

ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION MOONDANCE



JD Patton, Esplanade Association Board, Maryann Thompson, architect of the Charles Bank Landing, Julia Shivers, and Audrey Foster, Esplanade Association Board at the Esplanade Association Moondance En Plein Air, on September 18, at the Hatch Shell. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

City Councilor Edwards officially launches campaign for State Senate

By John Lynds

On Saturday, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards officially launched her campaign for the First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senate seat recently vacated by Joe Boncore. A Special Election for the seat has been set for Tuesday, December 14.

Speaking of her successes as a district city councilor, her advocacy for her constituents and her ability to bring all people together to address the most pressing issues as qualifications for the seat Edwards began, “It has been the coalition that we’ve built that is based on working families and working people of all colors and all abilities to come together and bring a true coalition all the way to the State House.”

“My name is Lydia Edwards, and I am running officially as of right now, to be your next state senator,” she declared.

Edwards said before she was a city councilor or a human rights attorney or an activist she was a little girl her mom called ‘Liddy’ and it was her mom’s ethics and abilities that inspired her to take on a life of public service.

“I watched her,” said Edwards. “My mother worked two jobs to make sure that myself and my twin sister we’re well fed and had a roof over our head. My mother is a retired US Air Force veteran who fought for this country. She joined during Viet-

(EDWARDS Pg. 3)

Anthony D’Ambrosio announces his candidacy for State Senate

Special to the Times-Free Press

Revere School Committee member Anthony D’Ambrosio has announced his candidacy for State Senate. The following is his statement:

“My name is Anthony D’Ambrosio, and I ask for your vote in the Special Election of December 14, to represent you and the 1st Suffolk and Middlesex District in the Massachusetts State Senate.

Encompassing Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, the North End, Chinatown, and parts of Cambridge, our Senate District is one of the largest and most diverse in the Commonwealth. Whether we’ve lived here all our lives or arrived just yesterday, all 188,000 of us were drawn to the many opportunities that this District provides. For me and my family, these opportunities have included life-changing education, good jobs, and a welcoming place to call home.

I have deep roots in our community. My paternal grandparents immigrated to East Boston in 1972 and later started a successful landscaping business, Revere Gardens Company, which serviced the local area. My maternal grandparents immigrated to the US in 1968 and have lived in Winthrop. My mother, aunt and uncle are all proud Winthrop High School graduates. My father, also an immigrant to the US, attended both East Boston and Revere public schools. Today, he operates a community law office in Revere. I have

(D’AMBROSIO Pg. 2)

Architectural Commission votes to deny privacy fence on proposed Charles Street Garage roofdeck

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission voted 3-1 during its Sept. 16 hearing held via Zoom to deny an application for the Charles Street Garage at 144 Charles St. to install a privacy fence on its proposed roofdeck, as well to add a guard rail there.

Martha McNamara, commission chair, said her reason for both making the motion to deny the application and voting for that motion were clear: Beacon Hill Historic District guidelines specifically prohibit the use of opaque fencing, as was the case here. Nick

Armata, senior preservation planner for the Boston Landmarks Commission (as well as BHAC staff), agreed with this assessment.

Commissioner Alice Richmond cast the sole vote not to deny the application, since, she said, the proposed garage redevelopment was a “commercial project” on a “commercial street” (i.e. Charles Street), and because the back of the building faces Storrow Drive.

“People live in this neighborhood, and it’s not a museum,” said Richmond, who added that

(BHAC Pg. 11)

New photo narrative series focuses on how dogs have helped new owners get through the pandemic

By Dan Murphy

Dogs have brought an immeasurable amount of comfort and companionship to those who have adopted them during the pandemic, and a new series of photo essays and narratives created by the owner of a Boston-area company specializing in dog photography and visual storytelling is exploring this still-ongoing phenomenon.

Mindy Dutka, founder and chief storyteller of Dogs I Meet, like so many others, found herself without steady work after the onset of covid and wanted to find ways to keep herself busy. Searching for a new

project, she began making personal observations of people finding great solace in their newly adopted canines. She soon set to work on “Tales of Support,” a series of photo essays and accompanying narratives that, said Dutka, focus on how dogs have been supporting “their humans” during the pandemic and essentially “turned every dog into a therapy dog.”

“I felt like dogs were some of the unsung heroes of the pandemic,” said Dutka. “They played a critical role during this time, and it was their moment to shine because

(DOGS Pg. 16)



MINDY DUTKA (WWW.DOGSIMEET.COM)

Jenna Blum and Henry Higgins, her recently adopted Black Lab, on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

D’AMBROSIO (from pg. 1)

spent years in the District, living primarily in Revere but frequently visiting family in Winthrop, East Boston, and the North End. I stand on the shoulders of my grandparents and parents, who came to this country from Southern Italy with literally the clothes on their backs and have given me the privilege to run for Senate today.

As an adult, after graduating from Yale University and the University of Cambridge in England, I returned to Revere and began working as a financial analyst in the technology industry. My job gave me a front row view of the ways in which technology is rad-

ically transforming our economy. With a job at the intersection of finance and technology, I wanted to ensure that future generations of students are likewise prepared for the 21st century economy. That is why I ran for the Revere School Committee and why I am now running for Senate. I hope to give back to my community and bring a new, outsider’s perspective to the State House.

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted our community in virtually every way imaginable. It laid bare all our society’s vulnerabilities and inequities, as well as the ways in which our leaders are failing in

their obligations to Massachusetts residents. Like so many others, I watched loved ones be hospitalized with Covid-19. One of the most painful periods of my life was watching my father struggle to breathe while hospitalized despite supplemental oxygen and incredible medical care. Even with the progress Massachusetts has made in containing the virus, the fear and pain of losing loved ones or seeing them suffer has still not dissipated for my family and countless other families in our community.

As a member of the Revere School Committee, I took calls over the last eighteen months from

dozens of Revere parents who had to make the extraordinarily difficult decision to quit their jobs to provide care and educational support to their suddenly homebound children. This decision meant sacrificing half or even the entirety of their household incomes.

I similarly heard students describe falling months behind in their schoolwork because they did not have access to consistent, reliable Internet, despite living just a few miles away from some of the top research universities in the world. This inequity, among others, inspired me to lead the creation of an Equity Advisory Board in Revere that will work to eliminate educational disparities.

Additionally, I pushed for increased mental health services for children in Revere Public Schools. Through my research and conversations with city leaders across the District, I know that similar numbers of students in Winthrop, Boston, and Cam-

bridge public schools have also struggled with mental health issues over the past year.

These situations are unacceptable. We need to immediately allocate federal relief funds to help our children TODAY, not in two or three years when the damage cannot be repaired. While the old ways of Beacon Hill are still prevalent, we need new, modern ways of examining our problems and planning for the future.

We are at a pivotal moment where we can not only recover to a pre-pandemic normal, but also rebuild in a way that prepares our residents—and especially our children—for the challenges and promises of the 21st century. I am running for State Senate because I want to help ensure that the District that has given so much to me and my family can continue to do so for generations of families to come.

Join me. I again ask for your vote.”

Beacon Hill area electeds endorse David Halbert for Boston City Council At-Large position

David Halbert’s Campaign for Boston City Council At-Large this week announced that it has earned the endorsements of 8th Suffolk State Rep. Jay Livingstone and housing champion Kenzie Bok who serves as City Councilor for District 8 of Boston. Councilor Bok’s district includes Mission Hill, Fenway, Longwood, Audubon Circle, Kenmore, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and the West End, much of which is represented by Rep. Livingstone in the state legislature.


“Dave will be a fighter for environmental and housing justice, and as a BPS father he believes passionately in achieving educa-

tional excellence for all Boston’s children,” said Councilor Bok. “I am impressed by Dave’s long-term commitment to public service in a variety of roles, and his immersion in the community life of Boston’s neighborhoods, from East Boston to Dorchester to Mattapan. Dave has the right experience and commitment to serve the whole city, and I would be honored to have him as a colleague.”

Said Rep. Livingstone, “I am proud to endorse David for Boston City Councilor At-Large. From his community-specific ideas for climate resilience to his multifaceted housing justice plan, David has shown his commitment to making

this city livable for all of its residents.”

Rep. Livingstone and Councilor Bok add their names to a growing list of Massachusetts political leaders who have endorsed Halbert’s At-Large campaign, and point to potential strength for the Halbert camp in Wards 4 and 5 come the General Election. Councilor Bok is the second sitting City Councilor to endorse Halbert, following District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo. Rep. Livingstone is the latest member of Boston’s State House delegation to endorse Halbert, following State Reps. Nika Elugardo, Adrian Madaro, and Dan Ryan.

 | **Virtual Public Meeting**

MGH Clinical Building

Monday, October 4
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Project Proponent:
MGH

Project Description:
The proposed Clinical Building project includes the construction of a new building that will include approximately 1,050,450 square feet of Gross Floor Area. The Proposed Project will be located on land within the MGH Main Campus in downtown Boston bounded generally by Blossom Street to the east, Cambridge Street to the south and North Grove Street and MGH properties to the west and north. The Proposed Project will include new beds and clinical facilities, and result in approximately 94 net new beds following decommissioning of existing beds in older facilities and conversion of existing double beds into single beds. The Proposed Project will have approximately six below grade stories including approximately 977 parking spaces, as well as new bicycle storage.

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Zoom Link: bit.ly/3hpAzXa
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 907 9200

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Anthony D’Ambrosio.

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EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

nam, and left during Iraq (1991)-that was a majority of my childhood. I watched my mother put on her combat boots or put on her heels and proudly be the patriotic woman that she is. I also watched my mother come home after she retired, and try to make it and pay bills on the then minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. That's why she had two jobs and a part time job on the weekend. I had a job and my sister had a job. I know what it's like to pull together to pay for those bills and every single one of us knows someone in this district in our community who is doing the same thing right now."

While Edwards said her mom was the most influential person in her life because she taught her how to serve, it was also the area in which she grew up that taught the value of community.

"What inspired me to get into the law was the community that wrapped themselves around me--who helped my family financially and would leave money in our mailbox if we needed it anyon-

mously, and let me know to keep going and to keep dreaming," she said.

Edwards became a legal services attorney after graduating law school and it was then she began to roll up her sleeves and fight for social justices and equity.

"It is something to sit there and represent and fight for somebody who has nothing, who may not know their own value and have been treated with total disrespect," she said. "That is the fighter you have in me. That is why I got into politics. I was actually fighting for domestic workers, fighting for those women who had no rights, and changing the law in that process. What I want to do is serve. I see this job as a matter of service at a different level and I know the voters will choose the level of service I'm supposed to do for this community. I love this district. I know what it's like to rent and not have the money. I also know what it's like to be a landlord. It's that perspective and that pathway that allows me to represent this district

the best. We built coalitions with people who were technically supposed to be on the opposite sides (of an issue) and have them come together to create beautiful things, beautiful laws and make them all feel valued when they leave my office."

Edwards said advocacy has defined her tenure as a Boston City Councillor.

"It is who I am," she said. "Advocacy has been necessary to make sure that we as a community are still a neighborhood. You want to know what I'm gonna do as your Senator, look at what I've done so far. We need to make sure that we have a senator who is unafraid. Matter of fact, we need a Senator who is fearless. I am those things. Most importantly, you're not interested in someone who could come up with academic ideas and a bunch of wonderful things to talk about, you want someone who can bring it home and get things done and I can do that and I have done that."



Boston City Councillor Kenzie Bok, at left, and Mount Vernon Street resident John Besser flank state senate candidate Lydia Edwards at a garden party last week hosted by Karen and Dan Taylor of Lindall Court. Since 2017, Edwards has served on the Boston City Council representing District 1, which comprises Charlestown, East Boston and the North End/Waterfront. She decided to run for the state senate representing the 1st Suffolk and Middlesex District when the previous senator, Joe Boncore, resigned to take a job in the private sector.

The special primary election is scheduled for December 14 with the general election taking place on January 11, 2022. The 1st Suffolk and Middlesex District includes the cities of Revere and Winthrop, Cambridgeport in Cambridge, and the Boston neighborhoods of Chinatown, East Boston, the North End, Beacon Hill, Bay Village and small portions of the South End and the Back Bay.

Beacon Hill went with Wu and Campbell during last week's Preliminary Election

By John Lynds

While Boston voters as a whole picked Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George to advance to the November General Election for Boston Mayor, Beacon Hill voters supported Wu and Andrea Campbell for Mayor.

Voters narrowed the field of Boston Mayoral candidates down to two and the field of At-Large City Council Candidates down to eight was last Tuesday.

In Beacon Hill Wu received 680 votes followed by Campbell who ended election night in Beacon Hill with 399.

The top two vote getters in Beacon Hill were followed by Essaibi George who received 244 Beacon Hill votes.

Acting Kim Janey was next and finished fourth among Beacon Hill voters with 119 votes. John Barros rounded out the field with only 52 Beacon Hill votes.

A breakdown of the election in Beacon Hill shows that Wu was very popular among voters across Ward 5, Precincts 3 through 6. Wu outpaced the other candidates in all Beacon Hill Precincts.

However, while Essaibi George

was able to finish second citywide during the Preliminary it was Campbell that Beacon Hill voters wished made it into the final.

Wu only bested Campbell by 281 votes in Beacon Hill's three precincts and outpaced Essaibi George here by 155 votes.

In the At-Large race newcomer Ruthzee Louijeun topped the ticket in Beacon Hill with 534 votes.

Incumbent At-Large City Councillor Michael Flaherty, Flaherty, who has always enjoyed good support from Beacon Hill voters, came in second here with 531 votes fol-

lowed by incumbent At-Large City Councillor Julia Mejia who received 478 votes here.

Jon Spillane, who did not make it into the final eight and was unable to advance to the General Election, was fourth among Beacon Hill voters in the At-Large race and ended the night with 372 votes.

Citywide Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia, Ruthzee Louijeun, Erin Murphy, Carla Monteiro, Dave Halbert, Althea Garrison, and Bridget Nee-Walsh all advanced to the November election.

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EDITORIAL

HEY YOU -- TAKE A HIKE!

For many New Englanders, fall is their favorite season. The warm days and crisp evenings serve as the perfect midpoint between the heat and humidity of summer and the chill of winter.

When you add in the spectacular colors of the foliage throughout our region, it is no wonder that the anticipation of autumn makes us feel alive and eager to enjoy the outdoors.

We've always found that this is the best time of year to take a daytime hike in the mountains in our region, whether it be in the Berkshires or in Vermont and New Hampshire. There is something about being in the outdoors, under a canopy of brightly-colored trees with the sound of a running stream, that soothes us both physically and spiritually in a way that is altogether lacking amidst the constant noise and congestion of our lives in the city.

So we urge all of our readers to make the time for themselves and their families to travel west or north over these next few weeks and go for a hike in the mountains.

A hike, particularly during this time of COVID-19, will be a reminder that the best things in life are free.

A SAD -- BUT PREDICTABLE -- OUTCOME

Amidst all of the big news stories during these past two weeks, perhaps the one that has grabbed the most attention from Americans of all ages involved the mysterious disappearance of 22 year-old Gabrielle Petito, the young woman who had been on a cross-country trek in a van with her 23 year-old fiancé, Brian Laundrie.

When Laundrie returned home in early September without Petito, and with no explanation as to where she might be, it was obvious that Ms. Petito -- whose body was found this past Sunday in a camping area in Wyoming -- had become yet another tragic victim of domestic violence in this country.

Despite all of the strides we have made to combat domestic violence since the 1980s, the fact remains that a woman in this country is in more danger from an intimate partner than from any other source. Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the United States.

The cold, hard statistics paint a grim picture:

-- 1 in 4 women have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

-- 1 in 7 women have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

-- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

-- Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.

That last statistic fits the profile of the relationship between Ms. Petito and Mr. Laundrie.

As this is being written, the authorities are searching for Mr. Laundrie, who disappeared early last week, according to his family.

The tragic death of Gabrielle Petito is yet another sad reminder of the pervasiveness of domestic violence in this country, a problem for which there appears to be no end in sight in our society.

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GUEST OP-ED

Focus on what you do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

If you want a friend be a friend. There is never a guarantee. However, if you do not put anything into a friendship it's certain the friendship will never grow.

Keep in mind that friendships take time. The Bible says a man of too many friends will soon come to ruin," Proverbs 18:24. Why is this? Because too much time maintaining too many friends doesn't allow you the time you need to work your job, spend time with your family, do your school work, life work and take care of your business. If a person has ten or twenty friends to spend time with every week or even month, they will eventually neglect their family or careers.

The key is balance. Invest in people with your time and life and some of it will come back to you from others. Sometimes it won't this is why you have to be realistic in building your network of friends and relationships.

Many years ago, a prospective student called about enrolling in our school and asked, "If I enroll

in this school will I get anything out of it?" I said, "If you don't put anything into it, you won't get anything out of it. If you put a lot into it, then you'll get a lot out of it." The man enrolled and went on to become a President of a college.

Growing up I remember my relatives being hard workers. Some of them raised amazing gardens, while keeping their property clean and maintained. It took work but they took pride in their homes and how they lived their lives. They put a lot into where they lived and it showed.

If you put a lot into something it shows. Your marriage, job, children, career and your life in general. School work will reflect your effort. If you put money into an Individual Retirement Account or 401k or 403b every month your wealth will eventually grow and reflect your efforts. Social Security income checks reflect years worked and how much paid into the system.

However, anyone can put a lot into something without experiencing success. Businesses, marriages and careers have come short or

even failed even though people invested everything. Often there are other factors beyond our control that all the work and focus will not resolve or overcome. You can't control what other people may or may not do that impacts your life's work and ambitions.

With this said, we have to remember the principle of reaping and sowing. If you want a good garden. You have to sow and care for the garden. Neglecting the garden is a sure path to failure.

Important aspects to relationships, wealth, health, career success and more are focus and investing wisely. The more you sow, the more you will reap. You can't control all of life's circumstances and influencers but you can control what you do.

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

Water-main break floods neighborhood streets

By Times staff

A massive break in a Boston Water & Sewer Commission water-main early Tuesday morning sent rivers of water cascading down Myrtle and Hancock streets onto Cambridge Street.

According to published reports, a contractor working for BWSC, identified as D'Allessandro Corp., was replacing a water main at Myrtle and Hancock streets at around 12:30 a.m. on Sept. 21, when they broke a gate valve, which they believed had been shut off.

This caused a large sinkhole at Hancock and Cambridge streets, which was later repaired, and

water also reportedly flooded some homes and businesses, but, according to Boston Fire, there were no evacuations or injuries.

In a Sept. 21 statement, Jon D'Allessandro, president of D'Allessandro Corporation, said his workers had working on replacing old drains, as well as water and sewer pipes, at the intersection of Myrtle, Derne and Hancock streets for the past two months.

"Our contract with the City of Boston specifies that any water main over 12 inches in diameter must be shut down by The Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC). Our work was on a 12-inch water main adjacent to the 30" water main," said D'Allessandro.

"In an email to BWSC dated June 11th, we requested that the 30-inch water main be shut down and remain closed for the duration of our work out of concern for the safety of local residents and our crews. Three days before we began our work in this area, we again notified BWSC and sent notifications to the Boston Fire Department and residents.

"We followed all contractual and safety procedures and an inspector from Boston Water and Sewer was onsite monitoring the project when the 30-inch water main's valve gave way early this morning," according to D'Allessandro's statement.

BEACON HILL BEAT

Larceny

9/12/21 - Police responded to Phillips Street for a reported larceny. The victim stated he had some items stolen from the roofdeck of his building, including a laptop, a grill, an umbrella, and multiple chairs. The victim did inform officers that he has seen strangers on the roofdeck at times. Area A-1

detectives were further investigating this matter.

Assault and Battery

9/17/21 - Officers responded to Anderson Park in Beacon Hill for a fight. When the police arrived on scene, they spoke with the victim who stated a known homeless woman punched her in the stom-

ach and spit in her face. The victim stated that her phone fell to the ground during the assault and that a witness informed her that the suspect threw it down into the sewer. Officers searched the area for the suspect to no avail. Area A-1 detectives were further investigating this matter.

Beacon Hill, surrounding neighborhoods COVID cases spike nearly 50 percent

By John Lynds

Last week, citywide the COVID positive test rate neared the 5 percent threshold the CDC and city used during the height of the pandemic last year to begin reconsidering the phased reopening of certain businesses, public spaces and events.

Aside from a citywide mask mandate there has been no cut-back on indoor occupancy, in-person learning or other measures to protect against the ragging Delta variant that has caused numerous breakthrough infections for vaccinated people as well as hospitalizing the unvaccinated. In schools across Boston hundreds of students under the age of 12 are unvaccinated and it seems the virus is taking a foothold once again.

While Beacon Hill and the surrounding neighborhood's positive test rate declined 7 percent

between September 6 and September 13 the neighborhood experienced a huge spike last week

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,545 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.8 percent were positive. This was a 46 percent increase from the 2.6 percent of residents that tested positive between September 6 and September 13.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased nearly 14 percent last week. According to the BPHC 24,016 residents were tested and 4.1 percent were COVID positive--this was a 13.9 percent increase from the 3.6 percent reported by the BPHC on Sept. 13.

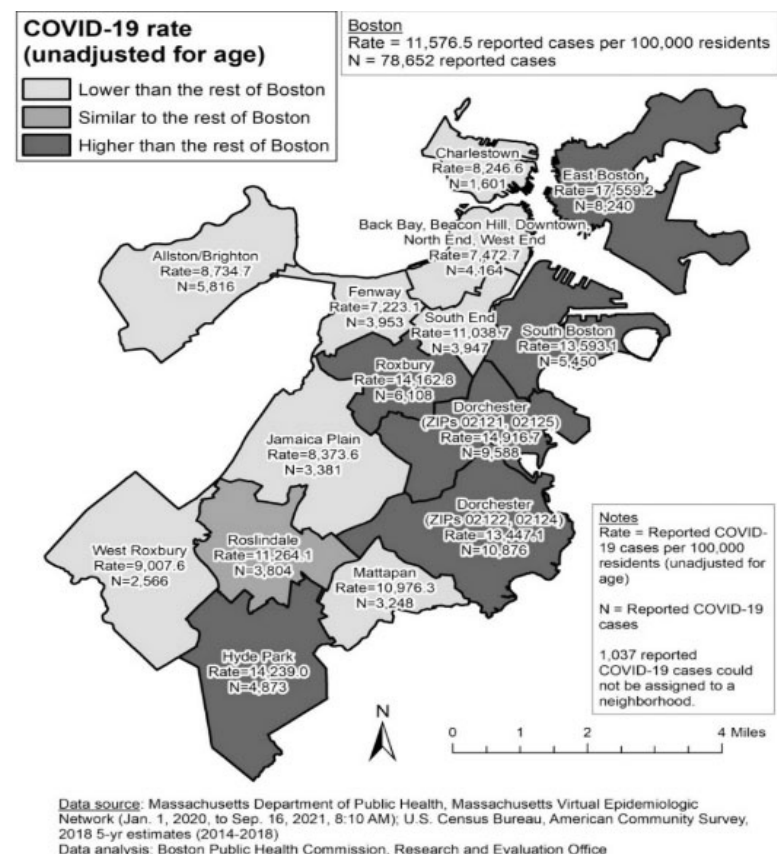
The BPHC data released Monday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate

of 747.2 cases per 10,000 residents--a 2.8 percent increase from the 726.8 cases per 10,000 residents reported on September 13.

In all 114 additional residents have been infected with the virus between September 13 and September 20 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,164 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 2.2 percent since Sept. 13 and went from 77,549 cases to 79,393 confirmed cases in a week. There were six additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,418.



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

Baker-Polito administration announces \$15M in support for the Food Security Infrastructure Grant

Building on investments to address food insecurity among Massachusetts residents, the Baker-Polito Administration last week announced it has made available \$15 million in funding through a second round of its Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program. The funding will enable the Administration to continue to implement the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force, which was convened last year by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center in response to increased demands for food assistance.

"Addressing food security issues remains a high priority of our Administration to help ensure all residents have fresh, healthy produce readily available to them," said Governor Charlie Baker. "By working with dedicated partners, we will continue to strengthen the food distribution supply chain and address more needs throughout the Commonwealth."

"This round of grants from the Food Security Grant program will further expand on our efforts to provide greater access to locally harvested and produced food products," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "With higher numbers of people experiencing

food insecurity, we continue to take significant strides in ensuring fresh, locally sourced food remains widely available to the residents of Massachusetts."

The Administration opened the funding opportunity on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 and is currently accepting applications for funding. In this round, the program is focused on addressing access to fresh food by improving and strengthening the resiliency of the Commonwealth's food system and expanding the distribution of locally grown and sourced products to vulnerable communities. The Request for Responses for project proposals is available here, and is open until October 31, 2021.

The Administration launched the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program last year as part of a \$56 million investment to combat food insecurity for Massachusetts families and individuals. In addition to expanding access to healthy local food, the program seeks to ensure farmers, fishermen and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply disruption. Last year's program dedicated

over \$35.5 million to hundreds of projects to address food insecurity across the Commonwealth.

"The Baker-Polito Administration continues to dedicate critical resources to address food insecurity and ensure that residents across the Commonwealth are able to access fresh, local food," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides. "Building on recent investments with this additional funding will further strengthen the Commonwealth's food distribution network, invest in local farms and fishermen and women to areas of food insecurity and build a more resilient food system."

"The Baker-Polito Administration has been addressing increased food insecurity for families as a result of the public health emergency, building on and strengthening the infrastructure in place, and leveraging existing nutrition resources like SNAP and WIC," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. "The \$15 million in additional funds will further strengthen the food system in Massachusetts, increasing access to local, healthy food, particularly among communities hardest-hit by the COVID-

19 pandemic."

Eligible grantees include entities that are part of the Massachusetts local food system, including production, processing and distribution, the emergency food distribution network, community and food organizations, school meal programming, urban farms and community gardens, non-profits, and other organizations involved in ensuring that everyone in the Commonwealth has access to fresh, healthy foods. Applications for the second round of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program are due Sunday, October 31, 2021.

Eligible proposals include, but are not limited to, projects seeking to:

- Increase the resiliency of the overall food system in the Commonwealth;
- Increase capacity for food storage;
- Increase capacity of local food distribution partners;
- Increase capacity of the emergency food network;
- Increase capacity of food production by purchasing food processing equipment; and,
- Offer innovative solutions for urban farming.

Eligible grantees include entities that are part of the Massachusetts local food system including production, processing and distribution, the emergency food distribution network, Buy Local, community and food organizations, school meal programming, urban farms and community gardens, non-profits, and organizations that provide business planning, technical assistance and information technology services.

The first round of the Food Insecurity Infrastructure Grant Program was announced in May 2020 as part of a \$56 million investment by the Baker-Polito Administration to combat urgent food insecurity for some Massachusetts families and individuals as a result of COVID-19. The Administration also announced a \$5 million increase for the Healthy Incentives Program to meet increased demand for local produce and to increase access points that process SNAP and HIP benefits, \$12 million for the provision of 25,000 family food boxes per week through a regional food supply system, and \$3 million in funding as an immediate relief valve to food banks.

Sen. Collins endorses Erin Murphy in latest sign of momentum

Democratic State Senator Nick Collins -- who represents the First Suffolk Senate district -- endorsed At-Large City Councilor candidate Erin Murphy.

"I represent great neighborhoods in Boston- South Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park- and Erin has spoken to the needs of all of them," Collins said. "She has worked incredibly hard throughout this election, she shows up, and I have no doubt that's what she will do as an At-Large City Councilor."

Senator Collins's endorsement comes as Erin has continued to

build support, also announcing on Sunday endorsements from the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222, and the Boston Police Superior Officers Federation.

Erin is, through the random selection lottery, #14 on the ballot on Tuesday, a lucky number on this September 14th Election Day. Erin has been in every neighborhood in the city talking and, more importantly, listening to residents who want a better, safer, more welcoming city.

"I'm so grateful for Senator

Collins's endorsement and look forward to partnering with he and his colleagues in the Boston Delegation in the Massachusetts Legislature to work collaboratively on the issues affecting the residents of Boston."

Erin's campaign has been gathering steam all year, with a string of high-profile endorsements and a surge in grassroots support and volunteerism across the city. Erin has also been endorsed by, among others, State Representatives Dan Hunt, Ed Coppinger, and Dan Ryan, City Councilor Frank Baker and former City Councilor

Sal LaMattina, Register of Deeds Stephen J. Murphy, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Boston Firefighters Local 718, Laborers Local 223, the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, and Boston EMS.

A lifelong Dorchester resident, 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:

-Thriving, 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.

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Essaibi George endorsed by Sprinkler Fitters Local 550

Following a preliminary win that will advance her to the November 2nd Mayoral Election, At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George was today endorsed by Sprinkler Fitters Local 550. The union represents approximately 800 skilled members in the Greater Boston area.

"Annissa Essaibi George has shown up and stood up for Boston's hardworking families and residents time and time again—not just during campaign season. Now we're proud to support her in her candidacy for Mayor of Boston," said Peter Gibbons, Business Manager of Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 550. "Annissa shares our belief that to build a strong middle class we must invest in apprenticeship programs and bolster our local workforce. We know she'll prioritize all of us as our next Mayor of Boston."

"I want to thank Sprinkler Fitters Local 550 for their support in this race. This campaign is about

building coalitions across our neighborhoods, industries and workforce. Unions like Local 550 and their members play a critical role in that work and will always have a seat at the table under an Essaibi George Administration," said Councilor Essaibi George.

Essaibi George's economic justice and workers' rights policy plan includes the creation of the first-ever City of Boston Department of Economic Justice and Workers' Rights, headed by a cabinet-level chief who will report directly to the Mayor and have a seat at the policymaking table to assess the potential impact proposed policies and initiatives may have on Boston's working families.

Additionally, Essaibi George has been a strong advocate for improvements to Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and vocational programs in the Boston Public Schools to provide students with career readiness after graduation.



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Boston Antiques and Lampshades adopts new name to reflect expanded inventory

By Dan Murphy

Formerly Boston Antiques, the recently christened Boston Antiques and Lampshades at 119 Charles St. has a new name to reflect its newly expanded inventory.

Four years ago, owner Brian Maglione joined then-proprietor Louis Desautels as co-owner of the business. Desautels opened on Charles Street 38 years ago, and four months ago, Maglione became sole owner of the long-standing shop.

When he bought out Desautels, Maglione decided to rebrand the business and move beyond the shop's regular inventory of antiques, silverware, and jewelry to also sell lighting and lamp shades.

"I'm bringing in contemporary and vintage lighting, and will carry

ready-made lampshades, and offer custom lampshade services," said Maglione, adding they would also offer custom trim for lampshade and custom-made lamp finials.

Prior to coming to Boston Antiques and Lampshades, Maglione was already a veteran of Charles Street's "Antique Row" after first coming to work for Regency Antiques in 1988. Here, he sold the lampshades and lighting they carried and became well acquainted with these product lines, so selling such items today seemed like a natural progression for him (as well as an idea that had been percolating in his head for more than a year).

While Maglione had hoped the shop would be fully stocked with the lampshades and lighting by the time he took over as sole proprietor of the business, prod-

uct orders placed months ago are only now arriving due to the postal backlog amid the pandemic. And although the lampshade and lighting products he sells are domestically made, fabrics for lampshades often come from China, and those materials have also been slow to ship to the U.S. since covid struck.

All of this has made taking inventory significantly more difficult for Maglione, as a task that, he said, should have taken him five weeks has turned into a four-month endeavor.

But Maglione believes it's all been worth the wait, and that customers will agree when they see what Boston Antiques and Lampshades now has to offer.

For more information, call 617-367-9000, visit www.bostonartsandantiques.com, or email bostonantiques@yahoo.com.



Brian Maglione, owner of Boston Antiques and Lampshades (formerly Boston Antiques) at 119 Charles St.

The Lyric Stage Company opens season with 'Be Here Now'

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston is thrilled to open the 47th season with the quirky romantic comedy "Be Here Now" by Deborah Zoe Laufer. Performances begin Friday, September 24 and run through Sunday, October 17.

Samantha Richert (Bari) leads the cast which also includes Barlow Adamson (Mike Cooper). Making their Lyric stage debuts are Shani Farrell (Patty Cooper) and Katherine Shaver (Luanne Cooper).

Scenic Design is by Janie Howland, Costume Design by Rachel Padula-Shufelt, Lighting Design by Karen Perlow, and Sound Design by Dewey Dellay.

A quirky romantic comedy about a professor of nihilism who experiences joy for the first time, Be Here Now centers around Bari, a misanthrope who has returned to her hometown of East Cooperville, NY as she struggles to finish her thesis. Working at a local fulfillment center, her despair has reached new heights. When Bari begins experiencing emotions she never has felt before, she begins to have a different outlook on life. And when she

discovers that the cause of these feelings may be killing her, Bari is forced to ask if she wants to go back to a life of nothing.

Says Lyric Stage Artistic Director and director of this production, Courtney O'Connor, "In Bari, we see a woman experiencing joy and connection with others for the first time in her life, forcing her to question who she is now, what she is willing to do to hold onto her newfound joy, and whether or not she's willing to change. Over this past year and a half, many of us have had to ask ourselves the same questions. And like Bari and those in her world, the answers may surprise all of us."

Lyric Stage launches "Lyric for All", Affordable Price Options.

In an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston, Lyric Stage offers multiple options including \$30 Under 35, advanced Student Tickets, Senior Tickets, and partnerships with MassWIC and EBT Cardholders that allows audiences to visit us as often as they like. More information at: <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all/Covid-19-Policies-and-FAQ>

Our Covid-19 protocols are guided by CDC guidelines and requirements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston. We realize this is a dynamic and evolving time and ticket buyers will be notified at least 48 hours of what to expect upon their visit. Please visit <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/subscriptions/47th-season-faq/> which will be updated regularly with the most current information.

History of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston. Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, the Lyric Stage Company is Boston's oldest resident theatre company. Its mission is to produce and present live theatre in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection.

The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

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ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION MOONDANCE

By Marianne Salza

The Esplanade Association (EA), dedicated to the revitalization and enhancement of the Esplanade, presented, Moondance En Plein Air, on September 18, at the Hatch Shell. Although last year’s fall gala was cancelled due to the pandemic, guests shaded with parasols were delighted to mingle during the elegant affair. The lawn party included dinner, music, cocktails and lawn games such as cornhole toss, croquet, and a mini golf course with a Hatch Shell obstacle.

“This is our 20th anniversary as an organization,” said Jim Diverio, Director of Development. “The open air approach this year lets us gather in a safe and fun atmosphere for this annual fundraising event, enjoy the beauty of the Esplanade, and celebrate the community of supporters so critical to our efforts. We expect to raise over \$900,000 in support of the Esplanade Association with this event.”



Alexi Conine enjoying laughs with her friends during cocktail hour



Polly Litts, Lauren Miskiewicz, Bella Cinseruli, and Casey Seidner.



Chris Colbert, Kate Gilbert, and Michael Nichols, EA Executive Director.



Paul Odelson and Amy Sullivan.



Shilpa Desai, Carolyn Wintner, Camille DeLaite, and Maggie Sahlman.

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ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION MOONDANCE



EA Board Members, Jim Foster, Tony Pangaro, and Audrey Foster, with State Representative Jay Livingstone



Lauren and Doug Ziewacz, and Colleen and Peter Fiumara.



Jessica Fisher, Dr. Mei Mei Chow, Becky Kidder, Jill Shah, and Alex Patel.

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*— Ali, Owner of Sloane Merrill Gallery
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BHWF – HOW TO FIND YOUR CALLING

By Ariana Hanley

Members of the Beacon Hill Women's Forum (BHWF) gathered at The Hampshire House on Tuesday, September 14, for the first forum of the 2021-2022 season. Members could not have been more thrilled to connect and socialize in person again! Our September Neighborhood Narrative featured East Coast Ivy, an adorable boutique right on Charles Street! East Coast Ivy specializes in not only women's clothing, but accessories and jewelry as well. The owner of the boutique, Greta Belsole, launched the boutique online in May of 2020 and due to incredible growth, she opened her first brick and mortar shop in Beacon Hill. Her adorable boutique has been the perfect addition to our quaint neighborhood this year. Be sure to pop into East Coast Ivy located at 88 Charles Street.

Our September keynote speaker was Dr. Camille Preston. Camille shared with the audience her inspiring life story of becoming a successful coach and business psychologist. Over the years, Camille took on many interesting jobs, attended graduate school, earned her PhD, and traveled the world extensively. As an adventure seeker, she has lived on four continents, worked on six, and has traveled to numerous parts of the globe. Through her travels and various jobs, Camille faced many adversity challenges, but always found a way past them. Camille was able to connect with advisors and mentors through her career who took a chance on her and it sure did pay off. With Camille's extensive education and background in psychology, Camille continues to bring research and insights from psychology, neuroscience, and business to her work. As the CEO and founder of AIM Leadership, Camille has shared her growing library of actionable resources and insights to many Fortune 500 leaders, startup founders, and C-suite executives. In addition to her business coaching, Camille is an author of two books, which were raffled off at the forum! Camille was also featured on a Tedx Talk where Camille opened up about her journey through infertility. Given infertility is not often a subject that is openly discussed, Camille inspired thousands of people who had or were currently going through a similar challenge. Camille's story and successes is enlightening and inspiring to all. We have no doubt that Camille will continue to amaze all with her many accomplishments to come.

Visit The Beacon Hill Women's Forum website to learn more about our membership options. www.beaconhillwomensforum.org.



Diane Jensen and Sandy Wheeler.



Cindy Sullivan, Dr. Camille Preston, and Renee Walsh.



New members, Sue Busch and Meredith Dixon.



New members, Michelle Burian and Ronni Poole, with Katie Jennette.



Richelle Gewertz, Jessie Staley, Meredith Braunstein, and Abbey Reinhart, new member.



New member, Maura Harty, Susie Shafer, and new member, Donna Hellman.



Richelle Gewertz, Christine Kromer, and Deb Schwartz.



BHWF Founder, Lisa Macalaster, Colleen Stadelmann, Cindy Sullivan, and Co-Presidents, Wendy Oleksiak, and Amy Tsurumi.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead to Oct. 2

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

MARINE IMPACTS

- The planned closure of the entire marine channel below the NWSB is targeted to begin on Monday, 10/04 and end on Friday, 10/08. The closure will assist in installing structural steel for the new bridge deck.

- Following the full closure there will be smaller, half channel closures to install elements of a new bridge deck throughout the month of October.

- The exact timing of the full closure is still under review by the United States Coast Guard and the Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit. More information regarding the closure will be provided in the look-ahead prior to the closure.

SLIP LANE CLOSURE

RESCHEDULED

- The planned closure of the slip lane from North Washington Street to Chelsea Street has been targeted to occur sometime in mid-October. The space that was used for the slip lane will be converted into part of the work zone.

- The removal of this lane is part of the build conditions of the new North Washington Street Bridge, so the shutdown represents a milestone on the way to the finished project.

- Nonetheless, MassDOT and its project team have kept the slip lane in place as long as possible as a way to help clear the single northbound (towards City Square) lane on the North Washington Street temporary bridge. The project team will be watching traffic operations to ensure that vehicles keep moving as the new work zone is established.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

• Building the piers:

Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Strip formwork and install steel rods

Pier 2: Install precast beams and rebar, form initial infill, and remove cofferdam sheeting

Pier 3: Grout work, installing rebar, and concrete pour

Pier 4: Complete

Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): Complete

- Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains and barges in the water

- Prep work to install utilities

- Installing temporary bents for steel erection

- Warehouse Pier and Column Repairs

- Steel erection on-going

WORK HOURS

- Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

- Work continues to complete piers 1, 2, and 3

TRAVEL TIPS

The sidewalk over the temporary bridge and the Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

Venues to participate in Bakes for Breast Cancer

Venues in Beacon Hill are proud to announce their participation in Bakes for Breast Cancer's signature event – Bakes for Breast Cancer Massachusetts – returning for its twenty-second year, which helps raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research. Bakeries, cafés, pastry shops and restaurants throughout Massachusetts will participate during this year's fundraiser from Friday, Oct. 1, through Thursday, Oct. 7. Venues include Flour Bakery + Café, Tatte Bakery & Café and Mooco.

"We are on a mission to end breast cancer for good, one sweet treat at a time," said Bakes for Breast Cancer Founder Carol Sneider in a press release. "We can't

believe how our signature event continues to grow at the rate it does, even as we approach our twenty-second year here in Massachusetts, even during the toughest of times the hospitality industry has faced since spring of last year. We're grateful and thankful that during the challenges they face, they still find the time and resources to partner with us so we can help eradicate breast cancer once and for all."

There are two ways to participate in Boston Bakes for Breast Cancer Massachusetts – establishments can offer one designated dessert where 100 percent of the proceeds go towards the Bakes for Breast Cancer, or offer their entire

dessert roster where 50 percent of the proceeds goes back to the organization. Since its inception in 1999, Bakes for Breast Cancer has raised over \$2 million. To date, over 4,500 different bakeries, cafés, pastry shops, supermarkets, and restaurants have participated throughout annual events in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and the Cape and the Islands.

Proceeds raised will benefit the nonprofit breast cancer organization Bakes for Breast Cancer which will support the research of Dr. Rachel Freedman. Dr. Freedman's clinical trials will focus on treatment for older breast cancer patients, an area of research that has been vastly under subsidized.

BHAC (from pg. 1)

only a small portion of the proposed screening would be visible from a public way and only then when there are no leaves on the trees.

In another matter, the commission voted 3-1 to deny without prejudice an application continued from last month to replace 12 canopy-mounted fixtures with new LED fixtures, and to install one new LED wall-mounted fixture, at the Bank of America walk-up ATM vestibule at 45 Charles St., amid concerns about potentially excessive lighting.

Josh Waggoner of GMR, a Texas engineering firm, said he would report back to bank corporate that their proposal had met some resistance (as is often the case in historic districts), particularly in regard to a proposed "lantern" lighting fixture.

The commission also voted unanimously to approve as submitted a proposed new sign for Cobblestones a new quick-service restaurant opening in the former Café Bella Vita space at 30 Charles St. The circular sign would be made of a composite metal material, measuring 34-by-34 inches (the same dimension as the former Café Bella Vita sign), and hung on the existing bracket. This came with provisos that existing lighting is removed from the bracket, and that drawings of the new sign, which include the establishment's name, as well as an image of a lantern with a fork in place of the wick, be submitted to staff for their records.

Likewise, the commission also voted unanimously to approve as submitted a new sign for J. Grady Home, a full-service interior design firm that has opened at 133 Charles St. The new sign would be square, measuring 28-by-28 inches, and blue with white lettering, along with the company

logo, a gold bee; it would hang on an existing bracket using a black wrought-iron hook and chain. This motion carried with the usual proviso that drawings of the proposed sign be submitted to staff for their records.

On a violation for 25-27 Pinckney St., the commission voted to ratify the unapproved window boxes, but ordered the applicant to remove an unapproved camera, as well as to replace the existing one-over-one windows at 25 Pinckney St. with "more-appropriate" six-over-six windows, so that both buildings match. Armata will also work with the applicant on a proposed doorbell.

The commission voted on a violation for 82 Revere St to ratify an unapproved service door, with the proviso that the applicant remove the beadboard from the header, repair the masonry below, and match its color to the header, and said while the unapproved black high-gloss paint on the front door could remain black, it should be matte or semi-gloss to better obscure the door's imperfections. This came with provisos that the applicant submit paint sample for both the front door and the entry door to staff.

On an application for 6 Otis Place which was continued from last month, 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, the commission approved the proposed work as submitted. This came with provisos that the fifth-floor deck be pushed back 12 inches, and that the "globe on a pole," as described by Commissioner McNamara, be removed from Brimmer St. As another stipulation, a globe structure, which is visible from

the street, would also need to be removed within two years by the applicant.

In another matter continued from July (and removed from last month's agenda at the applicant's request) for 39-41 Mount Vernon St. to add six new grates at the lower-level windows to match grates on other existing windows, the commission was presented with three options by Nancy Sadecki of the Boston architectural firm, Meyer & Meyer, and ultimately approved their second choice, which Armata also preferred.

The commission voted 2-1 to approved as submitted, with a 12-inch setback, an application for 83 Mt. Vernon St. to replace existing pressure-treated wood-lattice roofdeck guardrail with new steel guardrail painted black on back of rear ell, and to remove a small section of the roof to extend the existing roofdeck and guardrail to the party wall.

Likewise, the commission approved as submitted an application for 15 Ridgeway Lane to remove a non-original wood inswing 15-light door and wood outswing door and replacing with Pella Reserve Traditional wood/alum clad 15-light inswing door with Pella's historically accurate ILT grill at the rear patio. This came with the proviso that the door be made of all wood, with no wood cladding, and true divided-light.

An application for 63 Mount Vernon St. St. to add shutters and shutter dogs, new front gate and fence was removed from the agenda at the request of staff.

Moreover, an application 104 Chestnut St. to ratify unapproved electrical outlet in granite appeared on the agenda, but will be heard at the October hearing instead.



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\$20 million commitment from Esplanade Association would fund major improvements to park

The Esplanade Association ('EA'), nonprofit partners of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ('DCR') as stewards of the 64-acre Charles River Esplanade in Boston, this week announced a gift to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that would fund the establishment of Charlesbank Landing, a two-acre riverfront park enhancement on the historic Charles River Esplanade in Boston.

Charlesbank Landing would transform an area of the Esplanade that has largely been closed off from the public since the 1990s by bringing visitor services, recreational and open space, and cultural amenities to one of Boston's most-visited destinations. The project is anchored by a new, year-round Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion visitors center. The Esplanade Association's gift includes a commitment to fund at least 30 years of the site's operations and maintenance expenses, including all costs of running the Pavilion facility. The total value of the gift is expected to exceed \$20 million and will be funded by donations from members and supporters of the Esplanade Association. The commitment represents one of the largest private gifts to the Commonwealth's state parks system in history.

The Charlesbank Landing project is the result of a wide-ranging public process in 2017 led by DCR to establish goals for the future use of the long-neglected Lee Pool complex on the Esplanade. The agen-

cy retained Maryann Thompson Architects ('MTA') and Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates ('MVVA') while engaging the Esplanade Association and more than 20 stakeholder groups in a nine-month analysis reflecting nearly a dozen community meetings and hundreds of public comments. The Charlesbank Landing plans achieve each of the consensus goals from the 2017 public process while adopting an added focus on climate change preparedness and resiliency planning.

"Charlesbank Landing is the culmination of decades of conversations about how to establish a signature waterfront destination on the Esplanade to better connect our visitors with nature and one another," said Michael J. Nichols, Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. "Charlesbank Landing and the Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion will together further this mission and serve as an iconic riverside gathering place for generations to come."

The Pavilion facility at Charlesbank Landing would be approximately 10,000 square feet and include a visitors center, interpretive services lobby, the park's first year-round public bathrooms, public meeting rooms, a café, a programmable roof deck, park administrative support space, and more. A 7,500 square foot open-air park operations and horticultural workspace would adjoin the multipurpose, LEED-certified building to support enhanced care of the entire 64-acre Esplanade.

Charlesbank Landing would boast over 70,000 square feet of landscape improvements promoting nature, recreation, a renewed connection to the Charles River, and public gathering opportunities outside the Pavilion facility. The site would include an event lawn, outdoor classroom, youth regulation-size athletic field, café seating, a nature play area with a modern stormwater management and retention feature, new river access at a rebuilt riverbank, new tree groves and pollinator gardens, and new connections to the Esplanade's popular pathway system.

Charlesbank Landing Landscape Plan. Courtesy of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

"For 20 years, the Esplanade Association has supported improvements that make the Esplanade a more vibrant, safe, and accessible place to visit," offered Alexi Grenadier Conine, Chair of the Esplanade Association Board of Directors. "This donation represents the latest step in our successful public-private partnership with DCR, which has led the Esplanade to become the most visited state park in Massachusetts with over 3 million visitors each year."

The gift is the signature element of the Esplanade Association's ongoing celebration of the organization's twenty-year public-private partnership with DCR. Since 2001, EA has directed over \$21 million toward capital restoration work, park improvement projects, horticultural care, and public program-

ming on the Esplanade in partnership with the state parks agency.

Charlesbank Landing would serve to expand the successful public-private partnership between EA and DCR by setting a modern example for how to fund, construct, and operate a transformative improvement to the Commonwealth's state park system. Pending legislation in the Massachusetts Legislature sponsored by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and State Rep. Jay Livingstone would formalize the terms of the public-private partnership for the Charlesbank Landing project, ensure no net loss of public land, and pave the way to begin final design, permitting, and construction. The public-private partnership would be structured to complete the Pavilion project and the adjacent landscape improvements at no cost to Massachusetts taxpayers, with the Esplanade Association committing to fund design and construction and then gifting the Pavilion to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The public building would then be leased for an initial term of 30 years back to the Esplanade Association to operate, program, and maintain, in partnership with DCR and the Division of Capital Asset Maintenance and Management, at the Esplanade Association's own cost.

"The Charlesbank Landing project is a win-win for neighbors and visitors to the Esplanade and for the State itself, as the State receives a fully-funded major renovation to a two-acre portion of the Esplanade, a new public building, and a commitment for at least 30 years of operations and maintenance at no cost to taxpayers while the public receives a markedly better Esplanade with significantly improved amenities and programmatic offerings now and in the future," offered Sen. DiDomenico.

"The Charlesbank Landing plans represent the work of dozens of stakeholders over the past 25 years and especially in the last five years as the community, working with DCR and EA, identified the

recreational, environmental, and operational goals desired in such a major redevelopment of long-underutilized state parkland. I'm delighted with how far the project has come and the array of public amenities that will result from the area opening to the public in the years to come," said Rep. Livingstone.

To date, 23 organizations have signed on to support the project and its accompanying legislation, signifying a diverse group of stakeholders in the future vibrancy of Charlesbank Landing: Boston Art & Music Soul (BAMS) Festival; Beacon Hill Civic Association; Boston Landmarks Orchestra; Charlesgate Alliance; Charles River Conservancy; Charles River Watershed Association; Community Boating, Inc.; Downtown North Association; Environmental League of Massachusetts; Esplanade Association; Friends of Teddy Ebersol's Red Sox Fields; Friends of the Public Garden; Garden Club of the Back Bay; Hill House; Lederman Memorial Committee; Massachusetts General Hospital; Museum of Science, Boston; LivableStreets Alliance; Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay; WalkBoston; West End Civic Association; and the West End Museum.

"The Esplanade Association is working to make the Esplanade a welcoming and inclusive space for artists, makers, musicians, and others," said Catherine T. Morris, social entrepreneur and Founder and Executive Director of the Boston Arts & Music Soul (BAMS) Festival. "EA made the famed Hatch Shell available to musical artists and producers of color and we are excited about upcoming programming opportunities at Charlesbank Landing."

To learn more about the Esplanade Association and the Charlesbank Landing project, or to access additional renderings and project details, please visit Esplanade.org/Charlesbank.

CITY OF BOSTON MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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News Briefs

MAILLET NAMED TO SNHU PRESIDENT'S LIST

Christine Maillet of West End has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's summer 2021 President's List. Eligibility for the President's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the term.

'WE SING BOSTON' CONCLUDES WITH SEPT. 25 CITYWIDE SINGING EVENT ON THE COMMON

"We Sing Boston" concludes its season of bringing interactive live-music experiences to outdoor public spaces in and around Boston with a citywide singing event on Saturday, Sept. 25, beginning at 2 p.m. at Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

The program, a culmination of the popular "We Sing" initiative made possible by a partnership between Boston Children's Chorus and Friends of the Public Garden,, will feature remarks from BCC Executive Director Andrés Holder, a singing workshop for kids of all ages, and a headlining performance from Boston Children's

Chorus Central Intermediate Advanced choir (ages 11-14).

Community members of all ages and skill levels are invited to join in singing, games, prizes, and socializing (following COVID-19 guidelines).

"We Sing: Boston" has additional support from the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture Boston and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES OFFERED AT 10 GREATER BOSTON RINKS

The 2021-2022 skating season is about to begin. Bay State Skating School is one of Greater Boston's most established and popular skating programs. We have taught Learn-To-Skate classes to children ages 4-18 in the Greater Boston area for over 50 YEARS.

Bay State Skating School is compliant with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 guidelines. The number of students allowed on the ice will be limited.

Professional Instructors teach Recreational, Figure and Hockey Skating Skills to the beginner, intermediate and advanced skaters. Students can wear either figure, recreational or hockey skates.

New FALL lessons begin Sep-

tember, October and November. Lessons are held at 10 Greater Boston Rink locations including: Brookline-Cleveland Circle, Cambridge, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, and Weymouth.

Our emphasis is on having fun while learning to skate. We have taught over 90,000 students to ice skate. Come skate and feel great!

For more information and to registration, visit www.Bay-StateSkatingSchool.org or call Bay State Skating School (781) 890-8480.

PARKARTS WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS ARE BACK

Artists of all skill levels, ages nine and up, are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for its popular fall series of ParkARTS Watercolor Painting Workshops. This program will be held in September during the last two weekends of the month at four Boston parks. This series of free workshops is just one of the many offerings of the 25th annual ParkARTS program sponsored by the Highland Street Charitable Foundation.

The workshops welcome Boston residents to create their own

greenspace-inspired masterpieces with instruction from local artists; all materials will be provided. Registration is required.

All classes are held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (weather permitting). For more information and to register visit boston.gov/watercolor.

Dates and locations for the workshops are as follows:

Saturday, September 25

George Robert White Memorial, Boston Public Garden, Beacon and Arlington Streets, Back Bay

Sunday, September 26

Scarboro Pond along Circuit Bridge, Franklin Park, Dorchester

To stay up to date with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails. Follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

"BOSTON BLOOMS WITH DAFFODILS" RETURNS THIS FALL

Mayor Kim Janey announced that the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will distribute over 15,000 daffodil bulbs for planting on public ways citywide. The effort is part of the "Boston Blooms with Daffodils" beautification initiative, started in 2011.

Individuals, civic associations, church groups, sports leagues,

scout troops, open space advocates, and parks friends are encouraged to sign up to participate. Last year, over 100 community groups planted bulbs in neighborhoods across the City.

Those interested in participating may fill out a form online at boston.gov/boston-blooms. The online application form will remain open until late September on a rolling basis. Due to limited supply, groups are not guaranteed bulbs, but the Parks Department will strive to accommodate all requests. The application deadline is September 30.

The plantings will take place in approved locations on the weekends of October 30 and November 6. The Parks Department will contact interested groups and provide bulb pick-up instructions and dates. Groups and individuals are asked to use their own tools.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department encourages volunteers to take photos of their groups on planting days and share them via social media using the hashtag #BostonBlooms.

For more information on "Boston Blooms with Daffodils," and to stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call 617-635-4505 or follow our social channels—@bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

CITY PAWS

Can dogs read minds?

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The media is abuzz with articles about the research findings from a study headed by Dr. Britta Schunemann from Gottingen University, "Dogs Distinguish Human Intentional and Unintentional Action." Some reports interpreted this as dogs having the ability to read our minds.

In our experience, dogs "read our minds" the same way we "read the minds" of the people around us. They take in our body and facial language and add what they know of our habits, moods, and previous reactions. Then they conclude what we are feeling or are about to do at a given moment.

Study authors say that determining if an action is intentional or unintentional is essential to the "Theory of Mind." Wikipedia defines this theory as "... the mental capacity to understand other people and their behavior by ascribing mental states to them."

This ability is essential for suc-

cess in everyday human social interactions. Wikipedia says it, "... is used when analyzing, judging, and inferring others' behaviors." This particular study suggested that dogs share our ability to differentiate between when something is done on purpose or by accident. Just as we use food rewards to train dogs, the study used withholding rewards to study dogs' reactions.

Dogs Have an Advantage

Perhaps dogs are better at this task than humans since they evolved to depend on us for their basic needs. What's more, through years of selective breeding, we've chosen and rewarded traits responsive to what we want. Then throughout our dogs' lives, we teach them what we want and need from them by our reactions or intentional training.

For herding dogs, it is working with a shepherd to protect and herd animals. In sporting breeds, it may be pointing out prey or

retrieving it. In toy breeds, it's having the traits of a companion and friend.

Herding, guard, and sporting dogs receive training to do their jobs. Companion animals learn to please people by watching, learning, using their senses and instincts, and by the rewards the humans around them provide.

What's more, they are great students of patterns. When you begin to gather your backpack, jacket, and keys, your dog "reads" that you are going out. When you pick up their leash, they know they are going with you.

We Read Dogs' Minds Too!

This mind-reading is a two-way street. Since dogs can't talk to us, we use our knowledge of their body language, expressions, vocalizations, and attempts to communicate to figure out what they want or need. We have to determine if they are hungry, want to play, need to go outside, or require veterinary care.

Sometimes it is evident and cute, like when our Poppy brings a toy to us. Other times you have to work harder to figure out if your dog is in pain or what has frightened him. And, just as dogs give us leeway when something is an accident, we have to reciprocate and understand that there are times when they, too, have unintentional accidents.

The Best News From the Study

The overriding conclusion of the study will give many of us relief the next time we accidentally bump into or step on a paw underfoot. Lead author Schunemann said: "The dogs in our study clearly behaved differently depending on whether the actions of a human



Recent research used "withholding food rewards" to study dogs' reactions. Don't worry, this little pup did get the prize hidden in that hand.

experimenter were intentional or unintentional." So, the next time this happens, say you're sorry, check to see if your furry pal is okay, and understand that the dog most likely knows you didn't do it on purpose!

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

As work-from-home policies take hold, Boston renters seek more space

ApartmentAdvisor report reveals the costs to upsize your digs in Boston’s most popular rental neighborhoods

Special to the Sun

With work-from-home policies extended indefinitely at most Boston-area companies, many local employees are feeling cramped for space in their apartments-turned-home-offices. ApartmentAdvisor (www.apartmentadvisor.com), an online home rental search platform, released a report revealing the costs to upsize to a bigger place in Boston. Where are renters most likely to get the most space for their money, and how much more will renters have to pay for an extra bedroom?

Boston Ranks as Third Most Expensive Rental City in the U.S.

Residential living space comes at a premium in Boston, and this makes upsizing a challenge for many budget-conscious renters, especially in a tight rental market. With an overall median rent per square foot of \$3.40 per month, Boston ranks third among large U.S. cities where renters pay the most per square foot – only New York City (\$4.69/PSF monthly) and San Francisco (\$4.20/PSF monthly) are higher. Boston also has some of the smallest residential units available compared to other large cities. The

median area for a one-bedroom apartment in Boston is only 650 square feet, which doesn’t leave a lot of extra room for a designated office space.

However, among Boston’s neighborhoods, there is substantial variation in the cost of space among neighborhoods. For example, Seaport is Boston’s priciest neighborhood, where overall rent per square foot runs \$5.14 monthly. But less than three miles away, Charlestown is closer to \$3.50/PSF monthly. And in Roslindale, roughly eight miles from Boston’s Seaport, the median cost per square foot is only \$2.38/PSF monthly.

In Table 1 (shown right) are the monthly rent costs per square foot for the Boston neighborhoods analyzed.

What Does an Extra Bedroom Cost in Boston’s Most Popular Neighborhoods?

For many renters now working remotely from their apartments, it’s not just more square footage they want, but also more separation of their work and life spaces. On average, upgrading from a one-bedroom to a two-bedroom unit in Boston will add roughly 25% to the rent, but relative upsizing costs vary depending on

neighborhood.

Shown in Table 2 (shown below), are the costs to upsize from a one-bedroom unit to a two-bedroom unit in Boston’s popular rental neighborhoods:

“As remote work becomes the new normal, many renters are finding they need more space at home to accommodate both life and work,” said Tom Gilmore, co-founder and CEO at ApartmentAdvisor. “Although rent prices are generally high in Boston, trading up to a larger place in the city doesn’t have to break the bank, especially if you are willing to consider different neighborhoods. Our latest study gives renters a lens on the relative costs to upsize to a larger unit and highlights the Boston neighborhoods where renters are can get more space for their money.”

Renters can find the full report here and can read more about what it’s like to live in specific neighborhoods at ApartmentAdvisor.com.

Methodology

For this study, Apartment Advisor analyzed listings available on its platform during the month of August in the Boston neighborhoods most searched by

NEIGHBORHOOD	MONTHLY COST PER SQUARE FOOT*
Seaport	\$5.14
Back Bay	\$4.67
Beacon Hill	\$4.48
South Boston	\$4.35
Fenway	\$4.10
Downtown	\$3.85
North End	\$3.81
West End	\$3.76
Charlestown	\$3.50
Allston	\$3.05
Brighton	\$2.92
Mission Hill	\$2.89
East Boston	\$2.67
Jamaica Plain	\$2.67
West Roxbury	\$2.62
Roxbury	\$2.50
Dorchester	\$2.38
Roslindale	\$2.38

TABLE 1: *The monthly cost per square foot in this chart is based on the median cost and square footage for units in the neighborhood. Actual cost per square foot for individual units will vary.

renters. Analysts did not include neighborhoods with less than fifty available units at the time of the analysis. Rent prices and cost per square footage calculations were based on median rents. Listings on ApartmentAdvisor come from a range of small and large

property owners and include luxury and non-luxury units. The full report can be found here.

ApartmentAdvisor analysts note that amenities, age and quality of unit, and location specifics, among other features, all factor into rent prices. For simplicity, this analysis focused strictly on the overall cost per square foot based on asking rent prices.

ApartmentAdvisor (www.apartmentadvisor.com) helps renters easily find the right apartment. The company is building a rental search platform that combines rigorous rent price analytics with neighborhood insights from local residents, empowering renters with a more transparent way to compare prices, features and locations of available apartments.

ApartmentAdvisor was founded in 2020 by a team of founders and engineers from TripAdvisor and CarGurus, including Langley Steinert (co-founder of TripAdvisor and founder and executive chairman at CarGurus); Tom Gilmore (founder and CEO of VacationHomeRentals, sold to TripAdvisor); Josh Arnold (engineering at TripAdvisor and director of data science for MineralTree); and Oliver Chrzan (former chief technology officer at CarGurus). The company is based in Cambridge.

NEIGHBORHOOD	1 BED MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT	2 BED MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT	COST TO UPSIZE FROM 1 TO 2 BEDS	COST INCREASE AS A %
Back Bay	\$2,600	\$4,000	\$1,400	54%
Seaport	\$3,944	\$5,200	\$1,257	32%
Downtown	\$2,910	\$4,120	\$1,210	42%
West End	\$2,985	\$4,135	\$1,150	39%
Mission Hill	\$1,850	\$2,950	\$1,100	59%
South Boston	\$3,228	\$4000	\$772	24%
Charlestown	\$2,500	\$3,250	\$750	30%
West Roxbury	\$1,835	\$2,538	\$703	38%
North End	\$2,100	\$2,730	\$630	30%
Fenway	\$2,350	\$2,950	\$600	26%
Beacon Hill	\$2,350	\$2,900	\$550	23%
Allston	\$1,795	\$2,285	\$490	27%
Brighton	\$1,750	\$2,195	\$445	25%
East Boston	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$400	20%
Jamaica Plain	\$1,900	\$2,300	\$400	21%
Roxbury	\$2,013	\$2,395	\$383	19%
Roslindale	\$1,850	\$2,225	\$375	20%
Dorchester	\$1,950	\$2,300	\$350	18%

TABLE 2:*Neighborhoods in this chart are ranked from highest dollar price increase to lowest, and the data is based on median rents by unit size for available units.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
D Stavro Lapides T	Equity T Co	190 Beacon St #5	\$500,000
Fuertes, Regina	M W De Bourgknecht RET	246 Beacon St #5A	\$1,695,000
Fuertes, Regina	M W De Bourgknecht RET	246 Beacon St #5B	\$1,695,000
Guzman, Elvia G	Laplaca, Damian R	283 Beacon St #283	\$1,525,000
Lopez, Francisco	Browne, Lauren E	75 Clarendon St #409	\$1,100,000
146 Comm Avenue NT	Trustees Of Boston Univ	146 Commonwealth Ave	\$12,000,000
Boudreau, Evan	Peterson, Kristen L	74 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$465,000
36 Newbury Hldg LLC	36 Newbury Street RT	36 Newbury St	\$7,500,000
Sharif, Hussein	Ball, Deborah J	449 Beacon St #5	\$605,000
Zavaro, Elias J	Randazza, Michelle B	492 Beacon St #51	\$1,129,000
Hassan, Tarek	Pokorny, Gene	384 Marlborough St	\$5,300,000
Beneduci Marlborough LLC	Rosen, Barry	405 Marlborough St #61	\$900,000
Beneduci Marlborough LLC	Mary Ann Ohara RET	405 Marlborough St #62	\$700,000
Warchol, Robert F	Etude 2 LLC	294 Newbury St #3A	\$849,000
BEACON HILL			
Xu, Crystal	Paraubek, Edward J	21 Beacon St #3G	\$435,000
Rustom, Laurence	Reilly, Virginia	21 Beacon St #5N	\$575,000
Martyn, Jeevendra A	13 Bowdoin TC LLC	13 Bowdoin St #1C	\$540,000
Du, Rongqing	Destefano, Caroline E	46 Garden St #6	\$655,000
34 Hancock Street 4A LLC	Gloria Magida IRT	34 Hancock St #4A	\$1,300,000
Armitage, Bruce	Horton, Lewis F	1 Louisburg Sq #3	\$1,775,000
Mullen, Laurel A	Domantvosky, Dmitry	97 Mount Vernon St #1	\$1,283,425
Barmonde, Charles	Patterson, John W	132 Myrtle St #4	\$730,000
DelaBruere, Collin	Dimarinisi, Anthony J	63 W Cedar St #1	\$1,140,000
Unit 4 West Hill Place RT	Blue Sky RET	3 W Hill Pl	\$3,425,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
120 Appleton LLC	Ward T	120 Appleton St	\$3,100,000
Agnew, Emily A	Benjamin, Deborah	19 Fayette St #2	\$687,000
Ramic, Benjamin	56 Gray LLC	56 Gray St #3	\$350,000
Grimes, Sean	Delery, Andrew R	24 Montgomery St #4	\$815,000
Harte, Jane	110 Stuart Street 18C	110 Stuart St #18C	\$1,420,000
Smith, Brian H	Mazotta, Joseph F	21 Aberdeen St #C	\$330,000
Aggressive Technology Fnd	Obrien, Peter L	188 Brookline Ave #26J	\$2,750,000
Holland, Conor	Fukuda, Masuo	555-555A Columbus Ave #2	\$530,000
Grskovic, Andrei	Mclaughlin, Maureen A	9 Cumston St	\$2,600,000
Mary A Schwartz LT	Khurshudyan, Susan	106 E Brookline St #1	\$690,000
Gainsborough 102 LLC	Berndt, Edward A	102 Gainsborough St #102E	\$790,000
AOE LLC	Mcfarlane, David	29 Hanson St #3	\$1,890,000
Merrell, Georges	Murray, Georgia	433 Shawmut Ave	\$1,575,000 1
Conzalez, Jose M	Chen, Don	12 Stoneholm St #502	\$485,000
Patel, Hemant	Mcginn RT	40 Traveler St #408	\$1,352,000
Goldthwaite, William K	Madden, Michael	621 Tremont St #5	\$822,500
Emara, Tarik M	Vlacich, Barbara	37 Upton St #4	\$875,000
Allegro, Daniel W	Passanese, John P	159 W Brookline St #3	\$975,000
Dorobek RET	201 West Brookline St	201 W Brookline St #PH402	\$6,300,000
Brody, Julia R	Lewis, Charlotte R	157 W Canton St	\$6,300,000
Wu, Emily I	Hofmann, Erica	139 W Newton St #2	\$678,000
Dannylrealtor LLC	343 L&S Realty LLC	333 Washington St #103A	\$1,100,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Dimino, Thomas	Hayes, John A	40 Battery St #PH1	\$2,800,000
Morgan, James L	Snyderman, Mark P	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4503	\$2,295,000
Wah Luck T	Union Wharf 508608 NT	343 Commercial St #508	\$6,000,000
Wah Luck T	Union Wharf 508608 NT	343 Commercial St #608	\$6,000,000
Seifried, Leslie M	Manna, Kathleen H	440 Commercial St #301	\$899,000
Murray, Robert	Tchen, Sumin	65 E India Row #3F	\$1,500,000
Fuchs, Eli	Bai, Dong	85 E India Row #12H	\$610,000
SJRJ LLC	Saif, Wasif M	85 E India Row #28G	\$692,500
Kromer, Hugh M	Pearlson, Matthew	53 Fulton St #1	\$890,000
Flike, Nolan P	Mittenthal, Maria A	57 Fulton St #11	\$460,000
Yuan, Lizhang	Candeloro, John C	88 Kingston St #1D	\$610,000
Puig-Basagoiti, Francesc	Mcwhorter, Kirk	88 Kingston St #4B	\$640,000
Deng, Yaxin	Div Summer Street LLC	99 Summer St #305	\$619,900
Carlet, Daniel	Ballis-Devin, Jessica	151 Tremont St #16F	\$955,000
Zhao, Di	Arnold, Gregory D	151 Tremont St #19C	\$620,000
Caballeria, Gonzalo	Wilson, Karyn M	100 Lovejoy Wharf #4N	\$760,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The handrail in the last clue is on the side of 2 Louisburg Square. This fall, as you enjoy walks up and down the Beacon Hill streets, see how many handy handrails you can locate. When slippery winter weather arrives, you might choose a route that will provide this safety feature for pedestrians.

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



DOGS (from pg. 1)

people were home all the time and could acknowledge how much comfort their dogs were bringing them.”

Dutka drew additional inspiration in creating “Tales of Support” from the loss of Bailey, her beloved golden doodle who died in September of 2020.

“The silver lining of the pandemic was I got to spend the last five months with her,” said Dutka. “A few months later, I couldn’t stand being without a dog, so I went to adopt another one. But I found it was a different process during the pandemic because everyone wanted to adopt a dog.”

Dutka eventually found Sadie, a “double doodle” (goldendoodle crossed with a labradoodle), she adopted when the dog was 1 year old.

To find the 25 subjects profiled so far in “Tales of Support,” Dutka reached out to Tufts University, which has a program, she said, that focuses on the “human-animal bond,” and asked the program’s director if they could suggest anyone to interview. She also talked to people she knows from the animal community, and to community centers, as well as to animal rescues she had previously worked with. People also started coming to Dutka with their own stories, or with the names of friends who adopted dogs during the pandemic. Once word got out about the project, a group called Sober Voices even contacted her to tell her about how dogs have been helping its members in recovery.

Once Dutka has identified a pos-

sible a dog and owner to potentially profile for the series, the process for her is to talk to them briefly after they have first shared a description of the bond they have with their adopted dogs. Dutka then sends each participant a questionnaire to fill out and schedules a Zoom interview with them so she can see firsthand how they interact with their dogs.

Among those ultimately selected for the series were Back Bay resident Jenna Blum and Henry Higgins, the Black Labrador she adopted at 12 weeks during the pandemic.

For Blum, co-founder of A Might Blaze, an organization dedicated to connecting writers with readers during the pandemic, as well as a New York Times best-selling author, Henry has become her faithful companion, staying by her side during workdays that can stretch to 16 hours as she sits writing at her keyboard, while walking Henry has also helped her meet a number of other area dog owners.

“Having Henry helps provide structure for my days and enter into a community of dog parents in my neighborhood, people I might not have had the good fortune to meet if I didn’t have a dog,” Blum told Dutka in describing this “dog foster community,” as she calls it. “I’m very lucky to have a warm and vibrant one here in Boston’s Back Bay,” she added.

Blum and Henry’s story also hit a personal note for Dutka, since Blum herself also recently lost a dog – in Blum’s case, Woodrow,

the beloved Labrador she will pay tribute to in her upcoming book, “Woodrow on the Bench: Life Lessons from a Wise Old Dog,” which is expected to arrive next month. “It was similar to story to me and what I went through of her dog aging and eventually dying before she got a new puppy,” said Dutka.

Dutka has also profiled several residents of a condo building in the Fenway, who all adopted dogs during the pandemic and subsequently became friends after having never previously met as neighbors.

In addition to Ana and her new puppy, Wall-E, the new group includes Whiney and her new dog, Libbie.

“Libbie taught me how to see things from a different perspective and appreciate the small things in life,” Whitney told Dutka. “It makes me so happy to see her running around with her friends, getting excited about going on walks, or getting a new toy. It reminds you to appreciate the little things.”

The group also includes Ashley and her now-fiancé, Andrew, who had decided to adopt their dog, Aspen, in February of 2020 – just one month before the pandemic struck.

In April of last year, Ashley lost her father to Leukemia within a week of his diagnosis, and she spent 18 months working by herself remotely due to the pandemic, but during this time, Aspen provided a “beacon of light and hope,” as Dutka describes it, for both Ashley and Andrew.

Aspen, as it turns out, also gave their social life a boost as they got



MINDY DUTKA (WWW.DOGSIMEET.COM)

Residents of a Fenway condo building who became friends via the dogs they adopted during the pandemic.

to know their neighbors and fellow dog owners.

“We’ve become great friends with our neighbors who are also dog owners and dog lovers,” Ashley told Dutka. “They are amazing people and we’ve loved spending time with them.”

Moreover, Ashley added: “We’ve started to travel together, and they’ve added a really great group of friends to our lives. If we hadn’t had covid and we hadn’t all been locked down in our apartment building I’m not sure we would have become such great friends.”

As for the future of “Tales of Support,” Dutka believes the project could eventually evolve into a book or even an exhibit gracing the walls of the Boston Children’s Museum while also providing future partnership opportunities for interested organizations and individuals.

“It’s something a sponsor could do, or an organization that tells sto-

ries,” she said. “There are a lot of ways for a business even to bring this in.”

And if there’s been away take-away from “Tales of Support” for Dutka, if anything, it has just reaffirmed what she already knew about the deep connection between dogs and their owners.

“Dogs can read the energy of people,” said Dutka, and they can provide different kinds of comfort to people depending on their needs.

“The biggest thing is they don’t even know how much they’re helping – they’re just being dogs – but they do help so help people so much,” said Dutka.

For more information on Dogs I Meet, visit www.dogsimeet.com or follow them on Instagram @dogsimeet; read more on “Tales of Support” at dogsimeet.com/tales-of-support; or contact Mindy Dutka at hello@dogsimeet.com to suggest a dog and their owner to profile for the series.



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