

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Paws on Charles to bring pet care and supplies to the Hill

By Dan Murphy

In the less than three years since Geraldine O'Hagan purchased Rugg Road Paper Company, the shop has become a destination for dog owners in a neighborhood that sorely lacks a retail outpost devoted solely to pet care and supplies, and now she's hoping to fill that void with her latest venture, Paws on Charles.

The boutique cat-and-dog store is tentatively set to open at 123 Charles St. in June, said O'Hagan, and it will offer services including grooming, DIY bathing and training classes, as well as stock a wide selection of leashes, collars, dog beds, toys and other pet items.

"We'll try to source our products as locally as possible," O'Hagan said, "and if they're not made in New England, they'll at least be made in America."



Pictured, left to right, are Deb Wheeler, Geraldine O'Hagan and Keara Westover outside the future home of Paws on Charles at 123 Charles St.

gan said, "and if they're not made in New England, they'll at least be made in America."

The new shop will be offering made-to-order pet portraits by

(PAWS ON CHARLES, Pg.4)

Civic Association opposes 30 Chestnut St. application

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Civic Association voted Monday, March 8, to ratify a vote of opposition made last week by its Zoning and Licensing Committee on a controversial application for 30 Chestnut St.

The applicant, Ty Gupta, is seeking to renovate the existing 5,846 square-foot, three-family home into a two-family dwelling, and, as part of this project, to expand the existing fifth-floor loft area, which would increase the structure's floor area from 459 to 536 square feet (and the existing building's Floor Area Ratio from 2.618X to 2.652X). The applicant

is also proposing a new fifth-floor rooftop on the north-facing side of the building that would measure 22-feet-by-11-feet-6-inches.

David Freed, the architect for the project, said at the March 3 meeting of the Zoning and Licensing Committee that the applicant proposed the loft expansion as part of plans to extend an existing staircase, which currently runs from the ground level to the fourth floor, to the building's fifth level.

At the loft level, the applicant is seeking to extend both sidewalls to the adjacent party walls, he said, which would provide the room necessary to accommodate the

(BHCA, Pg. 3)

HELPING NEIGHBORS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BEACON HILL CIRCLE FOR CHARITY

Last Sunday Beacon Hiller Andrea Clagett and UMass student Luano Balbino loaded a car with bags of fresh and canned groceries donated by members of the Beacon Hill Circle for Charity for distribution to needy neighbors through the Community Fridges program. Refrigerators at eight sites in greater Boston are regularly stocked with groceries by members of the community and can be accessed at no cost by anyone experiencing food insecurity. They operate on a "take what you need, give what you can" basis, but organizers stress that contributing food to a fridge is not a precondition for taking food. This program has been very helpful to those struggling to meet the food needs of their families throughout the pandemic.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER



The Lavenders of Beacon Hill

The color of the famous purple windows or "Lavenders" of Beacon Hill (left) was caused by the chemical reaction of manganese oxide in the glass to sunlight exposure when the panes were installed in the early- to mid-1800's. The BHCA logo above (right) uses a graphic image of a "Lavender" to symbolize the rich architectural fabric of Beacon Hill that the BHCA strives to preserve and protect.

Please give to the BHCA Annual Appeal!

Our 2021 Annual Appeal letter has been sent to all our members. We depend on your generosity to continue our important work. To make a donation, please visit bhca.org, or call our office at 617-227-1922 with any questions, or to become a member.

Living in a Historic District – A Guide for Homeowners

What is the difference between the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission and the Beacon Hill Civic Association?

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission (BHAC) is a division of the City of Boston's Environment Department and shares offices and staff with the Boston Landmarks Commission. As a branch of city government, it has regulatory authority.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) is a nonprofit neighborhood group of residents and property and business owners within the Beacon Hill Historic District. The BHCA is a volunteer organization that helps to preserve and enhance the quality of life on Beacon Hill through community building, civic engagement and historic preservation.

Is my Beacon Hill residence historic?

If your residence falls within the region bounded by Storrow Drive and Cambridge, Bowdoin, Beacon and Park Streets, you live within the Beacon Hill Historic District.

What is a Historic District?

A historic district is a neighborhood with historic,

(BHCA Pg. 5)

EDITORIAL

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

Patrick Henry, the fiery American patriot and orator during the American Revolution, famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

However, Republican governors in some of our Southern and Midwestern states have, under the guise of "freedom," given that phrase during the current pandemic a 21st century twist:

"Give us liberty AND give us death!"

Ever since COVID-19 first was discovered, there have been a lot of unknowns about the disease and how it is transmitted. Scientists and medical professionals still are discovering new things about this bug and no doubt will continue to do so for years to come.

However, there is ONE thing about which there is now universal acceptance: Masking is THE most effective means we have for stopping the spread of this terrible disease.

Some Republican governors have refused to order public mask mandates for reasons that clearly are about politics and have nothing to do with the health and safety of their citizens.

They make the argument that they want to reopen their states because the economic benefits outweigh the potential negative health consequences. That, at least, is a debatable point.

However, the need to wear masks during a pandemic that features a virus that is spread by airborne particles from our noses and mouths is not debatable. More to the point, requiring citizens to wear masks is not inconsistent with "reopening" states' economies. A state can still allow all of its businesses to operate fully AND also require that everyone wear masks at all times.

President Joe Biden remarked that these governors, mostly notably Bill Abbott of Texas and Kristi Noem of South Dakota, are "neanderthal" in their thinking. Although the pundits quickly joked that Biden gave the Neanderthals (who became extinct, by the way) a bad name, it is no laughing matter that their dangerous policies will lead to entirely preventable deaths in their states, exposing front-line workers, first-responders, and healthcare providers to unnecessary risk of harm.

Ms. Noem's state of South Dakota for example, has the fifth-highest COVID death rate and second-highest infection rate among the 50 states.

Every state has speed limits, stop signs, and red lights on its highways. Every state requires every citizen to wear pants in public at all times. The suggestion that a mask mandate during a public health crisis represents an impingement on personal freedom is absurd on its face (no pun intended).

We are fortunate that in Massachusetts and surrounding states, masking at all times has been widely-accepted since the beginning of the pandemic. We have a governor and a public health infrastructure that have left no doubt about the need for everyone to wear masks while among others.

There may be a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, but the efficacy of wearing masks is not one of them.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 14
SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR.

GUEST OP-ED

World Water Day 2021: Cleaner Rivers for Massachusetts

By Julia Blatt

As Massachusetts observes World Water Day this year, our state's communities have particular reason to celebrate. The Massachusetts legislature recently enacted (and Governor Baker signed into law) a state sewage notification bill. This important new law has been a long time coming.

World Water Day falls on March 22nd of each year. Since it first became a United Nations Observance Day in 1993, World Water Day has served as a time to think about, and take action to address, the water crisis. In 2021, World Water Day focuses on the environmental, social and cultural value people place on water. The day provides Massachusetts residents an opportunity to consider the importance of clean water. Clean water is not something to take for granted.

On this year's World Water Day, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, the Voice of Massachusetts Rivers, is celebrating a major step the state has taken toward ensuring safer rivers. For years, Mass Rivers led advocacy efforts with many partners to pass a state law requiring sewer operators to establish a notification system. The goal was to let the public know when there is a sewage discharge into a public waterbody, so residents could avoid contaminated waters.

Fecal bacteria poses many public health threats, including ear and eye infections, skin rashes, hepatitis, and inflammation of the intestines. Emerging research also suggests that fecal bacteria can spread COVID-19.

Many cities in the Northeast combine sewage and stormwater collection systems, a relic of long-ago urban engineering. These systems are designed to bypass wastewater treatment facilities if the volume of water is too much for the facilities to handle. For these aging systems, heavy rain sends a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater into local waterways. Until now, there was no way for the public to know when these discharges occurred, leaving people downstream at risk of contact with contaminated waters.

In 2018, an especially large volume of sewage pollution was discharged into the Merrimack River. As a downstream community, Newburyport bore the brunt of all this sewage winding up in their waters.

The problems experienced in Newburyport, however, are not unique. Sewage discharges regularly harm water quality in our state. In Massachusetts, there are 181 combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls, and 24 CSO permittees. In a typical year, Massachusetts' waterways receive almost 3 billion gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage mixed

with stormwater from CSOs. These outfalls are concentrated in urban areas, like Fall River, Lawrence, and Lowell, making CSO pollution an environmental justice issue, as the closest waterways to residents of urban neighborhoods may be contaminated without their knowing.

The Massachusetts sewage notification bill was filed during five consecutive legislative sessions. Finally, in the summer of 2020, the bill passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously, and was sent to the Senate, where it sat until the final hours of the legislative session in January 2021. In quick succession that night, the Senate voted to pass it, and the House agreed to Senate modifications, sending the bill to the Governor's desk. Governor Baker signed the bill on January 12, 2021.

Raw and partially treated sewage should never be discharged into our waters. Public notification of sewage discharges is an important first step, and Mass Rivers hopes the new law will lead to a greater public willingness to invest in much needed water infrastructure, including separating these combined sewer systems. These are expensive projects, but these investments are critical to protecting our environment, public health and safety, and ensuring

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GUEST OP-ED

Rollins in Support of H.R. 1280 – George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

By DA Rachael Rollins

America as a whole is just beginning to recognize what Black and brown people have known for generations – that law enforcement and the criminal legal system do not treat all people equally. As leaders and elected prosecutors work to create more just and equitable systems at the local level, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 is working at the national level to do the same. This legislation is an important step toward addressing systemic

racism and abuses as a country while striving to build greater trust in our criminal legal system and helping acknowledge our nation's painful origins and history of targeted harm and oppression. This bill improves the ability of individuals and communities to seek accountability for abuses of power and civil rights violations committed by members of law enforcement. It reinforces the core belief that those who serve in positions of authority should be held to a higher standard. The

majority of the police officers and law enforcement partners that my staff and I work with everyday meet this high expectation. They represent their agencies and their badge with honor, exhibiting cultural competence and restraint in all of their encounters with community. This federal legislation takes steps to address the actions of the outliers, those officers who display malice, hate, violence, and escalation in their encounters with poor, Black and brown communities. By acknowledging

the systemic racism built into the very fabric of our criminal legal system and the law enforcement agencies that are entrusted to serve and protect every community, but often have tensions within diverse communities across the country, we have begun walking the long path to reconciliation and healing. I want to thank the Massachusetts congressional delegation for unanimously supporting this bill, and I urge the Senate to take swift action and send it to President Biden's desk.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

environmental justice and climate resiliency. On World Water Day 2021, Mass Rivers encourages all Massachusetts residents to pledge themselves to the goal of clean, safe water for all.

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance is an alliance of 80 organizations and members across the Commonwealth. Founded in 2007, Mass Rivers works to strengthen statewide river policies in four areas: water quality, streamflow, wildlife habitat, and investment in green infrastructure.

Julia Blatt is the Executive Director, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

staircase extension.

"The FAR increase is solely on the roof," Freed said. "It's just two slivers on the existing sidewalls and the party walls. The only increase in FAR is this [loft] extension."

The existing loft structure, which Freed said is in a state of disrepair, is now clad in corrugated-metal siding and painted white, while the applicant has proposed recladding all four sides of the structure in standing-seam copper, as well as adding fenestration and a new door to its front.

The proposed loft renovation would have a flat 10-foot roof, Freed said, compared to its existing height of 11 feet in front and 10 feet in back.

Frank McGuire, co-chair of the Civic Association's Architectural Commission, advised the applicant that any new proposed roofdeck would have to go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeal and said the Inspection Services Department would likely have questions about a proposed structure that extends to the face of the chimneys, as the applicant has proposed.

Moreover, McGuire instructed the applicant that he would also need to go before the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission again if the proposed roofdeck is deemed visible from a public way.

The applicant appeared before the Architectural Commission at its Nov. 19 hearing regarding a violation for the unapproved removal of historic windows, which was ratified, and also received approval to rebuild an existing chimney. But the commission has yet to make a determination on the proposed roofdeck.

In October, the city's Inspec-



30 Chestnut St.

tional Service Department denied an application for proposed work at 30 Chestnut St., citing excessive FAR.

An applicant going before the Architectural Commission prior to appearing before the city's Zoning Board of Appeal isn't the "normal process," said Tom Clemens, Zoning and Licensing Committee

co-chair.

"We need to get abutters involved in the Board of Appeal process if we're going to get this to stick at the city level," Clemens said at the March 8 board meeting.

Gupta said he has a hearing date scheduled with the ZBA for the last week of March.

John Blasberg, a direct abutter at

28 Chestnut St., expressed concern that if the loft structure is expanded, it could "come into contact" with the chimneys at their home, potentially breaching the clearance area he said is mandated between chimneys and other structures per zoning codes.

"We also haven't seen the plans to know enough about how it would impact the integrity of our property," Blasberg added.

McGuire said the chimney conditions at 30 Chestnut St. are already nonconforming, since "chimneys must be 3 feet away from any roof structure within 10 feet of the building."

Subsequently, McGuire said, "If you extend it as the proponent wants to do, you're extending a nonconforming [condition], and all chimneys on all adjoining building would have to be extended, and this would affect the view corridor."

In response to one abutter, Gupta said that a ventilation pipe now visible on the roofline was cut in error, and that its actual height would be 14 to 16 inches above the rubber roof, which would be obscured from sight by a 42-45-inch parapet wall.

The condensers have been repositioned from sitting on the fifth-floor structure to new location on the fourth floor behind the loft structure.

As for sound mitigation, none would be necessary, said Gupta, since the condensers on the roof would emit no more than 59 decibels (dB). "It's like a very quiet whisper," he reassured abutters.

Patricia Germann, the niece of Sheridan Germann, who has lived at 32 Chestnut St. since 1968,

spoke from Canada at last week's Zoning and Licensing Committee meeting and said she was vehemently opposed to the project.

But her testimony came under scrutiny Monday when Clemens said during the board meeting that Sheridan Germann had since contacted the Civic Association via his attorneys, saying that he hadn't authorized his niece to speak on his behalf, and that he personally wasn't opposed to the project.

"We don't know to what extent the supposed abutter at 32 Chestnut influenced [the committee's] vote," said Kathy Judge, committee co-chair, of the committee's 8-3 vote (with three abstaining) to oppose the application.

Eve Waterfall, a committee member who voted to oppose the project last week, said ultimately Patricia Germann's testimony factored much less into her decision than the potential FAR increase did.

Meanwhile, Charlotte Thibodeau of the Civic Association said during the March 8 board meeting that the project's developer appeared to have taken a similar "back road" on this application process as he did with 4 Otis Place, which was recently cited by the Architectural Commission for unapproved exterior changes.

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Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz endorses Jon Santiago for Mayor of Boston

Just over a week after Jon Santiago launched his campaign, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz from the North End has endorsed Jon Santiago for Mayor of Boston.

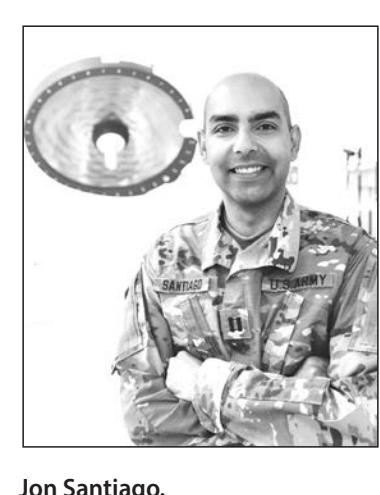
“I am proud to endorse Jon Santiago for Mayor of Boston. Our city stands on the precipice of a new era of leadership and I know Jon’s experience as a doctor, a veteran, a Peace Corps volunteer, and as a state representative make him the most qualified to lead us into that new era,” said Representative Michlewitz. “He will help us recover as a city and region.”

Michlewitz represents the Third Suffolk District, which comprises the neighborhoods of the North End, Waterfront, Chinatown, South End, Downtown, Leather District, Bay Village, and portions of the West End, Beacon Hill and the Back Bay. In 2019, he was named Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and continues to hold that post. Born and raised in the North End, Rep. Michlewitz and Santiago have delivered for Boston neighborhoods on a variety of legislative initiatives including COVID-19

relief, landmark education reform, transportation investments, and the expansion of affordable housing.

“Having worked with Chairman Michlewitz on Beacon Hill to deliver urgently needed results for our city and state, I’ve seen firsthand how much he cares about our city and expanding opportunity for all,” Santiago said. “I am humbled to receive his endorsement and look forward to working with him and community leaders throughout Boston to bring our city back stronger than ever.”

Jon Santiago is currently serving his second term as the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District representing the South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, and Fenway neighborhoods of Boston. He is an emergency room physician employed at Boston Medical Center, the city’s safety net hospital. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and has deployed overseas. Prior to these experiences, Santiago served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He lives in the South End with his wife, Alexandra.



Jon Santiago.

Dog licensing deadline is March 31

With a current increase in dog adoptions during the COVID-19 quarantine, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Animal Care and Control Division is reminding city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year.

“A license is your dog’s fastest ticket home if they become lost, and it’s the law,” notes Animal Care and Control Director Alexis Trzcinski. “A dog license is like an ID for your pet. If they ever get lost, the chances of you being reunited are much higher with a license.”

In preparation for the 2021 licensing deadline, the Animal Care & Control Division analyzed licensing data from last year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2020. The top five dog names registered in Boston were Luna, Bella, Charlie, Lucy, and Lola. Rounding out the bottom of the top 25 were Buddy, Riley, Finn, Coco, and Winston.

All dog owners must license their dogs by Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog’s current rabies certificate and proof of spaying or neutering. For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care & Control’s how-to article.

The fees for licensing your dog are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. Dog owners who pay online with a credit card will be subject to a 2.7 percent service fee (the minimum service fee is \$1.00). License applications may also be picked up in person or requested by mail; walk-in and mailed payments are accepted via check or money order.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, Animal Care and Control office hours are limited; please contact the office ahead of your visit. Whether you provide your information and payment online, by mail, or in person, your dog’s license will be mailed to you.

If you are renewing a dog license, you will need to provide your dog’s license number. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50. Please call (617) 635-534 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

For current social distancing guidelines in City of Boston parks, please visit www.Boston.gov/coronavirus.

Top 25 Dog Names Of 2020

Based on City of Boston 2020 Licensing Data

1. LUNA
2. BELLA
3. CHARLIE
4. LUCY
5. LOLA
6. DAISY
7. BAILEY
8. COOPER
9. MAX
10. PENNY
11. OLIVER
12. TEDDY
13. MAGGIE
14. STELLA
15. OLLIE
16. MOLLY
17. LILY
18. SCOUT
19. ROCKY
20. MILO
21. BUDDY
22. RILEY
23. FINN
24. COCO
25. WINSTON

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Mar. 20

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project.

VIBRATORY HAMMER NOISE IMPACTS

•A vibratory hammer is being used to install the five cofferdams which will be needed to build the piers of the new bridge. Installation of each cofferdam takes about two weeks.

•The project team has positioned a combination of hanging sound blankets and temporary barrier to minimize noise impacts from the vibratory hammer. These measures will be adjusted as needed and appropriate.

•The vibratory hammer is operated place during the day (7 a.m.

– 3 p.m.)

COMMERCIAL STREET LANE REDUCTION

•On Saturday, 3/13, there will be a lane closure on Commercial Street to make room for a work zone near the Keany Square section of the project site. The closure will begin at 4 a.m. and end at 7 p.m.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Crews will be repairing warehouse piers and columns, installing, and conducting maintenance of silt curtains, and installing cofferdams.

WORK HOURS

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

WORK THAT HAS BEEN

COMPLETED

•Prior to 3/07/21, Cofferdamp installation will be 100% complete.

TRAVEL TIPS

The westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs, near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

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.

PAWS ON CHARLES (from pg. 1)

South End artist Emily Gallardo and has also commissioned Boston-based Sky Candle Co., which makes the candles that Rugg Road carries around the holidays, to produce a custom Paws on Charles candle exclusively for them.

Additionally, Megan Lloyd, the local artist who makes the Boston-themed stickers sold at Rugg Road, has been tapped to paint a pet-themed wall mural for the store.

“We’re making this a place for animals,” said O’Hagan, who herself owns Axel, a bull terrier she describes as Rugg Road’s “mas-

cot,” as well as Brownie, a mix, and three cats.

Likewise, Rugg Road became a “place for animals,” O’Hagan said, when her daughter, Maureen, began bringing Axel to the store and word soon spread throughout the neighborhood that the shop was dog friendly.

Deb Wheeler, who has worked at Rugg Road for the past two years, will be the onsite manager of Paws On Charles.

“We hope the dog-and-cat community sees this as an open, welcoming place where they can meet one another, come in and pick up

what they need, or just hang out,” Wheeler said.

Keara Westover, a Providence College student who now works part time at Rugg Road, will also be a Paws on Charles staff member, dividing her time between both stores once the new business opens.

Paws on Charles now has a landing site at www.pawson-charles.com, which is expected to go live soon, and you can follow them on Instagram at [@pawson-charles](https://www.instagram.com/pawson-charles).

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Boston Preservation Alliance urges MGH to save three historic West End buildings

By Dan Murphy

In anticipation of the hospital's planned expansion, the nonprofit Boston Preservation Alliance is urging Mass General "to be more sensitive to the concerns of the neighborhood" as it moves forward with the project, especially in regard to preserving three historic buildings in the West End.

MGH intends to build a pair of connected, 12-story towers that would provide 494 new hospital beds (many of which would be single occupancy), with surge capacity for an additional 130 patients; additional imaging and lab space; and a 246-space parking garage located beneath the structure to

accommodate only patients and their families.

The project as proposed would result in the demolition of the 1884 Winchell Elementary School (a.k.a. Ruth Sleeper Hall) at 24 Blossom St., the 1910 West End Tenement House at 23-25 North Anderson St. and the West End Settlement House at 16-18 Blossom St. – three of about a dozen historically significant buildings in the neighborhood to have survived the Urban Renewal efforts that began in the 1950s.

In his Feb. 16 letter to MGH, Greg Galer, executive director of the Alliance, wrote: "[T]he assertion that extensive underground parking is necessary

across the entirety of this particular site is cited by MGH as the most significant factor in why saving and repurposing any of the three historic buildings is not viable. We continue to disagree with the hospital's claim that the buildings are too big, heavy, or unstable to move, but do recognize that a move over a proposed new parking garage below is an inordinately expensive strategy. Therefore, if there could be a reduction in the parking garage size, saving the buildings becomes more viable."

Besides exploring other parking solutions, Galer urged MGH to consider relocating the West End House behind the development site at Parkman and Blossom streets

and returning it to community use, as well as to retain the West End Tenement House in its current location within the proposed arcade.

"We cannot emphasize enough the fact that these buildings hold deep meaning and value for the residents of the West End," Galer wrote. "They embody important lessons for Boston and other cities about the deplorable impacts of the ongoing practices of Urban Renewal, gentrification, and discriminatory demolition, zoning, and housing. The history of these specific buildings is central to the legacy of the neighborhood, standing as critical rare survivors."

Moreover, Galer wrote, "It is important to note that the community's strong desire to find a way to save one or more of these historic buildings cannot be understated. This response is exacerbated by the belief that MGH does not yet fully recognize the deep, unhealed wounds inflicted on the West End by Urban Renewal and years of subsequent, sustained demolition and destruction of the residents' memories and shared experiences. We are looking to MGH to be a partner willing to work with the West End community to address an almost PTSD-like response to the trauma of this neighborhood. We feel that the proposal has not yet

sufficiently responded to neighborhood design concerns and that the most recent designs have, instead, evolved in the wrong direction, further fracturing the neighborhood's built environment."

Galer also described MGH's design concept as "an internally-focused superblock that fails to acknowledge the exterior experience of neighboring residents in terms of pedestrian experience, consideration of shadows on adjacent structures, and obstruction of free passage and views to the Ether Dome through the privatization and enclosure of North Anderson Street," and further asserted that it could set a bad precedent for future "large, indifferent development projects that continue to disrupt any sense of community continuity or cohesion."

The letter was co-signed by the Beacon Hill Civic Association; Friends of the West End Library; Historic New England; Martha McNamara, a Beacon Hill resident and Wellesley College professor; Old West Church; and the West End Civic Association, and Galer wrote that the Alliance and the co-signing parties "are not yet prepared to finalize financial and other forms of mitigation" until all possible solutions to save these historic West End buildings have been explored.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

cultural, architectural, and/or aesthetic significance to a city, state, or region, or to the country as a whole. The Historic Beacon Hill District, the oldest historic district in Massachusetts, was created in 1955 by an act of the Massachusetts General Court. The act was designed to promote the educational, economic, and general welfare of the public by preserving and maintaining the Beacon Hill neighborhood as a landmark in the history of American architecture. The BHAC, with members appointed by Boston's mayor and city council, works with homeowners to ensure that the neighborhood's character is protected and preserved.

How does living in a Historic District affect me?

For homeowners on Beacon Hill, living in a historic district means that any change to the exterior of their properties must be reviewed by the BHAC. The Commission evaluates proposed changes according to criteria that include architectural continuity, physical impacts on the building and neighborhood, visibility from a public way, historical accuracy, and appropriateness for the building. These criteria are outlined in the Historic Beacon Hill District Architectural Guidelines, which are available from the Commission, or at <https://www.boston.gov/historic-district/historic-beacon-hill-district>.

It is important to note that the Beacon Hill Civic Association's Architecture Committee reviews all matters considered at the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission prior to any hearing on those matters, and they submit their written opinions to the BHAC prior to those hearings as well.

What do I do if I want to change the color of my front door?

Homeowners in the Historic

District who wish to make exterior changes to their properties that will be visible from a public way must apply to the BHAC for approval. As the commission follows the Historic Beacon Hill District Architectural Guidelines, it may decline to issue a "Certificate of Appropriateness" for your proposed paint color. The members of the commission, who are knowledgeable about historic structures, do not make decisions arbitrarily. If your application is denied, you are encouraged to seek guidance from the commission in making an appropriate selection.

What steps should I take before I start a renovation project?

To obtain approval for exterior changes, property owners should visit the BHAC at Boston City Hall to obtain a copy of the Historic Beacon Hill District Architectural Guidelines and an application form. These are also available on the BHAC website as noted above. Interior changes do not require approval by the BHAC.

How can I learn about the history of a building on Beacon Hill?

The Boston Landmarks Commission has published a guide to researching historic homes that contains information on how to locate building and alteration permits, newspaper articles, maps and other print resources. Historic New England has a large collection of photographs, which can be seen by appointment and can often provide evidence of the earlier appearance of a building. In addition, the Boston Landmarks Commission may have survey information on properties on Beacon Hill.

What can I do to help preserve the Historic Beacon Hill neighborhood?

There are many ways to get involved. You can join the Beacon

Hill Civic Association, which helps protect Beacon Hill's residential character in a variety of ways, and take part in their many activities and committees. Also, the Boston Preservation Alliance is a citywide nonprofit organization that provides proactive, grassroots advocacy and educational programming on major issues affecting Boston's historic buildings and communities.

Some important resources:

Beacon Hill Civic Association
617-227-1922 www.bhcivic.org
Boston Preservation Alliance
617 367-2458 www.bostonpreservation.org

Beacon Hill Architectural Commission 617-635-3850 www.boston.gov/historic-district/historic-beacon-hill-district

Boston Landmarks Commission 617-635-3850 www.boston.gov/departments/landmarks-commission

Historic New England 617-227-3956 www.historicnewengland.org

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

Architecture Committee – Monday, March 15th, time TBA

Events Committee – Tuesday, March 23rd, 6pm

Streets & Sidewalks Committee – Tuesday, April 6th, time TBA

Zoning & Licensing – Wednesday, April 7th, 7pm

Mark your calendar for these BHCA Events!

Young Friends Social – March 31st

Beacon Hill Meet & Greet – April 5th

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website www.bhcivic.org or call the office (617-227-1922) for joining instructions or more information on any of these meetings and events.

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911**

Breaking and Entering – Motor Vehicle

2/26/21 - Officers responded to Garden Street for a motor vehicle that had been broken into and, upon arrival, observed that the door was damaged and the passenger's side window had been removed. Multiple expensive items were stolen from the motor vehicle. Area Detectives are now investigating the matter.

Larceny

3/1/21 - Officers responded to Byron Street for a dog that had been stolen. A dog walker stated that when she went inside one house to bring home, she noticed one of the other dogs was missing. She also told officers officers she located an individual with the dog in the Boston Common. The suspect coerced the dogwalker into giving him money in exchange for "finding" the dog. It was

later discovered via video surveillance that the suspect did indeed steal the dog off a carabiner, and that he also stole the dog's collar. The suspect was located and placed under arrest.

Vandalism

3/2/21 - Officers responded to Derne Street on a report of a vandalized motor vehicle and, on arrival, observed that a window had been shattered, but no items were known to have been stolen from inside. Area detectives are investigating their matter.

Sexual Assault

3/2/21 - Officers arrested an individual for a sexual assault that occurred in the area earlier that day. An investigation is pending. However, due to the nature of the incident, no further information is available at this time.

March is National Pet Poison Prevention Month

Staff Report

Watching your dog or cat get sick from toxic items or poison is a nightmare for any pet owner. Symptoms of poisoning can be especially traumatic, ranging from seizures and vomiting to nosebleeds and diarrhea.

“Nobody wants to see their pets suffer in such a painful way or, worst-case scenario, have a fatal incident. That’s why it’s important to make sure your home environment keeps dogs and cats as safe as possible,” said Dr. Erin Katribe, veterinarian and medical director for Best Friends Animal Society.

As March is Pet Poison Prevention

Month, Best Friends encourages pet owners to protect their pets from potential ingestion of any of the following:

- Antifreeze
- Bait for rodents
- Batteries (which can contain corrosive fluid)
- Car care products, such as cleaners or oils
- Fertilizer
- Gorilla Glue (or similar products)
- Household cleaners
- Ice-melting products
- Medications – prescribed and over-the-counter
- Nicotine products
- Pesticides for insects
- Pool or pond products

“Pets can be very inquisitive, so it’s always best to keep these items in a sealed cabinet area that your pets cannot have access to, whether that’s in the home, in a shed, or in a garage,” Katribe said. “If you use any of these products, always make sure to clean up any spillage immediately and thoroughly so ingestion can’t happen that way, either.”

Food can be toxic to pets, so it’s always important to remember to never give or allow your pets to have access to any of the following:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Substances containing caffeine, such as coffee
- Chocolate
- Fatty foods, especially drippings and grease from cooking
- Chicken and turkey bones
- Grapes and raisins
- Onions and garlic



COURTESY BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY

Keep your pets safe with tips from Best Friends Animal Society.

- Macadamia nuts
- Salt and sugar
- Yeast or bread dough

“Plants can also be toxic and poisonous to pets,” Katribe said. “These plants include English ivy or holly, lilies, Chinaberry, iris, poinsettia, pokeweed and daphne. For cats, even contact with the pollen of some lilies can be severely toxic.”

Should your pet show any signs of poisoning, which include vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, blood in stool, paralysis, loss of appetite, bruising, nosebleeds, irregular heartbeat or inability to urinate, a veterinary consult is in immediate order.

“Call your veterinary office or an emergency clinic as soon as possible to let them know of your pet’s symptoms and what they could have possibly ingested. The veterinary staff may be able to provide instructions on how to help decrease the severity of the situation prior to coming in or they may advise that you come in immediately,” Katribe said. “Time is of the essence when it comes to minimizing the dangerous effects of any poison, so every second counts.”

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to around 625,000. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs all across the country, as well as the nation’s largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 3,200 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to Save Them All. For more information, visit best-friends.org.



Erin Murphy for Boston City Council At-large



ERINFORBOSTON.COM

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featuring Safe Summer Camps & Great Safe Activities!

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South End | North End | Charlestown

THE BOSTON SUN

THE NORTH END
REGIONAL REVIEW

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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781-485-0588 x 101

Sioux Gerow
charlestownads@hotmail.com

Eliot School welcomes back 350 students

By John Lynds

This week marks exactly one year since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of Boston Public Schools but the Eliot School in the North End, which serves students and families in Beacon Hill, the North End and Charlestown are looking to a brighter future.

Last week the school welcomed back over 350 students in Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade to the school.

Eliot School Principal Traci Griffith said students, families and faculty shared “magical moments” throughout the week at the school.

“Everyone has been working together to ensure a safe, healthy and most of all joyful reopening,” said Griffith. “As we welcome close to 700 hybrid in person learners during the month of March we challenge ourselves to lead the nation in continuing to be innovative and creative in supporting the social, emotional and academic well being of our students during these unprecedented, challenging times.”

Grades 4-8 are scheduled to return to classrooms next week, starting on Monday; and Grades 9-12 are due to return the week of March 29 if public health data

permits. These students will finally join the high-priority students who have been in school since the fall.

Mayor Martin Walsh this week said BPS has comprehensive health and safety measures in place, with social distancing, air filtration, sanitizing, signage, and more. The Mayor said that he was grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this happen. He said that this is a great example of Boston coming together, getting creative, and doing the right thing for our young people.

Last week the Mayor visited several BPS schools that have welcomed students back for in-person



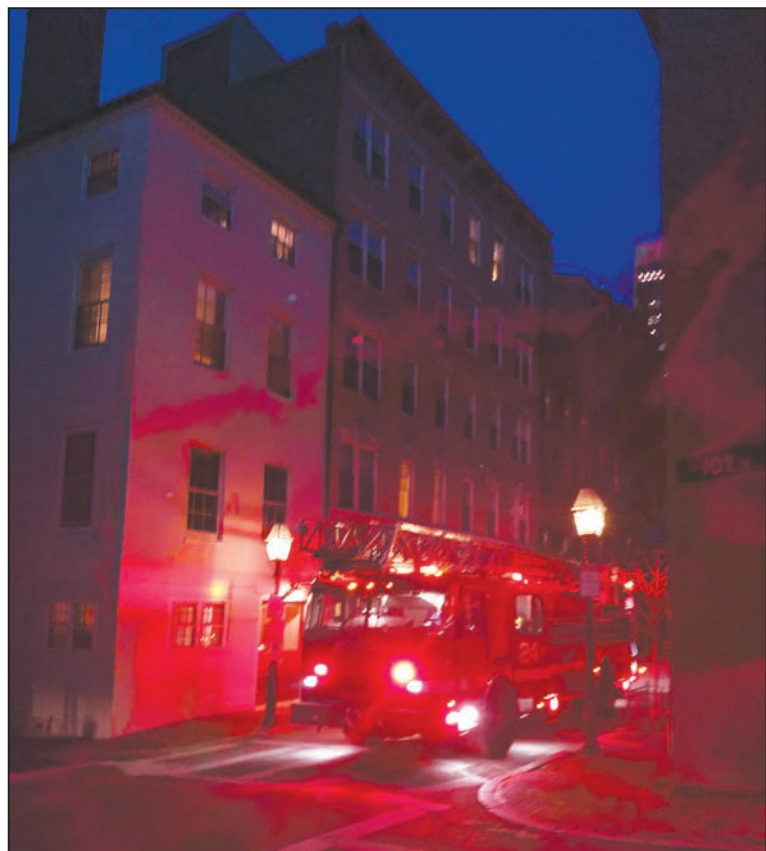
Eliot School first-grade teacher, Ms. Santos and Principal Traci welcome back to school students in Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade.

learning. He shared some stories about these visits, and closed with this reflection:

“It makes me very proud that we’re able to bring students back in a smart and safe way,” said Walsh. “This is yet another sign that we’re

moving toward recovery, and there are brighter days ahead. We’re all grateful for that. For now, the City continues to monitor the data, promote testing and vaccination, and direct resources where they’re needed the most.”

BFD ON THE JOB



A Boston fire-truck spotted Monday at about 6 p.m. in the area of Joy and Myrtle streets.



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B

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

Livingstone files bill to increase tax deduction for childcare

By Dan Murphy

Massachusetts taxpayers could get some additional relief, thanks to Rep. Jay Livingstone, who has filed legislation that would significantly increase the state's tax deduction for childcare.

"Families are struggling throughout the Commonwealth", Rep. Livingstone said, "and one of those struggles is childcare."

The state currently allows a taxpayer to deduct the cost of childcare incurred while they're working or seeking employment for a maximum of \$4,800 for one qualifying child or for \$9,600 for two or more qualifying children. The allowable tax deduction hasn't increased since 2002, said

Rep. Livingstone, despite the fact that "childcare costs have gone up exponentially since then."

The bill that Rep. Livingstone has filed would double the allowable tax credits to a maximum of \$9,600 for one qualifying child and up to \$19,200 for two or more children.

"Most families will get help," he said, "and only those at the lowest income will be able to take advantage of the full amount."

Rep. Livingstone added that some Massachusetts taxpayers had to cover the cost of childcare themselves last year without the benefit of a tax deduction.

"This is a way to provide some level of tax relief for struggling families," Rep. Livingstone added.

HILL HOUSE 2021 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon S., has officially opened up Summer Camp registration for 2021 campers.

Now in its 22nd year, Hill House Camps (Kiddie Kamp for 3-5 year olds and Day Camp for 5- to 12-year-olds) feature: weekly Day Camp field trips; Kiddie Kamp onsite adventures; expanded enrichment opportunities; sailing, theatre, sports and film camp options; weekly themes; extended day options for Day Campers; and expanded LIT program for 13- to 15-year-olds.

Visit Hill House's Summer Camp website (www.hillhouse-boston.org/Camps.htm) to learn more about all the fun. For more information on registering, contact Chelsea Evered at 617-227-5838 or cevered@hillhouseboston.org.

boston.org/Camps.htm) to learn more about all the fun. For more information on registering, contact Chelsea Evered at 617-227-5838 or cevered@hillhouseboston.org.

IMAGINE VAN GOGH COMING DEC. 21 TO SOWA POWER STATION

"Imagine Van Gogh," more than 200 of the Dutch artist's paintings, is making its debut in Boston on Dec. 21 at the SoWa Power Station.

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

Commonwealth.

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

CHARLES STREET CLEAN-UP COMING MARCH 11

The Beacon Hill Civic Association's Joint Charles Street Committee will hold a Charles Street Clean-up on Thursday, March 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Tatte Bakery & Café at 70 Charles St., and volunteers are asked to meet there with your gloves and broom.

If you can't make this clean-up, but would like to participate in the next one, contact the Civic Association at info@bhcivic.org.

BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will be holding a zoom meeting on Thursday, March 18 from 5-7 p.m.

To join with Google Meet: meet.google.com/xmq-rswk-bbf

To join by phone: (US) +1 575-914-2079 (PIN: 258076396)

Agenda

1. Design Review

APP # 21.0682 BH 27 Brimmer Street (Continued From 2-18-2021 Hearing)

Proposed Work: Replace roof deck, remove and rebuild head house in a new location, new guardrails, and new skylight.

APP # 21.0722 BH 55 Chestnut Street

Proposed Work: At front façade, roof level install eight galvanized steel snow guards.

APP # 21.0723 BH 32 Derne Street

Proposed Work: New Pergola, New Fence, New Planters

APP # 21.0727 BH 83 Charles Street

Proposed Work: New Signage, Remove awning at front façade.

2. Administrative Review/Approval

APP # 21.0724 BH 69 Charles Street: Repaint storefront trim in

kind BM (Black) HC-180.

APP # 21.0725 BH 10 Otis Place: At rear façade, facing Storrow Drive, level 2, replace nine, 6 over 6, wood window sash sets and two, 8 over 8, wood window sash sets with nine, 6 over 6, wood sash sets and two, 8 over 8, wood window sash sets. Existing windows are not historic.

APP # 21.0726 BH 133 Mount Vernon Street: Repoint rear façade in kind.

3. Ratification Of 2/18/2021 Public Hearing Minutes

4. Staff Updates

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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Nina Marill IRT	Rucci Catherine J Est	160 Commonwealth Ave #211	\$700,000
BEACON HILL			
Dougherty, Kay E	Wood, Elwood S	145 Pinckney St #610	\$750,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Rosskamp, Ralf	Martha M Sadler RET	130 Appleton St #3G	\$1,225,000
Evan M Kushner LT	CJA Boylston LLC	300 Boylston St #511	\$980,000
Zandparsa, Roya	Jeffrey A Weinstein	1 Charles St S #4A	\$1,080,000
SC RT	Chan, Serene	9 Follen St #2	\$865,000
Hampton Realty LLC	Distefano, Erica T	4 Charlesgate E #303	\$825,000
Wang, Hsiumei	Loguidice, Matthew	549 Columbus Ave #3	\$505,000
Westcott, Anne	Levin-Scherz, Joshua	38 Dwight St #6	\$750,000
Angel, Gloria	Chee, Brant W	90 Gainsborough St #4E	\$470,000
Jin, Zhouyong	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #301	\$1,149,000
Bingling Luo T	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #501	\$1,249,000
Pryshlak, Adrian P	Mainsail W Brkline 3 LLC	170 W Brookline St	\$6,350,000
Adam S Goldstein	West Brook House LLC	189 W Brookline St #1	\$2,450,000
Nemetz, James	Veysey, Phillip R	1313 Washington St #706	\$1,667,250
Leitner, Marian K	21 Worcester St Assoc	21 Worcester St #1	\$1,725,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Prabhu, Saileta	1 Avery 32C LLC	1 Avery St #32C	\$1,592,500
Nirmalan, Aarathi	Williams, Norman A	42-44 Beach St #4A	\$276,181
Forino, Sara	Lawlor, Robert	120 Commercial St #1-1	\$645,000
Hodge, Allison M	Reardon, Keri	120 Commercial St #1-2	\$849,500
Linda G Johansson RET	Ryan, Mary R	357 Commercial St #121	\$570,000
Shaw, David G	David G Shaw RET	85 E India Row #19G	\$1,027,000
Uhler, Caroline	Chim, Shuk F	1 Franklin St #2111	\$1,300,000
1223 Mt T	Ashe, Jonathan	1 Franklin St #4703	\$4,300,000
Griffin, Alfred C	Jenkins, Jason H	108 Fulton St #1	\$690,000
Danielle C York RET	Agin, Warren	112 Fulton St #1A	\$1,180,000
Danielle C York RET	Agin, Warren	112 Fulton St #1B	\$1,180,000
Pace, Linda	Batl Management MA LLC	88 Kingston St #7F	\$1,799,000

Attention to Detail

By PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The tower in the last clue is in front of King's Chapel attributed to colonial architect Peter Harrison and completed in 1754. It is a stop on the Freedom Trail and is listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Today's answer is a historic photo circa 1906.

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



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Former Economic Development Chief John Barros announces campaign for Mayor

By Seth Daniel

As the only person in the Boston mayoral race who has previously run for the office, former Walsh Administration Economic Development Chief John Barros announced on March 4 that he intended to make a run for mayor this year.

Barros is described as a community development leader, small business owner, and Boston's first Chief of Economic Development under Mayor Martin Walsh – a post he recently left to run for mayor full-time. A former community organizer and executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Barros made the announcement at Restaurante Cesaria, the neighborhood restaurant in Dorchester he has owned and operated for the past two decades.

Barros ran for mayor in 2013, but lost out in the Preliminary Election, and then supported Walsh – later joining the administration as the Chief of Economic Development. He has been there the last seven years, but said he is ready to take what he learned.

"I learned a lot in 2013," he said. "It was a great race and a fun race. Not all candidates enjoyed it,



Back to the race! John Barros once again pins his 'Barros for Mayor' button on his lapel March 4, shortly before announcing that he would be running again for mayor this year. In 2013, he ran in a crowded Mayoral Preliminary Election, but did not prevail to the General Election.

but I enjoyed it. I enjoyed talking to people and being in living rooms and kitchens. As you know now we're going to have to start this race with less kitchens and less living rooms. The conversations on Zoom are already vibrant. The conversations on phones and we have been able to meet with peo-

ple in rooms where we can socially-distance and be safe. I have a good understanding of where I have some traction in the city. I have a good understanding of how to have good conversations with Bostonians, and I have had the pleasure to serve after 2013 as a City official...in City government. I'm ready to start this campaign, and more importantly I'm ready to lead the City of Boston."

Barros appeared with his family that included four children – John Jr., Jeremiah, Casey and Olivia – and his wife, Tchiintcia. He was flanked by many supporters from the community and his family members, including his mother who is known as 'Thaca.'

"As a father of four young children, the future of Boston means everything to me," Barros said. "I've lived my entire life deeply rooted in our community as an activist, as a small business owner, and as a government official. As Boston's Chief of Economic Development, I changed the way that City Hall plans for growth and development. We've made a lot of progress, and now is the time to take our work further."

Focusing on his experience with development at DSNI and his role as Economic Development Chief

of Boston, Barros seemed to begin to differentiate himself as the candidate who would best know how to bring the City back to life economically, equitably and socially.

"The next four years will be critical," he said. "I have a plan to bring our city back to life in a safe way – in a more equitable way. We will confront racial injustice with honesty, courage, and compassion. We will make bold investments in community health, environmental justice, affordable housing and our children's education and well-being. I'm ready to meet this moment, and I know Boston is ready to meet this moment too."

He did address a question from the media about policing, and said he had already had discussions with long-time police officers – particularly officers of color – who understood there needed to be change. However, he also added that his campaign will not be antagonistic to police.

"It's been clear in my conversations that the police understand there needs to be transformation," he said. "In fact, we can and will work with police to continue to move. I'm excited to have worked with Mayor Walsh on the new changes instituted in government now...I'm excited about the recommendations that recently came out of the Task Force and look forward to implementing them as mayor. I am in fact ready to talk to police about how we shift duties and roles that will move the budget around...I look forward to that conversation with police and not because I'm going to create a campaign to fight police. It's because I'm going to work with the police officers and leadership that get it and is ready to have hard conversations about the transformations we're ready to do."

As yet another person of color in the race, and the only Black man so far in the race, Barros said he believed the City was ready for that kind of change – that being electing the first person of color to be mayor.

"Boston is ready for diversity and Boston is ready for a candi-

date of color," he said. "Boston is ready for a Black man like me to be mayor. You can feel it talking to people. People have called me and asked me questions about how to unite the city, how we raise our diversity...When I went around the City (the last seven years), people didn't say to me that I wasn't welcome here. People embraced me and they didn't embrace me in an anonymous way. They embraced my diversity. We talked about race, my background, about me being an immigrant, and they wanted to talk about that. We have been talking race in Boston awhile."

A lifelong resident of Boston, Barros' parents emigrated from Cabo Verde to Boston, where he attended both public and Catholic schools. At age 14, he became a community organizer with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), the Roxbury and Dorchester-based community land trust. In 1991, he was the first youth elected to the DSNI Board of Directors.

John later served as executive director of DSNI/DNI, the largest urban community land trust in the country. He held that post for 13 years, during which time the organization made tremendous strides toward neighborhood revitalization and community wealth creation. Working with community partners, DSNI developed new community centers and created open spaces and parks. It opened schools, commercial property, and built permanently affordable housing.

In 2014, he was appointed as Boston's first Chief of Economic Development, where he oversaw programs to help businesses grow while fostering economic inclusion and equity. Prior to that, John had served on the Boston School Committee for three years.

John earned a Master of Public Policy from Tufts University and a B.A. in African/African-American Studies from Dartmouth College. He lives with his wife and their four children in Dorchester.

Beacon Hill positive COVID tests remain the same

By John Lynds

Last week Beacon Hill's cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate went up slightly but the weekly positive test rate remained the same.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 46,406 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.2 percent of those tested were COVID positive--this was 3.3 percentage increase from the 6 percent reported two weeks ago by the BPHC.

However, last week 2,865 residents were tested and 2.1 percent were positive--this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 28,793 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--a 2.85 percent increase from the 3.5 percent testing positive two weeks ago but still below the five percent threshold of concern.

With St. Patrick's Day on the horizon Mayor Martin Walsh told Boston residents to remain vigilant during one of the city's most celebrated holidays.

The Mayor said that everyone has a role to play in keeping themselves and others safe by wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently, and continuing to practice social distancing and avoid gatherings.

He said that all of these things are especially important with St. Patrick's Day coming up. Mayor said the parade is canceled, and there should be no large gatherings of any kind. The limits on private gatherings remain at 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Restrictions remain in place at restaurants, including those that are typically busy on St. Patrick's Day. There will be 90-minute limits on seating, and the City won't allow lines outside restaurants. The City will be enforcing safety protocols.

The Mayor also made an appeal to the people of Boston to do the right thing and not host or attend gatherings for St. Patrick's Day. He said:

"We've made so much progress in bringing our numbers down. More people are getting vaccinated and the warm weather is coming," said Walsh. "There is a light at the end of the tunnel. So please, don't put our progress at risk because you want to have a

St. Patrick's Day party. We'll have plenty of opportunities to celebrate when the pandemic is all over. But right now, we need to focus on keeping one another safe and getting through this final stage. Please do your part to protect our city."

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 506.6 cases per 10,000 residents, up 2.4 percent from 494.9 480.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 65 residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,758 cases to 2,823 cases as of last Friday.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2 percent last week and went from 58,901 cases to 60,058 confirmed cases in a week. Fourteen additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,287 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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MBTA spring 2021 subway and bus schedules effective March 14

The MBTA reminds customers that upcoming spring 2021 subway and bus schedules will take effect on Sunday, March 14. These changes are part of Forging Ahead, the MBTA's plan to preserve transit access and quality of service available to transit-critical customers and were approved by the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) in December 2020 along with other service adjustments to other MBTA travel modes. These short-term service changes for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) help match service levels with current and near-term low ridership demand.

For full and complete listing of all upcoming service changes, including all changes to bus routes, Commuter Rail lines, subway, and

ferries, please visit mbta.com/ForgingAhead.

•Subway Service Changes Effective March 14:

There will be no changes in the hours of operation or any elimination or consolidation of any subway routes.

Service frequency will be reduced by 20 percent on the Red, Orange, and Green Lines. Frequency on the Blue Line will be reduced by up to 5 percent.

•Bus Service Changes Effective March 14:

In order to better reflect ridership levels and preserve access and quality of service for transit-critical communities, a number of bus schedule changes will go into effect on March 14.

Bus routes with high ridership serving high transit-critical communities have been prioritized in the Forging Ahead plan and will not change. Other routes will operate with less frequency, with both increased and decreased frequency depending on the time of day, or with their hours of service changed. A number of bus routes will be suspended, consolidated, or have routing or trip changes with service alternatives and details available online.

For complete bus route schedules, please visit mbta.com/service-changes or each route's individual schedule page.

•Paratransit Service (The RIDE) Changes:

As a result of changes to sub-

way, bus, and Commuter Rail service, The RIDE will implement the following changes in the coming weeks:

*Some RIDE ADA trips may become premium fare trips, complementing the changes to fixed route changes. RIDE service boundaries will not change.

*Trips will be scheduled 40 minutes from request time instead of 30 minutes.

*Premium service hours will be adjusted to complement Commuter Rail hours of operation.

RIDE customers impacted by these changes will be notified in the coming weeks.

As part of its Forging Ahead initiative, the MBTA organized a months-long process to solicit

the public's input, including more than 7,000 comments from riders and stakeholders. This process and the feedback received were used to shape the final plan approved by the FMCB.

The MBTA and FMCB continue to discuss how the MBTA will add back and increase service. Ridership will be monitored with MBTA staff returning to the FMCB every month to show where ridership stands compared to service planning scenarios. Other data sources will also be monitored, including passenger surveys, employer surveys, roadway data, general travel data, and economic recovery planning. FY22 service levels will be planned as part of the FY22 budget process.

Livestreaming for all high school sports and events to be available this month

Imagine sitting home and watching football live from the comfort of your home. In March? Get ready!

Livestreaming options for all high school events will be available later this month with the emergence of a new live high school broadcasting channel.

bBIG Communications, which has been livestreaming high school hockey games under the flagship MyHockeyLive.com for the past seven years, is now launching bBIGLive.com, giving schools the option to easily offer professional-quality livestream broadcasts of everything from upcoming football and baseball games to concerts and plays.

"We have all of our MyHockeyLive.com production tools available from the work we've been doing inside the rinks for the past seven years, and we have a great relationship with high school and prep school athletic directors across the state," said Mark Igo, Chief Operating Officer at bBIG Communications. "Extending into other school-run activities, from spring sports to school events, is a natural extension of our services."

bBIGLive.com will debut in late February when the early spring sports season starts, which includes high school football, after it was postponed from last fall's sports calendar. bBIGLive.com will then transition into traditional spring sports like baseball and lacrosse.

At the same time, Igo notes that if schools are offering any plays or concerts and wish to have larger events like graduation ceremonies broadcast live, bBIGLive.com is

equipped to cover those events as well.

Igo notes that during this pandemic-limited hockey season, many games have seen over 3,000 views per game as they can not only be viewed live but also shared with family and friends for viewing later, as well as used by coaching staffs to help with their film review.

"We want to be a full resource to all high schools and prep schools for their on-demand needs," said Igo.

Schools, teams, programs or booster organizations that are interested in scheduling games or events are urged to contact Mark Igo at migo@bbigcommunications.com as soon as possible.

bBIGLive.com charges a small production fee to teams, often paid by the boosters, schools or local advertisers. Oftentimes, teams will split the cost to make the game coverage even more affordable. As an added perk, coaches have

access to the game film following the game that they can use as part of their video sessions with their student athletes.

bBIGLive.com, owned by bBIG Communications, Inc., also owns My Hockey Live, which reaches the largest school hockey community in the Northeast via livestreamed broadcasts and a growing digital and social media presence. Our dedicated team delivers the latest in hockey news from all around New England. MHL is the ONLY digital, social, mobile media network designed exclusively for local community hockey families, players, fans and coaches, providing instant access to LIVE and ON-DEMAND hockey games, which can be viewed from your smartphone, laptop, tablet or big-screen TV. To learn more, visit <https://www.myhockeylive.com>. To schedule a game for your high school team, contact Mark Igo at migo@bbigcommunications.com.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

DUKHAN OF LASELL UNIVERSITY EARNS SIX SIGMA CERTIFICATION

Faisal Dukhan, a Boston (02114) resident studying hospitality at Lasell University, recently earned a Problem-Solving Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certification.

Lasell University Assistant Professor Siddharth Mobar, a hospitality and event management expert, provided the certification opportunity in his course.

"Six Sigma certifications elevate a student's professional marketability and exemplifies additional knowledge of being a problem solver," said Mobar. "The students are prepared to be change agents within their organizations and can lead efforts to improve processes, deliver quality to customers, and achieve operational excellence."

The certifying agency, GoLean-SixSigma.com, uses immersive virtual training experiences to improve problem-solving skills.

Forbes, Amazon, Tesla, and Disney are among the many companies who utilize the agency.

MCCARTHY GRADUATES FROM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Missouri State University awarded 1,534 degrees to students in fall 2020. The commencement ceremonies took place Dec. 11, 2020, at JQH Arena.

Amanda McCarthy of Revere graduated with a Master of Science, Child Life Studies.

Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive university system with a mission in public affairs. Our purpose is to develop fully educated persons with a focus on ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement.

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CITY PAWS

Taking long walks this spring

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

After a year of confinement, many of us are ready to snap on a leash and stretch our legs on some nice long dog walks. What's more, since our own daily walks have been confined to the areas around our home, we're making plans to safely extend our vistas.

Regular readers know that when we write about suggested destinations for dog-related adventures, we usually provide information on how to get there on mass transit and where you would find food and restrooms for the humans. This year we'll all make decisions about our comfort level for getting places and doing things.

We won't be using mass transit for some time to come, don't have a car, and would prefer to avoid public restrooms. Our plan is to rent a small campervan for a couple of weeks this spring.

Spring Beaches

We love area beaches in the months before dogs are excluded. In past years, we've enjoyed taking Poppy, our Westie, for long walks along state and town beaches.

In spring, we've often found empty parking lots and ample space to set up our chairs and enjoy the sunshine. This year the open air and space for social distance will help us relax.

On a particularly nice day or weekend, you might want to check a traffic app to see if the area is experiencing heavy traffic, might be crowded, and is turning away additional visitors.

In some cases closed access roads, or restricted parking, have been used to prevent overcrowding. Also, while the open-air space may be open, the facilities and services may be closed. Of course, this is often the case in the off-season in any year.

Parks and Reservations

Before you begin your trip to area parks and reservations it's a good idea to check their websites to be sure they are open, to learn the pandemic rules, and that they still allow dogs.

We're big fans of the Trustees of Reservations and appreciate the dog-friendly policies they have for some of their properties. In planning our list of places to stroll, we checked the rules for the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, in Lincoln. It brought a smile when we saw, "We welcome dogs, please keep them on a leash and pick-up after them."

We also saw the following about four well-loved Trustees' properties, "The deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Castle Hill in Ipswich, Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, and World's

End in Hingham are open with a required timed or daily parking pass that will limit overcrowding and keep both visitors and staff safe by staying aligned with the state's social distancing guidelines." We hope these guidelines can change over time, but check before you start your day out.

Pack for You and Your Dog

Long walks and lots of fresh air and breezes can make us all thirsty so be sure you bring plenty of water for you and your dog. Don't forget your dog pick up bags and your own trash bag since trash barrels may not be available.

For those of us who are still uncomfortable dining inside, there are more places with large outside dining spaces in less urban areas. In addition, you can support your favorite roadside restaurants by ordering take out for your meal while on the road.

Our spoiled pup likes her three meals a day and would be very put out if we sat down to enjoy a picnic lunch with nothing for her. That means that we'll also pack a meal for her and a few treats to reward her for her good behavior on our outing.

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



Our Poppy does love long walks on a quiet beach, even when it's warm enough to make her pant a bit when we stop to rest.

Smoke shop coming to 138 Charles St.

By Dan Murphy

A smoke shop will soon occupy the retail space formerly home Danish Country & Modern at 138 Charles St., said Ali Ringenburg of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors at its March 8 meeting.

The new store would sell glass waterpipes, among other smoking accessories, said Ringenburg, and its would-be owner already operates another smoke shop on New-

bury Street.

Tom Clemens, co-chair of the Civic Association's Zoning and Licensing Committee, said that the application for the new business would be "just a retail use, like the Blessing Barn [at 107 Charles St.], or any other business taking over from an existing retail use.

"If it gets to the point where they're looking for a marijuana sales license, it would be a whole different issue," Clemens said.

CPC recommends Cocanut Grove Memorial for \$250,000 CPA grant

By Lauren Bennett

On February 11, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted to support the recommendations of Mayor Marty Walsh regarding 67 projects to receive funding from the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

The Cocanut Grove Memorial project, which has been proposed for Statler Park, is Bay Village's first project to be recommended for CPA funding. The project has been recommended for \$250,000 in CPA funds this round, and the proposed memorial will remember 490 people who passed away in the fire at the Cocanut Grove nightclub in 1942.

According to the Cocanut Grove Memorial Committee's website, committee members say that "our objective is to create a memorial that preserves and honors the memory of the victims, survivors, first responders and medical professionals."

The website also states that

the memorial was "unanimously approved by the Boston Arts Commission at their monthly meeting" in January.

"After consideration of the amended application, the CPC recommends a grant award of \$250,000 to the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The grant award would partially fund the capital improvements and memorial construction to rehabilitate land for active and passive recreational use, including a new memorial to commemorate the Cocanut Grove nightclub fire of 1942," reads a slide presented at the February 11 vote.

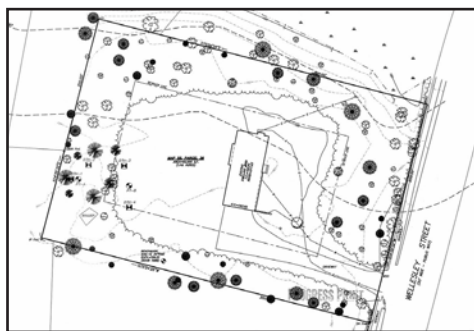
CPA funds for FY21 total \$25,517,608, according to the City, and projects are divided into three categories: affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and recreation.

The City Council will vote on the final slate of projects, and if approved, the recommended funds will then be allocated to the respective projects.

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