



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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BEACON HILL NETWORK MIXER



MARIANNE SALZA PHOTO

The Beacon Hill Network held a mixer at The Old Nest's Beer Garden on the Esplanade. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

City to look at 'near-term' solutions for bike lanes on Cambridge Street

By Dan Murphy

The city is soliciting the public's feedback on "near-term" solutions for adding protected bike lanes to Cambridge Street, which comes with the caveat that these potential short-term changes would be limited by "design constraints."

City officials will be holding in-person "pop-up" sessions at the intersection of Cambridge and Joy streets on Wednesday, July 6, from 7:45 to 9 a.m.; on Tuesday, July 12, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.; and on Saturday, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., where constituents can view project materials, share their comments, and ask questions.

Otherwise, constituents can talk with a member of the project team one-on-one during office hours from 3 to 7 p.m. every other Wednesday, including on July 6. Sign up for a 15-minute phone call or a virtual meeting at <https://>

calendly.com/active-transportation/connect-downtown-appointments?month=2022-07.

A city spokesperson wrote in an email: "City officials are still working on a design plan for Connect Downtown. To ensure a transparent, community-driven process, the City is hosting office hours for constituents to have one-on-one time with project team members. Community members will be able to voice concerns for any portion of the project, including Cambridge Street, and get questions answered."

Connect Downtown is the city's plan to redesign downtown streets to provide better access for pedestrians and bicyclists, including enhancing the pedestrian experience at the Boston Common and the Public Garden.

Besides being a "critical link" in

(BIKE LANES Pg. 4)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

BHCA Committee Work

Each year, the Beacon Hill Civic Association publishes its Annual Report covering committee accomplishments during the past year. We'll be sharing the committees' reports here over the next weeks.

Parks & Public Spaces Committee

The Parks & Public Spaces Committee is charged with monitoring the condition of our neighborhood's greenspaces, primarily the Common, the Public Garden and the Esplanade. We also provide support to the friends groups at the Myrtle Street Playground and the Phillips Street Park. This includes attention to maintenance and environmental concerns, including trash and waste removal, as well as public safety and homelessness. Prominent

again in this year's activities was the effort to reduce the impact of the so-called "Freedom Rally" (a/k/a "Hempfest") on the Common, and working with a coalition of other concerned parties, we succeeded in keeping the Park Department's permit to 1 day. The hope is that this will become the norm for this event. The committee's initiatives also include addressing the rise of homeless individuals establishing camps in the parks (particularly in and around the Esplanade), monitoring and attempting to reduce the impact of all large events on the parks, which includes monitoring and reporting noise and harm to turf and trees, and encouraging organizers to repair the harm they cause. We continue to work with the Friends of the Public Garden and the City on the development and implementation of the new

master plan for Boston Common, and the King Boston memorial, for dogs to run off-leash on the Common, and to ensure that the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account, to improve the quality of life for all on Beacon Hill.

Save the Dates for a BHCA Centennial Celebration Weekend!

Make plans to join your friends and neighbors for a special weekend! We will be celebrating our Centennial on Saturday, September 17th, 6-9pm, with an outdoor dinner on the flat of Mt. Vernon Street. Tickets will go on sale later in the summer. On Sunday, September 18th, we will celebrate with our annual Fall HillFest, open to all, with games and food for children and their families, the

(BHCA Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

A protected bike lane on South Charles and Boylston Streets (above) installed using "quick-build" materials including flexible bollards and roadway striping.

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Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

EDITORIAL

FOURTH OF JULY MEMORIES

This weekend brings the Fourth of July, the celebration of the birth of our nation and an opportunity for all of us to partake in summertime fun with friends and family.

The Fourth of July brings back fond recollections from our youth, when we celebrated the Fourth with cookouts at our grandmother's house at Yirrell Beach on Pt. Shirley in Winthrop.

Those happy summer memories of sparklers, smores, and bonfires on the beach with family members, many of whom are no longer with us, are etched indelibly in our mind's eye and always bring a smile to our face as if they were just yesterday, though they occurred decades ago.

However, the Fourth of July also brings back a sad memory of a friend, an athletic young man in his 20s who was one of our basketball buddies, who became intoxicated at a backyard barbecue. He fell off a small porch when he missed a step and fractured some vertebrae, leaving him a paraplegic and wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life.

That tragic event happened almost 30 years ago, but the shock of hearing of our friend's accident, and then seeing him for the first time in a wheelchair, is something we never will forget.

All of us should make it a priority to do what we can to ensure that our loved ones and others with whom we'll be spending the holiday do so in a safe and reasonable manner.

That is doubly true if any of our activities are water-related or if driving is involved. We should keep in mind that over-imbibing in alcohol always is an invitation for a tragic situation, even in our backyards.

In addition, the illegal use of dangerous fireworks will result in many trips to the emergency room by those who suffered eye injuries, severed fingers, and burns.

In the 1800s and early 1900s, the Fourth of July served as a convenient excuse for young men to go on a rampage throughout their communities, vandalizing public and private property. The term "a safe and sane Fourth" was introduced at the start of the last century to discourage such wanton acts of rowdiness.

Although we no longer celebrate the Fourth as recklessly as our ancestors did, nonetheless we all must do our part to make sure that we observe the Fourth's festivities safely and sanely, both for ourselves and our loved ones.

We wish all of our readers a happy, fun-filled, and safe Fourth of July.



GUEST OP-ED

MBTA crisis is an emergency for our region

By Joe Gravellese

When I ran for office two years ago, I did so because I was deeply concerned about the decaying of our transportation system. This crisis impacts the entire Greater Boston region, but is especially challenging to residents of Revere, Chelsea, East Boston, and other nearby communities.

Two years later, these problems have only gotten worse - and in the case of the MBTA, it's reached a boiling point, with a series of service disruptions and safety failures that have damaged the revival of Boston's downtown, contributed to the return of gridlock traffic to Greater Boston, and deeply inconvenienced people who rely on the T to get to work.

This year, I am not running for anything - I'm not asking for anyone's vote. I'm just pleading, as a resident, for our region's elected officials to make addressing this an urgent priority.

The state of the T threatens the future of our economy and contributes to our housing cost crisis. People who never set foot on the T - which includes an overwhelming majority of elected officials - need to understand how the state of the T greatly impacts *everyone's* future - not just people who ride it.

Even with reduced ridership post-COVID, hundreds of thousands of trips are taken on the T every day. Imagine even just 30% of those trips being replaced by additional cars on the road. How

much worse would that make traffic gridlock?

The ecosystem of research institutions, hospitals, biotech facilities, entertainment and cultural venues, financial services, and other industries that have made Boston an economic success, and make the quality of life in Greater Boston so high and in-demand, is supported by hundreds of thousands of service workers, many of whom take the T to work every day - and many of whom are our neighbors.

Nearly one in four Boston households do not have a car, including nearly half of low-income households.

A fraction of these households shifting to commuting by car makes the already-congested roads worse for everyone. For others, saving on the \$5,000+ a year in expenses of car ownership are what allow them to stay here in the first place. The cascading effect of T failures will price even more working people out of the area and contribute to worse sprawl and traffic, not to mention worse quality of life for people forced into ever-longer commutes - and an even greater challenge for employers looking to hire workers or start small businesses.

The economic success of our region is based largely on legacy investments in public infrastructure and public services. People don't come to Boston for the nice weather or for the low taxes. They come for the vibrant local economy, public services, and culture -

something that simply can't exist in its current form without the T.

The warning signs on the future of the T have been flashing red for a long time. In 2009, the D'Alesandro Report on the T said in its opening pages that "the outlook is bleak" and warned about the T's deferred maintenance and structural deficits. Problems like these don't magically go away with the passage of time - they only get worse.

The good news is that it is not too late to reverse course and address these problems. Already, there are promising signs that state legislative leadership is noticing this crisis. Last week investments to address the safety concerns cited by the federal investigation into the T were included in a bond bill, and House and Senate leadership have promised oversight hearings.

This is a good start. But it's only just that - a start.

What the T needs most is not funding for future capital expenses, but day-to-day operating funds for critical ongoing maintenance work. It needs to have its structural deficit addressed, and it needs to be unshackled from the Big Dig debt it was saddled with in the 1990s.

The T needs more active oversight from the Legislature to serve as the people's watchdog. A few days after the Feds released their investigation, the MBTA announced it was starting a hiring blitz to fill unfilled critical public

(Op-Ed Pg. 6)

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PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DiGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com

Local officials react to Roe v Wade being overturned

By John Lynds

At a time when the country needs to unify more than ever, the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down the landmark Roe v Wade decision has only divided the country even further.

Protesters supporting women's reproductive rights immediately took to the streets after the decision was handed down by the country's conservative leaning highest court.

Local elected officials immediately condemned the Supreme Court's ruling, which gave federal constitutional protection for women's reproductive rights for 50 years.

"Like many of you, I am deeply saddened and angered by the Supreme Court Dobbs v. Jackson ruling, which overturned 50 years of federal abortion protections," said Rep. Jay Livingstone. "As we know, this ruling will not prevent abortions from happening, it will only make them more dangerous - especially for our nations most vulnerable residents. This rollback of our country's civil rights is outrageous and unprecedented. I have fought for a women's right to choose during my time in the Massachusetts legislature and I will continue to do so. I will do everything I can to protect abortion rights for the people of Massachusetts and urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to do the same."

In response to the Supreme

Court ruling overturning Roe v Wade, Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order to protect access to reproductive health care services in the Commonwealth.

"I am deeply disappointed in today's decision by the Supreme Court which will have major consequences for women across the country who live in states with limited access to reproductive health care services," said the Governor. "The Commonwealth has long been a leader in protecting a woman's right to choose and access to reproductive health services, while other states have criminalized or otherwise restricted access," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This executive order will further preserve that right and protect reproductive health care providers who serve out of state residents. In light of the Supreme Court's ruling overturning Roe v Wade, it is especially important to ensure that Massachusetts providers can continue to provide reproductive health care services without concern that the laws of other states may be used to interfere with those services or sanction them for providing services that are lawful in the Commonwealth."

The order prohibits any Executive Department agencies from assisting another state's investigation into a person or entity for receiving or delivering reproductive health services that are legal in Massachusetts. The order also



Local elected officials join Sen. Elizabeth Warren and representatives from the ACLU of Massachusetts, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, and Reproductive Equity Now on the steps of the State House last week to protest the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe v Wade.

protects Massachusetts providers who deliver reproductive health care services from losing their professional licenses or receiving other professional discipline based on potential out-of-state charges.

Also under the executive order, the Commonwealth will not cooperate with extradition requests from other states pursuing criminal charges against individuals who received, assisted with, or performed reproductive health services that are legal in Massachusetts.

Sen. Lydia Edwards said it is

now time to 'divest' and 'boycott' and called on labor leaders to join the fight for reproductive rights.

"We need to learn from Divestment Movements in South Africa to today's fossil fuel movement," said Edwards. "We need to remember the Boycotts of the Civil Rights movement. I don't want our state or the City of Boston to contract with other states that take away a woman's right to abortion care."

Edwards called on labor leaders to get on board.

"Worker's Rights are Abortion Rights," she said. "I expect you (union leaders) to make sure all of

your union members have access to abortion care where ever they are, this includes health insurance, travel money, or whatever is needed. I've fought for Union jobs—it's time you step up for gender healthcare."

Edwards added any corporations with headquarters or franchises in anti-abortion states need to make sure labor workers have access to abortion care.

"If you don't, I will not buy your products," she said. "We need to support companies that will affirm the right to choose and divest from those that won't."

CITY PAWS

Summer Dog Days

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Summer has now officially begun. However, this year, we've experienced summer heat in spring. That is just the start of what may be a hot, wet summer. WBUR reported, "... In the case of New England, NOAA predicts a 50-60% chance of warmer-than-normal temperatures, and for the southern part of the region, a 33-40% chance of higher-than-normal rainfall."

For those of us with dogs, this means making plans to prevent heat emergencies. Part of this is understanding how our animals react to heat and doing what is needed to keep them safe. Remember, heat exhaustion can be a matter of life or death for your furry pal.

Tips for Hot Days

Arrange your walk schedule so that long walks are in the cooler

parts of the day. If you use a dog walker, ask them to adjust how long your dog is out in the heat. This is especially important if your dog is in fragile health, elderly, or one of the flat-faced breeds that are susceptible to brachycephalic syndrome, a condition that makes breathing more difficult.

Carry water for your dog. Most pet supply shops sell water bottles with attached caps or covers that serve as a dog cup. There are collapsible water dishes that you can fill from a water fountain or your own bottle of water.

In a pinch, put a clean pickup bag over your cupped hand and pour in some water. All our dogs have been able to enjoy a drink like this since a kind woman in the Public Garden showed us her trick.

Check the heat of the pavement by pressing your hand on it for 10 seconds as a way to determine if

it will be uncomfortable or dangerous for your dog. On hot days, let your dog walk on grass or dirt as much as possible to give those paws a break.

Signs of Overheating

It also means knowing the signs of an overheated animal, what steps to take to correct the situation before it becomes an emergency, and what to do on your way to the ER if it does.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes, "Early signs of heatstroke include: heavy panting and rapid breathing, excessive drooling, dry mucous membranes, bright red gums and tongue, skin hot to the touch, and a higher heart rate. Affected dogs become hyperactive and may have difficulty maintaining balance."

If you notice any of these symptoms, the AKC recommends that you take steps to lower your ani-

mal's body temperature including, stopping activity, moving to a cool, well-ventilated place, spraying or sponging with cool (not cold) water.

In the case of cats, the symptoms are the same including a dangerous temperature point of more than 105F. Since city cats spend most of their time indoors,

we noted that falls from open windows with loose or damaged screens are a danger in hot weather that their guardians should prevent.

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

BHCA (from pg. 1)

famous dog show, live entertainment, and much more.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings & Events

Zoning & Licensing, Wednesday, July 6th, 7pm, via Zoom.

Board of Directors - Monday, July 11th, 7pm, via Zoom*

Architecture Committee - Monday July 18th, 5pm via Zoom*

Outdoor Centennial Dinner - Saturday, September 17th, 6:00pm

Fall HillFest - Sunday, Septem-

ber 18th, 12:00-4:00pm

* Contact the office for joining details.

Become a BHCA member or renew your membership in our Centennial Year!

This is a great time to join the BHCA or renew your membership now that we are scheduling outdoor centennial activities for the summer and fall. Go to <https://www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member.html> to sign up or renew today, or call us at 617-227-1922!

BIKE LANES (from pg. 1)

the citywide bicycle network, Cambridge Street is in the top 3 percent of streets citywide for injury-causing crashes involving bicyclists, according to the city, while recent transportation plans, including Go Boston 2030 and North Station Area Mobility Action Plan (NSA-MAP), have identified Cambridge Street as a “priority corridor for better bike facilities.”

Meanwhile, Cambridge Street is the location of two major developments—the Hurley Building redevelopment and the MGH Clinical Building — now moving forward. The Mass General project is expected to be built over the course of five to 10 years, and the city is now working with the hospital to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian access can be fully maintained during the course of construction.

The MBTA is also undertaking preliminary analysis for its Red-Blue Connector, and if this project comes to pass, much of Cambridge Street would need to be rebuilt after the subway tunnel is finished.

“Because of these projects, it does not make sense to make big changes on Cambridge Street now,” states the city’s website on the Cambridge Street design constraints. “It would not be cost-effective. And, we wouldn’t be able to deliver on the near-term improvements you’ve asked us for.”

Instead, the city is now pledging to make short-term improvements without altering the existing curb lines and curb extensions at crosswalks, and without making any changes to the median or to existing trees there.

The project will focus on the section of Cambridge Street under the city’s jurisdiction between Court Street (Government Center) and West Cedar Street (where the Red Line viaduct passes over Cambridge Street). Changes to Charles Circle can’t be made without close coordination with the state’s Department of Conserva-

tion and Recreation (DCR), which has jurisdiction of Cambridge Street near West Cedar Street and extending westward from there.

“We meet regularly with DCR, and they are aware of the project,” according to the city. “We plan to continue conversations in 2022. However, we don’t want to delay any changes we can make on the City-owned portion of Cambridge Street while our conversations with DCR move forward.”

The city intends to use “quick-build” materials, like flexible bollards, precast concrete curbing, roadway striping, signage, and changes to signal timing, to allow for designing and building the project on a condensed timeline.

“Cambridge Street has several sections where the curb-to-curb width is very constrained,” according to the city. “In those sections, major construction would be needed to make space for protected bike lanes. While we may have an opportunity in the future to take on major construction, we are also looking for what can be done in the near-term.”

Since the concept has yet to be finalized, its impact on traffic, as well as its effect on outdoor dining and deliveries to area businesses, is currently unknown, according to the city.

While the city has pledged to consider a range of configurations including one-way bike lanes on either side of the street or two-way bike lanes, center-running bike lanes have been deemed unfeasible for Cambridge Street due to the large number of vehicles turning at multiple intersections. Center-running bike lanes would also require “major changes to the median and traffic signals, which “would significantly extend the project timeline,” according to the city.

Moreover, the city has committed to not making any changes to existing sidewalk dimensions or using any of the existing sidewalk spaces for bike lanes at this time.

“In looking at the possibilities

for Cambridge Street, the most important dimension we have to consider is the distance from the sidewalk curb to the median curb,” according to the city. “That’s because we’re not planning to move any of the curbs in order to design and build this project quickly. Cambridge Street does not have standard dimensions from block to block. The distance between the sidewalk curb and the median can range from 25 feet to 35 feet.”

Becca Wolfson, executive director of the Boston Cyclists Union, expressed concern with the city’s short-term plans for bike lanes on Cambridge Street, especially regarding the perceived “design constraints” of the project.

“Based on our interpretation, it’s pretty disappointing to see the report, even the way, it’s put into words – ‘design constraints,’” said Wolfson. “We had hoped this administration would see past these constraints and be more creative when it comes to them to look at the tradeoffs and make them in the name of safety and sustainable and equitable mobility.”

Wolfson also laments that the city appears to be giving precedence to other uses on Cambridge Street over providing safe accommodations for bicyclists.

“Our interpretation is the city expressed the likelihood they can provide separated bike lanes on the majority of the corridor from City Hall towards MGH,” she added. “Traveling in the other direction, our interpretation is that the city is saying there are too many competing interests, primarily car travel and truck loading zones, and there doesn’t seem to be a willingness to give either one of those up in the name of safety and mobility.”

Before attempting to tackle the installation of bike lanes on Cambridge Street, Wolfson suggests that the city first take a closer look at Charles Street.

“And all along, we knew this would be a challenge if they didn’t

remove the median, and we’ve been saying it would be much easier to provide bi-directional bike travel on Charles Street first and take more time to plan for the median removal, which clearly seems to be needed on Cambridge Street,” said Wolfson. “So in the wake of this report coming out, we either think the city should take away more access onto Cambridge Street to provide safe, two-way bike travel or pivot to add safe, two-way bike access to Charles Street before the end of the construction season.”

Moreover, Wolfson said, “Another reason is that the city has invested in and designed a really good network [of bike lanes] downtown with Connect Downtown, and without at least one connection to MGH and the Longfellow Bridge, this network is effectively useless.”

In contrast, Rep. Jay Livingstone applauds the city for moving forward to find short-term solutions for bike lanes on Cambridge Street.

“I’m glad the city is moving to improve bike infrastructure, particularly going from downtown to the Longfellow,” he said, “and I’m pleased the city is doing a thorough look at the constraints that exist in our neighborhood streets.”

Added Rep. Livingstone, “I look forward to the city moving as fast as possible to implement a plan on Cambridge Street, where I constantly hear concerns about pedestrian safety, bike safety, and traffic from cars.”

Unlike Wolfson, Rep. Livingstone believes that bike lanes on Cambridge Street should take precedence over bike lanes on Charles Street for the city.

“The city has done more work, engaged the community to a much greater degree, and received more complaints from key stakeholders on Cambridge Street, especially pedestrians and bicyclists,” said Rep. Livingstone, “so I’m glad that the city is focusing on the street about which the city has expressed

the most concern.”

Underscoring the urgency of making improvements to Cambridge Street in a timely manner, Rep. Livingstone also pointed to a hit-and-run accident on May 29 in the vicinity of Cambridge and Blossom streets, which resulted in the death of a West End resident at an area hospital several days later.

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok is similarly pleased to see the city taking more immediate steps to address safety issues for bicyclists on Cambridge Street – the one corridor she said she has heard the most concerns about from her constituents.

“I’m excited that they’re not waiting for the big projects on Cambridge Street,” said Councilor Bok, who added that “community outreach is critical” to this project.

Meghan Awe, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board of directors, praised the city for taking this initiative, which she believes will promote more equitable bike access throughout the city.

“The BHCA is as usual very interested in the process,” Awe wrote in an email. “We are confident the city is approaching the matter with a thoughtful lens, considering the unique aspects of the neighborhood and streets, just as it does with the other neighborhoods in the city.”

Awe added, “While the constraints of the report make sense, the city’s own crash data (available at <https://apps.boston.gov/vision-zero/>) clearly indicates that the safety of Cambridge Street is an issue, especially when the crash data is observed. The BHCA is confident in the city’s thoughtful prioritization of safety matters, and that the data will drive their results, especially given the effort at collecting and relaying accurate information. I also applaud the city on their focus and efforts of equitable cycling solutions city-wide.”

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Spikeball comes to Boston Common

By Mark Duffield

Spikeball - a game once introduced on Shark Tank - is a new sport that's sweeping the nation and has now found its way to the Boston Common.

The first day of summer brings many delights and activities to the Beacon Hill neighborhood. Two main attractions nearby - the Public Garden and the Boston Common - draw residents and tourists in droves. Two historic pieces of real estate with two different ways to experience the great outdoors.

The Public Garden is devoted to a leisurely, shaded walk down quiet paths lined with stately trees, beautiful flower gardens and majestic Swan Boats floating peacefully across placid pond waters. Sunbathing, reading a book, snoozing on a bench...ah so peaceful.

But the pastoral Boston Common, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. Spinning carousels, joyous children splashing around in the Frog Pond, people jogging, exercising themselves and with their dogs chasing sticks and frisbees, the common tennis courts alive with competitive games...and now...SPIKEBALL?

Yes, Spikeball! Players Taryn Corey and her friends Kai Simmons, Lucas Tejada and Dominick Farino are graduate students at Boston University in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program (DPT) and their friend Connor Hannemann works in Boston and on occasion in Beacon Hill. Together, they have brought and introduced this new portable sport to the Boston Common. At first glance to the uninitiated, the game takes place on a small piece of ground and resembles a sports hybrid. It is volleyball, tennis, badminton, handball and acrobatics, and goodness knows what else all rolled into one. All the equipment you need is packed neatly into a very small bag. It is performed by four players at a frenetic pace circling 360 degrees around a small Hula Hoop sized trampoline net a foot off the ground. It involves spiking a soft yellow softball size ball back and forth ricocheting off the net towards and skillfully escaping the hands of opponents to score points!

As explained by participant Connor Hannemann, the game is played two versus two with the small round net placed between

the two teams. A player starts a point by serving the ball down on the net so it ricochets up at his opponents. This side has up to three hits between them (just like volleyball) to control the ball and bounce it back off the net to the other side. When they miss, you score a point. There are no boundaries so players can circle the net anywhere to return the ball. The game can be played to a score of 11, 15, or 21. In case of a tie, you must win by two points.

Taryn Corey says, "I played a lot of sports in my day, but Spikeball is the best because it is so easy to play and portable. It is a great way to get out, be social, exercise and a fantastic way to relieve stress."

Spikeball, now called Roundnet by some, is less than a decade old but it has definitely caught on, with leagues popping up all over the U.S. There is now a Roundnet National Championship that features a Pro Division. The game has been featured on ESPN.

Thank you to Taryn Corey and her friends for bringing the sport to the Boston Common and educating us all on this new sport that is slowly becoming global.



MARK DUFFIELD PHOTO

Pictured, left to right, are Lucas Tejada, Connor Hannemann, Taryn Corey, Kai Simmons, and Dominick Farino.

Beacon Hill, surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test-rate increases

By John Lynds

Beacon Hill and the surrounding area's weekly COVID positive test rate increased slightly last week after weeks of decline according to the latest data by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

This week the BPHC announced it is recommending that all Boston children and infants ages six-months and older get vaccinated against COVID-19. BPHC's recommendation follows recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommending COVID-19 vaccines.

"Many parents and caregivers have been anxiously awaiting approval of COVID-19 vaccination for the under 5 age group after two very difficult years of worrying about the health and safety of their children," said Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the BPHC Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "Some parents may be uncertain about getting their child vaccinated because there is so much information to consider. The vaccines are safe and protective against serious illness in this age group. Parents with questions or concerns should

talk to their child's pediatrician to get the facts about the vaccine."

Last week, 858 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for the virus last week and 11 percent were positive--this was a 8 percent increase from the 10.2 percent that tested positive between June 13 and June 20.

Ninety four additional residents contracted the virus between June 20 and June 27 there have now been 11,342 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week

According to the BPHC, 12,787 Boston residents tested citywide and 7.3 percent were positive—a 5 percent decrease from the 7.7 percent that tested positive between June 13 and June 20.

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 0.67 percent last

week and went from 192,591 to 193,870 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were seven additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

Dr. Ojikutu said the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, which consists of three pediatric doses, is available for children ages 6-months to 5-years old.

The Moderna mRNA vaccine, consisting of two pediatric doses, is available for those ages 6-months to 5-years old. COVID-19 vaccines are already available to those ages 5 and up. Ensuring your child is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations is the most effective way to keep them safe at summer camps, family outings, and other in person gatherings.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, parents will be able to find clinics and make appointments at the state's Vax Finder website. Parents who prefer to have their child vaccinated by their pediatrician should call their provider's office directly. The COVID-19 vaccine is free and no insurance or ID is required.

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BEACON HILL NETWORK MIXER

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Beacon Hill Network, a community of business professionals, held a mixer on June 15 at The Old Nest's Beer Garden, on the Esplanade. Members gathered to

make new friends, learn from one another, and build a referral network while supporting local businesses. Visit www.BeaconHillNetwork.org to learn about upcoming events and business meetings.



Ed Podzus, Jessica Drummond, and Darryl Elow.



Stacy Sheehan, of Cambridge Trust, and Jessica Thorton, of The Green Room.



Beacon Hill Network members enjoying conversation.



Jennifer Hill, Adam Whitney, and Mary Beth Kelley.



Beacon Hill Network members.

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OP-ED (from pg. 2)

safety positions. This is good news, but it could have happened sooner. It's clear that the existing MBTA board was either unaware of the issue or did not feel it necessary to share this information with the public.

The funding and governance of the T also needs to be better integrated with the regional transit authorities of the rest of the state. One of the biggest problems we face right now is regions being pitted against each other - with resi-

dents and elected officials outside of the Boston area not wanting to fund investments in Boston, and vice versa. This is counterproductive: the future of every region in Massachusetts is intertwined, and needs to be addressed with a commonality of purpose.

The crisis at the T is not just about the daily inconvenience and indignity to many of the service workers who power the local economy - many of whom are our neighbors who live along the Blue

Line - though they feel the pinch first and most acutely. It's about the future of Boston's economy and quality of life. It demands urgent action and attention, even from people who never ride it. It's now or never, and the consequences of inaction will be dire.

Joe Gravellese is a former candidate for state representative and former City of Revere staff member. He currently works at a local non-profit.

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BEACON HILL NETWORK MIXER



Beacon Hill Network members mingling at the beer garden.



Jennifer Hill enjoying the beer garden.



Ed Podszus engaging in conversation at the mixer.



Emily Claire, Darryl Elow, James Hill, Tiana Celesia, Karen Bunch, and Stephen Gousby.

Register now!

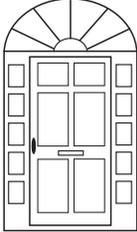
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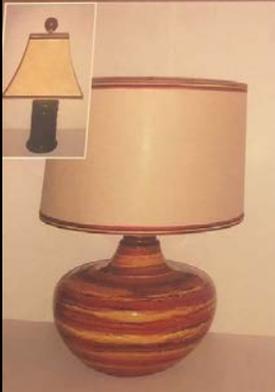
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Latinx muralist creates 2,500-foot mural for Prudential Center exterior

Splashing across 2,500 feet of Prudential Center's Boylston Street entrance will be Latinx muralist and graphic designer Yenny Hernandez's new installation, "Ponle Vuelo A Tus Sueños/Let Your Dreams Take Flight," a brightly-colored vinyl building wrap that will envelop two sides of the building's exterior on Boylston Street and will delight visitors with vibrant colors, tropical foliage, and nostalgic imagery, according to a press release.

The new work, commissioned by Boston Properties (BXP) and curated by Boston's Now + There public art organization, opens June 30. The opening event will be from 5 to 7 p.m. (Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mural-opening-with-artist-yenny-hernandez-at-prudential-center-tickets-360836390357>.)

Hernandez's "Ponle Vuelo A Tus Sueños/Let Your Dreams Take Flight," pays homage to the pursuit of dreams and the Latinx journey to attain them. Using recognizable patterns and foliage, Mexican marigolds and tropical leaves, the artwork features a tropical parrot, referencing flight, and traditional coffee maker, a symbol meant to evoke grandmothers and kitchens in Latin America. The joyous, welcoming message is one of encour-

agement and positive reinforcement to the Latinx community which she feels can often be a journey of breaking through language, education, and socio-economic barriers.

"Yenny's work explores a core belief that words have the power to transform and reframe our outlook on life, ourselves, and our experiences," Now + There Executive Director Kate Gilbert said in a press release.

"We feel the energy of the City of Boston every day, and there is no better way to celebrate and contribute to our reinvigorated city than through public art," Bryan Koop, Executive Vice President, Boston Region, BXP, said in a press release. "We're thrilled to build on our long-standing partnership with Now + There and once again uses Prudential Center as a canvas to showcase diverse, local, emerging artists. Yenny's inspiring message and vibrant mural will be the perfect addition to the "front door" of the Prudential Center – a warm and welcome sight for all those visiting Boston as well as those that call it home."

In the evening hours, rainbow-colored lights will offset the bright mural on the outside of Prudential Center. Inside, the staircase will also feature additional art with



Yenny Hernandez's new installation, "Ponle Vuelo A Tus Sueños/Let Your Dreams Take Flight," at the entrance to the Prudential Center on Boylston Street.

bilingual words of encouragement woven throughout. A social media campaign based on the installation will ask participants to add their dreams and perspective on the American Dream to be compiled into a book.

"Encouragement is one of the few forms of exchange that costs nothing yet holds the power to be priceless to others," Hernandez, who is of Puerto Rican descent and now lives in Dorchester, said in a press release. "From remind-

ing us to dream to sparking us to accept ourselves in every shape, gender, life stage, and mental state, uplifting words have the power to reframe our outlook on self, life, and experience."

USS Constitution to commemorate Independence Day

USS Constitution is scheduled to go underway from Charlestown Navy Yard, Massachusetts, on Monday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m. for its annual 4th of July Cruise.

150 lottery winners and their guests are joining Old Ironsides as she cruises in celebration of the United States' 246th birthday.

The Declaration of Independence will be read aloud to commemorate its signing in 1776 that began the country's fight for independence.

USS Constitution is to conduct a 21-gun salute at Fort Independence on Castle Island.

USS Constitution will fire an additional 17-gun salute as she passes U.S. Coast Guard Sec-

tor Boston, the former site of the Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where USS Constitution was built and launched on Oct. 21, 1797.

USS Constitution's 4th of July Turnaround Cruise dates back to the 1950s when the ship was turned around to evenly weather the hull.

USS Constitution will reopen for free public visitation, Monday, July 4, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

USS Constitution is open to free public visitation Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The USS Constitution Museum is open to the public every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

USS Constitution, is the world's oldest commissioned warship

afloat, and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence.

USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents.

The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull.

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY PHager, Jennifer P Keyt, Maren	114 Comm Avenue 3 RT Melvin, William S	114 Commonwealth Ave #3 261 Marlborough St #2	\$2,250,000 \$535,000
BEACON HILL Big Green Toads RT Folsom, Christopher G Dai, Rui Jung, Kyung J Jung, Kyung J Jung, Kyung J Jung, Kyung J Jung, Kyung J Jung, Kyung J	96 Beacon St Unit 2 LLC Witkowski Paul S Est Chaudhry, Tariq Iannaco FT Iannaco FT Iannaco FT Iannaco FT Iannaco FT Iannaco FT	96 Beacon St #2 10 Bowdoin St #302 6 Goodwin Pl #1 1 Hawthorne Pl 2 Hawthorne Pl #6J 3 Hawthorne Pl 8 Hawthorne Pl 9 Hawthorne Pl 10 Hawthorne Pl	\$5,390,000 \$411,763 \$460,000 \$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000 \$600,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE Porter, Robert Marvel, Jenna Ching Yu Ku FT Kortenhaus, Lynne M Schuster, Rebecca Copos, Calina A Anne K Guidice 1999 T Andrews, Glen Tiffany, Carolyn 7 Warren Ave 17 LLC Aske INT Stern, Aliza Diamond Glaze Limited LLC Johnston, Alicia M Chi, Yiliang Nevins, Caitlin M Morley, Liam 44 Concord Alliance LLC Reinhart, Peter H M&R Boston Associates LLC Korsunsky, Arina Sunshine Villas LLC Carroll, Margaret M Charles E Backman FT Boynnton, Sam Breen, Trevor Pele T Atkinson, Jodi Noon, Matthew 210 West Sprfield St LLC Moriarty, Mathew D Jiang, Jian Huber, Joyce H Dang FT Harper, Steven E Greenberg, Leonard I Stone, Caroline Barbato, Michael A Bahamon, Cecilia Feijo Jr, Edmund Ahmed, Mohammed S Berry, Steven Chiang, Brittany Meehan, Tucker	Penque, Thomas D Smyer, Ingrid F Platt, Marjorie A KCW Boston Properties LL Lahood Family LP LLP Flores, Abbey R Dr Jennis RT Lattouf, Omar Hensel, Rachel L Buonopane, Pasquale M Maxwell, Scott Lebwohl, Kendra S Xia, Jiahuan Soetopo, Franciscus X Blanchard, Amy L Casinelli, Peter Hayford, Anne 44 Concord Square LLC Dicamillo, Benjamin SR Minc LLC KJ Cap 541 Mass Ave LLC KJ Cap 541 Mass Ave LLC Gutierrez, Brianna Mann, Jennifer A Kaczmarek, Michael K Twickenham LLC Dinges, Jason R Joseph J Frank 2009 RET Scofield, Mark Hogan, Frances X Achtemichuk, Thomas M Howland, Robert H Chatterjee, Udayaditya Montanaro, Todd Anderson, Margaret E Cieslak, Kristina M Deborah L Cavalier T Hartwick, Michael D Chew, Emily Bishmac RT Singer, Hannah M Tao, Hua Azuma, Dara S Carole A Brown RET	18 Appleton St #1 83 Appleton St #1 1 Charles St S #5G 1 Charles St S #607 285 Columbus Ave #302 79 Montgomery St #2 400 Stuart St #26D 526 Tremont St #2 249 W Newton St #7 7 Warren Ave #17 23 Bay State Rd #5 36 Bradford St #1 188 Brookline Ave #19D 188 Brookline Ave #25C 286-288 Cambridge St #4 1-3 Claremont Park #6 517 Columbus Ave #5 44 Concord Sq 51 E Concord St #1 61 Hemenway St 541 Massachusetts Ave #1 541 Massachusetts Ave #2 106 Myrtle St #1 125 Park Dr #B1 38 Rutland Sq #1 41 Rutland Sq #2 690 Tremont St #1 43 Upton St #3 161 W Brookline St 210 W Springfield St 90 Wareham St #307 12 Worcester Sq #1 34 Worcester Sq #1 150 Worcester St #4 301 Shawmut Ave #20 756 Tremont St #6 32 Union Park #2 110 Union Park St #1 198 W Springfield St #2 1313 Washington St #328 3531 Washington St #218 3531 Washington St #318 3531 Washington St #319 27 Worcester Sq #4	\$1,000,000 \$1,125,000 \$2,095,000 \$700,000 \$1,280,000 \$800,000 \$2,592,500 \$725,000 \$950,000 \$2,349,000 \$731,000 \$1,375,000 \$1,330,000 \$1,375,000 \$625,000 \$1,489,000 \$1,200,000 \$5,100,000 \$950,000 \$3,925,000 \$1,374,000 \$1,725,000 \$615,000 \$625,000 \$1,960,000 \$3,255,000 \$1,435,000 \$926,000 \$4,400,000 \$2,825,000 \$741,000 \$1,639,000 \$1,934,000 \$1,070,000 \$790,500 \$1,050,000 \$1,069,000 \$725,000 \$865,000 \$1,023,750 \$562,000 \$550,000 \$570,000 \$937,450

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The hemline in the last clue is on the statue of Josiah Quincy in the Old City Hall courtyard. It is the creation of sculptor Thomas Ball and was dedicated in 1879. Quincy was mayor of Boston and President of Harvard College.

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



Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular back at the Esplanade this year

By Lauren Bennett

After two years of virtual Fourth of July events because of COVID-19, the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is returning to the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade.

Though the free program will be in-person this year, it will also be broadcast live on Bloomberg TV and Bloomberg radio, and also on WHDH Channel 7 from 8-11pm on Monday, July 4, according to a press release. It is sponsored by Eaton Vance, Bloomberg, Mass General Brigham, and the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel.

"The past three years have given us profound lessons on the importance of not taking things for granted and appreciating the many everyday gifts of our lives, as well as caring and looking out for each other," Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart said in a statement. "I am so grateful that we can come together once again to celebrate Independence Day and all that we aspire to be as citizens of this great country and the city we're proud to call home."

Lockhart will be conducting his 27th Fourth of July program this year, and the program will be hosted by Romaine Bostick, Kailey Leinz, Janet Wu, and Joe Shortleeve, all of Bloomberg.

Aside from performances by the Boston Pops, this year's program will feature Chaka Khan, a ten-time Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter, as well as singer and actress Heather Headley and singer-songwriter Javier Colon.

Performances will also be given by the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums, as well as

the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Soldiers from the Massachusetts National Guard 54th Volunteer regiment will present the colors.

"I'm thrilled to welcome residents and visitors back for the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular to the Charles River Esplanade," Mayor Michelle Wu said in a statement. "I'm so grateful to all of our city departments and partners for activating our spaces so that all of our families can enjoy this beloved tradition on the fourth of July."

According to the release, the event "will include a special moment in memory of David Mugar, whose support of Boston's Independence Day celebration starting in 1974 transformed the event into one of the most recognized Independence Day celebrations in the country." Mugar passed away on January 25 of this year.

For more information about the hosts, performers, and what items are allowed and prohibited at the event, visit the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular website at bso.org/boston-pops-fireworks-spectacular

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Fourth of July weekend traffic advisory from the City of Boston:

The annual 4th of July celebrations will be held on Monday, July 4, 2022, bringing parking restrictions and traffic changes to the City of Boston. The City of Boston Transportation Department is implementing restrictions on the below streets to reduce congestion and illegal parking. People attending this and other events are encouraged not to drive their personal vehicles. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share

service, may be found on the Bluebikes website, and information on the MBTA may be found at the T's website. For a faster return trip, the MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket. Walking is also a great way to move around Boston. It is important to read all posted signs.

Traffic and Parking Restrictions
"Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event "Thursday through Monday" (June 30-July 4) signs on the following street:

- Beacon Street, from David G. Mugar Way to Clarendon Street
- "Tow Zone No Stopping Sunday and Monday" (July 3 & 4) signs on the following streets:
 - Arlington Street, Both sides, from Beacon Street to Commonwealth Avenue
 - Berkeley Street, Both sides, from Marlborough Street to Back Street
 - Clarendon Street, Both sides, from Marlborough Street to Back Street
 - Dartmouth Street, Both sides, from Marlborough Street to Back Street
 - Exeter Street, Both sides, from Marlborough Street to Back Street
 - Beacon Street, Both sides, from Charles Street to Dartmouth Street
 - Back Street, Both sides, from Dartmouth Street to David G Mugar Way
 - Chestnut Street, Both sides, from David G Mugar Way to Brimmer Street
 - Mount Vernon Street, Both sides, from David G Mugar Way to Brimmer Street
 - Pinckney Street, Both sides,

from David G Mugar Way to Brimmer Street

- Revere Street, Both sides, from David G Mugar Way to Charles Street

"Tow Zone No Stopping Monday" (July 4) signs on the following streets:

- Arlington Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to St. James Avenue
- Berkeley Street, Both sides, from Marlborough Street to Boylston Street
- Clarendon Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Marlborough Street
- Dartmouth Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Marlborough Street
- Exeter Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Marlborough Street
- Fairfield Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Back Street
- Gloucester Street, Both sides,

from Commonwealth Avenue to Back Street

- Hereford Street, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Back Street

• Massachusetts Avenue, Both sides, from Commonwealth Avenue to Back Street

- Beacon Street, Both sides, from Dartmouth Street to Charlesgate East

• Boylston Street, Both sides, from Berkeley Street to Arlington Street

The City of Boston's annual 4th of July parade will be held on Monday, July 4, 2022 beginning at City Hall Plaza.

"Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event Monday" signs at the following locations:

- Devonshire Street, Both sides, from State Street to Quaker Lane
- State Street, Both sides, from Congress Street to Washington Street

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU22P1134EA

Estate of:
Celeste K. Damon
Also Known As:
Celeste Keusch,
Celeste K. Wetherell
Date of Death:
03/17/2022

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Alfred R. Caeslla of Hartford, CT and Jarrett S. Wetherell of Brooklyn, NY

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Alfred R. Casella of Hartford, CT and Jarrett S. Wetherell of Brooklyn, NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/19/2022.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within

thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 14, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate

6/30/22
BH

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead to July 9

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

HOLIDAY

• There will be no work done during the weekend of July 4th

SCHEDULED WORK

• Forming the East bike barrier at the northern approach (Charlestown workzone)

• Install rebar for the bike barrier

• Install electrical boxes in the location of the bike barrier

WORK HOURS

• Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

TRAVEL TIPS

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

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, sig-

nage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

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

• There are no events scheduled during this look-ahead period

To place a memoriam
please call
781-485-0588

Suffolk County DA candidates face off in virtual debate

By Dan Murphy

The two candidates vying for the Suffolk County district attorney's seat squared off on Tuesday, June 28, during a virtual debate sponsored by the Boston Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic committees.

Interim DA Kevin Hayden, who was appointed by Gov. Charlie Baker in January to finish Rachael Rollins term, faced Boston District 7 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo in the debate moderated by Danielle Allen, the James Bryant Conant University professor at Harvard University, as well as a director of the Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics.

The debate's forum featured a 15-minute "free-flowing" discussion with Hayden, followed by a 30-minute debate between the two candidates. It concluded with a 15-minute discussion with Arroyo.

Asked how he would explain the role of the district attorney to a child, Hayden said the office should be committed to public safety (i.e. keeping communities safe and protecting victims' rights). Additionally, he said the DA's office should ensure that "the criminal legal system continues to operate, expand, and improve in ways that make it fair for all," as well as to strive to find ways to help communities "reconcile and heal from trauma and harm" via restorative justice.

"It's something Massachusetts has at times done very well, and something we can currently improve on," Hayden said of restorative justice.

In response to the same question, Arroyo said the justice system currently doesn't work, as it has "criminalized poverty" while promoting racial inequality. Instead, the DA's office "should be seeking justice and accountability, and restoration where appropriate," he said, while taking a closer look at racial disparities in the charges levied against individuals, as well as in the punishments they ultimately receive.

Hayden said one of the key leadership lessons he has learned by overseeing the DA's office and its \$24 million annual budget and staff of 300 was instilled in him when he previously served as chair of the state's Sex Offender Registry Board, which is that the money provided is never enough.

In his role as DA, Hayden said he would continue to "make sure resources are focused on people and strategically used "in ways that maximize people power."

Hayden also said he would seek to staff the DA's office with staff

members who possess a "high caliber of integrity and honesty," and who understand their roles as "servant leaders."

On how he would manage and staff the DA's office, Arroyo said he would seek to hire individuals who are aligned with his values and mission and then "empower" them to do their jobs while refraining from micromanaging them.

As DA, Arroyo said he would attempt to look at justice from a number of different angles, including the perspectives of the victim, the offender, and the community.

Arroyo added that he believes people are innately good, and that when they commit crimes, it's often because their basic needs aren't being met.

Regarding the ongoing crisis at Mass and Cass, Hayden recently initiated a policy that redirected \$400,000 in funding for "services over sentences" for both pre- and post-arraignment diversion.

"We know we cannot arrest and criminalize our way out of the opioid epidemic, and that's simply not the solution," said Hayden, adding that his policy is designed to address individuals at the highest risk and with the highest needs.

Hayden said he believes in taking a case-by-case approach to determine the need for an arraignment. In some cases, the offenders would be better served by just receiving treatment and other services, rather than facing criminal charges, he added.

Arroyo said he had represented individuals living at Mass and Cass when he previously worked as a public defender, so he knows firsthand that "coercive rehabilitation doesn't work."

Added Arroyo, "My administration wouldn't criminalize addiction. Period."

Arroyo pointed to current flaws in the system where individuals have been pulled out of treatment and remanded to prison for missing a court hearing or some other minor transgression. As a result, individuals often go "off the grid" when they relapse out of fear of going to jail, he added.

In other instances, offenders are faced with a "trick question," said Arroyo, when given the choice between going to treatment or going to jail. Even if they choose treatment, offenders often end up in jail in the meantime as they wait for beds to open up, he said.

Arroyo said he would uphold Rollins' list of around 15 low-level crimes, which the DA's office would either dismiss or decline to prosecute. In fact, Arroyo said he helped Rollins draft the list itself.

The list could even be expanded

to include additional charges, said Arroyo, as determined by the data coming out of district courts.

Hayden said that while his office wouldn't prosecute low-level offenses, he would look at them on a case-by-case basis, which would focus on the individuals being charged as opposed to their offenses per se.

Although Hayden said he would be willing to look at expand the do-not-prosecute list while reallocating funding to focus on the most violent offenses, he also cautioned "you're not unclogging the system" by not prosecuting a repeat offender, such as a habitual shoplifter.

"When your alternative is to send them out the door, that doesn't work," said Hayden, adding that he would instead aim to provide habitual offenders with "good diversion alternatives."

Hayden and Arroyo were divided on the matter of gang databases.

Arroyo believes the system, which he describes as "racist and ineffective," should be "disman-

led."

"It's important to understand it's not a crime fighting tool as much as it's a classification tool," said Arroyo, adding that gang databases often focus on the clothing that alleged gang members wear, or their associates, as opposed to credible evidence of gang ties. "It documents who you're around and what you're doing, but it's not criminal in nature," he added.

Arroyo also said he doesn't believe that the databases, which are shared solely with law enforcement, do anything to deter juveniles from being recruited into gangs.

In contrast, Hayden said the databases are useful in providing outreach to kids in need, as well as for understanding "gang intelligence."

But Hayden acknowledges that the databases "can't be overboard, can't be overreach...and need to be curtailed."

"At the end of the day, it needs to be narrowly tailored to capture people we know are involved in gang activity," said Hayden, who

added that the databases are built around gang activity and known gang interactions.

Both candidates also answered a series of rapid round, or simple 'yes' or 'no,' questions.

Although Arroyo and Hayden both said they would support cash bails, Hayden said he would support efforts to expand Gov. Baker's wiretapping policy while Arroyo said he wouldn't support expanded wiretapping in the Commonwealth.

Arroyo and Hayden both said they would support expunging cannabis offenses from criminal records, they were divided when it comes to accepting donations from law enforcement unions, with Hayden saying he would accept them and Arroyo responding with a firm 'no.'

The DA debate was followed by a virtual discussion with Sandy Zamor-Calixte, who hopes to unseat Steven Tompkins as Suffolk County Sheriff in the Sept. 6 Massachusetts State Primary. Check the next edition of this publication for coverage of this event.

Summary of Massachusetts Fireworks Law MGL Chapter 148, S. 39

What does the law prohibit?

It is illegal for private citizens to use, possess, or sell fireworks in Massachusetts, or to purchase them legally elsewhere and then transport them into the state. The law prohibits any article designed to produce a *visible* or *audible* effect.

Sale of fireworks

Penalty: Fine or imprisonment or both, and confiscation

Fine: \$100 to \$1000

Imprisonment: Maximum of 1 year

Seizure of fireworks: Mandatory

Who can arrest? Any officer qualified to serve criminal process.

Must an officer arrest? No. Statute says the officer *may* arrest without a warrant.

Must an officer seize the fireworks? Yes, the statute says the officer *shall* seize any fireworks.

Possession, use, cause to explode of fireworks

Penalty: Fine and confiscation only

Fine: \$10 to \$100

Seizure of fireworks: Mandatory

Who can seize? Any officer qualified to serve criminal process.

May an officer arrest? For possession, no. The statute only provides for a fine upon conviction and automatic confiscation of fireworks.

Must an officer seize the fireworks? Yes, the statute says the officer *shall* seize any fireworks.

Seizure

Can people get their fireworks back? No. If convicted, the fireworks are forfeited to the state.

What does an officer do with confiscated fireworks? During business hours, contact the State Police Bomb Squad at (978) 567-3310. Notify them immediately for large quantities, commercial grade, or deteriorated materials. After hours, call (508) 820-2121 and ask for the Troop Duty Officer in your area. An on-call Bomb Squad Officer will arrange for pick-up.



FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380



HAPPY FOURTH of JULY

BOSTON HARBOR FEST MARKS ITS 40TH EDITION

With events stretching from Downtown Crossing to the North End and from the Boston Common to Boston Harbor, the 40th edition of Boston Harborfest runs July 1-4, 2022 and remains the country's largest – and Boston's most expansive – Fourth of July celebration. Local and international leaders will oversee military music and pageantry during kick-off events in Downtown Crossing July 1. Harborfest highlights include a spectacular concert and fireworks display July 2 at Christopher Columbus Park, a turn-around sail of the USS Constitution in Boston Harbor and family-friendly events daily (full schedule below). Boston Harborfest ends July 4 with a 1 PM reading of an historic Frederick Douglass speech and a free ice cream social in Downtown Crossing.

“The City of Boston is known as the Cradle of Liberty for our role in the Revolution, and so it's fitting that we are home to one of the largest Fourth of July celebrations in the country,” says Mayor Michelle Wu. “Harborfest is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our journey toward independence.”

Boston Harborfest is a collaboration between the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GBCVB), the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (Downtown Boston BID) and Conventures, Inc. Partners include the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports & Entertainment, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park, as well as the Freedom Trail Foundation and many sites along it.

Events happen each day; an updated schedule can be found at bostonharborfest.com/schedule. The current schedule includes:

JULY 1

HIGHLIGHTS:

12 Noon – Harborfest Opening Ceremony with City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, city and state elected officials, the British Consul General, travel and tourism industry leaders, and presence of military

and historical groups. Includes a ceremonial cake-cutting, Colonial “living historians” and more.

ALL-DAY PROGRAMMING:

11 AM thru 6 PM – Family-friendly music, fashion and entertainment events in Downtown Crossing:

11 am-5 pm – DTX Arts and Crafts Market (Summer St. Plaza)

11:30 am-1 pm – 215th Army Band (Downtown Crossing Steps)

12 n-2 pm – Through Me To You Puppetry (near Downtown Crossing Steps)

12 n-2 pm and 4:30-6:30 pm – Downtown Boston Brass (roaming)

12 n-2 pm and 5-7pm – Mediterranean Band (roaming)

1-4 pm – Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drums (Downtown Crossing Steps)

2-4 pm – Macy's “Red White & Blue Fashion Show” (Summer St. @ Washington St.)

JULY 2

HIGHLIGHTS:

12 Noon – Chowderfest. Visitors can sample a variety of chowders from local restaurants, as a panel of judges visit each vendor and declare a chowder winner. (Summer Street Plaza, Downtown Crossing)

6-9 PM – Harborfest Pre-Fireworks Concert featuring Sweet Harmony and local talent performing Broadway standards and iconic patriotic songs, with children's activities throughout. (Christopher Columbus Park, North End)

9:15 PM – Boston Harborfest Fireworks (Inner Harbor @ Long Wharf/Columbus Park) Presented by M&T Bank, a spectacular display lights up the city sky above Boston's Inner Harbor at approximately 9:15 PM.

ALL-DAY PROGRAMMING:

11 AM-6 PM – music, auto, craft and family friendly events in Downtown Crossing including:

11 am-2 pm – Classic Car Showcase (Summer St. Plaza)

11 am-5 pm – DTX Arts and Crafts Market (Summer St. Plaza)

12-2 pm – Through Me To You Puppetry (near Downtown Crossing Steps)

Unlikely Strummers Ukulele Band (12:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Franklin Steps)

12-2 pm and 4:30-6:30 pm – Downtown Boston Brass (roaming)

12-2 pm and 5-7 pm – Mediterranean Band (roaming)

2-6 pm – Fife and Drums Showcase (Downtown Crossing Steps)

The William Diamond Junior Fife & Drum Corps (from Lexington, Mass.)

The Sudbury Ancient Fife & Drum Company (Sudbury, Mass.)

The Middlesex County 4-H Fife & Drum Corps (regional)

3-6 pm – Dancing with DJ Bruno

JULY 3

HIGHLIGHTS:

12 Noon-2 PM – Patriotic Pooch Parade (Summer St. Plaza). A beloved annual event for our four-legged loved ones with a guest panel awarding great prizes for Best in Show, Best Team, Most Creative and Most Patriotic. Registration required here to enter.

12 Noon-6 PM – Revolutionary War Re-enactors (Downtown Crossing)

ALL-DAY

PROGRAMMING:

12 Noon-7 PM – A variety of music and family friendly events in Downtown Crossing including:

12-2 pm – Through Me To You Puppetry (Downtown Crossing Steps)

12-2 pm and 4:30-6:30 pm – Downtown Boston Brass (roaming)

12-2 pm and 5-7 pm – Mediterranean Band (roaming)

1-4 pm – Middlesex County Volunteers Fife and Drums (Downtown Crossing Steps)

4-6 pm – Opera Man and Friends (Downtown Crossing Steps)

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

HIGHLIGHTS:

9 AM – City of Boston's 246th Independence Day Celebration. A short parade steps off from City

Hall Plaza and passes Granary Burying Ground, where wreaths will be laid on the graves of patriots. The parade continues through Downtown Crossing to the Old State House.

10 AM – Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company carries on its tradition of reading the Declaration of Independence from the balcony of the Old State House.

11:30 AM – USS Constitution sails through Boston Harbor (viewing shoreside and around Boston Harbor)

1:00 PM – “What to the Slave, is the Fourth of July?,” the famous speech by scholar and abolitionist Frederick Douglass gets a public reading by citizens including youth and community leaders organized by the New Democracy Coalition, with performances from gospel singers and dancers. (Downtown Crossing Steps)

1:30 PM – Ice Cream Social (Downtown Crossing Steps)

TBD – Middlesex County Volunteers Fife and Drums Concert (Washington Mall)

“We are thrilled to be a partner in this iconic festival,” says Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Harborfest brings together so many Boston neighborhoods to celebrate our rich culture, unique history, maritime heritage, and diverse offerings. We welcome visitors from our region and beyond to Boston this Fourth of July for the 40th rendition of Harborfest!”

“Downtown Crossing is at the crossroads of history and commerce in Boston, making it a perfect central hub for Harborfest activities,” says George Comeau, Marketing and Brand Activation Manager for the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District. “The daily events here are designed for both residents and visitors, and the activities on the harbor are a short walk or ride from the heart of Downtown.”

SPONSORS

Boston Harborfest sponsors include the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Boston Business

Improvement District, Conventures Inc., M&T Bank, Boston Harbor City Cruises, Amazon, Cheers Boston, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf, Hampton by Hilton and Homewood Suites by Hilton Boston Seaport District, Boston Park Plaza, Hyatt Regency Boston, Omni Hotels and Resorts at the Seaport Boston, and Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center.

Full information (schedule, directions and more) is available at bostonharborfest.com.

Conventures Inc. is New England's premier special events agency, focused on integrated event management, experiential marketing, and integrated communications. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Conventures has managed notable area events for more than four decades and has been the driving force behind the area's most memorable and high-profile public events and celebrations, including Sail Boston, First Night Boston, Boston Harborfest and more. For more information, visit us at <http://www.conventures.com/>

The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) is the primary private sector marketing and visitor services organization charged with the development of meetings, conventions and tourism-related business. Our goal is to enhance the economy of Boston, Cambridge and the metropolitan area.

The Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (BID) was created by property owners committed to achieving the district's full potential as a premier and vibrant destination. Our mission is to significantly improve the experience of all who live, work, visit, go to school or shop in the Downtown Boston BID by: providing supplemental services to keep the streets and sidewalks clean, upgrade the aesthetic appearance of the district, and make people feel welcomed and safe; promoting and fostering an energetic and thriving business climate in the area; and serving as the voice and advocate for the district.