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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

Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll gets everyone into the holiday spirit



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Above, Upstairs Downstairs Home drew many visitors in to its bustling activity.

The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll is a much anticipated event, where from 5 to 9 p.m. Charles Street is closed off to motorized traffic. Pedestrians can casually take in the charm and ambiance of one of Boston's famous neighborhoods.



The gumball machine at Charles Street Supply & Hardware drew in some fans of its contents. See Pages 5-8 for more photos.

Special to the Times

The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll, a decades-long tradition, once again brought out hundreds of revelers enjoying festivities along the historic brick sidewalks on the gaslit, sans-cars, beauty of Charles Street on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Upstairs Downstairs Home, located at 69 Charles St. and one of the proud sponsors of the stroll, is also celebrating its 14th consecutive year under the ownership of Laura Cousineau. She joined dozens of other civic-minded businesses along the festively decorated five

(STROLL Pg. 3)



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

Neighborhood legend John Martin croons holiday standards in his unique, casual style.

OLDE TOWNE CAROLERS KICK-OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



Joanas Rimkunas, Olivia deGeofroy and Alexandra Dietrich from Olde Towne Carolers are shown on Mount Vernon Street Sunday performing some favorite Christmas Carols for residents and tourists.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming Meetings
 Streets & Sidewalks - Thursday, December 12th, 5:30pm via Zoom
 Board of Directors - Monday, January 13th, 7pm, 74 Joy Street
 Architecture Committee -

Monday, January 13th, 5:30pm via Zoom (TBC)
 There will be no Coffee Hour in January.

Upcoming Events
 Undecorating -Saturday and

Sunday, January 25 & 26
 For further information on these events and meetings, to volunteer, or to join a committee please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.

West End Museum celebrates neighborhood benefactors at Honoree Night

By Dan Murphy

Two longtime community leaders, Duane Lucia and Louise Thomas, along with the husband-and-wife architectural team of Benjamin Ascher and Yenna Chan, were feted at The West End Museum's annual Honoree Night on Friday, Dec. 6, at the museum.

Lucia first got involved with the West End Civic Association (WECA) shortly after relocating to the West End from the North End in 1989. His work with WECA led to Lucia to The West End Museum, which had recently installed its 'Last Tenement' exhibit. Through the Museum, Lucia soon met Jim Campano, who along with a group of former West Enders, headed up the Old West End Housing Corporation (OWEHC).

As Lucia dug deeper into the West End's history of urban renewal, he began volunteering at the Museum, eventually becoming the first non-West Ender to join the OWEHC Board. In 2011, Lucia helped incorporate the Museum as a separate entity from OWEHC, and he would go on to serve the museum in a number of roles, including Board President, Executive Director, and Curator.

In receiving the accolade, Lucia thanked Campano and Sebastian Belfanti, now serving as The

Museum's first Executive Director, and said his goal has been to help establish common ground between the community of the old West End and newcomers to the neighborhood.

A West End resident since 1997, Thomas is one of the original founders of WECA. She served as the organization's president in 2005 and 2010, as well as on the Supermarket Committee and the Leverett Circle Committee, which resulted in getting an elevator installed at Science Park/West End Station.

Thomas, who was unable to attend the Honoree Night event, was also instrumental in getting the city to officially recognize the West End neighborhood by that name again, beginning in 2007, Belfanti noted.

"The West End wouldn't be called the West End without Louise's work," said Belfanti.

Ben Ascher (son of museum president, Lois Ascher) and Yenna Chan are founding partners at Chan Ascher Architecture, a small, New York architecture and interior design firm. The couple started volunteering with the Museum in 2019 to create exhibition materials with historical letters and photographs for the 'Hosting Memories' exhibition.

Working on a pro bono basis



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Duane Lucia, one of this year's West End Museum honorees.

between 2021-24, the couple redesigned the Museum interior to house its permanent collection and updated exhibits. As part of the Rebuilding Committee, which was convened following The Museum flooding in January 2022, they also consulted on the initial plans for renovation at the present location and assessed potential expansion sites.

This year's Honoree Night also included the inaugural Silent Auction, which raised funds to benefit The Museum.



Sebastian Belfanti, executive director of the West End Museum, presents the Honoree Award to Susann Benoit, president of the West End Civic Association, on behalf of recipient Louise Thomas, who was unable to attend.



Yenna Chan and Benjamin Ascher receive their West End Museum Honoree Awards from Bob Potenza, the museum's archivist/curator.

Wu announces expansion of the City's toy drive

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston is expanding its annual toy drive, and will be distributing more than 1,800 toys to children and families in need. This year, the toy drive is led by the City's Community Engagement Cabinet, Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) with support from partners Amazon, The Toy Foundation, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. Over the course of six days, Mayor Wu will join City leadership and staff, union partners, community volunteers, and The Toy Foundation to distribute toys to children ages 0-17 living in BHA housing or neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"Every single child deserves to experience the joys of the holiday season," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are blessed to have the opportunity to partner with so many businesses and community organizations to bring the holiday

spirit and some fun toys to families across our city."

"When you give a child a toy, you are giving hope and joy. We're grateful for our partners within the City of Boston, Amazon, and our toy distribution partner, World Vision, who are helping us place toys into the hands of thousands of children who need them most," said Pam Mastrotta, Executive Director of The Toy Foundation.

"Delivering smiles is at the core of what Amazon strives to do, which is why we are delighted to support the City of Boston's expanded holiday toy drive," said Jerome Smith, Head of Community Engagement for New England at Amazon. "We're proud to join with the City once again to not just distribute toys, but to deliver hope, happiness, and smiles to families throughout Boston this holiday season."

The first toy giveaway led by the Community Engagement Cabinet, BCYF, and BHA was held at the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment in Charlestown on December 5. Mayor Wu will distribute toys directly to residents in Roslindale

on Thursday, December 12 at the BCYF Menino Community Center alongside City staff and partners. The toy giveaways are open to Boston residents who live in Boston Housing Authority sites and in neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"It's wonderful to have so many partners come together to make the holidays a little brighter for BHA families," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "By delivering toys to children in our communities, we're not only spreading joy and hope but also creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime."

The upcoming 2024 holiday toy giveaway dates are as follows:

Thursday, December 12
BCYF Menino Community Center
125 Brookway Road, Roslindale

Wednesday, December 18
Franklin Field Housing
100 Ames Street, Dorchester
Thursday, December 19
BCYF Gallivan Community

Gene Bolinger named Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden

Special to Times

Ahead of President Liz Vizza's imminent retirement, Gene Bolinger has been named Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

Bolinger was appointed to the Boston Parks Commission in 2023, and he has served as a volunteer on the Friends Common Committee and Council, becoming Council Co-chair this year. As a former Vice President and head of the landscape architecture practice at the Boston firm, Weston & Sampson, for decades, he most recently participated in completing the Master Plan for Boston Common.

Bolinger will work alongside Vizza as she prepares to part with the organization on Dec. 31.



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Gene Bolinger, new Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

CHRISTMAS EVE BELLRINGING

The beloved Christmas Eve bellringing tradition on Beacon Hill is turning 100 this year! To celebrate, the evening will begin with a special handbell performance in front of the Nichols House Museum and a procession to Louisburg Square, with a few other fun surprises.

Christmas Eve 2024 Program
7:30PM, 55 Mt. Vernon: Gather for handbell performance and process to Louisburg Square

8PM, 12 Louisburg Square: Traditional bell ringing program

All are welcome to stay to enjoy cookies and refreshments afterwards

For more information about the history of bell ringing on Beacon Hill please visit: <https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/beacon-hill-bellringers/>

UPCOMING KNITTING ACTIVITIES AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library will offer 'Learn to Knit with Knitly!' on Fridays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 10-11 a.m. (Registration is for one session.)

Have you been curious about learning how to knit? Join instructors from Knitly for a fun, social experience, where you will learn how to knit a garter stitch cowl. Materials, including a yarn buffet, are available for participants. No prior experience is necessary.

Registration is required for this event as seats are limited; contact Wesley Fiorentino, generalist librarian, via email at wfiorentino@bpl.org or by calling 617-523-3957.

The library will also offer 'Knit-

ting and Fiber Crafts Clinic with Knitly' on Fridays from Jan. 10-31 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Did you know that knitting has been shown to lower stress levels and blood pressure as much as yoga and meditation? Drop in for knitting help, socializing, and a discussion on the fiber arts. Each session will feature a different knitting-focused discussion. Bring any project you're working on, or get inspired by the provided materials. No prior experience is necessary.

Registration is required for this event as seats are limited; contact Wesley Fiorentino, generalist librarian, via email at wfiorentino@bpl.org or by calling 617-523-3957.

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).

STROLL (from pg. 1)

blocks from Cambridge Street to Beacon Street for this annual holiday community gathering.

Upstairs Downstairs faced a minor obstacle this year, when scaffolding was erected in front of the store only days before the event. Not to be deterred, Laura and Bob Cousineau hosted the evening, welcoming hundreds of visitors who joined in singing carols led by guest singer, the Boston Balladeer, John Martin. The evening also offered a host of activities, like the return of the famous Faneuil Hall Advent calendar with gifts in 25 secret boxes.

Beacon Hill has many historic Christmas traditions, including outdoor caroling begun by parishioners at the Church of the

Advent in 1859; Beacon Hill Bell Ringers in 1924 inspired by Margaret Shurcliff; and single candles in windows started during the Depression in 1933 by Alfred Shurtleff on 9 West Cedar St.

"We are so proud to be part of and to honor the rich traditions of the past and know that one day the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll will take its place among these honored traditions, if it hasn't already," said Laura Cousineau. "We so appreciate this time of the year and are especially blessed and grateful for our wonderful staff who help to turn our store into a welcoming winter wonderland for the friends and customers we value so highly."

TOY DRIVE (from pg. 2)

Center
61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan
Friday, December 20
BCYF Johnson
68 Annunciation Road, Mission Hill

Saturday, December 21
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building

2300 Washington St, Roxbury
"AFSCME Council 93 leaders and members feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Mayor Wu to make the holiday season brighter for Archdale Families," said Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard. "Given the work that the Mayor, her team and the AFSCME Boston leadership has accomplished together to improve the lives of our members, it's nice to work with her directly on something good for our community as a whole."

"Bringing holiday cheer to children and families directly to neighborhoods is essential to continuing to meet constituents where they are," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "BCYF and BHA have always been a place of gathering for residents. We are grateful for their partnership to help spread joy this season."

"The Mayor's Toy Drive is truly a community event, and we're thrilled to be part of it," said Bos-

ton Centers for Youth and Families Commissioner Marta Rivera. "We're especially grateful to the donors who join with us in making sure all families can bring joy to children this holiday season."

In an effort to ensure all residents who do not live in BHA housing or close to a BCYF community center will have toys for their children during the holidays, the City of Boston's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet will host a Boston Give Back event on Saturday, December 21 in Roxbury at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building. Free toys will be distributed to children in the community. This event is supported by partners Fidelity Investments, Boston Public School Custodians, Artists Initiative for Revolution (AIR), Russell Paulding, Ocean State Job Lot, and TD Garden / Delaware North / Boston Bruins.

"The holidays can be a beautiful and complex season for many of our residents, and at the City of Boston we are aware of this reality because many of us have lived it, too. That is why we close the season of giving with an event called Boston Gives Back, a day filled with holiday magic, food, and toys," said Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Chief Mariangely Solis Cervera.

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EDITORIAL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE SCOURGE WITHOUT END

When we heard the news last Friday morning that a 32 year-old woman had been shot and killed in broad daylight on a busy Chelsea street, the first thought that immediately crossed our mind was: The husband or boyfriend did it. Just a few hours later, police announced that they had arrested a suspect, the victim's 31 year-old estranged husband who, according to news reports, had called police to turn himself in.

We've been in the news business for longer than we care to remember and the world has changed in ways that were unimaginable when we began our career in journalism more than 50 years ago. But despite the changes in technology and societal attitudes regarding countless issues, the one constant that has remained is the pathology of domestic violence.

It still is the case today, just as it always has been, that a woman is more likely to suffer violence by a partner than from any other source. The statistics tell the tragic story: Nearly half of all women murdered in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner; 1 in 4 women will experience physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; 1 in 3 women will experience some form of sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; and 1 in 6 women will experience stalking from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

It also has remained true that the most dangerous time for a woman in a relationship is the period when she first decides to leave her partner. The victim in the shooting this past week had been married to the suspect for 10 years, but they had become estranged only within the past two weeks.

In addition, an article in this week's New York Times has highlighted another dangerous time period for women: According to the Times, the second-leading cause of death (other than from the pregnancy itself) for women who are pregnant or recently postpartum is domestic violence.

What also was not surprising about Friday's tragic event is that a gun was used by the perpetrator. The mere presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500% and more than half of intimate partner homicides are by firearm.

Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court recently let stand laws that exist in every state that require a person with a domestic violence restraining order to turn in his guns. However, there had not been a restraining order between the parties involved in Friday's tragedy.

Domestic violence cuts across all racial and economic lines. Just the week before Friday's incident (in which the victim and the suspect, both of whom are Haitian immigrants and are Black), it was announced that the Cohasset man who allegedly murdered and dismembered his wife -- both of whom are white -- at Christmas time two years ago will stand trial next year. We also would note that today's Massachusetts domestic violence laws stem from the 1970s after an incident in that wealthy suburb of Cohasset in which the husband shot and killed his wife and then shot and wounded his children before turning the gun on himself.

We generally conclude our editorials by offering our view on what lawmakers or individuals can do in order to bring about societal change. However, when it comes to domestic violence, we have no ready solution to this long-standing problem. We can only recommend to women and anyone who is in an abusive relationship to end it immediately and seek help from law enforcement, the courts, and the many services available to victims of domestic violence in our communities. (In Chelsea, HarborCOV offers services for victims of domestic violence. Its 24 hour hotline number is 617-884-9909.)

ANOTHER DICTATOR BITES THE DUST

The demise of the dictatorship in Syria this weekend that brought to an end 50 years of brutal rule by the Assad family -- Bashir al-Assad had succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad -- was startling to most observers. The Assad regime had successfully fought off a rebel army more than a decade ago, and though Syria had been divided into areas of control by various rebel groups and the government, the Assad regime, bolstered by the Russians and the Iranians, seemed secure.

However, the denigration of Iran's military capabilities by Israel this past year and Russia's weakened position because of its war in Ukraine left the Assad regime vulnerable to the rebel factions who never had gone away over the past decade.

What caught everyone by surprise, including Bashir al-Assad himself, was the rapidity of the rebels' advance from their stronghold in a tiny portion of northwestern Syria in the city of Idlib to the capital of Damascus, hundreds of miles away.

The images of Syrians rejoicing in the streets amidst the toppled statues of Hafez al-Assad were reminiscent of what happened in the immediate aftermath of the fall of so many other Middle East dictators, including Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Muammar al-Gaddafi in Libya.

The quick end to the al-Assad regime brought to mind a phrase by a character in the novel, *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway, about how bankruptcy befalls someone: "Gradually and then suddenly."

We join with the Syrian people in their joy and pray that their future, whatever path it may take, will be peaceful.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YOU ARE NOT IMMUNE TO PROPAGANDA

To the Editor,

Without preamble, I will simply dive into the misguided opinion piece included in the December 5 edition of the Beacon Hill Times. It is bold to begin an article with an assertion that everyone agrees that a controversial figure is a visionary. I will get to that point later, but I first would like to address the erroneous idea that driverless cars will solve, frankly, any issue in Boston.

Driverless cars do nothing to mitigate the real problems normal cars present to pedestrians and other drivers, which is inducing traffic and injuries to all road users. First, the cars are inefficient as has been documented many times, specifically of the cars being brought to a stand still by a simple traffic cone on the hood of the car and also not being able to navigate streets around other driverless cars. Believing this will solve traffic is misguided. Second, they still take up the same amount of space that regular cars do now. Nothing will be done about the lack of space in our city that has

already been caused by ceding so much of it to the transportation of mostly single-passengers. The most important piece that will not be solved is the danger cars present to pedestrians, mainly injuries and death. In their rollout, as of October 2024, Tesla autopilot has been involved in the deaths of 43 individuals. 43 individuals that one Elon Musk said are necessary sacrifices to move forward.

The second error in the article was the praise of an oligarch who just recently bribed his way into the cabinet of the now president-elect. Elon Musk's main interest is in platforming himself and this action forms the crux of the danger of our present-day media landscape. Musk is the same individual who bought an entire social media platform to signal boost his sycophants and silence his critics, such as banning individuals for using cisgender, an innocuous term he deems to be a slur. Boston must be wary to not fall for the same tactics as other parts of the country and view the actions of any one individual through a critical lens. Or else, you will be sold fool's gold.

Tony Baez

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THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll is a much anticipated event, where from 5 to 9 p.m. Charles Street is closed off to motorized traffic. Pedestrians can casually take in the charm and ambiance of one of Boston's famous neighborhoods. The many shops there welcome visitors with refreshments and entertainment as shoppers can discover unique items to fill their gift lists.



Mark Hamilton of Coventry Brass performs on trombone.



Carla Hughes and her dad Peter with family friends Steven Nezhaf and his daughter Sabine.



Rusticator is a pop-up store at 53 Charles Street that will bring its vibe from its permanent location in Seal Harbor ME until Christmas Eve.



Jessica and Mila Dickenson take in the festive holiday happenings.



At Credo Alyssa Wall gets a quick makeover from specialist Isabel Ginsberg.



Pedestrians stroll Charles Street to browse the shops and enjoy the holiday ambiance.



Passerby take pictures of the window display at Blackstones of Beacon Hill.

THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



DressBoston drew shoppers attracted by its fashion offerings.



Outside of Tatte Leigh Cummings III experiences what his son Leigh Cummings VI found in his shopping adventures.



Commie and Jay Cadwallader check out the candle selection at Charles Street Supply & Hardware.



At Rusticator, Kenna loves being with her shopping friend Pond.



Passerby shoppers check out what's good in front of Charles Street Supply & Hardware.



The Paramount hosted the Beacon Hill Jazz Quartet comprised of AJ and Colescott of The Rubin Brothers performing with Jesse Mattison on Keys and Lauren Schultes singing.

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Coventry Brass musician Hitomi Taguchi Bowman performs on trumpet.



Please Recycle This Paper

Rusticator pop-up store employees Gracen Costello and Kaitie Montoya are happy to bring holidays magic with Maine flair to Boston.

THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The crew at Blackstones of Beacon Hill helps visitors discover treasures in its stock of home furnishings and kitchenware.



Harry and AKP enjoy a magical evening together at Upstairs Downstairs Home.



At Dave Poutre Fine Framing, the shop's owner and namesake has an exhibit of some of his diverse artwork.



The crew at Charles Street Supply & Hardware welcomed visitors to their store.



Sisters Amanda and Rebecca Bloomer pay Upstairs Downstairs Home a visit.



Upstairs Downstairs Home drew many visitors in to its bustling activity.

CHRISTMAS TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Neighborhoods on a **Regular** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

Neighborhoods on a **Delayed** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Charlestown
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

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THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The people who make Upstairs Downstairs Home a special place to visit and shop.



Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan with friends Grant Martin and Rebecca Ramjug.



AKP serves refreshments at Upstairs Downstairs Home during the Holiday Stroll.



Owners of Upstairs Downstairs Home Laura and Bob Cousineau enjoying the Holiday Stroll.

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Rose Kennedy Greenway announces the return of Hatchlings winter lights

Special to the Times

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is excited to announce that Hatchlings by interdisciplinary design team Studio HHH have returned in November. Hatchlings, which debuted on The Greenway last winter, provide a playful reference to one of Boston's most iconic landmarks, the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, while envisioning a brighter and more environmentally sustainable future.

Selected as the winning design from the Greenway Conservancy's 2023 Request for Proposals for a Winter Lights Program, Hatchlings was inspired by a whimsical question posed by Studio HHH: What if the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade hatched a cluster of baby "shells" that wandered off down the Charles River Esplanade through The Greenway like adventurous ducklings?

"We loved studying the intricate Art Deco architecture of the Hatch Shell pavilion," said Vanessa Till Hooper, founder and creative director at Studio HHH. "Through the process of working to echo its arches and angles, we discovered many layers of

thoughtful design and mathematical elegance. It's a perfect structure, and we are delighted by the opportunity to draw new attention to this beautiful and historic Boston landmark."

Similar to last year's installation, many of the Hatchlings will be powered either entirely through solar power or through a combination of grid and solar power. "Maintaining consistent solar energy throughout the darkest months of the year was a design challenge we were excited to meet, something that our studio felt was critical to advancing the conversation about sustainability in Boston," said Teresita Cochran, solar specialist at Studio HHH.

In total, nine Hatchlings dot The Greenway, each featuring vibrant arches in colorful animated lights. The Hatchlings appear in a variety of sizes, with the largest standing at 8.5 feet tall and the smallest at 2.5 feet tall. Throughout the winter months, the pavilions will serve as sites for informal gatherings, photo backdrops, and other activations.

We welcome you to join us in celebrating the re-opening of the Hatchlings at The Greenway's

Winter Warmer on Saturday, December 21 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Rings Fountain. Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with FREE programming including a hot chocolate bar, holiday toy workshop, bubble house, photo booth, with live music and an instrument petting zoo by Boston Music Project.

Visit rosekennedygreenway.org/hatchlings to find the exact locations of the Hatchlings and to download an interactive walking tour. For more information on upcoming events in connection with the Hatchlings, please check the Greenway Conservancy's events calendar: rosekennedygreenway.org/calendar.

Follow the Hatchlings' winter fun on social media (@rosekennedygreenway) and share your own posts using the hashtag #HatchlingsOnTheGreenway

The Greenway Winter Lights Program is exclusively funded through private sources. Hatchlings by Studio HHH (2023-2024) was made possible through the generous support of Meet Boston.

Studio HHH is an interdisciplinary design studio specializing in creative interventions within



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS RUCINSKI

A look at the Hatchlings winter lights from last year.

the built environment and public realm, led by founder/creative director Vanessa Till Hooper and art production manager Emily Castro. The studio team of all-women designers and artists, including sustainability specialist Teresita Cochran, develops meaningful and engaging experiences at the intersection of art, architecture, and technology. Studio HHH was founded in 2018 in Somerville, MA. They currently operate

in Boston, The Berkshires in western MA, and Brooklyn, NY.

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

Old North Church undergoing paint conservation and restoration project

Special to the Times

An interior revolution is underway at Boston's Old North Church and Historic Site. On Sept 30, a 6-month paint conservation and restoration project began to uncover 18th-century painted angels hidden beneath layers of white overpaint on the balcony arches in the church's sanctuary. I invite you to join renowned paintings and murals conservator Gianfranco Pocobene for the multi-step process that has begun at Old North Church in Boston's North End and will continue through late March.

The angels at the center of this work were painted by John Gibbs, an accomplished decorative painter and congregation member, who completed Old North Church's first major interior decoration, including the painting of 16 angels, between 1727 and the 1730s. The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

While Old North Church once boasted a colorful interior filled with intricate and ornate designs, all of this artwork – including Gibbs's angels – was painted over with white paint in 1912. However, a paint study conducted in 2017 revealed that the lost cherubs still exist. Expert craftspeople painstakingly removed layers of white



A worker painstakingly removes layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727.

paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727. Old North's team nicknamed this angel "Howard" in honor of a beloved advocate and supporter of the church.

The 2024-2025 paint restoration project is restoring more of Gibbs's work: the rest of the angels and decorative festoons between them. In order to uncover the angels, lead conservator Gianfranco Pocobene and his team apply a solvent gel similar to a paint stripper that softens the layers of white paint, manually remove the overpaint with a plastic scraper,

and then do additional cleaning with a cotton swab covered in solvents. An exciting discovery has been that Gibbs's angels do not have identical faces; each one was designed to be unique. Watch this video interview with Gianfranco to learn more.

"The timing of this project is particularly exciting. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Old North's signal lanterns and Paul Revere's midnight ride in April 2025, visitors to the church will get a glimpse of the sanctuary as Revere knew it," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old



The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

North Illuminated.

This project will be done in two phases:

- Phase 1 (through Dec.): Gianfranco and his team will work on scaffolding in the rear of the church while they conduct the work and test solvent mixtures on small areas of paint. The winning solution will be used on the surface to swell and dissolve an estimated three to four layers of paint, which will be delicately stripped away to reveal 8 of the hidden angels. The project will then pause as scaffolding will come down for holiday services in the church.

- Phase 2 (mid-Jan. through late March): Scaffolding will go back up in the front of the church to continue the stripping process. Eight more angels will be revealed. In early 2025, visitors will see half of the work complete and the other half in progress, making it an ideal time for media coverage. The grand reveal, when all 16 angels will be uncovered, will be in April.

"The step-by-step uncovering of the angels at Old North Church is revealing fascinating aspects of John Gibbs's painting tech-

(RESTORATION Pg. 12)

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold its monthly public hearing on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 616 of the Acts of 1955 of the Massachusetts General Law as amended. Applications are available by request. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

Attention: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our Zoom Hearing Link or calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting id # 992 1705 7850. You can also submit written comments or questions to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov.

Discussion Topics

1 Violation Review App # 25.0422 BH 71 Mount Vernon Street (VIO.24.0903)

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved removal & reconstruction of front walkway.

APP # 25.0444 BH 94 Charles Street (VIO.24.0903)

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved signage change.

APP # 25.0475 BH 222 Cambridge Street (VIO.24.0893)

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved window signage

2 Design Review APP # 25.0461 BH 89 Revere Street

Proposed Work: Paint new windows red/brown, low luster (See Additional Work Under Administrative Review).

APP # 25.0403 BH 90 Chestnut Street

Proposed Work: New Roof Deck & Trellis, Replace original windows on rear oriel visible from River Street (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

3 Administrative Review App # 25.0445 BH 80 Beacon Street: Replace broken stone headers at the 3rd and 4th floors in kind.

APP # 25.0458 BH 2 Byron Street: Scrape and paint, Replace missing J bolts, hold the grating floors, replace all bolts of the old treads, modify all the platforms, removing those from the corners of the wall, and also modify the stairs from the first platform below.

APP # 25.0389 BH 122 Charles Street: Reinstall (previously approved) blade sign at new

store location.

APP # 25.0474 BH 30 Chestnut Street: Replace 27 non-historic windows at 30 Chestnut Street. 17 on the front elevation & 10 at the rear elevation. Replacement windows are to be made from wood, true divided lite, double hung, 13/16" interior profile width, 3/16" exterior wood stem & glazed, no low-e glass. The front elevation flat facade windows will be painted semi-gloss black in kind. Second & Third floor bay will be a custom beige to match the existing. The rear elevation will be painted Essex Green in kind to the existing.

APP # 25.0403 BH 90 Chestnut Street: Restore all front facing windows, repaint front windows and doors in kind, Repoint/seal existing glass blocks in existing concrete panels, Replace intercom violation with brass covered doorbird doorbell (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 25.0460 BH 9 Hancock Street: Replace two total first floor front elevation, 6 over 1 sash sets keeping the existing jambs and wood sills. The existing broken aluminum storm window will be removed. Replace with two new, wood, 6 over 1, true divided lite, with no low-e glass, double hung sash sets which will be glazed at the exterior and painted semi-gloss black to match the current color. No brick moldings or masonry will be removed.

APP # 25.0407 BH 21 Irving Street: Stabilize masonry wall and cornice.

APP # 25.0441 BH 4 Lime Street: Removal, restoration and re-installation of 17 historic street-facing windows; removal restoration and re-installation of (2) street-facing doors and one pane transom window. Included is the purchase and installation of 17 Historic storm panels Masonry Restoration; Repair and repoint the original brick facade as is necessary due to loose mortar as well as evidence of water infiltration/cracking. All care will be taken to match the historic appearance of mortar in color and texture. Additionally, we propose the replacement (and repair where possible) of the precast lintels and sills, while targeting the preservation of material and detail selection to match the original condition.

APP # 25.0479 BH 116 Myrtle

Street: Restore all front elevation windows. Two windows at grade level/sidewalk will have the black spray paint removed from the existing glass & painted semi-gloss black. 1st, 2nd & 3rd floor windows are believed to be original. Broken glass panes to be replaced with period correct glass, reglazed & painted semi-gloss black. 4th floor windows to be painted semi-gloss black. 10 new black thin sightline aluminum storm windows installed at the exterior of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd floor. Applied at existing blind stops. The front entrance door. Lockset hardware to be restored along with the house numbers. New unlacquered brass mail slot to be placed in the door. Door to be repainted at the exterior in the existing color. Beadboard

door below grade to be painted semi-gloss black and new house numbers to match the main door in unlacquered brass.

APP # 25.0461 BH 89 Revere Street: Replace all eleven, non-historic windows at the front elevation. First floor, two windows second, third and fourth floors: three each. Replace the 11 windows with new wood, true divided lite, double hung windows with no low-e glass. The new sash will have a 13/16" interior profile width, 3/16" exterior wood stem & glazed (See Additional Work Under Design Review).

4 Ratification of November 21, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes and December 3, 2024 Business Meeting

5 Staff Updates

Beacon Hill Times Drop-Off Locations

Antonio's	288 Cambridge St.
Simmon's Liquors	210 Cambridge St.
Jobi Liquors.....	170 Cambridge St.
7-Eleven.....	122 Cambridge St.
West End Library.....	151 Cambridge St.
Charles St. Liquors	143 Charles St.
U.S. Post Office.....	136 Charles St.
Gary Drug	53 Charles St.
Bank of America.....	39 Charles St.
Charles St. Supply.....	54 Charles St.
Cobblestones	30 Charles St.
DeLuca's	11 Charles St.
Cheers.....	84 Beacon St.
Beacon Hill Market	61 Anderson
	[corner of Myrtle St.]
Beacon Capitol Market	30 Myrtle St.
City Convenience.....	23 Beacon St.
Capital Coffee House	122 Bowdoin St.

Apartment Building locations:

8 Whittier Place	1 Emerson Place
6 Whittier Place	5 Emerson Place
150 Stanford St.	45 Temple St.
1 Longfellow	10 Bowdoin St.
4 Longfellow	144 Bowdoin St.
5 Longfellow	130 Bowdoin St.
2 Hawthorne Place	45 Myrtle St.
9 Hawthorne Place	19 Myrtle St.
4 Emerson Place	65 Martha Rd.

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NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through December 21 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Barrier formwork and concrete placements
- Architectural trellis lighting installation
- West pedestrian handrail installation
- City Square median finishes
- Southwest approach barrier and sidewalk work
- Marine fender wood installation
- Lovejoy walkway 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:

- Bruins: Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.
- Celtics: Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.
- Other events: Dec. 14, at 8 p.m., Dec. 15, at 6 p.m., and Dec. 16, at 6:30 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://mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

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

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The dormer in the last clue is on 100 Pinckney Street, built circa 1890. French architect François Mansart is credited with popularizing the mansard roof named after him and the dormers he designed into that roof to bring light to attic bedrooms.

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Butternut Nt	Hatch Serena M Est	180 Beacon St #3D	\$2,015,000
Butternut Nt	Hatch Serena M Est	180 Beacon St #3E	\$2,015,000
Jaccard Development T	Bert W Serwitz 2000 RET	324-332 Beacon St #114	\$1,662,500
Tts185 Realty LLC	Back Bay Brighton Rt	185 Marlborough St #2	\$4,100,000
Brindisi, Daniel L	Holm Jr, William N	249 Marlborough St #3	\$2,175,000
BEACON HILL			
Khoury, Kimberly S	Litmanovich, Raisa	42 Joy St #9	\$1,840,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Jennifer Lemley 2024 T	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #31D	\$5,150,000
Dickinson, Cheryl C	Elizabeth Gay Forbes Ft	189 W Canton St #3	\$610,000
Ngo Pham Ft	Choi, Youngah	636-638 Beacon St #205	\$525,000
Staffaroni, Laura M	Paszcykowski, Joseph L	14 Concord Sq #2	\$910,000
Pomper, Steven D	Chan, Igor	135 W Concord St #2	\$2,412,500
Isautier, Pierre	Nemtsov, Sara	208 W Springfield St #4	\$1,776,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Riley, Sean A	Peter M Boniface RET	300 Commercial St #207	\$835,000
Callahan, Mary	Gadsden, Eleanore P	580 Washington St #3A	\$1,455,000

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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COMMON TREE LIGHTING CONTINUES TRADITION



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and title sponsor, The Province of Nova Scotia, hosted the 83rd annual Boston Common Tree Lighting, on Thursday, Dec. 5. This year's tree - a 45-foot white spruce - continues the 53-year tradition of Nova Scotia gifting Boston a holiday tree as a thank you for relief efforts following a Dec. 6, 1917, explosion of a ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster, Boston sent a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel to Nova Scotia.

RESTORATION (from pg. 9)

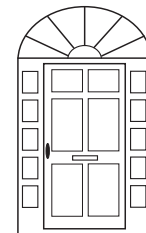
nique," said Gianfranco. "Even more intriguing and exciting is the opportunity to conserve and restore some of the earliest paint decorations in America and make them accessible to the public and scholars alike."

Born in Italy and raised in Canada, Gianfranco received his Master of Arts in Conservation from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1984. He first came to Boston in the 1980s to earn a Certificate of Advanced Training from the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard Art Museums. He then spent the next 15 years working for the Straus Center for Conservation, Harvard Art Museums where he oversaw the restoration of mural cycles at the Boston Public Library by

Puvis de Chavannes, Edwin Austin Abbey, and John Singer Sargent. In 2004, he was appointed Chief Conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum where he carried out treatments and technical studies on the paintings collection. Early this year he left the Gardner Museum to focus exclusively on his private practice, Gianfranco Pocabene Studio which was established in 1991. Some of the Studio's significant mural projects include the restoration of the John LaFarge murals at Trinity Church, Boston, the Women's Gallery mural at Vilna Shul, Beacon Hill, Puvis de Chavannes' Philosophy mural at the Boston Public Library, and Benjamin Constant's mural at the Ames-Webster Mansion, Boston.

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