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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB ON A SUCCESSFUL 96TH HIDDEN GARDEN TOUR & SOIRÉE!

OVER \$1 MILLION IN
THE PAST DECADE
HAS BEEN DONATED
TO ENVIRONMENTAL,
HORTICULTURAL
AND CONVERSATION
ORGANIZATIONS.



COMPASS

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 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

Our Offices will be
closed Mon. May 26th
in observation of
Memorial Day.
Ad deadline for next
weeks' paper is
Friday at noon.

BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB HOSTS HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR SOIRÉE



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Soiree was held at the King's Chapel Parish House.

Right, Fiduciary Trust VP Randy Kinard speaks, remarking over the history of the Garden Club Garden Tour running since 1929, while Beacon Hill Garden Club President Sandra Gilpatrick looks on. Fiduciary Trust is a Chestnut Sponsor of the Garden Tour.



See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming Meetings

Events Committee – Tuesday, May 27th, 6pm at 74 Joy Street

Upcoming Events

Valiant Cruise for Members - Wednesday, May 28th, 6:30pm, Rows Wharf - tickets on sale now on bhcvic.org!

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.

2025 Annual Appeal

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with thanks for

our incredible neighbors. Your generosity and involvement have enabled the Beacon Hill Civic Association to advocate for you - improving our shared spaces, strengthening community bonds, and supporting our important initiatives.

Our neighborhood is more than just a place to live – it is a vibrant community with a rich history and a promising future. However, to continue our mission of preserving, protecting, and enhancing Beacon Hill, we rely on your generosity. Your Annual Appeal donation – whether large or small - makes

a direct impact on all the work we do on behalf of the neighborhood.

With your 2025 Annual Appeal donation, you become a vital part of preserving the character and legacy of Beacon Hill for generations to come.

Please make a tax-deductible gift today by visiting bhcvic.org or by mailing your contribution to the BHCA at 74 Joy Street, Boston MA 02114.

Together, we will keep Beacon Hill a thriving and connected community. We appreciate your ongoing support!

Keeta Gilmore receives 28th annual Beacon Award

Special to the Times

During the Beacon Hill Civic Association annual members' meeting on Thursday, May 22, at Hampshire House, Keeta Gilmore received the 28th annual Beacon Award, which each year, publicly honors an individual or group whose leadership has made a sustained and significant positive impact on quality of life in the neighborhood.

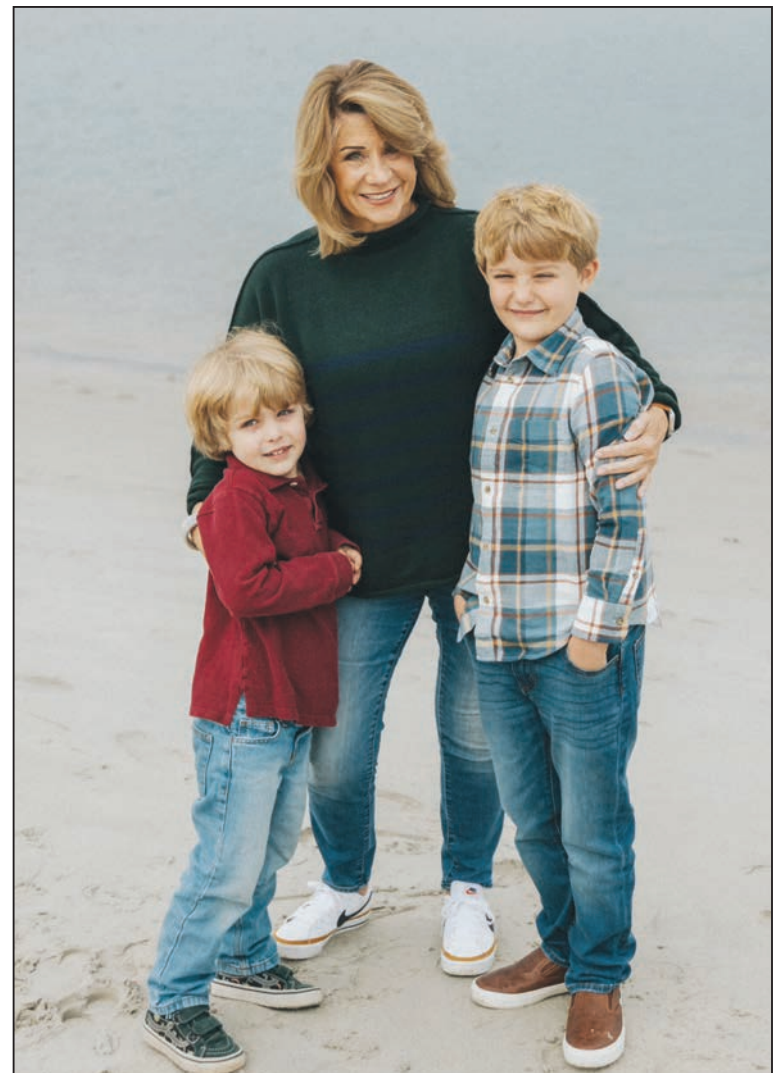
A microbiologist by profession, Gilmore relocated from her home

state of Oklahoma to Beacon Hill in 2004. She joined the Civic Association after learning about the group from a flier she received in the mail soon afterwards.

Since Gilmore could often be found cleaning up the sidewalk in front of her home, she caught the attention of the then-chair of the Civic Association's Trash Committee, who recruited her to join them.

Gilmore's responsibilities with-

See GILMORE Page 6



COURTNEY ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHER (@COURTNEY_ELIZABETH_MEDIA)

Keeta Gilmore, recipient of the Beacon Hill Civic Association's 28th annual Beacon Award, is seen with her two grandsons, Charlie (4) and John (8) Mangum.

EDITORIAL

MEMORIAL DAY

Although the Memorial Day weekend signifies the start of the summer season and is observed by families and friends who gather for barbecues and similar festivities, we should keep in mind that Memorial Day is our most solemn national holiday.

Memorial Day reminds us that freedom isn't free. The holiday makes us aware of the Supreme Sacrifice that has been made by so many of our fellow citizens, providing us with an opportunity to honor their sacrifice.

Memorial Day has its roots in what originally was known as Decoration Day in the aftermath of the Civil War, when the women of communities in the North decorated the graves of the soldiers who perished in that horrific and tragic conflict.

Decoration Day became an official holiday with the proclamation by Gen. Logan on May 5, 1868, in which he declared:

"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

In keeping with the spirit of Decoration Day (and the 160th anniversary of the end of the Civil War), we are reprinting below President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, considered by many to be one of the greatest speeches of all time and which states far more eloquently than we ever could the debt that each of us owes to the brave men and women who have fought and died to defend our nation's freedom and liberty.

We trust that our readers will agree that Lincoln's words are as inspiring today as they were when he uttered them in November of 1863 at Gettysburg -- and have special resonance today, when the democratic values and institutions for which so many of our fellow Americans gave their lives are being challenged more so than at any time since the end of the Civil War:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

ENJOY THE WEEKEND -- SAFELY

Memorial Day weekend marks the traditional start of the summer season, bringing with it the anticipation of sunshine and warmth, of vacations, and of time spent with family and friends.

So we ask our readers to stop right now — and think for a moment — about all of the good times that we will be sharing with our friends and our loved ones over the next three months.

But then think for a moment about how quickly all of that can dissolve in the blink of an eye if we make a wrong choice — if we drink and drive a car or a boat while under the influence, if we abuse drugs, or if we use fireworks or other dangerous incendiaries. If friends or family members are showing clear signs of intoxication, we should not hesitate to take their keys, whether from a car or a boat, to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

It is inevitable that the TV and newspapers will inform us of the hundreds of tragedies that will occur this holiday weekend because of poor choices made by our fellow Americans. It is up to each of us to ensure that we do not become just another sad statistic.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Memorial Day weekend.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING SPONSORED BY THE WEST END MUSEUM

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7 (on Lomasney Way), will offer a screening of the film, 'Harriet,' on Thursday, May 29, at 6 p.m.

In conjunction with the museum's current special exhibit, 'An Illusion of Freedom: Boston and the Fugitive Slave Laws,' WEM will be hosting a film screening of 'Harriet' (2019). Before the film, there will be a mini-lecture on Harriet Tubman's ties to Boston's underground railroad.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harriet-film-screening-tickets-1303449896729> for tickets and more information.

The West End Museum and WE Tree Boston also invite artists, neighbors, and tree-lovers to participate in 'Trees of Thoreau Path,' an art competition and exhibition celebrating the beauty, significance, and importance of trees in our West End community. The deadline for submissions is June 1.

Visit <https://thewestendmuseum.org/news/trees-of-thoreau-path-art-competition/> for more information.

STATE TO HOLD IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS ON REDEVELOPMENT OF HURLEY BUILDING SITE

The state will hold an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at 6 p.m. at the West End Museum, followed by a virtual meeting the next day (Thursday, June 5) at 1 p.m.

The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), proposes offering the site of

the buildings located at 19 and 21 Staniford St. for redevelopment by a private developer for a mixed-use project.

DMH intends to continue to operate its residential treatment programs onsite, and the selected developer will be required to build new space onsite (or in very close proximity) to accommodate these programs as part of their development. In order to effectuate this transaction, DCAMM intends to offer a long-term lease (up to 99 years) to the selected development team.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lindemann-hurley-redevelopment> for more on the project, including registration information on the upcoming meetings.

MGH'S BLUM CENTER'S UPCOMING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Lymph Flow Chair Yoga will take place on Wednesday, June 4, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Blum Center, White 110 (MGH main campus).

This monthly in-person Lymph Flow Yoga session is led by Babz Tobin, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, CYT, Reiki Master. will focus on improving our lymphatic health through self-manual lymph drainage routine, breathing techniques, and mindful meditation. This session is free and open to everyone of all levels and abilities. No special equipment is needed. You will be seated in a chair for this session. Space is limited on a first come, first served basis. No registration is needed.

Also, 'Are GLP-1 RA Injections for Weight Loss or Health Gains?' will take place on Friday, June 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the MGH O'Keeffe Auditorium and via Zoom.

See **ROUNDUP** Page 6

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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BPL announces \$1 million grant from Lego Community Fund U.S.

Special to the Times

The Boston Public Library (BPL) and LEGO Group have launched a new partnership setting in motion a citywide initiative that leverages play to address urgent early literacy challenges and ignite creativity and agency in Boston's youth.

Funded through a \$1 million grant from the company's LEGO Community Fund U.S. to the Boston Public Library Fund, this flagship collaboration between these two institutions will unlock the potential of children through joyful, hands-on learning. Timed with the opening of LEGO Group's new U.S. headquarters in Boston and aligned with the release of BPL's Strategic Plan 2025–2030, this two-year project will deliver interactive programs to more than 150,000 children ages 0–13 and their caregivers across Boston's neighborhoods.

"This partnership and investment builds on the Boston Public Library's roles of lifelong learning partner and community engager, in reaching thousands of children and families each year," said David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library. "The transformative grant will expand what's possible—introducing more playful, creative, and civic-minded experiences for young people across all of Boston's neighborhoods. By aligning the LEGO Group's global commitment to learning through play with the Library's mission to provide free, equitable access to knowledge and opportunity, we're opening new pathways for



BPL President David Leonard and the staff at the Children's Library welcomed the LEGO Group team to the Central Library on Monday, May 12 to launch this exciting new partnership alongside some of the Library's youngest—and most enthusiastic—patrons.

children to learn, grow, and feel connected to their city. May we all play well together!"

"We're deeply grateful to the LEGO Group and LEGO Community Fund U.S. for this generous investment in Boston's young people," said Paula Sakey, Executive Director of the Boston Public Library Fund. "This partnership is rooted in a shared belief that every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and engage with their community in meaningful ways. This is what it looks like to build a city's future—together."

The partnership includes three components:

- 1. Early Literacy & Learning Through Play (Ages 0–9)
- Hello Hatchlings: 12,000 new

parent literacy kits—including multilingual resources, books, and DUPLO bricks—will be distributed via hospitals and community partners.

- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: BPL will rebrand and relaunch this campaign with digital tracking tools and LEGO Group's Learning Through Play content, reaching over 100,000 children.

- Parent Ambassadors: Ten multilingual caregivers will be trained to lead story times in neighborhoods across Boston, helping families access early learning opportunities in their native languages.

- 2. Tween Engagement & Build the Change (Ages 9–13)

- Build the Change x LEGO Clubs: Expanded LEGO Clubs at 11+ BPL branches will incorporate civic, STEM, and storytelling activities supported by LEGO employee volunteers.

- Author & Music Series: Twenty interactive events will highlight creative expression through writing, storytelling, and music.

- Playful Cities Mural Challenge: A summer design competition will invite youth to reimagine Boston's public spaces, culminating in a LEGO Master Builder mural at the Central Library in Copley Square.

3. Staffing & Training

- Investment in librarians, evaluators, and musicians-in-residence to deliver high-quality programming and training on incorporating LEGO resources to engage early literacy and 9–13 audiences.

"This wide-ranging investment from LEGO Group's LEGO Community Fund U.S. allows us to meet children and families where they are, with inclusive programs that make learning joyful," said Angela Veizaga, Chief of Youth and Family Engagement at the Boston Public Library. "By embedding learning through play into everything we do—from early literacy to tween engagement—we're equipping Boston's young people with the tools to grow as readers, creators, and active members of their communities."

In addition to reaching more than 150,000 children over two years, the initiative is projected to generate over 21,000 new library card signups and more than 600,000 early literacy book check-outs. The LEGO Group employees will also have opportunities to

volunteer through kit assembly, story times, and Build the Change programming.

Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large, free municipal library in the United States; the first public library to lend books; the first to have a branch library; and the first to have a children's room.

The Boston Public Library of today is a robust system that includes the Central Library in Copley Square, 25 neighborhood branches, the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, the Kirstein Business Library and Innovation Center, and an archival center, offering public access to world-class special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints, along with rich digital content and online services.

The Boston Public Library serves nearly 4 million visitors per year and millions more online. All of its programs and exhibitions are free to all and open to the public. The Boston Public Library is a department of the City of Boston, under the leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu. To learn more, visit bpl.org.

The mission of the Fund is to provide financial support to the Boston Public Library, ensuring that it remains viable, engaging, accessible, and free to all. The Fund fulfills this mission by working in partnership with the Library, donors, and other funders in supporting BPL programs and special initiatives. Support from the Fund supplements, but does not supplant, other BPL resources, including City of Boston funding.



Felicity Hammond (6yo) from West Roxbury participate in a hands-on activity with the LEGO Group volunteers at the Central Library in Copley Square on Monday, May 12.

BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB HOSTS HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR SOIREE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Beacon Hill Garden Club held its Hidden Gardens Tour Soiree the evening before the much anticipated annual event. The King's Chapel Parish House was the setting and attendees enjoyed the ambience and a glorious Spring evening.



Jody Black, Addy Donnelly, Jeanne Burlingame, and Andrea Marquit Clagett.



Publisher of MyBoston Renata Coker with Stephanie Pennell.



Lissie Sidar and Brett Roberts representing Spruce Sponsor RP Marzilli.



Owner of the Hampshire House Tom Kershaw with Lindy Roethlisberger.



Austin Shapard and John Morey.



Alastair Adam and Holt Massey.



Austin Shapard and John Evers.



Gary Borisi, owner of boutique Upstairs Downstairs Laura Cousineau, Cynthia Ingols, Sally Casper, Steven Spitz, and Nancy Sinsabaugh.



Georgia Balafas, Lori Scholz, and Lucy Dearborn.



David and Anne-Sophie Dankens with Jane Tyler.



Isabelle and John Evans with Katie Fagan (center).



Emily Grisette with Fiduciary Trust, Sophia Watson, and Beacon Hill Garden member chairing event Renée Walsh.



The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Soiree was held at the King's Chapel Parish House.

BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB HOSTS HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR SOIREE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Teresa Chope and Melissa Koester.



Sarah Perry, Lisa Meaders, Katheryn Swiderski, William and Jasmine Hurley.



Georgia Lee and David Hall.



Sariah Wertman and Deb Blair.



John David Corey and Miguel Rosales.



Secret Garden Tour hosts: Beth Johnson from 18 Louisburg Square, Thomas Frank from 12 Louisburg Square, Alexandra Hastings, and Barbara Eisenson from 13 Louisburg Square.



Matt Yellen and Alexandra Stillman with Allison and Alan Braly.



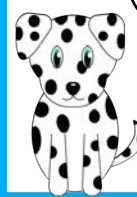
Lisa Taffe, Tim and Liz Morningstar(2nd from right), Chandler Evans, and Ashley Harmon.

Don't Forget Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation.



Remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash.



Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.



Dispose of pet waste in the trash!



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
Let's Protect Boston's Waterways

2025
REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!

Swim Lessons
Included!



SESSIONS RUN WEEKLY
JUNE 16- AUG 1
AGES 6-13

MIT ALL-SPORTS
SUMMER
DAY CAMP

REGISTER
HERE

GILMORE (from Page 1)

in the Civic Association soon grew even more at the behest of Suzanne Besser, who was then serving as the organization's executive director. (Besser herself was awarded the 27th annual Beacon Award during the Civic Association's annual members' meeting last May at the Somerset Club.)

"[Besser] had the uncanny ability to very subtly get you to say 'yes' to whatever needed to be done, but it was always a pleasure to work with her, and I soon found myself involved in several committees," Gilmore recalled in a recent email.

Russ Gaudreau, long-serving chair of the Beacon Award Nominating Committee, as well as a BHCA board member, first met Gilmore when she was co-chairing the committee for the Civic Association's annual gala, and he was immediately impressed with her.

"Keeta always impressed me and the neighborhood as the kind of person who once she wants to get involved in something, she really gets involved," said Gaudreau. "She's an impressive person when one meets her one on one. She's very smart, very capable, and very business-like but also very caring."

Gaudreau's favorable first impression of Gilmore was entirely expected, though, given the glowing praise he'd already heard lavished upon her.

"The reputation she had from people who worked with her was if she said she would do something, she did it, and that she's very reliable and always follows through," said Gaudreau.

After serving on several Civic Association committees over the course of a couple of years, Gilmore was asked to join the board in 2010. She also became an active member of the Zoning & Licens-

ing Committee around this time.

Within about a year, Gilmore was named board clerk, and then in 2012, she was named president of the board. She served in that role for the term limit of two years, followed by the next two years as board chair (again reaching the term limit).

"During my years on the BHCA board, particularly in leadership roles, I gained an appreciation for the ways the BHCA ties the community together," Gilmore wrote. "I think biggest thing that people find most surprising about Beacon Hill is what a closeknit neighborhood it is especially for a downtown metropolitan neighborhood. And a lot of the credit for that goes to the BHCA, which rallies the neighborhood when things need to get done, acts as a conduit for people to socialize, listens to the concerns of neighbors to help solve problems, and keeps the neighborhood very activated."

Recalling Gilmore's rapid ascent within the Civic Association's ranks, Gaudreau said, "Everything happened very quickly. I don't think she ever aspired [to move into a leadership position]. It just kind of happened. She was asked along the way to take on these roles, and she always said, 'yes.'"

When Gaudreau and Besser formed the Civic Association's Governance Committee around 2016, they immediately asked Gilmore to join as one of its charter members.

"We wanted her because of her understanding of the structure, the bylaws, and the best practices for the organization," said Gaudreau. "She gains such quick knowledge, we thought she would be perfect."

Gilmore also served on both the BHCA Tree and Nominating com-

mittees around this same time.

Besides leaving her indelible mark on the Civic Association, Gilmore has held leadership roles at a range of other neighborhood organizations.

She served on the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity board, including stints as corresponding secretary and clerk; on the Beacon Hill Garden Club board, including roles as treasurer from 2020-24, Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill tour chair in 2020 (unfortunately canceled due to covid), and co-chair the previous year; on the Nichols House Museum board from 2017-23, including a stint as its president from 2021-23; and on the Friends of the Public Garden Green Committee from 2020-22.

Moreover, Gilmore served on the Nichols House Museum board in a variety of roles, including as president, Holiday House Tour chair and co-chair, and as a member of the Board of Governors. She also previously served on the Beacon Hill Village Council from 2016-23 and as a member of the Vincent Club.

"Another thing you realize in serving in leadership roles in other

organizations on Beacon Hill is how intertwined many of the organizations are and how they work together, which I think is also unique a real strength of our neighborhood," Gilmore wrote.

About a year ago, Gilmore stepped away from life on Beacon Hill, and she's now living in Yarmouth, Maine, where she's close by her daughter, her son-in-law, and her two young grandsons (ages 4 and 8).

And while the Hill still remains close to her heart, Gilmore said she was still "completely surprised and overwhelmed" to learn she had been selected as this year's Beacon Award recipient.

"I'm so thankful to be recognized for my years of work with the Civic Association and other organizations on Beacon Hill that I truly miss," Gilmore stated.

But even so, receiving this year's Beacon Award won't be the first major accolade bestowed on Gilmore in recognition of her positive impact in the community.

Gilmore was previously nominated for the 2021 Commonwealth Heroine Award by Rep. Jay Livingstone. Via this awards

program, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women partners with state legislators to identify women who make substantial positive contributions in their communities or organizations for recognition.

"The Commonwealth Heroines of 2021 are truly the ones who have kept the community together when we needed it the most," a letter Gilmore received from the commission reads in part. "They may not always make the news, but they most assuredly make a difference. You have been selected you use your time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others."

In anticipation of receiving this year's Beacon Award, Gilmore was asked to reflect on her proudest accomplishments in the neighborhood over the years.

"I am proudest to have met and worked with, and to have become friends with so many accomplished and wonderful people," Gilmore replied. "We worked so hard but had a lot of fun along the way, and I learned so much. Beacon Hill is truly a special place!"

Wu announces expansion of free swim lessons for youth

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Office of Human Services (OHS), and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) marked yesterday's International Water Safety Day with the award of \$230,000 in grant funding to support free youth swim lessons and \$10,000 for the launch of a MBTA bus campaign that highlights the importance of water safety. In 2024, Swim Safe provided lessons to over 6,000 youth, and since its launch under Mayor Wu in summer of 2023 has provided lessons to 8,100 kids. Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The Swim Safe initiative affirms Mayor Wu's commitment to ensure all Boston kids learn to swim and can safely enjoy the City's coastline and pools.

"This International Water Safety Day, Boston is working with our partners to make it easier and more affordable to teach our kids to swim," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As warm weather returns, we're investing in free Swim Safe lessons and making progress in renovating our City pools to ensure families have a safe, fun

way to cool off and enjoy the summer."

The \$230,000 in grants funded in BCYF's annual operating budget will support free swim lessons for Boston youth, ensuring families have access to affordable, beginner-level swim lessons. This year's grantees include the YMCA of Greater Boston, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester, and West End House, among others. Additional recipients of this year's grant include summer camp programs that will use the funds to incorporate beginner swim lessons into the camp curriculum. For more information, families can visit the website of participating organizations to learn more about swim lessons.

"We are excited to partner with many of our existing Swim Safe providers to offer swim lessons to youth," said Chief of Human Services, José F. Massó. "I am also thrilled that there is a new group of grantees who will be offering lessons as part of the summer camp experience."

Mayor Wu, the Public Facilities Department, BCYF, and Boston Public Schools have prioritized investing in the city's pool infrastructure and streamlining processes to prevent the deferred maintenance that has caused closures in

recent years. The BCYF Draper and Curtis Hall Pools reopened in April. The outdoor, seasonal pools (BCYF Clougherty and BCYF Mirabella) are expected to open Saturday, June 21 for the summer. The new Clougherty Bathhouse will be completed early this summer, and the BCYF Condon Pool is expected to finish renovations and reopen in the coming months. Despite national challenges, BCYF has hired lifeguards to fully staff City pools for the summer season.

"Given Boston's prime waterfront location and the wealth of recreational opportunities it presents during the summer months, ensuring equitable access to water safety education for all young residents is crucial, empowering them to confidently and safely engage with our city's pools and beaches," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

"I didn't think my kids would be as excited and happy as they are – I thought they would be scared, [but] all they want to do is go to class and learn," said Ericka Rodriguez, mother to Ezrael (5), Emir (7), Elianna (8) and Erik (10) who are learning to swim at the YMCA of Greater Boston. "They

ROUNDUP (from pg. 2)

The featured speakers will be Michelle Monahan, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, and Kayla Northam, DNP, NP-C

GLP-1 RAs (receptor agonists) are a class of medications that can help treat many medical conditions. Learn when GLP-1 RA injections may be a good option for your health beyond obesity and weight management (e.g. for diabetes, sleep apnea, and heart disease); the health benefits of GLP-1 RA injections, including an improvement in obesity-related conditions and quality of life; and tips on incorporating healthy habits to minimize treatment side effects and ensure effective long-term obesity treatment.

Registration is required as space is limited; to register, click on the link at tinyurl.com/2aatecy9

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED 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).

BHAC approves new security cameras for Charles Street Meeting House

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission gave the green light for the proposed installation of two new security cameras and replacement of four existing security cameras at the Charles Street Meeting House during the commission's monthly public hearing held virtually on Thursday, May 15.

The two proposed new cameras would be installed "back-to-back" on the building's River Street façade to allow for a 180-degree view along the street and the back alley, said Beth Colt, the owner's representative for the property, while four other existing cameras would be replaced with new devices.

BHAC staff (Nicholas Armata) noted he met with the building team to determine the best locations for the cameras, and that the team had followed his recommendations based on several options discussed at that time.

Mark Kiefer, committee chair, also noted the commission had granted a similar request at its monthly public hearing held virtually on Feb. 20, when it unanimously approved an application to install five new security cameras at 74 Joy St. — a building owned by Hill House which is also home to the offices of both the Beacon Hill Civic Association and Beacon Hill Nursery School.

The motion to approve this design review application as submitted, put forth by Chair Kiefer, was unanimously approved by himself, Vice Chair Arian Allen, and Commissioners Annette Given, Ralph Jackson, and Sandra Steele.

This determination came with several provisos, including that the two cameras on the River Street façade be located together in the middle of the pilaster adjacent to and at the same height as an existing gas lamppost; that the two cameras on River Street be painted black; that the two cameras on Mt. Vernon Street be painted to match the trim of the front façade; and that an unapproved camera be removed from the doorframe of Tatte Bakery & Cafe facing Mt. Vernon Street. (Tatte is a ground-level tenant of the Meeting House.)

Armata suggested the 'friendly amendment' regarding the removal of the Tatte camera but said they could return to the commission to apply for a similar-sized camera, "which might be approved."

The commission also unanimously approved a design review application for 116 Myrtle St. to install two new Luma security

cameras (both measuring approximately 3.2-by-3.7 inches and black in color) on protruding, fourth-floor, non-original windows, along with the installation of a brass-covered DoorBird intercom system.

Chair Kiefer called the proposed intercom system a "reasonable" request, adding that the proposed DoorBird model was in line with the commission's de facto standard for new intercom systems.

This determination came with several provisos, including that the new intercom system be mounted to door on the right side and be as close to flush mounted as possible.

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved a design review application for a new blade sign for Élevée — a pop-up women's clothing boutique occupying the former Ouimillie space at 126 Charles St. through August.

The applicant and business proprietor, Ocean Otte, described the proposed new store sign as an 18-inch circular sign made of wood and painted white, with the store name in carved wood letters painted black. The new sign would also use existing hardware, she said.

Chair Kiefer noted this building, like the Charles Street Meeting House, is home to multiple ground-floor businesses, so more than one blade sign is allowed there per guidelines for the Beacon Hill Historic District.

Vice Chair Allen made a motion to approve this application as submitted, which was unanimously supported.

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved as submitted a revised design review application for 94 Mt. Vernon St., entailing the addition of a roof-deck, with a new hatch, as well as the removal of an existing front hatch.

In making his motion to approve the application as submitted in its revised form, Chair Kiefer noted the applicant's effort to reduce and sink the roofdeck; and to reduce and pull back the railing. He also noted that the revised iteration had eliminated visibility of the roofdeck from Pinckney Street while only a small section of the deck would be visible from Mt. Vernon Street.

Furthermore, Chair Kiefer noted that other existing decks and their railings were at least as visible as this along the same stretch of Mt. Vernon Street or on an adjacent street, and that in some instances, these existing roofscapes were visible against "open sky."



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Charles Street Meeting House.

In another matter, the commission reviewed a design review application to modify an existing rear greenhouse at 56 Pinckney St. by changing its existing plastic frame to a wood frame with an EPDM membrane roof, with a slight slope to drain. (Brigid Williams, the project architect, said the existing greenhouse was prone to constant leaking, which the proposed modification intends to remedy.)

The proposed work also included replacing single-glazed glass with double-glazed glass in an existing greenhouse skylight.

Chair Kiefer noted that visibility of the greenhouse is 'de minimis' and only then from a dead-end alley. The proposed work would also retain most of the non-historic structure from the 1970s, he said.

The motion to approve the application as submitted, put forth by Chair Kiefer, was supported by himself, Vice Chair Allen, and Commissioners Given and Steele, while Commissioner Jackson abstained from voting on this matter.

The commission also unanimously approved a design review

application to install a new light fixture at the front door of 141 Revere St.; this determination came with provisos that the taller, more rectangular lighting fixture of the two options presented be used, and that the new light fixture be installed along the same vertical line as the small windows flanking the doorway.

Meanwhile, three other scheduled design review applications for 6 Louisburg Square, 20 Louisburg Square, and 127 Mt. Vernon St., respectively, were all moved to administrative review.

SWIM (from pg. 6)

have learned so much already. I am so thankful for the Swim Safe program."

The City's efforts to expand swim lessons is a public health issue. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children and that the risk of drowning is higher for children of color. Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to die of drowning. For every child who dies of drowning, there are seven non-fatal drownings,

which are traumatic and can lead to health issues later in life. Swim Safe Boston seeks to improve water safety in Boston, address the public health threat posed by drowning, and increase access to swimming for Boston families.

To mark International Water Safety Day on May 15, the City launched an ad campaign, featuring water safety ads on MBTA buses that travel through Boston. The information reminds parents and caregivers of important water safety tips in advance of summer. First, lessons are a great way to

reduce drowning risk. Second, people should never swim alone. It is better to swim in a pair and to swim only in designated areas where a lifeguard is on-duty. Finally, if a person gets in trouble in the water, experts advise bystanders to call 9-1-1 for help and throw a float to the person rather than trying to attempt a water rescue, due to the added risk of drowning during a rescue attempt.

To learn more about Swim Safe Boston and water safety, visit boston.gov/swim-safe.

Esplanade Association breaks ground on new campus

D. MURPHY PHOTOS



Esplanade Association staff members, including Jen Mergel, EA's James & Audrey Foster executive director (center), along with Michael Nichols, former executive director of EA (second from right), comprised one of four groups that broke ground on the project.

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association marked a long-awaited milestone on Tuesday, May 13, when it broke ground on the new Charles River Esplanade campus, which will transform the 2-acre site of the former Lee Pool complex into a year-round, universally accessible destination in the park.

Made possible via a nearly 25-year public-private partnership between EA and the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the new campus is expected to be fully installed in 2026, and it will be highlighted by the year-round Smith Family Pavilion at Charlesbank.

The project, designed by Architect Maryann Thompson, includes plans for "all-season public restrooms, an indoor/outdoor café, free Wi-Fi, lobby educational displays, reservable community rooms, a covered patio and upper deck, an outdoor stage, multipurpose recreational courts, flexible plaza, native tree canopy, rain garden, water conservation, and more free programs for all ages and abilities offered by EA and partners," according to the Esplanade Association.

Funding for the \$20 million-plus project cost has currently reached 95 percent, according



Another group of ribbon-cutters comprised EA board members, along with Jen Mergel, EA's James & Audrey Foster executive director (third from right) and Architect Maryann Thompson (second from right).

See CAMPUS Page 9

CAMPUS (from pg. 8)

to EA, kickstarted by early gifts from gifts from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, the Conine Family Foundation, Bob and Happy Doran, Amy and David Abrams, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, and EA's Board of Directors, among other donors,

"After years of planning, it was a thrill to gather at a future site of convening, creating, celebrating, and discovery along with Commissioner Brian Arriago and his wonderful DCR colleagues, and so many friends of the Esplanade Association," Jen Mergel, EA's James & Audrey Foster executive director, said in a statement released following the groundbreaking. "The Smith Family Pavilion will honor the park's rich and revolutionary history by allow Charlesbank to do what it was originally created and designed for: giving year-round access to welcome more people from more places to enjoy the vital benefits of communal access to greenspace."



Ali Badrigian, the Esplanade Association's director of projects and planning.



District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



Rep. Jay Livingstone.



Jen Mergel of James & Audrey Foster and executive director of the Esplanade Association.



Jen Mergel, James & Audrey Foster executive director of the Esplanade Association, with Architect Maryann Thompson.



Michael Nichols, former executive director of the Esplanade Association, with his wife, Sara, and their newborn son, Finn.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and
Family Court

CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. C. 190B,
ss5-304
Docket No.
SU25P1050GD
Suffolk Probate and
Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of:
David Carter
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged
Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all
other interested persons, a peti-
tion has been filed by Massachu-
setts General Hospital of Boston,
MA in the above captioned matter
alleging that David Carter is in
need of a Guardian and request-
ing that (or some other suitable
person) be appointed as Guardian
to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to
determine that the Respondent is
incapacitated, that the appoint-
ment of a Guardian is necessary,
and that the proposed Guardian is
appropriate. The petition is on file
with this court and may contain
a request for certain specific
authority.

You have the right to object to this
proceeding. If you wish to do so,
you or your attorney must file a
written appearance at this court
on or before 10:00 A.M. on the
return date of 06/12/2025. This
day is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline date by which you have
to file the written appearance if
you object to the petition. If you

fail the written appearance by the
return date, action may be taken
in this matter without further no-
tice to you. In addition to filing the
written appearance, you or your
attorney must file a written affi-
davit stating the specific facts and
grounds of your objection within
30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding
may limit or completely take away
the above-named person's right
to make decisions about personal
affairs or financial affairs or both.
The above-named person has the
right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone
may make this request on behalf
of the above-named person. If
the above-named person cannot
afford a lawyer, one may be
appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: May 14, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate

05/23/25
BH

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU25P1060EA
Estate of:
Joan Marie
Mahan
Date of Death
02/05/2018
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited
Formal Testacy and/or Appoint-

ment has been filed by David G.
Heaton of Apache Junction, AZ
requesting that the Court enter a
formal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested in
the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a
copy of the Petition from the Peti-
tioner or at the Court. You have a
right to object to this proceeding.
To do so, you or your attorney
must file a written appearance
and objection at this Court before:
10:00 a.m. on the return day of
06/26/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline by which you must file a
written appearance and objection
if you object to this proceeding. If
you fail to file a timely written ap-
pearance and objection followed
by an affidavit of objections within
thirty (30) days of the return
day, action may be taken without
further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**
A Personal Representative ap-
pointed under the MUPC in an
unsupervised administration is
not required to file an inventory
or annual accounts with the Court.
Persons interested in the estate
are entitled to notice regarding
the administration directly from
the Personal Representative and
may petition the Court in any
matter relating to the estate,
including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: May 15, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

05/23/25
BH

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND

FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE
G.L. c. 190B, ss3-306
PUBLICATION
NOTICE

Docket No.
SU25P0917EA
Estate of:
Shirley Jean
Williams
Also known as:
Shirley
Date of Death:
April 10, 2025
To all persons who have or
may have some interest in the
above-captioned estate and, if
interested, to the Office of the
Attorney General and the Depart-
ment of Veterans Affairs, notice
is hereby given on May 02, 2025
Daryl Williams of Providence,
RI intends to file with the above-
named Probate and Family Court,
not sooner than seven (7) days
after this notice, a Petition for
Informal Appointment of Personal
Representative, to serve without
surety on the bond. Daryl William
of Providence, RI.

The estate is being administered
under informal procedure by the
Personal Representative under the
Massachusetts Uniform Probate
Code without supervision by the
Court. Inventory and accounts are
not required to be filed with the
Court, but interested parties are
entitled to notice regarding the
administration from the Personal
Representative and can petition
the Court in any matter relating to
the estate, including distribution
of assets and expenses of admin-
istration. Interested parties are
entitled to petition the Court to
institute formal proceedings and
to obtain orders terminating or
restricting the powers of Personal
Representatives appointed under
informal procedure. A copy of the
Petition and Will, if any, can be
obtained from the Petitioner.

05/23/25
BH

Beacon Hill Times
Pick-Up Locations

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Simmon's Liquors 210 Cambridge St.
Jobi Liquors..... 170 Cambridge St.
7-Eleven..... 122 Cambridge St.
West End Library..... 151 Cambridge St.
Charles St. Liquors143 Charles St.
U.S. Post Office.....136 Charles St.
Gary Drug53 Charles St.
Bank of America.....39 Charles St.
Charles St. Supply.....54 Charles St.
Cobblestones30 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.
Richdale FoodBeacon & 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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Boston City Council votes to advance Ranked Choice Voting

Special to the Times

Last week, the Boston City Council approved a Home Rule Petition to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for city elections by a vote of 8-4.

The proposal, introduced by Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and co-sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, now heads to Mayor Michelle Wu for approval before advancing to the Massachusetts Legislature. If passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, Boston voters will have the opportunity to decide on RCV through a ballot referendum.

In addition to the sponsors, the

measure was supported by Councilors Enrique Pepén, Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Brian J. Worrell, Liz Breadon, and Benjamin J. Weber. Councilors Ed Flynn, Erin Murphy, John Fitzgerald, and Sharon Durkin voted in opposition. Coletta-Zapata, chair of the Committee on Government Operations, received praise from councilors voting both ways for shepherding the bill through her committee in a thorough and transparent process.

"This is a historic day for Boston," said Louijeune last week. "Today's vote brings us closer to a more inclusive, representative, and transparent democracy—one that ensures our elected leaders have

broad support and are chosen by the majority of voters. Ranked choice voting is not only simple, it's powerful. It gives voters more voice and more choice."

RCV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, eliminating the fear of "spoiler" candidates and promoting coalition-building over division, according to its proponents. Under the proposal, RCV would apply to general and special elections for mayor and district councilor (when three or more candidates run), and general elections for at-large councilors.

"Ranked choice voting is a tool to disrupt the status quo, shift power to the people, and amplify

the voices of communities historically excluded from decision-making processes," said Mejia. "This vote is a declaration that our democracy belongs to all of us."

Santana stated that more than 60 percent of Bostonians supported RCV in 2020.

"This isn't just about policy—it's about trust, representation, and making sure our government reflects the diversity of our city," Santana stated.

Flynn, who voted against the proposal, expressed concerns about the city's preparedness and whether residents are asking for this reform in the first place.

"The Election Department pretty much told me that they don't want to see this implemented," Flynn said during the Council meeting before the vote. "They don't believe now is the time to make such a dramatic, significant change to how people vote."

Flynn cited issues from recent

municipal elections—such as lighting failures and polling locations running out of ballots, requiring police to transport ballots—as signs that the city should focus on fixing its current voting infrastructure before adopting a new system.

"I would have a very difficult time explaining this process to my constituents in District 2," he said. "Many of them don't speak English, many of them live in public housing, many of them are seniors, English Language Learners. [...] I don't want to set us up for failure. That's what we're doing."

Murphy, who also voted against the measure, cited concerns about accessibility and potential voter confusion. She said that the existing voting system already works and that adding new layers of complexity could have unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

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wendy franco almqvist

Above the street roar harking to another time idle respite waits
Meacham's promenade botanical garden
Come watch the people pass
Hear the flutes and strings of Debussy afternoons
Gold dappled sky tones
Friends Of The Garden tender shepherds guide and guard
A treasure of statues a spray of fountains
Pastel bowers of cascading flowers
A glide of swan boats a Make Way for Ducklings
Sunshade canopies of chestnuts and willows
We blanket picnicked on lush green lawns
To the coo of pigeons and the sparrow's song
Then laid back gazing beyond the foot bridge
Upward and skyward until restless boys rebelled
To chase pesky squirrels down meandering lanes
David and Fred teased and Harry pealed with laughter
Racing round the pond's stone edge stopping only to ask
"Did you remember the breadcrumbs to feed the ducks?"
"Yes" I replied "I ALWAYS remember"
("HA!" quacked Mrs. Mallard to her ducklings' delight)
As we zigzag departed our favorite park
We bid goodbye to George (Washington) to tulips and larks
To a magical isle in a vibrant city
Knowing full well entranced by it's spell we would return
The Boston Public Garden our private delight!

* Dedicated to Sandra and Holt Massey and their lovely Mt Vernon Street garden

* Thank you to the Friends of the Public Garden and to Leslie Adam for her ongoing stewardship

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ST. CECILIA CHURCH HOLDS STREET FAIR



The family of church employee Lisa Pickering posts for a picture.



Parishioners socialized and had fun on a beautiful Spring Sunday morning after service.



Willow Bradford is excited to find her new balloon unicorn friend.

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

St Cecilia Church threw a street fair after their services on April 27. Complimentary food trucks, kids

activities, a community tent, and more treated parishioners to an afternoon of fun to enjoy a glorious Spring day.



Berklee students “The Sax God” Damani with Betty Ding.



Food trucks behind St Cecilia offered visitors many options for delicious food.



Ayana Dahl enjoys a cannoli from Montillo’s.



Germaine Nicolas with Fr John Unni.



Hungry Nomads/ owners and operators Tony Springer and Princess Villesenda.



Leo Frausel makes friends with Church employee Mary McGaughey.



Church employees Ana Colebank, Ava Andrew, Taylor Gird, and Kaleb Holske combine their talents for entertaining the kids.



Parishioners Maryellen, Helen, Bill, Joe, and George catch up on their goings on.

Durkan, Flynn join BPD for office hours on Common amid public safety concerns

By Dan Murphy

City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Ed Flynn were joined by Boston Police for special office hours on Wednesday, May 14, at Brewer Fountain on Boston Common to address ongoing public safety concerns in the park and around Downtown Crossing.

Councilor Durkan lauded Boston Police as the best police department in the U.S., adding that in the end, she and Councilor Flynn can't effectively do their jobs in office "without good policing."

Councilor Flynn said even during recent times when the Common was ridden with drug dealing and other crime, Boston Police never gave up on the park. "And I'm not giving up on this area as well," he added.

Captain Richard Driscoll of Area-A-1, who was among the Boston Police officers on hand for the event, emphasized the positive benefits of using programming to activate the Common, along with the necessity of making services readily available to those struggling with addiction.

Captain Driscoll added that Boston Police welcome the public sharing their "hidden data" based on what they observe on the Com-



Captain Richard Driscoll of Boston Police Area-A-1 address the office hours attendees.

mon to help better address crime and other quality-of-life issues in the park.

"We want your feedback," he said.

Sgt. Zachary Crossen of Area A-1 urged those in attendance to support organizations like St. Francis House, Pine Street Inn,

and New England Center and Home for Veterans, instead of giving money to homeless individuals themselves.

Following the office hours, Councilor Flynn stated in a press release: "Downtown and the Boston Common are economic engines for our city, and home



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan speaks, flanked by District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn.

to some of the most important historic sites in our country. We cannot continue to allow violent crime, open drug dealing or drug use, and other activities to negatively impact the public safety, public health, and quality of life for our residents, businesses, and

visitors to Boston. It is critical that we work together to ensure that those individuals battling addiction get treatment, and those who are preying on vulnerable people or committing acts of violence are arrested and, if warranted, receive a state sentence."

NFPA provides top grilling safety tips for Memorial Day and beyond

Special to the Times

For many of us, Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of summer, when many people dust off their grills to celebrate the holiday and prepare for outdoor cooking in the warmer months ahead. As they do, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) offers important safety tips and guidelines to help ensure that the grilling season remains fire-safe.

"Cookouts and outdoor grilling can be a great way to spend time with friends and family, but they do present potential risks," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Over Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, we want everyone to be aware of where and when grilling fires tend to happen, along with steps they can take to help prevent them."

NFPA data show that between 2019 and 2023, gas grills were involved in an average of 9,287 home fires per year, including 4,682 structure fires and 4,605 outdoor fires. In roughly one-fifth (20%) of these fires, the grill had not been cleaned. In addition, an annual average of 21,682 patients went to emergency rooms because of grill-related injuries between 2020 and 2024, according to data

from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"By following simple safety precautions, people can greatly reduce the risk of grilling fires and associated risks," said Carli.

Here are NFPA tips, recommendations, and resources for using outdoor grills safely:

- For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks. (Watch NFPA's

video on how to check for leaks.)

- Keep your grill clean. Make sure to remove all grease and fat buildup from the grills and the trays below.

- Place the grill far from your home, deck railings, eaves, or overhanging branches.

- Before lighting your gas-powered grill, always make sure the lid

is open.

- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.

- If you use starter fluid with charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire once it's been lit. When you finish grilling, let the

coals cool completely before disposing them in a metal container.

- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

For additional grilling safety information, check out the NFPA podcast episode, a blog post on fire code grill requirements, or a video on some lesser-known grilling safety tips.

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Sales Rentals

CITY PAWS

On the road again

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Taking your pet on vacation can be fun. You spend some quality time with a creature you love. You don't have to worry about your cat or dog getting along with a pet sitter or in a kennel.

Getting Around No Pets

Scan vacation rental classifieds, and you'd think that "No Pets" is automatically added to every ad. How do those of us who want to take the whole family on our family vacation find a rental home? Simple: We do our homework and answer the homeowners' objections one by one.

You need references. Stay at a "pet-friendly" inn or bed and breakfast. Assuming all goes well, ask the owner to be a reference for your dog.

Find a sympathetic real estate agent. We've had the best results with agents who love dogs. If all else fails, call a local veterinary hospital and ask whether they can recommend a rental agency.

Start your search as early as

possible. In the slow season, agents have the time to negotiate special arrangements. Be prepared to offer a refundable security deposit. That could turn their "No!" into a "Yes!"

Transportation

Pack up the bags and go once you've found a destination where pets are welcome. Driving is the easiest way to travel with critters. For safety's sake, we use a dog crate in any car. In case of an accident, the crate will help keep your dog or cat safe and contained. It also gives you more control when you make stops along the way.

You can fly with small pets in the cabin of some airliners, if you get the proper health certificate and make a special reservation. If your dog is too big for the cabin, you should consider what the experts have to say. "The ASPCA urges pet owners to think twice about flying their pets on commercial airlines, especially if they plan on checking them in as cargo."



Taking your pet on vacation can be fun. You spend some quality time with a creature you love.

Paperwork and ID

Identification is very important for a pet when you're away from home. If separated on vacation, be certain someone can return your companion to you. Our dog, Poppy, wears a tag that says she's traveling with us, with our cell phone numbers. Keep copies of rabies certificates, microchip number, and photographs of her on your phone. We carry a wallet card that says a pet is waiting for us, where she is, and who to contact to care for her.

Packing for a Pet

If your cat is a fussy eater or your dog has a sensitive tummy, you might have to bring the right food or at least call ahead to be sure it's available at your destination. It's easiest to go to your vet for extra supplies of any medications you might need. If you give a monthly heartworm medication, check your pet's schedule to see if you should take it.

Check the Rules and Make Friends

In recent years, most places we've stayed have formal, writ-

ten pet rules. Cities, towns, parks, beaches, and dog parks also have regulations. If you ask about the rules and follow them, you'll make friends and be welcomed back.

Making new friends, meeting locals, and meeting other travelers are clearly advantages of traveling with a dog. Pets are great ice-breakers! What's more, you and your pet could make the day of a lonely traveler who is suffering separation anxiety because they left their pal behind.

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

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A black and white illustration of a cherub, a winged child-like figure, looking upwards with a thoughtful expression.

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
	Woodruff, Jennifer	229 Beacon St #1	\$655,000
	Modi, Jignesh	271 Beacon St #1	\$540,000
	Munfa, Marc	273 Beacon St #3	\$4,250,000
	L O L A Group	285 Beacon St #2B	\$2,400,000
	Lewis, P J	361 Beacon St #2	\$5,900,000
	Lori Susan G Thomas RET	2 Clarendon St #208	\$850,000
	Koon, John D	165 Commonwealth Ave #A	\$3,600,000
	Koon, John D	165 Commonwealth Ave #B	\$3,600,000
	Sayer, Gordon M	252 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$645,000
BEACON HILL	Kenneth J Sax RET	246 Marlborough St #2	\$565,000
	Karakullukcu, Ilter	188 Brookline Ave #251	\$1,600,000
	Coppola, John	311 Commonwealth Ave #81	\$1,720,000
	Brown, Damon	37 Beacon St #65	\$1,160,000
	Butterworth, Michael	70 Brimmer St #229	\$600,000
	Rref li Bh Garage LLC	142-162 Charles St #PS2-15	\$250,000
	Butterworth, Michael	108-114 Chestnut St #229	\$600,000
	Francis, Marie P	18 Chestnut St #6	\$950,000
	Xg 51 Hancock St LLC	51 Hancock St #11	\$620,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE	Louisburg Square Rt	9 Louisburg Sq #2	\$4,450,000
	Kapur, Paul	74 Mount Vernon St #1F	\$550,000
	Rebecca J Clements Ft	69 Myrtle St #3	\$1,050,000
	51 Revere Street U2 LLC	51 Revere St #2	\$820,000
	Bird, Adam	45 Temple St #409	\$5,700,000
	Zhao, Hongyu	6 Whittier Pl #16R	\$565,000
	Nouf Holdings LLC	1 Charles St S #1506	\$1,895,000
	Abarbanel Stephen J Est	325 Columbus Ave #2	\$1,255,000
	Farrow, Keith H	21 Follen St #1	\$1,704,000
	Sanborn, Linda A	1 Huntington Ave #502	\$2,075,000
	Tabor Street LLC	10 Taber St #306	\$500,000
	Westnewton Rt	249 W Newton St #6	\$1,120,000
	Donald R Upham T	922 Beacon St #14	\$471,000
	Lopez, Ernesto	4 Charlesgate E #706	\$1,267,500
	Clark, Theodore J	1-3 Claremont Park #1	\$1,200,000
	Seng Hing Cheng RET	12 Cumberland St #12-4	\$1,500,000
	Schmidt, Stacey N	17 Dwight St #1	\$1,975,000
	Tsai, Huei-Ling	108 Gainsborough St #205W	\$950,000
	Kobb Hoefle Ft	22 Hanson St #1	\$1,375,000
	32 Hanson Street Rt	32 Hanson St	\$2,200,000
	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #12D	\$1,150,000
	Visnick, Cora L	370-380 Harrison Ave #1121	\$1,005,000
	Tardif-Vaughn Ft	370-380 Harrison Ave #1108	\$2,370,000
	Gerrish, Mark	485-495 Harrison Ave #303	\$1,775,000
	358 Marlborough LLC	358 Marlborough St	\$10,000,000
	Sutton, Benjamin	365 Marlborough St #3	\$1,950,000
	Bottomly, H K	582 Massachusetts Ave #4	\$1,600,000
	Wilens, David	120 Mountfort St #503	\$1,050,000
	Lalehpour, Nejat	131 Park Dr #11	\$385,000
	15-35 Park Drive LLC	15 Park Dr #35	\$421,000
	51 Park Drive Unit 26 Rt	51 Park Dr #26	\$425,000
	Farrington, Nancy W	40 Traveler St #210	\$915,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The corner in the last clue is on 600 Washington Street, the Washington-Essex Building, constructed in 1906. Architect Arthur Hunnewell Bowditch designed this and several other commercial buildings in Downtown Crossing, including the Paramount Theatre.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



TRUST. EXPERTISE... AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN BEACON HILL SALES.

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MAYOR WU BRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR TO COPLEY BPL



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX
Maccon Bonner, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison to Back Bay and Beacon Hill, addresses the crowd.

Due to inclement weather, Mayor Michelle Wu brought her annual Neighborhood Coffee Hour for Back Bay and Beacon Hill on Thursday, May 15, inside the Copley Branch of the Boston

Public Library. (The event was originally scheduled to take place at its typical location on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.) Each year, the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hours allows



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX
Mayor Michelle Wu cradles her infant daughter, Mira, while greeting guests.

opportunities for residents from across the city to meet and hear from their neighborhood liaisons, as well as to connect with city leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX
District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan speaks, flanked in back (left to right) by: Maccon Bonner, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison to Back Bay and Beacon Hill; City Councilor at-Large Henry Santana; Rep. Jay Livingstone; and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



D. MURPHY PHOTO
Officer Jason Richardson of Boston Police Area A-1 and Rep. Jay Livingstone.