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Photo by Matt West

Aspire Spring Gala Committee David and Stephanie Long, Tim Sweeney, Ann Marie and Daniel Gross, and Kim and Eric Karofsky (left to right) with Aspire Executive Director Scott McLeod, PhD (fourth from left).

Aspire Spring Gala to raise \$20 million in 20 years

Special to the Times

Aspire is the world-renowned Lexington, Mass.-based program that helps children, teens and adults with high cognitive autism spectrum disorder and related profiles develop the skills neces-

sary to be successful in their communities and workplaces.

On Thursday, April 2, this highly effective, therapeutically-based program of MassGeneral Hospital for Children's Lurie Center for Autism will host its 20th annual Aspire Spring Gala

at Four Seasons Hotel Boston and will bring the total raised in 20 years to over \$20 million.

For two decades, the Aspire Spring Gala has brought thousands of supporters together to

(ASPIRE Pg. 5)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Every year at its Annual Meeting, the Beacon Hill Civic Association gives out a special community award that honors those people and groups deserving of particular recognition for their significant and sustained contributions to the Beacon Hill community.

Called the Beacon Award, this year's presentation will take place at the 98th Annual Meeting on May 18. Over the years, the contributions made by the winners have ranged from working with neighborhood youth or the

elderly, to beautifying local green spaces, improving safety on the Hill, preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents, and envisioning the future of our community.

Previous winners include: 1997 Joseph Hinkle; 1998 Bob and Bidy Owens; 1999 Beacon Hill Nursery School; 2000 Jason Pingree; 2001 Peter Thomson; 2002 Herman Greenfield; 2003 Tom Kershaw, Linda Cox and Henry Lee;

(BHCA, Pg. 5)



Ivy Turner accepts the Beacon Award at the BHCA Annual Meeting on May 20, 2019. With her is Russell Gaudreau, Chair of the Beacon Award Committee in 2019 and BHCA Director.

A Fresh Perspective

Friends of the Public Garden launches Instagram contest to showcase beauty of city parks

By Dan Murphy

As part of the group's ongoing 50th anniversary celebration, the Friends of the Public Garden is sponsoring an Instagram Contest to showcase the Boston Common, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Public Garden, with winning images used to adorn flagpole banners that will be installed downtown around the three parks.

"We have some amazing photographers out there that create some stunning images, and we really want to highlight not only the natural beauty of the three parks, but also the life and joy they bring to the public," said Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends group. "We want to see the everyday lives of these parks and highlight them in the banners."

The Friends will select nine high-resolution images - three of each park - to display on the banners beginning in August.

"We'll have more than 80 banners from the Common to Kenmore Square and at Tremont, Beacon and Arlington streets," Vizza said. "Kenmore Square will have 18 polls alone."

Leslie Adam, chair of the Friends board of directors, said she believes the banners will offer a "fresh perspective" on the parks.

"The contest feels like a new, modern way to celebrate the beauty of these parks," Adam said. "We hope that the photos will highlight not just the landscape of the three parks, but also how they function as diverse gathering spots for all. We hope that lots of people share their images, and we really look forward to seeing what goes up on these banners."

The contest runs through June 15, and the winners will be announced by June 25. The

(CONTEST Pg. 5)

Potential sale of Hynes pondered at town hall meeting

By Dan Murphy

While the state legislature is reportedly expected to decide on Gov. Charlie Baker's proposal to sell the Hynes Convention Center by mid-May, elected officials and other neighborhood leaders convened a town hall meeting to discuss what the decision could potentially mean for the future of the Back Bay on Saturday at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library.

"Public space is where everybody is equal, and by reducing public space, it promotes inequality," said Sen. William Brownsberger, who hosted the meeting in concert with Reps. Jay Livingston and Jon Santiago. "Our constituents have deep reservations about the Hynes and what might come in its

place." Like his constituents, Sen. Brownsberger said he felt blindsided upon first hearing of the potential sale of the Hynes last September, proceeds from which would be used to underwrite the expansion of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in the Seaport.

State Rep. Joe Santiago echoed this sentiment, describing the conversation around the potential sale of the Hynes - a discussion that has taken place without sufficient input from the Back Bay's residential and business communities - as being "one-sided."

Similarly, City Councilor Ed Flynn, said, "There should be a voice in this process for the resi-

(HYNES Pg. 5)

EBNHC, Greater Boston preparing for coronavirus

By John Lynds

It was only a matter of time before the coronavirus, or COVID-19, that spread across China landed in Boston. The Boston Public Health Commission announced that as of Monday, there was one confirmed case of coronavirus in Boston and eight cases that are presumed positive. The presumptive positive cases did not require hospitalization and are self-isolating at home. The CDC is currently testing to confirm these eight cases.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that includes MERS and SARS. The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

According to the BPHC, there is no evidence of community transmission in Boston right now. The risk remains low, but this situation is evolving rapidly and changes day to day.

“BPHC is engaging in daily communications with the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), City of Boston departments and other community partners to make sure we have the latest information on guidance, best practices and recommendations,” said the BPHC in a statement. “BPHC will provide updated information on this website and on our social media channels as it becomes available. We are confident the City of Boston will be ready for a safe and effective response as the situation develops.”

Over at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center U.S. Congressman and Senate candidate Joseph Kennedy III participated in a roundtable at the Health Center to discuss the status, needs

and preparedness for COVID-19. The goal of the meeting was to provide assistance to Kennedy in disseminating appropriate and timely information regarding the virus. The discussion consisted of best practices and recommendations on how to respond to COVID-19.

Of particular interest was the potential impact on Eastie’s senior population, the role of our emergency department and the partnership with Massport and the City’s Public Health Department.

“The coronavirus outbreak is the number one priority for the Health Center and the communities we serve. Like other health-care organizations, we have enacted our Emergency Operations Planning and put protocols into place to ensure the safety of our staff, patients and members of our Neighborhood PACE program,” said EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes. “We are fortunate that we have had no active cases of the coronavirus present here at EBNHC, but regardless we must remain vigilant. East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been providing quality care to the residents of East Boston and our surrounding communities for the last 50 years and we remain steadfastly committed to caring for all in our community during this crisis. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health, the Boston Department of Public Health and both State and Federal Government as every day brings forth new information and recommended guidelines.”

When the outbreak in Wuhan, China, began, many patients reported links to a large seafood and animal market. This suggested that it was spread from animal to people. However, it is now clear that COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person. It is spread through respiratory droplets pro-

duced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land on people who are nearby (within six feet). It may also be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

“To ensure the safety of staff and patients and to contain the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has instituted a very thorough screening process in our Call Centers and in our various clinical departments,” said EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes. “Patients are screened for symptoms if they have had any exposure or have traveled outside of the area recently. If testing is deemed necessary, the State Lab will process the results. We’re hoping to have access to private labs as well. Thankfully, flu season is subsiding and that should help eliminate a lot confusion over symptoms in the coming weeks. Given that the elderly population is at the highest risk, we are focused on our Neighborhood PACE Program and are taking every step possible to continue giving high-quality care both at our PACE Centers and in their homes without compromising their risks further. Throughout this crisis, we must still care for all of the health issues our community faces and it is important that people don’t avoid necessary care because of this crisis. We are grateful for our skilled and determined staff for the work they are doing every day.”

EBNHC Vice President of Human Resources Steven Snyder added, “The safety of our staff is always a priority for us. Balancing the need to care for the community during this crisis with the concerns of our own staff is no



EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes and BPHC Executive Director Rita Nieves.



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes and U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy III address the crowd during the roundtable discussion concerning COVID-19.

easy task, but we are fortunate to have an incredibly committed team here at the Health Center who always rises to the occasion. We will continue to take every step we can to see that our staff is utilizing best practices in infection control in the care of our patients, in their normal work day and in their personal lives.”

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. BPHC recommends standard precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, like those that cause the flu or a cold:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating;

and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-percent alcohol.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Avoid spitting in public.
- Get a flu shot.

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Xu, Lingjie	Low Tide Properties 2	12 Stoneholm St #616	\$681,000
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Fileva, Kristina	Wang, Sida	580 Washington St #6C	\$1,525,000

Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The keystone arch doorway in the last clue is on 49 Mount Vernon Street designed by Charles Bulfinch and built in 1803. According to the book *Victorian Boston Today*, in 1847 Elizabeth Shaw (daughter of Massachusetts Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw) married the writer Herman Melville at her home to avoid the crowds of gawkers who would have turned out to see the celebrity author.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20PO386EA Estate of: Gloria M. Tofias Date of Death

02/04/2020

To all interested persons: A Petition for Appointment of Personal Representative and Probate of Will has been filed by Magda L. Fleckner of Boston, MA and Suzanne M. Monahan of Quincy, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Magda L. Fleckner of Boston, MA and Suzanne M. Monahan of Quincy, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy

of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 26, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

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EDITORIAL

OUR UNDERPREPARED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across the world has highlighted how ill-prepared the U.S. healthcare system has become for dealing with a national health emergency of this potential magnitude.

The U.S. has lagged far behind other nations in terms of testing our citizens to determine whether they have contracted Covid-19. Not only did our government not have anywhere near the number of test kits available to meet the demand for testing, but those that we did have were defective.

As a result, we have lost precious time in identifying how many of our citizens have the disease and the extent of the outbreak in specific parts of the country.

Cutbacks in the budgets of the federal agencies responsible for ensuring our nation's health have reduced the ability of the federal government to respond to such threats speedily and competently.

However, there is a much-deeper problem that has been looming for years.

The closing of community hospitals throughout the nation in the past few decades has created a crisis that already has placed our healthcare system at the breaking point -- a situation that will only get worse as the Baby Boomers begin to reach their late 70s and 80s.

Anybody who has been to a hospital emergency room recently knows all too well that our healthcare system is woefully inadequate even in the best of times.

The 46,500 beds in intensive care in the United States are occupied virtually 24/7/365 by mostly elderly persons with a wide range of health issues. Covid-19, if uncontrolled, might lead to up to 1.9 million ICU admissions, according to projections presented to the American Hospital Association -- a situation for which we have nowhere near the capacity or capability.

Even without a pandemic or similar national health emergency, our health care system is a disaster waiting to happen in the years ahead.



HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY... MARCH 17

GUEST OP-ED

Have a hippity-hoppity holiday

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12. So, make your menu, sew your outfit, and decorate your dwelling while there's still time.

Easter has become a commercial event catered toward children with baskets full of chocolate rabbits, dyed eggs, jelly beans, and other sweet treats. Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America after Halloween. Keep that a secret from your kid's dentist.

How interesting that a dog is in the running to be the next Cadbury bunny—that will be one funny bunny. And I voted for the two-legged dog from New Richmond, Ohio, to be the 2020 candy canine. Bark for the bunny! Lt. Dan is named after the “Forrest Gump” character who lost his legs overseas in combat. What animal lover can resist a disabled dog wearing long ears and a fluffy tail. Cadbury issued a casting call for all pets to enter the contest to become the next Cadbury Bunny. Lt. Dan the dog is competing against a mini-horse, llama, pig, hamster, duck and two cats. The winner of the contest will star in Cadbury's new TV commercial and receive \$5,000. The Cadbury Bunny Tryouts Contest is sponsored by The Hershey Company in Hershey, Pa. Vote at www.bunny-tryouts.cadburyusa.com.

How interesting that a giant bunny carries a huge basket and hops down the bunny trail to deliv-

er colored eggs to children. Aren't the hens steamed? It's hard work laying eggs, only to give the credit to a happy hare. Plastic lookalike eggs have replaced boiled eggs in the annual Easter egg hunts. The chickens don't have to work as long during the season, but please give the poor cluckers a raise and retirement benefits. But no billionaire bunnies allowed according to Bernie.

The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition. Since 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was in office, American presidents have hosted the party on the lawn according to the White House Historical Association website. The liberals probably want to roll Trump down Capitol Hill—then he will have a bad ‘hare’ day. Sorry, I couldn't resist a hair joke. Womp womp.

The following corny jokes were found at www.southernliving.com. Q: Therapist: What's been up lately? A: Chocolate bunny: I don't know, I just feel so hollow inside. Q: How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? A: Just look for the gray hares. Q: Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? A: To a re-tail store.

What's for Easter Dinner?

“In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the “lamb of God,” and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, espe-

cially at Easter. Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal. Others, however, wouldn't imagine Easter without ham. Symbolizing “good luck” for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of feasts and celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter's spring timing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner.” www.goodhousekeeping.com.

The Real Deal of Easter

“The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday,” according to an article at www.history.com.

Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance in the resurrection story of Christ. Good Friday marks Jesus's crucifixion and Easter Sunday celebrates his resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books, known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Blessings to all my peeps at Easter!

Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio.

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BHCA (from pg. 1)

2004 Susan McWhinney-Morse; 2005 Meredith and Gene Clapp; 2006 Sandy Steele, 2007 Dick Gurnon and Jack Gurnon; 2008 Vivien and Gillian Gattie; 2009 Karen Cord Taylor; 2010 Frank Mead; 2011 Gael Mahony; 2012 Sharon Malt; 2013 Mark Duffield and Jennifer Hill; 2014 Frederick A. "Tad" Stahl; 2015 Bernard Borman; 2016 Priscilla Fales; 2017 Elsie and Jeannette Herrmann; 2018

Paula O'Keeffe; 2019 Ivy Turner.

Again this year, the BHCA is inviting members of the community to nominate individuals or groups they feel are deserving of the 24th Annual Beacon Award. The final selection will be made by a ten-person committee representing a variety of organizations in the community. Call the BHCA office at 617-227-1922 for nomination forms, which must be submitted by April 3, 2020.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

Monday, March 16: Architecture Committee Meeting; 5pm at 74 Joy Street.

Monday, May 18: BHCA Annual Meeting

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

CONTEST (from pg. 1)

grand prize is an overnight stay at the Ritz Carlton Boston, second prize is dinner for two at a yet-to-be-named restaurant, and third prize is a \$50 gift card from Hunts Photo and Video, while six runner-ups will each receive a \$25 Starbucks gift card.

A panel of judges consisting of two Instagrammers, Brian McWilliams and Jessica Speece, and Craig Bailey, a professional photographer, will select winning photos based on representation of the three parks, visual impact and

composition.

Vertical photos are preferred. Watermarks, signatures or copyright notices aren't permitted on entries for this contest. Images must be able to be printed on either one vertical 24-inch-by-54-inch banner or a two-panel 30-inch-by-60-inch banner that will likely be used as one image. Ideal image ratios are 9:16 and 2:3 vertical, and a 300 dpi JPEG image is the ideal submission format.

All entries must be original

images taken by the photographer during 2019 or 2020. No images submitted without completing the submission form and uploaded to link provided will be accepted. Photographs will be accepted only from the original photographer.

The public is invited to submit their photos on Instagram using #Friends50th and through the Friends' website: <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/about/50th/instagram-contest/>.

HYNES (from pg. 1)

dents, and there should be a voice for the business community as well."

Rep. Livingstone said he looks forward to seeing an economic study commissioned by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority on the potential impact of the sale of the Hynes on the neighborhood, which reportedly shows the potential for a 2.3-million square-foot, mixed-use project, consisting of office space, shops, restaurants and 650 housing units. He added he is also eagerly awaiting a "more in-depth" study on the matter from the Back Bay Association.

Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the Back Bay Association, said she expects their economic study will be released in the "next week or two," and that it would look at the long-term impact of losing the Hynes on the neighborhood, as well as examine other cities with multiple convention centers "to see if the Hynes could work in tandem with the BCEC."

Meanwhile, Rep. Livingstone contrasted the lack of public pro-

cess surrounding the Hynes with the process for the potential redevelopment of the Charles F. Hurley Building on Stanford Street, which he said has already included "six or seven" public meetings prior to the release of a Request for Proposals for the project.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok also pointed to the more-thorough public process for the potential Hurley redevelopment, saying in that instance, it helped provide a "roadmap" to guide future development.

And like Rep. Livingstone, Councilor Bok also said she looks forward to reading the economic studies on the Hynes to better understand the matter.

"What questions can we get answered by an economic study that could show better alternatives to the Hynes?" Councilor Bok asked. "Even if you demonstrate [the potential for] something more vibrant than the Hynes, you won't get that by offering it to the highest bidder."

Councilor Bok also expressed concern regarding the "economic cost of taking down a building

the size of the Hynes at a time when we're trying to reduce carbon emissions."

Elliott Laffer of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, described the Hynes as "the right size [venue] for intelligent-oriented conventions" and "unique" given its access to nearby hotels, as well as the Prudential Center and Copley Place.

In contrast, he said the BCEC "looks like every other convention center and could be anywhere," and "to throw the Hynes away for that would be stupid."

While those in attendance at the town hall meeting largely opposed the sale of the Hynes, Sen. Brownsberger said other lawmakers still might want to weigh in on the matter.

"There are 39 other senators and 100 other reps who may have some views on these issues," Sen. Brownsberger said. "We're feeling our way to find out what momentum there is for the proposal and what we can do to exert control over it."

Cello Concert by Webb Scholars March 22

On Sunday, March 22, come to The Church on the Hill for a concert performance by two cellists. This concert will feature the talents of Solomon Hearn and Amalia Ali, both George James Webb Scholarship Winners. Solomon will perform the "Cello Sonata in D Minor" I. Allegro non troppo - Largo and III. Largo. Solomon has been playing the cello for 12 years, and currently studies with Mark Churchill. He is a member of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra with conductor Benjamin Zander. Amalia will perform "Cello Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 49" by Dmitry Kabalevsky and "Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor BWV 1008" IV. Sarabande by Johann Sebastian Bach. Amalia began her studies

with Project STEP in the fall of 2006 and is in her 12th and final year. She currently studies cello under Dr. Carol Ou. Amalia is a senior at the Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill where she is an active participant in school initiatives for student diversity, leadership, and her school's STEAM Diploma program. This concert will begin at 3 pm.. The concert is open to the public and admission is \$5; there will be a reception with savory and sweet delights immediately following (handicap accessible). Come to 140 Bowdoin Street, Beacon Hill (across the street from the State House). For more information phone: 617-523-4575 or visit <http://churchonthehillboston.org>.

ASPIRE (from pg. 1)

make a profound impact on those on the autism spectrum, expand Aspire's programs and assist more people in more places.

Longtime co-chairs Stephanie and David Long, Tim Sweeney, Terry and Tom Hamilton, Ann Marie and Daniel Gross, and Kim and Eric Karofsky see the twentieth year as a huge milestone.

"This year's Gala promises to be an impactful one as we celebrate 20 years of this inspiring event and the opportunities it has made possible for young people on the autism spectrum," said co-chair David Long, Chairman and CEO, Liberty Mutual Insurance. "It is incredibly exciting to be on the cusp of surpassing the \$20 million mark in 2020 and continue to expand both the reach and impact of Aspire."

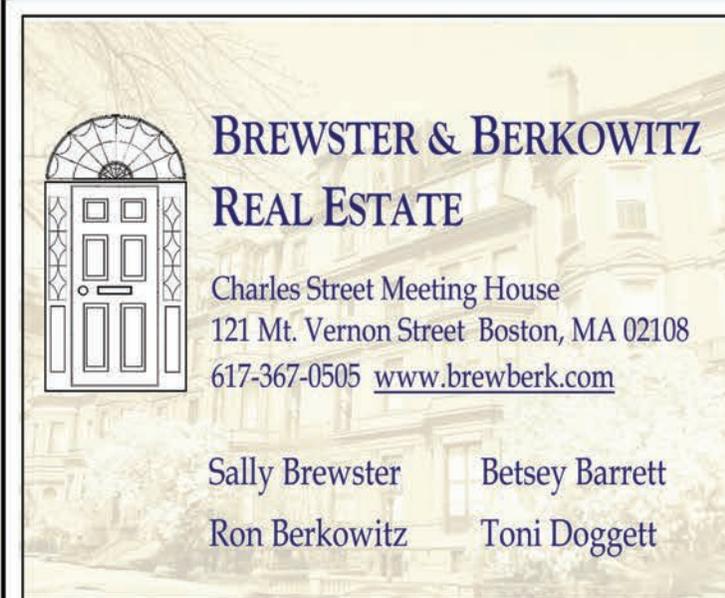
Funds raised at the Aspire Spring Gala support Aspire programs, which include a summer camp for children, an Excursions and Explorations group for teens

and an internship program for young adults.

"The Galas have enabled Aspire to develop more than 40 new programs for children, teens and adults on the autism spectrum and train nearly 4,000 people through the Aspire Works internship and neurodiversity training programs," said Scott McLeod, PhD, executive director of Aspire.

The Four Seasons Hotel Boston will host around 900 guests at the special event, which is designed by longtime partner Rafanelli Events. The night includes a lively cocktail reception, dinner-by-the-bite, speaking program, spotlight video, and interactive key game with one-of-a-kind prize packages, including a wine touring trip to Napa and luxury box tickets to can't-miss shows like Taylor Swift, Kenny Chesney and Maroon 5.

To be a part of the Aspire Spring Gala, visit www.aspiregala.org for information and tickets.



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Sculptor paying tribute to Charles Sumner faced sexism

By Dan Murphy

Venerable sculptor and Massachusetts native Anne Whitney felt the sting of sexism firsthand when her favored design for a statue to commemorate Charles Sumner in the recently constructed Public Garden was passed over due to her gender.

Upon Sumner's death at age 63 on March 11, 1874, the entire City of Boston entered a state of mourning over the loss of one of its favorite sons, and soon afterwards, the Boston Arts Committee began soliciting designs for a statue to honor the U.S. senator from Massachusetts who was an outspoken abolitionist.

Whitney submitted her design anonymously, which depicted a seated Sumner holding an open book in one hand while staring into the distance. While Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends of the Public Garden, said Whitney's design was believed to accurately capture Sumner's "spirit," and it

went on to beat out numerous other designs, including some by the most prominent architects of the day, the honor was soon revoked when someone tipped off committee members that the top design was in fact the work of a woman. "It was considered obscene at the time for a female artist to model a man's legs," Vizza said.

Instead, the committee opted to erect the runner-up design in the Public Garden, which was the work of American sculptor Thomas Ball. Vizza said the snub was "particularly ironic" since Sumner was so committed to equality that Rep. Preston Brooks, a pro-slavery advocate, attacked him with a walking stick on the Senate floor in retaliation for a scathing speech he made two days earlier, lambasting slaveholders, including one of Brooks' relatives.

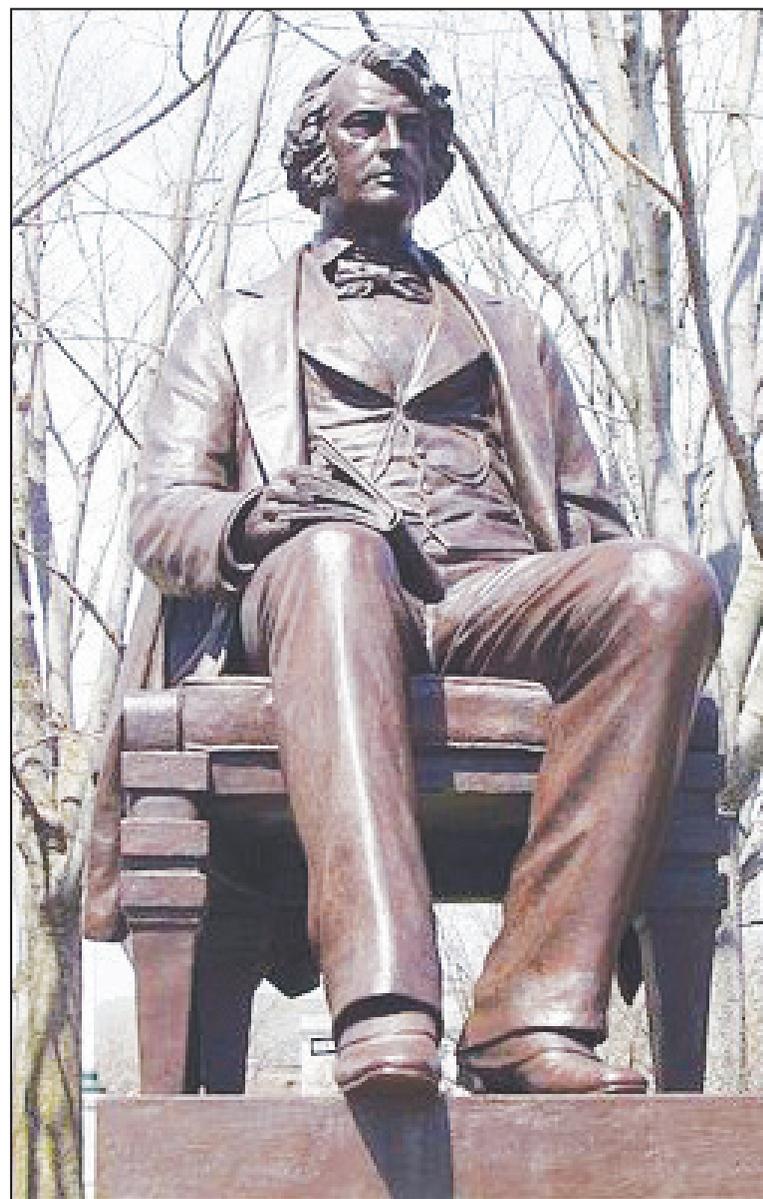
Shortly after learning of the committee's decision, Whitney wrote to her brother and sister from Rome in 1875, "Bury your grievance, my dear Sarah and

Edward. It will take more than a Boston Committee to quench me."

Whitney subsequently reclaimed the original version of her Sumner statue, hoping to find a permanent home for it. The piece became part of a temporary exhibit at the 1876 United States International Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa., before going into storage at Whitney's Beacon Hill home for nearly three decades.

In 1902, however, an anonymous paid for the statue to be cast in bronze in a foundry in Chicopee, Mass., and soon afterwards, it was unveiled at the intersection of Cambridge and Kirkland streets and Massachusetts Avenue in Harvard Square, proving to be a vindication for Whitney, who died at age 93 in 1915.

"Whitney exemplifies the challenges women have had to face for very long time," Vizza said. "She was tough. I think women needed grit then and they need grit today, as we know."



Anne Whitney's statue of Charles Sumner, which can be found today in Harvard Square.

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'Fanny' Appleton Pedestrian Bridge cited in national engineering competition

STV, which collaborated with Miguel Rosales of Rosales + Partners of Boston, has earned a National Recognition Award for exemplary engineering achievement in the American Council of Engineering Companies 53rd annual Engineering Excellence Awards for engineering the Frances "Fanny" Appleton Pedestrian Bridge.

The bridge celebrates the marriage of Fanny Appleton and poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whose namesake bridge lies just to the east. The 14-foot-wide, 750-foot-long ADA-compliant structure is comprised of 550 continuous feet of elevated steel superstructure with 100-foot concrete ramp abutments at each end. A steel fascia plate along the entire length of the superstructure creates a ribbon-like appearance, curving in all directions, and branching into stairs and a scenic overlook plaza.

With no center piers, the 222-foot-long main span appears to float over Storrow Drive, which separates the Charles River Esplanade from the city. Approach spans weave through the trees, allowing users to experience the park from a height near the tree

canopies.

"It is fitting that the Frances Appleton Bridge continues to win both architectural and engineering national awards as it exemplifies a bridge that is not only functional and cost effective, but also beautiful and well integrated into the parkland setting," wrote Miguel Rosales, the award-winning bridge designer and longtime Beacon Hill resident who designed the \$12.5 Appleton Bridge as a major component of the \$300 million-plus rehabilitation of the iconic Longfellow Bridge. "I am grateful that [the Massachusetts Department of Transportation] and [the Department of Conservation and Recreation] were both very supportive of the bridge aesthetics and design, which allowed the bridge to be completed with the highest standards of visual quality. With its elegant detailing, subtle lighting and transparency, the bridge perfectly complements its park setting and the adjacent historic Longfellow Bridge."

The joint venture team, WSC, consisted of J.F. White Contracting Company, Skanska and Consigli Construction Co., with STV as engineer-of-record. Founded more

than 100 years ago, STV is a leader in providing engineering, architectural, planning, environmental and construction management services for transportation systems, infrastructure, buildings, energy and other facilities.

The project is eligible for additional honors as part of a record 203 entries this year representing engineering excellence from throughout the nation and the world. Judging for the awards program—known industry-wide as the "Academy Awards of the engineering industry"—took place in February and was conducted by a national 35-member panel of built environment leaders, along with experts from government, the media and academia. Award criteria focused on uniqueness and originality, technical innovation, social and economic value, and generating excitement for the engineering profession.

Recognition of all award winners including top winners—20 Honor Awards, 16 Grand Awards and the prestigious "Grand Conceptor Award" for the year's most outstanding overall engineering achievement—will take place at the annual EEA Dinner



Alan Karchmer - Courtesy of Rosales + Partners

The award-winning Frances "Fanny" Appleton Pedestrian Bridge.

and Gala, a black-tie event to be held Tuesday, April 28, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The American Council of Engineering Companies is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing more than 5,200 independent engineering firms and more than 600,000 professionals throughout

the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, water and energy infrastructure, along with environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1906 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 52 state and regional organizations.



"Having been dear friends with Jillian and Steve for many years, it was the obvious choice to work with them to purchase my new home. They are just as professional as they are fun. I'd recommend them to anyone buying or selling in Beacon Hill."

— Ali, Owner of Sloane Merrill Gallery
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Homeland Security implements Public Charge final rules

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Monday implemented the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds final rule, a new rule looking at the likelihood of new immigrants not being self-sufficient and having to seek government benefits.

Under the final rule, DHS will look at the factors required under the law by Congress, like an alien's age, health, family status, assets, resources, and financial status, education and skills, among others, in order to determine whether the alien is likely at any time to become a public charge. The rule now applies nationwide, including in Illinois.

Self-sufficiency is a long-standing principle of immigration law. Since the 1800s, inadmissibility based on public charge has been a part of immigration law. Since 1996, federal laws have stated that aliens seeking to come to or remain in the United States, temporarily or permanently, must be self-sufficient and rely on their

own capabilities and the resources of family, friends, and private organizations instead of public benefits.

"President Trump continues to deliver on his promise to the American people to enforce our nation's immigration laws. After several judicial victories, DHS will finally begin implementing the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds final rule," said Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. "This rule enforces longstanding law requiring aliens to be self-sufficient, reaffirming the American ideals of hard work, perseverance and determination. It also offers clarity and expectations to aliens considering a life in the United States and will help protect our public benefit programs."

The final rule defines "public charge" as an alien who has received one or more public benefits (as defined in the rule) for more than 12 months, in total, within any 36-month period.

The final rule defines "public benefits" to include any cash benefits for income maintenance, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), most forms of Medicaid and certain housing programs.

Applicants for adjustment of status who are subject to the final rule must show that they are not likely at any time to become a public charge by submitting a Form I-944, Declaration of Self-Sufficiency, when they file their Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

To determine whether an alien is inadmissible on the public charge grounds, USCIS will not consider, and applicants and petitioners do not need to report, the application for, certification or approval to receive, or receipt of certain previously excluded non-cash public benefits (such as SNAP, most forms of Medicaid, and public housing) before Feb.

24, 2020. Similarly, USCIS will not consider as a heavily weighted negative factor receipt of previously included public benefits (such as SSI and TANF) before Feb. 24, 2020, in a public charge inadmissibility determination.

The final rule requires most aliens seeking to extend their non-immigrant stay or change their nonimmigrant status to show that, since obtaining the non-immigrant status they seek to extend or change, they have not received public benefits (as defined in the final rule) for more than 12 months, in total, within any 36-month period beginning Oct. 15, 2019. Due to litigation-related delays in the final rule's implementation, DHS is applying this requirement as though it refers to Feb. 24, 2020 rather than Oct. 15, 2019. Therefore, with respect to applying the public benefits condition to applications and petitions for extension of nonimmigrant stay and change of nonimmigrant status, DHS will not consider, and applicants and petitioners need

not report an alien's receipt of any public benefits before Feb. 24, 2020.

Certain classes of aliens are exempt from the public charge ground of inadmissibility (such as refugees, asylees, certain VAWA self-petitioners, U petitioners, and T applicants) and therefore, are not subject to the Final Rule.

After Monday, USCIS will reject prior editions of affected forms, including in Illinois where the rule remained enjoined until Feb. 21, 2020, when the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay of the statewide injunction. If USCIS receives an application or petition for immigration benefits using prior editions of the forms postmarked on or after Feb. 24, 2020, then USCIS will inform the applicant or petitioner of the need to submit a new application or petition using the correct forms. For applications and petitions that are sent by commercial courier (such as UPS, FedEx and DHL), the postmark date is the date reflected on the courier receipt.

House passes legislation to invest up to \$600M statewide in the Mass. transportation system

Last week, House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo and Rep. RoseLee Vincent along with their colleagues in the House of Representatives passed legislation to invest up to \$600 million annually in an immediate and critical infusion of transportation funding.

The House plan provides much-needed revenue that will begin to address the ongoing needs of the statewide Massachusetts transportation system. The system faces increased congestion, ongoing unreliability and safety concerns while cities and towns across the state report increased transportation infrastructure needs.

"We know there is a significant need for transportation revenue, and this package delivers it," said Speaker DeLeo (D - Winthrop). "Thank you to Chairs Michlewitz, Straus and Cusack and to Leader Mariano for their diligence and focused attention to this critical issue."

"I was proud to support this legislation because I believe the benefits of increased funding for our roadways, bridges and public transit system is extremely necessary," said Rep. Vincent (D-Revere). "The positive, tangi-

ble investments that we will see as a result of this legislation for years to come will help to bring our transportation infrastructure up to twenty-first century standards. I thank Speaker DeLeo, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Cusack and Chairman Straus for their collaboration in coming up with a consensus bill that takes a good approach and strikes a balance among all sides of the transportation revenue debate."

The House estimates the legislation, known as An Act Relative to Transportation Finance, will bring between \$522 and \$612 million in annual revenue. The bill contains a moderate increase in the gas tax and the diesel gas tax of 5 and 9 cents, respectively.

The legislation also features the first increase to the corporate minimum tax in more than 30 years. The tax is tiered to protect small businesses while ensuring the largest companies contribute appropriately for their reliance on the state's transportation infrastructure. Small businesses with less than \$1 million in annual Massachusetts sales would see no change in their tax rates. Businesses with Massachusetts annual sales above \$1 million would pay fees

according to an eight-tier scale. The maximum annual fee of \$150,000 is for companies with annual Massachusetts sales of \$1 billion or more.

Under the bill, Transportation Network Company (TNC) fees would increase in a tiered structure to incentivize shared rides. Shared rides fees will not increase, but fees are higher for non-shared and luxury rides. The bill updates a TNC out-of-state driver excise tax provision and sets TNC data collection and reporting requirements. The bill also eliminates a rental car sales tax exemption for car rental companies to close an existing loophole that currently allows companies to purchase fleet vehicles without paying sales or use taxes on the transaction.

"Strong transportation infrastructure powers strong economies," said House Majority Leader Rep. Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The House's transportation revenue package calls on a broad selection of stakeholders to contribute more to the roads, bridges, and railways upon which our current and future prosperity depend. Importantly, the revenue generated by this proposal will be shared by every city and town across

the Commonwealth for their own local and regional transit priorities."

"Throughout this process, it has become clearer by the day that the need for more transportation revenue is real, and it is immediate," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "The balanced approach that the House took in adopting this legislation today ensures that we can make a greater investment in our transportation infrastructure without doing unnecessary harm to our constituents and businesses alike. These investments are vitally important because the longer we wait, the worse our transportation system will get."

With the goal of keeping oversight of the MBTA's fiscal management practices intact, the bill extends the Fiscal Management Control Board to at least 2023, with an option for an additional extension to 2025. The provision also adds two seats, one for the City of Boston, to increase municipal representation on the board. Finally, the bill establishes an 11-member commission of outside experts to study congestion pricing and tolling sys-

tems to provide a comprehensive investigation into roadway pricing mechanisms designed to change commuter behavior.

"The current condition of our transportation system is unacceptable, and we have to provide the resources to further address our roads, bridges and mass transit systems," said Rep. William Straus (D-Mattapoisett), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "This bill shares the responsibility to raise funds in a balanced and fair way."

"Our transportation system is in dire need of immediate revenue sources," said Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue. "This well-balanced approach ensures stakeholders have a shared interest and investment in fixing our transportation system. Every community across the Commonwealth will benefit from this new revenue, and we can make real strides with real dollars in building the transportation system the people of Massachusetts deserve."

The bill will now go to the Senate.

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold a public hearing on March 19, at 5 p.m. at the Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, Fifth Floor. The following will be discussed:

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 for review during business hours at the office of the Environment Department. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

After 5:30 p.m., enter and exit City Hall at the Dock Square entrance on Congress Street (across from Faneuil Hall).

I. VIOLATIONS

APP # 20.704 BH 5 West Cedar Street

Applicant: Anne Stetson

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved "private way" signage.

VIO # 20.014 BH 4 Pinckney Street

Applicant: Sandy Steele

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved work at the rear of the property and an unapproved shoe scraper.

II. DESIGN

APP # 20.740 BH 35 Beacon Street:

Applicant: Jeremy Kindall; New England Window Works

Proposed Work: At front façade level four, remove six existing storm windows and replace with new ProVia storms. Fabricate and install wood sills to replace the existing deteriorated sills in kind.

APP # 20.860 BH 10 Charles River Square

Applicant: Anthony Griseto

Proposed Work: Repaint front door. At rear façade level 1 through 5, replace five (total), wood, 6 over 6 windows with five, aluminum clad, 6 over 6 windows. (See additional items in administrative review).

APP # 20.868 BH 20 Beacon Street

Applicant: Cara Forcellati; Boston Bar Association

Proposed Work: Install small vent for new boiler at front façade.

APP # 20.783 BH 73 Mount Vernon Street

Applicant: Elise Nash

Proposed Work: At front yard, install seasonal planter, add stone garden bench, granite pavers, pea-

stone path.

APP # 20.793 BH* 30 Brimmer Street

Applicant: Peter Madsen; Parish of the Advent

Proposed Work: At all facades, level one and two, replace 14, wood, 4 over 4, double hung windows.

APP # 20.833 BH 17A Branch Street

Applicant: James Fay

Proposed Work: Install light fixture to the right of the main door.

APP # 20.863 BH 99 Pinckney Street

Applicant: Bryan Driscoll

Proposed Work: Remove and replace roof deck in the same dimensions with a new code compliant handrail (See Additional Items in Administrative Review).

APP # 20.876 BH* 66 Chestnut Street

Applicant: Paul Pawlyk

Proposed Work: At roof level, install two condensers.

APP # 20.881 BH 104 Mount Vernon Street

Applicant: Brigid Williams; Hickox Williams

Proposed Work: Rebuild front brick wall, restore to include a granite foundation veneer that existed historically, install new handrail.

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 the determination sheet 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 one year from the date of the hearing. 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 617.635.3850 or BeaconHillAC@boston.gov Thank you.

APP # 20.880 BH* 48 Beacon Street: At right side façade, repoint masonry above windows and door, install flashing above windows and door, remove brick bulge on 11th floor, scrape and

repaint windows. Replace deteriorated wood in kind.

APP # 20.831 BH 77 Charles Street: At front façade, restore brownstone brackets at gutter line, rebuild brickwork at fire escape braces, cut and point brick masonry joints.

APP # 20.825 BH* 137 Charles Street: At front façade, repair brick façade in kind.

APP # 20.860 BH 10 Charles River Square: At front façade levels one, two, and three, replace five, wood, 6 over 6 windows with five, wood, 6 over 6 windows (See Additional Items in Design Review).

APP # 20.851 BH 68 Chestnut Street: Repair and repoint right side and chimney of 68 Chestnut Street with mortar type N.

APP # 20.872 BH 11 Hancock Street: At front façade, spot repoint brick and repair in kind. Replace deteriorated trim in kind. Replace gutter in kind.

APP # 20.863 BH 99 Pinckney Street: Remove and replace front and rear slate roof and dormer cheek wall in kind. Replace copper flashing in kind, cut and repoint left and right side rising wall, and rear façade using mortar type N. Repaint front shutters and window sash and trim in kind with BM Aura, Grand Entrance Black (See Additional Items in Design review).

APP # 20.864 BH 3 Spruce Street: Repoint front and side facades using mortar type N. Repair deteriorated wood to match existing.

*Pending Outstanding Requirements

IV. RATIFICATION OF 2/20/2020 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES & 1/15/2020 PUBLIC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

V. STAFF UPDATES

VI. Projected Adjournment: 9 p.m.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

Lecture on 'Pruning Possessions'

Beacon Hill Village and the Boston Public Library present a "Pruning Possessions Lecture," with Betsy Peterson of BHV, at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., on Monday, March 16, from 2 to 3 p.m.

If you're like most of us, you have too much stuff but don't know what to do with the things you no longer need or want. A few years ago, Beacon Hill Village members put together a handy information sheet with suggestions on where to donate, where to sell, or how to just get rid of things. Copies of that handout, "Pruning Possessions," will be provided at the session, and can always use more suggestions. Join Peterson, other BHV members, and members of the public for a brainstorming session to share ideas and information and pick up tips. This program is free and open to the public. Registration is suggested by calling Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713.

King's Chapel's Tuesday Recitals

King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., presents its Tuesday Recitals. Admission is by suggested donation of \$5 per person; the donations are given to the performing musicians. Programs begin at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 35 minutes; for more information, call 617-227-2155.

Programming includes Ensemble: Maria Alejandra Montero (soprano), Maria Gabriela Alvaado (traverso) and Kyle Collins (harpsichord) performing "Gibraltar: A Clash Between Nations" on March 17; Michael Hall (viola) and Aaron Larget-Caplan (guitar) performing works by Read, Trester and Ribeiro on March 24; and David Williams Hughes (voice and lute) performing "Songs of Sadness, Satire and Seduction" on March 31.

Lecture on housing options for seniors

Beacon Hill Village and the Boston Public Library present a lecture called "Time for a Change?," with Kate Granigan, CEO of LifeCare Advocates, in the Commonwealth Salon, McKim Building, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., on Tuesday, March 17, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Join Granigan for an exploration of the wide, and growing, range of housing options avail-

able to us as we age. Choosing whether to "right size", relocate, retrofit or rent a spare room to a younger tenant all raise issues with their pros and cons. Granigan will help sort out the options including independent living, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, and provide a look-see at emerging creative technologies and intergenerational living arrangements. This is an interactive discussion that is free and open to the public, and your questions will be welcomed.

To register, call Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713.

Hill House Kiddie Kamp open for enrollment

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., is currently enrolling for its Kiddie Kamp, which is specifically for kids aged 3-5 and the perfect combination of new and exciting experiences in a safe, familiar environment. Join a staff of counselors for a summer full of games, crafts, stories, songs, age-appropriate athletics and outdoor fun. Your child will build confidence, independence and friendships.

For more information on Kiddie Kamp, or how to register - some weeks are at 80-percent capacity, so don't wait - contact Chelsea Evered at 617-227-5838 or cevered@hillhouseboston.org, or visit hillhouseboston.org.

Hill House Spring Baseball League registration now open

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., has opened up Baseball and Softball League registration. Members of the community can now register for its new Red Sox Rookie League for 4-year-olds, T-Ball (ages 5-6.5), AA Baseball (ages 6.5-7), AAA Baseball (ages 8-9) and Majors League (10- to 12-year-olds). Hill house also offers Girls Softball for 6- to 8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds. All leagues are coed, and the season will begin the first week in April.

Visit <http://www.hillhouseboston.org/Athletics/Baseball.htm> for more details.

For more information on the Hill House Little League, contact Hill House Athletics Director Marshall Caldera at 617-227-5838 or mcaldera@hillhouseboston.org.

BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New

Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in the third through seventh grades.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in an outstanding program.

The group meets at 140 Bowdoin St. on Saturday mornings. Tuition is free for any child with a Greater Boston-area address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To register, contact Carlton Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit www.churchonthehillboston.org (click on "music.")

BSNJ/The Church On The Hill sponsors this initiative, but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

'Coloring for Adults' at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents "Color Your World: Coloring for Adults" on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m.

At this time, the library will supply coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons, or bring your own supplies if you prefer. Feel free to drop in between these hours.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

Spanish/English Language Exchange

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents the Spanish/English Language Exchange/Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m.

At this time, English speakers can practice Spanish and Spanish speakers can practice English in this fun, informal conversation class.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in Grades 3 to 7.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-as-

essment and the fun of being in a well organized program.

The rehearsals take place at 140 Bowdoin St. on Tuesday afternoons. Tuition is free for any child with a Boston address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To sign up, please contact Mr. Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit www.churchonthehillboston.org (click on "music").

The Church on the Hill sponsors this initiative but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

ESL conversation group resumes meeting at West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., welcomes the English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation group every Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. Come and practice your English language skills with other newcomers and a facilitator.

West End Playgroup meets Tuesday mornings

The West End Community Center, located at 1 Congress St., welcomes the West End Playgroup on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through the fall and winter.

This is a free drop-in time to let kids play and adults chat with one another. Small toy donations are welcome.

Get homework help at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., offers homework help every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Get help from a Boston Public Schools teacher. No appointment necessary; simply drop in with your homework.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

Compassionate Friends group reaches out to bereaved parents, families

The Boston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) meets at Trinity Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

TCF is a national self-help, mutual-assistance organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents and their families. Call

617-539-6424 or e-mail tcfoboston@gmail.com for more information.

West End Food Pantry seeking donations

The West End Food Pantry needs help to continue serving its more than 120 clients per month. They welcome donations to replenish the supply of food that they give out to hungry residents in the neighborhood.

The pantry is located in the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library and is staffed by volunteers from ABCD's North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center. Non-perishable (canned and boxed) items are being sought, including rice, pasta, canned tuna, canned chicken, chili, beans, vegetables, cereal, soups, cup of noodles, etc.

Donations can be left at the library, 151 Cambridge St., on Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers needed for hot meal program

The North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), located at 1 Michelangelo St., serves a hot, fresh, home-cooked lunch to seniors in the neighborhood Mondays and Fridays, and is looking for two volunteers to help with shopping, food preparation, cooking, serving and clean-up. The non-profit providing services and programs to low-income residents of the North End, West End and Beacon Hill is looking for volunteers who can assist with the whole meal from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a Monday and/or Friday, but can make arrangements to fit your schedule.

Contact Maria Stella Gulla, director, at 617-523-8125, ext. 201, via e-mail at mariastella.gulla@bostonabcd.org for more information.

Introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., offers an introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads by appointment only. Get the most out of your eReader or Laptop. Receive tips and guidance during these one-on-one sessions. Call Branch Librarian, Helen Bender at 617-523-3957 or e-mail hbender@bpl.org to set up an appointment.

CALENDAR

THE DEADLINE FOR LISTING EVENTS IS THE TUESDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. CALL 617-523-9490 OR FAX 617-523-8668 OR EMAIL EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

MONDAY, MARCH 16

LECTURE, "Pruning Possessions Lecture," with Betsy Peterson of Beacon Hill Village, Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., 2-3 p.m., call Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713 for reservations

12:15 p.m., suggested donation: \$5, call 617-227-2155 for more information

LECTURE, "Time for a Change?," with Kate Granigan, CEO of LifeCare Advocates, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., McKim Building, Commonwealth Salon, 2-3 p.m., admission: free, call Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713 to register

King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., 12:15 p.m., suggested donation: \$5, call 617-227-2155 for more information

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

CONCERT, David Williams Hughes (voice and lute) performing "Songs of Sadness, Satire and Seduction," King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., 12:15 p.m., suggested donation: \$5, call 617-227-2155 for more information

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

CONCERT, Amaranti Ensemble: Maria Alejandra Montero (soprano), Maria Gabriela Alvrado (traverso) and Kyle Collins (harpichord) performing "Gibraltar: A Clash Between Nations," King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St.,

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

CONCERT, Michael Hall (viola) and Aaron Larget-Caplan (guitar) performing works by Read, Trester and Ribeiro,

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

Yoga for seniors at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., presents yoga for seniors every Tuesday from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. Classes are led by Tatiana Nekrasova, a certified yoga instructor.

Volunteer at Spaulding Rehab

Stay active, meet new people and be connected with your community by volunteering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Staff members will match your skills and interests to a volunteer opportunity. The hospital is currently recruiting volunteers, ages 18 and up, for two- to three-hour-a-week shifts for a minimum of six to 12 months commitment. Visit www.spauldingnetwork.org for more information.

After-work tai chi group at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., welcomes after-work tai chi group every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. Come and try this low impact energy exercise with yang-style tai chi instructor Arthur Soo-Hoo.

Be a friend to elderly in need

FriendshipWorks seeks caring people to offer help and support to isolated elders in the Boston area. Volunteers are needed to provide companionship and assist elders with tasks such as reading, organizing, or going for a walk - lend an hour each week and gain a friend and a new perspective. Volunteers also needed to escort elders to and from medical appointments. No car is needed and hours are flexible. For more information or to apply online, visit www.fw4elders.org or call 617-482-1510.

Local residents needed to drive cancer patients to and from treatment

The American Cancer Society is in great need of Road to Recovery volunteers to drive local cancer patients to and from their chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. An integral part of treating cancer successfully is making sure cancer patients receive their treatments, but many find making transportation arrangements is a challenge. The American Cancer Society provided more than

19,000 rides to cancer patients in New England last year, but needs new volunteer drivers to keep up with the demand for transportation.

Make a difference in the fight against cancer by becoming a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery. Drivers use their own vehicle to drive patients to and from their treatments. The schedule for volunteers is flexible, and treatment appointments take place weekdays, primarily during business hours. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer driver for Road to Recovery, contact your American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

Join the Downtown Boston Rotary Club

The Downtown Boston Rotary Club, the first new Rotary Club in Boston in 100 years, holds meetings at the UMass Club in the Financial District on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

For more information, visit www.dbrrotary.org or call 617-535-1950.

Administrative assistant needed

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) is a proactive volunteer organization of neighbors helping neighbors. We are seeking an administrative assistant to support the BHCA's executive director to carry out the association's mission, which is to preserve and enhance the quality of life on Beacon Hill. The candidate should be friendly and outgoing, and enjoy working with

volunteers, BHCA members and Beacon Hill residents. He or she should be highly motivated with excellent organizational skills and attention to detail, self-directed, able to juggle multiple tasks and be comfortable with database systems. This is a full-time position and available immediately. For more details or to send a resume, email us at info@bhcivic.org.

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Larceny from a Building
03/03/20 - A construction supervisor reported tools were stolen from a Melrose Street construction site at around 8 a.m.

A utility bag containing various tools was stolen from inside the

building, and a short time later, a Fayette Street resident reported finding a bag in their window-well. The victim identified the bag as his and said some of the tools were missing from it.

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CITY PAWS

Taking care of one another

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We often notice when friends and neighbors with animals go that extra mile to take special care of an ailing, anxious, or aging companion animal.

One friend recently posted a photo of her aging cat sitting on a pile of cushions that she arranged so that he could see out the window.

ride to the park. You might see Penny holding Poppy's paw when something on a walk frightens our little noise-averse pup because it sometimes calms her.

Less Obvious Care

You may not realize that your cat or dog is helping you live longer and have a better quality of life. The American Heart Association reported on a 2019 study that concluded, "Dog ownership is associated with lower risk of death over the long term, which is possibly driven by a reduction in cardiovascular mortality."

An older but similar study about cats suggests prescribing the company of a cat. It concluded,

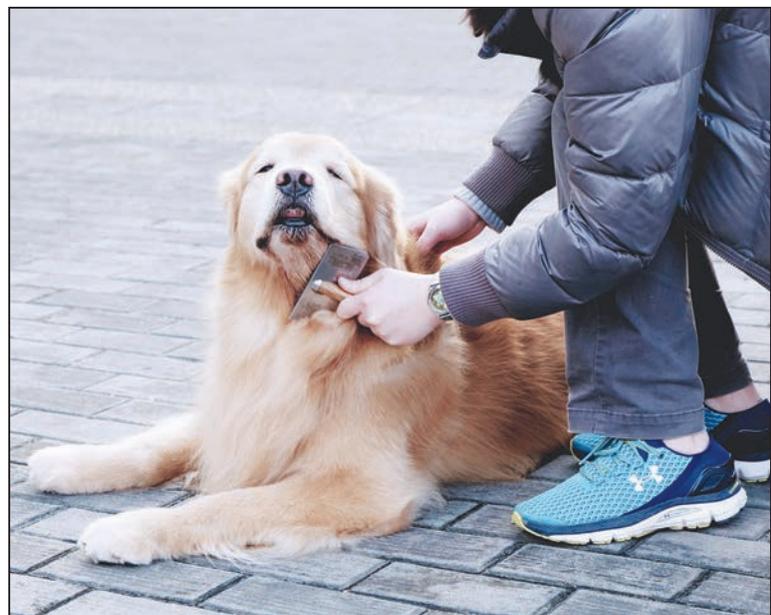
"Acquisition of cats as domestic pets may represent a novel strategy for reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases in high-risk individuals."

We recommend the book "Doctor Dogs: How Our Best Friends Are Becoming Our Best Medicine" by Maria Goodavage to learn more ways dogs are improving our health as individuals and as humans in general.

Some of these canines work directly with a person who needs to be alerted to a specific medical signal like a person whose blood sugar is moving out of the normal range or someone who is about to have a seizure.

She tells great stories of successful work some service dogs are doing for veterans with PTSD and children with autism. In the case of autism, a specifically-trained service dog not only provides a calming presence but also may lean into the child as an alert for excess anxiety, panic, or a potential melt-down.

Other highly trained sniffer dogs work in research settings or laboratories. In an interview with NPR, Goodavage said, "I heard about these dogs at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Working Dog Center that are able to smell ovarian cancer. They're able to detect it as



Routine grooming is another way to thank your dog for all they do for you. (Photo by Henry & Co.)

early as stage one. We're not even talking tumors here. They're able to detect ovarian cancer in one drop of plasma from a woman with ovarian cancer."

In some instances, dogs are working alongside researchers who are trying to determine what specific compound the canine is detecting in order to devise treatments based on that knowledge.

Our Turn

We have many opportunities to make life better for animals. You can keep up with the latest information about specific diseases and parasites active in your area or risks that are prevalent in your breed. You could make time for the activities your pet enjoys

most. In the areas of training and nutrition, you can find and use the latest independent guidelines and kindest methods.

On a more global scale, you can reach out to your elected officials to ask them to support legislation that improves the lives of animals and to fight for shared recreational spaces and fair treatment of those of us who choose to have animals in our lives.

Being better-informed will provide you with many opportunities to repay your dog or cat for all they do for you.

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

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