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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

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

HERD OF ELEPHANTS INVADE COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

One hundred life-sized elephant sculptures popped up Thursday, Aug. 6, between Dartmouth and Fairfield streets on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.



A Plan is Necessary

Councilor Flynn calls for emergency council session to address public safety concerns in Downtown Boston

By Dan Murphy

In an Aug. 10 letter to his fellow councilors, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn called for an emergency council session to develop a plan for addressing significant public safety concerns in Downtown Boston.

Councilor Flynn underscored how the Boston Police, whose ranks have been reduced by some 600 officers for a variety of reasons, is currently overwhelmed and understaffed as the department now grapples with a rise in violent crime, along with a sense of disrespect for officers and their families.

In his letter, Councilor Flynn also recounted how together with Mayor Michelle Wu; Rep. Aaron Michlewitz; Suffolk County District Attorney



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn.

Kevin Hayden; and Rishi Shukla, co-founder of the Downtown Boston Neighborhood Associa-

See FLYNN Page 2

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Upcoming Meetings & Events
Architecture Committee -
Monday, August 17th, 5:30pm,
via Zoom
Young Friends Social -
Wednesday, August 26th, 7pm,

Cheers
Streets & Sidewalks Com-
mittee - Tuesday, September
1st, 5:30pm, via Zoom

See BHCA Page 3

EDITORIAL

JULY WAS THE HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD IN THE U.S.

For anyone who still doubts that we are in the beginning stages of an epic transformation of our climate, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released data that should convince even the most skeptical: July was the hottest month ever recorded in the United States since record-keeping began more than 130 years ago in 1895.

July's average temperature of 76.9F didn't just set a new record -- it shattered the typical monthly average for July, clocking in at an astounding 3.3 degrees above the 20th-century norm.

The most disturbing aspect of the record-setting heat was evident in the failure of the high daytime temperatures to reset at night (as anyone without air conditioning can attest). According to NOAA, nighttime lows, which are crucial for people and agriculture to recover from hot days, smashed the old record for hottest minimums by 0.7 degrees.

Hotter nights are a well-documented sign of human-caused climate change -- and . overnight low temperatures across the globe and the U.S. have been climbing significantly faster than daytime highs.

The record-setting heat has not been confined to the U.S. In Europe, the combined June-July period was the hottest on record. Cycles of heatwave-after-heatwave pushed average temperatures for the two-months to 70.8F, far exceeding the average. Sea surface temperatures hit record highs for July along the Atlantic and western Mediterranean and the hot conditions significantly reduced river levels, exposing scores of Nazi-era ships in the middle of the Danube River.

In South Korea, a new record of 108.5F was recorded, marking the highest temperature officially registered in South Korea since modern weather records began. The capital city of Seoul logged its highest-ever July temperature.

In Japan, severe heatwaves with consecutive days surpassing 104F led to mass hospitalizations for heatstroke.

The record-setting heat that the world is experiencing this summer makes one thing very clear: Climate change is not something that is coming decades down the road -- it already is here.

PARENTS: MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN GET THEIR VACCINATIONS

It would be easy to dismiss the executive order that came out of Washington this week that recommends changes to the childhood vaccination schedule as just more of the same-old, same-old nonsense.

However, with measles cases across the United States reaching levels not seen in decades (and still going higher), it is clear that there is a small percentage of Americans who are susceptible to being misled by politicians who have absolutely zero (in fact, even less than zero) medical knowledge.

This messaging by the politicians is dangerous for everyone -- adults and children -- who might be inclined to follow their advice.

So to any of our readers who even remotely are on the fence about vaccinations (whether for themselves or their children), we have a simple message: Tune out the politicians, go to your doctor, and get your shots.

FLYNN *(from Page 1)*

tion (DBNA), he helped establish the One Downtown Task Force in March to proactively address that neighborhood's mounting quality-of-life issues and public safety concerns.

The group's formation came one month after the Downtown Public Safety Summit, hosted by the DBNA, brought the issue of serious public safety concerns in Downtown Boston to the fore.

The One Downtown Task Force met again on Aug. 5 at Suffolk Law School to discuss recent issues, as well as the group's next steps.

This meeting came in the aftermath of one homicide, five people shot, two stabbings, and a worker assaulted within the course of a month near and along the Tremont Street/Boston Common corridor. The latest incident occurred just before 2 p.m. on July 31, when a fight resulted in a non-fatal stabbing near the Park MBTA station.

"I highlighted the urgent need to address the recent rise of violent crime in Downtown Boston - which serves as our economic engine and home to thousands of young families, professionals, college students, and long-time residents," Councilor Flynn wrote in his letter. "We have to acknowledge the status quo is untenable. Boston is not the safest city in the country. We must include the recommendations and opinions from the public, neighborhood organizations, police and first responders as part of this emergency session and overall strategy. It is critical that we both hire hundreds of

police officers and work closely with state and federal partners as well. We must demonstrate a willingness to support police officers and their families."

Councilor Flynn called on his fellow schedules to schedule a "critically important emergency session" as soon as possible.

"We must include the recommendations and opinions from the public, neighborhood organizations, police, and first-responders as part of this emergency session and overall strategy," he wrote. "It is critical that we both hire hundreds of police officers and work closely with state and federal partners as well. We must demonstrate a willingness to support police officers and their families. Our residents and businesses deserve safer and healthier neighborhoods."

One day after the letter was dispatched, Councilor Flynn told this reporter he had already

heard back from Council President Liz Breadon, who pledged to help him set up an emergency session, including Councilor Henry Santana, who chairs the council's Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, by the end of this month to devise a plan for addressing downtown's public safety and quality-of-life concerns.

"City councilors have a responsibility to provide positive leadership on public safety issues, and they're not doing that," said Councilor Flynn. "They are allowing city administration to manage all aspects of public safety and take the City Council completely out of the discussion. The City Council needs to understand we have serious challenges in the city with public safety, and we can't ignore the crisis we're in, with the low number of police officers now in the city."

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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PLEASE RECYCLE

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WEST END MUSEUM'S AUGUST PROGRAMMING CONTINUES

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7, in partnership with Queer History Boston, will offer a screening of '1988 Boston Pride March' and community night on Aug. 18 at 6 p.m.

Learn the local history of pride routes, enjoy '80s tunes, snacks, crafts, and community; '80s attire is encouraged, but not required. This event is made possible by Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce and MA250.

On Aug. 27 at 6 p.m., the museum offers 'Big Dig Walking Tour: From the Central Artery to the Greenway' (which begins at the museum).

The Big Dig was an ambitious project, an engineering marvel, and a complicated solution to a complicated problem. From burning a highway under an active city to building the world's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge, this walking tour will uncover the history behind a Boston urban planning project so iconic that it had its own ice cream flavor.

More information and links to purchase tickets can be found online at: www.westendmuseum.org/programs

WECA NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN UNTIL SEPT. 10

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will not meet in August. The group's next meeting takes place Thursday Sept. 10, and the meeting topic will be announced later in August.

BEACON HILL BAPTIST CHURCH MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

Beacon Hill Baptist Church, which is affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, meets Sundays at 11 a.m., at the Bea-

con House, 19 Myrtle St.

The people are the ministers, while Rev. David Draper serves as pastor.

Call 617-817-3594 or email cddraper@earthlink.net for more information.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM OFFERING TOURS

The 1804 Nichols House Museum at 55 Mount Vernon St. was home to an early 20th-century family of artists and activists, along with their domestic staff. The house was preserved as a museum by Rose Standish Nichols, a pioneering woman landscape architect. It is furnished with an original collection, including works by the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, as well as furniture and textiles handcrafted by Rose and her sister Margaret. Tours are offered on Thursday through Saturday at 10 and 11 a.m., and noon; on Sundays at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m.

For more information, tickets, and to register, visit: nicholshousemuseum.org

COME PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, you are invited to join the friendly Mah Jongg group. Instructors will be available to help new players, and everyone is welcome. Come meet new people, socialize, and play the game.

The group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the West End Community (within the West End Neighborhood Center), 75 Blossom Court (entrance on Thoreau Path).

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

West End Museum celebrates Boston roots of Leonard Bernstein with live musical performance

Special to the Times

On Friday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m., The West End Museum, in partnership with Queer History Boston and Crescendo Productions, invites the neighboring communities of Beacon Hill and the West End to a special live musical performance celebrating the legendary Leonard Bernstein. The event will take place at the Hub Community Room at North Station, located just steps away at 52 Causeway St.

This lively musical program, entitled 'West End Story: Community and the Music of Leon-

ard Bernstein,' honors the brilliant composer, conductor, and Broadway icon whose foundational years were deeply rooted in the city of Boston. Neighbors from Beacon Hill and across the city will experience a soaring journey through Bernstein's timeless songbook. The performance spans from the energetic rhythms of 'West Side Story' to the brilliant melodies of 'Candide.'

The evening features an acclaimed combo ensemble led by Josiah Reibstein performing alongside dynamic vocalists Dan Gabel and Rhiannon Hurst to

deliver an unforgettable night of romance, rhythm, and harmony.

As part of the museum's ongoing queer history series, the program highlights the spirit of community, inclusivity, and artistic brilliance that Bernstein championed throughout his life.

The event is made possible through the generous support of Boston Properties, along with exclusive series sponsors MA 250 and the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite or the West End Museum website at www.thewestendmuseum.org.

City announces 26th annual Gospel Fest

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced that Gospel Fest, an annual City event that showcases local and national gospel talent, will take place on Sunday, August 30, at 5 p.m. on City Hall Plaza. The show will be headlined by Billboard Gospel Charts-topping artist Todd Galberth.

"This summer, Boston showed the world what it means to be a welcoming, beautiful and family-friendly city for everyone, and we are excited to keep that spirit going with our annual Gospel Fest," said Mayor Wu in a press release. "This beloved

tradition brings people together through music, community and faith and showcases the pride we take in celebrating the many cultures and communities that call Boston home."

Galberth will be joined by a lineup of talented performers including the Community Choir, City Praise Team, Jesus Gang The Family, Alexis Benoit, Angela Elizabeth, Pastor Jeremy D. Battle, and the Boston Latin School Gospel Choir. The Community Choir features participation from more than 85 members representing nearly 40 churches across the city and region.

"This Summer proves what's

possible when Boston comes together," added Donald Wright, Interim Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Gospel Fest is a joyful reminder that our City's greatest success is found in its people."

The event will feature food vendors, including Cool Shade Jamaican Food Truck, Gourmet Fingerz Southern Cuisine, Chivo Taqueria and delicious cookies from Boston Cookie Kitchen. All attendees should bring their own chairs to this event.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/calendar/26th-annual-boston-gospel-fest> for more information.

BHCA (from Page 1)

Save the Dates

Dinner Under the Stars - Saturday, September 26th, 6-9pm, flat of Mount Vernon Street

Fall HillFest - Sunday, September 27th, 12-4pm, flat of

Mount Vernon Street

First Friday Coffee Hour - Friday, October 2nd, 8:30am, 74 Joy St with special guest Mary Ann Ponti, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement at

St. Anthony Shrine

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website www.bhcivic.org or call the office (617-227-1922) for more information on any of these meetings or events.

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CALL 781-485-0588

HERD OF ELEPHANTS INVADE COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

One hundred life-sized elephant sculptures popped up Thursday, Aug. 6, between Dartmouth and Fairfield streets on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

The art installation, sponsored by The ‘Quin House, is part of ‘The Great Elephant Migration,’ which, since its 2024 inception, has visited various locations around the U.S., making previous stops in Newport R.I., and New York City, among other locations. (Future planned stops include Las Vegas, Nev; Washington, D.C.; and Rome, Italy.)

The project aims to raise money and awareness for coexistence between humana and wildlife, while also repurposing a plant that has displaced wildlife in India’s forests.

The herd of elephants, which appear to be heading east towards the Boston Common, were, according to WBUR, handcrafted “from a repurposed invasive plant called Lantana camara by Indigenous artisans from the Nilgiri Hills in Southern India. Each sculpture takes three to four months to complete and is inspired by a real-life elephant that lives in the region.”

The exhibit will remain on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall through Sept. 13.



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D. MURPHY PHOTOS



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Mayor Wu announces City Of Boston to host second-ever National Urban Rat Summit

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced that the City of Boston will host the second-ever National Urban Rat Summit this fall, from September 23 to 24. The two-day summit will bring together leading experts, academics, researchers, public health professionals, and municipal officials from across the country and the world to advance urban rodent mitigation solutions.

“Boston is a home for everyone—except rats. We’re proud to host the second-ever National Urban Rat Summit this September, where we will share our progress, hear directly from residents, and learn from other cities,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Since we launched the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP) in 2024, our rodent control team has been deploying new technologies to target rodent activity, better coordination of City services based on data and analytics, and tailored strategies to eliminate rodent populations in different areas. We look forward to bringing cities together to burrow under barriers, gnaw through nagging issues, and scurry toward solutions for the highest quality of life for our human residents.”

The summit will focus on practical, evidence-based approaches to one of the most persistent challenges facing cities: managing and reducing

rodent populations. Guided by the annual theme of innovation, collaboration, and data-driven action, the event will help cities exchange best practices and continue developing strategies that improve resident’s quality of life.

“The upcoming Rat Summit is an important opportunity to bring together experts, municipal leaders, researchers to exchange ideas and strengthen our collective approach to rodent management,” said John Ulrich, Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Services, Inspectional Services Department (ISD). “Rodent activity is a challenge that extends beyond city boundaries, making collaboration and the sharing of proven strategies essential. By learning from one another and building on successful practices, we can continue developing innovative, coordinated solutions that improve public health, enhance neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for residents in Boston and communities across the region.”

“Under Mayor Wu’s leadership, Boston launched the Boston Rodent Action Plan in 2024 to manage and reduce our rat population through improved

coordination, data collection, community engagement and innovation,” said Dion Irish, Chief of Operations. This initiative has made significant progress by piloting innovative tools and technologies, improving systems that influence rodent populations, and collaborating with many city departments to help tackle this challenge. We’re excited to host the second National

Rodent Summit to continue to learn new strategies and share our progress.”

“Boston is proud to host the second National Rat Summit, bringing together experts to share strategies and advance the science of urban rodent control,” said Tania Del Rio, Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department. “Boston has emerged as a leader in developing practical, evidence based strategies to reduce rodent populations in dense urban neighborhoods. The Summit reflects our commitment to learning from others while sharing what’s working in Boston.”

Boston hosting the second National Urban Rat Summit reflects the City’s emergence as a national leader in urban rodent mitigation through the Boston

Rodent Action Plan (BRAP). Launched by Mayor Michelle Wu, BRAP is a coordinated, cross-departmental initiative that brings together more than 20 City departments, agencies, and external partners to address one of Boston’s most persistent urban challenges.

The summit will also showcase the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), which has transformed how Boston manages rodent activity. Since its launch, BRAP has:

- Quarterly meetings with City departments and partner agencies to coordinate on rodent mitigation and build a City wide integrated pest management system
- Piloted innovative technologies, including sewer and surface traps in partnership with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and Boston Housing Authority
- Expanded integrated pest management practices while reducing reliance on traditional rodenticides.
- Improved inspection, enforcement, sanitation, and construction coordination to address the root causes of rodent activity.
- Installed rodent-resistant trash receptacles and advanced public education on proper waste storage and disposal.
- Used data, mapping, and analytics to prioritize interventions and measure outcomes across neighborhoods.
- Strengthened partnerships with residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations to support long-term rodent prevention.

“Through the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), we are focused on improving quality of life for all residents by reducing rodent activity and addressing the factors that contribute to it, including how we manage waste, keep public spaces clean, and limit access to food sources,” said Mike Brohel, Superintendent of Basic City Services. “The 2026 National Rodent Summit

builds on this work by creating a space for cities and partners to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen collaborative approaches.”

“The Boston Housing Authority is proud to be a part of the multiagency effort to reduce rodent activity and improve public health and quality of life city-wide,” said Kenzie Bok, Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. “In our work under the Boston Rodent Action Plan, the Boston Housing Authority has transformed our rodent control protocols and technologies, creating dedicated teams that have reduced rat burrows and colonies at a rapid pace. The Boston Rodent Action Plan has brought together experts across our city, and we’re excited to share what works in Boston with partners nationwide.”

“Boston’s parks are where residents gather to play, build community, connect with nature, and keeping them clean and welcoming requires thoughtful stewardship and innovative solutions,” said Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Deputy Chief of Open Space. “From proactive maintenance and landscape management to installing new rodent-resistant trash receptacles, the Parks and Recreation Department is helping reduce rodent activity in our public spaces. We encourage residents to join us in caring for our parks by properly disposing of trash and cleaning up after their pets. Through the Boston Rodent Action Plan, we’re proud to work alongside our City partners to share what’s working in Boston while learning new strategies to create cleaner, healthier parks and neighborhoods.”

“We’re excited to welcome leaders from across the country and around the world to address one of the biggest challenges facing cities today,” said Dennis Roache, Superintendent of

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Council recognizes community resources supporting health and well-being across Boston

Special to the Times

Strong communities are built through access to resources that support residents' health, connection, and quality of life. During this week's Council meeting, the Council adopted resolutions recognizing National Farmers Market Week and National Health Center Week, honoring the organizations, workers, and community partners who help support residents across Boston.

The Council recognized National Farmers Market Week, celebrated annually during the first week of August, and highlighted the role farmers markets

play in supporting local agriculture, expanding access to fresh food, and strengthening community connections. The resolution recognized Boston farmers markets across the city for providing welcoming spaces where residents can gather while supporting local farmers and producers. It also highlighted the importance of programs such as SNAP and the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) in helping make fresh, local produce more accessible to residents.

The Council also recognized National Health Center Week, observed August 2 through August 8, 2026, and honored

Boston's community health centers for providing accessible, neighborhood-based care to residents. The resolution highlighted the wide range of services offered by community health centers, including primary care, behavioral health services, dental care, preventive care, substance use treatment, pharmacy services, nutrition assistance, and connections to other support services.

Together, these resolutions recognize the important role that community-based organizations and services play in supporting healthy, connected, and thriving neighborhoods throughout Boston.

Long-term left-lane closure on Bowker Viaduct plan

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing a long-term left lane closure on the Bowker Viaduct in the northbound direction between the Boylston Street intersection and Storrow Drive in Boston. This closure will begin on Monday morning, August 17, and is necessary to support ongoing construction activity related to the Bowker Overpass Replacement Project. This closure is anticipated to remain in place until the end of this year.

Vehicular barriers and a fixed work zone will be installed along Bowker Viaduct northbound, towards Storrow Drive, begin-

ning Sunday night, August 16. Vehicular barriers will also be installed along the left side of Bowker Viaduct southbound. The vehicular barriers will be along the left travel lane southbound towards the Boylston Street intersection, and will not reduce the number of available travel lanes in the southbound direction.

Lane closures will be clearly marked with appropriate signage and traffic control devices.

This work is being conducted as part of an \$84 million project to replace the Bowker Overpass bridge over I-90 in Boston.

Appropriate signage and law enforcement details will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions
- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real time traffic conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on X (formerly known as Twitter) to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

OBITUARIES

Philip Short

Widely known as the leader of the infamous "Stoop Group" at 60 Pinckney Street

Philip Short, a much-loved and respected resident of upper Pinckney Street on Beacon Hill died July 14, 2026 at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Phil was born and raised in Greenfield, Mass. and graduated from Greenfield High School in 1972. Following high school, he attended Greenfield Community College and later Boston Architectural College.

In his younger years, he studied ballet but decided that this was probably not his best career choice. It did however lead to a lifelong love of Ballet.

Phil developed skills in carpentry as a builder with Deckhouse where he gained the knowledge and ability to take on almost any form of building maintenance and repair.

This put him in a good position to deal with the antique housing stock on Beacon Hill. He was known to say, "On Beacon Hill everything is half a bubble off."

If he did not know how to "do it," he knew the right person to recommend.

Phil enjoyed travel and in his younger years he traveled to Africa, Thailand and England and always retained fond memories of these trips.

In later years, his travel was more local with frequent visits to New York City and a fondness for Key West in Florida.

Phil was a very caring and helpful person and provided assistance to many including his aunt, Betsy Wing.

Phil was widely known as the leader of the infamous "Stoop Group" a group of neighbors and friends who gather on the Stoop at 60 Pinckney, often sev-



eral times a day but especially around 4 p.m. Phil once said of the Stoop Group, "We do not gossip, we take in information and we dispense information as needed."

Phil will be greatly missed by his many friends and customers.

Phil is survived by his sisters, Lynda Short of Montrose, Colorado and Deborah Short of Erie, Colorado, his brother, Kenneth Short and his wife, Joyce of Northfield, Massachusetts and his Aunt Betsy Wing of Woodstock, Vermont.

Phil visited the Public Garden most mornings to enjoy a Frappuccino from the local Starbucks. A memorial plaque for one of the benches he favored is planned in his honor. Contributions may be made by VENMO (Curtis-Phelps-16) or by check to Curtis Phelps through the mail slot at 60 Pinckney.

Any surplus funds will be donated to the Friends of the Public Garden in his memory.

A Memorial Service is planned for Friday, September 18, 2026 at 11 a.m. at the Kings Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston.

All are welcome to attend.

To place a memoriam
in the Beacon Hill Times,
please call 781-485-0588



New England Aquarium applauds Boston flood protection plan

Special to the Times

Given its location on Boston’s waterfront, the New England Aquarium is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, experiencing flooding during storm surges, king tides, and other extreme weather. Since 2019, the Aquarium has been among those leading the conversation about sea level rise and the importance of coastal preparedness, advocating for a comprehensive resiliency plan for Boston and championing a downtown waterfront for all—one that is resilient, accessible, and inclusive. The Aquarium is a member of A Better City, Boston Waterfront Partners, the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront (founding partner), the Green Ribbon Commission, and the Wharf District



New England Aquarium.

PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA KAHN

Council—all entities invested in advancing this vision. For the last two years, the Aquarium has engaged with the City of Boston and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as they con-

ducted the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study for the City of Boston. In response to the release of the full Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic

Environmental Assessment, the New England Aquarium is sharing the below statement from President and CEO Vikki N. Spruill. “The New England Aquarium applauds the City of Boston and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, whose Draft Integrated Feasibility Report would protect lives and billions of dollars in public and private assets along the waterfront and inland from future coastal flood events and sea level rise, while paving the way for an accessible, resilient, and inclusive waterfront for all. The proposed comprehensive system plan is a necessary and wise investment in Boston’s future, created through a process that provides a pathway to feder-

al investment. Now, Boston has the ability and the opportunity to demonstrate what is possible when public leadership, private investment, scientific expertise, and civic ambition come together around the common goal of making our great city a global model for coastal resilience.” The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.



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SUMMIT (from Page 6)

the Waste Reduction Division. “Tackling rodent challenges requires collaboration, sharing what we’ve learned, and developing solutions that make a real difference for residents. This summit is an opportunity to learn from one another and advance strategies that help create cleaner, healthier communities.”

“Boston Water and Sewer Commission is proud to partner with the City of Boston and other stakeholders on an innovative pilot program to address rodent activity through improvements to our sewer infrastructure. By testing new sewer trap and monitoring technologies, we are taking a proactive, data-driven approach to better understand and reduce rodent

movement within the sewer system,” said Chase Berkeley, Chief of Operations at Boston Water and Sewer Commission. “This collaborative effort reflects our commitment to protecting public health, enhancing the reliability of our infrastructure, and supporting cleaner, healthier neighborhoods for Boston residents and businesses.”

As cities across the country look for more effective and sustainable approaches to rodent mitigation, Boston is proud to host the National Urban Rat Summit as a forum to share lessons learned, evaluate emerging research, compare innovative technologies, and strengthen partnerships that will help cities reduce rodent populations and improve quality of life for resi-

dents.

“Significant advances have been made in both the science and the practice of controlling rats in modern cities over the past several years. The 2nd National Urban Rat Summit of 2026 hosted by the City of Boston brings together the essential collaborations of rodent scientists, municipality specialists and local governments involved in urban rat management programs,” said Bobby Corrigan, Ph.D. Urban Rodentologist. 2026 National Urban Rat Summit Planning Committee Member. “The goal of the summit is to bring the perspectives of national and international minds to share collective findings, new technologies, and innovations in city operations that promises col-

laborative cutting-edge updates towards the centuries-old challenge of controlling urban rats.”

“Rats have increasingly become a plague on cities nearly everywhere,” said Dr. Richard Pollack, Ph.D. Parasitology and 2026 National Urban Rat Summit Planning Committee Member. “Rat-centric municipal planners, regulators, practitioners, and academics will assemble in Boston for the second ever National Rat Summit to share experiences, scrutinize new research findings, and compare strategies aimed to protect the health of the public and the integrity of buildings and infrastructure.”

“The National Urban Rat Summit is a unique opportunity to convene the relatively small

group of rodent experts that deal with rats at the municipal level,” said Dr. Matthew Frye, Professor at Cornell University. “The second of its kind, the Boston Summit will showcase innovative, practical strategies that city leaders and practitioners can take home and put into action immediately. Over two days, academics, industry leaders, and government professionals will exchange ideas, share lessons learned, and explore emerging approaches to rat mitigation, while building the relationships and partnerships that strengthen our collective ability to create healthier, more resilient cities.”



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Readers:**

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DA Hayden's annual Basketball for Peace tournament welcomed record amount of participants

Special to the Times

This year's Basketball for Peace event drew a record 150 teens for a day of friendly hoops competition, marking the highest participation in the program's history, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

The event received support from organizations such as New Balance, UMass Boston, the Boston Celtics, Target and Chess for Peace. In addition to playing amongst their peers, participants played against members of the Boston Police Department, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, and Target's Asset Protection team, fostering positive connections through friendly competition.

Halfway through the event, District Attorney Kevin Hayden presented numerous awards to recognize the incredible community surrounding it. Hayden recognized Joe Janezic, chief of the Crime Strategies Bureau in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office, Steph Lewis, President and CEO of The B.A.S.E., Lisa Warshafsky, principal at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy at the Lower Mills Campus, Wayne Selden Jr., former NBA player and community leader, and Kayla Burton, broadcaster and host at NBC Sports Boston.

Anthony Richards Sr. received the District Attorney's Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding impact through his program No Books No Ball, an organization driven toward helping young people succeed with a combined focus on education and athletics.

Before accepting his award, Richards addressed the youth reminding them that "half of this journey is respect and letting someone occupy space where you may walk into one day." He went on to say, "you have to put the brakes on sometimes and listen because you'll learn a

lot more."

Chris and Katani Sumner received the Alfreda Harris Exceptional Community Service Award in recognition of their lifetime of leadership and unwavering commitment to the community. Through their dedication to education and mentorship, Chris and Katani have shaped the lives of countless young people and inspired generations of students.

Chris Sumner passed away earlier this month, making the recognition a poignant tribute to his enduring legacy of service and leadership. Before presenting the award named after her, Alfreda Harris described the day as being "bittersweet" because she had known Chris since he was an eight-year-old boy who attended the Shelburne Center.

Katani Sumner and the couple's daughter, Candance Sumner, President and CEO of METCO, accepted the award on behalf of the family. Katani told the youth that "you don't have to just be an athlete, you can be a scholar athlete so you can go on and do great things."

Hayden followed these awards with remarks about making smart choices and giving back to the community before it was time to play more basketball.

The next annual event hosted by the office will be DA Hayden's Soccer for Peace Tournament on August 12 at the Pope John Paul Park in Dorchester.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. Our office handles more than 20,000 cases a year. Nearly 160 assistant district attorneys practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court,



DA Kevin Hayden with youth from The BASE.



DA Hayden with Alfreda Harris & Katani and Candance Sumner.

the Boston and Chelsea Juvenile Courts and the Supreme Judicial Court. Our office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs for anyone encountering the criminal justice system. We

are committed to educating the public about our mission and services while focusing on crime prevention to keep the residents, workers and visitors of Suffolk County safe.



DA Hayden with Anthony Richards Sr., who received the District Attorney's Lifetime Achievement Award

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold a public hearing on August 20 at 5 p.m.

ZOOM: [HTTPS://WWW.ZOOMGOV.COM/J/1655520374](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1655520374)

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 616 of the Acts of 1955 of the Massachusetts General Law as amended. Applications are available by request. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

ATTENTION: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our Zoom Link or calling 1 (929) 205-6099 and entering meeting id # 165 552 0374. You can also submit written comments or questions to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov.

I. Ratification Of July 16, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes

II. Design Review Hearing

APP # 27.0016 BH 115 Charles Street

Applicant: Maria Stolt

Proposed Work: Install new blade sign.

APP # 27.0088 BH 107 Charles Street

Applicant: Patrick Mahoney

Proposed Work: Cover line-sets in order to be less visible from Cedar Lane Way.

APP # 27.0090 BH 109 Charles Street

Applicant: Patrick Mahoney

Proposed Work: Create screen to shield HVAC equipment at rear of the property.

III. Administrative Review/Approval: In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact on a building's appearance, to commission staff pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

Applicants whose projects are listed under this heading NEED NOT APPEAR at the hearing. Following the hearing, you will be issued a Determination Sheet to present at the Inspectional Services Department (1010 Massachusetts Avenue) as proof of project approval when applying for permits. ISD personnel will send an electronic copy of your building-permit application to the commission staff for review. (To avoid potential confusion, the text of your building-permit application should be consistent with the project description given below.) Commission staff will accordingly authorize the execution of the work, attaching any applicable provisos, reflecting the relevant guidelines and precedents.

Please Note That Following Issuance Of An Approval Letter By Email No Further Correspondence Will Be Issued For The Applications Listed Below. The electronic building-permit application as annotated by commission staff will constitute your Certificate of Appropriateness; this will be valid for two years from the date of the approval letter. The applicant is required

to notify the commission of any project changes; failure to do so may affect the status of the approval. If you have any questions not addressed by the above information, please contact staff at 617.635.1935 or BeaconHillAC@boston.gov Thank you.

APP # 26.1146 BH 37 Beacon Street: 100% cut and point of the Walnut Street elevation; repair cast stone; replace broken bricks; paint window perimeter trim.

APP # 27.0022 BH 48 Beacon Street: Remove seven existing 1-over-1 wood windows. Replace with seven 1-over-1 wood windows, single-hung, exterior painted black, with no visible jamb liners.

APP # 27.0075 BH 87 Beacon Street: Replace one non-original 1-over-1 double-sash set at the rear elevation, visible from Brimmer Street. Replace with wood, double-hung sash sets using clear glass, glazed at the exterior, and painted semi-gloss black

to match the existing exterior. The existing exterior aluminum storm window is to be removed. The existing jamb, brick moldings, and wood sill will remain and be painted semi-gloss black.

APP # 27.0027 BH 95 Beacon Street: Remove the non-historic spiral staircase. The staircase will not be replaced at this time.

APP # 26.1117 BH 27 Bowdoin Street: At the front facade, restore brownstone in kind. Color and profile to match the historic profile and color.

APP # 27.0035 BH 55 Mount Vernon Street: A three-foot length of cornice on the northwest side of the Nichols House, just before the intersection with the cornice at 57 Mt. Vernon Street, will be replaced in kind due to rot. The replacement will include a section of cove molding, fascia, and soffit. A small section of flashing will also be replaced in kind. The area will be repainted to match the existing trim color.

APP # 26.0510 BH 41 Phillips Street #18: Replace 12 non-historic sash sets, keeping the existing jambs. All windows are located at the top floor at the Phillips Street, Anderson Street, and rear courtyard elevations. The replacement windows will include ten 6-over-6 and two 4-over-4 windows, all wood, true divided light, glazed at the exterior, and painted to match the existing semi-gloss black. All new windows will be double-hung and use clear glass. The muntin design will have a 13/16-inch interior profile width.

APP # 26.1126 BH 25 Revere Street: Replace thirteen non-historic 1-over-1 wood windows with no low-E glass, in kind.

APP # 26.1144 BH 52 West Cedar Street: Replace new copper gutters in kind.

III. Annual Vote For Chair And Vice Chair

IV. Staff Updates

V. Projected Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.



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Planning
Department

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

MADONNA DELLA CAVA FEAST

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Madonna Della Cava Feast celebrated is 106th year of bringing the tradition of faith and celebration from Pietraperzia Sicily to the New World of the Boston. It is one of the many Feasts and neighborhood festivals of the North End which are open to all.



Tony Guerra eats cherrystone at the seafood booth of Anthony “The Captain” Fallano.



Hanover Street is transformed into a neighborhood party for the Madonna Della Cava Feast.



Angelina and The Unit preform on the Hanover Street stage.



Angelina and The Unit preform on the Hanover Street stage.



A bachelorette party celebrates together at one of the beer gardens at the Feast.



Visitors arrive at the Madonna Della Cava Feast on Hanover Street.



Matthew Doyle with Wicked Dick Tease has a t-shirt with a cheeky, Boston-based message of humor for everyone.



David Rao offers visitors done of his homemade fudge at his Chocolate Moonshine booth.



Members of the Madonna Della Cava Society toast “Viva Madonna”!

MADONNA DELLA CAVA FEAST

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Visitors come to pay their respects at the Madonna Della Cava Shrine on Battery Street.



Members of the Madonna Della Cava Society in front of the Banner of Madonna. The current one will be retired next year after the new one arrives from Italy after it is blessed by the Pope.



Longtime member of the Madonna Della Cava Society John Micciche (seated) with his family in front of the Banner of Madonna. The Society uses a banner of the Madonna rather than a statue as the latter could fall and break.



Workers at the seafood stall of Anthony "The Captain" Fallano serve up fresh cherrystones as well as fried shrimp and calamari.



A young couple show off their hard-won prizes at the carnival games on Hanover Street.



The lights of the Madonna Della Cava Feast light up the night on Hanover Street.



Rob with No Country For Beardless offers products for men looking to put their best beard forward.



Pete and Matt with Tony And Elaine's serve up meatballs from the famed North End establishment on North Washington Street.



Brooke and John show off their unicorn won at one of the game stalls on Hanover Street.



Nick Buccellato Jr puts a freshly prepared pie in the traveling wood oven of PieSons Pizza. They're at all of the Feasts in the North End this month.



The Madonna Della Cava Society Clubhouse is open to age appropriate visitors to enjoy age appropriate beverages.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Jessie A Silk Ret	Ali, Ann	110 Stuart St #21A	\$900,000
Beshar, Henry	Srs Properties LLC	167 Marlborough St #5	\$2,625,000
Morrissey, Kyle A	Szczurowski, Andrew	193 Beacon St #4	\$2,750,000
Canh LLC	Igras-Mckeeton Ft	281 Newbury St	\$6,100,000
Tenants Development Corp	Youth Enrichment Svcs In	412 Massachusetts Ave	\$3,131,000
Kaplan, Clare	Lewis Jr, George	413-415 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$2,900,000
Zadeh, Hanieh A	Melissa H Jouce Ret	425 S Huntington Ave #8	\$505,000
Summer 03 LLC	Adkisson, Gregory H	534 Beacon St #404	\$435,000
Burris, Briana J	Holman, Jeremy J	691 Massachusetts Ave #602	\$1,599,000
884 Huntington Ave LLC	884 Huntington Rt	884 Huntington Ave	\$1,825,000
BEACON HILL			
Nguyen, Nam H	14 Lindall Pl LLC	14 Lindall Pl	\$2,495,000
Lilley Ft	El-Youssef, Leila	41 Chestnut St	\$5,600,000
Chang, Warren H	Burak, Ahmet	45 Province St #1903	\$1,194,000
Resnick Rt	Burrell, Katherine	580 Washington St #Ph3	\$2,150,000
Kurth, Karl	Mete & Nilgun Turan Ft	21 Beacon St #7M	\$525,000
Beacon Hill Re Hldg LLC	Sailor 46 LLC	46 Beacon St #Ph8	\$18,000,000
Getts, Nicole	Tsipis, Yanni	48 Beacon St #9F	\$1,075,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Putnam, Daniel	Berman, Matthew	1 Sylvia St #3	\$860,000
Spillane, Michael	Lioba Nt	10 Rows Wharf #802	\$3,345,000
Vincent B Camacho li Ret	Savi-Ambroseno Ft	2 Avery St #PH1H	\$2,150,000
Kravitz, David	Lawman, Kelly A	299 Pond St	\$1,710,000
Leala LLC	Gallo, Matteo G	343 Commercial St #7	\$4,000,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Christopher Remmes Lt	Rohatgi, Sanjay	1597 Washington St #512	\$1,065,000
Mah, Helen Mei To	Freeman, Anna J	100 Shawmut Ave #309	\$1,480,000
Koller, Julia E	Boris Glazman Ret 2024	15 Upton St #5	\$1,450,000
Bilak, Jennifer	Goodrich, Cynthia L	324 Shawmut Ave #2	\$820,000
Ganguli, Kriston	Wang, Yifan	451 Park Dr #3A	\$749,000
Zhung, Megying	Schwarz, Irina	188 Brookline Ave #19B	\$2,050,000
Han, Ruixin	Xiang, Meiyong	188 Brookline Ave #23B	\$2,100,000
McLaughlin2019 Lt	Diane W Elliott 2022 Ret	2 Haven St	\$2,925,000
Shukair T	James R Moore Ret	21 E Concord St	\$2,495,000
Traubert, Samuel G	Ning, Boting	21 Father Francis Gilday St #110	\$950,000
Forbes, Tyler L	Iaquinto, Christopher	37 Appleton St #1	\$1,260,000
Johnson, Tracey A	Comerchero, Elijah	476 Shawmut Ave #4	\$974,500
Lavoie, Justin	William & L S Chena Ret	48 Dwight St #5	\$849,000
Gera, Nimish	Maron, Jonathan T	65 Rutland St #3	\$1,770,000
Camacho, Monica V	Rigoff, Glenn	69 Park Dr #4	\$355,000
Mitchell, Gregory	Rosen, Kimberly M	7 Dwight St #3	\$985,000
Aubuchon, Chloe D	Ansini, Gregory Ryan	7 Upton St #1	\$1,850,000
Michael, Romeo	Lyons, Paul J	8 Newcomb St #4	\$1,110,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The walls in the last clue are on Branch Street near Charles. Today's answer from the Boston Public Library is titled, "From a pencil drawing by Alfred Shaw; Published 1921 by Foster Brothers, Boston, Mass., U. S. A."

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



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Digging Deeper

Archaeological report reveals extent of historic Bunker Hill finds

Special to the Times

Months after ground-penetrating radar and historic 1775 maps first pointed to potential buried history at the Bunker Hill Monument, those high-tech clues have resulted in tangible discoveries right beneath our feet. Back in June, the Charlestown Patriot Bridge reported on the initial stages of this groundbreaking archaeological effort to map out the battle's original footprint.

Now, the City of Boston Archaeology Program has released the highly anticipated findings from its summer excavations. Moving beyond preliminary X-ray scans, archaeologists successfully unearthed sections of the original earthen redoubt dug by Provincial soldiers, along with musket balls, gunflints, and everyday artifacts left behind during the subsequent British occupation. The city's full report detailing the historic finds is below.

Working in collaboration with the Northeast Archeological Resources Program (NARP), American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR), Bob Chartrand from Chartrand Geoarchaeological Solutions, LLC, Joel Bohy, the Legacy Fund for Boston, the Charlestown Impact Fund, Friends of Boston Archaeology, the National Parks of Boston, and the Boston National Historical Park, archaeologists conducted excavations on the monument's southwest and northwest quadrants as part of an ongoing attempt to better understand the Battle of Bunker Hill and the people whose lives were changed by it.

This year (2026) marks the 251st anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Following the Battles of Lexington and Concord, approximately 1,200 colo-

nial militiamen worked through the night of June 16, 1775, constructing a hastily-built earthen fortification, known as a redoubt, across the Charles River from Boston proper. Although the Americans were forced to retreat in the end, the battle proved that these colonial townsfolk, including farmers, blacksmiths, hatmakers, and candlemakers, could stand against one of the world's most powerful armies.

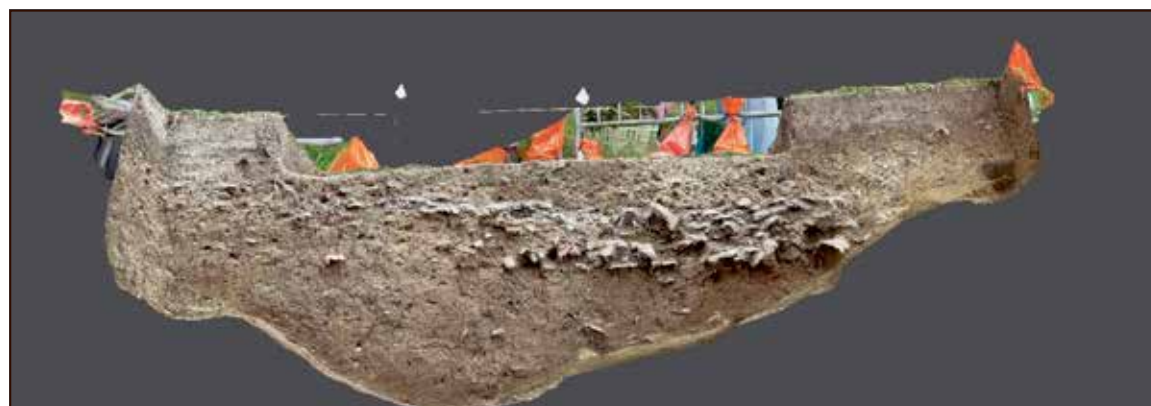
This excavation is part of a larger initiative to bring new information about both the battle and Charlestown's residents to the public. Better quality ground-penetrating radar results, paired with the larger 250th anniversary of the nation, have presented an opportunity to reexamine this historical landscape and test lore and theories about the battlefield.

Charlestown's Fire Claims

Last fall (2025), the archaeology team completed the transcription of all 586 surviving fire claims submitted by Charlestown residents after the town was burned during the Battle of Bunker Hill. These records document the homes, businesses, and personal belongings lost in the fire. The collection includes stories of free Black residents, artisans, tavern keepers, and ordinary families whose lives were altered by the events of June 17, 1775. Despite decades of petitions, Charlestown's residents were never compensated for their losses.

The Redoubt

This season, archaeologists excavated two trenches in search of physical evidence of the redoubt. In June 1775, American soldiers dug a ditch and piled the excavated soil inside to create earthen walls (or a parapet)



North Wall Profile of Trench 1 showing a cross-section of the ditch dug by provincial troops on June 16, 1775.

roughly six feet high that would serve as high ground against the advancing British army.

Using ground-penetrating radar to guide our excavation's locations, the team identified part of the defensive ditch, approximately three feet deep and six feet wide. The evidence suggests the western side of the redoubt may have projected or angled outward, potentially matching a map created shortly after the battle by Henry Pelham, which shows a roughly 150-foot-square fort with angled extensions.

Material Culture

The excavation recovered evidence from both the battle itself and the nine-month British occupation of the fort that followed.

Among the discoveries were seven musket balls and three



Photograph of a British Caliber Musket Ball with Compression Banding.

gunflints. Analysis of the musket balls shows that both Provincial and British ammunition is represented in the finds. Additionally, one of the musket balls (of British caliber) exhibits both a ram rod strike (a flat, circular impression to one side of the ball) as well as compression banding (a band around the ball from where it has scraped the barrel of the musket upon firing).

The team also uncovered other artifacts likely associated with the British occupation of the site after the battle, including tea wares, tobacco pipes, wig curlers, sleeve buttons, and other personal items. These finds remind us that even after the fighting ended, British soldiers lived within the fortifications for months between June 17, 1775 and Evacuation Day on March 17, 1776.

Throughout the excavation, a forensic osteologist remained on site in the event that human remains were encountered.

Although no remains were discovered, archaeology reminds us that battles are about more than just troop movements and maps; they are stories of real people whose lives were changed by war and conflict.

most often is whether the battle actually took place on Breed's Hill or Bunker's Hill.

The answer is both. While today the two hills are referred to separately, people living in Charlestown in 1775 generally referred to the entire area as "Bunker's Hill." Contemporary documents, including a fire claim submitted by Samuel Swan, who owned the pasture where much of the battle occurred, use this name. The term "Breed's Hill" does not appear in deeds until around 1790, making the name "the Battle of Bunker Hill" historically accurate.

What now?

Although fieldwork has concluded, the archaeology is far from over. All of the artifacts recovered this season are now being washed, identified, catalogued, and analyzed in the team's laboratory in West Roxbury before being curated for future research. The results of this work will be documented in a written report to help guide future archaeological investigations and for interpretation of the site by researchers, historians, interpreters, etc.

This article was prepared by Lauryn Sharp, Project Archaeologist.

Breed's Hill or Bunker's Hill?
One of the questions we hear

FRESH AND LOCAL

Salads score despite recalls

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This is a great time of year to add salads to your menu. However, with the recent recalls of lettuce, some of you might be dodging this option. Let us remind you that there are salads from all over the world that never come close to lettuce or other greens.

So step away from those wiltable side salads and skip the salad green mixed bag. Now is your opportunity to explore salads that can be made in large batches, enjoyed for more than one meal, plus do a better job of supplying a wide range of nutrients.

Seasonal Produce in the Spotlight

With local tomatoes at their best right now, you can start by making a vinaigrette and pouring it over a mixture of tomatoes with a few of your favorite tomato companions. For a traditional

Greek salad, add cucumber and feta cheese. For a Middle Eastern version, make a chunky chop of tomato, cucumber, kalamata olives, and feta crumbles.

Another great base for a leafless salad is beets. These earthy roots can stand up to strong flavors like onion and goat cheese. For a snack or a quick supper, we often arrange a selection of sliced vegetables on a plate and dip them in hummus, cottage cheese, or any spread or dressing in the refrigerator.

For a heartier meal, head to the south of France for Salade Niçoise with tomatoes, hard-boiled eggs, Niçoise olives, tuna, and potatoes arranged on a plate and drizzled with dressing.

Start with Beans and Legumes

Beans and legumes are a perfect springboard for a salad that will improve over time. Our bean salad enthusiasm began

with Cowboy Caviar. Jeanine Donofrio of Love and Lemons explains.

“Cowboy caviar is a fresh black-eyed pea dip typically made with black beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, and a tangy vinaigrette dressing. Also called Texas caviar, it was developed by dietician Helen Corbitt in the 1940s, reflecting West African and Mexican influences.”

She may call it a dip, but we make a giant bowl of it and use it to spark up simple meals as a side dish, tucked into a sandwich (try falafel) or as a topping for tacos.

In his book, “Cool Beans,” food writer Joe Yonan has a diversity of intriguing salad and snack recipes that begin with beans. We plan to try his “Indian Chickpea and Fruit Salad” and “Three Bean Salad With Feta and Parsley.”

Add Grains

Today we speak of grain bowls, which to us are simply a salad with grain added or used as a base. The one we make most often is Tabbouli. This is another salad that can be made ahead



Our bean salad enthusiasm began with Cowboy Caviar.

and will work well in other ways. Our Tabbouli always has a bean or legume added to make a complete protein.

Of course, you can add more traditional proteins to any salad. It can be as simple as serving it with a piece of grilled meat or fish or adding a can of one of the delicious canned fish that are so available these days. We love the Fishwife brand smoked rainbow trout and often have it on top of or alongside a salad when we

haven't met our protein goal for the day.

Finally, for those of you who love your lettuce and want to buy it without fear, go to local producers. Join a CSA or attend a farmers market. Buy hydroponic lettuce and greens, or grow your own outdoors in a vertical planter or hydroponic indoor garden.

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

Massport to begin Phase 2 of runway safety work at Boston Logan Airport

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) will begin the second phase of critical runway safety improvements at Boston Logan later this month, with work expected to be completed before Thanksgiving. This phase continues the installation of the Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) at the end of Runway 27, building on work completed last fall. The project is an important investment in maintaining and enhancing the safety of Boston Logan's airfield. To accommodate construction, Runway 9-27 will be closed, with only very limited availability, for 75 days starting August 31.

The runway closure is nec-

essary to complete the project. During this period, Boston Logan will have reduced runway capacity. As a result, several surrounding communities will see an uptick in flight activity due to increased use of other runways. Travelers also may experience delays, particularly during periods of inclement weather, air traffic constraints, or other operational disruptions. Massport has coordinated the construction schedule closely with its airline partners and the FAA.

Residents of nearby communities may hear construction activity, including pile driving, during portions of the project. All construction work will take place during approved daytime hours. As part of the project, a deck supporting the EMAS will

be constructed partially over the water. This work does not extend the length of the runway.

EMAS is a critical safety feature at Boston Logan and other airports where space beyond the runway is limited due to nearby water or changes in terrain. The system is made of lightweight, crushable materials designed to safely stop an aircraft that overruns the runway. Given Boston Logan's unique geography, EMAS plays an especially important role in maintaining airfield safety. This technology is used at airports around the world and has successfully prevented numerous serious incidents. Boston Logan currently has two other EMAS installations in service, one at the end of Runway 22R and another at

the end of Runway 33L. Worcester Regional Airport also has an EMAS at each end of Runway 11-29.

Going Above and Beyond. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and oper-

ates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport. For more information, please visit massport.com.

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