



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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## BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS PUT A SHINE TO NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS



Beacon Hill Garden Club members led volunteer cleanup-efforts of the Phillips Street and Myrtle Street playgrounds last weekend. Pictured above, Renee Knilan; Miguel Rosales, co-chair of the Garden Club's Civic Planting Program; Patrick McDonough; Diana Wylie; and Kathy Judge are seen at the Phillips Street Playground. Pictured right, , Janet Veasey, Garden Club member; Miguel Rosales, co-chair of the Garden Club's Civic Planting Program; and Kathy Judge at the Myrtle Street Playground.



## Walsh to allow Halloween trick-or-treating in the city while urging residents to take extra precautions

By Dan Murphy

Following much speculation about how Halloween would move forward in Boston this year, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced Tuesday that trick-or-treating would be permitted in the city on Saturday, Oct. 31, but he is urging

residents to use extra precautions in celebrating the holiday to keep themselves and others safe.

"Halloween is one of the best nights, and what's most important this year is that any person participating in activities does so in a way that is safe for not only themselves, but also their neighbors and com-

munity," Mayor Walsh said in a press release. "We're asking people to take the extra precautions that are necessary this year, including avoiding direct contact with trick-or-treaters, wearing masks at all times, washing hands before eating

(HALLOWEEN, Pg. 5)

### BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Meet Eliza Greenberg!

Eliza joined the BHCA staff as Administrative Assistant on October 5th. She brings a rich background of studies and experience in management and events with Bachelor's degrees in Management and in Hospitality & Tourism, combined with a desire to work

for a non-profit and make a difference. Her arrival was perfectly timed as we continue to work to keep our community connected and vibrant in a virtual way. We all look forward to working with her as a vital part of our team.

(BHCA Pg. 6)

## Happenings on Charles Street

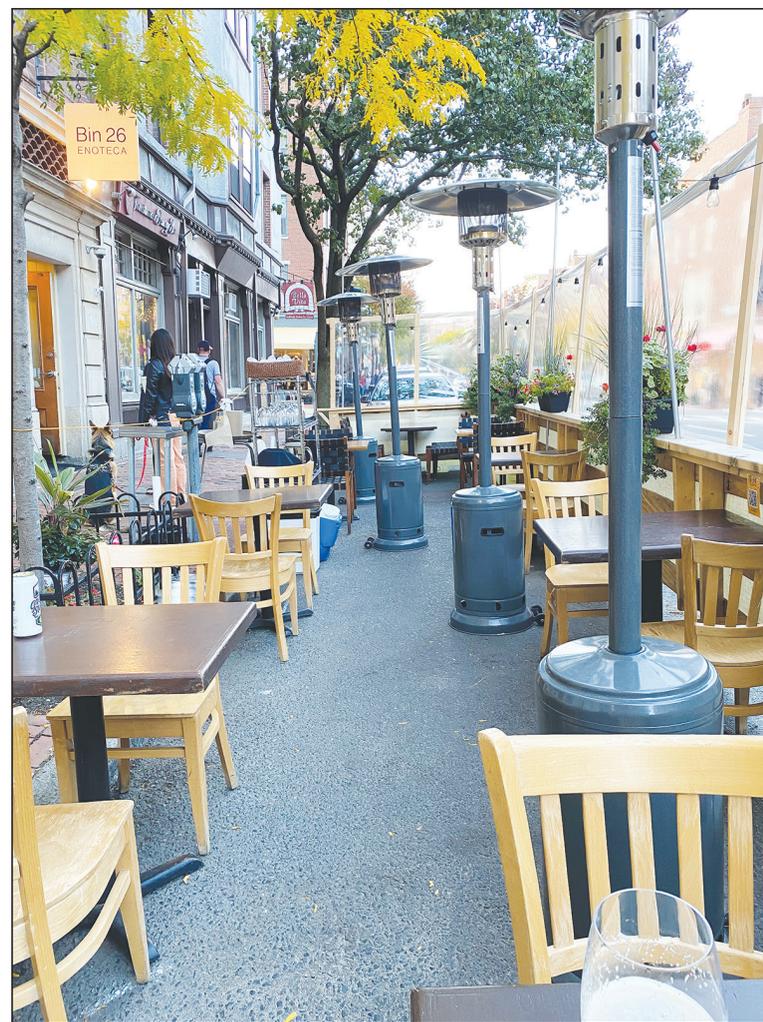
### Charles Street restaurants brace for outdoor dining amid the elements

By Dan Murphy

When Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced on Sept. 16 that the city would extend the outdoor dining season past the original Halloween end-date in response to the ongoing pandemic, it came as welcome news to Charles Street restaurants struggling to stay in business, but now, those same restaurants are bracing for the inevitable onset of colder temperatures, as well as other realities of winter in New England.

Bin 26 Enoteca is doing its part by embracing the change in the weather with the launch of a new campaign called "Bin 26 Has Got You Covered," where patrons can purchase (at cost) small blankets made from a synthetic blend and adorned with the restaurant's logo for \$8 a piece, along with fuzzy, wool hats for \$25 each, with 100 percent of proceeds from the sale of the hats going to BINA Farm Center – a nonprofit that offers a variety of therapeutic and recre-

(DINING, Pg. 7)



Bin 26 Enoteca's outdoor dining area.

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

# EDITORIAL

## BE SURE TO VOTE

Okay -- this is it.

The long presidential campaign has come to an end and it will all be over by the time this newspaper is published next week.

Although a record-breaking number of Americans already have taken advantage of the availability of early-voting and voting by mail, there still are many voters who have not cast their ballots.

So here's a reminder:

-- Early voting in person is available in every city and town in Massachusetts through this Friday, October 30. Each town and city clerk will set its own hours each day for early voting, so every voter should check for their community's early-voting schedule.

-- Those who intend to vote by mail must have their ballot envelope postmarked by Election Day, November 3, AND it must be received by election officials by November 6.

-- For those who wish to vote the old-fashioned way on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, the polls in every city and town across the state will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Our democracy only works if we make it work -- and that means getting out to vote.

## IT'S US VS. THE VIRUS

The stunning announcement this week by Trump administration officials that they will be doing nothing to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has grave implications both for the health of every American and for the U.S. economy.

With an average of 1000 Americans dying every day and record-high levels of sickness overwhelming hospitals all across the country, no one is safe from contracting the virus.

What does this mean?

First and foremost, both first and second-level responders -- police and firefighters are in the first category, hospital workers are in the second -- will be at huge risk for contracting the virus. COVID-19 already is the single-biggest cause of deaths among police officers this year and with the pandemic now completely out-of-control, the situation only will get worse.

Second, essential workers, such as teachers and certain retail employees, also will be at high risk for contracting the virus.

Third, senior citizens and those with pre-existing conditions basically will be confined to their homes until they receive a proven vaccine, which is not expected to be widely available until some time next in the late spring or early summer. Family gatherings for the holidays and other occasions simply are not safe for anybody, especially older Americans.

Fourth, the travel, entertainment, and hospitality industry will be all but finished without massive aid from the federal government. Small restaurants and businesses that were able to make it through the summer will face an impossible winter season.

Fifth, unemployment will remain exceedingly high and many Americans will struggle just to feed their families and pay their rent, mortgages, and car payments without massive government assistance.

Sixth, those who need urgent care for other health reasons -- such as heart attacks, cancer treatment, and accidents -- will be placed at risk because ICU and emergency rooms will be filled with COVID-19 patients.

Seventh, state and local governments will be facing huge deficits and will be unable to maintain essential services such as public transportation without massive federal aid.

President Trump has been saying at his rallies in recent days that we are "rounding the corner" in the battle against the virus, a phrase he has been using since last spring.

But at this point, we have rounded so many Trumpian corners, it is clear that we are just running in circles.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

## GUEST OP-ED

## This November 3, make sure your voice is heard

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

We are slowly approaching the most important day of the year: Election Day. This year, although we'll be voting under different circumstances because of the COVID-19 pandemic, please be assured the City of Boston is doing everything within our power to make sure you can make your voice heard with your vote. November 3, 2020 is a special date. The lives of families, businesses and communities are on the line. Voting is more important than ever before, and we need to elect officials who are able to help ensure Boston's response and recovery from COVID-19 so we can restore our normal lives.

This election includes the following races: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Councillors, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, Register of Probate, and Office of the President of the United States. Additionally, there are two ballot questions: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition Motor Vehicle Mechanical Data & Law Proposed by Initiative Petition Ranked-Choice Voting. Make informed decisions by viewing your sample ballot here.

This election cycle, all Massachusetts residents have been given the option to vote by mail, as well

as many options to return their ballots either by mail, at an early voting site, or at a dropbox near you. We have had a robust early voting schedule, with dozens of neighborhood locations open for any Boston registered voter during weekdays and weekends. We even had Fenway Park as one of them, where over 4,000 Bostonians chose to cast their ballots. As of October 26, voter turnout in Boston stands at 24 percent. If you still haven't cast your ballot yet, there's still time: early voting runs through Friday, October 30, and if you have your ballot, you can still drop it off at a dropbox by 8 p.m. on November 3. You can also still vote in person, at your assigned polling place, on Election Day.

All polling locations in Boston are operating under COVID-19

safety guidelines: poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand six feet away from others and wear a face covering. On Election Day, polling locations are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Individuals can find their polling location online.

Every vote counts. I encourage everyone to vote whether by mail or in-person. The City of Boston depends on your vote. For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit [boston.gov/elections](https://boston.gov/elections).

*Martin Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**OPEN LETTER TO NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS FROM RESIDENTS OF TEMPLE STREET**

Dear Beacon Hill Neighbors,

We are writing to let you know that, as residents of Temple Street, we have asked the City of Boston to do a pilot project that switches the power source of the Temple Street sidewalk lamps from methane gas to energy-efficient electricity, without changing the look and feel of the gas lamps.

Why this pilot project?

Gas leaks have either killed or severely weakened the 16 trees planted the same year as the gas lamps were installed on Temple Street (1977).

Temple Street smells like gas and some homes have elevated methane levels.

National Grid does not have to repair the leaks from lines connected to the gas lamps.

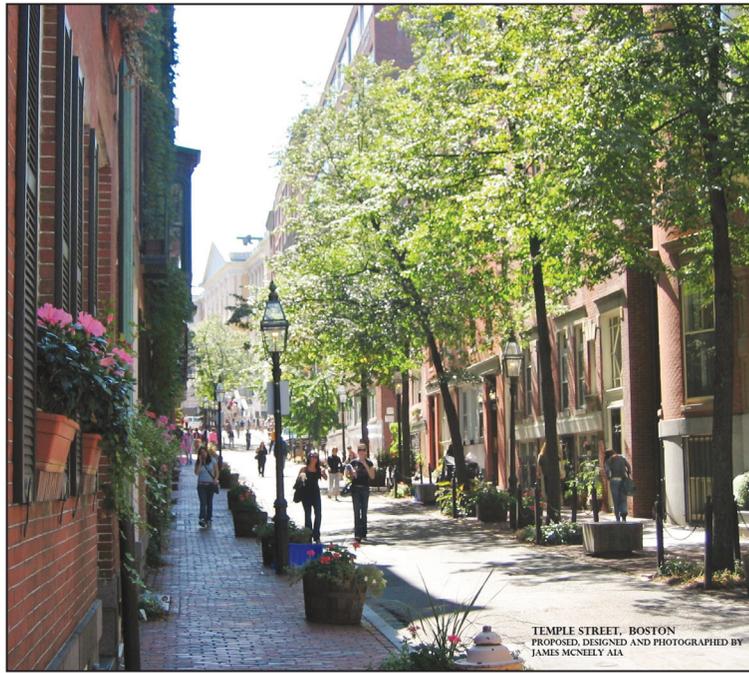
Leaked methane is bad for our health, potentially explosive, and is a potent greenhouse gas.

Background for how the decision to try switching gas lamps to electric was reached:

Temple Street, located on the North Slope of Beacon Hill tucked behind the State House, is one block between Derne and Cambridge Streets. In 1977, our street, dedicated as Temple Walk, was converted to an accessible brick walkway with wider than normal sidewalks. The beautiful gas lamps were added that year, along with 16 trees in tree pits. Residents have paid for and planted summer annuals for over 40 years in the tree pits. The street thrived and became a featured image of the Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau at Logan Airport.

Over the years, two-thirds of those trees have since died; the remaining 5 original trees show severe signs of dieback and decline. More recently their decline has accelerated. In 2018, six trees were removed on the same day. Several of us suspected that high levels of methane in the tree pits were contributing to these tree deaths.

Moreover, methane gas is known to be bad for human health, is potentially explosive, and, when unburned, is a potent greenhouse gas that is 86 times more efficient at trapping heat than CO2 over a 20-year timeline. Today, Boston public lighting accounts for



TEMPLE STREET, BOSTON  
PROPOSED, DESIGNED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
JAMES MCNEELY AIA

PHOTO BY JIM MCNEELY

Temple Street in 2018 (above), after six trees were cut down and with National Grid venting the gas out of the soil into the atmosphere (right).

9% of our City's greenhouse gas emissions, and while gas lamps comprise only 4% of the lighting units, they represent 37% of those lighting emissions.

Gas Analysis:

Out of concern for the remaining trees, the survival of the new plantings, and human health, an independent gas expert from Gas Safety USA was asked to check Temple St. for gas leaks. He found elevated methane concentrations in the soil in the middle of the street and in many tree pits. Two of the "sick" original trees have readings with greater than 30% methane in the tree pits. Tree roots actually "breathe" and require oxygen for their cellular respiration. Leaked methane is slowly asphyxiating the trees by replacing oxygen in the soil pores.

National Grid has been called to repair these leaks several times. They have dug and vented methane for hours. The smell of gas persists, and trees still have methane in the root zone. Gas is even seeping into basements and homes. In 2019, we were evacuated for several hours because a construction crew hit a gas line.

State regulations do not require the connections to each gas lamp to be repaired unless the leak is identified as potentially explosive.

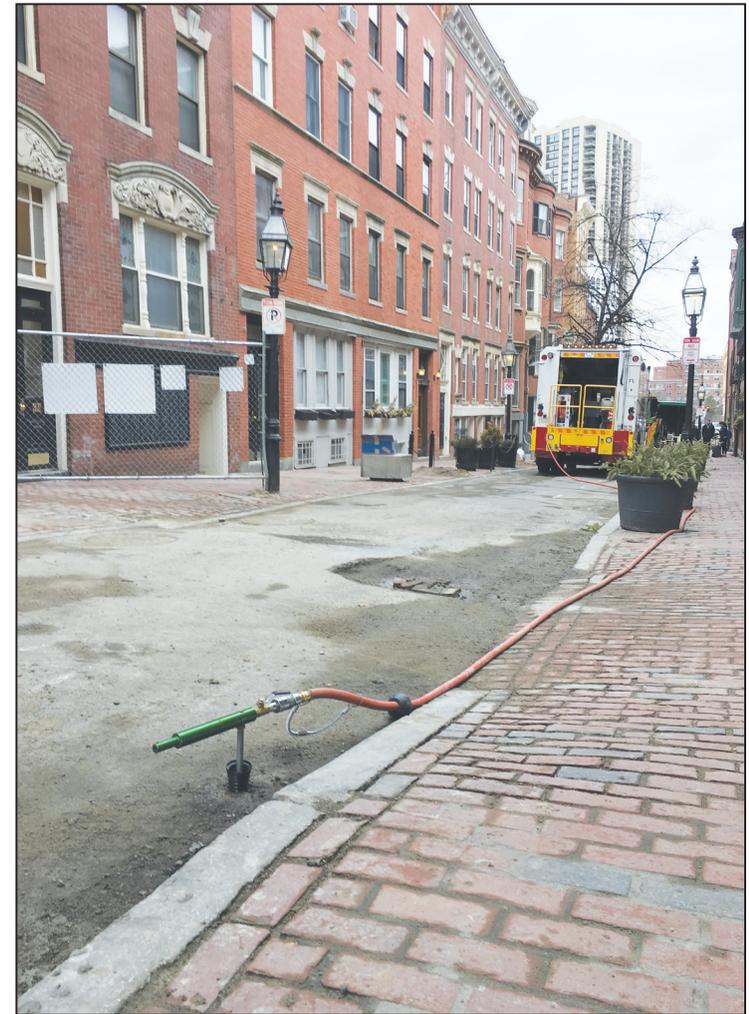
The pilot project:

A National Grid worker suggested changing the energy source for the gas lamps from gas to electric to eliminate the multiple leaks, which are likely to increase as pipe

infrastructure gets older.

Lighting technology has improved so that currently available light bulbs can match the warm glow of our gas lamps. We see this as an opportunity for the neighborhood to weigh-in and to learn from the Temple Street experience. At this point, no decisions regarding the look of the lamps have been made, and the City has committed to a meaningful public process throughout this pilot project.

We Temple Street residents love our street, have worked very



hard on historic maintenance and beautification efforts, and want to maintain the beautiful atmosphere for both our trees and human health. We hope that many residents will participate in the public process so that the final product is something that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,  
Nan Borod; Betsy Peterson;  
Susan McWhinney-Morse; Kathie Sims; Monica and Brian Kimball; Ania and Carlos Camargo; Ben Norton; JT and Cheryl Aldridge; Paul, Anna, and Cameron Huang; Anne and Bill Hayward.

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## GUEST OP-ED

## Let your heart drive you to vote, but put your mind into your voting

By Glenn Mollette

Most of the time people marry because at that moment that's where their hearts have led them to be. For better or worse many people stay in marriages most of their lives because they have given their heart to their spouse.

We sometimes pursue careers because we have a heart for the vocation. There is something about the vocation that inspires and motivates us. Because our heart is in the work, we stay with the occupation. Success is more likely to occur where the heart is centered.

We become very competent with our hobbies because we love them so much. We enjoy musical instruments, baking, sewing, wood work, painting, fishing, sports and whatever your hobby might be. People are often ready to retire from their jobs because they have hobbies, they love more.

The major emphasis of the greatest commandment is to love God with our hearts. Jesus knew no one would have any commitment to God without the full com-

mitment of the heart.

The heart will take you places and keep you places where the mind would never consider. Too often what the mind will not consider the heart will not give up or waver from.

We often forget about the mind. Jesus told us to love God with our minds. Reason, commonsense, inquiry, thinking and education are all important. Sometimes the heart may cause us to be blind. We may love blindly. Stay with negative relationships that are destructive. Hang on to a job or career pursuit that ends up being negative, a dead end and a waste of time. We have to involve our minds in our lives. Life cannot be lived merely by the heart. Heart will keep you someplace a long time. However, your mind will help you to decipher whether it's the right thing to do.

Americans are at the polls voting. Love for the country, ideas, political parties and candidates have Americans voting in masses. While you may love the Democratic party or the Republican party or either candidate hopefully you

are considering all the reasons why you are voting.

What do you want for America? Good paying jobs? More Government involvement in your life? The removal of guns from society? The freedom to have guns? Less police security? More police security? More taxes? Less taxes? More jobs coming back to America? More jobs going back to China? Health care that pays for nothing? A better health care for every American? What about our freedom? Freedom of speech? We love our freedom in America. Freedom to try. Freedom to fail. Freedom to try again. Freedom to succeed. Freedom to pursue owning a house, car and living an independent life. Maybe, you feel that every American should have the same, be the same and that the Government should take care of all us equally?

This election, think about it. Think about what you want for you and your grandchildren. Let your heart drive you to vote, but put your mind into your voting.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

## District Election Officer to monitor integrity of election polls appointed

United States Attorney Andrew Lelling announced that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Eugenia Carris will lead the efforts of his Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming Nov. 3, 2020, general election.

AUSA Carris has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the District of Massachusetts, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights concerns in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

"Fair elections are the foundation of our democracy," said U.S. Attorney Lelling. "Every citizen has the Constitutional right to cast his or her vote on election day free from intimidation, harassment and discrimination. The Department of Justice will do its part to ensure the integrity of the election process by enforcing federal laws that protect voters and investigating reports of fraud. We encourage the public to report concerns to us."

The Department of Justice has an important role in deterring election fraud and discrimination at the polls, and combating these violations whenever and wherever they occur. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers these goals, and also seeks to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open through Election Day.

Federal law protects against such crimes as intimidating or bribing voters, buying and selling votes, impersonating voters, altering vote tallies, stuffing ballot boxes, and marking ballots for voters against their wishes or without their input. It also contains special protections for the rights of voters,

and provides that they can vote free from acts that intimidate or harass them. For example, actions of persons designed to interrupt or intimidate voters at polling places by questioning or challenging them, or by photographing or videotaping them, under the pretext that these are actions to uncover illegal voting may violate federal voting rights law. Further, federal law protects the right of voters to mark their own ballot or to be assisted by a person of their choice (where voters need assistance because of disability or illiteracy).

The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it if they choose, and that those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights concerns during the voting period that ends on Nov. 3, 2020, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, AUSA/DEO Carris will be on duty in Massachusetts while the polls are open and can be reached by the public at 617-748-3363.

In addition, the FBI will have special agents available in each field office and resident agency throughout the country to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on Election Day. The local FBI field office can be reached at 857-386-2000.

Complaints about possible violations of the federal voting rights laws can also be made to the Civil Rights Division in Washington, DC by phone at 800-253-3931 or at <https://civilrights.justice.gov/>.

In the case of a crime of violence or intimidation, please call 911 immediately and before contacting federal authorities. State and local police have primary jurisdiction over polling places, and are equipped to respond to an emergency.

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627  
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911

#### Breaking and Entering – Motor Vehicle

10/18/20- The victim reported she parked her 2020 Toyota RAV4 at Myrtle and Irving streets at about 6:30 p.m., but when she returned the next day at around 8:50 a.m., she observed that the vehicle had been rummaged through, and that paperwork left inside was left scattered in the street.

#### Breaking and Entering – Motor Vehicle

10/21/20 – The victim parked his 2008 Jeep Liberty on South Russell Street at around 5 p.m. (although he was uncertain if he locked it), and when he returned there about four hours later, he realized that unknown suspect(s) had stolen his wallet containing credit/bank cards from inside the vehicle.

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# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Biega, Daniel	Moses, Brendan	109 Beacon St #4	\$1,225,000
222 Commonwealth Ave LLC	222 Comm Avenue RT	222 Commonwealth Ave	\$8,100,000
Lopatin, Alexander	Fultz, Barbara N	290 Commonwealth Ave #20	\$358,000
Luconi, Christina	Taplett, John C	373 Marlborough St #4	\$2,110,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
MD Financial LLC	75 Beacon St Acquisition	75 Beacon St #1	\$8,300,000
Darcy, Shannon	8-14 Temple Street LLC	10 Temple St #10	\$585,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
16 Lawrence St LLC	Maxfield Warren Est	16 Lawrence St	\$1,500,000
Meikleham, Elizabeth C	Pitt, Sean	236 W Canton St #4	\$959,000
Fang, Xueyang	Dugan, Dan J	483 Beacon St #62	\$900,000
Kistingner, Peter R	Myles-Wynn, William	25 Hanson St #1	\$1,301,000
Raith, Gregory	33 Mount Vernon St LLC	33 Mount Vernon St #2	\$1,450,000
Hafler, David A	Hafler, Brian P	36 Symphony Rd #4A	\$757,269
Bandoji, Sulochana	Aqusala, Madhava	1750-1752 Washington St #2L	\$390,000
Chen, Jingtu	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #302	\$221,900
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Long, Andrew T	Gluck, Clifford D	106-112 Beach St #1	\$1,650,000

# Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



Last week's clue is from a 1906 photo taken at the corner of Beacon and Bowdoin Streets. If you take your copy of today's Beacon Hill Times to that spot, you can see which buildings remain the same and where new structures have replaced the old.

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



## HALLOWEEN (from pg. 1)

any treats, and avoiding attending or hosting gatherings.”

Tips that Mayor Walsh offered for safe trick-or-treating include engaging in the activity with only immediate family members; avoiding direct contact with others while passing out candy; wearing a face-covering (besides a traditional Halloween mask); maintaining at least 6 feet distance from individuals who aren't family members; and regularly using hand sanitizer when coming into contact with other individuals and objects.

Besides avoiding direct contact with trick-or-treaters, Mayor Walsh also advised washing your hands before handling treats, as well as setting up a “station” outdoors for the distribution of individually wrapped bags of treats.

In addition, the Boston Public Health Commission is advising residents “to find safer, alternative or virtual ways to have fun this season,” including carving or decorating pumpkins; decorating your home; participating in a virtual costume contest; and holding a trick-or-treat scavenger hunt at home.

The BPHC is also urging all residents to comply with existing public safety guidelines in all Halloween activities, and avoid large parties or gatherings, as well as crowded areas.

Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors, said trick-or-treating in Louisburg Square, where residents traditionally go all out for the occasion, isn't happening this year, and he encourages trick-or-treaters who do go out on Halloween in the neighborhood this year to adhere closely to the guidelines recommended by Mayor Walsh and the BPHC.

In keeping with safety precautions, his family has found a

creative alternative to traditional trick-or-treating this year, Whitney said, where rather than going door to door throughout the neighborhood, they and five other families instead “will trick or tear each other.”

Meanwhile, Whitney urges would-be trick-or-treaters to instead celebrate Halloween safely at home with two Civic Association-sponsored events – Virtual Halloween on the Hill for Kids on Friday, Oct. 30, at 4:30 p.m., and Virtual Halloween on the Hill for Grown Ups on Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Visit bhccivic.org for more details and to register for both events.



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# Revitalized West End Branch Library could contain affordable housing component

By Dan Murphy

The city is now considering the creation of affordable housing in redeveloping the West End Branch Library, according to members of the design team who unveiled the plan as part of the city's "programming study" for the branch library that kicked off virtually Thursday, Oct. 22, with the first of several planned meetings.

The city's Public Facilities Department, working in concert with the Boston Public Library and Ann Beha Architects, is undertaking the approximately 12-month study to evaluate the existing conditions of the West End Branch, which opened in the 1960s, as well as to plan for the future of the library over the next half-century.

Besides serving the between 25,000 and 26,000 residents of the West End, the library has also been the main branch for many families on Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as for the Mass General community, said Philip Chen, principal and president of Boston-based Ann Beha Architects.

The West End Branch only occupies about one-third of the 7,000 square-foot site footprint, Chen added, while the library itself occupies around 10,000 gross square feet, with nearly 3,000 square feet of that space located in the basement.

"The building is generally in good condition, and has been maintained well over the years by the BPL," Chen said.

The design team has identified the needs for a "welcoming and accessible entrance," as well as for an adequate community room that could accommodate up to 100 guests, Chen said, along with new opportunities for a multipurpose classroom; small study rooms; and open space for educational and reading purposes around the library.

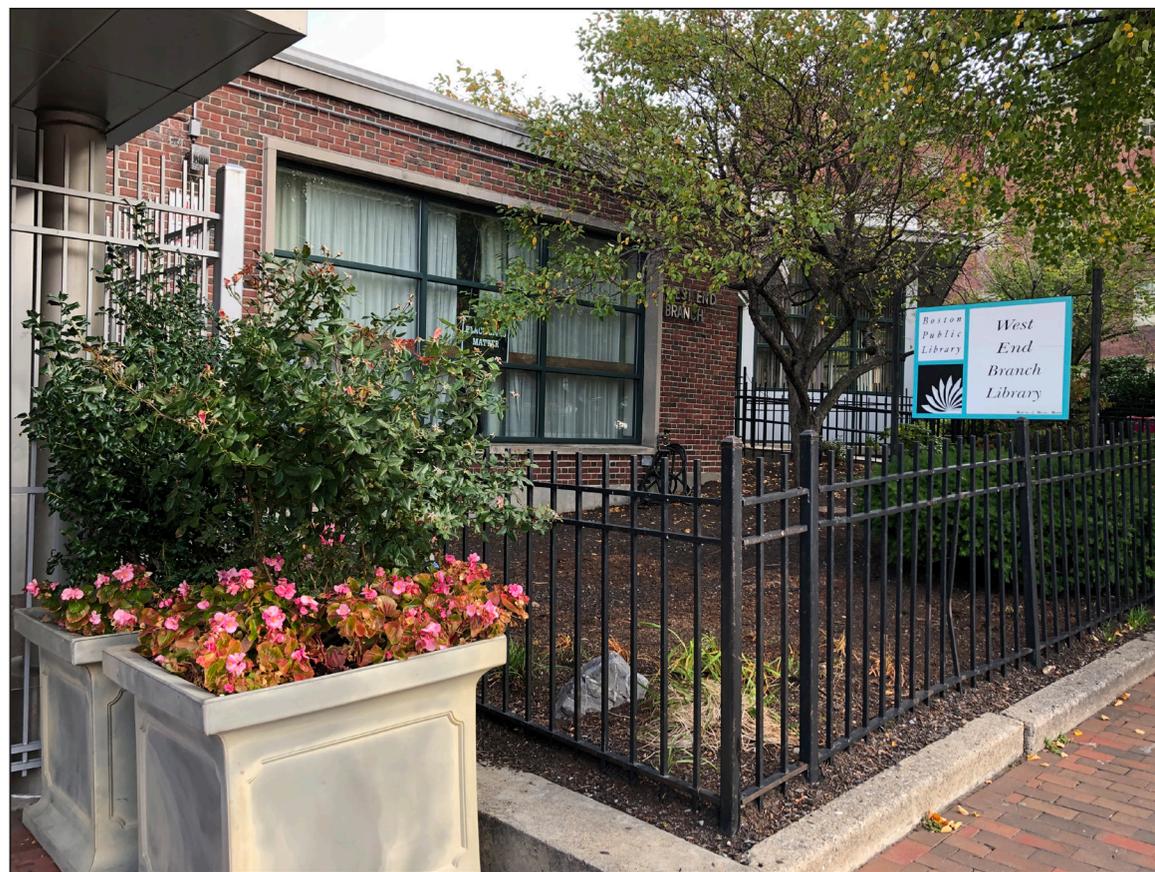
The design team also point to the existing library's hexagonal reading room as one of its greatest assets, due to its optimal sightlines.

"The site has really good solar orientation," he added, "and a good amount of daylight comes through the windows during the day."

Chen said the design team would return in January with several options and more information on whether the library would be one or two stories, as well as on the number of proposed residential units in the development.

Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors, requested that the oddly shaped reading room be maintained in the new development, adding that he taught his children what a hexagon was via its shape.

Another request came from



The West End Branch Library.

David Viera, of the Friends of the West End Branch Library, who asked that space be provided for the group to store its documents and maintain its records in the new library.

Maureen Anderson, senior project manager with the Facilities Department, said the details of the

fine points of the project remain unclear as the process is just now getting underway.

"There's no decision on the number or type of units - none of that has been decided," Anderson said. "That's something we're exploring, and we're interested in hearing the community's thoughts

on."

The design team is scheduled to make its final presentation on the programming study in May 2021, as well as to make its final presentation the following month. Construction is then expected to take between 20 and 36 months to complete.

**BEACON HILL NURSERY SCHOOL**

**Virtual Open House**  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30-8pm

- Ages 2 - 6
- Play-based learning
- Two onsite playscapes

74 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02114  
617.227.0822 • www.bhns.net

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

### Virtual Halloween on the Hill!

As you know, the BHCA will not close the streets on Beacon Hill as in years past to keep everyone safe. But our Events Committee has been hard at work to plan a

different kind of Halloween celebration! Please join us!

Virtual Halloween on the Hill for Kids will take place on Friday, October 30th at 4:30 PM. Spooky Halloween stories will be told, interactive games will be played, and more. Wear your costume to show your friends! Registration is FREE. Sign up at [bhccivic.org](http://bhccivic.org).

Virtual Halloween on the Hill for Grown Ups will take place Friday, October 30th at 5:30 PM. Join us for a virtual Halloween costume party! Listen to some spooky Beacon Hill Halloween history and connect with your neighbors and friends. Registration is FREE. Sign up at [bhccivic.org](http://bhccivic.org).

Our Events Committee has also laid out a Spooky Scavenger Hunt you can do on your own or with neighbors. You can find the scavenger hunt PDF on our website as well ([bhccivic.org](http://bhccivic.org)).

### Join the BHCA

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join. 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 add to the collective voice of the neighborhood and support our work in historic preservation, community development and civic engagement. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at [patricia.tully@bhccivic.org](mailto:patricia.tully@bhccivic.org) with any questions, comments or concerns, or to become a member.

**Mark your calendar for these BHCA Meetings & Events!**

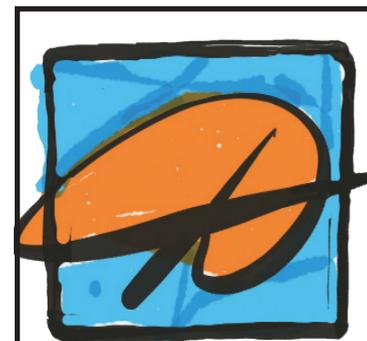
Virtual Halloween for Children! Visit [bhccivic.org](http://bhccivic.org) to register.

Virtual Halloween for Grown-ups! Visit [bhccivic.org](http://bhccivic.org) to register.

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet - Monday, November 2nd via Zoom

BHCA Zoning & Licensing Committee Meeting - Wednesday, November 4th, 7pm, via Zoom (contact the BHCA for joining instructions)

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website [www.bhccivic.org](http://www.bhccivic.org) or call the office (617-227-1922) for more information on any of these events.



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DINING (from pg. 1)

ational equine programs to people with and without special needs.

“The idea is to cover your head and your body with a blanket and enjoy dining outdoors,” said Babak Bina, who, with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owns and operates the longstanding restaurant at 26 Charles St.

Besides providing space heaters outdoors, Bin 26 also took the additional step last weekend of wrapping the exterior of the upper portion of the patio in clear plastic to offer al fresco diners resistance from the wind.

And inside, Bin 26 recently began using a machine that produces “food-friendly” disinfectant fumes to sanitize the interior of the restaurant after each service in the morning, in the afternoon and at night.

“Obviously, we’re still wiping everything throughout the service area,” Bina said, “but this is an extra measure we’re taking to assure that everything else is getting sanitized as well.”

Bin 26 is also now considering purchasing air purifiers for the interior of the restaurant, but since each one costs around \$300 and can only cover about 600 square feet, this could be more than the restaurant can afford to spend at the moment.

“The weather has been great, and we want to stretch that out for as long as we can,” Bina said, “and we’re doing everything we can to

keep the interior of the restaurant sanitary and healthy for patrons.”

In early July, the Paramount became the first restaurant on Charles Street to offer outdoor dining when the city allowed them to convert two parking spaces into space for four tables, and Diego Osorno, the manager and chef of the restaurant at 44 Charles St., credits this gift from the city for helping the business stay afloat during these uncertain times. But even so, The Paramount is now bringing in only around \$6,000 in receipts on a normal Saturday or Sunday, down from \$10,000 pre-pandemic.

The Paramount’s inside occupancy was also cut in half due to safety measure enacted by Gov. Charlie Baker – going from space for 48 diners to only 24 - but the 20 diners can now be accommodated outside has helped the restaurant recoup some of its losses.

On the flipside, it has also become commonplace for some would-be patrons to abandon the idea of dining at The Paramount if outdoor seating isn’t available – in fact, just last week, a party of 15 left when they were told they couldn’t eat outside, costing the restaurant around \$500 in receipts, Osorno estimates.

The Paramount also recently tried to make the outdoor dining experience more comfortable for its patrons by purchasing two inexpensive electric heaters, Osor-

no said, but after a fuse blew in one last week, the restaurant is now faced with the decision of buying five propane heaters at the cost of around \$280 a piece - and that doesn’t even include the cost of propane.

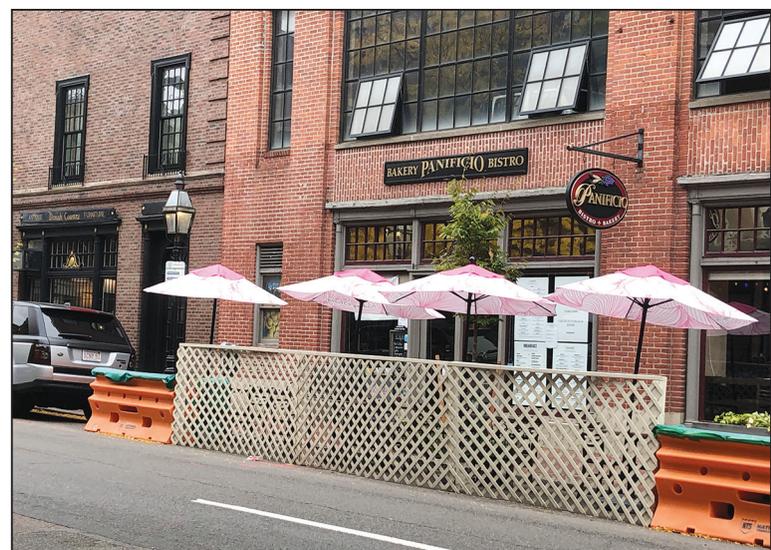
Anthony Ackil, CEO and founder of Streetlight Ventures, a small business-service company that now owns and operates The Upper Crust’s original 20 Charles St. location (as well as its five other outposts), is also thankful for the agreeable weather, as well as for Mayor Walsh’s decision to extend the outdoor dining season in the city.

But he also knows all too well that Mother Nature is one reality that can’t be bargained with or sidestepped.

“We want to stay open for outdoor dining for as long as we can,” he said. “We’ve bought heaters, and we’re doing everything we can to make it comfortable outside, but there comes a point where it won’t work anymore.”

And like restaurants everywhere, The Upper Crust must also anticipate living with the coronavirus for the foreseeable future.

“We’re doing everything we can to accommodate outdoor dining as late in the winter and early in the spring,” Ackil added, “because we don’t see anything changing over the next six months.”



Outdoor dining space for Panaficio Bistro and Bakery at 144 Charles St.



The hat and blanket being sold on site as part of “Bin 26 Has Got You Covered” – that restaurant’s ongoing campaign to promote outdoor dining in colder weather.



Outdoor space for diners at Figs and The Paramount on Charles Street.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Healthy French Foodways

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

If it seems odd to you that we use the term “healthy” to describe French food, it’s because you’re thinking of “haute cuisine” rather than the way a typical person in France eats day-to-day.

Merriam-Webster defines foodways as, “... the eating habits and culinary practices of a people, region, or historical period.” Wikipedia defines haute cuisine as, “...

the cuisine of ‘high-level’ establishments, gourmet restaurants and luxury hotels.”

Writer Kirsten Karchmer came back from a trip to the South of France with words of wisdom on what she learned watching how the French integrate food and exercise into their culture to avoid the obesity epidemic Americans face.

In her article for online publishing platform Medium, “2 Essential French Food Secrets That’ll



This healthy plate of Loup de Mer from Grand Tour in Boston offers a nice portion of fish on a plate filled with a selection of beans, mushrooms, olives, greens, and a yogurt-based sauce.

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Change The Way You Eat Forever,” she explained that the French skip the gym, but they walk everywhere. Since we live carfree in Boston, we’ve already adopted that part of the French solution. The culture of walking was a bonus tip.

### Size Matters

Karchmer’s first French food discovery was that portion size matters. The typical portions she saw in France were much smaller than in this country. However, the quality and flavor of the food were so good that Karchmer found that she was satisfied by the smaller portion.

Mealtimes in France are far more relaxed and social than here. Time gathered at the table is a key part of their social structure. Food and conversation go together. Sec-

ond helpings are rare. Snacking is less.

Even when lunching alone, a diner there will sit at a table and pay attention to the food they are eating. They’ll have a small glass of wine with their meal as they enjoy the scene around the table.

Restaurants in our country are caught in a portion size dilemma. If they serve a small portion of higher quality food, they’ll have unhappy customers who expect to be overfed. If they overwhelm the plate with piles of lesser quality food, they’ll lose those who care about quality and food waste.

To solve this issue, we choose restaurants that serve high-quality food and order an entrée and an appetizer to share. When substitutions are allowed, we switch from fries to a green salad or request

sauces and dressings on the side.

We favor places where every item on the plate is prepared with care and all of the dish is equally delicious. We love it when the sauces are based on vegetables or yogurt rather than cream and butter.

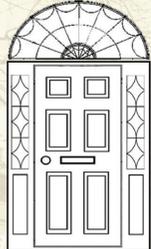
### Quality and Flavor Are Foremost

The French do eat full-fat cream, butter, and cheese. They do drink wine. They do eat red meat. They also eat a lot of fresh vegetables, fish, bread without preservatives, and olive oil. They don’t eat a lot of fast food or highly processed food.

The quality of the food and the dictates of their culture allow them to eat smaller amounts of a wide variety of foods. From a young age, the French have learned how it feels to be satisfied instead of full. They eat slowly, pay attention to the flavors, textures, and enjoy each bite.

When was the last time you pushed away a plate of food before you emptied it? Have you tried serving your food on a smaller plate? This is another cultural norm you will see in France. We’ve tried that and realize that a full dinner plate leaves us stuffed and uncomfortable while a full salad plate or small bowl is often just the right amount of food to feel satisfied.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.*



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# Beacon Hill Village presents virtual program on 'Planning for the End'

Beacon Hill Village's Living Well Ending Well series continues with a virtual program. Planning for the End: Part of Living Well with Rabbi Laura J. Abrasley and the Rev. Joy Fallon is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Planning a funeral or memorial service can be difficult any time but it poses particular challenges in the time of COVID. The Rev. Fallon and Rabbi Abrasley will share funeral and memorial service traditions and options, as you plan ahead for your own service or as

you find yourself planning a service for a beloved who has died. The speakers will address how you can ease the loss for those who care about you by identifying your preferences in advance; the impact of the pandemic on your choices; and the general template for a service or ritual of remembrance that has evolved over millennia for Christian, Jewish and secular observances. After their presentation, Rabbi Abrasley and the Reverend Fallon will take your questions.

The Reverend Joy Fallon is Senior Minister at King's Chapel,

an independent church affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, located at the corner of Tremont and School Streets in Boston. Rabbi Laura J. Abrasley is co-senior Rabbi of Temple Shalom in Newton, an inclusive Reform Judaism congregation drawing members from across the MetroWest Boston area.

This virtual program is presented as part of Beacon Hill Village's Living Well Ending Well series in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Registration required; register online or by calling Bea-



Rev. Joy Fallon.



Rabbi Laura J. Abrasley.

con Hill Village at 617-723-9713. Registrants will receive a Zoom

link for the program. Free and open to the public.

# Walsh announces Good Neighbors program fulfills more than 4,500 requests

Mayor Martin J. Walsh on Monday announced the Good Neighbors program, a partnership with Nesterly that connects older, at-risk individuals with volunteers to help with basic needs, has fulfilled more than 4,500 requests for food delivery and friendly check-ins since its creation at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Food deliveries and check-ins continue to serve residents who are at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and homebound.

"We have seen the best of Boston with residents looking for ways to volunteer and support those in need," said Mayor Walsh. "I am proud that in the few months since this platform launched, nearly 1,000 Bostonians have helped our older residents get groceries, medication, or just a friendly phone call check-in. I want to thank everyone who is volunteering to help others during these trying times."

In April, Mayor Walsh joined the Age Strong Commission, the Housing iLab, and Nesterly, to launch Good Neighbors. To date, the new program has fulfilled more than 4,500 delivery and social support requests, older Bostonians, or those housebound. Requests have been fulfilled in every Boston neighborhood by 980 volunteers.

"We've seen the power of community engagement as evidenced by the thousands of critical requests completed through Good Neighbors," said Noelle Marcus, founder of Nesterly. "We're incredibly thankful for the commitment and generosity of our volunteers."

"Every day, we hear from older Bostonians in need of assistance," said Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea. "Whether it's by delivering groceries or making meaningful check-in calls, the Good Neighbors program and their team of volunteers has made a difference

in the lives of our older residents."

The program will continue to serve Boston residents in need. An older Bostonian, or someone on their behalf, can submit a request, either by phone at (877) 958-8785, online, or email, for delivery of groceries or a prepared meal, a wellness check-in call, or written correspondence. All volunteers go through a background check and receive guidance regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety protocols while completing deliveries.

"The recipient of the food order did not speak English, so I had to communicate with them in Spanish," said volunteer Antonio Xu Liu. "It reminded me of all the people in my life who helped my family and I when we first moved to the United States. It felt really good to be able to give back to a community that I myself represent: immigrant and of Hispanic back-

ground."

"I couldn't believe that a stranger was going to come and do for me what my loved ones and friends couldn't do, and so diligently, carefully and respectfully," said Jannie Dorsey, a client of the Good Neighbors services and resident of Hyde Park.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city's Housing Innovation Lab, a department dedicated to finding innovative solutions to housing challenges in Boston, developed a pilot program with Nesterly for an intergenerational

homeshare program. In 2017, the City of Boston and Nesterly launched the pilot that matched households with a spare bedroom to students who were seeking an affordable place to stay during their studies, as well as an opportunity to engage with the local community. The program is aimed to encourage age-friendly development along with alternative housing options by connecting older homeowners with spare rooms with people who need to rent a room.

# Former City of Boston employee sentenced to prison for distributing cocaine and fentanyl

A former employee of the City of Boston was sentenced to eight months in federal prison for distributing cocaine and fentanyl.

Gary "Jamal" Webster, 36, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs to eight months in prison and two years of supervised release. The government sought a sentence of 30 months of incarceration.

In November 2019, Webster pleaded guilty to four counts of distributing and possessing with intent to distribute cocaine, one count of distributing and possessing with intent to distribute more than 40 grams of fentanyl and one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distrib-

ute cocaine and fentanyl.

In September and October 2016, a cooperating witness made four controlled purchases of cocaine and one purchase of fentanyl from Webster, who was then the Director of Constituent Services for Councilor Michelle Wu. In total, Webster sold over 300 grams (two-thirds of one pound) of cocaine and 49 grams of fentanyl to a cooperating witness during the two-month period.

This case was part of Operation Landshark, a federal investigation that targeted impact players and repeat offenders in Brockton and Boston, many of whom had prior convictions for acts of violence, firearm offenses and/or drug traf-

ficking.

Operation Landshark was part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. DOJ reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

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# COVID-19 cases continue to spike in Boston

By John Lynds

As COVID-19 cases spike once again in Boston the positive test-rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods are up once again according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

While Beacon Hill's COVID-19 positive test rate was decreasing steadily for the past few weeks the numbers have once again jumped in the neighborhood and increased 5 percent last week, fulfilling the prophecy of health care experts that a citywide spike would occur.

Last week the BPHC reported that 27,172 Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 2.1 percent of those tested

were COVID positive. This was a 5 percent increase from the 2 percent testing positive as reported two weeks ago. The citywide average was 6.2 percent, up nearly 9 percent from the 5.7 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

Overall since the pandemic began 2.7 percent of Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 3.65 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown had an infection rate of 130.5 cases per 10,000 resi-

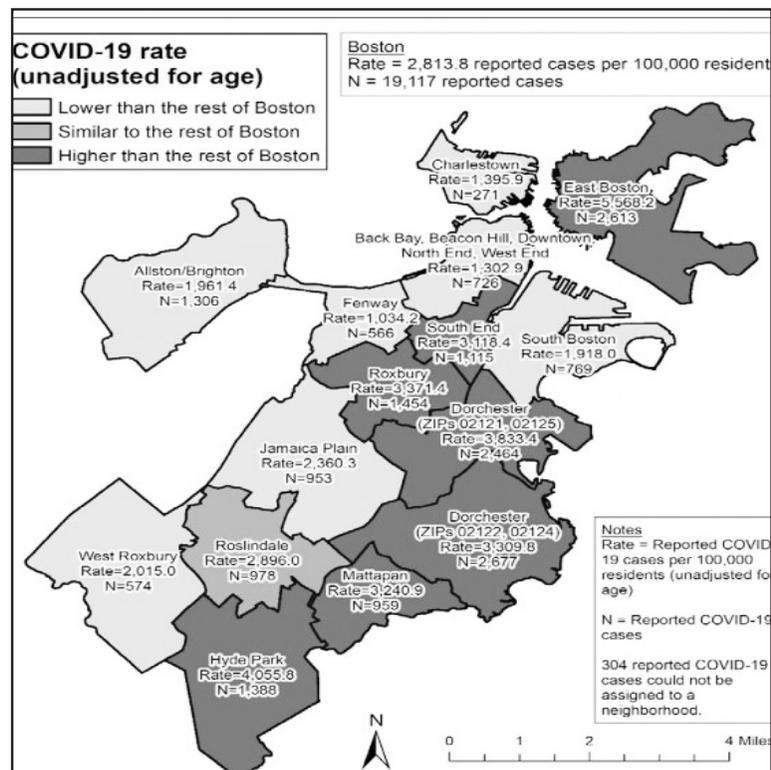
dents, up from 125.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

Twenty-four more residents became infected with the virus and the total number of cases in the area increased from 702 cases to 726 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose by 5.5 percent last week from 18,834 cases to

19,880 confirmed cases. So far 17,122 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus. The total number of fatalities in the city remains at 777.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that track infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

# MWRA's COVID Resurgence Study sees alarming trend; predicting second wave

By John Lynds

Not everyone gets tested for COVID-19 but everyone goes to the bathroom and scientists studying the recent data at the MWRA's Deer Island's waste treatment facility in neighboring Winthrop are seeing an alarming trend.

In June, the MWRA Board of Directors approved the award of a \$200,000 contract with Biobot Analytics, Inc. for a six-month pilot study of wastewater at the Deer Island Treatment Plant as an early warning system tracking trends and potentially predicting a second wave of COVID-19.

The Deer Island plant treats wastewater from 43 communities in eastern Massachusetts, including Boston, which have been representing 40 to 50 percent of the COVID cases in Massachusetts.

Infectious disease experts like Ashish Jha are seeing a dramatic spike in traces of the COVID-19 virus in wastewater at the Deer Island plant, numbers that have not been seen since the pandemic began in March.

"Every day, I stare at this wastewater data from Massachusetts and get more and more concerned," said Jha on Twitter this week. Jha is dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, "This is not about testing or cases. This is about how much infection there is in the community. In March, we could be excused for being blindsided. What's our excuse for inaction now?"

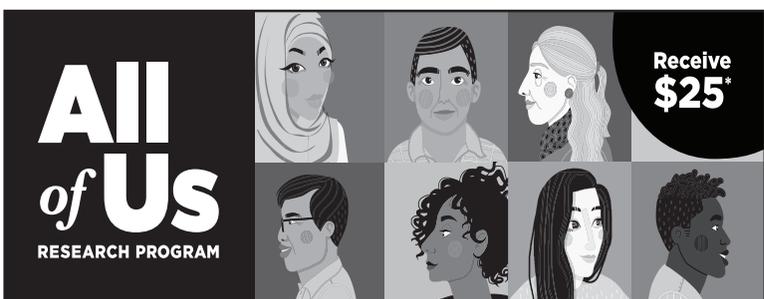
MWRA's COVID Resurgence Study consists of analyzing wastewater samples from flows coming into Deer Island from the north and south of the service area. Samples are collected three times a week with rapid analysis followed by upstream samples in order to inform public health officials if an increased signal for the virus that causes COVID-19 is detected.

Analysis of wastewater for the genetic signal (viral RNA) of the SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19 is proving to be a cost-effective approach to providing population-level screening for outbreaks of COVID-19. The first published report of this approach came from the Netherlands, where the analysis of wastewater was able to detect the genetic signal in advance of any known cases of COVID-19 in two cities.

Biobot Analytics released

the first demonstration of this approach in the United States, using data from courtesy samples provided by MWRA in early March 2020. Subsequent studies from locations around the world have demonstrated the effectiveness of wastewater analyses to provide an early warning of COVID-19 outbreaks by up to seven days in advance of confirmed cases showing up in the public health data.

This pilot program will take this approach a step further by continuing the regular analyses of the wastewater and trending of the signal from the MWRA service area through the end of the year. MWRA will likely use the lessons learned from this pilot program to establish a long-term program for 2021 and beyond for as long as COVID-19 continues to be a public health threat.



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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## Webinar explores Chinatown's 'Lantern Stories'

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy presents "Lighting the Way: Exploring 'Lantern Stories' in Boston's Chinatown" – a webinar featuring a conversation between artist Yu-Wen Wu and Conservancy Director and Curator of Public Art, Lucas Cowan speaking on 30 lanterns suspended over the central plaza of Chin Park that portray Chinatown's history of immigration, culture and resiliency – on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission is free; register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lighting-the-way-exploring-lantern-stories-in-bostons-chinatown-tickets-63701820861>.

## Church on the Hill to present streaming concert Dec. 5

The Church on the Hill will present a streaming concert of vocal and keyboard music written by composers from Gilbert and Sullivan to Suzanne Sheppard on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/churchonthehillboston/>), and beginning Sunday, Dec. 6, on the church's website at <http://churchonthehillboston.org/music/>.

This concert will feature an original story line written by Lisa Sheppard Hadley and conceived by both herself and Suzanne Sheppard, with some original compositions by Sheppard. The concert will include: "The Flowers That Bloom In The Spring,"

"Down By The Sally Gardens," "Old Mother Hubbard," "Summertime," "Sweet Violets" and others. For more information, call 617-523-4575 or visit <http://churchonthehillboston.org>.

## Alibi's Halloween Mask-querade Party coming Saturday, Oct. 31

Alibi's Halloween Mask-querade Party, featuring a live DJ, specialty-themed cocktails and a special food menu featuring dishes from Scampo, comes to 215 Charles St. on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for mask superlatives- prettiest mask, scariest mask, most creative mask, etc. Reservations are

encouraged and can be made by emailing [info@alibiboston.com](mailto:info@alibiboston.com).

## Artists Reception, exhibit at Barry Group Real Estate

The Barry Group Real Estate office at 98 West Cedar St. presents "Memoirs" – an exhibit of paintings by Patrick Anderson and Zoe Arguello - from November through next January, with an Artists Reception scheduled for Nov. 7, from noon to 4 p.m.

## Hill House offering semi-private classes for family pods

Hill House, Inc., located at 127 Mount Vernon St., recognizes that

many families have formed pods to keep groups smaller/reduce exposure.

To acknowledge that, Hill House is now offering semi-private classes and athletics for small cohorts of children. From art to science and Pre-K sports, there are open opportunities for you to come into the Firehouse at flexible times and enjoy the wide array of enrichment programs and athletics with the comfort of knowing who you're in the class with in an individualized space. These semi-private classes are open to all ages and led by our trained staff. For further information and to sign up, call the Front Desk at 617-227-5838, or visit [www.hillhouseboston.org](http://www.hillhouseboston.org).

# Greater Boston Food Bank, Citizens, and Boston Medical Center team up to 'Stop Hunger Now'

Proceeds from a new Massachusetts charity license plate now available at [www.stophungerma.org](http://www.stophungerma.org) will benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank, and Boston Medical Center. The plate, sponsored in part by Citizens, features an image of a stop light – formed from healthy fruits and vegetables - which is designed to highlight the hundreds of children and families who go hungry every day.

Charity license plates can be pre-ordered online at [www.stophungerma.org](http://www.stophungerma.org).

"The 'Stop Hunger Now' license plate will provide essential support to BMC's food and nutrition programs at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is causing even more families to struggle with hunger," said Kate Walsh, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System. "BMC started the first hospital-based food pantry in the nation two decades ago because many of our patients



needed food as much as medical care to stay healthy. Thanks to our partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, we can focus on ways to improve health and eliminate hunger."

Revenue from the plate will be split evenly between the two organizations. A charity plate costs an additional \$40 above the standard registration fee. Of the initial \$40 fee, \$28 will be retained by the charities, with the remaining \$12 going to the RMV. When the plate

is renewed, the entire plate fee goes to the charities.

"The launch of the 'Stop Hunger Now' license plate is extremely timely," said GBFB President Catherine D'Amato. "Because of the economic impact of COVID-19, the need has never been greater. With winter approaching and the crisis lingering on, we hope that people will consider purchasing a plate to not only support our collective efforts, but as a way to remind others that hunger is an

ongoing, urgent problem in our state."

Though its Citizens Helping Citizens community engagement platform, Citizens continues its support to end hunger and drive awareness of the urgent need for food security for all our neighbors.

"Working with the team at Boston Medical Center and The Greater Boston Food Bank was a

natural progression of the collaborative work to fight hunger that we embarked on together many years ago," said Jerry Sargent, President of Citizens in Massachusetts, "By association, this stop light image will remind drivers of families who go hungry every day, and hopefully encourage them to act, and give, and join us in the fight, so that one day we beat this."

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