

MAY 7, 2020



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!**



Courtesy of the Friends of the Public Garden

Young revelers at a past Duckling Day.

Leah Rosovsky appointed director of Boston Athenæum

Special to the Times

The Boston Athenæum has announced the appointment of Leah Rosovsky as Stanford Calderwood Director, becoming the seventeenth leader in its 213-year history. Rosovsky, who served as Vice President for Strategies and Programs at Harvard University until 2019, will assume her role at the Athenæum later this month.

Following a national search, Rosovsky was unanimously selected at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 30.

Timothy W. Diggins, president (ROSOVSKY Pg. 9)



Courtesy of The Boston Athenæum

Leah Rosovsky, the newly appointed Stanford Calderwood Director of The Boston Athenæum.

Duckling Day goes virtual this Mother's Day

By Dan Murphy

While the highly anticipated Duckling Day won't take place in the Public Garden on Mother's Day in the traditional sense this year, the Friends of the Public Garden is hosting a "virtual" Duckling Day on Facebook Sunday, May 10, beginning at noon instead.

"This is such a sweet and wonderful event that happens in real time," said Liz Vizza, executive director of the nonprofit Friends group. "We can't do that this year, but we're providing as much as we can, given that we're living in very unusual times."

The program, which is expected to run around 20 minutes, will include a welcome from

Vizza, a greeting from Mayor Martin Walsh and a reading of Robert McCloskey's 1941 classic children's book "Make Way For Ducklings" by WCVB-5s Rhondella Richardson, who has served as the event's emcee for the last several years, and will be joined by her daughter, Rhylee.

(DUCKLING Pg. 5)

Michlewitz facing unforeseen challenges in state budget

By Dan Murphy

This year has brought a set of unique and unforeseen challenges for Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, who is charged with managing the state's annual fiscal budget in his role as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

"Because of the shelter-in-place advisory and the number of businesses now closed, the revenue

shortfalls could be unprecedented," said Rep. Michlewitz, adding that traditionally the House would be finished with the budget by this time of year. "A consensus was reached between the House, the Senate and the governor in January at the start of the budget process, but a lot changed once the pandemic hit."

Now, the state must consider when and how businesses will

be able to open back up, and what restrictions will then be in place due to social distancing and other measure taken to contain the spread of COVID-19 in reevaluating its fiscal '21 budget, he said.

"Unlike other recessions and the Great Depression, which were the results of the real estate market

(BUDGET Pg. 9)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Beacon Hill Civic Association 2020 Annual Meeting to be Held Virtually

The Beacon Hill Civic Association's 98th Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

and Directors will be held on May 18, 2020, at 6:00pm. While under normal circumstances the meeting would be held at the Union Club on Park Street, this (BHCA, Pg. 5)



BHCA Board photo from the 2019 Annual Meeting at the Union Club. Front row: James Ewing, Rob Whitney – President, Josh Leffler, and Timothy Pingree. Second row: Eve Waterfall – Chair, Katherine Judge, Suzanne Besser, Leslie Adam, Emi Winterer, Janet Tiampo, Michelle Lavers, and Emily Claire. Back row: Russ Gaudreau, Andrew Kirk, Charlotte Thibodeau, Colin Zick, Bruce Kiernan, and Tom Clemens.

Baker signs order requiring face coverings in public

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on May 1 signed an order requiring face masks or coverings for everyone when six feet of distance cannot be maintained. The order went into effect on May 6, and children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition are exempt.

Face coverings must be worn inside pharmacies, grocery stores, and other retail stores, and “also when providing or using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing, or similar service or any means of mass public transit, or while within an enclosed or semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area,” the order states.

The order also states that people are “strongly discouraged” from wearing medical-grade masks, as those are in limited supply and should be saved for first responders and healthcare workers.

“This is going to be basically a way of life, okay, there’s no ifs, no

ands, no buts, no doubts,” Baker said at a recent press conference, “and I certainly think for the most part if you can’t distance inside or outside, you’re going to be expected to wear a face covering or a mask.”

Businesses are allowed to deny entry of any person who refuses to wear a mask and does not have a valid medical reason not to, the order says.

“The Department of Public Health, local boards of health and authorized agents...are authorized to enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police,” according to the order, and while there is no standard fee implemented across the board, Baker is enabling municipalities to charge up to \$300 per violation of the order or guidance from the Department of Public Health.

“One of the major issues associated with this particular virus,” Baker said, is that a “very significant portion of the people who

contract this virus will never show symptoms at all. I can’t stress that one enough.”

He said this is why masks are especially important, as their “main purpose is to protect [others] from you as much as it is to protect you from [others].”

Reopening Advisory

Board Last week, the Baker-Polito administration announced the creation of a 17 person reopening advisory board that has been working over the past week and over the weekend on a phased plan to reopen the state

Reopening is “certainly something that I think is at the forefront of everyone’s mind,” Baker said at a press conference on April 20. “The advisory board has hit the ground running,” he added, and has met with business organizations and leaders from municipalities across the Commonwealth. He said the goal for the board is to “hear from employers from across the Commonwealth,” and to “gather as much data as they

possibly can to make sure that we can offer up specific guidance.”

So far, the board has met virtually with stakeholders from “23 different industry associations and community coalitions,” Baker said, which represent more than 100,000 businesses and over 1.4 million employees in retail, life sciences, restaurants, tourism, construction, recreation, and more.

He said that the “best way to handle the reopening” is to “do it in a way consistent with data and recommendations” that come from other countries and different levels of government.

“This work is obviously going to be critical to make sure a smart, phased reopening will take place in Massachusetts,” Baker said on April 30.

He said in the coming weeks, more “concrete” plans will be available about what each phase will look like, and “where certain activities and industries fit into which phase.” Baker also said information for businesses, such

as guidance for social distancing and cleaning, will also be made available.

Baker said he was “very grateful to the many people across industries that have had to close their doors and adjust their work styles” during this crisis. “I think everybody’s anxious to find a way to safely move forward.”

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito reminded residents on May 4 that when May 18 comes, it “doesn’t mean the economy across the Commonwealth will just open,” she said. Governor Baker has reiterated several times throughout the past couple weeks that they must rely on testing and hospital data to make the safest decision for what can open when.

“When the public health date indicates that COVID-19 is on that sustained downward trend that’s been discussed by so many previously, we’ll be able to resume more and more activities going forward,” Baker said.

(BAKER Pg. 9)

Walsh provides testing, Boston Public Schools updates

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh said on May 4 that while Boston “may be on the verge of a downward slope,” it’s “not time to ease up” on social distancing and other protective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

He said that as the Commonwealth and the City plan for a phased reopening, “we all have to stay the course right now so we can save lives. If we don’t, we risk dealing with a second and even worse wave of the virus.”

He said that “there’s still too many people not wearing masks,” and urged people to provide more distance between each other when outdoors. “Be cautious and mindful,” he said.

Walsh said that the City continues to rely on the Boston Hope field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, and as of Monday there were 161 patients being served there, 63 on the shelter side and 98 on the hospital side.

With a weekend of nice weather, Walsh thanked “everyone who did their part this weekend; keeping up with social distancing and covering their faces.”

He also thanked his neighborhood liaisons, who distributed more than 70,000 booklets to convenience stores, banks and food distribution sites across the

city over the weekend. The booklets include information on how to stay safe, make face coverings, and practice social distancing.

After Governor Baker announced last week an order for everyone over the age of two to wear face covering sin public when six feet of distance between people cannot be maintained, Walsh emphasized the importance of wearing a face covering while walking on the street, while riding the MBTA, while in the grocery store or pharmacy, and “anytime you are outside your home when you cannot ensure enough distance between yourself and others.”

Testing Update

As of May 4, Boston had 10,077 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 442 people had died.

Walsh said on May 4 that 28,000 people have been treated in Boston, which is four percent of the City’s population. Last week, the City was able to increase testing by 44 percent, and Walsh said that the positive rate is at 32 percent and “trending down.” He said that numbers of positive tests were lower in Mattapan, Hyde Park, and West Roxbury, but they were higher in the Fenway after testing late last week. The percentage of positive tests was lower last week in East Boston as well, but the neighborhood still has the highest number of positive tests in

all of Boston, Walsh said.

By the end of this week there will be 19 total testing sites across the City, Walsh said, including more sites in Jamaica Plain and Charlestown. He told residents that if they think they need a test, they should contact their local health center ahead of time as “you cannot show up and just get a test.”

More than 1800 homeless individuals have also been tested so far, and two have passed away.

“The antibody testing initiative is also wrapping up,” Walsh said on Monday, which will give the City “a bit of a snapshot of where we stand with people.” He said a summary of these results will also be made publicly available.

Distribution Of Grants To Over 500 Small Businesses

Mayor Walsh announced on May 5 that the City’s Small Business Relief Fund will be “distributing \$2 million in grants to 561 small businesses most directly impacted by closures, policies, or general loss of revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to a release from the City.

The businesses are located in every neighborhood of the city, and the most affected industries include hospitality, personal care, arts and recreation, retail, and healthcare and social assistance, according to the City, and more

than 75 percent of businesses who were awarded funding have fewer than five employees, many of which had trouble accessing federal assistance.

“The Small Business Relief Fund grants are critical to help struggling small businesses across the city address challenges brought on by COVID-19,” said Mayor Walsh. “These businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the lifeblood of our communities. I’m proud we are able to assist them during this time, and am grateful to our partners who have stepped up in a big way to support Boston’s neighborhood business community.”

BPS Update

Walsh announced that an updated learning plan around attendance, grading, assignments, and scheduling went into effect on May 4.

“We did this because when we shut schools down, we hoped we’d be closed through the end of April, but then we had to change the way we do learning,” he said.

Walsh also said that no student will be held back this year and all will move onto the next grade, but if parents or guardians feel that their child would benefit from repeating a grade, that can be discussed.

A plan to honor graduating seniors is also in development, Walsh said. “We’re working on

some special ways to celebrate them and their achievements.”

He also thanked all teachers “for stepping up in this crisis,” as this week is National Teachers Week. He also thanked students and parents for their “continued cooperation” as remote learning continues for the rest of the school year.

Walsh also talked about a special benefit authorized by the federal CARES Act, the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Card, or P-EBT, which is available for all BPS and charter school students, he said. If a family is currently receiving SNAP benefits, it will automatically be added to their cards in the amount of \$5.70 per child per school day for as long as schools are closed, which comes out to \$28.50 per child per week.

No applications are required to receive this extra benefit, and P-EBT cards can be used anywhere where SNAP cards are currently used, he added. Cards will be mailed to families who are not currently enrolled in the SNAP program, and the use of these cards does not impact immigration status.

Additionally, over 58,000 meals were delivered to seniors through Meals on Wheels last week, Walsh said.

Traffic And Public Safety

(WALSH Pg. 7)

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Rafiee, Dana	Patricelli, Patricia M	180 Commonwealth Ave #23	\$970,000
Pusic, Martin V	Pandolfi, Pier-Paolo	239 Commonwealth Ave #42	\$2,775,000
Pusic, Martin V	Pandolfi, Pier-Paolo	239 Commonwealth Ave #43	\$2,775,000
Evan M Kushner LT	Gurnack, Gwenn E	24 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,165,125
Wang, Vanessa	Johnson, Alexander C	65 Marlborough St #4	\$1,755,000
Lefebvre, Xavier	Zhang Shengheng Est	183-185A Mass. Ave #403	\$1,347,500
Rigobon, Roberto I	Gelineau, Amanda M	362 Commonwealth Ave #5A	\$927,000

BEACON HILL	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Solomon, Michael J	Ventola, John	65 Anderson St #3A	\$1,575,000
Reynolds, Benjamin	Johnson, James	38 Hancock St #1	\$786,000
Mosakowski, Rachel A	Kendra C Nikodem	140 Mount Vernon St #5	\$1,915,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Chan, Lauren	Ansin, G Ryan	33 Appleton St #1	\$1,070,000
Reilly, Shannon	Maes, Gregoire C	76 Chandler St #1&2	\$2,100,000
Boyd, William M	27 Isabella LLC	27 Isabella St #1	\$2,335,000
Yudkin, Ross	Cordes, Eric G	26 Melrose St #1	\$875,000
Paul, Steven	Latimer, Nathan	40 Traveler St #708	\$1,710,000
Caron, Thomas J	Amos Realty LLC	603 Tremont St #4	\$1,535,000
Shea, Christel A	Araujo, Paul	159 W Brookline St #2	\$595,000
Katz, Jerrold	Walker, Andrew C	1280-1284 Washington St #403	\$1,610,000
Katz, Jerrold	Walker, Andrew C	1313 Washington St #102	\$1,610,000
Wang, Brendan	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #415	\$760,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Youngsaye, Willmen W	Willi, Mathilda	70 Lincoln St #L615	\$635,000
Masri, Omar	Shohans LLC	580 Washington St #1001	\$1,600,000

Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The contemporary, rectangular design elements in the last clue are on the back of The Anderson Park Apartments. In 2016 an extension of affordability for at least 20 years was announced for this property. This paper reported, "The Anderson Park Apartments were constructed in 1978 with MassHousing financing ..."

Today's clue is from a circa 1910 photo. Where is it?

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



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EDITORIAL

THIS SUNDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

During this time of unprecedented upheaval because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the rituals that most of us traditionally follow either have been eliminated or drastically changed because of the need to practice physical distancing.

So too, the manner in which we observe Mother's Day, which is this Sunday, May 10, will be different from all others before it. The traditional family get-togethers that we usually observe will be cancelled or modified to a great extent because of the situation in which we find ourselves.

However, it often is said that necessity is the mother of invention (no pun intended) and in that spirit we're sure that all of our readers will find a way to honor their mothers in some fashion, whether it be something as simple as a phone call or by a family gathering via Zoom.

Oftentimes, the smallest of gestures can mean the most.

We hope too, that Mother's Day this year will serve as a way for all of us to think about what is most important in our lives -- our family, friends, and loved ones -- as we struggle to make sense of these turbulent times amidst a pandemic.

We know we join with all of our readers in wishing all of our moms a happy Mother's Day.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR HOOVERISM

Herbert Hoover had been President for about seven months when the stock market crashed in October, 1929. Although there have been many causes attributed to the onset of the Great Depression, the crash generally is viewed as the trigger point for what still rates as the greatest economic downturn in our nation's history.

However, even as the economy continued to sink in the aftermath of the crash, Hoover adopted a hands-off policy toward the economy. Although Herbert Hoover was a good man with lots of government experience prior to becoming president, he refused to take action of any kind, held back by a combination of a lack of imagination and his rigid, free-market view of the U.S. economy.

Hoover failed to recognize the severity of the situation or leverage the power of the federal government to address it. He was widely viewed as callous and insensitive toward the suffering of millions of desperate Americans.

By the time Hoover left office in early 1933, unemployment in the U.S. had reached 25% and millions of Americans literally were starving. The iconic photos from that era of Americans lined up for handouts from the soup kitchens that were operated by private charities still are seared into our collective memory even today.

What brought to mind the inaction of Herbert Hoover during the Great Depression were comments made this past Sunday by Lawrence Kudlow, the former TV personality who now is one of the chief economic advisers to President Trump.

Basically, Kudlow said the Trump administration is taking a wait-and-see approach before committing to more federal support for Americans as the United States continues to weather the coronavirus crisis and the accompanying economic damage.

"Well, I don't want to get too far ahead of the story, Jake," Kudlow said to CNN's Jake Tapper. "There may well be additional legislation. There's a kind of pause period right now."

But "getting ahead" of this crisis precisely is what policymakers need to do. While it certainly is true that the federal government has spent trillions of dollars in various ways to assist Americans, it also is true that the degree of economic assistance -- as well as a coordinated plan -- that will be necessary simply to keep Americans fed during the ongoing crisis will require additional trillions of dollars as the economy plunges into free-fall without a parachute in the months ahead.

The lesson of the Great Depression is that a national government cannot be a passive bystander during a time of economic collapse. Speedy, forceful, and creative action is required today to prevent an already-calamitous situation from becoming worse tomorrow.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY... MAY 10.

GUEST OP-ED

Boston pets and COVID-19

By Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM,

The National Veterinary Services Laboratory of the USDA announced on April 22, 2020 that two pet cats from different households in the United States were confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection. These are the first pets in the U.S. with positive tests for the virus that causes COVID-19 in people. Subsequently, a family dog from Chapel Hill, North Carolina tested positive. It appears that cats and dogs can become infected, but currently we have no information that suggests the virus can go from pets to people.

If you are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing, tiredness,

nasal congestion or runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea, aches and pains) you should limit contact with pets and other animals, just as you would restrict your contact with other people. When possible, have another family or household member care for the animals while you are sick. If you have a service animal or you must care for pets, wear a face mask or covering; don't share food, kiss, or hug animals; and wash your hands before and after any contact with your pet, service animal, or other animals. If you are sick, you should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.

Good general safety practice

includes not allowing pets to interact with people or other animals outside the household; keeping cats indoors to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people; walking dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals; avoiding public places where large numbers of people and dogs gather.

Keeping pets indoors or under close supervised conditions not only protects them against COVID-19 infection, it prevents them from suffering other harms commonly encountered outside.

Now is a great time to practice teaching your pets skills and tricks with positive reinforcement, and to spend extra time at home grooming your pets. Walking your dog is important for both animal and human health and well-being. Love your animals, keep them close to you (unless you are sick!), away from other people and together all of us, whether we have two legs or four, will get through this together!

For more information about COVID-19 and pets, visit the CDC and the AVMA.

For additional information on resources and COVID-19, visit [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://www.boston.gov/coronavirus).

Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM, Boston Animal Care and Control

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City Council holds hearing on coronavirus relief grant

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing on Monday regarding a grant from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

The Council discussed a "message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$120,853,359 in the form of a grant awarded by the United States Department of the Treasury to be administered by the City of Boston from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by section 5001 of the CARES Act," according to City Councilor and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee Kenzie Bok.

The City's budget director, Justin Sterritt, was on hand to give an overview of the Federal CARES Act and explain how Boston plans on using this grant awarded by the federal government.

Sterritt said that the CARES Act was passed and signed on

March 27, and consists of a stimulus package in the amount of \$2 million to "address the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19."

He said that Boston's allotment is up to \$121 million, and is restricted in what it can be used for. "It must be a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency," he said, and for expenditures incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 30, 2020.

"We will need very detailed accounting" on how the money will be spent he said. "This funding cannot be used as a revenue replacement," he added, as the money can only be used for "public health and public safety expenditures directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Sterritt said he anticipates the funding being used for "unanticipated and necessary City costs related to COVID-19," including

personal protective gear for City staff, cleaning and disinfection of public areas and city facilities, technology to allow public employees to work remotely, Chromebooks and software for distance learning, and public health and medical expenditures, such as the Boston Hope facility at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

He said the money can also be used for "ongoing public health measures" related to the pandemic, such as testing and contact tracing, disease containment, quarantine and isolation, communication and community engagement, and more. It can also be used for payroll expenses for City employees in public safety, public health, health care, and human services.

Other expenses that this money qualifies for include food delivery to senior citizens and other vulnerable residents, care for the homeless population, and support for youth and education, Sterritt said.

These allotted funds must last until December 2020 to address these ongoing concerns.

Sterritt was asked how this money relates to money distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"We know that FEMA is not going to be here forever," he responded. He said that the City qualifies money from FEMA as the first bucket of money that the city would use for things like emergency food money, and then this grant money would be a "secondary plot of money."

He also added that if something the grant money is spent on is "deemed ineligible for use by the federal government," the City will have to reimburse the federal government.

"The goal is to maximize the federal relief money," Sterritt said.

The City Council then asked questions and raised concerns about this money and how it can be best spent. The councilors

thanked the administration for their partnership on this issue, as well as stated the fact the discussion around this grant money and other funds will be ongoing as the coronavirus situation continues to unfold in the City.

"I think that we're all cognizant of the fact that this is just a really moving, evolving target," Councilor Bok said. "I certainly want to stress how important I think it is for us to move in every way we can to maximize our federal funds that we have access to."

She added that the Council's budget process looks very different this year, and "is going to have to be a more continual thing this year than we're used to it being in the sense that we can expect rolling stimuli and impacts both positive and negative at the federal and state level that are not going to track our fiscal year deadline," she said. "We're all looking forward to that continuing to be a very active conversation."

DUCKLING (from pg. 1)

While the Mayor of Boston has been on hand for the event since its inception more than 30 years ago, Vizza said Mayor Walsh's participation this year is a particularly touching gesture.

"The tradition is every year for the mayor to come to welcome moms and kids, and say 'Happy Duckling Day,'" Vizza said. "We're honored that Mayor Walsh is participating in the event again this year because obviously he's really busy now, so to take the time out to bring a little joy to our families is particularly meaningful."

Virtual Duckling Day will also feature a video of children in

costume at the event from years past, along with new images of kids dressed up specifically for this occasion. Anyone interested in submitting old or new photos can email them to info@friendsofthepublicgarden.org with the subject "Duckling Day," and the Friends will share some of them on Facebook and Instagram.

And those who can't view the program live on Facebook shouldn't fret, Vizza said, since it will be made available afterwards on YouTube.

"More people will likely tune in than would show up at the park, and there will be more opportunities to join in besides

when it's on live," she added.

So unlike 2017 when the event was cancelled altogether due to inclement weather, Virtual Duckling Day will go on this year - albeit with a new format.

"Rain or shine, we'll be on people's screens and in their homes," Vizza said, adding that she is pleased that the Friends have found a way to host the event this year in such a unique way. "I think it's a great, wonderful way of being resilient and pivoting."

For more information on Virtual Duckling Day, visit friendsofthepublicgarden.org.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

year's meeting will be a virtual gathering in consideration of social distancing guidelines.

The BHCA, like many other organizations during this pandemic, has held regular meetings and presentations on Zoom, a handy platform that allows many people to be part of a meeting through their computer, smartphone or other mobile device. The BHCA has held our monthly Meet & Greet, board meetings, committee meetings, and a recent presentation on the Hurley Building redevelopment project on Zoom. In these challenging times, this has allowed us to remain connected, motivated and working together for the good of our neighborhood.

If you are a current Beacon Hill Civic Association member and you would like to attend this virtual meeting, please email patricia.tully@bhcivic.org.

(The Beacon Award normally presented at the Annual meeting has been postponed. A call for nominations will be sent out sometime in the future.)

Upcoming BHCA Meetings
Board of Directors (Virtual):
Monday, May 11, 7pm

Annual Meeting (Virtual):
Monday, May 18th, 7pm

Call the BHCA office at 617-227-1922 for further details on any of these events, and for information about joining the BHCA.

Join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join online at www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member.

Your input in quality of life issues on the Hill is important to us, and we rely on you our neighbors to bring your comments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at patricia.tully@bhcivic.org with any questions, comments or concerns, or to learn more about how you can get involved in your community.

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Local restaurants find unique ways to celebrate Mother's Day

By Dan Murphy

While a traditional meal out with Mom to celebrate Mother's Day is out of the question this year, some local restaurants offering takeout and delivery are thinking of other ways to mark the occasion.

Bin 26 Enoteca at 26 Charles St., which is available for delivery via Uber Eats, as well as takeout, is offering "Bubbles and Brunch," a brunch special that comes with the option of a couple of different sparkling wines and an à la carte menu that includes classic brunch dishes, as well as lunch items. Details are available at Bin26.com.

For lunch and dinner on Mother's Day, Bin 26's sister establishment - jm Curley in Downtown Crossing - is offering partially cooked meals for \$35, including farfalle Bolognese-style, which comes with three cups of sauce; one 8.8-ounce package of Pappardelle Nest pasta; four ounces of parmesan cheese; two salads

(your choice of house or Caesar); bread for two; and two desserts.

The restaurant also has a filet mignon special for \$35 per person, which comes with one individually CryoSealed cut of filet; two ounces of bordelaise; one tablespoon of herb butter; one twice-baked potato; one-half bunch of broccoli rabe; olive oil, minced garlic, parmesan and chili flakes; and chocolate lava cake for dessert. All filet orders must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8, by calling 617-338-5333 or emailing info@jmcurlieboston.com for preparation by Mother's Day.

For more information, visit jmcurlieboston.com or check out jm Curley on social media.

Frank Depasquale, who owns several restaurants in the North End, has a number of options available for mothers on their special day.

Trattoria il Panino at 11 Parmenter St./280 Hanover St. is now offering its entire menu for takeout, including pasta, appetiz-



Bricco Salumeria + Pasta Shop at 11 Broad Alley offers all the necessary ingredients to cook a Mother's Day feast at home.

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ers and all the main courses, such as Chicken Parmigiana, Bistecca (a grilled rib-eye steak with hand-cut Italian fries) and Mom's Quattro Carni Ragu, with homemade meatball, sausage, bracirole and pork short-ribs in the restaurant's old recipe Ragu sauce.

"The whole reason we're opening is for Mother's Day," said Depasquale, adding that the restaurant only began offering takeout service on Thursday, May 7.

Quattro at 264 Hanover St. (617-720-0944) offers brick-oven pizza, as well as Panini and appetizers, while Dolce at 272 Hanover St. (617-720-4243) has a wide selection of gelato, pastries and what Depasquale describes as "the best espresso around."

"We also have homemade cannoli filled at the moment with six different flavors, as well as sandwiches and Sicilian-style pizza," Depasquale also said of Dolce.

Bricco Ristorante & Enoteca at 241 Hanover St. (617-248-6800) offers Neapolitan brick-oven pizza, along with a full menu featuring steak tips, burgers and appetizers, as well as a wide selection of high-end wines now at a 50-percent discount.

And what Depasquale describes as "our hidden secret," Bricco Salumeria + Pasta Shop at 11 Broad Alley has a full selection of breads, baguettes, Italian meat and olive oil, as well as pasta made

on the premises.

"It's a simple little pasta shop, but you can get everything there to make a whole meal at home," Depasquale said.

Besides grocery items, the store also offers made-to-order deli sandwiches, which are available for delivery on UberEats, DoorDash and Postmates.

While Antonio's Cucina Italiano at 288 Cambridge St. is closed on Sundays, including Mother's Day, the restaurant is offering its regular and catering menus, which include many easy-to-reheat dishes such as eggplant parmesan, baked ziti, manicotti and meatballs, for takeout on Saturday.

"They hold up easy and you can just slide them in the oven," said Steven Colarusso, the restaurant's owner.

Antonio's offers takeout Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 a.m. by calling ahead to 617-367-3310, and the restaurant provides a 20-percent discount on all dinner orders.

Although no vendors from the Boston Public Market are offering any specials for Mother's Day this year, several have items available for delivery through the Mercato delivery service (www.mercato.com) that Chelsea Renaud Doliner, director of marketing and communications for the Boston Public Market Association, said "would be perfect brunch/breakfast in bed

offerings."

These include four popovers for \$10 from the Popover Lady; a package of smoked salmon pâté, smoked bluefish pâté and simply smoked salmon fillet for \$30 from Boston Smoked Fish; Make your Own Edible Arrangements and Decorate your Own Fudge Boxes, for \$20 and \$18 each, respectively, from Red Apple Farm; and an Around the World Spice Kit for \$90 from Soluna Garden.

For Mother's Day, Harvard Gardens at 316 Cambridge St. plans to expand its regular menu, which includes nacho and taco kits to take home, to offer some specials "that will be elevated to celebrate Moms," said Luke Beardslee, the restaurant's acting chef.

Joe Hicks, acting manager of Harvard Gardens, added these specials were still a "moving target" as of Tuesday afternoon, but said they are likely to include steak and salmon offerings.

Harvard Gardens, which is available for delivery via Grubhub, as well as takeout (call 617-523-2727 to place an order), also wants to be there for any mothers who are employed at neighboring Mass General Hospital and get stuck working on Sunday.

"We just want to be here for them," Hicks said.

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Esplanade Association hosts Virtual 5k, and tour of park

By Dan Murphy

Unlike years past, 1,000 runners won't descend on the park for the annual Esplanade 5K footrace this June, but instead, the Esplanade Association's Virtual 5K will allow participants to make the trek at their own pace and on any route they choose while still supporting the park.

"It's one of the most popular and largest event events we sponsor each year, and while we couldn't gather a thousand to run in the park, we wanted to find a way to remember and celebrate the people who love running on the Esplanade, and that includes people from all across the country," said Michael Nichols, executive director of the nonprofit. "We wanted to keep the race going in a way that's safe for everyone, and this is the only way we could think of for people to continue running a race in the park."

Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, which partners with the Esplanade Association on the 5K each year, the virtual footrace takes place between Monday, June 1, and Sunday, June 7. Participants can run or walk 5K (3.1 miles) anywhere in the world during that timeframe. They can capture their time using the Strava or Garmin apps, or any other way they choose, and submit their results to the Esplanade Association,

which will in turn list them on the leaderboard at Esplanade.org/Esplanade5K. And if participants take a selfie along their route, they can share it on Twitter (@EsplanadeBoston) or Instagram (@EsplanadeinBoston).

"This format will allow several hundred people to run on the Esplanade, but just not together," Nichols said. "Instead, they will run one or two at a time at their own convenience over a one week-long period. We expect to have people from all over the country who will run three miles for the Esplanade, and that's great."

Among those expected to participate is a former Beacon Hill resident who now lives in from Jackson Hole, Wyo.

"She loved running on the Esplanade when she lived here and was thrilled to hear about the virtual footrace," said Nichols, who first mentioned the new initiative to her a couple of weeks ago during an unrelated work call.

Participants can purchase bibs for \$20, although they will be provided free to service workers (fire, police, medical, etc.), or individuals who have recently lost their jobs and can't afford to buy one. Proceeds will benefit the ongoing care and upkeep of the Esplanade.

"We'll also mail commemorative bibs to people no matter where they are," Nichols said, "and if people sign up early enough, the goal is to get them the



Courtesy of the Esplanade Association

Runners stretching at the Hatch Shell in preparation for last year's Esplanade 5K.

bibs in time for the race."

All participants will also receive a Virtual Race Bag, including coupons from Athletic Brewing and NOCA beverages while the top three men and women overall will receive a prize pack from Athletic Brewing.

To register for the Virtual 5k, visit [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/esplanade-virtual-5k-presented-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/esplanade-virtual-5k-presented-by-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-massachusetts-tickets-104040558110)

[by-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-massachusetts-tickets-104040558110](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/esplanade-virtual-5k-presented-by-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-massachusetts-tickets-104040558110).

On April 23, Nichols also led the first Instagram Virtual Tour of the park. He was joined by Margo Newman, former chair of the Esplanade Association, and Jim Doyle, the nonprofit's horticulture manager.

"We kind of started by Arlington Street near the Hatch Shell and walked down to the Dartmouth Street footbridge," Nichols said. "We went on both sides of the lagoon and essentially did an oval."

On the tour, Newman pointed out sites such as the Lotta Fountain and the Hatch Shell lawn, both of which the Esplanade Association has heavily invested in over the last few years, while Doyle dis-

cussed the upkeep of the lawn and other features of the park.

For those who can't physically visit the Esplanade right now, the Virtual Tour allows them to enjoy the park during an optimal time.

"It's peak bloom right now for flowers and tress," Nichols said. "We wanted to share with people who might not be able to be in the park, what's going on there as of late while sprinkling in some nuggets of the Esplanade's history and long record of projects in the park by the Esplanade Association."

Nichols said "a couple of hundred" viewers tuned in live on Instagram, but he expects that many more will watch the Virtual Tour now that it's available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDt1EE2msM>.

WALSH (from pg. 2)

Walsh has advised Bostonians and others driving in the city that empty roads are not a reason to speed, and the City speed limit is 25 mph. Two people were killed in motor vehicle related accidents in the month of April, and he also

said there has been an uptick in shootings throughout the city.

With the weather warming up, more kids are outside playing, and Walsh said that motorists need to slow down and be aware of their surroundings. He said that if speed

traps are necessary, they will be set out in the City.

"Be very careful," Walsh said. "We don't want any of our little ones hurt."

BEACON HILL BEAT

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Breaking and Entering - Commercial
4/25/20 - A Derne Street restaurant told police an unknown male suspect who was seen on video footage kicked in the front door at around 2:37 a.m. Once inside, the

suspect stole U.S. currency from two cash boxes. Detectives are following up on the report.

Vandalism to a Motor Vehicle
04/29/20 - A victim reported he parked his 2019 Mercedes Benz

in a Stuart Street garage at about 6:35 p.m. on April 28, but when he returned at approximately 7:20 a.m. the next day, he observed that unknown suspect(s) had damaged the passenger's side door.

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Residents warned of scammers looking to hijack COVID-19 stimulus checks

With millions of people out of work and hoping to receive COVID-19 stimulus checks, the BPD and FBI are warning community members to be leery and wary of scammers seeking personal information either through email or phone calls as a precondition for any federal aid. To be clear, the US government is not sending emails or making phone calls asking for any individual's personal information in exchange for federal aid. Sadly, while the large majority of law-abiding citizens are looking for ways to help, scammers are looking for ways to use the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money, your per-

sonal information, or both. Don't let them. Protect yourself and do your research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus; donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up your personal information in order to receive money or other benefits.

In addition to the above, the FBI advises you to be on the lookout for the following:

- Fake CDC Emails:

Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations claiming to

offer information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use links in emails to deliver malware to your computer to steal personal information or to lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received.

- Phishing Emails:

Look out for phishing emails asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of eco-

nomics stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money. Phishing emails may also claim to be related to:

- *Charitable contributions

- *General financial relief

- *Airline carrier refunds

- *Fake cures and vaccines

- *Fake testing kits

- Counterfeit Treatments or Equipment:

Be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator masks, goggles, full face shields, protective gowns, and gloves.

More info on unapproved or counterfeit PPE can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh.

In addition to filing a report with the Boston Police Department, victims are also encouraged to report suspicious activity through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Lastly, if someone knocks on your door or rings your bell claiming a need to enter your home or see personal information, do not allow them entry and call 9-1-1 immediately.

Historic New England names Vin Cipolla next President and CEO

Vin Cipolla has been appointed the next President and CEO of Historic New England, the heritage organization's board of trustees announced last week.

A nationally recognized leader in the arts, preservation, and environmental advocacy, Cipolla has served as chairman, president, and CEO at public and private organizations in New York, Washington D.C., Boston, and London. He succeeds retiring President and CEO Carl R. Nold on June 1.

Said David A. Martland, Chair of the Historic New England Board of Trustees, "We set out to find a President and CEO who could build on our foundation of excellence and expand the reach of our work. With an extraordinary background of preservation, conservation, and cultural leadership at both national and regional levels, combined with an exceptional track record in organizational management, communications, and fundraising, we are exceptionally well-positioned for continued success with Vin, especially in such a challenging environment for nonprofits."



Vin Cipolla, the newly named next president and CEO of Historic New England

Cipolla's leadership in the cultural and conservation fields includes having served as President and CEO of the National Park Foundation (a Presidential appointment); President and CEO of the Municipal Art Society of New York; Executive Director of the David Geffen Hall redevelopment campaign, a partnership of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and the New York Philharmonic; and Executive

Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He served as the Chairman of The Arts Arena Paris and Co-Chairman of the National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy, as well as becoming the Citizen Chairman of the National Park Foundation, following his tenure as CEO. He is a Professor in Cultural Space Planning at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University.

He has held a number of leadership positions in New England, including having served as Board Chairman and President of the Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston for nine years, before becoming Chairman Emeritus. Prior to his appointment with Historic New England, he has been the Chairman and CEO of Five Mile River Co., a manage-

ment consultancy in New York City, and the Chairman of ETHO Capital, a sustainable investing company headquartered in San Francisco. A successful entrepreneur, he has launched several companies in communications and digital publishing. He was born and raised in Massachusetts.

"As a native New Englander, and as a person devoted to the advancement of preservation, sustainability, and our shared cultural heritage, I couldn't be more thrilled to be joining Historic New England, especially at a time when the principles and tools of preservation, sustainable design, and thoughtful planning are needed more than ever," said Cipolla. "I've greatly admired the organization for its outstanding visionary leadership in the heritage field."

Martland expressed gratitude for retiring President and CEO

Carl R. Nold, who is working to ensure a smooth leadership transition as Historic New England navigates the challenges presented by COVID-19. Nold retires after a seventeen-year tenure that saw consistent and substantial growth in the organization's annual visitation, membership, and endowment, along with the acquisition of significant historic properties, including the Eustis Estate Museum and Study Center in Milton, Mass.

"Having run important cultural and public service projects at preeminent national organizations throughout his career, and with his strong commitment to multi-cultural audiences, Vin is exceptionally well prepared to take Historic New England to the next level of success," said Nold. "I look forward to great things."

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place

Hill House, located at 127 Mount Vernon St., is running a Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place on Harrison Avenue.

Participants can either make their own masks or purchase through a local shop, 4Good Vibes, based in Somerville. They have offered to sell their handmade masks to Hill House and then donate 50 more masks if the nonprofit can reach 100 masks donated. You can purchase masks on their special Rosie's Place site <https://4goodvibes.bigcartel.com/>

product/rosies-place-face-mask.

After payment is received, 4 Good Vibes will send the masks directly to Rosie's, but if you plan to make your own, you can send them to: Rosie's Place, Attn: Sandy Mariano, 889 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

Contact Meredith Adamczyk at madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org with any other questions.

Hill House running free virtual family events

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., has launched

a series of free family events at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday, Family Fun events will include how to make your own Playdough, a Kitchen Fridge Art show and more. On Fridays, get your athletic juices flowing with live dance parties, camp sing-alongs and more.

These events are free, and registration links available at www.hillhouseboston.org. To register or to learn more about Hill House virtual events, contact Meredith at madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org.

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BAKER (from pg. 2)**Contact Tracing Update**

On April 30, Baker said that about 1000 people are working on the contact tracing collaborative, and so far, the average number of contacts for infected people is two.

He said that this “means that the work that all of you and we have done here in Massachusetts to stay at home, separate, and socially distance has made a big difference.”

He said the conversations that contact tracing callers have had with people has heavily leaned towards providing people with

guidance and support and answering their questions and concerns around the virus and isolation practices.

Baker said that calls from an 833 or 857 area code or a Caller ID of MA COVID TEAM should be answered, as they are important for providing vital information to stop the spread of the virus.

Testing, Hospitalization Rate Update

Baker said on May 4 that May 3 was the “single highest” number of tests conducted in a single day in the Commonwealth, and it’s

“good to see the total test numbers continue to increase.”

He said that as of May 3, 3,617 patients were hospitalized due to COVID-19, which is five percent of the total cases in the state.

“COVID hospitalizations have actually been decreasing in the past several days, with very few spikes in new admissions,” he said.

He added the number of patients in the ICU has dropped as well.

He said that while there are “obviously still thousands of peo-

ple” who are sick, “the numbers have started to trend in the right direction” and different parts of the state are in different stages.

He added that the state has had “tremendous success” with the Telehealth program, and people should continue using it to communicate with health care providers, but if people are experiencing a medical emergency, they should call 911 or go to the emergency room, as hospitals have plenty of room and are prepared to care for non-COVID related conditions.

Baker said that he will “contin-

ue to ramp up testing for months to come,” and will continue to invest in the contact tracing program. He also said that it’s “important to remember that as long as there is no vaccine,” the state will have to continue discussions about how to operate the state in the most safe way.

“The threat of future transmission and illness will be with us for a very long time and we can’t forget that,” Baker said.

ROSOVSKY (from pg. 1)

of the Board of Trustees, said, “We are delighted that Leah will be joining the Athenæum as its new director. The search committee was impressed by Leah’s achievements in the management of large scholarly organizations, and with the vision and vitality she will bring to the Athenæum. She excels at creating environments that enable people to engage with ideas. Leah will lead the Athenæum in an exciting time of growth and engagement, as it serves members, visitors, and the broader Boston community.”

“I’m honored to have been selected to serve as the next director of the Boston Athenæum,” said Rosovsky. “The BA has a long, distinguished legacy of leadership and has been a launching pad for so many of Boston’s liter-

ary, cultural, artistic, and scientific achievements. Especially in this moment, the chance to serve the greater Boston and New England community by creating a place for learning, discussion, and the study of the arts and humanities feels more important than ever. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to build its future, and I look forward to working with a highly talented group of colleagues.”

Since 2019, Rosovsky has served as the Dean’s Administrative Fellow at Harvard Business School, where she has driven complex projects requiring relationship building, creativity, and execution. As Harvard University’s Vice President for Strategies and Programs from 2013-2019, she led numerous successful initiatives including partnering with senior

faculty to raise \$20 million and establish the Harvard Global Institute (HGI), enhancing global influence and scholarship; advancing the work of a task force on the prevention of sexual assault; collaborating in the development of a strategy for increasing visibility of the arts; and building consensus and implementation plans to integrate faith traditions into student educational development.

As the Executive Administrative Dean of Tufts University’s School of Arts and Sciences (2006-2013), Rosovsky oversaw a broad range of initiatives in planning, strategy, and resource allocation. Her accomplishments included increasing financial aid funding, leading library renovation planning to meet faculty’s emerging interests in technology-based teaching and

learning, and enhancing laboratory space. She also led financial and budget planning that allowed for the creation of 15 tenure-track positions. Prior to that, she held a range of positions with ever-increasing responsibility within Harvard University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences between 1995 and 2005.

Before joining the Harvard administration, Rosovsky held senior positions in private organizations. She has also served in leadership positions and advisory roles over many years at Temple Israel, Boston, Massachusetts, as well as the Jewish Women’s Archive in Brookline, Massachusetts, the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russia, and the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Lahore, Pakistan. She

received her A.B. from Harvard College in 1978 and her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1984.

Rosovsky was selected following a national search by a Board-appointed committee of Trustees, library members, and professionals in relevant fields. At its special meeting, the Board also expressed deep appreciation to Interim Director Amy Ryan for her steadying hand over nine months as the search proceeded, and through key phases of a physical expansion that is adding 19,400 square feet in the adjacent building at 14 Beacon St. and restoring much-needed space for library members in the landmark reading rooms at 10½ Beacon St.

BUDGET (from pg. 1)

going bust or the country going to war, because of this public health situation, we’re in a ‘self-induced coma,’ as some have said, and how we wake up from that coma is anybody’s guess,” Rep. Michlewitz said. “It could be a really fast comeback, but it’s more likely to be a slow recovery. We don’t want to project too high or too low, so the process will be flexible because of the uncertainty.”

But despite this uncertainty, the FY ’21 budget must be finalized by July 1, and unlike the federal government, the state doesn’t have the luxury of going into a deficit. “They can print their own money whereas we at the state have different circumstances,” Rep. Michlewitz said.

The state is now looking at a number of different financial forecasts that predict budget shortfalls of between \$2 billion and \$6 billion.

“Six Billion is more severe, so obviously we’re hoping it turns

out to be closer to two billion,” he said. “Either way, it’s going to be tough to manage the budget.”

Moreover, between \$14 billion and \$16 billion has already been earmarked, such as for funding Mass Health, leaving the state around \$29 billion for discretionary spending.

“Hypothetically, we’re looking at about one-fifth of the budget being cut, and that will have a drastic impact on social services and state agencies like [the Department of Conservation and Recreation] that are going to have severe shortfalls and severe cuts being made,” Rep. Michlewitz said. “It could also trickle down into the schools and a number of other places as well.”

Still, Rep. Michlewitz said how this all plays out is now largely dependent on the course that the novel coronavirus takes.

“The virus dictates a lot of that, since the sooner we flatten the curve, the sooner we can open

the economy up, but right now, I’d say that’s a ways off,” he said. “And will the pandemic have a second wave later in the year? That obviously is a huge factor in how we operate the state budget.”

On top of trying to manage the budget, Rep. Michlewitz has been instrumental in several new measures taken by the state to provide some relief to its residents and businesses during the ongoing pandemic.

Besides devising a “new scenario” where restaurants can also offer beer and wine for takeout and delivery, the legislature was also successful in cancelling MCAS testing requirements for the school year because of students’ inability to take the test or study properly, he said.

Also, Rep. Michlewitz said the state now allows electronic notarization for real estate closings and other services while a “mechanism” was also put into place that provides immediate fund-

ing to homeless shelters for their COVID-19 response.

“A number of bills have been passed to extend unemployment benefits,” he added. “We worked with the federal government to extend those benefits to as much of population as possible.”

Rep. Michlewitz and his colleagues at the State House also passed a moratorium on evictions and foreclosure for residents and commercial businesses.

And yet another bill he helped champion delays the due date of state income-tax payments until July 15.

“There’s a huge amount of revenue we usually depend on not coming in while we allow people to delay paying their income tax,” Rep. Michlewitz said. “Because of that, we created a bill to allow the state treasurer to borrow money to pay for Fiscal Year ’20 responsibilities.”

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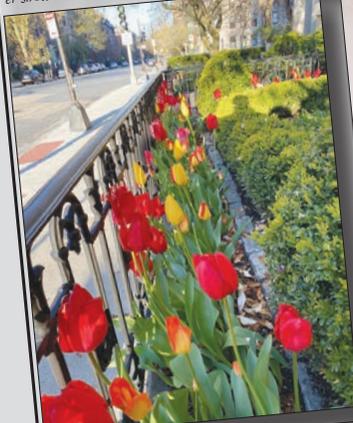
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WHILE WE STAY IN THE FLOWERS ARE COMING OUT

Daffodils, Jonquils, crocuses, tulips, azaleas, and even the trees are blooming throughout the neighborhoods of Beacon Hill. Watch for the lilacs and peonies, they will join the flower show soon.


Civic Association distributes free face-masks to Hill seniors

By Dan Murphy

This week, the Beacon Hill Civic Association began distributing 120 protective face-masks free of charge to seniors.

Rob Whitney, president of the Civic Association board, tracked down the vendor, Custom Ink, a Fairfax-Va. Based online retail company that manufactures custom apparel (www.customink.com), and ordered the face-masks while Patricia Tully, executive director of the Civic Association, facility of the masks to Beacon House, the Bowdoin School Apartment Homes on Myrtle Street, the Peter Faneuil House and the Anderson Park apartments at 250 Cambridge St., through their respective building management.

"The idea is to get them to seniors who want to get out a little bit or have to go to an appointment," Whitney said.

Each mask comes in a baggie with instructions on how to use it, as well as contact information for emergency resources available to neighbors.

(Masks Pg. 2)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

A Bit of BHCA History

The shelves at the Beacon Hill Civic Association at 74 Joy Street are full of ledgers and meeting notes dating back to the founding of the organization in 1922.

The first meeting of what was then called the Beacon Hill Association took place on December 5, 1922, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at 3 Joy Street. The By-Laws at that time show Annual Dues of "two dollars payable at the close of the annual meeting!"

These are the notes from that first meeting in 1922.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Miss

(BHCA, Pg. 5)

Olmsted's legacy lives on despite cancellation of birthday party

By Dan Murphy

While a large gathering at English High School to celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted's 198th birthday on April 26 was cancelled due to concerns over COVID-19, the venerable landscape architect continues to be remembered in other ways.

Olmsted 2022 Massachusetts, a continuing project for conservation, public health and social justice that was formed in 2010 to lead up to its namesake's 200th birthday in 2022 — honored the Olmsted Legacy last Sunday by honoring Betsy Shure Gross. Credited as a leading force in the creation of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, Gross went on to serve as one of its first co-chairs before Gerry Wright tapped her to help him launch Olmsted 2022. Gross served as co-chair for its first five years and continues on as an advisor for Olmsted 2022 Massachusetts, Wright wrote.

Olmsted 2022 Massachusetts, which has named Sarah Freeman, a public health research professional and a highly dedicated volunteer for parks, open spaces and a healthy environment, as

(OLMSTED Pg. 6)



Some Beacon Hill Civic Association membership ledgers

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check www.beaconhilltimes.com

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

U.S. Attorney's office, Homeland Security investigations remind parents of risks to children online

The U.S. Attorney's Office and Homeland Security Investigations are partnering to alert parents and guardians of the potential dangers to children online, and providing guidance for internet safety.

As a result of school closings due to COVID-19, children are increasingly using online resources for schoolwork as well as entertainment. Due to increased access to and reliance on social media, chatting apps, gaming, and other internet-based platforms, children may be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Now more than ever before, it is imperative that parents and guardians take steps to educate and protect children online.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and Homeland Security Investigations have partnered to develop an awareness campaign, "Think Before You Click," to encourage parents and guardians to discuss internet safety with children of all ages and to monitor internet use. Included are tips for identifying potential victimization and resources to report concerns. The flyer was distributed to law enforcement officers and school leaders throughout the Commonwealth.

"Children are susceptible to online predators because they are often unaware of how dangerous online environments can be," said United States Attorney Andrew E.

Lelling. "Children are at an even greater inadvertent risk now due to school closures and the prevalence of ongoing learning and leisure activities. Through "Think Before You Click," we aim to make parents and guardians more cognizant of the dangers to children online, and arm them with tools to protect children's privacy."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created an increase in online activity, whereby students are utilizing the internet and social media as a key source of education and entertainment. The marked increase in social media usage and lessened social interaction may create opportunity for predators to

exploit our children. That being said, parental supervision, open discussions about internet safety, active monitoring, and smarter use of privacy settings will reduce the chance of victimization from child predators," said Michael S. Shea, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Boston. "The inherent dangers presented by social media applications are evident. HSI and our law enforcement partners will continue to take an aggressive, whole of government approach to identifying, disrupting, and dismantling those malicious organizations and actors who seek to prey upon our children."

This effort was brought as part

of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. PSC marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. PSC also conducts education and outreach programs aimed at combating and preventing technology-facilitated crimes. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

BPDA welcomes Brian Miller as newest member of Board

Staff Report

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) last week announced Brian Miller as the newest member of the BPDA Board. A resident of South Boston, Miller is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley, and founder of The Miller Group at Morgan Stanley which advises local organizations on their retirement plans.

Miller was appointed to the BPDA Board by Governor Charlie Baker.

"I am pleased to welcome Brian Miller to the BPDA Board. Already an active member of the Boston community, Brian brings a strong understanding of the City's landscape as well as decades of

financial knowledge and experience to this position," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "He will help us build on our work to plan for a future that is inclusive for all Bostonians."

"Brian Miller has contributed years of dedicated service to his community and the City of Boston," said Governor Charlie Baker. "He is well-qualified to serve as a member of the BPDA Board, and I am pleased to offer his appointment."

For ten years, Miller served on the Labour Center Advisory Board and co-chaired the organization's Capital Campaign. He was a founding trustee and finance chair of the Boston Collegiate Charter School, and former president of the South Boston Residents

Group. He also served as finance chair for Congressman Stephen F. Lynch. Miller currently serves on the South Boston Catholic Academy School Board.

"I want to thank Mayor Walsh, BPDA Director Brian Golden, and Governor Baker for this opportunity," said Miller. "I am excited to join my fellow Board Members to help create new jobs, affordable housing opportunities, open space and more for Boston residents."

As the official agency body, the BPDA Board votes on all final determinations and agreements at the agency. The BPDA Board will only act on final project approvals following an extensive community vetting and stakeholder review process led by BPDA staff.

Markey for U.S. Senate campaign blows past signature goal of 10,000

Staff Report

The Ed Markey for U.S. Senate campaign this evening announced that it has received over 23,600 signatures from an unprecedented sweep of the state--with requests for nomination papers from 343 of the 351 cities and towns.

As a result of the massive level of voter support from thousands of volunteers, who contributed countless hours of their time, Senator Markey will appear on the September 1 primary ballot. The campaign will file the signatures with the Secretary of State's Office next week. Senator Markey participated in a virtual video call this evening where he thanked over 360 supporters for their efforts.

After successfully winning 70 percent of the support at local city and town caucuses earlier this year--a significant grassroots

show of support-- the Markey campaign also gathered 7,000 signatures by engaging with voters at coffee shops, libraries, and in their homes, and the campaign was on track to have the required number of signatures prior to the May 4 deadline. Through successful digital and relational organizing, in

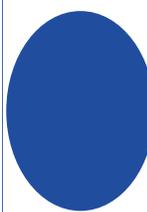
the weeks following the cancellation of the caucuses, the Markey campaign saw an enormous outpouring of support resulting in today's announcement.

Supporters who want to create a personalized Ed Markey page can simply go to support.edmarkey.com.

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Local restaurateurs encounters unprecedented challenges in face of pandemic

By Dan Murphy

Immediately after receiving word from Mayor Martin Walsh's office on March 15 that restaurants would have to cut their capacity in half, Babak Bina set to work reconfiguring the floor plan for Bin 26 Enoteca.

"We physically removed tables and chairs from the dining areas, and as our sweat was literally drying, the governor announced we were totally shut down," said Bina, who along with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owns and operates Bin 26 on Charles Street, as well as jm Curley and its steakhouse, Bogie's Place, in Downtown Crossing.

Prior to this, however, his restaurants had already established sanitary procedures, including wiping down all metal surfaces, pepper mills and "anything anyone would touch every two hours," besides placing the tables further apart from each other, Bina said.

"It's not unusual for us in the restaurant business to have to

think about people's safety; in fact, it's what we do every day, and we often do it prior to the city or state telling us what to do," Bina said.

Then, Bina learned that Gov. Charlie Baker had temporarily prohibited all on-site consumption of food and drink at restaurants throughout the Commonwealth beginning Tuesday, March 17, with the ban originally set to expire on April 17.

"We were one step ahead of what was ultimately [imposed on] us regarding separation of tables and sanitation, but then the shutdown happened," he said.

When Bina learned his restaurants could offer takeout and delivery, he immediately took action. "That week, we began making preparations, and we immediately implemented measures to ensure the safety of restaurant staff, as well as the workers delivering our food," Bina said, adding that Bin 26 offers delivery via Uber Eats.

Business started out slowly at Bin 26 with just a skeleton crew working in house as word got out to neighbors that the restaurant

was still open.

"At first, we kept it to the same crew doing same thing at same time," Bina said. "Initially, it was a very slow start with a limited number of staff, but as soon as we started to let our neighbors and clients know what we were doing, things began to pick up slowly. It took probably three weeks for people to really appreciate they have the option of fine food in the neighborhood."

His other restaurants - jm Curley and Bogie's Place - also began offering takeout at the same time, but they temporarily abandoned the idea after generating a mere \$50 in sales over the course of the first week. Both of those establishments have since resumed delivery via Uber Eats, as well as takeout operations, and jm Curley has also applied for a temporary grocery-store permit, with the intention of offering meal kits that come with pre-portioned ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes to cook at home, Bina said.

But despite his best efforts, Bina was forced to temporarily furlough 20 employees of Bin 26 and the entire staff of 35 from jm Curley and Bogie's Place.

So in an effort to provide some relief to struggling employees, Bina's restaurants began offering gift cards at a 25-percent discount, with 50 percent of sales going to his furloughed staff members.

"The staff were incredibly touched by this gesture, and our patrons purchased gift cards from all over the world, knowing they couldn't use them immediately, but they wanted to support for our staff right now," Bina said.

Bina had previously taken the step of reaching out to the 10,000 patrons on BiNA Family Hospitality's mailing list to outline safety precautions his restaurants were already taking.

"There is a time and place for everything, and right now our biggest priority is the safety of our employees, and maintaining our kitchens unwavering availability to the communities we are a part of and love to serve," the email read in part. "In moments of trial and tribulation, it is important to recognize what the important things in life are, and how to weigh all things accordingly."

Bina faced additional obstacles when he applied for financial assistance through the federal CARES Act.

"As soon as we heard about it, we immediately contacted Cambridge Trust and informed them we intended to take advantage of the program," he said. "We filled out the application as



Jim Sherer

Babak Bina and his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, co-owners of Bin 26 Enoteca, as well as jm Curley and Bogie's Place.

soon as it became available, only to be informed by the bank that a new process had been put in place. About two weeks later, we learned that the application had been approved."

In the meantime, Bina began trying to better understand what the CARES Act mandates through conversations with his CPA and his lender, Cambridge Trust, as well as through his own online research. But he said, "To this day, we don't have 100-percent clarity."

He realizes this money came with strings attached, however.

"Once the money hit our account, the Act requires that we begin spending it immediately," Bina said. "We're supposed to spend 75 percent of it on staff and the remaining 25 percent on other costs like utilities and rent, but what if it's only 50 percent we spend on staff because we can't fully employ everyone or because people refuse to come back?"

On Monday, April 27, Bina conducted two Zoom meetings - one for the staff of Bin 26 and the other for employees of jm Curley and Bogie's Place - with 75 to 80 percent of all employees tuning in. When he informed his furloughed employees they were all being called back to work because he had received money under the Payment Protection Program (PPP), some staff members balked.

"Some raised the question of how much they would be getting paid," Bina said. "The dilemma for many people has been that they are collecting 100-percent unemployment and additionally getting \$600 a week on top of that, so ostensibly many are making much more now than they were making before on a weekly basis."

Bina added, "PPP is an excellent act in trying to support small business, but in summation, it's

been poorly implemented."

Other employees posed questions that Bina simply couldn't answer.

"Some staff members have asked us, 'why don't you have more information?'" Bina said. "Our leaders at the city, state and national levels don't have the answers, so I was befuddled because these are unprecedented times and we as a small business are doing the best we can."

Still, Bina remains optimistic that the PPP can help his restaurants weather these uncertain times. "Our hope is with the PPP, we can bring everyone together and rejuvenate our businesses and prepare for a full opening," he said.

Bina extends his gratitude to State Rep. Jay Livingstone, City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Jerome Smith, Director of Mayor's Neighborhood Services, for continuing to reach out and show their support for him and his staff. "They're doing all they can to help us with unanswered questions and checking in with us all the time," Bina said.

With restaurants tentatively set to reopen for dining-in statewide May 18, Bina has already begun taking new safety precautions, such as ordering touchless thermometers to take the temperatures of staff and potentially patrons, as well as creating posters instructing patrons with a temperature not to enter his establishments. But he too is uncertain of what the future holds for restaurants throughout the city and the state.

"There's a misconception that on May 18, the doors will open and everything will go back to like it was before," Bina said. "If they do decide to tell us on May 18, we'll finally know more details, and that's TBD. Regardless, we're looking forward to reopening in some way, shape or form."

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