



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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

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## Boston Barber Co. owner found his calling cutting hair in parents' Fleet Street basement

By Dan Murphy

Robert Dello Russo today owns Boston Barber Co., with locations on Beacon Hill and in the North End, but he got his start as a barber by the time he reached his early teens, inauspiciously plying his trade out of the humble basement of his parents' Fleet Street apartment.

The 44-year-old North End native started "fooling around" with barbering at about the age of 12 or 13, as he describes it, by cutting the hair of his friends and relatives who couldn't afford a haircut. "Charging was out of the question," he added.

Cutting hair came naturally to Dello Russo, he said, and before he knew it, he was as skilled as a professional barber.

"I had too many clients and was spending the whole day in the basement," he said, "so it got ridiculous."

By the age of 15 or 16, Dello Russo said he "started getting a little bit serious" and began charging \$5 per haircut.

His makeshift barbershop then consisted of a chair, which, he said, wasn't even a proper barber's chair, and he worked using



Robert Dello Russo, owner and head barber of Boston Barber Co. at 124 Bowdoin Street on Beacon Hill and Boston Barber & Tattoo Co. at 113 Salem St. in the North End, as well as a North End native.

a pair of cheap clippers he bought at CVS.

In time, however, Dello Russo acquired a professional barber's chair and station for the space,

and his father "indulged" him, he said, by outfitting it with a counter and a sink. He even had a TV and a small restroom down there

(BARBER, Pg. 3)



John F. Kennedy is seen outside the barbershop at 124 Bowdoin St. in 1957.

## Bill filed allows for long-term lease of Esplanade's Lee Pool

By Dan Murphy

Sen. Sal DiDomenico, together with Rep. Jay Livingstone, has filed new, updated legislation that would allow the state to lease Lee Pool on the Charles River Esplanade for a 30-year term, which would return the long-shuttered two-acre site to public use.

The bill would allow the designated lessee to enter into a long-term agreement with the Esplanade Association, the nonprofit that manages the park in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, with the stipulation that it only be used for the proposed Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion.

This legislation follows up on a bill that Sen. DiDomenico and

Rep. Jay Livingstone filed together last year, which was ultimately unsuccessful.

"Sal and I filed the bill last term, and after back and forth with administration about the language, and with community input, it didn't pass," Rep. Livingstone said. "The bill was refilled and has taken into account those conversations, so hopefully, we'll get it to pass this time."

Rep. Livingstone added, "We worked incredibly hard with administration and the Esplanade Association to remove the decrepit pool that was being used as maintenance dump and to return it to public use."

Michael Nichols, executive

(ESPLANADE, Pg. 2)

## Prescott House recommended to receive \$50,000 CPA grant from city

By Dan Murphy

The William Hickling Prescott House has been recommended to receive a \$50,000 Community Preservation Act grant from the city.

The funds are expected to cover about half of the estimated \$100,000 cost to restore and rehabilitate the cornice, pilasters, balcony and fourth-floor facade elements of the historic 1808 building at 55 Beacon St., according to Andrea Sahin, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"It was really wonderful to get this funding, and we're very happy about it," Sahin said. "We've been very successful with Community Preservation Act fundraising. We have other grants we need to seek, and we're continue to do that to fund this project."

When the Boston City Council approves this latest round of funding, the City of Boston will have awarded over \$92 million to support 198 projects citywide since residents voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2016.

While this is the first CPA grant the Prescott House has gotten from the city to date, two of NSC-DA-MA's other properties – the



JOHN AMES PHOTO.

The historic 1808 William Hickling Prescott House at 55 Beacon St., which has been recommended for \$50,000 Community Preservation Act grant from the city

Quincy House and the Merwin House – have already received CPA grants from the towns of Quincy and Stockbridge, respectively, Sabin said.

# EDITORIAL

## WE MUST BE WARY OF THE VIRUS

With the arrival of the vaccines and the spring season, it is clear that there is a light at the end of the tunnel from our year-long battle with COVID-19.

However, the good news that has been seen in the past month across the country, in terms of dramatic reductions in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, by no means should make any of us think that we can let our guard down against this shape-shifting, deadly virus.

The variants of COVID-19 that are working their way through our population are more contagious and thought to be deadlier than the original, and may even present a challenge to the efficacy of the vaccines.

In addition, very few of us actually have been vaccinated. Although the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine was approved for use this past weekend, the company will not be able to begin distributing its vaccine in large numbers until the end of March.

While it may be true that we are winning the war against COVID, every American must realize that COVID-19 is a hunter and we are its prey. Until each of us can get vaccinated over the next two months, we must remain vigilant and practice all of the things we have been doing to stay safe for the past year -- wearing a mask, avoiding large groups, washing our hands frequently, and staying six feet apart from others.

The finish line is in sight -- let's go strong to the end.

## A FUTURE WITH MASKS?

There has been one positive piece of news during the otherwise tragic COVID-19 pandemic, and that is this: The number of deaths and severe illness caused by the ordinary flu is down dramatically from a typical flu season.

Epidemiologists credit this downturn to a number of factors: International travel is virtually non-existent, people are not gathering in large groups, people are working from home (and therefore not going into their offices while sick), more people got their flu shots than ever, and most of us are wearing masks.

Although the reduction in the number of deaths from the regular flu by no means offsets the increase in the deaths from COVID-19 -- COVID is estimated to be 5-10 times deadlier than the seasonal flu -- the substantial reduction in deaths from the ordinary flu gives us some hope that the lessons we have learned during this year of COVID-19 may enlighten us as to how to combat less-deadly viruses in the future.

In addition, there is no doubt that the incredible effort by the scientific community to develop an effective vaccine against COVID-19 in such a short time will pay fruits in terms of our understanding of other illnesses and our ability to fight them.



OPENING SCHOOLS... FOLLOW THE RULES

## ESPLANADE (from pg. 1)

director of the Esplanade Association, said in a statement: "We're very grateful for Senator DiDomenico and Representative Livingstone's continued support of the community's plans to reimagine the former Lee Pool site into a multi-purpose Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion that would have a transformational impact on the Esplanade for generations to come. The proposed legislation sets important terms to govern the public-private partnership that will be necessary to build, operate,

program, and maintain this facility in the decades to come and the Esplanade Association is ready to take the next step with our partners at DCR on behalf of the 21 nonprofit organizations that have signed on to support the project and this legislation."

In 2017, DCR unveiled schematic designs for the Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion, which was then being planned in tandem with the proposed redevelopment of the State Police barracks on the Lower Basin of the Charles.

DCR's vision for the proposed pavilion at that time included plans for an occupiable roof garden accessible by terrace steps connecting to the footbridge across Storrow Drive, as well as a roof garden offering seating with riverfront views.

Lee Pool, which sits south of the Police barracks, opened in 1951, but has been closed to the public since the '90s.

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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**BARBER** (from pg. 1)

for customers.

"It was like a little social club with barber's chair," he recalled.

Dello Russo called it the "Men's Den" and even had business cards printed up (albeit on ordinary paper as opposed to on cardboard stock).

As supportive as his parents were of his business aspirations, they drew the line at allowing him to install a barber's chair outside their home, Dello Russo said.

An ongoing joke around the neighborhood back then was that Dello Russo is in fact the fabled Demon Barber of Fleet Street from "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," the 1979 Broadway musical that later spawned a 2007 film adaptation directed by Tim Burton.

"I did in fact grow up on Fleet Street my whole life," Dello Russo said, "but not in London."

By the time he reached his late teens, however, Dello Russo had all but abandoned barbering, which he then viewed as more of a pastime than as a possible profession. "In my basement, it wasn't real," he said.

Instead, he tried his hand as a carpenter and as an electrician, among other occupations, but nothing seemed to click for him.

It was then that Dello Russo began pursuing a career in barbering in earnest, eventually going on to graduate in 1996 from New England Hair Academy in Malden.

Afterwards, Dello Russo worked at a few barbershops, both in and out of the city, but all the while, he aspired to be his own boss.

"I had a vision about what kind of barbershop it would be," Dello Russo said, "so I quit my job and started looking for a space in the North End."

In 2007, Dello Russo opened his first barbershop (now called "Boston Barber & Tattoo Co.") at 113 Salem St. with two barber chairs. He has expanded in that location every year since then to now include 12 barber's stations and a full service café with an espresso bar, as well a tattoo parlor, which he opened in 2011 after building on an empty lot adjacent to his building.

While the addition of the tattoo parlor might seem like an odd expansion move for a barbershop, Dello Russo said it made a lot more sense to him than opening a

tanning or nail salon there, as others had suggested to him.

"Everything else that popped up took away from the integrity of what I created," said Dello Russo, whereas in contrast, tattoos are "an art form that goes along with being a barber."

In hindsight, Dello Russo said: "I wanted something that would be attractive businesswise and would get people talking, and it worked."

The Salem Street barbershop expanded yet again in the fall of 2019 when Dello Russo took over the adjacent space previously occupied by North End Nails.

In 2011 – the same year he added the tattoo parlor to his Salem Street barbershop – Dello Russo purchased the Beacon Hill barbershop at 124 Bowdoin St.

Dello Russo walked up there during a snowstorm, hoping to get an audience with the owner, Peter Fenerlis, whom he'd never met before. On his person, Dello Russo had a Bill of Sale certificate he printed himself, as well as a backpack full of cash, he said, so the owner "would know [he] wasn't joking around."

Dello Russo's overture was well received, and he walked out of there that day as the proud owner of his second barbershop.

As for expanding to Beacon Hill, Dello Russo said the decision was a "no-brainer" for him.

"We were the only barbershop on Beacon Hill for a long time," he said, "so all anybody had to do was care and to make the place nice [to succeed]."

Owning the Bowdoin Street barbershop had also been a dream of Dello Russo's since childhood when he would pass the Capitol Barber Shop at 124 Bowdoin St. on his way to the State House to visit father, also named Robert Dello Russo, who was then working as chief of staff for former Massachusetts Speaker of the House and State Rep. Sal DiMasi. "I swore that one day I would own that shop," he said.

The Bowdon Street barbershop has operated under several different owners since opening in 1922, and once counted John F. Kennedy, who, prior to reaching the White House, lived in an apartment upstairs, among its loyal patrons.

Today, both locations of Boston Barber Co. are regularly patronized by local elected officials, including

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Dello Russo's childhood friend, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, who, in his 20s, lived a few doors down on Fleet Street from Dello Russo's childhood home and began getting haircuts from him in the basement.

"I wanted to be supportive and help my friend out," said Rep. Michlewitz, "and he gave a really good haircut. He was a natural in that sense, and I've been going to him ever since."

In fact, Rep. Michlewitz said although he looks out the window of his State House office onto the Bowdoin Street barbershop, he still makes the trek to the North End to get his hair personally cut by Dello Russo, who works out of that location.

Upon moving into Beacon Hill, Dello Russo did his part to complement the adjacent State House, he said, by installing a gold-leaf painted sign with all gold accents, as well as white marble countertops that match the stone steps leading to the building.

"I did my very best to uphold the style and integrity of the neighborhood," he said.

Three years ago, the Bowdoin Street barbershop expanded when Dello Russo took over the space next door previously occupied by a dry cleaners, bringing the total number of barber's stations at this location to seven.

While the pandemic hit his industry particularly hard over the past year, Dello Russo credits his "amazing staff," including Nikki Medieros, his manager, and Steve Silver, his assistant manager, for their unwavering commitment to Boston Barber Co. throughout it all.

And as he celebrates his first decade on Bowdoin Street this year, Dello Russo is well aware of how far he has come from cutting hair in his parents' basement.

"My goal was to become a staple in Beacon Hill," he said, "and I sure hope I'm on my way to achieving it."

For more information or to book an appointment at either Boston Barber Co. location, visit [bostonbarber.com](http://bostonbarber.com).

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## St. Joseph's now reaching worldwide congregation via virtual Masses

By Dan Murphy

Since St. Joseph Catholic Church introduced virtual Masses one year ago in response to the pandemic, it's had the unintended, yet advantageous, result of helping them reach a worldwide congregation.

The second youngest of four children from the Flores family, who have lived on Beacon Hill and been parishioners at St. Joseph's for about a dozen years, recently received First Communion during a virtual Mass as his grandparents watched from their home in Spain, for instance.

This was the first time the grandparents were able to overcome the "geographical constraints," said Fr. Joe White, the church's pastor, to witness one of their grandchildren receive the sacrament.

The church now live streams its Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. each week, which is also held as an "in-person" service, said Fr. White, while services on Sunday at 4 p.m., as well as on Wednesday and Friday at 12:10 p.m., are in-person-only events.

There are plans to live-stream services through Lent, added Fr. White, as well as for International Designated Year of St. Joseph – a time, he said, that "allows for spiritual enrichment."

Services on Friday, March 19, for Solemnity of St. Joseph, which Fr. White describes as "the annual feast of St. Joseph," will be live-streamed as well.

St. Joseph's, meanwhile, first made the move to virtual services out of necessity during the second week of Lent last year, said Fr. White, since at that time, only 10 people maximum were allowed to gather for Mass (and those restrictions lasted through Lent, Holy Week and Easter).

"Since there were no full Mass gatherings a year ago," Fr. White said, "we live streamed the services, so parishioners could connect in spirituality, faith and worship."

Besides live-streaming religious services, St. Joseph's also offers virtual "Coffee & Donuts," following Mass on the second Sunday of each month, including March 14, at 10:30 a.m.

"It has allowed people to connect in fellowship," said Fr. White, "and it also gives me the opportunity to update them on any parish information, concerns, suggestions and complaints."

Attendance at "Coffee & Donuts" has increased each month since its inception, added Fr. White, as have "the smiles and joy" from parishioners when they're able to see each other again from the safety of their own homes.

And while the inevitable technological glitch still occasionally hinders virtual events because, as Fr. White said, live streaming is still a "work in progress" for St. Joseph's, it's also definitely here to stay.

"I'd like to extend our gratitude to everyone assisting with the technology as we continue to get back to the basics of interrelationships that parishes are meant to be and have," said Fr. White. "Out of pandemic necessity comes a new ministry in parish, and we envision the fact that henceforth we'll be live streaming a Mass every week."

Fr. White requested that parishioners also "stay tuned" to The Beacon Hill Times for upcoming details on St. Joseph's schedule for Holy Week and Easter.

For more information, visit [www.stjosephboston.org](http://www.stjosephboston.org) or call the St. Joseph's parish office at 617-523-4342.

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# Campbell pledges to make Boston Police the most transparent, accountable in the country

Boston City Councilor and mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell released a comprehensive plan to transform the City of Boston's approach to public safety and criminal justice that focuses on addressing root causes of violence and crime including poverty

and trauma, investing directly in neighborhoods and opportunities for young Bostonians, fighting for criminal justice reform at every level of government, and making the Boston Police Department the most transparent and accountable police department in the nation.

"My entire life has been impacted by the trauma, loss, and injustices of incarceration and the criminal legal system," said Councilor Campbell. "It's time we reimagine our approach to public safety to address root causes of violence and crime, and invest in strategies that

support public health, economic justice, and youth development to heal and empower our communities and break cycles of generational poverty, trauma, and incarceration. As mayor, I will ensure our Boston Police Department is the most transparent and accountable in the nation, make Boston a leader in criminal justice reform and effective reentry, shift our school safety approach to a restorative justice model, and ensure all Bostonians feel safe in their communities."

Campbell's plan details four key strategies:

1. Reimagine public safety and criminal justice to address root causes of violence and crime by creating equitable access to good education, housing, jobs, mental health services and addiction treatment; reallocating at least 10 percent of the Boston Police budget to invest in public health, economic justice, and youth development strategies; shifting the City's school safety approach from a law enforcement model to a restorative justice model; and establishing a new co-responder crisis response system for non-violent 911 calls.

2. Make the Boston Police Department the most transparent and accountable in the nation by implementing the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency with a system of true civilian oversight; demilitarizing our police; ensuring all law enforcement agencies that operate in the City of Boston have a written, consistent, transparent, and enforced body camera policy; launching an open police data initiative; and taking bold steps to diversify our public safety agencies by amending civil service and ending other discriminatory hiring and promotional practices.

3. Focus on prevention by investing in our neighborhoods and youth by investing directly in communities considered hot spots; removing police from Boston Public Schools to invest in more school counselors, mental health clinicians, social workers, nurses, and family engagement specialists; expanding access to youth jobs

and youth development programs; addressing gun violence as a public health crisis; and strengthening protections and City services for immigrants of all statuses.

4. Advance criminal justice reforms at all levels of government by advocating for passage of Congresswoman Pressley's "Peoples Justice Guarantee" and the elimination of cash bail; supporting efforts to raise the age that youth offenders can be tried as adults, eliminate mandatory minimums, and expand diversion programs; ensuring incarcerated individuals have access to the health care they deserve; and increasing funding for effective reentry programs.

As the District 4 Councilor primarily serving Dorchester and Mattapan, a district with some of the highest rates of violence and homicide in Boston, and as the Chair of the Council's Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, Campbell has been a leader on police reform and accountability, violence prevention, and criminal legal reform. Last year, Campbell spearheaded legislation to create an independent civilian review board to investigate and provide accountability for police misconduct, which ultimately passed as an ordinance creating the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency.

Campbell is already taking action towards implementing pieces of her public safety and criminal justice plan. This week, she and Councilor Arroyo refilled their legislation to restrict police use of chemical and kinetic crowd control weapons that passed the Council in December but was vetoed by Mayor Walsh. On Tuesday, March 2, Campbell will hold a hearing on the City's progress to implement the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency and other police reforms adopted from the Mayor's Police Reform Task Force last year.

On February 3rd, Campbell called on the Boston Police Commissioner to release a public report of investigations into Boston Police officers who may have participated in the Capitol insurrection on January 6th.

## City and MABVI hold COVID-19 vaccination appointments designated for seniors with vision loss

The City of Boston recently partnered with the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, Visually Impaired (MABVI) to arrange for older adults with vision loss to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. Fourteen individuals were vaccinated this afternoon through the coordinated effort by MABVI, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), City of Boston's Age Strong Commission and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

Boston is working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to vaccinate residents against COVID-19. Following the State's lead, the City is working to create equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine across all populations and neighborhoods in the city.

"We need to break down barriers that may prevent some individuals from getting vaccinated. I'm grateful for the partnership with MABVI to make today's appointments happen as we work

to ensure that all Bostonians have access to the vaccine when they're eligible," said Chief of Health and Human Services, Marty Martinez.

After targeted outreach to schedule appointments, individuals were greeted at the door of the Reggie Lewis Center and guided by a trained volunteer who provided language and accessibility support through the entire vaccination process. In advance of today's vaccination session, MABVI provided training for clinic staff to create a safe, welcoming space for everyone.

"We are very grateful to the City for their commitment to ensuring access to the site. Breaking down the transportation barrier for our participants who have faced challenges finding rides and guides to assist them is critical, especially during this time of social isolation and distancing," said Kyle Robidoux, Director of Volunteer Services and Community Planning for MABVI.

"Mayor Walsh's priority is to

ensure that all eligible residents with disabilities have access to the vaccine," said Boston Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. "Partnering with trusted disability agencies such as MABVI is crucial to this effort."

Under state guidance, vaccines are now available to adults 65+ and individuals with two or more certain medical conditions.

For more information on when and where you will be eligible to receive the vaccine, visit [Mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://mass.gov/COVIDvaccine). To find a vaccination site in the City of Boston, visit [boston.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://boston.gov/COVID19vaccine). Individuals aged 65 and older who do not have internet access, or who are having trouble navigating the site, are encouraged to call 3-1-1 to get connected to the City's Age Strong Commission. They can help answer questions and navigate the options available. Residents outside of Boston can call 2-1-1, the Mass Vaccine Scheduling Resource line. Translators are available to assist.



## Virtual Public Meeting

### Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront

**Wednesday, March 10**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/2NZgDyH](https://bit.ly/2NZgDyH)  
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#### Project Description:

Please join Boston Planning & Development planning for a virtual meeting to develop Design and Use Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront. The Guidelines will inform new development and establish uniform requirements for Harborwalk, the public realm, open space resources and public use facilities. We are looking to hear your thoughts on how to better activate the Downtown Waterfront, ensure the area is welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors, and create an improved sense of place and clarity.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to [chris.busch@boston.gov](mailto:chris.busch@boston.gov)

mail to: **Chris Busch**  
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#### Larceny

02/23/21 – A victim reported her wallet was stolen from her pocketbook while at the cashier inside a Cambridge Street grocery store at about 2:35 p.m. The victim further stated the wallet contained credit/bank cards, U.S. currency and personal IDs and papers.

# BPS receives over 900 instruments and accessories valued at over \$500K from StubHub

This week, seven Boston public elementary schools are recipients of a generous donation consisting of over 900 instruments and accessories, valued at over \$500,000. The donation from StubHub, made possible by a partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, is part of StubHub's three-year commitment to put over \$3 million in music instruments into public school music programs. It also kicks off a community-wide program to enhance the district's music education program.

"Creating joyful learning environments is a priority at Boston Public Schools. Music education has become an increasingly important part of that mission," said Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. "We are so grateful to have so many amazing partners, including StubHub and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, who put these valuable instruments into the hands of our creative and eager students. Support from community partners like the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Zumix make our programs more resourceful and comprehensive, while reinforcing to our students our commitment to the arts, through music education and other artistic mediums."

"We are thrilled to see our multi-year partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation continue to benefit public school music programs that need support," said Akshay Khanna, General Manager of North America for StubHub. "We know that Boston Public Schools has been working to implement stronger music programs over the last few years and we are pleased to be a part of empowering and amplifying these admirable efforts."

This gift acts as what is known as a "multiplier event," indicat-

ing coordination across multiple organizations focused on strengthening the sustainability of music education through a number of unique partnerships for creative youth development, Boston Public School (BPS) music educators, and the Boston arts community. Partnership support includes:

- The Boston Symphony Orchestra is contributing by providing instrument tutorial videos made by Orchestra musicians to help the students understand how to assemble and care for the new instruments they're receiving.

- The Community Music Center of Boston and the New England Conservatory of Music (NEC) are providing teaching artists to offer instrument repair workshops from the local music store, Virtuosity Music. Beginning in February, four NEC Teaching Fellows will be placed at three East Boston elementary schools to assist music teachers weekly as they get their students started on their new instruments.

- Zumix will offer future after school instruction and is also building plans to offer the students a vacation music camp in April.

- EdVestors, a non-profit partner, has continuously helped fund the expansion of music education in the region along with professional development for the music educators.

Plus, as part of BPS arts curriculum expansion and the district's focus on creating culturally and linguistically sustaining practices, students will be utilizing a new band method book, created by the district's arts program, that embraces a multicultural curriculum.

The instruments, which will benefit more than 5,000 students in their lifespan, are being distributed to the schools and students

throughout the winter.

"This instrument donation allows the district to broadly increase sequential band instruction in seven elementary schools where it did not previously exist," said Anthony Beatrice, BPS Executive Director for the Arts. "The music educators have been meeting since summer to plan for both the implementation of the new band programs as well as a long-term strategic vision for the East Boston region."

"StubHub and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation have made an incredible investment in the Boston Public Schools music department! As a nationally recognized creative youth development center, ZUMIX is excited to partner with BPS to ensure all students have access to high quality music education. We look forward to building a music pipeline from elementary school to college, and to making Boston one of the most musical cities in the country! It will take a village to make this vision possible, and ZUMIX is proud to be part of the team!," said Madeleine Steczynski, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Zumix.

"We're thrilled to have our Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians collaborate with these wonderful music educators and students through the BPS/BSO partnership. There's nothing quite as exciting as picking up an instrument for the first time, so having the opportunity to help bring that experience to life for young people in our community is an honor! We look forward to hearing these young artists in the years to come, both in their classrooms and at Symphony Hall, where they have recently performed with the Boston Pops," said Mark Volpe, Eunice and Julian Cohen President and Chief Executive Officer, Bos-

ton Symphony Orchestra.

"New England Conservatory's Community Performances and Partnerships Program is thrilled to broaden its long-standing partnership with Boston Public Schools as we contribute to the launch of this program," said Tanya Maggi, Dean of Community Engagement and Professional Studies for NEC. "We look forward to supporting this project and its enhancement of critical access to music education for young learners in the Boston Public Schools," added Grace Allendorf, Associate Director of Community Performances and Partnerships for NEC.

"EdVestors is honored to serve as the lead partner of the collective effort to expand equitable access to quality, sequential arts for all BPS students, known as BPS Arts Expansion. We are pleased to have so many of our arts partners involved in this instrumental music effort building on more than a decade of work, and are grateful to StubHub and Mr. Holland's Opus for their generous investment in our young people," said Marinell Rousmaniere, EdVestors President & CEO.

Music education is a core part of StubHub's social impact mission. In 2018, StubHub made a three-year commitment to put \$3

million in music instruments into public school music programs from the StubHub Foundation, in partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. Adding to a 2015 program that initially put \$2M in musical instruments into over 50 public schools across the United States, this commitment brings StubHub's total giving to a total of \$5M in instruments over the last five years.

Selected school districts are chosen collaboratively between MHOF and StubHub, with awarded schools chosen by MHOF through its established selection criteria. Interested schools are invited to inquire directly through MHOF. To learn more, visit [www.stubhub.com/giving-back](http://www.stubhub.com/giving-back). Music education is seeing dwindling public and private support, with low-income school students receiving the least amount of local government funding, according to the National Center for Education. Research from The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation shows that schools with music programs have an estimated 90% graduation rate and 93% attendance rate compared to schools without music education, which average 72% for graduation and 85% in attendance.

# HUD awards more than \$92.4 million to improve, preserve public housing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded more than \$92.4 million in funding to Massachusetts public housing authorities to make capital investments in their public housing units.

This funding is part of \$2.7 billion in funding awarded nationally to 2,900 public housing authorities (PHAs) in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The grants are provided through HUD's Capital Fund Program,

which offers annual funding to all public housing authorities to build, renovate, and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. Housing authorities can use the funding to complete large-scale improvements such

as replacing roofs or making energy-efficient upgrades to heating system and installing water conservation measures.

For more than 80 years, the federal government has been investing billions of dollars in developing and maintaining public housing, including providing critical sup-

port through the Capital Fund grants announced.

The local recipients include:

- Boston Housing Authority - \$30,296,108
- Chelsea Housing Authority - \$1,017,464
- Revere Housing Authority - \$430,125



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# Hill designer Alexandra Slote brings sophisticated, livable luxury to two model units

Alexandra Slote Interiors (ASI), a Beacon Hill-based design firm, has shared photos and the inspiration behind her designs for two model units at The Archer Residences.

ASI was chosen by The Archer Residences and Caulfield Properties for its proven record designing interiors for luxury living spaces. As a longtime Beacon Hill resident and business owner, Slote's personal and professional love for Beacon Hill was elemental in her design choices.

"I love this historic neighborhood and its community of thoughtful, discerning residents," said Slote. "I wanted these units to reflect that. As I approached the design, I imagined who would live there and how they would use the spaces. For the larger unit, I pictured a couple downsizing from their suburban home and relocating to the city. I imagined they'd have a special art collection and want a sophisticated space that complements their own treasures but doesn't overtake them. For the smaller unit, I imagined a younger, well-travelled bohemian couple who appreciate fun details and aren't afraid of strong design,"

ASI selected unique Arte and Schumacher wallpapers to draw the eye and set the tone for the

bedrooms and dining spaces. Furnishings by Selamat Designs and Noir Furniture mix with items/art sourced at local shops including Whitney & Winston and Sloane Merrill Gallery to create impressive living spaces that are warm and inviting.

Having a strong relationship with Galerie d'Orsay, Slote invited them to partner on the larger art selection, which is seen throughout.

Said Martha S. Folsom, Co-Director, Galerie d'Orsay, Boston: "The Archer Residences is an impressive addition to Beacon Hill, and we were delighted to work with Alexandra Slote Interiors, choosing artwork that compliments her designs and the beauty of the building. One of Alex's many strengths is creating subtle, yet powerful connections between fine art and design. Her idea to collaborate with Galerie d'Orsay brought together contemporary artists such as Kathy Buist, Lori Cozen-Geller and SEN-1 paired with historical artists Donald Sultan, Paul Jenkins and Paul Gauguin. The result is a beautifully designed, unique and creative space!"

Viewings of The Archer Residences model units can be arranged upon request.



Beacon Hill designer Alexandra Slote shares sneak peak of The Archer Residences

SEAN LITCHFIELD



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# Beacon Hill COVID update listed

By John Lynds

Last week Beacon Hill's cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate remained the same but the weekly positive test rate increased.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 45,460 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6 percent of those tested were COVID positive--this was the same percentage reported two weeks ago by the BPHC.

However, last week 2,867 residents were tested and 2.1 percent were positive--a 10.5 percent decrease from the 1.9 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 26,561 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--a 6.25 percent decrease from the 3.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of nearly 3,800 Boston residents were tested for COVID each day last week.

"The 7-day average for daily positive tests was 161 and the

average daily positive rate was 3.5 percent," said Walsh. "The City's case metrics have levelled off and even ticked upward in the last few days of data. This is not a cause for concern, but it's a good reminder not to take this positive trend for granted."

The Mayor urged everyone to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and our communities against the virus.

"That includes wearing a mask with a good fit (whether you wear one mask or two masks, make sure there is a tight fit on the sides of your face); washing your hands frequently, with soap and warm water; continuing to socially distance and avoid gatherings; and getting tested regularly," he said.

The Mayor also encouraged seniors and everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine to get it as soon as they can. Boston residents 65 and older can call 3-1-1 and get connected to the City's Age Strong Commission for help in multiple languages. Veterans 55 or older, enrolled in VA Health-care, can get vaccinated at any VA health facility in Boston.

"The full schedule for vaccine

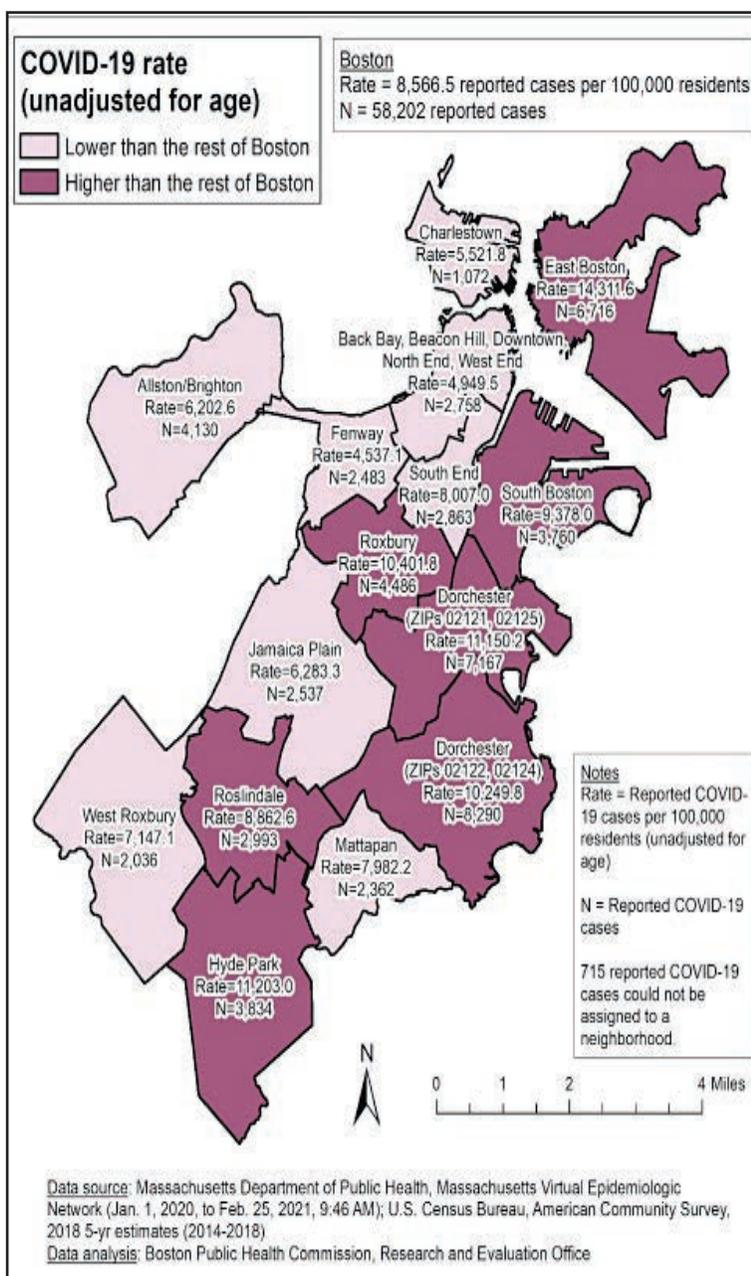
eligibility is at [Mass.gov/Covid-Vaccine](https://www.mass.gov/covid-vaccine)," said Walsh. "And the State has a Vaccine Scheduling Resource available by calling 2-1-1."

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 494.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2.9 percent from 480.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 78 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,680 cases to 2,758 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 increased 2.1 percent last week and went from 57,675 cases to 58,917 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-six additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,274 total deaths in the city from COVID.



# Beacon Hill Women's Forum set for March 9

By Ariana Hanley

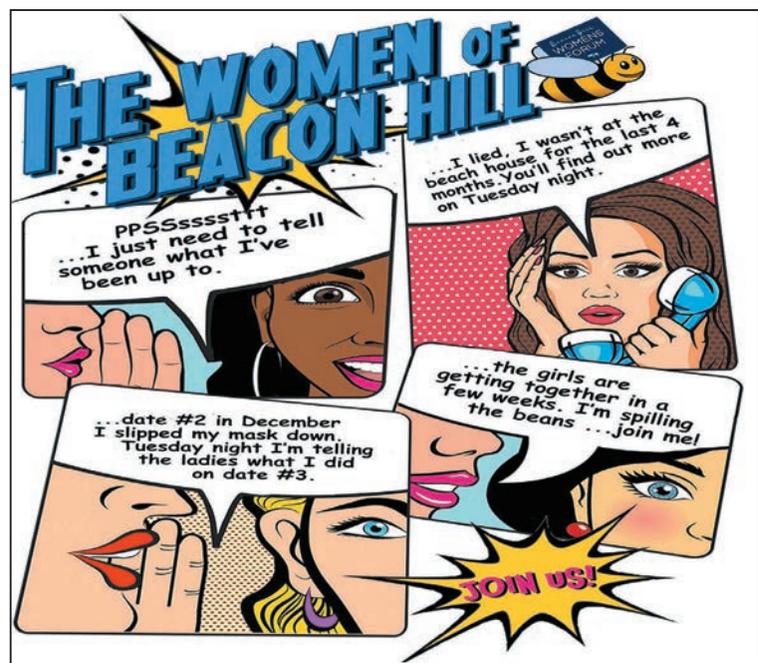
Calling all women of Beacon Hill! On Tuesday, March 9, the Beacon Hill Women's Forum will be hosting its March Forum for members to share any and all COVID stories. Let's unwind the last year and connect over stories and memories of the past 12 months! Be sure to register for the Zoom call online at [www.beaconhillwomensforum.org](http://www.beaconhillwomensforum.org)

to join in on the fun!

The Beacon Hill Women's Forum is a nonprofit organization established to help bring women in and around Beacon Hill together to form a close community of support and inspiration. We welcome a speaker, always a woman with a unique, formidable story to tell, to our monthly Forums which meet on the second Tues-

day of the month, virtually, from 6 to 8 p.m. (virtual social hour, followed by the program starting at 7 p.m. sharp). Visit The Beacon Hill Women's Forum website to learn more about our membership options. [www.beaconhillwomensforum.org](http://www.beaconhillwomensforum.org)

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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# Red Cross calls for healthy blood donors following severe weather

Following record-breaking cold and winter storms that forced the cancellation of more than 10,000 blood and platelet donations in parts of the U.S. in February, the American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals, especially those with type O blood, to give now to ensure blood products are available for patient emergencies when help can't wait.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant, even during snowstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted, individuals are urged to make appointments to donate in the coming days and weeks by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant,

even during snowstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted, individuals in areas unaffected by severe weather are urged to make appointments to donate by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Tina Rocco knows firsthand how important it is to have blood on hospital shelves. After welcoming baby Gemma by cesarean section, she began hemorrhaging badly and was rushed back into the operating room. "I was later told it was several pints of blood and an amazing doctor that saved my life," Rocco said. "That allowed me to hold my first daughter and go home all together as a family of three."

Before that day, Rocco hadn't known anyone who needed blood transfusions. Now, this grateful mother says, "You truly never

know when you, or someone you love, might need it."

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for high levels of COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to

two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public

guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Suffolk County

•Boston

3/4/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Boston Park Plaza, 64 Arlington Street

3/5/2021: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street

3/11/2021: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza

3/12/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Big Night Entertainment Group, 110 Causeway Street

3/15/2021: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Northeastern University, 77 St. Stephen Street

3/15/2021: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m., Flynn Cruiseport Boston, 1 Black Falcon Ave, Black Falcon Cruise Terminal

•Winthrop

3/8/2021: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Cottage Park YC, 76 Orlando Ave.

## AARP Massachusetts urges full-scale mobilization of COVID vaccine rollout

With people age 50 and older accounting for 95 percent of all deaths from COVID-19, AARP Massachusetts State Director Mike Festa and State President Sandra Harris testified at a legislative hearing held before the Joint Committee on COVID-19 & Emergency Preparedness & Management.

"AARP Massachusetts is deeply appreciative for the efforts the legislature and the Baker Administration has undertaken to address the unprecedented public health and economic crisis that we face as a state. In particular, we note the many actions the state has taken on a temporary or emergency basis to help Massachusetts residents better weather this pandemic. We urge you to evaluate those actions

and move swiftly to ensure that the benefits they have produced continue once this emergency has subsided.

The situation in nursing homes is particularly dire. In the Commonwealth, residents and staff of nursing homes account for nearly 60% of all COVID-19 deaths, though they are less than 1% of the population.

As the Committee continues its work, AARP Massachusetts urges the legislature and the Baker Administration to:

- Better understand why so many long term care facility residents died in Massachusetts' nursing homes;

- Make structural and systemic changes to the long term services

and supports system; and

- Most importantly, learn how to prevent the state's tragic outcomes from ever happening again.

We continue to hear from members that they are having challenges scheduling an appointment. There is incredible demand from our members for more information about when, where and how they can get a vaccine," said Festa.

Harris added, "I cannot stress enough how eager AARP Massachusetts members are to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, which offers so much promise for a return to normalcy. And, they want a system they can access to receive vaccines that works for them, and works efficiently."

AARP Massachusetts offered the following recommendations:

- Prioritize Older Residents - Since the start of the pandemic,

nearly 95 percent of the deaths from COVID-19 have been among people age 50 and older. That is why it is critical that older adults be prioritized to receive these vaccines and the associated appointments.

- A Centralized, Equitable, Accessible, User-Friendly, Vaccination Appointment System - While the Vax-Finder website and 211 call center are a significant step in the right direction, we must work quickly toward a centralized, equitable, accessible, user-friendly, vaccination appointment and confirmation system.

- Transparency of Data and Plans Related to Infections, Hospitalizations, Deaths, Vaccinations, and Appointments—AARP believes residents deserve updated data on the COVID 19 pandemic and the vaccination efforts in the

Bay State. AARP MA is pleased the Commonwealth produces daily or weekly reports.

- Enhance and Expand Communication and Outreach Efforts – State and local governments should pro-actively reach out to those eligible for the vaccines.

"Since March 2020, we have joined together to battle coronavirus and its health and economic consequences. We now have the hope of ending the pandemic through widespread vaccination. It's time for full-scale mobilization so we will finally get back to normal. We urge the Committee to keep searching for the answers, to permanently adopt those measures that have been proven successful, and to take swift action to address the known shortfalls," said Festa.



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James L Gilbert T	122 Commonwealth Ave LLC	122 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$5,725,000
Lake Comm 192-9 NT	Marshall, Jane W	192 Commonwealth Ave #9	\$2,942,000
Litt, Jonathan S	Purdom, Emily R	71 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,240,000
Ophir, Yaniv	520 Beacon Street NT	520 Beacon St #6B	\$725,000
433 Marlborough LLC	Papesch Barbara G Est	433 Marlborough St	\$3,625,000
Lei, Rong	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #502	\$1,225,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Johnsrud, Jennifer	Stewart, Richard F	130 Appleton St #5A	\$920,000
Norfleet, Charles C	Durando, Antonio R	8 Melrose St #1	\$850,000
Beaulieu-Jones, Brendin R	Mansker, Gregory E	60 Rutland St #4	\$623,000
Killian, James M	15 Taylor Street RT	15 Taylor St	\$2,075,000
Nardo, Virginia	Hanneman, Nicolas P	192 W Brookline St #2	\$1,730,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Reese, Julia A	Makela, Nicole E	717 Atlantic Ave #8A	\$1,225,000
Finley, Timothy J	Munroe, Gregory P	220 Commercial St #2	\$2,175,000

# Attention to Detail

By PENNY CHERUBINO

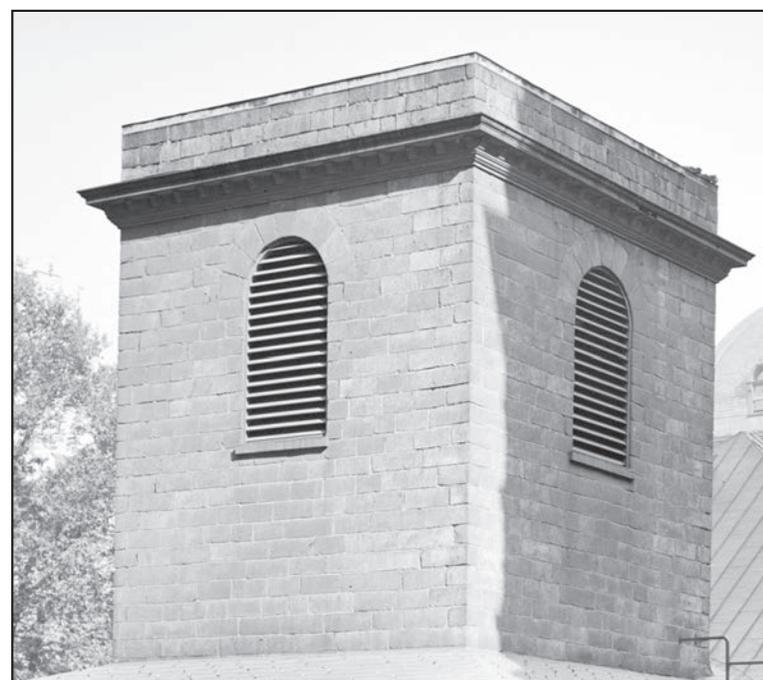
## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The letters in the last clue are on 218 Cambridge Street, The Puffer's Building named for soda manufacturer A.D. Puffer. Today's answer is a photo from MIT's Library of a "Fruit and Vegetable Pushcart ..." taken in 1957. Today we have food trucks. In the past, street vendors provided neighborhoods with many products from carts like this one.

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

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## Street sweeping; ticketing enforcement for expired inspection stickers, vehicle registration to resume

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and the Public Works Department this week announced updated street enforcement regulations for the City of Boston. On Monday, March 1, street sweeping resumed in the North End, South End and Beacon Hill, and will resume citywide on April 1.

Street sweeping ticketing enforcement will also resume on those dates respectively, and vehicles in violation will be subject to towing. Additionally, the Boston Transportation Department will resume ticketing enforcement for expired inspection stickers and vehicle registration on March 1. Mayor Walsh paused enforcement of certain violations at the beginning of the pandemic in an effort to ensure residents could minimize



their need to go out to slow the spread of COVID-19.

“With spring approaching, we are asking residents to move their vehicles during posted street sweeping times to ensure our Pub-

lic Works Department is able to fully clean streets citywide,” said Mayor Walsh. “Thank you to all of our residents for your continued cooperation to keep our streets clean.”

Failure to move a vehicle during posted street sweeping hours results in a \$40 fine; the fine is \$90 in Charlestown, and \$90 for overnight street sweeping. An expired inspection sticker or vehicle registration will result in a \$40 fine. View a complete list of parking codes and fines in the City of Boston. To learn more about the daytime and nighttime street sweeping program, including when the Public Works Department cleans a particular neighborhood, you can sign up for street sweeping alerts and No-Tow reminder service online.

As a reminder, residents with resident parking permits will continue to be allowed to park at meters within their neighborhood without having to abide by the time limits or pay the meter.

“Clean streets are an important quality of life issue for our residents,” said Commissioner Greg Rooney. “We appreciate the public’s assistance as we resume this essential basic city service.”

### •DISABILITY PLACARDS

BTD will not ticket for expired disability placards/plates if they expired during the public health emergency, given potential challenges for people to renew at this time. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is only processing requests for disability placards/plates by mail.

### •PARKING GARAGES

To support the medical com-

munity, BTD has identified facilities offering free, reduced rate or reserved parking for medical professionals. To receive discounted parking, medical staff will need to present a hospital ID. See the list of participating facilities.

### •BLUEBIKES

The City of Boston and its municipal partners in Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville are offering all grocery store and pharmacy workers in metro Boston a free 90-day pass for the public bike share system, Bluebikes. To support employees of small businesses, the City of Boston is also offering free 90-day passes to people who work in retail shops or restaurants in Boston. More information is available at [boston.gov/bike-share](http://boston.gov/bike-share).

## MFA receives gift of 48 Henryk Ross photographs depicting life inside a WWII Jewish Ghetto

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), has received a gift of 48 photographs by Henryk Ross (1910–1991), which offer an extraordinarily rare glimpse of life inside Poland’s Lodz Ghetto during the Holocaust. Donated to the MFA by collector Howard Greenberg, the group of gelatin silver prints was originally given directly by Ross to Lova Szmuszkowicz, later Leon Sutton (1909–2007), a fellow survivor of the Lodz Ghetto who brought them to the U.S. when he immigrated to New York City in 1947. The prints represent a significant range of both official images, which Ross took as a photographer for the ghetto’s Department of Statistics, and the unofficial photographs that he took secretly at great personal risk, which documented the grim realities of life inside.

“This extraordinary collection of images reminds us of photography’s power to preserve and amplify the full emotional range of lived experience. Together, these 48 photographs serve as both memory and documentary evidence of the extremes of war. They are powerful and memorable,” said Matthew Teitelbaum, Ann and Graham Gund Director. “Imagine the journey: passed from the photographer to a fellow prisoner in the Lodz Ghetto, hidden and brought to New York City in a small envelope, passed from one generation to another after a lifetime of care, and now preserved permanently in one of America’s great collections of photography. That, too, is powerful and memorable.”

The Lodz Ghetto was the lon-

gest-existing and second-largest, after Warsaw, of at least 1,000 ghettos established by the Nazis to isolate Jews within the Eastern European cities that the regime occupied between 1939 and 1945. Previously a photojournalist for the Polish press, Ross was confined to the ghetto in 1940 with his wife, Stefania. Put to work by the Nazi regime, Ross was assigned to illustrate the productivity and efficiency of the ghetto and make identification cards for registered workers. At the same time, the photographs that Ross took in secret documented the ghetto’s deplorable and steadily deteriorating living conditions as well as the deportations of residents to extermination camps at Chelmno and Auschwitz.

When the Nazis ordered the final liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto in 1944, Ross was among a group of about 900 residents held back to clean up and gather property from empty buildings, while Sutton was among those deported to Auschwitz. It was then that Ross buried a box of his negatives in the ground. Three months after the ghetto was liberated by the Russian Red Army in January 1945, he excavated the box. The prints in the group acquired by the MFA—the first photographs by Ross to enter the Museum’s collection and among the rare few owned by a U.S. museum—were made before 1945 and given by Ross directly to Sutton, who returned to Lodz after Auschwitz’s liberation and subsequently brought them to New York City.

Sutton’s son, Paul Sutton, inherited the photographs from

his father and understood their importance after seeing *Memory Unearthed: The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross*, an exhibition that the MFA hosted in 2017. Sutton then contacted Greenberg, a prominent collector of photography and gallery dealer, who purchased the group and subsequently donated it to the Museum.

“I am so excited and deeply gratified to see that my father’s collection of original Henryk Ross images will be residing in the permanent collection of the MFA,” said Sutton. “After traveling to Boston to view the *Memory Unearthed* exhibition at the Museum in April 2017, I knew how significant my father’s collection was and wanted very much to see the photographs preserved. Having these images added to the permanent collection of the MFA is an extreme honor to the legacy of my father, who personally received these images from Mr. Ross in Lodz and then preserved these images for many years until he entrusted them to me. As the first-generation Jewish American son of two Polish Holocaust survivors I do strongly feel that we must never forget. I would like to thank Howard Greenberg for his support and efforts to facilitate their accession to the MFA and MFA’s Kristen Gresh for her enthusiasm and professionalism in completing this acquisition.”

Born in Lodz, Poland, Leon Sutton was the son of a textile factory owner and lived in the Lodz Ghetto during World War II. After receiving the photographs from Ross and bringing them to



*Untitled photograph from Litzmann (Lodz Ghetto), 1940–45, Henryk Ross.*

the U.S., Sutton kept them in an envelope, where they have been preciously held for most of the last 75 years. The prints’ exceptional provenance allows the MFA to preserve and tell multiple stories, including that of emigration from Europe after World War II.

“The journey of these photographs is fascinating, one that touches many different people along the way—starting with their beginning with the courageous Henryk Ross, passed to his friend Leon Sutton, then to his son Paul and acquired by me two years ago. We’re all delighted that these works will find a final home at the MFA and be shared with generations to come,” said Greenberg. “It is especially meaningful for me to be able to donate them in honor of Jacques Preis, trustee of the Leonian Trust, who believes in the power of photography. The story of Leon Sutton—and all the brave people who endured the Lodz Ghetto and those who perished—

should never be forgotten.”

A significant addition to the MFA’s documentary holdings, the photographs by Ross bolster the Museum’s mission to represent the many different histories of the medium. They complement the MFA’s growing collection of photographs from World War II and join those of other Jewish photojournalists, including Robert Capa, Eva Besnyo, Roman Vishniac and Clemens Kalisher.

“These photographs provide an intimate visual record of a harrowing time in history,” said Kristen Gresh, Estrellita and Yousuf Karsh Senior Curator of Photographs. “One of the images in particular is incredible to see because we have only ever seen a reproduction of a damaged negative likely from the same roll of film that had looked as though it had been burned. Seeing the print of this otherwise lost moment in time is a truly moving experience.”

# Kim Janey announces chairs of Mayoral Transition Sub-Committees

Boston City Council President Kim Janey has announced the co-chairs of her Mayoral Transition Sub-Committees, a diverse group of dedicated community leaders from government, business, advocacy, health care and other sectors who are providing valuable insight on their specific fields of expertise for the forthcoming Janey mayoral administration.

The six sub-committees are focused on the most pressing issues facing the city, advising incoming Mayor Janey as she works to move the City forward in the crucial weeks and months to come. Sub-committees are meeting over the coming weeks to draft actionable recommendations for the incoming administration that can support the equitable response to the overlapping public health, economic, and racial justice crises that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. The sub-committees are being led by the following Co-Chairs:

**Public Health Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Frederica M. Williams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Care Center

Dr. Lauren Smith, Chief Health Equity and Strategy Officer at the CDC Foundation

**Education Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Tanisha Sullivan, President of the NAACP Boston Branch

Jessica Tang, President of the Boston Teachers Union

**Housing, Planning and Development Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Lydia Lowe, Director of the Chinatown Community Land Trust

Patrick Lee, Partner at Trinity Financial

**Safety, Healing and Justice Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Rahsaan Hall, Director of the Racial Justice Program at ACLU

Jeffrey Lopes, Boston Police Officer and President of the Massachusetts Association Minority Law Enforcement Officers

**Small Business and Economic Development Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Segun Idowu, Executive Director of Black Economic Council of Massachusetts

James E. Rooney, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

**Transportation and Climate Justice Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:**

Stacy Thompson, Executive Director of Livable Streets Alliance

Rev. Mariama Hammond, Pastor at New Roots AME Church and Faith Fellow at Green Justice Coalition

“Boston is blessed with world-class experts and advocates on some of our most pressing issues,” Council President Janey said. “Their perspectives are essential as my administration tackles unprecedented challenges in their relevant sectors. I am honored to have them as part of my Transition Committee as I assume mayoral office and get to work on building a more equitable Boston for all residents.”

“Whittier is deeply honored and humbled to be invited by Council President Janey to serve as a co-chair of the Mayoral Transition Public Health Sub-Committee, along with Dr. Lauren Smith and other experts in public health, as we play a part in laying the roadmap for emerging from the COVID-19 crisis,” said Frederica M. Williams, president and CEO of the Whittier Street Health Care Center. “We are building on the lessons learned over the past year about the dire consequences of longstanding health disparities in our communities of color as we create greater, more lasting health equity for Boston residents hit hardest by the pandemic.”

“I am honored to co-chair President Janey’s Education Committee with NAACP Boston President Tanisha Sullivan,” said Jessica Tang, president of the Boston Teachers Union. “President Janey has always been a fierce advocate for our students and schools, and this education transition team is a reflection of her longstanding commitment to education equity and our community. The ideas, experiences and solutions that the students, parents, educators and longtime community advocates and leaders on the team have brought to the table give me great hope about what we can accomplish in the next ten months under Mayor Janey.”

“We are at a pivotal moment in the history of the city of Boston,” said Rahsaan Hall, director of the Racial Justice Program at ACLU. “There is a unique opportunity to address the way the city responds to harm and loss in the community, whether it’s interpersonal or at the hands of law enforcement. True safety comes from addressing people’s underlying needs and healing past harms. I’m honored to be a part of this team that will help frame the city’s approach to safety, healing and justice.”

“I’m honored to serve on and contribute to the Small Business and Economic Development Transition Subcommittee,” said James E. Rooney, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. “I look forward to working with acting Mayor Kim Janey as we create a more equitable and inclusive region and economy.”

“I am honored to serve on the Housing, Planning and Development Sub-Committee for Council President Janey’s mayoral transition process,” said Lydia Lowe, director of the Chinatown Community Land Trust. “It is crucial

that we put equity at the center of our housing strategies as the city begins to recover in order to work for development without displacement, particularly of people of color and working class neighborhoods.”

“I am honored to serve as the co-chair of the Transportation and Climate Justice Sub-Committee, and to be able to contribute in a small way to the just and equitable recovery process Boston must advance in the coming months,” said Stacy Thompson, executive director of the Livable Streets Alliance.

In addition, nine young people from Youth on Board and the Boston Student Advisory Council are serving on the Education; Safety, Healing and Justice; and Transportation and Climate Justice Sub-Committees, providing critical youth perspectives and important voices to these conversations.

Seven Harvard Kennedy School graduate students are working with the Transition team and co-chairs to provide policy, technical and administrative support to the Sub-committees under the supervision of faculty and staff as part of an educational program offered by the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Sub-committee co-chairs serve with the Committee’s honorary co-chairs, Mayor Yvonne Spicer of Framingham and Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui of Cambridge, along with co-chairs Linda Dorcena Forry, Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community at Suffolk Construction; Betty Francisco, General Counsel at Compass Working Capital and Co-Founder of Amplify Latinx; Steve Grossman, CEO of Initiative for a Competitive Inner City; Quincy Miller, Vice Chair and President of East-

ern Bank; and Kate Walsh, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System.

Along with the work of the Transition Committee and sub-committees, Council President Janey’s preparations for mayoral office have also included:

- Appointment of Gustavo Quiroga as her Mayoral Transition Director

- More than 30 briefings with cabinet chiefs, department heads and city staff, and numerous discussion with Mayor Walsh;

- Close communication with Chief Martinez on COVID-19 response strategy, including dedicated weekly vaccine roll-out update meetings with Chief Martinez and Boston Public Health Commission. Taking part in official visits to COVID testing and vaccination sites including the Strand Theatre COVID testing site, the community vaccination site at the Thomas M. Menino Hyde Park YMCA with Mayor Walsh, Chief Martinez, and Boston Medical Center Officials, and an upcoming visit to the Reggie Lewis vaccination site 7;

- Ongoing collaboration with Superintendent Cassellius on the current status of BPS operations, the education of students and the progress being made toward safely reopening school buildings to in-person learning;

- Dialogue with community leaders, advocates, business leaders, clergy and health care professionals;

- Direct engagement in preparation and briefing calls for snow-storm emergency response and snow clearing/management, as well as other standing meetings addressing City operations.

## USCIS reverts to the 2008 version of the naturalization civics test

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced last that it has reverted to the 2008 version of the naturalization civics test as of March 1.

On Dec. 1, 2020, USCIS implemented a revised naturalization civics test (2020 civics test) as part of a decennial test review and update process. USCIS determined the 2020 civics test development process, content, testing procedures, and implementation schedule may inadvertently create potential

barriers to the naturalization process. This action is consistent with the framework of the Executive Order on Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems, which directs a comprehensive review of the naturalization process to eliminate barriers and make the process more accessible to all eligible individuals.

The 2008 civics test was thoroughly developed over a multi-year period with the input of more than 150 organizations, which includ-

ed English as a second language experts, educators, and historians, and was piloted before its implementation. USCIS aspires to make the process as accessible as possible as directed by President Biden’s request to review the process thoroughly.

The civics test is administered to applicants who apply for U.S. citizenship through naturalization and is one of the statutory requirements for naturalizing. Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge and

understanding of the fundamentals of the history, principles, and form of government of the United States. The decision to naturalize demonstrates an investment in and commitment to this country. USCIS is committed to administering a test that is an instrument of civic learning and fosters civic integration as part of the test preparation process.

Applicants who filed their application for naturalization on or after Dec. 1, 2020, and before March 1, 2021, likely have been studying for

the 2020 test; therefore, USCIS will give these applicants the option to take either the 2020 civics test or the 2008 civics test. There will be a transition period where both tests are being offered. The 2020 test will be phased out on April 19, 2021, for initial test takers. Applicants filing on or after March 1, 2021, will take the 2008 civics test.

The test items and study guides can be found on the Citizenship Resource Center on the USCIS website.

**FRESH AND LOCAL****Soup fast or slow**

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

We love soup year-round but do, like many others, think of it more in the colder months. When temperatures drop below 20 degrees, making soup is one way we help our humidifiers keep our home in the comfort zone of about 40 percent humidity.

**Slow Soups**

The first step in soup preparation on frigid days, for us, is making broth. Penny will do this even if we have a ready supply in the freezer. There are many times when we use an organic, low-sodium box of broth to begin a soup. However, when we want to add the warm, comforting, enticing aroma of a pot of broth simmering on the burner, we start making stock. By the time it has reduced to deliciousness, we can often turn off the humidifiers and lower the thermometer since our home is perfectly comfortable.

That broth can make a quick soup or, with some additional liq-

uids, continue simmering or braising for a few hours. Two of our favorite long soups are pea soup with ham and French onion soup. We make soup on an induction burner and can maintain a perfect simmer for hours when needed. If your cooktop requires too much attention, just make your soup in an oven-safe pan and once it has reached the long simmer stage, pop it into a 200-degree oven, slow cooker, or Instant Pot®.

**Fast Soup**

Penny recently created a new recipe for fast soup that has quickly become a favorite and may fit into some of your individual dietary preferences. It was a perfect soup day, and we already had jars of stock in the refrigerator waiting to be transferred to our soup cubes containers for freezing. What we didn't have was a lot of time since we had one of our few pandemic appointments that day.

We also had the shredded chicken from the stock-making process and our usual full produce bin

supply of celery, carrots, cabbage, fennel, onions, and leaks.

Penny's answer for quick soup was to shred or very thinly slice everything that went into it. Her mise en place for the soup looked like she might be making coleslaw with shredded cabbage and carrots.

Once added to the stock, these vegetables only took minutes to cook, and the finished soup cooled quicker than one with lots of larger pieces would have. We had the soup cooked, cooled, and refrigerated before our appointment. It was ready to microwave for lunch when we returned home.

Our first version of this soup had an Asian flavored stock with ginger, soy sauce, and five-spice flavors. It brought to mind a favorite take-out meal of moo shu chicken. Penny emphasized that moo shu direction by adding hoisin and sriracha as she seasoned it. Another time she plans to add some reconstituted dried wood ear mushrooms to complete the moo shu theme.



*This shredded chicken, cabbage, and carrot soup has become a quick-to-make favorite!*

If you are vegan or vegetarian, you can make this with vegetable stock and mushrooms in place of the chicken. What's more, by changing the direction of the seasonings and protein, you can take this bowl to Eastern Europe's flavors with paprika and kielbasa or off to Mexico with chorizo, chilis, oregano, cumin, and lime.

Other shortcuts for a quick soup are widely available these days. You can buy many vegeta-

bles already chopped or shredded. You could make your version of our soup with a bag of shredded cabbage sold to make coleslaw. Try your hand at a fast soup, and perhaps you'll create a new favorite around your home!

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

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