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DECEMBER 19, 2024

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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

THANK YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY DECORATORS!

Helping to decorate the Hill are local volunteers Chris Turner (shown in the lower middle photo), and Jonathan Hoenig with his helper in the cart, (in the photo to the top right). Also shown are John and Lauren Hennessey (in the lower left photo), and David Beardsley and Laura Tomasetti (are shown in the bottom right photo) were just some of the amazing neighbors who came out to decorate for the holidays.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vizza prepares to bid farewell to the FOPG

By Dan Murphy

While Friends of the Public Garden President Liz Vizza intends to step away from the organization at the end of the month after a 15-year tenure, the positive influence she has made on Boston's parks will undoubtedly continue to endure well into the future.

In April of 2009, Vizza, who had previously worked extensively in landscape planning and historic preservation but had no prior nonprofit experience, came on board as Executive Director of the Friends group, which together with the Boston Parks Depart-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN
 Liz Vizza, outgoing President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

(VIZZA Pg. 3)

City hosts rodent control webinar

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Last week, the city hosted a webinar in which representatives from the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and Waste Reduction team discussed rodent control and how it starts with residents.

John Ulrich, the assistant commissioner of environmental services at ISD, initially spoke about what the division does regarding pest management.

First, Ulrich explained they use an integrated pest management program to keep populations low and have controls in place to reduce reliance on rodenticides.

Moreover, he spoke about the outreach that is conducted for environmental sanitation. "We allow neighbors to point to the issues that they're dealing with," said Ulrich, who indicated that an inspector responds to 311 complaints with-

(RODENT Pg. 2)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming Meetings
 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.

WE ARE CLOSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS DAY
HOLIDAY DEADLINES
 PUBDATE: 12/26/24 DEAD: FRI 12/20/24
 PUBDATE: 1/2/24 DEAD: FRI 12/27/24

RODENT (from pg. 1)

in 24-48 hours.

Ulrich expanded on what the response by an inspector looks like in that they are looking for the cause of a rodent issue. "It's mainly driven by food, but food, water, and shelter is what we're looking for," he said.

Later, Ulrich described issues that lead to more rodent activity, such as feeding birds and neglecting to pick up dog waste, and noted that dumpsters and trash were the primary food source for rodents in the city.

To combat rodent activity, Ulrich emphasized that it is essential to store trash properly. "[Make] sure your barrels have covers, tight-fitting lids, that they don't have holes in them or cracks," he said.

Sanitation inside and outside a home was described as the most important step to prevent rodent infestations. For example, Ulrich spoke about the importance of not leaving food out and general maintenance like vacuuming.

Securing the correct amount of storage barrels for a particular household was also stressed. "If you have two barrels with covers and then you put out four trash bags, you're missing the point, and you're still contributing to rodent activity," said Ulrich.

Other critical measures to prevent rodents discussed included not leaving pet food outside, discarding unwanted items like furniture that might be cluttered, and performing regular yard maintenance like mowing the lawn.

As the presentation continued, Ulrich provided tips on ensuring that rodents do not enter homes.

For example, he discussed repointing masonry, such as foundations, and sealing cracks

and gaps above ground level.

As for what methods the environmental services division uses for rodent control, Ulrich described a couple.

One method is putting two pounds of dry ice in holes. While Ulrich said it was effective and helped reduce the reliance on rodenticides, he indicated they had used it less recently.

Another method is using a Burrow RX machine. "A Burrow RX machine is a machine that uses carbon monoxide to pump into the burrows and kills the rat inside the burrows," said Ulrich.

"There's no risk of secondary poisoning with rodenticide, and it's very effective."

After Ulrich provided an overview of rodent control requirements for construction sites and the city's site cleanliness ordinance, Dennis Roache, the city's superintendent of waste reduction, took the floor.

After providing an overview of the waste reduction team, Roache explained why Boston is a "perfect storm city" for rats.

First, Roache discussed the city's age. It has 150-year-old sewer systems, alleys, and street corners that are rat-friendly, as well as densely populated neighborhoods.

He also pointed out that the city does not have containerization rules on trash day. "This basically leads to a free dinner buffet," said Roache.

To combat rodent issues, Roache recommends that residents always store trash in rodent-proof bins. He also noted that the city is looking at what New York is doing regarding requiring containerization.

Roache also reemphasized other strategies that were presented by Ulrich, such as main-

taining cleanliness and sealing cracks around homes.

Residents of buildings with six or fewer units were also urged to sign up for the city's free food waste collection program.

"It's a way to separate your food waste into a container," said Roache. "You can separate your food waste out of your trash and keep rats off of your property."

For more information and to sign up for the food waste collection program, visit <https://www.bostoncomposts.com/>.

Tips for bigger buildings were also provided, such as offering educational programs for residents, dropping food waste off at free Project Oscar Bins, using a commercial trash service, and more.

For more information about Project Oscar Bins and their locations, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar>.

To close out the presentation, Ulrich provided more information about the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), which he described as a "new initiative to reduce rodent population across the City of Boston."

The plan, which involves numerous city agencies, was accompanied by a report from Dr. Bobby Corrigan, an urban rodentologist who made recommendations that fall into six categories: coordination, trash management, data and technology, community engagement, integrated pest management, and sanitation.

For example, some of these recommendations call for improved communication between city departments, policy improvements for trash storage and collection, communication with residents about how their behavior impacts rodents, and much more.

Finally, Ulrich discussed enacting pilot programs in neighborhoods with the goal of scaling them citywide. These pilots include marketing and education campaigns, litter basket improvements, and more in neighborhoods such as Dorchester, the North End, Roxbury, and others.

To learn more about the city's plan for rodents and how you can help combat the issue, view the webinar in its entirety at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3Q3JsTROCE>.

Two men arraigned for flying drones from restricted Long Island

Special to the Times

Two men were charged in Dorchester BMC with three counts each connected to flying drones in hazardous air space around Long Island and Boston Harbor on Saturday, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Robert Duffy, 42, of Charlestown, and Jeremy Folcik, 32, of Bridgewater, were each charged with trespassing, breaking and entering, and violating a municipal ordinance or bylaw. Judge Erika Reis released the men on personal recognizance and ordered them to stay away from Long Island and to not operate drones. Both will return to court February 6 for pre-trial hearings.

Boston Police responded to the abandoned homeless and hospital campus on Long Island via patrol boat at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday to investigate reports of unmanned aircraft being flown in hazardous proximity to Logan Airport. As officers searched the site they saw a light on in a building and a person walk by a window. Officers climbed to the second floor of the

building by fire escape stairs and conducted a room search. Officers encountered Duffy and Folcik in the building. Duffy told officers he had been flying a drone and that it was in his backpack. Duffy and Folcik told officers they had been transported to the island on a boat owned by a third man. They said they did not know the man's name. Boston Police asked a State Police patrol boat unit for assistance in locating the third man but he was not apprehended.

Using data from the drone's serial number officers identified six recorded flights on Saturday and seven recorded flights on December 7.

"No trespassing" signs are posted on structures throughout the shuttered Long Island campus.

"There are many areas in Massachusetts to safely operate drones. But flying them from an area closed to the public while creating a potential public safety hazard in the process is conduct that will land people in court to answer to criminal charges, which is exactly what happened here," Hayden said.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

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 'Knitting 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).

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627
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Breaking and Entering

12/02/24 - At around 1:30 p.m., police responded to a call on Anderson Street for a breaking and entering to a home. The victim informed officers they left their apartment the day prior and came home to find their door wide open, with an assortment of items missing totaling approximately \$6,000. There was no visible sign of forced entry to the apartment. Area A-1 detectives were scheduled to further investigate this matter.

Flynn calls for cancellation of the White Stadium proposal

Special to the Times

After months of opposition letters and statements during various levels of city approvals, District 2 Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is calling on the Wu Administration to cancel the planned renovation of White Stadium in Franklin Park due to increasing concerns on fiscal responsibility, as projected costs have reportedly jumped from \$50 million to now \$91 million so far for the city. These fiscal issues are in addition to previous concerns highlighted by residents - including lack of a thorough community process, the use of public land for private organizations, and now the practicality of two professional soccer stadiums in close proximity with the New England Revolution 24,000 seat proposal in Everett, as well as other suitable options available.

Residents and organizations across the city have expressed concerns on the lack of a genuine pub-

lic process that left many neighbors feeling unheard when it came to rapidly rising projections and the city's finances, reports of the ability to renovate White Stadium at a projected \$20 million for student athletes and residents, as well as displacement of students and the general public for 20 games and 20 practices annually during warmer months. Many neighbors also expressed that they were not taken seriously on quality of life issues like traffic and congestion, available parking, trash removal, and public safety. Moreover, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reported that 140 trees would need to be cut down for the project, as well as paving over acres of grass to accommodate the construction.

From the outset, Councilor Flynn repeatedly took issue with the initial investment projected at \$50 million, and expressed concerns that the project appeared tone deaf - especially at a time when the Administration, the City

Council, the Massachusetts State House, concerned residents and businesses have spent the better part of a year debating our budget and a property tax shift in the face of reports on falling commercial property values. For months, Councilor Flynn repeatedly warned that figure could easily inflate with higher cost overruns. Last month, city officials revealed at the Public Facilities Commission that the White Stadium Project is now projected to cost residents and taxpayers \$91 million. Mayor Wu publicly stated last week that, "We are going to pay our half of the Stadium, no matter what it costs."

Councilor Flynn previously made his opposition known at both the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission in August and at the Boston School Committee in September, where he highlighted the need for additional community process as well as further discussion when it comes to

proposals on the privatization of public space.

Beyond concerns on fiscal issues and public space, residents across the city have conveyed the need to discuss alternatives for the city to consider. There has been considerable public discussion now regarding the practicality of an agreement to potentially share a new soccer stadium in Everett between the New England Revolution and a National Women's Soccer League team, currently BOS Nation Football Club, like other major cities across the country. Portland, Oregon, and New York City have shared men and women's soccer stadiums. Finding a way to merge these proposals would also leave room to renovate White Stadium with a more responsible budget and significant upgrades for BPS students and residents. Moreover, Boston is rich with other opportunities that could support a professional women's soccer team, like Fenway Park and other premier

stadium options at our colleges and universities.

"Prior to these latest reports that the White Stadium project will now cost the city \$91 million, I have repeatedly called for a genuine community process. Residents did not feel that they were taken seriously when it came to the cost for the city, other available options, the use of public property, or quality of life and environmental issues," said Councilor Flynn. "We should cancel this proposal immediately and work together with residents and stakeholders across the city to provide the best option not only for our city and supporting a professional women's soccer team, but one that incorporates the voice of our residents and student athletes as well."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

VIZZA (from pg. 1)

ment, works to maintain and enhance the Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

The only paid staff member besides Vizza at that time was a part-time administrative assistant, but today, the Friends has a full-time staff of 10 while the organization's budget has increased six-fold under her leadership.

"When I got here, it was largely a volunteer-driven organization and had been for decades," said Vizza during a recent phone interview. She likened the growth of the Friends during her tenure as "putting a solid house on a good foundation."

At Vizza's urging, the Friends moved in early 2012 from a small, rented room at the Colonial Society's headquarters at 87 Mount Vernon St. to the organization's current headquarters at 69 Beacon St., located directly across the street from the Public Garden. The Friends now own the space, giving the group a secure base of operations, enviable for a small nonprofit.

As a testament to just how much Vizza has achieved with the group, going well beyond her original responsibilities, the Friends board voted in August of 2020 to officially change her title to President.

The Friends has faced some unexpected pitfalls during Vizza's time with the group, but as she is quick to point out, some of these apparent setbacks have actually proven to be beneficial for the

parks in the long run.

In 2016, the Friends spent 11 months challenging the proposed height of the Winthrop Square tower, which exceeded the legal height limit. Though the Friends ultimately "lost the fight" regarding the project's height, Vizza said it also led to increased awareness for the organization via dialogue with the entire Boston delegation at the State House, as well as every City Councilor.

The Friends also ultimately negotiated two 'concessions,' said Vizza, including the development of a comprehensive plan for Downtown, so that park advocates would not have to continue fighting proposals one building at a time, if deemed necessary.

The other agreement for the Friends was the development of a comprehensive, \$150 million Master Plan for the Boston Common, which the City released in October of 2022 to ensure that "money is spent intentionally and thoughtfully on high-priority needs," according to Vizza.

One of her greatest hopes for the future, said Vizza, is that the City can find the funding to realize the myriad projects outlined in this "roadmap for the People's Park."

The Friends has also undertaken projects in recent years that have not only led to partnerships with other organizations but have also served to examine some previously overlooked chapters in the history of the parks.

Completed in the summer of 2022, the restoration of the Rob-

ert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial on the Common, which commemorates the first Black regiment from the North to fight in the Civil War, involved a partnership between the Friends, the City, the National Park Service, and the Museum of African American History.

Moreover, "the monument was used as a platform for dialogue about race and social justice," said Vizza, to dig deeper to examine not only the monument's "true meaning" but also to "pose difficult questions about whether we are honoring their sacrifice today."

This effort also helped inform the Friends of the Public Garden's Monument & Memory Initiative, which, Vizza said, "scrutinizes park monuments around more complex histories to raise unheard voices and untold stories."

For the first time, the Friends worked with a Task Force of historians, the City archaeologist, and Massachusetts tribal members to document the history of the Indigenous people who have lived on the parklands for thousands of years and are still very much present in Boston.

Similarly, Vizza has strived to ensure that the parks are somewhere everyone can feel safe and comfortable, as well as making them welcoming places for All.

Meanwhile, the Friends is now in what Vizza calls a "Golden Age" when it comes to the group's partnership with the Boston Parks Department.

"There's a level of trust and

communication [between the Friends and the City] that has been so wonderful, and that has allowed us to work together in a much more seamless way than ever before," said Vizza.

(Since the Friends was established in 1970, a tacit agreement with the Boston Parks Department had been in the place, which wasn't formalized until both entities signed a Memorandum of Agreement in early 2020.)

Looking ahead, Vizza said "the sky is the limit" for the Friends, with the promise of new leadership bringing fresh ideas and opportunities.

Asked to reflect on what she wishes her legacy with the organization will ultimately be, Vizza said she hopes "that I helped

to ensure that the Friends is an enduring, impactful, and inclusive organization that continues to be a thought leader in Boston on the vital importance of healthy parks throughout the city, for All."

Vizza said she is proud that she helped grow the Friends from a largely volunteer nonprofit to an organization with a professional staff that now invests over \$2.5 million annually in park care and programming, "which is having a visible impact on the living landscape of these well-loved green spaces."

Vizza added: "Our relationship with the City is key, and I am leaving an organization that enjoys a trusted, collaborative partnership with the Parks Department."

OBITUARIES

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away. We realize that the compressed holiday shopping season has put even more pressure than usual on all of us, but we hope that all of our readers can find the time to remember those in need this holiday season.

The stock market may be booming and unemployment may be near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans once again has increased in the past year and millions of American children (1 in 8) face food insecurity on a regular basis.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2024 is that the promise of benefitting from a booming economy still is only a dream, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the onslaught of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers who have the means to do so to take a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that we make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa (the Salvation Army provided services to 27 million Americans last year) or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that we can make this holiday season.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE STARTED 80 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It was 80 years ago this week that the final big battle of WWII in Western Europe -- the Battle of the Bulge -- got underway.

In brief, the Battle of the Bulge marked a last-ditch counter-offensive by the German Army against the U.S. and its allies as the allies advanced through Belgium and toward Germany. The German attack, which caught the Americans by surprise, earned its name from the "bulge" that the sudden German thrust created in the middle of the American line in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium.

The battle was immortalized in the 1965 movie, *The Battle of the Bulge*, and then 40 years later in the great HBO series *Band of Brothers*, which followed the exploits of E Company of the fabled 101st Airborne Division, including its crucial role in the defense of the Belgian town of Bastogne where General Anthony McAuliffe uttered the famous, one-word declaration word, "Nuts!" in response to a demand for him to surrender from the German commander who had surrounded the Americans. The 101st Airborne hung on, against all odds and a militarily-superior enemy, stalling the German offensive until General George Patton arrived with reinforcements.

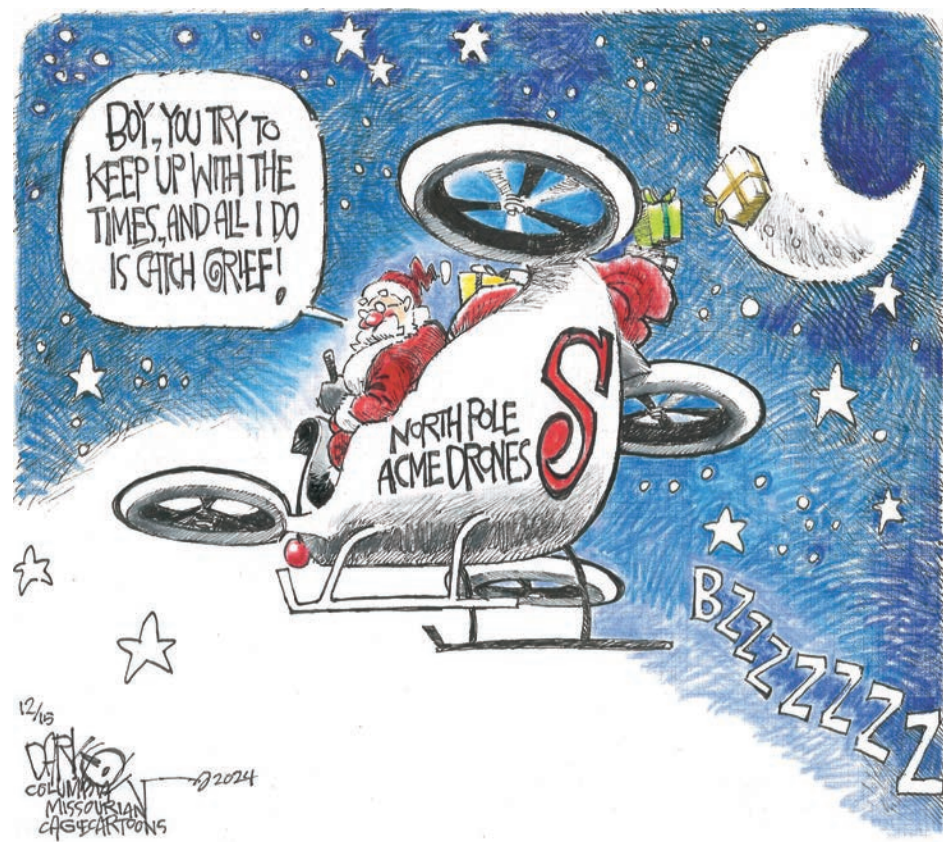
Soldiers fought in brutal winter conditions against a ruthless German enemy that literally was taking no prisoners -- the Nazis executed hundreds of captured American soldiers during the engagement. Altogether, the U.S. Army lost approximately 19,000 men and suffered 75,000 total casualties in what became the United States' deadliest single World War II battle, which extended from December 16, 1944, to January 16, 1945. When the battle was over, so too for all intents and purposes were the Germans, whose surrender occurred less than four months later.

The reason we wish to make note of this epic battle is because in some of our sister newspapers, we write a weekly "Through the Years" column. In our Revere newspaper, it was noted that seven Revere families were notified this week 80 years ago that their sons, husbands, and fathers had been killed in action.

We today can only imagine the profound and deep sense of grief and sadness that enveloped entire communities all across the country as the telegrams from the War Department were delivered by the thousands to families informing them of the loss of their loved ones over those terrible four weeks.

In addition, it occurred to us that so few of the Greatest Generation, including our own uncles and fathers who served in that war, are still alive today. All of the members of Easy Company have passed away.

We do so in hopes of acknowledging the debt we owe to the brave soldiers who gave their lives in the forests and on the fields of Belgium 80 years ago, with the hope that we might fulfill the sentiments expressed by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address: "... that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."



Tips to keep your postal carriers safe

Snow in New England can be a beautiful sight as it glistens on the lawn, decorates tree limbs and adds a sense of wonder to the holidays. It can come as a blessing for skiers, plow drivers and kids yearning for a school-free snow day. But for postal letter carriers and other delivery personnel it can be a nightmare.

Icy walkways, wet leaves and rakes, toys or other trip hazards hidden under the snow can cause injury to a carrier trying to navigate a path to your mailbox. Keeping your walkway clear of snow, ice and other obstacles can not only protect people delivering to your home, but it can also help you avoid potential insurance claims or

lawsuits resulting from slip and fall injuries sustained on your property.

Likewise, if your home is serviced by a curbside mailbox, keeping a clear path to and from your box is each homeowner's responsibility.

Letter Carriers are committed to delivering to every address every day, provided that it's safe to do so. With your help creating a safe environment, we can keep the mail moving and make sure everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.

On behalf of the more than 660,000 postal employees nationwide, we wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

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PHONE: 617-523-9490 - FAX: 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

COMMONWEALTH AVE. MALL-LIGHTING CEREMONY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

A ceremony was held to light up the Commonwealth Ave Mall with festive lights to help celebrate the holiday season. From Arlington Street to Kenmore Square the

iconic fixture of Back Bay was illuminated bringing an added quality to the classic ambience of the neighborhood.



Izzy Walsh, Jasmine You, and Taylor Layne Seymour meet The Grinch.



Interim President of Friends Of The Public Garden Gene Bolinger, City of Boston Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Interim Parks Commissioner Liza Myer, Mayor Michelle Wu, outgoing Friends Of The Public Garden President Liz Vizza, Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone.



The historic Commonwealth Ave Mall is aglow in festive lights to help celebrate the holiday season.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu thanks the community for working together.



A group of neighbors find friendship in the holiday gathering.



Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan and City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune with Bob O'Neill.

COMMONWEALTH AVE. MALL-LIGHTING CEREMONY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Friends Of The Public Garden outgoing President Liz Vizza welcomes everyone to the lighting ceremony.



Matt Sidman from the Committee To Light The Comm Ave Mall offers remarks.



After a countdown, the Commonwealth Ave Mall is filled with light.



Chris Walsh shows off his festive holiday hat.



The historic Commonwealth Ave Mall is aglow in festive lights to help celebrate the holiday season.

FABLED ANTIQUES



Arthur Clifton Goodwin (1864-1929)
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The Boston Children's Chorus performed *Ala Media Noctje*, *French Carol Duet*, and a jazzed up version of *Jingle Bell Rock*.

COMMONWEALTH AVE. MALL-LIGHTING CEREMONY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The Boston Children's Chorus conducted by Krystal Morin perform.



Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan, Friends Of The Public Garden outgoing President Liz Vizza, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Interim President of Friends Of The Public Garden Gene Bolinger.



The Commonwealth Ave Mall was filled with spectators waiting to see the historic park light up.

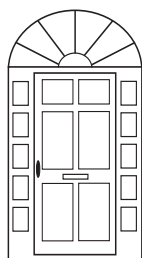


The historic Commonwealth Ave Mall is aglow in festive lights to help celebrate the holiday season.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Full of beans!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The expression “full of beans” is more directly food-related than you might think. According to the Oxford Language Club, this “...is an idiomatic phrase that has been used for generations to describe individuals who exude liveliness, enthusiasm, and boundless energy. This expression originated in the early 20th century, with ‘beans’ symbolizing vitality and vigor. The phrase likely emerged from the idea that beans, a staple food and a significant source of sustenance, provided essential nutrients and fuel for the body.”



Beans with Greens is a favorite quick supper. This one adds Italian sausage, but we often enjoy a vegetarian version with a slice of bread to complete the protein.

Lately, everyone, from dietitians to food writers, has been promot-

ing the use of more beans in our diets. There are excellent reasons why so many food cultures have beans or legumes as a staple. Dried beans are filling, easy to store, nutritious, high in protein, and contain soluble and insoluble fiber. Soluble fiber lowers our glycemic index, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels. Insoluble fiber improves the work of our digestive tract and reduces the risk of colon cancer.

Buying Beans

As we all try to use less processed, more local, sustainable, fresher, and diversified food products, you may not realize that the humble bean is all of these.

Farmers markets or high-quality food shops may sell Baer’s Best Beans grown in Massachusetts. This farm produces about 20 vari-

(BEANS Pg. 10)




LITTLE CHURCH GLOBE

Wendy Franco Almquist

*Oh little church globe
On the parish window sill overlooking the Common
Your glitter of snow in slow motion
Slows the passersby on the busy thoroughfare
Blesses the Frog Pond skaters
In the distance going round and round*


*Through the silent night
You shine glimmering hope
For lonely shoppers in the holiday season
For those unsheltered lost or cold
For those grieving loved ones absent or gone
For those who unknowingly seek your spiritual home*

*Just a little love filled church
Yet you wield the mighty spark
To light the soul of winter’s dark*



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



From your State Representative Jay Livingstone. I am wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy new year!

How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Story by Marianne Salza

The Grinch relinquished the smidgen of animosity lingering between him and Santa Claus this holiday season to promote his performance in “Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” playing at the Boch Center Wang Theatre through December 23.

The mostly reformed Grinch has been parading around Boston and surrounding areas, disrupting the peace in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, commandeering the Spirit of Boston vessel, and jumping on luxury hotel beds. He made an appearance at the opening night of ZooLights at the Stone Zoo, received a holiday basketball jersey from the Celtics during one of the games, and even celebrated the lighting of the Boston Common Christmas tree, so his devoted fans could marvel at him.

“I’d much rather have positive attention and love than be by myself,” admitted The Grinch,

who finds himself to be hilarious and witty.

Hearts will grow three sizes watching this classic tale of mischief, cheer, and forgiveness as the scheming Grinch discovers the true meaning of Christmas. “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is an 85-minute-long show with no intermissions, and is narrated by The Grinch’s stalwart dog, Max.

“For those living under rocks or don’t finish books, the Whos are very annoying, and I tried my best to take away their favorite thing from them,” said The Grinch, about the jubilant residents of Whoville who he tried stealing Christmas away from. “I was very successful at it; however, they still love Christmas, being around each other, and holding hands.”

Although The Grinch had convinced himself that he valued his solitude, he admitted that on Christmas Eve, the night of the Yuletide theft, he was feeling particularly alone.

The Grinch considered it “one bad night,” explaining that his reasoning for committing the crime was that the Whos’ Christmas had become too commercialized. He was astounded by the over-consumption, and rejected the glitter and commotion.

“Although I took every physical thing away from them, they still had it in their hearts,” The Grinch explained about the Whos’ Christmas spirit.

Soon, he realized that Christmas is more than gifts – it is about togetherness. He learned that life is more meaningful when shared with those one loves.

“My heart grew,” shared

The Grinch, who expressed his remorse. “I stole Christmas and gave it back. It was very kind of me. Their forgiveness and kindness helped me realize that they’re the best people. I can tolerate them.”

“How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical” is a transformative story of redemption from “bad banana” to holiday savior.

“I stopped the villain within me, became a hero on the outside, and am now a beloved Christmas icon,” boasted The Grinch. “The only thing I steal now is attention.”

The formerly conniving Grinch now embraces his past, and cele-

brates his growth and the community that he has gained. Changing his rotten behavior has proven difficult at times, but The Grinch has no intention of stealing Christmas from the Whos again.

The Grinch encourages families to join him at the Boch Center Wang Theatre for “How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical,” so they can appreciate his solo performance in “One of a Kind,” when The Grinch dances in a one-man kick line.

“That’s my favorite part of the whole show,” noted The Grinch. “It’s a wonderful time. It’s amazing.”



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAST

The Grinch in the Boston Common, where he was chasing pigeons.



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch stealing Christmas from the Whos.



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

The Grinch cutting the roast beast on Christmas.

BEANS (from pg. 8)

eties of heirloom and specialty beans. We suspect that more farmers will add beans to their crop list. Beans add goodness to the soil, which is a win-win for farmers.

Rancho Gordo is a West Coast company that preserves food diversity with heritage beans. The website's store locator lists some local sources: Formaggio Kitchen, Dave's Fresh Pasta, and Bocco Wine and Cheese.

We highly recommend the company's bean cookbooks. Another favorite source for bean recipes

is Joe Yonan's "Cool Beans: The Ultimate Guide to Cooking with the World's Most Versatile Plant-Based Protein."

Adapting Your Body to Beans

If you're not in the habit of eating beans, your body will take time to adapt to the fiber load they provide. You can start slowly by adding a small dose of beans to a soup or salad and increasing your intake over several weeks.

You may have heard the expression, "Beans, beans, the magical

fruit, the more you eat, the less you toot!" In your lower digestive tract, beans are fermented by healthy bacteria, and gas is produced as a by-product. You may have fewer digestive issues as your microbiome and gut health improve. In Mexico, cooks add the herb epazote to their beans, while in India, asafetida is used to ease digestion.

Another tip is to rinse canned beans (without sauces) to reduce flatulence and the high sodium in the canned product. Some experts

suggest that several changes in the soaking water can remove some gassy fiber if you start from dried beans.

The funniest suggestion we've read was from Mairlyn Smith, author of the book "Peace, Love & Fibre." In an article in Food and Wine, she was quoted as saying "...that she and her husband go for 'fart walks' most nights after dinner about an hour after they've eaten. We eat a lot of fiber, so we have gas, and you fart when you walk."

The Rancho Gordo website offers more information about beans and an exploration of their heritage bean offerings. To continue your education, sign up for their newsletter and receive a monthly dose of "beanology."

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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							25	26	27	28	29	30	1
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

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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.

To place a memoriam please call 781-485-0588

Real Estate Transfers

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Fox Jr, Robert C	Apgar, Anne N	122 Beacon St #3	\$3,661,400
Fox Jr, Robert C	Apgar, Anne N	122 Beacon St #4	\$3,661,400
Kaufman, Regis F	Arabia Jr, Leonard F	182 Beacon St #1	\$800,000
Lucchese Jr, Alphonse M	36 Beacon St 5b LLC	236 Beacon St #5B	\$1,625,000
Serwitz, Bert W	Skinner, Paul R	324-332 Beacon St #72	\$2,000,000
Shah, Naimesh	Alex & E Johnson Ft	341 Beacon St #2D	\$1,180,000
Bayt LLC	Soctomah, Michaela	199 Marlborough St #203	\$760,000
J & Company LLC	Lehar, Catherine M	348 Marlborough St #3	\$1,075,000
Zhao, Yizhen	Marlborough Street 73 LL	73 Marlborough St #4	\$725,000
K & Laura Arsenault RET	Kruidenier, Laurens	319 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,950,000
Onan, Stewart	Fourcom LLC	339 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,776,000
Wolfe, Morgan	Threecom LLC	339 Commonwealth Ave #30	\$1,292,000
Nita A Shah RET	Shahbazian, Amir	534-538 Commonwealth Ave #3B	\$875,000

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BEACON HILL			
Hourihan, Angela	Hourihan, Susan M	21 Beacon St #8K	\$425,000
Balmforth, John	Geller, Stuart C	9 Hawthorne Pl #16D	\$700,000
Schoener, Jason D	Terres, Eduardo	67 Mount Vernon St #G	\$1,165,000
Marks, Chantal	Myrtle Roofdeck LLC	69 Myrtle St #6	\$1,275,000
Helena Sharon Dangelo T	Jdmd Owner LLC	45 Temple St #PH3	\$7,700,000
Zhang, Gengyuan	Al-Khatib, Malek A	8 Whittier Pl #12F	\$540,000

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Stangl, Kurt	Meikleham, Elizabeth C	236 W Canton St #4	\$1,180,000
Ross D Gorman T	Laohapoonrungsee, Nannap	223 W Newton St #1	\$1,295,000
Malsbenden, Francis	Hill, Terron P	43 Warren Ave #B	\$650,000
Barker, Thomas R	Cubeta, Thomas E	80 Worcester St #2	\$1,800,000
Le, Thao N	Englander, Michael	1 Melrose St #2	\$750,000
Yang, Ying	Cosman, Glen W	19 Fayette St #7	\$650,700
Michaud, Ryan	Deedy, Ryan	519 Columbus Ave #3	\$839,000
Frellech, Michael	Slingerlan, Madeleine	26 Dwight St #2	\$1,765,000
Lander, Daniel A	Jcgsst 2014 lrt	18 Medfield St #6	\$827,500
Yen, Zehui L	Walsh, David	480 Shawmut Ave #5B	\$749,000
Walsh, David	Dittman, Jennifer	40 Traveler St #706	\$865,000
Mcgowan, Terence	Rohrbeck, Christine	30 Union Park St #403	\$2,170,000
Kim, Hyesu	Katsampes, Christina	15 Upton St #3	\$1,180,000
Ward, Eve-Marie	Wallace, Everett	1180-1200 Washington St #423	\$1,640,000
Fernandes, Carol L	Kuo, Alexander S	43 Westland Ave #403	\$840,000
Baker, Christopher	Howard, Katherine T	88 Worcester St #6	\$1,050,000

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Grodzinsky, Alan	Geary, Leigh	1 Avery St #31D	\$2,500,000
Dandrea, Phillip C	Hare Realty LLC	80 Broad St #809	\$642,500
Simas Ft	Hallawell, Hugh	110-112 Commercial St #2	\$690,000
Murphy, Jayne M	Anna Petrillo Lt	120 Commercial St #3-1	\$650,000
65 East Indian 26c Rt	Li, Junlong	65 E India Row #26C	\$1,017,360
Brandon, Adam	Burnett, John R	65 E India Row #31H	\$765,000
Edwards, Denise M	Brochetti, Wendy	85 E India Row #22A	\$620,000
Zhou, Dingwei	Lai, Leslie	170 Tremont St #1406	\$650,000
Kuchhal, Manju	Gesang, Wang J	580 Washington St #803	\$1,230,000
Cinre Ph Sro	Seaba LLC	580 Washington St #9A	\$1,400,000



The detail in the last clue is from the garden fence on Louisburg Square. This paper reported that on Christmas Eve, "All are welcome to gather at 55 Mt. Vernon at 7:30 p.m. to begin the procession to Louisburg Square, accompanied by the peeling of handbells, stopping to sing carols on the way. The bellringing program will then continue at 8 p.m. at 12 Louisburg Square."

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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Wu celebrates hundreds of first-time homebuyers

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu today joined the Office of Housing's Boston Home Center, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and hundreds of new homeowners to celebrate a milestone in Boston's efforts to expand homeownership opportunities. In 2024, the Boston Home Center helped 235 households achieve their dream of owning a home. Since the start of Mayor Wu's administration, the City of Boston has helped 678 residents become homeowners through its homebuying programs. Homeownership is a critical part of assisting residents in building wealth and countering displacement, embodying Mayor Wu's vision to make Boston a home for everyone.

"The Boston Home Center has empowered residents to navigate the home-buying process and secured their future as homeowners," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thrilled to celebrate these new homeowners and the transformative impact of the City of Boston's home buying programs in building generational wealth and equity across our city. My deepest thanks



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

More than 230 Boston residents who purchased homes this year with support from the City's first-time homebuyer program. Shown are some of the residents gathered around Mayor Michelle Wu.

to the Boston Home Center and its partners for their commitment to expanding opportunities for all."

Of the 678 residents who have become homeowners through the City's home buying programs since Mayor Wu took office, 197 people received support through the financial assistance program and 481 people participated in the ONE+ Boston mortgage buy down program to secure lower interest rates. Altogether, the City provided over \$16.8 million in down payment and closing cost assistance, averaging about \$24,800 per household, and over \$7.4 million in interest rate subsidies. These programs have been critical to increasing homeownership in Boston.

"Each new homeowner represents a step toward a more equitable Boston, where families can build stability, wealth, and a deeper connection to their neigh-

borhoods," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "I'm proud of the incredible work done by the Boston Home Center and our partners, and we look forward to helping even more residents achieve their homeownership goals in the years to come."

In 2024, homebuyers assisted by the City of Boston's programs purchased homes across many neighborhoods. Most homes were purchased in Dorchester totaling 49, followed by Roxbury with 37, Hyde Park with 30, and Mattapan with 27. Other neighborhoods where residents bought homes include East Boston (16), South Boston (17), Jamaica Plain (9), Roslindale (10), West Roxbury (10), and Brighton (12), Allston (3), Charlestown (3), Back Bay/Beacon Hill (3), Fenway/Kenmore (2), the South End (6), and the Leather District (1).

Since it was launched in November 2022 with an initial \$2 million investment, the Boston Housing Authority's (BHA) First Home Program has helped more than 39 BHA residents become homeowners. The program offers up to \$75,000 in enhanced down payment assistance to eligible families in public housing, making homeownership more accessible. In September, Mayor Wu announced an additional \$3 million in ARPA funding for the BHA First Home Program. This funding will ensure continued support for down payment assistance through 2026, helping an estimated 57 more BHA families purchase homes in Boston.

"The BHA First Home Program has been an incredible example of how creative city investments can transform lives and empower people to achieve beyond their wildest dreams," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "Every single family that has used this program has struggled with housing insecurity,

and thanks to Mayor Wu's investment, they have come out the other side as homeowners. This is how we help families build wealth and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty."

In addition to financial resources, the Boston Home Center also provides home-buying classes, workshops, and seminars tailored to first-time buyers. In 2024, hundreds of participants attended these programs, receiving guidance that helped many take the critical steps toward purchasing a home.

At the Homeowner Holiday Celebration, Mayor Wu reminded attendees that the Center's services extend far beyond the initial home-buying process. Homeowners can continue to access assistance for repairs and other challenges through the Boston Home Center, ensuring long-term success in their homeownership journey. For more information, visit the Boston Home Center's website or call 617-635-HOME (4663).

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

***All delays in service begin on Wednesday 12/25**

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