

City Launches Initiative For Easier Recycling



by **Mich Cardin**
Courant News Writer

Nearly 20 Boston businesses could stock the city's signature recycling bags in coming months, which could increase recycling rates and offer a solution to

unsightly sidewalks and alleys.

The city has partnered with a Cambridge-based environmental services firm to design and produce the bags, which can carry up to 33 gallons of items, with the city's recycling logo. They could become available in such stores

as CVS, Whole Foods, Ace Hardware affiliates and Shaws.

Despite the city seeing an 11 percent increase in recycled items in the past year, urban neighborhoods like the Back Bay, Beacon

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The Eastern Coyote

Coyotes Scout Area For Love and Food

by **Mich Cardin**
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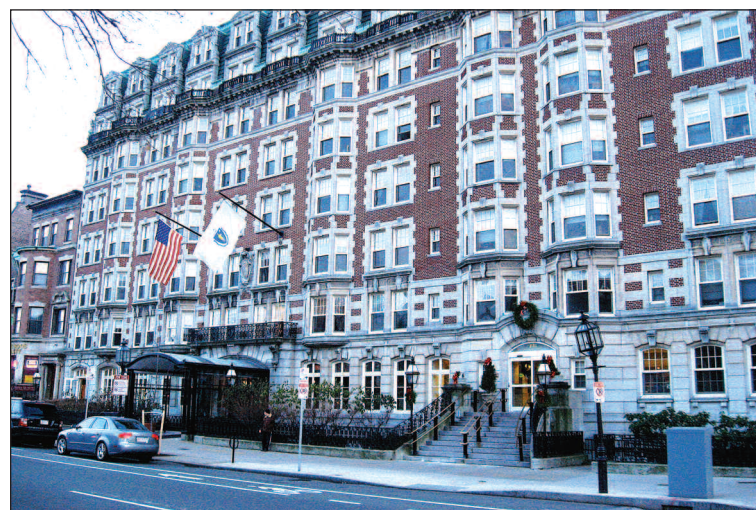
February is coyote mating season, so do not be surprised if a wild canine chooses to inhabit your neighborhood.

Bay Village resident James McCormick left his house on the morning of February 8 to walk

his dog when a coyote ran past him, heading toward Arlington Street.

"It looked healthy and big," McCormick said. "It didn't really surprise me. There are corridors, parks and expressways in the area. It was probably trying to leave. What's interesting is that it

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Kenmore Abbey at 488 Commonwealth Avenue

Nonprofit Saving Affordable Housing

by **Ashlee Fairey**
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A nonprofit that specializes in preserving affordable housing is looking to purchase properties in the South End, West End and

Fenway.

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) has initiated the acquisition process for the Franklin Square House at 11 East Newton Street, Blackstone

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Muslim Center's Newbury Office Makes a Statement

by **Mich Cardin**
Courant News Writer

When Boston's American Islamic Congress (AIC) made plans to move out of their small office on Huntington Avenue this past winter, the high visibility of Newbury Street became a calculated choice for relocation.

The goal was to find a centralized area of the city where American Muslims could become more mainstream, helping to break ingrained stereotypes.

"It was a very deliberate choice. There is nothing more Boston than Newbury," said Nasser Weddady, director of civil rights outreach at AIC and a Muslim activist. "We were looking to promote diversity, pluralism and interfaith. You need a physical space for this."

The result was 3,300 square



A Senegalese cultural event at the American Islamic Congress

feet of offices and a modern event and gallery venue at 38 Newbury.

As one of the only civic, non-religious Muslim organizations in the state, one of AIC's major

goals is to educate and unite the city's Muslim and non-Muslim communities through the arts, music and other cultural events.

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