



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Proposal for Acorn Street security gate under advisement

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission took the proposed installation of a security gate on Acorn Street under advisement at its monthly meeting last week, which took place virtually on Nov. 19, although the commissioners agreed that the applicant would first need to bring their plan to the city's Public Improvement Commission before they can make a determination on the matter.

William Young, a consultant for the Acorn Street Association, which represents 18 homeowners, as well a longtime former employee of the Boston Landmarks Commission, provided the specifics of the gate proposal, which aims to temper the heavy pedestrian-traffic on Acorn Street that has increased



A conceptual rendering of one option for the security gate proposed for Acorn Street.

dramatically in recent years, apparently due to the location's popularity on Instagram and other social media, along with the increased trash, safety and noise issues that have come along with it.

"The picturesque view has become problematic because of Instagram popularizing people taking 'selfies,'" said Young, who added that the street has also frequently become the site of professional fashion and bridal photo-shoots. "It's really become a

bedeviling problem experienced by residents of Acorn Street."

A recent independent survey commissioned by the applicant estimated that 2,000 visitors came to Acorn Street over the course of a weekend in late September or early October, said Tom Palmer, a public-relations consultant, with some arriving as early before 6 a.m. or as late as after midnight.

Additionally, no-trespassing sig-

(ACORN ST, Pg. 4)

Zoom's on the Thanksgiving menu

By Suzanne Besser

There was a time long ago that most Beacon Hillers had not heard of Zoom. Well, perhaps it was just nine months ago, but it seems like nineteen months ago. And they were lonely months. Or would have been without Zoom.

In days past, the word zoom meant to move or travel quickly,

like only our cars know how to do. Some cars. Or it referred to what cameras can do to pretend its operator is standing much closer to the tiger he photographed while on a safari in Botswana.

But that was all before Covid-19 when the word zoom became Zoom. Since then it has made peoples' lives more comfortable,

healthy, happy, sad, mad and annoying by bringing them together with families, friends, doctors, Trump supporters and Trump non-supporters, and all kinds of social groups. It has even allowed such viewers to attend meetings in dress shirts, fancy blouses and pajamas. What more could one

(ZOOM, Pg. 9)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER



The Beacon Hill Civic Association's Evening at 74 in November, 2017. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Upcoming BHCA Events

Zoning & Licensing Committee – Wednesday, December 2nd, 7pm, via Zoom*

An Evening Holiday Celebration – Saturday, December 5th, 6:30-8:30 pm, via Zoom (registration required)*

First Monday Meet & Greet (Game Night!) – Monday, December 7th, 6-8pm, via Zoom*

BHCA Board of Directors – Monday, December 14th, 7pm, via Zoom*

* Contact the BHCA at info@bhcivic.org for joining details

(BHCA Pg. 4)

Happenings on Charles Street

Savor's Christopher Walker goes from 'Chopped' viewer to on-air finalist

By Dan Murphy

Christopher Walker, general manager of both the Charles Street and Cambridge outposts of Savor's Market, was already a regular viewer of "Chopped" when he was selected to appear as

a contestant on the Food Network game show earlier this month, but going from watching it at home to being named a season finalist on the long-running series has admittedly been a somewhat surreal

(CHOPPED, Pg. 5)



Christopher Walker, general manager of both the Charles Street and Cambridge locations of Savor's Market, as well as a finalist on this season of the hit Food Network series "Chopped."

Have a Happy & Safe Thanksgiving!

EDITORIAL

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back almost 400 years to the Pilgrims, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America.

Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

It is the only day on the calendar when we have no obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

Even amidst this time of a raging pandemic in our country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of what we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be where we are. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and inevitably -- at least for some of us -- a post-dinner nap or early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off.

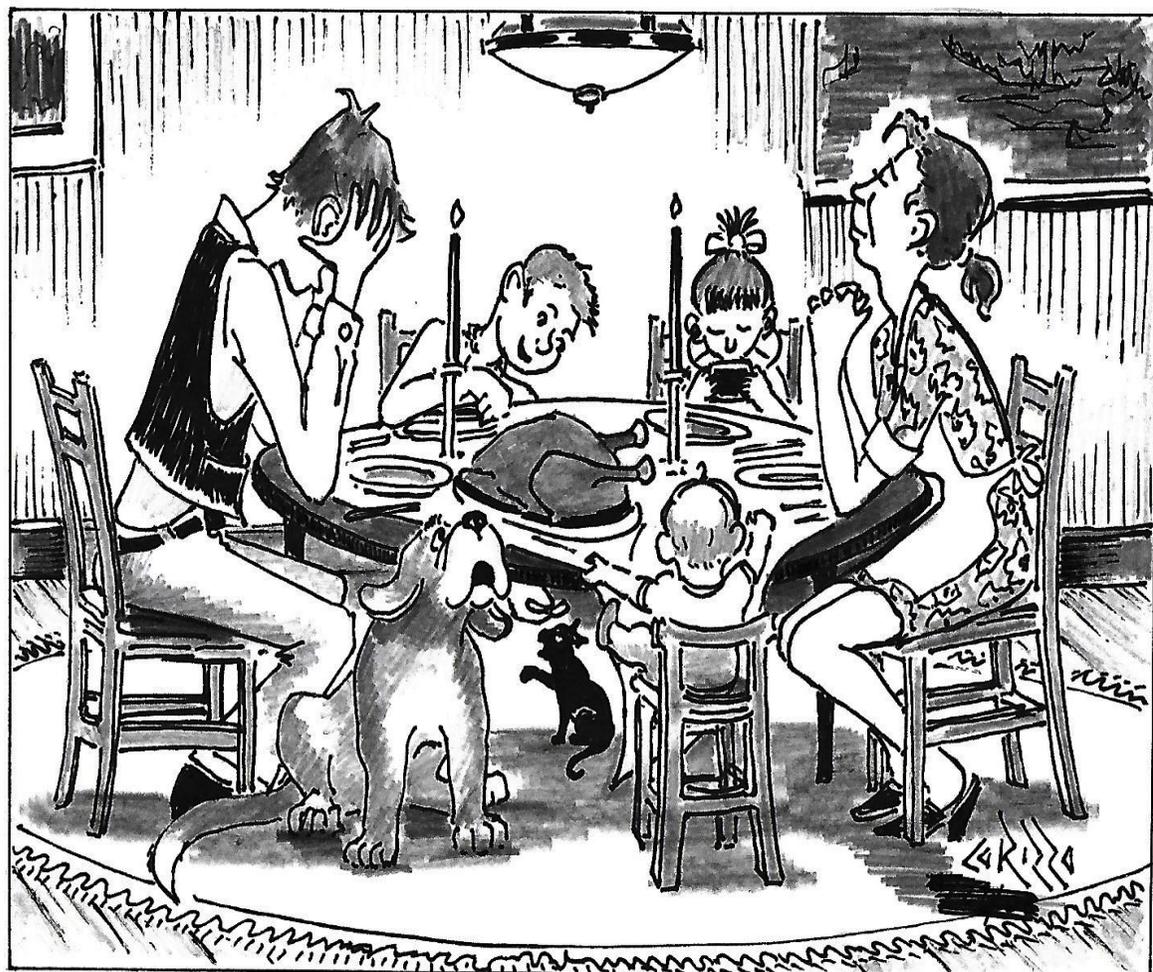
We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SAFELY

We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

The pandemic is spreading like wildfire across our nation, shattering previous records of infection on a daily basis and requiring all of us to take every precaution to ensure that we do not spread the coronavirus among our friends and family members.

The virus does not take a holiday -- and each of us must act accordingly.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

GUEST OP-ED

Thanksgiving 2020; home, but not alone

By Karen Lee Sobol

Has your sense of time shifted lately? Does avoiding people feel bizarre, and has Purell become your new best friend? Do you spot beauty in surprising places, and feel the rhythm of your breath inside your mask?

I've lived through this before. Then, I was solo. Now, I'm one of seven billion, living through it again, with you. Both times, with little advance notice, a deadly disease became a dire threat. Then, in 2005, I was diagnosed with a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma defined as rare and incurable. Now, in 2020, we all risk infection by COVID-19, a wildly contagious novel coronavirus with no known cure. My blood cancer was so rare it's called an orphan disease. COVID-19 is so universal it's called a pandemic.

Thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday usually energizes us. Plans often include travel, time with family and friends, and meals shared. This year, the dangers of spreading or contracting COVID-19 trigger anxiety and dread. What to do?

In 2005, I faced a similar dilemma. I was in the midst of a clinical trial with a monoclonal antibody. Because the drug had annihilated my immune system, every germ and virus, whether it came from another person or naturally lived inside my body or on my skin, could pose a lethal threat. I washed and sanitized my hands obsessively and never touched my face. Social isolation was self-protection, so I left home only to go to the hospital or take solitary walks, a scarf wrapped over my nose and mouth. Holding a vision of myself as cancer-free and healthy, as though I already were, I felt that a brighter future was just a matter of time.

In a normal year, my family's Thanksgiving tradition might start by serving a mid-day meal to guests at a local shelter, then welcoming family and friends to dinner in our home. But for us 2005 was no normal year and exposing me to other people wasn't an option. Instead, we ordered in dinner for three—my husband, our teen-aged daughter, and me—and felt grateful. We connected with people by

phone, and their intangible energy helped sustain my nuclear family through our crisis.

For us all, 2020 is no normal year. Together we face the potentially deadly risk of COVID-19. And we're tired of social isolation. But what opportunities we have, including the opportunity to keep ourselves, our families, and our friends, safe, and to share our resources more widely.

Remember what they say before an airplane takes off? "If the oxygen masks drop down, put your own mask on before assisting others."

This Thanksgiving, if you're lucky enough to have a home, please stay there. Being alone doesn't have to mean being lonely. Consider safe, helpful ways to support and connect with people. Perhaps order your dinner from a local restaurant to help keep cooks and staff employed. Perhaps donate to a local food bank or shelter so those less fortunate have meals to nourish them. Perhaps, in recognition of the historic roots of the day, contribute to an

(OP-ED Pg. 3)

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Building on its initial success, Beacon Hill Seminars to expand virtual-learning

By Dan Murphy

With Beacon Hill Seminars just wrapping up its first virtual education program, the nonprofit comprising self-described “life-learners” is looking to build on this initial success, and has just finalized an expanded curriculum for the spring.

BHS will kick off 2021 with a webinar on Wednesday, Jan. 6, when Bill Sherdan, president of the group’s board of directors and a Beacon Hill resident, will introduce the 18 instructors who will each be teaching one of the spring semester’s 18 courses. The instructors will also be allotted two minutes to personally introduce themselves and describe their respective courses.

Like offerings from your typical liberal-arts college, BHS’s upcoming courses, which begin in early February, will fall into five distinct categories, including Art and Architecture (e.g. “Islamic Architecture and Its Legacy to the West,” “Titian’s Allegorical and Mythological Paintings: Venetian Poesie” and “Michelangelo: The Misconstrued Titan”); Film and Music (e.g. “Classics of Soviet Cinema” and “Fred Astaire, His Partner and Others”); Literature and Classics (e.g. “Return of the Wolf,” which focuses on the works of the acclaimed English author Virginia Woolf); History (e.g. “The Three Alices: Alice James, Alice Roosevelt and Alice Paul”); Social Science (e.g. “50 Years of Affirmative Action: Remedy for Oppression or Reverse Discrimination”); and Sci-

ence and Math (e.g. “Science in the News,” “Unveiling the Cosmos” and “Copenhagen and Quantum Reality”).

While many were skeptical when BHS introduced its virtual pilot program in April – just one month after they were forced to halt in-person learning due to the pandemic – the three online courses initially offered via Zoom attracted around 90 BHS members, which, Sherdan said, while being significantly less than the 220 members expected to attend in the classroom, was still enough to reaffirm the move to virtual learning as a worthwhile pursuit.

Encouraged but cautious, BHS was conservative in planning its fall curriculum and expected that the 15 courses it was offering virtually would draw around 150 members, Sherdan said, but those expectations were surpassed when 175 members signed up instead.

BHS was also reassured when the “virtual kickoff” it held in September attracted around 100 viewers, Sherdan said, with around 60 of them going on to view recordings of its online classes.

But one of the biggest challenges in indoctrinating newcomers to virtual learning, Sherdan said, is that they could be accessing the online courses on a laptop, a tablet or an iPhone, and each of those devices displays Zoom differently.

Another obstacle for both members and instructors alike has been their lack of familiarity with the app, which, Sherdan said, proved daunting enough for some at first that three of the 15 instruc-

tors who taught classes this fall required “some handholding.”

In all, BHS trained about 150 members on Zoom’s basic functions, such as muting and unmuting; and how to ask questions. “And everyone has come a long way,” Sherdan said.

To allow the instructors to focus solely on teaching, BHS has also created a “co-host function,” Sherdan said, which allows another individual to serve as the moderator by muting and unmuting participants, or by queuing up participants’ questions for the instructors to answer, among other features.

Getting members to participate can sometimes be challenging in a virtual setting, however, Sherdan said, so it’s often up to the co-hosts to employ “tricks of the trade” to draw them out, such as pausing the presentation, asking and posing questions, or switching to a screen display where everyone online is visible. “People can also talk to each other and see each other that way,” he said.

Going virtual has had other advantages, too, Sherdan said, such as allowing members the convenience of being able to take courses at their own pace and from wherever they choose (one member last semester even participated from Ecuador), and attendance has subsequently been higher for virtual courses than for those previously offered in-person.

And instructors are benefitting from the newfound convenience as well.

“One of our most popular teachers moved to Florida,”

Sherdan said, “and I thought we lost her, but we got her back on Zoom.”

Another upside is that online learning facilitates the presentation of visual information, like charts and maps, Sherdan said, and also allows the instructors to hone in on fine details of the documents using a cursor.

Moreover, Sherdan said, “Class sizes don’t matter so much anymore.”

Before they went remote, 50 people signed up for a popular class on Beethoven, but the classroom could only hold 20, which effectively shut out more than half of the interested members. When the class was offered again in the fall remotely after the in-person class was eventually postponed due to the pandemic, 50 members signed up – and this time, they were all accepted.

Sherdan, meanwhile, said he was somewhat “surprised,” albeit pleasantly, by the findings from two surveys – one given at the end of in-person classes in the fall, the other given at the end of online classes – that indicated members learning remotely had about the same level of satisfaction (around 90 percent) as those who were in the classroom.

Given the overwhelmingly positive response to online learning so far, Sherdan expects that BHS would continue to embrace it long after the pandemic has faded away.

“We’re comfortable going with online as far and as long as we need to,” he said. “When we get back to normal, I see no reason why we wouldn’t have hybrids of classes.”

One likely scenario, according to Sherdan, is that a member taking a six-class course might choose to participate in the first two classes online from their winter retreat in Phoenix before returning to Boston with the intention of attending the last four in the classroom. But when they get sick and can’t attend one of the scheduled classes, they would have the option of going online and making it up that way instead.

With 2020, which has also marked the 20th anniversary of BLS, drawing to a close, Sherdan believes the nonprofit’s foray into virtual learning been an unmitigated success so far.

“It’s been a great learning experience,” Sherdan said, “and it’s been a lot of fun.”

Visit beaconhillseminars.org for more information.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

organization like the Indigenous Environmental Network which provides desperately needed food and emergency COVID-19 relief funds to Native Americans.

With challenge comes opportunity. We have the chance to stem COVID-19’s spread, and we have the chance to spread compassion. Compassion nurtures healing and hope. Its intangible energy creates real results.

When the twelve weeks of my clinical trial ended, I was frail and exhausted, but signs of cancer had decreased dramatically, and five months later, the disease was gone. It took two years and four months for my immune system to rebuild

and I was able to resume normal life. With the welcome news that a vaccine will likely be available within the next few months, I feel optimistic that our collective timeline will be much shorter.

I believe in medical science and I believe in the power of holding a vision of good health. Now, as then, I think of my favorite equation ever: Hope = Belief + Expectation. I believe, and I fully expect, we can and we will stop COVID-19.

Imagine a world free of COVID-19 as if it already exists, and hold this vision with me. Imagine a world in which we care for ourselves and each other as one

family.

Now expand the vision to embrace the planet. If we actively protect and preserve biodiversity—earth’s wondrously varied habitats and the countless species who thrive in them—we take a giant step to keeping hundreds of thousands of viruses in the plant and animal kingdoms where they belong, and where they won’t leap to us.

Now we know. Good health is global health.

Karen Lee Sobol lives in Boston MA and is Artist and Author of Twelve Weeks: An Artist’s Story of Cancer, Healing, and Hope.

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ACORN ST (from pg. 1)

nage, which was installed earlier this year, with the Architectural Commission's approval to eliminate public access to Acorn Street, Young said, had subsequently been "cheerfully disregarded and considered another quaint feature of Acorn Street."

Young also maintained that "gates across private ways are extremely numerous in the neighborhood, some more distinguished than others," and that installing a gate on Acorn Street would be an "architecturally appropriate means of keeping [it] from being loved to death."

Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors, said installing the gate on a private way would set a "terrible" precedent for the neighborhood, and that the applicant was "premature" in coming to the Architectural Commission before bringing the matter first to the Public Improvement Commission.

"And this is just the first round. My guess is they fully intend to come back to the next meeting

with the gate proposal," Whitney said.

In a letter dated Nov. 18 that was obtained by this publication, Chris Osgood, chair of the Public Improvement Commission, wrote in part to the Architectural Commission: "Acorn Street is listed in the City's Street Book as a private way. Due to this listing, emergency response personnel reasonably expect it to be open and immediately accessible at all times for emergency vehicle access. Should the owners of any private way wish to close their street, the street must be formally Abandoned through the City's Public Improvement Commission (PIC). This involves, among other things, a title opinion showing the ownership of the private way, unanimous consent by all property owners to abandon the private way, a review of any existing utility infrastructure located on or under the street, prior approval by a number of City agencies, and public hearings before the PIC, which, in this case, would inevitably include broad

comments from the public given the historic nature of this street."

Commissioner Miguel Rosales recommended that the applicant return to the Architectural Commission following the PIC process "because we don't know if [it] is going to be successful or not," and if the application does in fact move forward with the application, he advised them to keep the design of the gate simple.

In another matter related to a violation issued to the homeowner of 4 Otis Place for unapproved exterior work, the commission voted to ratify a new railing installed at the street level, pending the submission of drawings to staff; new fire apparatus, pending a letter of approval from the Boston Fire Department; and an existing sprinkler system. But the commission also voted to deny the four windows that were installed in the penthouse without approval, and to instead only allow two of them, as was the original condition.

In addition, the applicant has installed inappropriate windows, a camera, an electrical outlet and several vents in the brick building façade, which must be rectified to comply with the commission's guidelines in order for the existing violation to be lifted. Other items that would need to be corrected, and which were voted on in the hearing last month, include modifying the front granite steps to remove an inconsistent flamed-finished and reducing the height of the penthouse by at least 2 feet. The extensive number of outstanding violations must be rectified prior to issuing a legal certificate of occupancy by the city's Inspectional Services Department, according to the commission.

Another violation citation was issued to the homeowner of 30 Chestnut Street (who also owns 4 Otis Place) for the unapproved removal of historic windows on the front and rear facades; the commission voted to ratify the work with the provisos that all replacement windows have a weight system and use historic glass, and that they be fabricated in wood to include true divided-lights. The homeowner would additionally be required to prepare

shop drawings of all removed windows and submit them to staff for approval.

The commission also approved another application for the same address (30 Chestnut St.) to rebuild an existing chimney using hollow-core bricks, with provisos that staff approve the brick material and color, and that only matching ceramic chimney-caps are installed.

In another matter, the commission approved as submitted an application to install a new blade sign made of wood and using the existing hardware outside ouimillie, a store located at 126 Charles St. that specializes in European fashion, jewelry and decor.

The commission also approved an application to replace the front door and hardware, which included a 2¼-inch brass doorknob, as well as brass hinges and a brass mail-slot, at 24 Garden St. with the provisos that the new door be solid, without transom-windows and painted black.

Additionally, the commission approved as submitted an application for 55 West Cedar St. to replace 18 thermo-pane windows on the front façade, to paint the basement-level window grates and to repaint the front and rear doors and trim in kind, with the proviso that window cut-sheets and specs be submitted to staff for approval, and that items to be painted match the existing colors in-kind.

An application to replace 20 pairs of window shutters on two adjoining buildings at 45-47 Mount Vernon St. was also approved as submitted, with a change in color from the existing dark-green to black.

Likewise, the commission approved an application to replace two basement-level windows in kind at 104 Mount Vernon St., with provisos that the applicant provide a letter stating that the windows are beyond repair from an expert in the field, and that the applicant submit cut-sheets and shop drawings of the new windows to staff for approval.

The commission also approved an application for 74 Beacon St. to repair a leak in the rooftop pool, and to remove and replace the

roof-deck and railing in-kind, with a proviso that if there is an issue with the prior approval of the railing, which is visible from a public way, as well as from the Boston Common and the Public Garden, it would come back to the commission for further review.

An application for 10 Walnut St. to replace a section of the front sidewalk made of blue bluestone slab with a section of wire-cut brick (a material which has been approved by the city for usage), and to add granite curbing was approved, with the proviso that the bluestone slabs be replaced in kind. (Use of wire-cut bricks was deemed unacceptable, since the bluestone is several decades old, and therefore, the commission insisted that the original material be preserved.)

The commission voted to approve an application for 20 West Cedar Street to replace windows and front-door hardware in kind, and to repaint the front-door dark blue, with the provisos that the proposed white door-surround be change to a historically appropriate white-color, and that a new ring camera be enclosed in a brass box to conceal it. The applicant will also be allowed to replace a pendant light fixture and house number, but not to install privacy glass in the existing door's clear glass "side-lites," which should remain as is.

The commission also voted to deny an application for 22 Irving St. to replace four two-over-two wood windows with four two-over-two aluminum-clad windows, since those types of windows don't comply with the established district guidelines.

Moreover, an application to install a bronze memorial plaque on the front façade at 63 Mount Vernon St. was removed from the agenda at the applicant's request, while an application to repaint the front door in-kind, to replace the door hardware and to replace a light fixture in-kind at 3 Sentry Hill Place was also removed because it was determined to be not visible from a public way and therefore exempt.

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BHCA (from pg. 1)

Join us!

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 strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at patricia.tully@bhcivic.org with any questions, comments or concerns, or to become a member.

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CHOPPED (from pg. 1)

experience for him. "It was like going from playing poker with your friends to playing in a [televised] tournament with everyone in the world watching you," said Walker, a Boston native, who started his career with Savenor's as the lead butcher at its Cambridge location on Sept. 4, 2015, before rising the company's ranks.

Every episode of "Chopped" pits four trained chefs against each other as they create an appetizer, an entrée and dessert using often-unusual pre-selected ingredients, which are unbeknownst to them beforehand, as is the overarching general theme that must be incorporated into each dish. While subsequent episodes this season focused respectively on burgers; bacon mac-and-cheese; and pizza, Walker and the three other contestants appearing on the Nov. 10 season premiere, who included, besides Walker, another butcher from Maine, as well as two restaurant general managers from Massachusetts and New York, were tasked with creating a menu of bacon-infused dishes.

First, Walker and his rival contestants were charged with creating an appetizer within a 20-minute timeframe using a "mystery box" of ingredients comprising yuzu kosho, a South Korean condiment; cured bacon; a beer mug filled with cheese sauce; and romanesco, which Walker described as "like cauliflower, but green with pointy tips."

Walker and his fellow contestants were then allotted a half-hour to make an entrée using pork belly; corn; something, he said, that resembled "a Jell-o shot with bacon"; and canned biscuit, before

dessert, for which they were given 20 minutes to create that dish from chocolate chips, mac-and-cheese candy canes, wild blueberries and Banana Foster, which is made of bananas and vanilla ice cream, topped with a buttery sauce.

On each episode, the four contestants were whittled down to one finalist via the process of elimination, with the winners of each of this season's three respective episodes (including Walker, who clinched his spot on Nov. 10) going on to compete against each other in the season finals, which take place on Dec. 8 in Hidden Pond, Maine, just outside Kennebunkport (and where every episode of this season has been filmed).

Of his rival contestants, Walker said, "There were all such nice people that I wanted to be friends with them, but I had to remind

myself that they were the competition."

As for how he ended up on "Chopped," he said a former apprentice who once worked under him at Savenor's had previously appeared on the show and recommended him to the show's producers, who then reached out to him via Instagram.

But despite his newfound celebrity, Walker has remained humble – in fact, he's often initially bemused when Savenor's patrons stop and congratulate him for his outstanding performance on "Chopped."

"I keep I forgetting I was on the TV show because I'm so focused on the holidays," he said. "We start planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas in June, so in my mind, it's all just turkey, turkey, turkey – rib-eye, rib-eye, rib-eye."

While Walker knows he'll be facing some stiff competition on Dec. 8, he's also confident that the experience he has gained working at Savenor's will again help him rise to the occasion.

"Working at Savenor's with

good, quality products puts me at an advantage because I know what I have to do to make sure it tastes right," Walker said, "and the talented people I work with and who love food have inspired me on the show, too."



The Beacon Hill Times office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th and Friday, Nov. 27th

I WANT TO WISH ALL BOSTONIANS A HEALTHY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING.

While this year the holidays will look different than what we are used to and our gatherings will be smaller than usual, we are all still in this together. This has been a year that gives us a new perspective on gratitude, and I am more grateful than ever for this City's ability to come together even while keeping our distance in the battle against COVID-19. Today, let's all take time to honor the frontline workers who have fought to keep our City safe and moving forward through this pandemic. Let's show them thanks by wearing our masks, practicing social distancing, washing our hands, and getting tested. I know that if we stay vigilant this holiday season, we'll be able to fit all of our loved ones around the table at this time next year. I wish everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for our everyone who has kept Bostonians safe during this pandemic. Together, we will get through this stronger and more grateful than ever before.



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COVID update for Beacon Hill and surrounding area

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 44 percent increase two weeks ago, the positive test rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased by 25 percent according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday.

Last week the BPHC reported that 29,862 Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.9 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was a 25 percent increase from the 5.5 percent testing positive as reported two weeks ago. The citywide positive test rate average was 10.2 percent—a 6.25 percent increase from the 9.6 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

Overall since the pandemic began 3.3 percent of Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown residents were found to be COVID positive.

At an emergency ZOOM meeting with healthcare providers and the BPHC thanked the city's partners for their continued partnership, especially in these difficult times.

"I know they're working long hours and making personal sacrifices, and I can't thank them enough for all of their dedicated service and what they've done," said Walsh. "In Massachusetts as of yesterday (last Wednesday), there were 189,518 cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic and 2,744 cases were recorded Wednesday. That's a pretty significant number for one day. We haven't really seen numbers like that since back in April and May. So as you know, this is a very serious, serious virus in Boston. We're seeing increases here in COVID and we are entering another critical point in this pandemic. We're seeing significant and concerning increases of COVID-19. In our city, the daily cases are starting to look like the numbers that are around the peak in April and May. Hospital admissions are not at that level, however, they've increased over time. And we need to stay focused on turning this trend around."

Walsh said one strategy to combat the rising numbers is testing. "We're encouraging everyone to get tested, and to make testing part of your regular routine," he said. "We have 30 other testing sites across the city. We're not maximizing our testing capacity. So we really need to make sure that we do everything we can to get people tested. We need to make sure we get an accurate number with the virus on what the tests really are in the city."

Walsh said that if these numbers continue to go up the city will unfortunately have to pose more restriction.

"And I think that's the last thing we want to do for our businesses and our communities," said Walsh. "But unfortunately, if we have to, we will always put public health first in our communities, and we also understand the impacts on our business and our economy. So we need to do whatever we can to bring down the spread."

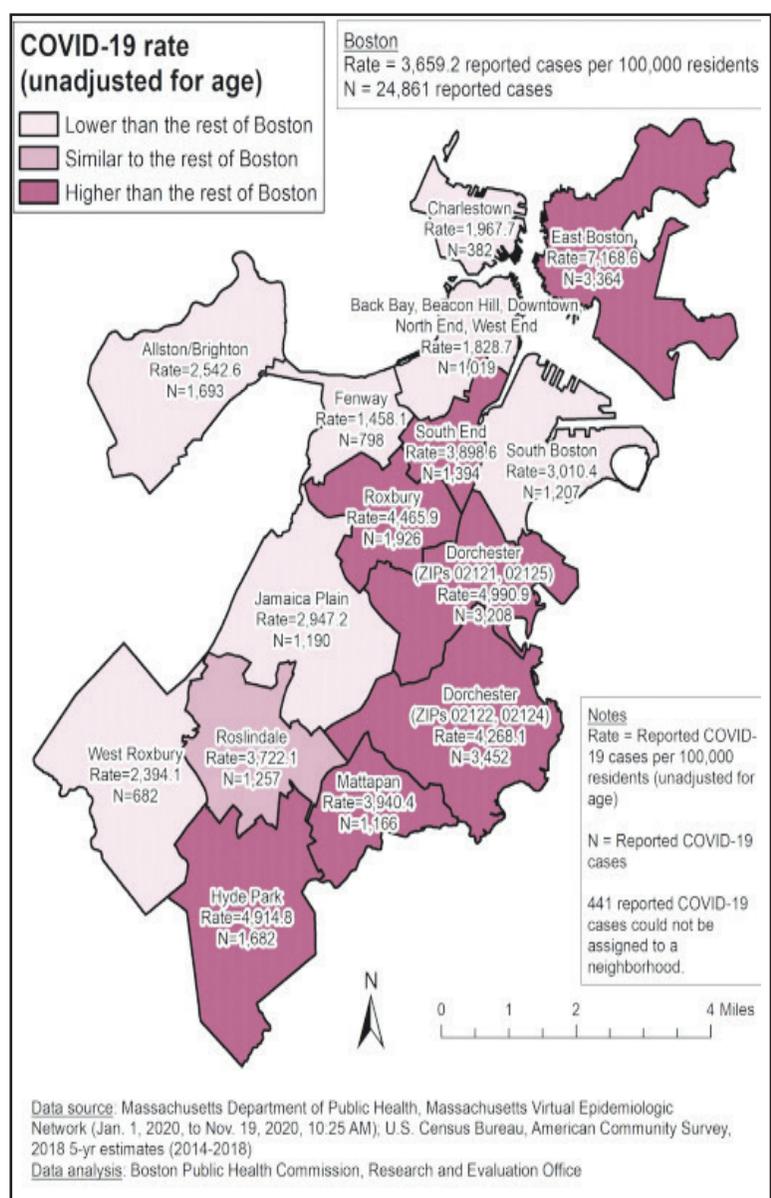
The infection rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding neighborhoods increased 10.25 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, North End, West End, Back Bay and Downtown had an infection rate of 182.8 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 165.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

Ninety-six additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 923 cases to 1,019 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 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 increased 2.9 percent last week and went from 24,393 cases to 25,105 confirmed cases. Ten more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 899 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

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Larceny - Shoplifting
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Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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Upstairs Downstairs Antiques celebrate founding of Holiday Stroll

"We are delighted the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll will continue on Dec. 5," said Laura Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs Antiques at 93 Charles St.

"Our goal as one of the historic founders of the stroll, [Upstairs Downstairs' original owners Rebecca Connally Hackler and Lauren Decatur, who helped establish the annual event in the early '90s], is to help salvage the season, to help end the year on a good note, and release the spirit of Christmas that resides in us all by welcoming and hosting our friends and customers to our store for a

unique evening of celebration. In addition, a portion of the proceeds of the evening will be donated to the Massachusetts General Hospital Emergency Response Fund that supports COVID-19 efforts."

All Beacon Hill residents, in this most difficult year, are cheering the news that on Saturday, Dec. 5, the revered Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll will once again grace the community from noon to 6 p.m. Yes, it will be different in the age of masks, social-distancing and personal responsibility, but even in a different form, this cherished tradition is also important.

Upstairs Downstairs, in addition to supporting the Massachusetts General Hospital Emergency Response Fund, will be offering a special gift with purchase, a whole host of Christmas gifts and decorations, including exquisite hand-painted ornaments featuring iconic Charles Street locations. In addition, the store will be showcasing, on loan, a giant wooden advent calendar of Faneuil Hall containing special treats and surprises behind each door for the curious.

Yes, there will be five full, festive rooms of old and new furnishings,

as well as all forms of home décor and table settings for one or more and numerous ideas for Christmas or hostess gifts including China, stemware, silverplate and sterling silver, along with tables, chairs, dressers and footstools to rest your tired holiday feet. The furniture styles span three centuries, including Federal, Americana, Asian, country cottage and Art Deco, and Upstairs Downstairs has paintings by local artists, Robert Douglas Hunter, Cate Hunter Kashem, Andrea Guay, John Young, Marcia Corey, Niki Ferrell, Elanore Score, Theo Francis and Sitka.

"All This and more await friends and customers on Dec. 5 and beyond throughout the Christmas season." Perhaps in some small way, together we can support our community with funds to combat covid-19 and fulfill the real meaning of the season by helping those who need us most," said Cousineau.

For more information on the Massachusetts General Hospital Emergency Response Fund, visit <https://because.massgeneral.org/campaign/mass-general-emergency-response-fund/c276647>.

Hurley Building redevelopment could lead the way nationwide for adaptive reuse

By Dan Murphy

As it looks ahead to issuing a Request for Proposal for the proposed redevelopment of the Charles F. Hurley Building, the state is promoting the adaptive reuse of the nearly 50-year-old Brutalist building in an innovative approach that could potentially pave the way for future projects of its kind nationwide.

"We're looking to lead the nation in updating and adapting buildings of this style [while

preserving] historical aspects," Tamara Roy, a principal with the Boston architectural and engineering firm, Santec, during a Nov. 19 virtual meeting sponsored by the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. "Through adaptive reuse, we can preserve and bring out and complement the best aspects of the old building while interweaving new, current aspects [into the project] by reusing the massing entirely and renovating all street facades, or by renovating the wing closest to the

Lindemann Building."

Bound on three sides by Staniford, Cambridge and New Char-don streets, the Hurley building occupies about 327,000 gross square-feet, said Abi Vladeck, a senior project manager with DCAMM, and has an additional 241,000 square footage of unused space on the 3½-acre site. The building, which opened in 1971, is currently home to the Department of Unemployment Assistance, MassHire and several other state labor and workforce departments, providing office space for around 680 state employees.

Through the RFP process, the state intends to select and enter into a ground lease with a designated private partner to redevelop the site next year. Permitting and financing is expected to wrap up in 2023, with completion of the

redevelopment project coming in 2025, at which time, the state would enter into a long-term lease with the developer to lease office space back there from them.

In redeveloping the site, one approach would be to "develop an innovative and complementary composition of massing at various scales," Roy said, or the developer could choose instead to create "a signature new renovation or addition that complements the Hurley/Courthouse/Lindeman block."

The state is also considering three principles for sustainable design in the redevelopment project, Roy said, which include meeting the baseline sustainable and resilient design requirements; addressing the thermal performance of the existing building and looking for creative changes to the exterior to make it more

efficient; and surpassing the minimum requirements regarding sustainability to make it a "learning lab for city"

Among the urban design objectives for the project, Roy said, are creating "high-quality" landscaped green-spaces at the corners of public plazas, as well as safe, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks; activating the building's ground level; and reducing its "superblock" effect, which was originally meant to secure the site from automobiles.

Moreover, the project won't "introduce any more cars or parking on the site," Roy said, but it would instead create more space for bicyclist and pedestrians in response to feedback received so far.

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B

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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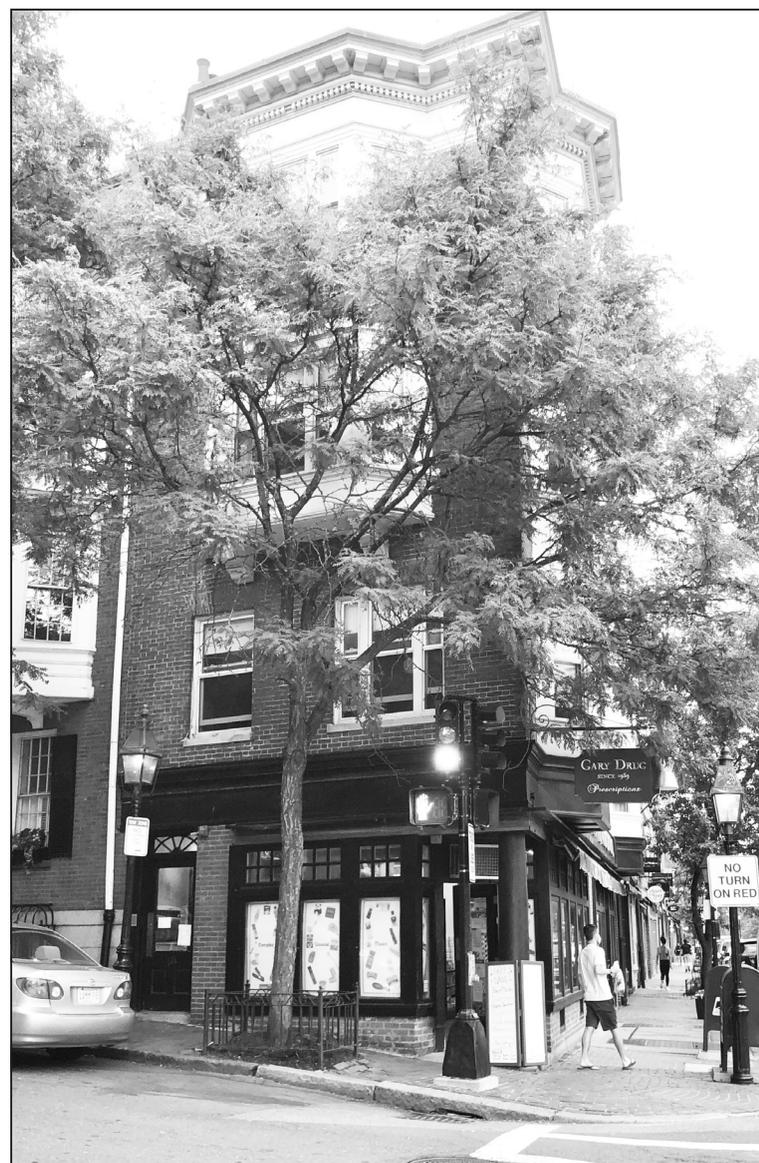
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BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Spirou, Costas	GMB Prop Management LLC	141 Arlington St #C	\$930,000
Oneil, John D	Divaio, Giovanni	9 Gloucester St #3	\$1,237,500
Greene, Mark J	Ford, Dennis F	402 Marlborough St #4	\$1,250,000
BEACON HILL			
Holahan, Richard J	John Littman-Quinn LT	21 Beacon St #6K	\$369,000
Immobiliare Santa Per Az	Parade RT	32 Hancock St #5B	\$865,000
Ioven, Mary C	Daly Pension RT	2 Hawthorne Pl #10B	\$406,000
Aske, Sara I	T Ann Smith T	425 Newbury St #N88	\$126,000
Mckenna, Karen A	Gouchie, Donald S	15 River St #603	\$697,350
DeRiva, Daniel A	51 Rutland Square 1	51 Rutland Sq #1	\$2,392,575
Oconnell, Barbara C	Chen, Mae	25 Temple St #3	\$550,000
Stansky, Michael	JDMD Owner LLC	45 Temple St #611	\$4,800,000
Deforest, Lilius S	20 Jway LLC	6 Whittier Pl #120	\$585,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Xue, Shidong	Gilmartin, Caleb J	5 Appleton St #3D	\$888,000
Scape Boylston LLC	Roofdeck LLC	1270-A Boylston St	\$5,455,000
Carey, Katrina L	Yang, Catherine S	4 Charlesgate E #702	\$790,000
Schanne, Elizabeth C	Wheeler, Brian H	496 Columbus Ave #4	\$829,000
Diskin, Adam	Do, Minh	22 Medfield St #1	\$1,305,000
Herman, David J	Shippey, Barbara A	221 W Springfield St #1	\$1,700,000
Rossi, Alexandra	Chernak, Travis	1313 Washington St #503	\$1,145,000
HG RT	Cinar, Janet	333 Washington St #338	\$80,000
Golub, Rayna	Yethon, Jeremy	141 Worcester St #2	\$813,500
Lichi, Daniel	21 Worcester St Assoc	21 Worcester St #3	\$1,700,000
Gaston, Jeffrey	Go, Julian	43 Worcester St #1	\$1,350,000
Policastro, Erin M	Mckenna, Karen A	90 Worcester St #3	\$750,000

Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The bottom of the sign in the last clue features the mortar and pestle for Gary Drug Co. at 55 Charles Street. When we are thankful for and try to support longtime neighborhood businesses, we must certainly include this pharmacy that has served the community since 1939.

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

ZOOM (from pg. 1)

ask for? (Answer: a lot, but that's for another story)

Most importantly, Zoom can help prevent folks from becoming lonely and socially isolated, especially as they enter the holiday season. And that's important. "For many people, and older adults are no exception, the holidays are about connecting with other people, especially those we love. It is about sharing food and conversation," said Dr. Christine Seel Ritchie, a professor of medicine and director of a newly established Center for Aging and Serious Illness at Massachusetts General Hospital who serves on the Beacon Hill Village Council.

"For many older adults, it is about seeing children, grandchil-

dren, grand-nieces and nephews. It is something to look forward to all year long," she said. "The specter of being robbed of those times of connection is both anxiety-producing and disappointing. The possibility of being alone, of not sharing meals and laughter, can be a source of stress, grief and loss."

To help ward off these feelings, many Beacon Hill and neighboring organizations will sponsor virtual holiday events for their members. Several are boasting that their pastry chef will demonstrate how to make a perfect flaky pie crust even for those who have long since given up trying. The Vincent Club will raise funds for women's health care at a wreath decorating evening. Beacon Hill Village members

have been invited to the Virtual Thanksgiving Day Coffee & Desert, complete with the sharing of family recipes and stories.

Next Thursday, as hungry folks everywhere sit down to enjoy the smallest turkey Mom could find and Dad could carve, half the usual amount of garlic mashed potatoes with chives from the windowsill thanks to these sunny days, and an updated fresh green bean casserole without mushroom soup because the family traditionalists won't be there, they will give thanks for their good health, wellness and bountiful Thanksgiving food.

And then they will thank Zoom, who brought them all together to make this year's observance even possible.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

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>.

Holiday Wreath Tour coming Dec. 6

The Nichols House Museum presents its Holiday Wreath Tour of Beacon Hill on Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 3 p.m.

This year's outdoor, self-guided tour includes a selection of remarkable homes decorated with wreaths, garlands, and window displays. The walking tour will include written architectural histories of each featured home, and a festive performance by the Back Bay Ringers in the front courtyard of the Museum.

The Museum is following current state and city COVID-19 requirements for walking tours, and face coverings and social distancing are required to participate. Included in your ticket purchase is a virtual tour of the Nichols House Museum interior decorated for the holidays and led by Curator of Collections and Education, Laura Cunningham. A link to access the virtual tour will be shared with you in early December and can be viewed at your leisure.

Tickets are on sale through the Museum's website, www.nicholshousemuseum.org/programs-and-events/.

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.hillhouse-boston.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P2131GD In the matter of: Charles Hughes RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Charles Hughes is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Public Guardian Services, LLC of Braintree, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the

Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/24/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to

the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both.

The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 16, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 11/24/20 BH

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- Jamaica Plain Gazette (16400)
- Mission Hill Gazette(7000)

Walsh undertakes COVID-19 educational campaign

Mayor Martin Walsh undertook an extensive educational campaign on the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic Saturday with numerous volunteer districts using literature to reach language...

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Walsh announces arrival of Boston Common tree

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department announced that Boston's official tree has arrived last Friday on the Boston Common. This year's tree is a 45-foot white spruce donated by Heather and Tony Sampson of West Bay, Richmond County, Nova Scotia.

"This year's celebration reminds us of the importance of working together when we face difficult challenges. As Boston helped Nova Scotia in 1917, the City and our residents must partner to keep each other safe and healthy from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Walsh. "I want to thank our friends in Nova Scotia for the Boston Common tree, and I'm grateful we are still able to celebrate the holiday season virtually."

The 79th Annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common will be

a virtual celebration broadcast on WCVB Channel 5 on December 3 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This tradition is a partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, title sponsor The Province of Nova Scotia, presenting sponsors Exelon Generation and Xfinity, promotional sponsor the Coca-Cola Company, and media sponsors WCVB Channel 5, Magic 106.7 FM, and the Boston Globe. Due to current public health guidelines, there will be no live event on the Boston Common.

WCVB Channel 5's "Chronicle" co-anchors Anthony Everett and Shayna Seymour will again host the broadcast. Entertainment during the program will include the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Nicholas Christopher from the musical "Hamilton", Nova Scotia's Barra MacNeils as well as Sarah and

Elizabeth MacInnis with Jenny Mackenzie, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops, and Grammy Award-winning artist Shaggy.

Santa Claus will join Mayor Walsh virtually for a special countdown during the broadcast. With the flip of the switch, trees will light up in the Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The program will include remarks by Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil. Nova Scotia is dedicating its 2020 Tree for Boston to healthcare workers to honor both Boston's response after the Halifax Explosion and those who are working on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nova Scotia is also sending an additional four smaller trees for donation to local charities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandem-

ic, instead of sending the tree by truck, the province partnered with Port of Halifax, PSA Halifax and Eimskip Canada to transport the tree on a container ship to Boston. The tree was cut during a ceremony in Cape Breton on November 12, stopped at schools along the way to be seen by local students, and left by boat from Halifax on November 18 after a send-off at the Cunard Centre.

"We thank Boston for their kindness during our time of need by sending a big, beautiful Nova Scotia Christmas tree. This important tradition symbolizes gratitude, friendship and remembrance," said Nova Scotia Lands and Forestry Minister Derek Mombourquette. "It's also our way of honoring those who have worked so hard to keep us healthy and safe during the pandemic."

The lighting of the trees on the Boston Common is made possible through the generosity of Read Custom Soils, the Herb Chambers Companies, the Lynch Foundation, and contributions from other individuals and institutions.

This is the 49th year that Nova Scotia has given a tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel was making its way from Boston to Nova Scotia. For more information please call (617) 635-4505 or visit www.boston.gov/boston-common-tree-lighting.

Crush Boutique hosts holiday trunk show

On December 3-6, Crush Boutique, Charles Street's premiere women's clothing and accessories store will kick-off the holiday gifting season with a trunk show featuring I Love My Nighty.

I Love My Nighty is an eco-luxury loungewear and sleepwear brand created by Somerville-based Maureen Barillaro. Maureen has reimagined comfort and modernized the nightgown for today's fashion savvy woman. Creatively blending comfort, style and sustainability, I Love My Nighty brings both the bliss and glam to your beauty sleep routine.

The trunk show will present the entire collection of cozy loungewear basics that easily transition from the bedroom to the front door. Just in time for the cold weather, you can upgrade your winter pajama look with the best-selling Janey Lu hooded nightgown. Made of luxuriously soft TENCEL™ French Terry, it is so stylish you won't know if you went out or stayed home! Maureen will also debut the line's newest style, the Sweet Leggings pajama pants. Extra thick for winter, these

leggings stand out with thoughtful details like a hidden pocket and a high, elastic-free, waistband that ensures supreme comfort and no "skindents."

"Being a start-up has so many challenges to getting your brand noticed. I'm so grateful Rebecca and Laura are sharing their space and giving me the opportunity to learn the retail ropes from the best in the business. It's very exciting and I can't wait to introduce these night delights to the Beacon Hill neighborhood!" - Maureen, Leading Lady, I Love My Nighty.

"As a small women-owned business, Crush is always looking for ways to support other female entrepreneurs. Partnering with Maureen and I Love My Nighty allows us to provide more pajama and loungewear offerings to our customers. Giving them the comfort they crave while ensuring maximum style!" - Rebecca Hall, Crush Boutique and Whitney + Winston co-owner.

Maureen will be present at all four days of the trunk show, which will be located at Crush Boutique, 131 Charles St. Hours are Thurs-

day-Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 11am-6pm.

After a lifetime of wearing frumpy pajamas during the long, cold New England winters, Maureen knew there had to be something better than sweats and oversized t-shirts to lounge comfortably in. She imagined an entire collection of loungewear and sleepwear that would solve the problem of wanting to be both comfortable and stylish at the same time. She spent two years bringing her line of luxuriously soft, eco-friendly loungewear to life and launched I Love My Nighty in 2019.

Founded in 2007 by childhood friends, Laura Ayers and Rebecca Hall, Crush Boutique brings you an impeccably curated collection of women's apparel and accessories. From casual-chic to elegant cocktail, Crush's style can best be described as sophistication with a touch of whimsy. The shop features collections from well established designers and those just making their debut on the fashion scene.

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City Realty donates Chromebooks to Eliot School

By John Lynds

Last week the City Realty Group continued its longstanding partnership with local schools by providing new Chromebooks to the Eliot School in the North End—a school that serves many families in Beacon Hill.

City Realty, known for several development projects in the area, has a nonprofit offshoot called City Kids in areas where the development team works and conducts business.

The team stopped by the Eliot earlier this month and donated ten new Chromebook laptop computers. City Kids and City Realty Group were joined by former District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina to personally deliver the Chromebooks to Eliot School Principal Traci Walker Griffith and students who need them for at-home learning.

“The Eliot School community is grateful for City Realty’s generosity to our students and families

and their unwavering commitment to supporting our students’ virtual learning journey with new Chrome books,” said Principle Griffith.

The donation comes at a time when Boston Public Schools has paused reopening plans due to rising COVID-19 rates. This means more at-home learning and more urgency to help students-in-need to ensure they have the proper resources to participate in school from home.

City Realty has been donating Chromebooks throughout the city to local schools during the COVID pandemic.

City Realty Group Vice President of Operations James Caruso said the donations are a way City Realty can do their part to help children remain engaged and capable of continuing their studies at home.

Stephen Whalen of Boston, Managing Partner at City Realty Group and founder of City Kid, said his company has been a long-time supporter of area schools and



Former District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina, City Realty Managing Partner Stephen Whalen, Eliot School Principal Traci Walker Griffith, and City Realty Group Vice President of Operations Jimmy Caruso with Eliot students.

afterschool programs.

Since landing in Boston and developing projects in the neigh-

borhood, City Realty’s City Kids, has been looking for ways to give back to the community. A few

years ago City Realty donated ChromeBooks to a Boston Public School’s Autism Strand classroom.

Boncore honored as Legislator of the Year

Senator Joe Boncore, Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, was recognized last week by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) as “Legislator of the Year.” The award is given to honor a legislator who has exhibited leadership in promoting smart growth and fostering regional collaboration in Greater Boston.

“I am grateful for my partnership with MAPC; from collaborating on housing and transportation policy to seeking innovative solutions that meet our communities’ need. I am truly humbled by this award,” said Senator Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop). “I look forward

to continue working alongside our partners in municipal government to make sure they have the resources they need in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. I’m confident that the solutions are possible with innovation, forward-thinking and collaboration.”

“MAPC has deeply valued working with Senator Boncore to advance issues of affordable housing, equitable transportation, public safety, and sustainability across Greater Boston,” said Marc Draisen, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. “Like our staff, he is committed to looking at these issues

through a lens of racial justice, and we are tremendously proud to honor him with this award and to continue working together to better the region moving forward.”

Senator Boncore was recognized for his leadership to move forward key MAPC legislative priorities on housing, transportation, and public safety. Particularly, his leadership in just four years to raise the funding from \$6 million to \$11 million for Shannon Grants, which support community mobilization to address gang and youth violence.

Frog Pond to close to skating this winter season

Staff Report

The beloved tradition of ice skating on the Boston Common will be put on hold for the first time in years this winter due to COVID-19 concerns, according to the Skating Club of Boston and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

The Frog Pond on the Common will not open this winter, as announced last weekend by the

two organizations.

Because the guidelines in place now limit 25 or fewer skaters at a time, the Frog Pond was not financially feasible.

“Due to the current Commonwealth safety mandate limiting outdoor ice skating to a maximum capacity of 25 skaters at a time, operating the Frog Pond ice-skating rink is not currently financially feasible,” read a statement. “The

pandemic is a fluid situation and everyone’s safety is of paramount concern. If the numbers change and the mandate is lifted, we will re-evaluate the situation as the season progresses. We share in everyone’s disappointment.”

The statement did, obviously, allude to the possibility of re-opening if the COVID-19 situation improves in Boston, but for now the ice melted.

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