

## COOLING OFF ON THE COMMON



PHOTOS BY D. MURPHY

*The Tadpole Playground, which remains a popular destination for families from Boston and beyond.*



## Truck cutting through neighborhood leaves destruction in its path

By Times staff

A truck carrying an oversized metal frame cut a swath through the neighborhood on Wednesday, July 22, at about 8:30 a.m., toppling a tree and spinning a postal box around on the sidewalk near the corner of Revere and Garden streets in the process.

A reader who alerted us to this

matter said she has observed countless over-sized vehicles “get into trouble” while cutting through the neighborhood during the 20 years she has lived on Beacon Hill.

“It makes me wonder why, at the least, there’s no signage at the corner of Charles and Revere streets that warns drivers of what lies ahead,” Deborah Holt wrote. “Full-sized tour buses (of

which there have been several) and very large trucks cannot negotiate the turns required to exit down to Cambridge Street or up to Myrtle Street. Revere Street is especially susceptible to being used as a cut-through by unfamiliar drivers because of the direct access from Storrow Drive. There should be signage that strongly warns driv-

(TRUCK, Pg. 12)

## Being Safe and Feeling Safe

Capt. Ciccolo new leader of downtown police district

By Seth Daniel

Capt. Robert Ciccolo comes from a long line of police officers in his family, but that didn’t mean he knew he wanted to be a police officer too.

In fact, the 37-year veteran said it took him awhile to decide his line of work, which was cemented after joining the Boston Police Cadet program in the 1980s. Now, he is the new leader of the Charlestown and Downtown Police Area (A-15 and A-1), coming from a supervisory role on the Night Command for the North of the City – which included Charlestown.

“Policing wasn’t always my first



*Captain Robert Ciccolo.*

choice,” he said. “I was a young man who wasn’t sure where I wanted to go. It wasn’t like all my life I wanted to be a cop like

(CICCOLO, Pg. 9)

## City Council holds lengthy hearing on police overtime

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways and Means held a lengthy hearing on July 28 regarding Boston Police Department (BPD) overtime, after which many councilors still had many questions regarding different aspects of the BPD structure and overtime.

Committee Chair Kenzie Bok assured the councilors and the public that these questions will be part of an extensive follow-up with the appropriate departments.

The City Council voted to pass the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 in June, which calls for the reallocation of \$12 million

in police overtime. Bok said she believes it’s the Council’s “responsibility” to ensure that the administration follows through and realizes this savings.

Councilor Andrea Campbell started by saying she would have liked to see even more money removed from the police budget, and stated that she has seen an “uptick in homicides and stab-bings” in her district of Dorchester and Mattapan. She said that she has heard conversations in the community that the lowering of the overtime budget is leading to less police officers out in the com-

(POLICE, Pg.6)

### BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

#### Beacon Hill Civic Association Committees

Every spring, the Beacon Hill Civic Association publishes its Annual Report covering committee accomplishments during the past year. We’ll be sharing the committees’ reports here over the next weeks.

#### Parks & Public Spaces Committee

The Parks & Public Spaces Committee is charged with monitoring the condition of our neighborhood’s greenspaces, primarily the Common, the Public Garden and the Esplanade. We

(BHCA Pg. 4)

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check  
[www.beaconhilltimes.com](http://www.beaconhilltimes.com)



# EDITORIAL

## MORE THAN \$1 TRILLION IS NEEDED

We're all familiar with the phrase, "A day late and a dollar short."

What brought that to mind this week was the announcement by the Republicans in Washington of their \$1 trillion economic pandemic plan that would supplement the \$3 trillion bill that Congress passed last spring.

The original bill did a number of things, most notably increasing unemployment benefits by \$600 per week for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

That original plan also was notable for what it did NOT include, namely, funding for state and local governments whose tax revenues have all but evaporated thanks to the pandemic.

The new GOP plan reduces the unemployment benefit from \$600 per week to \$200 per week and provides little funding for cash-strapped state and local governments that already have been laying off their employees, with more to come.

By contrast, the Democratic plan -- which was passed by the House of Representatives fully two month ago -- calls for another \$3 trillion that would continue the \$600 weekly payments for the unemployed and provide much-needed funding to state and local governments.

There are two things that are undeniably clear as the pandemic rages in the months ahead: First, the national unemployment rate will remain in the range of Great Depression levels for the foreseeable future and second, state and local governments will be required to implement massive cutbacks in the months ahead without substantial financial assistance from the federal government.

The Republican plan significantly fails to address both of these looming crises. By contrast, the Democratic plan, which the Republicans have failed to discuss for two months, will alleviate the worst of the pandemic's effects on the everyday lives of every American.

Or to put it another way, the Republicans are, "A month late and at least a trillion short," and their inaction of the past two months is threatening both the economic and social stability of the country.

## SCHOOLS MUST BE SAFE TO REOPEN

We will be the first to concede that we do not know what exactly must be done in order to reopen our state's public schools safely in the face of the pandemic.

However, what we do know is that a large study in South Korea (which, by the way, has been a world model for suppressing the pandemic) has shown that children ages 10-19 are highly-efficient at transmitting the coronavirus to others, particularly the adults with whom they have contact.

As much as we would like to see our schools reopen for many reasons, it just does not seem possible to do so in a manner that safeguards not only the children, but also school personnel and the family members of the children.

Kids bring home plenty of germs and bugs from school even in the best of circumstances. It is inconceivable that we will be able to stop them from transmitting this highly-contagious virus if they return to school as usual in the fall. Maybe the experts have it all figured out -- we can only pray that they do.



CELEBRATE THE 230TH BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER MISSES MARK IN A BIG WAY

To the Editor,

Last month, the Trump Administration issued an executive order suspending several categories of work visa's through the end of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump's order stands to have a negative impact on the American life science industry's ability to continue to respond holistically to the crisis.

The most immediate issue that must be addressed is that the order

does not specify that engineers, scientists and others with expertise in testing and manufacturing are exempt and able to travel to United States. Instead, the order only specifically exempts medical researchers and scientists involved in research to "directly" combat COVID-19.

In the 21st century, our pharmaceutical and medical communities are global. Research and development programs, partner alliances and manufacturing operations are coordinated across borders which means we need flexibility to safely move workers where they can be most effective, especially now.

COVID-19 will not be over for

me until there is an effective vaccine distributed at scale, as I live with several chronic conditions. This is my reality and the reality for millions of other patients across the United States. Which is why the administration, at a bare minimum, must expand the order to allow for all necessary members of our medical community to be allowed to come to the United States.

There is simply no excuse to slow down medical progress during a global pandemic where science is our best hope to return to normalcy.

Lynn Julian

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Wennes FT	Beacon Mainsail 4 LLC	142 Beacon St #1	\$4,650,000
Brash LLC	Ilichev, Alexander	492 Beacon St #82	\$1,465,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Tang, Jason	Yoon, Andrew J	45 Province St #910	\$1,080,000
Nobre, Carolina	Lin, Gen-Shiang	70 Revere St #8	\$570,000
Hesslein, Robert W	10 Walnut LLC	10 Walnut St #2	\$5,200,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Gryp LLC	Goldfarb, Jared	5 Appleton St #6C	\$1,199,000
1 Charles 7A RT	Wildwood T	1 Charles St S #7A	\$1,170,000
Giangrasso, Lucia	Charles Acquisition T	1 Charles St S #810	\$1,277,500
Boyd, Samuel C	Fang, Angela	187 Warren Ave #2	\$1,050,000
Loconzolo, William L	Williams, Robert M	75 Burbank St #301	\$480,000
Pan, Yue	Meidi-Zhen, Tracey	507-507A Columbus Ave #2	\$1,054,000
Cordes, Mark D	28 Concord Square Dev	28 Concord Sq #2	\$2,620,000
Kunstler, Chloe	Dolan, James M	7 Concord Sq #4	\$1,350,000
Doheny, Victoria V	Ziggy RT	111 Gainsborough St #203	\$552,000
Hayden, Lystra	Marques, Luana	485-495 Harrison Ave #209	\$1,353,000
Zhang, Alicia	Beattie Warren A Est	82 Jersey St #6-33	\$555,000
Choi, Jundong	Rafferty, John M	608 Massachusetts Ave #6	\$779,000
Hwang, Shao-Shan	Ema Group LLC	360 Newbury St #802	\$1,299,000
Reynolds, Jane G	StLaurent, Robert A	51 Park Dr #9	\$509,900
StLaurent, Robert A	Eovine, Steve P	65 Park Dr #19	\$735,000
Schneider Heirs T	Chen, Tiffany E	24 Peterborough St #12A	\$479,000
Fabrice Cancre LT	Abeles, Michael	22 Union Park #4	\$1,005,000
Childs, Trevor	Lavina Lim T	43 Union Park #2	\$1,825,000
Kirwan, Kyle	Miller, R Aaron	82 Worcester St #1	\$1,925,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Vitorovic, Stefan	Agarwal, Parakh K	42-48 Chauncy St #9A	\$1,330,000
Mccann, Brian P	Krejci, David	343 Commercial St #304	\$2,350,000
Katz, Ariella H	Nguyen, Anh	70 Lincoln St #L410	\$253,409
Ho, Justin	Devarajan, Raj	1 Nassau St #1501	\$870,000
Tao, Jenhan	Goldman Sara S Est	151 Tremont St #11S	\$632,000

# Attention to Detail

By Penny Cherubino

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on 36 Bromfield Street built in 1870 and designed by architects Joseph and Hammatt Billings. The structure housed the Boston University School of Law from 1872 until 1884. Today's answer is a Boston Landmarks photo from 1973 when Jack & Jill's Fun Shop was a tenant.

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



# West End Museum reopens after four and a half months

By Dan Murphy

The West End Museum was scheduled to reopen to the public yesterday, Wednesday July 29, following its four-and-a-half month closure due to the pandemic.

"We are excited to invite our members, friends, and the public back into the Museum and have worked hard to ensure a safe environment for all," Sebastian Belfanti, museum director, said in a press release. "While we have connected digitally with our members and followers throughout our closure, that is no substitute for the in-person experience of the museum. We can't wait to see your faces, even under masks."

While it will keep its regular "pre-pandemic" hours, the museum at 150 Lomasney Way will adhere to its own phased reopen-



COURTESY OF THE WEST END MUSEUM

*Sebastian Belfanti, director of the West End Museum.*

ing plan, which Belfanti conceived and was approved by the board of directors in May before undergoing further revisions in accordance with the state's safety require-



COURTESY OF BIMAL PHOTO/BIMAL NEPAL  
*The entrance of the West End Museum at 150 Lomasney Way.*

ments.

The museum's two intercon-

nected rooms will be limited to 10 occupants (nine visitors and one staff member) at a time, while public restrooms will remain closed for the time being. New signage and tape markings on the floor will be visible to notify museumgoers of the changes, and visitors will no longer be able to roam the premises as freely as they could before in keeping with social-distancing guidelines. The museum will also be sanitized more frequently and thoroughly that it was before it closed in March.

"It'll be interesting and it's probably going to be slow-going at first," Belfanti told this reporter last week in anticipation of the museum's reopening. "We're really going to have to be super careful to keep [conditions] safe for staff and visitors," We hope people will come, but we want to make sure

that everyone is wearing masks and that our older members are safe."

Another change from the pre-pandemic days is that Belfanti alone is on hand to greet guests and give museum tours, as opposed to before when two staff members handled the duties. The staff members are eager to return, but since they're both seniors, Belfanti said they wouldn't be back for two weeks to ensure their safety.

In the meantime, the West End Museum is also revamping its website, as well as redesigning its floor-plan, which will be unveiled to the public in the near future. But for now, the museum is pleased just to welcome guests back.

"We're just happy to have people back," Belfanti said.

Visit [thewestendmuseum.org](http://thewestendmuseum.org) for more information.

## Councilor Bok calls for hearing to increase city's public housing stock

By Dan Murphy

Councilor Kenzie Bok called for a hearing to increase public housing in Boston at yesterday's City Council meeting.

"COVID-19 HAS shown us how desperately we needed to provide housing for all and how urgently we need to increase these housing opportunities for all low-income populations," Councilor Bok told this reporter prior to the City Council meeting.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced an amendment that passed the U.S. House earlier this month and would repeal the Faircloth Amendment to the Housing Act of 1937, which mandated that the number of public housing units that receive federal subsidies through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must not exceed the levels of Oct. 1, 1999.

But Councilor Bok said Boston need not wait for Washington to decide on this matter, however, since the number of public housing units subsidized by HUD in Boston is now 9,622, down significantly from 12,086 units in 1999.

"That actually gives us untapped federal resource," Councilor Bok said, adding that the city could build, buy, or certify up to 2,464 more public housing units, which would each immediately be eligible to receive federal subsidies. "If Boston adds public housing units, we can immediately start finding federal subsidies for them."

The city could also tap available funds from another federal program, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), Bok said, to make

these units financially sustainable.

This deficit in Boston's public housing stock can largely be traced back to the 2000s, she said, when the nationwide trend was to build fewer, larger townhouse units "as a way to make public housing nicer, but that also meant that we ended up with fewer public housing units."

Councilor Bok, who pointed to the Mission Main apartments in Mission Hill, which the Boston Housing Authority built in 2003, as an example of this former trend, but said the BHA is now committed to "one-to-one replacement" of its public housing stock.

"If the BHA does redevelopment projects today, they make sure the same number of units are built on the other side," Councilor Bok said. "What I'm saying now is that we actually need to add back newer public housing units because it's one of the best ways we have to house low-income families, as well as seniors and folks with disabilities, in the City of Boston."

Moreover, Councilor Bok added: "One thing we need to look at urgently is how to find long-term deeply affordable units, and I would love to see any new housing spread widely across city to create units in all parts of the city where low-income and people of color are largely underrepresented."

This initiative comes at a time when the BHA's waitlist for housing tops 50,000 families, Councilor Bok said, and it also presents a unique opportunity to build new public housing units on city-owned property.

To finance the construction of these new public housing units,

Councilor Bok points to the proposed real estate transfer fee for Boston (H.4514), and a bill allowing the city to adjust its linkage rate (H.4115), both of which are now awaiting a vote at the State House.

For Councilor Bok, this issue is particularly close to her heart since

before serving on the City Council, she helped lead the successful Community Preservation Act campaign in 2016, which secured more funds for affordable housing, before joining the board of Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA). She also previously served as the BHA's senior advisor

for policy and planning.

"This is a chance for me to put my housing policy expertise to the service of the city and help address the really urgent need to find political solutions to housing people," Councilor Bok said.

### BHCA (from pg. 1)

also provide support to the friends groups at the Myrtle Street Playground and the Phillips Street Park. This includes attention to maintenance and environmental concerns, including trash and waste removal, as well as public safety and homelessness. Prominent again in this year's activities was the effort to reduce the impact of the so-called "Freedom Rally" (a/k/a "Hempfest") on the Common, and working with a coalition of other concerned parties, we succeeded in having the Park Department's permit reduced from 3 days to 1 day. The positive results were noticeable and hopefully this precedent will become the norm for this event. The committee's initiatives also include monitoring and attempting to reduce the impact of all large events on the parks, which includes monitoring and reporting noise and harm to turf and trees, and encouraging organizers to repair the harm they cause. We continue to work with the Friends of the Public Garden and the City on the development of the new master plan for Boston Common, and to locate sustainable spaces for the King Boston memorial and



*BHCA Director and Chair of the Parks & Public Spaces Committee, Colin Zick.*

for dogs to run off-leash on the Common and to ensure that the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account, to improve the quality of life for all on Beacon Hill.

**Upcoming BHCA meetings and activities:**

Events Committee: Tuesday, July 28th, 6pm

Young Friends Social: Wednesday, July 29th, 6:30pm

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/890433318103836/>

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet at Phillips Street Play Area: Monday, August 3rd, 6:30pm -

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1172039273168609/>

Email the BHCA office at [info@bhcivic.org](mailto:info@bhcivic.org) or follow these FB links for details on these virtual meetings.

**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](http://www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member).

Your input on 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](mailto: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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**POLICE** (from pg. 1)

munity.

"I'm not going to buy into that narrative," she said.

BPD director of finance Lisa O'Brien, Superintendent Jim Hasson, and the City's Budget Director, Justin Sterritt, were on hand to provide a brief presentation as well as answer questions from the Council.

O'Brien explained that replacement and extended tours comprise 67.6 percent of the total overtime costs for FY2020, and using overtime for replacement personnel is non-discretionary as minimum staffing levels need to be maintained in the district. She said that this year they had thought overtime costs would be lower due to the cancellation of so many public events, but due to the pandemic and the recent demonstrations it ended up being higher.

Hasson said that the number of calls to service, the population of an area, and land mass is used to determine how many officers are needed in a particular area at minimum to provide "adequate" services.

According to a slide presented by the BPD, reforms that are under review to reduce replacement costs for overtime include "evaluate staffing levels in all units to determine if resources need to be redirected; tighter controls on Work In/Work Out, body for body policy implementation; and long term: civilians to replace administrative positions currently being filled by 80 to 100 sworn personnel."

Other reform measures include reducing extended tours and more support for injured officers so they can get the help they need while still returning to work in a timely manner.

Hasson said negotiations will need to be had with unions to determine which roles could be transferred over to civilians in order to direct officers towards other duties that don't necessarily require police intervention.

"We should be able to know what reassignments the Commissioner has the right to do without further bargaining," Bok said.

Councilor Campbell called the fact that officers have said in communities that there are less officers due to budget reductions "extremely troubling."

Hasson said that officers need to fill cars that are assigned to specific districts and make sure each shift is balanced.

When questioned about a central plan versus a district plan for reducing the overtime budget, Hasson said the two are working together. "They've been told there's a reduction in overtime,"

Hasson said of the districts," but "right now, they're struggling to maintain the minimum manning."

O'Brien said that she prepares an overtime report every other week in collaboration with police chiefs. "Every district, every specialized unit has an allotment for budgetary hours, for overtime," she said. The goal is to figure out what that looks like with the reduction implemented.

Aside from figuring out which positions could be filled by civilians without collective bargaining, Councilor Campbell said she wants to see which ones would require collective bargaining, but could still be attainable. She said this would free up some officers to offer more coverage to districts that may need it.

Hasson said that 90 hours is the maximum number of hours with overtime, details, and working hours that officers can work. He said the midnight shift tends to have fewer service calls and therefore fewer officers, but other shifts have higher demand at certain times of the day. For example, the 4pm to midnight shift has the highest demand in some districts versus after midnight, while the A1 district downtown has the highest demand during the day.

Councilor Ed Flynn mentioned that many community and neighborhood organizations in the City like to hear updates from Community Service Officers about crime and happenings in the neighborhood and to voice their concerns about certain issues.

"They ask for police presence in certain areas," Flynn said. "I think we need to make sure we have enough money in the budget to address overtime issues." He said he would support finding "different revenue options," as he feels the police "play a critical role" in "working with residents on public safety and quality of life issues."

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo asked whether the decentralization of officers from specialized units like the bike or fugitive units could happen, as it would provide more officers for the regular community beats and cut down on overtime costs.

Councilor Michael Flaherty said that chiropractic services need to be put on the "formulary" to get officers back on the job more quickly. Hasson said that approximately three officers per shift from every district every day are out sick or injured.

"Between demonstrations and COVID," Hasson said, the department has "seen a huge increase in absences."

Pam Kocher, president of

the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, said that the \$12 million shifted away from the police department towards other investments in the community "reduces demands on BPS to address non-public safety issues."

She said that people will continue to rely on the police and call them for non-police needs for some time, but she said that those needs should be shifted "as quickly as possible to other departments. Residents need help to make that shift, and it will take some time" to help them understand where they need to direct requests for resources depending on the situation.

Councilor Bok said that her "biggest concern about the conversation today" is that "we are really not looking at a plan yet about 'this is what we're saving.' What is the plan for monitoring benchmarks and making sure that we're kind of making progress towards saving this nearly \$25 million?"

Budget Director Justin Sterritt said that the budget department is "working with the BPD constantly to track the hours versus what we have planned for." He said that moving forward, tracking

will require "constant adjustment on a weekly basis" to adapt to the lower overtime budget.

He also said that a lot of the calls that BPD receives, such as calls related to parks, towing cars, transportation, and more, can be directed to other agencies and the City can work with partners to address this.

The need for more officers may be helped through a police class that will be offered this fall, and another in the spring, which could "bolster the number of officers sooner rather than later" which could help with the overtime costs, he said.

He also said that the City working with BPD through health insurance and human resources departments on officers returning to work is "one of the ways to make the soonest impact."

Councilor Campbell said she was "frustrated" during the hearing, adding that she wants to ensure the reduction in the police budget is sustainable year after year.

"Right now, it's important that we have specifics," she said. "We have listed a whole bunch of strategies to realize this \$25 million.

The question remains is 'which strategy are we going to adopt?'"

She said that some of the solutions could take years to implement, and she looks forward to "continued conversations" on this topic as well as getting more specifics from follow up with the BPD.

"I do really appreciate all the work that's gone into this, and I think to Superintendent Hasson's point, I do see a lot of strategies here on the table," Bok said. "I just think that the Council and this committee specifically is going to continue to be really focused on the question of 'how do those things come together to actually result in these savings?'...what are the broader questions about how we police?"

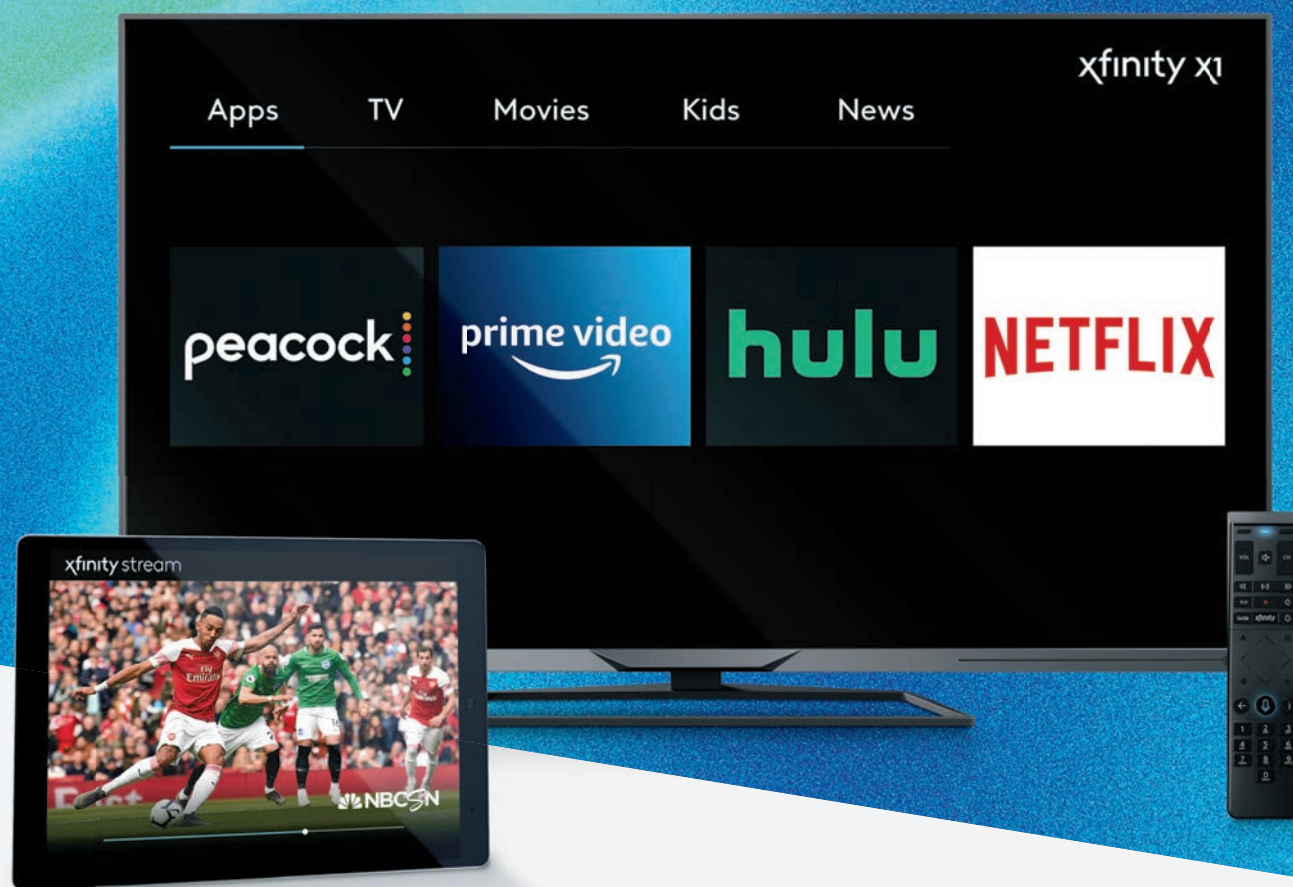
She continued, "The more that we can focus our law enforcement resources on the really critical law enforcement priorities, and away from some of the stuff that undermines trust in our community. I think there's an opportunity here that's driven by a fiscal question but can also turn into more of a policy question."

## CITY INSTALLS TEMPORARY BIKE LANES AROUND PUBLIC GARDEN



*As part of its Healthy Streets initiative, which reconfigures streets to allow more space between vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians, the city installed temporary bike lanes around the Public Garden on July 21 and 22. They will remain in place until the winter, and the city will initiate a public process before any permanent changes are made.*





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### HILL HOUSE SUMMER CAMP BACK IN FULL SWING



COURTESY OF HILL HOUSE

Kids participating in Hill House's summer camp are seen enjoying the warm weather this week.

### Museums to reopen with new procedures in place

By Dan Murphy

Sebastian Belfanti, director of the West End Museum, said Friday he expected the museum would reopen in the next week or two, but the exact timing hinges on when they can get enough hand sanitizer to ensure the safety of guests and staff.

"I put together a comprehensive reopening plan in May, which was approved by the museum's board," Belfanti said, "and I have since changed it to adjust to the state's safety standards."

Upon reopening, the museum at 150 Lomasney Way will be limited to 10 occupants (nine visitors and one staff member) at a time in each of its two, interconnected rooms, while public restrooms will remain closed for the time being. New signage and tape markings on the floor will be visible to notify museum-goers of the changes, and visitors will no longer be able to roam the premises as freely as they could before in keeping with social-distancing guidelines. The museum will also be sanitized more frequently and thoroughly than it was before it closed in March.

Until the pandemic struck, two staff members were on hand to greet guests and give museum tours, but Belfanti alone will be handling their duties for the first

(MUSEUM, Pg.5)

### PPP process proves difficult to navigate for bankers and clients

By Dan Murphy

Keeping up with the constantly changing process surrounding the federal Paycheck Protection Program and what will ultimately qualify for loan forgiveness can be exhausting — just ask David Felton, Cambridge Trust's senior vice president and director of business banking.

Cambridge Trust, along with Wellesley Savings Bank, which the former acquired in December, as well as their commercial lenders, together processed a total of 896 PPP loans in a three-week period.

(PPP, Pg.5)



Cambridge Trust's branch at 65 Beacon St.

### BHAC approves application for repairs to Park Street Church fire escape

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved an application to make repairs to a fire escape at the Park Street Church during a virtual meeting on July 18.

The applicant intends to make repairs on the rear façade of 2 Park St. that exits from the first through fourth levels while a second means of egress exits the property through a swing-gate areaway with a retaining wall bordering the Granary Burying Ground.

Repairs would be made behind the fence area and include replacing angled brackets with a vertical support for the fire escape.

The matter was continued from

(BHAC, Pg.4)

### BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Beacon Hill Civic Association Committees

Every spring, the Beacon Hill Civic Association publishes its Annual Report covering committee accomplishments during the past year. We'll be sharing the committees' reports here over the next weeks.

Cambridge Street Committee

The Cambridge Street Committee was established to address concerns of residents and businesses near and along Cambridge Street related to safety, cleanliness, and a desire for more teaming among the Cambridge Street business community, the Charles Street business community, and the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

This year the Cambridge Street Committee continued work with City officials and neighbors on safety issues and betterments to Cambridge Street, including plantings, ad-free trash receptacles, graffiti removal and street cleaning.

(BHCA Pg. 12)

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

## FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## Virtual lecture looks back at images from Women's Suffrage Movement

Join the Nichols House Museum and Professor Allison Lange for “Images in the Women’s Suffrage Movement” - a virtual lecture on the visual history of women’s suffrage – on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Since the nation’s founding, Americans have used images to define power and gender roles. Popular pictures praised male presidents, while cartoons mocked women who sought rights. Women’s rights activists like Sojourner Truth and Susan B. Anthony challenged these powerful pictures by distributing portraits that featured women as political leaders. Over time, suffragists developed a national visual campaign to change ideas about gender and politics and win voting rights. Lange, an assistant professor of history at the Wentworth Institute of Technology, will base the lecture on her book, “Picturing Political Power: Images in the Women’s Suffrage Movement,” published in May 2020 by the University of Chicago Press.

This virtual lecture is free, but

there is a suggested donation of between \$10 and \$15. Attendees who R.S.V.P. the museum for the event will be emailed a link to attend the lecture on the day of the event. Visit [nicholshousemuseum.org](http://nicholshousemuseum.org) for more information.

## Sing-ups for Back-to-School Giveaway now underway

The Salvation Army is teaming up with Garden Neighborhood Charities—the philanthropic arm of the TD Garden—and the City of Boston to host its Ninth Annu-

al Back-to-School Giveaway, with sign-ups now underway.

Registration is first-come-first-served and based on financial need. To be eligible, applicants must live in Boston/Suffolk County.

This year’s registration takes place through Aug. 18 by phone at 617-322-3875 and via email at [MASBack2School@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:MASBack2School@use.salvationarmy.org) due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Receive a backpack filled with school supplies and hygiene products; distribution takes place on Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

## Enrollment open for Beacon Hill/Back Bay Girl Scout Troop 65321

Girl Scout Troop 65321, covering the Beacon Hill and Back Bay neighborhoods, is accepting enrollment for new scouts entering Kindergarten and first grade (fall 2020). Meetings are held on Monday nights, approximately once or twice a month, at the Advent Church on Beacon Hill. To enroll your daughter or for information on enrollment for other grades, e-mail Jill Hauff at [jill.hauff@gmail.com](mailto:jill.hauff@gmail.com).

## Street sweeping tickets – not towing – begins again on Aug. 10

Staff Report

The City of Boston and the Public Works Department today that ticketing enforcement during street sweeping operations will resume on Monday, August 10. As part of the announcement, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) will not tow vehicles until further notice. However, tickets will be issued to those in violation of street sweeping rules starting August 10. Residents can sign up for street sweeping alerts at [boston.gov](http://boston.gov). Parked cars will be given courtesy flyers in ten different languages reminding residents of street sweeping.

“As we continue to support a

cautious and phased approach to reopening Boston, we are asking residents to move their vehicles during designated street sweeping hours to allow our Public Works crews to thoroughly clean our neighborhood streets,” said Chief of Streets Chris Osgood. “We know this may be a change in schedule for some of our residents, and we greatly appreciate everyone’s cooperation to ensure our streets remain clean during these challenging times.”

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made in March to stop towing and ticketing during street sweeping operations. This measure encouraged residents to travel less and comply

with social distancing recommendations. While the street sweeping program has continued citywide, residents were not required to move their vehicles during designated street sweeping hours.

Failure to move a vehicle during posted street sweeping hours results in a \$40 fine, \$90 in Charlestown, and \$90 for overnight street sweeping.

The City is also waiving any parking ticket received by a health-care worker upon appeal with the exception of public safety violations, such as parking in a handicapped spot or in front of a fire hydrant.

## CICCOLO (from pg. 1)

my dad. I wasn’t sure as a teen. Then I graduated high school and decided to look at the cadet program. The Cadets are wonderful because it allowed me to work in the Police Department before I actually became a police officer.”

Ciccolo’s father was a Boston Police Officer, and so was his uncle. He also has a niece and a nephew who are Boston Police Officers as well. He joined the Cadets in 1983, and was officially sworn in as an officer in 1987.

Ciccolo has a very diverse career within BPD. He was a patrolman and sergeant in Mattapan and a lieutenant in Jamaica Plain and the Station Captain in Hyde Park for a time. He’s been the commander of the dispatch operations and also led the Hackney Division. Most recently, he spent the last four and a half years as the Night Commander for the North Zone.

One of the things he likes is the changes one can make within the department.

“It’s a wonderful job in you can have so many different jobs

without leaving the same employer,” he said. “There are such a wide variety of functions you can work at. I think a benefit of a large department is you can re-invigorate yourself periodically by making such changes.”

And, of course, change is a key word these days in policing and Ciccolo said he is concentrating as a leader on listening to the community and making sure people are safe, and that they also feel safe. He said he wants the community, the young people, to tell him things that the Police might do that make them uneasy so there is a better understanding.

“We took the job to make people feel safe and to make them physically safe,” he said. “If there is a segment of the community that we’re making to feel unsafe, we need to re-envision how we approach this work because we’re not making them feel safe – and that’s exactly what we’re supposed to do...There is a lot of discussion going on now, but I think ultimately all of the discussion will

lead us on a better path to making people feel safe.”

Right now, Ciccolo said he is trying to get a feel for the community – all the way from Charlestown to Bay Village and everything in between. While COVID-19 has made that awkward, he said he is still getting out to the public face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) as much as possible.

“The variety within the district is a little staggering,” he said. “It’s essentially everything from Bay Village to Charlestown – including Chinatown, Beacon Hill, the North End and the West End. It’s invigorating just because of the sheer variety of places.”

“We’re very much looking forward to working with Captain Ciccolo,” said NEWNC president Brett Roman.

NEWRA President Cheryl Delgreco said, “Captain Robert Ciccolo brings more than 35 years of BPD experience and a wealth of knowledge to his new position as the new head of District A-1.”

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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 the annual starting salary is the mid \$30s.

Duties include:

- Assist the executive director by preparing materials and reports for the board of directors and committees need to effectively accomplish their work.
- Act as the first point of contact for the office; help resolve BHCA member and resident concerns and complaints about quality of life issues on Beacon Hill.
- Assist the membership committee with member solicitations, annual membership drives, sending out appropriate membership materials, implementing special membership events and new member receptions.
- Assist the treasurer and bookkeeper with some bookkeeping functions, including making bank deposits, handling credit card transactions and invoices.
- Maintain member records on Charityproud database, create and provide reports to the board and committees, and help the BHCA increase its use of the database as a valuable reporting tool.
- Manage member communications, including sending group emails/email marketing, updating the website, social media accounts, and sending invitations to events.
- Occasional support for evening meetings and several weekend events throughout the year.
- Order supplies, maintain office equipment and filing, and act as office liaison with vendors.
- When needed, assist with receptionist duties for building.

Required qualifications:

Desirable qualifications:

To apply for this position please sent resume and cover letter by August 20, 2020 to: [patricia.tully@bhcivic.org](mailto:patricia.tully@bhcivic.org).



## CITY PAWS

## Beyond belly rubs

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

A sign that a person is a dog lover is when their hands unconsciously begin to stroke, pat, and gently scratch a dog sitting beside them. Did you know that petting a dog can lower heart rate and blood pressure, release happy hormones, and generally relax both the canine and human partners?

When we think about ways we can help our dogs when they are frightened, injured, or showing the effects of aging, we may not think of massage. Today the professionals at major animal hospitals, like the MSPCA's Angell Animal Medical Center, are including massage therapy as part of their rehabilitation services.

While there are times when you will need a professionally trained massage therapist to treat your animal or to teach you to do a specific massage, you can also learn some everyday massage therapy on your own.

#### Massage Therapy Benefits

Angell Animal Medical Center explains how and why they use

massage therapy saying, "It reduces stress, increases blood flow, relieves muscle tension and maintains the overall health of a dog. It enhances the immune system by flushing out toxins, increases circulation in the lymph and vascular systems, stimulates portions of the nervous system which affect behavior, allows oxygen to flow freely, and relieves muscle tension, adhesions, and soreness which benefit range of motion, joint, and spinal flexibility. Massage can also promote faster healing after an injury or surgery."

It was at Angell that we were given proof of how well massage can work on a dog. Our current Westie Poppy is not a bit nervous when she visits her veterinarian. However, she follows in the paw-prints of two Westies who would tremble at the scent of an animal hospital.

Penny learned Tellington T-Touch massage to help our Sassy, Maggie Mae, and the foster dogs we have had over the years. It was automatic to put Poppy on her lap and begin the slow circular massage that would calm a frightened

animal anytime we were waiting for our turn for the dog doctor.

On one visit her vet began the exam by checking Poppy's heart and looked up with concern on her face. "Her heart rate is really low," she said. We quickly explained that Poppy had just had a good 30 minutes of T-Touch therapy. Naturally, after the exam and a trip to the lab for routine blood work, Poppy's heart rate had returned to normal.

#### Massage Tips

Set up your own little doggie spa scene! Begin by choosing a quiet spot where your dog is comfortable and consider adding some soothing music in the background. We favor the sound of soft classical guitar as our calming music.

Begin by gently patting in your usual manner and then slowly begin slightly stronger long strokes and observe the dog's reaction. You can then start at the head and work your way along the body. Include the legs and paws if your dog is comfortable with that.

Two massage points on a dog's body that stimulate relaxation are



Petting a dog can lower heart rate and blood pressure, release happy hormones, and generally relax both the canine and human partners. (Photo by Nomao Saeki)

the back of the neck from under the ears and the base of the tail. You may already know that from the "slitty-eyed" "do-that-some-more" response you get when you gently scratch those places.

Above all make sure your dog is comfortable with you massaging him. If your dog is stiffening, growling, showing any sign of pain, or trying to get away from

you, stop. The point of massage is to relax your dog and ease the ache. You can always try again another day with gentler strokes for a shorter time if it's okay with your furry pal.

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

# DOR's June revenue collections interim report shows drop

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder today announced in an interim report that June revenue collections total \$2.493 billion as of July 24, 2020, which is \$761 million or 23.4 percent less than benchmark, and \$691 million or 21.7 percent less than the actual collections in June 2019. Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020) revenue is still being collected and will be revised.

These figures are preliminary and FY2020 revenue is still being collected due to section 12 of

chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which extended the April 15 personal income tax filing and payment deadline to July 15. In addition, DOR invoked its administrative authority to move the April and June quarterly estimated income tax payment deadlines to July 15. Section 3 of chapter 78 of the Acts of 2020, requires the Comptroller to record as FY2020 revenue income tax payments originally due in FY2020 but received between July 1 and Aug. 31, 2020. Such payments include those made with final income tax returns, extension payments and estimated payments originally due

in FY2020.

[1] The original consensus tax revenue estimate benchmark for fiscal year 2020 is \$30.099 billion, excluding tax-related settlements exceeding \$10 million each. On January 13, 2020, the Secretary of Administration and Finance certified a revised fiscal 2020 tax revenue estimate of \$30.289 billion, including an estimated \$132.5 million from marijuana sales and excise taxes. The revision is reflected beginning with the January report.

Because DOR will be receiving revenue in July and August that will be treated as FY2020 reve-

nue, DOR will be unable to complete the full processing of FY2020 tax revenues until after Aug. 31. Therefore, DOR anticipates submitting the final FY2020 revenue report after that date.

DOR is not required by statute to publish revenue collections for June on the third business day following the end of the month, as is required for all other months. DOR historically releases preliminary revenue collection figures for June at the end of July.

For the fiscal year-to-date through today's interim report, partial revenue collections totaled \$27.276 billion, \$2.417 billion or 8.1 percent less than the same fiscal year-to-date period in 2019, and \$3.014 billion or 9.9 percent less than the year-to-date benchmark. This figure is expected to be updated.

"Approximately 81 percent of the year-to-date shortfall is in non-withheld income tax, which is due in large part to the deferral of the deadlines for personal income tax returns and payments and the first two estimated payment installments to July 15, 2020," said Commissioner Snyder. "DOR will be releasing a full FY2020 revenue report in September because

recently enacted legislation requires the Comptroller to record income tax payments received between July 1 and August 31 as FY20 revenue. We will continue to closely monitor these delayed FY20 revenue collections."

Historically, June is a significant month for revenues, because both individual and business taxpayers make estimated payments during the month. In most years, the month of June has ranked #2 (behind only April) in the proportion of annual revenue received during the month.

As was the case with the prior two months (April and May), tax collections in June 2020 have so far differed from historical June collections due to measures enacted to mitigate the impact and breadth of COVID-19, including, without limitation, the extension of the income tax filing and payment deadline to July 15, 2020, the extension of the first and second estimated payment installments for 2020 to July 15, 2020, penalty waivers, safer-at-home advisories and gradual reopening of Massachusetts, as well as the impact COVID-19 has had on consumer and corporate behavior, the economy and the stock market.

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# ADA's 30th anniversary: MBTA highlights progress and upcoming accessibility projects

On the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the nation's most significant legislation regarding the civil rights of people with disabilities, the MBTA reaffirms its commitment to being a leader in accessible public transportation.

"Thanks to the ADA and our riders who have advocated and partnered with us, the MBTA is more reliable and accessible than ever before," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. "We're proud of the accessibility accomplishments we've made so far, but we're committed to continuing to make improvements, which are fundamental to allowing our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and family members with disabilities to use the MBTA safely and confidently. With that in mind, we celebrate this important anniversary and look forward to continuing our path forward."

This week's GM Video Update features additional discussion regarding the history of accessibility at the MBTA and the progress toward a fully accessible T.

By the 1970s, the MBTA had already begun projects and programs with a focus on accessibility, including the T's first elevator going into service at Quincy Center Station in 1971 and offering door-to-door paratransit service through the use of two lift-equipped vans in and around Brookline in 1977. Early Federal laws and state oversight through the Massachusetts Architectural Board helped to expand a focus on accessibility at the T and, by 1990 when the ADA was signed, around twenty-five MBTA stations were accessible. At that time, some buses were also accessible, though customers were required to call ahead to request these lift-equipped buses be assigned to a particular route.

The signing of the ADA in 1990 aimed to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities, including in public transportation. Expectations for public transit providers like the MBTA were clarified and called for all parts of service to be accessible, including reliable stop announcements, improved employee trainings, and accessible key stations and vehicles.

The existence of the ADA has also given riders a mechanism for holding organizations accountable for providing accessible service. While the T had made some progress since the signing of the ADA in 1990, a group of riders with disabilities along with the Boston Center for Independent Living filed a class-action lawsuit against the T in 2002 that cited many ADA violations, including broken elevators, inaccessible buses, and employees not equipped to assist customers as needed.

Following a comprehensive settlement agreement of this lawsuit in 2006, the MBTA has fundamentally shifted its approach, initiating accessibility projects and programs with the goal of becoming a global leader in accessible transit. In the fifteen years since the settlement agreement, tremendous progress has been made – to name a few:

- The MBTA now has over 232 accessible stations – including 200 elevators system-wide with elevator "up time" averaging 99.4 percent or better consistently over the last decade through new elevator maintenance contracts.

- The T's bus fleet is 100 percent accessible with the newest fleet designed with feedback from riders with disabilities that has resulted in a layout that will provide more space and options for all customers, including wheelchair users and families with strollers.

- All front-line employees

receive improved training in providing accessible and inclusive service to all customers, including one-of-a-kind training in assisting customers with disabilities during emergency situations.

- Recognizing that first-hand experiences help shape a more usable system, the MBTA continues to reinforce its efforts to include riders with disabilities in its decision-making processes by hiring talented staff who also have disabilities and improving rider engagement through groups like the T's Riders' Transportation Access Group (R-TAG).

The RIDE is also a leader in service quality, efficiency, and innovation among peer paratransit operations. Since the launch of this service on a smaller scale in 1977, the MBTA's ADA door-to-door paratransit RIDE program currently provides service for eligible customers in fifty-eight

surrounding towns and communities, including Boston. Of the 1.6 million trips provided last year on the traditional RIDE service, over 245,000 trips were taken as part of the innovative pilot partnership with Uber and Lyft, which provides customers with flexible options that best meet their needs and additional similar pilot service offerings to come soon. The upcoming software and technology transition to Routematch will also continue to improve the customer experience, enhance reliability, and increase efficiencies by providing customers with a new web-based trip booking platform, a compatible smart phone app, and interactive voice response prompts to assist customers in managing their own trips. The MBTA continues to explore better, more integrated ways to offer trips to its RIDE customers using both paratransit and fixed route service.

While the MBTA is proud of this progress so far, the T is committed to continuous improvement with more projects focused on accessibility in the pipeline. As part of the MBTA's Plan for Accessible Transportation Infrastructure (PATI) that aims to make the system entirely accessible, major upgrades within the next five years include:

- The renovation of Symphony and Hynes Stations on the Green Line to improve accessibility;

- Improvements to nine street-level Green Line stops that make these stations fully accessible;

- Over 50 new elevators in design; and

- Many innovative technology pilot programs, including indoor navigation for blind/low vision customers.

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**Violation Auto Laws**  
07/24/20 – A male suspect was arrested for a violation of the auto laws on Cambridge Street at about 12:08 a.m. The suspect was operating a 2001 Toyota Camry with attached stolen plates, as well as driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle without a license.

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Before you know it, the new school year will begin. In this climate of crisis there are so many new factors to consider before classes resume. Parents are anxious to learn about new protocols and options for their children. We have created Safely Back to School as a way for schools to reach out to parents to help them learn about all of the new safe education options that are available for the year ahead

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# Moondance Gala canceled for this year

By Dan Murphy

Traditionally the Esplanade Association's largest annual fundraiser, as well as one of the city's most eagerly awaited events, the Moondance Gala has been cancelled this year in deference to concerns over the ongoing pandemic.

Many conversation with event chairs Carolina Sève-Natale and Bryan Natale and Margo and Fred Newman helped determine this difficult decision, according to the Esplanade Association, which further stated that it's "not fiscally responsible to take on the financial risk associated with planning an event that could likely need to be cancelled at a later date."

The festivities, which take place on the Esplanade beneath a tent along the Charles River, feature dancing under the stars, and pro-

ceeds from the event help support the nonprofit organization's work to revitalize, enhance and program the park.

The last Moondance Gala, which took place on Sept. 14 of 2019, drew around 580 guests and raised more than \$1.4 million to benefit the park.

"It was a really difficult decision to have to cancel the Moondance Gala this year," said Michael Nichols, executive director of the Esplanade Association. "We know people look forward to event not just as an opportunity to support the Esplanade, but it's really the signature social event as people return to Boston each fall."

Nichols added: "The Gala traditionally accounts for more than half of our total revenue for whole year, so it's certainly put a lot of

stress on our ability to continue to fulfill our work in the park."

Deprived of revenue from this year's Gala, the Esplanade Association needs financial support more than ever and is now soliciting donations from the public, which are tax deductible.

To donate, readers can use the secure online donation form available online at <https://esplanade.org/moondance/>, or send a check (payable to Esplanade Association) to Jim Diverio, Director of Development, Esplanade Association, 575 Boylston St., Suite 4R, Boston, MA 02116.

For more information, call Jim Diverio at 617-837-287.

TRUCK (from pg. 1)

ers to find another route.

Moreover, Holt added, "There's plenty of legitimate large-truck traffic (City trash, moving vans, fire engines), which is unfortunate enough. But vehicles that have no business in the neighborhood and are unable to pass through without leaving a path of destruction, have no business here."



A tree that was toppled by a truck carrying an oversized metal frame Wednesday, July 22, near the corner of Revere and Garden streets.



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