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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Sharon Durkan (sixth from right) is seen with other elected officials and dignitaries upon her being sworn in as District 8 city councilor on Aug. 15 in the Public Garden.

Mayor Michelle Wu swears in Sharon Durkan as the new District 8 city councilor as Durkan's family members look on during an Aug. 15 ceremony in the Public Garden.



Sharon Durkan sworn in as District 8 city councilor

By Dan Murphy

Beacon Hill resident and long-time political organizer Sharon Durkan was sworn in as the new District 8 city councilor by Mayor Michelle Wu during a special ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 15, in the Public Garden.

"I'm so grateful for this moment," said Durkan. "I'm so grateful to the people of District 8. I see people all around who have supported me. It's not lost on me

that we're in the Public Garden, enjoying a public good. Enjoying something people have protected over many years and generations. I'm so proud to represent you."

Mayor Wu said Durkan, who had received endorsements from a wide range of local elected officials, including Wu herself, had achieved her goal "with a lot of wind beneath her wings" as she reached out to every corner of the district, which includes Back Bay,

Beacon Hill, Fenway, Kenmore, Mission Hill, Allston, and the West End. The Mayor noted that she saw constituents from every neighborhood in District 8 as she looked around her at the ceremony.

Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden, led the crowd in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance, while Kenzie Bok, who preceded Durkan as District 8

(DURKAN Pg. 7)

Fabled Antiques to celebrate second anniversary on Beacon Hill

Special to the Times

Fabled Antiques is thrilled to announce its second anniversary in business.

To commemorate this special milestone, Fabled Antiques is hosting a festive weekend-long celebration filled with sales, prizes, refreshments and camaraderie on Saturday, Aug. 19, and Sunday, Aug. 20. All are welcome!

Since its inception in August of 2021, Fabled Antiques has become a popular destination on Beacon Hill for those seeking antique furnishings, fine art, and unique timeless treasures from the 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-centuries. With a commitment to curating an

exceptional collection of antiques, fine art, quality decorative accessories, vintage books, ephemera, and quirky finds, Fabled Antiques has quickly established itself as a staple in the Boston antique scene.

As a token of gratitude to its patrons, neighbors and friends, Fabled Antiques is rolling out a special anniversary sale. From now through Aug. 20, customers will have the opportunity to explore the shop's antiques and vintage items at discounted prices, making it the perfect time to acquire those coveted pieces. In addition, Fabled Antiques is hosting a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 gift certifi-

(ANNIVERSARY Pg. 3)



COURTESY PHOTO

Fabled Antiques staff are eagerly preparing for the shop's second anniversary celebration Aug. 19 and 20. From left: Jill Bernhard, Peggy Glynn, Rebecca Hackler, and Wendy Laurich. (Not pictured: Greg Michalko, Natalie Cali, and Lauren Decatur.)

EDITORIAL

HOW TO HELP THE MAUI FIRE VICTIMS

The horrific and tragic disaster in the town of Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui has gripped the world this past week. The scope of this tragedy is unimaginable -- photos of the scene look like something from after the atomic bombs were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But as we all know, it won't be long before this story slips off the national radar screen. However, the rebuilding of this historic community and the lives of its residents, both physically and emotionally, will take years.

There are many ways to help the victims of this disaster and we have listed some of those below that are among the most prominent:

-- The Maui Strong Fund, run by the Hawaii Community Foundation, is accepting donations for necessities like food, clothing, and shelter for families who have lost their homes.

-- The American Red Cross of Hawaii has 220 trained responders on the ground in Maui helping with search and rescue operations. Donations to the Red Cross are also providing shelter, food, and emotional support. You can donate to the Red Cross by calling 1-800-HELP NOW (1-800-435-7669).

-- Aloha United Way, a non-profit organization based in Honolulu, has set up a dedicated fund for victims of the Maui wildfire.

-- The Maui Food Bank is accepting donations that will pay for meals provided to displaced residents in Maui.

-- The Maui Humane Society is seeking contributions to fund care for pets displaced by the wildfire.

We urge all of our readers who are able to do so to make some small contribution to help the victims of this horrific natural disaster.

CLARENCE THOMAS: THE SUPREME COURT FOR SALE

With each new revelation about the extent to which Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has accepted extravagant gifts from assorted billionaires, it has become increasingly clear that Thomas has used his office as a ticket to live the lifestyle of the rich and famous.

The news that Thomas received an all expenses-paid, \$500,000 (that's not a typo) luxury vacation from a Texas billionaire (who also paid for his godson's private school education and bought Thomas's mother's house in Georgia, fully-renovated it, and has allowed her to live there reportedly rent-free) appears to have been just the tip of the iceberg.

Two weeks ago there was the report that another billionaire bought Thomas as a \$250,000 motorhome.

Then last week, the on-line investigative journalism publication ProPublica reported that Thomas regularly has received numerous other gifts from assorted other billionaires:

"At least 38 destination vacations, including a previously unreported voyage on a yacht around the Bahamas; 26 private jet flights, plus an additional eight by helicopter; a dozen VIP passes to professional and college sporting events, typically perched in the skybox; two stays at luxury resorts in Florida and Jamaica; and one standing invitation to an uber-exclusive golf club overlooking the Atlantic coast."

Thomas's defenders point out that none of his benefactors ever had cases before him, and therefore his acceptance of these gifts did not involve a conflict of interest. That may be true.

But here's the thing: Even though these billionaires may not themselves directly have had matters before Thomas, he has sided with many decisions that either have upheld their ideological philosophies or that may have benefited their interests indirectly, such as court decisions that have struck down government regulations.

Perhaps the most significant of these was the infamous Citizens United decision (in which Thomas was a deciding vote in the 5-4 majority) in which the Supreme Court struck down the laws that limited political donations by corporations. Thanks to that decision, we have seen the rise of political action committees -- known as PACS -- by which corporations and billionaires can spend unlimited funds on campaign advertising so long as they are not formally "coordinating" with a candidate or political party. The ruling has ushered in massive increases in political spending from outside groups, dramatically expanding the already outsized political influence of wealthy donors.

Clarence Thomas long has been viewed as the most incompetent and least-qualified judge ever to sit on the Supreme Court. But now, he also is by far the most corrupt.

GUEST OP-ED

Maui, devastation can happen anywhere

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Maui has long been the go-to destination for millions to experience paradise. Life has changed.

Maui is now the site of the deadliest fire in modern U.S. history. At this writing, over 90 persons are been reported dead. The lovely town of Lahaina is nothing but charred remains and embers.

The news reports of people fleeing for their lives via any means of escape possible is horrific. People who were trying to escape in automobiles have been found unrecognizable except through eventual DNA testing. The entire island is now a humanitarian crisis. Medical supplies, food, and shelter are at crisis levels.

Like you, I've watched it from my television. Maui is a tragic global news story that no one wants to hear. Maui's story reminds us that devastation can happen anywhere. It was a hurricane that swept away Ft. Myers Beach last year. A Tornado and flood destroyed parts of Kentucky. Or, it may be the fires that have destroyed so much in Cali-

fornia. Maui reminds us that no paradise is untouchable.

You might feel safe and isolated in Appalachia. You may feel very comfortable in some remote Western terrain. You may live in a comfortable suburb or city surrounded by all types of Emergency Responders; you may be living in a tropical paradise. There are no guarantees that your community is insulated from disaster.

When a tornado, hurricane, or flood cripples a community there is nothing to do except pick up the pieces and try to start over. Likewise, Maui has no other choice but it will take years. There is no overnight recuperation for disaster.

There will be ongoing questions about Maui's emergency response abilities. What kind of fire department did Lahaina have? How often had they drilled and prepared for the possibility of a widespread fire? Was it even something that the island thought possible? As the smoke settles, these questions and more will be asked.

If you are reading this in the comfort and safety of your home

or apartment then consider this; value what you have when you have it. We all take the present for granted. We take our towns, schools, stores, jobs, incomes, residences, food, health, and each other for granted. We look back to the past and cherish a town that used to be. We cherish a parent or friend who used to be with us. We value and cherish old jobs and past experiences. It's good to cherish the past. However, why not look around you today and value what and who you have -- today.

In the meantime, we certainly pray for the hurting people of Maui. Most Americans will do what they can to be helpful and supportive. We always do. That's one of many reasons our country is so great and blessed.

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.

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Boston Transportation Department officials outline planned projects at South End Forum

By Dan Murphy

Boston Transportation Department (BTD) officials were on hand for a virtual South End Forum meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 9, to discuss several transportation projects planned for around the area, including the proposed Berkeley Street bike lane, along with the Tremont Street and Columbus Avenue projects, respectively.

Stefanie Seskin, a BTD transportation planner, outlined the city's plan to add a separated bike lane on Berkeley Street between Tremont and Beacon streets, which would connect to a new two-way bike lane on Beacon Street to bring bicyclists to the Esplanade and the Charles River via the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge. About 34 parking spaces will be removed from Berkeley Street to accommodate the proposed bike lane, city officials previously said, but the BTD will also be changing just over 100 metered parking to resident parking, with another approximately 60 existing meter spaces to be converted to resident-only spaces after 6 p.m., resulting in a net positive increase in parking for Back Bay residents.

Regarding the city's decision to pursue the installation of a bike lane on Berkeley Street rather than elsewhere, Seskin cited the long history of serious crashes on Berkeley Street while pointing out that Dartmouth Street, which has been suggested by some as an alternate location for the bike lane, is narrower than Berkeley Street and only has parking on one side of the street.

The site of the proposed Berkeley Street bike lane can be viewed in three sections, includ-

ing between Beacon and Boylston streets, where there's room for a bike lane while keeping with the same number of general lanes by removing parking on one side of the street; north of Columbus Avenue, where all existing general traffic lanes will be retained; and south of Columbus Avenue, where a bike lane could be added while making crosswalks safer and still accommodate traffic in two remaining lanes, said Seskin.

In implementing the project, signals will be retimed to allow pedestrians more time to traverse crosswalks on Berkeley Street, she said, while turn lanes would be added at busy cross-streets to keep people moving at intersections, including northbound to and from Columbus Avenue; northbound onto St. James Street; and right onto Boylston Street.

Park regulations will also be updated to include 15-minute parking areas at high-turnover locations in response to double-parking, added Seskin.

Also, a left-turn-only bus lane would be created on the block between Stuart and St. James streets - the stretch where riders have experienced the longest delays, she said.

A new left-turn lane would be introduced going from Columbus Avenue northbound to Boylston Street, said Seskin, although four metered parking spaces on Columbus Avenue near the parking lot would need to be eliminated to achieve this goal.

Separated bike lanes would be added between Clarendon and Arlington streets on the same stretch where pop-up bike lanes have been located over the past few years and in a nearly identical

layout to them, added Seskin.

"We are trying to wrap this up because Public Works is finally planning to repave the stretch of Berkeley Street from Tremont Street to the [Fiedler Footbridge], so it would be great to implement something at the same time," she said.

Seskin added that Tremont Street project would be concluding before or around the same time as the repaving of Berkeley Street, although she wasn't entirely sure of the scheduling because the projects involved two different contractors.

Regarding the Tremont Street project, Seskin said the contractor is continuing to work through detailed work at intersections and also to address underground utility issues.

Traffic-signal timing will be readjusted intersection by intersection, she said, while the overlaying process is expected to take several weeks to complete.

"We can't commit to anything earlier than November, but we're optimistic about the project," added Seskin.

The 100-percent design package is expected to wrap up soon, she said, while the project is expected to go out to bid before the end of the year. Construction would then likely begin next summer, she said.

"It's not a big project - it's a few blocks," added Seskin. "It's not a multi-season project."

In another matter, the city launched its multi-phase Connect Boston project in the fall of 2019, with Columbus Avenue identified as one of the "focus corridors," said Louisa Gag, a BTD transportation planner.

Columbus Avenue varies in

width between Massachusetts Avenue and Arlington Street from 52 to 64 feet, said Gag, while bike lanes range from 4-5 feet wide to non-existent, and the median spans from 5 to 7 feet wide. The street is narrower where there are curb extensions, she added.

As part of the planned Columbus Avenue project, 72 non-compliant ramps will be redesigned to meet accessibility needs, and the street will be resurfaced, said Gag, but the city has made no further decisions about work on Columbus Avenue between Massachusetts Avenue and Clarendon Street.

The BTD is now comparing the results of its June 2023 parking study to findings from its 2019 parking study, she said, and will also collect updated traffic counts this fall. BTD officials will also continue to engage the community on design options, including raised sidewalks on side streets; signal changes; and changes to curb regulations.

Design options are expected to be unveiled later this year, added Gag.

Moreover, Seskin said Columbus Avenue wouldn't be resurfaced until the end of the next construction season, with next summer being the earliest the project would commence.

"We will not resurface Columbus until we have accessible ramp designs for every intersection," added Seskin. "We're trying to be really intentional about it - it's just taking a lot of time. The reality is we have to rebuild a lot of ramps in the city, and that takes a lot of time."

Steve Fox, chair of South End Forum, expressed deep concern regarding this proposed timeframe.

"We need to find a workaround to the timeframe that has been established," he said. "We cannot watch another year of deterioration on Columbus Avenue, and we

need to put our heads together to figure out what we can do."

Seskin responded that since the repaving relies on federal funds, the timeline for this work can't be accelerated.

Additionally, Fox suggested that the city not move ahead with the redesign of Columbus Avenue until after it has had ample time to evaluate Tremont Street "in a workable fashion."

Fox also requested that the city schedule a community meeting focusing just on the Columbus Avenue project "to share data and opinions"; Gag replied she'd be happy to return to speak to the group again on this topic.

Rep. John Moran asked who the stakeholders for this project are and if businesses have been actively engaged in the process; Gag replied that the city had engaged key groups in "targeted outreach" and also went door to door to notify businesses of the project - something that's planned again for the fall.

Meanwhile, the BTD is also proposing the installation of a separated bike lane on Albany Street between Northampton Street and Union Park, along with new crosswalks, where desired, as well as changing curb regulations, where desired, said Gag, who added this project is still in the early stages and hasn't reached the design phase yet.

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the city's Chief of Streets, was also on hand for the virtual meeting and offered opening remarks.

"Every day, we're working to maintain the infrastructure that we have to provide the core city street services that people rely on, like street sweeping and parking enforcement to trash collection," he said in part. "At the same time, we're charged with doing work that transforms our streets, that makes them safer, that makes them more multi-modal."

ANNIVERSARY (from pg. 1)

icate. Everyone who stops by the shop is welcome to enter the drawing, to be held on Aug. 31. The anniversary weekend festivities continue with refreshments and sweet treats.

Fabled Antiques' proprietor, Rebecca Connolly Hackler, has spent more than two decades as an integral part of her family's flagship antique business, New Hampshire Antique Co-op in Milford, N.H. Fabled Antiques and New Hampshire Antique Co-op combined now create an opportunity for both a large destination shop in the country as well as a boutique-style storefront in a historic city setting. Rebecca Connolly Hackler also has roots on Charles Street as an antique dealer in the 1990s, and is pleased to have returned to Beacon Hill.

The path to this anniversary has not been without its hurdles. Last year, Fabled Antiques had to close its doors for a seven-month hiatus due to a fire upstairs in the building that houses the shop. Despite this setback, Fabled Antiques' owner Rebecca Connolly Hackler was resolute in her commitment to reopen, and she continued to source exquisite items during the hiatus, ensuring that the shop's inventory would be as ever remarkable upon its revival. After months of determination, Fabled Antiques made its highly anticipated return in November 2022. With a refreshed space and a curated collection, Fabled Antiques welcomed back patrons old and new, as well as neighbors and friends.

"In the last two years, Fabled Antiques has grown from a vision

into a thriving reality," said Rebecca Connolly Hackler. "This anniversary is not just a celebration of our journey but also a tribute to the rich history of antiques on Charles Street. We invite everyone to join us in marking this milestone, and discovering the wonderment of not only Fabled Antiques, but also the other antique shops on Charles Street that have made this street a sought-after antiques destination for more than 100 years."

The anniversary events will take place from Aug. 19 to Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Fabled Antiques is located at 93 Charles St. For more information about Fabled Antiques, please follow @fabledantiques on Facebook and Instagram, or call the shop at 617-936-3008.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMMING CONTINUES AT MYRTLE STREET PLAYGROUND

Friends of Myrtle Street Playground will continue its summer programming season on Thursdays starting at 4 p.m., including Bubbles McGee on Aug. 17; and Color Me Funky face painting on Aug. 24.

Visit myrtlestreetplayground.org for more information on the Friends of the Myrtle Street Playground.

PICKLE BALL GROUP LESSONS OFFERED ON THE COMMON

Pickle ball group lessons are offered every Friday and Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. at the pickle ball/ (tennis) court on the Boston Common.

Register and pay in person \$24 per session, or \$80 for four sessions.

Call 585-448-2005 or email vevsky.jivkova@gmail.com for more information.

'LINCOLN AND BOOTH: LIVE MUSIC PLAYED TO FILM' AUG. 25

The West End Museum presents an unforgettable theatrical experience when members of the New England Film Orchestra combine the magic of film with the power of music as they perform live music in-sync to two films highlighting the lives of Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth on Friday, Aug. 25, from 7:30-9 p.m. at The Hub on Causeway community room at 52 Causeway St. (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

The first film is an early silent short by Thomas Edison from 1915 entitled, "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," which spans the famous president's life from his marriage to his assassination by

Booth. The second, "The Man in the Barn," is a speculative docudrama from 1937 that asks if John Wilkes Booth didn't die by gunshot while trapped in a burning barn just days after Lincoln's assassination, but rather escaped to live another 38 years.

Odie Henderson, Boston Globe Film Critic and author of 'Black Caesars and Foxy Cleopatras: A History of Blaxploitation Cinema' (out in January 2024), will join us to provide his insights on the films.

Seating is limited. Tickets are available for \$15 each at crescendoproductions.com.

WARD 5 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPT. 5

The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee will hold its 2024 Republican U.S. Presidential Primary meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 6-8 p.m. at the Boston Park Plaza.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

CALL FOR WALKERS: REGISTER FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct.

1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: a 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); a 10K walk (from Newton); a Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and a Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

'JAZZ ALONG THE CHARLES' SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Celebrity Series of Boston opens its 2023/24 performance season with the return of "Jazz Along the Charles" - a free jazz event open to all, featuring more than 100 musicians in 25 local jazz ensembles, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. along the Esplanade (rain or shine). Lead sponsors for the event are the Esplanade Association and the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation.

Performances will be staged in a 1.5 mile loop from Community Boating Inc. along the Dr. Paul Dudley White Shared Use Path to the Esplanade paths around the Storrow Lagoon, past Fiedler Field and back along the Charles River.

Visit www.celebrityseries.org/jatc for more information.

Boston Centers for Youth & Families to host two lifeguard hiring events

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is hosting two free lifeguard hiring events on Wednesday, August 23, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Monday, August 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BCYF Mason Pool in Roxbury. Any Boston residents with valid lifeguard certification who are interested in working as a lifeguard at a BCYF pool are invited to attend one of the events.

The lifeguard hiring events will combine all the necessary steps to become a lifeguard for a City of Boston pool in one location. These include a swim evaluation, skill evaluation, interview, and paperwork processing. Full-time and part-time positions are available as well as Head Lifeguard positions.

BCYF lifeguard positions start at \$22/hour and all lifeguards, even those who work part-time hours, are eligible for all the benefits available to City of Boston employees, including generous health, dental and retirement benefits as well as paid vacation. With pools located in almost every neighborhood of Boston, working at a BCYF pool is a great way to serve your community.

Interested candidates must be at least 18 years old and should bring the following: at least two references, contact information we can follow up on, a state ID or license, and American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification. Proof of Boston residency will be required later in the application process. We recommend signing up at this link: bit.ly/BCYFLifeguardHiringEvent.

However walk-ins are welcome. If you are interested and can't stop by, more information about lifeguarding at BCYF as well as the link to apply can be found at Boston.gov/BCYF-Aquatics.

BCYF Mason Pool is located at 159 Norfolk Ave in Roxbury. Parking is available next to the pool or on nearby streets or it's a short walk up Proctor Street from any of the buses that serve Massachusetts Avenue.

The City of Boston is working across departments to renovate several city-owned pools following years of disinvestment. Over the last 3 months, the City has reopened the BCYF Paris Street Pool in East Boston and the BCYF Hennigan Pool in Jamaica Plain. The BCYF Paris Street Pool reopening was the result of a \$10.2 million investment. More pools will be reopened in the coming months and this hiring event is seeking lifeguards to help staff them and other BCYF pools.

Lifeguard recruitment and pool renovations are part of Mayor Wu's Swim Safe initiative, a commitment to support Boston residents' safety around water.

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is the City of Boston's largest youth and human service agency. BCYF operates 35 community centers in Boston that offer a variety of engaging and enriching programs for people of all ages created through community input and need. BCYF also oversees many citywide programs.

OBITUARIES

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BWSC announces free lead pipe replacement for Boston property owners

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) announced that it now offers private lead service lines replacement at no cost to property owners, a move that is expected to accelerate BWSC's intensive efforts to make Boston lead pipe free. Funding from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will defray the costs of the initiative and enable Boston to replace remaining private lead service lines for free.

"Some ratepayers had rightly been concerned about their share of lead replacement costs, but all financial barriers have now been

eliminated," stated BWSC Executive Director Henry

F. Vitale. "Property owners with lead service lines should call BWSC and schedule to have these lines removed and replaced."

With its existing Lead Service Replacement Incentive program, BWSC has long been a national leader in private lead service line replacement and has removed thousands over the last three decades. Most recently, BWSC offered private property owners grants up to \$4,000 for lead service pipe removal, an amount that often covers the entire job or

leaves a balance that can be repaid interest free. For various reasons some owners were left with larger remaining costs to remove their lead service pipes, especially those whose properties are set back from the street, a situation that increases lead pipe replacement costs. Now, Boston property owners who would like to take advantage of this no-cost program are urged to call the BWSC Lead Hotline for assistance at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's Lead Service Map at:

<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead->

service-map

to look up information the Commission may have on the status of their property.

At the source of supply, Boston's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's nor BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead. Lead can enter the drinking water when water remains standing in a lead service line for long periods of time. Also, lead

solder used in plumbing, and

older brass fixtures can contribute to lead in drinking water.

Replacement of private lead service lines is an important public health issue because excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to participate in the new No Cost Lead Replacement Incentive Program, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline (617) 989-7888.

Healey-Driscoll administration announces equitable expansion of electric vehicle rebate program

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced substantial changes to the Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles Program (MOR-EV Program), which provides rebates for the purchase or lease of light-, medium-, and heavy-duty battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles (EVs). These changes aim to support greater adoption of EVs in Massachusetts, including new rebate programs for income-qualifying Massachusetts residents.

"This significant expansion of the MOR-EV Program will make electric vehicles more affordable and accessible for residents of all income levels," said Governor Maura Healey. "Residents will now be able to get their rebates the day they buy their car, instead of waiting for the funds to come in. And income-eligible folks will now be able to get additional rebates, including for used vehicles. This is a great development in our efforts toward an equitable clean energy transition."

"Our administration is committed to reducing transportation emissions, and these important changes to MOR-EV will help provide cleaner air in our commu-

nities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Far more residents will now be eligible for rebates, and we look forward to seeing the number of electric vehicles on the road across Massachusetts grow exponentially in the coming years."

In addition to the existing \$3,500 rebates for EVs, the new MOR-EV program elements include:

- The launch of rebates at the point-of-sale with participating dealers;
- \$3500 rebate for used EVs for income-qualifying residents;
- \$1,500 rebate adder for income-qualifying residents called MOR-EV+ that is in addition to the standard rebate for new or used electric vehicles; and
- Increased rebates for certain light-duty pickup trucks.

The MOR-EV+ and MOR-EV Used rebates are retroactive to November 10, 2022 for any income-qualifying residents who purchased new or used EVs on or after that date.

"Reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector is critical to meeting our climate goals, and we are excited that our expanded MOR-EV program will provide greater access to electric vehicles for more Massachusetts drivers," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "MOR-EV is forward-looking and brings Massachusetts one step closer to phasing out expensive, volatile fossil fuels and transportation pollution that disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities."

"In Massachusetts, transportation accounts for 42% of our emissions, and we know that environmental justice communities often bear the brunt of pollution while challenged to participate in clean energy and transportation programs," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony. "The updated MOR-EV more equitably serves a greater number of residents to offset the cost of buying an electric vehicle."

Additional details about the rebates are available at <https://mor-ev.org>.

Culturally Competent Outreach Through the MOR-EV program administrator, the Center for Sustainable Energy, the Commonwealth has initiated a culturally competent outreach program to more effectively reach Environmental Justice communities, income-qualifying residents, and limited English proficiency residents with targeted information about available electric vehicle rebates. The MOR-EV website includes translation capabilities, with the option to translate into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

Background on MOR-EV

Launched in 2014, the Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) program is an education and rebate program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and administered by the Center for Sustainable Energy. The program aims to increase the

number of zero emissions vehicles on roadways and reduce Massachusetts transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions. As of July 1, 2023, MOR-EV rebates are for battery electric and fuel cell electric vehicles only.

Since June 2014, the MOR-EV Program has issued nearly \$72 million in rebates for passenger vehicles, incentivizing the purchase of more than 32,000 electric vehicles as of the end of June 2023.

For additional information regarding MOR-EV, including current program eligibility details, please visit the program's website. Additional details regarding rebates for electric vehicles greater than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) can be found by visiting the MOR-EV Medium- and Heavy-Duty Program website.

Funding for the MOR-EV Program is available from the Electric Vehicle Adoption Incentive Trust Fund and through proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.



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Wu announces grants for energy assessments in affordable housing buildings

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) announced the launch of a grant program aimed at supporting deep green energy retrofits (GERs) and decarbonization efforts in existing affordable housing buildings. Mayor Wu initially announced her intention to launch this program in March. The City now has established funding for energy assessments for income-restricted residential buildings, which is the first step in facilitating significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions. This initiative, supported through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, aligns with the City of Boston's commitment to the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), which sets requirements for large buildings to reduce their greenhouse

gas emissions gradually to net zero by 2050. Through this grant program, the City is seeking to further the Mayor's Green New Deal by creating cleaner affordable housing units to enhance the climate, livability and justice of Boston's communities.

"Creating clean homes and improving the health of our communities must be at the center of our climate action," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Mayor's Office of Housing for their leadership in our Green New Deal efforts to make Boston's buildings greener and more energy efficient."

"By supporting comprehensive energy assessments, we are empowering building owners to make informed decisions and take meaningful steps towards a sustainable and healthier future,"

said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "This program aligns with our commitment to BERDO and reinforces our dedication to equity, affordability, and environmental stewardship. We are excited to partner with building owners and continue our efforts to create a more sustainable and healthy Boston."

As part of the support for deep energy retrofits and decarbonization efforts, building owners of affordable housing now have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. These funds will be allocated towards comprehensive energy assessments, which will enable building owners to evaluate the current performance of their buildings and develop strategies to achieve substantial energy savings and carbon emission reductions. This initiative will also allow the City to gain more insight into the specific measures that can be taken to significantly reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions in affordable housing.

By completing these comprehensive energy assessments, building owners will not only contribute to a greener environment but also enhance the safety, comfort, and sustainability for residents. Moreover, these assessments can serve as a roadmap offering building-specific strategies to comply with BERDO while providing building owners with valuable guidance. Building owners who complete the assessments will be well-positioned to apply for additional funding from MOH and other sources to implement the identified GER measures.

"We firmly believe that the residents of affordable housing in Boston should be the first to experience the transformative benefits of the Green New Deal," said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "This means providing them with cleaner and more comfortable buildings year-round.

Our commitment to this program showcases our strategic utilization of ARPA funding to make targeted investments that enhance quality of life and promote equity. As we move forward, we will persist in our efforts to secure Federal climate funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, leveraging our early successes with ARPA funds. Together, we will continue to build a sustainable future that leaves no one behind."

The City anticipates that the comprehensive energy assessments can be scoped, completed, and with funds disbursed within 3-6 months of the grant award. After a thorough evaluation process, including eligibility confirmation under ARPA guidelines and suitability assessment, MOH received a total of 20 applications representing 56 buildings and 2,078 units across the city. After review, the Office of Housing will be awarding grants to all 20 applicants. The exact amount of funds to be disbursed will be determined based on the approved scopes of work. The Office of Housing will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis. To apply, please visit this link.

"With the Mayor's Office of Housing's support, 2Life Communities can begin to comprehensively plan for the future of Leventhal House, a 254-apartment building that has served hundreds of residents for more than 50 years," said Lizbeth Heyer, 2Life Communities' Vice President and Acting CEO. "These funds will allow our organization to explore greater energy efficiency and resiliency, a reduced environmental impact, and, most importantly, enhanced comfort for our residents at Leventhal House for years to come."

It is important to note that while not all the buildings represented are 100 percent affordable, MOH's grant funds will be

proportionally allocated to each comprehensive energy assessment based on the number of eligible affordable units (affordable to households at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income).

The City is embedding the Green New Deal throughout City initiatives, making healthier and cleaner communities for all of our residents. In July, Mayor Wu signed an Executive Order (EO) Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New Construction and Major Renovations of City Buildings. While the EO exempts projects already in procurement, design, or construction, it requires all new municipal buildings and major renovations to operate without fossil fuel usage.

Additionally, previously in March, Mayor Wu launched the Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program—an initiative under the Mayor's Office of Housing supported by \$10 million in ARPA funding. Today's announcement is an update to this programming, granting \$10,000 for technical assistance grants that help building owners plan toward achieving BERDO compliance and deep energy retrofits of their buildings. The City intends to provide additional funding when the assessments are complete. These green energy retrofitting measures include installation of energy-efficient lighting and appliances, installation of solar panels, and more. The City announced its intention to expand on these initiatives with a retrofit program for smaller residential buildings and a program specific to retrofitting the Boston Housing Authority. These programs that will mitigate carbon emissions from the building sector and improve housing affordability reinforce the Mayor's commitment to a Green New Deal approach to working toward environmental and economic justice in Boston.

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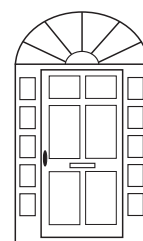
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DURKAN (from pg. 1)

city councilor and now serves as administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, read scripture and offered a prayer attributed to St. Francis for the occasion.

“It’s such a weight off my shoulders that my successor, Sharon, cares about District 8 as much as I do. I’m so excited about her lead-

ership on the council,” Bok told this reporter.

Looking ahead to representing the people of District 8, Durkan said, “This moment is an important moment for this city. We’re deciding if will have a livable future and a sustainable climate, if we will be able to live here, and

stay here. And whether our grandkids can imagine a future in Boston. That’s why I put my name on the ballot, and that’s why I’m here to serve you District 8.”

Durkan added, “These issues are really hard, they seem large and intractable. But when you look around this group of people, it feels like it’s possible. Every per-

son here has a history of caring for Boston, and they’re who I’m taking with me.”



Mayor Michelle Wu speaks as Sharon Durkan looks on.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Former District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok speaks as her successor, Sharon Durkan, looks on.

**BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY CORNER**

Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

The Young Friends Shindig – has been RESCHEDULED to Friday, November 10th, 7-10pm; UMass Club.

Join other Young Friends members for a night of cocktails, bites, and dancing the night away, with a spectacular view of the city skyline from the elegant UMass Club! All tickets include one complimentary drink at the cash bar. Non-Members welcome and creative black-tie attire is encouraged! Tickets purchased for the August date will be honored for November.

Tickets will be available at www.bhcivic.org.

Zoning & Licensing - Wednesday, September 6th, 6pm via zoom (note new time)

Board of Directors – Monday, September 11th, 7pm, 74 Joy Street

BHCA Fall HillFest - Sunday, September 24th, 12-4pm; Mt. Vernon Street

Founders Reception - Thursday, October 5th, 6-8pm; Harvard Musical Association (for Founders Circle members only)

Let the Children Sing: A Tribute to Susan Paul (in collabora-

tion with the Museum of African American History) - Sunday, October 15th, 3-5pm; MAAH

Garlands & Greens - Wednesday, November 15th, 6pm, Hampshire House

Holiday Decorating – Saturday/Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd

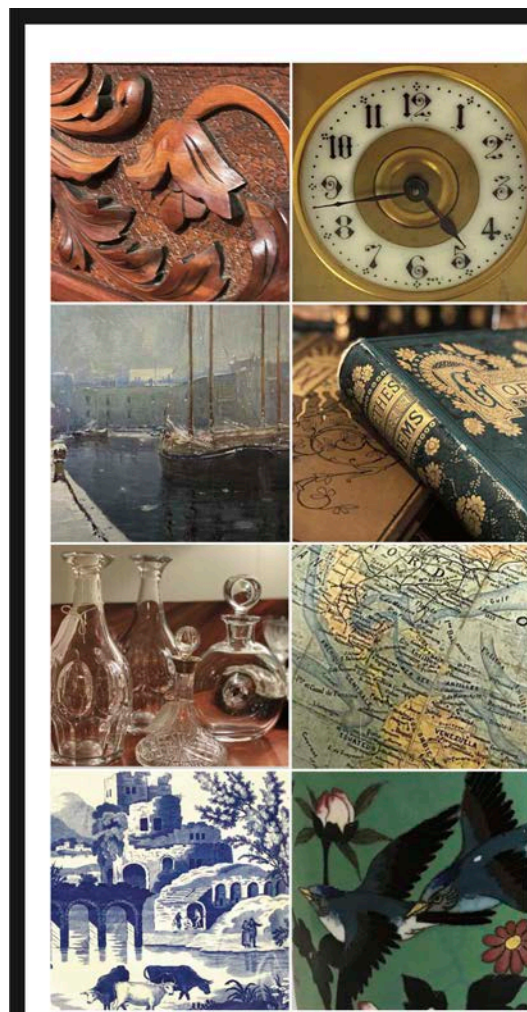
Contact the BHCA at info@bhcivic.org for details on any of these activities.

Upcoming In-person meetings on Charles Street

Meet the City’s Active Transportation Team in-person on Charles Street on the following days with dates added through October:

- Monthly on Wednesday evenings at the Charles Street Meeting House:
 - 9/6 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 - 10/11 from 4:30-6pm due to earlier sunset
- Monthly on Tuesday mornings at the intersection of Charles and Cambridge Streets:
 - 9/19 and 10/17 from 7:45 - 9:15 a.m.

In the case of inclement weather, including a heat emergency, these hours will be cancelled. To learn more, visit boston.gov/connect-downtown.



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Cooking with restraint

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There's been a flavorful bonus from the move to eat healthier, sustainable food. Changing from ultra-processed foods to simple whole foods, you learn to enjoy nature's unique flavors. This leads to a more restrained approach to making and presenting food. This time of year, we can make a lunch of sweetcorn and tomatoes with very little added to these summer superstars. A bit of olive oil or butter and a sprinkle of salt is all we need.

Real Food, Fewer Ingredients

To quote Jamie Oliver, "Real food doesn't have ingredients; real food is ingredients." Oliver has been one of the leaders in cooking with restraint. His cookbooks like, "5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food" and "5 Ingredients Mediterranean: Simple Incredible Food" celebrate using fewer ingredients in more straightforward ways and enjoying the full flavors of the best food you can find.

The "Five Ingredient Rule" has recently become a trendy food and diet theme. In some cases, creators of simplified recipes will allow a few basic additions like a fat, an acid, salt, and pepper. This rule is also a good guideline if you buy prepared foods. If the ingredient list is long and contains chemicals

and additives, look for a better choice.

Some find that eating more 5-ingredient meals helps with weight control. It makes sense since we know that ultra-processed and junk foods are significant factors in the obesity epidemic.

Craveable Food!

We love reading menus where the chef has used few ingredients, and we can imagine how something will taste. A recent example is the crab toast at Little Whale on Newbury Street in Boston. It's avocado toast with a generous portion of crab, a sprinkle of Aleppo pepper, and fresh dill. Penny confirmed that it did not have an unwelcome dose of mayonnaise that many chefs add to many recipes. It didn't and has become a dish we crave and enjoy often.

Fewer ingredients mean you have less chance of including something your diners can't have or don't like. Buying fewer, high-quality ingredients means less food waste. When you pay a premium for the best, you tend to buy exactly as much as you need and use it immediately.

Seasonality

Another way to show restraint in cooking is to take advantage of seasonal foods. When you shop at a farmers market and take home



This crab toast is a perfect example of using the best you can buy and knowing when to stop adding ingredients to a dish.

fresh foods from the field, pasture, or ocean, they have more flavor and nutrition. Limiting what you add to the dish can let the fresh taste shine.

In spring, we often have a big plate of asparagus roasted with olive oil, salt, pepper, and a squeeze of lemon. In the fall, we roast sheet pans of root vegetables and squash with the same preparation. These become the center of our plates, with a few slices of leftover turkey

or a piece of fish on the side.

When we buy fish at the market, we cook it simply. Scallops sautéed in butter with seasoning and lemon are a perfect plate of food. Penny will top a piece of salmon with ginger, scallion, soy sauce, and sesame oil and roast it in foil packets for a restaurant-quality dinner.

There are instances when a cook has the time and wants to spend an afternoon creating a complex

curry or multi-sauced lasagna. However, for everyday meals that are healthy and delicious, we recommend editing the ingredients and letting natural flavors step into the spotlight.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

Steps to enhance home safety ahead of a wildfire event

The state of Hawaii has been devastated by extensive wildfire activity that has scorched thousands of acres and destroyed nearly 300 structures in Maui County, forcing thousands to seek emergency shelter, injuring dozens, and killing at least 36 people in the historic town of Lahaina, according to news reports.

The relentless tally of losses makes it increasingly clear that the U.S. is facing a deep wildfire problem. Today there are nearly 45 million homes in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). According to the National Interagency Fire Center, some 71.8 million properties in the U.S. are at some level of risk from wildfire. Each year some of the largest-loss fires occur in the WUI.

In the past five years, wildfires have destroyed nearly 63,000 structures in the U.S., the majority of which were homes. Record high temperatures, crippling drought,

and high winds from severe weather events such as thunder and lightning storms have been blamed for the recent increase in wildfire activity in Canada, Europe, and in high-risk areas across the U.S. Officials predict more wildfires will erupt in the coming months due to continued dry heat and increased storm activity, prompting residents to look for information on what they can do to reduce their risk before a wildfire.

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has many resources for reporters to assist their coverage of wildfire events, including valuable information for the public and community leaders working to help reduce the risk of losing homes and communities to wildfire damage.

As media outlets continue to cover wildfire activity and its related issues, NFPA resources that may support your news coverage

include:

Expert interviews regarding wildfire safety preparedness, community activities, firefighting, and statistical data:

- Michele Steinberg, Wildfire Division Director at NFPA, oversees national policy, development regulations, and community safety, and supports wildfire-related projects that cover a broad spectrum of safety education, advocacy, training, and certification.

- Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan is a program specialist, responsible for the management of the Firewise USA® recognition program.

- Curt Floyd, NFPA senior specialist, technical lead, Engineering Technical Services, oversees NFPA standards that address the needs of the fire service and emergency responders.

- Birgitte Messerschmidt is the director of the NFPA Applied Research Group, responsible for

NFPA's research strategy, research on fire problems and other safety issues, data collection efforts, and the NFPA research library.

Subject matter expertise:

- Steps residents can take to enhance home safety ahead of a wildfire event.

- How wildfire spreads and why we must adapt to living with wildfire.

- Simple, but effective steps people can take to reduce the chances of wildfire damage to homes and property.

- Information about the Firewise USA® recognition program that empowers residents to work collaboratively in reducing wildfire risks.

- Information about Outthink Wildfire™, a comprehensive strategy that lays out five key policy changes that need to be made at the federal, state, and local levels and if followed, will end the

destruction of communities by wildfire over the next 30 years.

- Facts every resident should know about protecting themselves and lowering their risk of property loss from wildfire.

Additional information, resources, and articles:

- Prepare Your Home for Wildfire Fact Sheet

- Home Ignition Zone Checklist

- Wildfire Preparedness Tips

- NFPA/IBHS Wildfire Research Fact Sheet Series

- Blog: Clearing the Five-Foot Zone Around Your Home is Critical to Safety from Wildfires

- NFPA Journal, May 2023 Wildfire Column: Inflection Point

For additional resources and information, and to learn more about how to keep families safe and reduce homeowners' risk for wildfire damage, please visit NFPA's wildfire division webpage.

Department of Public Health launches statewide survey to improve community health

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is offering Commonwealth residents an opportunity to shape the future health of their communities through a statewide survey aimed at collecting input on the challenges their communities face and where resources should be directed.

DPH's Community Health Equity Initiative will use the survey findings to build on the state's efforts to provide access to social and economic opportunities that keep people healthy, like affordable housing, reliable transportation, and nutritious, affordable food.

The 2023 Community Health Equity Survey was co-designed with residents and community partners across the state and examines the root causes of health

outcomes to identify community strengths, gaps, health needs, concerns, inequities, and unintended consequences related to public health crises.

"To improve the health of people in Massachusetts, we need to hear from everyone, including the communities and individuals who have been too long denied an equal chance at health," said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. "We know Black and Brown communities have historically faced barriers to health, as have those who are disabled and many who were not born in this country. These communities have traditionally been left out of the conversation. It is especially important for their voices and experiences to be heard."

DPH will use the survey results to improve its programs, make

decisions about funding and resources, and support policies to improve health inequities. Survey results will be made available to the public and community-based organizations so they can use the findings to better serve community needs.

Residents will be asked to answer questions on topics such as:

- Access to basic needs, like health care and transportation
- Physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Experiences with COVID-19
- Experiences with housing, education, and work
- Demographic information, such as age, gender, and race.

The Community Health Equity Survey is anonymous, does not ask for identifying information such as immigration status, and cannot be

connected back to residents in any way.

DPH wants to hear from a broad range of Commonwealth residents, including people and communities often disproportionately affected by health emergencies. Surveys are especially needed from people experiencing housing insecurity, frontline workers, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ+, older adults (aged 60+), parents and caregivers of children with special health care needs, people who are pregnant, rural residents, people who speak a primary language other than English, parents under 25, young people (aged 14 to 24), veterans, and immigrants. Vital to the effectiveness of the survey is the participation of people representing racial/ethnic groups disproportionately impacted by health emergen-

cies, including American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic/Latino/Latine residents.

The survey opened July 31, 2023, and it will be available through early fall 2023. Anyone aged 14 and older can take the survey. It takes approximately 15 to 25 minutes to complete and is available in 11 languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (simplified), Chinese traditional, English, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The survey will also be available in American Sign Language later this summer.

To participate in this online survey, visit <https://www.mass.gov/chei>.

Suffolk Downs announces new summer and fall activities at the track

The HYM Investment Group LLC (HYM), the firm leading the redevelopment of Suffolk Downs, announced an exciting line-up of activities taking place at The Track at Suffolk Downs throughout the summer and fall months. From kid-friendly "Tracktivities" to the electronic dance music festival Breakaway, there will be something for everyone to enjoy at The Track.

Over the past several years, HYM has hosted numerous community-centered events at The Track, as part of the company's commitment to creatively activating the site throughout the multi-phased build-out of Suffolk Downs. Since 2021, HYM has also opened The Track to the pub-

lic from dawn to dusk daily for residents and visitors looking to walk, run and play. The Dog Park at Suffolk Downs, located directly adjacent to The Track, opened last year and is available for residents, visitors and their four-legged friends to enjoy.

"Suffolk Downs will be a place that brings people together and creates community," said Thomas N. O'Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HYM. "The ongoing events and activities taking place at The Track are an integral component of bringing our vision for an accessible, vibrant site to life."

Upcoming activities for residents and visitors to look forward to at The Track include:

Summer Tracktivities:

Suffolk Downs is partnering with Out of the Box Learning Company to offer free programming for kids at The Track this summer.

Join us in the Paddock from 10am - 12pm on Thursdays in August for hands-on science experiments, games, challenges, and more!

These events are free to attend but registration is required as staffing and supplies are limited to 40 children per event. Events are appropriate for children ages 3 and up and children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event. Events are weather dependent, and registrants will be emailed if events are canceled.

Touch a Truck:

On Sunday, September 10th, Suffolk Downs will host its 3rd Annual Touch a Truck event! Walk along The Track for an up-close view of tractors, trucks, diggers, police cars, and fire engines. Sit in the seats, honk the horns, and take your picture on the front end! Enjoy activities in the Paddock, visit the food trucks, and jam out to music. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Breakaway

Music Festival:

On Friday September 15, and Saturday, September 16, The Stage at Suffolk Downs, a seasonal outdoor concert venue located on the infield of The Track, will host the

Breakaway Music Festival, a two-day electronic dance music festival featuring artists such as Griz, Lane 8 and Porter Robinson! For tickets and more information please visit The Stage at Suffolk Down's website.

Dock Dogs:

On Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, Dock Dogs, the world's premiere canine aquatics competition, is coming to Suffolk Downs! To learn more and to register visit the Dock Dogs website.

Follow Suffolk Down's social channels and website for more information about The Track and upcoming events.

BPHC shares respiratory virus guidance ahead of back-to-school season

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), is encouraging everyone to prepare for the upcoming cold and flu season as students get ready to go back to school in the coming weeks amid a nationwide uptick in COVID-19 cases.

The average level of COVID-19 particles in Boston's wastewater has increased over the past few weeks (569 RNA copies/mL as of July 30); however, new weekly COVID-19 related hospitalizations are still low (35 through August 5). These increases are not cause for immediate concern but are important to be aware of with back-to-school season, cooler temperatures, and cold and flu season all approaching.

"Preparation is key when planning for a new school year and the

changing of the seasons. Cold and flu season always poses a risk, but there are several steps we can all take to protect ourselves and others, including vaccination," said

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "Everyone in your household should be up to date on vaccinations to reduce the risk of severe illness this season."

BPHC reminds residents that the City experienced a high level of flu activity last year, the highest in three years, and that flu season will likely begin in October. As families prepare to send their children back-to-school, BPHC

is reminding them of the ways they can stay safe and healthy and avoid missed days of schools amid the rising spread of COVID-19,

and likely spread of the flu and RSV in the fall and winter.

Most importantly, BPHC strongly recommends that all families stay up to date with their vaccines for COVID-19, flu, and other diseases, such as pertussis, measles, and varicella. We recommend that everyone ages 6-months and older get their annual flu shot in September or October. Families should plan ahead and schedule flu shot appointments with their trusted health care providers or at a local pharmacy.

The FDA and CDC are expected to issue approvals for updated COVID-19 vaccines and schedules in the coming weeks. BPHC will provide recommendations after reviewing the latest guidance. In the meantime, everybody should take the following steps to protect

themselves and their loved ones from getting sick with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses by:

- Having COVID-19 rapid testing kits available at home to test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staying home when sick and wearing a mask if you are around others while ill or in public
- Talking to your trusted health-care provider about treatment if you test positive for COVID-19 or flu and are at high risk for severe disease.
- Wearing a well-fitting face mask, especially in crowded indoor settings if you are at high risk of severe illness (e.g., unvaccinated or moderately to severely immunocompromised)
- Washing your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20

seconds.

- Regularly disinfecting and cleaning high touch surfaces.

COVID-19 vaccines and testing are still available throughout the city. BPHC operates two standing clinics at the Bruce C. Bolling Building in Roxbury and City Hall that offer free COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and rapid at-home testing kits which can be taken on site. BPHC has also partnered with several community-based organizations to create rapid at-home testing kit distribution hubs in neighborhoods across Boston. More information about distributions hubs is available on the BPHC website.

National Grid reminds all to call 811 before starting any digging or excavation project

Serving as a crucial reminder for customers to contact 811 before digging, August 11 marked National 811 Safe Digging Day. To observe the occasion, National Grid was reminding customers and contractors nationwide to call 811 before starting any digging or excavation project (no matter how big or small) to have underground utility lines properly marked. Dig Safe® is a free service funded solely by its utility members to promote public safety and avoid costly underground utility damage.

An underground utility line is damaged every few minutes because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811. Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in severe injury or death, inconvenient service disruptions, and costly fines and repairs. Hitting underground gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines while digging can have a major impact on communities and businesses. Making a free request before digging online at www.811beforeyoudig.com or by calling 811 will help everyone who digs maintain essential utility service for their communities while keeping themselves and their neighbors safe by reducing the likelihood of accidentally digging into buried utility lines.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, National Grid wants to remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 service before digging to keep themselves, their family, and community safe by reducing the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Caroline Hon, Senior Vice President of Network Strategy and Planning, National Grid U.S. “Calling 811 or visiting www.811beforeyoudig.com is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so that you can dig safely and keep your community safe and connected. Safe digging is critical in ensuring the safety of our employees, the public, and local communities that we proudly serve daily.”

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. It's not only the safe and smart thing to do – it's the law! A call to 811 is the best safeguard and the first line of defense to preventing strikes on underground utility lines. The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects, and uneven surfaces. Utility lines must be appropriately marked in each previously marked location to avoid risk.

As part of National Safe Digging Day, National Grid encourages everyone to take the follow-

ing steps when planning a digging project this summer:

- Always contact 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Make a free 811 request on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.
- Visit www.811beforeyoudig.com for complete information.

Everyone who contacts 811 before digging is connected to a local 811 center that will take the caller's information and communicate it to local utility companies.

Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags, or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas. The service is easy to use and free of charge.

State laws mandate that 811 must be contacted a few days before beginning projects requiring excavation. Failure to call 811 may be punishable by fines, which in some states can be as high as \$1,000 for a first offense and \$10,000 for subsequent violations.

National Grid works closely with local fire and police departments; with their strong support, people are calling before they dig. Calling 811 can avoid an incident that requires police and fire response.

Additional Resources:

- Massachusetts: Call 811 or 1-888-DIG-SAFE (344-7233) | digsafe.com

- Metro New York, Long Island, and the Rockaways: Call 811 or 1-800-272-4480 | newyork-811.com

- Upstate New York: Call 811 or 1-800-962-7962 | UDigNY.org

- When It Comes to 811, There's No Kidding Around – National Grid Safety video

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

First Justice of this Court. Date: August 11, 2023 Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate 8/17/23 BH

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU23CO220CA In the matter of: Baby Graer A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Baby Graer of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Anna Maud Jefferson IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/14/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID - BELL TOWER RESTORATION

American Shim Gum Do Association 203 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02135, requests bids for the structural stabilization and masonry restoration of their belltower. The tower and the adjacent building are listed as a Historical Asset of the Commonwealth and are governed under a Preservation Restriction with both the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the City of Boston's Landmark Commission. The project is being partially funded with grants from the City of Boston Community Preservation Act program (CPA), the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other grant programs yet to be confirmed. All work must be performed in accordance with the docu-

ments prepared by Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc., 60 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970 and meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. A copy of the bidding documents may be obtained by writing or telephoning Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc. at the above address.

Pre-bid access and a pre-bid meeting will be held at American Buddhist Shim Gum Do Association at 203 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02135 Tuesday August 15, 2023. Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work in a timely manner, and references. All bids must be delivered to the Structures North Consulting Engineers Inc office at the above address prior September 1, 2023; to be eligible for consideration and all of the grant-funded work must be completed June 30, 2024. 8/10/23, 8/17/23, 8/24/23 BH

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Jane Mcginn Burke RET	Haseotes, George P	220 Boylston St #1220	\$8,800,000
Carucci, John	Colleen M Bain RET	300 Boylston St #710	\$1,100,000
Mahoney Jr, Brian B	Corbet 3rd, John W	75 Clarendon St #505	\$1,500,000
Hebert, Eric	Brian F Sager 2013 RET	41 Commonwealth Ave #8	\$775,000
115 Comm Avenue Rt	Greene Jr, Bernard E	115 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$53,360
Sososhana LLC	Brewster, Isabel	25 Dartmouth St #3	\$845,000
Kavanagh, Christina	Hanlon, Mark	199 Marlborough St #701	\$1,700,000
Tucker2278 Rt	Chu, Anne	227 Marlborough St #8	\$363,375
Tsirozidou, Irene	Johnson, Jay B	282 Newbury St #14	\$885,000
Kruidenier, Laurens	Lepard, Joel	319 Commonwealth Ave #40	\$1,950,000
Octagon Nt	389 Comm Avenue T	389 Commonwealth Ave	\$4,400,000
Alcs Properties LLC	Harley C Raumin T	464 Commonwealth Ave #53	\$740,000
Deane, Christina N	Hadar, Benjamin	407 Marlborough St #3B	\$907,000
D Gold & Wei Meng RET	Tmm Rt	416 Marlborough St #304	\$825,000
BEACON HILL			
Notarnicola, Robert	Gorewitz, David M	10 Bowdoin St #504	\$1,280,000
Baird, William	Hickin, Matthew	73 Hancock St #2	\$1,775,000
Chen, Elaine D	Wood, Ekaterina	33 Irving St #6	\$545,000
Atanassopoulos, Milana	Bgc Nt	39-41 Mount Vernon St #2	\$4,228,000
Brand, Steven M	Mosakowski, Rachel A	140 Mount Vernon St #5	\$2,350,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Xu, Tim	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #402	\$925,000
Fok, Adeline L	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #406	\$925,000
Kassels, Steven J	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #408	\$940,000
Levine Boston LLC	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #409	\$1,525,000
Virgen, Cesar A	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #410	\$1,575,000
Sophisa RET	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #411	\$2,125,000
Alber, Kathryn	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #414	\$1,975,000
Kim, Ellen	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #504	\$1,625,000
Paramarta, Adlina	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #505	\$1,725,000
Cghrs LLC	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #506	\$2,425,000
Angaian, Balu	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #512	\$835,000
Hinz, Amy	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #513	\$1,975,000
Metri, George R	Lynn H Moore 2008 RET	1 Dalton St #3002	\$2,812,500
Wilson, David	Eberhardt, Thomas J	4 Durham St #4	\$935,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #1	\$2,925,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #2	\$2,925,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #3	\$2,925,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #4	\$2,925,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #5	\$2,925,000
U4marlborough 370 Nt	39 East Concord St LLC	39 E Concord St #6	\$2,925,000
Morrison, Jean	Quinn South End LLC	370 Harrison Ave #12C	\$1,999,000
Kashy, Daniel	Alexa Campolieto RET	771 Harrison Ave #208	\$855,000
Athni, Sudhir	Ratimex LLC	107 Jersey St #10	\$870,000
Athni, Sudhir	Ratimex LLC	107 Jersey St #15	\$870,000
Ang-Lek Lt	Queensberry Properties N	60 Queensberry St #20	\$538,000
Park, Eun Y	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #1008	\$754,900
Field, Nicholas C	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #204	\$1,075,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The wooden awning in the last clue is on 29 Pinckney Street, built circa 1855. In architecture, an awning is a covering attached to the exterior wall of a building, often over a door or window, to offer protection from rain or sun. Awnings are described as in use in ancient Egyptian and Syrian writing.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Healey calls for shelter support for new migrant families arriving in Massachusetts

Governor Maura T. Healey declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in Massachusetts in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability in the state. The declaration serves as a notice to the federal government and the Commonwealth that the state's shelter system is rapidly expanding capacity in an unsustainable manner, and that further assistance is urgently needed. There are currently nearly 5,600 families or more than 20,000 individuals in state shelter, including children and pregnant women.

In a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Governor Healey pointed to work authorizations as a primary driver of the crisis. She called on the federal government to take urgent action to streamline and expedite work authorizations and increase funding to states to assist in providing shelter and services to families. She called

on bipartisan leaders in Congress to address outdated and punitive immigration laws. She also called on the cities and towns, charities, advocates, faith organizations and providers to continue to partner with the administration to meet the need for shelter and work. Information about how the public can help is available at mass.gov/sheltercrisis. Anyone who can offer assistance should contact the state at shelterhelp@mass.gov or by dialing 211, which will be monitored by MEMA.

The administration recently launched the Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) program, which provides case management, legal services and other support for families in state shelters. This program, not yet replicated in any other state, is providing an unprecedented level of legal support toward asylum, work authorization, and other legal steps to help new arrivals integrate into Massachusetts. The state is also working to establish new and innovative pathways for new arrivals to

secure work. The Massachusetts federal delegation also recently wrote to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Ur M. Jaddou urging them to expedite and streamline the work authorization process.

"State employees and our partners have been miracle workers throughout this crisis – going above and beyond to support families and using every tool at their disposal to expand shelter capacity by nearly 80 percent in the last year. But in recent months, demand has increased to levels that our emergency shelter system cannot keep up with, especially as the number of families leaving shelter has dwindled due to a lack of affordable housing options and barriers to securing work," said Governor Maura Healey. "I am declaring a state of emergency in Massachusetts and urging my partners in the federal government to take the action we need to address this crisis by streamlining the work authorization process and passing comprehensive immigration reform. Many of the new arrivals to our state desperately want to work, and we have historic workforce demands across all industries. I am also calling on all of our partners – from cities and towns to the faith community, philanthropic organizations, and human service providers – to rise to this challenge and do whatever you can to help us meet this moment."

"Our Emergency Assistance system is designed to be a temporary, emergency safety-net program. It is not equipped to handle the demand that we have seen in recent months. While we have made herculean efforts to expand capacity as much as possible, we've reached a point where the expansion is unsustainable," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We know what it will take to truly address the root causes of this emergency – rapidly increasing housing production across the state and implementing comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, including work authorizations. We invite our partners in the federal government and across the Commonwealth to join us in advancing these solutions and supporting all families in Massachusetts."

In her letter, the Governor pointed to several primary drivers of this emergency, including federal policies on immigration and work authorizations, inadequate production of affordable housing over the last decade, and

the end of COVID-era food and housing security programs. As a result, the demand for emergency shelter in Massachusetts has skyrocketed over the past year. Today, nearly 5,600 families, including very young children and pregnant women, are living in emergency shelter, many of whom are migrants who recently arrived in Massachusetts. That's up from around 3,100 families a year ago. Meanwhile, the number of families leaving emergency shelter for safe, permanent housing has dwindled, in large part due to a lack of affordable housing options.

"Teams of people from EOHHS have worked with our colleagues across state government relentlessly pursuing creative ways to provide essential resources for families in need, many of whom are new arrivals to Massachusetts," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh. "We are committed to supporting these resilient families as they find new opportunities in our state."

"Over the past year, the teams at EOHLC have been able to expand emergency shelter capacity and support more families than ever before. But now we confront significant challenges. Our service provider partners are stretched beyond their means, and it has become increasingly difficult to add new shelter units to our EA portfolio," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "The health and well-being of the families in emergency shelter are our first responsibility and we will continue to place eligible families when units become available. I thank the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor for leading an empathetic and collaborative approach to addressing this crisis, and I thank the communities and shelter service providers who have partnered with us in this incredible, ongoing effort."

The administration also announced that the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and The Boston Foundation have launched the Massachusetts Migrant Families Relief Fund to help ensure that new arrivals in Massachusetts have their essential needs met. More information can be found at unitedwaymassbay.org/migrantrelief. The Fund will:

- Rapidly deploy emergency financial assistance through our trusted network of human services and shelter organizations in the Commonwealth to ensure individuals, children, and families have access to essential needs (temporary accommodations food, clothing, diapers, hygiene items, transportation).

- Fund livelihood opportunities and assistance such as health screenings, translation services, legal assistance, work authorizations, ESOL classes, and other socio-economic and cultural integration supports.

- Support the local community-based organizations providing direct services on already-stretched budgets and staff resources.

"As we face this unprecedented stress on our shelter system, we must embrace our collective responsibility to care for those individuals and families in need of housing and support, and to work in partnership with cities, towns and civic and community organizations leading this work," said M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of The Boston Foundation. "We are honored to join the Healey Administration, the United Way and the roster of community leaders who are tirelessly working to ensure the dignity, safety, and health and wellbeing of these new arrivals."

"We are committed to demonstrating we are a welcoming place for our newest arrivals and to connecting them to the resources and support needed to work and thrive," said Bob Giannino, President and CEO at United Way of Massachusetts Bay. "By working together, we can ensure every person in Massachusetts has their essential needs met and is treated with the dignity and respect we would all want for our own families. We are proud to stand with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and The Boston Foundation to mobilize and distribute resources with urgency and compassion to address this humanitarian crisis."

Since taking office in January, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has taken a whole-of-government approach and utilized every resource at its disposal to expand shelter capacity and support families. The administration created a standalone housing secretariat and dramatically expanded staff and resources dedicated to address this crisis. The Emergency Assistance system spread to more than 80 communities, added thousands of new units of emergency assistance housing, launched new shelter sites, including activating 50 National Guard Members at Joint Base Cape Cod, and created Family Welcome Centers to serve as central intake centers to connect families with shelter and services. Despite these efforts, demand has continued to rise at a pace that the Emergency Assistance system cannot sustain.

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