

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE



Mayor Kim Janey's Neighborhood Coffee Hour held at Elliot Norton Park on August 11 in partnership with Dunkin' and Star Market. Attendees enjoyed Dunkin' iced coffee and Munchkins, fresh fruit from Star Market, flowers provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's greenhouses, and the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Mayor Janey and other City of Boston officials. See Page 6 for more photos.

Janey announces new face masks rules

By John Lynds

Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced face masks will be required in all indoor public settings in the City of Boston, as part of a five-point plan for the delta variant, a more contagious COVID-19 mutation that is now the primary strain of the virus.

The public health order, issued by the Boston Public Health Commission, will go into effect at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27 in the City. The City is implementing this proactive public health plan to mitigate community transmission of the Delta variant, ahead of the arrival of more than 50,000 college students from across the

country and a return to school for more than 50,000 Boston Public School students. Most of the 100,000 children who live in the City of Boston are too young to be eligible for vaccination.

"There is nothing more important than Boston's safe recovery, reopening, and renewal from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Janey. "We know that masks work best when everyone wears one. Requiring masks indoors is a proactive public health measure to limit transmission of the Delta variant, boost the public confidence in our businesses and venues, and protect the residents of our city who are too young for vaccination."

On Friday, the city will require all people over age two to wear a mask or face covering, "whenever they are indoors on the premises of a business, club, place of assembly or other place that is open to members of the public, including but not limited to retail establishments, restaurants, bars, performance venues, social clubs, event spaces, and municipal buildings".

"The Delta variant continues to create an additional challenge to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our community," said Interim Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Rita Nieves. "Wearing a mask indoors along with getting more people

(Masks Pg. 2)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

The Importance of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Over the past few weeks, a large dumpster at 44 Phillips Street began to take on bags of household trash, furniture packaging, diaper boxes, dog waste, and any other refuse that could be tossed in. Construction trash

was not evident, nor did it seem that any construction was taking place. Several neighbors called the BHCA about this unhealthy situation, since the dumpster permit had expired on August 10th.

Usually, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) grants

the first two-week parking permit to a contractor performing work on Beacon Hill. These permits include Loading and Unloading (construction equipment and materials), Scaffolding, and Dumpster permits. Any renew-

(BHCA Pg. 5)

BHAC approves application for transformed Charles Street Garage

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission approved an application for the proposed transformation of the Charles Street Garage during its Aug. 19 monthly hearing, which took place virtually.

Developer, Related Beal, is partnering with the architectural firm, Hacin + Associates, on the project that would convert the top two floors of the building at 144 Charles St. into office space accessible via a new lobby at the street level. New roofdeck amenities would be also created for the use of office tenants only. Parking would be limited to the second floor, while at the ground level, a

new storefront would be added, bringing the number of retail opportunities to five.

David Tabenken, an architect with Hacin + Associates, said the proposed project has been modified based on feedback the development team received at a July 23 BHAC subcommittee meeting, with "key takeaways" including replacing existing granite veneer at all storefronts on the Charles Street façade; providing broom-finished concrete at the passageway; restoring the historic Boston Edison lamp at the passage on the north facade; maintaining the existing sconces at Savenor's Market on

(BHAC Pg. 8)

Black Ink to hold third annual Origami fundraiser in support of St. Francis House

By Dan Murphy

Continuing what is becoming an annual tradition, Black Ink, a shop at 101 Charles St. specializing in paper goods, is collaborating with Garden Street resident Gregory W. Skaff again next month on their third Origami fundraiser in support of St. Francis House.

Throughout the month of September, Black Ink will be offering Origami bulls designed by Stephen Weber and folded by Skaff for a contribution of \$25 or more to the day shelter. (Black Ink can only accept cash donation for the

origami pieces, however, as they aren't store inventory.) Each Origami bull measures 24-by-24 centimeters and is made using Nicolas Terry Tissue Foil Origami specialty paper from France.

The first fundraising collaboration between Skaff and Black Ink was hatched in September of 2019, when Skaff came into the shop to personally thank the owner, Susan Corcoran, for helping rekindle his interest in Origami after a 37-year respite.

Skaff was first introduced to the

(BLACK INK Pg. 7)



COURTESY OF GREGORY W. SKAFF

An Origami bull, designed by Stephen Weber and folded by Gregory W. Skaff.

EDITORIAL

MAKE THE MOST OF THE REST OF SUMMER

If nothing else, the Summer of 2021 has taught us an age-old lesson: The only thing that is certain about life is uncertainty.

Remember when President Biden told the country in the spring that his goal was to have the pandemic restrictions lifted across the country by July 4?

At that time, the Delta variant of COVID-19, though already responsible for a huge surge in deaths in India and other places, constituted only a tiny fraction of cases in the United States.

But by July 4, almost all of the COVID cases in the U.S., among both the vaccinated and unvaccinated, were attributable to Delta, which is many times more contagious than original COVID and proving to be far deadlier among the unvaccinated, particularly for younger age groups.

Today, COVID-19 is raging as never before and restrictions on our normal living are being reinstated.

The extent of the tragic and sad situation that has been unfolding in Afghanistan (though foreseeable by some) caught the U.S. government and the American people completely off-guard. Afghanistan registered barely a blip on the news cycle at the start of the summer, but now it dominates the news.

And although scientists have long warned us of the overall effects of climate change, the catastrophic weather events of this summer -- the floods, wildfires, and drought -- have been felt in every corner of the globe.

Then, as if to place an exclamation point on the extent of life's vicissitudes, just this past weekend, the wonderful Concert in Central Park was cut short by a lightning storm.

If the Summer of 2020 was notable for lockdowns, the Summer of 2021 will be remembered as a real-life version of Whack-a-Mole, when we never were able to regain our footing on the path to normalcy because of all of the obstacles that continuously sprung up along the way.

There are just two weekends left in the Summer of 2021, our Summer of Uncertainty.

We hope that all of our readers will make the most of the summer days that are left, but do so safely.

THE UNVACCINATED ARE REBELS WITHOUT A CAUSE

For the majority of our readers -- who are vaccinated (because we live in Eastern Mass.) -- the reasons being given by those who refuse to get the shot, even when they are dying in the hospital, are inexplicable.

The most-often heard statement from the new COVID cohort is that they were exercising their "freedom" from the tyranny of government officials who have been urging Americans to be vaccinated.

However, freedom isn't free, as those who are filling the critical care beds in our hospitals are learning the hard way. Further, their freedom to die affects the rest of us, both by spreading the disease among their fellow citizens and pushing our healthcare system to the brink.

Ironically, getting a COVID-19 vaccination shot is among the least demanding of the many impositions on our freedom that all of us experience as Americans each and every day.

Even in our free society, we live with restrictions on our behavior in everything we do. No one has the right to walk naked down the street, to drive a car as fast as they want, or to not pay taxes, to name just the most obvious examples of restrictions on our personal freedom.

More to the point (no pun intended), many vaccines already are mandated from the time we are born in this country in order to attend public schools.

In addition, unscrupulous politicians (Trump, Cruz, DeSantis, et als), together with disingenuous social and traditional media, are amplifying this corrupted notion of absolute freedom.

Ultimately however, the decision to get the vaccine remains a personal choice. But as we watch the suffering among the unvaccinated, their pathetic plight brings to mind the title of the classic James Dean movie, *Rebel Without a Cause*.

Yes, the unvaccinated may be exercising their "freedom."

But in the final analysis, what was the point of it all?

Baker-Polito administration announces COVID-19 vaccine requirement for Executive Department employees

Governor Charlie Baker issued an executive order requiring all Executive Department employees to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination on or before October 17, 2021. The COVID-19 vaccine is the best and most effective way people can protect themselves, their loved ones and their community from the virus.

All Executive Department employees will be required to provide proof that they have received either the required two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by October 17. In the coming weeks, employees will receive information about the process by which they may provide this verification to the Commonwealth. This process will be made available well in advance of October 17. All documentation related to an employee's COVID-19 vaccinations will be maintained confidentially. The policy applies to both employees working in-person and those who

are teleworking.

As new CDC guidance regarding booster vaccine doses is issued in the future, Executive Branch employees will also be required to provide proof they have received those doses by a deadline to be established. Employees for whom vaccination is medically contraindicated or who object to vaccination on the grounds of sincerely-held religious reasons may be entitled to an exemption from the requirement to demonstrate vaccination. The Administration will provide further guidance in the coming weeks for employees who may wish to seek such an exemption.

Executive Department employees who are not vaccinated or approved for an exemption as of October 17, 2021 will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The Administration will continue to work with its union partners regarding this policy, and specific

ramifications of non-compliance for staff represented by unions will be discussed well in advance of October 17 with each employee union. Management employees not in compliance as of October 17, 2021 will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Vaccines are widely available in Massachusetts, with over 900 locations available at the Commonwealth's VaxFinder website, including locations with walk-up appointments. Massachusetts remains a national leader in vaccinating its residents, with over 85% of adults having received at least one dose. This has supported significant progress in protecting the Commonwealth's residents: Massachusetts has one of the lowest COVID-19 hospitalization rates in the country.

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and where to get vaccinated: www.mass.gov/COVID-vaccine.

MASKS (from pg. 1)

vaccinated will offer more protection to all our residents, including children under 12 and those who are not able to get vaccinated."

While Beacon Hill and surrounding area's weekly positive COVID test rate decreased over the past week, the Delta variant of the virus is still prevalent and the city has updated its mask mandate policy for indoor venues this week.

After experiencing a 10 percent increase in the weekly COVID positive test rate between August 6 and August 13, the weekly positive test rate has decreased here.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,080 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.6 percent were positive. This was a 21 percent increase from the 3.3 percent of residents that tested positive between August 6 and August 13.

Overall since the pandemic started 60,104 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on August 13.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased 10 percent last

week after experiencing a steady increase since early July. According to the BPHC 22,466 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--this was a 3.5 percent increase from the 3.9 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 685.5 cases per 10,000 residents--a 1.5 percent increase from the 675.1 cases per 10,000 residents reported on August 13.

Fifty-eight additional residents have been infected with the virus between August 13 and August 20

and the total number of cases in the area increased to 3,820 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 1.3 percent since August 13 and went from 74,052 cases to 75,047 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus and the total deaths from COVID is now at 1,404.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO
(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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PHONE: 617-523-9490 • FAX: 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com

Councilors Breadon and Edwards file ordinance targeting predatory towing

Councilors Liz Breadon and Lydia Edwards have filed legislation to modernize and reform involuntary private vehicle towing and relocation practices in Boston. The proposed ordinance would establish standards for private towing companies, bringing into line practices of some companies that vehicle owners, public agencies, and consumer watchdogs have viewed as manipulative and predatory. The regulations come at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ability of residents to cover essential everyday costs such as food, rent, and car payments, and recent studies have shown just 39% of U.S. adults could afford a \$1,000 unexpected expense.

The proposal, Ordinance Regulating Predatory Towing Practices and Establishing a Towing Bill of Rights (Docket #0901) will be introduced by Councilors Breadon and Edwards at the Boston City Council meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 12:00 PM

(Live-streamed at Boston City Council TV).

Standards established by the ordinance include mandating that towing companies publish and display their rates, accept payment via credit card as opposed to solely cash, requiring a photograph of the vehicle's parked position before towing, providing itemized bills detailing charges, and reimbursement for damages related to towing or storage. The legislation also prohibits tow operators from cruising or surveilling private property without cause, as an involuntary tow must first be initiated by a request from a private property owner.

Under the ordinance, the Boston Transportation Department would be tasked with proposing guidelines for "No Parking" signs for private property owners to provide sufficient notice of enforced towing. The department would publish and distribute a Boston Towing Bill of Rights to inform consumers of their rights when

their vehicle is towed, how to recognize predatory towing practices and an unlawful tow, provide details on how to retrieve their vehicle, and how to file a complaint of an unlawful practice. An annual report would be submitted to the City Clerk summarizing the financial statements of tow companies as reported to and regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Transportation Oversight Division.

The ordinance follows the recommendations outlined in a May 2021 report by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG), "Getting Off the Hook of a Predatory Tow in Massachusetts." The MASSPIRG report identified existing protections in Massachusetts, including a maximum tow rate of \$108, maximum storage rates of \$35 per 24-hour period, notification of the tow company to law enforcement of an involuntary tow, release of a vehicle for an incomplete tow at a "drop fee" no greater than half the

towing cost, and reimbursement for an unauthorized tow.

"Losing a vehicle, even temporarily, can have profound impacts on an individual and their family's livelihood and economic stability," said District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon. "People who rely on their cars may lose access to work, education, healthcare, and social services due to an unexpected tow. We certainly need to get more cars off our streets and prioritize affordable, reliable, and accessible public transit and safer biking, but for working-class residents who have had to move further from accessible transit, having a vehicle could be their lifeline. We absolutely must strengthen our regulations to reign in predatory practices of bad actors in the towing industry."

"Tow operators who cruise or hunt for cars to tow, without cause or first receiving a request from the owner or business, is just plain wrong and unethical," said District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards. "Now is the time to outlaw pred-

atory towing, when families can ill afford to be without their vehicle. These are common sense updates that would help fight back against an industry that is often seen as manipulative and unfair."

"If passed, these new towing rules are important consumer protections for Boston residents and those who work in and visit the City. Under the best circumstances, getting towed is an ordeal, even when justified," said Deirdre Cummings, Consumer Program Director for MASSPIRG. "For many drivers, however, the situation is compounded because the current consumer protections are weak and outdated. Preventing tow companies from only taking cash, requiring better disclosure of rates and itemized bills, requiring a photograph of the car before a tow, and preventing the practice of predatory towing are common sense yet critical consumer protections."

AAPI endorses Murphy for Boston City Council At-Large

Asian Americans of different descents proudly endorse Erin Murphy to serve as At-Large Boston City Councilor, citing Erin's commitment to strong education, safe neighborhoods, and compassionate citizenship.

AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islanders) Action Group, the largest coalition of Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Nepalese, and Vietnamese grassroots organizations, gave its official backing to Erin's campaign as it develops tremendous momentum in the build up to the September 14 preliminary election.

"Erin is a candidate for all seasons. She is a breath of fresh air in the Boston political scene - an authentic voice with common sense and good heart," Sanjay Kaul, co-founder of AAPI Action Group said. "Erin is the true Asian American candidate, even if she does not look like us. She shares our core values of engaged citizenship and strength thru togetherness, " Joe Wong, a Chinese American civic leader and lifelong Chinatown resident said. "Erin is running for all the right reasons - giving back. She is a rising star in the political scene- a much-needed inspirational leader and a brave-heart," Sandhya KC a Nepalese American leader said. "As a former Boston Public School teacher, a single mom of 4, and an inclusive public advocate of long standing, Erin will bring Boston back - together. Boston needs Erin," Frank Celozza, a Filipino-American veteran said.

A lifelong Dorchester resident,



Erin Murphy with a AAPI member.

Erin has centered her campaign around being Boston's go-to call at City Hall.

Erin's vision for Boston and her campaign are built on her core beliefs:

- EThriving, best-in-class public schools for every student in every neighborhood
- A friendlier city for seniors,

with a more compassionate policy focus

- Stronger outreach to veterans, out of respect for their service and supporting their needs
- Safer streets and policing across the City, prioritizing community policing
- All hands-on-deck to pull us out of the pandemic, particularly our most vulnerable
- Reducing income inequality by promoting good jobs for all Bostonians

AAPI Action Group strongly supports Erin Murphy as their one and only candidate for at-large Boston City Council. AAPI Action Group asks all Bostonians of different descents to get Erin Murphy elected in the Sept. 14 primary. It's time to Bring Boston Back. Together. A vote for Erin is a vote for action not words, before and after the election.

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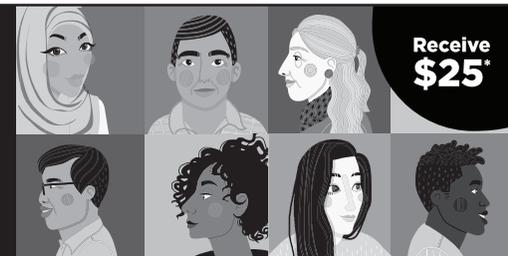
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BOSTON MEDICAL

Councilor Edward's Boston-Cambridge Tourism Marketing District passes council

By John Lynds

City Councilor Lydia Edward's push to create the first ever tourism marketing district for Boston and Cambridge passed the City Council unanimously last week.

The effort, spearheaded by Edwards and cosponsored by Councilor Frank Baker, will permit hotels in Boston and Cambridge to assess members of the district a fee that will be directly reinvested back into tourism, similar to a business improvement district.

The estimated \$10 million investment in the first year of the newly created district will promote tourism in Boston and Cambridge, help beautify and maintain green and open spaces in the two cities, increase supplier diversity, and create a reserve fund to help the tourism industry weather economic

downturns.

"Boston and Cambridge are the first cities to create a Tourism Marketing District under this new state law," said Edwards. "I'm honored to have cosponsored its creation with Councilor Frank Baker. This tourism district will help promote our neighborhood's restaurants, museums and restaurants to visitors."

Ahead of the vote last week the new district was approved by Cambridge and only required Boston City Council approval for creation.

The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau partnered with Edwards to create the distinct and the plan sets forth the services, programs, budget, assessment structure, criteria for businesses, management, and committee for the area.

Edwards said the new district will be a crucial part of a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The tourism industry and its employees have been some of the hardest hit during this pandemic. The tourism industry disproportionately employs women and people of color at much higher rates than other industries, and is often a stepping stone for meaningful wages and union membership.

"What we're about to do which is make history again in the City of Boston," said Edwards at last week's Council hearing. Edwards Chair's the Council's Committee on Government Operations. "This tourism destination and marketing district plan and petition is something that is necessary and vital to us in the face of recovery. We need to compete with other cities.

We need to demonstrate and market our city as a beautiful place for people to come spend time, spend money and get to know this beautiful city. I am honored to represent one of the downtown neighborhoods of the North End, where on an annual basis before the pandemic we had up to 2 million people coming in that third of a square mile. So we understand that tourism is vital to our economy, but so are good neighbors (like Cambridge). Having good neighbors coming together to make sure our neighborhoods thrive, that workers have good jobs and all aspects of Boston--all of our neighborhoods--share in this wonderful recovery and all of the benefits that come from it. It is a historic day in that we have not just Boston, we have the City of Cambridge, and we have the state house, all on the

same page. It was great to see all of that happen, and the excitement behind it."

The assessed fees of members of the district is projected to create up to \$10.5 million annually.

Councilor Baker, Chair of the Committee on Arts, Culture, Tourism and Special Events said it was long past due to start spending some money on promoting the cities of Boston and Cambridge.

"It's about the time that we started celebrating what we are and how much we can do and help the industry that was absolutely killed this year," said Baker. "Last year hotels pre-pandemic were around 90% (capacity) and last year they were only around 20%. We need to promote and support this industry and I'm proud to stand here and say that we're going to do that with this petition."

Edwards will run for Senate if and when Boncore steps down

By John Lynds

During an interview Tuesday District 1 Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards made it clear she is not running against sitting State Senator Joe Boncore but will run if and when Boncore, who is in negotiations for a job with Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, officially gives up his senate seat.

On Tuesday Edwards, who was elected as the first woman of color to the District 1 Council seat in 2017, said out of respect and deference for the sitting senator who has not left office she will only officially announce when Boncore's exit becomes official.

"My life has been entirely defined by service -- from my time as a military brat as my mother served in the United States Air Force, to my work passing the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, to my time as a Boston City Councilor," she said. "My first campaign for office was in pursuit of the Massachusetts Senate seat representing the First Suffolk & Middlesex District, and now that opportunity has come full circle and presented itself again."

Edwards said after weeks of conversations with family, friends, and colleagues after news broke of a potential Boncore exit from the senate she made the decision to share her intentions publicly.

When Senator Boncore steps down, I will formally step up," she said.

Edwards said Boncore has been a steadfast partner in the senate and has served the public with

strength and a keen sense of right and wrong.

"Using his moral compass and thoughtful advocacy to stand up for the residents of this district, it would be a great honor to follow his legacy," she said. "As he explores the next chapter of his career, I am prepared to begin mine. I looked at the experience I've had as a city council and I know that it's a matter of service and I know that I could help a lot of people as a senator. That has been the driving factor in my decision making."

Edwards has emerged as a leader in the Council to protect Boston's affordable housing stock through innovative and bold policy proposals. In year one, she introduced and passed a city ordinance assisting seniors who are house-rich but cash-poor pay their back taxes to stay in their homes. She has spearheaded reforms to Inclusionary Development and Linkage and passed through the council a real estate transfer fee on the sale of properties valued over \$2 million, with all proceeds dedicated to affordable housing.

Edwards currently serves East Boston, the North End and Charlestown. The senate district would include both Eastie and the North End as well as Winthrop, Revere, the Seaport, Chinatown, Bay Village, Fenway, the South End and parts of Beacon Hill and Cambridgeport.

Edwards has also pushed to reduce airport pollution, expand water transportation, address traffic congestion, ensure community

voice in major energy projects, rebuild public housing and stop proposed highway expansion.

Edwards joins a growing field of potential candidates that includes Eastie Rep. Adrian Madaro and Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio.

Rep. Adrian Madaro has expressed his desire to run for the seat and like Edwards said he would only make a final decision and formally announce if and when Boncore decides to leave office out of respect for his Beacon Hill colleague.

"I'm grateful for Senator Boncore's friendship and service to our community at the State House," said Madaro. "With his partnership, we've secured funding for vital infrastructure and social services, and we've advanced important issues in our districts, including transportation. While I'm saddened to learn we may be losing an advocate for East Boston at the State House, I'm excited for his opportunity at MassBio. I am strongly considering running for his seat if he vacates it. However, out of respect for Senator Boncore and his family, I am waiting for his official resignation before I launch a campaign."

The 24-year-old Revere resident, D'Ambrosio, was first elected to public office in 2019 when he topped the ticket in Revere for School Committee with an impressive 5,243 votes. D'Ambrosio has already formally announced his candidacy for the senate seat at the end of July.

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BHCA (from pg. 1)

al of these permits come through the BHCA so that we can talk to the contractor if there have been any complaints from neighbors. In this case, the BHCA had not been involved in 44 Phillips Street permit application.

We contacted the company advertised on the dumpster, and asked them to remove it as soon as possible. They were unable to do anything without contacting the contractor, since the dumpster was overflowing. We tried to contact the contractor as well, but once we explained the reason for our call, we were disconnected.

Our Neighborhood Liaison from the Office of Neighborhood Services, Molly Griffin, and Kennedy Avery, from Councilor Kenzie Bok's office, were notified, as well as the Transportation and Public Works Departments. Many phone calls and many emails ensued. Finally, the dumpster was removed last Friday.

We rely on our neighbors to let us know about these types of violations and abuses of contractor parking permits. This situation

was exacerbated by others throwing their household trash into a dumpster, which should not happen. Working together as Neighbors Helping Neighbors, we all should strive to make life on Beacon Hill the best it can be! Reach out to us at the BHCA (617-227-1922) with any questions or concerns you have, and we will do our best to help you resolve them.

This year's Fall HillFest will take place on Sunday, September 12th, from 12 to 4pm, on the flat of Mt. Vernon Street! We are excited to be hosting an in-person event outdoors. Plans include the annual participation of our nonprofit members, as well as live music from local band The B-sides and Phase III, the famous dog show with Paul Odelson, architectural tours, games, and many other surprises. We are grateful once again to Harpoon Brewery for donating to this community event, and to a new sponsor, Ryze Wine. Also thanks to JP Licks and Salt Creek Catering for their participation. Make your plans to come down to Mt. Vernon Street on September



COURTESY BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Overflowing Dumpster at 44 Phillips Street.

12th and join in the family fun! If you are a Beacon Hill non-profit and would like to participate, please contact Eliza Greenberg at eliza.greenberg@bhcivic.org by August 30th to reserve your table.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings
Events Committee – Tuesday, August 31st, 6pm, location TBD
Zoning & Licensing Committee -Wednesday, September 1st, 7pm via Zoom
Please call the office (617-227-1922) for further details this meeting, and for information about joining the BHCA.

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COURTESY BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Executive Director Patricia Tully, (left) former Board Chair Steve Young, and Board member Katherine Judge enjoying Fall HillFest 2019.

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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

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MAYOR JANEY'S NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR AT ELLIOT NORTON PARK

Mayor Kim Janey's Neighborhood Coffee Hour held at Elliot Norton Park on August 11 in partnership with Dunkin' and Star Market. Attendees enjoyed Dunkin' iced coffee and Munchkins, fresh fruit from Star Market, flowers provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's greenhouses, and the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Mayor Janey and other City of Boston officials.



Kwong Kow Chinese School manager Huang Ping and vice executive director Benjamin Yu show off the flowering plant they received at Mayor Kim Janey's Neighborhood Coffee Hour .



Mayor Kim Janey, seen here greeting Jinyin Feng at Elliot Norton Park on August 11, and discuss their concerns over a wide variety of issues.



Kristin and Geoff Foley, seen here with Teddy, their 2-year-old Cavalier King Charles.



Boston Parks and Recreation Department External Affairs Director Liz Sullivan presents Dunkin' raffle winner Emma Grugan, Development Associate for the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, with a bag of goodies.



A larger crowd turned out for Mayor Kim Janey's Neighborhood Coffee Hour held at Elliot Norton Park.



Kathryn and Lulu Friedman (7) enjoy a beautiful summer morning at the Elliot Norton Park.



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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

FOOD PANTRY AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY REOPENS

The ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) has reopened its food pantry at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, with starting hours of Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m.

The organization is additionally continuing food bag deliveries to North End and West End buildings for clients who are home-

bound. Clients also may access the North End Pantry at our offices on 1 Michelangelo St.

If you or someone you know would like to make an appointment, call the office at 617-523-8125.

IMAGINE VAN GOGH COMING DEC. 21 TO SOWA POWER STATION

“Imagine Van Gogh,” more than 200 of the Dutch artist’s

paintings, is making its debut in Boston on Dec. 21 at the SoWa Power Station.

The exhibition is a contactless experience spanning over 24,000 square feet, with a limited number of guests allowed in on a timed-entry basis, and it will adhere to all safety guidelines established by the Commonwealth.

Tickets start at \$33.99 (plus service charges and fees) and are on sale now. For more information, visit www.imagine-vangogh.com.

BLACK INK (from pg. 1)

ancient Japanese art of paper folding at about the age of 6 or 7, he said, when his mother bought him his first instructional book on the subject because she thought he had good special ability.

Soon afterwards, his mother brought Skaff home another book on origami from Japan after she accompanied his father there on a business trip, and Skaff found yet another book on the subject at the long-running New England Book Fair in Newton as well.

Skaff would go on to win an oral presentation on Origami in the eighth grade, but he said he lost interest in it soon afterwards, which he attributes chiefly to the absence of clubs or other resources for the artform at that time in Sudbury, where he grew up, or at the Fessenden School in Newton, where he would go on to attend boarding school.

By the fall of 2016, Skaff’s one-time obsession with Origami had nearly faded from memory when he received, in exchange for a nominal \$1 charitable contribution, an Origami star that has ever since graced the front door of his Garden Street apartment.

Nearly three years elapsed from that time until September of 2019 when Skaff drop by Black Ink to express his gratitude to Corcoran and then learned about her ongoing Origami fundraising efforts

In 2011, Corcoran created 1,000 paper cranes for a special storefront-window display for that holiday season, and since Japan had suffered a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that November, she was eager to help out there any way she could.

Rather than simply discarding the cranes once they took down the window display, Black Ink instead devoted some shelf space to the Origami cranes and used them successfully to garner finan-

cial aid for their friends in Japan.

“We sell a lot of Japanese goods, and we’re very friendly with a lot of our vendors from Japan,” Corcoran told this reporter last year. “So we thought, ‘why not ask for a donation for a crane?’, and a dollar a piece seemed reasonable.”

The effort grew from there, and Corcoran was soon folding a variety of Origami pieces, such as hearts, stars, and butterflies, that were offered at both Black Ink’s Charles Street store and its second outpost in Harvard Square (which closed at the end of 2019) in exchange for a requested nominal charitable donation.

“We started doing it at both stores and got a great community response,” Corcoran said. “We asked people to donate money and take a folded piece of Origami with them, although many people donated without taking one.”

Corcoran selects a local non-profit as the recipient of the donations each time, and other past recipients have included Community Servings, Rosie’s Place, Food for Free, BARCC (Boston Area Rape Crisis Center) and Partners in Health, which she described as “a local yet international organization.” Or in some instances, the proceeds are used instead to aid in a national or an international crisis (e.g. some proceeds were used last summer to benefit relief efforts in Beirut, Lebanon, in the aftermath of the devastating port explosion there).

As a further testament of her devotion to these causes, Corcoran also personally matches out of her own pocket the donations she receives in exchange for the Origami pieces.

Upon learning how Corcoran’s philanthropic work, and in appreciation for her helping him rediscover the artform, Skaff contributed 15 Hideo Kamatsu Origami horses he folded to her ongoing

charitable efforts, which subsequently raised \$350 in donations for St. Francis House in the fall of 2019.

Skaff suggested St. Francis House as the fundraiser’s recipient because, he had toured the shelter’s facility at 39 Boylston St. several years earlier and saw the organization’s positive work firsthand for himself.

“There are a lot of worthy organizations locally, but I see a lot of homeless people around Beacon Hill,” he said, “and I thought St. Francis House is a good organization that makes a real effort to rehabilitate people who might be struggling with mental illness, or substance abuse, and that others might not think about, and who don’t have [support systems].”

Encouraged by the positive response to his fundraising collaboration with Black Ink, Skaff folded a number of Noboru Miyajima Origami Bats, which he donated to the shop in the fall of 2020 to raise \$794 for St. Francis House.

Like the first year, this donation came as a welcome surprise for St. Francis House, said Skaff, since neither he nor Corcoran had made them aware of the Origami fundraiser beforehand.

And although neither he, nor Corcoran, has said much to get the word out about next month’s Origami fundraiser, Skaff had already raised \$125 as of Aug. 19 for St. Francis House in donations made by two of his “loyal followers” in exchange for one of his Stephen Weber-designed Origami bulls.

While Skaff and Corcoran are hoping this year’s fundraising effort for St. Francis House will be their most successful one yet, they are already looking forward to doing it again next fall, although it’s way too early for Skaff to decide what kind of Origami creation he’ll be folding the next time around.



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BHAC (from pg. 1)

the north facade; maintaining the existing gooseneck lighting above Savenor's; and removing the green-screen system on the west facade to allow for natural ivy growth, among other suggested changes to their original plan.

As opposed to in the earlier proposal, only a few windows on the east facade of the building that have broken seals would be replaced, said Tabenken, while lighting on end of the garage would be removed at the subcommittee's request.

Blade signs for the retail spaces would measure 2-by-2 feet, said Tabenken., but their shapes could be unique to each individual storefront.

On the West facade, the fake-brick material on the headhouse would be replaced with standing-seam metal, he added.

Tabenken said he would also look into accommodating Charles River Square resident Diane Coldren's request that the chicken-wire be maintained in the windows overlooking Annie Fields Garden.

Likewise, Commissioner Martha McNamara, who served on the subcommittee alongside Commissioners Alice Richmond and Wen Wen, encouraged Tabenken to preserve the "industrial aesthetic" of the building that was built around 1919 or 1920 and originally served as an automobile showroom before the garage was added and later, retail on the ground floor.

Reiterating earlier suggestions from the subcommittee, Commissioner McNamara requested that the concrete at the passageway match the material at the vehicular entrance as closely as possible, except for having brick on both sides to "define the pedestrian area."

Commissioner McNamara also requested that a cast-iron sprinkling system be preserved, since like the Boston Edison lamp, "it's a piece of the industrial history of the building."

Commissioner Richmond commended Related Beal for taking the

subcommittee's feedback to heart and said she was "impressed with their successful effort to accommodate a lot of people with a lot of different expectations."

The commission unanimously approved the application, with the proviso that the applicant submit their restoration plan for the project to staff.

In another matter, the commission approved an application for 62-66 Charles St. to install temporary and removable "window-cling" signage based on images from Robert McCloskey's children's book "Make Way for Ducklings" that would wrap around three sides of the building, including River Street.

The applicant, Bill Beckeman, who recently purchased the building is now seeking to fill a vacant retail space formerly occupied by Peet's Coffee, said he has already secured the rights from the counsel for McCloskey's estate to produce the proposed signage for a "small fee."

Beckeman also said he hopes the signage would only be in place for a short while until he is able to find a suitable tenant.

The commission unanimously approved the application as submitted, with the proviso that the applicant return to request an extension in six months if he hasn't filled the vacant retail space by that time.

In another matter, the commission approved an application for Tremont Street adjacent to the Granary Burying Ground to install a new cell phone antenna on an existing pole, with the proviso that an alternate pole used in the city's other historic districts is chosen instead; that it be painted black; and that the final design be remanded to staff.

In another matter, an applicant at 45 Mount Vernon St. returned to the commission and received unanimous approval to build a roofdeck set back 1 foot from what was originally proposed; this modified roofdeck plan was previously recommended by the commission at its June 21 hearing.

The commission voted to continue an application for 6 Otis Place to remove and reset the existing upper deck and fourth-floor front deck in-kind, and to refurbish the iron rail in the process, while making no revisions to the existing footprint or configuration of the deck.

At their fifth appearance before the commission on the application, The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. received approved to remove three existing exterior building mounted lights at the east alleyway and replacement them with new LED lighting mounted to the building and low to the ground, with provisos that two of the additional proposed LED lights be removed, and that added light fixtures be remanded to staff.

Speaking on behalf of The Vilna Shul, Lynne Spencer said the modified design wasn't their original design but instead "one that came about as a result of a rigorous compromise process" with abutters who had been adversely impacted by three lighting fixtures mounted to the wall about 10 feet off the ground in the east alleyway.

The commission also approved an application for 2 Phillips St., Apt. 1, to replace one of the existing wood aluminum clad double-hung basement windows with a wood aluminum-clad casement window of the same overall size for egress at the garden level, with the provisos that the replacement window frames be made of wood; that the casement be crafted to resemble a double-hung window; that the sides of the window openings be filled in; that the replacement window be one-over-one; and that drawing be remanded to staff.

Likewise, the commission approved as presented an application for 42 Irving St., to as part of an ongoing renovation, install a new wood door at the basement level, and to replace the existing roof in asphalt shingles in kind, while slate would be used on the existing dormer. The motion passed unanimously, with a "friendly amendment" from

Councilor McNamara that door hardware cutsheets or descriptions of them be remanded to staff, and that the door be made of wood and painted black.

On an application for 107-109 Chestnut St. to install five chimney pots to replace broken and cracked pots on the chimney base, the commission unanimously approved it, with provisos that the two west chimney pots be replace in kind; that the metal flue in the center be replaced in kind; that the two east chimney pots be replaced in kind; and that the missing one be crafted to match the ones on the eastern side.

The applicant said the replacement pots come in terra cotta, but she would find out if they could be made in gray to match the Spanish-revival-style building and report back to staff with the answer.

The commission also approved as submitted an application for 150 Mount Vernon St. to move the mail slot from the smaller door to the larger door at that location to mirror the previous condition next door at 148 Mount Vernon St., before the original door was replaced with a stock one there several years ago. At the request of the commission, the applicant also provided photographic evidence showing the previous configuration of the door hardware at 148 Mount Vernon St.

The commission's majority approval for this application came with a "friendly amendment" from Councilor McNamara that the applicant revise the old drawing to show the position of the mail slot, as well as of the door knocker, and submit it to staff.

The commission unanimously passed an application for 68 Chestnut St. to replace two garden-level casement windows, with provisos that the window on the left when facing the building be restored, and that the one on the right side be replaced as presented.

Additionally, the commission unanimously approved an application for 87 Pinckney St. to install a wrought-iron handrail that would



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Charles Street Garage at 144 Charles St.

be painted black on one side of the stairs.

The commission also unanimously approved an application for PJ Trains, a new personal fitness studio located at 112 Revere St., to install a blade sign outside the building's common lobby at 124 Charles St., with provisos that the sign be made of wood; and that it be installed using a wrought-iron bracket drilled into the mortar, as opposed to into the brick,

Staff member, Nick Armata, also said he would check with planners at City Hall to determine whether the sign is in violation of city guidelines limiting blade signage on buildings in the historic district, and if that proves to be the case, he would work with the applicant to resolve the matter.

Both a scheduled application for proposed store signage for Cobblestones – a new quick-service restaurant in the former Café Bella Vita space at 30 Charles St.- and a scheduled application for new store signage for J. Grady Home, a full-service interior design firm and studio at 133 Charles St., appeared on the agenda, but ultimately weren't heard by the commission, because in both instances, the applicants didn't appear at their allotted times.

An application for 39-41 Mt. Vernon St. to add six security gates to the lower-level windows to match the existing windows with security gates was also removed from the agenda by the applicant.

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Janey announces winners of Mayor's Garden Contest

Mayor Kim Janey today announced the winners of the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest with a grand prize provided by JetBlue and prize packages donated by Mahoney's Garden Centers. The Mayor's Garden Contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods.

"I am proud to carry on Boston's tradition of commemorating those who help keep our neighborhoods vibrant and inviting," said Mayor Kim Janey. "I first learned the joys of gardening from my grandmother and have continued in my own community. This contest is a great way to affirm our city's dedication to beautifying urban spaces, and plant a seed of interest in the next generation of gardeners."

First place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel" award

from Mayor Janey while second and third place winners were awarded certificates. First place winners were entered into a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston and also received a pair of tickets to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Gift certificates were provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers to the top three winners in each category as well as the 2021 Hall of Fame winners.

This year's winners:

Shade Garden

First Place: Sally Reyring - Beacon Hill

Second Place: Errol and Jan Uys - Dorchester

Third Place: Christa Comeau - Back Bay

Vegetable or Herb Garden

First Place: Sunny Ha - Brighton

Second Place: Pasqualino Cerro - Hyde Park

Third Place: Amina Shabani - Brighton

Medium Yard Garden

First Place: Jessica von Ammon - Roxbury

Second Place: Linda Sklar - Jamaica Plain

Third Place: Carey Moffitt-Jenkins and John Jenkins - Allston

Small Yard Garden

First Place: Julia Fairclough - Roslindale

Second Place: Doug Gifford - South End

Third Place: Jill Christians - South End

Large Yard Garden

First Place: Stephen Smith and Richard Allsbrook - Roslindale

Second Place: Amy Galblum - Roslindale

Third Place: Michael Bresinski - West Roxbury

Storefront, Organization, or Main Street District Garden

First Place: Carroll Thomas

Funeral Home - Hyde Park

Second Place: Friends of Christopher Columbus Park - North End

Third Place: Fairmount Hill Neighborhood Association - Hyde Park

Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden

First Place: Alex and Stephanie Tsalagas - South End

Second Place: Cindy Joyce - Back Bay

Third Place: Bev Christians and Chris Hartmann - South End

Community Garden

First Place: Craig and Kimberly McNulty - Fenway-Kenmore

Second Place: John Ruiz - Fenway-Kenmore

Third Place: Dionna Di Pierro and Steven Davy - Fenway-Ken-

more

Age Strong Garden Category

First Place: Janice Dunlevy - Dorchester

Second Place: Maria Termini - Roslindale

Third Place: Arlene Simon - Dorchester

Gardeners who have won three or more times are automatically entered into the Hall of Fame and will be recognized at the awards ceremony. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers will be ineligible to enter as contestants but are welcome to return as judges. The 2021 Hall of Fame inductees are James Anderson, John Govoni and Dorothy Giarla, Miguel Rosales, and Julie Murphy.

Hill appointed to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Governor Charlie Baker, Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg and Attorney General Maura Healey announced the appointment of Representative Bradford R. Hill to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). The Gaming Commission among other duties oversees gaming operations at the casinos including the Encore in Everett.

Per statute, two commissioners are appointed by a majority vote of the Governor, Attorney General and Treasurer. Representative Hill will fill the experience in gaming regulation and administration or gaming industry management seat. The Commission is bipartisan, with no more than three members representing the same political party. Representative Hill will fulfill the balance of a term that ends in 2025.

"Brad Hill has been a dedicated public servant for over two decades and has years of experience working with the Massachusetts gaming community," said Governor Charlie Baker. "I am confident that he will be well-suited to serve in this new role during a transformative time in the Commonwealth's gaming industry and am pleased to make this appointment."

"In his decades of experience advocating for the residents of the Commonwealth and their needs, Brad Hill has a proven record of leadership on gaming policy," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "His demonstrated passion for the gaming industry, and his commitment to public service, will benefit the Commission and its work."

"Brad Hill has spent his career advocating for our state and its residents," said Attorney General Healey. "His knowledge of the gaming industry will be a great asset to the Commission during this critical time."

"Representative Hill's many years of business experience and public service, along with his commitment to serving our state, will positively impact the Gaming Commission and people of the Commonwealth," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "We look forward to working with him in this new capacity and know that he will ensure fairness and equity as the industry continues to evolve."

"It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve the people of Massachusetts and the 4th Essex District for nearly 25 years," said Representative Brad Hill. "I am deeply grateful to the Governor, Treasurer and Attorney General for this incredible opportunity to continue supporting the Commonwealth, and am eager to begin this new chapter working alongside

my Commissioners."

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission was created after "An Act Establishing Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth" was signed into law on November 22, 2011. The Commission is a five member independent body that is responsible for developing and managing the process to select, license, oversee, and regulate all expanded gaming facilities in the Commonwealth. The costs associated with operating the state's gaming commission is paid for by the gaming industry and not by Massachusetts tax dollars.

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Governor; one member is appointed by the Attorney General (whose appointee must have a background in criminal investigations and law enforcement); and one member is chosen by the State Treasurer (whose appointee must be proficient in corporate finance and securities). The remaining two commissioners are appointed by a majority vote of the same three constitutional officers.

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O'Neill, Andrea	Epstein, Peter J	168 Marlborough St #3	\$2,962,500
Fritsch, Jeffrey	Michelene McClennen LT	176 Marlborough St #3	\$2,450,000
Todd A Dickinson T	Smith, Jamie	11-A Melrose St #3	\$2,486,000
Lucas, Sky M	Cheng, Kwok S	362 Commonwealth Ave #LA	\$680,000
Eli, Michael	Eric B Holt T	466 Commonwealth Ave #103	\$629,000
BEACON HILL			
Lasman, Daniel E	Aurelius Management T	43 Anderson St #2	\$705,000
Kitada, Tasuku	Wollaston, Jared A	21 Beacon St #31	\$655,000
Murphy, Francis R	Gundars-Valdmanis,	29 Brimmer St #3	\$1,325,000
Remondi, Amy Lynn	Pratt, Fred N	70 Brimmer St #335	\$475,000
Salomon, Nathalie K	Upton LLC	26 Hancock St #5	\$950,000
Hosmer, Alden	Schmidt, Marybeth	51 Hancock St #9	\$387,500
Mount Vernon Prop T	TBC 222 LLC	7 Mount Vernon Pl #7	\$15,150,000
Norton, Cheryl	Gainor, Emily	58 Temple St #2	\$860,000
Aries 224 RT	Chen, Christopher T	6 Whittier Pl #10A	\$615,000
Ashraf-Janjua, Sarosh	Newberry International SLL	6 Whittier Pl #5D	\$705,394
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Samareow, Julia E	Fentin, Julie	76 Appleton St #1	\$1,222,500
Nola Anderson 1996 T	Pratt, Christine	4-1/2 Arlington St #3	\$5,650,000
Oliva, Samuel G	Sam Charles St South NT	1 Charles St S #PH2D	\$1,599,000
Pope Columbus 503 LLC	Gardiner, Joanne	219-223 Columbus Ave #503	\$1,680,000
Gomez-Palazzo, Ana Maria	Powers, Robert W	7 Follen St #4	\$1,200,000
Orzell, Scott W	Sitton, Liesl	9 Melrose St #2	\$500,000
Hellebush, Hannah	75 Montgomery LLC	75 Montgomery St #4	\$950,000
Marten, Caleb	Mann, Thomas D	82 Montgomery St #1	\$1,850,000
Pouliot, Jacqueline A	Celiberti, Chase A	216 W Canton St #4	\$860,000
HBW International LLC	Pierce Boston 23K LLC	188 Brookline Ave #23K	\$2,530,000
Burbank Ter Acquisition	Parkside Tower LLC	74 Burbank St	\$2,800,000
Burbank Ter Acquisition	Parkside Tower LLC	76 Burbank St	\$2,800,000
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110 Canal Owner LLC	TJS 1 RT	112-118 Canal St	\$24,000,000
110 Canal Owner LLC	TJS 1 RT	122-124 Canal St	\$24,000,000
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Vaughn-Meckel, Christophe	Ginsberg, Joshua W	529 Columbus Ave #12	\$825,000
Byers-Miller, Charlotte	Dileo Properties LLC	535 Columbus Ave #3	\$690,000
Klein, Keith	Klein, Keith	31 Concord Sq #4	\$475,000
Vlad, Sergiu C	Sym, Jonathan H	4 Derne St #5	\$412,500
Ahearn, Brendon S	Shevlin, Thomas J	64 E Brookline St #5&6	\$2,150,000
Malis, Steven M	Kreger, Alisa G	87 Gainsborough St #304	\$680,000
Roderick LT	VanDijk, Asheigh H	1 Pelham Ter	\$2,760,000
Gavilanes, Matthew	Hogan, Christopher M	60 Queensberry St #B	\$422,500
Miller, Yael	Ding-Kochling, Jianmei	198 Saint Botolph St #2	\$475,000
Goff, Ashleigh	Gaffey, Brian	322 Shawmut Ave #1	\$895,000
Wu, Jerry L	Moon, Daniel K	411 Shawmut Ave #7	\$987,000
Zack, Barbara	Balzano, Christian M	590 Tremont St #1	\$1,650,000
Grooms, Keenen E	Walsh, Michael J	668 Tremont St #6	\$490,000
Manning, Brian	Darman, Linda	35 Upton St #1	\$2,025,000
Nguyen, Phuong	Duggan, Laurence B	162 W Concord St #2	\$800,000
Cabral, Demarko	Liao, Eric	90 Wareham St #205	\$368,390
Monsein, Emmie	Shaw, Elizabeth	63 Worcester St #1	\$1,486,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
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Parshley, Paul	Lepore, Ralph T	3 Avery St #802	\$525,000
Re, Denise A	8 Battery St 9 RT	8 Battery St #9	\$494,000
Criscuolo, Anthony C	Gambrill, Hilary	99-105 Broad St #3B	\$665,000
Melwani-Mehra, Michelle	Uropa T	343 Commercial St #11	\$2,900,000
Jones, Charlotte	Fucini, Arianna	43 Commercial Wharf #3	\$1,179,000
Chan, Mimi	Chou, Susan	1 Johnny Ct	\$1,020,000
Huang, Chien Yu	Kimberly D Mikesh LT	88 Kingston St #6B	\$650,000
Chiang, Gar	Januskis, Vytautas P	210-216 Lincoln St #504	\$818,000
Rodriguez, Sonia C	Patel, Samir	580 Washington St #1206	\$1,260,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The balcony in the last clue is on 70-72 Mount Vernon Street which was designed by architect Richard Upjohn and built as two Italianate-style residences in 1847. Upjohn was known for his work designing Gothic Revival churches as well as for popularizing this Italianate style.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



CITY PAWS

Healthy teamwork

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Last year the American Heart Association (AHA) published “16 Science-Backed Reasons Adopting a Dog Could Be Good for Your Heart.” One of the findings was that those with dogs “... are more likely to reach their fitness goals than those without canine companions.”

We know that we found it was far too easy to put off or eliminate daily exercise in the time between dogs. Our dogs have helped keep us fit and they have improved our social connection to our community which is great for our well-being.

Make Health a Team Effort

Your dog depends on you to craft a healthy life for them. The editors of The Bark Magazine recently suggested that dog guardians create a plan for keeping those at both ends of the leash as healthy as possible. If you need the motivation to get more exercise, eat a more nutritious diet, deal better with stress, schedule routine medical checkups, and all the other self-care you need, you should do it for and with your dog.

If an increase in exercise and a diet change are part of your goals, start with checkups for both you

and your canine teammate. Not only will this give you guidance on how to proceed in light of any issues either of you may have, but it will also share your intentions with both medical teams, who can then help you monitor progress.

As with any change, take it slowly. Start with a few extra blocks before you decide to run a 5K as a team. You know when your muscles ache, and your feet are sore. As the human in the pair, you should evaluate your dog’s condition.

You also have to make decisions about protecting your dog when you are exercising in various weather conditions. This time of year, you have to test the heat of the pavement and perhaps decide to walk on a dirt or grass path to prevent paw burns. You need to bring plenty of water for both of you. In rain and cold, you may want to protect dogs with thinner coats by using a jacket or boots to protect paws from salt in a New England winter.

Emotional Well-Being

The AHA also pointed out that scientific studies found, “When we see, touch, hear or talk to our companion animals, we feel goodwill, joy, nurturing and happiness. At the same time, stress hormones are suppressed.” This finding may

explain why “Dog owners are 31% less likely to die from a heart attack or stroke than non-dog owners.”

At the same time, dogs benefit from companionship and bonding in our quieter moments together. As long as you learn the types of touch your dog enjoys and allow them to move away when they’ve had enough, it can improve your bond.

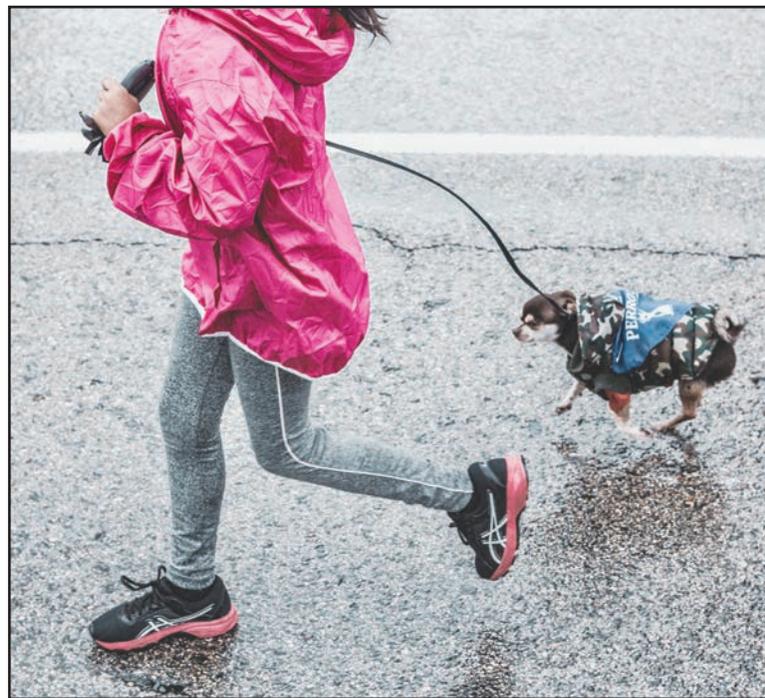
If your dog enjoys a good ear or tail scratch or a cuddle, you can substitute a dose of praise and a bit of touching for a food reward if canine weight loss is part of your team’s plan.

Building Community

The final way your dog can be a great teammate is by helping you stay connected to your community. Interacting with more people gives you more emotional support. It allows your dog to have more favorable interactions with people and dogs, which is good for preventing behavioral issues.

Think about making healthy living a team goal for you and all your family members, especially that ever so helpful dog.

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



When you have a dog, you exercise in all kinds of weather. Just be sure you are both “dressed” for the conditions. (Photo by Sergio Rodriguez)

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Councilor Bok tours The Vilna Shul

By Dan Murphy

City Councilor Kenzie Bok took a tour of The Vilna Shul on Aug. 11 to see for herself the extensive renovation completed at the Jewish cultural center on Phillips Street just before the pandemic struck.

Councilor Bok, along with her office's constituent services director, Kennedy Avery, and several summer fellows, visited The Vilna Shul - the last immigrant-era synagogue building remaining in Downtown Boston - after it received funding through the first round of grants for the city's Community Preservation Act. And since Councilor Bok was deeply involved in the passage of the CPA, she said she wanted to stop by some of the places that received funding through the program.

The Vilna Shul had completed a major renovation in February of 2020, just before COVID struck, which has transformed the downstairs into what Councilor Bok describes as an ADA-accessible "modern meeting and gathering space," while the entire building is now equipped with a climate control system, as well as a new, state-of-the-art sound system.

"In a neighborhood looking

for gathering spaces, the biggest change is the ground-floor gathering space that's ADA accessible," said Councilor Bok. "It's really exciting to have this cultural asset re-enter our community in such a dynamic way."

During her recent visit to The Vilna, Bok also met Dalit Ballen Horn, the organization's executive director since February, for the first time.

Of the visit, Horn, whom the councilor described as a "very impressive leader," said: "We started off by giving Councilor Bok and her team a tour of The Vilna, both to tell the history of the building and of the Jewish common here on Beacon Hill going back over 100 years. Jewish immigration in Boston happened here so we're not just telling the story of The Vilna Shul, but we're also telling the story of the Jewish community in Boston."

Horn said The Vilna Shul is "an organization that's Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, but also an organization that's nestled inside Beacon Hill, so it's really important that we meet our neighbors."

Additionally, Horn said, "Jewish immigration in Boston hap-

pened here on the North Slope so we're not just telling the story of The Vilna Shul, but we're also telling the story of the Jewish community in Boston."

By the end of their meeting, Horn said it was obvious to both Bok and herself this would be the continuation of a long and positive relationship between them, especially since the councilor lives on Beacon Hill and has long supported The Vilna.

"Councilor Bok was really able to appreciate the ways in which The Vilna Shul provides a gathering place for so many in community who seek to connect through arts and culture," said Horn.

But even before her latest visit, Councilor Bok had already learned about The Vilna firsthand when she wandered in there several years ago and got a tour from a docent.

"It was a such a hidden gem to learn about in the neighborhood," she said "It's such a breathtaking place...and an amazing sanctuary. I was excited about it then and I'm even more excited to visit now after the renovation."

Now, Councilor Bok is hoping to encourage people to seek out some of the extraordinary histori-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY COUNCILOR KENZIE BOK'S OFFICE

City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Dalit Ballen Horn, executive director of The Vilna Shul, inside the Jewish community center on Phillips Street.

cal resources in the neighborhood, like The Vilna Shul.

"It's so important to highlight the multiple strands of heritage we have on Beacon Hill, including the immigrant Jewish history and the African American history on the North Slope," said Councilor Bok. "As councilor, I'm hoping the city can work with The Vilna

Shul and some of the other cultural entities in the neighborhood, like the Museum of African American History, the West End Museum, and Old West Church, to really get the word out about this trove of history and culture in our midst."

To learn more about The Vilna Shul, visit www.vilnashul.org.

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