

# THE BEACON HILL TIMES



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Cassie Gurnon of Charles Street Supply Co.



Rovalis Florist getting in the Halloween spirit.

## 'Get in the Spirit' on Beacon Hill

Local shops and restaurants decorate their windows and offer up seasonal menus in support of The Jimmy Fund

Special to the Times

Shop, eat, and stroll all October as Beacon Hill businesses launch their first annual "Get into the Spirit of the Fall Season" to raise funds for one of New England's most cherished charities, The Jimmy Fund.

Each participating business will be displaying an orange pumpkin to collect funds. Visitors will enjoy beautifully decorated windows and storefronts at local shops and businesses as well as seasonal menus at restaurants. The month-long display of colors and flavors culminates with Beacon Hill's famous trick-or-treat evening

and a Halloween Costume Photo Showdown at 5 p.m., prompt.

"Once again our business community has joined together and is definitely "Getting in the Spirit" with nearly 70 businesses supporting the project, which is double the participation in our Spring Eternal effort," said Event Coordinator, Mark Duffield.

"Wow, that's great!" said Katherine Bahrawy, Senior Account Director, Event Fundraising-Director at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and The Jimmy Fund. "Such involvement and representation!"

"Beacon Hill has long been a favorite destination in the fall

for color peepers, but in recent years Beacon Hill has increasingly become the place to be on Halloween in Boston. Strolling through the historic streets is delightfully spooky as neighbors try to outdo one another with Halloween and autumnal décor," said Jennifer Hill, co-owner of Blackstone's. Hill and her former business partner Mark Duffield have embraced this holiday for over 15 years, filling the store with creepy spiders, big black bats, the "undead" mannequins and costumes of all types. "Now we have decided to expand our love of Halloween to

(SPIRIT Pg. 12)

## MGH moves forward with plans for Clinical Building

By Dan Murphy

The public got what will likely be its last look at Mass General Hospital's planned Clinical Building at a virtual meeting sponsored by the city on Tuesday, Oct. 4, in advance of the Boston Planning & Development Agency board of directors putting the matter to a vote next Friday, Oct. 14.

The new Clinical Building at 55 Fruit St. would consist of two, inter-connected 12-story towers facing Cambridge Street on the hospital's main campus and com-

prise approximately 1,050,450 square feet of Gross Floor Area. It will include new beds and clinical facilities, resulting in approximately 94 net new beds, following the decommissioning of existing beds in older facilities and conversion of existing double beds into single beds. The proposed project will also have approximately six below-grade stories including approximately 864 parking spaces (175 net new spaces), as well as 556 new bicycle spaces (a 115-percent increase in bike parking).

The public process for the new

hospital building began in February of 2019, said Edward Carmody of the BPDA, when MGH filed its initial documents with the city. Following a public process, as well as a scoping and soliciting additional feedback at a public meeting last summer that focused on preservation, the hospital filed a second set of documents with the city for the proposed building in April of this year, added Carmody.

Tom Sieniewicz, a partner with the Boston office of the

(MGH Pg. 4)

## Some restaurants must now ponder uncertain future of outdoor dining

By Dan Murphy

While some Boston restaurant have seen an uptick in business in recent months, they're now facing the uncertain future of new outdoor dining space created in the city in response to the pandemic as they still struggle to recoup lost business.

"We're definitely seeing an uptick [in busines]," said Babak Bina who along with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owns and operates Bin 26 on Charles Street, as well as jm Curley and its steakhouse, Bogie's Place, in Downtown Crossing. "It was a great summer with outdoor seating, and we're

grappling with the idea that the Governor is affecting covid restrictions, which will affect easy outdoor permitting."

The city's outdoor dining season ends Nov. 1, and Gov. Charlie Baker will at that time lift the special accommodations extended to some restaurants during the pandemic.

Obtaining a permit for outdoor dining through the city's Public Improvements Commission in pre-pandemic times was a burdensome process for applicants, said Bina, who added that "the list of things you have to accomplish

(RESTAURANTS Pg. 8)

## Origami fundraiser at Black Ink to benefit St. Francis House

By Dan Murphy

A third annual origami fundraiser, presented by the Black Ink, a shop at 101 Charles St. specializing in paper goods, in partnership with Garden Street resident Gregory W. Skaff to benefit St. Francis House, has been extended through October, while Skaff will be offering a free origami demonstration

Thursday, Oct. 14, at the West End Branch Library.

During September, Black Ink distributed 11 Origami bulls designed by Stephen Weber and folded by Skaff to those who made a contribution of \$25 or more to raise a total of \$375 for the day shelter (excluding match-

(ORIGAMI Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF GREGORY W. SKAFF

A Stephan Weber Bull, a Hideo Kamatsu Horse, a Noboru Miyajima Bat, the Jason Ku Convertible, the Jun Maekawa Peacock, and Three Headed Crane – all of which were folded by Garden Street resident Gregory W. Skaff, and are available at Black Ink at 101 Charles St. in exchange for a donation of \$25 or more to St. Francis House.

# EDITORIAL

## PROGRESSIVES ARE TRUMP'S NEW BEST FRIENDS

As our regular readers know, we have been fully supportive of everything that entails the Progressive agenda in Washington, from the Green New Deal to tax increases on the wealthy and everything in between.

If anything, we'd like to see the \$3.5 trillion Democratic spending bill be even larger in order to do what truly is needed to bring America into the third decade of the 21st century.

However, we recognize that not everyone agrees with our view, both as to the costs and goals of the legislation put forward by President Joe Biden.

In addition to some Democratic moderates in the House, there are the two U.S. senators, Joe Manchin from West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona, who publicly have stated that they only will support a scaled-down version of the \$3.5 trillion package.

Senator Manchin has been fairly specific in his position, whereas Senator Sinema has been silent and erratic -- both publicly and privately among her colleagues -- suggesting that her psychological fitness to be a U.S. Senator is in question.

But regardless of their motivations, Manchin and Sinema constitute a road-block to passage of the \$3.5 trillion spending bill. So what is a Progressive to do?

We could suggest the usual clichés, such as, "Half a loaf is better than no loaf at all," or, "Don't make the perfect the enemy of the good."

But we prefer one of our own: Politics is the art of compromise.

If a politician who comes into office expects to be a rigid ideologue, then he or she is in the wrong business. Refusing to compromise is like the little boy or girl who doesn't like the way the game is being played and takes his or her ball home.

We urge the legislators from our districts in Congress to get their act together and get something done. We didn't send them to Washington to accomplish nothing.

In our view, the longer that this gets dragged out -- especially with the Democrats having no room to spare in terms of their majorities -- the more that the average voter will think that maybe Donald Trump wasn't so bad after all.

## SCHOOL MASKING IS NOT A PARENTAL MATTER

According to an interview in the Boston Globe, a member (who is a medical doctor) of the unpaid COVID-19 advisory panel to Gov. Charlie Baker made this statement regarding masking by children in public schools: "Regardless of science, and there isn't a lot of science, it's important that parents feel strongly and that needs to be at the forefront of decision-making."

We'll just state our view bluntly: That is the most idiotic statement we have heard from anyone (other than a Republican governor from the South) on the issue of whether students should wear masks in school.

There IS a lot of science about the benefits of masking to halt the spread of the disease. But beyond that, parents are the LEAST competent persons to weigh in on this issue. The average parent has no expertise about COVID-19, both as to the health of their own child and as to the overall health implications for other students and school employees.

Until we have the pandemic under control, masking (and vaccinations) should be mandatory in our public schools for everyone, a few ignorant and loudmouth parents notwithstanding.

## SOBER OCTOBER: NOW MORE THAN EVER

We all know that the pandemic has not been great for either our physical or mental health. One of the strongest indicators of this is that overall alcohol consumption increased by 14 percent among Americans in 2020 and 23 percent of Americans reported drinking more each day to cope with pandemic-induced stress.

Those are startling statistics. Alcohol in any amount is not good either for our mental or physical well-being. The panel that advises the FDA about the food pyramid recommended that adults should have no more than one drink per day.

However, during the pandemic, the routine for many adults included two or three or more drinks each and every day.

Many people recognize that their pandemic-induced drinking behavior has to change. Although Alcoholics Anonymous may not be the right program for many people, there are other options for support, among the most popular being The Naked Mind LLC, Luckiest Club, and Tempest, all of which charge a fee and are on-line.

Alcohol Use Disorder already was an enormous problem for millions of Americans and it was exacerbated by the pandemic. Sober October is a good place to start to reverse that trend.

## GUEST OP-ED

## Preparing our Children for the 21st Century Economy

By Anthony D'Ambrosio

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a devastating toll on our state's students. Mental health issues have spiked, reaching crisis levels in many school districts. Nearly 300 schools in Massachusetts had chronic absenteeism rates of 30% or higher this past school year. And just last week, the state-wide results for the Spring 2021 MCAS revealed just how far behind academically our students have fallen: only 33% of Massachusetts students in grades 3-8 met expectations for mathematics, compared to 49% in 2019. In English language arts, only 46% of students in grades 3-8 met expectations, compared to 52% in 2019.

The pandemic challenged even the most prepared among us, and I know first-hand that Massachusetts teachers worked tirelessly—and often thanklessly—to guide our students through uncharted waters. However, the data makes clear that—on a policy level—the state government has lost touch with the needs of our students. It should not have taken a global pandemic to force state officials to think about how we should educate students in a 21st century world. Remote learning, equitable access to the Internet and digital learning tools, and the importance of comprehensive STEM education in a technology-oriented economy have been discussed for over a decade. Our state failed to take these developments seriously when it mattered, and our children continue to suffer as a result.

We need several state-wide initiatives to best support Massachusetts students after this most disruptive year of their lives and set them up for long-term success.

First, funds are needed now to remediate the aftermath of Covid-19 on our state's students, not in 2 or 3 years as is being currently contemplated. If Massachusetts students are unable to make up the lost progress from the last two school years, they will contin-

ue to be behind for the rest of their academic careers. Beacon Hill must immediately deploy funds for more tutoring, digital learning aids, and counselling services for all students, especially students with disabilities and ESL students. Additionally, we need a state-wide study on why mathematics proficiency—essential to securing the technology jobs of the future—was specifically undermined by the pandemic's disruptions.

Second, we need to dramatically expand internship and apprenticeship programs for the Commonwealth's high schools and community colleges. Connecting Activities, the largest state-wide apprenticeship program for students, provides opportunities for a mere 3.6% of the nearly 300,000 public high school students in Massachusetts each year. This is unacceptable. All Massachusetts students should have the opportunity to gain real-world job experience for the benefit of their futures and our state economy.

In my job as a technology analyst, I have sat across the table from dozens of technology executives. In making hiring decisions, such executives are not only looking for good programmers, but also for people who have managed real-world projects and worked on teams with people of all ages and experience levels. Internships and apprenticeships are two of the best pathways for students to cultivate these skills, and

Massachusetts businesses will benefit from the creativity and perspective of our state's students.

Third, we need to promote equity in school districts so that no child is left behind or disadvantaged. On the Revere School Committee, I spearheaded the creation of a city-wide Equity Advisory Board that works to address issues of disenfranchisement and representation within our public schools. Equity in schools requires, among other things, equitable access to technological resources and universal, affordable broadband Internet for all students. It is unacceptable that, in this district, there are neighborhoods where more than 25% of residents do not have access to the Internet despite living less than five miles away from some of the top research universities in the world. I want to make Massachusetts the first state in the United States to provide universal, affordable, and reliable broadband Internet to all residents. No child should ever have to miss class because he/she/they cannot access the Internet.

We have the rare opportunity rebuild the state's education system in a way that prepares our children for the challenges and promises of the 21st century economy. Let's make this moment count.

*Anthony D'Ambrosio, BA, Yale; Masters, University of Cambridge and a candidate for State Senate.*

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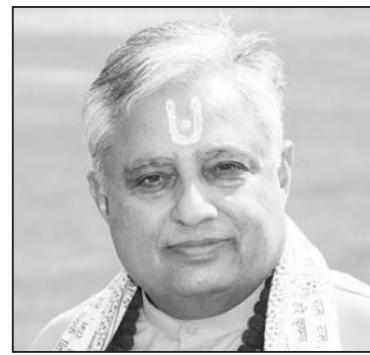
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# Zed calls for transparency and fairness in invocation scheduling by Boston City Council

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, who has read invocations at United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., finds it quite disheartening on not being scheduled for reading invocation at a Boston City Council meeting despite multiple requests.

Boston City Council meets every Wednesday and opens with invocation.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, emailed all the 13 city councilors individually, including President Matthew O'Malley and Mayor Kim Janey on September 10 with his invocation scheduling request. He had also requested for this



Hindu statesman Rajan Zed.

invocation scheduling in 2015, December 2020 and February 2021 also.

On Sept. 10, besides councilors, Rajan Zed also emailed this

request to City's Chief Diversity Officer Tavares, Chief Communications Officer Garrett-Stearns, City Clerk Feeney, Chief of the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Barrios-Millner, Chief Information Officer Elges.

One of the responses Zed received stated: "Unfortunately, we are unable to fulfill your request at this time. Boston City Councilors have the responsibility of inviting a member of the clergy to deliver the invocation during their assigned Council meeting dates...". Another response included: "...each Councilor chooses a member of the faith community they have a relationship with...".

Talking about prayer in gen-

eral, Rajan Zed, in a statement today, said that a reverent petition for help or expression of devotion-love-praise-thanks addressed to an object of worship was important, intensely valuable, significant and uplifting to many of us.

City of Boston should be more transparent and fair in its invocation scheduling and needed to find a common ground on this issue where various religions and denominations could find equitable representation in the scheduling and non-believers could be offered opportunity of expression where no deity was invoked or petitioned; Zed indicated.

Rajan Zed's legislative invocations in the past have been from

ancient Sanskrit scriptures stressing on unity, selflessness and leading from darkness to light, etc.

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.2 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about three million Hindus in USA.

Satanic Temple reportedly sued Boston few months back regarding invocation policy.

Boston City Seal contains the motto "SICUT PATRIBUS, SIT DEUS NOBIS" (which means, "God be with us as he was with our fathers"), which is also included in the City Flag.

## ORIGAMI (from pg. 1)

ing donations).

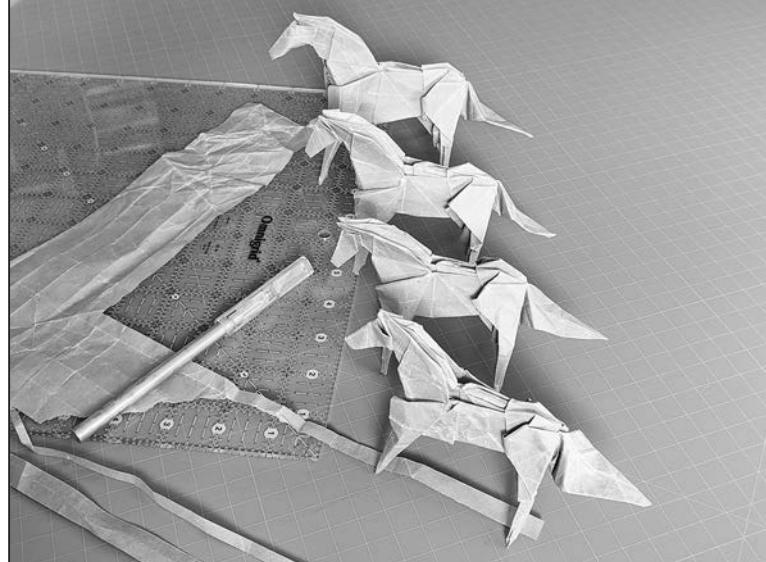
As of press time, 12 more (four black, one white, one gold, two silver, and three brown) origami bulls are available at Black Ink, also for a donation of \$25 or more to St. Francis House.

Additionally, a Stephan Weber Bull, a Hideo Kamatsu Horse, a Noboru Miyajima Bat, and the Jason Ku Convertible, as well as a Jun Maekawa Peacock and a Three Headed Crane – all of which Skaff created on Sunday, Sept. 26, during a five-hour origami folding demonstration he held at Black Ink Boston with just three-days notice – are also now available for contributions of \$25 or more to St. Francis House.

For the same donation, four Hideo Kamatsu tan-colored origami horses from a different folding by Skaff are also available, and all models were folded with specialty Origami Paper from France

(Black Ink only accepts cash donation for the origami pieces, however, as they aren't store inventory.)

The St. Francis House origami fundraiser is part of an ongoing effort by Black Ink owner, Susan Corcoran, who regularly holds



COURTESY OF GREGORY W. SKAFF

Hideo Kamatsu origami horses folded by Gregory W Skaff.

origami fundraiser at the store for various nonprofits, such as Community Servings, Rosie's Place, Food for Free, BARCC (Boston Area Rape Crisis Center) and Partners in Health, while personally matching each donation made to the cause.

Skaff and Corcoran partnered on their first annual origami fundraiser to benefit St. Francis House

in September of 2019 after Skaff, who had acquired an origami star folded by Corcoran for a fundraiser at Black Ink, stopped by the store to thank her for helping to rekindle his interest in the artform following a 37-year lull.

Their first origami fundraiser in September of 2019 raised around \$350 for St. Francis House while their effort in the fall of 2020

went to raise another \$794 for the cause.

For those who would like to learn more about the artform, Skaff will be offering an origami demonstration on Thursday, Oct. 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library at 151 Cambridge St.

Depending on the ages and abilities of participants in attendance, Skaff will offer an origami demonstration of a bull or a bat with a detailed explanation of the folding technique and Q&A, or an instructional. Participants will

also likely fold the Jun Maekawa three-headed crane, said Skaff, who will come prepared with traditional 9.75- by 9.75-inch Kami Paper.

All interested parties must be 18 or older to attend, and face covering will be required for the event, which is limited to 20 participants, first come, first served.

R.S.V.P. before Monday, Oct. 11, via a sign-up sheet at the library, which includes a section on participants' origami abilities, as well as an option to their email address to stay informed.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### BIKE LANE SUGGESTIONS

To the Editor,

Along Charles Street on Beacon Hill today, major street work and multiple outdoor restaurant street sites have created just two vehicular lanes. Of course in some parts of the street, there was double parking; so, actually there was

only one lane.

I then scratched my head. I did not have time to assume a simulacrum of the Rodin Thinker. With all the bicycling in correct and incorrect directions between Beacon and Cambridge streets, we should consider two one directional vehicular traffic lanes and one two -directional bicycle lane.

Tris Dammin

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# Beacon Hill, surrounding area's COVID cases drop

By John Lynds

Three weeks ago, Beacon Hill and the surrounding area's COVID weekly positive test rate skyrocketed nearly 50 percent but positive cases have dropped for two weeks in a row. Two weeks ago the weekly positive test rate fell 37 percent and another 25 percent last week.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,376 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 1.8 percent were positive. This was a 25 percent decrease from the 2.4 percent of residents that tested positive between Sep-

tember 20 and September 27.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate also decreased and dropped 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 24,496 residents were tested and 2.7 percent were COVID positive--this was a 10 percent decrease from the 3 percent reported by the BPHC on Sept. 27.

The BPHC data released Monday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 771.6 cases per 10,000 residents--a 1.5 percent increase from the 760.5 cases per 10,000 residents reported on September 27.

Sixty-two additional residents have been infected with the virus

between September 27 and October 4 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,300 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1 percent since Sept. 27 and went from 80,106 cases to 80,971 confirmed cases in a week. There were nine additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,429.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 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 Hock-

ey Skating Skills to the beginner, intermediate and advanced skaters. Students can wear either figure, recreational or hockey skates.

New FALL lessons begin September, 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.BayStateSkatingSchool.org](http://www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org) or call Bay State Skating School (781) 890-8480.

## MGH (from pg. 1)

architectural and design firm NBBJ, detailed ways in which the proposed project now departs from the earlier iteration, including moving the drop-off area near the garage and relocating the proposed new MBTA headhouse for the long-discussed MBTA Red-Blue line connector onto North Grove Street, as well as the creation of the North Anderson Street Arcade, which would add 12,000 square feet of new accessible space, or 60,000 square feet of space with the addition of roof-top terraces.

Thanks to the efforts of Rep. Jay Livingstone and City Councilor Kenzie Bok, a portion of the façade of the 1884 Winchell Elementary School (a.k.a. Ruth Sleeper Hall) at 24 Blossom St. will also be preserved, said Sieniewicz, and incorporated into the new building at Parkman and Blossom streets.

Additional community benefits and neighborhood mitigation from the proposed project include the creation of a new community center at 75 Blossom Court – a

hospital-owned property that is now home to J Pace & Son, a small grocery store – and a commitment from MGH to move its current operations out of a maintenance garage at 12 Garden St. and into the new development in the next few years, at which time the hospital would make the Garden Street building available to the city for an acquisition fee of “\$0” for income-restricted redevelopment purposes, with an eye on creating new affordable housing opportunities.

The new building will also be 85-percent electric-powered, with the remaining 15 percent generated by steam, said Sieniewicz, which is up from only 65-percent electric-powered in the first iteration.

Moreover, the new building is moving to an all-electric platform, he added, to keep in line with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Richelle Gerwitz, a Beacon Hill resident and architect, asked

MGH to consider dispensing with the proposed Superblock configuration in favor of several mid-sized structures that would better align with the other existing buildings in the immediate area.

Linda Ellenbogen, a Hawthorne Place trustee, said she was still waiting for changes to come to Blossom Street that were promised under the Menino Administration.

Councilor Bok said she was disheartened to learn that money on the city's docket that was earmarked for the Blossom Street redesign when she took office were also the same funds left over for the project from the Menino Administration. “It’s very disappointing, to say the least,” she added.

Also, Councilor Bok said, “I worry a lot about the intensely used pedestrian crossing where Blossom Street meets Parkman. It’s very frustrating for me.”

William Moose of the Boston Transportation Department said that the city's Public Works Department (who wasn't represented at the meeting) would be taking the lead on the Blossom Street redesign process.

Bill Conroy, senior project manager for the BTD, was on board during the Menino Administration for the Blossom Street redesign



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of Mass General Hospital's proposed Clinical Building.

process and said he “would dust that off and get back to the community on it.”

Rep. Livingstone encouraged those in attendance to get involved in the BTD's ongoing process involving the planning and design of Cambridge Street.

Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board, asked if some traffic to the hospital, which sometimes back up to the Longfellow Bridge, could be re-routed down Cambridge Street onto Blossom Street (while some others in attendance expressed concern this would only result in traffic being strained elsewhere).

David Habitchak of NBBJ responded that Phase 1, or the east side of the building, would be completed three years before its west side, which would allow ample time to “train” hospital employees, patients, and visitors to access the hospital via Blossom Street instead.

The BPDA board is scheduled to vote on both the application for Mass General's proposed new Clinical Building and the hospital's Institutional Master Plan on Oct. 14, and public testimony will be accepted during the virtual meeting.

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[deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com).

## THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT BOSTON'S HISTORIC OLD NORTH CHURCH



*Ray gets his blessing from Rev. Matthew Cadwel.*

Last Saturday afternoon at the Old North Church in Boston's North End District Vicar, Rev. Dr. Matthew P. Cadwell and Rev. Amy Whitcomb- Siemmer blessed all the local pets in the St. Francis Garden. They ranged from five months to 13 years, and came in all sizes and shapes, but loved one and all by their owners.

It was a brief ceremony, giving thanks for their lives here on earth, being a trusted companion to their owners. Despite the array of animals, they acted like they knew this was a special occasion and showed their best behavior to receive their blessing.

RUFF (Responsible Urbanites for Fido) the local North End dog group helped organized the affair.



*Rev. Dr. Matt. Cadwell reads the blessing prayers and awaits the response from the group.*



*Reading the Prayer of Saint Francis, is Anya and Hana Potter.*



*RUFF, Kerry Mulvaney with "Benny", President of RUFF Lesliy Wallus and "Oz" and Emily Horn with "Pierre".*



*Bramble gets his blessing, with his family Janice and Walter Spokowski.*



*Tom Alessandro with Kenzi.*



*Rev. Dr. Matthe Cadwell with "Wrangler and his family, Kathryn, Burtun, Miles, Graydon and Chad Jackson.*



*Juliana Delisia with Ruxin.*

## BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

The Bay Village Neighborhood Association resumed their annual Block Party after missing last year due to the Covid Pandemic. The 49th annual gathering was held at the start of Fall and was well received by neighbors. Food, activities, catching up on events, and simply catching up with their neighbors made the Block Party a welcome tradition to see returned.



Steve Sampang and Andrew Sharpe.



Boston City Council candidate Ruthzee Louijeune (left) with Rob Murray, Gaye Bok, and Bhamati Perkins



Donny Goode and Mary Darmstaetter get some food provided by Redbones.



Jane and Lucy Preotle.



Ricardo, Oliver, Audrey, and Lucas Costello.



President of Bay Village Neighborhood Association Tom Perkins with Molly Griffin and Kim Crucoli of City Hall Neighborhood Services.



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The application deadline for the 2022-2023 school year is January 14, 2022



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn and his wife Kristen.



Robbie and Sam Capizzo with their furry friend, Canoli.



Molly Griffin and Kim Crucoli of Boston City Hall Neighborhood Services with Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michlewitz.

## BAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY



Boston Mayoral candidate Michelle Wu chats with residents.



President of Bay Village Neighborhood Association Tom Perkins (2nd from left) and his wife Bhamati, Officer Frank Ciampa and Sgt Paul Chevrette and Officer Darnell Toomer.



Bay Village residents shared food and good times.

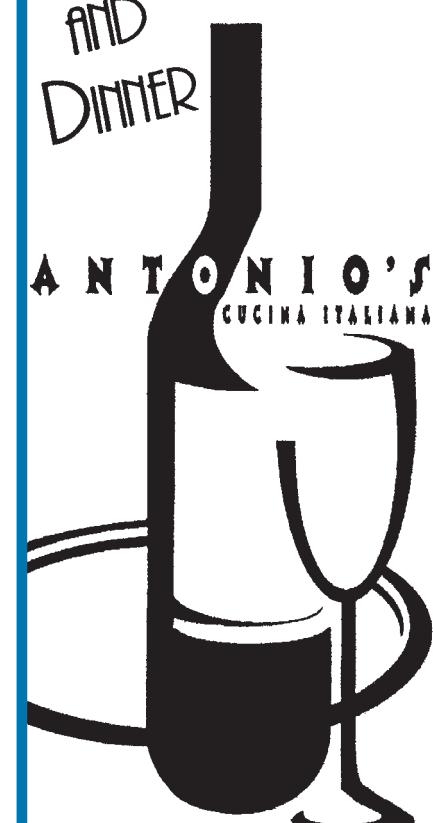


The first Block Party since the pandemic was a well organized success.

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# A night at the barn

BINA Farm Center in Lexington recently marked a first in its 12-year history when it served as the setting for a dinner for 20 with wine paring, which took place amid the horses in the stalls.

Bin 26 Enoteca provided dinner and wine for members of a family who made a contribution of more than \$20,000 to BINA Farm, a nonprofit that brings together individuals with and without special needs via therapeutic horseback riding.

"It was wonderful to finally be able to host this family that made this incredible donation to BINA Farm," said Babak Bina, who, together with his wife Coryn Bina, founded BINA Farm, and who, along with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, owns and operates Bin 26 on Charles Street, as well as jm Curley and its steakhouse, Bogie's

Place, in Downtown Crossing.

"We had a wonderful event planner [K. Kerkorian Events] who donated her services to create an atmosphere by designing the tables, and through flower arrangements, lighting, etcetera, and she was in charge of the mood, so to speak."

Nader Asgari-Tari, Bin 26's wine director, orchestrated the wine menu and was on hand to discuss each wine selection throughout the dinner.

"Originally, a lot of things like plates and silverware were supposed to be donated, but people were strapped for cash so we ended up paying for it at the end of the day, which was okay," said Bina. "We were serving food amid the wonderful music and literally cooked everything there."

## RESTAURANTS (from pg. 1)

is arduous and exhausting just to read."

Moreover, Bina added, "It was an incredibly arduous process with no guarantees you'll get [a permit]. The checklist alone is four-pages long under normal circumstances."

Some restaurants that now have outdoor dining, including Bin 26, also never would have been allowed to offer it in the first place during pre-pandemic times.

"The neighborhood, in the old days, wouldn't okay [our current outdoor dining provisions at Bin 26], so there was no point in going

through that kind of process," said Bina, "and there's no guarantee we're going to get to keep what we have now."

Bina gives the city a lot of credit for making it work in the interim.

"The city, specifically the Licensing Board, did an incredible job while having to be totally remote in helping us restaurants get through the temporary process as quickly as possible," he said. "I believe that the old, pre-covid process of [the city's Public Improvements Commission] is too burdensome in our case and not business friendly."

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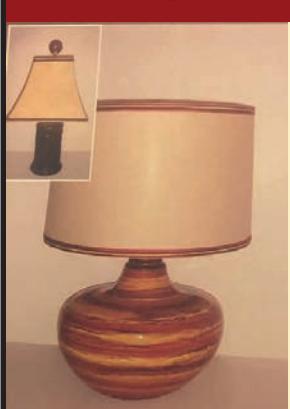
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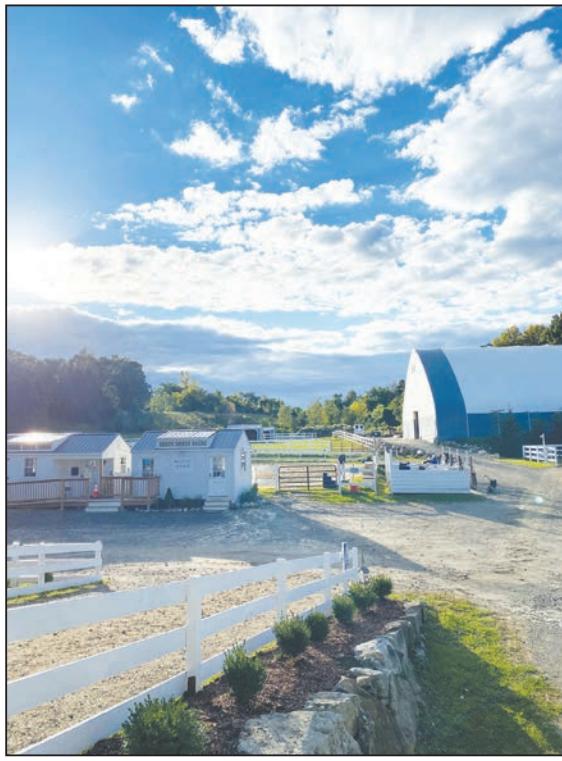
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COURTESY OF BABAK BINA

BINA Farm Center served a dinner for 20 amid the horses in the stalls.

Since the new outdoor dining space was created, many restaurants have also invested large sums of money in outdoor dining equipment and furniture like tables, chairs, umbrellas, heaters, and barriers, with no real assurances that they'll be able to use them (or offer outdoor dining) again in the future.

But on Beacon Hill, Bina has heard nothing but praise for the new outdoor dining opportunities in the neighborhood.

"Our neighbors in Beacon Hill have been thrilled about living in the neighborhood and being able to walk down to their favorite restaurants to enjoy outdoor dining," he said, "and without exception, every single diner who is our neighbor on Beacon Hill commented that they hope outdoor dining [in the neighborhood] is here to stay."

Outdoor dining also benefits other businesses besides restaurants, Bina attests.

"In the summertime, Charles Street was normally dead at night-

time, and now, there is vitality in the community that everyone can benefit from, including retailers, so I have seen no downside to outdoor dining," said Bina. "There's no argument or pushback. It's a win-win all around."

One unprecedented challenge now facing Bina and other Boston restauranteurs is not only how difficult it can be to get a part replaced for an essential piece of equipment like an oven or a dishwasher, but also the difficulty of having the coveted item installed by a service professional once it's in hand.

"At jm Curley, one of our oven's motors burned out and needed to be replaced," said Bina. "We had to wait eight weeks for a part we were told people were fighting over and ultimately another two weeks for the service person to come."

Bina added: "We had to wait 10 weeks for what would've been one week in the old days. We have two ovens, but the other one's gone now. Luckily, they didn't both go at

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the same time."

And Bina also knows he's not alone in this: "People are grappling with supply-chain issues for grills, refrigerators – you name it," he said.

On top this, the price of seafood has skyrocketed, with the cost of scallops quadrupling, while restaurants still struggle to find workers.

"There's such a labor shortage out there," said Bina. "There's competitiveness in pay-rates, which has increased our labor costs in the restaurant industry."

And restaurants now must find a way to absorb these additional costs without passing them along to patrons.

"Now, we have pushed the cost of everything across the board up – labor, parts, services and we're able to support that without drastically increasing our menu prices," said Bina. "But take out the outdoor seating income, and we're going to be upside down."

Outdoor seating accounts for 25 to 30 percent of some restaurants' overall revenue, said Bina, while some restaurants have more seating outside than they do inside.

"The Upper Crust [on Charles Street] is a perfect example," said Bina, "as is Coppa in the South End and Little Donkey in Cambridge."

And the loss of outdoor dining could prove an unsurmountable setback for some restaurants, Bina believes.

"We're creating a new cost platform, which, if we don't get outdoor seating back, will have devastating effects," said Bina. "Take out the outdoor seating income, and we're going to be upside down."

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## WEBINAR EXPLORES 'NEW ENGLAND STONE CARVING AND ITS SYMBOLS'

Historic New England presents "Graven Images: New England Stone Carving and its Symbols" on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 5:30 p.m.

In Puritan New England, with its abiding concern for things not of this world and its distrust of ceremonies, one symbolic art form flourished as a means of aesthetic-spiritual expression: mortuary monument stone carvings. Join Dr. Allan Ludwig as he redefines the historically distorted image of puritanism in favor of a people who drew their vision of the spiritual world with an intensity of expression and dignity and with an unexpected capacity for stylistic innovation.

Tickets are free; donations are encouraged. Become a member at [www.historicnewengland.org](http://www.historicnewengland.org) today to help us continue to offer free programs for all to enjoy.

Call 617-994-6678 or visit <https://my.historicnewengland.org/11338/gravenfor> more information.

The link for the webinar will be included in the order confirmation for this program.

## BOOK CLUB TO READ AND DISCUSS 'FRANKENSTEIN'

The Nichols House Museum and Gibson House Museum's 2021-22 season of Read the Room - a book club inspired by the literary salons of the 19th century - kicks off with a discussion on "Frankenstein" on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 6 p.m.

The first science fiction novel was written more than 200 years ago but its legacy and relevance continues today. Discuss the context and implications of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" (1818)

just in time for spooky season.

Participants will be provided with a list of discussion questions the week prior to the event, and each event will highlight particular objects or spaces at the host museum that connect to the book. Some programs will take place on site; others will happen virtually, so that we can welcome everyone to an experience that feels comfortable for them.

The Read the Room program continues on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with "North and South" (1854) by Elizabeth Gaskell; on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6-7:30 p.m., with "Wuthering Heights" (1847) by Emily Bronte; on Wednesday, April 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with a Special Read the Room meeting for Poetry Month with "Lyrics of Life and Love (1904)" by William Stanley Braithwaite; and Wednesday, June 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with "Deephaven" (1900) by Sarah Orne Jewett Stay tuned for related Pride Month events.

Admission is free for members, \$12 per meeting, or \$45 for the entire season

Space is limited, and advanced registration is required through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/x/read-the-room-book-club-frankenstein-1818-by-mary-shelley-tickets-169542733881>. Registration is free for Nichols House Museum and Gibson House Museum members. For non-members, registration is \$12 per meeting or \$45 for the entire season.

## HISTORY OF THE NICHOLS FAMILY SILVER COLLECTION

The Nichols House Museum will host "What can a teapot teach us?," a free virtual lecture highlighting the Nichols family silver collection through a social history lens, - on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

This program will discuss the ways in which important issues in American society, like immigration and domestic service, can be interpreted through the Nichols family silver collection. This summer's Julie Linsdell and Georgia Linsdell Enders Research Fellow, Kayli Rideout, will showcase collection objects from spoons to salvers and explore how these examples of decorative arts held social meaning for both the Nichols family and American society at large. This conversation will draw from Kayli's summer research project, a social history of the Nichols family's silver collection from the colonial period to the 20th century.

This program is free and will take place virtually via Zoom. Registration is through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/x/what-can-a-teapot-teach-us-social-history-of-the-nichols-silver-collection-tickets-173764784147>.

Visit [www.nicholshousemuseum.org](http://www.nicholshousemuseum.org) for further information.

## HALLOWEEN TALK AT WEM RECALLS HISTORY OF LEVERETT STREET JAIL

The West End Museum presents "Ghosts in the Museum: The Leverett Street Jail," a Halloween talk presented by Duane Lucia, the museum's president and curator, on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7.

Located approximately where the West End Museum is today, the Leverett Street Jail served as the city and county prison for some three decades in the mid-19th century (1822–1851).

Admission to the event is free with a costume, and tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ghosts-in-the-museum-the-leverett-street-jail-tickets-182922735827>.

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# BEACON HILL BEAT

## From Boston Police Area A-1

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### Assault and Battery

9/26/21 - Around 2:45 a.m., police responded to a call for a Motor Vehicle Accident at 100 West Cedar St.

When officers arrived on scene, they observed a vehicle with heavy damage, leaking fluids and airbags deployed, left unattended under the bridge by the CVS Pharmacy at Cambridge and Charles streets.

When the officers spoke with a nearby witness, the witness informed them that suspect fled on foot after the accident. Area A-1 detectives are investigating the matter.

### Hit and Run

9/28/21 - About 5 p.m., officers received a radio call for a light pole laying across West Cedar and Phillips streets.

When officers arrived on scene, they spoke with a witness who informed them that a white Dodge Ram struck the pole and fled the scene. The Boston Fire construction team arrived on scene and was able to successfully remove the pole from the street. Area A-1 detectives are investigating the matter.

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### BUYER 1

### SELLER 1

### ADDRESS

### PRICE

#### BACK BAY

128 Beacon A LLC  
Smith, Sabrina  
Beacon Dogs LLC  
Alibrandi, Mark W  
Alibrandi, Mark W  
Marsh, Cynthia U  
Stahl-Hannam, Deborah  
Achenar 36 LLC  
Townley, William D  
300 Marlborough St LLC  
Skendaj, Arber  
Sherman, Michael  
Gildea, James  
Mangan, Laurette E  
Capodilupo, Emily  
Capodilupo, Emily  
Capodilupo, Emily

Egan FT 2006	128 Beacon St #A	\$5,310,000
Lucas, Julia A	180 Beacon St #2C	\$630,000
Chan, Sylvia	230 Beacon St #1	\$400,000
Ng, Shaun K	341 Beacon St #4A	\$1,968,000
Ng, Shaun K	341 Beacon St #4B	\$1,968,000
James R Ahlgren	2 Clarendon St #410	\$1,075,000
Post, Alexandra	280 Commonwealth Ave #106	\$850,000
36 Comm Avenue LLC	36 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$6,500,000
Roush, William R	286 Marlborough St #1	\$3,155,000
Selmasson Holdings LLC	300 Marlborough St	\$5,900,000
Schaeffer FT	38-40 Saint Botolph St #7	\$452,000
Ernest S Mathews 1999	333 Commonwealth Ave #15	\$2,390,000
CMC RT	466 Commonwealth Ave #707	\$370,000
Ciolfi, Dylan	388 Marlborough St #1	\$495,000
Frieze, Kenneth S	445 Marlborough St	\$8,600,000
Frieze, Kenneth S	447 Marlborough St #4	\$8,600,000
Frieze, Kenneth S	447 Marlborough St #5	\$8,600,000

#### BEACON HILL

Rurode, Catherine  
Lee, Chun J  
Goodwin, Shawn B  
Lee Thomas Merkel T  
Martins, Kevin J  
Conway, Adrian  
Keane, Michael  
62 West Cedar Street LLC

E Malievskaya 2010 RET	27 Anderson St #2	\$670,000
Brien, Annette M	45 Garden St #2	\$615,000
Kohl, Jarrod	4 Goodwin Pl #1	\$790,000
Patton, Ryan R	140 Mount Vernon St #6	\$2,276,000
Patel, Shonak	6 Phillips St #4	\$687,000
Betty Boston T	35 Pinckney St #2	\$760,000
Macrae, Emilie	45 Revere St #4	\$927,500
Mentakis Investments LP	62 W Cedar St	\$4,200,000

#### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Studer, Jacqueline  
Studer, Jacqueline  
Wu, Jianhua  
Tam, Soi H  
Ottenheimer, Daniel G  
Awad, Lana  
Shadow 88 LLC  
Doyle, Michaela  
Dev Vardhan RET  
Carter, Larissa M  
Zhang, Zhenyuan

Gu, Xiang	17 Follen St #4	\$925,000
Gu, Xiang	17 Follen St #4	\$925,000
761 Harrison Church LLC	771 Harrison Ave #404	\$1,100,000
Giovanniello, Erika	120 Mountfort St #405	\$419,962
Whippy, David T	35 Queensberry St #18	\$329,000
Hennessey, Graham G	51-53 Saint Rose St #3	\$925,000
Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #405	\$969,900
Mitchell, Mark D	136-140R Shawmut Ave #3B	\$890,000
Smith, Gregory D	32 Traveler St #313	\$765,000
David A Lamariello RET	27 Wareham St #301	\$940,000
Anant, Priya	1721 Washington St #405	\$785,000

#### WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

23D RT  
Chenkin, Sandra  
Delvecchio, Paul  
Munn, William D  
Bhagwansingh, Terry  
Subbiah, Kanika  
Ruhela, Vijay  
Gautam, Vipul

Green, Aaron S	2 Avery St #23D	\$1,935,000
Lucas, Gregory P	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4608	\$1,300,000
Whetham, Geoffrey C	109-119 Beach St #2A	\$1,070,000
Kowalski, Daniel	181 Essex St #E503	\$675,000
Gerri Goodman RET	1 Franklin St #2307	\$2,047,000
Millennium Tower 2408 N	1 Franklin St #2408	\$2,200,000
Wang, Qingwen	70 Lincoln St #L413	\$870,000
Badawi, Basel	100 State St #5	\$1,585,000

## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The light in the last clue is on the newly renovated Arthur Fiedler Footbridge. The Commonwealth's project renovation document calls this the "... iconic entrance to the Charles River Esplanade." The footbridge was constructed in 1953 and dedicated in 1954. Today's answer is a photo from that time from the Shepley Bulfinch Architectural Firm.

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



## CANVASS LAUNCH FOR WU MAYORAL CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY ON THE HILL



A canvass launch for City Councilor Michelle Wu's bid for Mayor of Boston got underway on Beacon Hill over the weekend. Councilor Wu (front, fifth from left) is seen standing with State Rep. Jay Livingstone.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through October 16

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 full closure of the navigational channel will begin at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, 10/04 and on Friday, 10/08 at 5 p.m. 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.



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crete 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

- Pier 3: Rebar installation and concrete pour

• 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.

## D'Ambrosio announces senior staff

"We are thrilled to announce that we are welcoming some of the strongest grassroots political advocates in Massachusetts to the D'Ambrosio team," said Anthony D'Ambrosio. "They are experienced and committed to our victory."

Levin-Epstein was the Deputy National Finance Director for Senator Ed Markey, where she helped secure \$10M in funding during a highly-contested Senate primary – out-raising the opponent in every quarter in 2020 – through creative in-person and digital fundraising on national, regional, and local levels. She also led creative programming, financial performance, and digital engagement for a portfolio of national events for Senator

Jon Ossoff, which helped secure a record-setting \$117M raised in the runoff.

Stevens-Goodnight has led teams to victory across the Commonwealth and is a highly sought after field strategist. She has worked on national, statewide and local campaigns, as well as for numerous progressive unions. She will be primarily responsible for voter outreach strategy and grassroots organizing including the campaign Get Out The Vote operations.

McCarthy, a recent college graduate from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, has experience in community networking and mobilization.

## Lydia Edwards endorsed by Massachusetts Nurses Association

Lydia Edwards has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) in the special election to State Senate. Primary Election Day is December 14, 2021. General Election Day is January 11, 2022.

"Lydia Edwards has been a strong ally of the Mass Nurses Association and our members as we stand up to corporate executives and fight for better working conditions for our members and safer care for our patients," said MNA President Katie Murphy. "Long before serving in office, Lydia was a champion for exploited workers, securing a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and standing up for them court to protect their rights. We are proud to endorse Lydia Edwards for Senate and we know she will deliver for the people of Boston, Revere, Winthrop and Cambridge."

The MNA is the largest union and professional association of registered nurses and health professionals in the state, and the third largest in the nation, representing more than 23,000 members working in 85 health care facilities, including 51 acute care hospitals, as well as a growing number of nurses and health professionals working in schools, visiting nurse associations, public health departments and state agencies.

In 2014, Lydia led the successful efforts to win statewide labor protections for domestic workers, nannies and house cleaners

cut out of the New Deal. Lydia has since fought to eliminate sub-minimum tipped wages for restaurant workers and to provide financial resources to restaurants who change their business model to a single, equal wage. Her advocacy resulted in the creation of a Restaurant Revitalization Fund to improve conditions for both restaurants and workers.

At Suffolk Downs, Lydia stood by labor to win a Project Labor Agreement at the largest private development project in Boston's history, creating good union jobs for a whole generation of workers. She fought for commitments to language justice and won an unprecedented investment in ESL for job training.

Lydia Edwards has stood with workers in the hospitality industry, service workers at Logan Airport, student workers in our higher education system, teachers, Brazilian immigrant workers and many others.

Lydia Edwards is a candidate for State Senate representing the First Suffolk and Middlesex District, following the departure of Senator Joseph A. Boncore. To date, Edwards has been endorsed by: OPEIU Local 453, Teamsters Local 25, Revere activist Juan Jaramillo, State Representative Nika Elugardo. For a full and up-to-date list of endorsements, visit: [LydiaEdwards.org/endorsements](http://LydiaEdwards.org/endorsements).

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**SPIRIT** (from pg. 1)

include all the flavors and colors of autumn," added Hill.

Restaurants like 75 Chestnut are making their seasonal statement with a nod to Oktoberfest. "Our menu will include delicious Oktoberfest dishes like imported bratwurst and knockwurst with our Bavarian potato salad and caramelized onions," said president and CEO Markus Ripperger.

Babak Bina, owner of Bin 26 Enoteca, said "the autumnal food and beverage menus this season feature New England's best. We will utilize wines that help us ease into slightly colder weather with flavors that pair naturally with more savory and comfort filling food like pumpkin stuffed ravioli with sage and burnt butter. On the cordial side of things, we're digging into the classics, with a practical and fresh twist where it makes sense," added Bina.

The month-long fundraising efforts conclude with Halloween on the Hill with streets closed down for trick-or-treating. The business community will top off the month on Halloween by also "Getting in the Spirit" with a Halloween Costume Photo Showdown at 5 p.m., prompt, at the intersection of Charles and Mount Vernon streets. Anyone interested in being part of this newsworthy photo is welcome, but masks are required to be included.



December Thieves store manager, Jemisii Delande.



Jennifer Hill, owner Blackstone's of Beacon Hill, and Laura Cousineau, owner Upstairs Downstairs Antiques, with the Jimmy Fund banner.



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