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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

THERE ARE NO TIMES LIKE THESE TIMES

Upstairs Downstairs hosts 'An American Portrait' fundraising event

PHOTO COURTESY UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOME

Laura Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs; Kelley Leonhard, CEO of Boston History Company; and Rep. Jay Livingstone are seen left to right in rear, flanked by first through sixth graders from the Park Street School. The students serenaded those in attendance by singing 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' and also presented their artwork to both the State House and City Hall at this time.

By Times Staff

The antique and collectibles store Upstairs Downstairs on Charles Street hosted an art exhibition fundraiser to benefit Home Base, a locally headquartered veteran and family care healthcare services organization. The store was at capacity, with locally catered hors d'oeuvres and beverages and donated art for sale, as well as an opportunity to learn more about Home Base.

The beautifully framed art was donated by the artists and centered around Beacon Hill sites and historical homes, one of which pleasantly surprised attendees as being a painting of their home. One of the artists featured and in attendance was Nancy O'Hearn who, after retiring as a letter carrier for Beacon Hill often on Mount Vernon Street, has focused her time on rekindling a long time painting avocation.

See FUNDRAISING Page 4

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Charles Street Cleaning & Beautification Initiative

You will see new activity on Charles Street. The BHCA has partnered with Beacon Hill Property Management to clean Charles Street twice a week on trash days. This pilot project, led by BHCA Executive Director Patricia Tully and BHPM Director of Operations Mick Thompson, looks to help solve the continual mess of litter post trash pick-up and inspire residents and shopkeepers to get involved. BHPM is known to many area residents for their work, and their connection to Beacon Hill runs deep. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting initiative.

Block Captains

Our new team of over 40 Block Captains has been out and about cleaning up litter and

See BHCA Page 3

Harbor Towers cuts ribbon on $20M flood-barrier project

By Nicole Tobia

Mayor Michelle Wu joined residents of Harbor Towers Condominiums on Wednesday by cutting the ribbon on the downtown waterfront property's $20 million flood-resistance project that includes deployable barriers.

The ribbon-cutting was part of Deployables Day, a citywide gathering that highlights publicly and privately owned deployable flood barriers.

In recent years, the high-rise condominiums have experienced their share of damage because of flooding and severe storms. In 2018, floodwaters came within inches of the property, which prompted the condominium to act.

As concerns about rising tides have continued to grow, Harbor Towers decided to take the next step and install deployable flood barriers to protect the building's infrastructure.

"We have four of our largest and most impacted and important public spaces that have deployables in place and ready to go when the need is," Wu said. "And since we started the program, 11 private properties

See TOWERS Page 9

EDITORIAL

MAKE THE MOST OF THE LONG WEEKEND

The arrival of the long holiday weekend means that the fall season is squarely upon us, the time of year that has special meaning for all of us in New England.

With the weatherman (as of this writing) forecasting a near-perfect weekend weather-wise, we urge as many of our readers as possible to partake of the simple pleasure of getting outdoors to enjoy the crisp, clean air and the autumn colors before the colder temperatures arrive.

A nice hike, whether along the shore of the Cape, or in the Berkshires or the mountains of northern New England, or even as nearby as the Blue Hills in Milton, provides an opportunity to enjoy the natural world, far away from the noise of our daily lives, that will do wonders for our emotional and physical well-being.

One of our favorite things to do with our kids when they were young was to go apple-picking, which is in prime season at many farms that are a short drive from the city.

We've always viewed the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend as the last chance to take a mental and physical break ahead of the freneticism of the upcoming holiday season -- which will be here before we know it.

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Governor Healey announces new winter energy bill relief for Massachusetts families

Special to the Times

Governor Maura Healey announced new actions to help Massachusetts families lower their heating and electric bills this winter.

Governor Healey has declared a State of Energy Emergency and, through an Executive Order, is expanding eligibility for home heating assistance and removing charges from electric bills. This includes creating a new home heating assistance benefit for approximately 50,000 middle class households who rely on heating oil that previously did not qualify for existing assistance programs, as well as increasing heating assistance for approximately 156,000 low-income households as part of the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The Governor will also eliminate the SMART program charge on residential electric bills for three months and cut the Alternative Portfolio Standard by 50 percent this winter. Overall, this plan will lower energy bills for approximately 85 percent of ratepayers. More information can be found at mass.gov/heatinghelp.

Additionally, by declaring a State of Energy Emergency, Governor Healey is activating legal protections in Massachusetts against price gouging of petroleum products. Governor Healey is directing all responsible state agencies to monitor, investigate and enforce rules against price gouging or excessive or misleading prices for petroleum products.

Governor Healey also sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to provide an additional $3 billion in emergency funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), bringing the program to $7 billion.

"Families are seeing the impact of the war in Iran every time they fill up their gas tank, place an order for heating oil or open their electric bill. I'm declaring a State of Energy Emergency because in Massachusetts, we are going to use every tool we have to get people relief," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're delivering nearly $150 million in savings, including helping middle class families who didn't previously qualify for assistance and taking charges off of electric bills for households and businesses across Massachusetts. I'm also grateful for the strong partnership of Congressman Joe Kennedy and Citizens Energy to create the Winter Warmth Fund to deliver additional relief to families facing sky heating bills."

"Energy costs are putting real pressure on family budgets, and this plan gets relief directly to those who need it," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're helping middle class families heat their homes, increasing support for our lowest-income residents and taking charges off electric bills this winter. This is about meeting the moment and lowering costs for people across Massachusetts."

"For too many of our neighbors, an unexpected heating emergency can quickly become a crisis — forcing families to make impossible choices between keeping the heat on and putting food on the table or paying other essential bills," said former Congressman Joe Kennedy III, President of Citizens Energy.

"Every family deserves a warm and safe home, especially when winter arrives in Massachusetts. The Emergency Winter Warmth Fund is about making sure no one has to face that choice alone. By bringing together Citizens Energy, the Commonwealth, and partners across Massachusetts, we can help families through the moments when they need a helping hand most and make sure no one is left out in the cold."

The cost of heating oil is currently 70 percent higher this winter compared to this week last year and prices are likely to remain volatile. In Massachusetts, the average price of home heating oil reached $6.08 per

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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY
MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO
(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)
ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES
FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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PHONE: 781-485-0588 - FAX: 781-485-1403
EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM
WEB SITE: WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

Boston Public Market welcomes Boston's official pumpkin

Special to the Times

Boston Public Market will welcome Boston's Official Pumpkin on Tuesday, October 13, at 11 a.m., continuing a beloved fall tradition in downtown Boston. The giant pumpkin is grown by Art Kazenski and generously donated by Red Apple Farm, the Boston Public Market vendor based in Phillipston, Massachusetts. The arrival will build excitement for the Market's Annual Harvest Party Fundraiser on Thursday, October 22.

The public is invited to gather (free) at Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street, to watch the pumpkin arrive and celebrate the start of the fall harvest season.

Each fall, Red Apple Farm donates a giant pumpkin grown by Art Kazenski for the Boston Public Market's seasonal celebration. The arrival brings a piece of Massachusetts farm country into downtown Boston and has become a festive fall tradition for Market visitors and the wider community.

Boston Public Market's Annual Harvest Party Fundraiser takes place Thursday, October 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature unlimited tastings from Boston Public Market vendors, local beer, wine and spirits, live entertainment, and a silent auction.

The Harvest Party is the cornerstone fundraiser for the Boston Public Market Association, the nonprofit that develops and operates the Market. Proceeds support its work nurturing local food entrepreneurs, offering educational programming, expanding access to healthy food, and strengthening New England's food system.

Tickets are available at two price points: $250 and $500. Purchase tickets at bostonpublicmarket.org/harvestparty. Donations of any size would be appreciated and support can be shared here: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-our-market-on-a-mission.

The Public is Invited to Watch the Fall Tradition unfold Tuesday at 11 a.m. The Market's Harvest Party Fundraiser Follows October 22.

Neighborhood Roundup

WLP'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS OCT. 29 TO FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA

The Women's Lunch Place's annual Spaghetti Dinner takes place on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel.

WLP Advocate Bonnie Zamparelli will be the event's featured speaker.

Visit https://womenslunchplace.org/event/sponsors?utm_source=Women to purchase tickets or for more information on the event.

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 Beacon 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).

For more information, email Audrey Tedeman(artedeman@gmail.com) or Sandy Connor(ssconnor46@gmail.com).

VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

BHCA *(from Page 1)*

dog waste on Beacon Hill streets. You'll recognize them with their fluorescent BHCA vests. These volunteers are looking for other neighbors to join the effort, so reach out to the BHCA if you'd like to know who is in charge of your street to connect with them! You can also participate in our next Streets & Sidewalks meeting on October 6th to learn more about this program.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events:

Board of Directors – Tuesday, October 13th, 7pm, 74 Joy St.

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FUNDRAISING *(from Page 1)*

Home Base, founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation, provides both onsite and virtual clinical care and support services to veterans and their families across a broad set of needs. Ryan Casavant, Program Lead of Veteran Outreach and Peer Support, described not only the breadth of capabilities at Home Base, but his personal journey as a Marine with two combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq making him indelibly aware of the need for such veteran services. Home Bade addresses local veterans needs in Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona and Texas, but also provides virtual care globally. The organization provides clinical care, wellness and education, as well as research, regardless of era of service, discharge status or geographic location. The health issues from invisible wounds such as PTSD, TBI, anxiety, depression and substance abuse disorders are treated widely, coupled with offerings in the non-clinical areas of wellness, such as learning resiliency, living with the impact of trauma, health and fitness, and skillful parenting, among others.

The evening provided a rich blend of neighborhood sociability, enjoyment of local art and support of a worthwhile healthcare organization founded in our backyard. More information about Home Base can be found at www.homebase.org.

STAFF PHOTOS

Holding a painting of their house are from left Mary Grier; artist, Nancy O'Hearn and John Grier.

Shown from left are Geraldine O'Hagan of Rugg Road Paper Company, Kelley Leonhard and Keara Westover.

Ryan Casavant (far right) Program Lead of Veteran Outreach and Peer Support at HomeBase tells the attendees of the mission of the organization.

On hand at the event were from left Sarah Perry, Tony Kingsley, Sharon Duffield, Ryan Casavant, Griffin Fromm, Upstairs Downs owner Laura Cousineau and Rhianna Fromm from HomeBase.

Attendees at the event are shown above.

Officials, students join 'American Portrait' companion event

Upstairs Downstairs Home held its 250th American Anniversary event, 'An American Portrait,' with a fundraiser for veterans and their families, on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 69 Charles St.

For the event, participating artists, including Omar Arencibia, William Cloutman, Kevin Doyle, Marti Gearin Foley, Cate Hunter, Heather Kinney, Michael Lenihan, Talanoa Lesatele, TylerAnn Mack, Jennifer McCalmont, Nancy O'Hearn, Monica Pauli, and John Young, donated a total of 17 framed paintings. Their works capture some of the buildings and landscapes of Historic Beacon Hill.

Proceeds from the event benefited Home Base, a nonprofit charity founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Red Sox. Its mission is to heal the invisible wounds of war for veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and families of the fallen.

Rep. Jay Livingstone presented proprietor Laura Cousineau with a letter of congratulations from the House of Representatives recognizing Upstairs Downstairs for the 'An American Portrait' event, which he personally offered, along with another letter of congratulations on behalf of Gov. Maura Healey's office.

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who was also on hand for the occasion, presented Cousineau with an official resolution from the City Council in recognition of the event.

Students from the nearby Park Street School were in attendance as well, and on behalf of the students, Rep. Livingstone and Councilor Durkan accepted their artwork as gifts for the State House and City Hall, respectively.

Cobblestones, a Beacon Hill eatery located at 30 Charles St., generously catered the event.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOSTS 'AN AMERICAN PORTRAIT' FUNDRAISING EVENT

An attendee admires the artwork at the event.

COURTESY UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOME

Laura Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs (second from right), is seen with some of her team, including Robin, Piper, and Reggie.

COURTESY UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS HOME

Pictured, left to right, are: Bob Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs Home; Mark Duffield, the shop's marketing manager; Laura Cousineau, Upstairs Downstairs owner; and Kelley Leonhard, CEO of Boston History Company.

PHOTOS COURTESY BILL BRETT

Shown above with citations for Upstairs Downstairs are Representative Jay Livingston, City Councilor Sharon Durkan and Laura Cousineau.

Kelley Leonhard, CEO of Boston History Company, leads a discussion at the event on the historic homes of Beacon Hill.

MBTA continues to successfully advance Green Line modernization investments, makes significant improvements in Green Line reliability

Special to the Times

The MBTA announced the successful advancement of work on the Green Line, including critical work to replace and upgrade the 120-year-old signal system within the central tunnel and much more.

"The latest phase of work to replace our 120+-year-old signal system within the central Green Line tunnel is critical to building the modernized transit system that our riders deserve and can count on. Know that we maximized productivity by continuing to upgrade tracks, stations, and other essential components during the same track outage. It is vital that we build upon the momentum of previous phases of work, bringing us another step closer to ensuring we continue to deliver improved service today and in the future," said Interim Secretary of Transportation and MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "The new signals will provide the operational flexibility that is necessary to run a world-class system that Boston deserves, driving economic vitality and quality of life for all that we serve. This work enables us to deliver for our riders the new fleet of state-of-the-art Green Line Type 10 cars next year. Thank you to the public for their patience and allowing us to perform this vital work that has been so long-deferred. Under the Healey-Driscoll Administration and with the support of the Legislature, we are investing in the system which is an investment in the future of Massachusetts and the businesses and communities that we serve."

MBTA crew working on the Green Line.

Green Line Work Accomplished

This important work within the Green Line central tunnel was accomplished during nine consecutive days of 24/7 access to portions of the Green Line that ended yesterday, which allowed the MBTA to expedite the long-awaited upgrades in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

At over 100 years old, the MBTA's Green Line legacy signal system is as old as the tunnel itself – the old signals currently in use are the same signals that were used when the first electric trolleys in North America were put into service in the late 1800s. This signal system is ready to be replaced with the upgraded, modern technology of today.

The age of the MBTA's signals and the scale of replacing the entire system within the central tunnel makes the project significant, and previous administrations had deferred this work due to its challenging complexities. With a commitment to accomplishing long-awaited upgrades that riders deserve, the MBTA is no longer deferring these critical investments. It was determined that the best way to accomplish the Green Line's signal modernization on an accelerated timeline is the phased approach: several diversions in service in which the MBTA could maximize each outage by performing as much other piggybacking work as possible.

During these nine days of unencumbered access to the Green Line, work crews have continued to make progress on a variety of complicated activities in the tunnel, including extensive signal cable and infrastructure installations, messenger cable work, and complex work at electrical conduit crossings. Over 20 miles of new signaling cable were routed through newly installed signal equipment during this most recent service outage, totaling 40 miles of cable installed so far – the MBTA plans to route 72 miles of new cable in total. Approximately 75% of junction boxes, signal heads, and termination cases have been installed within the Green Line track area, including signal heads that will be activated during the commissioning and verification process at the end of the project. More than 85% of the project's 129 new signal junction boxes have been installed throughout the tunnel and near station platforms, replacing boxes dating back to the 1940s.

This construction work is part of the MBTA's phased approach to accomplishing signal upgrades in three major areas at Copley, Park Street, and Government Center, and builds upon previous work that has taken place this year. Within the Copley area, infrastructure installation and routing of the signal cable are 100% complete, and the installation of signal equipment within the track area is 95% complete. At Park Street, infrastructure installation is 98% complete, the installation of signal equipment within the track area and routing of signal cable are each 60% complete, and a new signal communications room serving the Park Street signal system is 25% complete with wiring and equipment installation underway. At Government Center, infrastructure installation is 95% complete, and the installation of signal equipment within the track area is 70% complete.

Following this work to install all of the signaling infrastructure, the testing and commissioning phase will begin, which is the thorough and exacting process of cutting over to the new system and verifying that the new system is functioning properly.

When the testing and commissioning phase is complete and the Green Line has fully transitioned to the new signals, the new system will provide the MBTA Operations team with improved train detection, better train congestion management, and more consistent train spacing, which provide the foundation for improved service frequency. These operational upgrades also mean more reliable service for riders with fewer unplanned disruptions and emergency repairs caused by the older, aging signal system.

Compatible with the upcoming fleet of new Type 10 Green Line cars, these signal upgrades also help prepare the MBTA for future generations of riders.

The unencumbered access to the Green Line track area allows the MBTA to accomplish many other piggybacking projects. This work includes the following:

- Maintenance of Way crews are continuing the critical station upgrade work at Symphony as well as replacing ties and ballast in the track area of the station.
- Power maintenance crews inspected and repaired power cables and underground access boxes, and clean or replace switchboxes.
- The Vehicle Engineering team continued work on the critical Green Line Train Protection System.
- With the new fleet of Type 10 cars soon arriving, crews performed modifications to curbs and platform edges between Boylston and Haymarket as well as the "Brattle Loop" track area near Government Center to provide clearance for the new larger vehicles.

See MBTA Page 7

What a 32-hour workweek means to Boston residents

By Anna Gohman, Miles Dakss and Keona Hayes

Boston residents seem enthusiastic about the idea of a national 32-hour workweek reintroduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Rep. Mark Takano of California, but expressed concern about how it would be implemented.

Residents from Fenway, downtown and Jamaica Plain interviewed cited more opportunities for income, a better work-life balance and less stress as reasons for supporting the proposed bill. But they expressed skepticism about the economic impact it would have on supporting their families, workers and their communities.

"I think it would be great for us to push back against this culture of being productive absolutely all the time, which I think ironically makes us less productive in the long run," said Aaron Mueller, 30, a resident in downtown Boston.

Sanders and Takano recently reintroduced the "Thirty Two Hour Workweek Act," something they had proposed going back as far as 2021. According to their proposal, which suggests gradually changing the typical 40-hour work week to 32 hours over four years, people would work reduced hours while still earning the same pay and benefits of a 40-hour work week. The proposal would also lower when employees could become eligible for overtime pay and double their wages after 12-hour shifts.

In introducing their proposal, the two Democratic lawmakers cited success stories of a 32-hour work week from elsewhere in the world. A pilot study conducted in the United Kingdom in 2022 found that over 70 percent of the 3,000 workers included in the study reported being more satisfied with their time and less burnout, while the businesses that participated in the study saw an average increase in revenue of 35 percent.

When Sanders last introduced the bill, in 2024, Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy — who lost his Senate seat in the primary earlier this year — slammed the idea, saying it would "will destroy employers, forcing them to either ship jobs overseas or dramatically increase prices to try and stay afloat."

Residents interviewed for this article cited more opportunities for income, a better work life balance and less stress as reasons for supporting the proposed bill, saying they hope its implementation will streamline productivity in the workplace and quality of life.

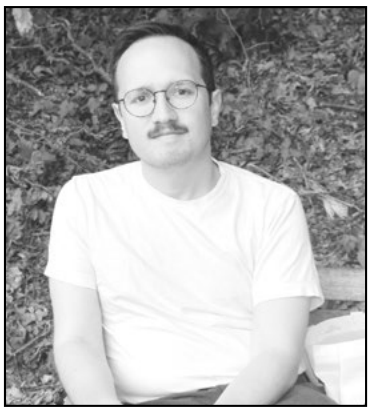
While some residents said a 32-hour workweek would help modernize outdated labor standards, others expressed concerns about changing traditional social norms.

"Throughout most of humankind, people worked far more than 40 hours a week. What are you going to do [for] that extra 8 hours?" said Beacon Hill resident Paul Cohon.

Meghan Napier, 37, a Jamaica Plain resident, disagreed, calling the standard 40-hour work week "arbitrary" and "outdated."

"During the workweek, you have to commute, come back, do all this stuff, so you don't have time to do all the day-to-day things," she said. "I think I would almost just need a day to do just like errands that I can't get done during the week."

Similarly, Kervins Boutin, 25, a Boston-area resident on a visit to Jamaica Pond, said the additional time could create more opportunity to pursue productive interests that could also benefit their communities.



ANNA GOHMAN PHOTO

Aaron Mueller, 30, sits by Jamaica Pond on Saturday, Sept. 19. Mueller, an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Boston University, said a 32-hour workweek could impact social norms of the community.

"People with freed-up time usually like to put it towards something productive," he said. "People are able to take on healthier sort of entrepreneurial roles and schedules."

Despite differing opinions about how a 32-hour workweek would affect workers and the economy, Boston residents largely agreed that more time outside of work could improve their quality of life.

For some, that extra day could mean more time with family, pursuing interests or catching up on responsibilities.

"It just gives you more time to catch up on life," said Fenway resident Mary Clang.

This story is part of a partnership between The Beacon Hill Times and the Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom program.

MBTA *(from Page 6)*

• Crews upgraded radio infrastructure throughout the diversion area and began the installation of new radio system cable within the E Branch tunnel area.

• Crews relocated the electric overheard catenary wires, which power Green Line cars, at complicated sharp curve area in order to accommodate both existing vehicles and the new Type 10 fleet.

• At Park Street, workers performed over 400 feet of full-depth reconstruction of the eastbound track and rebuild the pedestrian crossing.

• Station brightening, critical maintenance, and repair work took place at all stations between Kenmore Station and North Station, including painting, assorted repairs, HVAC maintenance, and inspections.

• Through close coordination with utility partners, Verizon also installed a manhole casting near Amory Street.

Significance of Multi-Day Outages

• The MBTA is reminding riders that service outages such as these are a critical and necessary part of maintaining the infrastructure improvements that took place as part of the 2024 Track Improvement Program while also making further system upgrades and modernizing the MBTA's infrastructure. This work cannot be performed during the overnight hours when the MBTA does not operate, and would be extremely inefficient and costly if planned during single weekend outages.

• Closing a section of the transit system for multiple days is the most efficient way to perform the MBTA's routine maintenance, revitalization efforts, inspections, and upgrade work, and combines the efforts of multiple contractors and the MBTA workforce around the clock 24/7 to maximize productivity. This work is necessary and continuous to maintain the reliable service riders count on.

For more information, visit MBTA.com or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility. Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on while supporting the region's economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program, the Better Bus Program, and the Rail Modernization Plan, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders' daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, riders are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact mediarelations@mbta.com. For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit MBTA.com or follow @MBTA on social media.

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MOONLIGHT GALA ON THE ESPLANADE

The Esplanade Association celebrated its 25th anniversary on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 3, with its annual Moonlight Gala.

At this year's gala, Alexi Conine, who joined the EA board in 2016 and has served as its chair since 2017, was awarded the Serena Hatch Impact Award.

Bob Doran, one of the greatest champions of EA's Charlesbank project who died last fall, posthumously received the Charles Eliot Vision Award, alongside Wellington Management, the company he co-founded.

This year's Moonlight Gala, which is EA's biggest annual event, raised $1.7 for the nonprofit organization.

Jen Mergel, James & Audrey Foster Executive Director of the Esplanade Association, presents the Charles Eliot Vision Award to Jean Hynes and David Doran in honor of Bob Doran.

Serena Hatch Impact Award recipient and EA Board Chair Alexi Conine and her husband, Steve Conine.

The stage displays the total amount raised by the event.

PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Moonlight Gala co-chairs Michael and Angela Cirami presenting on stage "with" Nicole and Jeff Bellows.

Musicians Tim Hall and Fiona Stowell entertain event attendees.

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TOWERS *(from Page 1)*

as well, with this one being one of the most significant."

As sea levels continue to rise and the threats of climate change become more apparent, Boston will continue its efforts to fight back and work to preserve the city, Wu said.

"The specifics are really real, and the benefit that Boston has is we already know what we need to do," Wu said. "We were way ahead of many other cities in really doing the hard work of putting those maps against our real-life conditions."

Norman Meisner, chairman of the Harbor Towers Board of Trustees, said residents of the 54-year-old towers received a "wake-up call" in the winter of 2018, when not one but two "one in a hundred-year storms" struck.

Meisner described the towers as likely the second-lowest elevation on Boston's waterfront, with Long Wharf being the lowest.

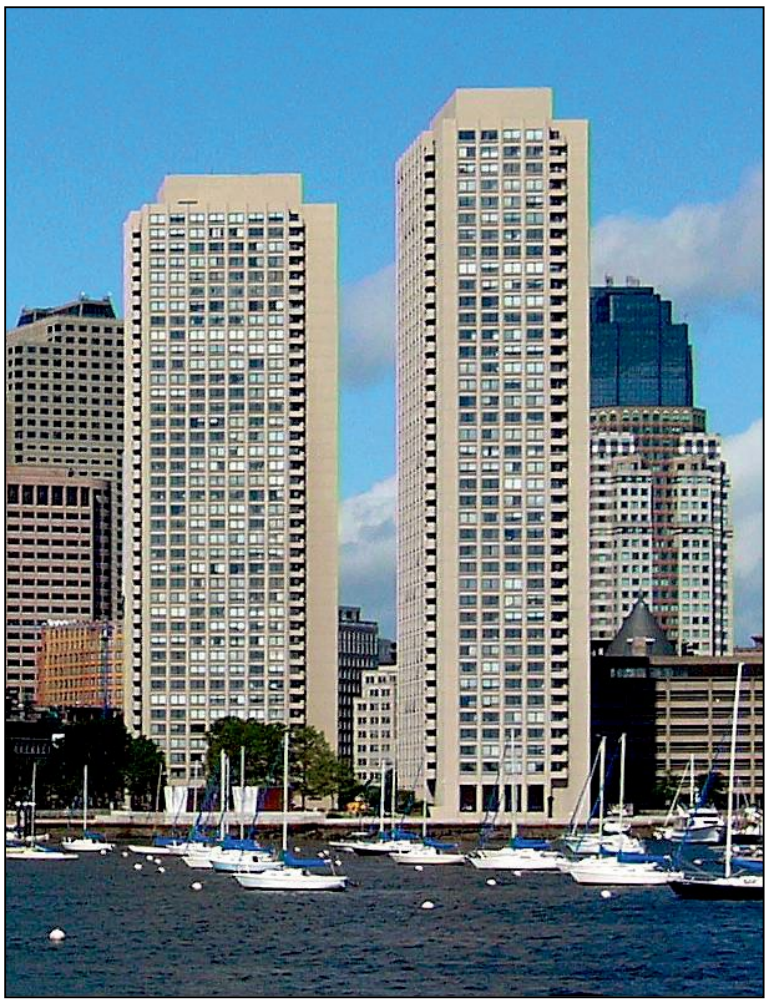
The trustees sought solutions to the threat of flooding and found that protecting the perimeter of the structures was the most feasible option. They brought on Weston & Sampson as their architect and engineer and Build Enclosure Science as their project manager. Commodore

The decision was made to protect the towers with a combination of permanent and deloyable protections.

The $20 million for the project came entirely from the condo owners, Meisner said. It is expected to protect the towers for the next 50 years.

Meisner said the project was completed "on time and within budget."

This story is part of a partnership between The Beacon Hill Times and the Suffolk University Department of Journalism program.



Harbor Towers Condominiums.

Mayor Michelle Wu.

Norman Meisner.

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ADVENT SCHOOL RELEASES THE LAST OF ITS MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

On Friday, October 2, faculty and students at The Advent School released the last of its 20 monarch butterflies for their migration to Mexico.

Throughout September, Advent students from pre-K through Sixth Grade observed as the monarchs went from caterpillars to chrysalis to butterflies. During their study, they learned about the monarchs' important role as pollinators, its habitat and food sources (milkweed), the threats to its survival (pesticides), and how long it takes to journey from Boston to Mexico (eight weeks!).

This science curriculum culminates in the school's beloved Annual Monarch Butterfly Parade, during which students parade from Brimmer Street to the Public Garden to send the butterflies off with a song and a final farewell.

Kindergarten Monarch parade.

Second Grade Monarch Signs.

Monarch study sixth grade.

Sixth and ECC buddies Monarch parade.

Observing Monarch caterpillars in pre-K.

Releasing the 20th monarch.

ENERGY *(from Page 2)*

gallon as of September 28, up 73 percent from $3.52 last year. Approximately one in five Massachusetts households relies on heating oil, particularly in older homes and rural communities.

"No one should be afraid to turn on the heat when costs are high. This is a matter of public health," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "We are standing up new programs to help middle class families stay warm and safe this winter. We are also taking actions to provide savings on electric bills and expand support for low-income customers. This is also why we need to continue our all-of-the-above approach to energy to bring down costs and put an end to this costly volatility our residents can't afford."

"Rising heating costs are putting added pressure on families already struggling to keep up with everyday expenses," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Juana Matias. "Today's announcement of increased HEAP benefits and expanded access means more Massachusetts households can get the help they need to stay warm this winter. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is delivering relief when families need it most."

"Keeping Everett affordable and making sure our residents can get help when they need it is a priority for my administration," said Everett Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "No senior should have to choose between heating their home, putting food on the table or filling an essential prescription. Strong relationships with our partners at the state level are critical to addressing challenges like rising energy costs, and I'm grateful to Governor Healey and her administration for recognizing the pressure families are facing and taking action to provide real relief. When the City and the Commonwealth work together, we can make sure these resources reach the residents who need them most."

Governor Healey's energy affordability plan includes:

New Middle Class Home Heating Oil Assistance Benefit

For the first time, Massachusetts is creating a new home heating oil assistance benefit for households earning between 60 percent and 100 percent of State Median Income, extending assistance to middle class families that have traditionally fallen outside eligibility for existing heating assistance programs. For a family of four, this means households earning more than $103,049 and up to $171,749 may qualify for the new one-time emergency benefit.

Approximately 50,000 Massachusetts heating oil households are expected to qualify and receive up to $680 per household. Assistance will be available beginning in December until the end of the heating season on April 30, 2027, or until funding lasts.

The new benefit will be administered by the same local organizations that currently provide home energy assistance across Massachusetts. More information is available at www.mass.gov/heatinghelp.

Increased HEAP Benefits

The Administration will provide an additional $15 million to increase winter heating assistance for approximately 156,000 low-income households across Massachusetts.

HEAP is a free, federally-funded statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. During the 2025-2026 heating season, the HEAP program provided financial assistance to more than 156,000 Massachusetts households, representing over 300,000 people.

Current support ranges from approximately $525 to $1,200 per household. Under Governor Healey's plan, households that heat with oil will receive a 20 percent increase in assistance, while households that heat with utilities will receive a 15 percent increase.

Homeowners and renters can apply for HEAP online at www.mass.gov/heatinghelp or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from November 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. Households whose heat is included in their rent can also qualify, and households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to receive assistance.

Eliminate the SMART Charge on Residential Electric Bills for Three Months

The Administration will transfer $80 million in state funding to eliminate the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program charge from residential and commercial electric bills for three months this winter, while the program continues to deliver benefits to all Massachusetts ratepayers.

The SMART program supports incentives for qualifying solar projects across Massachusetts and is funded through a charge on electric customers. For January-March 2027, the state will cover those costs so they are not passed on to residential customers.

Phase Out the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard

The Administration will also take emergency regulatory action to reduce the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard by 50 percent this winter, providing an estimated $20 million in additional ratepayer relief.

The Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard was established in 2009 to support certain large heating and cooling systems, through costs included in electricity supply rates. The Administration will begin reducing required obligation for the program this winter to lower those costs for ratepayers.

Emergency Winter Warmth Fund

Governor Healey also announced in partnership with Citizens Energy Corporation the creation of a new Emergency Winter Warmth Fund to provide additional help to families struggling with heating costs this winter.

Citizens Energy Corporation will launch the fund with an initial $100,000 contribution. Funding will support both existing heating assistance for low-income households and the new middle class home heating oil assistance program created by Governor Healey. Contributions to the fund will be distributed through the existing network of local administering agencies, building on the state's $49 million investment in heating assistance and helping more families receive support this winter. More information can be found at citizensenergy.com/warmth.

"We are grateful for the Governor's leadership and for the heating help public/ private partnership that she has organized with Joe Kennedy and Citizens Energy to help thousands of vulnerable families stay warm, healthy, and safe this winter in the face of unprecedented energy cost burden challenges," said Joe Diamond, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association for Community Action. "Households we help with fuel assistance, and now those with incomes just over the eligibility limit for federal fuel assistance, can breathe a little easier as winter approaches. Community Action Agencies look forward to helping households in need, regardless of heating fuel type, including home heating oil, for example, which is over six dollars a gallon - between 50% and 70% higher than last year at this time and likely to rise further. This initiative strengthens the comprehensive and integrated approach to heating help on which we partner with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities led by Secretary Juana Matias, and includes the provision of weatherization services to those who qualify for fuel assistance."

Today's announcement is the latest step in Governor Healey's ongoing work to lower energy and transportation costs for Massachusetts residents. Governor Healey has delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in direct energy bill relief, including cutting residential electric bills by 25 percent and gas bills by 10 percent for two months last winter; brought new sources of lower-cost energy online, including hydropower that is expected to lower bills by about $50 million each year; activated Vineyard Wind contracts projected to save customers $1.4 billion; opposed utility rate increases and unnecessary charges; and filed energy affordability legislation projected to save residents and businesses more than $13 billion.

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Eversource Founder/CEO Monica Kachru guest speaker at Beacon Hill Women's Forum

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Environmental leader and educational advocate, Monica Kachru, did not follow a planned path to her career as the Director of Energy Supply at Eversource Energy and Founder/CEO of Anaya Scholars. Instead, Kachru perused the "scenic route" to what mattered to her and is now transforming lives and impacting communities with her development of renewable energy and non-profit work.

"A lesson I learned early on is you don't always have to know where a decision will lead you," said Kachru. "You just have to be curious and follow through."

Kachru shared how resilience and loss inspired her with purpose in her presentation, "A Personal Journey from Loss to Legacy," during the Beacon Hill Women's Forum's (BHWF) first forum of the season on September 8 at the Union Club of Boston.

Kachru was raised in India, in a culture that valued academics, and children were expected to become engineers or doctors to make their families proud.

"I quickly realized that wasn't me," embraced Kachru. "I wasn't going to follow a pack."

Kachru chose to study economics because she found it to be a fascinating way of making sense of an imperfect world – understanding business, finance, human behavior, and implementation.

While attending college, Kachru became concerned with the environment and pollution; so, she began commuting to classes on her bicycle, admittedly an unsafe transportation option in India. After a conversation with a fellow student about reducing emissions, the invisible 19-year-old Kachru convinced her to also ride a bike to school. The interaction was another major lesson in her life: it was a display of activism about something that she felt to be true.

"Find value. Find what matters and lean in and go first because sometimes people are waiting for someone else to do something that they'd like to do anyway," emphasized Kachru. "Be the catalyst. Go for it."

Kachru married young after graduation and moved to the United States, where she earned a degree in energy and environmental studies. Becoming accustomed to new geographies, grasping a new language, and re-learning how to relate to the world were difficult. She felt like she did not belong in any room that she walked into.

"I felt that I needed to work harder – that I needed to learn the game that was developed by the men to earn my space," believed Kachru. "Then I realized over time that you don't have to be more like the people in the room. Your difference gives you a perspective that others don't have."

Kachru explained the importance of seeing the bigger picture: pulling one's personal experiences and skills together to be a part of the solution.

She focused on that mindset when starting a clean energy business in Nigeria, where she met entrepreneurs who had the passion, but lacked the resources to shape their ideas into reality.

"I had a vision that we could help a lot of businesses there transition to solar and stop burning diesel," described Kachru. "When you speak with confidence, people listen."

Kachru brought massive organizations and academia together to collaborate with entrepreneurs in creating job opportunities and solutions in the advancement of sustainable energy.

"My career never made sense to anybody," admitted Kachru. "Every decision was very intentional when you look back. I have always followed what interested me and have never regretted that."

Like her mother, Kachu's eldest daughter, Anaya, was ardent and outspoken about a project of hers that assessed the

See BHWF Page 13

Neighborhood Narrative speaker, Chelsie Lincoln, of DeLuca's Market/ Cellars.

Ladies gathering for the first Beacon Hill Women's Forum of the 2026-2027 season at the Union Club of Boston on September 8.

Jamie Butler, Program Co-Director, Monica Kachru, speaker, and Suzanne Norman and Janine Jay, Co-Presidents.

Monica Kachru, Director of Eversource Energy, and Co-Founder of Anaya Scholars

Linda Blessing with new BHWF member, Lauren Roux.

New BHWF member, Kristen Liston, with speaker, Monica Kachru.

BHWF *(from Page 12)*

discrepancies of resources in inner city education systems. The high school senior had a start-up of her own, was head of the robotics team, and on her way to MIT when she tragically passed in 2017.

Amidst her despair and grief – encircled around a supportive circle of six friends, cooking cathartically – Kachru built a foundation in her daughter's memory continuing the project that she was passionate about.

Anaya Scholars helps first-generation, low-income students through financial support and mentorships, available 24/7. Mentors, like BHWF Co-President Suzanne Norman, provide internship and workplace training as well as financial literacy.

"It's the students in the middle – where the majority of students are – who often get overlooked. We wanted to focus on kids who showed resilience and hard work, who didn't have the bandwidth to have a resume," explained Kachru. "Leveling the playing field to us meant giving them the money to go to college and giving them a mentor who could speak about the unspoken rules of college. Our program is about unlocking potential."

Anaya Scholars participants have an over 95% college graduation rate and outperform national averages for first-generation, low-income students.

"We think with our head, but lead with our heart. You need that to solve a problem," embraced Kachru. "Impact doesn't start with certainty. It starts with action. Sometimes it's as simple as riding a bike."

Shannon Cullinane, Special Events Co-Director, Suzanne Norman, Co-President, and Katie Kenney.

Lee Combs and Melanie Bertani.

Jennifer Boghossian, Pam Bigbee, Jackie McBride, Book Club Co-Director, and Mindelynn Godbout.

Amy Tsurumi, Meredith Bernstein, Lorie Conway, Mimi Sun, Melanie Bertani, Sandra Gilpatrick, and Janine Jay

Jamie Butler, Program Co-Director, and Kati Livingston, Connections Co-Director.

Featured speaker, Monica Kachru enjoying the forum.

Colleen Daley, Neighborhood Narrative Co-Director, Shannon Cullinane, Special Events Co-Director, and Janine Jay, Co-President.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Rayce Anselmo T	Poli, Edmund	102 St Botolph St	$6,600,000
Mcauliffe, Jennifer E	Peter L Stone Ft	177 Commonwealth Ave #8	$1,250,000
Byrne Jr, John Francis	203 St Botolph Unit Thre	203 St Botolph St #3	$1,325,000
M & R Boston Assoc LLC	Mullins, Susan M	274 Clarendon St #7	$502,000
Randy And Susan Rt	Markovic, Katarina	286 Beacon St #8	$1,350,000
Hall, Danielle	Satiroglu, Hakan	416 Marlborough St #804	$1,425,000
Miguez, Enrique A	Yao, Eric	431 Marlborough St #3	$4,475,000
Cinquegrana, Ralph J	Lopez, Jeremy	505 Tremont St #302	$1,590,000
505 Tremont St Hldg LLC	Kopans, Andrew B	505 Tremont St #811	$3,150,000
First-Citizens B&T Co	Cre Holdings Sub 2 LLC	797-799 Boylston St	$28,000,000
BEACON HILL			
Goins, James A	Costa, Alberto C	1-3 Chestnut St #3B	$999,999
Continuum Arts LLC	Jes Hancock Int	10-10A Marshall St	$4,400,000
Hounsell, Kathryn Chagnot	Broadbent Ma Ret	110 Sudbury St #4002	$4,050,000
Li, Annie	Berdinka, Samantha	21 Hancock St #21-3	$756,500
Boal, Peter B	Harper, James S	37 Mt Vernon St #1	$1,075,000
Footcreek Corp Of Arizona	Fulham Realty LLC	45 Joy St	$2,850,000
DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT			
Mt 2507 LLC	Chen, Ping	1 Franklin St #2507	$1,800,000
Scire, William Joseph	53 Houghton Street LLC	147-149 Richmond St #4	$300,000
Jpf Vi LLC	Corradino, James A	28-32 Atlantic Ave #613	$1,900,000
Zielinski, Ronnie	Aaron, Bernard	357 Commercial St #8	$545,000
Dukaj, Livio	Obrien, Francis X	376 Commercial St #2B	$1,041,943
Wong, Jeffrey	Oak Hill Park LLC	4-8 Franklin St #401	$660,000
Deschamp Group LLC	William Theodies Est	Prince St	$1,150,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Baker, Stephen D	Ml Cheese Rt	32 Traveler St #604	$1,380,000
Cohen, Rachael B	Kapur, Sunil	327-329 Shawmut Ave #1	$2,335,000
Schlaug, Gottfried	Rubin, Zachary David	37 Worcester St #5	$865,000
Nuba Apt LLC	Nuba LLC	400 Melnea Cass Blvd #400	$3,010,000
Boston Redevauthority	Commonwealth Of Ma	Melnea Cass Blvd	$3,010,000
Nuba LLC	Boston Redevauthority	Melnea Cass Blvd	$3,010,000

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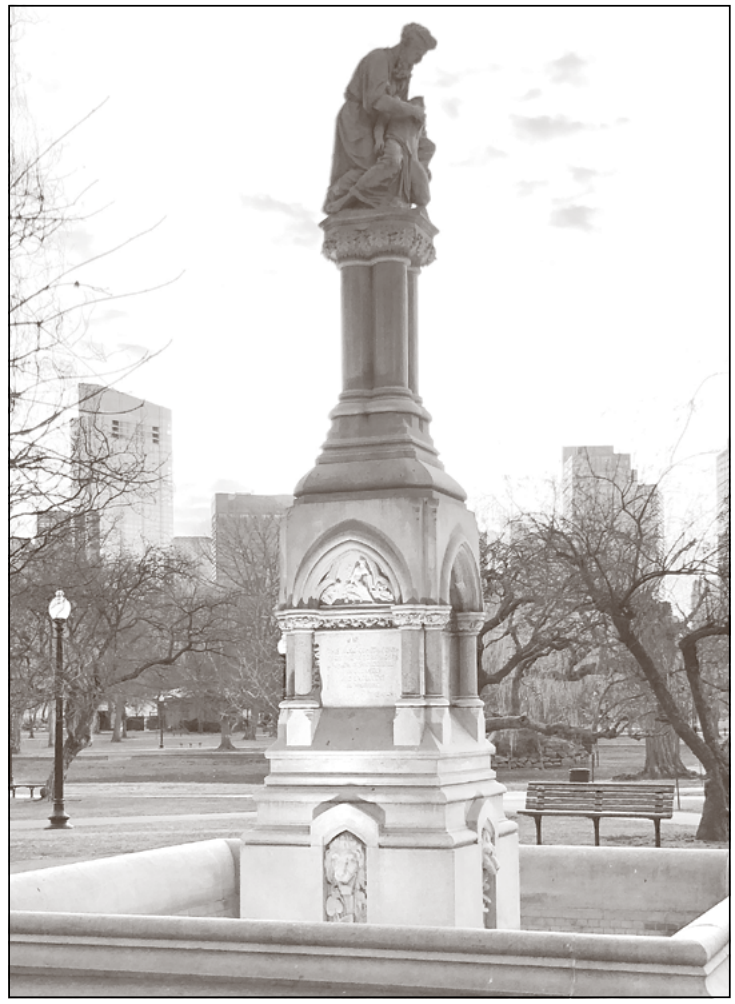
Attention to Detail

Photos and Text By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The bias relief in the last clue is on the Ether Memorial in the Public Garden. People often ask Bostonians for hidden treasures they might include in a Boston visit. This fountain, along with a trip to the Ether Dome at Massachusetts General Hospital, is often a missed Boston highlight.

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

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on October 15, 2026, at 5 p.m.. The hearing will be held entirely online via Zoom.

Written comments and questions can be directed to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov before the meeting. The projected adjournment time is 9 p.m.

The agenda begins with the ratification of public hearing minutes from August 20, 2026, and September 17, 2026, followed by the annual vote for the commission's Chair and Vice Chair. The commission will then move to review applications for Certificates of Design Approval and architectural violations.

Design Review Hearing

The commission will evaluate the following proposed projects:

• APP # 27.0271 BH 54 Revere Street: Applicant Katherine Carruthers plans to install a new exterior light and repaint the existing wood front entry door in Farrow & Ball Stiffkey Blue.

• APP # 27.0101 BH 15 West Cedar Street: Applicant Charlotte Croteau proposes repainting a front door from red to Delft Blue.

• APP # 27.0210 BH 17 Myrtle Street: Applicant Robin Krawczyk seeks approval for new window decal signage.

• APP # 27.0234 BH 7 Walnut Street: Applicant Catherine Christianson requests a new trash sign.

• APP # 27.0276 BH 9 Walnut Street: Applicant Joseph E. White proposes the addition of a new penthouse.

• APP # 27.0188 BH 77 Charles Street: Applicant Patrick Hickox proposes installing a lighting fixture to match the existing one, extending storefront glazing to match historical trim work, and replacing a mailbox and buzzer.

• APP # 27.0229 BH 142 Chestnut Street: Applicant Derrick Tyler proposes a detachable pergola on the roof deck and the creation of a privacy fence to hide an existing HVAC system.

• APP # 27.0192 BH 21A Pinckney Street: Applicant Derrick Tyler proposes modifying the pitch of a skylight dormer.

Administrative Review and Approval

To expedite the hearing, commission staff have pre-approved several applications involving routine maintenance, repair, or restoration that have minimal impact on building appearances[cite: 7, 8]. Applicants for these properties do not need to attend the hearing. The administrative approvals include:

• APP # 27.0221 BH 16 Beacon Street: Replace deteriorated EPDM roofing membrane in kind, and replace flashing and gutters with matching copper materials.

• APP # 27.0282 BH 27 Chestnut Street: Replace six windows with all-wood, true divided light windows.

• APP # 27.0208 BH 41 Chestnut Street: Repair and replace mortar on front steps, granite, and window well, and repaint the front entry, windows, louvers, and railings in their existing colors.

• APP # 27.0223 BH 43 Chestnut Street: Repair and replace existing slate roofing, underlayment, and flashing in kind.

• APP # 27.0220 BH 68 Chestnut Street: Restore three sets of second-floor, six-over-six double-hung windows on the rear elevation facing Branch Street.

• APP # 27.0246 BH 128 Chestnut Street: Replace the bulkhead in kind.

• APP # 27.0283 BH 7 Mount Vernon Place: Stabilize and repair the chimney, with chimney pots matching the existing ones.

• APP # 27.0261 BH 37 Mount Vernon Street: Repoint existing brick, remove an air conditioning unit, and replace it with matching brick.

• APP # 27.0101 BH 25 Phillips Street: Strip and re-roof the property, and replace a previously approved roof deck in its identical footprint.

• APP # 27.0192 BH 21A Pinckney Street: Replace non-historic windows with all-wood, six-over-six true divided light windows, and install a new matching Cedar fence at the property edge.

• APP # 27.0271 BH 54 Revere Street: Retain historic brass door hardware, install one security item and a new doorbell, remove house number tiles, and restore masonry.

• APP # 27.0198 BH 22 Temple Street: Replace the roof and skylight in kind

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Email legals@beaconhilltimes.com

Beacon Hill Times
Pick-Up Locations

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

Apartment Building locations:

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

Boston Senior Home Care pays tribute to leaders for outstanding public service and community advocacy at 2026 Legacy of Leading Gala

Special to the Times

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC), a private nonprofit Aging Services Access Point that helps older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers access home- and community-based services and supports, has honored Former State Representative Brian Dempsey, President, Dempsey Associates, and Michael Curry, Esq., President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, at its 2026 Legacy of Leading Luncheon Gala: Transforming Communities through Service celebration on October 1 at the Four Seasons Hotel Boston.

State Representative Kate Hogan, Speaker Pro Tempore, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee, State Representative John Lawn, House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early Jr., Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz, Boston Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea, and Denella Clark, President and CEO, Boston Arts Academy Foundation joined more than 250 business and community leaders attending the organization's signature sell-out event.

PHOTO COURTESY JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Shown (left to right) Boston Senior Home Care CEO Meg Hogan, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, House Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Former State Representative and President, Dempsey Associates, Brian Dempsey, Dr. Michael Curry, Esq., President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Denella Clark, President and CEO, Boston Arts Academy Foundation, State Representative Kate Hogan, Speaker Pro Tempore, and State Representative John Lawn, House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

State Representative Aaron Michlewitz presented Brian Dempsey, a former State Representative and House Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, with the 2026 Patricia A. Lynch Excellence in Public Service Award for his legislative leadership in expanding economic opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Denella Clark presented Michael Curry, Esq., with the Community Advocacy Award for his leadership in advancing civil rights, health care reform, and health equity.

BSHC is grateful to the Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc. (PLAN of MA & RI), which has continued its support as Diamond Sponsor.

In addition, BSHC is appreciative for the longtime support of Platinum Sponsor Emily's Inc., a partner in providing door-to-door food delivery to seniors and family childcare programs in the greater Boston area.

"Both leaders embody exemplary public service by strengthening our communities, and promoting the goal of equity and opportunity for our most vulnerable citizens," said Chief Executive Officer Meg Hogan. "We are appreciative of the continued support from Emily's Inc., and all of our sponsors. Their generous support is essential to fulfilling BSHC's mission of connecting older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers with the resources needed to live independently."

The event was emceed by Janet Wu, former anchor/reporter, Bloomberg News.

Event proceeds will help BSHC provide essential services for the 13,000 older adults and people with disabilities to remain independent at home, including:

- Nutritious meal delivery to those who cannot leave home
- Care coordination to ensure individuals receive the support they need
- Reduce isolation and loneliness for older adults and people with disabilities
- In-home support that makes daily life safer and more manageable
- Guidance and support for family caregivers

Boston Senior Home Care is a private nonprofit Aging Services Access Point serving 13,000 older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers throughout Boston. Since 1974, the organization has helped people remain independent by providing care management, person-centered planning, caregiver support, and connections to home- and community-based services and long-term support. Working in partnership with health care providers, community organizations, and government agencies, Boston Senior Home Care helps people access the resources they need to live safely, independently, and with dignity. For more information, visit bshcinfo.org.

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