



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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PHOTO BY JOAN DOUCETTE

Some of the Beacon Hill Village members who enjoyed a typical New England high-summer dinner in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, featuring lobster and corn on the cob. From left to right are Jerry Fielder, Ken Scott, Patricia Sheehan, Diana Crane, Daniel Campbell-Benson and Ellie Weiss.

Shocking—a trip to Maine. In person. Together.

By Karen Cord Taylor

Thirteen members of Beacon Hill Village and one member's guest did something unusual in late July. Properly vaccinated, they took a train, a van and a boat, not to mention many steps on foot, to enjoy three days and two nights in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

"I do believe it is the first excursion out of town since the pandemic started," said Jerry Fielder of Mount Vernon Street, one of the enthusiastic participants. "It was supposed to be last summer but, well, you know. It was rescheduled for this past July."

Fielder said he and his partner, Daniel Campbell-Benson, went

because they knew most of the people who were going and knew it would be a good time.

"For many of us it was our first trip in a very long time, and it was wonderful to be out with friends," he said. "We all felt safe."

They caught Amtrak's Downeaster train at North Station and transferred to a van in Brunswick, Maine. It took them to Boothbay Harbor and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, which have gotten rave reviews since they opened in 2007. Later the vacationers transferred to the Fisherman's Wharf Inn on the waterfront in Boothbay Harbor.

The following day they boarded a boat that took them on a cruise of the harbor and out to Eastern Egg Rock, where the National Audubon Society has re-established a colony of 500 mating pairs of puffins. Afterwards they explored the small town of Boothbay Harbor, returning by train the following day after a leisurely morning.

Beacon Hill Village member and longtime Mount Vernon Street resident Joan Doucette organized the trip. Her husband, Harry Fisher, owned a travel agency on Beacon Hill for many years.

Doucette is known for planning trips and she promises there will be more in the future.

Beethoven's Ninth in free concert at the DCR Hatch Shell

By Dan Murphy

When the Handel and Haydn Society celebrates the return of the Boston arts scene with a free concert on Friday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. at the DCR Memorial Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, it will be as thrilling for the musicians on stage as it will be for their audience.

"Musicians, I didn't fully real-

ize, need the audience for a great performance," said David Snead, president and CEO of the Handel and Haydn Society "Even though we went to digital content [during the pandemic], there was no interaction with the audience that the musicians really need for inspiration, so getting that back was a big deal for them."

For their first concert in 16

months, the Handel and Haydn Orchestra and Chorus will perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, renowned for its famed "Ode to Joy" finale. Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is a choral symphony, taking its words from "Ode to Joy," a poem written by Friedrich

(CONCERT Pg. 3)

Remodeled garden at Library to be unveiled on August 18

By Dan Murphy

In addition to holding its children's programming during the month of August outdoors, weather permitting, on the grounds of the Old West Church next door, the Friends of the West End Branch Library will also unveil the library's newly remodeled garden on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Garden Storytime at Old West Church, garden-themed stories and songs for children, ages 0-5, takes place on Tuesdays, Aug. 10 and 17, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Old West Church Walkway and Food Forest area. (The first Storytime of the season took place there on Aug. 1, drawing around 15 children). The programming is

(LIBRARY Pg. 3)

Helping Hand

Rainbows Pottery owner pitches in to help neighbor at Charles St. Cleaners after break-in

By Dan Murphy

After Allie Carroll heard her neighbor at Charles Street Cleaners was burglarized over the weekend for the second time since Memorial Day, the owner of Rainbows Pottery Studio pitched in to help out a fellow Charles Street business in every way she could.

Carroll donated all her store's proceeds from Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 2, as well as income from a lemonade stand that children from her pottery studio's summer camp set up outside the storefront Monday, which totaled nearly \$400 by Tuesday afternoon, to Charles Street Cleaners. She has also set up a GoFundMe page (https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-charles-street-cleaners-recoup-losses?member=12915577&share-type=teams&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer), with a target goal of raising \$5,000 to help them recoup their losses.

"It's just being neighborly and teaching the kids about helping out in their community," said Carroll. "And as a business, we don't like to give back to large charities; instead, we like to give back in our communities, where we can see how our efforts improve the lives of those around us."

At around 7 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 4, Boston Police responded to a reported breaking and entering at the drycleaners at 17 Charles St. The business owner told police when they arrived at work that day



Charles Street Cleaners owner Veronica Kim and her neighbor, Allie Carroll, owner of Rainbows Pottery Studio.

at 6:40 a.m., they observed a brick that had been thrown through the front window lying on the ground near the doorway, along with glass on the floor. A computer monitor had also been toppled onto the floor behind the counter, while the cash drawer, which had about \$100 inside, was missing.

At about 4:13 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, Boston Police had also responded to the drycleaners on a radio call for reported vandalism and found that the business's front window was broken. Police were unable to determine whether any suspects had gained entry to the drycleaners at this time, however, according to Boston Police.

Veronica Kim, owner of Charles Street Cleaners, estimates that losses from the incident over last

(CLEANERS Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

NOT ALL PARENTS KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR KIDS

The executive order signed last week by Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida banning local school boards from requiring students to wear masks in schools in that state rates as one of the most reprehensible actions of any public official since the pandemic began.

Thanks to DeSantis's lack of leadership and nutty pronouncements throughout the course of the pandemic, Florida now rates as one of the biggest hotspots for the coronavirus in the world, accounting alone for almost 20% of the daily infections in the U.S. and recently breaking its own one-day record for infections.

Predictably, the state's healthcare system is being swamped by COVID-19 patients, who are dying at a rate that is 10 times greater than New York City's.

DeSantis's order fails to recognize two basic facts:

First, although the rate of serious illness among children who catch COVID remains low, more than 19,000 children have been hospitalized with coronavirus in 24 states and New York City as of July 22, according to a database from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association.

That is a large number and it surely will spike when children return to school indoors.

Second, DeSantis's order fails to acknowledge that while masks afford some protection to the mask-wearer, the primary benefit accrues to everyone else who is around the mask-wearer, whose aerosols are contained within the mask, rather than being spread around a room unimpeded where they linger to be inhaled by another person.

Maskless students needlessly risk infecting their teachers, classmates, and staff members, as well as the family members and everyone else who comes into contact with anyone who is at those schools.

In short, the reopening of schools without adherence to the COVID-19 precautions that we're all familiar with will become a superspreader event in every community in Florida, even among the vaccinated, thanks to the highly-contagious Delta variant.

However, it is the basic false premise of DeSantis's executive order -- that parents know what is best for their children's health -- that is the most harmful aspect of his reasoning.

Typical parents are not the best caregivers for their children's health for the simple reason that they are not medical experts, especially when it comes to COVID-19.

While we will concede that most parents love their children, it also is undeniable that parents who are not following the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the American Society of Pediatricians (which are recommending mask-wearing in schools) are sacrificing their children's health on the altar of their political views.

ENJOY THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL

This weekend marks the return of the 16th annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival, featuring master sand sculptors who have come from all over the globe to compete in one of the largest sand sculpting festivals in the world.

The festival will be held on Friday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. A grand fireworks display will be held Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m.

In 2019, the event drew an estimated one million attendees, drawn not only by the wonderful sculptures, but also by food trucks, food vendors, exhibitors, and much more, so it is advisable that attendees from out of town plan on taking the T to Revere Beach station.

This year's festival also will be a celebration of the 125th anniversary of Revere Beach, America's first public beach.

All in all, the 2021 Sand Sculpting Festival promises to be a memorable event for all members of the family.

GUEST OP-ED

Life Learning, Commitment and Hard Work

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are always learning. Life is filled with education. We learn all the time.

Every day we receive new information about health, the planet, communication, medicines, the universe and more. Life is a process of learning and developing.

Education is more than grades one through twelve, college, and beyond. There are many aspects to every job we do that we never learned in school. We learn from parents if we will listen. We learn from coworkers. We learn from our failures. We learn how not to do something because we tried it once and it failed. The good thing about failing is that it doesn't haven't to be final. Some things are final but not everything. Just because your first marriage failed doesn't mean your second marriage will fail. Hopefully you learned from your first marriage and you won't make the same mistakes the second time around.

You may have a business failure. This happens to a lot of people. This doesn't mean your business efforts will fail in the future. Hopefully you learned from your first efforts and can avoid the same mistakes again in your next endeavor.

Possibly you tried a lifestyle that did not work out for you. Maybe you abused alcohol or even drugs or pursued a negative lifestyle that greatly diminished your life to the point where your life seemed hopeless. This doesn't mean you have to stay this way. With a dedicated decision and often help from others you can turn your life around and do better.

We can learn from mistakes. They are educational and usually expensive. They set us back in life. They aren't fun and can be tormenting.

Remember, you can't live in the past. Don't totally forget what past failure did to you because you don't want to repeat your mistakes. However, the past is over. Live your life forward.

As you go forward there are easier ways to learn. Study the lives of others. Research what they did and read. People all around us are either succeeding, failing or at least stable. Study

others whose lives intrigue or impress you. Study their careers, work ethic, their values and how they make them work to achieve the life they are living. You can learn a lot by observing and studying others. You can also learn from the failures of others. What were some of their obvious mistakes?

Volunteering or taking an entry level job with someone you would like to emulate is a great way to learn their success principles.

There are cases where nothing seems to make sense. Life is not always fair. We all have different interests, physical abilities, backgrounds and lifelong devel-

oped skills. Take all these into consideration and bring them together to work for you.

Success always has new twists, turns and innovative ways. However, they are not accomplished without some form of life learning, commitment and hard work.

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

I SUPPORT MICHELLE WU FOR MAYOR

Dear Editor:

Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu has demonstrated time and time again that she is a climate leader. Michelle is the only candidate running for Mayor that has a plan to create a renewable energy future, revitalize the economy, create thousands of jobs and save our planet through a Boston Green New Deal. She knows we need transformative environmental policy to not only meet the moment, but build a more sustainable future.

That's why I'm so proud to support Michelle for Mayor. It's no surprise that she has earned the

endorsement of so many respected environmental groups like the Boston Sunrise Movement, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Sierra Club. Through bold leadership alongside community organizers and activists, Michelle will continue putting the environment front and center and reversing harmful policies.

I first encountered Michelle when I saw her speak at a school. During her speech she stated, "Build the community that you want to see." As can be seen in her work, Michelle is clearly building the Boston she envisions through detailed progressive policy. In her

(LETTER Pg. 3)

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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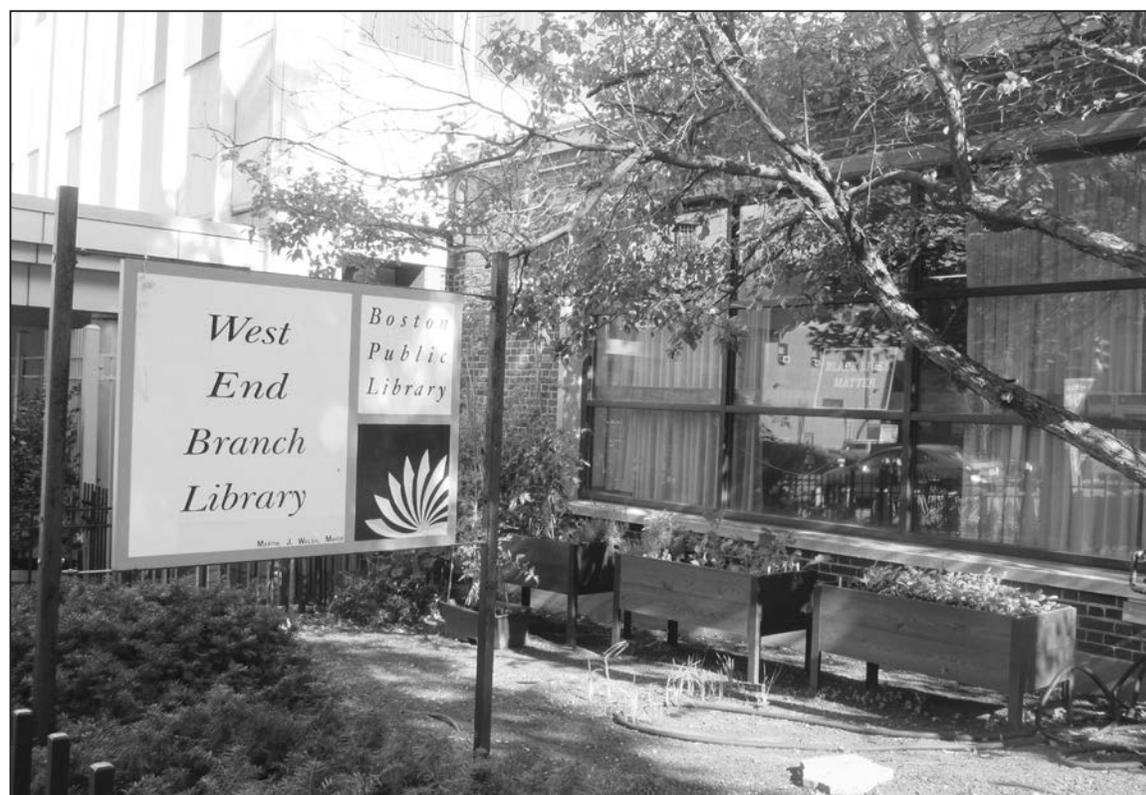
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A portion of the West End Branch's newly remodeled garden, which will be unveiled during a children's event on Aug. 18 sponsored by the Friends of the West End Branch Library.

LIBRARY (from pg. 1)

held beneath a tent, so guests are encouraged to bring a towel or blanket to sit on, and in the event of inclement weather, it will be cancelled.

Helen Bender, longtime West End Branch librarian, said these are not only the first Storytime children's events that the library has sponsored since March 2020, but they're also significant in that the library's first home, from 1896 to 1960, was the current church building at 131 Cambridge St. (The library moved into its second and current home at 151 Cambridge St. in 1968).

This year, Old West Church also "reimagined" the space, said Bender, with the installation of a pollinator garden, living wall, as well as permanent irrigation.

The Aug. 18 event for kids, ages 0-12, at the garden in front of the

library, meanwhile, will showcase the "dramatic change" that space has undergone since March of 2020.

Sheryl Man, who heads up the West End Branch Friends group's landscaping committee, said, "We've spent about \$7,000 so far, which includes the initial cleanup and everything we did this past year. We got \$2,000 from the Beacon Hill Garden Club, as well as daffodil donations from them and the Boston Blooms program. Our landscaping committee members have also donated garden tools, flowers, and other supplies over the last year"

For the event, Casey Abbott, the children's librarian, along with gardeners from the Friends group, will talk to kids about the garden, said Bender, and there should be some vegetables for children to

take away with them. (In the event of inclement weather, this activity will also be cancelled.)

Participating children, who are encouraged to wear close-toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty, she added, can also explore the garden, or hold one of the around 1,000 worms now living in a tub in the library in preparation for moving into the garden.

Lowly Worm, a fictional character created by children's author, Richard Scarry, will also make an appearance at this event, said Bender.

Both Garden Storytime at Old West Church and the unveiling of the library's new garden, said Bender, were planned to tie in with "Digging Deeper, Growing Stronger," the Boston Public Library's summer reading program.

LETTER (from pg. 2)

Boston Green New Deal, Michelle addresses the need for climate justice through reinvesting city funds

and developing Boston's green workforce. I believe Michelle has the vision and thoughtfulness to

be a Mayor that pushes Boston towards its climate goals.

We need to move forward with the level of urgency that the climate crisis demands – failure on the environment has had widespread negative health impacts, particularly for communities of color. It is heartening to see that the issues Boston residents face on climate change have never stopped being a priority for Michelle. Michelle has earned my vote because there is a lot of work to be done and she has shown that she is more than ready to do it.

Neha Modak

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

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Auto Theft - Scooter
7/28/21 - Officers took a report at the front desk of Area A-1 headquarters for a stolen scooter. The victim informed police that he secured his scooter on a pole with a lock, but when he returned approximately five hours later, it was missing. Area detectives are investigating the matter.

Larceny - Shoplifting
7/27/21 - Officers responded to

CVS Pharmacy at 155 Charles St. for a larceny report.

The employee informed the officer that a man in his 40s entered the store and filled an entire shopping cart with items before fleeing the store. Officers surveyed the area to no avail., and area detectives are investigating the matter.

CONCERT (from pg. 1)

Schiller. It will feature four vocal soloists along with the H+H Chorus and members of the H+H Youth Choruses.

"Beethoven's Ninth finishes with 'Ode to Joy' so it seemed like the right moment for us to perform that expression of joy," said Snead. "Obviously, the pandemic has been tough on everyone, and there has been a lot of tragedy associated with it. Now, we're coming out of it, and this is the time to get together and really celebrate the return of live arts in Boston."

Previously, the Handel and

Haydn Society performed in a free concert in Copley Square in 2015, celebrating the organization's bicentennial. H+H also performed the Boston premiere of the work in 1853.

Media sponsors for the Aug. 27 concert include The Boston Globe and CRB. H+H will follow all health guidelines put forth by the local health department at the event.

The rain date for this event is Saturday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Hatch Shell.

Visit handelandhaydn.org for more information.

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Myles' Musings

By Myles Striar

Time to Make Some Sense of Things

It is, perhaps, I know, unwise
For a lowly wordsmith to surmise
That his views on vaccination count,
But as the casualties mount,
Though not all will be elated,
Just get your family vaccinated.

ZBA approves conversion of church on Isabella St. into 18 residential units

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) last week approved the conversion of the existing church building at 25 Isabella St. in Bay Village into 18 residential condo units.

Attorney Joe Hanley told the ZBA that the project had been reduced from 26 units to 18, and consists of restoring the facade of the existing church building that was built in the late 1800s for the Our Lady of Victories parish, as well as adding an addition on top of it.

"The parish has long since vacated," Hanley said, and "we have been a part of an extensive process with the community."

He said that the unit count was lowered as a result of feedback from the community and from the ZBA on other projects, and now includes more larger units for families. There will be 11 three bedroom units, six two bedroom units, and one one bedroom unit. Two units will be affordable as part of the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), including one two bedroom unit and one three bedroom unit.

The building will have an elevator, as well as four private roof decks for the duplex units on levels six and seven. Hanley said that 18 parking spaces are proposed as part of a stacker system.

The building is in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay Dis-

trict (GCOD), and Christian Simonelli of the Boston Groundwater Trust said that an approval letter from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission as well as a no-harm letter from an engineer have been received as required.

Architect Rebecca Berry said that the building will be all-electric, and primary pedestrian access will be off of Isabella Street.

She said that the "existing masonry will be completely cleaned and restored," and "all existing windows will be replaced" with aluminum clad wood windows "that mimic the existing patterns." This project has been "reviewed a couple of times" with the Bay Village Landmark District Commission, and the team plans

on returning before the Commission, she said.

Kim Crucoli of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services said that the Mayor's Office was in support of the proposal, adding that the "[Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)] did an extensive community outreach" for the project, and support has also been received from abutters and the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA).

City Councilors Ed Flynn and Anissa Essaibi George were also in support, as was the Carpenters Union.

Sarah Herlihy, co-chair of the Planning Committee for the BVNA, said that "this is the third developer we've worked with,"

and "we believe that this developer was very sensitive to the concerns raised by the neighbors...we appreciate this developer is going to be transforming what is currently an abandoned and decaying building into a place for new residents..."

William Bernarducci, an abutter on Arlington St., spoke in opposition of the project. He said that he believes the proposal "detracts from the design and scale of the Bay Village historic district," adding that he believes views from his building will be "negatively and detrimentally impacted." He also had concerns about height, density, traffic, and parking.

The ZBA voted to approve the project with BPDA design review.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

VIRTUAL PROGRAM ON 'ETIQUETTE OF THE BRAHMIN SUMMER'

The Gibson House Museum presents a return engagement of the virtual program, "Etiquette of the Brahmin Summer," with Etiquetteer Robert B. Dimmick, on Tuesday, Aug. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Before air conditioning, Brahmin (wealthy Boston) families retreated for the summer season to homes on the New England coast. Join Robert B. Dimmick, Etiquetteer, for an entertaining look at the rituals, pastimes, and domesticity of the Gibson family and other Yankees. The program will include images from the Gibson House and Gibson family archives.

Admission is \$10 for museum members, or \$12 for non-members.

Visit www.thegibsonhouse.org for more information.

FOOD PANTRY AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY REOPENS

The ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) has reopened its food pantry at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, with starting hours of Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m.

The organization is additionally continuing food bag deliveries to North End and West End buildings for clients who are homebound. Clients also may access the

North End Pantry at our offices on 1 Michelangelo St.

If you or someone you know would like to make an appointment, call the office at 617-523-8125.

HIDDEN GARDEN OF BEACON HILL TOUR RETURNS VIRTUALLY

The Beacon Hill Garden Club's Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Tour is now being held virtually.

Tickets are now available at the Beacon Hill Garden Club's website at beaconhillgardenclub.org for \$25 each, or you can buy a ticket and one of the Garden Club's books for \$45.

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.

CLEANERS (from pg. 1)

weekend, between damages and missing items, cost them between \$2,500 and \$5,000, while losses from the June 4 incident set them back around \$2,200. And although the drycleaners has insurance, it doesn't cover the losses from either of these incidents, she said.

"It breaks my heart she has to deal with this today, Carroll said Monday.

Carroll can empathize with Kim's predicament, too, since vandals threw a brick through her store's front window at the end of June, although they didn't take anything from the business at that time.

"Boston Window Repair came and boarded up the window," said Carroll. "It was a really sad experience for the kids."

Kim also helped Carroll identify suspects who stole items from the display tables outside the pottery studio.

Carroll hopes that supporting



Pictured, left to right, are Rainbows Pottery Studio owner Allie Carroll, with campers Sonata Conway, Ariana Conway, Sarah Tapia, Charlotte Carroll, Maggie Carroll, Leili Conway and Francesca Givans, who made their first lemonade sale of the day to Rhonda Bucci of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Charles Street Cleaners will instill a lesson in positivity, as well as in the importance of being neighborly, in her campers.

"This is the way I teach children how to turn a negative into a positive," she said.

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Janey names Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia to Boston School Committee

Staff Report

Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the appointment of Rafaela Polanco Garcia and Lorena Lopera to the Boston School Committee. The move follows her commitment in June to fill two vacancies and move the committee forward with greater equity, opportunity and accountability.

Polanco Garcia is a Boston Public Schools (BPS) parent and serves as Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End.

Lopera is also a BPS parent and Executive Director of Latinos for Education. Janey selected Polanco Garcia and Lopera from a slate of candidates presented by the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, which worked independently to conduct the public application and interview process that attracted 23 applicants. Both women were sworn-in by Boston City Clerk Maureen Feeney right before the mayor's announcement.

"Ms. Polanco Garcia and Ms. Lopera bring incredible depth of knowledge and lived experience to the Boston School Committee," said Janey. "I am thrilled to appoint these talented new committee members, who represent so many of the residents in our city. They will both help to fill the pages to this new chapter of equity and opportunity for Boston Public



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the appointment of Rafaela Polanco Garcia and Lorena Lopera to the Boston School Committee during a press conference at City Hall with School Committeeman Ernani DeAraujo and Student Rep. Xyra Mercer.

Schools students and families."

"I am thrilled to welcome Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia as our newest members on the Boston School Committee. In the last year, the Committee and I have worked together to pass important policies around student information sharing, retention, grading, graduation standards, and exam school admissions," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. "We remain committed to closing opportunity gaps and examining current and future BPS policies through an antiracist lens to advance student outcomes. I know that both Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia join us with the professional experience and community perspective necessary

to contribute positively and effectively to our shared goals of equity, opportunity and excellence for every BPS student."

Polanco Garcia is an immigrant who lives in public housing in South Boston and has a background in law and bilingual advocacy. Her activism on behalf of the Latinx community in education includes working on the 'No on 2' campaign in 2016, helping to pass a sanctuary schools resolution, and passing the Student Opportunity Act. Since 2015, she has served as the Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End.

"As an Immigrant from the Dominican Republic, it is a great honor for me to represent English

Language Learner families on the Boston School Committee," said Polanco Garcia. "As a single mother of a Boston Public Schools student, I feel committed to my community. I know that many families will be able to identify with me and together we will be a voice in the school district."

Lopera is a Jamaica Plain resident and veteran of local organizations focused on expanding educational access for Latinx youth and students of color, including Mission Hill-based Sociedad Latina, La Vida, Inc., and Building Excellent Schools, as well as national organizations such as City Year and the Posse Foundation. Most recently, she was the Executive Director at Latinos for Education, New England, the first Latino-founded and led national organization dedicated solely to creating leadership pathways for Latinx in education. She is currently co-chair of the Hurley K-8 School Site Council in the South End.

"My own educational experience and my experience as a Boston Public Schools parent is what will guide my decisions on the Boston School Committee," said Lopera. "I'm honored by this opportunity, and ready to roll up my sleeves to co-design solutions with families, educators, and community members so all students within Boston can succeed."

In addition to the member appointments, Mayor Janey announced plans to extend Racial Equity and Leadership (REAL) training to all members of the Boston School Committee.

More than 40 percent of Boston Public Schools students identify as Latinx, while approximately 10 percent of enrolled students live in Boston Housing Authority developments. Mayor Janey's appointments expand representation for these communities and were met with enthusiasm and support from community stakeholders.

"I am thrilled to learn about Mayor Janey's selection of Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia as members of the Boston School Committee," said Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosada, chief executive officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, a corporation dedicated to empowering individuals and community development. "Both Lorena and Rafaela bring an unwavering commitment to equity in Boston Public Schools, both as parents and as advocates; and as immigrants, both of them will bring an important perspective to the School Committee deliberations. I am grateful to Mayor Janey for bringing these two strong Latina leaders to the Committee!"

The new members will attend their first School Committee meeting on August 4.

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Following successful first year, WATERGOAT trash net launched for a second season

By Lauren Bennett

The Muddy Water Initiative launched the WATERGOAT trash net for a second season on August 1, at an action-packed event offering live music, ice cream from the Boston Police ice cream truck, and even live goats. Many volunteers came out to help clean the river banks by the Ispwich Street Bridge, as well as helped empty the WATERGOAT.

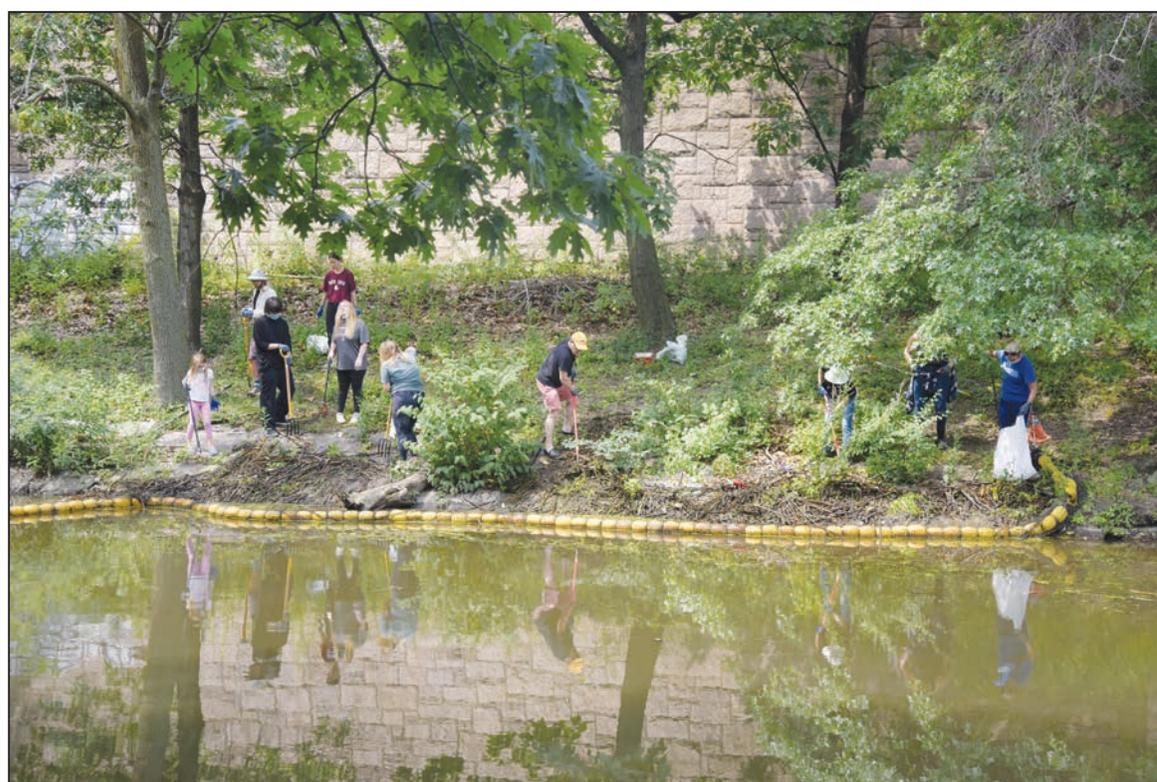
More than 70 pounds of trash was removed from the river and the surrounding area as part of the event, according to Muddy Water Initiative Volunteer Coordinator Danielle Ibrahim.

According to a press release

from the Muddy Water Initiative, the WATERGOAT received a Boston Planning and Development Agency Boston Red Sox Fenway Park Demonstration Project Community Benefits grant for the second year in a row, and volunteers will clean out the net biweekly.

Caroline Reeves of the Muddy Water Initiative said that several groups are already lined up to help clean the river this year, including the Temple Israel Riverway Project for 20s & 30s, the Taiwanese American Professionals-Boston, Tzu Chi, and groups from MIT and Boston University, as well as plenty of resident volunteers.

“Following on last year’s roaring success with over 160 volun-



Volunteers worked hard raking and picking up trash that was collected by the WATERGOAT.

teers deployed and more than 700 pounds of trash removed from the river and its banks, The WATERGOAT Season II promises even more good fun cleaning up our threatened urban waterways,” the Muddy Water Initiative said in the release.

Many volunteers, community members, and elected officials came out to the event on Sunday, including Rep. Jon Santiago, Rep. Jay Livingstone and his family, Senator Will Brownsberger, and Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek.

Preston Musoke, a volunteer who also helped out last year for his community service hours at

school, said he enjoys helping clean the Muddy River and contribute to his community.

“It was pretty fun to be honest,” he said of the experience last year. “When we go to the other side of the river, we get to clean it. I feel like it’s better than just letting all the trash flow into the Charles River...” he said, adding that he likes being able to help make that happen.

Musoke said that last year, a bed frame and a bike were pulled out of the river, and seeing those removed really stood out to him.

“I think that the beauty of the WATERGOAT is that it allows people to see that they can make a

difference in our environment with their own two hands, Reeves said.

“Our volunteers come back two or three times, and that’s only in our first season because they love the experience so much.”

Reeves also said that next year, the goal is to clean the water itself.

“We are going to be deploying another boom across the Muddy River in the same area as the WATERGOAT,” she said. The boom will feature sacks filled with activated charcoal called biochar. “This is the material that’s used in wastewater treatment and in fishtanks,” she said.

(WATERGOAT, Pg. 7)



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Cassandra Mondazzi of Enchanted Animal Parties poses with a baby goat, who was very popular with Birch Sieger and his mom, Lucy Bullock-Sieger.

WATERGOAT (from pg. 6)

“We are betting that the Muddy River, because it’s so stagnant, will react very well to this kind of filtration system and we think that we will see a significant reduction in phosphorus, nitrogen, hydrocarbons, and E. coli.”

This activated charcoal will help to absorb toxins from the water without using chemicals, which Reeves said is an “environmentally positive method of water purification.”

The Muddy River Initiative is always looking for new volunteers to come help with the cleanups, and more information can be

found at muddywaterinitiative.org.

“In 2019, 2.9 million people crossed the Muddy River to get to a home game for the Red Sox,” Reeves said. “I could almost guarantee you that three quarters of those people did not stop to think about the Muddy River and the importance of quality in our urban waterways.”

The next WATERGOAT cleanup will take place on August 15 from 10-11:30am across from 50 Charlesgate East. If interested, a waiver must be filled out.



The WATERGOAT trash net sits ready to be pulled to shore for volunteers to clean the trash it has collected.



Sam Kendall and Bob Mulkern, members of the Cambridge-based Best Ever Chicken band, came to play some tunes while volunteers cleaned up the Muddy River and the surrounding area.

The Anchor seen as a national model for outdoor activation, programming

By Seth Daniel

Sometimes special places don’t seem entirely unique when they’re in one’s backyard.

That just might be the case for The Anchor venue in the Navy Yard in Charlestown, which this summer is gaining accolades from near and far – even as far away as sunny Miami.

Fresh off being named a 2021 Best of Boston beer and wine garden this week, Owner Chris Sinclair said they have also gotten attention beyond Boston, with him having been invited earlier this summer to share the successes of the Anchor with the Greater Miami Festival and Events Association.

Sinclair said they reached out to him and invited him to speak at their gathering in June regarding how The Anchor has combined food, beverage, creative placemaking and tremendous amounts of community programming.

“I’ve never thought of it this way, but we’ve created a model here with the BPDA that at least Florida wants to re-create,” he said. “If the Miami area thinks this is great, I’m sure Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco also think that...It’s such a different feel and space and business model. They wanted to know about it. Boston has a global appeal. Cities really

do look to the way we do things here...The Anchor is not a beer garden or a restaurant or an events space. It’s all of them mixed together and they were interested in the model we created with the extensive community programming.”

That programming has been very prolific since the beginning of The Anchor, but it took on a new and bigger role last year when they hosted more than 400 events from opening to New Year’s Eve. Sinclair said the group in Florida wanted to know how Boston pulled that off, and what it takes to make it happen elsewhere.

“It is fascinating in retrospect a lot of the things we did during COVID-19,” he said. “We held nearly 400 events and they wanted to know what we did to host so many things, even in the pandemic. We explained it takes thousands of man hours and the business isn’t for everyone if they don’t have the time. If they do have the time and the team, then maybe what we’ve done can be re-created. I did share our business plan also.”

Another key interest they had was the fact that The Anchor is a public-private partnership. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) owns the land they operate on and licenses the establishment – with the goal of activating the area and bringing more people into the Navy Yard from

Charlestown and citywide. Many in Florida also wanted to copy that idea of using public outdoor space in a better way.

“They had never seen anything like The Anchor,” he said. “They’ve seen placemaking and they’ve seen beer gardens, but to combine them with the community to produce so many events – they’d never seen that...If we’re a national model, it has to be predicated on the fact this is so community driven.”

A final key to the model was something The Anchor is known for – always being open virtually in any kind of weather. Even with July being one of the rainiest months on record, they opened every day. He said for a model like The Anchor, no matter where, there has to be consistency.

“A lot of operators will close early or skip days,” he said. “We’ll have \$100 days in the year, but we stay open so there is consistency because over time the public understands you are there and you are open – that they can come down and find us open if it’s 90 degrees or 30 degrees – wet or dry...It’s a long-term game. It’s not a quarter by quarter, or month by month approach.”

The Anchor is located in Shipyard Park in Charlestown’s Navy Yard. The hours are Monday to Thursday, 4-11 p.m., and Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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BEST OF BOSTON
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Students will likely be wearing masks on return in September

By Seth Daniel

Supt. Brenda Cassellius and Acting Mayor Kim Janey have signaled over the past week that while students will be returning full-time to the Boston Public Schools in September, they will probably be mandated to wear masks during school time.

They do not expect, however, to have to apply social distance restrictions to the school day.

Supt. Cassellius said last Friday in a communication to parents that she expects students and staff will need to wear masks during the fall inside school buildings and on school buses.

“BPS expects that all students and staff will be required to wear masks while inside school buildings and during yellow bus transportation when they return to school in September,” she wrote. “We know that our students age 11 and under cannot yet be vaccinated and for ages 12 to 15 only 18% in the city of Boston are vaccinated right now. For ages 16 to 24, only 52% are vaccinated. Vaccines are the best way to protect ourselves from COVID-19, and masking is also an important prevention tool we must use. BPS does not plan to mandate physical distancing when we return to school this fall.”

Acting Mayor Janey, in a state-

ment, said she is on the same page with a potential mask mandate for students in September.

“Mayor Janey has reiterated masks are currently required for students and staff in school buildings,” read a statement from the Mayor’s Office. “Future school mask guidance will be informed by public health data and provided to families by BPS.”

The Voices for BPS Families, a citywide group of parents focused on kids returning to school, said they support any measure, including mask mandates, that will keep kids in school full-time.

“First we commend Mayor Janey for proactively communi-

cating to parents and stakeholders this information so families have time to prepare for September,” said Erica Haydock, of Voices. “We are in support of measures that will get students back to full time in person learning in September which align with the latest CDC guidance. The CDC just announced that ‘everyone in K through 12 schools wear a mask indoors, including teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.’ Children should return to full-time, in-person learning in the fall with proper prevention strategies in place.”

Cassellius said CDC guidance does recommend social distancing,

but if it is not possible in school district, the priority should be getting kids back to in-person learning using other safeguards like masks, hand-washing and good ventilation.

The district is awaiting more information from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which has been slow in announcing its safety recommendations and mandates for the upcoming school year.

Cassellius said they will roll out a final plan once they have guidance from DESE and the City’s Boston Public Health Commission consultants.

Nichols House Museum offers guests look behind the scenes

By Dan Murphy

The Nichols House Museum will offer guests a look behind the scenes, including a glimpse into the domestic work that went into keeping the house operational during the Victorian era, as well as how staff today manages its preservation, during the upcoming “Hidden Spaces of the Nichols House Museum” tours.

Scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m.; Friday, Aug.

27, at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Aug. 29, at 11 a.m. and noon; Thursday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 24, at 11 a.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. and noon, the tours will each last around one hour and include visits to room and spaces in the museum not ordinarily open to the public. (Tour-goers will have to walk up three flights of stairs, and masks are required.)

“We were looking at trying to create an experience where if you had already come in for our reg-

ular tour, you could come in for this and have a different experience,” said Barbra Callahan, the museum’s public engagement manager, who is organizing the new tour programming. “There are a lot of stories to tell here, and we saw the opportunity to share things not normally shared, that would include going up the back stairs and going to the fourth floor, which is never on view.”

The fourth floor holds the archives, where tour-goers, will get to look at “some interesting artifacts,” said Callahan, that aren’t included on the museum’s traditional tours of its first three floors.

Guests will also visit the Nichols House’s backyard to take a peek inside a historic shed, as well as to see the building from the back.

Callahan said they are training additional staff, and depending on the turnout of the initial “Hidden Spaces” tours, they could add more dates, possibly holding one each week in the future.

The Nichols House Museum has also already expanded its tour hours, she said, and is continuing to do so in conjunction with the upcoming “Hidden Spaces” tours.

Admission to the Hidden Spaces of the Nichols House Museum” is \$12 for museum members and \$17 for non-members. Registration, which is by a first come, first served basis, is available online.



CREDIT: COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

The Nichols House Museum’s fourth-floor archives, which are typically off limits to the public, will be featured on the upcoming “Hidden Spaces of the Nichols House Museum” tours.

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Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront host Mayoral Candidate Forum

By John Lynds

Last Thursday afternoon at the New England Aquarium the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront hosted a Mayoral Candidate Forum.

Of the candidates running for Boston Mayor in the upcoming fall election, John Barros, Anissa Essaibi-George, Andrea Campbell and Michelle Wu took part in the forum and fielded questions on how to make Boston's waterfront more accessible, equitable and climate resilient.

While each candidate that participated in last week's forum all had solid ideas on how to make

the waterfront more sustainable and resilient against the threat of climate change and sea level rise, the question on how to make the waterfront more accessible and equitable through a comprehensive water transportation plan was of interest to many in the audience.

The question last week from Alberto Vasallo III, President and CEO of El Mundo Boston, was, "Boston's congestion is notorious. Our roads are clogged, yet our waterways remain untapped. So, how can the city invest in transportation that better connects residents to the waterfront? This includes but is not limited to public transit, pedestrian access and ferry

services or which projects would you focus on to improve affordable access to the waterfront and Harbor Island.

Barros answered, "I was just out on Thompson Island. I spent some time with some youth on Thompsons Island as they were exploring the island. If we had better transportation that ensured there is water transportation so that we can get back and forth to these resources on a regular basis."

Barros advocated for free water taxi operations that would connect Boston's waterfront neighborhoods like the North End, Charlestown and East Boston and make them more accessible for all.

Campbell encouraged the audience to check out her transportation plan on her campaign website.

"I really want to encourage folks to take a look at my transportation plan because I put in a lot of work into it with a whole host of stakeholders. I really leaned on those with greater expertise than me. I'm never afraid to say I'm an expert in everything and I'm always honest about where we need to go. This (transportation) really needs to be a comprehensive response so in the plan I talk about greater investment and expanded service while making (public transportation) free at certain moments, or at certain times for particular residents to be able to access certain parts of the city. I live in Mattapan where there are transportation deserts in certain pockets of my district. So expanding access to the subway, ferry lines and buses while thinking about what it means to be able to get around our neighborhoods."

Essaibi-George said, "We need a comprehensive network when we think about connecting our residents to other parts of the city. Oftentimes when we talk about water transportation we are responding to some of the demands of our tourism industry. While it is the third largest industry here in the city and one that we need to support, My priority as Mayor is to make sure that we are connecting our city's residents to those opportunities. As we think about those water connections we need to focus on all of our downtown communities. The neighborhoods that exist here are often thought

of as commercial and office space, retail space and places where people go to visit but we have a community here. We certainly have a neighborhood in the North End and West End and into Charlestown so we need to make sure that they are connected to each other as economic centers."

Wu said Boston is "the city that dug the very first subway tunnel anywhere in the country. This is a city that dug in and realized that when we all invest in our shared destinies, the ways in which we intertwine, and share common goals for the public good we're all better off. When we recognize public transportation in that same category as public education, libraries and parks it truly recognizes the right for each one of us to benefit from all of the amazing amenities and resources all across our city. You should not be confined to your zip code but truly have access to what all of Boston has to offer. That goes for our students. That goes for our families. That goes for everyone. So when it comes to transportation let's lean in hard with what the city can do. I'm proud of my leadership on fair free transportation, which has resulted in some major steps forward. Let's lean in and push the state on major projects like an inner harbor ferry transportation system, electrifying the Fairmount Line and the Red/Blue Line Connector, and let's act with urgency, realizing how connected transportation is to every other issue we face."

Positive COVID-19 cases decrease slightly after 115-percent spike

By John Lynds

With the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus running rampant across the U.S. and recent infections in Boston traced back to an outbreak in Provincetown over July 4th weekend, Beacon Hill and the surrounding areas have seen breakthrough infections among vaccinated people skyrocket.

While targeted vaccination efforts reduced positive cases among residents to almost non-existent levels a few months ago it seems the party is over as the weekly positive test rate continues

to hover around 2.5 percent.

For three weeks the Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown's COVID cases have spiked most likely due to the Delta variant infecting unvaccinated and vaccinated people alike.

However, according to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,591 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.5 percent were positive. This was a 10 percent increase from the 2.8

percent of residents that tested positive on July 23.

Overall since the pandemic started 57,161 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on July 23.

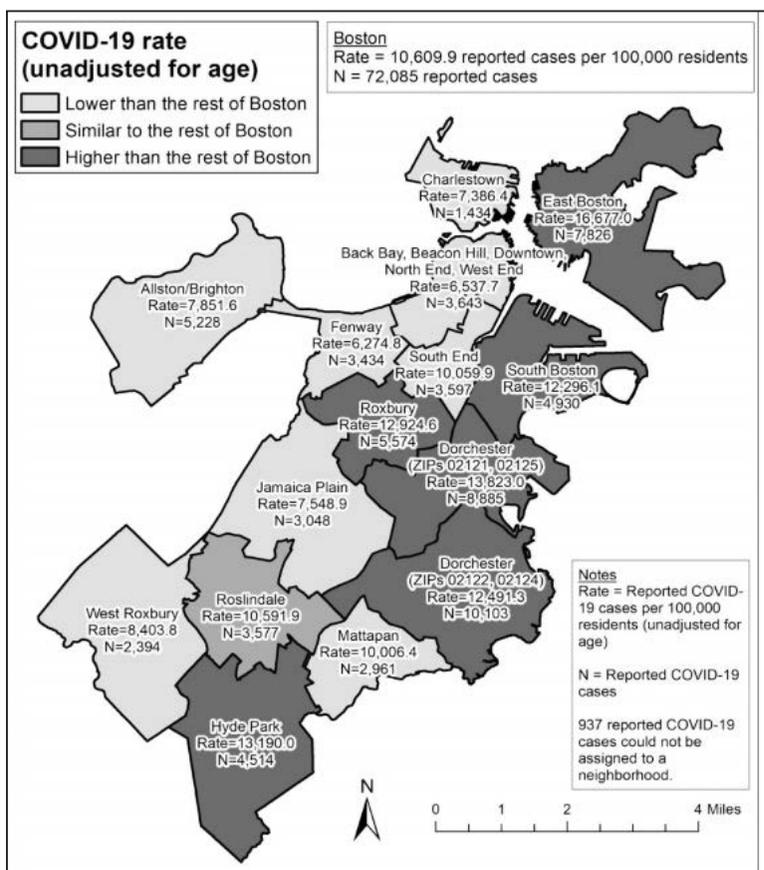
Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased over 30 percent. According to the BPHC 15,872 residents were tested and 2.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 32 percent increase from the 2.2 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 653.7 cases per 10,000 residents--a 1.4 percent increase from the 644.9 cases per 10,000 residents reported on July 23.

Forty-nine additional residents have been infected with the virus between July 23 and July 30 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 3,643 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 0.95 percent since July 23 and went from 71,846 cases to 72,529 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus in the past two weeks and there are now 1,400 total deaths in the city from COVID.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

D'AMBROSIO IN CHINATOWN



With uncertainty surrounding the future of State Sen. Joseph Boncore's seat in the Senate, pending a job offer from MassBio, Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio has announced that should Boncore leave the Senate for MassBio, he would run for the position. Recently, D'Ambrosio was in Chinatown familiarizing himself with residents and the area.

We Sing

Program continues in parks ahead of Sept. 25 citywide singing event

By Dan Murphy

“We Sing Boston” – a program made possible by the Boston Children’s Chorus in partnership with the Friends of the Public Garden – is continuing to bring interactive live-music experiences to outdoor public spaces in and around Boston, leading up to a citywide singing event on Saturday, Sept. 25, beginning at 2 p.m. at Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common.

The series kicked off on July 17 with “We Sing: Chelsea” at Clark Avenue Middle School in Chelsea and has also included singing events in Roxbury, Dorchester, Chinatown, and Mattapan. Remaining neighborhood dates leading up to the citywide event include “We Sing: Chelsea” on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Clark Avenue Middle School, 8 Clark Ave., Chelsea; “We Sing: Dorchester” on Sunday, Aug. 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Town Field 1565 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester; “We Sing: Mattapan” on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Harambee Park, 930 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan; and “We Sing: Chinatown” on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Chin Park on The Greenway Surface Road and Beach Street, Boston. (Two other scheduled events, “We Sing: Roxbury” on July 18, and “We Sing: Dorchester” on July 25, respectively, were both cancelled due to rain.)

At each stop, the event organizers and audience members learn and sing different composition together, as opposed to a traditional concert.

The all-ages events, which will comply with local COVID safety guidelines, will also include games and prizes, including a raffle for gift cards from Black- and brown-owned businesses in the neighborhoods where they will be taking place.

Attendance has been smaller than expected, with 10 to 15 people at each event to date, said Patrick Hanafin, associate producer of the Boston Children’s Chorus.

And while the turnout has been less than anticipated, Hanafin said, “The kids who are coming are having a blast. They’re playing games and learning to sing songs, as well as movement and dance while singing.”

In some locations with easy pedestrian access, unbeknownst passersby have stumbled across the singing events before joining in as participants.

“We Sing Boston,” which began as an offshoot of the outdoor rehearsals that Boston Children’s Chorus resorted to holding during the pandemic, is also bringing new exposure to the organization, which currently has over 300 young artists from over 100 different zip codes in and around Boston in eight choirs. BCC is now inviting singers, ages 7 to 18, to join them this fall for the 2021-2022 season. (Contact info@bostonchildrenschorus.org or visit <https://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/our-programs/now-is-the-time/> for more information.)

Even though “We Sing Boston” has yet to wrap up its inaugural season, Boston Children’s Chorus is already looking to next summer.

“We definitely want to do something over next summer where we engage the community and keep singing throughout [the season],” said Hanafin. “Our normal programming ends after the school year, but we love to get together at various outdoor places to continue the singing and the fun over the summer.”

Unlike other “We Sing Boston” outings, the Sept. 25 event on the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF © APRIORIPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

“We Sing: Chinatown” came to Chin Park, Boston, on July 24, and is slated to return there on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Common will feature a concert by BCC singers and choirs following the traditional interaction with the audience, said Hanafin, which they hope will include all the individuals who attended the previous singing events.

“We want everyone who came to one of the singing events, or who wasn’t able to, to attend to come to the event on the Common,” said Hanafin. “We also want people to see what Boston Children’s Chorus is all about by coming to see our singers sing on the Common for free.”

Andrés Holder, executive director of the nonprofit Boston Children’s Chorus, said, “The experience we envision on the Common

is to connect us and [participants] across all neighborhoods.”

From the onset, the goal of “We Sing” has been to link Boston Children’s Chorus with communities across the city, said Holder, while connecting kids from neighborhoods across Greater Boston with each other. “We’re really trying to broaden this message and connect across barriers,” he added.

The program will include some of the songs learned and taught in multiple languages at the earlier events, said Holder, to reflect the diversity of the Greater Boston communities where they took place.

Holder credits all the work that Boston Children’s Chorus has

done this summer to the “generous support” of the Friends of the Public Garden, especially Liz Vizza, its president, adding that he looks forward to a “long-lasting” partnership between the two groups.

“The We Sing Boston events are truly wonderful, encouraging kids of all ages to participate in community singing outdoors in public parks and schools throughout Boston this summer,” said Vizza. “What could be better, singing, socializing and sharing together in your local park?”

Visit <https://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org/our-programs/we-sing/> for more information/



“We Sing: Chinatown” came to Chin Park, Boston, on July 24, and is slated to return there on Saturday, Aug. 15.

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