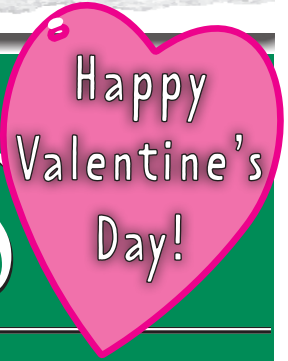


To better serve our neighborhoods and residents,
The Beacon Hill Times will now be publishing every Friday going forward.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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



Sledding on the Common

Sledders took to the Boston Common on Sunday, Feb. 9, to enjoy the fresh-fallen snow.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JOHN WILCOX

Somaek nominated as semifinalist for James Beard Award

By Dan Murphy

After already earning several accolades since opening last year in Downtown Crossing, the Korean restaurant, Somaek, has been nominated for a prestigious James Beard Award as a semifinalist in the category of 'Best New Restaurant' in the U.S.

The restaurant opened last March at 11 Temple Place under the umbrella of BCB3, a then-new hospitality group which includes venerable Boston restaurateur Babak Bina; Chef Jamie Bissonette; and Andrew Cartin, one of Bina's previous business partners. Somaek opened in tandem with its two sister establishments: the neighboring Temple Records, a cocktail lounge inspired by Japan's 'listening bars' of the 1950s; and Sushi @ Temple Records, its downstairs sushi bar.

BCB3 Hospitality's newest

restaurant, the Basque-inspired Zurito, opened last November in the former Bin 26 Enoteca space at 26 Charles St. on Beacon Hill. (Bina and his chef sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owned and operated Bin 26 there from 2006 until June 1 of last year.) While Zurito was too new to qualify for a James Beard Award this year, Bina hopes the restaurant would perhaps be among next year's nominees.

"It's hard to explain to anyone how much effort it takes to open a single concept," Bina wrote in an email. "Opening four concepts in under a year is like climbing Mount Everest. The most gratifying aspect is how well these unique concepts have been received by our patrons."

Asked about earning the nomination for a venerable James Beard Award, which, since 1990,

See SOMAEK Page 5

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Make a resolution to get more involved in your neighborhood in 2025! The Beacon Hill Civic Association is looking for neighbors who would like to get involved as committee members and volunteers. We have many committees including Traffic & Parking, Architecture, Trees, Zoning & Licensing, Streets & Sidewalks, and Parks & Public Spaces that are always looking for new people to join. The only requirement is that you be a BHCA member. Contact Patricia Tully at

How to Handle Your Trash and Recycling



NOT THIS WAY



BUT THIS WAY!

See BHCA Page 2



BRIAN SAMUELS PHOTOGRAPHY

BCB3 Hospitality's Andy Cartin, Jamie Bissonette and Babak Bina (left to right) are seen inside the restaurant group's newest addition, Zurito.

VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

EDITORIAL

TRAFFIC SPEED CAMERAS ARE A BAD IDEA -- RED LIGHTS ARE BETTER

As our regular readers know, when it comes to the issue of motor vehicle safety, we take a back seat (pun intended) to no one.

However, we believe that the budget put forward by Gov. Maura Healey that would allow local and state authorities to place traffic speed cameras on our roadways is misguided.

In a nutshell, the legislation provides that tickets for \$25 may be issued to persons operating 11 miles or more over the speed limit and \$100 to those driving more than 25 over the limit. A first offense within any two-year period would result in a warning. In addition, the tickets would not go on a person's driving record for insurance purposes. They would essentially be the same as a parking ticket.

Our objections are as follows:

First, state law requires that, absent exigent circumstances, a police officer must issue a citation for a moving infraction at the time and place of the violation. This ensures that the officer is giving the citation to the person who is committing the violation. However, the traffic cameras only will be capturing a license plate, which means that the ticket will be sent to the registered owner without regard to whether the owner was actually the operator of the vehicle. If your child (or spouse, friend, or somebody else) is speeding in your car, you're stuck with the ticket and the hassle of trying to prove your innocence.

Second, local authorities (who are limited to installing one camera per 5000 of population in their communities) presumably will be installing these cameras on their most heavily-traveled roadways. However, this invariably means that non-residents, who may not be familiar with the speed limit on those roads, will be the ones who will be subject to getting a ticket. This will be doubly true because the speed limits on almost every local road in this state are poorly-marked and often change (up or down) without warning. In some communities, there is a discreet sign at the entrance to the town that the speed limit in that community is 25 m.p.h. "unless posted otherwise." Given the scattershot nature of speed limit postings across the state's 351 cities and towns, issuing speeding tickets based on a camera will be inherently unfair and arbitrary.

Third, the cameras will not deter those drivers who are the real problem: Habitual traffic offenders who speed excessively on a routine basis. In fact, the cameras will give them a green light (again, pun intended) to speed. If the tickets under the new system will have no real consequences for either their license or their insurance premiums, these habitual offenders will be able to drive as they like with impunity. For the juvenile-minded members of the Fast and Furious crowd, the ticket will not even be a slap on the wrist.

And that brings us to our fourth problem with the new law: Relying on traffic cameras to enforce the traffic laws on the main roads in our state will make our roadways less safe. Traffic stops by police officers do not merely deter unsafe drivers, but they also remove from our roads persons who have suspended licenses, court warrants, vehicles that are unregistered and uninsured, and drivers who are under the influence -- 40 percent of speeding drivers in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or above. A camera will address none of those issues -- leaving criminals and those under the influence to operate on our roads without fear of the possible consequences.

More broadly, if communities take the cheap way out, so to speak, by replacing officers with cameras, the entire community will be a lot less safe. We realize that every city and town in the state will soon be facing major budget issues and that many cities also are having a hard time filling the ranks of their police departments, but there is no substitute for having police officers patrolling our streets. In our view, if these cameras begin to replace police officers, our communities will be far less safe.

Finally, there is no doubt that most of these speed camera tickets will be issued to otherwise law-abiding and safe drivers, including many seniors, who might happen to exceed by a few miles the statutory threshold for a few seconds. We are being only semi-facetious in suggesting that drivers who obsessively are watching their speedometers and looking for changes in speed limit signs will add immeasurably to the plague of distracted driving. Driving 11 miles over the speed limit on most of our roadways is not unsafe, but the new law would punish normal everyday driving behavior.

But we have a better suggestion: If our state officials want to introduce traffic cameras, we think they should do so at red light intersections. More than 1100 persons nationwide, of whom half were pedestrians and bicyclists, were killed (and more than 100,000 were injured) in 2022 by motor vehicle operators who ran red lights. Statistics show that red light cameras reduce serious accidents of the horrific "T-bone" variety by 25 percent (although there is some evidence that rear-end accidents may increase).

Large, clear signage at every red light intersection proclaiming that cameras are in use would be a huge deterrent to anyone who might be tempted to run a red light (i.e., every driver on the road).

In addition, by requiring that communities must conform the light signalizations on their local roads to nationally-accepted standards, this will make intersections safer for everybody.

So we urge our legislators, if they are inclined to introduce traffic cameras in Massachusetts, to allow these devices to be placed at red light intersections in order to achieve the goal of improving roadway safety with the least amount of intrusion upon everyday, law-abiding citizens.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS

SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES

JUST SAY IT!



BHCA (from pg. 1)

patricia.tully@bhccivic.org if you'd like to learn more!

Upcoming Meetings

Architecture Committee – Monday, February 17th, 5:30pm via Zoom
Streets & Sidewalks – Tuesday, March 4th, via Zoom
Zoning & Licensing – Wednesday, March 5th, via Zoom (TBC)

Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet – Monday, March 3rd, 6pm, 75 Chestnut
First Friday Coffee Hour – Friday, March 7th, 8:30-9:30am, 74 Joy Street

NEW DATE – Let the Children Sing – Sunday, March 9th, 3-4:30pm, Museum of African American History – purchase tickets at bhccivic.org.

Join the BHCA!

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

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Boston Police seeking two suspects in connection with assault in neighborhood

By Times staff

Boston Police are still seeking two suspects in connection with an assault last Friday night around Charles and West Cedar streets.

According to published reports, officers responded just before 10 p.m. on Feb. 7 to the area of 150 Charles St., and spoke with the victim, who said the two male suspects had just fled up West Cedar Street.

The victim, Brenna Martinez, later told NBC10 Boston she had just left JP Licks on Charles Street with ice cream and was walking through the alley when she heard

someone behind her.

Martinez turned to see the suspects, described as two white men in their 20s – one with a skinny build, wearing all black, and the other donning a gray beanie.

When one of the suspects grabbed Martinez, she screamed. The men, who Martinez believes were would-be robbers, then slipped on the ice before fleeing towards West Cedar Street.

Anyone with information is asked to call Boston Police, or to make an anonymous tip via the CrimeStoppers line at 1-800-494-TIPS or by texting the word “TIP” to CRIME (27463).

NEWS IN BRIEF

AFT SUPPORT GROUP MEETS FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Adoptive Families Together (AFT) Support Group meets on the first Friday of the month starting at 6:30 pm. This free event is a Parent-led adoption support group for parents who are about to, or have, adopted.

Adults with connection to adoption are also welcome. Free child care is available. Contact sturk@mspcc.org or adoptivefamiliesaltogether@eliotchs.org if you want to find out more information. The group meets on the first Friday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm, at 3313 Washington St. Jamaica Plain.

USS CONSTITUTION OPEN FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY, TO FIRE 21-GUN SALUTE

USS Constitution will be open for public visitation from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Visitors will have the opportunity to witness a 21-gun salute aboard USS Constitution at approximately 12 p.m. to commemorate the holiday.

President George Washington, whose birthday the holiday celebrates, named the ship after the document that defines our nation.

Guided tours will be available every half hour, with the final tour of the day beginning at 3:30 p.m. Active-duty Sailors, knowledgeable about the ship's 227-year history, will lead guests across its

three main decks.

USS Constitution is normally open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All guests 18 and older must present a valid state- or federally-issued photo ID or passport to board the ship.

As the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State, USS Constitution played a vital role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, safeguarding American sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

MCAC ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE

The Massachusetts Port Authority Community Advisory Committee (MCAC), a legislatively created oversight committee which serves as the voice of the thirty-five communities impacted by Massachusetts Port Authority operations, is pleased to announce that our new website is live. The site can be found at www.massportcac.org.

The website contains all the minutes from our committee and sub-committee (Aviation Operations, Environment & Health, Finance) meetings as well as resources for community members to learn about aviation and maritime impacts. Links can also be found to report noise complaints and understand runway usage at Logan Airport.

For more information on MCAC projects, please contact Executive Director Aaron Toffler at atoffler@massportcac.org.



The house on 87 Mount Vernon Street.

COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS TO OFFER FREE OPEN HOUSES THIS SPRING

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts on 87 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, is opening its historic headquarters to the public on the first Sunday of the month from now through May of 2025.

Located at 87 Mount Vernon Street, on historic Beacon Hill, the house was designed by noted Boston architect Charles Bulfinch and built in 1806. The first residents were Stephen Higginson, Jr., and his wife, Louisa Storrow Higginson. Subsequently, five generations of the Sawyer-Lee-Paine family, including Charles Jackson Paine and Julia Bryant Paine, occupied the house from 1816 to 1954. The house became the headquarters of

the Colonial Society of Massachusetts in 1955.

The house is furnished with donations from notable Boston families, including the descendants of William Ellery Channing, Francis Parkman, Jr., and William Crowninshield Endicott. The collection includes fine examples of classical Boston furniture, made in the workshops of Isaac Vose and John Doggett, among others. Visit to learn more about the early nineteenth-century history of Boston and view elegant furniture and artworks of the period.

Visitors are invited to explore the house on a self-guided tour. Dates are: March 2, April 6, and

May 4, from 1-3pm. Admission is free and open to all.

For more information, visit: colonialsociety.org

About the Colonial Society of Massachusetts

Founded in 1892, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts is a non-profit educational foundation that promotes the study of Massachusetts history from its earliest settlement to c.1830. We publish documents and other resources related to the early history of Massachusetts, broadly defined, taking in local, regional, transatlantic, and other perspectives.

Children's Winter Festival returns to Boston Common

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department present the annual Children's Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Wednesday, February 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The free festival is open to all and offers music, dancing, giveaways, winter activities, treats, and crafts. Featured attractions include large inflatable installations such as the all-star challenge, fun house maze, and candy cane obstacle course. Children and their caregivers can also enjoy rides on the trackless train, the alpine slide, snow throw, and more.

“My family and I enjoyed visiting the annual Winter Festival last year, and I encourage Boston resi-

dents to take advantage of this fun way to keep kids engaged and connected with their peers over February school break,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to the Parks Department and our local business partners for keeping this beloved winter tradition on the Common going.”

LEGO® Discovery Center Boston will be in attendance with seasonal builds and activities with LEGO experts. Enjoy farm fresh milk from New England Dairy's Mobile Dairy Bar. Try your musical skills at Boston Music Group's instrument ‘petting zoo.’ Visit boston.gov/winterfest for more information about this family-friendly school vacation week event.

The event is hosted in partnership with title sponsor Highland Street Foundation and our

contributing sponsors H.P. Hood LLC and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. The Boston Globe is the media sponsor. Additional support is provided by LEGO® Discovery Center Boston, New England Dairy, Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience (LCN) at Boston Children's Hospital, and UMass Boston Early Minds Lab.

The Boston Common Parade Ground is located at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. Call (617) 635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, Bluesky, and Instagram.

Critical and significant drought conditions declared in several regions

Special to the Times

Following nearly six months of below-normal precipitation, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared the Central and Northeast regions have been raised to a Level – 3 Critical Drought. The Southeast, Cape and Islands regions have been elevated to a Level – 2 Significant Drought. The Connecticut River Valley and Western regions still have their previous statuses: Level 2 – Significant and Level – 1 Mild Drought.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, a Level 3 – Critical Drought, Level – 2 Significant Drought, and a Level – 1 Mild Drought require detailed monitoring of drought conditions. These levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement water use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health, is essential. This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities.

“Even with winter weather, several regions in our state are facing below-average precipitation,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “To avoid overtaxing our water systems, we must prioritize indoor water conservation. It’s essential that everyone follows state guidance and local water restrictions to ensure our drinking water stays available for everyone.”

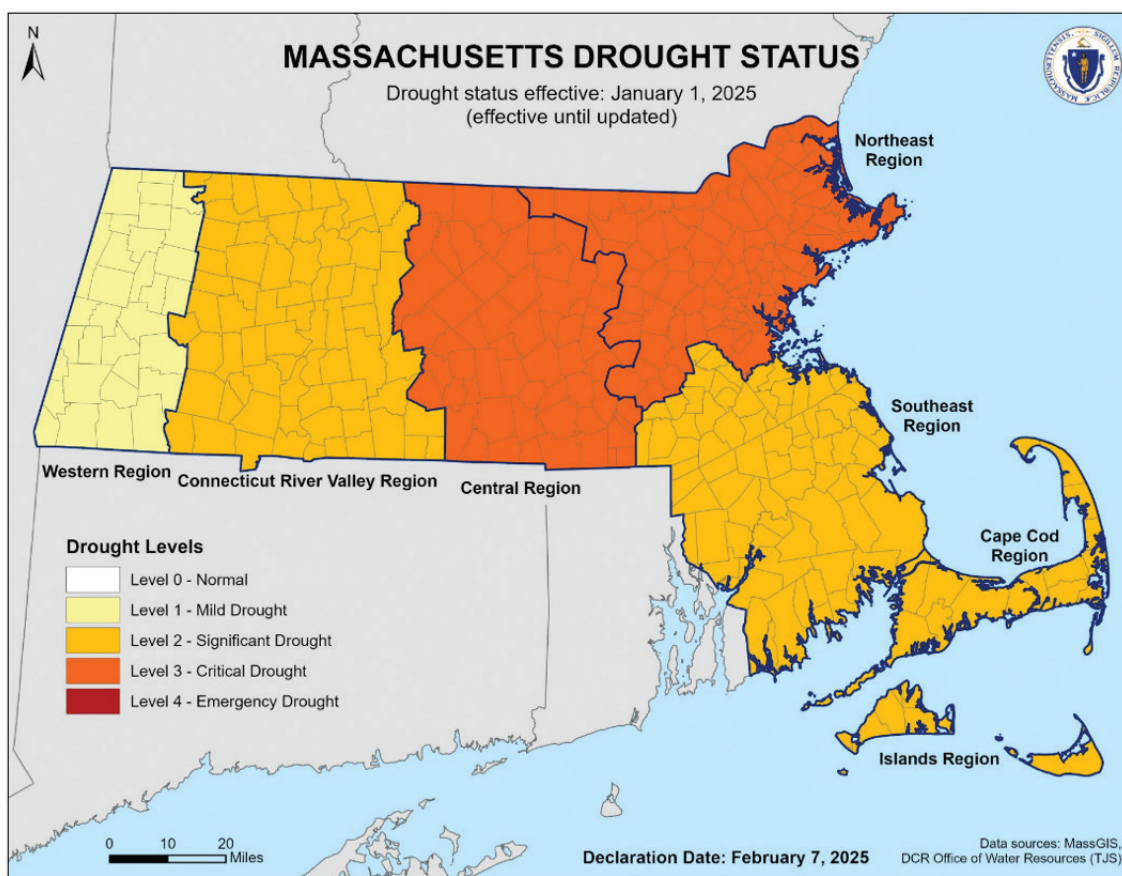
Over the past month, most of the state received between 1-2.5 inches of rain and snow, which is

1-13 inches below normal. Overall, most of the state has been in an 8-13 inch deficit since August. The Cape and Islands region is experiencing a 3.8-6 inch deficit in precipitation. Despite the recent rain and snowfall, streamflow and groundwater have worsened in nearly all regions, and recharge that typically occurs at this time of the year to reservoirs and groundwater lagging. Residents can report dry environmental conditions they are experiencing and submit photos to support state drought monitoring efforts here.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to provide technical assistance to communities on managing their water systems, including assistance on the use of emergency connections and water supplies.

It is important to note that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions, as defined within its individual plan. However, private well users and other sources of water within the same river basins are impacted by drought conditions. All sources of water, regardless of their location or type of withdrawal, ultimately draw from the same river basin. It is important for all users to do their part to conserve water.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 3 – Critical Drought, Level 2 – Significant Drought, and Level 1 – Mild Drought region, including those utilizing a private well.



Residents and businesses are also asked to check with their local water system in case more stringent watering restrictions are in place.

For Regions in Level 3 – Critical Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Follow state water conservation actions and any local water use restrictions;
- Monitor total household water use shown on your water bill for sudden increases, which often indicate leaks. Use the MA

Home Water Use Calculator tool to evaluate household water use;

- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately. Check for leaks in homes and businesses regularly by:

Checking water meters for constant dial movement
Using dye tabs to check for toilet leaks

Conducting regular inspections of all pipes and fixtures, including those located in utility rooms, crawlspaces, and other hidden areas

- Use dishwashers rather than handwashing dishes. Run the dishwasher only on a full load;
- Aggressively reduce indoor water use by:

Reducing shower length and consider using a shower timer

Running washing machines only on a full load

Not letting water run while brushing and shaving

Replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient ones. Make sure toilets, faucets, and showerheads are WaterSense labeled

- Stop all non-essential water use; and,
- Be extra cautious with outdoor fires, grills, and flammable materials.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Provide timely information on the drought and on water conservation tips to local residents and businesses taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials;
- Enforce water use restrictions

with increasingly stringent penalties;

- Strongly discourage or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,

Establish or enhance water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state’s library of outreach materials;
- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;

Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use and be particularly mindful of indoor water use;
- Follow local water use restrictions;

- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use;
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to

Region	Drought Level Declaration	Previous Month
Western	Level 1 – Mild Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Connecticut River Valley	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Central	Level 3 – Critical Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Northeast	Level 3 – Critical Drought	Level 2 – Significant Drought
Southeast	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Cape Cod	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought
Islands	Level 2 – Significant Drought	Level 1 – Mild Drought

Zina Izejiobi appointed to Junior Council of kids' news magazine

By Times staff

An Advent School third grader from Beacon Hill was recently appointed to this year's Junior Council of The Week Junior, an award-winning weekly news magazine for kids ages 8 to 14.

Zina Izejiobi, who was among 12 students selected from a nationwide search, and she and her fellow council members will learn fundamental journalism skills from the publication's editors, mentors, and special guests over the next several months.

"At The Advent School, we believe that education is not just about academics, but about helping students understand who they are, what they believe in, and how they can contribute to the world around them," Nicole DuFauchoard, Advent's Head of School, said in a press release. "Zina's participation in The Week Junior council is a wonderful example of how kids can use their passion and their unique voice to change the world."

Zina draws inspiration from "the perseverance Helen Keller showed during a time when there were not many resources for blind and deaf people," according to the



COURTESY OF THE ADVENT SCHOOL
Zina Izejiobi, an Advent School third grader from Beacon Hill who was recently appointed to this year's Junior Council of The Week Junior kids news magazine

press release.

"It's inspiring to see so many children who are engaged in current events and committed to spreading positivity and helping others. In a world where compassion is always needed, we're honored to provide a platform where kids can use their voices to make a meaningful difference," added Andrea Barbalich, Editorial Director of The Week Junior.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS TURNS 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA COUSINEAU

The brigade was on hand at 69 Charles St. last weekend to celebrate Upstairs Downstairs Home's 14th anniversary.

SOMAЕК (from Page 1)

have been given annually to top chefs, restaurateurs, authors, and journalists by the nonprofit James Beard Foundation, Bina wrote, "It's every restaurateur's lifelong dream to make it into this most prestigious of awards for us. The nominees and winners are selected through a rigorous process that involves a panel of judges made up of industry professionals, food writers, and previous award winners."

Bina added: "The James Beard Awards play a crucial role in shaping the culinary landscape in America, and are a coveted honor for chefs, restaurants, and food professionals across the country. Winning a James Beard Award can catapult a chef or restaurant to national acclaim and help them garner recognition and support within the industry."

Before this latest acknowledgment, Somaek was the only dining establishment in Boston, as well as in Massachusetts, named to The New York Times' list of 50 restaurants recommended for 2024, published last September. It also ranked #2 on Boston Magazine's list of Top 50 Restaurants for 2024 in last November's edition.

Furthermore, BCB3 Hospitality was selected by The Boston Globe in December as its 'Restaurant Group of the Year.'

Meanwhile, Oscar Simoza, Spirits Director for The Wig Shop – the speakeasy at 27 Temple Place which Bina operates separately from BCB3 - was named a semifinalist in the Outstanding Professional in Cocktail Service category for this year's James Beard Awards.

Bina, whose other restaurant interests include jm Curley on Temple Place and its steakhouse, Bogie's Place, was also selected by Downtown Boston Alliance as Restaurateur of the Year for '24.

The commendation Bina received states in part that the recognition is for his "support of Downtown and the fabulous Hospitality [he has] provided these

many years" as well as for his service to that organization (formerly Downtown Boston Business Improvement District) as a founding board member.

"You bet on Temple Place back when it was still an emerging neighborhood," according to the commendation from Downtown Boston Alliance. "And with jm Curley helped put it on the map as the city's hot new restaurant row. Your continued confidence in the street, adding new restaurants and jobs there despite the pandemic-all the while maintaining your position as an authentic and welcoming independent operator-has been nothing short of remarkable."



BRIAN SAMUELS PHOTOGRAPHY

A look at Somaek's vaunted Korean fare.

Don't miss our annual Summer in the City Guide
featuring Summer Camps & Great Activities for your child

Get ready for Summer! 2025

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BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold its monthly public hearing on Thursday, February 20, at 5 p.m. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

Attention: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our Zoom Hearing or calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting id # 981 0148 1952. You can also submit written comments or questions to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov.

The public can offer testimony. Discussion Topics

1. Design Review APP #25.0536 BH 35 Beacon Street
Proposed Work: Install new intercom.

APP #25.0562 BH 70 Mount Vernon Street

Proposed Work: Install new handrail.

APP # 25.0589 BH 74 Joy Street

Proposed Work: Install multiple security cameras.

APP # 25.0594 BH 53 Charles Street

Proposed Work: New signage and window decals, repaint storefront HC-190 (black) in kind.

APP # 25.0597 BH 11 Irving Street

Proposed Work: New door and hardware.

APP # 25.0589 BH 74 JOY STREET

Proposed Work: Install multiple security cameras.

APP # 25.0590 BH 90 Chestnut Street

Proposed Work: Expand roof deck, removal of storm windows and restore windows.

APP # 25.0600 BH 56 Beacon Street

Proposed Work: New front garden and garden fence, new elevator head house, new pergola at second floor deck, two new window openings at north (rear)

facade, replace garage doors, replace rear service entrance door, relocate AC units, remove hatch, new metal grills at rear ell panels. Replace all windows with historically appropriate grill patterns, sash style, true divided lights, double hung, with no low-e glass as indicated on the application (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

2. Administrative Review APP # 25.0600 BH 56 BEACON STREET: Repair/paint front facade wood dentil cornice and eave trim, repair all front stone lintels and sills with colored mortar ("Mimic"), E) Repair copper rain leader, repair shutters in kind and provide new hardware to match historic, replace wood decking at front decorative balcony to match existing, repair/paint front balcony, repair/paint front door system in kind, repair/repoint chimney in kind - rebuild top 36", remove/restore roof deck railing system in

kind in same location. Repoint all brick facades in kind using historic tooling, mortar mix and color. Repair historic skylight in kind. Repair slate roof as needed, in kind. (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 25.0595 BH 80 Beacon Street: We will be cutting and pointing 100% of the rear and sides of the building. Recaulking window trim and painting trim and bay windows to match existing.

APP # 25.0559 BH 14 Otis Place: Replace the slate roof in kind with sq. 20" X RW Mottled Green & Purple slate 3/4"-1", replace copper flashing in kind.

APP #25.0598 BH 91 Mount Vernon Street: Restoration of windows at front as required, painting of sash, lintel repairs to match existing, and replacement of front shutters in kind.

APP # 25.0575 BH 17 West Cedar Street: Replace five total,

non-historic, 6 over 6, sash sets. Two total on the front first floor, three total on the front third floor. The new sash sets will be constructed using the existing original jambs, brick moldings. The existing aluminum storm windows will be removed. The new sash will be all wood, true divided lite, double hung, and be using clear glass. The muntin interior profile width would be: 13/16" and the exterior wood stem to be: 3/16" and glazed at the exterior. All the new 5 sash sets would be painted semi gloss black at the exterior to match the existing color.

APP # 25.0578 BH 99 West Cedar Street: Repair window lintel stone in kind. Repair bricks close to the fire escape in kind.

3. Ratification of January 16, 2025 Public Hearing Minutes

4. Staff Updates

Wu announces City Hall Plaza to host free fan festival

Mayor Michelle Wu, the National Hockey League (NHL®), and the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) announced Boston City Hall Plaza will host a free fan festival celebrating the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off, an international tournament to be played between NHL players from the United States, Canada, Finland, and Sweden held in Boston and Montreal. The 4 Nations Face-Off™ Fan Village™, a three-day, non-ticketed fan festival open to the public will take place Saturday, February 15 through Monday, February 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on each day. The NHL, NHLPA, and their 4 Nations Face-Off partners will treat hockey fans to fun interactions, including autograph sessions featuring NHL alumni, family-friendly hockey interactives, giveaways, food, and music. The three-day fan festival builds off Mayor Wu's work to make Boston City Hall Plaza and Downtown Boston a welcoming, safe, and vibrant destination for families all year long.

"We're excited to welcome Bruins fans and hockey players from around the world for a free, three-day event on City Hall Plaza," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Plaza's location in the heart of our city and proximity to TD Garden make it the perfect place to gather in community even in the winter months and to celebrate one of Boston's favorite pastimes. The 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village will feature hockey-themed activities for all ages."

The three-day event on the Plaza builds up to the 4 Nations Face-Off, being held in Boston and Montreal. TD Garden will host three of the tournament games (on February 17 and February 20). A 4 Nations Face-Off game ticket is not required for entry to the 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village on City Hall Plaza.

"We are excited to host the NHL and NHLPA for the 4 Nations Face-Off at TD Garden, which will showcase the most elite NHL players from the respective nations," said Glen Thornborough, president of TD Garden and

COO Boston Bruins. "Bringing international events like this to Boston is important, and we thank the City of Boston and Mayor Wu for their support in hosting the Fan Village, which will give fans an unforgettable experience all weekend."

"We've been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to see the best in the world compete against one another once again. These events will be sure to encapsulate the energy, excitement and passion our Boston community has for hockey," said Joe DeRoeve, Head Coach for Charlestown Youth Hockey. "USA vs Canada/Finland/Sweden are the ultimate rivalries where our kids get to see their idols wear their countries' uniforms on the ice. This is beyond inspiring - this is what hockey kid's dreams are made of. Thank you Mayor Wu, the NHL, and the NHLPA."

"Hockey is more than just a game — it teaches our young players in Allston and Brighton teamwork, resilience, hard work and a love for the sport that lasts a lifetime. We are grateful to Mayor Wu, the NHL, and the NHLPA for bringing the 4 Nations Face-Off to the City, bringing together our youth players, their families and all hockey fans to cheer on and celebrate the skill, passion and dedication of these world-class athletes in the sport they love," said Helena Padellaro, President of Allston/Brighton Youth Hockey.

At the 4 Nations Face-Off Fan Village in Boston, fans will be able

to watch a broadcast of the February 15 Finland vs. Sweden game at 1:00 p.m., and the February 17 Canada vs. Finland game at 1:00 p.m. Interactive hockey-themed experiences by more than a dozen 4 Nations Face-Off partners will be available during all operating hours. Fans will be able to take photos with the Stanley Cup® (during all operating hours) and visit the Hockey Hall of Fame Exhibit to see the 4 Nations Face-Off trophy (on February 16 and 17).

For the most up-to-date schedule of events, appearances, and fan reminders, attendees should visit nhl.com/fanvillage.

"There is no better city to host the NHL 4 Nations Face-off than Boston and no better location for the Fan Village than City Hall Plaza, the epicenter of downtown," said Eamon Shelton, Commissioner of Property Management. "We are excited to watch not only the Plaza but the surrounding businesses come alive as residents and visitors come together for this international event. Activation of the Plaza, especially during the winter months, plays a pivotal role in creating the dynamic and welcoming community that we strive for as a City."

"We are very excited to convert City Hall Plaza into a new age center for all during the 4 Nations Face-Off. We know Bostonians consider sports an inseparable part of their identity, and this is an excellent chance for us to bring the community together," said John

Borders IV, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. "This event is a one of a kind experience where fans of all ages and levels get to enjoy interactive games, world class music, events featuring NHL alumni, and so much more. We welcome everyone from novice fans to die-hard supporters to City Hall Plaza for what will be a memorable experience. This event is an exhibition of Boston's love for hockey and our commitment toward hosting grand international sporting events both now and in the future."

City Hall previously partnered with the NHL to host the NHL Winter Classic Plaza™, a well attended fan festival held in the days ahead of the 2023 Discover NHL Winter Classic® at Fenway Park. This winter, Mayor Wu has made it a priority to keep City Hall Plaza an inviting space for public events during the winter months, announcing interactive public art displays as part of the WINTER-ACTIVE initiative by the Downtown Boston Alliance (DBA).

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Johnson named Chair of the Board for Old North Illuminated

Special to the Times

As a Black woman who grew up in the Episcopal church, it's important for Angela Johnson to see Black and Indigenous congregants' contributions included in Old North Church's story. As the new Chair of the Board of Directors for Old North Illuminated, which operates and preserves Old North Church Historic Site, the Dedham resident will help to uncover the hidden history of, preserve, and protect the national landmark.



Angela Johnson.

Raised in the American South, the daughter of an Episcopal priest who died when she was 10 years old, Johnson first remembers visiting Old North Church Historic Site the summer after her freshman year of high school while joining her mother, a delegate for the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, at a Union of Black Episcopalians conference in Boston. The church, the conference, and the Commonwealth left an impression on her as she would go on to pursue her post-secondary education at Wellesley College and build a decades-long career in nonprofit management and fundraising.

"As the new Board Chair of Old North Illuminated, I'm most excited about preserving and sharing the rich, multifaceted his-

tory of Old North Church," says Johnson. "While many people focus on the story of Paul Revere's ride, the church itself has been a cornerstone of our history for over 300 years. It's not just about the lanterns and the revolution – it's about remembering the full story, including the roles played by early church members and the diverse histories of all who were part of it, including free and enslaved Black congregants and others who contributed over the years. As someone who wasn't initially a history buff, I've come to deeply appreciate the significance of this place. Old North is a unique church with a rich past that speaks to everyone,

and I'm committed to ensuring its stories are preserved and shared for generations to come."

Johnson brings more than 30 years of experience in communications, project management, teaching, and development to the Old North Illuminated Board of Directors. As Senior Director of Philanthropy at Year Up United, she focuses on building relationships with donors, mainly Massachusetts-based, to support the organization's national mission. She works closely with stakeholders to encourage volunteering, giving, and other forms of support. A passionate volunteer, Johnson has been active on the boards of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), The Lenny Zakim Fund, Sisters in Development in Massachusetts, and Minds Matter Boston. She also contributed to an Advisory Committee for Massachusetts State Treasurer Steve Grossman for four years and was a nine-year volunteer mentor for Big Sister of Greater Boston, where she was honored as a Community-Based Big Sister of the Year.

"I'm thrilled that the Board of Old North Illuminated has selected Angela to serve as our next Board Chair," says Nikki Stewart, Old North Illuminated Executive Director. "Her expertise in fostering partnerships and

building support for both national and community-based non-profits will be invaluable as we begin this important anniversary year and look to our future. She is a powerhouse public speaker, a dynamic fundraiser, an adept event planner, and a warm and encouraging leader."

As a member of the Old North Illuminated Board of Directors, Johnson will help with general oversight of the strategic direction and financial health of the organization and serve on committees that provide guidance in areas such as education, marketing and development, preservation, finance, and investment, all of which enable the organization to execute on its mission and live its values. Board members serve for up to three terms of three years each and act as goodwill ambassadors who actively advocate on behalf of the nonprofit.

This year, Old North Illuminated celebrates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, marking Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride and the iconic "two if by sea" lantern signal in Old North Church's steeple. For information about upcoming celebrations, visit: www.oldnorth.com/250th.

About Old North Illuminated / Old North Church Historic Site

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2023, Old North Church Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), joining a global network of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that connect past struggles to today's movements for human rights.

Wu and BPHC release report on improving health equity

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last week released a new report, Live Long and Well, outlining the City's commitment to close Boston's long-standing life expectancy gap by race and by neighborhood, primarily due to social, economic, environmental, and structural factors. Mayor Wu and BPHC are also calling on community partners to submit proposals for funding to improve health and life expectancy in Boston. In the report, the City and BPHC detail their commitments to addressing key drivers of premature mortality, including cardiometabolic disease, and ensure Bostonians can live well at every age. The report outlines a vision to reduce early death in Boston, particularly among Black individuals who have the lowest life expectancy citywide. With \$10 million in funding from Atrius Health Equity Foundation, the City aims to work with community-based organizations to build wealth and economic security in communities with the greatest health disparities.

Live Long and Well – first announced in July 2024 – emphasizes the importance of multi-sector partnerships and working with impacted communities to close life expectancy gaps and help residents live long, healthy lives. The first multi-sector partnership between the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Community Health Collaborative, and Atrius Health Equity Foundation was announced this summer with a \$10 million investment to improve health outcomes.

In January, Atrius Health Equity Foundation released its first Call for Proposal for a funding opportunity of up to \$5 million for community-led coalitions to work together to enhance economic mobility and inclusion as well as financial security in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. Up to three selected proposals will be awarded up to \$2.5 million each. The RFP closes on March 12, and awardees are expected to be announced in June 2025. Atrius Health Equity Foundation plans to release a second round of funding in 2028.

"This initiative is about more than just longevity; it's about partnering with community-based organizations across Boston neighborhoods to ensure that all our residents have the resources, opportunities, and support to thrive at every stage of life," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Atrius Health Equity Foundation, the Boston Community Health Collaborative, and all our community partners, hospitals, health centers, and local businesses, who are working together to help our residents live longer, healthier lives."

"Though our city is healthier than many in the US, we continue to note significant differences in life expectancy and early death by race and between neighborhoods. The disparities are stark and are evident throughout our city," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "This is a longstanding issue that we have been working to address. We are committed to continuing to build new partnerships and making new investments in the communities that need it most to ensure that everyone in

Boston has the opportunity to live a long and healthy life."

"We're excited to be making large-scale investments that respond to the health priorities identified by Boston residents. We're thrilled to be partnering with the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Boston Community Health Collaborative in undertaking this important work. We also thank the community members and leaders who contributed their expertise to develop this program. Investing in the health and longevity of everyone in Boston will create a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant city," said Dr. Ann Hwang, President of the Atrius Health Equity Foundation.

The Boston Public Health Commission recently convened a meeting with community stakeholders to announce the funding opportunity and gain support for the Live Long and Well agenda. Attendees unanimously expressed support for the city's efforts to invest in communities and close gaps in life expectancy.

"People in our communities are struggling financially, and local

organizations are trying their best to meet urgent needs. We are looking forward to the distribution of these funds within communities where residents are suffering that are disproportionately impacted by lower life expectancy in the City," said Bishop William E. Dickerson II, Greater Love Tabernacle.

"Through my work in the Mattapan community, we have heard again and again that we need to address the many inequities that impact our health, like racial discrimination, low wages, limited access to housing, the need for quality education, and much more," said Vivien Morris, Mattapan resident and member of the Boston Community Health Collaborative. "We must address all of these issues by working in partnership with community. Collectively, we can do this!"

"We are delighted to support the city's effort to address longstanding health disparities in our most vulnerable communities," said Pastor Dieufort Jean "Keke" Fleurissant MDiv, True Alliance

THE BGCB ANNUAL DINNER WAS A TREMENDOUSLY HAPPY OCCASION

Special to the Times

Held at the Omni Hotel Boston Seaport on Thursday, January 30, the Annual Dinner celebration finale was a performance by the Boys and Girls Club of Boston (BGCB) Clubhouse Band, with a young soloist from the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club of Chelsea. The young fellow with great stage presence and a voice and dance moves to match singing Pharrel Williams' Happy song had the more than 900 attendees leaping

out of their seats to sing along and groove with the young performer.

This final act was an apt ending to a festive and compelling evening of both kudos for its current successes and new challenges for the Boys & Girls Club for our city and its neighborhoods. The evening's theme of Transforming Tomorrow showcased the Club's more recent focus on expanding services for their teen members. As one Board member explained members join as kids and stay, so we need to

provide opportunities for them across their stay with us. Dinner Co-chairs Thomas N. O'Brien and Kendalle Burlin O'Connell, along with Board Chair Melissa Weiner Janfazza, underscored the need for both internships from local companies and contributions for those internships. The high energy format of the program was a late night talk show type set up, think Johnny Carson or David Letter-

man style interviews, nicely delivered by co-hosts, Rick Aggeler, Executive Director of Teen Strategy for the overall Club, and Tea, a long-standing now high school member of the Josh Kraft Mattapan Teen Center.

The program participants, including Jailah, a member of the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club, shared the impact the teen programs have had on their lives.

What this year's Annual Dinner truly highlighted is that, while the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston have been delivering fun and games for many years, they have added another element of teen services: tutoring, after school help, job readiness programs and internships to its older members, providing a full spectrum for youth development in the Boston area.

Lyric Stage Boston presents ART

Lyric Stage is proud to bring Boston-area favorites Remo Airal-di*, Michael Kaye*, and John Kuntz* together in Yasmina Reza's exploration of the complexities and fragility of male friendships in the critically acclaimed play ART.

Serge has purchased a modern painting for an outrageous sum. Marc hates it. Yvan is stuck in the middle. When superficial ideals and values that they once joked about appear to be at the core of Serge's intentions, comradeship is quickly replaced by a sense of betrayal. This sophisticated comedy of manners forces three best friends to examine just how well they really know each other. With sleek repartee and mounting friction, their evening together intensifies to the point of no return where loneliness could be the cost of their inability to save their friendship instead of their egos.

Director Courtney O'Connor° says. "Art of all kinds—good and bad—allows us to explore and sometimes explode what is deep within us. In this ART, a single piece of art allows (or perhaps even forces?) to a boil the negative issues in the friendship between Marc, Serge, and Yvan. How many relationships in our own lives are simmering, just passively waiting for the "art" that will incite our own boiling? Who will we be at that moment? And who will we be after?"

Performances begin Friday, February 21 and run through Sunday, March 16.

Featuring Remo Airal-di*, Michael Kaye*, and John Kuntz*.

Scenic Design by Shelley Barish***, Costume Design by Chelsea Kerl***, Lighting Design by Elmer Martinez, and Sound Design by Adam Howarth.

Remo Airal-di* (Yvan) – Lyric Stage: Urinetown: The Musical, Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, Little Shop of Horrors, The Little Foxes, My Fair Lady, and Sweeney Todd. Over sixty productions at the American Repertory Theater, including Night of the Iguana, Oliver Twist (also at Theatre for a New Audience and Berkeley Repertory Theatre), and Island of Slaves (IRNE Award for Outstanding Actor). Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest, Cymbeline, Richard III, Love's Labour's Lost, Twelfth Night. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Shakespeare in Love. Boston Playwrights' Theater: Exposed. Central Square Theater: Frankenstein and The Hound of the Baskervilles. New Repertory Theatre: The King of Second Avenue. Productions at Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, Cirque du Soleil, American Conservatory Theater, Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Acting teacher at Harvard University.

Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, Lyric Stage Company is Boston's longest-serving resident theater company. Its mission is to produce and present live theater in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

Lyric Stage and Beacon Communities, LLC, the owners of 140 Clarendon Street, have agreed that the building will be Lyric Stage's "forever" home, ensuring that the theater will remain a vital and essential part of the cultural fabric of the city.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston CEO and President, Robert Lewis Jr., greeting guests.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON

Quincy Miller, President and Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Bank, Eneida Román, President & CEO of Amplify Latinx, Rose Staram, founder and CEO of RoseMark Production, and Herby Duverné, Principal and CEO of Taino Consulting Group pose for a photo at Annual Dinner.

THE BGCB ANNUAL DINNER WAS A TREMENDOUSLY HAPPY OCCASION



A member of the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club performing "Happy" by Pharell Williams.



Music Program Managers and Club Members from across Boys & Girls Club of Boston pose for a group photo after their performance.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON

Ashley Freeman, Music Program Manager at the [Club Name], performs on stage at Annual Dinner.




Chair of the Board of Directors, Melissa Weiner Janfaza, gives her opening remarks.

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Fire safety tips to keep your Valentine's Day safe

Special to the Times

This Valentine's Day, make sure your romantic gestures stay memorable for the right reasons. When lighting candles and cooking a special meal, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) says to closely monitor food cooking on the stove or in the oven, and to use candles with caution.

"If you're celebrating Valentine's Day at home this year, your plans likely include a special meal and candles," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Our goal is to help ensure that everyone enjoys the holiday with fire safety

in mind."

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries year-round. Unattended cooking is a factor in over one-quarter (29 percent) of reported home cooking fires and half of the associated deaths.

Simple cooking safety tips include the following:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Have a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove.
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn

off the burner.

- Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Candles are also a leading cause of home fires and must be used with caution and supervision. NFPA data shows that half of all candle fires started when a flammable object — such as furniture, bedding, curtains, home décor, or clothing — was too close to a lit candle. In 21 percent of home candle fires, the candle was either left unattended, discarded, or otherwise misused. More than one-third of candle fires (36 percent) started in the bedroom.

Consider using batter-operated flameless candles, which proved a

similar look and feel to real candles while eliminating the risk of fire.

If you do plan to use real candles, NFPA recommends the following:

- Don't use lit candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas.
- Use stable candle holders and place candles where they can't be easily knocked over.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.
- Keep hair and loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or con-

tainer.

- Store matches and lighters up high, out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

For more information about cooking and candle safety, visit our cooking safety and candle safety pages.

In addition, NFPA encourages the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and develop and practice a home escape plan.

Valentine's Days tips for finding love, romance or just a dinner date

Special to the Times

Whether you're in a committed relationship, swiping to find that special someone or taking a break from dating, as Valentine's Day approaches it's obvious that love is in the air. Experts from the University of New Hampshire share some advice to pinpoint your partner's passion, design dating that fits you—no matter your age—and how to navigate today's technology to better make that love connection.

Skip the Grand Gestures

"Valentine's Day can feel like a big test of how romantic we are and how much we love our partners," said Tyler Jamison, associate professor of human development and family studies. "Trying to figure out the right balance of things to do and say can rob any joy Valentine's Day may bring."

Jamison, a family and relationship expert focusing on how people learn the skills they need to build and maintain strong relationships, said one of the keys to a happy partnership is asking your partner for what you need and want. Take the guessing out of the mix and use Valentine's Day as motivation to practice communicating more openly. For example, take the pressure off by letting them know what would make the day special—a dozen tulips, eating pizza in sweatpants or even

skipping the holiday altogether. Valentine's Day can be a minefield of expectations but if you focus on what is important to you as a couple, it can be an opportunity to develop healthier, more authentic relationships and share a little love that might get lost in everyday life.

It's also an opportunity to show that you have the pulse of your partner's favorite things. Rather than gifting chocolate and flowers, think of something that your partner loves, like watching a favorite movie (even if you don't like it) or gifting them the next book in a series they can't put down. The best gifts are not necessarily the most elaborate or expensive, but ones that show you understand and appreciate your partner.

"Six or seven years ago, I told my husband that the best gift he could ever give me was writing down how he felt about me," said Jamison. "Now, for Valentine's Day and sometimes our anniversary, he will gift me with a typed list of things he likes about me or reasons he will never get tired of me. They are funny and sweet and I never would have gotten them without asking."

Looking for Love...

Later in Life

Dating, especially for older adults, can be daunting and exhausting. But if you're single and ready to mingle, Lauren Harris, assistant professor of human

development and family studies has some advice.

"It's important to remember that you are never too old to find love," said Harris. "Dating can be a great way to meet new people and find someone you just like spending time with—whether you are seeking a friend for an occasional dinner or a spouse to share the next chapter of life—and you can design the dating and relationship experience that fits you best."

Ready for romance? Time to get out there.

Harris, who researches how gender and age shape older adults' dating experiences, said meeting new people will increase your chances of finding someone special. Here are her tips:

- Determine what you're looking for. What is important to you—attraction, sense of humor, lifestyle, spending time with family.

- Are you looking for companionship or marriage? Many older adults, particularly women, are just seeking a companion—someone they can spend time with,

travel, see a movie and share a dinner—while others are hoping to find a life partner.

- Join a new group, volunteer or take a class—it can help find people with like interests.

- Tell your friends and family you are ready to start dating.

- Consider online dating—people over 50 are the fastest growing group of online daters.

Tik Tok NO!

Swiping your phone to find a date may be exciting and effective, but technology can impact relationships for the better and the worse. Marissa Mosley, assistant professor of human development and family studies, said when building a healthy relationship it's important to realize that there is a time and place for technology.

"Looking for love online, and communicating via email and text once you connect, can open up dating possibilities and help get to know someone, but once you're on that date, it's time to put the phone down," said Mosley who is also a marriage and family therapist. "A sweet text or emoji can

be fun flirting when courting but if you're out to dinner, or living together, it's important to communicate—in person—to each other to build a healthy relationship."

Mosley's research explores the role of phubbing—paying more attention to a cell phone than a partner—and how that can affect both partners. While it can help increase emotional connections it can also drive a wedge between partners if one is feeling neglected.

Mosley's advice to make the most of this Valentine's Day:

- Go phub-free—turn off cell phones as you enjoy a romantic dinner for just two.

- Arrange a movie night to watch a favorite flick—make popcorn, cuddle on the couch and share the experience—no phones or tablets allowed.

- If your partner spends too much time online or on their phone because they experience the fear of missing out (FOMO), it's important to communicate how that makes you feel.

HEALTH (from pg. 7)

Center and of Equity Now and Beyond. "Boston is a diverse city, and we are excited about the opportunity to partner to ensure that all communities have access to the resources that they need to live long and healthy lives."

According to BPHC analysis, there are glaring disparities in life expectancy across the city. In 2012, the Health Commission released data that showed a 33-year difference in life expectancy between neighborhoods in Roxbury and Back Bay, despite the neighborhoods being 2.3 miles

apart. In 2023, BPHC prioritized updating this data and found the gap between neighborhoods in Roxbury and Back Bay is now 23 years, showing that while the data is still stark and concerning, progress has been made. BPHC's findings also show that there are communities across Boston, including Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, and Jamaica Plain, where life expectancy is significantly lower than average.

The Live Long and Well report details the significant and ongoing investments made by the City

and local partners to address these disparities and improve health. It also highlights the City and Health Commission's strategies to improve a person's physical and mental well-being throughout their life.

The City and BPHC are continuing to look for more partners to join this work. Those who would like to learn more about the Live Long and Well population health equity agenda and the Foundation's Call For Proposals can visit boston.gov/live-long.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WECA SET TO MEET FEB. 13 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will meet on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Amy Lowell Apartments, 65 Martha Road.

The planned meeting guest is Captain Richard Driscoll, the new police captain for District A-1. Captain Driscoll will discuss neighborhood safety. All West End residents are welcome, and masks are encouraged.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY TOURS OF THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM SET FOR MARCH 15

'Upstairs, Downstairs: A St. Patrick's Day Tour Experience at the Gibson House Museum' is set for Saturday, March 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at 137 Beacon St. (Timed entry is on the half hour at 1, 1:30 p.m., 2, 2:30, and 3 p.m.)

Between 1860 and 1920, the Gibson House was the home of dozens of domestics—mostly young, Irish immigrant women who worked as cooks, laundresses, nannies, and chambermaids. They also made friends, fell in love, and worshipped at nearby churches. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, come for a self-guided tour of the Gibson House Museum, and learn about the work and the

lives of these Irish immigrants. Finish your tour experience by enjoying Irish-themed snacks and live music from The Kitchen Strings, featuring Jonathan Axon (fiddle), Gail Gardner (fiddle), Betsy Lynch (fiddle), and Ned Resnikoff (octave mandolin/bouzouki), in the working spaces of the Gibson House.

General admission is \$25 per person and \$22 per person for museum members; purchase tickets at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org>.

THE WEST END MUSEUM'S UPCOMING EVENTS

The West End Museum, 150 Staniford Street, Suite 7, will offer 'Sankofa: A Journey Through the African Diaspora Experience' on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

This interdisciplinary cultural performance delves into the rich history, struggles, resilience, and triumphs of people of African descent. The program is designed to celebrate diverse cultural expressions through the powerful mediums of music, dance, and the spoken word. Performed by members of Art of Black Dance and Music, Inc., under the direction of arts educator and founder De Ama Battle, this multifaceted program blends artistic performances with educational elements, offering a multi-sensory exploration of shared cultural histories and their

global impact.

For tickets and more information, <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

The museum will offer a reception for its upcoming exhibit, 'An Illusion of Freedom: Boston and the Fugitive Slave Laws,' on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The upcoming exhibit explores the evolution of the Fugitive Slave laws, and how Bostonians bravely defied them in order to protect others' natural right to freedom.

For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-illusion-of-freedom-boston-and-the-fugitive-slave-laws-reception-tickets>.

Additionally, the museum will bring its Boston Trivia Night to the Causeway Restaurant and Bar, located at 65 Causeway St., on Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Put your Boston history knowledge to the test at this night of brain-teasing questions and friendly competition.

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

UPCOMING EVENT SPONSORED BY THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Back by popular demand, the Gibson House Museum, located at 137 Beacon St., will offer 'Ele-

ments of the American Wedding 1860-1920' on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

At this time, join Etiquetteer, Robert B. Dimmick, on an exploration of wedding customs in the United States from the Civil War to Prohibition. Aside from familiar customs like the white wedding dress and tossing the bouquet, Etiquetteer will look at fads like the floral bell, how wedding breakfasts were conducted, and the home wedding. Two of the most celebrated weddings of this period included President Cleveland's White House wedding to Frances Folsom and Consuelo Vanderbilt's wedding in New York to the Duke of Marlborough. Etiquetteer will also share the stories of Gibson family weddings, especially those of sisters Mary Ethel (held in Nahant) and Rosamond, held in the Music Room of the Gibson House six months after the death of her father.

Admission is \$25 per person for the general public and \$20 per person for museum members. Purchase tickets online at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org>.

HEART-HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM COMING FEB. 26 TO MGH

The Blum Center & Slavin Academy Education Series presents

'Be Heart Smart: Lifestyle Changes for Heart Health' on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Blum Center, White 110 (MGH main campus)

The featured speaker will be Romit Bhattacharya, MD, who will discuss heart disease - the leading cause of death for men and women. In recognition of Heart Month, join Dr. Bhattacharya to learn strategies to improve your heart health with a focus on lifestyle behaviors at home. There will be plenty of time for participants to ask questions.

This program is free and open to Mass General patients, families, staff, and the general public. Space is limited on a first come, first served basis.

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).

DROUGHT (from pg. 1)

identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Limit or prohibit washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing.

- Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;

- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates; and,

- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state Drought Management Plan.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1 – Mild Drought region.

For Region in Level 1 – Mild Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,

- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and

communication, taking advantage of the state's library of outreach materials;

- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to local residents and businesses;

- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,

- Develop a local drought management plan (learn more here).

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate any needed dissemination of information

to the public, and help federal, state, and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future. The Drought Management Task Force will meet again on Thursday, March 6, at 10:00AM. For further information on water conservation and what residents can do, visit the EEA's drought and water conservation pages.

WHAT DO DEER SEE?

wendy franco almquist

A glimpse of white tailed deer in the
White mountains of New Hampshire

Fleeting captured his city boy imagination

The magic of the real revealed a regal young buck Camouflaged
tawny midst the frosty pines

Startled gazes collided

Neither boy nor beast budged

The indelible harmony of chance and eyes meeting: "What?" He
wondered

"Do deer see when they look at you?"

The silent woods did not stir awake to answer until A brittle glass
Icicle teetered off its frozen perch Irreverently s n a p p e d

Chasing away afternoon reveries in

A retreat of hoofbeats

Wendy Franco Almquist is a Beacon Hill resident

North Shore Philharmonic Winter Concert Features music of Ravel, Barber, Rachmaninoff

Special to the Times

Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff's demanding Symphony No. 3 and Maurice Ravel's delightful "Mother Goose Suite" highlight the program when Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in its Winter Concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School auditorium.

Concert time is 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance at www.nspo.org for \$30, \$25 for seniors and students. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Also on the concert program is the First Essay for Orchestra by American composer Samuel Barber.

Rachmaninoff, renowned for his works for piano, wrote three symphonies, with some 40 years separating the first and third. Critics claimed that the Third was too much a "modern" piece and it was not well-received by audiences. Over the years, however, Rachmaninoff's Third Symphony has earned its place in the symphonic Repertoire for its orchestral color.

Ravel, well-known his affection for children and animals, originally wrote a piano suite for four hands based on the famous

Mother Goose stories in 1908 and four years later wrote the Orchestration. The imaginative, medodic music evokes the wonderment of the characters "Pavane for Sleeping Beauty", Tom Thumb, the Laideronette—Empress of the Pagodas, "Beauty and the Beast", and, finally, a celebration of nature in The Enchanted Garden.

Barber wrote the Essay for Orchestra in 1937—(it was later retitled "First Essay for Orchestra")—apparently at the invitation to the celebrated Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini, who conducted the first performance with the NBC Symphony Orchestra in a program that included Barber's now-famous "Adagio for Strings." The Essay form of musical composition develops a complex and thoughtful work from a single thesis.

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra is playing its 76th season. Staffed largely by volunteer players, the NSPO is committed to providing affordable access to quality classical music. The Orchestra strives to develop, train, and provide opportunities for young musicians, while providing a large range of programs covering the full range of symphonic and pops repertoire for a diverse public. For full concert information, visit www.nspo.org or contact info@nspo.org.



The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra performs its "Winter" Concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School.

Old North Illuminated receives operating grant of \$20,800 from Mass Cultural Council

Special to the Times

Old North Illuminated, the non-profit organization that stewards Old North Church Historic Site, has received a grant of \$20,800 from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Operating Grants for Organizations program.

"The Mass Cultural Council plays a vital role in preserving the rich history and cultural fabric of our Commonwealth. This investment in Old North Illuminated ensures that future generations will continue to have access to the educational and historical experiences that help define our shared American heritage. I'm proud to support this crucial funding that enables organizations like Old North to thrive and continue making meaningful contributions to our community," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

This grant signifies that Old North Illuminated, which manages all interpretive, educational, and preservation programs at the Old North Church Historic Site

in Boston's historic North End neighborhood, provides significant public value through its programs and services. Established in 1723, Old North Church is the oldest surviving church building in the city of Boston and a popular Freedom Trail destination. Old North is famous for the events of April 18, 1775, when two men climbed the church's steeple to hold two lanterns aloft as a signal from Paul Revere to fellow Patriots that British troops were headed to Concord "by sea" across the Charles River. This coded message and Paul Revere's midnight ride helped spark the Revolutionary War, which erupted the following day with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Old North's lantern signal was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" with the phrase "one if by land, and two if by sea."

"This operating grant from the Mass Cultural Council will allow us to continue providing history programming that is honest, inclusive, sometimes challenging,

and always thought-provoking," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated. "We are especially grateful to have this critical support in 2025 as we mark the 250th anniversary of Old North's famous lantern signal."

In recent years, Old North Illuminated has made significant investments in research and educational programming. In June 2022, Dr. Jaimie D. Crumley of the University of Utah joined the organization for a year-long research fellowship focused on recovering the stories of Black and Indigenous people who were part of Old North's early history. Dr. Crumley's fascinating research was incorporated into Old North's new exhibit and audio guide, which received an Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History in September 2024. Members of the public can also access her research without traveling to the historic



Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra "Winter" concert Sunday, February 23 at Swampscott High School.

Wu announces annual tax prep services available for residents

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Tax Help Coalition (BTHC), Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), and other community partners announced that eligible Boston residents are now able to take advantage of the City's free tax preparation service. An annual program, residents earning \$70,000 or less annually can file safely while maximizing their refunds and credits through the assistance from the City of Boston at one of over 30 neighborhood tax sites across Boston. The Tax Help Coalition assists residents with free tax preparation, financial education and economic stability opportunities. The tax filing assistance service is available remotely and in person, and interpretation is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese. This announcement was made last week by the Chief of Worker Empowerment Cabinet Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Community Engagement Briana Millor, ABCD President and CEO, Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq., and Boston Tax Help Coalition Assistant Deputy Director Brian Robinson at a kick-off event at ABCD's Downtown headquarters.

"Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These free, multilingual tax assistance services are available at over 30 neighbor-

hood locations and serve as a critical resource that supports thousands of Boston residents every year in maximizing their refunds safely. I encourage every eligible Boston resident to participate and take advantage of this valuable resource."

Part of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet, the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation service gives Boston's low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents a financial boost by eliminating predatory, for-profit, tax preparation fees and helping them to keep more of their earned income. Since its founding in 2001, BTHC has served nearly 227,000 households with free tax preparation and returned over \$400 million in tax credits and refunds directly to residents. BTHC clients have an average income of \$30,000 and this service can provide a substantial financial boost.

"The free tax preparation service is a critical wealth-building tool that returns millions in refunds and credits to Boston's workers and working families," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. "This financial cushion can go a long way for Boston's households. We're incredibly grateful to our community partners and the hundreds of IRS-certified volunteers who make this important work possible."

"Every dollar is significant for each individual and family living in our city," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "We encourage residents earning \$70,000 or less to

take advantage of the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation and filing services to help alleviate their financial burden. We are grateful to our community partners for helping Boston residents access free tax preparation and financial services."

Additionally, the BTHC IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers assess filers' eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit for low-and middle-income workers. This year marks the 50th anniversary of EITC and its significant role in supporting working families by reducing poverty. In 2024, EITC averaged \$2,743 for residents. Despite this, according to the Internal Revenue Service, an estimated one in five EITC-eligible workers fail to claim this valuable credit each year.

In 2024, more than 330 BTHC volunteers prepared tax returns for over 12,000 taxpayers, generating \$22.7 million in tax refunds, including \$7.3 million in EITC credits. The Boston Tax Help Coalition relies on and values the partnership of its member organizations to continue to promote the economic independence of working individuals and families.

"ABCD is proud to be a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, and we are pleased to host the 2025 Boston Tax Help Coalition kick-off event with our partners," said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. "EITC is a tax deduction that returns money to hardworking families and communities. It is one of America's most effective

anti-poverty initiatives. As critical members of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, our IRS-certified tax preparers ensure that residents receive every tax relief measure possible which allows them to build up a much-needed savings or reduce debt on current expenses."

The Boston Tax Help Coalition prioritizes providing reasonable accommodations to taxpayers with disabilities at all tax sites. Moreover, the BTHC will continue its partnership with DEAF, Inc. to provide dedicated service days to visually and hearing-impaired residents every Sunday, February 3 - April 13, 2025, at the Charlesview Community Center, 123 Antwerp Street Ext., Brighton, MA 02135. More information can be found at boston.gov/disability-tax-help.

Going beyond tax preparation, the Boston Tax Help Coalition connects residents to free, comprehensive financial and asset-building services to improve their economic well-being. Four

tax sites, DotHouse Health, Codman Square Health Center, Urban Edge, and the Center for Working Families, will offer clients a free Financial Check-Up (FCU), a credit advising session with a trained Financial Guide to assist them in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of their credit report and FICO score, personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. According to research conducted at BTHC tax sites by Dr. Scott Nelson, formerly of MIT, taxpayers who participated in the FCU improved their FICO scores by an average of 15.5 points in less than one year. The BTHC provided credit advising and financial education to 1,200 tax clients in 2024.

More information on the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax services, including the 2025 tax sites, can be found at boston.gov/tax-help.

Dog licensing reminder

Special to the Times

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31, 2025. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year. This process can be completed online, by mail, or in-person at our upcoming licensing clinics.

"Dog licenses are not just required by law, they help ensure that we can quickly return your pup to you should they get lost," said Alexis Trzcinski, Director of Animal Care and Control. "Please do your part to keep your pup safe and tagged."

Boston's most popular dog names of 2024 have been revealed as part of this year's licensing reminder. The top male dog name was once again Charlie, with 83

registered pups, and the leading female dog name was Luna, with 102 registrations with this name. At the tail end of the pack, the 25th most popular name for male dogs was Otis, with 24, and for female dogs it was Piper, with 38 registered.

The data also highlights Boston's favorite dog breeds. The Labrador Retriever continued to reign as the city's most popular breed, with 1,671 registered, followed by the Golden Retriever (749) and the Chihuahua (421). Other top breeds included the German Shepherd (371) and Miniature Poodle (351).

All dogs over six months old must be licensed annually. Owners are required to provide a copy of their dog's current rabies certificate and proof of spaying or neutering (if applicable). Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered or

spayed pet and \$30 for an unaltered pet, with fees waived for service animals and residents aged 70 or older. Unlicensed pets are subject to a \$50 fine.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control's how-to article.

The City of Boston will also host a series of low cost dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays from March 4 to June 3 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit boston.gov/animals or call (617) 635-1800.

Follow Animal Care and Control on social media for updates and adorable adoptable pets: Instagram @bostonanimalcontrol, X @animalboston and Facebook @bostonanimal.



City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

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Wednesday, February 19

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Healey-Driscoll Administration announces DCR's free family programming for school vacation week

As part of the agency's commitment to providing safe and fun recreational opportunities for young people across the state, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced its lineup of February school vacation week programming. This year, the agency is offering families 79 free, engaging and educational programs at 20 state parks and watersheds ranging from guided hikes to animal tracking, craft making, and maple sugaring. Programs will run from Saturday, February 15, through Sunday, February 23, with the goal of inspiring kids to get outdoors and experience the beauty of the Massachusetts State Parks system.

"School may be closed for the week, but we're continuing the learning in outdoor classrooms. Our February school break programming is a great way for us to teach kids about the natural world around them and help inspire the next generation of environmental stewards," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We hope this slate of fun and educational programming brings some new and curious minds to our properties next week. Our team of park interpreters looks forward to meeting and welcoming students across the state."

To celebrate school vacation week, DCR is waiving parking fees

at parks offering programming. In addition to offering programming DCR is extending public skating hours during the week at its agency-managed

rinks from 10 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. daily. DCR will also continue to offer its regular programming, including self-guided hikes, and visitor centers will be open for people to enjoy exhibits. For details about staff-led programs and self-guide activities, visit DCR's website.

Additionally, DCR is offering adaptive programming during February vacation week.

DCR encourages participants to tweet, post, and tag photos on social media using @MassDCR. DCR is promoting this year's February break programming with engaging videos and fun graphics on its social media channels, including X (Twitter), Instagram and Threads. For a full list of all programming offered during school vacation week visit DCR's website.

Highlights from next week's February break programming include:

- Boston Region
- Dream Street StoryWalk® at Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St., Boston
- Saturday, February 15 - Tuesday, February 25, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Visit Dream Street, where everyone is special, and children believe their dreams will come true! This magical story celebrates the Roxbury neighborhood where the author and her cousin, award-winning illustrator Ekua Holmes, grew up.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

Ice Skating Party at Steriti Rink, 561 Commercial St., Boston
Friday, February 21, 12 - 4 p.m.

Join DCR and Boston Harbor Now as part of the Highland Street Foundation's Winter Camp for a day of ice skating at the Steriti Memorial Skating Rink in Boston's North End neighborhood. Choose from sessions lasting 45 minutes each, starting at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Rental skates will be provided for free! Skate and dance along with music by DJ WhySham, enjoy

Regina Pizzeria, Munchkin Donut Holes, and drinks when not on the rink. Don't forget to bring a water bottle!

Pre-registration is *highly* encouraged for groups of 10 or more or if you have a time constraint, but there will be capacity for walk-ups during all skating sessions. Ice

Skating Party at Steriti Memorial Rink! at Highland Street Winter Camp Tickets, Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. | Eventbrite

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmen-

tal Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Brian Arrigo, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the wellbeing of all. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

Beacon Hill Times Drop-Off Locations

- Antonio's288 Cambridge St.
- Simmon's Liquors210 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.
- Nuts Factory.....Charles St.
- Beacon Hill WineCharles St.
- UPSCharles St.
- Remax 119Charles St.
- Cheers..... 84 Beacon St.
- Emerson Place 10 Blossom St.
- Beacon Hill Market 61 Anderson
- Beacon Capitol Market30 Myrtle St.
- City Convenience..... 23 Beacon St.
- Capital Coffee House 122 Bowdoin St.
- Richdal Food Beacon & Bowdoin St.
- Revere House 145 Pickney St.
- West End Place150 Stanford St.

Apartment Building locations:

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

GRANT (from pg. 12)

site through the Illuminating the Unseen video series.

For this fiscal year, Mass Cultural Council has adopted a \$34 million spending plan, allowing the Agency to award at least 2,500 grants totaling approximately \$38 million to the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector. This

is funded primarily through public dollars, including the Agency's \$26.7 million state budget appropriation and support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The agency also runs the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund in partnership with MassDevelopment.

Mass Cultural Council funds

reach every community in the Commonwealth. Its mission is to advance the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its collective needs, and equitably investing public resources.

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BACK BAY			
Gao, Shengxiao	Davey, Jonathan J	3 Appleton St #503	\$560,000
Apple Inc	Tribeca Apl Boston LLC	815-825 Boylston St	\$88,000,000
69 Kilmarnock St Prop LLC	60 Kilmarnock West Parce	69-81 Kilmarnock St	\$9,700,000
433 Marlborough St 1 Rt	Patricia H Wynn 2016 T	433 Marlborough St #1	\$3,650,000
BEACON HILL			
Hautefeuille, Louise	Mcmillan, Shannon	34-36 Grove St #4	\$485,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Hanlon, Jeremy	Lambert Jr, Gary A	10 Charlesgate E #1	\$790,000
Tian, Wen	Thornton, Martin P	125 Park Dr #42	\$365,000
69 Kilmarnock St Prop LLC	60 Kilmarnock West Parce	95-101 Queensberry St	\$9,700,000
Zoghby, Fadi	Rancourt, William	23 Saint Stephen St #23-7	\$500,000
Mashed, Michael	45 Thorndike Rt	45 Thorndike St	\$811,400
P&t Group LLC	Chase Real Estate LLC	95 Broadway #2	\$2,300,000
Yun, Jahyung	Weiss, Hugh E	1 Charles St S #214	\$782,000
Piper Summer Ent LLC	Vancheri Ft	2 Clarendon St #103	\$697,500
Choo, Hyuck	Roberts, William	285 Columbus Ave #706	\$1,450,000
Darsow, Tamra	Fernandez, Conor	429 Columbus Ave #2	\$2,520,000
Kennedy, Pretti	Fpg Lagrange Owner LLC	47 Lagrange St #3D	\$1,005,250

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Myers, Nicholas	Sato, Yuko	2 Avery St #23B	\$1,150,000
Oxford & Beach LLC	Centerra Realty LLC	60-62 Beach St	\$4,139,000
Desouza, Glenn	Schechner, Marjorie	65 E India Row #36C	\$891,000
Dps Investment LLC	W&m Construction LLC	5-9 Hudson St #B	\$450,000
Oxford & Beach LLC	Centerra Realty LLC	32-32A Oxford St	\$2,656,000
Oxford & Beach LLC	Centerra Realty LLC	14 Ping On St	\$905,000
Piper, Michael H	Enn M Kutz RET	170 Tremont St #702	\$855,000



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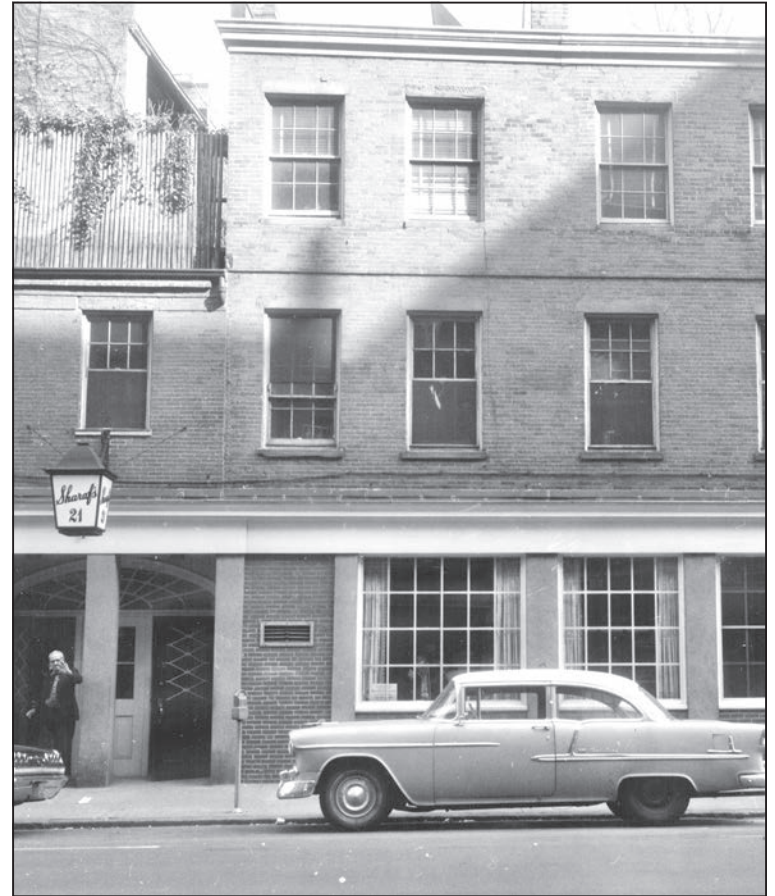
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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER




The last clue's windows are on 19-21 Charles Street. Today, this is the Beacon Hill Hotel. However, when today's answer was taken in 1965, it was a Sharaf's Cafeteria restaurant chain location.

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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FRESH AND LOCAL

Cabbage is having a moment

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Once upon a time, not that long ago, cabbage did not appear in grocery stores until mid-March for St. Patrick's Day. That's changed, and over the past few winters, the only time cabbage has been out of stock is when it has sold out.

Recently, Penny had cabbage on our shopping list, and the only one she found was huge. She asked the produce clerk if he had something smaller in the back room. He returned empty-handed and asked if she wanted him to cut the large one. He returned with two wrapped halves and assured her someone would buy the other half before their next shipment arrived. He also commented on how much cabbage they were selling these days.

More Varieties

Not only do we have cabbage year-round, but we also have more varieties of cabbage to choose from. According to the website

Spruce Eats, there are at least 400 types of cabbage. The most popular cabbages in this area are green, napa, Savoy, and red. Some of us also add a supply of fermented cabbage like kimchi and sauerkraut to our pantries.

We usually have green cabbage in our crisper. Whole heads stored in a plastic bag will last for weeks. Before using, just remove any wilted or bruised outer leaves. You don't have to use the whole head at once. Penny puts one of the larger outer leaves over the cut edge, holds it in place with an elastic band, and trims off a slice before using the remainder.

Red cabbage adds color to raw or pickled dishes like coleslaw. When cooked, it will turn blue. To avoid this color change, add an acidic ingredient like vinegar or citrus juice to the cooking liquid.

Savoy cabbage is wrinkly, sweet, and grows as a less compact head. It is terrific to use as a wrap for stuffing and baking.

Napa cabbage is much lighter

and perfect for eating raw. It is also the traditional choice for cabbage kimchi. We have also seen some Conehead Cabbage from local farms. We also enjoy the lighter, sweeter flavor of the Taiwanese cabbage we buy in Chinatown.

Raw, Pickled, Fermented or Cooked

How you use cabbage is up to your taste. You can serve it raw and shredded in salads or added to sandwiches for crunch. You can make a quick pickle of cabbage with carrots, scallions, and perhaps some daikon radish and have a great condiment.

Cooked cabbage can be a main course or a side dish. It is also great in soups, stews, and braised dishes. When a soup needs more bulk, reach for cabbage.

Cabbage Is a Local Crop

Cabbage grows well in our area. While we consider it a fall and winter crop, local farms harvest cabbage as early as June and con-



Winter farmer's markets and CSAs have encouraged the use of hearty, local winter food like cabbage.

tinue through November. Moreover, their crop can be stored in proper conditions for 3-4 months.

Winter farmer's markets and CSAs have encouraged using hearty, local winter foods like cabbage. This may be why cooks who support local, sustainable food publish more recipes online that use this ingredient.

In this area, we have some great places to shop for local cabbage in winter: the Boston Public Market, Brighton Winter Farmers Mar-

ket, Somerville Winter Farmers Market, and Dorchester Winter Farmers Market. For a destination market in a lovely setting, we recommend the Wayland Winter Farmers Market at Russells' Garden Center.

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

NeighborHealth appoints Dr. Hamilton as Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer

Special to the Times

NeighborHealth announced the appointment of Dr. Sebastian Hamilton, BSP Pharm, RPh, PharmD, MBA, 340B ACE, as Vice President, Chief Pharmacy

Officer. A nationally recognized leader in pharmacy and healthcare strategy, Dr. Hamilton brings over two decades of experience overseeing large-scale pharmacy operations, expanding service

lines, and mentoring the next generation of pharmacy professionals. In this role, he will lead NeighborHealth's growing pharmacy operations, including brick-and-mortar locations, specialty pharmacy services, and the statewide delivery program, ensuring seamless access to affordable medications for patients across Massachusetts. Dr. Hamilton will also implement other key innovative strategies like artificial intelligence that will be instrumental in enhancing NeighborHealth's operational efficiencies.

Prior to joining NeighborHealth, Dr. Hamilton served as Chief Pharmacy Officer of Operations and Community and Ambulatory Partnerships at Boston Medical Center, where he led a team of more than 300 professionals and managed operations generating approximately \$900 million in annual revenue. His leadership extended beyond operations, spearheading innovative workforce development programs, including a pharmacy technician trainee internship for high school students and an ASHP Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency program in collaboration with the University of North Carolina.

"Dr. Hamilton is an exceptional leader who brings not only deep expertise in pharmacy operations

and strategy but also a passion for community-driven care and workforce development," said Greg Wilmot, President and CEO of NeighborHealth. "We are fortunate to have him join an already outstanding pharmacy team, and I look forward to seeing how his leadership and vision will further enhance our pharmacy services, ensuring our patients receive the medications they need, when they need them."

Dr. Hamilton's personal and professional journey fuels his commitment to equitable healthcare access. "Growing up in Harlem and the Bronx, I learned early on the importance of creating your own narrative and breaking barriers," said Dr. Hamilton. "Joining NeighborHealth allows me to align my career with my core values—serving diverse communities that remind me of where I started. I'm honored to work alongside such a dedicated pharmacy team, and together, we will continue expanding access to high-quality, affordable care."

In addition to his leadership in health system pharmacy, Dr. Hamilton has extensive public service experience, having served 15 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He is also a former President and Vice President of the Delaware State Board of Pharmacy and the Massachusetts



Dr. Sebastian Hamilton.

Board of Registration in Pharmacy, where he continues to serve on to help shape pharmacy policy and practice across the state.

Dr. Hamilton earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York, his MBA in Health Care Administration from Wilmington University, and his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida.

"I want to ensure that those who need the most help receive the best care," Dr. Hamilton added. "I relate to this community—it's how I'm wired. I'll always be that guy from the Bronx, committed to making a difference."

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