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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Revolution!







COURTESY OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Among the works featured in the exhibition, from left to right, are: 'Washington at Dorchester Heights' (1852), oil on canvas by Emanuel Leutze (1816–1868). Lib Women leave a Harvard building after Middlesex Superior Court Judge Frank W. Tomasello ordered police to remove them (1971), gelatin silver print photograph by Ulrike Welsch (born 1941), from the Boston Herald-Traveler Photo Morgue. Oracle (1966), a lithograph by John Wilson (1922–2015).

250 Years of Art & Activism in Boston exhibit opens October 23 at Copley BPL

Special to the Times

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is offering its first major exhibition in nearly a decade, 'Revolution! 250 Years of Art & Activism in Boston,' which opens Oct. 23 at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Featuring more than 100 artworks and documentary materials from the BPL's renowned Special Collections, the exhibition explores America's evolving struggles for freedom, civil rights, and belonging. The exhibition is part of 'Road to Revolution,' the BPL's three-year cycle of programs leading to the anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

"When the Boston Public Library first opened its doors, the very idea of a free public library was revolutionary," said David Leonard, BPL president. "With Revolution!, we carry that spirit forward, inviting visitors to explore how the ideals of liberty and justice have evolved over the past 250 years."

Kristin Parker, lead curator of the arts, said: "Visitors will encounter Boston, the cradle of the American Revolution, in surprising ways, from historic portraits of Washington and Frank-

See BPL Page 3

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming BHCA Meetings
Events Committee - Tuesday, October 21st, 6pm, 74
Joy Street

Get your tickets for....

Save The Dates!
Founders Reception –
Thursday, November 6th, by

invitation only

30th Annual Garlands & Greens – Wednesday, November 19th, 6-9pm, Hampshire House PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATE!

Holiday Decorating – December 3, 6 and 7, Charles Street and the rest of the Hill BHCA Holiday Concert

- Thursday, December 11th,
6pm at the Harvard Musical
Association

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

Chelsie Lincoln assumes helm of Cellars at DeLuca's Market

By Dan Murphy

Chelsie Lincoln might have admittedly been somewhat unfamiliar with the Cellars at DeLuca's Market on Charles Street prior to taking over as its general manager on Monday, Oct. 6, but she was certainly no novice when it comes to wine. Lincoln hails from Oak Park, Calif., located just north of Malibu, and earned an undergraduate degree in linguistics from Cal State Northridge in 2010. Though she was originally set on pursuing a career in teaching

See CELLARS Page 5



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Chelsie Lincoln, the newly hired general manager of the Cellars at DeLuca's Market on Charles Street.

City and State working to update 92-year-old liquor license laws

By Kiran Rajamani

Ninety-two years after a Yankee-dominated state government limited the sale of liquor licenses to prevent Irish American politicians in Boston from gaining more influence, city and state politicians are finally taking steps to fix the issue. Earlier this year, state law-makers approved a law allowing cities to upgrade restaurants' beer-and-wine licenses to all-al-cohol. The Boston City Council adopted the resolution in September. Now, the city's licensing board will set rules for granting

See LICENSE Page 7

EDITORIAL

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO BILL RUSSELL

The recent dedication of the "William Felton 'Bill' Russell Bridge" that connects Charlestown to the North End represents a fitting tribute to a wonderful man who not only was a sports legend, but who exemplified by the way he led his life the values of excellence, courage, strength, dignity, decency, and humility.

The beautiful new bridge replaces the decrepit No. Washington St. Bridge, a structure that was both an eyesore and a safety hazard, close by to the TD Boston Garden, the arena where Bill Russell led the Celtics to 11 NBA titles in 13 years in the 1950s and 60s, a dynasty that remains -- and always will remain -- unparallelled in the sports world.

For those of us who were Boston sports fans in our childhood while growing up in the 1960s (and who remember often walking across the old No. Washington St. Bridge en route from where the bus from Chelsea dropped us off at the old City Square station to our summer job in Government Center in the 1970s), there was only one real hero -- and that was Bill Russell. Yes, we had Bobby Orr and Carl Yastrzemski, but Bill Russell stood out, not only by virtue of the number of championships he won, but also because he spoke out on the major issue of that time-- civil rights -- when others were too timid to do so.

The Celtics and Bill Russell were the epitome of success, especially in comparison to the other Boston sports teams of that era. However, even at our young age, there was something about Bill Russell that we recognized as transcending the typical athlete of that period.

We recall that when Bill Russell published his autobiographical memoir in the mid-60s, Go Up for Glory, we eagerly bought the paperback. It was one of the few (if any) books that we read outside of our required school reading.

We knew instinctively, even at our young age, that if Bill Russell had something to say, it would be important -- and he did so in a straightforward and honest way that often was lacking in the turbulent era that was the 1960s (and remains so today).

The hippies proclaimed, "Don't trust anyone over the age of 30," but that did not apply to Bill Russell, who won his final NBA title as the Celtics' player-coach in 1969 at the age of 35. Bill Russell's honesty and integrity were unquestioned.

To paraphrase a popular TV commercial, "When Bill Russell spoke, people listened."

Bill Russell was as elegant and graceful in his demeanor off the court as he was in his athleticism on the court. Just as his emphasis on defense, rebounding, and leading the fast break not only revolutionized the game of basketball, but also set the standard for the definition of selflessness and the concept of a team player, so too, did his truthful outspokenness on the subject of racism in America set a new standard in the sports world for elevating our national conversation about race and other social topics.

As we grew into adulthood, if we were hanging out with friends, whenever we might be playing the, "If you could have dinner with anyone famous, who would it be?" game, our answer always would be, "Bill Russell."

Bill Russell passed away in the summer of 2022 while the new bridge that now bears his name was still under construction. We know we speak for millions of past and present Boston sports fans in expressing our delight that a man who was a hero in every respect now will be honored forever in our city.

AT LAST: PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The prospect of a lasting peace in the Middle East, a place that has been the root of so much pain and suffering in our world, truly is a reason for rejoicing today.

The wars, bombings, and hostage-takings that have emanated from both nation-states and terrorist organizations in that region for more than 80 years appear to have come to an end.

The ability of President Donald Trump to engineer a peace deal among all of the players in the Middle East, a goal never achieved by any other U.S. President, has been truly extraordinary.

It is clear that Trump, and only Trump, could have brought enough pressure to bear upon the Israeli government, the Hamas terrorists, and the major nation-states in the region to achieve this historic breakthrough.

Although it is appropriate to mourn the Israeli citizens who were slaughtered by Hamas terrorists on 10/7/23 and the estimated 250,000 Gazan civilians (at least half of whom were children) who have either been killed or wounded during the two-year war, this week marks the start of a new day in the Middle East

Hopefully, the parties to the peace agreement will have learned from the mistakes of the past so as not to repeat them. But now, all parties must move forward in peace, for the sake of both those who are alive today and the future generations to come.

We hope that the words of President Trump are embraced by all:

"This is the day that people across the region and around the world have been working, striving, hoping, and prayed for. They have done things over the last month that I think were really unthinkable. Nobody thought this could happen. With the historic agreement we've just signed, those prayers of millions have finally been answered."

Chowderfest returns to downtown Boston

Special to the Times

The Downtown Boston Alliance (DBA), in partnership with Conventures, is excited to announce the return of Chowderfest on Saturday, October 25, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Downtown Crossing. This can't-miss fall tradition is entirely free and will welcome thousands of guests to savor Boston's most beloved autumn dish: chowder.

Chowderfest brings together some of the city's top restaurants and chefs, each serving up their own take on the classic New England favorite. Guests can register online or on-site, and vote for their favorite sample, all while enjoying great entertainment in the lively heart of downtown Boston. The event will follow the Doggone Dog Festival earlier in the day, creating a full day of family-friendly fun, community spirit, and local flavor.

"Chowderfest is more than a tasting event—it's a celebration of Boston's culinary traditions and our vibrant downtown community," said Michael Nichols, President of the Downtown Boston Alliance. "We are thrilled to welcome thousands of residents and visitors to enjoy this new fall tradition, and, of course, to enjoy the chowder that has helped make our city so famous."

Event Details

- What: Chowderfest
- When: Saturday, October

25, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

- Where: 425–431 Washington St, Boston, MA 02108
- Host: Downtown Boston Alliance
 - Organizer: Conventures
 - Cost: Free
- Site: https://bostonchow-derfest.eventbrite.com
- Register: Available online at https://bostonchowderfest.eventbrite.com

Restaurant enrollment is now underway, and interested restaurants must contact the event organizers to be registered. Restaurants will be compensated for their time. Musical talent will be announced in the weeks ahead.

For more information, please contact Chandler Pettigrew at Conventures at cpettigrew@ conventures.com

The Downtown Boston Alliance (DBA), formerly known as the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, was created by property owners committed to achieving the district's full potential as a premier and vibrant destination. Our mission is to significantly improve the experience of all who live, work, visit, go to school, or shop in the 34-block, 100-acre DBA service area by providing supplemental services to keep the district clean, safe, and vibrant while catalyzing an energetic and thriving business climate and serving as the neighborhood's voice and advocate.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Wu and OYEA share impact of Boston After Dark 2025

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston's Office of Youth Engagement (OYEA) shared the impact of the 2025 Boston After Dark summer event series. Boston After Dark provides safe and fun opportunities for teenagers (14-18 years old) to be in community on Friday nights during the summer. During the first summer of Boston After Dark in 2024, OYEA hosted 18 events across 9 neighborhoods, serving 1,000 young people. With support from the Cummings Foundation and Boston's Children Hospital, this summer, OYEA expanded the initiative to coordinate 23 events across 15 neighborhoods from the end of June through August. Each took place between 5 - 9 p.m. at Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) and YMCA centers, with one event hosted at the Franklin Field Boston Housing Authority (BHA) teen center. This year's programming saw a 50 percent increase in attendance and engaged over 1,500 youth.

"This summer, Boston After Dark engaged over fifteen hundred young people with opportunities to stay active in their communities, from sports tournaments to talent shows," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am grateful to the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement for not only leading this successful summer safety plan but their continuous work year-round, which is a critical step in making sure Boston remains the safest city in America."

The Boston After Dark ini-

tiative commenced in 2024 as a direct response to a pattern of youth violence seen in the summer of 2023. Along with community partners, OYEA recognized that many of these instances took place among young people already connected to summer programming, and identified a lack of opportunities for engagement after program or work hours as one crucial source. OYEA launched Boston After Dark to organize fun and safe spaces for teens during evening hours throughout the sum-

The expansion of this summer's Boston After Dark programming is supported by the recent findings of OYEA's Youth Speaks Boston survey, a citywide needs assessment that collected responses from 1650 Boston residents between the ages of 14-25. The results indicated that Boston youth prioritize events where they can "hang out with friends" (55 percent of survey respondents) that include opportunities to meet new people (56 percent), free food (49 percent), and feelings of community, belonging, and inclusivity (49 percent).

"Boston After Dark has shown us the power of creating safe, fun, and welcoming spaces for our city's teens during the summer months. From neighborhood basketball games to music and arts events, young people came together to connect, celebrate, and feel a sense of belonging in their communities," said Pedro Cruz, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement. "We are excited to expand these

opportunities into school vacation weeks so that more young people can thrive year-round. Our young people deserve spaces where they can feel safe, supported, and inspired—and Boston After Dark is helping to make that vision a reality."

"I am proud of the team at the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement and grateful to our partners at Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA, and Boston Housing Authority," said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. "This partnership shows that when we work together, we can make a big impact for the youth in our City."

All 23 Boston After Dark events were completely free and included food from local businesses, an ice cream truck, and exclusive merch. Every Friday night also featured a live youth DI in partnership with Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) Boston, a photobooth, and giveaways of Sprayground backpacks and Red Sox tickets. Each Boston After Dark site hosted a different theme with a unique set of activities. Among these were roller skating, airbrush tattoos, face painting, dunk tanks, basketball tournaments, jewelry making, obstacle courses, water slides, barbecues, youth performances by 617Peak and Beat the Odds Boston, an inflatable nightclub, and a video game truck.

"Boston After Dark is really important for teens because it gives me and other teens a chance to hang out and connect. A lot of us just stay inside most of the time, but events like this

give us friends, comfort, and a fun way to spend time together," said Boston After Dark attendee Mamaa Fofana, age 15.

"Boston After Dark events were a huge success this summer and served as a powerful way to connect with teens who may not have previously engaged with BCYF," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF). "These events provided safe, welcoming spaces for young people to come together, have fun, and build meaningful relationships with our staff and with one another. We're proud to offer these kinds of opportunities and remain deeply committed to developing programs that truly reflect and support the needs of Boston's youth."

Boston After Dark 2025 included expanded partnerships with youth-serving collaborators both within and outside the City, a manifestation of OYEA's aim to break down the silos that exist in the youth work field. Consolidating the strengths and resources of multiple organizations under a shared vision allowed a scale of programming beyond what would be possible through any one organization.

In addition to the intended audience of 14-18-year-old youth, Boston After Dark events this year were attended by the networks of youth participants' family members and friends, both older and younger. While Boston After Dark is first and foremost designed to meet the unique needs of teenagers, it is a program inclusive of all Boston residents.

"Hosting Boston After Dark at Gallivan Community Center has been nothing short of legendary. Every Friday night, Boston After Dark is creating a safe, high-energy space where teens can vibe, connect, and just be themselves," said Jose Rodriguez, Site Director of BCYF Gallivan. "This ain't just a program — it's memories in the making, and every young person should get to feel that love."

"These events offered young people a tangible way to see the commitment of the City, its leaders, and its organizations to building trust and empowerment by creating opportunities for them to take ownership of their community spaces. Teens appreciated knowing community is invested in their well-being, and as a result, they showed great engagement and participation," said David Shapiro, Chief Executive Officer of YMCA of Greater Boston. "We hope this is the beginning of a long tradition of Boston After Dark and we're proud to serve as a host and partner with OYEA. It is a great new addition to our free summer memberships for all teens and expansive summer youth employment program in partnership with the City."

To learn more about Boston After Dark and see photos from this summer's events, visit boston.gov/after-dark. To stay informed about future events from the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, visit boston.gov/oyea, and follow our social channels @oyeaboston Facebook and Instagram, and @ oyea.boston.gov on Bluesky.

BPL (from pg. 1)

lin to contemporary works that challenge us to reflect on civic ideals and social progress today. This exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see how centuries of art and activism continue to shape the nation's story."

'Revolution!' spans more than two centuries of Boston's role in the ongoing struggle for freedom and justice, presenting works that were historic in their own time and remain resonant today. Carefully curated from BPL's collections, the objects on display are of extraordinary significance – prints, photographs, drawings, paintings, and sculpture.

Highlights include a reimagined Boston Massacre engraving featuring Crispus Attucks, por-

traits of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, and images from Boston's abolitionist, feminist, and civil rights movements. Among them is Emanuel Leutze's monumental Washington at Dorchester Heights (1852), newly conserved and brought down from its longtime place high above visitors in the BPL's Washington Room. Seen at eye level for the first time in decades, the painting reveals previously illegible details uncovered during recent conservation work, offering the public an unprecedented opportunity to encounter this historic icon up close.

Contemporary works by Boston-based and regional artists place these historic works in

conversation with the present. The conversation is anchored by a new commission: 'Out of Order, Fortification of Dorchester Heights' (2025), a bold, improvisational textile by Newton-born, New York-based artist Michael Thorpe that reimagines Leutze's Washington at Dorchester Heights, Thorpe reimagines a pivotal revolutionary moment through quilt making. Over the course of the exhibition, he will periodically rearrange the quilt's squares, transforming the piece into an evolving installation that highlights how history is never fixed in time but is continually reinterpreted. Additional programs, including close-looking sessions and curatorial talks, further invite visitors to engage with the works on view.

"The greatness of our republic is manifest in the artifacts and historic documents held in this public institution as we celebrate the founding of our nation 250 years ago," said Bob Tomolillo, a featured Boston artist and printmaker. "I am privileged to have witnessed the work performed by the Boston Public Library curatorial staff in mounting such an important exhibition."

The exhibition, in the Exhibition Hall of the BPL's McKim building is free to all to attend. A free digital guide will also be available through the Bloomberg Connects app, which can be used either onsite to enrich the

viewing experience or accessed remotely to explore the exhibition virtually.

This exhibition is made possible through the Boston Public Library Fund as part of a major philanthropic investment to renovate and reimagine the Central Library's historic McKim building. To learn more, visit bplfund. org.

The Associates of the Boston Public Library provides ongoing funding to support conservation, curation, and digitization of BPL's Special Collections.

For more information about 'Revolution!,' including details on the works on view and related programs, visit bpl.org/revolution-exhibition/.

City honors new EMTs and holds promotions at Faneuil Hall ceremony

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, alongside Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), celebrated the graduation of 32 new EMTs and the promotion of seven EMS members in a ceremony held at Faneuil Hall. The graduates, all state-certified EMTs, successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an intensive training program that prepares recruits to deliver high-quality emergency care across the city. With this new class joining the ranks, Boston EMS continues to strengthen its 9-1-1 ambulance and dispatch services in response to growing demand.

"Congratulations to the newest class of EMTs," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "You are joining a community of first responders who represent the very best of public service. EMS is an essential link between our first responder agencies and health-care providers, supporting our residents with skill and compassion, whether in moments of crisis or quiet care. Boston is deeply grateful for your dedication and commitment to keeping our neighborhoods safe."

"Today, we proudly welcome a new generation of EMTs into the Boston EMS family," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "You've taken on a role

it needs to be done



Mayor Michelle Wu with the graduates of the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, as well as the seven EMTs who received promotions.

that demands strength, skill, and deep compassion. Over the course of your training, you've responded to hundreds of real emergencies—gaining experience, earning trust, and proving yourselves time and again. With EMS call volume reaching record highs, your service is more vital than ever. You are stepping into this career at a critical timeand we need you. Boston needs you. Your badges may be new, but your commitment is already clear. We are proud of everything you've accomplished and honored to have you join our ranks."

The Boston EMS Recruit Academy is a full-time, paid program featuring classroom instruction and field training that prepares EMTs for a range of life-threatening emergency situations including mass casualty events, active shooter incidents, hazardous materials exposure, and human trafficking response. During their training, the graduates collectively responded to over 4,700 9-1-1 calls, treating patients experiencing everything from cardiac arrest to childbirth, serious trauma (shootings and stabbings), and behavioral

"Congratulations to our promotees and new EMTs," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "By joining Boston

EMS, you've taken on a vital role at the intersection of emergency care, public health, and public safety. You are often the first to respond in times of crisis, and your work ensures that every resident—regardless of background circumstance—receives skilled, compassionate care. In a healthcare system shaped by inequity, your presence matters. Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your unwavering commitment to the people of Boston. It is an honor to serve alongside you."

Boston EMS continues to expand access to EMS careers through its multi-pronged recruitment strategy. Notably, 12 members of this graduating class were part of the relaunched Cadet Program, an initiative that fully funds EMT training for aspiring public servants and opens pathways to fulfilling careers in emergency services.

"A few years ago, EMS systems across the countryincluding ours—faced a staffing crisis. But we refused to accept that future. Through targeted investment, strong partnerships, and a focus on inclusion, Boston EMS turned challenge into opportunity," said Chief Hooley. "Programs like our Cadet Program and partnership with the Worker Empowerment Cabinet have removed barriers and created real pathways into public service. And with 20 department promotions this year alone—from Paramedics to Superintendents—we're not just talking about progress. We're living it."

During the ceremony, the

department also recognized the promotion of two individuals to the rank of Superintendent and five individuals to the rank of Deputy Superintendent. These individuals collectively contribute nearly 175 years of combined service and leadership experience to the department's supervisory ranks

Promoted to Superintendents:

- Thomas Finn: Field Operations
- William Lessard: Professional Standards

Promoted to Deputy Superintendents

- Sean Alexander: Field Operations
- Sharon Efstathiou: Shift Commander
- Paul Giannetti: Shift Commander
- Taishana Lewis: Community Initiatives & Services
- Elizabeth Rimas: Training & Quality Improvement

"Congratulations on this

well-deserved achievement," said Chief Hooley. "These promotions reflect not only your exceptional skill and dedication, but also the trust your colleagues and this department place in you. As leaders, your actions set the tone and standard for those around you—and your impact

borhood we serve."

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

will be felt far beyond the walls

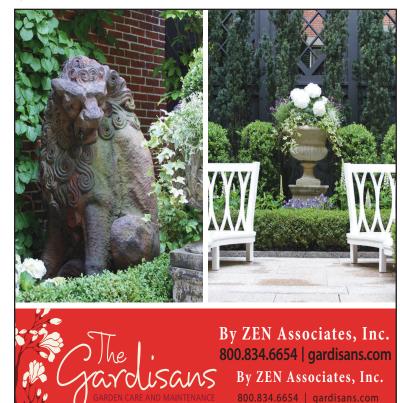
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CELLARS (from pg. 1)

after college, Lincoln decided instead to change tack by enrolling in New York's prestigious CIA (Culinary Institute of America)

"I was interested in food and wines and knew I wanted to do something in that world but didn't know what," said Lincoln, who added she matriculated to CIA because she was seeking a "vocabulary lesson" on food and wine.

Unlike most of her friends at CIA, who are now chefs, Lincoln said she never had any aspiration of working in a kitchen and instead always knew she was "only interested in wine."

Upon graduating from CIA in 2014, Lincoln relocated to the Boston area to pursue a master's degree in gastronomy (food studies) from Boston University. The esteemed program was founded in 1991 by Jacques Pépin, a popular French chef, author, culinary educator, television personality, and American celebrity chef and TV personality (as well as then-Cambridge resident) Julia Child.

Lincoln focused on wine and

writing in her studies, and while in school, she also started working at the Wine Press – a specialty wine shop located in Brookline near her home.

She was soon working at the Wine Press's other location in the Fenway, as well as serving as the lead (and sole) editorial staff member for Upper Glass – the Wine Press's wine subscription service which boasts between 100 and 120 monthly subscribers.

Subscribers to the service are sent a selection of four wines each month, along with an emailed newsletter on the latest wine news. The digital newsletter would also spotlight a different Boston restaurant each month, for which Lincoln would interview the establishment's sommelier, wine director, or chef.

In her new role at DeLuca's, Lincoln said she hopes to make gradual changes to the wine selection, slowly integrating more "wines of place," as well as wines that haven't been "manipulated" via the addition of flavor enhancers, such as oak chips; vanillin (i.e. a substance



D. MURPHY PHOTO

DeLuca's Market on Charles Street.

obtained from vanilla beans or produced artificially and used to flavor sweet foods); or Mega Purple – a popular grape-based compound often used to darken wines

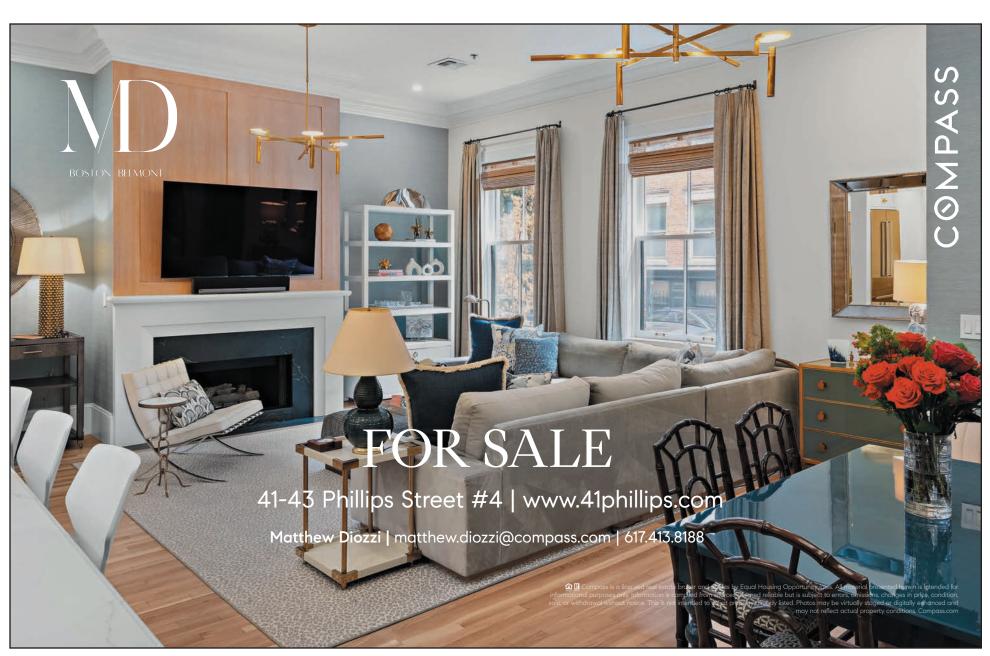
When selecting new wines to sell, Lincoln said she carefully considers the "terroir" – a French term that describes factors that affect the flavor and body of a wine including climate and geography, as well as the winemaker themselves.

"If you can find a wine at Target or Total Wine, I don't want to see it here," said Lincoln, who added that since DeLuca's is a family-owned, local business, they also want to support smaller, independent winemakers.

Lincoln's immediate predecessor, Donovan Wirtanen, recently stepped down from his role at DeLuca's to serve as a firefighter in nearby Weymouth.

"It's not every day you meet someone who is a Burgundy aficionado and saves lives," noted Victoria Aiello, who, together with her sister, Caroline Aiello, owns DeLuca's Market on Charles Street. "While we were sad to see [Donovan] go, we're so excited to see where Chelsie's experience, ideas, and enthusiasm take us."

Meanwhile, the Cellar at DeLuca's Market on Charles Street offers wine tastings every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.



City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Special to the Times

The City of Boston announced that applications for three four-year terms on the Boston School Committee are now being accepted by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel. The Nominating Panel is a thirteen-member body composed of Boston Public Schools (BPS) parents, educators, school leaders, and representatives of the business and higher education communities.

In January 2026, two current Boston School Committee members' current terms are set to expire, prompting the beginning of the Nominating Panel process this fall. The selected members for these terms will begin on January 1, 2026 and expire on January 7, 2030.

In addition, the Nominating Panel will accept applications for candidates to serve the remainder of the term currently expiring on January 2, 2029 due to a third vacancy to happen when Michael O'Neill, who currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Boston School Committee, steps down at the end of December.

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancies are due Friday, November 7, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. The application can be found here

Virtual interviews will be held in the early evening on Tuesday, November 18; Wednesday, November 19; and/or Thursday, November 20. Candidates must be Boston residents and should expect that service on the School Committee involves a significant time commitment to connect with school departments and leaders and prepare for and attend biweekly meetings that run into late hours in the evening.

The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools. The School Committee is responsible for:

Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;

Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;

Hiring, managing, and evalu-

ating the Superintendent; and

Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The seven members of the School Committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor appoints members from a list of candidates recommended by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel. The School Committee also includes a non-voting student member of the Boston Student Advisory Council.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning, and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods, and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to scnominatingpanel@boston. gov or to Boston City Hall, Mayor's Office, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02201. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.

Applications will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Cape Verdean Kriolu.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM OFFERS ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT WALKING TOUR ON OCT. 18

The Nichols House Museum is offering a Brahmins and Bohemians Arts & Crafts Edition Beacon Hill walking tour on Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m., leaving from 55 Mount Vernon St.

Enjoy a stroll around the Hill and hear about some of the Arts & Crafts Movement artisans living and working on Beacon Hill, with a discussion that will touch on utopian art communities, artist cooperatives, craftsman architecture on the Hill, and more.

For more information, visit nicholshousemuseum.org.

KIKUICHI KNIVES DEMONSTRATION AT BLACKSTONE'S ON OCT. 18

On Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Blackstone's of Beacon Hill will host a special demonstration featuring Kikuichi knives, a brand with more than 750 years of history.

Founded in the 13th century by Japanese swordsmiths, Kikuichi is one of the oldest knife makers in the world. Today, the company's blades—marked with the iconic chrysanthemum crest—are prized by professional chefs and home cooks for their sharpness, balance, and artistry.

Harry Rosenblum, general manager of Kikuichi North America, will be on hand to showcase the craftsmanship and performance of these knives. Attendees will have the chance to handle Kikuichi knives, learn care tips, and purchase rare and limited-edition styles.

Blackstone's, New England's largest cutlery store, also offers ongoing knife sharpening services, ensuring that your kitchen tools last for years to come.

The event is free and open to the public.

BHV TO OFFER OCT. 29 VIRTUAL SEMINAR ON VISION LOSS AS YOU AGE

Beacon Hill Village will offer 'Living Well Ending Well

Aging Eyes: What to Know About Vision Loss As You Age' on

Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Approximately 28 percent of U.S. adults aged 71 and older have vision impairment, with the rate increasing with age. This program will provide an overview of common eye conditions that affect older adults and the

impact they can have on daily life. We'll also explore practical resources and support available to help maintain independence, as well as questions you can bring to your eye doctor to better understand your vision health.

The featured speaker, Isabel Rosario, is the Outreach Specialist at the Carroll Center for the Blind, where she helps connect individuals, families, and community partners with services that empower people experiencing vision loss to live full and independent lives. She is passionate about building awareness of vision changes that come with aging and sharing practical tools and resources that make a real difference for older adults. Through her outreach work, Isabel enjoys creating opportunities for learning, conversation, and support in the community.

This Zoom webinar is part of Beacon Hill Village's Living Well Ending Well series presented in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register online at Beacon-HillVillage.org, or contact the BHV office at 617-723-9713.

WELL-BEING EVENTS OFFERED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER AT MGH BLUM CENTER

This fall, the Center for Comprehensive Healing (CCH), in partnership with the Small Steps Healing Project, is providing free pop-up healing clinics to the

Mass General Brigham community.

These clinics give patients, caregivers, community members, MGB providers, and MGB staff the chance to try out integrative healing practices such as acupressure, reiki, and sound healing in a low-barrier, no-cost setting. With guidance from trained practitioners, attendees can explore different approaches to healing and discover what resonates with them.

The clinics will be held at the Blum Center, White 110 (MGH main campus) from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Walk-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

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 (jmaforbes@gmail.com0 or Sandy Connor (ssconnor46@gmail.com).

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper.

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MassDOT breaks ground on Bowker Overpass replacement and widening project

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass-DOT) has broken ground on construction on the Bowker Overpass Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Project..

Originally constructed in 1964, the Bowker Overpass spans I-90, MBTA rail lines, and Ipswich Street, serving as a vital link for commuters and residents. The structure is currently in poor condition and lacks the capacity to support modern transportation needs. The project will address these deficiencies while introducing several key enhancements: redesigned traffic patterns at the Boylston Street

and Bowker Overpass intersection; removal and relocation of the off-ramp over the Muddy River to Charlesgate West; extensive landscaping upgrades, including the planting of over 100 trees, 150 shrubs, and 3,500 perennials and ferns; and improved pedestrian and cyclist access to adjacent parklands and the Emerald Necklace, according to MassDOT.

Construction began in September and will be carried out in seven phases. The initial phase (Stage 1A) is scheduled to continue through March 2026. Full completion of all seven phases is anticipated by Winter 2029.

"This project isn't just about concrete and steel, it's about

connection," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Upgrading the Bowker Overpass will make travel safer and more accessible for everyone, whether you're driving, walking, biking, or taking transit. By removing the offramp over the Muddy River and restoring green space, we're also giving this community back a piece of its parkland."

Throughout construction, traffic over the Bowker Overpass will remain open. Drivers should expect periodic lane closures and rolling roadblocks on I-90, as well as parking restrictions and night-time closures on Ipswich Street. MBTA rail impacts will be limited to non-peak hours. Pedes-

trian access will be maintained via at least one open sidewalk, with signage to guide foot traffic. Cyclists will be permitted to travel through the area as usual, either riding on the road or walking their bikes along the sidewalk.

"I am excited to witness the culmination of years of hard work as MassDOT begins the regionally significant Bowker Overpass Project. This well developed and creative bridge reconstruction project - that is sensitive to park, bicycle, pedestrian, and neighborhood considerations – will benefit the Charlesgate neighborhood, neighborhoods along the banks of the Muddy River and well beyond," said Sen. William

Brownsberger.

Likewise, Rep. Jay Livingstone said: "I am thrilled that MassDOT is starting this transformative project that will benefit every driver, biker and pedestrian that accesses the space. This project represents an important investment in the safety and accessibility of our community, and I look forward to seeing and enjoying the positive impact the roadway and park improvements will have."

For updates and additional information, visit the Bowker Overpass Project website: https://www.mass.gov/bowker-overpass-project.

LICENSE (from pg. 1)

the license, and final approval from the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission is expected early 2026.

"A lot of the restaurants affected by this [were] concentrated in the North End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, the South End," said North End Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, the bill's sponsor, at a hearing last month. "This provides an opportunity for them to share in the economic prosperity [of liquor sales]. Restaurants really do operate on thin margins."

Zapata added that the old fears surrounding all-alcohol licenses relating to an increase in public disturbance reflected "an outdated narrative" that no longer fits Boston's restaurant scene. "These are really places centered around food and the culinary experience," she said.

Like many political conflicts, Boston's battle over liquor licenses tracks to two quintessential issues – power and money.

After Prohibition ended in 1933, the Massachusetts Legislature refused to let Boston issue its own liquor licenses. At the time, City Hall was run largely by Irish American politicians under Mayor James Michael Curley, whose working-class base clashed with the Yankee establishment at the statehouse. By keeping licensing power at

the state level, lawmakers could control who was allowed to sell alcohol in Boston, limiting a major source of money and influence from Curley's allies. Historians say the decision reflected deep political and ethnic divisions that many people believe still shape Boston's liquor laws today.

For Kevin Flemming, president of the North End Neighborhood Council, the reform is long overdue. He said the restrictions were "really a ploy by the old Yankee legislators at the State House to control the Irish politicians in Boston."

The number of North End restaurants allowed to sell liquor could more than double under the new law, according to data published by the city. Currently, only 32 of 87 restaurants with alcohol licenses are allowed to sell spirits.

Flemming said the change could be a boom for businesses.

"Clearly they feel like they can increase their revenues by having full alcohol," he said. "So, I don't really see any downside in it because at least in the North End, everyone applying for these are pretty much established restaurants. No one's trying to open a nightclub or change their hours."

Testimony ran strongly in favor of allowing beer-and-

wine license holders to convert to full alcohol service at a city hearing last month. Mimi Chan, co-owner of Dynasty Restaurant in Chinatown, told councilors the change would let her serve traditional Chinese spirits such as baijiu or rice wine, which are not permitted under her current license.

"It would allow a more authentic dining experience for our customers," she said.

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune also voiced support for the new bill. "By creating opportunities for these businesses to grow," she said, "we're investing in the future of our neighborhoods – raising the bar for equity and opportunity."

The Boston Licensing Board is drafting regulations for converting beer-and-wine licenses into full alcohol licenses. The city will sponsor outreach events and workshops to help eligible restaurateurs understand the process. To qualify, business owners must file a petition with the licensing board and submit required forms to the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. The first wave of upgrades could be approved within months, city officials say, meaning some restaurants may begin serving cocktails by early 2026.

Applicants will be required

to pay a \$200 state fee, \$100 to the licensing board and \$170 to cover the cost of publishing a legal notice in the local newspaper. The board will hold a public hearing, send certified mail to neighbors, and evaluate whether there is a "public need" in the location. After local approval, the application will be forwarded to the state for final consideration.

The new law does not sanction an unlimited pool of new liquor licenses. Under Massachusetts law, the number of full-alcohol and beer-and-wine licenses Boston can issue is still capped by the state Legislature. The reform simply allows existing beer-andwine license holders to apply to upgrade to full-alcohol service, creating a new class of nontransferable licenses that cannot be sold on the private market. Boston's older transferable licenses, established under the state quota decades ago, still exist and can be bought and sold with state approval. Supporters say the new non-transferable licenses make the system more equitable, even as the overall cap on liquor licenses remains in place.

Full liquor licenses have sold

for \$200,000 to \$600,000 on Boston's private market in recent years, according to city records. Beer-and-wine licenses have cost about \$50,000. By contrast, the new nontransferable licenses will only cost standard filing fees. The wide gap illustrates why many small business owners say they were locked out of the system until the recent changes.

Councilor Coletta said the new policy marks a turning point for a neighborhood long known for its restaurants but has been hemmed in by outdated liquor rules. "It's an opportunity for them to share in the economic prosperity," she said, adding that full licenses can help businesses stay competitive and expand their profit margins. "These are places centered around food and the culinary experience. This reform just lets them serve what their customers are already asking for."

Kiran Rajamani is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between East Boston Times-Free Press and the Boston University Journalism program.

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NeighborHealth hosts policy panel on maternal health equity, urging action on systemic disparities

Special to the Times

On Tuesday, October 7, NeighborHealth convened state legislators, healthcare leaders, and public health officials for Maternal Health Legislation held a timely and urgent discussion on the persistent disparities in maternal health outcomes in Massachusetts, particularly those affecting Black and Latino individuals and people with disabilities.

Held at NeighborHealth's South End location, the panel featured State Senator Liz Miranda of the Massachusetts Legislature who championed the 2024 Maternal Health Omnibus Bill; community health advocates from the Department of Public Health (DPH) - a key state agency that has released critical reports on maternal health inequities; representatives from Mass-Health, which plays a crucial role in covering most pregnancies in the state; as well as leaders from the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). The panel also included commu-



From left to right: Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; Viveka Prakash-Zawisza, MD, MS, MBA, FACOG, Senior Medical Director, MassHealth; Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA, Director of the Bureau of Family and Nutrition, MA Department of Public Health; Massachusetts Senator Liz Miranda; Becky Cruz-Crosson, Director of Healthy Start Systems Division, Boston Public Health Commission; Christin Price, MD, Perinatal and Neonatal Quality Improvement Network, MA Department of Public Health; Mimi Gardner, LICSW, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth; David Seltz, Executive Director, Health Policy Commission

nity-based providers and services such as Flourish Care, South Cove, Upstream, and Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, all of whom work directly with birthing individuals and families. Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, offered the event's opening remarks, which centered on progress towards actionable solutions to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly for Black, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native communities who are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their White counterparts, regardless of income or education levels.

"Too many lives have been lost because our systems have failed to meet the needs of birthing people of color," said Mimi Gardner, LICSW, MPH, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer at NeighborHealth. "At NeighborHealth, we believe everyone deserves the chance to experience pregnancy and birth safely. This event is an important step toward the systemic changes needed to make that a reality. We're deeply grateful to the legislators who continue to fight for equity in underserved communities, and to everyone who showed up to be part of the conversation.

Panelists explored solutions across four key areas: legislative reforms, community-based models, healthcare system transformation, and improved data transparency and accountability. Topics included expanding access to doulas and midwives, increasing culturally competent care, extending postpartum cov-

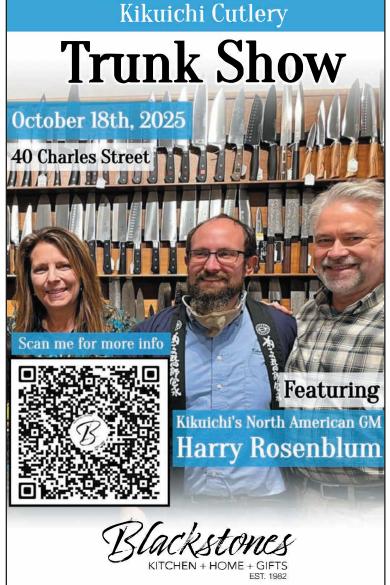
erage under MassHealth, and the importance of scaling trusted community programs such as group prenatal care and neigh-

borhood health centers. "Massachusetts is facing a maternal health crisis that disproportionately impacts Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities. I was proud to file and pass the Maternal Health Omnibus Law, which extends Mass-Health postpartum coverage, invests in doulas and midwives, and strengthens accountability across our healthcare system. But laws alone are not enough," said Senator Liz Miranda. "We must continue to listen to families, partner with trusted community organizations, and demand equity and dignity in every birthing experience. I am grateful to

NeighborHealth and all the partners in this work for convening today's important conversation."

NeighborHealth organized the panel event as part of its broader commitment to advancing health equity and ensuring all residents, regardless of background, have access to compassionate, high-quality, and culturally informed care. Following the passage of the Maternal Health Omnibus Law, NeighborHealth continues to play a vital role in advancing equitable care for underserved communities in Boston.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, Neighbor-Health has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.





From left to right: Emily Anesta, Bay State Birth Coalition (at the podium); Cheryl Clark, MD, Executive Director and SVP, Institute for Health Equity, Research, Evaluation and Policy; Susan Dargon Hart, LICSW, SVP of Clinical Affairs, Mass League of Community Health Centers; Joanne Suarez, MBe, Senior Program Manager, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, Boston Public Health Commission; Sarah Fuller, Practice Transformation Lead III, Upstream

Fenway Forward's proposed Hill project receives final approval

By Dan Murphy

An eagerly awaited new project proposed by the newly rebranded Fenway Forward (formerly Fenway CDC) that will bring new affordable home-ownership opportunities to Beacon Hill cleared a last hurdle on Oct. 7 when it received final approval from the city's Zoning Board of Appeal.

Per its agreement with developer JDMD, the nonprofit Fenway CDC (Community Development Center) is redeveloping two adjacent buildings located at 27-29 Hancock St., which are both currently zoned as lodging houses, into a total of 15 units at 80-100 percent AMI (Area Median Income) for new homeowners.

JDMD, which developed The

Archer Residences – a luxury condo building on Temple Street - purchased 27-29 Hancock St. in 2018, with plans to gift the buildings to another developer for the creation of off-site affordable housing units to satisfy its IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy) with the city for the Archer project.

Construction is expected to take around 15 months to complete, after kicking off at the end of this year or in January of next year. Closing on the sale of the residential units is then expected to follow in the third quarter of '27, according to Eddie Quinn, real estate project manager for Fenway Forward, at a Sept. 3 virtual public meeting of the Beacon Hill Civic Association Zoning and Licensing Committee.

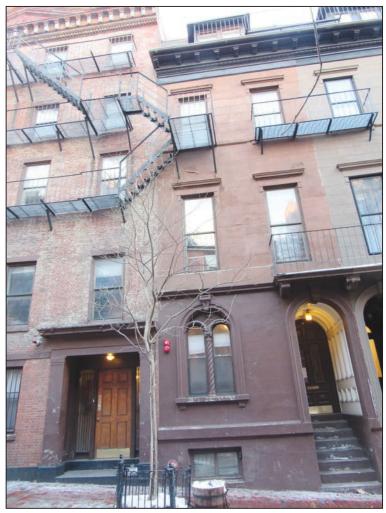
The project came to fruition

through the efforts of Fenway Forward working in close partnership with and with support from the BHCA; Homes on Hancock – a grass-roots group which continually advocated for the creation of adequate affordable housing at 27-29 Hancock St.; and the city.

Advocates for the project have noted it will have a significant impact on Beacon Hill's housing stock, since there is now only one affordable home ownership unit in the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the organization formerly known as Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) officially changed its name last week to 'Fenway Forward' in late September, following a year of strategic planning and input from community members.

The name change for the 52-year-old nonprofit, which offers affordable housing, resident services, and workforce development programs in the Fenway neighborhood and beyond, coincided with the release of its four-year strategic plan (2026-2029).



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Two adjacent properties at 27-29 Hancock St., which the Fenway CDC intends to redevelop into 15 affordable homeownership units.

AFTERMATH OF A RAT ATTACK



This picture that was take on October 15 at 11 a.m. on Chestnut and Walnut Streets explains why Beacon Hill and many neighborhoods in Boston are being overrun by rats. The holiday on Monday probably accounts for the bag being on the sidewalk on Wednesday morning. However what this picture does not explain is how the owners of this rubbish can just let it sit there for 24 hours and counting, making it an easy target for rats to feast on.

City officials are right when they say that we do not have a rat problem as much as a people problem. If we stop the easy access by rats to food, we can control the problem.

We will report next week when the rubbish is removed.

CITY HALL PAYS TRIBUTE TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

City Hall was lit in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, Monday, Oct. 13.

State Fire Marshal and Fire Chiefs make statewide push on expired smoke alarms

Special to the Times

State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) are teaming up this month to draw attention to a wave of smoke alarms that are nearing the end of their useful lifespans.

In 2015, a change to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code set a new requirement that replacement smoke alarms in most Massachusetts homes have a sealed, 10-year battery and a "hush" feature. This requirement reduces the likelihood that residents will disable the device after a nuisance alarm from cooking smoke or remove the batteries for use in another device.

The long-life batteries in these alarms are reliable only for 10 years. For that reason, the alarms purchased and put into service by early adopters of this code change may no longer be reliable soon.

"Smoke alarms are like any other appliance – they don't last forever," said Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell, who serves as FCAM President. "Right now, the alarms that were purchased and put into service 10 years ago are reaching the end of their useful lifespan. Our concern is that a wave of smoke alarms in homes across Massachusetts won't be reliable in the months ahead."

Chief Purcell kicked off the month-long push yesterday at a press conference with State Fire Marshal Davine, Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman, and fire chiefs from across Massachusetts.

"Every smoke alarm should have a manufacturing date printed on the back of the device," said Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli, who serves as FCAM's First Vice President. "If it's more than 10 years old, or if it doesn't have a date, replace it right away. If it's not 10 years old and it takes alkaline batteries, this is a great time to put fresh batteries in to be sure you're protected through the winter."

Chief Nardelli will host a press conference at the Brockton Fire Department on October 9 to promote the smoke alarm safety message for news media in Southeastern Massachusetts.

"When it's time to replace your smoke alarms, we strong-



Fire service leaders from across Massachusetts emphasized the importance of working smoke alarms in every home and offered tips on how to choose devices that will offer the best protection while reducing nuisance alarms.

ly recommend choosing new alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Look for that language on the packaging or the product specifications. These devices use the latest multi-criteria technology, which helps to prevent nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke."

"Sealed-battery smoke alarms are powered by lithium-ion batteries, so please don't put them in your household trash or recycling," said Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris, who serves as FCAM's Second Vice President. "If they're crushed or punctured in a compactor truck or a transfer station, they could cause a fire that's very difficult to extinguish. As lithium-ion batteries have become more common, we've started seeing more and more of these trash and transfer station fires, and it's a safe bet that the root cause is battery damage."

Chief Norris will host a third press conference at the Easthampton Fire Department on October 29 to promote the smoke alarm safety message for residents in Western Massachusetts.

Each spring and fall, the Massachusetts fire service reminds residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks.



State Fire Marshal Jon Davine said almost 40% of fatal fires in Massachusetts last year took place between October and December, and that 60% of those fires broke out in the overnight hours when most residents were sleeping. Working smoke alarms should be installed in and outside sleeping areas to wake residents in the event of a fire. From left in background are Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell, Milford Fire Chief Mark Nelson, and Sudbury Fire Chief Timothy Choate.

The reminder is especially urgent this year as so many smoke alarms may need to be replaced. The State Fire Marshal's office and Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts urge residents to follow these safety tips:

- Check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms
- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions (usually after 5, 7, or 10 years depending on make and model)
- Choose new smoke alarms from a well-known national brand and look for the mark of an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL
- Be sure the replacement alarm has a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature and meets UL Standard 217, 8th Edition or later

Many communities have programs that can assist older or low-income residents who need help installing or maintaining their alarms. Contact your local fire department for more information.



From the Office of Gov. Maura Healey

DPU TO LAUNCH FIRST-EVER COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW TO LOWER GAS AND ELECTRIC COSTS

As Massachusetts residents and businesses face high energy bills that could rise even higher this winter, Governor Maura Healey called on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to launch a first of its kind, comprehensive review of gas and electric rates and charges to identify ways to lower customer costs. Specifically, she asked that the DPU review which charges on bills can be removed, reduced or modified.

"Energy bills are already way too high for Massachusetts residents and businesses. So, I'm calling on the DPU to launch a first-of-its-kind review to identify ways to get charges off bills and lower costs," said Governor Healey. "Combined with my energy affordability agenda and legislation, we can save people billions of dollars for years to come."

In her letter, Governor Healey also requested the DPU scrutinize proposed utility rate increases on behalf of ratepayers, including utility infrastructure to avoid unnecessary spending and reduce costs. She also called on the DPU to take action to expedite new solar construction before President Trump ends federal tax credits.

Governor Healey's letter is the latest in a series of actions she has taken to lower energy bills. Earlier this year, she filed her Energy Affordability, Independence & Innovation Act, which would deliver more than \$13 billion in savings for residents and businesses. The proposed legislation, which is currently under consideration with the Legislature, would save customers money by getting charges off of bills, bring more energy into Massachusetts, and increase utility accountability. This legislation comes on top of the Governor's Energy Affordability Agenda which she implemented earlier this year, immediately saving people \$220 million and providing for more than \$5.8 billion in savings over the next five years.

RE-ESTABLISHES GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITY POLICY

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Governor Healey signed an Executive Order re-establishing the Governor's Special Advisory Commission on Disability Policy to improve opportunities for people with disabilities, their families and advocates to provide input on policy and program development that will reduce barriers to state services.

"It is very important to me that people with disabilities and their families have a direct line to me and my office," said Governor Maura Healey. "By establishing this Commission, we are getting the input and perspective to make sure that our policies and programs are working for everyone."

The Commission will be Chaired by the Massachusetts Office on Disability's Executive Director Allan Motenko and will consist of at least 24 people appointed by Governor Healey based on recommendations from organizations that support people with disabilities. Membership will include a diverse group of people who have lived experience, family members of people with disabilities, advocates, a representative from the Statewide Independent Living Council, and executive branch staff who have oversight of state programs supporting these populations.

"One of the most valuable parts of my job is being able to receive feedback on how people are able to access our services," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We are re-establishing an avenue for people to talk about their experiences interacting with state agencies and accessing state services."

"Every day our teams offer supports to people across the state to help everyone live full lives in our communities, whether it's job supports, assistive technology, day programs, or mobility training," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA. "We want to make sure our own process makes our services truly accessible, and that individuals and families are able to easily

find the office and specific programs or supports they need. This commission will allow us to hear first-hand from people with disabilities and their loved ones and advocates."

The first priority of the Commission will be to assess where the concerns are for people with disabilities and their families when interacting with state government, as well as ways that the state can promote inclusion in the programs and services the state offers.

ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced Massachusetts' intention to join the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's largest and most diverse environmental membership network comprised of 1,400 governments and non-governmental organizations committed to global action on biodiversity conservation. The announcement was made in tandem with the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress, taking place from October 9—15 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

"Massachusetts is leading the way to a future where people and nature thrive. As the first states to announce our intention to join the IUCN, Massachusetts and California are standing firm by our commitments to lead the nation on biodiversity conservation," said Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey. "The value of this work is undeniable—this will help us protect wildlife, strengthen our local economies, and really preserve what makes Massachusetts so special."

Massachusetts and California would be the first U.S. states to join and become official members in 2026. Membership in the IUCN will deepen Massachusetts' commitment to global action on biodiversity and climate. This follows the state's recent announcement of nation-leading Biodiversity Conservation Goals for Massachusetts. As called for by Governor Maura Healey's Executive Order

No. 618, this ambitious, 25-year plan defines a whole-of-government approach to rebuild biodiversity and invest in nature to sustain our health and well-being, food security, and economy.

"Biodiversity is a key climate solution. By joining this network of global leaders at the forefront of tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis, we can collaborate, learn, innovate, and drive progress, both globally and right here in the Bay State," said Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer.

"Massachusetts is proudly leading in harnessing the full potential of our natural world to improve the quality of life for all of our residents. Protecting our mountains, coastlines, and marshes is core to our tourism economy and the health of our communities. Being part of IUCN will help our state accelerate our work to make our communities safer, healthier, and better prepared for extreme weather," said Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tep-

"Massachusetts is proud to be recognized by the IUCN for our commitment to protect and restore nature for wildlife and people," said Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea. "Joining the IUCN will be a huge opportunity to elevate our work on the global stage. We look forward to building partnerships across boundaries, tapping into the knowledge and expertise of the IUCN network, and pursuing innovative approaches and cutting-edge solutions here at home."

At the heart of New England, Massachusetts is known for its coastline, fishing ports, historic cities and towns, farms, and green rolling hills. The region faces mounting challenges from climate change, including coastal and inland flooding as well as increasing drought, which threaten both its ecosystems and the livelihoods of its communities.

By joining IUCN, Massachusetts will strengthen its capacity to address these challenges through access to a global network of conservation expertise and resources. Massachusetts' collaboration through IUCN is expected to enhance ongoing initiatives in biodiversity conservation, restoration, and climate resilience. The partnership will also open avenues for Massachusetts to engage in international programs and strengthen its participation in international efforts to foster integrated approaches to environmental protection and community well-being.





THIS NEWSPAPER





NORTH END CELEBRATES ITS ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE WITH ANNUAL PARADE



The Society of St. Joseph participates in the parade.



Saints Cosmas and Damian Society from Cambridge/Somerville participates in the parade.



North End residents Sal and Ann Marie Chin traverse the parade route on their homemade Santa Maria.



DJ Sal directed traffic and guided the Parade through the streets of the North End.



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn.



The North End Marching Band participates in the parade.

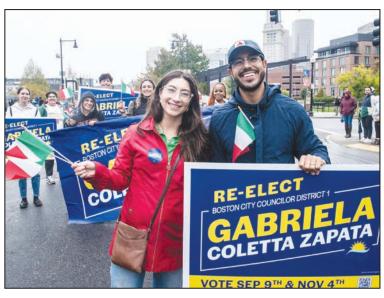


Victor Politano Jr. and Sr. march in the Parade together.

The North End neighborhood of Boston celebrated its Italian-American heritage with a parade on Sunday for this year's upcoming Columbus Day.



The Madonna Del Soccorso Di Sciacca Society participates in the parade.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata with her husband Sebastian.



Italian American Band from Lawrence.

NORTH END CELEBRATES ITS ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE WITH ANNUAL PARADE



The parade goes down Prince Street



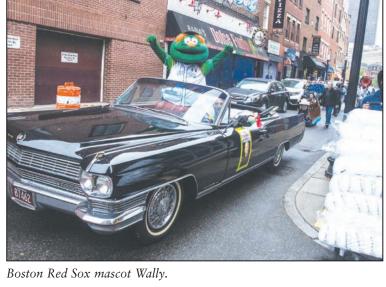
The St. Lucy Society participates in the parade.



The St. Theresa Society participates in the parade.



Pedestrians watch the parade make its way through Cross Street.





The parade passes by Casa Maria on Endicott Street.



The Alshire Family from CT is fascinated with the neighborhood , parade.



The parade emerged from Hanover Street to Cross Street.

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Rentals

Federal paper checks have ended, here's what you need to know

On September 30, 2025, the U.S. Treasury discontinued federally issued paper checks and is moving to digital payments. Federal benefit recipients who still get paper checks WILL NOT be automatically switched to a debit card or direct deposit. To help residents make the switch, we've created a quick how-to guide to help residents make the transition. Take action today to make the change!

Do you or does someone you know still receive paper checks? Individuals must enroll in

direct deposit or sign up for a Direct Express Card® to receive their federal benefits electronically (this includes social security, tax refunds, disability benefits, and all federally paid checks). This change does not impact paper checks at the state or municipal level. Direct Express Card is a prepaid debit card sponsored by the U.S. Treasury.

What are my options?

Direct Deposit - To sign up for direct deposit using your existing bank account (checking or savings), visit Go Direct at godirect. gov/gpw/ sponsored by the U.S.

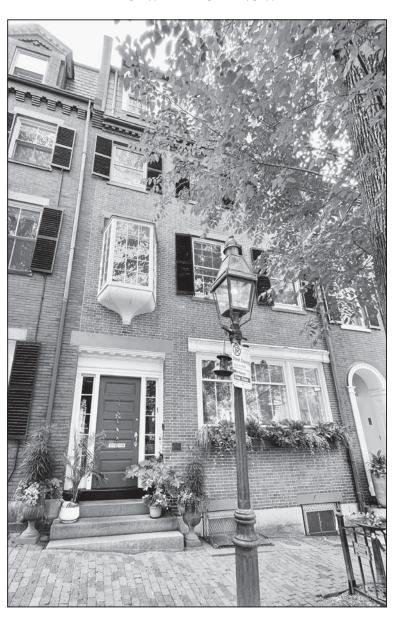
Do you need a bank account? - If you need a bank account and would like help or instructions to open an account, contact bankonboston@boston.gov.

Direct Express Card - To sign up for the Direct Express Card, visit Go Direct at godirect.gov/ gpw/ sponsored by the U.S. Treasury, OR call the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at 1-800-967-6857 or 1-877-874-6347.

Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or contact the federal agency that provides your benefits

Attention to Detail

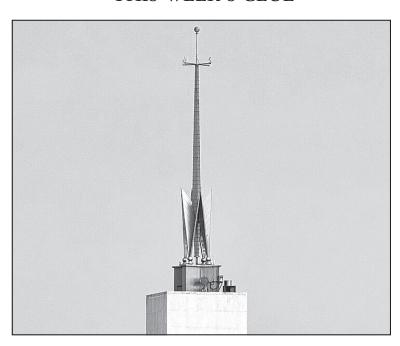
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The petite oriel window in the last clue is on 76 Mount Vernon Street, built circa 1811. The Women's Heritage Trail spotlights this as the one-time residence of Margaret Deland (1857-1945). The organization described her as "a popular novelist and social reformer," and that, "Her works challenged societal norms and explored the quest for hap-

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE	
BACK BAY				
Mm Belvedere Condo T	Sheng, Jane	100 Belvidere St #4H	\$2,840,000	
Hoeman, Jonathan	Manning, Sheila E	143 W Canton St #3	\$780,000	
2n RET	Benesh, Steven R	250 Beacon St #1B	\$595,000	
Clifford, Meghan	Acosta, Arron	326 Dartmouth St #1L	\$889,999	
Clifford, Meghan	Acosta, Arron	326 Dartmouth St #BFL	\$889,999	
Kleynerman, Ilana P	Beney, Daniel J	4 Durham St #3	\$1,015,000	
Bildner, James	Miller, Therese	56 Commonwealth Ave #PH	\$2,300,000	
	DEACO			

BEACON HILL

Edward Robert Wiest Ft Helen Novick RET 2 Hawthorne Pl #2E \$1,325,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Lisa R Morrissey T \$775,000 David T Krohn Lt 103 Appleton St #3

DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT

Jacoff Rachel Est Town Green Financial LLC 28-32 Atlantic Ave #627 \$1,667,000 Maas, Caroline A Clifford, Meghan 326-328 Commercial St #52 \$610,000 **70 Lincoln St #L210** \$525,000 Sulik, Robert M Elias, Sleiman



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Rebecca Davis Tulman & Leslie Singleton Adam 617.510.5050 | 617.901.3664 | BeckyAndLeslie@GibsonSIR.com

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Sotheby's

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

City of Boston warns employees of health benefits imposters

Staff Report

The City of Boston Human Resources Department is alerting employees to a scam targeting staff, where imposters are posing as representatives from the Health Benefits and Insurance (HBI) office to steal sensitive personal data.

The City has received reports of fraudulent phone calls attempting to collect confidential information, including Social Security numbers, Medicare numbers, bank account details, and passwords. Scammers often use caller ID spoofing to make the call appear as if it is coming from an HBI or City of Boston number and may use pressure tactics to force an immediate response. These calls are not legitimate.

HBI Contact Rules

The HBI office emphasizes that it will never make unsolicited calls asking for full Social Security Numbers (SSN), bank or credit card information, or login credentials, nor will they threaten an employee's benefits for failing to respond.

When HBI does legitimately

contact employees, here is what

- Mail: Expect letters on official City of Boston Health Benefits Office letterhead with clear instructions for enrollment notices, plan changes, or official documentation. HBI will never ask you to call a random number or provide full SSN, banking information, passwords, or login information over the phone.
- Email: Communications will be automated messages from email addresses using @boston. gov for general benefit announcements, information about annual enrollment periods, or links to official City portals. HBI will never ask you to reply with personal info or send attachments requesting data.
- HBI@boston.gov Inbox: This inbox is used only to respond to messages you send to the office. HBI does not initiate outreach from this inbox.
- Phone Calls: Staff will only call in response to an inquiry you initiated, or to follow up on an inquiry that you are aware of. Staff may verify limited info (e.g., name, Employee ID, last 4 digits of SSN) and only ask for a full

SSN as an absolute last resort. HBI does not make unsolicited calls asking for personal identifiers.

• In-Person: Meetings will be held inside the Health Benefits and Insurance Office or at an on-site location such as City Hall for scheduled sessions. HBI does not request sensitive info over the phone prior to a visit.

How to Protect Yourself

The City urges employees to exercise caution:

Do not trust Caller ID. Scammers can easily "spoof" legitimate City phone numbers.

Never give out personal information unless you initiated the

Hang up immediately and call HBI directly to verify the request at 617-635-4570.

Forward suspicious calls and emails to HBI@boston.gov.

If you have shared your information, report the incident immediately to the FCC at fcc. gov/complaints and monitor your credit or place a fraud alert.

The City stresses a simple rule: When in doubt — pause, verify, and report.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT**

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St Boston, MA 02114 CITATIÓN GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ΔΡΡΟΙΝΤΜΕΝΤ ΟΕ CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405 Docket No. SU25P2261PM In the matter of: Susan McKenna Of: Boston, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Susan McKenna is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

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 10/23/2025. This 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 to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the

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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court Date: October 02, 2025 Stephanie Everett. Register of Probate

10/17/25

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.I. C. 190B. ss5-304 Docket No. SU25P2260GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Susan McKenna Of: Boston, MA **RESPONDENT Alleged** Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Susan McKenna is in need of a Guardian and requesting 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 appointment 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 10/23/2025. 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 notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit 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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 02, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett

Register of Probate

10/17/25

Beacon Hill Times Pick-Up Locations

1				
Antonio's	288 Cambridge St.			
Simmon's Liquors	210 Cambridge St.			
Jobi Liquors	170 Cambridge St.			
	122 Cambridge St.			
	151 Cambridge St.			
	143 Charles St.			
	136 Charles St.			
	53 Charles St.			
	39 Charles St.			
	54 Charles St.			
	30 Charles St.			
	11 Charles St.			
	Charles St.			
	Charles St.			
	84 Beacon St.			
Emerson Place	10 Blossom St.			
Beacon Hill Market	61 Anderson			
Beacon Capitol Market.	30 Myrtle St.			
City Convenience				
Capital Coffee House				
Richdale Food	Beacon & Bowdoin St.			
River House	145 Pinckney St.			
West End Place	150 Stanford St.			
Anastment Puilding leastions				

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			

4 Emerson Place

CITY PAWS

Spaniels

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The American Kennel Club (AKC) recognizes 15 Spaniel Dog Breeds. Some, like the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, and Papillon, are popular breeds. Others, such as the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, English Toy Spaniel, Boykin Spaniel, and Clumber Spaniel, are less wellknown.

Spaniels are sporting dogs, bred to flush out game and retrieve. Like other dogs bred for this work, such as pointers, setters, and retrievers, they enjoy a good game of fetch and bring back a ball or a stick.

While most spaniels enjoy the water, the American Water Spaniel and the Irish Water Spaniel are great swimmers, with the latter called "Among the champion swimmers of dogdom..." by the AKC.

Living with a Spaniel

In an article by Gemma Johnstone writing for The Spruce Pets, she gave her top tip as, "Spaniels tend to be high-energy, agile, and driven. Because of this, they're generally best suited to living in an active household. Problem behaviors can quickly surface if they don't get enough exercise and enrichment. These breeds often make fantastic hiking, canicross, or competitive dog sports partners." (Canicross is a dog sport in which the human runner is pulled along by a line connected to their dog.)

Spaniels are intelligent and respond well to positive rewards and lifelong training. The same desire to please that makes them great companions for hunters and working in packs rewards guardians who take the time to train them to be excellent family dogs. It is in their nature to be affectionate, loyal, and good with children.

Health Issues

As with any group of dogs with similar physical characteristics, spaniels may have some common health issues. Those long floppy ears need to be checked regularly for possible ear

infections, especially after swimming and wet weather. Cockers and King Charles are among the spaniels that might suffer from heart disease or congenital heart defects.

Many spaniels are food-oriented and can become obese if their food and exercise are not well-balanced. Not all rewards have to be food. Remember the drive to retrieve and consider making a game of fetch or playing with a favorite ball or toy as a routine reward. For those with a more food-oriented approach, you can use low-calorie training treats or vegetables, such as cut-up carrots or slivers of cheese, as rewards.

We recently learned a great deal about Springer Spaniels from the book and audiobook "A Dog's Quest to Be a Buddhist," part of "The Enlightened Spaniel Trilogy" by Gary Heads. These books are written and narrated from the point of view of Bertie, a six-year-old Springer Spaniel, as he and his half-sister investigate meditation and the history of their breed.



When we think of Spaniels, we think of kind faces and loving eyes like this gorgeous dog. (Photo by Phil Robson)

Having known a good number of Springers over the years, Bertie's attitudes, observations, and the differences between him and his half-sister ring true. Bertie is all about adventure, investigation, and action, and she is happier resting and thinking about food. We highly recommend this funny take on a dog's point of view to dog lovers and those exploring meditation.

If you are thinking of adding a Spaniel to your family, research the strengths, weaknesses, health issues, and grooming requirements of the specific breed that interests you. Then decide if you will rescue, for example, from a breed-specific rescue group or buy one from a breeder. In the case of a breeder, investigate the person and their reputation carefully before considering a purchase.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest. com with your request.

Fall Momentum for New and Sold Listings Continues



NEW | BEACON HILL 19 Charles River Square 3+ Beds | 3.5 Baths | \$6.9M

Incredible newly renovated townhouse. Parking & roofdeck.



ACTIVE | BEACON HILL 70 Phillips Street, U:3 2 Beds | 1F Bath | 925K

Sunny 2 bed, 1 bath, great closet space, private onsite parking.



NEW | BACK BAY 250 Commonwealth Ave., U:6 1 Bed | 1 Bath | \$1.199M

Front facing with Comm Ave Mall views. Lovely renovation.



SOLD | BEACON HILL 21 Branch Street 2 Beds | 2F Baths | \$3M

Private garage parking & deck.

A block from the Public Garden.

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