

STUDENT WELCOME GUIDE P. 3-5

Mission Hill

GAZETTE

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BEST MISSION HILL TOMATO CONTEST

The Mission Hill Health Movement's annual Best Mission Hill Tomato Contest was held August 22 at the Mission Hill Farmers Market in Hanlon Sq, Brigham Circle.



Mary Ann Nelson, Mission Hill Health Movement Executive Director, Bo Bo, The Big Blue Bird, and Jeffery Ransom, all of Mission Hill, check out the Mission Hill Farmers Market Farmer Chuck Wilkins' 1.2 pound special entry heirloom tomato, grown on his farm in Townsend. See Page 11 for more photos.

Photos by Nancy Ahmadiyar

500 Huntington Ave. Project tabled by BPDA Board

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board tabled a project at its meeting last month that would create an abundance of open space and two mixed-use buildings with life science and retail space at 500 Huntington Ave., which currently houses Wentworth Institute of Technology's Sweeney Field and other structures.

Jack Hart, an attorney representing the Museum of Fine

Arts (MFA) and its Board of Trustees, called the project a good one but raised concerns and requested that it be tabled for 30 days.

"This is due to unresolved issues and concerns related to air intake, groundwater, vibration, traffic, and other matters," said Hart.

"As many of you know, the MFA has over 500,000 pieces of art — many in the basement and lower basement of

Continued on page 6

Cannabis Board rejects proposed 1576 Tremont St. dispensary

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Last month, during its voting hearing, the Boston Cannabis Board (BCB) rejected a proposed dispensary at 1576 Tremont St. called Soni DOT without prejudice, meaning the applicant can apply again at the same location.

The planned dispensary, spearheaded by Aditya Soni, has raised some concerns around the neighborhood — especially with the Community Alliance of Mission Hill

(CAMH).

At the civic group's monthly meeting in May, the proposal was vehemently opposed by a vote of 18-2, with one voter abstaining. The May vote followed an April meeting in which attendees of the CAMH meeting voiced frustration and a lack of trust in ownership stemming from the operation of the previous business at the site, Punjab Mini Mart, which was owned by Soni's father, Rakesh.

Continued on page 10



Last year's Best Mission Hill Cherry Tomato winner, Lydia Pena, third from right, inspects this year's entries with a couple from Fort Hill. Ms. Pena decided not to enter this year.

Visit MissionHillGazette.com

Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

or patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com

or call 781-485-0588 for your Mission Hill information

Hill Happenings

By MAURICE "MOSSY" MARTIN

Condolences to the family of Jackie Geary, who passed away last month.

A 1965 Mission High graduate, Jackie was a hard worker and a terrific athlete. He worked at Boston Gas and was a part time bartender at the famous Ed Burke's Tavern. Jackie was an outstanding wide receiver and punter for the Killilea Club, who thrilled Mission Hill fans at Fens Stadium with his long touchdown receptions. R.I.P., Jackie.

In last month's Mission Hill Gazette, Gov. Maura Healey penned a well-written column on our recent state budget.

The governor correctly pointed out the good things happening in our nice state; however she didn't mention unsustainable spending, with the recent fiscal year budget

increasing to nearly \$58 billion. This is occurring at a time when more taxpayers are departing our state than arriving. This conundrum should be addressed by the Legislative body and Gov. Healey in a timely and transparent manner.

The Mission Hill Post 327 Golf Fundraiser will be held Sat. Sept. 21; tee-off is set for 11:30 a.m. This is a wonderful event, which raises money for our veterans and Mission Hill institutions. A hole in one on the seventh hole will be rewarded with a \$15,000 check. If you are interested in playing, sponsoring a hole or donating a gift card for our raffle, our M.H. Post Commander, Col. George Rollins can be reached at 703-209-2124.

The Mission Hill Road Race will take place on Saturday,

Sept. 28, at Kevin Fitzgerald Park at 9:30 a.m. (Walkers start at 9 a.m.) T shirts are available with proceeds benefiting the upkeep of Fitzgerald Park. For more info go to missionhillroadrace.racewire.com.

Condolences to the family of Paul Griffin who passed away in July.

Paul was the longtime owner of Griffin's Tavern across from Forest Hills Station before selling the bar a few years ago. Occasionally the bar would attract a few unsavory characters but Paul, a rugged and tough bartender was always equal to the task.

I got to know Paul about 20 years ago when my son, Rob, worked at the bar. Paul was a good guy from the old school, and I loved hearing his stories from yesteryear.

If you see Mairead Moore serving the thirsty customers at Brendan Behan's Pub, wish the pretty woman a Happy Birthday (Sept. 4).

Since Mairead served

drinks at Flann O'Brien's a decade ago I've always called her my favorite bartender but she is also a close and dear friend.

There will be a TAG Sale at the path between the Church and the Rectory Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. to raise money for the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

The Friends of the Poor Walk will take place Saturday, Oct. 5, starting at Mission Church.

Join Father Phillip Dabney for the stroll along the Southwest Corridor Park Path to Green St. for the four-mile, round-trip walk. Michel Solitani, proprietor of Brendan Behan's invites the participants to his Jamaica Plain Pub after the Walk.

Also on Oct. 5 the Mystic Rose Concert will perform at Mission Church at 2 p.m. There will be music from the famous Pilate's Daughter play and the donation request is \$25.

It was nice chatting with Sal Giarratani at Mike's Donuts last week.

Sal has been writing for the Post-Gazette for the last 5 years. The Post-Gazette is an excellent weekly paper, published in the North End.

It was a gorgeous sunny afternoon at Brigham Circle last month for the Best Mission Hill Tomato Contest. It was a fun day with nice music provided by the trendy "Tokyo Tramps," featuring Yukiko Fujii and Satoru Natagawa.

Garrett Haulk was the winner with the biggest juiciest tomatoes, and Garrett's mother, Francie Haulk, had the best cherry tomatoes. The kind Haulk family often share their tomatoes with their appreciative Hillside Street neighbors. After the event I was pleased to stroll home with a tomato in hand.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

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Students urged to register for the BCYF Spelling Bee

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is proud to announce the opportunity for Boston students and schools to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program through the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee.

Boston students of public, charter, pilot, and parochial schools as well as home-schooled students are eligible to participate in BCYF's Bee this spring only after they have won a Bee held at a Boston school. In addition to improving students' spelling skills and broadening their vocabulary, Spelling Bee participation provides valuable experience—in developing self-confidence—a necessary skill for success in public speaking and performing arts.

How to get involved:

- Register your Boston school with Scripps National Spelling Bee online by December 31, 2024 at www.spellingbee.com/enrollment. This will also serve as your registration for BCYF's Bee.

(Save money by opting into Early Enrollment by October 31, 2024).

- Pay the enrollment fee of \$185 to Scripps National Spelling Bee.

- Hold a school spelling bee on or before Friday, February 28, 2025.

- Submit winner's name and bio form to BCYF by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025.

- Cheer on your school's representative speller at the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 15, 2025!

Benefits of participation:

- Exclusive online access to the teachers-only section of spellingbee.com.

- Official pronouncer guides for use in conducting classroom and school bees.

- Access to The Great Words, Great Works reading list with all source books, organized by reading level.

- Supplemental vocabulary materials for classroom and school levels.

- Customizable certificates for your participants and school champion.

- A one year subscription to Britannica Online for kids to award to a participant in your school bee program (2 subscriptions if you enroll before September 30).

- Words of the Champions, a 4,000 word student study guide for school champions, and a 450 word school spelling bee study list.

The champion of the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee will win a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee. All finalists will receive a trophy and the second and third place finishers will win an Amazon Fire table, and Amazon gift card.

In 2008, BCYF started a new tradition for Boston by hosting the first citywide Spelling Bee in over 70 years. Since then, BCYF, with the support of the Boston Bruins Foundation, has continued the tradition of the BCYF Spelling Bee. Each year, family members, friends, and teachers proudly cheer on the spellers at the Citywide Spelling Bee in March.

Join the American Legion Post 327 for our **2024 Veterans Golf Tourney Fundraiser**

Sat. Sept. 21st
11:30am-6pm

Norwood Country Club

Lunch/snacks 11:30-130

Golf 11:30-5 • Dinner 4-6

\$120 per person

Hole in One #7 — \$15,000

For More Info, contact A.L. Post 327

Commander George Rollins cell 703-209-2124

Checks payable to A.L. Post 327

Send to Col. (ret.) George Rollins

15 Kelley Rd, Wilmington, MA. 01887

STUDENT WELCOME GUIDE

A student's guide to Mission Hill

The following is some basic information for students moving into the Mission Hill area:

General Boston

Get renter's insurance. It might seem like an unnecessary expense until you have a break-in, or your upstairs neighbor's toilet overflows while they're out of town.

The City of Boston has many services for renters. Learn about and use them at cityofboston.gov/rentalhousing.

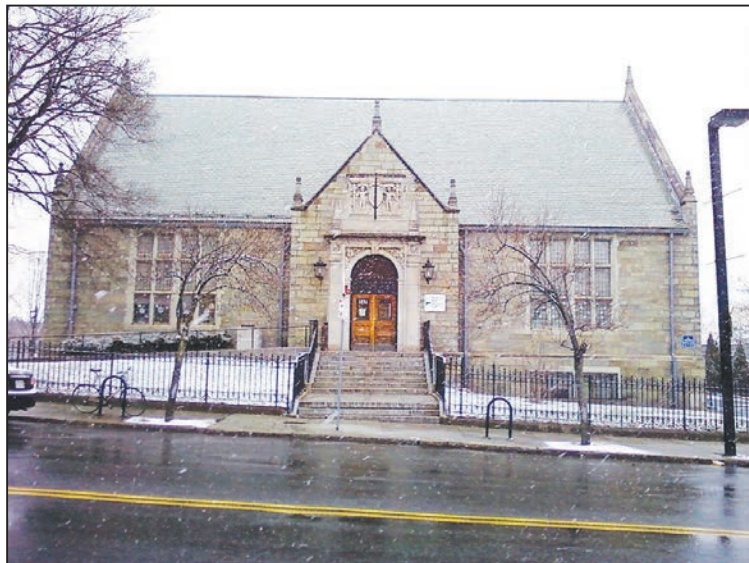
The City has a 24/7 hotline for questions or concerns at the phone number, 311, or the Twitter handle, @BOS311. There is also a smartphone app called BOS: 311.

Introduce yourself to your neighbors, give them your contact information and get theirs. It's just as easy and more pleasant to call them than the police.

If you have a dog, clean up after it. It's courteous and a City ordinance.

Shovel sidewalks abutting your residence in the winter. It is your responsibility, not the City's, to do so.

Be considerate when throwing



The Parker Hill Library Branch at 1497 Tremont St.

Gazette File Photo

parties: let your neighbors know about them and remember, many of them must wake up early, even on Saturdays.

Keep your property tidy.

Mission Hill-specific

Trash and recycling pick-ups are on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The local public library is the Parker Hill Branch Library, at 1497 Tremont St. The number is 617-427-3820.

The Tobin Community Center,

at 1481 Tremont St., has gym facilities and classes, depending on age. It also has youth, family, and senior programs. Reach it at tobincommunitycenter.org and 617-635-5216.


Patronize local businesses. They love you.

Get involved in the neighborhood: join cleanups; go to community meetings; voice your opinions. You're part of the community.




Mission Hill is named for Mission Church at 1545 Tremont St.

Gazette File Photo



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Corporate Buddy

STUDENT WELCOME GUIDE

Tips to help students be better writers

(STATEPOINT)

No matter the career path students pursue, writing and communication skills are essential to success. Whether a student identifies as a “math kid,” a “sports kid,” or even a “reading kid,” writing doesn’t always come naturally.

Parents and teachers need to be creative in how they present writing, so students feel personally motivated to develop their skills.

“Almost any student is capable of becoming a strong, passionate writer,” says Rowana Miller, founder and Executive Director of creative writing education nonprofit Cosmic Writers. “The trick is in connecting writing to the activities, subjects and ideas that already excite them.”

Here are some tips from Miller to motivate kids to strengthen writing skills:

Present Writing as Fun

Especially for students be-



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) monkeybusinessimages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

tween the ages of 8-12, who have developed basic writing skills but may not have a defined sense of what it means to be a “writer,” it is essential to create positive associations with the act of writing.

To accomplish this, you can teach writing through gamified, collaborative and imaginative activities. For example, you can

guide kids through the process of writing a series of “telephone stories.” With students sitting in a circle, have each one write an opening sentence on a piece of paper, and then pass the paper to the student to their right. Each student should continue the story by adding a sentence to the page, and then pass the

paper a second time. This process repeats until each student has their original paper again.

Provide Engaging Materials

When kids’ writing practice only comes from dry textbooks, it is difficult to create positive associations with writing. Experts recommend using materials that are just as fun as the activities good teachers use when teaching.

For example, the 8-12 age range is well-served by such exciting activity books as “The Monster-Building Handbook,” a new publication from Cosmic Writers. “The Monster-Building Handbook” combines a narrative premise with a call-to-action for students to practice writing: fictional monster-maker Angelica Fearborne needs them to develop an original monster character who can face off against her monster-hunter twin brother. Learn more at www.cosmicwriters.org.

Link Writing to Favorite Shows & Video Games

Students don’t usually recognize the connection between

writing and the media they love. Writing becomes more exciting when they learn that writing is an essential part of a funny YouTube series or thrilling video game.

Students are particularly compelled by opportunities to write in the style of the media they enjoy. For example, if you are working with kids who like to play Dungeons and Dragons, it is a natural next step to practice fantasy storytelling and writing.

For almost any student, it is possible to find a connection between writing and something they already like. A “math kid” may engage most with genres that emphasize logic and problem-solving, like mystery-writing. A “sports kid” may be excited to write articles about the school baseball team. And when these students practice these kinds of writing, they may discover they have been “writing kids” all along.

FRIENDS ON THE HARBOR

Special Guest, Boston Housing Authority CEO & Administrator, Kenzie Bok

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All proceeds help us bring digital equity, intergenerational, and arts programs to older adults in public/affordable senior housing and community centers.



STUDENT WELCOME GUIDE

Back to school for parents: Becoming a financial planner

(STATEPOINT)

With kids beginning a new school year, you may be wondering how to further your own education and career. Whether you're already in financial services or thinking of changing careers, here's what you need to know about earning CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification, the standard of excellence in financial planning:

Is CFP® certification right for you? If you wish to embark on a successful financial planning career, then yes, CFP® certification is right for you. Anyone can call themselves a financial planner, but a CFP® professional has the education and experience to provide competent, ethical financial planning. CFP® certification can help advance your career.

What are the financial benefits of CFP® certification? The demonstrated expertise and commitment to high ethical standards required of CFP® professionals gives them a com-



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) vichie81 / iStock via Getty Images Plus

petitive edge – one that they are highly compensated for. In fact, CFP® professionals earn 12% more than other financial professionals. They can also expect to receive comprehensive employee benefits amounting to thousands of additional dollars in value each year, such as health, dental and disability insurance, pre-

scription coverage and more. Use CFP Board's salary calculator to find out what you can potentially earn as a financial planner and see the difference CFP® certification can make.

How does CFP® certification help your future clients? As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional, your

role will be to provide clients with competent, ethical advice. Thanks to the education you'll gain while pursuing certification, you'll be able to deliver that counsel holistically and with confidence. And as a fiduciary, you'll also be committed to putting your clients' best interests first.

What are the professional advantages of CFP® certification? Statistics show that those who work with CFP® professionals are not only more satisfied customers, but they are also more likely to recommend their advisor to their friends and family, making certification a smart way to build and maintain your portfolio of clients. Certification also puts your name in front of 900,000 searches on Lets-MakeaPlan.org, the consumer website of the CFP® Board, as well as opens up opportunities to continue building your skills and to network with peers and mentors.

Why is financial planning a

great career choice for parents? A career as a CFP® professional can provide tremendous flexibility when it comes to work-life balance. With a wide range of employers hiring financial planners — and opportunities to work for yourself — you'll be able to select a path that aligns with your lifestyle needs, whether that means working a hybrid schedule or setting your own hours. In fact, CFP® professionals have a median 21 days of paid time off annually, and many work at least part of their time from home.

How do you get started? The CFP® certification process is a self-paced course of study that generally takes 18 to 24 months to complete. It involves coursework, an exam, work experience and rigorous ethics requirements. To get started today, visit getcfpcertified.org.

As the kids head back to school, consider turning over a new leaf by investing in your financial planning career.

Mission Hill place names

Welcome to the neighborhood! You just moved to Mission Hill—but did you know you're actually on Parker Hill? You've probably already noticed the spires of Mission Church—which technically isn't called that, either. And why's the post office called Roxbury Crossing?

Understanding the lingo of Mission Hill can seem like "Mission: Impossible." Here's a cheat sheet to help you out.

Back of the Hill: A subneighborhood of Mission Hill on the slope between Fisher Avenue and Heath Street. There is no Front of the Hill.

Brigham Circle: The intersection of Huntington Avenue

with Tremont and Francis Street (plus Calumet Street for good measure). It is not a rotary or circle, though the City painted a huge circle on the asphalt as a decorative pedestrian crossing marker.

Longwood Medical Area: Aka, the Longwood Medical and Academic Area. "LMA" for short. The enormous complex of hospitals and colleges roughly bordered by Huntington Avenue, Francis Street, the Riverway and the Fenway. Named for Longwood Avenue, which runs through its heart.

Mission Church: The Catholic church at 1545 Tremont St. for which Mission Hill is named.

It is officially called the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Its nickname comes from its 1870s beginnings as a small mission by the Redemptorists Catholic order. The official name comes an icon that believers say heals sickness and is surrounded by discarded crutches of the healed. A basilica is a high-ranking Catholic church.

Mission Hill: "The Hill" for short. The neighborhood bordered by Huntington, Ruggles Street, Columbus Avenue/Tremont Street, Heath Street and S. Huntington Avenue; and also the residential area roughly bordered by Huntington, Francis and the Riverway. Some people

still use "Mission Hill" to refer only to the residential area on the actual hill.

Parker Hill: The actual hill on which most of the neighborhood sits.

Roxbury Crossing: The intersection of Columbus and Tremont. It is the name of an Orange Line MBTA station and the local branch post office for the 02120 ZIP code. Sometimes used as a name for a subneighborhood or even the entire neighborhood. But ZIP code names are not meant to reflect actual neighborhood names or boundaries. Large portions of Mission Hill have other ZIP codes.

Roxbury: The neighborhood

on the other side of Columbus. Mission Hill was historically a subneighborhood of Roxbury, but has emerged as its own neighborhood over the past 20 years. Many people consider it part of Roxbury.



Sept. is College Fire Safety Month

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

With thousands of new and returning college students settling into dorms, apartments, and other living spaces, Massachusetts fire officials are reminding them, their resident advisors, and others to be sure they have working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide

(CO) alarms, and two ways out in an emergency.

As Massachusetts kicks off College Fire Safety Month, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine said 2,538 fires occurred in college dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in Massachusetts between 2019 and 2023. These fires caused three civilian injuries, 11

fire service injuries, and more than \$2.5 million in estimated damages. More campus fires were reported in September than in any other month, and unsafe cooking practices were the most common cause.

He said fire officials are also

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1524 Tremont St. (across from Mission Church)

Continued on page 7

What's Happening on Main Streets

"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul..." -Peggy Toney Horton

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

As much as I love the summer, September always feels like an exciting, albeit hectic, month here in Mission Hill. The returning influx of students is always an exciting time for businesses in the district as customers return and begin getting acclimated to the area and everything we have to offer. In an effort to get students into more businesses this fall, Main Streets has been working with our Wentworth work-study student, Elijah Dobson, to design a "passport" on our mobile app that incentivizes students and others alike to visit local establishments and in turn be entered into a drawing for a gift card. We are calling this a Taste of Mission Hill—a nod to Richard Rouse and the event Main Streets used to host during his tenure as Executive Director. Over the next couple of weeks we will be fine tuning the rollout of the program and visiting businesses to deliver QR codes that sync with the Taste of

Mission Hill passport program. While we will be giving out post cards to link students to the app through their respective schools, we will also place them around businesses so that everyone can participate, residents and area workers as well.

In addition to school starting and move-ins this September, there are a lot of events happening to keep the excitement going as we ease into the fall season. This Saturday, September 7th, MH Arts Festival will host its final act of the season in the Tobin Backyard. Having spent time and fallen in love with Sicily, I am especially excited for this weekend's show featuring Sissy Castrogiovanni. "From the blending of her Sicilian and Mediterranean influences, earthy African rhythms, tribal voices, and post-bop Jazz harmonies, she creates soulful and powerful arrangements and compositions." For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://calendar.artsboston.org/organization/mission-hill-arts-festival/>. A huge thank you to Luisa Harris who has worked tirelessly to put

this series on for the fourth consecutive summer. We are lucky to have Luisa and her passion that she has been able to share with us all through this event. Congratulations on another successful series!

Also this Saturday at the Tobin, is the Mission Hill Day Basketball Clinic. John Jackson's excitement is contagious about the opportunity to bring back several famous Mission Hill basketball stars to help with the camp. Wayne Turner, who grew up in Alice Taylor and went on to become a Kentucky Basketball hall of famer will be returning to the Tobin to help inspire the campers (and anyone else lucky enough to meet them) over the course of the day. Also joining will be Tony Lee, Robert Morris, Steve Hailey and Kenneth Jackson—all of whom are from the neighborhood and had incredible college and professional basketball careers. The camp starts at 9:30 a.m. following a breakfast at 8. Needless to say, Saturday looks to be a very fun and inspiring day at the Tobin Community Center.

On September 24th, please join Mission Hill Main Streets for our annual meeting as we hope to capitalize on the energy in the neighborhood this month. The event will take place in the Tobin Backyard beginning at 5:30 p.m. In addition to a few community awards, we would like to use the occasion to celebrate the Weingrads and Mike's Donuts for their Legacy Business Award. While the city held a ceremony in the South End earlier this summer, we're excited to celebrate locally in the community that has long coveted this beloved establishment. We will also be honoring Penguin Pizza who turns 20 this September (on the 24th actually). If you have any photos from over the years at both Mike's and/or Penguin, please email them to me at missionhill-mainstreetsboston@gmail.com so that we can include them in our programming. We will offer light refreshments at the meeting but will be encouraging everyone to head to the Penguin afterwards for more food and to celebrate with the staff. Please RSVP for the meeting at <https://pp.events/>

mhms.

Finally, on Saturday, September 28th is the annual Mission Hill Road Race! This event is one of, if not the best, community building event of the year here in the neighborhood for the amount and diversity of groups that come together for the day. Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services works hard to keep this annual event running (pun intended) and we are grateful for their efforts to keep the tradition alive. To find out more and register, please visit <https://missionhill-roadrace.racewire.com/register.php?id=14308>.

Please be on the lookout over the next few weeks for our Taste of Mission Hill postcards, we're excited to finalize and pilot this effort in collaboration with local businesses and the community. As always, if you have any questions about Main Streets, what's happening, or things you'd like me to include in future months—I'm all ears (and eyes)! I hope everyone has a fabulous September; I look forward to seeing you around!

BPDA

Continued from page 1

the MFA — and we are concerned with any significant impact."

While Hart broached the abovementioned concerns, he emphasized that the MFA would like and hope to support the project but could not at present.

"We pledge to work collaboratively with the BPDA and

the Huntington Development Group (the developer) to expel these issues and delay any concerns and hopefully support this project 30 days from now," said Hart.

Later in the hearing, after the project which would bring pedestrian and bike connections through the site to places like Ruggles Station (from the MFA Green Line stop) and enable the installation of the proposed Roxbury to Fenway Connector along

Ruggles Street received a lot of support during public testimony, Clayton Turnbull CEO of Waldwin Development responded to the MFA's concerns.

Turnbull noted that the MFA's concerns were communicated to the development team in the days before the BPDA Board Meeting.

Moreover, he indicated they had responded to the MFA with a letter. He also addressed the BPDA Board, saying, "We will commit to you, whatever the pleasure of your board. The issues that they've raised are very solvable—they're kind of typical with construction development that we've done."

"There's nothing that we heard that is monumental, but they wanted an opportunity to hire their consultants to help them along to make sure that all their t's are crossed and I's are dotted. So, I think that we're definitely in agreement to give them an opportunity to feather that out."

Following Turnbull's state-

ments, the Board's Chair, Priscilla Rojas, made it clear that she liked and supported the project but thought the request to table the item for 30 days was reasonable.

"I am very assured by your previous comments on the solvability of these things, and I think in just the spirit of risk management and giving everybody just a little bit of time — I know this just happened in the past few days — but I would like to honor the request made by the MFA," said Rojas.

Ultimately, all BPDA Board Members voted to support a motion to table the discussion until September's Board Meeting, except for Ted Landsmark, who abstained as he is a Trustee Emeritus of the MFA.

September's BPDA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12th. An agenda has yet to be posted at the time of this writing. For more information on how to view the meeting, visit [https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/cal-](https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2024/09/12/bra-edic-board-meeting)

[endar/2024/09/12/bra-edic-board-meeting](https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2024/09/12/bra-edic-board-meeting).

To learn more about the project, visit the project webpage at <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/wentworth-500-huntington-avenue>. It should be noted that this proposal has roots dating back to 2013. A similar project in the area — Planned Development Area (PDA) #93 — was approved but did not end up going forward.

Notably, the current proposal from Huntington Development Group differs from the previous project in that the maximum height has decreased from 280 feet to 254 feet, the number of vehicular parking spaces has been reduced from 410 to 355, and the amount of publicly accessible open space has increased from around 57,600 square feet to about 70,000 square feet.

"We're looking forward to making this happen, so totally in agreement with your decision," said Turnbull.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Fire Safety

Continued from page 5

concerned about fire safety in apartments and other types of off-campus student housing, where two Massachusetts college students died in separate, unrelated fires in 2013. Statewide, almost 50% of residential fires in Massachusetts take place in apartment buildings and other multi-family dwellings.

"It doesn't matter whether you live in a dorm, apartment, Greek housing, or one- or two-family home," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Everyone should have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of their residence, and test them monthly to be sure they're working properly. Never, ever disable an alarm, and don't waste precious time retrieving personal belongings if you hear it sound – just get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1."

"If you've just moved into a new living space, take some time to identify two ways out of your unit and the building – and two ways out of each room, if possible," said Foxborough Fire Chief Michael Kelleher, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Plan and practice your escape routes before you need to use them in an emer-

gency. Today's residential fires burn faster than ever before, and they create toxic smoke that can travel throughout the home. A practiced home escape plan could save your life."

While September has been designated as College Fire Safety Month, State Fire Marshal Davine and Chief Kelleher said fire safety should be a priority all year long. Windows, doors, and stairways should always be clear of boxes, furniture, bicycles, and any other obstructions so you can escape and firefighters can enter in an emergency. Fire doors should never be blocked or propped open.

Working alarms, clear exit routes, and practicing a plan for using them are crucial for when a fire breaks out, but students can also take steps to prevent them from starting in the first place:

- **Cooking:** Stand by your pan! Don't leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Cook only when you're alert, not when you're drowsy or impaired.

- **Lithium-Ion Batteries:** Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batter-

ies, and other devices on a hard and stable surface – never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If you can do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call your local fire department.

- **Smoking:** There is no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don't flick cigarettes or other smoking materials on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

- **Electrical:** Always plug appliances such as air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don't overload outlets with multiple devices.

- **Heating:** Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

- **Candles:** Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

FREE FA COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a 12-Step program for individuals suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating, and bulimia. There will be a free community information meeting on Wednesday evening, September 25 at the Chelsea Police Department, 19 Park St. Chelsea, MA from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

No dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Everyone is welcome, including those who think they may have a food problem or are concerned about someone who may. For more information, call Meeting Contact: Darlene D. at 857-654-5494 or visit our website at www.foodaddicts.org.

Are You a Food Addict?

Ask yourself the following questions and answer them as honestly as you can.

1. Have you ever wanted to stop eating and found you just couldn't?

2. Do you think about food or your weight constantly?

3. Do you find yourself attempting one diet or food plan after another, with no lasting success?

4. Do you binge and then "get rid of the binge" through vomiting, exercise, laxatives or other forms of purging?

5. Do you eat differently in private than you do in front of

other people?

6. Has a doctor or family member ever approached you with concern about your eating habits or weight?

7. Do you eat large quantities of food at one time (binge)?

8. Is your weight problem due to your "nibbling" all day long?

9. Do you eat to escape from your feelings?

10. Do you eat when you're not hungry?

11. Have you ever discarded food, only to retrieve and eat it later?

12. Do you eat in secret?

13. Do you fast or severely restrict your food intake?

14. Have you ever stolen other people's food?

15. Have you ever hidden food to make sure you have "enough?"

16. Do you feel driven to exercise excessively to control your weight?

17. Do you obsessively calculate the calories you've burned against the calories you've eaten?

18. Do you frequently feel guilty or ashamed about what you've eaten?

19. Are you waiting for your life to begin "when you lose the weight?"

20. Do you feel hopeless about your relationship with food?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then you may be a food addict. You are not alone. FA offers hope through a real solution to food addiction.

Health officials announce additional human cases of West Nile Virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced two additional human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year, bringing the total number of human cases to six. One is a man in his 50s who was exposed in Suffolk County; the other is a man in his 80s with exposure in southern Middlesex County.

As a result, WNV risk levels in the following area communities are being raised to high: Saugus in Essex County; Arlington, Belmont, Malden, Medford, and Melrose in Middlesex County; and Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop in Suffolk County.

"The risk of West Nile virus in Massachusetts will continue until the first hard frost. While the temperatures may be a bit cooler, September is still within the peak time for West Nile virus activity in Massachusetts," said Public Health Commissioner

Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "As we all adjust to our post-summer schedules, one routine that everyone should continue is using mosquito repellent when outdoors."

There have been 286 WNV-positive mosquito samples so far this year detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. The risk of human infection with WNV is moderate or high in Greater Boston (Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties) and is also elevated in parts of Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Plymouth, and Worcester counties.

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were six human cases of WNV and no animal cases in 2023. No animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times

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KEELY O'SHANNESSY PHOTO

Continued on page 15

THE MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

The Mission Hill Arts Festival brings a range of music, performance, and visual art to the Tobin Community Center. The theme for each of the performances and exhibits this season is Elements, a reference to the Earth itself.



Betsy Brigham, Eric Bucher (who just purchased a CD of Ivanna Cuesta), Ian Condry, and Gary Halliwell.



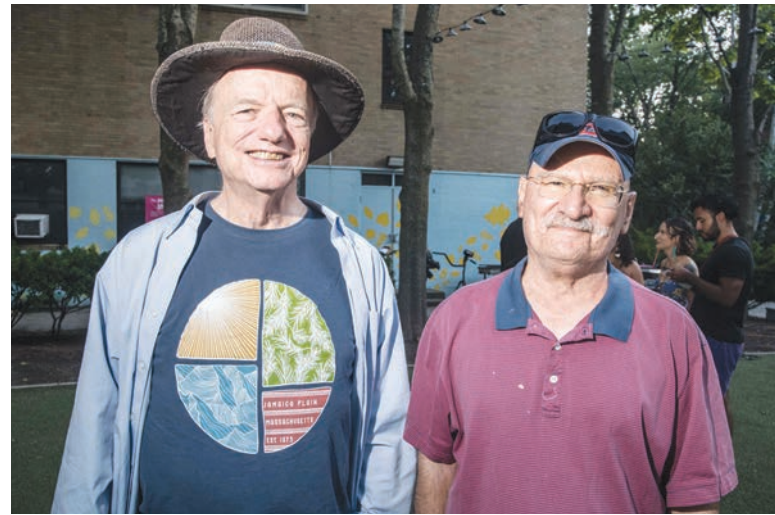
Ivanna Cuesta (2nd from right) with band: Jose Soto, Max Ridley, and Fall Fallraye.



Mission Hill Arts Festival Executive Curator and Organizer Luisa Harris with Robin Baker, associate director of Community Engagement for Celebrity Series.



Mission Hill Arts Festival Executive Curator and Organizer Luisa Harris and her husband Kevin.



Michael Kane and Mort Ahmadifar.

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



ROCKY

Rocky is a very sweet boy who loves his people (but not other dogs). He enjoys his walks, is potty trained, and crate trained. (Note: Rocky does shed). He is about 1 year old and 32 lbs.

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THE MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

The Mission Hill Arts Festival had a concert by flutist Yağmur Soydemir and her band as well as a visual poetry exhibit by David Graham at the Tobin Community

Center. The Festival will have its final concert of the season on September 7 with Sissy Castrogiovanni with her world music/jazz performance.



The outdoor stage space at the Tobin Community Center was a full house for the performance.



Flutist Yağmur Soydemir and her band perform at the Mission Hill Arts Festival.



Utar Artun on keyboard, David "Fuze" Fiuczynski on guitar, Yağmur Soydemir, Guilhem Fourty on drums, and Anderson Mirafzali on bass.



Basak Alkan and her twin daughters on their picnic blanket.



Mission Hill Arts Festival Executive Curator and Organizer Luisa Harris uses a break between songs to offer the audience a Q&A session with Yağmur Soydemir.

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CITY PAWS

Meeting new neighbors

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

September is a month for meeting new neighbors. Nationwide, most moves happen in the summer months. For some, it's from a desire to settle in before the new school year begins. In Greater Boston, thousands of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and educational support staff descend on the area with a crush of September 1st move-in dates.

Some of you will meet new people and dogs who have moved into your building, block, or neighborhood. Others will be learning their way around a new home and may appreciate a friendly welcome. In either case, having a dog beside you will increase your opportunities to meet new neighbors.

How to Introduce Dogs

It's always best to introduce dogs in neutral territory. We recommend not sharing close quarters with a new dog. Your dog may consider the hallways and elevators in your building part of its domain, while the new dog may still need to learn its elevator and common area manners.

One of the best suggestions we read was to think about how your dog reacts to other dogs on routine walks. Reactions may range from barking and growling to total indifference.

Most of your introductions to new dogs will happen serendipitously while you are out and about. You must be alert for a reactive dog's sounds and body

language as it approaches you. If your dog is reactive, put a hand up as a stop sign when a strange dog approaches and tell the person with the dog that your pup needs a little extra space.

We've had foster dogs who were afraid of their own shadows, scared of men, highly protective of Penny, and others who were friendly with everyone. These pups were also trying to adjust to a new home, new guardians, and new territory. For this reason, we try to be very understanding when approaching a new dog. After asking if we can say hello to the dog, we don't touch but instead offer the back of our hands for the dog to sniff.

Make a Date to Introduce Dogs

Occasionally, you'll want to introduce your dog to a specific friend or neighbor's dog. Dogtopia.com suggests you make this like meeting someone new for coffee rather than a dinner date. With a secure 4-6 foot leash (no retractable leashes for this task), pace a routine walk behind the dog you plan to introduce and slowly catch up. Walk a little together with the humans between the dogs to judge how the dogs are reacting before deciding to move closer.

If necessary, try again on another day. Just like people, some dogs make quick friendships, while others take time to relax together. Some dogs favor one breed over another or are afraid of certain dogs.

Check Before Introducing

We'll let the American Kennel Club add a final word on introductions. "Just because you're saying hello to your neighbors doesn't mean your dog has to. If you have a very social pet who loves people and greets them appropriately, you may want them to say hello. But first, check to see if your neighbors like dogs and want to greet your pup. Some people are nervous or afraid of canines, while others are allergic or would just prefer to keep their distance. It's important to respect your neighbors' boundaries



Creating a happy pack of dogs who walk comfortably together takes time. But it's worth the effort.

and comfort levels. Similarly, not all dogs are going to be comfortable meeting strangers."

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

Tremont St.

Continued from page 1

Notably, an October 2023 report from WCVB revealing that Punjab Mini Mart failed a second health inspection in a week included a link to inspection records on the city's website showing that the establishment had its permit to operate temporarily suspended multiple times between 2022 and 2023.

Additionally, inspection reports from the abovementioned link mention rodent issues, displaying expired products, and more.

Further, community members raised concerns about the ability of ownership to be a good neighbor and that other properties owned by Soni's father had violations.

It should be noted that during the May CAMH meeting, Soni stated he would be the manager of the LLC that proposed to run the dispensary. His parents would have a financial interest in the business but would only be involved in "significant corporate transactions."

Even with some of these concerns, Soni DOT did claim to have its supporters. According to the presentation given during the BCB's transactional hearing, which preceded the voting hearing, Soni noted receiving 17 personal letters and 543 signatures from direct abutters, community members, and local businesses supporting the dispensary.

It should also be noted that several people provided public testimony in support of the proposal during the transactional hearing.

However, with that all being said, BCB Commissioners could not get behind the proposal. Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce noted that the proposal's diversity and inclusion plan was generic and emphasized there was a buffer zone conflict with another establishment.

Missing details from the employment plan and strong opposition, which Joyce said was vocal, headlined her comments on the proposal as it was presented.

Commissioner Lisa Holmes echoed Joyce, saying, "This proposal scored very low, in my opinion."

"Usually, we always have some local pushback sometimes when dispensaries want to open in areas, but the amount of discord against this establishment stood out," she added.

Commissioner John Smith agreed and mentioned that he thought there were a lot of unaddressed community concerns.

"So, for me, I agree with my fellow commissioners that this did not seem like a very strong application," he said.

While Commissioners Gabriel Camacho and Ramon Soto both had reservations about the proposal, they offered some encouraging words.

"I really do think it's important to have diversity

within the cannabis industry and within cannabis entrepreneurs. I think it was strong [that] you have a lot of support from the South Asian community, and I would encourage you to build that," said Camacho.

Soto thought that in the week leading up to the voting hearing, some progress had been made regarding issues, such as a lack of detail.

"In the face of public, really, reasonable criticism, they've responded, which I think is great," said Soto.

"I think some of the actions that they've taken foster confidence and progress, but I think that has to get built upon and included into a more comprehensive and considerate approach to running this business in a community that has a lot of concerns," he added.

Before making a motion, Joyce again provided comments, saying the BCB had received a lot of supplemental material after the transactional hearing to the point that she compared it to a brand-new application.

"Should the applicant want to come back and present that to the community again and then to us, I would be open to a brand new application from them," said Joyce.

Ultimately, there could be another application for Soni DOT in the near future, as the BCB unanimously approved a motion to reject the proposal, as mentioned, with the ability to apply again.

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BEST MISSION HILL TOMATO CONTEST AT BRIGHAM CIRCLE FARMERS MARKET

Photos by Nancy Ahmadifar



The judges congratulate Francie Hauck, contest winner and Mission Hill resident, 2nd from left. The judges were all local business people. Matt Postal, owner of Lilly's Pasta, far right, says he knows his tomatoes. Lorna Grim, owner of LaNubian Experience, right, grows tomatoes. Perry Gerald, staff of Gary's Too Farmstand, far left, sells and eats tomatoes every day.



Mission Hill residents participated in the community judging portion of the Best Mission Hill Tomato Contest.

The Mission Hill Health Movement's annual Best Mission Hill Tomato Contest was held August 22 at the Mission Hill Farmers Market in Hanlon Sq, Brigham Circle. It promotes growing some of one's own food and recognizes neighbors' gardening achievements.

The event has community judging where attendees vote for their favorite tomatoes based upon appearance and other non taste criteria. Then, the 3 professional judges take over. The judges use their own personal criteria. They also decide if they want to taste any or all tomatoes to make a decision. If they cut them, attendees can taste them also.

This year's winner is Mission Hill resident Francie Hauck.

The judges were all local business people. Matt Postal, owner of Lilly's Pasta, says he knows his tomatoes. Lorna Grim, owner

of LaNubian Experience, grows tomatoes, and Perry Gerald, staff of Gary's Too Farmstand, sells and eats tomatoes every day.

Until the tasting began, the winning tomatoes were beautiful yellow tomatoes with purple accents. The red Hungarian Beefheart tomato, a heirloom tomato, won the taste test and was declared Best Mission Hill Tomato of 2024 with honors to their grower.

Every Spring, the MHHM starts tomatoes for community distribution.

Several people asked if we can start this type of tomato for 2025. The winner grew them both in her garden, and in containers on her porch, which makes it great for an urban community where many people have balconies or back porches but no back yards.

As usual, the Tokyo Tramps, a blues/rock duo, provided the perfect sound track to the contest.

My Third Act

3 Workshops to Think About and Plan our Senior Years!

- **Thurs. Sept. 26** Who am I as an Elder in my family and community?
- **Thurs. Oct. 10** What is important to me right now?
- **Thurs. Nov. 7** How do I see my future?



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City of Boston recognizes International Overdose Awareness Day

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) are calling attention to the heartbreaking consequences of the opioid epidemic as they marked International Overdose Awareness Day on Saturday, August 31. The entire City of Boston extends heartfelt condolences to residents from all corners of our community who have lost a loved one to a fatal overdose. Mayor Wu, her administration, and the BPHC are also highlighting their ongoing commitment to expanding access to lifesaving care and crucial harm reduction services through events and programming for National Recovery

Month, which begins on September 1.

To mark International Overdose Awareness Day, and the upcoming start to National Recovery Month, Boston is again joining with volunteers and State partners in planting more than 20,000 purple flags on Boston Common to memorialize the lives lost to overdoses over the past decade across Massachusetts. Throughout National Recovery Month, the BPHC is also reminding all Boston residents that the overdose-reversing drug naloxone is safe and easy to use. BPHC is partnering with community organizations to connect residents and organizations with this life saving resource. BPHC

is also launching an educational ad campaign that will teach the public about the importance of naloxone and how they can access it for free.

“The opioid crisis touches lives across our community, and I’m so grateful for the work our many departments are doing to help dismantle the dangerous stigma of substance use disorder and help those suffering,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “We are committed to connecting individuals with services that put them on the path to recovery and supporting families who have lost loved ones to this ongoing crisis.”

State data showed a 12% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths in Boston from 2022-2023



Mayor’s Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

Volunteers planted more than 20,000 purple flags on Boston Common to memorialize the lives lost to overdoses over the past decade.

while there was a 10% decrease

in those deaths statewide. The Boston Public Health Commission’s Health of Boston Data Update 2024 report showed that from 2019 to 2023, there was a 40.5% increase in the drug overdose mortality rate for Boston overall. The report also found communities of color continue to be uniquely impacted by this crisis. During the five-year period, the overdose mortality increased 124.5% for Black residents and 44.2% for Latinx residents, while remaining close to unchanged for white and Asian Boston residents. Boston has allocated \$250,000 per year to provide financial aid and grief support to families who have lost a loved one to overdose, drawing on dollars the city received from settlements with opioid companies.

“Opioid overdose deaths have occurred in every community and every neighborhood in Boston and can be prevented,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “One way that we can honor lives tragically cut short is by increasing access to harm reduction, including naloxone which reverses opioid overdoses, and treatment to anyone who is struggling with substance use disorder.”

In response to the continued impacts of the opioid crisis, the BPHC previously announced \$7.5 million in new funding to expand overdose prevention and access to care. The Centers for Disease Control awarded the BPHC \$6.5 million over five years to distribute naloxone, place substance use navigators in three Boston community

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Awareness

Continued from page 12

health centers, and work with the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center to provide ongoing training to medical providers. Additionally, Boston is distributing \$1 million in grants to community organizations that will hand out naloxone throughout Boston neighborhoods and teach more residents about how to recognize and respond to overdose. These grants are funded by the opioid settlements, which Boston will receive incrementally through 2038, for an estimated total of \$37 million.

National Recovery Month is an opportunity to honor those living in recovery and share resources for people experiencing substance use disorder. The City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commissioner are partnering with organizations on several activities this September:

- The BPHC, Boston Public Library, and MOAC created a curated list of books about recovery and harm reduction.

- A calendar of additional Recovery Month events sponsored

by BPHC community partners can be found here.

- On the last day of September, Boston will light City Hall purple in recognition of Recovery Month.

In 2023 BPHC distributed over 23,000 doses of naloxone to

residents and community partners and made 2,389 referrals for substance use treatment. The Commission also hosts training programs to equip opioid users, their families, and healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills to prevent, identify,

and intervene during a drug overdose using naloxone. For more details on these training programs, please visit our overdose prevention website.

To find out more about recovery services and where to seek help, please call 311 or visit www.boston.gov/recovery.

Grief and trauma support services can also be found here. If you suspect an overdose, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately. Fatal overdoses can be prevented through proactive education and harm reduction efforts.

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EDITORIAL

Red Sox and Pats are taking the fans for granted

For the third year in a row and fifth time in six years, the Red Sox appear doomed to fail to reach the playoffs, a stretch of futility that the Patriots promise to mimic almost precisely if they fall short of the playoffs for their third straight season and fourth time in five years.

Both of our beloved teams enjoyed unprecedented success through the first two decades of this century, with the Pats winning six Super Bowls and the Sox winning four World Series.

Thanks to that streak of success, both the Sox and the Pats rank among the most valuable sports franchises in the world, even amidst an exponential increase in the value of all pro sports teams worldwide.

Both the Sox and Pats enjoy an incredibly loyal fan base -- and the ownership knows it. They have calculated that the fans will continue to shell out large sums for the "experience" of being at Fenway and Gillette in person, even if it's to watch a mediocre (or worse) product.

When the current owners took over the Sox and the Pats more than 20 years ago, they vowed to reinvigorate what had been moribund franchises for decades -- and they delivered on those promises. For the ownerships of both teams however, the Pats and the Sox today constitute just a piece of their global sports enterprises.

Sad to say, it would appear that the owners of both the Sox and the Pats are content to sit on their past laurels. It would seem that they've grown weary of the pursuit of excellence -- with the result that for local sports fans, there's no longer any joy in Mudville on Sunday afternoons.

The hostages are just pawns

The brutal deaths this past week of six innocent civilian hostages who were taken captive by the Hamas terrorists on October 7 has shone a bright light on a simple reality: The hostages are nothing but pawns, if even that, in the ongoing conflict between the Hamas and Israeli governments.

The execution-style murders of the hostages, who reportedly were shot in the head at close range, is shocking but not surprising. Hamas terrorists have the full backing and funding of the Iranian government whose sole, stated goal is to wipe the State of Israel off the map and to kill every Jew they can lay their hands on.

But the barbarity of Hamas and its Iranian masters is nothing new. These are regimes that treat their own people, especially women, with cruelty and inhumanity. Any hint of dissent is crushed with torture, sham trials, and executions.

As for the Israeli leaders, the sad and tragic deaths of the hostages this past week have made it clear that they are not interested in securing the hostages' release. The brutal war in Gaza, in which thousands of innocent civilians have been killed, has dragged on for 11 months with no end in sight. Negotiations to bring about a ceasefire in order for the remaining hostages to be freed have gone nowhere, with both Hamas and the Israeli government blaming the other for the lack of progress.

Whether one believes that the position being taken by the Israeli government is either morally or strategically defensible, the bottom line is that the Israeli government has not prioritized the plight of the hostages, which is painfully evident to the members of the hostages' families, who said in a statement this week, "For 11 months the Israeli government led by Netanyahu failed to do what a government is expected to do—return its sons and daughters home. A deal for the return of the hostages has been on the table for over two months. If it weren't for the thwarting of the deal, the excuses and the spins, the hostages whose deaths we learned of this morning would probably be alive."

All of us join with the family members of the six deceased hostages in mourning the deaths of their loved ones and sharing in their grief. Hopefully, their loss will spur all parties to come to an agreement that will bring the remaining hostages home.

But given the apparent intransigence and indifference of the Hamas and the Israeli leaders, we fear this will not be the last time that family members of the remaining hostages will endure further anguish.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com.

Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

More information: 617-524-7662

Healey proclaims September as 'Emergency Preparedness Month'

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Governor Maura Healey has declared September 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Month to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to encourage planning for disasters and other types of emergencies.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and other state, local, and nonprofit agencies will promote preparedness through various public outreach efforts throughout the month. These efforts are part of a month-long national campaign themed "This is why I prepare." The goal is to personalize the reasons why local leaders and officials prepare for emergencies while encouraging others to do the same.

"Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and I have visited communities across Massachusetts impacted by the devastating effects of severe flooding and other significant weather events. We know that emergency readiness is essential to our collective ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards and threats," said Governor Healey. "After the floods experienced by Massachusetts communities in 2023, I pro-

posed and the Legislature enacted Massachusetts' first Disaster Relief and Resilience Fund to increase support for municipalities and strengthen resiliency statewide. During preparedness month I encourage all residents to assess their readiness and rely on the many resources available to prepare for the unexpected."

"The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Health, and other public safety agencies collaborate closely with Massachusetts communities and across all levels of federal, state, and local government to increase our readiness amid evolving threats to our landscape," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. "Emergency Preparedness Month provides an opportunity to build upon our strong partnerships and continue the important work of preparing for the unexpected."

"Preparedness is vital to recovery and resilience. Emergency Preparedness Month reminds us about the importance of taking proactive steps to protect loved ones and reduce the impacts of an emergency or disaster," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "I'm grateful to MEMA and

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The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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| Robert & Theresa Parks Community Building | Mission Park Drive | Mini Mart |
| Flynn House | 805 Huntington Ave | Boston Property |
| Huntington Market | 818 Huntington Ave | Elen Real State |
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| | | 1623 Tremont St |
| | | 1621 Tremont St |
| | | 1617 Tremont St |
| | | 1607 Trewmont St |
| | | 1575 Tremont St |
| | | 1575 Tremont St |
| | | Tremont St |
| | | 375 Longwood Ave |

West Nile

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for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold

water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during

the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including

all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne

Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

Preparedness

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our many public health and safety partners for their dedication to enhancing state-wide readiness and providing Massachusetts residents with essential preparedness planning resources.”

“Before, during, or after a disaster, it’s important to be a good neighbor and to help one another,” said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. “During Emergency Preparedness Month, ask how you can help a loved one or member of your community prepare, especially those who may be more

vulnerable due to a disability, age, or medical conditions.”

“No matter what the disaster may be, our commitment is to work with and support communities, providing them the resources and services to effectively respond and swiftly recover,” said Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “To protect public health and safety we must engage with the community, foster resilience, and focus on equity and humanity. The importance of preparation cannot be overstated, and all of us share in this responsibility.”

Throughout September,

MEMA and DPH will share information on their social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics, including emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, ways to get involved in community preparedness, and more.

Visit Mass.gov/ready to find emergency preparedness tips available in several different languages, safety tips for specific threats and hazards, preparedness resources from the MEMA, DPH, and the Massachusetts Office on Disability, and other information.

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Looking for a reasonable parking space 3 or 5 days a week within walking distance to Brigham and Women’s Hospital in September. Please respond to Bostoncaz@aol.com / 617-730-3031

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Boston Public Schools announces new leaders for '24-25 school year

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Public Schools (BPS) is proud to welcome 13 new school leaders for the 2024-25 school year. Additionally, 15 school leaders, who previously served as interim school leaders, will be leading in permanent positions. Additionally, 4 school leaders will move from their current school leader role to bring their talent to a new school and community within our district. This group of talented educators represents a diverse and experienced pool of professionals, who are ready and passionate about serving our students, staff, and families.

“I am so excited to welcome our new school leaders to the BPS community and I am confident that they will make each of our school communities stronger,” said Superintendent Mary Skipper. “I look forward to working with all of our amazing and dedicated School Leaders to build on the progress that our district continues to make to ensure strong academic outcomes

through our focus on priority areas like Inclusive Education, Equitable Literacy, High Quality Instructional Materials, and Early College and Career pathways. This group of leaders represents the strength, hope and possibilities of our BPS community, and I cannot wait to see them make their school communities strong places that foster a love of learning among our students.

This year 19 BPS schools will welcome a new school leader to their communities, including 11 previous school leaders and 9 who will hold the position for the first time. This is one of the most diverse and highly qualified school leader groups in the history of Boston Public Schools—10 are people of color, 17 bring previous BPS teaching and leadership experience to the role, and six are fluent in a language other than English.

“School Leaders are so important to the success and growth of our school communities,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I am thrilled to welcome these new leaders who will



PHOTO COURTESY BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New school leaders are welcomed into the Boston Public School system.

deliver on the promises of high-quality and equitable education we have made to our students, families, and school communities.”

Each of these leaders will play a crucial role as the district begins supporting schools with the implementation of Inclusive Education across Grades K0-K2, 7, and 9. They will also work with their schools’ Inclusion Planning Teams (IPTs) to review data and practices, as well as plans to continue expanding inclusive learning opportunities for all students. Additionally, each will be a key partner as we focus on expanding oppor-

tunities for the High-Quality Student Experience for all of our students, especially our Black and Brown students and Multilingual Learners with and without disabilities through equitable literacy, early college and career pathways expansion, and the implementation of the Long-Term Facilities Plan.

“I am proud to join Superintendent Skipper and Mayor Wu in welcoming our New School Leaders to the BPS community,” said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. “Each School Leader brings unique skills and perspectives to their school community, and I know that our New School Leaders will listen, learn, and make decisions with our students and families at the forefront.

These BPS school leaders will lead the work in their schools to ensure that all students have access to High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) that allow students to learn at grade-level standards and are culturally and linguistically responsive.

“I am so proud to welcome our new School Leaders to the BPS community,” said Monica Hall, Executive Director of Leadership Development. “I am excited to see the amazing work that they will do and I stand ready to be a resource and support them as they begin their leadership journeys in their school communities.

Brief biographies of the new BPS School Leaders for SY 24-25 follows:

New Mission High School

Kareem Cutler and Karen Loughran, Co-Interim Heads of School

Karen Loughran has served

as the New Mission High School Director of Evaluation and Accountability and as an Instructional Coach for the past three years, and has many years of experience in teaching and school leadership. Karen started her teaching career as a Teach for America corps member in Houston, Texas, and joined BPS where she continued teaching at Charlestown High School. In 2010, she led turnaround coaching at the Trotter Innovation School to successfully transform the school from a tier 4 to a tier 1 school while maintaining the same student population. Additionally, she was the Director and Interim Principal at Hale Elementary School. Kareem Cutler has been serving as the New Mission Director of School Culture and Operations for the past three years. He started his career as a math teacher where he successfully led classrooms and improved student outcomes for over 10 years. Kareem also served as the Lead Teacher at the Putnam Ave Upper School in Cambridge Public Schools before joining the New Mission High School community..

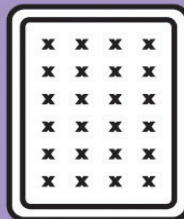
The Boston Public Schools (BPS), the birthplace of public education in the United States, serves more than 48,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 119 schools. BPS is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families, and students to develop in every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.



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SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR CURBSIDE PICK-UP:

If you live in a building with 6 units or fewer, schedule an appointment for curbside pick-up at boston.gov/mattress, or call 311.



RESIDENTS OF BUILDINGS WITH 7+ UNITS:

Please contact your property manager for instructions on how to recycle your mattress, or visit boston.gov/big-buildings for a list of local mattress haulers.

