her current career path: the film industry.

"If you tell me I can't do something, I'm going to do it," Cappi chuckled affirmatively. "It's about believing in yourself. You make it work. Nothing good happens easily."

Cappi is one of the few women in America to own and manage a movie studio, and was the executive producer of the biopic, "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody."

The CEO and Founder of Marina Studios described her rise in the movie industry and her experiences behind the scenes (such as housing Liam Neeson for a few months during filming because he preferred her home to the Mandarin Oriental hotel) during the Beacon Hill Women's Forum, on Novem-

ber 14, at The Hampshire House.

Early in Cappi's career, she discovered the importance of establishing an ambitious network of people, having the fortitude to think creatively, and developing the ability to accept criticism. Her resolute doggedness has motivated Cappi to achieve when those around her doubted.

"Out of all the incredible things that happen throughout your life, sometimes things point you in the right direction; and sometimes it feels like everything is against you," said 35-year-old Cappi, a single mother of 4-year-old twins. "You can still make it work."

Cappi transformed an abandoned warehouse in Quincy's Marina Bay into a state-of-the-art sound stage and movie studio. In partnership with Compelling Pictures and Sony Pictures, (and with Massachusetts's tax friendly incentives), Cappi produced "Whitney" as her first film at Marina Studios. Cappi also collaborated with Whitney Houston's family and record producer, Clive Davis.

"I love who I worked with," Cappi shared. "Some of those people became the greatest friends I've

ever had.

Between bustling to London or Los Angeles – where she built a second production studio – Cappi loves returning to Boston, where she can spend time with family, and enjoy the proximity to Cape Cod and Vermont.

"A lot of producers and directors feel that our landscape can go many different ways in two hours," noted Cappi, a Hingham

resident. "One of the leading reasons our tax credit became permanent was because we draw an incredible diversity here."

Although Hollywood is demanding and challenging, Cappi believes that if someone can raise children, he or she can make a movie. She compared managing construction projects to producing a film.

"I used to get a building plan, a budget, I hired unions, and I built a building," explained Cappi, who studied at the Paris Graduate School of Management. "Now I get a script, a budget, I hire unions, and I make a movie. It is the exact same thing."

Cappi's grandfather, who also

(BHWF Pg. 9)



Norah Lawrence, Programs Co-Director, and Richelle Gewertz, Connections Co-Director.



Lorie Conway, Programs Co-Director, Marina Cappi, CEO and Founder, Marina Studios, and Lisa Macalaster, BHWF Founder/Co-President.



Diane Jensen, Perla Fernandez, Secretary, Neighborhood Narrative speaker, Samantha Deuso, of Gus & Ruby Letterpress, and Ellen Comerford.



Kelly O'Malley, new member, and Marguerite Smit.



Rachel Von Nieda and Betty Murrey.



Karen Cosgrove, Donna Hellman, and Amy Katz, new member.



Suzanne Isenberg, Cindy Sullivan, Beverly Bansil.



Christy Milner, Membership Director, and Leanne Chase, welcoming guests.



Katherine Kennedy, Bella D'Ascoli, new member, Colleen Casey, new member, Kate Mealing, new member.



**BHWF** (from pg. 8)

worked in the construction businesses, was her greatest influence. “My grandfather was the love of my life and my biggest tutor,” Cappi said. “Even though he passed away just after college, he taught me everything I know from construction to ‘if they tell you no, do it anyway.’” Now Cappi’s aspirations involve what she can create for her children’s future. She hopes

to build studios throughout the world, and provide continuous, stable jobs. Her next project features Anthony Hopkins in the thriller, “Locked.” “I feel like everything I have learned from college to now guides me in a different way,” acknowledged Cappi. “All those little steps end up being why you are where you are.”



Cindy Sullivan, Sarah Hidey, and Wendy Oleksiak.



Diane Rooney and Wendy Hudson, new member.



Marina Cappi, CEO and Founder, Marina Studios.

**WEST END** (from pg. 1)

20 years to fill in Mill Pond, said Potenza, with some of the fill coming from the lowering of Beacon Hill, which subsequently “flattened” the Hill so more homes could be built in that neighborhood.

As a “chief alderman” for the City of Boston at that time, Charles Bulfinch was involved in this process of infilling the West End, and as a pioneering architect, he would also design the new area which would become ‘Bulfinch Triangle,’ said Potenza.

The West End would then go on to become what Potenza describes as one of the “largest and most diverse” immigrant neighborhoods of its time.

Tenement housing was “very important” to the evolving West End neighborhood, said Potenza, as “tenements eventually became a symbol of slums.” And this stigmatization of tenement housing subsequently helped pave the way for urban renewal in the neighborhood in the 1950s and ‘60s.

While the West End was originally abandoned by the Puritans as an unfit place to live, its proximity to the Charles River and downtown Boston would make the neighborhood desirable place for living by the middle of the 20th century.

Potenza’s discussion will additionally touch on the demolition of buildings and relocation of residents that came with urban renewal. He will recount how former West Enders organized to help “win” property back from Charles River Associates, the owner of Charles River Place, to get West End Place built. Potenza describes the construction of West End Place, which is now home to the West End Museum, as “really symbolic of old West Enders returning to the neighborhood.”

“It was a big win for them getting a space for the museum in the early 1990s,” he said. Meanwhile, Potenza describes of the “underlying theme” of both his lecture and a new permanent exhibit that will be unveiled when the West End Museum reopens in March is to “create awareness that development is constant, and that people need to be aware of what’s happening in their community, if they want to have a say in what happens [there].”

In anticipation of Potenza’s lecture, Sebastian Belfanti, executive director of the West End Museum, wrote in an email: “WEM is very happy to collaborate with the Athenaeum on their ‘Developing Boston’ exhibit and to provide programs in support of it. It’s wonderful to have them giving West End

history greater visibility.”

Potenza’s lecture is the latest of several programs offered by the Athenaeum in conjunction with its “Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott and Irene Shwachman Photograph A Changing City” – an exhibit running now through Dec. 30 in the Athenaeum’s Calderwood Gallery. (Visit [bostonatheneum.com](http://bostonatheneum.com) for more information.)

During the mid-20th century, two photographers, Abbott and Shwachman, captured Boston’s developing landscape. Abbott, an acclaimed photographer, produced a 1934 photographic survey of Boston’s 19th-century buildings, and 25 years later, Shwachman, a lesser-known yet crucial city chronicler, began “The Boston Document” (1959–1968) – a self-directed photographic series that chronicled Boston’s redevelopment, according to Lauren Graves, curator of this exhibit, as well as the Athenaeum’s assistant curator.

“Photographing at different times in Boston’s history, Abbott and Shwachman’s series each explores ways of viewing, dissecting, and preserving Boston. ‘Developing Boston’ invites visitors to

explore Boston’s past, present, and future, and find their place within the city,” wrote Graves.

Next up for programs offered in conjunction with the ongoing ‘Developing Boston’ exhibit is ‘Photographic Coordinates: The Geographies of Abbott and Shwachman’s Boston,’ set for Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Athenaeum. At this time, Garrett Dash Nelson, president and head curator of the Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library, will “examine both how the sites captured by these photographers did (and did not) cover the various spatialities of midcentury Boston and share historic map collections, which put this moment of urban change into its geographic context,” wrote Graves.

The Athenaeum welcomes people of all abilities; email [events@bostonatheneum.org](mailto:events@bostonatheneum.org) with any questions.

To register for and to learn more about the Athenaeum’s upcoming lecture, ‘Photographic Coordinates: The Geographies of Abbott and Shwachman’s Boston,’ visit <https://community.bostonatheneum.org/s/events?event=a2K8a-0000077kVG..>

**BEACON HILL BEAT**

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**Assault**

11/27/2023 - At around 4:30 p.m., police responded to Beacon and Charles streets for a random assault.

When officers spoke with the victim, he stated that an unknown suspect had randomly punched him. The victim gave a detailed description of the sus-

pect, and shortly afterwards, an individual matching the suspect’s description was detained. The victim was able to positively identify this individual as the suspect. The suspect was subsequently placed under arrest for assault and battery on an elder person.

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### CITY PAWS

# Holiday temptations

by Penny & Ed Cherubino

The last thing you want included in the holiday season is an emergency veterinary visit. The weeks ahead are busy for everyone. Meanwhile, your animals face more temptations from visitors, decorations, celebratory food, holiday events, and less watchful guardians. Those with a new furry companion may not know that critters can decide to eat items we might not see as dangerous.

#### Shopping Notes

When you shop, take note of possible dangers for your cat or dog. Perhaps the rest of the year, you don't put a bowl of candy on

an end table or hang cookies on a tree.

String and ribbon are a particular danger to cats. They could end up in surgery if they swallow it. Emergency veterinarians talk about the items they've removed from canine digestive systems. Socks, pacifiers, and small toys are common problems.

Consider dangers from the toys you purchase for your pets and take a good look at anything someone gives them as a holiday gift. Some toys may be dangerous if left alone within the animal's reach.

Your cat may adore playing with a feather on a string toy. This toy can be safe when you actively supervise the play and examine



(PHOTO BY JAMIE STREET)

*If a visitor walks your dog, remind them that a stick, even this large, can be dangerous if a piece is swallowed while chewing.*

the toy for any weak spots. Anything that can be pulled apart and swallowed might cause a blockage.

A dog's interaction with toys and the danger posed depends on the animal's size and the vitality of their chewing. Our Westie Poppy doesn't tear stuffed animals apart but is hard on chew toys. Our experience with small terriers is that they can destroy a regular Kong toy but not the Kong Extreme designed for the hardest chewers.

#### Visitors and Gatherings

The lack of group celebrations during the pandemic may have made us less aware of how visitors can add to the possibility of exposing our pets to items they've not seen, smelled, or been tempted with before.

A handbag or coat pocket left within reach could contain something as simple as sugarless gum, mints, or candy your dog might ingest. These products often contain xylitol. The FDA says that if your dog eats this artificial sweetener, "...the consequences could be deadly." They warn, "If you think your dog may have eaten a product containing xylitol, call your vet, emergency clinic, or animal poison control center right away."

Guests might slip your animal a tasty tidbit from their plate or bring a treat or toy that's not appropriate for your cat or dog. We don't give our dog wheat treats since those can cause skin problems in Westies. If someone offers an unknown biscuit to Poppy, we give them one of our oatmeal treats instead.

#### Festive Settings

Holiday wreaths, trees, and

plants can also interest dogs and cats. For the most part, plants that are labeled toxic are not necessarily deadly. For example, poinsettia is irritating, can cause discomfort and vomiting, and should be out of reach of pets. On the other hand, a piece of a broken glass ornament could damage the mouth and GI system if ingested.

One of the best ways to protect your animals is to see your world from their point of view. Play a

quiet game of follow and see where they go and what they can reach. Watch what interests them. And, when you know you will be busy, consider asking someone else to supervise your animals during a gathering. You might even hire a young person who loves animals for this task.

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

## Edwards named recipient of 2023 Winners Circle Award

Special to the Review

Senator Edwards is honored to announce her recognition as a recipient of the prestigious Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) 2023 Winners Circle Award. This award celebrates distinguished business, community, and civil leaders who have made significant contributions to advancing policies and programs that empower women and communities.

Senator Edwards' commitment to fostering gender equality and empowering women in all spheres of life, including in the workplace, education, and politics, aligns with the MWPC's mission. Her advocacy for equal pay, comprehensive healthcare, and educational opportunities for women and girls has been a cornerstone of her legislative work.

The MWPC's Winners Circle

Award not only acknowledges achievements but also encourages continued leadership and advocacy in key areas affecting women, including economic independence, political participation, and access to healthcare.

Senator Edwards, considering this recognition, reaffirms her dedication to championing the rights and advancement of women in all sectors of society. She also congratulates her fellow honorees who have shown exceptional leadership and commitment to these crucial issues.

The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the number of women elected to public office and appointed to public policy positions. The MWPC offers programs that provide women with the tools and resources they need to become effective leaders.

**BEACON HILL TIMES**

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27	28	29	30	1	2	3

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# Real Estate Transfers

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<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Dellarocca, Kimberly G	Edgerly Development LLC	130 Arlington St #132	\$2,300,000
Dobberpuhl, Christine M	Shaw I Rt	285 Beacon St #3A	\$1,965,000
Skinner, Paul R	Patricia M Lassiter RET	324-332 Beacon St #115	\$2,238,000
Ofori, Frank	Spring Glory LLC	274 Clarendon St #10	\$540,000
Awwad, Johnny T	Burke, Patricia B	50 Commonwealth Ave #304	\$1,330,000
Lord, Jeffrey	Adcock, Coby N	195 Marlborough St #1	\$2,365,000
Phumkachar, Raschanok	Tao, Agnes	360 Newbury St #605	\$1,500,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Knez, Krista	Daly, Jeremiah	28 Mount Vernon St #1	\$3,600,000
Oucherif, Kaoutar A	Schulz, Kathleen	61 Phillips St #2	\$509,000
Johnson-Lee, Lynda	Owens William W Est	5 W Hill Pl #B	\$735,000
Johnson-Lee, Lynda	Owens William W Est	5 W Hill Pl #C	\$735,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Zuskov, Marina	May Ft	20 Church St	\$907,000
Dk Re Holdings LLC	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #34C	
\$16,730,0000			
Beldengreen-Karas, Ethan	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #906	\$1,676,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Wilson, Anthony G	Catherine R Norcott T	65 E India Row #4E	\$740,000
Ryan, John B	Blizard, Alexandra M	1 Franklin St #1906	\$1,300,000
Yatim, Khalil M	Crusenberry, Stephen M	1 Nassau St #2204	\$1,094,500

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The ornamental façade in the last clue is on the Opera House at 359 Washington Street. It was built in 1928 and designed by noted theatre architect Thomas W. Lamb. Today's answer is from a Library of Congress photo circa 1933 when it was the B.F. Keith Memorial Theatre. It became the Opera House in 1978 under Artistic Director Sarah Caldwell.

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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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should e-mail news releases and photos to [deb@thebostonsun.com](mailto:deb@thebostonsun.com).

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Jennifer H.,  
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*We recommend Acorn to anyone living in the city looking to remove the daily hassle of parking."*

Andrew & Chelsea O.,  
Beacon Hill

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