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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

FROG POND IS NOW OPEN



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Michelle Wu give a high-five to a little girl who, like the Mayor, attended the opening of The Frog Pond spray pool. The pool is free and open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. See page 12 for more photos.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Summer Evening at Otis House
TONIGHT - Thursday, June 27, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Otis House, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston

Come join your neighbors and friends tonight for our annual Summer Evening at Otis House! Enjoy the front terrace of the Otis House for an evening of women's history, wine, and sunshine.

Did you know the Otis House was home to a homeopathic "female physician"? Or that it was a boarding house before becoming a museum? Taste wine by women winemakers and learn about the women of the house, from Sally Otis to the Williams Sisters, at this unique event.



Mrs. Harrison Gray Otis by Gilbert Stuart

The event includes four tastings with Gordon's Wine Marketing Director and Sommelier,

Chelsea Bell, hors d'oeuvres provided by the Tip Tap Room, and spotlight talks by Otis House Museum staff.

Visit bhccivic.org to purchase tickets. BHCA member code is BHCA.

Must be 21 years old. Advance tickets required. Please call 617-994-5920 for more information. Rain Date: Friday, June 28, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

BHCA Committee Work 2023-2024

Safety Committee; Tim Cook, Chair

The BHCA Safety Committee is the liaison between Beacon Hill

(BHCA Pg. 4)

Boston Pops July 4th spectacular set to return to Hatch Shell

By Times Staff

The Boston Pops July 4th Spectacular will return to the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade starting at 8 p.m.

Conductor Keith Lockhart will lead a program featuring the Bos-

ton Pops orchestra with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and R&B/soul singer Darlene Love, along with headliner Broadway star Kelli O'Hara, as well as the Americana group The Mavericks. Special

(JULY 4 Pg. 11)

Sumner Tunnel to close July 5 through August 5

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) recently hosted two public meetings to provide information on the upcoming closure of the Sumner Tunnel, which is slated to begin on July 5 and run to August 5.

The Sumner Tunnel, which was closed for two months last summer, has been undergoing work for the last couple of years as part of a design-build project that had its bid awarded in 2021.

According to Michael Drew, a Project Manager in MassDOT's

(TUNNEL Pg. 3)

BHAC votes to dismiss application for unapproved handrail on South Russell St.

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission voted by a majority to dismiss a violation for an unapproved handrail at 43 South Russell St. during its monthly meeting held virtually on Thursday, June 20.

A representative for the applicant (Church of the Advent) said the vertical handrail, which measures about 1 inch in diameter and is mounted into the masonry, had been installed to help improve access on a steep staircase for a retired foreign clergyman during



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The unapproved vertical handrail at 43 South Russel St.

(BHAC Pg. 3)

Happy July 4th from the Beacon Hill Times

Our next publication will be on July 11

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

JUNE AT THE VILNA

The Vilna Shul, located at 18 Phillips St., offers 'A Whiskey Tour of Israel' on June 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each.

This Israeli whiskey tasting with Josh Mann, an expert from Jews and Booze, will include pours of nine different exclusive Israeli whiskeys, along with a fun and interactive tour of the whiskeys, with information about each pour, distillery, and master distiller. Kosher charcuterie will accompany the tasting (vegan option available). Participants will also be entered in a raffle to win a bottle of J&B "Kings of Kiddush" straight rye whiskey.

On June 28 from 6 to 9 p.m., The Vilna presents 'Havurah on the Hill: Honorable Menschen.' Tickets are \$18 each.

This Friday night Shabbat experience for young professionals includes good food and great company on the fourth Shabbat of each month. After a short service and delicious dinner, enjoy the sweet sounds of Honorable Menschen, Boston's premiere post-college co-ed a cappella group. End your week on a high note.

For more information on The Vilna's programming, visit vilnashul.org.

UPCOMING WEST END MUSEUM EVENTS

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford Street Suite 7, presents an Author Talk with Adam Nimoy on Sunday, June 30, from 4 to 6 p.m.

At this time, Adam Nimoy, on his new memoir, 'The Most Human: Reconciling with My Father, Leonard Nimoy,' which explores the complicated relationship Adam shared with his father, the legendary West End-raised Star Trek actor, and the lessons it taught him on fatherhood and recovery.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-talk-with-adam-nimoy-tickets-911017627247>.

Also, the museum will offer a screening of the film, 'Little Women' on Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 p.m.

The program will begin with a short talk on Louisa May Alcott's connection to the West End neighborhood. After, you are invited to sit back and enjoy a screening of Greta Gerwig's 'Little Women; (2019).

For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/little-women-film-screening-tickets-921546539507>.

On Tuesday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m., the museum offers 'Hyman Bloom Drink & Draw' on Tuesday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The program will begin with a short talk introducing the West End expressionist artist. After this, guests will be provided with art supplies and may purchase a drink. Hyman Bloom images will be projected throughout the museum space, and guests are encouraged to create their own Bloom-inspired painting. This event is open to ages 21+ only.

For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hyman-bloom-drink-draw-tickets-921597140857>.

The museum will also offer West End Walking Tours on Monday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday, July 20, at 1 p.m.

These walking tours of the West End neighborhood will cover the area's history from settlement through to modern times.

For July 15 tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-walking-tour-15-hours-tickets-921726056447>, and for July 20 tickets, visit s: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-walking-tour-3-hours-tickets-921728413497>.

Aldo, the museum will offer its Boston Trivia Night on Tuesday,

July 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Causeway Restaurant and Bar.

For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-trivia-night-tickets-921600581147>.

UPCOMING WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY OFFERINGS

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library at 151 Cambridge St. will offer Line Dance Classes for Older Adults on Saturdays through June 29 from 10 to 11 a.m.

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).

WECA MEETING SET FOR JULY 11 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

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

Guests for this meeting will be candidates for the 8th Suffolk District Democratic Primary, as well as a community engagement rep from the MBTA.

All West End residents are welcome. Masks are encouraged.

IRON MAN



Beacon Hill Athletic Club manager Mike Farina put his fitness expertise to the test, competing in a half Iron Man triathlon in East Freetown, Mass on June 15. The race included a 1.2 mile swim, 54 mile bike ride, and a 13 mile run. Mike did the bulk of his training at the BHAC gym at 3 Hancock street. He finished the race in less than six hours!

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911

Larceny

06/23/24 - At approximately 11 a.m., police responded to Beacon and Charles streets for a reported stolen bicycle. The victim stated she had

locked her bike up around 9 a.m., but when she returned at around 10:30 a.m., it was gone. Area detectives were scheduled to further investigate this matter.

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BHAC (from pg. 1)

his six-month stay at the building.

Chair Mark Kiefer noted that the three-story Joseph Ditson House is one of the oldest buildings on Beacon Hill. “So for that reason we want to make sure we get this right,” said Kiefer, who expressed a preference for a railing with a “more graceful curve” and “delicate profile.”

The motion to dismiss the violation, made by Commissioner Alice Richmond, included a proviso that the applicant work with BHAC staff (Nicholas Armata) to determine if a more-appropriate architectural design for the handrail could be found.

Besides Chair Kiefer and Commissioner Richmond, Vice Chair Arian Allen and Commissioners Edward Fleck and Sandra Steele voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Maurice Finegold, who said the handrail was instead a ‘grab-bar’ intended only to improve access and not as an architectural feature, cast the sole dissenting vote on the motion.

In another matter, the com-



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Joseph Ditson House at 43 South Russel St.

mission unanimously approved an application as submitted for 46 Chestnut St., with proposed work including the restoration and replacement of the windows in the existing masonry openings; new

windows in new masonry openings; new exterior downlights, a new roofdeck, with black, metal railings; and a new copper-clad head-house.

The motion for this application,

submitted by Chair Kiefer, came with stipulations that with respect to the alteration of the dormer on the front mansard, the existing two-over-two windows can be retained; and that the light fixtures above the garage be recessed, with pin-lights attached, to minimize visibility.

At its last month hearing, which was held virtually on May 16, the commission voted unanimously to deny without prejudice an extensive application for 46 Chestnut St.

On an application to rebuild a roofdeck at 77 Revere St., the commission unanimously approved the proposed work as submitted.

Commissioner Richmond commended the applicant for offering to move the existing deck back, which she described as an act of “neighborliness.”

Likewise, the commission voted unanimously to approve as submitted an application for 46 Pinckney St., which entails the removal of the existing woven-wire security grates at the three windows

at the street level (including two on the street and one in the alley) and replacing them with wrought-iron security grilles to match the layout of the existing sash sets on the three ground-floor windows. The new grilles would be connected through the wood, rather than through masonry, according to the applicant.

An application for 160 Mt. Vernon St was determined exempt by staff, with proposed work including the repair of the roof and walls; the addition of a 4.5 square-foot roof over the existing open alcove; adjustment of the slope of the roof; and the raising of the south end by 16 inches (but with no change to footprint).

Similarly, an application for 40-42 Mount Vernon St. was withdrawn by staff, with proposed work in Unit 3B, including the replacement of three one-over-one windows with three one-over-one, wood, double-hung windows with no low-e glass, as well as the replacement of two double-doors in kind.

TUNNEL (from pg. 1)

Highway Division, work completed so far includes removing and replacing the tunnel’s ceiling and overhead arch, repairing the tunnel walls, installing fireproof panels and new lights, and upgrading the tunnel’s CCTV and fire alarms.

Drew indicated that the focus of the work anticipated for this summer is on the tunnel’s deck and roadway surface.

“The deck is a structural concrete deck with steel floor beams that we’re going to be doing a rehabilitation of the structural deck and then repaving the surface for a smooth riding surface,” said Drew.

Other work anticipated for this summer includes installing new utility conduits and cables and replacing the drainage pumps, known as midriver pumps, in the middle of the tunnel.

It should also be noted that after the one-month closure, Drew said, “Based off the remaining work, we’re going to determine what additional weekend closures may be needed during the end of the summer and fall, eventually finishing the contract in December of this year.”

As the meeting progressed, managing impacts became a significant topic of discussion. “We fully understand the impacts that are going to be incurred, particularly with traffic during this closure,” said Drew.

In referencing the impacts that occurred with last summer’s

extended closure, Drew said, “We’re really trying to stress to the public to anticipate that type of impact again and be able to plan for it.”

Similarly to last year, working groups have been used to help plan for the closure and reduce impacts. These working groups include Public Safety and Traffic, Transit Issues/Users/Mobility, Communication and Outreach, and Business, which report to a principals group.

“It’s a structure that worked very, very well for last summer’s closure, and we’ve been implementing and working together with these working groups for a number of weeks and months leading up to this closure,” said Drew.

An important aspect of managing impacts will be coordination with construction projects in the area. For example, Drew talked about limiting maintenance activity to emergency work or scheduling them during off-peak hours.

Moreover, Drew indicated a command center would be set up to monitor the closure and surrounding areas in case adjustments are needed.

Further, impact management includes plans for real-time traffic monitoring. Drew emphasized that the project contract includes incentives and disincentives to comply with the project timeline.

Concerning public safety, which Drew described as “one of the most critical aspects of the closure,”

plans are in place for increased ambulatory service through extra ambulances and shifts. Response times are also slated to be monitored.

Also, a Sumner Tunnel Contingency plan has been developed, so there are actions in place in case of issues.

Regarding managing travel impacts, officials are once again urging folks to ditch the drive and use other means of transportation. There will be discounts for alternative travel options for those who can get out of their cars.

For those traveling to or from East Boston and the North End, the Blue Line, which no longer has slow zones, will be free throughout the closure. Parking in Blue Line lots and garages will be reduced to \$2 daily. There will also be additional free parking near Wood Island Station, and an additional train will be added to the Blue Line midday.

Further, fare-free service will be available for those on key Chelsea Bus lines: routes 111, 112, 114, 116, 117, and Silver Line 3. The East Boston Ferry will also be free.

For those traveling to or from the North Shore, there are also some incentives to get out of your car. For example, Lynn Ferry riders can use a Zone 1A fare—\$2.40—and free parking will be at the city-owned lot near Blossom Street Pier.

Also, the MBTA will be operating Winthrop Ferry Service, which is \$2.40 for a one-way trip.

Travelers to or from Logan Airport can ride on Logan Express at a 25% discount if they order a ticket online or for free for riders under 17 years old.

Moreover, a Logan Airport stop will be added to the Winthrop Ferry, and those who take water transportation can skip to the front of the checkpoint screening line.

Finally, suppose someone is unable to take alternative transportation. In that case, there will be discounted tolls on the Tobin Bridge and in the Ted Williams Tunnel for those in the resident discount program. Also, <https://www.mass511.com/> will provide historical and real-time data during the closure to provide travel time information.

Following the presentation, attendees were given time to ask questions. One attendee asked if MassDOT had contacted employers and asked them to allow employees to work from home during the closure.

Drew indicated they are doing outreach to those in the immediate area of the tunnel and regionally so employees or employers could potentially make adjustments.

Another attendee asked if MassDOT has looked at options for travelers going from the North to the South Shore, as they felt that public transportation was more expensive and took longer.

In response, Drew said, “As far as the scope of this project, what we’ve really been trying to concen-

trate on is alleviating the congestion that’s going to occur from the North Shore and the local vicinity of East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, et cetera, getting into Downtown Boston.”

“So we’ve been concentrating on basically those lengths with the Blue Line, the Commuter Rail, and that type of thing that will be affected.”

An attendee also asked about the recent uptick in trucks getting stuck at the Sumner Tunnel. Drew assured those in attendance that the clearance remains the same. He also indicated that additional signage would be added, and over-height detectors are being added to Route 1A.

Finally, an attendee asked about the exit off Route 1A heading to Route 145 sometimes being closed and did not understand why it was being done.

Drew indicated that it is part of the State Police’s procedure to flush traffic out from Logan Airport and that they are trying to improve communication so that travelers can be notified via its virtual message signs when it happens.

To learn more about the closure, visit the project webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/sumner-tunnel#sumner-tunnel-restoration>. To ask questions, email Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us or call the project hotline at (508)-510-2920.

EDITORIAL

THREE YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, RACIAL HATRED CAME TO OUR AREA

It was three years ago this week when an unspeakable act of violence, motivated by racial hatred, befell the peaceful seaside community of Winthrop.

The tranquility of a typical, early-summer Saturday afternoon was shattered when a 28 year-old white man, a native of Wareham who had been living in Winthrop for a short time with his wife, shot two Black persons, 60 year-old Ramona Cooper, a retired Air Force veteran who only recently had moved to Winthrop, and 68 year-old David Green, a Winthrop native and retired State Trooper who was beloved in the Winthrop community, in cold blood when their paths crossed on Shirley St. near Cross St.

Thanks to the quick response of Winthrop police and the heroism of Sgt. Nicholas Bettano, the suspect was shot in the street when he refused to put down his weapons (he was armed with two handguns). It is believed that the shooter, whose belongings later were found to contain white supremacist and anti-Semitic literature, was en route to the nearby local temple and synagogue with the intent of perpetrating a mass shooting incident before he was stopped by Sgt. Bettano.

To be sure, both Ramona Cooper and David Green happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, given that the shooter did not fire his weapon at white passers-by, his intent to shoot Cooper and Green solely because they were Black is undeniable.

Those of us who live in the Boston area like to think that we are immune from the sort of bigotry-inspired acts of violence that make the headlines in other states where gun laws are non-existent. However, the Anti-Defamation League recently reported that acts of anti-Semitism have spiked in Massachusetts in the past three years, more than doubling from 2020 to 2022 and then increasing a whopping 189 percent in 2023 from 2022. The sad fact is that no place in America today is immune from the virus of prejudice.

For those of us who have called this area our home for many years, we still shudder whenever we visit Winthrop and drive down Shirley St. toward Cross St. -- the events of June 26, 2021, are just too terrible to contemplate.

However, the best way that we can honor the memories of Ramona Cooper and David Green is never to forget that tragic and horrible day and resolve to do whatever we can to end the evils of racism and all other forms of prejudice that are far too prevalent throughout our society.

NO END IN SIGHT FOR HOUSING CRISIS

Everyone on all sides of the political and economic spectrums are in agreement that there is a drastic shortage of housing in this country. But similar to the adage about the weather, though everyone is talking about it, no one is doing anything about it.

The spike in interest rates to tame inflation over the past few years has been seen as one of the chief causes of the housing shortfall. Higher interest rates lessen the demand for some goods (such as automobiles) and services, but they also serve to put a lid on the supply of both new homes (because high interest rates impact home builders) and older homes (because existing owners cannot afford to give up the low rates on their current homes).

With fewer homes on the market at a time of surging demand because of the coming of age of Millennials and the influx of immigrants, the prices for new homes and rents are continuing to increase even in the face of higher interest rates. Zillow reports that the median home price in Massachusetts is \$629,000, an increase of 8.8% in the past year -- with the median price of a home in the Boston area now almost \$1 million, an increase of 10.9% in the past year.

It is estimated that given our larger population, the U.S. has failed to meet the demand for housing of all types, both single-family homes and multi-family rentals, by more than two million units per year ever since the Great Recession, thus creating the housing crisis we have today. But with interest rates still at their highest levels in decades, new home construction will continue to fall far short of demand for the foreseeable future. Higher interest rates also will continue to have the ripple effect of keeping Baby Boomers and Gen Xers in their current homes (where they have low interest rates), thereby further decreasing the inventory of homes on the market for younger home-buyers.

In addition to high interest rates, a host of other factors -- restrictive zoning laws, supply chain issues, a shortage of construction and trade workers, and the conversion of single-family homes to short-term rentals such as Airbnb -- also are contributing to our housing shortage.

The lack of housing has two other significant impacts: The first is that it affects our economy because it reduces the mobility of the nation's workforce. Individuals no longer can just pull up stakes and leave for greener pastures (and new job opportunities) when home prices are out of reach everywhere.

The housing shortage also affects our national mood. Ever since our founding, America has been a land of opportunity. But with the American Dream now out of reach for most American families, pessimism about the future has replaced the optimism that prevailed for every previous younger generation in our society.

In short, what it comes down to is this: Our society is failing to meet the demand for shelter -- which is among the most basic of all human needs -- and no one has a solution to this ever-worsening problem.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

and the Boston Police, Area A1. As such, we attend the monthly Advisory Committee at the Police Station. Here, Captain Martin and Sgt. Zachary Crossen discuss what has gone on in the last month, including crime statistics and arrests.

We then discuss anything that is happening in our area. The meetings are open, and all are welcome. They can be very interesting.

If there is an issue that Beacon Hill is concerned with, we have "Town Meetings" for the community to meet with Police and any other agency involved.

Recent issues have been:

- Encampments at Charles Street/Long-fellow Bridge
- Serial shoplifting offenders
- Reckless driving by UberEATS/Door Dash Motorbikes

Please contact the BHCA if you have any concerns about crime or quality of life problems, and we can alert the Police. We are fortunate to have a very responsive and caring Police at Area A. As the Police always say, you are the eyes and ears of the Police. If you see something that should concern you, please contact us.

BHCA Annual Appeal

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to community building, civic engagement, and historic preservation on Beacon Hill. Your donations to the Annual Appeal allow us to continue our efforts to preserve and enhance our historic neighborhood. Support our 2024 Annual Appeal with your donation today at bhcvic.org.

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BLO expands creative space with Midway Artist Studios

Special to the Times

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO), in collaboration with Midway Artist Studios, will establish a new artmaking and community space for Boston's cultural communities. The company has signed a multi-year lease for a 14,000-square-foot signature location at Midway Artist Studios in Boston's Fort Point neighborhood, expanding from its existing 2,000-square-foot studio. BLO's "Opera & Community Studios" will anchor the nearly 50-year-old company's artistic work with rehearsal and production space, and will further grow the vibrant Fort Point neighborhood with a place where artists and cultural organizations across disciplines can thrive.

In addition to being BLO's administrative hub, the Opera & Community Studios will accommodate a full range of artistic and creative activities, including music and staging rehearsals, public programs, education and community events, and producing operations. The Studios will welcome artists and cultural organizations from Midway, Fort Point and across Greater Boston, fostering a collaborative environment and hosting convenings that strengthen the performing arts community. BLO will continue to present its mainstage shows at venues throughout the city.

"This new space marks a milestone for BLO, for Boston, and for the broader arts community," says Bradley Vernatter, BLO Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO. "It's impossible to overstate the importance of access to appropriate, dedicated arts and cultural space in Boston, especially space for artistic preparation and rehearsal for the performing arts," he says. "The new studios will become a dependable place for individual artists and arts companies to collaborate and create."

The Opera & Community Studios are situated within Midway Artist Studios, a 200,000-plus square foot, artist-owned non-profit building that provides work-live space for 89 artists in all artistic mediums. The space will be used in its current multi-level, open-format state over the next year, with a new, dedicated \$10.5 million fundraising initiative to support the expansion and a potential build-out of additional studios, support spaces, and amenities aimed for completion by the start of the 2026/27 Season, which is BLO's 50th anniversary season.

In addition to housing BLO's rehearsals and artistic operations, the space will accommodate other



Boston Lyric Opera has added 14,000 square feet of raw brick-and-beam space to its 2,000-square-foot offices at Midway Artist Studios in Boston's Fort Point neighborhood.

performing arts and non-profit organizations for a variety of uses. For example, it recently hosted an event for the projection-based digital art festival *Illuminus*; the non-profit journal *Boston Art Review* held a launch event for its May issue; and Commonwealth Shakespeare Company will use the space for rehearsals of its free-to-the-public summer production, "The Winter's Tale."

"Opera is a cross-disciplinary art form that elevates all art forms," says Raber Umphenour, President of Midway Artist Collective. "So Midway, with its wide variety of work-live artists, is a natural home for Boston Lyric Opera. The fulfillment of this shared vision is the culmination of a decades-long effort to find a creative collaborator for this unique space. Together, Midway Artist Studios and Boston Lyric Opera will contribute to a strengthening of the performing arts throughout the City of Boston as we continue to grow the cultural presence in Fort Point."

Fort Point is one of New England's largest artists' communities, with three dedicated artist buildings and cultural organizations like Artists for Humanity and the Boston Children's Museum, and institutions like GrubStreet and the Institute for Contemporary Art nearby. "Since joining Midway, its residents and leadership have welcomed us openly, along with the entire neighborhood whose residents have worked for decades to create and maintain artist housing and work spaces," Vernatter says. "We are proud to contribute to this community – by uplifting Fort Point's artistic history and expanding its cultural footprint through new opportunities."

While the Opera & Community Studios space is a leap forward in satisfying many needs for artistic

preparation and operations for BLO and others, Vernatter says, the company continues to explore collaborative solutions for a dedicated venue for large-scale mainstage performances that meets the needs of modern audiences and artists across disciplines. "One of Boston's greatest unrealized opportunities is a modern performance venue to harness the artistic ambitions and scale of opera, join communities across different cultural sectors, and support the economic stability of many artists and art forms," he says. Meanwhile, BLO will continue to present its mainstage shows at various venues throughout the city.

Members of the public will have a chance to tour the Opera & Community Studios space during this fall's Fort Point Open Studios in October.

Reaction From City Leaders

Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture Chief Kara Elliott-Ortega highlighted the significance of BLO's Fort Point expansion: "This is exciting news for one of the city's largest and most enduring performing arts companies – and the city's largest artist work-live artist housing project. BLO has been part of the city's cultural fabric for nearly 50 years; this underscores good things for Midway, BLO and performing artists who will make valuable use of this new cultural space. The creation of more accessible and affordable rehearsal and studio and venue space like this continues to be a priority for the city and our performing arts community."

City of Boston Chief of Housing and Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Sheila A. Dillon applauded the expansion and collaboration. "Congratulations to Midway Artist Studios, Boston

Lyric Opera and many other local organizations on the creation of a new cultural space that will benefit not only the Fort Point neighborhood, but all of Boston," Dillon says. "The unique integration of affordable artist work-live housing with creative cultural performing arts and rehearsal spaces is particularly noteworthy. The residents of Midway continue to create a welcoming and vibrant community by providing both income restricted artist housing and space for local artists and performing arts. It is rewarding to see the long term investments in artist housing yielding benefits for organizations large and small."

Reaction From Artistic And Other Leaders

BLO Board Chair Alicia Cooney and Board President Wayne Davis shared enthusiasm for the project as a reflection of the company's future: "The establishment of this new space is a leap forward for opera and for Boston. It provides a dependable environment for creative work and rehearsals and also reinforces our commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of Boston," Cooney says. "This wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of the many people who have contributed to making our shared vision a reality. We welcome the broader community to join us in bringing this space to life for the performing arts in Boston."

BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen called the project "a new era for opera in Boston."

"A dedicated studio space to support our artists, opera artists across the Boston area, and the broader cultural sector is a thrilling thing to provide," Nelsen says. "The studios will enable cross-discipline collaborations and welcome audiences and neighbors into

the artistic and creative process. It is a place for our community to gather and participate in extraordinary artmaking together. This is a new era for opera in Boston."

Boston Opera Collaborative Executive Director Alexis Peart, who has performed with BLO and is a member of its Emerging Artist cohort, recognizes a benefit in the new space for smaller opera companies. "To have a centralized location where opera artists and other makers can gather to work on creative projects, get inspiration from like-minded artists, and find a place for rehearsals and informal showings of in-process works will be an incredible asset to the Boston arts scene," Peart says. "The new space is sure to be a game-changer. I could not be more excited to see its growth and continued development."

Founding Artistic Director of Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) Steve Maler, who directed BLO & CSC's co-production of *Romeo & Juliet* in 2022, says "Boston has a severe shortage of affordable and accessible rehearsal spaces and performing arts venues. We're so thrilled that CSC's upcoming free production of "The Winter's Tale" will rehearse at this new location and we look forward to using the space for future rehearsals, events and performances."

Over its nearly 50 years producing opera in Boston, Boston Lyric Opera's (BLO) mission is to build curiosity, enthusiasm and support for opera through compelling experiences that connect, inspire and reflect our community. With more than 170 performances each year on main stages, in school-based youth performances, and through free public concerts, BLO tells stories that reflect the diversity of our community.

GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY HOSTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The Garden Club of the Back Bay celebrated its 60th Anniversary at the appropriately named Garden Room at The Newbury Boston Hotel. Residents of Back Bay came to show their appreciation for the natural beauty fostered by the neighborhood group.



Garden Club of the Back Bay member Nancy Cyr composed bouquets that decorated The Garden Room at The Newbury Boston Hotel.



Margaret Pokorny with 2024 Magnolia Award winner Serge Savard.



Annie Hollingsworth and Harry Hanson.



Stephen Oleksiak, Sandra Gilpatrick, and Caroline DeStefano.



Committee members Stephanie Fletcher Kim Buttolph, Catherine Borden, Diane Gipson, Maura Harty, and Maureen O'Hara.



Catherine Borden showed off her fashionable Garden attire.



Colleen Burns and Kristine Hoag.



Cookies were presented celebrating the Garden Club of the Back Bay.

GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY HOSTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



Claire Corcoran and Lynn Flaherty.



Donna Newton, Kane Gnazzo, Kate Murray, Susan Flahive, and Denys Reid Margolin.



Garden Club of the Bank Bay member Nancy Cyr composed bouquets that decorated The Garden Room at The Newbury Boston Hotel.




Representing NABB was Anne Swanson Kathleen Young, Susan Prindle, and Magnolia Award Winner Tanya Zavasnik.



George Lewis and Paula Kremer.



Tracey Cannistraro and Margaret Pokorny.



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GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY HOSTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



The Garden Room at The Newbury Boston Hotel hosted the Garden Club of the Back Bay 60th Anniversary celebration.



Kim Buttolph and Elizabeth Angelino.



Jackie Blombach, Christine and Roy (right) Hirshland, and Tony Borden.



Lisa Cleary and Wendy Oleksiak.



Maureen O'Hara and Kevin Smith.

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By Penny & Ed Cherubino

well-behaved and not bother other passengers or their animals.

We add two pieces of advice if you bring your dog on a dock or ferry. For safety, the animal should wear a well-fitting lifejacket and always be on a leash. The ferry services have life jackets for humans but not for animals. Sadly, we know of a dog that drowned at our yacht club because it could not get back onto the dock after diving into the water.

MBTA and Amtrak

The MBTA is a bit pet-friendly. They say, "Service animals are allowed on the T at all times. Non-service dogs are not allowed on the T during peak hours: 7 AM - 10 AM and 4 PM - 7 PM on weekdays."

Amtrak says you may bring a small dog or cat (up to 20 lbs including carrier) aboard some lines for a fee of \$29 or \$39. Check the Amtrak site for specifics.

Patio Dining with Dogs

For years, we were able to dine with our dogs in Provincetown. Now, many other municipalities have set up restaurant systems to allow legal dining with dogs on patios. We hope this trend continues and widens.

As with all the exceptions to the old rules that once said, "PETS NOT ALLOWED," it's up to those of us who advocate to spend our recreational time with our animals to give the haters no arguments to use against us.

We love it when we walk away from a "dogs allowed" patio and have other patrons say, "We didn't know you had a dog with you." We protect the gradual loosening of municipal rules with good behavior and with support for the political friends of our right to enjoy time with our pets in public spaces.

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

As you plan your summer fun, remember that many services and transportation options are pet-friendly. Day trips, weekends away, more extended vacations, and a meal on a patio can often include your dog. There are also some options for traveling with cats.

Tours

A recent social media post brought this topic to mind. The couple visited Boston with their dog and raved about how dog-friendly the city was. They were happy they could bring the pup on a tour of the Freedom Trail. It makes sense since that popular route happens in public spaces. The tour site mentions that "Dogs are not permitted in the historic burying grounds or the historic sites' buildings."

Ferries

These visitors and their dog also took a harbor tour. We know that Bay State Cruise Company is one we have enjoyed with Poppy. They say, "Yes, we love dogs and they are allowed aboard at no additional charge. They are required, however, to have a leash."

You'll find that ferry services, used by residents to reach their homes, are the most pet-friendly. These include the Provincetown Ferries, The Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard Steamship Authority, Casco Bay Lines in Portland, Maine, and the Block Island Ferry in Rhode Island.

Check the specific regulations for any boat you plan to take. Each may have particular rules. For example, The Casco Bay Line charges for dogs unless they are service dogs or in a carrier.

These services generally ask that you keep your animal on a leash or in a carrier. Pets are often not allowed in food service areas. In many instances, they may not sit on passenger seats or at dining tables. All ask that the animal be



A lifejacket is essential if you bring a dog onto a dock or a boat. We also recommend a leash to help get a dog back to safety once in the water. (Photo by Ariana Kaminski)

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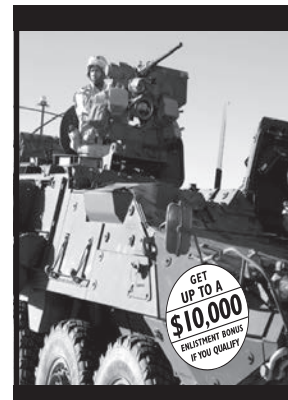
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OBITUARIES

Sandra Thomson

She had a fierce will to live and a love of life

Sandra Thomson, of Williamsburg, Massachusetts and Casavells, Spain, died on June 3, 2024. She was 67 years old.

Sandy was born with a serious heart defect and as an infant her doctors didn't expect her to live to 20. The condition caused significant challenges—especially in later years—but it also led to a fierce will to live, a love of life and a determination to defy any restrictions that her doctors, family members or others would put on her full engagement with the world. Instead she embraced a broad, active and unending curiosity about life on planet earth. She grew up on Beacon Hill and in Lincoln, Mass., worked in finance, as an executive assistant and ESL teacher and a shiatsu therapist, traveled extensively and lived at various times in California, Japan, Miami, Western Massachusetts and Spain.

She was an avid swimmer, reveling in flying in small planes, open-ocean sailing and even hang-gliding with her husband Richard, and delighted in both new experiences and favorite places, especially Cape Cod and the hills of Western Massachusetts. And everywhere she went she made friends with humans and other animals, especially cats and dogs. She was also a voracious reader and recommender of books, an avid writer and an impassioned commenter on the mess we humans have made of things.

Sandy suffered a stroke in early



May. She was determined to recover but the therapy was exhausting and after nearly a month—and five decades after doctors predicted—her super-hard-working heart finally gave out.

Sandy is survived by her devoted husband, Richard Shepard, of Casavells, Spain; her father, Peter Thomson of Beacon Hill; brothers: Peter and James Thomson and Bill Clift, of Jamaica Plain, Williamsburg, Mass. and Santa Fe, New Mexico; sister Suzanna Price of Toronto; and countless Thomson and Pearmain cousins, nieces and nephews around the world. She was predeceased by her mother, Anne Pearmain Thomson, sister, Wendy Thomson and stepmother, Elizabeth Thomson.

A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Sandy's name to the environmental or animal welfare organization of your choice.

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through July 6 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- South abutment concrete placements
 - Pier 1 West Cofferdam footing rebar and formwork
 - Stainless steel handrail installation
 - Main bridge west sidewalk concrete placements
 - Warehouse span barrier and sidewalk concrete placements
 - Steel touch-up painting
 - Marine fender pile installation
- #### Work Hours
- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk 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:

• EVENTS: June 28, at 8 p.m., June 29, at 7:30 p.m., June 30, at 7:30 p.m., July 1, at 7:30 p.m., July 3, at 8 p.m., July 5, at 8 p.m., and July 6, at 8 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, 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 website: [Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement](https://www.mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

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

BLO's free outdoor "Street Stage" series returns with free performances

Boston Lyric Opera's (BLO) popular mobile performance venue Street Stage returns for free live performances to locations throughout Boston this summer. Sponsored by HarborOne Bank and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Street Stage brings opera and popular music performances to neighborhoods from Charlestown to South Boston; the series kicked off June 1 on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Conceived and created as a way to bring music to the public during COVID shutdowns, the 26-foot-long Street Stage vehicle is a semi-trailer engineered to open on three sides and offer a 270-degree view of performers. Audiences are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs to the open-air performances.

"There's no more exhilarating experience than hearing beautiful music on a gorgeous warm summer day," says BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen. "The artists performing this summer season are some of the most

accomplished performers in Greater Boston. Different programs and activities are planned at each site, so multiple visits are encouraged!"

Nelsen says support from HarborOne Bank and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is crucial to make the series available for free across the city. "It's quite fitting that three of our concerts are in places where the Harbor figures prominently."

Details on the performance listings below, and information on BLO's other summer events is available at blo.org/events.

Upcoming Events

Street Stage Debut at Charlestown Navy Yard

Date/Time: August 3, 2024 @ 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM

Location: Charlestown Navy Yard, 23 2nd Ave., Charlestown, Boston

Details: For the first time, Street Stage visits the historic Charlestown Navy Yard. In partnership with the National Parks Service of Boston, this event will feature operatic arias and music inspired by the

sea, set against the backdrop of the Boston Harbor. Performances will take place on the lawn of the 1805 Commandant's House, with alternating musical sets at 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM. The program will also include meet-the-artist interviews and family-friendly educational content.

An Evening Concert at South Boston's Moakley Park

Date/Time: August 7, 2024, 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Moakley Park Picnic Area, 450 Old Colony Ave., South Boston

Details: Street Stage brings a multicultural music program to historic Moakley Park for the first time. The event, perfect for a family-friendly evening, will feature food, games, and kid-centered art activities provided by Boston Harbor Now. Picnic tables and chairs will be available on a first-come basis, with attendees encouraged to bring their own seating. Registration is recommended at blo.org/events.

OBITUARIES

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How to keep dogs safe this summer

Special to the Times

Hot Weather Tips from the Animal Legal Defense Fund

As summer approaches and temperatures rise, so does the danger of dogs dying in hot cars, left to overheat by negligent owners.

Even on a day when it's 70 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car can hit 90 degrees in just 10 minutes. On a hot day, the temperature inside a closed car can shoot as high as 116 degrees in the same amount of time.

What can you do to keep dogs safe this summer? The Animal Legal Defense Fund, the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, has some tips.

1. Never leave a dog in a hot car.

Leaving an animal in a car for any amount of time is dangerous. Cracking a window doesn't eliminate the risk of heatstroke or death, and in some states negligent owners can face up to one year imprisonment.

If you have your dog with you:

- Plan to visit animal-friendly restaurants and shops.

- Bring a friend who can stay with your dog while you run into a store.

- Leave your dog at home where he is safe and comfortable in the air conditioning.

2. If you see an animal in distress, call 911.

Calling 911 is the first step to saving that animal's life. Most states allow a public safety officer to break into the car and rescue an animal if his life is threatened.

3. Know your rights.

Social media posts have circulated across the country urging people to break a window if they see a dog trapped inside a hot car, but you should know your local laws.

- Only 12 states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Florida, Ohio, Vermont, Oregon, and Tennessee — allow "good Samaritans" to break a car window to save an animal.

- Almost all of those states require "good Samaritans" to contact law enforcement before breaking into the car.

- In 14 states, only public officials such as law enforcement and humane officers can legally break into a car to rescue an animal (Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, and Washington).

- In New Jersey and West Virginia, although it is illegal to confine an animal in a hot car, no one has the statutory authority to break into a vehicle to save the animal, not even law enforcement.

4. Let people know it's not okay to leave an animal unattended in a car.

If you see someone leave their animal in a parked car, consider politely approaching them and letting them know that even if it's a pleasant day outside, the temperature inside the car can skyrocket fast. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has created a printable flyer you can download at aldf.org/hotcars.

For more information on keeping dogs safe this summer visit aldf.org/hotcars.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

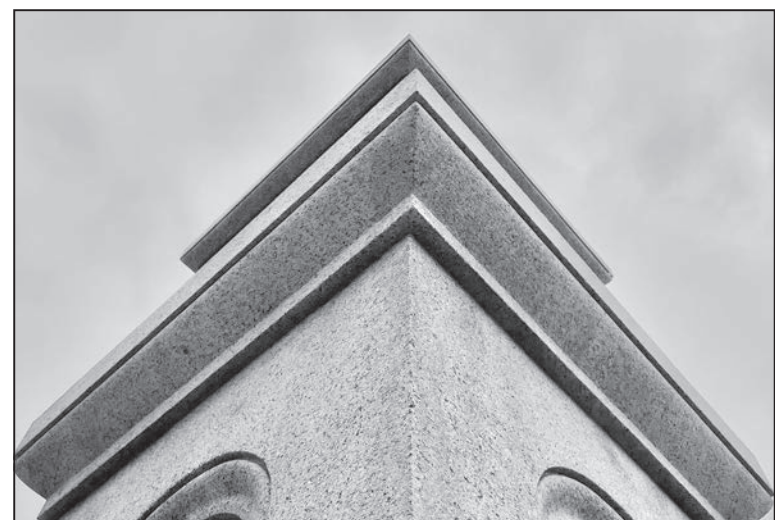
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The doorway detail in the last clue is on 36 Myrtle Street, designed by Harrison H. Atwood and constructed in 1908. In addition to his work as an architect, Atwood was elected to the Massachusetts and the United States Houses of Representatives several times.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



JULY 4 (from pg. 1)

guests also include the Singing Sergeants from the United States Air Force Band. The concert is expected to end at 10:30 p.m., with a fireworks display from 10:30-11 p.m. (subject to change).

The fireworks will be launched from barges docked in the middle of the river near the Hatch Shell.

But to be able to actually see the concert, you need to be within the Oval - the grassy area in front of the Hatch Shell.

Meanwhile, a number of agencies and organizations will be closed in observance of the holiday, including Federal offices; Federal courts; post offices; state offic-

es and courts: municipal offices; the RMV; public libraries; banks; and the stock market. Retail stores, including supermarkets and liquor stores, will be open.

The MBTA is open but will be running on a holiday schedule.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

FROM FROG POND SPRAY POOL OPENS FOR SEASON

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

The Frog Pond spray pool on the Boston Common reopened for another summer season on Tuesday, June 25.

The spray pool is managed by the Skating Club of Boston, and its

hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

Visit <https://bostonfrogpond.com/frog-pond-carousel/> for more information.



Getting her feet wet, Mayor Michelle Wu talks with residents.



The pool is free and open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day.



Happy faces splashing around .



Kids frolicking in the spray pool.



Pictured, left to right, are Mayor Michelle Wu; Frog Pond Freddie; Brian Swett, the city's chief climate officer; and Rep. Jay Livingstone.

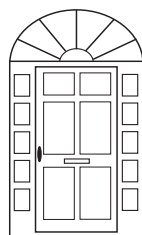


Mayor Michelle Wu helped to open the Frog Pond spray pool.

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