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The West End Museum flood

Special to the Times

On January 15, a burst pipe on the fourth floor of West End Place -- a mixed income complex at 150 Staniford Street -- inundated the West End Museum (WEM) with over two-inches of water, and displaced around 25 families, who were temporarily relocated to the nearby Boxer Hotel. The first floor museum will be closed for several months until it is safe for visitors to return.

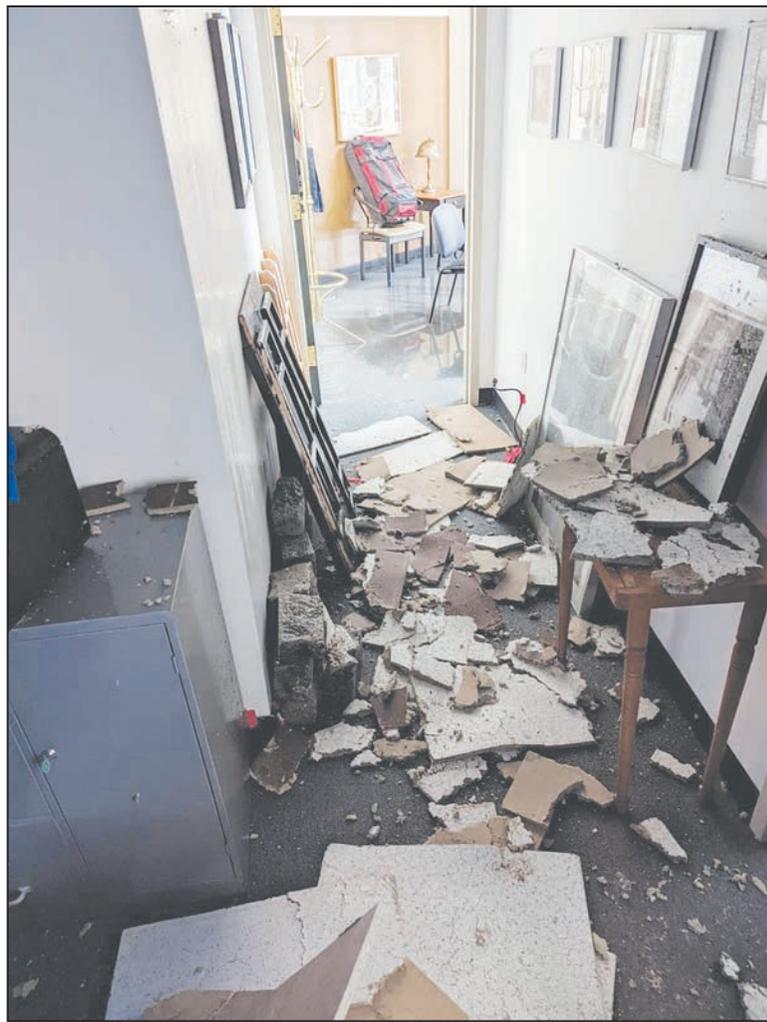
Museum Director Sebastian Belfanti was at WEM when the deluge began flowing downward, freezing in the street below.

"I grabbed paintings and artifacts that were at risk, and brought them to my car," described Belfanti, who has been sorting through the collection to assess damages. "That's why there are no horrible losses."

Although there was minor water damage to a dozen pieces in the galleries, the staff saved most of the photographs and bicycles currently on exhibit in "Cycling Legends of the West End," and "The Last Tenement." In the archives, some 50 pieces -- mostly unprocessed documents and images -- were lost.

"It could have been much more dramatic. We are counting ourselves lucky," Belfanti said. "We stored things in ways that were mindful of the possibilities of an event like this."

A backflow of water deposited salt on the newly installed floor,



ALL IMAGES PROVIDED BY THE WEST END MUSEUM

Debris from the ceiling, fallen on the floor of the West End Museum.

and sections of the museum walls are peeling. Once artifacts are relocated to board members' homes, the ceiling will be dismantled. The most painful wreckage for Belfanti was the warping and cracking photographs.

"Images from the 1800s are bowl-shaped now. The paper will never bend back. We have to figure

out how to protect them in their much more vulnerable form," Belfanti explained. "Because it's so hot in here, some of the large images in our permanent exhibit are going to have to go. Because the exhibit is from The Bostonian Society, we don't have the originals of those images, so if we want to reproduce them, it would be quite a bit of work."

Belfanti estimates that it will take at least three months to clear the debris and replace the walls, ceilings, and portions of the floor.

"I am watching the permanent exhibit bow off the walls in the course of a week," said Belfanti.

In the meantime, Belfanti aspires to keep patrons engaged with the neighborhood and its story. He will continue posting historic articles in his weekly newsletter. Belfanti hopes to host Zoom events, and will be announcing volunteer opportunities next month. In February, he will be offering guided walking tours through the West End.

When Belfanti was hired on

(FLOOD Pg. 8)

Colonial Society welcomes public for monthly open houses

By Dan Murphy

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts is inviting the public to tour its headquarters at 87 Mount Vernon St. at its next monthly open house on Sunday, Feb. 6.

"The house really hasn't been open to the public that much, so we decided this was a good way to let people know what's inside and what the Colonial Society does," said Robert Allison, president of Colonial Society, as well as a history professor at Suffolk University, who describes the Colonial Society

as "a scholarly nonprofit organization that primarily publishes books and documents on early American history," specifically on the early history of Massachusetts.

"Here we have this great house, and neighbors and visitors to the neighborhood don't know what's happening inside and what the Colonial Society does," said Allison, "and we also thought [opening the house to the public] would be a nice amenity for the neighborhood."

(COLONIAL SOCIETY Pg. 5)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts at 87 Mount Vernon St.



A 1946 photograph of the 40th anniversary party for the West End House at the Hotel Statler, with future President John F. Kennedy in the center.

The Beacon Hill Times

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EDITORIAL

SAFE INJECTION SITES ARE NEEDED NOW

Among the side-effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in drug-overdose deaths in this country.

The death rate from opioids finally had begun to decline in 2019, but then came COVID-19 and the number of deaths from drug overdoses began to skyrocket once again.

The nation was reporting fewer than 50,000 fatal overdoses as recently as 2014, but in 2020, drug overdose deaths breached the 100,000 mark.

The chief cause of the surge in deaths is the increase in availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is being laced into all sorts of drugs -- from marijuana to cocaine to heroin -- by the drug cartels. According to some news reports, nearly half of drugs tested by the DEA contain a potentially fatal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, but is far cheaper to manufacture for drug dealers, who use it as a substitute for heroin powder or press it into black-market oxycodone pills. Fentanyl is now also finding its way into cocaine and party drugs like ecstasy and is even sprayed on marijuana.

It has been reported that fentanyl now has killed far more Americans than all U.S. conflicts since World War II combined. In the past decade, it has claimed more than a half million lives, a toll that is growing daily.

In view of the combination of the lethality and availability of fentanyl, now more than ever our nation needs to address the tragedy of drug overdose deaths with a realistic solution.

Those who think that we can stop the supply of fentanyl are living in a fantasy-world of the 1970s-era movie *The French Connection*. Fentanyl is so powerful that just a few automobile trunk-loads are enough to kill every American citizen.

If old-school heroin were to be compared to conventional weaponry, then fentanyl is a nuclear bomb.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it a number of bills that would allow for clean injection sites, similar to what New York City and the nation of Portugal (where drug overdose rates have been a fraction of the rest of the world for 20 years) are doing.

We urge our state legislators to enact this important legislation forthwith. Every day of delay means more lives lost needlessly to the scourge of drugs.

OMICRON CAN LEAD TO LONG COVID

Public health officials have defined so-called long COVID as the physical, neurological, and cognitive symptoms that can persist indefinitely after infection.

Over the past two years, we've all seen the countless news stories about the devastating effects of long COVID upon those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from it.

Although the Omicron variant is causing less severe disease in those who are fully-vaccinated, the number of those infected who suffer from the loss of taste and smell, physical fatigue, and brain fog still is quite significant.

During this period of a surge in COVID because of Omicron's high transmissibility, it only makes sense for all of us to continue to take the usual precautions -- wearing a protective face mask (such as an N-95), maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large crowds -- until the Omicron surge begins to wane.

Sure, we can play Russian roulette with our health.

But with the number of Omicron cases already declining (though still high) in Massachusetts, we figure that if we've made this far through the worst of the pandemic, sticking it out for another two months or so by making careful choices only makes sense.

GUEST OP-ED

The 3Gpocalypse is coming — Is your car ready?

By Kane DiMasso-Scott

Just this week I heard about something that I'm surprised has not received more media coverage on the national level, as it's extremely important to us as consumers. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of the year, 3G networks are being shut down by the major players in the cellular network industry, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. This poses no problem to our use of cell phones, however, our automobiles are about to get a whole lot "dumber."

Nearly every major brand in the auto industry has, from 2010 to as late as 2021, used these 3G networks in certain models for many of their included and on-board features in their cars. With the shutdown of 3G networks, features like GPS navigation, automatic crash detection, SOS emergency features, remote locking and unlocking, and the ability to connect with your phones (wirelessly), among others, will no longer be functional. Some companies have already announced their plans to address the issue, while others still have not said much.

Certain brands will be offering free over-the-air updates for your vehicle to ensure that the features continue to work such as Subaru, Honda, and GM, while others look to require a hardware upgrade at a dealership to re-enable your features or disable warn-

ing messages that may arise from the lack of connectivity.

The shutdown of 3G networks is not something that comes as a surprise, as it was always an inevitability following 4G and now 5G rollouts. However, what's embarrassing and downright frustrating is the fact that some automakers continued to produce vehicles using this same outdated network, fully aware of the ramifications down the line. I commend the aforementioned companies that are pushing out updates for their consumers, but others who have yet to announce what their plans are is maddening.

More often than not we, as the consumer, will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a vehicle, expecting the features included when we purchased the vehicle to always be available. Now, with the shutdown of 3G networks, it seems like a fair number of vehicles will lose those features permanently, or will require additional purchases to re-enable or modernize these vehicles for 4G.

So not only will some consumers lose access to features they thought they'd have throughout their vehicle's lifetime, but others may also have to pay additional fees to get those features back. This shouldn't be our responsibility. It's on the automakers and dealers to make it right. They continued to produce vehicles on an outdated network knowing it would be obsolete, but

now, the piper needs to be paid and some of them believe that responsibility falls on you.

You can visit <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars-gps.html> or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see the current list of publicly known affected models. AT&T will shut down their 3G network next month, which certain Honda, Nissan and Volvo models rely on for their features. If this is your first-time hearing about it as well, I suggest you call your dealer, figure out what, if anything, could be done if you have an affected model, and hope for the best.

Good luck.



Kane DiMasso-Scott is an art director for the Independent Newspaper Group. The views expressed in this Op-Ed do not necessarily represent the views of the Independent Newspaper Group.

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Senator Lydia Edwards sworn in by Baker

By John Lynds

At a State House ceremony last Thursday Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker in front of a room of new colleagues, friends and family.

After taking the oath Edwards addressed the Massachusetts Senate for the first time and promised to be a hard worker and asked for her colleagues' prayers as she embarks on a new journey in public service.

"I can only promise to do one thing and that's to be myself and ask that you help me, pray for me, feed me because I'm a horrible cook, but also, educate me," said Edwards "I asked for your patience, your transparency, your honesty. To my colleagues on both sides of this incredible building, especially those in the Senate, you have in me a hard worker. You have someone who likes to laugh. You have someone who wants to get things done. I won't

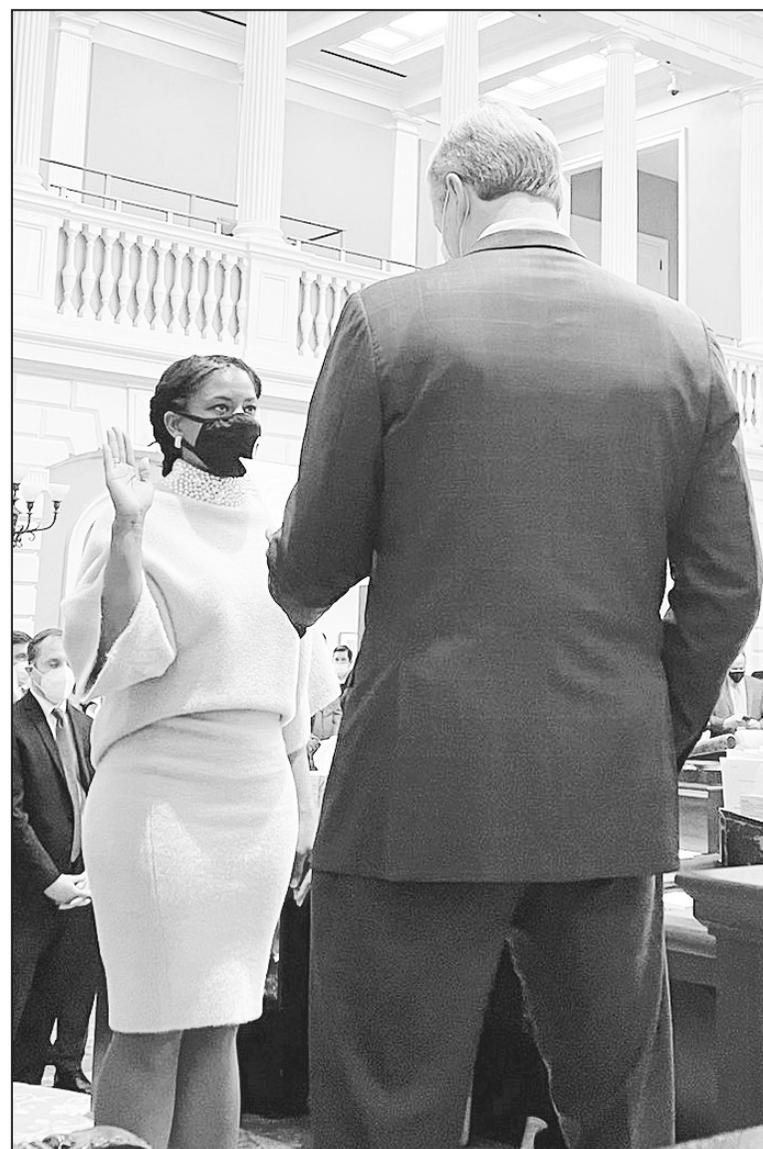
choose perfection over progress. I will ask that you be totally transparent with me as I will be with you. We are going to get along and we're going to get a lot of things done. This pathway here was not easily paved and includes losses, it includes wins, it includes a lot of different things. I'm gonna keep fighting but more importantly I'm ready to go so let's get to work."

Edwards, who won the state special election democratic primary in December and then the general election earlier this month hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she was raised by her military mom.

"To my public school teachers, my coaches, my after school program counselor, my babysitter—thank you," she said. "Thank you to all of those hands that helped train me in the art of social justice and service. I also want to thank the immigrant community of Massachusetts. So much of my pathway here is paved by you, paved by your struggle, paved by your

resilience, paved by your fight that I was honored to be a part of. But I have to say I've been told consistently no matter how far I go in my life to not forget where I come from."

Edwards continued and addressed her mother, Bridgett, "Today I look at my mother. You know, the reason why I won was because of your story. My mom, retired Master Sergeant Bridget Edwards of the United States Air Force, raised me and my sister Erica all over the world. When we landed in Michigan, she worked two jobs during the week and a weekend job. Erica and I had jobs and so much of that story is replicated in the men and women I see in my district. So much of who you are and your struggle is what I saw in the nannies and house cleaners that I represented. Because I saw you in them I fight harder because you're in my life. You're an excellent mother. I love you so much. Thank you so much."



Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker last Thursday in the Mass Senate Chambers.



Senator Lydia Edwards with Mayor Michelle Wu and former Senators Joseph Boncore, Robert Travaglini, Linda Dorcea Forry and Anthony Petrucci.

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Attorney General Maura Healey announces bid for Governor

By John Lynds

Standing in Maverick Square in East Boston last Thursday Attorney General Maura Healey officially announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts.

Healey has long been touted as the successor to Gov. Charlie Baker's governorship and emerged as a frontrunner for the corner office well before Baker announced he would not seek a third term. Healey's political rise began during her upset victory for Attorney General over Warren Tollman who had former Gov. Deval Patrick and former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh in his corner.

With over \$3.5 million in her campaign war chest, Healey is poised to become the first Massachusetts Attorney General to be elected governor since James Sullivan pulled off the feat in 1807—although many have tried with the last being Martha Coakley's bid against Baker.

"I think about where we are right now as a state," said Healey during her press conference in East Boston. "We have been through a lot or people have been through a lot. Our businesses have been through a lot. Our children have been through a lot, a lot of anxiety, a lot of despair, some incredible hardship. But I have seen over the last two years such incredible acts of resilience, of caring, of compassion. I have long believed, because I've had the privilege of serving as your attorney general for the last seven years, that the state and its people have endless capacity to do great things. We're at a hard time now. But we're going to get through it and we're going to go on

and we're going to build forward in ways that we can't even imagine right now. That's what excites me. I want to bring to this as your next governor a lot of things to focus on, a lot of things that need attention, especially getting the economy back on track and making sure that it works for everyone across the state. But I'm just really excited to be here and to be out in a community like East Boston. It's about meeting the people where they are. I've always been driven by the people and engagement with people."

Healey said job one for her administration would be a focus on economic growth and job creation.

"So many people are experiencing high cost of living, whether it's in health care, housing, even transit, gasoline, you name it right now, and that's something that we've got to deal with as a state," she said. "I recognize there's monetary policy that the federal government is going to control but there are actually levers and things that we can do as a state to better address that situation. But job one will be making sure this economy is back on track that gets to issues of workforce development and job training. It gets to issues of child care, which is fundamental, especially to getting women back to the workforce. So there's a lot of opportunity and a lot of work ahead to continue what's working and address what's not working. The general governing philosophy is if something's working, then let's keep with it and if it's not working let's figure out what we need to do."

Healey continued, "That's cer-



Attorney General Maura Healey announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts last week.

tainly what I've tried to do in my time holding this office as Attorney General. I think fundamentally the best thing that Massachusetts has going for it are its people and I see so much possibility and capacity there. I think that we've got great people. I think we've got great institutions. We've got some really terrific "know how" across the state. If you look at some of what's happened just in the last few years in nearby Kendall Square or over in the Seaport, the amount of money that's come into the state in terms of investment. I understand that people wonder if we're ever going to get through this and out of this and I'm just here to say we

are and we will and we will move forward in ways that are bigger and better than ever imagined."

In the end Healey said she believes her record will speak for itself when it comes time for voters to pick a new governor.

"I think if you look at my record it speaks for itself in terms of where I am on fighting systemic racism and inequality, fighting for access to affordable health care, recognizing that across every sector, whether it's climate, transportation, the environment, criminal justice," she said. "We can and should apply an equity lens to everything that we do and bring an intentionality and an energy so that we are in fact

improving the lives and well being and stakes of everybody here in the state, regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, and the like. There are so many things happening right now and I appreciate people's voices. I appreciate their advocacy. I love people, and I love people's enthusiasm and right now we're in a time where people are demanding that what hasn't worked in our systems be addressed. I think with COVID there was so much being dismantled, so much being disrupted and now we got an opportunity to move forward in new and different ways that are going to be better for every single person in this state."

Beacon Hill, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test rate slows a bit

By John Lynds

Ten days after Mayor Michelle Wu and the city implemented the 'B Together' mandate that

requires all employees and patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination, Beacon Hill and the surrounding area's weekly COVID 19 positive test rate has dipped for

the first time in weeks.

The COVID winter surge has wreaked havoc on the city and affected school attendance for both staff and students, closed local business due to staff shortages and put a strain on emergency rooms at area hospitals.

Two weeks ago 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turned out to be positive but that number has dropped.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,150 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 18.7 percent were positive. This was only a 21 percent decrease from the 23.8 percent

that tested positive between January 10 and January 17. The weekly positive test rate has decreased 15 percent in the area overall since January 10.

Four hundred two additional residents have been infected with the virus between January 3 and January 10 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 7,657 cases overall since the pandemic began.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 30,644 residents were tested and 24 percent were COVID positive—this was a 24 percent decrease from the 31.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 17. The weekly positive

test rate has now decreased 25 percent in Boston since January 10.

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 9 percent last week and went from 141,491 cases to 154,692 confirmed cases in a week.

However, there were 53 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,607. Deaths, which totaled 19 two weeks ago, increased 179 percent last week.

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COLONIAL SOCIETY *(from pg. 1)*

For the open houses, which take place on the first Sunday of each month, the house opens at 1 p.m. and closes at 3 p.m., with a short speaking program by a Colonial Society staff member on the history of the house and what the organization does starting at 2 p.m. Docents will also be on hand to assist guests as they tour the house.

Renowned architect Charles Bulfinch built the Federal-style mansion at 87 Mount Vernon St.

in 1807 as the other half of a double-house built six years earlier at 85 Mount Vernon St. for Harrison Gray Otis. Bulfinch originally intended to live at 87 Mount Vernon St., but after mismanaging his finances, he was forced to sell the house to Stephen Higginson, a merchant and shipmaster, according to Allison.

Higginson in turn sold the house to an attorney, William Sawyer, who resided there with his sister, writer Helen Farnham Lee,

for a number of years. Lee's family subsequently lived in the house until 1954, when a descendent of hers donated it to the Colonial Society.

"It's a beautiful house that has only been owned by three owners since 1806," said Allison.

The "driving force" behind the Colonial Society when the organization acquired the house was Walter Muir Whitehill, who collected furniture from other people living on Beacon Hill or things

that their children didn't want in their homes, said Allison.

Today, the house contains a variety of paintings, furniture, books; none of which are original to the house, although they are original to the 18th and 19th centuries, according to Allison.

The Colonial Society held its first open house for members only in October, followed by monthly open houses for the public in November and December, said Meghan Gelardi Holmes, Colonial

Society curator.

"Folks pass by and don't know what's happening in the house, so we really want neighbors to have a have a chance to come inside," she said.

For more information on the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and its monthly open houses at 87 Mount Vernon St., email Robert Allison at rallison@suffolk.edu, or visit <https://www.colonialsociety.org/> to learn more about the organization and its work.



The second-story meeting room at the Colonial Society house, where public lectures were regularly held in pre-pandemic times.



The house's second-story drawing room, whose collection of mirrors are "really quite spectacular," according to Meghan Gelardi Holmes, Colonial Society curator.



The Colonial Society house's second-story library.



The Colonial Society house's first-floor dining room.

D. MURPHY PHOTOS

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Winter Walk returns to raise funds and awareness in fight to end homelessness

By Dan Murphy

Winter Walk - an annual event that aims to raise funds and create awareness in its mission to end homelessness in Greater Boston - returns for its sixth year on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Participants check in at 8:30 a.m. at Copley Plaza, before they set off from there for their two-mile trek around the streets of Boston. (The walk also ends at Copley Plaza). There is a registration fee of \$100 for adults, or \$50 for youth and students, and all registered participants will receive a Winter Walk hat, as well as a backpack loaded with information and offers from local organizations. The event, which also includes breakfast and live music for participants, is co-chaired this year by Jessie and Enrique Colbert of Wayfair and Katie and David Beeston



Participants in Winter Walk 2019 go arm-in-arm.



EUGENIA ELISEEVA PHOTOS

Michael and Joseph are seen during Winter Walk 2020.

of the Boston Red Sox.

All proceeds from Winter Walk, which have totaled more than \$2 million dollars to date, will go to support 10 organizations dedicat-

ed to ending homelessness locally, including Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Brookview House, Common Cathedral, FamilyAid Boston, New England Home and Center for Veterans, Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House, Y2Y Harvard Square, and Boston Medical Center.

Besides being a Winter Walk beneficiary, Boston Medical Center is also the fiscal partner that allows the Winter Walk organization to hold the event as that group seeks its own nonprofit status, said Ari Barbanell, executive director of Winter Walk.

Winter Walk was held virtually in 2021 and last took place as in-person event in February of 2020, just before the pandemic struck, said Barbanell, with

around 2,000 participating each time. This year, the event will be held both in-person and remotely, "so people can join in from anywhere and everywhere," added Barbanell.

As in years past, participants will walk shoulder-to-shoulder with "the housed, the homeless, and everyone in between," said Barbanell, while "sharing stories and remembering that homelessness is just a state of being, not an identity."

Besides individual participants, teams also take part in Winter Walk.

"You can sign up as a team, and bring your family, your community group, or any group you want, and groups can participate either in person or remotely," said Barbanell, who has taken part in Win-

ter Walk every year since its inception and was also a member of one of the event's founding teams.

Meanwhile, Winter Walk, which launched in February of 2017, continues to have a significant impact in the battle to end homelessness in Greater Boston, as well as to raise awareness and change perceptions surrounding the issue.

"We can make an impact, and we can make a change in the situation," said Barbanell. "But we can only do this if we change our perception of homelessness, and that's what we're doing to change the stigma by sharing stories and coming together to end homelessness."

For more information on Winter Walk or to register for the event, visit winterwalkboston.org.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

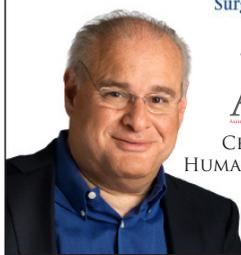
As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

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

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



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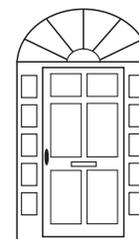
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Rentals

BHAC unanimously approves outdoor signage for future business at 131 Charles St.

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission unanimously approved an application for new outdoor signage for a business at 131 Charles St. during its Jan. 20 public hearing, which was held virtually.

The double-faced hanging sign, measuring 49-by-18 inches, would be made of wood and painted black, and have the business

name – Carolyn Thayer Interiors – emblazoned in 23K gold-leaf lettering, according to Carolyn Thayer, the applicant.

An existing bracket would be used to hand the approved sign, and as a proviso of the commission’s determination, the applicant agreed to provide information on the sign hardware to BHAC staff, Nick Armata.

In another matter, the commission voted unanimously to ratify

unapproved signage at Rouvalis Flowers & Gardens at 40 West Cedar St.

The applicant and business owner, Sean Murphy, said he intends to remove the three wood panels above the awning that comprise the sign, and to re-stencil and repaint the panels before putting them back in place. (The center panel reads “Rouvalis” next to the company logo, while the panel to

(BHAC Pg. 9)



Rouvalis Flowers & Gardens at 40 West Cedar St.



Carolyn Thayer Interiors at 131 Charles St.

D. MURPHY PHOTOS



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Livingstone, Bok, City help residents displaced by flooding

By Dan Murphy

Since residents of 25 households at West End Place were displaced by flooding nearly two weeks ago, Rep. Jay Livingstone, Councilor Kenzie Bok, and the city have stepped up to help provide support to the impacted individuals.

A sprinkler check-valve apparently ruptured on the fourth floor of the condominium-cooperative at 150 Staniford St. in the West End on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 15, leading to flooding in units on the building's bottom four floors, said Kathy Luce, vice president of Wellesley-based Maloney Properties, which manages West End Place.

"The water mitigation, cleanup, and drying process are nearly complete," Luca said on Tuesday, Jan. 25. "The goal is to get everything dry and clean, then do the demo work, taking down the affected areas, including the flooring, ceilings, and dry wall. We're working quickly and rapidly so the people in the vast majority of the units can come back home."

Only two of three of the 25 impacted units sustained significant damage, and will require additional work, said Luce, while other displaced residents are expected to return to their households imminently. In the meantime, however, displaced residents have been staying with family or friends, or staying in hotels.

Besides the impacted units at West End Place, the flooding also caused damage at the West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St. Suite 7, as well as in several offices.

"We're working with all the residents and occupants impacted, [including the West End Museum and office tenants] to rapidly clean up and get them back in their spaces," said Luce. "The residents impacted have been amazing, resilient, and patient and kind, and we're really so appreciative of them working in partnership with us to get them back in their homes."

On behalf of Maloney Properties and those impacted by the flooding, Luce also expressed her gratitude for all the help they've

received so far.

"The [city's] Planning Office for Urban Affairs, one of the ownership entities, has assured the full support of their offices and resources to assist residents living in affordable housing in the building," said Luce. "Councilor Bok, Rep. Livingstone, and city officials have all been incredibly supportive and helpful. We're working collaboratively with them to identify services and support that residents need, and we have already brought in a significant amount of services to people."

Rep. Livingstone and Councilor Bok donated gift cards to displaced residents on Friday, Jan. 21, he said, as the city was also making arrangements to deliver more gift cards to them.

"The city has been great in coordinating with Councilor Bok and myself, and with building management, to provide relief for these people," said Rep. Livingstone. "It's an incredibly unfortunate tragedy, since the displaced people were mostly living in affordable housing."



COURTESY OF MALONEY PROPERTIES

West End Place.

There are several ways readers can help out impacted West End Place households, according to Rep. Livingstone.

In the short term, residents affected need money for food since many of them are temporarily living in hotels without kitchens; gift cards to Star Market or UberEats / DoorDash would be helpful in alleviating that burden.

Residents will also need volunteers to help sort through their

houses and move things into storage in the coming weeks and months.

Once the housing units are repaired, many residents will need to replace furniture items and mattresses, which were destroyed, so donations of these items will be needed as well.

To help out, contact Cassidy from Rep. Livingstone's office at Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.gov.

FLOOD (from pg. 1)

February 1, 2020, it was the museum's best month of visitorship; and then WEM was closed for six months due to the pandemic.

"The goal this year would have been 6,000 visitors," Belfanti added. "Now it's more like 1,000-1,500, and we are back to being shut down. It's hard doing fund-

raising because we don't have a timeline."

Support the West End Museum's renovations, exhibits, programs, and staff by becoming a member and making donations by visiting www.TheWestEndMuseum.org.

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

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Disturbance/Vandalism

On Wednesday, Jan. 19, officers responded to 138 Charles St. for a disturbance call.

When police arrived on scene, they spoke with the store owner, who stated an individual entered the store, attempted to steal a purse, and smashed a glass figurine

in the process. The store owner was able to recover the purse, and no one was injured.

Officers were able to later locate the suspect, who will be summonsed into Boston Municipal District Court for Destruction of Property.



The West End Museum entrance, flooded with two-inches of water.

ALL IMAGES PROVIDED BY THE WEST END MUSEUM

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MBTA proposes several fare change proposals for riders

MBTA staff presented several fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders, minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible, and simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA's Fare Transformation Program (AFC 2.0) moves forward. If approved by the full MBTA Board in March, these fare changes would go into effect on July 1, 2022. The MBTA welcomes public comment on these proposals.

"We're excited about our upcoming fare proposals that prepare for technology updates to come as part of AFC 2.0, increasing equity through improvements to LinkPasses, especially for our Reduced Fare Riders, and making the popular mTicket 5-Day FlexPass permanent for Commuter Rail riders," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "If approved by the MBTA's Board in March, these proposals will allow the T to continue to best meet the needs of riders through incremental fare improvements that reflect how they travel now and in the future, while minimizing revenue implications in this time of continued uncertainty."

Making Permanent 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket for Commuter Rail:

First introduced as a pandemic

fare pilot in June 2020, the 5-Day FlexPass available on mTicket for the Commuter Rail is a bundled fare valid for any five days of travel within a 30-day period. Good for unlimited travel within a 24-hour period, these five passes are available for 10% off the cost of 10 one-way trips. An attractive option for riders whose travel patterns have changed due to hybrid work schedules and the availability of remote-work options, the 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket is proposed to be made permanent. If approved, the permanent 5-Day FlexPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022, or sooner.

Reducing Price of the 1-Day LinkPass:

In an effort to increase ridership by encouraging more riders to buy passes and increase equity for low-income and minority riders who often purchase this fare product, MBTA staff have proposed to lower the cost of the 1-Day LinkPass from \$12.75 to \$11. An \$11 LinkPass pays for itself with five subway rides taken in 24 hours. If approved, the \$11 1-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Second Transfers on Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway:

Currently, the MBTA only allows one transfer between Bus and/or Subway with one recent addition - CharlieCard riders may transfer from Bus to Subway

to Bus. To simplify complexities in the T's transfer policy, MBTA staff have proposed standardizing the transfer process to allow all combinations of second transfers involving Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway, including Bus-Bus-Subway, Subway-Bus-Bus, and Express Bus-Express Bus. If approved, the second transfers on Subway and Buses and transfers between Express Routes would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Proposed Changes for Reduced Fare Riders:

Some riders are eligible for reduced fares, including people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders, people 65 and older, some middle and high school students, and people 18 - 25 with low income. MBTA staff have proposed three fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders:

Introducing the 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders:

Aiming to increase equity by increasing the benefits of purchasing fares in bulk for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed the introduction of a 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders, which is not currently available. This 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is proposed to be available for \$10, which breaks even after nine subway rides. This product is designed to meet the needs of individuals who might

not have enough cash on-hand to afford a monthly pass, but who qualify for Reduced Fare programs. Reduced Single Ride fares for Reduced Fare Riders are \$1.10 for the subway and \$0.85 for the bus with a Reduced Monthly LinkPass available for \$30. The Full Fare 7-Day LinkPass is available for \$22.50. If approved, the expansion of Reduced Fare 7-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Introducing Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus:

In order to increase equity by closing gaps in the T's offering of products for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed introducing monthly passes on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus for Reduced Fare Riders. This proposal would offer a full set of monthly passes for Reduced Fare Riders at approximately 50% of the full fare pass prices. Currently, Reduced Fare Riders have to purchase Single Ride tickets to benefit from the Reduced Fare pricing. If approved, the expansion of Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Availability of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Inner Harbor Ferry:

Currently, a LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is only avail-

able on CharlieCard fare media instead of a printed "flash pass" CharlieTicket that Commuter Rail conductors and ferry staff can see to visually validate a fare. As more updates take place as part of AFC 2.0, customers will be able to use tappable tickets as well as CharlieCards to travel on the Commuter Rail and Ferries. As such, and to increase access and equitable pricing on Reduced Fare passes, MBTA staff have proposed making the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders valid for Commuter Rail travel in Zone 1A and on the Charlestown Ferry. If approved, this expansion of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The public is invited to comment on these proposed changes at a virtual public meeting to be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 6 PM well as the official public hearing to be held virtually on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 6 PM. The public is also welcome to submit comments online through Thursday, March 3, 2022, at mbta.com/2022FareChanges or by email to publicengagement@mbta.com. The Title VI analysis will be shared with the MBTA's Board and posted to mbta.com prior to the scheduled March 24, 2022, Board meeting.

BHAC (from pg. 7)

its left reads "Flowers" and the one to its right reads "Gardens"; all three panels have dark lettering on a white background.) The font would also be changed from the previous sign, added Murphy, and the new sign, like the old one, would be affixed to wood fascia, as opposed to the masonry, using six screws. As a proviso for this application, the applicant agreed to submit shop drawings to staff, which would clearly show how the sign would be affixed to the building.

On an application for 35 Pinckney St. to replace multiple windows on the third and fourth levels of both the building's front and back facades, the commission voted unanimously for a continuance to allow Armata time to visit the site and review the condition of the windows.

The commission also unanimously approved an application to replace or restore all the windows on the front and rear facades of 7 Louisburg Square, with provisos that proposed changes to the front façade of a fifth-floor dormer be tabled until a future application; that two original fourth-floor windows on the front façade be restored; and that window grates at the basement level be retained. On the same application, the commission also agreed to grant the applicant's request to move one original window sash to another room containing an original sash, so both original sashes could be together in the same room.

In another matter, the commission unanimously approved an application to repaint the front door at 68 Chestnut St., with the proviso that the applicant work

with staff to find a paint color that would contrast more with the paint on the surrounding woodwork in the entryway than the proposed Anchor Gray.

A violation for the ratification of an unapproved window replacement at 29 Pinckney St. was listed on the agenda, but not heard after the applicant failed to appear before the commission for the third time.

Another violation for the ratification of unapproved intercom system at 24 Phillips St. also appeared on the agenda, but the applicant agreed to come before the commission next month instead due to a scheduling conflict.

Furthermore, an application for a new roofdeck and head-house at 67 Revere St. originally scheduled for the hearing was determined by staff to be exempt from review.

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Pathak, Girish	441 Marlborough St LLC	441 Marlborough St #3	\$975,000
Wu, Yu-Ling	Mozer, Shreya	183-185A Massachusetts Ave #702	\$820,000
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TVM Cap Healthcare Partnr	Owens, Elizabeth H	59 Mount Vernon St	\$5,550,000
Lee, Robin	Province PH T	45 Province St #PH3A	\$4,250,000
Marcinowski, Raymond	Province PH T	45 Province St #PH3B	\$3,600,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Qadi, Wael A	Fig Cake RT	1 Charles St S #1106	\$1,850,000
Boston Properties LLC	RGM Ventures LLC	1 Charles St S #607	\$630,000
Platt, Andrea	Hogan, Robert W	301-319 Columbus Ave #504	\$2,525,000
Chora Alpha LLC	Lee 2001 T	188 Brookline Ave #21C	\$1,275,000
Dragan, Irina F	Cavicchio, Robert S	553 Columbus Ave #3	\$1,000,000
Anderson, Ryan T	Sollami, Anna	615 Tremont St #1	\$3,090,000
Shin, Christopher J	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #403	\$729,900
Mogavero, Emily	Walsh, John A	1180-1200 Washington St #209	\$330,000
Rahaman, Soroya	Rachel Shoicket RET	1180-1200 Washington St #223	\$2,095,000
Gucum, Zeynep	Gucum, Amet	43 Westland Ave #514	\$1,500,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
9-11 Clark Street LLC	Lacivita, Rocco	9-11 Clark St	\$2,150,000
Harbor, Heidi	Goedecke, Peter L	220 Commercial St #5A	\$1,300,000
Wu, Xin T	Gabbin, Thierry	65 E India Row #10H	\$796,600
Tracie E Durant RET	Logan, F Daniel	85 E India Row #17F	\$1,585,000

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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The detail and window panes in the last clue are above the window at the Post Office branch at 136 Charles Street. Today's answer is a Boston Landmarks Commission photo from July 25, 1971.

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



NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

BEACON HILL VILLAGE PRESENTS CONVERSATIONS WITH IMARI PARIS JEFFRIES OF KING BOSTON

Save Wednesday, February 2, at 5:30 p.m. for a zoom presentation by the executive director of the organization that is behind the creation of "The Embrace," the 22-foot sculpture honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King to be installed on Boston Common on Martin Luther King Day in 2023.

Imari Paris Jeffries will discuss his vision for King Boston, the influence of the Black Lives Matter movement, and what is like to lead a new nonprofit during a pandemic. He will also explain how this memorial came about and inform participants of the other work King Boston is engaged in. For example, this affiliate of the Boston Foundation is developing a 25,000 square foot research-oriented Center for Economic Justice in Roxbury, as well as Embrace Ideas, a weeklong festival that will engage Bostonians in anti-racist discourse through the arts and humanities.

This virtual program is free and open to the public. It is

presented with support from Cambridge Trust as part of Beacon Hill Village's Conversations With... series. Registration is required online in advance at BeaconHill-Village.org or by calling Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713. Registrants will receive the Zoom invitation information in advance of the program.

INTERCAMBIO DE CONVERSACION ESPAÑOL - ENGLISH PARA MUJERES. GRATIS.

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Aprendemos de forma relajada, conversando con angloparlantes que quieren mejorar su español. Juntas podemos explorar nuestras diferentes culturas. Patrocinado por el Centro de Mujeres de Cambridge.

Todos los miércoles de 1 a 2:30pm a través de Zoom. Para más información y el enlace de Zoom, pueden contactarnos a womenspanishenglishclass@hotmail.com

Tips on keeping your pet safe this winter

With major winter storms hitting the East Coast and other parts of the US, it's important for everyone to take the necessary precautions to stay safe - including your pets.

Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs, offers the following 5 tips to keep your furry friend warm and protected all winter long. Please let me know if you would like additional information or to speak with one of our staff veterinarians for further tips. Thank you.

1) Frigid Cold Temperatures

Many people may see their pet's fur coat and assume that it's perfect protection from the winter weather. But given the severe drop in temperature and windy conditions, your pet may be in dan-

ger of hypothermia if their body temperature falls below normal at this time. This drop in body temperature has the potential to lead to frostbite to your pet's ears, paws and tail. Consider a sweater for your pet, especially if they are small or have short hair.

2) Blizzard Conditions

Your pet should not be left outside alone if you your area is experiencing blizzard conditions. Blizzards can be scary and dangerous for pets as their senses can be overwhelmed - leading to disorientation. Make sure yourpet has proper ID (tags or microchip) in case they become lost.

3) Shelter

If possible, keep your pets indoors during extreme winter weather. If they are in an outside

shelter, make sure that it is free of drafts. Also, keep the shelter well insulated with thick blankets and bedding for the comfort and safety of your pet.

4) Undernourishment/Dehydration

Colder weather means expending more energy to keep warm. Make sure to keep your pet on a balanced and healthy diet. Also provide plenty of water for proper hydration.

5) Antifreeze

A common chemical for our vehicles - antifreeze is toxic to your pet. Make sure to monitor your garage floors for any possible leaks that your pet might find tempting (antifreeze is sweet tasting to pets).

Market Basket in top three U.S. grocery retailers, Dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index finds

A nation-wide consumer survey confirms what legions of loyal customers already know. Major chains can learn a thing or two from New England's regional favorite, Market Basket which boasts 86 stores, including Revere and Chelsea, with three more under construction throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

According to the fifth annual Retailer Preference Index (RPI), Massachusetts-based Market Basket ranked third, following Amazon, which earned the top spot for the second consecutive year—and H.E.B, a supermarket chain headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, with more than 340 stores across the U.S.

The online survey of 10,000 U.S. households was undertaken by dunnhumby, a British customer data science company. Dunnhumby asked respondents to rate grocers on a number of key factors including service, pricing, quality, digital options, operations, convenience, speed, and rewards programs.

Widely recognized for outstanding customer service, competitive pricing, an extensive variety of high-quality products, and an unparalleled commitment to its employees, Market Basket ranked above Trader Joe's, Wegman's Target, Walmart, Costco, and other top retail brands in the survey that examined competitors within the U.S. grocery retail sector.

"We were gratified to learn that our valued customers placed us in the top three supermarkets in the

country," said David McLean, Operations Manager at Market Basket. "They highlighted continued excellence on price and operations, which is rewarding as our team seeks to fulfill our commitment to our "More for Your Dollar" shopping philosophy. The acknowledgement is truly a testament to how hard our Associates have worked and continue to work to serve our valued customers."

Market Basket's slogan is "More for Your Dollar" and is recog-

nized by Consumer Reports as the top supermarket operator in the Northeast. The grocer is known for its excellent service, quality, value, variety, and store cleanliness. As reported in Consumers' Checkbook, a family that spends \$200 a week on groceries can save \$1800 annually at Market Basket when compared to other supermarkets. Market Basket currently operates 86 stores in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

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CITY PAWS

Mindfulness for your dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The next time you're walking without your dog, try to notice how connected and aware dogs and their guardians are to one another. Occasionally you'll see a dog that keeps looking up, checking to see what the person on the other end of the leash is doing. That can be a sign that some good training has taken place. The dog and person have learned that the first step for any change in behavior is for both to pay attention.

What Is Mindfulness?

The website Mindful.org has defined mindfulness as, "... the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us."

Dogs may not understand the concept of mindfulness but people can and should. This is especially true for some portion of the time they give to their dogs. We call them companion animals. We talk about the bond between a human and a canine. But, we don't always

give these pack-oriented animals enough of our full and focused attention.

As you make your walking observations, notice the people with a phone in one hand and a leash in the other. Or, even worse, the person on the phone while their illegally off-leash dog wanders down the sidewalk or interacts with other dogs in a legal off-leash recreation area.

Of course, we all have times when we feel the need to multitask and phone addiction is a real thing. There are also some dog walks that are quick trips outside to get the job done and get back to work.

Just How Focused Are You?

Now, think back over the past week and estimate how much time you spent really focused on your dog in an enjoyable and relaxed way. Consider tucking your phone and earbuds away for a dog walk. If it's something your dog enjoys, consider a mutual time-out, just sitting with your dog and simply stroking or massaging her in an attentive way.

Are there other experiences your dog seems to enjoy that might be made better for both of you if you focused on just that for a time? For example, one part of being outside that our Poppy loves is sitting on benches and watching what's happening. We both enjoy doing this with her when the weather permits.

For many dogs, exploring the scents of the world is the best part of any dog walk. While a bit of aerobic exercise is important for both of you, try to allow time for your dog to enjoy sniffing and exploring.

While he is doing his thing, you can put on your "protective person hat" and watch for any dangers that a busy nose might encounter from dropped food to nasty critters. Most of the time, all you'll see is your dog enjoying himself but this task will give you a reason to stay engaged.

Make Dog Time a Calm Time

Finally, try to make your mindful, bonding time with your dog a calm time for both of you. We can all use some relaxation and



Yes, you might need your phone on a dog walk. However, keeping it in your pocket can ensure a more mindful time with your canine companion. (Photo: Istockphoto.com)

calm in our lives. We all have to spend a part of our time with our dogs doing chores we don't love, protecting them from dangers, and correcting unwanted behaviors. It's good to remember why we have a dog in our lives and consciously make some calm time for

the relationship. Take a few deep breaths, relax and enjoy a half-hour of quality time focused on your best friend.

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

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