



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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CHILDREN'S WINTER FESTIVAL



PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

The train ride was a favorite among the families who attended the annual Children's Winter Festival. The family school vacation event was presented in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation and L.L. Bean with additional support provided by the Boston Globe, Dunkin', Xfinity, and Soxcessful. The free festival featured music, giveaways, various winter attractions, treats, and crafts. See more photos on Page 6.

PHOTO BY JON SEAMANS

Beacon Hill residents Hudson Weaver (2), his dad Jacob, and their cock-a-poo Woodstock were among the hundreds of attendees who braved temps in the low 30s to enjoy the annual Children's Winter Festival hosted February 24 by Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department on Boston Common.

A new chapter begins for family-owned DeLuca's Market

By Dan Murphy

A new generation has taken the reins of DeLuca's Market.

Caroline and Victoria Aiello, respectively the 41-year-old and 32-year-old daughters of long-time owner Virgil Aiello, assumed ownership of both locations of the market – 11 Charles St. and 239 Newbury St. – at the beginning of the year, although they've both been on board since last October in preparation for this transition.

Under their ownership, shoppers can expect to see more humanely raised animal products while the store will also be trying to keep its products' packaging, especially plastic, to a minimum.

"We also try to be responsive to customers," said Caroline. "If

there's a product they want and we don't have it, we'll do our best to bring it in...and they'll see it on the shelf the following week."

Besides putting an emphasis on fresh products, DeLuca's also plans to expand its prepared food options to appeal to young professionals, families, and particularly, older clientele.

"We want to make sure our older clients know we're here and continuing the business," said Caroline. "It's really nice they can walk to a grocery store, and it makes Beacon Hill really feel like a village."

Both locations of DeLuca's also cater to many tourists and visitors, so Caroline said she hopes the

(DELUCA'S Pg. 3)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Victoria (left) and Caroline Aiello are seen inside DeLuca's Market on Charles Street.

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Use this QR code to purchase tickets!

If you are unsure of your membership status, please call the office and we will assist.

Upcoming virtual BHCA Meetings

Board of Directors – 3/14/22 – 7 p.m.

EDITORIAL

PUTIN: PURE EVIL

As regular readers of this column know, we do not view events in terms of “good vs. evil.”

Over the years, we have referred to tobacco companies, polluters, et als as greedy and despicable, but describing them as “evil-doers,” as former President George W. Bush did in referring to the plotters behind the 9/11 attacks, or labeling Iraq, Iran, and No. Korea as the “axis of evil,” as Bush did in his 2002 State of the Union speech, always struck us as an overly-simplistic way to refer to those with whom we disagree, a verbal short-cut to avoid trying to explain complex matters.

But sometimes words cannot be found to discuss events for which there is no rational explanation. The more we try, the more we realize that sometimes, words are nothing more than hollow, shallow, and meaningless keystrokes on our laptops.

The actions of Hitler and the Nazis before and during WWII fit into this category.

And so too, is the tragedy that is unfolding hour-by-hour in Ukraine, where the civilian population is being wiped out by the whims of a semi-mad and sociopathic 70 year-old dictator.

Evil -- pure “evil” -- is the only word that comes to mind when we think of Vladimir Putin.

That’s all we’ve got. But that says it all.

ENERGY RELIEF IS NEEDED -- SUSPEND THE GASOLINE TAX

Other than a couple of on-air Fox TV personalities, the vast majority of Americans are outraged about the situation in Ukraine.

But there isn’t much that we in the U.S. can do about it directly, whether individually (unless we want to join the Ukrainian army) or collectively (unless we want to start a nuclear World War III).

Yes, the U.S. is working with other nations in supplying weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. We also have imposed unprecedented and devastating economic sanctions upon Russia that already are wreaking havoc with the Russian economy.

But what has not been done is the big one: Shutting-off the spigot of Russian natural gas and oil, the means by which Putin is able to finance his war and his hold on the Russian people.

Congress is in the process of passing a bill that would ban the import of Russian oil into this country. Apparently, we get seven percent of our oil from Russia.

The Biden administration has been hesitant to do so because it fears that this would cause a huge spike in the price of gasoline, which would further fuel inflation.

However, we cannot offer platitudes to the Ukrainian people and talk about our commitment to democracy and peace if we are unwilling to make sacrifices ourselves.

Congress and the Biden administration can soften the effect upon average Americans of skyrocketing energy costs in a number of ways, either through direct payments to income-qualifying Americans or even subsidies to domestic energy producers, with the caveat that they need to increase production here in America. (In fact, our domestic oil producers are engaging in nothing less than crass war-profiteering by refusing to produce more oil and natural gas, which they easily can do and as they have done in the past, in order to flood the world market and bring prices down.)

The state and federal governments also can suspend the tax on gasoline. In California for example, the per-gallon state tax is 51 cents and the federal tax is 18 cents. Here in Mass., our state tax is 24 cents.

If the world is to turn the tide against the Putin regime, we must be willing to make sacrifices on an individual level. If that means paying more for gasoline, then that’s what we have to do.

But governments can soften the blow upon average Americans of soaring energy costs, which will have ripple effects throughout the economy, and should take action to do so immediately.

GUEST OP-ED

Is Vladimir Putin the Devil?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

There is nothing good to be said about the Devil. If you don’t believe me, check out Bible. Or, just turn on the television for a reporting of the evil he spreads throughout the world. You will likely see his picture, Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

Some people say they don’t believe in the existence of the Devil. I do, his name is Vladimir Putin.

Look at the face of Putin. You will see the Devil. Look at his dark eerie eyes and his pointed ears. When he attempts to smile, you’ll notice his tongue rolls out like a serpent’s. His smile is never genuine but is always forced as he has no heart to produce any kind of a human gesture. The head of Putin is shaped like a Devil’s head. The one thing you’ll never see is his rear end because his long tail gives his identity away.

The appearance of Putin unfor-

tunately is not what gives his identity away. The lifelong actions of Putin give him away. He is the chief producer of the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and possibly millions before this invasion is over, if it’s ever over. Anyone who can take the lives of innocent people simply because he wants to control a particular part of the world is again, evil.

Putin wants the Ukrainian people to live like Russia’s people and to control their lives, their government, what they do and where they go. He is our modern-day Adolph Hitler. There is nothing good to say about him.

The Devil wants to control our lives. He wants to bring us down to where we are under his dominion. He wants our lives to be filled with darkness, hopelessness and bound to his wishes. We see this in everyday life. People are in slavery to addiction, greed, perversions, hatred, jealousy, depression and more. We war within ourselves but

our inward war often turns outward and impacts people around us. People kill people. People hurt people. People maim others with words and attitudes and actions that often destroy themselves and others. This is the work of the Devil. He is about devouring and destroying. He often comes across as an angel of light. He pretends he wants us to be fulfilled by not being denied anything. This is how the serpent approached Eve in the Bible. The Devil still uses this trick all the time and it still works much of the time.

Is Putin the real literal Devil? You judge for yourself or ask someone from Ukraine.

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

LETTER to the Editor

transitions, but we can expect the new mayoral team to revive consideration of a pilot project.

Why did the City agree to fund such a pilot, and why should it? The City foresaw substantial reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and expenses.

Boston has approximately

2,800 gas lamps, which burn 24 hours a day. The City estimated that electrifying gas lamps would reduce emissions by 410,000 metric tons of CO2 a year—approximately equivalent to the yearly emissions of 1,170 gas-heated

(LETTER Pg. 3)

AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION

To the Editor,

Thank you for the excellent story on electrifying gas lamps! It sets out so clearly the criteria for a pilot project: preserving the look and feel of our beloved lamps, finding a plan that would work for the entire city, and ensuring community input. But there’s more to the story.

As a resident of Temple Street, I’m passionate about this topic. In December 2019, Temple Street residents petitioned the City to support a pilot project to electrify the lamps on our street, which is only one block long. We were prompted initially by the smell of gas leaks, then by the discovery that gas leaks were significantly hurting our trees, and then by a broader understanding of the many harms caused by our uses of fossil gas. The City set aside \$400,000 for that pilot project, responding to advocacy on our behalf from Mothers Out Front, a grassroots organization fighting climate change. The project fell into limbo during the mayoral

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PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DiGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com

Wu holds first Neighborhood Media Roundtable

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Michelle Wu held her first Neighborhood Media Roundtable virtually on Monday, March 7, allowing local reporters a chance to ask her questions in an informal setting.

Asked whether her administration would stay the course with the ambitious housing goals set by the Walsh Administration, Mayor Wu said her administration is trying to be “intentional” by putting federal funding that the city receives into “deeply affordable housing” targeted to specific demographics, such as seniors or artists.

“We trying to be very specific about housing and not just focus on the numbers,” she said “At the root of all this is planning. We need to build the equitable, sustainable, holistic communities that each one of our neighborhoods deserves.”

One of the immediate next steps for her administration is an audit of city-owned properties, said Mayor Wu, with an eye on which ones could become the sites of future affordable and supportive housing to help end the cycle of displacement from the city.

“There are folks who have built our community, who are embedded in our community, and who can no longer afford to live in our city,” said Mayor Wu. “Unfortunately, I’ve heard countless stories from former staff members, from friends, and from former neighbors who are no longer in our city because of housing instability.”

The Rent Stabilization Working Group is moving forward to look at what policies other cities and towns have been implemented around rent stability, she said, as well as how they would work in

Boston.

Mayor Wu said housing can’t be built without sufficient infrastructure and transportation in place beforehand, however, and that any city plan would look at housing on both the citywide and the neighborhood levels with a “holistic view.”

Like other cities, Boston should solicit public input in developing a master plan, said Mayor Wu, and “then build and permit according to that”

On the topic of climate change, Michelle Wu advocated for taking preventive measures today to avoid more costly repercussions in the future.

“We know it takes money to implement these changes...but the bigger picture is about avoiding much bigger costs down the line,” said Mayor Wu, adding that in the current international political climate, it makes even more sense for the city to wean itself off fossil fuel as a step towards achieving “environmental stability.”

Regarding her decision to sunset the city’s existing urban renewal designations, Mayor Wu said the Boston Planning & Development Agency’s “maps don’t tie to the places where we see the most potential for growth,” and that “urban renewal always represented an enormous tilt towards internal-decision makers in a moment of urgency.”

Mayor Wu has already requested that five of the 14 urban renewal plans be sunset immediately, while the remaining plans would be extended until the end of the year as land deeds there expire, allowing the City Council time to consider its next steps.

Additionally, the maps focused mainly on downtown and largely ignored some places now ripe with development, like the Allston 1-90 interchange and parts of Hyde Park, she said.

Mayor Wu admitted the city is currently lagging a bit behind in its search for a chief of planning.

“We’ve met internally, but we’re not at the point of a defined short list at this point,” she said, adding “more internal vetting and conversations” would be happening first.

The city hopes to name a new Boston Police superintendent by June as well, said Mayor Wu, and they are now in the process of deciding between two search firms.

Monday, March 7, was also the first meeting of the co-chairs of the Schools Superintendent Search Committee, chaired by Jeri Robinson, and one of its first orders of business was rolling out a Request for Proposals [RFP].

With the City Council now in the midst of an ongoing process about the future of the School Committee, Mayor Wu said she wouldn’t support a fully elected Scholl Committee because she believes it needs “mayoral accountability in the governance structure.”

Meanwhile, in tackling the ongoing opioid crisis, Mayor Wu said she still considers the Long Island campus a key component in the city’s plan to deliver long-term and supportive housing for individuals in recovery, although a timeframe for the transformation of the site still remains uncertain.

Ricardo Patrón, Mayor Wu’s press secretary, said Media Roundtables would take place regularly going forward.

DeLUCA'S (from pg. 1)

market will become a destination where residents bring their friends from out of town.

There are plans to renovate the Charles Street store, although Caroline said customers would have to wait six months to a year before they’ll be able to see any discernible changes.

“In a perfect world, we’d already be investing in coolers, equipment, and shelving,” added Victoria.

Both Caroline and Victoria are Beacon Hill residents and have fond memories of coming to the store as children.

“We really love the neighborhood and appreciate what a great asset a well-stocked and welcoming grocery store can be to the community,” said Caroline.

Added Victoria, “Our background is as an Italian specialty grocery store that preserves the Old World [sensitivity]. We really want this to be a pleasant shopping experience where people can discover unique products and know that they’re healthy.”

In addition to Virgil, the Aiello sisters also expressed their gratitude to their uncle, Robert, as well as Wojtek Dzienis, the longtime

manager of the Newbury Street store, for their unwavering support.

Virgil, now 80, who along with his brother, Robert Aiello, represent the second generation of the family business that dates back to 1905, still remains a regular presence at DeLuca’s. After working there tirelessly for so many years, this could likely be chalked up to habit, his daughters said.

Said Virgil: “I am very pleased that they have chosen the exciting challenge of running DeLuca’s, to serve the people of Beacon Hill in particular and Boston in general.”

Above all else, Caroline and Victoria want DeLuca’s to embody community.

“We want DeLuca’s to be a place where we recognize your face and know your name, and there’s a sense of community,” said Victoria.

Caroline added, “We want the community to feel like it’s their store.”

DeLuca’s Market has locations at 11 Charles St. (617-523-4343) and 239 Newbury St. (617-262-5990). For more information, visit delucasmarket.com.

LETTER (from pg. 2)

homes. Gas lamps produce 38% of the City’s emissions from lighting although they are only 4% of the City’s lighting units. (Overall, lighting contributes 9% of the City’s emissions).

Moreover, the City expected to save nearly \$1 million annually in fuel costs and maintenance. At 2019 rates, it estimated costs of \$865,000 for gas and only \$159,000 for electricity—a saving of \$706,000 a year on fuel. The City was also spending an additional \$200-250,000 yearly to maintain the gas lamps—and can’t keep up. LEDs would rarely need maintenance; LED bulbs operating on average 8 hours a day would last for years. Finally, it has

cost the City \$750 to replace a single tree. On our one block alone, we lost 6 trees to gas leaks.

The City and the proponents of this pilot were and are committed to an open public process. Since the primary concern will be the look and feel of electrified lamps, the downtown chapter of Mothers Out Front has been working with a lighting consultant and gathering data to ensure accurate comparison. Its members have measured the lumens at various distances from representative gas lamps throughout Beacon Hill and have been assured that current LED technology can convey the same warm and low-light atmosphere we have now.

Note, by the way, that the current use of gas in Beacon Hill lamps is not as historic as many think. Almost all of Beacon Hill’s gas lamps were installed after 1960 by Boston Gas; those on Temple Street not until 1977. Beacon Hill lamps have previously been fueled by oil, coal, naphtha gas, or electricity.

We have been able to preserve the look of our homes but change the sources of their fuel. We can preserve the look of our beautiful lamps while upgrading to a more sustainable and non-polluting source of energy. This is an important conversation!

Betsy Peterson

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BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural District Commission will hold its monthly public hearing on Thursday, March 17, at 5 p.m.

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 616 of the Acts of 1955 of the Massachusetts General Law as amended. Applications are available for review during business hours at the office of the Environment Department. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

This hearing will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to our online meeting or calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering meeting id # 883 9743 3949. You can also submit written comments or questions to beaconhillac@boston.gov.

Discussion Topics

I. Violation Hearing

APP # 22.0915 BH 39 Charles Street

Applicant: Courtney Woodin; Vineyard Vines

Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved storefront changes.

II. Design Review Hearing

APP # 22.0827 BH 39 Charles Street

Applicant: Phillip Naffah

Proposed Work: New Signage

APP # 22.0950 BH 34 Irving

Street

Applicant: Stephen Sullivan

Proposed Work: Replace slate mansard in kind. (See Additional Items under Administrative Review)

APP # 22.0879 BH 60 Temple Street

Applicant: David Govonlu

Proposed Work: New roof deck

APP # 22.0912 BH 25 Charles Street

Applicant: Brett Bentson; Utile, Inc.

Proposed Work: Replace 1 door on Branch Street, new hardware, scrape and repaint existing doors and replace hardware on doors facing Chestnut Street and Charles Street.

APP # 22.0913 BH 35 Bowdoin Street

Applicant: Jan Steenbrugge; 33-35 Bowdoin Street LLC

Proposed Work: Switch previously approved real slate roof (not yet installed) and replace with synthetic slate.

APP # 22.0921 BH 24 Beacon Street

Applicant: Kennan Brinn; ExtenNet Systems, Inc.

Proposed Work: Install cell facility on light pole.

III. Administrative Review/Approval: In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact on a building's appearance, to commission staff

pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

APP # 22.0912 BH 25 Charles Street

Applicant: Brett Bentson; Utile, Inc.

Proposed Work: Replace 1 door on Branch Street, new hardware, scrape and repaint existing doors and replace hardware on doors facing Chestnut Street and Charles Street.

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Applicants whose projects are listed under this heading Need Not Appear at the hearing. Following

the hearing, you will be issued a Determination Sheet to present at the Inspection Services Department (1010 Massachusetts Avenue) as proof of project approval when applying for permits. ISD personnel will send an electronic copy of your building-permit application to the commission staff for review. (To avoid potential confusion, the text of your building-permit application should be consistent with the project description given below.)

Commission staff will accordingly authorize the execution of the work, attaching any applicable provisos, reflecting the relevant guidelines and precedents.

Please Note That Following Issuance Of The Determination Sheet No Further Correspondence Will Be Issued For The Applications Listed Below.

The electronic building-permit application as annotated by commission staff will constitute your Certificate of Appropriateness; this will be valid for two years from the date of the approval letter.

The applicant is required to notify the commission of any project changes; failure to do so may affect the status of the approval.

If you have any questions not addressed by the above information, please contact staff at 617.635.3850 or BeaconHillAC@boston.gov Thank you.

APP # 22.0701 BH 81 Beacon Street: At penthouse level, remove thirty-two (32) wood, 6 over 6, double hung windows and replace in kind. Existing windows have been determined to be unrepairable.

APP # 22.0870 BH 5 Charles River Square: Install new storm windows at front of building; Pro-

Via coal black.

APP # 22.0895 BH 18 Irving Street: Replace flashing around two chimneys.

APP # 22.0950 BH 34 Irving Street: New copper gutter at edge of mansard. (See Additional Items under Design Review).

APP # 22.0910 BH 43 Mount Vernon Street: Repair brick masonry in kind using the historically correct mortar mix and tooling, replace wood brick mold in kind in the correct profile style, and replace several deteriorated stone lintels and sills in kind.

APP # 22.0893 BH 55 Mount Vernon Street: Repair and repaint shutters to match existing. Replace select shutters as needed. Restore brownstone belt course and window lintels in kind.

APP # 22.0825 BH 3 Myrtle Street: At front elevation, floor 3, replace three, non-historic 2 over 2 wood windows in kind.

APP # 22.0566 BH 69 Pinckney Street: Replace all bar grading floors on fire escape, replace all bolt connections adding one supporting brackets, small bar grading floor replacement on the neighbor deck connecting to platform.

APP # 22.0845 BH 1 Rollins Place: Removal of existing Verizon equipment (Cable & Terminals) from the exterior brick wall at 1 Rollins Place. Terminals and Cable will be removed through the conduit coming from the ground below. Repair masonry to its original condition.

IV. Ratification Of 2/17/2022 Public Hearing Minutes

V. Staff Updates

VI. Projected Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.

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Beacon Hill, surrounding areas weekly COVID positive test decreases

By John Lynds

Three weeks after the city ended Boston's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 would be lifted, new infections continue to decline in Beacon Hill and the rest of Boston.

On Saturday, the city's mask mandate for indoor spaces was also lifted and that move hasn't led to an increase in cases thus far.

According to the BPHC 12,478 residents were tested citywide last week and 2.3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 36 percent decrease from the 3.6 percent that reportedly tested positive

for the week ending on February 28. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 50 percent in Boston since February 21.

The weekly report released Monday by the BPHC showed that 1,839 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 3.2 percent were positive. This was a 20 percent decrease from the 4 percent that tested positive between February 21 and February 28.

Fifty-nine additional residents have been infected with the virus between February 28 and March 7 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 8,449 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 0.52 percent last week and went from 165,226 cases to 166,087 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were 9 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,727. Deaths decreased 57 percent in Boston last week with 12 less deaths compared to the 21 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

First-time homeowner undertakes extensive renovation of historic Irving Street townhouse

By Dan Murphy

A first-time homeowner, Nate Walton knew he had signed on for an arduous undertaking when he purchased the historic single-family townhouse at 42 Irving St. nearly seven years ago with plans to renovate it, but he was forced to fast-track the project after the house withstood a double-flooding in August of 2019.

Nate and his now wife, Kendra, purchased the 2,004 square-foot, four-bedroom townhouse, built in 1860, in October of 2015 for \$1.715 million.

The couple lived in there from then until March 4 of 2020, and in that time, they shared some of their most cherished memories together: Nate had proposed to Kendra in the first-floor doorway, and Kendra dressed in the house before she and Nate were wed on Sept. 24, 2016, at Arlington Street Church.

But only days after Kendra gave birth to their first child and returned home from the hospital in August of 2019, their home was inundated by “flooding at both ends,” said Nate, caused by a major flood in the basement, in addition to a leaking roof.

The basement had to be fully gutted to the ground level,



D. MURPHY PHOTO

John Cleary of BA Cleary & Sons and Nate Walton on the roofdeck at 42 Irving St.

and the foundation was underpinned on three sides, allowing for an additional 12 inches of ceiling height. A new concrete floor was installed along with a high-grade sump pump and extensive drainage system to help prevent any future flooding.

They have also opened up and excavated a sealed fireplace in the basement, along with opening up the sealed fireplaces on the second and third floors. The chimney flue was thoroughly overhauled, and gas-fired fireplaces were installed on all three levels.

The reimagined basement has a street-level entryway, a living room, a kitchenette, a laundry room, and a full bathroom. (The home’s three full bathrooms and two half-baths all now have heated floor tile, as well as new marble countertops and custom cabinetry.)

Just off the basement, the previously unusable rear yard was excavated 5 feet lower, and a brick wall was built on three sides to create a walk-out garden nook.

Renovating the basement after the leak turned out to be such an extensive undertaking that Nate and Kendra decided to overhaul the entire house, using the basement as a staging ground.

For the project, Nate personally assembled a team, which included Timothy Burke Architecture; contractor BA Cleary & Sons; interior decorator Edesia Studios; and CC Masonry.

This team-building process wasn’t a first for Nate, however, since as business consultant, he has worked with early-stage tech companies to help them build their nascent teams.

“I really enjoy bringing a lot of team members together,” said Nate, who single out John Cleary of BA Cleary & Sons for particular praise: “If you’re going to renovate a single-family home on Beacon Hill, or any home on Beacon Hill, use John.”



COURTESY OF NATE WALTON

A crane lowers the Skybox hatch down to the roof of 42 Irving St.

Cleary, who, like his father before him, has worked on many similar home renovation projects on the Hill over the years, said, “We did a lot of work on this house, but it came together nicely. It was a very extensive project, but Nate has been very good to work with.”

Besides working closely with his project team, Nate has also been in constant communication with neighbors, since he began the renovation project in earnest more than two years ago.

Since January of 2020, abutter outreach has included 213 emails, 20 calls, 11 letters, and 20 meetings – feedback from which eventually resulted in 14 design changes. In the end, 35 community members signed letters of support for the project.

Nate brought his proposal to

the Beacon Hill Civic Association Zoning and Licensing Committee three times - on Aug. 5 and Dec. 2, 2020, Feb. 3 of last year, respectively - before garnering a vote of non-opposition.

“Each step of the process involved extensive consultation with neighbors because as you can expect, neighbors have strong opinions,” said Nate.

He also made his case during an abutters meeting sponsored by the city’s Zoning Board of Appeal on Aug. 26, 2020, and again at a ZBA meeting on April 6 of last year, when the application was approved. The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission subsequently

green-lit the project on May 20, 2021.

“The biggest part of the project was the roofdeck,” said Nate, describing it as the townhouse’s “crown jewel.”

When Nate and Kendra were renting at 22 Irving St. prior to moving to 42 Irving, the rooftop was one of the biggest attractions, he said, so they when they bought a home, having a roofdeck was a top priority.

“Living in this neighborhood, it makes such a difference to have outdoor space,” said Nate.

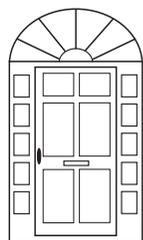
The new, 10-by-12-foot roof-

(TOWNHOUSE Pg. 6)

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CHILDREN'S WINTER FEST RETURNS TO BOSTON COMMON



Bianca Dhakal (5) and her mom Kanti Dahal are joined by Puja Ray and a very sleepy Sruthan Ray (2), all of Jamaica Plain, at the February 24 Children's Winter Festival.



Janet Jackson, occupational therapist at the Academy of the Pacific Rim in Hyde Park, and her son Cooper, 6, were among the hundreds of attendees who braved temps in the low 30s to enjoy the annual Children's Winter Festival.



Six-month-old Veronica Siersdale and her mom Alison meet Mayor Michelle Wu at the February 24 Children's Winter Festival on Boston Common.

TOWNHOUSE (from pg. 5)

deck offers expansive views of the city's skyline. As one concession to neighbors, it was pulled back between two and three feet from the edge of the building.

Previously, a hatch and ladder was used to access the roof from the front-facing fourth-floor bedroom, said Nate, while "a lot of old, rusting AC equipment" cluttered the roof. (Both the front and rear roof surfaces have since been removed and replaced.)

Due to negotiations with neighbors, and because of the limited amount of space, Nate also had to find a unique solution for providing access to the roof from the fourth floor.

After an extensive search, Nate settled on a motorized Skybox hatch, which had to be ordered from Glazing Vision, a company based in the United Kingdom. It then took nine months for the hatch to be custom built and

shipped to the U.S. before it was grounded for a couple of more months sitting on a container ship off the coast of Los Angeles

The hatch finally arrived on Irving Street via crane in December - a moment that Nate describes as a "key turning point" for the project. "Now, we had access to the roof and could finish the work there," he said.

Prior to this, Nate has faced myriad unforeseen setbacks when the pandemic temporarily drove construction on the project to a halt and then once it resumed, he was faced with inevitable supply-chain issues.

"Certain parts and appliances

weren't available, which delayed the project by months," said Nate.

Among other highlights of the reimaged townhouse are the second-floor kitchen, which has an open layout with new marble countertops, custom cabinets, handsome lighting, and commercial-grade Sub Zero, Wolf, and Miele appliances.

The spacious dining room, which, like the kitchen, boasts 10-foot ceilings, has built-in bookshelves surrounding one of the gas fireplaces.

The ceiling height was raised around 18 inches here, and to achieve this, plumbing features in the ceiling had to be moved, which required a substantial amount of work.

"When we peeled the onion, a lot of structural issues needed to be addressed," said Nate.

In the walls, much of the masonry had lost its mortar and deteriorated because of water seeping in through the faulty roof. All of the brick walls on this level also had to be repointed.

"It's something no one will ever see, but it's really important to underscore the integrity of the house," said Nate.

On the third floor, the roomy master bedroom is also equipped with one of the home's gas fireplaces and has two closets, including a walk-in just off the bedroom. The redesigned master bathroom has new marble countertops and floor/wall tile, a custom double vanity, as well as new lighting/plumbing fixtures.

The fourth-floor's two bedrooms were also renovated down to the studs, and on the fourth floor, structural changes were made to raise the sloped ceilings between 6 and 8 inches.

Throughout the home, new air conditioning, heating, water, and electrical systems have been installed, while the water and power connections from the street were also replaced.

"Because of the scope of the work in the house, we wanted the front to reflect that work," said Nate. "I think it really pops now, which is nice."

The house's 17 historic windows were switched out for custom-made replacements crafted by Sean Cryts of Historic Window & Door Corporation, while the new Beacon Hill-style shutters were handmade by installed by Beech River Mill, a millwork shop based in Ossipee, N.H.

The front dormer has been largely rebuilt, with its roof surface replaced and historic slate shingles installed on the sides, replacing the old tar shingles. The front and rear facades have also been cut and pointed from top to bottom by an expert mason, along with all the roof brickwork.

Once renovations wrap up, Nate plans to put the fully renovated, turnkey townhouse on the market in May.

"Renovating this house has really been a labor of love," he said. "Regardless of what are plans are [for selling it], we wanted to do it right."

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Wu signs transfer fee home rule petition

Mayor Michelle Wu joined State Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley, local elected officials, and residents to sign a home rule petition to implement a transfer fee of up to two percent on real estate sales of \$2 million or more in the City of Boston. If passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed by the governor, the fee will generate nearly a hundred million dollars annually to create and preserve affordable housing in Boston and reduce property taxes for qualified low-income senior homeowners. The legislation is sponsored by State Representative Fluker Oakley. The Home Rule Petition passed the Boston City Council Wednesday.

“Boston’s most pressing challenge is our housing crisis, which has been pushing families out of our city and deepened even more with the pandemic. As we see the transformational impact of federal funding for our recovery, it’s clear that Boston needs a reliable funding source to focus on housing affordability and keep families and seniors in their homes,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to Council colleagues for partnering on this urgent issue and many colleagues who have shepherded this issue in previous sessions. I look forward to working closely with our state partners on next steps.”

Through the legislation, the first \$2 million of the sales price on a home in Boston would be exempt from the fee. For real estate sales over \$2 million, the fee collected will be paid by the seller. The funds generated will be allocated to the Neighborhood Housing Trust. The Neighborhood Housing Trust creates new affordable housing and preserves existing affordable housing. Based on 2021 sales in Boston, a two percent fee would have raised an estimated \$99.7 million, and would have only affected approximately 700 transactions. Similar proposals were filed in 2019 and 2021.

“I am so excited to see Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council taking action to make housing in Boston more affordable for seniors,” said State Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley. “I have met with and testified before the City Council about the need for large developers of luxury apartments to pay their fair share, which would allow us to expand property tax exemptions for seniors on a fixed income and make housing in Boston more affordable.”

Some transfers between family members are exempt from the fee, and the City of Boston may adopt additional exemptions for economically vulnerable populations, affordable housing developments, deed-restricted housing, owner-occupant homeowners, beneficiaries of a city-approved homebuyer program, or others.

“This bill is about housing stability,” said State Senator and City Councilor Lydia Edwards. “This is a great opportunity for our city. It balances raising revenue with granting relief for our seniors.”

“Today Boston is taking a major step to ensure we have adequate funds to create and preserve affordable housing, and to provide much needed tax relief to our seniors who have dedicated their lives to our great City,” said City Councilor Kendra Lara. “As we combat the housing crisis and recover from the pandemic, we must protect our seniors who have been bearing the brunt of the impacts of both displacement and COVID-19. I look forward to working with our colleagues at the state house to get this passed.”

The home rule petition also seeks to expand property tax relief for low-income seniors by modifying the eligibility criteria for the 41C program and increasing the exemption. These changes will modernize the criteria and provide much-needed financial assistance to a vulnerable population.

(PETITION Pg. 8)

CLEANING FRANKLIN PARK



Join these volunteers to help clean up the winter grunge in Franklin Park. This sprawling green space with woods, old stone ruins, and walking paths has collected a lot of litter over the winter months. The Franklin Park Coalition would love your help on Saturday morning, March 12 from 10am - Noon. All you need to bring is a pair of gloves that you can put in the wash in case they get dirty and yourself! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. Go to the Franklin Park website for more information.

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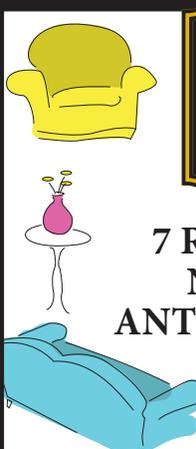


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Wu recommends CPA funding for four Beacon Hill projects

By John Lynds

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Community Preservation Committee (CPC) announced their recommendation for the latest Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding round that includes funding for four Beacon Hill projects.

With 52 projects totaling \$27 million recommended for funding this round, Wu recommended Beacon Hill receive approximately \$716,000 for historic preservation and open space and recreation in the neighborhood.

“The Community Preservation Act helps us invest in our communities by empowering residents and

local organizations to put funding to important priorities across our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Wu. “I am grateful to the Community Preservation Committee and all of the applicants for their commitment to expanding affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and recreation to benefit Bostonians across our city.”

If approved by the City Council, the four projects in Beacon Hill that will be funded through CPA money will be the Nichols House Museum, the Beacon House, the Vilna Shul and the Charles River Esplanade.

Three of the projects, the Nichols House Museum, the Beacon House, the Vilna Shul fall under

the category of historic preservation while the Charles River Esplanade falls under the category of open space and recreation.

Wu recommended \$72,400 go to the Nichols House Museum for exterior restoration of original features and shutter restoration of the women's history museum.

Another \$350,000 was recommended for the Beacon House for exterior masonry restoration of the affordable housing for 117 elders and people with disabilities.

Finally under historic preservation Wu recommended \$275,000 for the restoration of the failed front plaza at the Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture.

Under open space and recre-

ation Wu recommended \$18,810 for a multi-year improvement project to plant approximately 50 trees on the Charles River Esplanade from 2022 to 2023.

“With appreciation to the CPA staff, the Boston CPC is pleased to recommend 52 projects to Mayor Wu for funding consideration by the City Council under the leadership of Michael Flaherty, Council Committee Chair,” said Felicia Jacques, Chair of Community Preservation Committee. “This recommendation fully commits over 50% of funds to housing with the remaining funds supporting 42 historic preservation and open space projects. These projects address a variety of uses and

a bounty of worthy community projects spanning the city in virtually every neighborhood.”

The CPA's Community Preservation Fund was created following voters' passage and adoption of the Community Preservation Act in November 2016. It is funded by a 1 percent property tax-based surcharge on residential and business property tax bills, which took effect in July 2017, and an annual state funding from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund. The Mayor and Community Preservation Committee recommend funding use and the City Council must vote to approve.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through May 19

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.

SCHEDULED WORK

- North abutment (Charlestown side near Chelsea Street) – barrier slab repair and rebar installation
- Assembling and installing north and south wooden fender panels
- Utility work on Charles River Ave: sidewalk work, and installing junction boxes & junction boxes inside barriers
- Forming and pouring concrete elements at City Square

WORK HOURS

- Most work will be done during the daytime and evening (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

MARINE IMPACTS

- Routine closures of the north and south channels continue. Only one channel will be closed at a time.
- Work hours are during the day (6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- Vessels may continue to transit through the work site through the open channel.
- While traveling through the open channel, pay close attention to signage and the multiple boats, barges, cranes, and other work vessels on site.

Use VHF-FM Channel 13 to contact work- and push-boats. If access to the commercial lock is required and work barges are in

the channel, 24-hour notice to J.F. White is required to clear access to the lock. The on-scene Superintendent for the J.F. White Contracting Company is Patrick Wilson and can be contacted at (617) 680-7537.

TRAVEL TIPS & THE WINTER SEASON

With winter underway, we will be clearing the bridge during & after snow events. In December 2021, we reapplied the anti-skid coating to the bridge walkway. We will continue to monitor and reapply whenever the coating needs to be refreshed, including our team inspecting the walkway regularly. Additionally, the contractor is responsible for monitoring the site daily for snow and ice issues and addressing them as soon as they are identified. They are also proactively preparing for imminent weather conditions when forecasted.

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if

walking in a large group.

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.

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. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

For your awareness, the following events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- BRUINS: 3/7 at 7:00 p.m., 3/10 at 7:00 p.m., and 3/12 at 7:00 p.m.
- CELTICS: 3/6 at 1:00 p.m., 3/11 at 7:30 p.m., and 3/17 at 3:30 p.m.
- EVENTS: 3/16 at 8:00 p.m., 3/18 at 4:00 p.m., and 3/19 at 7:00 p.m.

PETITION (from pg. 7)

The 41C program provides tax assistance to residents 65 years or older who are owner-occupants. Specifically, this legislation would:

- Increase the minimum exemption from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and the total possible exemption from \$2,000 to \$3,000; and

- Broaden eligibility by replacing the fixed income limits with the 50% Area Median Income figure and doubling the asset limit levels.

These changes would take effect for the Fiscal Year 2023, and the income limits for that year would increase from the current \$24,911 to \$47,000 for single individuals and \$37,367 to \$53,700 for a couple. The asset limits would increase from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for single individuals, and from \$55,000 to \$110,000 (the asset limits exclude the value of the applicant's home).

Currently, approximately 4,600 Boston senior homeowners are income-eligible for the 41C tax exemption. The legislation will expand eligibility to approxi-

mately 8,700 senior homeowners. Nearly half of those senior homeowners are severely housing cost-burdened, paying more than 50 percent of their income to housing costs.

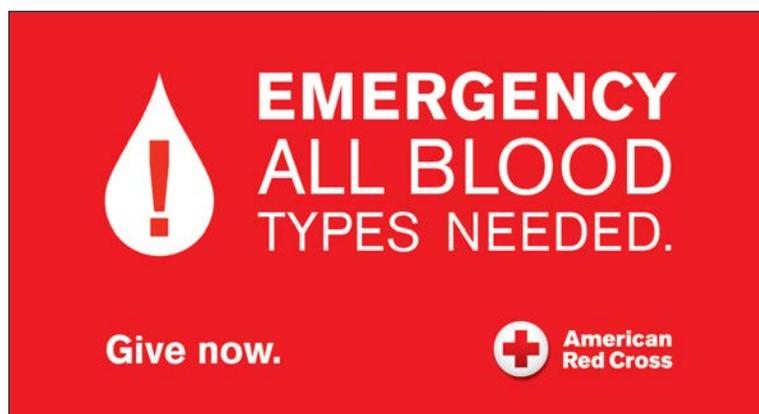
Ultimately, the City of Boston will have the ability to determine the final rate for the fee, collection method, and any exemptions that may exist.

The Mayor's Office of Housing is responsible for housing people experiencing homelessness, creating and preserving affordable housing, and ensuring that renters and homeowners can obtain, maintain, and remain in safe, stable housing. The department develops and implements the City of Boston's housing creation and homelessness prevention plans and collaborates with local and national partners to find new solutions and build more housing affordable to all, particularly those with lower incomes. For more information, please visit the MOH website.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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Dower, John	E P Kauffman Living RET	100 Belvidere St #5C	\$1,800,000
Kara P Tulley T	Calrae Properties LLC	220 Boylston St #9010	\$1,349,000
SCB Boylston Po LLC	Boylston LI LLC	535 Boylston St	\$148,000,000
SCB Boylston Po LLC	Boylston LI LLC	545 Boylston St	\$148,000,000
Swerling, Diane M	Egan, Michael C	776 Boylston St #E9F	\$4,200,000
Jen Properties Ltd	Rao, Gnaneshwar B	110 Stuart St #22G	\$2,145,000
Yang, Jerry	Yang, Ben M	922 Beacon St #44	\$510,000
J M Timken T 2008	333 Comm Avenue 22 NT	333 Commonwealth Ave #22	\$4,295,000
J M Timken T 2008	333 Comm Avenue 22 NT	333 Commonwealth Ave #24	\$4,295,000
Wang, Xiuping	Dalton, Donald	362 Commonwealth Ave #3E	\$595,000
Stamboulis, Fevronia G	Walker Massachusetts RT	373 Commonwealth Ave #402	\$730,000
Chen, Mengnan	Bahri, Ajay	416 Commonwealth Ave #408	\$940,000
BEACON HILL			
Wisdom Willow LLC	Polin, Janice E	27 Bowdoin St #1D	\$385,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Fanfan, Stanley	10 Brinton Street LLC	10 Brinton St	\$1,205,000
Aggarwal, Jyoti	Robert, Rita	1 Charles St S #10A	\$3,475,000
Gebrian, Eileen P	Voss, Peter S	1 Charles St S #7H	\$1,800,000
Morse, Christopher G	Lashar, Sarah	15 Warren Ave #6	\$1,280,000
Prica, Ivana A	Prica, Ivana A	21 Father Francis Gilday St #105	\$197,717
Rokoff, Lisa B	Orazio, Anthony J	35 Fay St #217	\$785,000
Haagensen, Alexandra	Hakansson, Kurt F	79 Gainsborough St #401	\$605,000
Sadler, Brady	Todd, Samuel S	29 Milford St #3	\$1,525,000
Franz, Toni	Kopfler, Michael	8 Rutland Sq #2	\$3,675,000
Gan, Yicheng	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #807	\$1,550,150
Link, Jurgen	Graham, Elizabeth L	75 Waltham St #5	\$852,000
Hayes, Lily	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #204	\$750,000
Laz-Romo, Matthew	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #603	\$769,000
Vazirani, Yash A	Varney, Robyn C	1692 Washington St #1	\$900,000
Lin, Benzhi	1950 Wa Street LLC	1950 Washington St #2D	\$221,900

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Hall, Ann	Pfau, Raymond	42-44 Beach St #8D	\$699,000
ACDC 64 Beach LLC	Beach 64 Realty LLC	64-68 Beach St	\$7,100,000
Sorensen Lee FT	Callahan, Jill M	110 Broad St #403	\$1,400,000
Tregoning, David	Laheeb, Fariha	99-A Commercial St #1	\$475,000
Wu, Kevin J	Harris, Michael C	386 Commercial St #2B	\$422,000
Ebert, Kristiana H	Stevens, Marc P	40 Commercial Wharf #40	\$1,420,000
Su, Yaxin	Miara, Joseph A	1 Franklin St #1708	\$2,160,000
Stdenis, David	Phua Cheng S Est	100 Fulton St #3S	\$837,500
Fiorentini, Louis A	Dassori, F Davis	100 Fulton St #5N	\$730,000
Burke, Patrick	Lund, Erik	100 Fulton St #5W	\$2,250,000
Bisson, Marybeth	Pui-Maria, Lou T	580 Washington St #12B	\$2,450,000

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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The skyline in the last clue is along Beacon Street near Joy Street. Both the clue and today's answer were taken from a photograph circa 1890. If you take this paper on a walk to the area, you can see the changes in this streetscape today. (Photo from the Boston Public Library Collection.)

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



OBITUARIES

Rosemarie E. Sansone

Whose Life's Work Was the Betterment of Boston

Rosemarie E. Sansone had a warm and winning way with people, and she put that gift to work for the benefit of the City of Boston during a career that encompassed public service, community affairs and business. Each step along her progression from roles in political organization, advertising, city politics, cultural affairs and university administration was brought to bear as she led the successful transformation of downtown Boston into one of the city's most vibrant districts.

Sansone died of cancer at home in Lexington, Mass., on February 21, 2022. She was 77.

Sansone was president and CEO of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, or BID, until her retirement on February 15, 2022, her 77th birthday. She had served on the board and later led the Downtown Crossing Partnership, the BID's predecessor organization. In that role she steered the successful campaign to establish Boston's first business improvement district, which runs from the Financial District through Downtown Crossing and into the Theater District. The BID celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020, and, under Sansone's leadership, it has transformed downtown Boston. Perhaps the most obvious visual cue for the BID's success would be the contrast between the gaping hole at the former Filene's site when the 2008 recession halted a development project there and the vibrant scene at Summer and Winter streets today.

Sansone's vivacious spirit—evident in her voice and eyes as she connected with family, friends and colleagues—served her well as she worked on behalf of the city and its people. She was able to convene and unify people in pursuit of the common good.

"Whether in her role as Boston city councilor at large or her nearly 12 years as president at Downtown Boston BID, Rosemarie was a trailblazer who never let anything stand in the way of bringing people together," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh, former mayor of Boston. "Her steadfast leadership paved the way for an innovative and vibrant downtown Boston that generations to come will be able to explore and enjoy. It was a privilege to call Rosemarie a friend."

Sansone went straight into politics after graduating from Lexington High School, working first

with then-Lt. Gov. Francis X. Bellotti in 1964 and later getting involved in Kevin H. White's 1970 gubernatorial campaign. In 1976, after working for several years in advertising, Sansone became director of the successful campaign to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Massachusetts.

At a time when few women held elective office, Sansone was elected in 1977 to the Boston City Council, which at the time was a nine-member citywide body. She was the third woman elected to the Council and the only woman councilor for much of her two terms in office.

"She was definitely a path breaker in terms of women in Boston politics," said Carol Hardy-Fanta, senior fellow at the McCormack Graduate School, UMass Boston. "We have recently become a bit blasé about women on Boston City Council—including the accomplishments of Ayanna Pressley and Michelle Wu—but let's not forget women like Rosemarie Sansone, who ran and won a seat twice on the City Council in the late 1970s when there was even less support for women in what was definitely a 'man's world.'"

Then-Councilor Sansone, who wanted to expand opportunities for people interested in municipal service, formed the Committee for Change, which led to an expanded City Council with nine district representatives and four at-large members. She felt that the new configuration would give Boston's neighborhoods a stronger voice in City Hall and make it easier and less expensive for neighborhood-based candidates to seek office. Sansone did not run for a third term.

"Rosemarie was a dear friend, mentor and colleague whose friendship, advice and loyalty were a lifelong blessing," said former District 1 City Councilor Diane Modica of East Boston. "Her leadership at the helm of the Committee for Change established Boston



District City Council seats and subsequently gave me the wonderful opportunity to serve on the Council." Modica, an attorney who served as Commissioner of Consumer Affairs and Licensing in the Flynn administration, also worked with Sansone to bring the acclaimed Concerts on the Common to Boston in the 1980s.

Mayor Ray Flynn invited Sansone to join his administration as director of the Mayor's Office of Business and Cultural Development, where she played a pivotal role in attracting businesses, tourism and conventions to the city.

"Rosemarie leaves her mark in every Boston neighborhood," said Flynn, who later served as ambassador to the Vatican. "She worked closely with community activists to offer family-friendly neighborhood events, and she expanded the international Sister Cities Program, encouraging residents of paired cities to visit and learn from one another. Her vision for revitalizing Boston's downtown business district—initially during her time at City Hall and later as the BID's leader—led to the area's transformation into a national model. And through her efforts the once-notorious Combat Zone was made over into a thriving center for commerce and culture."

In 1994, she joined Suffolk University as director of public affairs, with responsibilities that included collaborating with public- and private-sector partners on down-

town's ongoing revitalization.

"Rosemarie brought both professionalism and fun to her role at Suffolk," said Professor Robert J. Allison, chair, of the University's Department of History, Language, & Global Culture, who noted that Sansone was the driving force behind the yearlong celebration of Suffolk's 2006 centennial. "I was fortunate to have met her early in my career and have had her example of honesty, integrity, candor and good humor as virtues to emulate. Rosemarie was one of those rare people who told you what she thought, but also asked you what you thought."

Sansone transitioned from Suffolk University to the Downtown Crossing Partnership in 2007.

"The city of Boston was her life, and Rosemarie was constantly making it better from her time as a city councilor to that of a downtown leader," said BID board member Margaret Ings, vice president for Government and Community Relations at Emerson College. "She had a unique ability to bring people together. She was empathetic and committed, not only to the BID and its members, but to everything going on downtown. She got up each day to serve this city, and, because of her personality and infectious energy, Rosemarie more than deserves the title of 'the Heart of Boston.'"

Sansone studied liberal arts at Suffolk University and earned a master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree from the Art Institute of Boston. For her significant contributions to Boston's built environment, Sansone

was honored with a Norman B. Leventhal Excellence in City Building award in 2019.

She has served on many boards, including Revolution 250, which commemorates the anniversaries of significant events that led to the outbreak of the American Revolution; the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau; and the Economic Development Industrial Board. In 2013-14 she served on Mayor Martin J. Walsh's transition team, and in 2016 she cochaired the commission that oversaw the creation of the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park in Boston's Seaport.

While she was dedicated to her professional activities, Sansone also was an artist who worked in watercolor and printmaking. In recent years she realized her artistic calling was in fabric arts and quilt-making, and many friends' and colleagues' homes are graced with her vibrant pieces.

She also enjoyed travel and visited Italy, where her mother was born, dozens of times on her own and as a representative of Boston. New York City was another favorite and frequent destination.

Sansone was the daughter of the late Stephen J. and Rose M. (Picciarelli) Sansone and the sister of the late Michael S. Sansone. In addition to her life partner, David Lancaster of Lexington, Sansone leaves a circle of very close friends.

Her death resulted from a rare clear cell endometrial carcinoma.

Funeral services were private. Interment was at Westview Cemetery, Lexington.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen St, Boston, MA 02115.

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OBITUARIES

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NEWS BRIEFS

MAYOR'S CUP STREET HOCKEY TOURNAMENT BEGINS APRIL 21

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2022 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April public school vacation week.

"We're looking forward to providing a year-round schedule of healthy outdoor activities for all ages in our neighborhood parks," said Parks and Recreation Department Commissioner Ryan Woods. "Thanks to our partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, our young street hockey players will once again get the opportunity to meet kids from throughout the city and compete for the title of 'Boston's Best' in the Mayor's Cup."

The Tournament will begin April 21 and continue through the April school vacation week. All games will be played at Garvey Playground at 340 Neponset Avenue in Dorchester. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette.

Teams will compete in three age groups: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12). Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

To register or for more information, please contact Damien

Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov, Jennifer Misiaszek at jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov, or call (617) 961-3083.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

GOLDBERG TO APPOINT SKINNER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg announced that she will be appointing Nakisha Skinner to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) as of March 21. The Massachusetts State Treasurer has sole appointment for the one commission member with a background in corporate finance and securities, for a five year term.

"I am pleased to appoint Nakisha Skinner to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Her experience and expertise will positively benefit the Commission and ensure the continued integrity of the gaming industry in Massachusetts."

A graduate of Suffolk University Law School, Skinner most recently served as the Licensing Division Chief for the MGC,

where she managed the planning and operations for the licensing and registration of casinos and gaming vendors and their employees, as well as alcohol beverage licensing, serving as primary point of contact for vendors and casinos' human resources, compliance, and procurement departments.

"I appreciate the trust Treasurer Goldberg has shown in me with this appointment and am thrilled to get to work as a commissioner," said Nakisha Skinner. "As Licensing Division Chief, I'm familiar with many of the pending issues and the players, both internal and external. I plan to get right down to the business of engaging, supporting, and protecting the gaming industry in this new capacity."

Prior to the working for the MGC, Skinner served as the General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance. She also served as General Counsel to the Boston Public Health Commission.

"I am delighted to learn of the appointment of our respected colleague, Nakisha Skinner, as Commissioner of the MGC," said MGC Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. "Having worked with Nakisha as our chief of licensing I know the dedication, experience, and passion that she brings to her work. An appointment of a new commissioner so familiar with the issues facing the MGC will allow a seamless transition. I look forward to continuing to serve with Nakisha

in her new role and am thankful to the Treasurer for making this appointment."

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

FEMA AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.9 MILLION TO CITY OF BOSTON

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$1.9 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse City of Boston for purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to city workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city will receive a total of \$1,941,707 in federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse the costs of supplying Boston Police Department (BPD), Boston Fire Department (BFD), Boston Emer-

gency Medical Services (BEMS), the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) between March 2020 and July 2021, including:

- Purchasing and distributing (PPE) and related supplies like such as N95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, Tyvek suits, face shields, boot covers, hair bouffants, gloves, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, Clorox wipes & drapes; and

- Purchasing an electric pallet jack and manual jack required for moving the large amounts of inventory from the loading dock to the storage area where the stock was stored and distributed

"FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the City of Boston with these costs," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success, and our success as a nation."

FEMA's Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided almost \$867 million in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.



BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

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Harassment

02/28/22 - At around 7 p.m., officers responded to Brimmer Street and spoke with a female, who said she was being followed earlier that day.

The victim stated she is new to the city, and when she was walking around checking out the area, she almost bumped

into the someone. She apologized to the man and began to walk away, but she noticed that he was following her. To avoid the man, victim resorted to going in and out of stores in order to lose him.

The victim was advised to contact 9-1-1 if she saw the suspect again.

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CITY PAWS

Puppy dog tails

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Dogs' tails are fascinating. You may think you know how they communicate with their tails, but subtle differences in tail position can make a difference. Here's more about these expressive and useful appendages.

Anatomy and Types of Tails

The Farmer's Dog website describes the anatomy of a dog's tail. "Canine tails are the last seg-

ment of the spine and are made up of as many as 23 vertebrae that get progressively smaller from base to tip. The tail also includes muscles that enclose the bones, as well as tendons and nerves."

Breed standards for dogs have precise information about the characteristics required for a proper tail. Beagles always have a white tip on their tails to help spot them in high grass. Huskies should have lush tails they can

use to wrap around their face for warmth and protection when resting. Retrievers' tails should be otter-like to serve as a rudder when swimming. Dogs also use their tails to help them balance.

There are also curly tails sported by breeds like the Shiba Inu and the variant found in Pugs and Frenchies, the corkscrew tail. Greyhounds have whip tails. While a few breeds like the Pembroke Welsh Corgi have a natural short stub of a tail, far too many dogs have had their tails docked purely for style. Fortunately, this practice is now illegal in many areas where it is considered animal cruelty.

Happy Tail Injuries

A dog's tail can also alert you to a medical problem. Anytime you see your dog's tail carried in an unusual position, do a bit of checking. It can signal something simple like an itchy hot spot on the skin to a more severe problem like a happy tail injury.

Dr. Marty Becker writing for VetStreet explains, "This type of injury occurs when a dog with an outgoing personality and a long tail repeatedly thwacks the tail against a hard surface such as a crate or wall. Really happy dogs — think Golden Retrievers or Cavaliers — or dogs with thin, delicate skin, such as Greyhounds, wag so hard and fast that a bleeding ulcer can develop on the tip of



Maggie bows to her play partner while furling the lovely feathers on her tail. Hugo is using his curled tail to help balance on three feet.

the tail."

Talking Tails

A tail can say many things. To understand what the dog is communicating, you must look beyond the wag. Tail position, speed of the wag, and signals coming from elsewhere on the dog are all important.

For example, a tail held high and still or with stiff, small wags is a sign of a dog on alert and perhaps even threatening. A tail tucked between the legs can signify a fearful or submissive dog. Low, slow wags signal a dog questioning and unsure.

Feeling relaxed and secure, a dog holds their tail in its most natural position. Add a dose of happiness to that, and you'll see a gentle wag. The return of a favorite person could bring on a mighty

circular wag.

There are exceptions to these rules. For some breeds, like Greyhounds, a tail tucked between the legs is a natural position. A shepherd will know that a herding dog, like a Border Collie, is concentrating on the job when the tail is tucked between the legs, and a wagging tail means the dog is goofing off.

The next time your dog is busy having a good sniff of the surroundings, entertain yourself by spotting as many types of dog tails as you can and identifying what each is telling the people and other dogs in the area.

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

PAAE CLOTHING DRIVE



Public Action for Arts and Education's (PAAE) first phase of a clothing drive was delivered to The St. France House for the Homeless in Boston. PAAE is asking its members and friends to help support the second phase of this worthwhile cause. We are in need of winter coats, warm jackets, and sweaters. Please contact St. Francis House or Public Action for Arts and Education at publicactionarts@gmail.com.

Attending the first phase of PAAE's kickoff drive is, (from left to right,) Shannon Steele (Development Dept.), Patrick Murray (Drive, Chairman), Leeroy Buissereth, Joseph Hill (Pres. of Public Action for Arts and Education), Maria Fallavollita (Clothing Supervisor).



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