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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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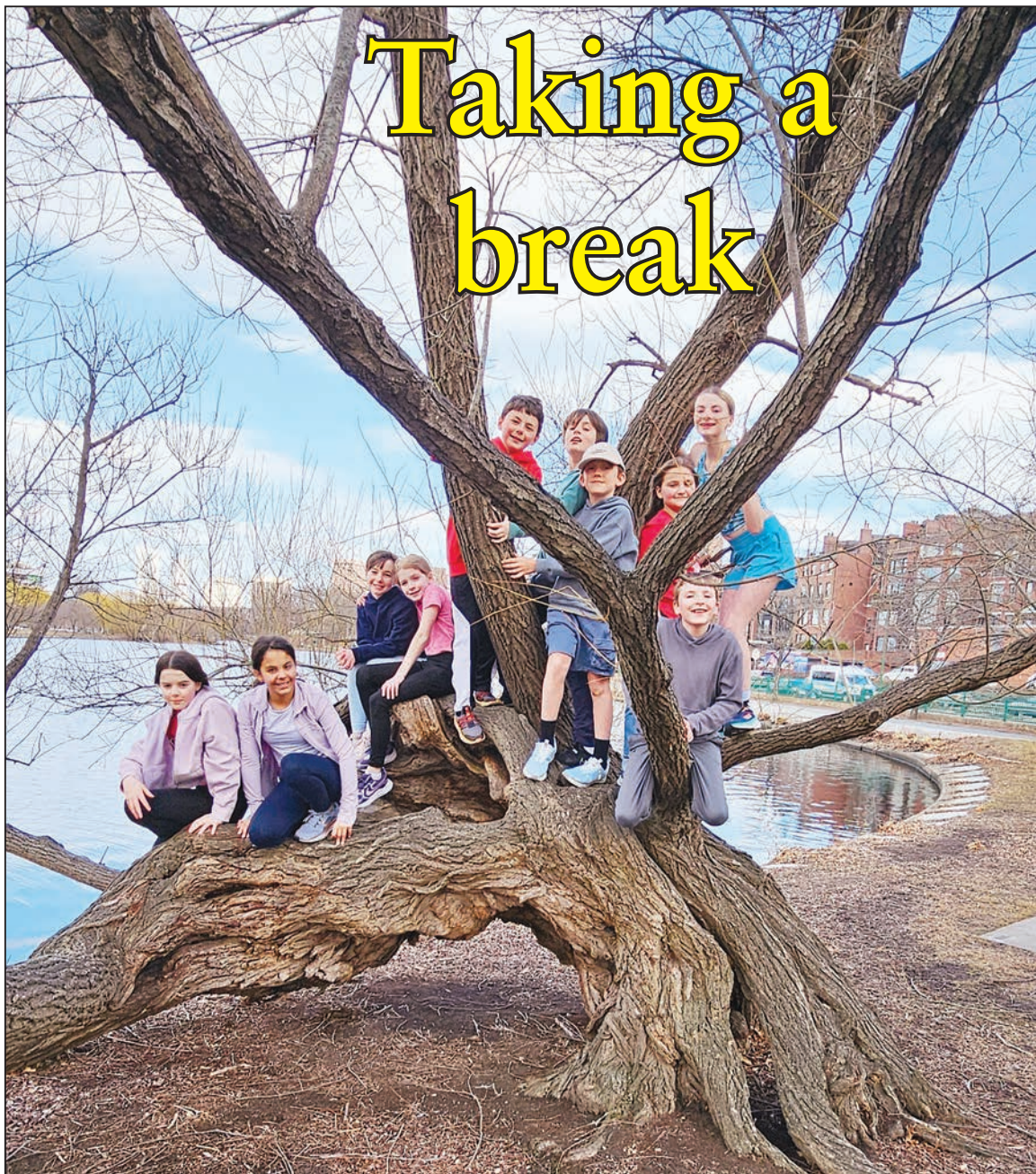


PHOTO COURTESY KINGSLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Kingsley Montessori School's Cross Country team (www.kingsley.org) takes a break from training in a tree on the Esplanade.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Join the Beacon Hill
Neighborhood Cleanup in
honor of Paul Greenfield –
Saturday, May 10th

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (in collaboration with the Beacon Hill Business Association) will be hosting a neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 10th

from 9 to 11am. We would like to dedicate this cleanup to Paul Greenfield, who was passionate about keeping our neighborhood clean and beautiful.

You can choose to clean your street or one of our neighborhood parks. Those who return with their trash bags full will

receive something special from the BHCA.

The BH Business Association will be looking for help in laying fresh mulch (provided) in the tree pits on Charles Street in advance of the Beacon Hill Garden Tour.

See BHCA Page 3

Repurposing

Two proposed West End office-to-residential conversion projects detailed during virtual meeting

By Dan Murphy

The city's Planning Department sponsored a virtual public meeting on Monday, April 28, to discuss two proposed projects that would repurpose vacant West End office space for residential purposes, resulting in the creation of more than 50 new living units in all.

In the first proposed project, developer, Equity Residential, would convert 12,500 square feet of vacant office space on the mezzanine level (or the second level) at Longfellow Towers, located at 1 Longfellow Place, into 24 residential apartment units, with a unit mix comprising 19 studios

and five one-bedrooms, said Brett Bentson, an architect working on both projects.

Unit sizes would range from 300 to 720 square feet, with private patios that would range from 50 to 250 square feet. Per the city's Inclusionary Zoning policy, five units would be designated as income-restricted housing.

Also, three units would be designated as Group 2 accessible units, equipped with 'roll-in' showers, said Bentson, while the remainder of the units would be designated as Group 1 accessible units.

All new units would have access

See REPURPOSING Page 4

BACK IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD



STACEY LAI PHOTO

Réal and Sheila Roy, former Beacon Hill residents, as well as the retired owners of Boston Consignment, are seen enjoying Easter Sunday (April 20) on Charles Street. They gathered with family to celebrate the holiday.

VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

EDITORIAL

THE TRAGIC WAR IN VIETNAM ENDED 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It was 50 years ago this week on April 30, 1975, that the U.S. involvement in the War in Vietnam officially came to an end when the last U.S. military helicopter flew ignominiously from the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon (as the capital of South Vietnam was known at that time, but which is now Ho Chi Minh City, named after the No. Vietnamese leader who once worked as a pastry chef in Boston's Parker House from 1911-13).

For the generations of Americans over the past 50 years who know about the Vietnam War only from their U.S. history classes, the few pages in their textbooks devoted to the war cannot even remotely describe both the upheaval that the war caused in American society at that time and the lasting impacts upon our nation that reverberate today.

More than nine million brave young Americans served during the war, of whom more than 58,000 gave their lives, while another 300,000 were wounded. In addition, there were hundreds of thousands more who suffered the psychological effects from PTSD, as well as the latent toll from Agent Orange (the powerful chemical herbicide that took its name from the orange striping on the barrels in which it was stored) and other weapons used by the U.S. military that resulted in later-life cancers and birth defects that affected tens of thousands of our soldiers and Vietnamese civilians.

For those of us who came of age during that era from 1965-75, we recall watching the war brought into our living rooms every night on the national TV news shows with reports from correspondents who were embedded with our military as they went on their infamous search and destroy missions that transformed the beautiful and placid Vietnamese countryside into a living hell for the Vietnamese people.

We recall reading with stunned disbelief in Time Magazine (Time was delivered to our home every week) about the massacre by U.S. Army American soldiers, led by Lieutenant William Calley, at the Vietnamese village of My Lai, in which hundreds of civilians, almost all of them women, children, and elderly men, were raped and murdered.

We remember the "body count" of "enemy soldiers" that was issued daily by U.S. military officials, under the direction of General William Westmoreland, which was so huge that it seemed that it would be only a matter of time before the small country of No. Vietnam would run out of soldiers.

Only later did we learn that these so-called body counts included hundreds of thousands of So. Vietnamese civilians who were killed by our bombs and assaults on their villages.

Then in 1971 came the publication of the Pentagon Papers, which had been leaked by Daniel Ellsberg to the New York Times, which detailed the secret history of the war (compiled by the Pentagon itself). The Pentagon Papers spelled out how President Lyndon Johnson and previous administrations had systematically lied both to the American people and Congress about what was going on in Vietnam.

The Pentagon Papers detailed the covert actions by the U.S. military that involved us ever-deeper into the process of escalation that culminated with the Tonkin Gulf Resolution passed by Congress in August, 1964, that basically gave Johnson carte blanche to send millions of soldiers to Vietnam without Congress ever having issued a Declaration of War.

Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska was one of only two senators to oppose the resolution with words that would become prophetic, saying he was voting against the resolution because "...we are sending our American boys into combat in a war in which we have no business, which is not our war, into which we have been misguidedly drawn, and which is steadily being escalated."

Only years later was it revealed that the basis of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution -- the supposed attack on U.S. naval vessels by No. Vietnam in the Tonkin Gulf off the coast of No Vietnam -- was a complete fiction.

Moreover, the overall justification for the war was the oft-stated Domino Theory, by which American policy-makers suggested that if one country in Southeast Asia were to fall to the Communists, the others would fall like dominoes and would become vassal states of China and the Soviet Union.

But that analysis completely ignored the simple fact that the Vietnam War was a civil war in which the Vietnamese were seeking to throw off their colonial rulers -- the country had been invaded and governed first by the Chinese, then the Japanese, then the French, and then the Americans.

Robert McNamara, who served as Secretary of Defense under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Johnson from 1961-68, and who was one of the chief architects of the American strategy, admitted 40 years later that American involvement in the war in Vietnam was "wrong."

In the aftermath of the war, trust in our government reached an all-time low and has continued to plummet ever since, even among those of us who generally believe in the values of our democracy and the need for a strong national government.

The War in Vietnam was a tragedy for everyone who even remotely was touched by it. It was a war built on lies on top of lies -- and its legacy is a large part of the reason why Americans have such distrust of our government and institutions today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA INFORMATION CLASSES AT WEST END LIBRARY

West End Library in Partnership with Alzheimer's Association to offer Alzheimer's and dementia information classes.

The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Learn how to recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and what next steps to take.

Tuesday, May 20th, 2:00-3:00 PM

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Learn about the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, risk factors, and treatments.

Tuesday, May 27th, 2:00-3:00 PM

West End Branch of the Boston Public Library

151 Cambridge Street Boston, MA 02114

Registration is required as seats are limited. To register, please contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiofrentino@bpl.org or call 617-523-3957.

FREEDOM TRAIL FOUNDATION EXPANDS TOURS IN MAY

As the weather warms, the Freedom Trail Foundation's 18th-century costumed guides are out on the Trail in full force offering an expanded menu of fun and educational tours.

Starting May 3, the Freedom Trail Foundation's current spring tour schedule offers Walk Into History Tours from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on the hour every hour, daily, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as well as 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Additionally, the Foundation offers tours departing from the ArtsBoston booth including Walk Into History Tours on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m., as well as North End Tours on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

"Boston's iconic Freedom Trail, its historic sites, and the Foundation offer an array of activities to experience this spring and year-round," said the Foundation's Executive Director Suzanne Segura Taylor. "The expanded tours schedule gives residents and

visitors more opportunities to enjoy learning about 250 years of history on the Freedom Trail for Preservation Month and as the Commonwealth and City commemorates the sesquicentennial."

Walk Into History Tours are the official 90-minute walking tour of the Freedom Trail featuring tales of high treason, mob agitations, revolutionary actions, and partisan fights, walking to 11 of Boston's historic Freedom Trail sites to and from Boston Common and Faneuil Hall. The North End Tour features stops along the Trail including the Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and other historic places in Boston's oldest neighborhood.

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center and The BOS Traveling Mobile Visitor Center (various locations), Artists for Humanity and Crabby Jack's shops inside historic Faneuil Hall, Samuel Adams Downtown Boston Taproom next to historic Faneuil Hall, Old Town Trolley locations and ticket booths, and online at TheFreedomTrail.org.

All walking tours are available for group tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for tourist groups, family outings, birthday parties, company parties, corporate activities, team building, and more, and may be booked via phone reservation at (617) 357-8300.

The Foundation and City of Boston also celebrates Preservation Month in May with an array of tours, events, exhibits, and activities along the Freedom Trail for adults and children, history buffs and curious visitors. For more Preservation Month information, please visit [HYPERLINK "https://www.boston.gov/departments/landmarks-commission/boston-preservation-month"](https://www.boston.gov/departments/landmarks-commission/boston-preservation-month) <https://www.boston.gov/departments/landmarks-commission/boston-preservation-month>

For more information about the Freedom Trail and Freedom Trail sites, please visit TheFreedomTrail.org or call (617) 357-8300.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Boston's historic Old North Church was filled to launch the call for Sun Day.

Advocates launch “Sun Day” campaign at Old North Church in Boston

Special to the Times

On Saturday, Boston Mayor, Michelle Wu, and leading climate, faith, and social justice leaders gathered at Boston's historic Old North Church to launch the call for Sun Day, a new national campaign culminating in a massive day of action on September 21, 2025, the fall equinox. The non-partisan campaign aims to celebrate how far clean energy has come—and build the power to go even further, faster.

The launch event on April 26 featured an interfaith service followed by the lighting of a solar-powered green lantern in the steeple of Old North Church, a symbolic echo of Paul Revere's midnight ride 250 years ago. This modern signal marks the beginning of a new American revolution—this time for clean energy.

“Just as the lanterns of Old North once warned of an impending threat, we're sending a signal today: the climate crisis is here, but so is our solution,” said Bill McKibben, environmental leader and founder of Third Act and 350.org. “Clean energy is our shot at freedom—from pollution, from high energy bills, and from the grip of fossil fuels.”

The launch included remarks from Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer, Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Rev. Fletcher Harper of GreenFaith, Harvard's Hindu Chaplain Preeta Banerjee, Rabbi Shoshana Friedman, UU Minister Fred Small, along with Hip Hop

Caucus' Rev. Lennox Yearwood and grammy nominated vocalist Antonique Smith of Climate Revival, and local leaders from 350 Mass and the Better Future Project. As the lantern is lit, landmarks across Boston—including City Hall, the Prudential Tower, the UMass Boston Integrated Science Complex, and the Rose Kennedy Greenway—will glow green in solidarity.

“Here in Massachusetts, revolution is in our DNA. Boston played a key role in the national abolition movement; it was Massachusetts women who helped lead the fight for suffrage; it was the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in Goodridge that made Massachusetts the first state to legalize same-sex marriage; and it was the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office that led Mass v. EPA, confirming EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions,” said Climate Chief of Massachusetts Melissa Hoffer. “We know a thing or two about not backing down and winning against the odds. We know our future is clean energy, powered by the sun, wind, ocean currents, geothermal, and we're not going to stop until dirty energy goes the way of the dinosaurs.”

“Our sacred planet supports our lives. We must protect it - and we can,” said the Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of the interfaith climate organization GreenFaith. “This Saturday, and this coming September, people of all faiths will shine our collective green light for clean energy and climate justice. Every faith com-

munity in the country needs to be involved!”

A Clean Energy Revolution Years in the Making

Sun Day draws inspiration from the first Earth Day in 1970 and from an even older American tradition: the fight for independence. Just as the original revolutionaries lit lanterns to spark resistance, today's clean energy movement is igniting a campaign to power the nation with the sun, wind, and other renewable sources.

The launch event also commemorates the 71st anniversary of the first practical solar panel, unveiled by Bell Labs on April 25, 1954—a breakthrough that laid the foundation for the clean energy boom we see today.

Since then, solar energy has gone from scientific curiosity to a cornerstone of American infrastructure. In 2024, solar accounted for 66% of all new electricity-generating capacity added to the US grid, and the Inflation Reduction Act is accelerating the deployment of solar, wind, battery storage, and transmission. Today, more than 5 million homes in the U.S. are powered by rooftop solar, and more than 3.5 million people work in the clean energy sector, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country every year.

“The transition to clean renewable energy is long overdue; big oil and the politicians they own have propped up the fossil fuel industry

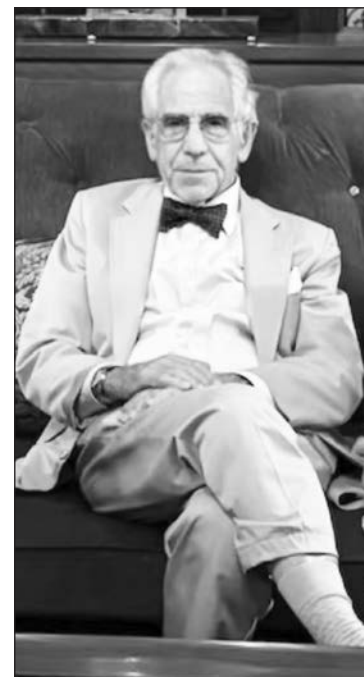
OBITUARIES

Dr. Paul Sylvan Greenfield

His warmth, curiosity, and bright smile will be dearly missed

Dr. Paul Sylvan Greenfield, 76, died unexpectedly on March 15, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Sandra “Sandy” Steele, and his son, Laurence “Ledge” Greenfield. Paul died while on vacation with Sandy, a passion they shared that led them on adventures around the globe.

Born in Newark, NJ and raised in Millburn, NJ, Paul attended the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate studies and earned his medical degree from George Washington University. After completing his residency in New Jersey, he moved to Boston for fellowships at Tufts Medical and Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston. Paul met Sandy soon after and called Boston home for the rest of his life. Paul was a familiar and friendly face in the neighborhood, often seen on his daily walks to and from the Union Boat Club. Always open to a quick conversation or a clever quip, he was known for his kind demeanor and sharp wit. A lifelong learner, Paul immersed himself in reading and civic engagement during retirement—never hesitating to call, email, or write to elected offi-



cials and authors about the issues he cared about. He was deeply passionate about the people in his life and the causes he believed in. His warmth, curiosity, and bright smile will be dearly missed. Donations may be made in his honor to the Boston Athanaeum, a non-profit that promotes learning for all.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

We will be meeting in front of the CVS at Charles Circle at 9am with tools and gloves for helping out wherever you choose.

Join us in this work to celebrate a special neighbor who cared so much about our neighborhood.

Upcoming Events

First Friday Coffee Hour - TODAY, May 2nd, 8:30am, 74 Joy Street - with invited guest Hannah Mermin from the city's Zero Waste Department

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet - Monday, May 5th, 6pm, 75 Chestnut

Neighborhood Clean-Up to Honor Paul Greenfield - Saturday, May 10th, 9-11am, meet at CVS

Mayor Wu's Coffee Hour for Beacon Hill - Thursday, May 15th, 10am, Commonwealth Mall

Annual Meeting of Members - Thursday, May 22nd, 8am, Hampshire House Valiant Cruise for Members - Wednesday, May 28th, 6:30pm, Rowes Wharf - tickets on sale now!

Save the Date!

Summer Evening at Otis House - Thursday, June 12th, 6-8pm

For further information on BHCA events or to volunteer, please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.

BHCA Job Opportunity

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is seeking an Assistant to the Executive Director. For more information and job requirements, please contact Patricia Tully at patricia.tully@bhcivic.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 to our mission as advocates for Beacon Hill residents. Join or renew your membership today at bhcivic.org or by calling us at 617-227-1922!

REPURPOSING (from pg. 1)

to existing residential amenities, including swimming pools, a fitness center, and outdoor recreational areas. Each new living space would have its own in-unit laundry, as well as below-grade parking provided in a shared garage.

The second project, also proposed by Equity Residential, would repurpose 15,350 square feet of vacant office space on one half of both the second and thirds floors of 1 Emerson Place into around 25 residential units, with a unit mix comprising 22 studios and two one-bedrooms, said Bentson.

Units sizes would range from 450 to 710 square feet, added Bentson, while five units would be designated as income-restricted housing in accordance with the city's Inclusionary Zoning policy.

Moreover, the second project also entails repurposing around 4,600 square feet of vacant office space at 10 Emerson Place into seven residential units, including five studios and two one-bedrooms.

Units sizes would range from 450 to 780 square feet, added Bentson, and two units would be designated as income-restricted housing in accordance with the city's Inclusionary Zoning policy.

A "couple" of Group 2 accessible units would be created at both 1 and 10 Emerson Place, said Bentson, with the remaining units designated as Group 1 units.

All new units included in the second project would have access to the existing amenities associated with Emerson Place, including in-unit laundry; a 24-hour fitness center; an exterior dog run; and the exterior patio and grills.

Parking for all new units created via the second project would



10 Emerson Place.

be provided in a shared, existing garage located below the adjacent 4 Emerson Place, said Benston.

The impact for the two projects is expected to be minimal, said Bentson, since both entail mostly internal renovations. Most construction is expected to take place on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both projects are being proposed under the city Planning Department's Downtown Conversion program – a post-pandemic pilot that intends to facilitate the as-of-right repurposing of

underutilized office space into residential units by providing major incentives for developers.

For the 1 Emerson Place conversion project to move forward, a minor modification must be made to Urban Renewal Parcel 1A to revise the current parking ratio, said Max Houghton, a policy specialist for the city's Planning Department.



1 Emerson Place.

Along with several neighbors on hand for the virtual meeting, District City Councilor Sharon Durkan supported her strong support for these projects.

The Planning Department's public comment period for these project runs through Monday, May 5; public comments can be submitted via the project pages (<https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/1-10-emerson-place> for the Emerson Conversion; <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/1-long-fellow-place> for the Longfellow Towers conversion project, or can be emailed to Dylan Morris, project manager, at Dylan.Norris@boston.gov.

SUN DAY (from pg. 3)

with our tax dollars, secured their supply lines with our military, and have made all of us pay the costs of their pollution. Despite their desperate efforts to continue their polluting business model at any cost, the era of fossil fuel dominance is coming to an end," said Dan Zackin of Better Future Project and 350 Massachusetts. "The proliferation of solar power aligns the economic benefits of lower energy costs with the scientific and moral imperative to address the climate crisis."

**A National Day of Action on
September 21**

On Sun Day, (September 21)

organizers plan to coordinate thousands of events nationwide, including community solar installations, electric vehicle and e-bike parades, clean energy demonstrations, educational events, and rallies at city halls, state houses, and energy agencies to call for bold local, state, and federal action to accelerate and scale-up affordable and reliable clean energy. From faith communities to labor groups, youth organizers to retirees, Americans of all backgrounds will take part in this powerful show of support for a just and rapid clean energy transition.

"Solar makes sense for everyone. It creates jobs, saves money,

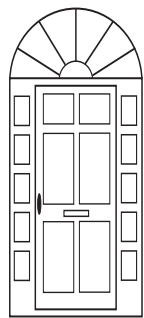
and puts people in control of their energy usage," said Anya Schoolman, Executive Director of Solar United Neighbors. "That is why solar manufacturing tripled last year, and why we need to continue the momentum in order to fuel the clean energy transition."

The campaign is backed by a growing coalition of local and national partners, including Solar United Neighbors, Rewiring America, Third Act, Sierra Club, GreenFaith, and dozens more. Together, they're building a diverse movement to protect the progress we've made—and supercharge what's next.

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Behind the Counter

With Susanne Beck

The high “HQ” at Cobblestones

This is the second installation of “Behind the Counter,” an ongoing series celebrating Beacon Hill salespeople and the places they work. If you have any suggestions for future pieces, please contact Susanne at bsusanne377@gmail.com.

Spotify may provide the background tunes at Cobblestones, located at 30 Charles Street. But the real harmony comes from behind the counter, where the café’s staff flow seamlessly, gracefully, like professional orchestra members, moving from order to order, station to station, exchanging roles when needed, to keep their steady line of customers well-fed and hydrated.

Co-owner Jennifer Gallagher (with Dave O’Connell) laughs at the suggestion that her talent in putting together such an ensemble makes her a conductor on par with Keith Lockhart, and quickly turns the spotlight back to her team. “I think kindness is the main ingredient of our secret sauce...



Emily McDougal



Jake Rait



Rowan Boynton



Jen Gallagher



Emilee Anderson

and that’s something they all that have.” Among her first hires were undergrads who were part of the same sports team who understand firsthand the adage ‘there is no I in team’. “The biggest compliment was when they [would] tell their friends that it’s a really fun place to work,” Jen says.

Staffer Emilee Anderson (Favorite sandwich to eat: The Reuben; To make: Pear and Gouda Grilled Cheese) – credits the owners with setting that tone. “I think [Jen] attracts the right kind of people... the people who are kind and outgoing and are really just inter-

ested in connecting with other people. You attract what you are, and she definitely attracts those kinds of people.”

Emilee says she has worked in the food and hospitality industry before – from pizza joints to more formal Italian restaurants – but nothing has compared with her time at Cobblestones. “I’ve never had such a great experience with everyone being so friendly and becoming friends with the people that I work with,” Emilee exclaims. “We have fun, but we never goof off because we know that this is so important to [Jen

and Dave]. We want to do the best that we can.”

Emily MacDougal, another crew member (Favorite sandwich to eat, Pear and Gouda Grilled Cheese; favorite to make, Mediterranean Bowl) agrees, likening the experience of working behind the counter to what she loved as a college theater major. “It’s talking to people. It’s really actively listening. It’s working efficiently, it’s working as part of a team.” She didn’t really expect to take the job, but after she did, she found she couldn’t leave. “My staying has been very intentional because of

Jen and Dave and the team.”

Jake Rait (Favorite sandwich to eat and make: The Cali. “Scrambled eggs cheddar pesto aioli bacon and tomato on a brioche bun. Very yummy!”) says much the same as he has come and gone several times, always returning to the other side of the counter between breaks for school and an unexpected teaching assignment in Buenos Aires. “I grew up in the industry, literally across the street,” he explains, as his parents owned the Beacon Hill Inn and

(COUNTER, Pg. 13)

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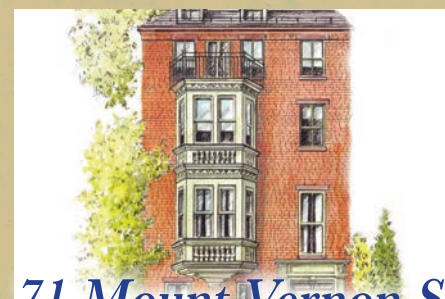
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9 Chestnut St.

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\$7.5mm



71 Mount Vernon St. #1

Gorgeous South Slope restoration w/ fireplace,
two beds, AC, and BH views. **\$1,695,000**



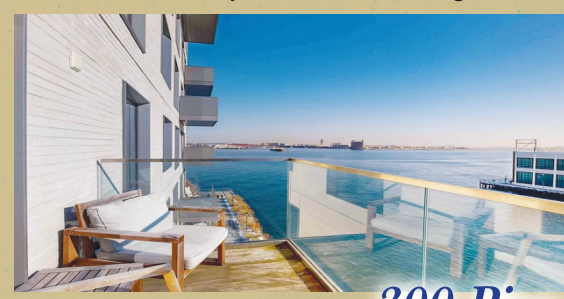
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263 Beacon St #5

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109 Mount Vernon St., Boston MA 02108

Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services celebrate new EMTs

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) celebrated the graduation of 35 EMT-Recruits and 13 recent promotions in a ceremony at Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall. The EMT-Recruits were hired as state-certified EMTs and successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an intense training program to ensure residents receive the highest quality emergency medical care. The new graduates now join Boston EMS to respond to medical emergencies in Boston, enhancing 9-1-1 staffing for ambulances and dispatch operations.

"Congratulations to the newest class of EMS graduates. Today marks not just the end of your training, but the beginning of a lifelong commitment to service," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "You are now part of a proud tradition of EMS professionals who respond with skill, compassion, and courage when our residents need it most. Whether in moments of crisis or quiet care, your work is a lifeline for our city—and we are deeply grateful for your dedication."

"Becoming an EMT or paramedic is more than just a job—it's an honorable calling. It requires courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to others. Every shift offers you the

chance to make a lasting impact on someone's life when they need it most," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "With call volume at an all-time high and our team responding to more than 385 medical emergencies every day, your role is more important than ever. As you graduate today, know that you are now equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resolve to face the challenges ahead. You are ready to serve, and we are incredibly proud of you."

The Boston EMS Recruit Academy is a full-time, paid program featuring both classroom instruction and field training to prepare EMTs for a variety of life-threatening emergency situations—including mass casualty events, hazardous materials exposure, active shooter incidents, and human trafficking response. During their training, the graduates collectively responded to over 4,300 9-1-1 calls, treating patients experiencing everything from cardiac arrest to childbirth, serious trauma, and behavioral health crises.

"Congratulations to our new EMTs and to those who are being promoted. Boston EMS is one of the most highly regarded emergency service providers in the country and is critical to ensuring health and wellness in our city," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Though the work to provide emergency services is challenging, EMS personnel continue to pro-



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

EMT-Recruits are sworn in as the newest graduates of the Boston EMS Recruit Academy.

vide high-quality, compassionate care in times of crisis every single day. We are proud to have you on the team at the Boston Public Health Commission."

Boston EMS continues to expand access to EMS careers through its multi-pronged recruitment strategy. Notably, nine members of this graduating class were part of the relaunched Cadet Program. The initiative fully funds EMT training for individuals, paving the way to fulfilling careers in public service. Additionally, six of the new graduates participated in the City Academy training program, managed by Worker's Empowerment Cabinet, that prepares Boston residents for various jobs including as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with Boston EMS.

At the ceremony, the depart-

ment also formally acknowledged the advancement of six Emergency Medical Technicians to the rank of Paramedic. This achievement follows the successful completion of a paramedic program, departmental promotional examinations, and a rigorous three-month internship program.

Promoted to Paramedic:

Brian Cameron, Daniel Chatell, Christopher Hamilton, Kathryn McLean, Eldar Pehilj, Kimberly Zion

The department also recognized the promotions of three personnel to the rank of Captain and four to the rank of Lieutenant. These individuals collectively contribute nearly 100 years of combined service and leadership experience to the department's supervisory ranks.

Promoted to Captain:

Thomas Hooley, Sean Morgan, Kassim Zion

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Michael Devlin, Elizabeth Hazelton, Kaitlin Joyce, Bethany Wylde

"Congratulations on stepping into these vital leadership roles," said Chief Hooley. "Our city is stronger and safer because of your clinical expertise, dedication, and leadership. As you take on these new responsibilities, know that your influence will extend beyond our department, making a lasting impact on the entire community."

Boston EMS is one of the busiest municipal EMS providers in New England, responding to more than 140,000 emergency medical incidents per year.

Boston officials to host annual Disability Community Forum

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Advisory Board announced that the City's annual Disability Community Forum will take place on Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The event, held at Suffolk University Law School, is open to the public, with hybrid attendance options allowing participation both in person and on Zoom. To register for this event, please visit boston.gov/disability-forum.

"As we continue our work to make Boston a home for everyone, we are working to ensure that residents with disabilities are connected to services and community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Boston's Disability Community

Forum is an important way for residents to shape the City's ongoing efforts, provide feedback, and build community. I encourage everyone to attend this critical forum and help inform the work we do across Boston to make our city more inclusive and accessible."

This year's event will feature a brief presentation from Kristen McCosh, ADA Title II Coordinator and Disability Commissioner for the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities. She will share the Commission and Board's Annual Report. The event will then open for public comment from Boston residents and a Q&A session with Commissioner McCosh and Disability Advisory Board members. The event will provide an opportunity for Boston's disability community to help

shape ongoing City services, share their feedback on initiatives across neighborhoods and ask questions to various City departments. The forum will also provide City officials an opportunity to listen to residents with disabilities and learn more from their perspective across Boston neighborhoods. The public is encouraged to submit questions and comments in advance of the forum on the registration form found at boston.gov/disability-forum.

"Boston's annual Disability Community Forum provides a valuable opportunity for people with disabilities to connect directly with City officials," said Boston Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. "We work hard to ensure that Boston is an accessible and inclusive city, but we want to hear from you. I encourage every-

one who is involved in the disability community to attend our forum this year so you can tell us your priorities for accessibility and inclusion in the City of Boston."

Last year, Mayor Wu and the Commission on Persons with Disabilities welcomed over 100 attendees in-person and on Zoom. Issues such as accessible housing, transportation, sidewalk safety, and disability discrimination were discussed. The opportunity to listen to Boston's disability community provided City officials valuable information that improved city departments ability to plan for increased disability accessibility and inclusion in every corner of the city.

"The Disabilities Commission Advisory Board looks forward to the Disability Community Forum every year because it is a direct

way to hear from the community. It is a great way to highlight accessibility work, and get feedback on issues that are directly impacting disabled residents, commuters, and visitors to Boston," said Jerry Boyd, Chair of the City of Boston Disability Advisory Board.

This event will be recorded by the City of Boston's Cable TV channel, and following the end of the event a video recording will be available to stream on the City's YouTube channel, Xfinity channel 24, RCN channel 13, and Fios channel 962.

To learn more about the Disability Community Forum, visit boston.gov, email disability@boston.gov or call the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities at 617-635-3682.

Wu, B.A.A. announce recipients of the fastest Bostonian awards at the Boston Marathon

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) announced the recipients of the third annual awards for the Fastest Bostonians, given to the Boston residents with the quickest finish times at the 129th Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America. For the first time this year, a Fastest Bostonian award is being presented to the fastest male in the marathon's wheelchair division, along with the fastest man, woman, and non-binary runners.

The awards will be given to Erik Linden, a data scientist from Beacon Hill and a Boston College graduate, who ran his first Boston

Marathon in 2:21:25; Jacqueline Gaughan, a Beacon Hill resident who works in finance and finished the race in 2:32:07; and Danielle Bishop from Allston who works at New Balance, ran their eighth Boston Marathon and finished the race in 3:42:14. Boston is also proud to honor Jason Fowler, a South Boston resident and 21-time Boston Marathon participant who competed in the wheelchair division of the marathon and finished in 2:00:43. Mayor Wu and the B.A.A. will celebrate these four athletes at a reception in the coming weeks.

"Congratulations to everyone who competed in one of Boston's most treasured traditions and represented our communities. I am especially proud to recognize Erik Linden, Jacqueline Gaughan, Jason Fowler, and Danielle Bishop as this year's Fastest Bostonians, showing their determination and grit in the marathon known around the world," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Thank you to the B.A.A. for their continued partnership and continuing this great tradition in our city."

"The theme for the 129th Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America was 'Meet the Moment' and these four outstanding Bostonians certainly did that," said Jack Fleming, President and CEO of the Boston Athletic Association. "Representing themselves and the City

of Boston in our marathon of the same name, we congratulate them on their efforts as we know their achievements inspire others in the City. We celebrate them in their hometown marathon."

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon. This is the third year that Boston residents with the quickest time crossing the Finish Line will receive a commemorative glass bowl engraved with the phrase "Fastest Bostonian." This year's marathon marked the 50th anniversary of the Wheelchair Division at the Boston Marathon, and for the first time this year the City and B.A.A. will honor the fastest Boston-based male wheelchair athlete. There

were no women from Boston competing in the wheelchair division this year.

Last year's Fastest Bostonian Award went to three Boston runners. Dr. Miles Batty from West Roxbury won for the fastest Boston man, finishing the race in 2 hours and 25 minutes. Arianna Maida from Jamaica Plain, was the fastest Boston woman with a time of 2 hours and 48 minutes. Nonie Anderson from Brighton, a Boston College Law School student, finished the race in 3 hours and 44 minutes.

The reception to honor Boston's fastest runners will be announced soon.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WECA SET TO MEET MAY 8 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will meet on Thursday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Amy Lowell Apartments, 65 Martha Road.

At this time, a member of the MBTA Community Engagement Team will discuss how her team supports and collaborates with neighborhood associations, keeping the community informed about MBTA projects and also gathering feedback about how MBTA services are impacting the residents.

Also at the meeting, a second guest will present an overview of Project Oscar, the city's program to reduce waste by collecting residential food scraps for composting, and she will discuss options to locate a collection bin in the West End.

All West End residents are welcome. Bring your voice to West End concerns. Masks are encouraged.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM WELCOMES BACK AUTHOR FRANCES MCNAMARA

The Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mount Vernon St., again welcomes author Frances McNamara who will discuss her latest novel, 'Nutshell Murder Mystery, Joy Street Jail Murder in a Nutshell,' on Thursday, May 8, at 6 p.m.

Set on Beacon Hill in 1920, this mystery follows sleuth Frances Glessner Lee (the real-life mother of forensic science) and her colleagues as they encounter settlement house workers, city police, and members of the neighborhood's Jewish community— and

features a cameo by the Nichols House's own Margaret (Nichols) Shurcliff.

Christen Hazel of The Vilna Shul, who will share history of the Vilna Shul and the North Slope's Jewish community, will also join the conversation.

Also, beginning in May, the Nichols House will be open Wednesday through Sundays for museum tours.

Visit nicholshousemuseum.org for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR SET TO RETURN MAY 15

Mayor Michelle Wu will join the Office of Neighborhood Services and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the return of her annual Neighborhood Coffee Hours, including an event for the Beacon Hill and Back Bay communities on Thursday, May 15, from 10- 11 a.m. on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall (near the Arlington Street entrance).

The Mayor Neighborhood Coffee Hours, presented in partnership with Dunkin' and Star Market, offers Boston residents the opportunity to speak directly with Mayor Wu and staff from city departments about city services and resident concerns. Leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet will attend each Coffee Hour, and attendees will have the opportunity to meet their neighborhood liaisons, who will deliver remarks focused on city improvements in each neighborhood.

In the event of rain, the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour for the Beacon Hill and Back Bay communities will take place on Thursday, May 15, from 10- 11 a.m. in the Central Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at

700 Boylston St.

Visit boston.gov/coffee-hours for more information and a complete schedule of Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hours.

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE TO HOLD GALA AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Women Lunch Place's annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, 'eat LUNCH give,' will take place on Friday, May 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental hotel.

This special luncheon will include a delicious meal, an exciting raffle, and the opportunity to hear about the great work and mission of WLP from some of Boston's brightest leaders.

Visit womenslunchplace.org to view tickets and sponsorship information.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING AT THE ATHENAEUM

The Boston Athenaeum, located at 10½ Beacon St., will offer 'The Editor' – an Author Talk with Sarak Franklin – on Monday, May 12, at 6 p.m.

At this time, best-selling writer Franklin will join Boston-based writer Jessica Carbone, for a discussion on Franklin's newest biography, 'The Editor,' about legendary editor Judith Jones, the woman behind some of the most important authors of the 20th century—including Julia Child, Anne Frank, Edna Lewis, John Updike, and Sylvia Plath. The book outlines the decades of Judith Jones' work, starting with her career-defining publishing of 'Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl,' through her role at the forefront of the cookbook revolution.

Tickets are free for members and their guests, and \$20 each for visitors. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/sara-franklin-the-editor-5a2KU-m4ORuP/overview> to register for and for more information on this event.

The Athenaeum will offer 'Pressing Matters: The Impact of Print Across the Atlantic,' featuring UMass Boston students, on Wednesday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/pressing-matters-the-impact-of-print-across-the-atlantic-5a2KU-m4zjM5/overview> to register for and for more information on this event.

The Athenaeum will also sponsor a music offering – 'Redefining Home,' with Rasa String Quartet and Brian Shankar Adler, on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

Spanning from evocative Argentine ragas and mysterious Argentine tangos to spirited Celtic fiddle tunes, this concert will culminate in the world premiere of a new work for string quartet and percussion by Brian Shankar Adler, inspired by this unique collaboration.


Tickets for members and their guests are \$20. Visitor tickets are \$35 and include first-floor admission. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/rasa-string-quartet-and-brian-shankar-adler-redefining-home-5a2KU-m4pJMT/overview> to register for and for more information on this event.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Volunteer Instructors for the American MahJong Community are offering free lessons for new and experienced players.

The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 68 William Cardinal O'Connell Way.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com), or Julia Forbes (jmfaorbes@gmail.com) or Sandy Connor (ssconnor46@gmail.com).

 CHA Cambridge Health Alliance		WE ARE SEEKING
Healthy People or those Currently Receiving Buprenorphine (eg, suboxone, subutex or subsolv), Methadone or Naltrexone (Vivitrol)		
We are seeking participants for a clinical research study about buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone. The study will include both individuals who use these opioids and a control group of individuals who do not. If you are between the ages of 21 and 59, you may qualify for a research study at The Cambridge Health Alliance that focuses on how buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone affect people's weight, blood sugar and pain.		
The study involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One up to 8-hour session • Weight/height, waist measurement, body fat percent, a diet assessment, measurements of blood sugar and lipids, surveys and urine tests • Up to \$60 provided for participation 		617- 665-1177 delman@challiance.org
CambridgeHealthAlliance CHA-IRB-21-22-75 Approved on 12-26-2024		

OLD SOUTH CHURCH OFFERS ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES

PHOTOS BY JAMIE GARUTI SAGE

On Easter Sunday, April 20 – one day ahead of the 129th Boston Marathon - Old South Church in Boston in Copley Square continued its Marathon Sunday tradition, with worship services, featuring the Blessing of the Athletes.

Per tradition, “Highland Cathedral,” a composition written and composed for Scottish games and competition, was performed during the services in recognition of the runners.



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CITY PAWS

Sign language

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For professional trainers – those who work with service dogs; first responders handling K9 partners trained to detect guns, bombs, drugs, or find criminals; or people like us out for a walk with our dog – hand signals, gestures, and body language can be more effective than repeating words over and over to get a dog to perform. It's time we all considered using canine language to communicate with our dogs.

When dogs interact with one another, you'll notice a lot of body language and rituals. At a distance, canines will begin signaling with their stance, the position and movement of their ears and tail, and their facial expression. You might hear an occasional bark, and during friendly play, you might hear some rumbles and play growls. But, for the most part, dogs communicate non-verbally.

Basic Sign Language

Debby McMullen, CDBC, writing for Whole Dog Journal, wrote, "When dogs know both hand signals and verbal cues, they are far

more likely to respond to the hand signal than a verbal cue."

She suggested a list of hand signals you could consider using to communicate with your dog. Among those are "Sit," "Down," "Touch," "Wait," "By Me," "Can I Have That?" (Her name for "Drop It") "Here Here" (means come to me) and one of our favorites, "All Done," indicated with "Jazz Hands," for when we are finished with training or giving treats.

Once you have the basics down, you can add some signs for tasks that are fun for both of you. Teaching high-fives and shaking hands can add a playful aspect to a training program.

American Sign Language (ASL)

It is relatively common to teach a dog to respond to American Sign Language (ASL) if the dog or a family member is deaf or has hearing loss. The existence of a language spoken with hands and facial expressions can be helpful to those who want to have their own set of hand signals for their dog.

The National Institutes of Health defines ASL as, "... a com-

plete, natural language that has the same linguistic properties as spoken languages, with grammar that differs from English." The combination of manual and non-manual features parallels natural canine communication skills.

Check out the ASL signs for love, brush teeth, wonderful, snuggle, come, and go to find signs for a few things you may want to communicate to your furry friend. Be sure to use appropriate facial expressions and body language, as your dog uses those to understand you.

What's more, according to Dr. Roy Hamilton, MD, trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. "Learning a new language can be immensely helpful for cognitive health, particularly as we age. This is because language learning engages a wide range of complex cognitive abilities, including memory, attention, and problem-solving, which can help to create and strengthen connections in the brain." It's a win-win!

Short and Sweet

Finally, make any words or sounds you use along with the



"High-five" is fun and adorable. However, other hand signals are more important. (Viktor Nikolaienko photo)

sign language short and sweet. Be aware that to your dog, "Come over here right now" is translated as "yadda, yadda, yadda" or "blah, blah, blah." As far as your dog is concerned, you sound like a chattering chipmunk with an occasional word like "SIT!, GOOD GIRL!, or NO!" popping up here

and there. The combination of the sign language they know and a simple, consistently used word will ensure they understand you.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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UPSTAIRS
DOWNSTAIRS
HOME

North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra presents 'Wild Symphony' at Children's Concert Sunday

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra presents a Children's Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo on May 4 at the First Baptist Church in Beverly beginning at 2 p.m., led by guest conductor Marshunda Smith, Music Director and Conductor of the Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra.

The concert program will feature Dan Brown's "Wild Symphony", based on the best-selling author's book of the same name that details the adventures of Maestro Mouse and his companions from the animal kingdom.

Tickets are available online at NSPO.org or at the door for \$12, \$5.75 for ages 5 to 18, and children four and under are admitted free.

The events will begin with an Instrument Petting Zoo, where youngsters can get to feel what it's like to hold and play a classical instrument. A variety of crafts and

student performers will highlight the pre-concert festivities.

Dan Brown, creator of the Wild Symphony, is renowned as author of such thrillers as "The DaVinci Code" and "The Secret of Secrets," among others. His delightful "Wild Symphony" features two dozen musical portraits drawn from the animal kingdom, such as Bouncing Kangaroo, Wondrous Whale, and Brilliant Bat, to name a few. The symphony has been welcomed and enjoyed world-wide since its release five years ago.

Guest Conductor Marshunda Smith has enjoyed a stellar career as a cellist with numerous orchestras in the Boston area and now is making her mark as a conductor. Smith is in her second year as Music Director with the Lowell Philharmonic. In February of 2018, she became only the second female—and first African-Amer-

ican—to conduct the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in a ground-breaking performance that became the focus of a YouTube/RevereTV production "The Democracy of Sound: The Marshunda Smith Story."

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra recently completed its 76th Concert season. The Orchestra strives to develop, train and provide opportunities for young and amateur 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@nspe.org.

The Childrens Concert is supported in part by a grant from the Beverly Cultural Council, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Marshunda Smith, Music Director of the Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra, will conduct the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in a Children's Concert on Sunday, May 4 at the First Baptist Church in Beverly.

Big Hoops to Fill by Artist Ja'Hari Ortega is on display at The Greenway

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, has announced that a new public art installation from artist Ja'Hari Ortega, Big Hoops to Fill, is on view to the public beginning May 1, 2025 at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Seaport Boulevard.

The artwork features two oversized golden bamboo hoop earrings—also known as "door-knocker" earrings—that function as interactive swings. Cast from fiberglass and resin composite, the earrings hang from a swing set that echoes one the artist grew up

playing on in Roxbury.

Ortega's sculpture emphasizes the cultural weight of bamboo hoop earrings, an iconic style of jewelry worn by many women of color that originated within early hip-hop culture and fashion. From gracing the ears of performers such as Salt-N-Pepa, MC Lyte, Roxanne Shanté, Mary J. Blige, and Queen Latifah, to being immortalized in the song, Around the Way Girl, by LL Cool J, bamboo hoop earrings are a cultural signifier and symbol of resistance, identity, and pride for generations of BIPOC communities.

Ortega shares: "Jewelry to me is like photography; it captures a moment in time and special pieces are often passed down from generation to generation. These hoops are an unapologetic statement of self-expression, pride, and connection to one's roots and identity."

By rendering bamboo hoop earrings at a monumental scale in downtown Boston, Ortega centers the everyday lives of women of color in public space and creates a legible invitation to the artwork as a space of play, rest, leisure, and relaxation. As the artist states, Big Hoops to Fill creates oppor-

tunities to "heal one's inner child, strengthen healthy multigenerational relationships, and foster confidence in one's identity and culture."

Audrey Lopez, The Greenway Conservancy's Director and Curator of Public Art, says: "Big Hoops to Fill is a beacon of play, rest, and joy, and an affirmation of the everyday lives of women of color. Ortega's artwork inspires us to think broadly and critically about which objects and whose histories and cultural references form the basis of monuments in Boston's public spaces."

GOODBYE SOLDIER GOODBYE© *

wendy franco almquist

Goodbye soldier goodbye
The lungs that braved to breathe
The dust of near and foreign wars
Have given way to dust again...

In solemn silence the honor guard folds our nation's flag into
A triangle of loyalty bravery and sacrifice
To kneel before his widow with utmost dignity
For her own brand of valor called steadfast love

Three volleys of rifle shots strike a sacred chord
A stirring last salute
That bends our souls to weep
Carries thoughts of him on quiet winds that echo our best memories

The final scene the mournful horn plays lonely Taps
To leave us silent on the shore
Our heads bowed in mute respect
For all who braved the call: brothers sisters fathers
mothers daughters sons...

Day is done. Gone the sun.
From the lakes, From the hills, From the skies.
All is done. Safely rest. God is nigh.
Goodbye Soldier Goodbye

* For John Pope at rest in our hearts. His thoughtful words and hearty laugh will long echo as he in memory walks the Hill. And when we think of him he will wink and we will smile...



Ja'Hari Ortega's public art installation 'Big Hoops to Fill.'

PHOTOGRAPH BY MEL TAING OF BIG HOOPS TO FILL

Wu announces Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah as Boston's next Poet Laureate

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced that Ghanaian American poet, editor, and educator Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah will serve as Boston's next Poet Laureate. Oppong-Yeboah will officially assume the role in July 2025 and serve until July 2029. Established in 2008, the Boston Poet Laureate Program has been a cornerstone of Boston's creative sector, drawing residents into the rich and transformative world of the literary arts. It is a ceremonial appointment with a term of four years.

"I'm honored to announce Emmanuel as Boston's next Poet Laureate. Their voice, vision, and deep commitment to community will inspire and amplify our city's voices over the next four years," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "In a time where we need to challenge, uplift, and connect, I'm proud to know that Emmanuel will carry out this role with care for our communities."

"I am very excited to serve the City of Boston in this role," said Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah. "In so much of life I feel a profound



Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah.

sense of indebtedness to those who have done the work before me. No less so here. Boston's two most recent poet laureates, Porsha Olayiwola and Danielle Georges, have created so much space in this city for the flourishing of poetry and poets, and I am grateful to them and eager to expand on their work."

Oppong-Yeboah grew up in Boston and holds the city close to their heart. They are currently a

BPS educator working as a school librarian at the Joseph Lee School in Dorchester. For six years, they taught 11th grade English at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and prior to that served as a teaching artist for 10 years at organizations throughout Boston, including the Massachusetts Literary Education and Performance Collective, the Cambridge Arts Council, Northeastern University, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. Emmanuel's poem, "kra-din" (Kweli Journal), is a past recipient of the Pushcart Prize (XLIII).

"We are thrilled that Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah, a beloved member of our BPS community, has been named Boston's next Poet Laureate," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "As a school librarian at the Lee K-8 School, Emmanuel nurtures curiosity, creativity, and a deep love for words in our students every day. Their passion for poetry and education exemplifies the transformative power of the arts in young people's lives. We are proud to see a BPS educator in this role and excited for the inspiration they will spark across our city."

Oppong-Yeboah will be Bos-

ton's fourth poet laureate, following Porsha Olayiwola, Danielle Legros Georges, and Sam Cornish, all of whom helped elevate the city's poetry scene. Oppong-Yeboah is committed to expanding on their legacies by fostering new opportunities for poets of all ages to thrive.

For Oppong-Yeboah, working with young people in the city where they were raised is especially meaningful and a source of personal joy. They hope to use this role to bring people together to build connections and provide resources to support poets and the organizations that make space for them.

They plan to work with the Boston Youth Poet Laureate on initiatives that activate the youth poetry scene in Boston; transform community spaces in Boston Public Libraries to host all-ages open-mics and draw engagement from BPS school communities nearby these library sites; partner with Boston's School Libraries to connect Boston-area students to living poets; and host a contest that invites local poets to engage in writing based on Boston Public Library's archives.

Applications for the role were

reviewed by a Selection Panel consisting of a distinguished group of local literary professionals. The Selection Panel evaluated all entries and held interviews with the final candidates.

"The Selection Committee was impressed by both Emmanuel's creative work, but equally his balanced thoughtful intentionality; he will bring to this role a deep appreciation of community engagement; and his skills and connections as an educator; and a passion for mentoring our young people in their creative endeavors," said David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library.

Oppong-Yeboah's upcoming events include co-leading an open mic and poetry slam on April 18 and May 2 with poet Crystal Valentine at Just Book-ish in Fields Corner, Dorchester (1st and 3rd Friday of every month). Additionally, they will be doing a feature performance on Wednesday, April 23, at the Cantab Lounge in Cambridge, home of the Boston Poetry Slam.

To learn more about the Boston Poet Laureate Program, visit www.boston.gov/poetry.

Orange Line service suspended between North Station and Oak Grove night of May 9 and every day through May 18

Special to the Times

The MBTA is today reminding riders that Orange Line service will be suspended between North Station and Oak Grove beginning at approximately 8:30 PM on Friday, May 9, and continuing every day for the following nine days, May 10 – 18.

Riders can find complete information at mbta.com/Planned-Work. More information on these service changes and alternate travel options:

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between North Station and Oak Grove.
- Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Downtown Crossing from Oak Grove should budget an additional 45 – 60 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute.
- Express shuttle buses will also serve Oak Grove, Malden Center,

and North Station.

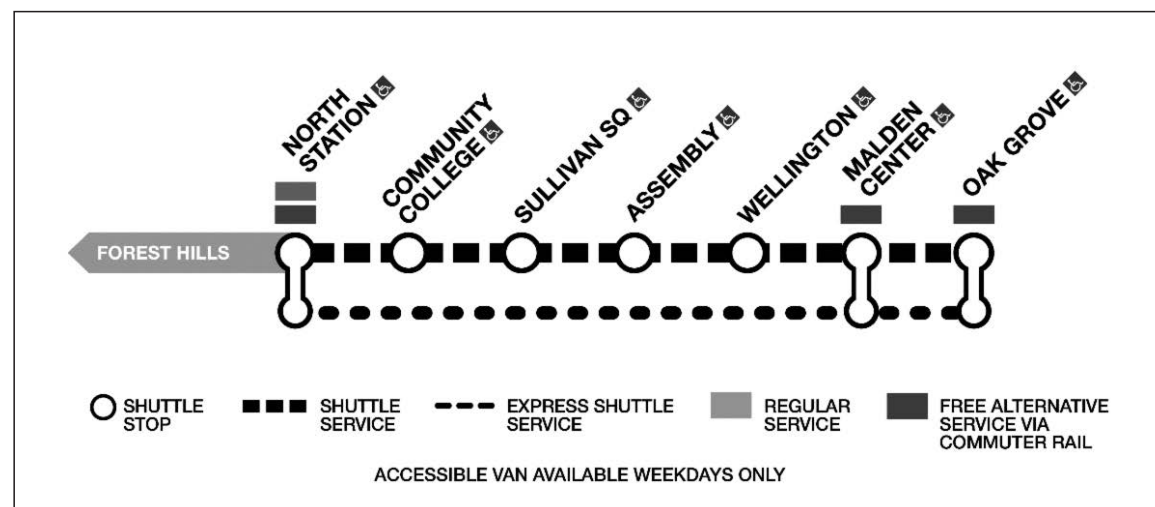
- Accessible van service will be available on weekdays during this service change, directly serving all Orange Line stations between Oak Grove and North Station. Please see onsite personnel to request the accessible van.

- Riders are strongly encouraged to consider the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line for fare-free service to and from Oak Grove, Malden Center, and North Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Oak Grove.

- Travel time between Oak Grove and North Station on the Haverhill Line is approximately 20 minutes.

The service change is in place to support MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project, which will replace the two deteriorated bridge superstructures and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities.

More information is also



available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/Planned-Work or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering pub-

lic transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely

on while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, Bus Network Redesign, and Rail Vision, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mediarelations@mbta.com. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.

REMEMBERING MLK JR.'S 1965 FREEDOM RALLY



Martin Luther King III.

Mayor Michelle Wu joined other dignitaries, along with representatives from Embrace Boston and the ACLU of Massachusetts, on Saturday, April 26, on Boston Common to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic march on April 23, 1965, when he led a crowd of 20,000 from Roxbury to the park.



Mayor Michelle Wu.



The city dedicated the intersection of Boylston and Charles streets as of 1965 Freedom Rally Square.

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Lyric Stage Boston presents
Hello, Dolly!

The Lyric Stage 2024/25 season closes the 2024/25 season with the classic American musical comedy *Hello, Dolly!*. Directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent, Music Direction from Dan Rodriguez†, and Choreography by Ilyse Robbins°, and featuring classic songs like “Before the Parade Passes By”, “It Only Takes a Moment”, and “Hello, Dolly!”, audiences will leave their worries at the door and be taken away on a cloud of pure exuberance.

With Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman and Book by Michael Stewart, *Hello, Dolly!* Is a must-see, feel-good treat for audiences of all ages this spring.

Brimming with classic musical theater tunes, endearing characters, and good-humor all around, *Hello, Dolly!* is the perfect balm for the soul. With a twinkle in her eye, Dolly Levi orchestrates matters of the heart for those looking for love as the incomparable matchmaker that she is. As romance blossoms and comedic adventures ensue, Dolly makes friends around every corner and charms her way into the hearts of



everyone she meets. But is there hope of moving on from a lost love and finding a sweetheart of her own “before the parade passes by?”

Director Maurice Emmanuel Parent says, "I am overjoyed to be telling this classic story with Lyric Stage, which has a treasured history of presenting classic musicals in a way that both honors the legacy of the show and sees it with a fresh perspective. I hope this show will inspire us to grab onto the things and people we love, to hold them tight before the parade passes us by."

Performances begin Friday, May 16 and run through Sunday, June 22.

Email heather_darrow@lyric-stage.com for tickets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**“E” INC PRESENTS
WSFF MAY 8**

On Thursday May 8, the Regent Theater at 7 Medford St. in Arlington, will be the site for a one-night showing of The Wild and Scenic Film Festival (WSFF), a curated set of films from around the world! Starting at t 7:30 p.m.

The showing is being put together by Charlestown's "E" Inc.

For more than 22-years, “E” Inc., the Planet Science Learning and Action Center, based in Bos-

ton, has been a stalwart member of the science teaching community. Every year, the staff have been providing hands-on science education, and dynamic action projects, with underserved learners.

Tickets for WSFF are just \$25 a person.

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is a 20 year Film Festival, from California. This is a wonderful and unique experience. For "E" Inc., this is 15th year curating and presenting these unique films.

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BLO presents free family-friendly performance of “Noah’s Flood”

Special to the Times

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) presents a special free public performance of composer Benjamin Britten’s 1958 work, *NOAH’S FLOOD* (Noye’s Fludde) on May 3 at 2pm at Symphony Hall. This participatory, family-friendly opera brings together professional artists, community musicians and young performers for a vibrant retelling of the classic story of a man driven to save his family, his community, and the Earth’s animals from an existential flood.

Part of BLO’s ongoing commitment to accessible, community-centered performances, *NOAH’S FLOOD* is designed for audiences of all ages, offering an introduction to opera through

Britten’s charming score. The production will be conducted by BLO Music Director David Angus and is directed by Dayron Miles. Performers include David McFerrin, a BLO Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artist alumnus, in the title role, and Alexis Peart, a current Emerging Artist as Mrs. Noah, alongside hundreds of local schoolchildren, instrumentalists and choral singers in an inclusive, participatory musical experience.

Community partners and performers include Boston Children’s Chorus, Boston String Academy, Back Bay Ringers, VOICES Boston, Boston Recorder Orchestra, Community Music Center of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Artists for



Humanity.

The production is part of BLO’s “Rising Waters/Rising Voices” initiative, which aims to use its performances and other resources to bring attention to environmental concerns that threaten its communities. For ten years before *NOAH’S FLOOD* premiered, Britten had been interested in writing operas accessible to children

and based on biblical stories and as a vehicle to teach young people about music creation. He was asked to write a piece for a summer music program and looked to adapt one of the medieval “Chester ‘Miracle Plays’” that are among the first dramatized biblical stories. Poignantly – and by some accounts his impetus to create this work – Britten’s hometown of Aldeburgh, England and the areas

around it had been devastated by a string of storms that destroyed homes and flooded communities years earlier.

This free performance (donations of \$25 suggested) continues BLO’s tradition of bringing opera to new locations in and around the heart of Boston. Reservations are required due to anticipated demand.

COUNTER (from Page 5)

Bistro before selling it to the Saunders Group in December 2015. But Jake says he has never felt so in sync with a team the way he has at Cobblestones.

Workmate and manager Rowan Boynton (Favorite sandwich to eat and make: Good Fella, peppered ham, salami, mortadella, provolone, tomatoes, pickles, EVOO and seasonings on focaccia) remembers one time when it was just the two of them on shift swamped with a large influx of in-person and online orders. “We worked effortlessly together. It was fluid... and we didn’t make a single mistake. Everyone’s orders were perfect,” she says with pride. “It was great. And afterwards, you know, me and him had this sense of accomplishment... That was awesome. To be able to work with someone so well that you’re kind of flowing off of each other without even really talking that much.”

Rowan also credits the owners with choosing the right team members. “They’re not just hiring people who think, ‘I just need a job and I’m gonna get this done. Whatever.’ They’re hiring people that genuinely want to make a positive environment, which is really, really awesome.” Not surprisingly, that approach is right in line with the philosophy Jen shares with her industry hero, Shake Shack owner, Danny Meyer, who hires on the basis of what he calls “hospitality quotient...the degree to which someone is happier themselves when they provide happiness for someone else.”

Rowan notes that such an emphasis on positivity creates a welcoming environment for cus-

tomers, too. “You get that community vibe where people know each other. You watch people grow up or go through life events, things like that. You can create that kind of space for people, which I think is really beautiful.”

Emily chimes in, nodding with her words. “[Cobblestone customers] are so kind. They’re always asking what our names are. The regulars not only know us, but they’ll remember things about us. A lot of people ask me about how school is, or people will talk to me about Texas if they know that I’m from there...People treat us with so much respect and that makes it such a huge difference, even though it feels like so little.”

Which is not to say that every day is easy. Orders can stack up, online and in person, and the growing catering business ensures that there is virtually no downtime for crew members. Some items are more complicated than others, too, including, strangely enough for Emilee, hot chocolate. “It can be a bit of a tough one during a rush because there’s so many elements going on there,” she laughs.

And while almost all the customers are pleasant and understanding, a few have been less so over the years.

Emilee notes that her graduate work in counseling psychology has come in handy at such times, especially when lines snake out the front door in the summer.

I apologize and tell them I understand that the situation is not ideal and then try to offer them solutions, like taking their food to go. They just want to be heard,” she says with an understanding

tone.

Stay in or take out, a visit to the team at Cobblestones, is sure to be memorable for both the customer and the crew with takeaways that go well beyond the food. For Jen, the entire enterprise has been

a dream come true. “It’s been the biggest miracle of my life... I put my heart and soul into it, but the benefit is... you make somebody happy.” Emilee cites one lady who is a regular as the perfect example of what the café is all about. “She

is probably the sweetest person I have ever met... her energy is just so peaceful and kind. I think she is a little bit of a reminder for everyone: just be happy.”

Susanne Beck is a resident of Beacon Hill.

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NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction Look-Ahead:
April 27 through May 10

Scheduled Work

- Temporary traffic realignments
- South approach full depth roadway construction and paving
- East roadway barrier concrete formwork and placements
- Marine fender work
- Lovejoy walkway handrail installation
- FRP fascia screening installation

Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the

right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and

manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

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

Project website: Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

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

Register for the 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk

Registration is open for the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted to use the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

- 5K walk: Starting at Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus
- 10K walk: Starting in Newton

- Half Marathon walk: Starting in Wellesley
- Marathon walk: Starting in Hopkinton

All along the route, walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of patients—Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes—that are the heart of the event and appear along the course as inspiration. Walkers will also be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course.

The event will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Walkers who prefer to

participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and bring a group of your family, friends, or colleagues together against cancer. To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk Day.

Beacon Hill Times
Pick-Up Locations

Antonio's	288 Cambridge St.
Simmon's Liquors	210 Cambridge St.
Jobi Liquors.....	170 Cambridge St.
7-Eleven.....	122 Cambridge St.
West End Library.....	151 Cambridge St.
Charles St. Liquors	143 Charles St.
U.S. Post Office.....	136 Charles St.
Gary Drug	53 Charles St.
Bank of America.....	39 Charles St.
Charles St. Supply.....	54 Charles St.
Cobblestones	30 Charles St.
DeLuca's	11 Charles St.
Nuts Factory.....	Charles St.
Beacon Hill Wine	Charles St.
UPS	Charles St.
Remax 119	Charles St.
Cheers.....	84 Beacon St.
Emerson Place	10 Blossom St.
Beacon Hill Market.....	61 Anderson
Beacon Capitol Market	30 Myrtle St.
City Convenience.....	23 Beacon St.
Capital Coffee House	122 Bowdoin St.
Richdale Food	Beacon & Bowdoin St.
River House.....	145 Pinckney St.
West End Place	150 Stanford St.

Apartment Building locations:

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

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Ramos RET	Sakura Lt	250 Commonwealth Ave #14	\$2,325,000
Consigli, Anthony	Laugharn, James	380 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$6,800,000
New England Housing LLC	Stinson Ft	84 Gainsborough St #4W	\$599,000

BEACON HILL

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Gokdag, Mahmut	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #907	\$814,000
7 Burroughs St Fitness St	Burroughs St Partners LL	7 Burroughs St #1	\$930,000
7 Burroughs St Fitness St	Burroughs St Partners LL	7 Burroughs St #1R	\$930,000
Pollack, Aaron A	Lu, Chengwan C	4 Charlesgate E #407	\$810,000
Adelson, Dawn	Dowd, Kyle R	14 Cumston St #14	\$2,900,000
Keaveny, Seamus J	Wagner, Samantha	69 E Berkeley St #5	\$585,000
William J Adams Ft	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #1017	\$2,100,000
Lu, Ming	Sage, Sharon	725 Harrison Ave #E304	\$952,000
Lee, Michael J	Xu, Qingru	120 Mountfort St #204	\$1,050,000
Chen, Ponica	Wu, Mengqing	137 Peterborough St #15	\$650,000
Higgins, Courtney A	Caldwell, Jeffrey S	2 Rollins St #D605	\$765,000
Good Ocean LLC	Tenir LLC	84 W Concord St #4	\$584,000
Barman, Daniel R	Kuo, Wan-Yu	90 Wareham St #511	\$575,000
Saccoccio, Jake L	Dennis R Berounsky RET	90 Wareham St #304	\$465,000
Michaels, Ian	Emiro Joseph A Est	92 Worcester St #3	\$371,250
Michaels, Ian	Whalen Robert E Est	92 Worcester St #3	\$371,250

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Susan H Shay Lt	Rehm, Cynthia A	300 Commercial St #303	\$1,400,000
Chr Limited LLC	Mcag Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #202	\$4,599,888
Kaye, Joshua	Dhendecourt, Alexis	580 Washington St #1012	\$1,250,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on 858 Washington Street or Millennium Place. It was designed by Handel Architects and was completed in 2013. In 2014, the firm was awarded an American Institute of Architects Urban Design Award for transforming Boston's Midtown Cultural District

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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7 Spruce Court, Beacon Hill
4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 2 Parking
Offered for \$6.199M



101 Chestnut Street, Beacon Hill
3 Bed, 3 Bath | Concierge
Offered for \$4.525M



14 Pinckney Street, Beacon Hill
5 Beds | 3.5 Baths | Charming
Offered for \$4.295M



34.5 Beacon Street, Beacon Hill
2 Beds | 3F Baths | 1 Parking
Offered for \$3,699,999



75-83 Cambridge Pkwy, Cambridge
2 Beds | Oversized Private Terrace
Offered for \$3.25M



303 Columbus Avenue, South End
3 Beds | 3F Baths | 1 Parking
Offered for \$2.775M



27 Chestnut Street, Beacon Hill
3 Beds | 2F Baths | Soaring Ceilings
Offered for \$2.75M



45 Temple Street, Beacon Hill
1+ Beds | Common Roofdeck
Offered for \$2.195M



19 Brimmer Street, Beacon Hill
2 Beds | 2 Baths | River Views
Offered for \$2.1M



1-3 Chestnut Street, Beacon Hill
1 Bed | Extensively Renovated
Offered for \$1.299M



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