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MAY 6, 2022 — JUNE 2, 2022

SPRING CLEANUP



Photo by Derek Kouyoumjian

Mission Hill Community Garden Coordinator Rubi He pours some mulch along the tulips during the annual Spring Cleanup at the Mission Hill Community Garden on Parker Street. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

Task force reports uptick in daytime student parties

By LAURA PLUMMER

The Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) met on April 20, where it heard an update regarding problem properties and considered two petitions. Around 35 members of the public attended.

Problem Properties

CAMH Working Group mem-

ber Dave Greenup discussed his group's collaboration with the Mission Hill Problem Properties Task Force (MHPPTF). According to him, there have been several recent reports of loud daytime parties, including several on Calumet Street.

A video showed some 80 students dancing to loud music in the backyard of 95 Calumet St.

on the afternoon of Patriots Day, April 19. The video was sent to Northeastern University officials and City Councilor Kenzie Bok.

Homeowners want to know what the City and universities can do to curb the behavior and whether or not large outdoor gatherings require permits. One resident suggested that colleges

Continued on page 4

Aumento en fiestas estudiantiles durante el día

By LAURA PLUMMER

La Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) se reunió el 20 de abril, donde escuchó una actualización sobre casas prob-

lemáticas y consideró dos peticiones. Asistieron alrededor de 35 miembros del público.

Casas Problemáticas

Dave Greenup, del grupo de trabajo de CAMH, habló sobre la

colaboración de su grupo con el grupo de trabajo de casas problemáticas de Mission Hill (MHPPTF). Según él, ha habido var-

Continued on page 4

Neighbors celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday

By LAUREN BENNETT

A birthday celebration was held for landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted, creator of the Emerald Necklace parks, on April 27th at Jamaica Pond. Olmsted would have been 200 years old this year, but the celebration was held a day after his actual birthday due to rain.

Many friends, supporters, neighbors, and park activists came out to the pond for the celebration, where local storyteller Diane Edgecomb and harpist Margot Chamberlain told stories and sang songs. Proclamations were read, including one by May-

or Michelle Wu (though she was unable to attend) declaring April 26 "Gerry Wright Day" in the city of Boston.

Gerry Wright has celebrated Frederick Law Olmsted each year in the City of Boston, writing and performing a one-man play about Olmsted. Wright has worked in human services and conservation for many years, and is the founder of the Friends of Jamaica Pond. Wright was the highlight of this event, with many people stopping to chat with him in his Olmsted costume. Olmsted 2022 honored both

Continued on page 7



Photo by Lauren Bennett

Gerry Wright, dressed as Frederick Law Olmsted, throws a Frederick Law Olmsted baseball cap into the crowd. April 26, Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday, was declared "Gerry Wright Day" in Boston by Mayor Michelle Wu, to honor Wright's commitment to the Emerald Necklace Parks.

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# Suffolk County DA announces \$400,000 funding for Mass and Cass alternative-to-prosecution program

STAFF REPORT

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden on May 2 announced the allocation of \$400,000 from his office's Asset Forfeiture Fund to expand an innovative alternative-to-prosecution program with the goal of aiding individuals who reside in and frequent the Mass and Cass section of Boston.

Hayden called the extraordinary expenditure "a fitting use of assets seized from drug dealers to directly address the most visible and problematic drug-related geographic area in Massachusetts today."

"It's clear that traditional court involvement is not the answer for many of the vulnerable individuals in the center or fringes of Mass and Cass. We need to present alternative solutions that identify and address the issues that brought them there in the first place. I'm confident this program does that, and I think money seized from drug-related convictions is a fitting method to fund it," Hayden said.

The funds will expand Services Over Sentences (SOS), a

program begun in Suffolk County district and municipal courts by the Suffolk DA's office last year in partnership with North Suffolk Mental Health Association. Under SOS, non-violent offenders with mental health or substance use disorders can volunteer to work with clinicians and recovery coaches on an intensive recovery program. The program's motto is "modify the behavior, treat the disease."

Program participants are assessed based on their level of risk – referring to their likelihood of participating in criminal or otherwise dangerous behavior – and their level of need for services. Current SOS programming is available to those who present as low risk, low need. The program expansion will create a new, more intensive track of services and programming available to individuals up to the highest risk and need categories.

Prosecutors will retain discretion to determine whether diversion through the SOS program is appropriate based on the assessment of the individual and their criminal case. Depending on the case, an eligible individual may voluntarily participate in the

SOS program on a pre-arraignment or post-arraignment basis. If pre-arraignment, a completed program can prevent an individual from acquiring a court record. If post-arraignment, a completed program can mitigate or replace a conviction or traditional sentencing.

The appropriation from Hayden's office will fund a program coordinator, two recovery coaches, a clinician, computers and other equipment. The expansion increases the program's capacity to absorb the anticipated influx of cases arising in the Mass and Cass area during the spring and summer months. Program workers would be present in court and on site.

Audrey Clairmont, Director of Addiction Services at NSMHA, said the SOS program will help identify and treat the factors involved in bringing individuals into the Mass and Cass area with the goal of providing them

the support to leave it. SOS personnel will work with program participants on establishing a source of income, ensuring safe and stable housing, developing skills and educational training, ensuring access to healthy food and access to healthcare, detox and sobriety services, she said.

"The individuals at Mass and Cass are complex, high risk and high need. The SOS program brings the worlds of treatment, recovery and criminal justice together for a full system of care approach to empower these individuals to lead healthy, fulfilling and productive lives in their communities," Clairmont said.

Hayden said the money from his office's Asset Forfeiture Fund is designated to fund the first year of the program. His office helped draft a state budget amendment that would help fund the program's second and subsequent years and is exploring private funding and other op-

tions as well.

"We'll be looking at every possible funding source because the needs of community members and vulnerable individuals at Mass and Cass demand it. Our hope is that the success of the program will be its greatest advertisement for additional funding," Hayden said.

Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston), a member of the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, called the mental health and substance use disorder crisis at Mass and Cass "a battle we must win."

"It will take creative solutions and stakeholders from all levels of government to prevail. The expansion of the SOS initiative sponsored by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office is an important way to intervene with resources to ensure the public's health and safety needs are being addressed holistically," Collins said.

## Wu, BPL announce \$200 one-hour wedding ceremonies at Central Library in Copley Square

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Michelle Wu announced on May 2 that the Boston Public Library (BPL) will offer \$200 one-hour wedding ceremonies in the Central Library's Guastavino Room.

"...our libraries are homes away from home for so many Bostonians," Wu said at the press conference. "To make sure that this space and all the features and resources and history here is free to all, the library system has continued to find ways to return the space to the people of Boston."

Minister Carla Firestone, who has officiated past BPL wedding giveaways, said that "how amazing is it that couples can begin their journey together in a place that specializes in new beginnings? COVID has made couples rethink how they want to get married and this opportunity offers to many more couples the opportunity to get married in an inspiring space."

The ceremonies, which will be one hour each, will be offered on the first Monday of each month, starting on June 6. Registration begins on May 1, and registration must be completed at [bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony](http://bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony). Ceremonies will be available on a first-come, first serve basis.

Couples are welcome to invite up to eight guests to the ceremony, and the Guastavino Room will be available for formal photos after the ceremony.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to offer couples wanting an intimate ceremony a chance to have the Boston Public Library become a special part of their life together," David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library, said in a statement. "The McKim Building has always been the 'palace for the people,' and we are excited to be able to make it available to couples that might not otherwise have access to this space."

More details about the package can be found at [bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony](http://bpl.org/1-hour-wedding-ceremony).

Questions can be relayed to the BPL Special Events Office at [events@bpl.org](mailto:events@bpl.org) or at 617-859-2212.

"The library takes seriously the words on the front of the building," Leonard said: "Free to All."

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EV00010662

Contact Information  
Hazel McAfee, Grants Manager  
617-635-4920 X2704

Camp Joy Transportation Service at the Ohrenberger Community Center, July 11, 2022 through August 05, 2022 Transport up to 70 campers to and from the program, with and without disabilities, between 3 years to 22 years of age.

The City of Boston ("the City"), acting by the Commissioner of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally describe above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids **The bid documents will be accessible on line from Monday May 09, 2022 through Wednesday May 18, 2022** and then again on Monday May 23, 2022 through Friday May 27, 2022 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website and Supplier Portal at the following link (<http://boston.gov/procurement> and accessing the event ID #EV00010662

All sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00 pm on Friday May 27, 2022 by logging onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above event number.

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance and performance bonds as may be applicable.

Sealed bids shall be opened electronically by the Official on Friday May 27, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid will commence on or about July 11, 2022 and will end on August 05, 2022.

Marta Rivera, Interim Commissioner  
(May 09, May 16, May 23, 2022)

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## What's Happening on Main Streets

By ELLEN WALKER  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

April was a remarkably busy month for MHMS and May is looking to be even busier! A big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help MHMS beautify the neighborhood. There were three separate clean up days this past April by helpers that included residents, students, city councilors and MHMS board members. Our efforts took us up Tremont Street from Sewall Street, into Brigham Circle and the memorial park then down Huntington Avenue to S. Huntington. We had challenging weather one day, but everyone worked through the rain and made a positive difference! Thank you to City Councilor Kenzie Bok and her staff, City Councilor Murphy's staff, Representative Nika Elugardo's staff and Northeastern University students and especially to our resident volunteers.

The neighborhood also celebrated the opening of a new business. Kudos to Mit Patel and Jamille Coy of Bread N Butter at 1562 Tremont Street who offer a wide variety of international products and treats like hand-made vegetable samosas, Pocky strawberry cream biscuit sticks and Lay's steak-flavored potato chips. This shop is worth stopping into the next time you are in the area!

Outdoor dining is gearing up in the neighborhood and you can enjoy "al fresco" dining on Smith Street at The Pig, along Tremont Street from Tavern of Tales to Milkweed Café and all the way up to The Pudding Stone Pub or in Brigham Circle at The Mission, Laughing Monk Café and Penguin Pizza!

This month will also see a visit from Mayor Wu and her team who, along with the Parks Department, will be at McLaughlin Playground Friday, May 6 at 9:30am for "Coffee with the Mayor." This event is always a fun time.

At the end of the month, Memorial Day will be fun-packed for Mission Hill with two great events. First, on Monday, May 30th, the Mission Hill American Legion Post 327 will hold its annual wreath-laying ceremony in Brigham Circle. Please



Spring Clean Up - left to right is MHMS board member Gar Chiang, Johnnie's "crew" (a local fraternity that lives on hill), Esme from Needham Bank, in front is Maria from Needham Bank with her daughter Marlenny, another "crew" member and MHMS advisory board member Tricia Fitzgerald



Spring Clean Up - left to right is Raymond, Ari, Anthony, Councilor Kenzie Bok, Jolene, Pamela and Joe; in front is Danielle, Luisa, Braydon, Mollie and Heather.



At the ribbon cutting of Bread 'n Butter at 1562 Tremont Street are Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity, Rep. Nika Elugardo, Sue Gorman from Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Jamille Coy and Mit Patel, owners of Bread N Butter and MHMS board members Tricia Fitzgerald and Eric Alden.



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Please join MHMS as we celebrate and honor all mothers' by wishing them a wonderful, Happy Mothers Day on Sunday, May 10th! Check Mission Hill's local restaurants for Mother's Day Specials for dine in, take out or delivery and make their day truly memorable.

**Mission Hill Main Streets**  
1542 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 232 0182  
mainstreetsellenwalker@gmail.com  
https://explore.missionhillmainstreet.com



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# SUMMER DANCE CAMP



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**TONY WILLIAMS  
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AGES 5-14  
**July 18, August 15,  
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## Task Force

Continued from page 1

offer up their campus for such events “so residents of Mission Hill can enjoy their weekends at home.”

Greenup encouraged impacted residents to continue to document and report loud parties.

### 1619 Tremont St.

The former Flann O’Brien’s will soon be Yellow Door Taqueria. The owner wants to transfer the old pub’s liquor license to the new restaurant and create outdoor seating. Eighty-eight percent of

those in attendance voted for the proposal. CAMH will submit a letter of support to the Boston Licensing Board, which will consider the proposal on May 25th.

### 1558 Tremont St.

The owner of the old funeral home at 1558 Tremont St. wants to tear it down, along with the adjacent parking lot, and build a seven-story residence. The building would include 109 rental units (down from 139 in the original plan). There would be ten parking spaces and reserved parking for local businesses.

Meeting attendees expressed

several concerns about the proposal, including the excessive height and density, its potential impact on traffic and trash, and its lack of parking and delivery spots. Residents also noted the scarcity of owner-occupied homes in Mission Hill that could attract longer-term residents.

Developers said they would consider the feedback and return to CAMH with a revised plan for a four-story building that would fit in with the neighborhood. Residents can provide additional input on the BPDA website until May 23.

## Aumento

Continued from page 1

ios informes recientes de fiestas ruidosas durante el día, incluidas varias en Calumet Street.

Un video muestra a unos 80 estudiantes bailando con música a todo volumen en el patio trasero de 95 Calumet St. en la tarde del 19 de abril. El video fue enviado a los funcionarios de Northeastern University y a la Consejera Municipal Kenzie Bok.

Los residentes quieren saber qué pueden hacer la Ciudad y las universidades para frenar el comportamiento y si las grandes reuniones al aire libre requieren permisos o no. Una vecina sugirió que las universidades ofrezcan sus campus para tales eventos “para que los residentes de Mission Hill puedan disfrutar sus

fines de semana en casa”.

Greenup alentó a los residentes afectados a continuar documentando e informando sobre fiestas ruidosas.

### 1619 Tremont St.

El antiguo Flann O’Brien’s pronto será Yellow Door Taquería. El propietario quiere transferir la licencia de licor del antiguo pub al nuevo restaurante y crear asientos al aire libre. Un 88 por ciento de los asistentes votó a favor de la propuesta. CAMH presentará una carta de apoyo a la Junta de Licencias de Boston, que considerará la propuesta el 25 de mayo.

### 1558 Tremont St.

El dueño de la antigua funeraria en 1558 Tremont St. quiere derribarla, junta con su estacionamiento y construir una residencia de siete pisos. El edificio incluiría 109 unidades de alquiler (frente a

las 139 del plan original). Habría diez espacios de estacionamiento y estacionamiento reservado para negocios locales.

Miembros de CAMH expresaron varias preocupaciones sobre la propuesta, incluida la altura y densidad excesivas, su impacto potencial en el tráfico y la basura, y la falta de lugares de estacionamiento y entrega. Los residentes también notaron la escasez de viviendas ocupadas por sus propietarios que podrían atraer a residentes permanentes.

El desarrollador dijo que consideraría los comentarios y regresaría a CAMH con un plan revisado para un edificio de cuatro pisos que encajaría con el vecindario. Los residentes pueden proporcionar información adicional en el sitio web de BPDA hasta el 23 de mayo.

## Main Streets

Continued from page 3

join us for light refreshments at 9:30am. The Museum of Fine Arts will feature three Mission Hill artists during the annual May 30th Community Day from 10:00am-5:00pm. Stop in and say “hi” to Diablo Glass School artist Angie McHale, INFocus Camera Club members Dragan Grujic and Dan Vlahos and then stop by Itsuo Kiritani’s table for a quick demonstration on how easy it is to pick up a paint brush and

explore your hidden talents as you peruse his watercolors of the local Mission Hill scenery!

MHMS wants to correct an error from last month’s article. We misidentified one of Mission Hill’s Seniors as Ellen Saucier – her correct name is Mary Burns. Sorry about that Mary!

Until next month, remember to shop local and support small business!

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## Public Meeting

# 1558 Tremont Street

Wednesday, May 18  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/3vyCOyO](https://bit.ly/3vyCOyO)  
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864  
Meeting ID: 161 243 9564

Project Proponent:  
Tremont & Pontiac LLC

### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a public meeting for the 1558 Tremont Street project located in Mission Hill. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public.

Project Page: [bit.ly/3y9uurc](https://bit.ly/3y9uurc)

mail to: **Daniel Polanco**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.304.8109  
email: [dan.polanco@boston.gov](mailto:dan.polanco@boston.gov)

Close of Comment Period:  
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# MISSION HILL LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY



Preparing for the pitch.

Courtesy photos

Opening Day for the Mission Hill Little League season at Killilea Field in McLaughlin Playground on April 30, 2020. Approximately 100 children have registered.



Dennis Pultinas at the grill; retiring from MHLL board after 26 years of service.



Whooping it up.



Warming up for the game.



Little Leaguers patiently waiting for speakers.



Killilea Field springs back to life.



City Councilors Ruthzie Louijeune and Kenzie Bok with MHLL President Dan Weldon

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# Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

The Boston City Council has been discussing reparation payments by the city to Black Bostonians.

I contacted Mission Hill City Councilor, Kenzie Bok and stated that I'm against such payments. This is a divisive proposal. We are all aware of slavery's horrible legacy, but today's Bostonians are not complicit because a small percentage of their ancestors owned slaves more than a century and a half ago.

Meanwhile, Sonia Chang-Diaz, a candidate for Governor, who is our Mission Hill State Senator, is hoping to get two debates soon with her opponent, Attorney General Maura Healey.

At this writing, her request to Healey has fallen on deaf ears, and if Chang-Diaz doesn't get 15 percent of the Delegate vote the weekend of June 3 in Worcester, she won't be on the September ballot.

A misguided statement that AG Healey made following the riot in Boston in June 2020 will hinder her quest for Governor. What started as a protest of the George Floyd murder, turned into a riot with businesses and Boston Police cruisers torched. Nine Boston police officers were hospitalized, after which Healey, speaking to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, said; "Yes, America is burning but that's how forests grow."

Condolences to the family of



Photos courtesy Frederick G.S. Clow

Above, Retired Lt. Colonel Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse (center) was recently honored by friends. In the photo to the right Woodhouse was a member of the famed The Tuskegee Airmen who were a group of primarily African American military pilots (fighter and bomber) and airmen who fought in World War II.



Cheryl Morrison, who passed away April 10.

Cheryl lived for her family. She was a wonderful mother to her three children and she adored her four grandchildren.

Cheryl was a hard worker and she was always cheerful, whether she was up the park when her grandkids were small or saying hello at Mike's Donuts after working the overnight shift at Children's Hospital. Cheryl will be dearly missed.

Christian Soto-Olivaro, Jerome Hobson, and Sean Redden were initially charged with the first-degree murder of Andres Cruz, owner of AC Hardware in Mission Hill on July 17, 2017. In a plea deal that reduced the charge to manslaughter last month the trio were sentenced to 18-20 years in state prison.

Andres, who was a cheerful guy, is dearly missed by his customers and his loved ones.

A tip of the hat goes to 17-year-old Jordan Todd, a brilliant student at Ursuline Academy in Dedham.

Jordan, the proud daughter of Tommy Todd and pretty Lynn Todd, earned a four-year scholarship to Holy Cross College.

Jordan's grandfather, the venerable John Todd, is a longtime

Mission Hill man, and he is as proud as a peacock of his beloved Jordan.

It was an honor to accompany my best friend, Col. George Rollins, to West Point last weekend.

Col. Rollins and five of his Army football teammates from 50 years ago were honorary captains for the Army intramural spring football game at Michie Stadium. Being with Col. Rollins I enjoyed the VIP treatment, which included partaking in the pre-game meal with the Army players and later strolling to the locker room with these young patriotic athletes.

In the packed West Point Auditorium, which included the players and 40 hopeful West Point recruits, Army head coach Jeff Monken introduced the honorary captains, and he expounded on their military achievements along with a splash of their gridiron exploits.

Col. Rollins received a thunderous ovation, the loudest among the honorees.

The last Mission Hill Post meeting was held May 4 at at Bay Pointe Restaurant in Quincy. Any veteran seeking to join our Post may contact our Commander, Col. George Rollins, at 703

209-2124.

At the previous meeting, the Post authorized funds for the Mission Grammar School Annual Gala and a contribution to Mission Hill Main Streets, who will be assisting us for the Memorial Day ceremony, May 30.

Please join us at 10 a.m. at Brigham Circle for the formalities and light refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Condolences to longtime Mission Hill resident, Mara St. Cyr, who passed away last month.

I often conversed with Mara at the Mission Hill Post back in the old days. Mara's late husband was Al St. Cyr, a former M.H. Post Commander and a World War II veteran.

Mara was a terrific woman who loved The Hill and Mission Church, and she will be dearly missed.

Maurice is a life long resident on Mission Hill and a monthly contributor to the Mission Hill Gazette. He can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

## ELECTRONIC WASTE AND PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

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Public Works

# Mission Hill/Roxbury, city's COVID positive test-rate climbs once again

By JOHN LYNDS

With the neighborhood and city's weekly COVID positive test rate still climbing, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is recommending residents take precautions to stop the spread.

The BPHC also renewed its recommendation that masks be worn in indoor public settings, including public transportation and transportation hubs, government buildings, and crowded indoor venues. The recommendation is especially important for those who are at high risk for severe illness or who live with someone who is high risk.

"With COVID-19 cases rising, we are urging all Bostonians to take extra precautions to protect yourselves, your family, and our community. If you are feeling unwell, get tested at one of our free City sites or take a rapid test. It's also important to stay up to date on your vaccinations," said Executive Director of the BPHC Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, "We are recommending that individuals protect themselves and others by masking indoors, particularly in crowded places. These precautions are how we protect the progress we've made in our com-

munity."

Last week, 1,066 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents were tested for the virus last week and 5.9 percent were positive--this was a 20 percent increase from the 4.9 percent that tested positive as reported by the BPHC on April 25.

Sixty three additional Mission Hill/Roxbury residents contracted the virus between April 25 and May 2 and there are now 12,710 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate also increased last week and is still above the 5 percent threshold.

According to the BPHC 16,256 residents were tested citywide last week and 7.8 percent were COVID positive--this was a 13 percent increase from the 6.9 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on April 25.

The BPHC reported there has been a 65 percent increase in COVID-19 cases over the past three weeks.

Health experts are saying the new subvariant of the omicron strain, known as BA.2, is now the dominant strain in the US and 30 percent more infectious than the BA.1 omicron strain responsible

for the last surge.

Dr. Ojikutu and the BPHC also reported last week the amount of COVID-19 particles in local wastewater samples has increased by 109 percent over a 14-day period, suggesting that cases could continue to rise in the coming weeks. New hospitalizations have also slowly risen in Boston during this time period.

With higher transmission levels, wearing a mask can prevent individuals from getting sick, testing can help stop the spread of COVID-19, and vaccination with boosting reduces the risk of severe illness and hospitalization.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.5 percent last week and went from 175,628 to 178,291 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,458.



Photos by Lauren Bennett

Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek and Gerry Wright dressed as Frederick Law Olmsted.

## Olmsted

Continued from page 1

Patricia Kish, Chief of Design and Engineering for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Kent Jackson,

Director of Education for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, for their work in the parks.

For more information about upcoming bicentennial events, visit [olmstednow.org](http://olmstednow.org), the website for Greater Boston's bicentennial celebration.



Many neighbors came out to celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday.



Storyteller Diane Edgecomb and harpist Margot Chamberlain sang songs and told stories as part of Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday celebration at Jamaica Pond on April 27.

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## Virtual Public Meeting

### 1-4 Terrace Place Public Meeting

Monday, May 23  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/30Eg3kr](https://bit.ly/30Eg3kr)

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 509 7001

**Project Proponent:**  
Bellerose Terrace, LLC

**Project Description:**

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 1-4 Terrace PI project in Mission Hill to discuss the SPRA. The meeting will include a presentation and Q&A from the public. The proposed project consists of approx. 47,866sf on 6 stories, 47 condo units.

Interpreting services are available to communicate the information at these meetings at no cost to you. If you require translation services, please contact: [quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov](mailto:quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov). The meeting is scheduled for 5/23/2022. Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days beforehand.

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4219  
email: [quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov](mailto:quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov)

# Northeastern students volunteer to clean up area parks and open space

By LAUREN BENNETT

On April 23, Northeastern University's Off-Campus office hosted a community cleanup and planting event as part of National Volunteer Week and Earth Day weekend. Students were notified about the event via email, and a couple of students told the Gazette about their experience with the cleanup, which took place in the Mission Hill Community Garden and other nearby open spaces.

Rajath Vanakudare, a first-year graduate student studying computer science at Northeastern, said in an email to the Gazette that the email from Northeastern "caught my attention as I'm someone who loves to do community service."

He said he had done previous garden cleanup work at Hawthorne Youth and Community Center where they "completely cleaned up the garden," so he decided to sign up for this event.

In the Mission Hill Community Garden, where Vanakudare helped out on the 23, "we did tasks like raking, removing weeds, cleaning the debris, removing non-biodegradable products from the lot and cleaned the

footpath around the place. It was fun as I got to meet a lot more people."

Vanakudare also said that student volunteers received coffee, donuts, and muffins at the end of the cleanup, as well as a goodie bag.

"It was really satisfying to see the yard clean after three hours of work," he said. "I would say it was a really fun experience where I got an opportunity to meet my peers and go around the local parks to make it a cleaner place."

Dev Vaibhav is another graduate student who participated in the cleanup day, but he said he was stationed at the tennis courts by the Boston Police headquarters to clean up that area.

Vaibhav said that they cleaned up some leaves and dirt on the nearby stairs as well as removed weeds and planted some flowers in the area.

"The experience was very good," he said, adding that it helped take his mind off the stress of studying for upcoming final exams. "I was feeling stressed and thought that I should give it a try," Vaibhav said. "That was really good; really helpful."



Northeastern student Jinesh Mehta brings some mulch to be put down on the Community Garden.



Community garden member Garrett Hauck breaks out a hose to water some cold-weather greens.



Northeastern alumni Logan Jones (right) started his garden plot three years ago. Here with fellow allumn Lucas Simon they make a plan for growing this year.

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## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### 'GORDO' AND 'PELUA'

Gordo and Pelua are a 6 year old pair looking for a home together. They are friendly, affectionate pups. While they adore their humans and each other, they need a home without other pets. They also need to be walked separately if they are going to pass other dogs because Gordo thinks he needs to protect his sister. They would love a home where they can soak up all the love for themselves!



Community gardener Helen Hwang helps move out some dried branches.



Garlic sprouts shoot out of the ground.

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Northeastern student Anurag Arasam touches up the paint on the Garden bulletin board.



Community ambassador and 3rd year student at Northeastern Hannah Rosman pitchforks up some mulch a wheelbarrow.



Garden coordinators Bob Francy, Rubi He, and Karen Young.



Northeastern University community ambassadors 3rd year student Hannah Rosman and 5th year student Emma Somers plant onion bulbs.



The bright yellow of daffodils is a sign that Spring is in full swing.



Garden coordinator Bob Francey (center) with Luanne Wotkowski and Paula Lawrence, gardeners since 1998.

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# Councilor Bok's former Mission Hill Liaison tapped for Wu's new Office of Civic Organization

By JOHN LYNDS

A familiar face in Mission Hill has been recruited by the Wu Administration to serve as Director of the Mayor's new Office of Civic Organization (OCO), a new office launched in 2022.

Mayor Michelle Wu announced recently that Henry Santana will serve as Director of OCO. Wu said as director, Santana and the OCO will foster collaborative partnerships and programs that encourage Boston residents to participate in proactive community engagement, awareness, and service in Boston's neighborhoods. The office will work to reduce barriers and expand opportunities for Boston residents to be active residents in their communities.

Sanata served as the Field Director for Councilor Kenzie



*Former Councilor Bok's Mission Hill Liaison Henry Santana appointed head of the city's new Office of Civic Organization.*

Bok's 2019 campaign and as her office's Director of Operations and Mission Hill and Fenway Liaison following her election.

"A fundamental part of our recovery must be growing community connectivity," said Mayor

Wu. "This new Office of Civic Organizing will mobilize residents to get involved and shape how we support our communities. I know Henry Santana will use his passion for Boston and building community to grow activism across our neighborhoods."

Prior to his appointment and after working for Councilor Bok, Santana worked as an Associate at MFS Investment Management.

"I am beyond honored and excited to serve under Mayor Wu's administration and lead the Office of Civic Organizing," said Santana. "I am ready to bring the skills and values I have developed in my previous roles and showcase them under this administration. I look forward to connecting residents to the City government in new and creative ways."

Sanatana and OCO will oversee the Love Your Block program. The Love Your Block Mini-Grant Program was one of OCO's first programs and provides up to \$3,500 in funding to support clean-up and beautification projects.

Aside from the mini-grant program Sanatana and OCO will also oversee and coordinate the City Hall On the Go Truck and various community service and beautification projects. The office will also provide residents the opportunity to partner with the City on year-round clean-up events and a tool lending program that will help residents complete their neighborhood revitalization projects.

The new Office will support and hold other City offices accountable for how they are engaging with residents and building a framework for the needs of Boston's individual neighborhoods.

As the inaugural Director of

the Office of Civic Organizing, Santana will work with various departments to ensure community engagement and policy-making is being communicated to residents through proactive engagement.

"The addition of the Office of Civic Organizing to the Community Engagement Cabinet builds on our commitment to empower residents to get involved with their local government through civic engagement," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "I am excited to welcome Henry Santana to the Cabinet and look forward to working with him to bring City Hall into our neighborhoods and drive engagement on the constituency level."

Santana was born in Bani, Dominican Republic and moved to Boston as a child. He attended Lasell University where he graduated with a B.A. in History and Political Science.

## 15-year-old arraigned on assault, firearm charges from Ruggles Station shooting

By JOHN LYNDS

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden has just about had it with juvenile gangs roaming the streets of Boston and randomly assaulting people. Recent attacks in Downtown Crossing and the Boston Common has put residents on edge but Hayden has shown he's willing to throw the book at juveniles causing mayhem in Boston despite their age.

On Wednesday a 15-year-old Boston boy was ordered held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing after being charged in connection with the daytime shooting at Ruggles MBTA Station on Monday, April 18 that seriously injured one person.

The boy was arrested by MBTA police early Thursday and charged with attempted murder

and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Suffolk Juvenile Court Judge Peter Coyne ordered him to return to court May 11 for the dangerousness hearing.

Hayden said the recent arraignments of juveniles, including two 13-year-olds on Monday in connection with a series of attacks in Downtown Crossing, Boston Common and elsewhere, was tragic but necessary to maintain public safety.

"We cannot have bullets flying at busy transit stations or people victimized by serial attacks," said Hayden. "We and other agencies make services available at every opportunity for kids and families who are struggling. But public safety is essential, and in these cases our approach had to acknowledge the threats posed by these juveniles."

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## “Customer Information Displays” have gone live

The MBTA announced that the first of its pre-fare “Customer Information Displays” (CIDs) have gone live at Government Center, Tufts Medical Center, Maverick, Ashmont, and Porter stations. CIDs will be dedicated exclusively to real-time information about the state of the system and service, and are located within the lobby level of these stations outside the fare gates, which allows customers to make the most informed decisions about their travel plans before entering the MBTA system. Similar screens will be installed at more stations in the coming months, and system-wide to every rapid-transit station over the next three years.

“These new pre-fare CIDs are another excellent tool in our customer information arsenal. Our goal is to provide customers with the best information we have so that they can make the best decisions about their commutes,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “Service disruptions or elevator outages are sometimes an inevitability, but with these

new digital screens, customers will see in real-time how the issue might affect their trip, and perhaps decide on an alternative way of getting where they’re going. And they’ll get this information before they even step through our fare gates – something they’ve long requested. The information on the screens has been designed and developed completely in-house, and I want to thank our Customer Technology team for their dedicated work on this project.”

An initiative led by the MBTA’s Customer Technology Department, CIDs located outside fare gate areas are in direct response to feedback from riders and will initially include notifications of subway service alerts and information about out-of-service elevators. Dedicated exclusively to real-time information about the system and service, the screens also include a button to generate an audio message, ensuring that blind or low-vision customers have equitable access to this information.

Making real-time information more widely available is one of the MBTA’s strategic objectives in improving the customer experience. In community meetings and surveys that led to the MBTA’s long-term plan, Focus 40, customers asked for more types of real-time information in more places. Bus customers also frequently report that real-time information at bus stops would make them more likely to ride the bus more often. CIDs join the MBTA’s growing inventory of digital signage that connect riders with accurate real-time information. In addition to CIDs, in 2022, the MBTA is doubling the size of its pilot of solar-powered electronic ink (E Ink) signage at bus stops and beginning the scale-up of E Ink signs at Green Line street-level stops.

For more information, visit [mbta.com/screens](http://mbta.com/screens), or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.



### THE SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION & BREAD OF LIFE

The Savings Bank Charitable Foundation recently presented a financial award to Bread of Life of Malden as part of the Foundation’s 25th distribution of funds. Taking part in the award presentation were (from left to right) The Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Director Therese Jarmusik; Bread of Life Executive Director Gabriella Snyder Stelmack, and Bob DiBella, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Savings Bank. The Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 1997 through an initial endowment of \$550,000 from The Savings Bank. The foundation presented a total of \$65,975 to 18 nonprofit organizations during the 25th distribution of funds, bringing the total donations to more than \$823,447 over the past 25 years.

## Project Bread’s 54th annual Walk for Hunger is on target for this year’s goal

On May 1, Project Bread hosted the nonprofit’s 54th annual Walk for Hunger, held virtually for the third consecutive year, to raise funds to help get food assistance to kids and families across the Commonwealth. More than 1,600 virtual participants hit the pavement in their neighborhoods and rallied supporters to raise \$1 million for the cause. Fundraising for the event will continue through June 30.

“Food insecurity didn’t start with the pandemic, and it won’t end with it. But as effects of the pandemic begin to wane, we are also seeing the end of so many of the measures put in place that have helped provide hunger relief,” says Erin McAleer, CEO of Project Bread. “There are still 1 in 6 households in Massachusetts struggling to afford food. That’s what makes it so critical for our community to come together to fight hunger this year. Participating in Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger is one way we can all do something tangible to make sure our neighbors have access

to their most basic need—food. It is people coming together to take action that inspires us all to return year after year.”

True to its grassroots beginnings, The Walk for Hunger unites community partners, business leaders, walkers, volunteers, public officials, media and residents of all backgrounds together for a cause. Money raised through the virtual Walk is funding Project Bread’s urgent mission to ensure kids have reliable access to food, to directly help individuals and families, and to advocate at the state and federal levels for expedited and efficient hunger relief. Walk funds are also supporting community organizations helping people access food locally and ensuring communities have the resources necessary to respond to the hunger crisis now and over the long road to recovery ahead.

Partner organizations participated in The Walk for Hunger’s Commonwealth program by forming teams to raise funds directly for their own anti-hunger programs, while also furthering

Project Bread’s statewide effort. This year 35 nonprofits participated in The Commonwealth, raising more than \$168,000 and counting.

Historically, The Walk for Hunger, the nation’s oldest continual pledge walk, takes place the first Sunday of May on the Boston Common. This year’s event included virtual programming with McAleer and Project Bread staff, as well as walkers and volunteers who posted and shared their experiences along their neighborhood routes and why they were walking to help end hunger.

During the online livestream, the nonprofit’s most distinguished award, the Patrick Hughes Award for Social Justice was presented to Brittany Mangini, Director of Food Security and Nutrition at the Department of Transitional Assistance, and Robert Leshin, Director of the Office for Food and Nutrition Programs at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The award recognizes

individuals with an unyielding commitment to driving meaningful change by addressing the causes of hunger, thus carrying forward the spirit of the event’s founder, Patrick Hughes.

“Our walk community always inspires us,” says McAleer, who joined Project Bread Advisory Council members Saadia Ali and Sonya Khan, Team InstaCart at the Museum of Science, and Commonwealth team Waltham Fields Community Farm at different points throughout the day. “The people of Massachusetts showed up in a big way for this event because people care about this issue. No one should go without enough to eat. From hosting events on local farms, to doing team fitness challenges, to meeting up with remote coworkers and hiking or walking long distances spread out over the last couple months, people continually have found creative ways to raise money to help those who really need it. Their efforts speak to the potential we have as a community when we work

together to drive change and that is a message that resonates with everyone.”

Donations and personal fundraisers will continue to be made through June 30. To support The Walk for Hunger, visit: [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk).

People experiencing food insecurity should call Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential, free assistance getting connected to a variety of food resources in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. Counselors can pre-screen families and help them to apply for SNAP. Learn more at [www.projectbread.org/get-help](http://www.projectbread.org/get-help).

Project Bread, the leading statewide anti-hunger nonprofit, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org).

# King Boston breaks ground bronze sculpture honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King

BY LAUREN BENNETT

King Boston broke ground on the Embrace Memorial, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Coretta Scott King, on April 27 with a ceremony at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common.

Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of King Boston, was joined by colleagues from King Boston, as well as Boston's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Embrace designer Hank Willis Thomas, Amandi Music, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Charlie Baker, and US Attorney Rachael Rollins, as well as supporters and funders, for the celebration, which took place on what would have been Coretta Scott King's 95th birthday.

The Embrace Memorial will be a 22 foot bronze sculpture depicting the hands and arms of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, based on a 1964 photo of the two after King found out he had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The design was chosen out of 126 submissions from around the globe by an art team at King Boston and the City of Boston, after being narrowed down to five finalists. The Embrace was designed by Hank Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group, and will be located near the Tremont Street side of the Boston Common.

According to a press release, "The monument will be the country's largest memorial dedicated to equity representing Boston's path to becoming the city where all are welcome and a place of



On April 27, King Boston, City of Boston officials, and supporters dug the ceremonial dirt in front of the future site of the Embrace Memorial, signifying the groundbreaking of the sculpture on the Boston Common.

## COVID-19 Vaccine for Kids: What You Need to Know

The COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to keep kids safe from COVID-19.

- Vaccines are available for free for everyone 5 and older.
- Some kids may still get COVID after getting the vaccine, but being vaccinated reduces their risk of severe illness.
- Kids may have side effects like a sore arm, achy muscles, and tiredness that can last a day or two.
- Children who get the COVID vaccine are extremely unlikely to experience any serious problems.



opportunity for everyone."

Imari Paris Jeffries said at the event, "this moment represents the power of all of us and is part of a vision to create a radically and equitable and inclusive Boston, by 2030, the city's 400th birthday."

Along with the Embrace Memorial, King Boston has plans for a Center for Economic Justice, which, according to the King Boston website, will be "grounded in community engagement and aimed at generating the data and knowledge needed to inform movements at the grassroots level and beyond." The center will eventually become a "research institute," and partner with "community groups, coalitions, and other stakeholders," the website states.

Sam Giarratani, a public art manager who worked closely with Hank Willis Thomas on the design side of the memorial process, is a Revere native and moved to Winthrop when she was a teenager.

"It's been incredible, for lack of a better word," Giarratani told the Transcript. "I started this in 2018 and through the pandemic, through mayoral shifts, it's still happening and there's a huge hole in the ground and I'm just really proud of my city that it's actually happening."

Giarratani is a founder of Negative Space, LLC, a NYC-based production management company for public art campaigns.

"I operate behind the scenes



Talk with your child's doctor and learn more at [mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids](https://mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids)

## King

Continued from page 12

for the artwork,” she said—“coordinating the vision.”

She added, “It’s a really interesting arts administrative role.” She said she works “really closely and collaboratively” with those involved in the project, including landscape designers and the visionaries behind the idea to put a memorial on the Boston Common.

Giarratani said she was happy to see “so many people come out in support of this project” at the groundbreaking last Wednesday.

“Just like seeing people from all industries show up, I think, is telling that this is a really important groundbreaking thing that’s happening—not only to put a monument in one of the oldest parks in the country, but to sort of talk about the racial history that we have and I know Boston can sort of gloss over some of the issues it’s had in the past,” she said. “This is sort of a show that they’re ready to actually commit and do the work.”

She praised King Boston for its work in “uplifting the Black community in Boston,” and said she looks forward to people interacting with the memorial, which is set to be officially unveiled on Martin Luther King, Jr. day next year.

She said she hopes the Embrace Memorial will become as important to the park as the Make Way for Ducklings statue has become.

“I’m hoping that it becomes part of the ecosystem of the park, and I’m excited to see people taking pictures underneath it and reading around it and just kind of adding to the backdrop.”

Giarratani said that construction will continue through December, when the piece is expected to be fully installed.

“I’m just super grateful,” she said.

At the groundbreaking, Rev. Mariama-White Hammond led a land acknowledgement, reminding those in attendance that the land that is now the Boston Common is the “traditional homelands of the Massachusetts tribe.” She added, “we are so glad today to celebrate the legacies of the Kings and their love.”

Embrace designer Hank Willis Thomas thanked those who were involved in making this

memorial possible, saying “this is an amazing amalgamation of so many people’s love for humanity; love for the possibility of what we can do and what can happen when we work together.”

Barry Gaither, a member of the art selection committee of King Boston, spoke about the selection process and why The Embrace was chosen as the winner.

“We came to the Embrace,” he said, “and it presented us with the great problem of ‘how do you express love in an intimate and global sense simultaneously?’ The Embrace represented that distillation of gesture.”

Governor Charlie Baker also made remarks, saying that “this is the sort of thing that requires everybody to embrace the notion that every day, if you’re not moving forward, you’re moving back.”

He continued, “and I really do hope this memorial and all it stands for, and the work that will be done by the center going forward, will be there as a constant reminder to all of us what’s left to be done and why it’s so important that it be done here in the Commonwealth and here in the City of Boston.”

Mayor Michelle Wu quoted Corretta Scott King in her remarks. “The birthday matriarch we are celebrating today said once, ‘the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members.’”

Wu continued, “What I love about this moment and what we are about to do, to break ground in a season of breaking fast, in a season of reminding each and every one of us of our place of belonging rooted in the greater community is that not only are we embracing our history, our role as a city in this partnership that changed the world forevermore between the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King, our history in crating the spaces that would get passed down generation after generation, but also our role in signifying every single day that we embrace everyone who finds their way to Boston.”

She added, “this is a city that is a city for everyone.”

For more information about the memorial and about King Boston, visit [kingboston.org](http://kingboston.org), and for more information about Sam Giarratani’s company, visit <https://negativespace.rocks>.

## FIRST COMMUNION



Children line up outside the Mission Church on Sunday, May 1 for their first communion. Several groups will be receiving their first communion over the month of May.



### Public Meeting

## 804-812 Huntington Ave.

**Tuesday, May 17**  
6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3F5Phx8](https://bit.ly/3F5Phx8)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 798 2973

#### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the proposed project at 804-812 Huntington Avenue, a project located in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the overall project. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public. La información de esta reunión es crucial para usted como residente y parte interesada de la ciudad de Boston. Se encuentra disponible el servicio gratuito de interpretación de la información brindada en estas reuniones. Si necesita servicios de traducción, contáctese con: ([ebony.darosa@boston.gov](mailto:ebony.darosa@boston.gov)) (617.918.4419) La reunión está programada para el 05/17/2022. Por favor, solicite los servicios de interpretación a más tardar 5 días antes de la fecha de la reunión.

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，本會議的信息對您來說是至關重要的。可以提供翻譯服務以傳達本會議的內容，您無需承擔任何額外費用。如果您需要翻譯服務，請通過以下方式進行聯繫：[ebony.darosa@boston.gov](mailto:ebony.darosa@boston.gov) (617-918-4419) 會議定於2022年05月17日，請在會議前5天內申請口譯服務。

mail to: **Ebony DaRosa**  
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## 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](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

## EDITORIAL

### Alcohol is still #1

Americans have been dying prematurely at unprecedented levels in the past two years from a number of causes.

COVID-19 has taken away almost one million of our fellow Americans, with the number still rising daily for the foreseeable future.

Fatal accidents on our roadways, as we noted last week, have skyrocketed over the past two years.

Drug overdose deaths, mainly attributable to the lethal synthetic drug fentanyl, have exploded, exceeding 100,000 in 2021, compared to about 60,000 in 2019.

However, another statistic came to our attention in an article in the New York Times which is equally tragic and worrisome:

Among adults younger than 65, alcohol-related deaths outnumbered deaths from COVID-19 in 2020. Alcohol-related causes accounted for the deaths of 74,408 Americans ages 16 to 64, compared to 74,075 deaths of individuals under 65 who died from COVID.

More ominously, the rate of increase for alcohol-related deaths in 2020 — 25 percent — outpaced the rate of increase of deaths from all causes, which was 16.6 percent.

Alcohol-related deaths went up for men and women, as well as for every ethnic and racial group. Deaths among men and women increased at about the same rate, though the absolute number of deaths among men was much higher.

However, death rates alone don't tell the whole story of the direct and negative impacts that alcohol abuse has upon individuals, their family members, and our society as a whole.

Alcohol abuse is a crucial factor in just about every negative context one can imagine, ranging from domestic abuse, to violence among unrelated parties, to non-fatal traffic accidents that leave victims severely injured, to lost productivity in the workplace, to mental health issues, to health-care costs, to fetal alcohol syndrome.

Clearly, our society needs to undertake a public health campaign similar to what we did in the 1990s when the American public and politicians finally got tough on the tobacco companies by means of public health campaigns, increased taxes, and stricter enforcement of the laws prohibiting sales to minors.

Unlike tobacco or drugs, alcohol abuse impacts more than just the user -- and it's time that we acknowledge that reality and do something about it.

### Is nuclear war inevitable in Ukraine -- and beyond?

We don't want to sound like alarmists, but in our opinion, the escalation both in military weaponry and rhetoric by the Western powers and the Kremlin is bringing us closer and closer to the brink of nuclear warfare in Ukraine.

We fully support the effort of the U.S. and NATO to help the Ukrainian people defend themselves against the Russian genocide that is occurring in their country.

But none of the politicians or the experts have prepared the public for the possibility that Vladimir Putin will use tactical nuclear weapons to avoid what is looming as a significant military defeat.

The conventional wisdom is that Putin will restrict his army only to the use of conventional weapons.

But that is the rational thinking of those who do not have the mindset of a sociopath for whom rules do not apply.

History has shown us time and time again that sociopathic leaders have no limits. Just when we think, "They will never go THAT far," the sociopaths indeed cross the line and push the boundaries further.

Putin has at his disposal tactical "mini-nukes" that have the explosive power of just a fraction of the bombs we dropped on Japan in WWII.

So our question is this: If Putin uses one on the battlefield, what do we do?

## OP-EDS

### Let us never forget our solemn pledge

By JOSEPH REAGAN

On Memorial Day, 1945, the war in Europe had ended but the fighting in the Pacific continued, Lt. Gen. Lucian Truscott voiced remarks at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy. Turning his back on the assembled VIP's he faced the rows upon rows of headstones and apologized to the 20,000 fallen Americans who had been laid to rest far from home. He was quoted as saying, "All over the world our soldiers sleep beneath the crosses. It is a challenge to us — all allied nations — to ensure that they do not and have not died in vain."

Fast forward to Memorial Day 2022, and the familiar voices of brothers in arms begin to call one another on the phone. People usually think of reconnecting with former military buddies as a joyous happening. However, for this Memorial Day, the topic of conversation was not an armistice, a promotion, or even a daughter's wedding or new addition to a home, it was about the latest in a string of suicides that silence the voice of our brothers but brought renewed connections from other familiar voices. One desperately said, "Sir, I needed to call someone who could understand this."

Everyone in the greatest generation understood war. At home they experienced rationing, schoolchildren collected scrap, and women took up factory jobs while overseas the troops endured combat and were witness to some of the largest and most brutal atrocities in the modern age. When the war was over, they followed the lead of Lt. Gen Truscott and committed their lives to ensure that they "have not died in vain." The shared sacrifice of a generation united them and helped them solve tough problems.

In subsequent wars, such as the Korean and Vietnam era, Veterans did not experience the same level of understanding and thus either turned their voice inward or used their voice to fight for one another on subjects that varied from Agent Orange, PTSD, and other once-silent conditions.

The War on Terror introduced a unique time in our nation's collective history as acts of war played out in real-time on our media devices. Although only one percent of Americans served post

9/11, it seems 100 percent of the country used their voice to express their opinions of this shared history as it unfolded.

For Korea and Vietnam Veterans, war was not a shared experience and therefore various voices having various opinions helped further the national conversation regarding the treatment of veterans leading to safer and more thoughtful approaches. Unlike the veterans of Korea and Vietnam, the veterans of the last several decades did not return home to the voices of dissent that could be addressed directly, instead, they returned to a polite nation that creates media of dissent and very little opportunity for honest, open dialog.

This new era of media, learning, and personal discussions bring rise to the question, "Do people really remember why we hold our veterans in a place of honor?" For years, voices saying meaningless phrases like "the enemy gets a vote" or "there's nothing you could have done" were meant to comfort those of us who have held the heavy responsibility of leading troops in combat. However, many people seem to lack the understanding that our hearts have been forever scarred by the invisible wounds of war, scarred by guilt and grief, and by the longing for forgiveness that will never come. Even if forgiveness was offered, it would be hard to accept as no mere words can undo a life experience and because of this, we often feel isolated, misunderstood, and undervalued therefore our voices remain silent.

As conversations with the voice on the other end of the phone come to its inevitable conclusion, I am reminded that to remain silent is a betrayal of my obligation to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As Horace Bushnell once said, the best thing for us to do is to remember "what they have put it on us to do for the dear common country to which they sold their life." As we gather as one nation this Memorial Day, my hope is that instead of directing shallow words of gratitude at each other, we do as Lt. Gen. Truscott did and direct our gratitude directly towards those who made the ultimate sacrifice. In both our words and actions, let us all commit ourselves to serve the country to which they gave their lives.

While there is still much work to be done, the generation of Veterans from this century have access to vast resources, life-saving technology, and increased information. This same generation of Veterans is just now starting to define our post-service legacy and like our grandparents, return home with a deep commitment to service, and a desire to address the many problems that we face.

One such issue needing to be addressed is helping Veterans find purpose in their post-service lives. Truscott's apology to the dead are not empty words, but a strong voice reminding us that we have an obligation to choose resilience and purpose when faced with guilt or grief. As an example, Gold Star Families, who have experienced tremendous loss, continue to serve their communities to maintain the legacy of the loved one they lost. I often recall a colleague of mine responding to the question "why do you do so much to help Veterans?" he simply held up his finger, choking back tears he responded, "for the one I couldn't save." By choosing to use his voice to advocate for other veterans, he not only helped them find their purpose — he found his own.

It's often said that for those who have served "every day is Memorial Day," a traditionally silent observance in the Veteran's mind that can best be described as an impossible trinity made up of an overwhelming sense of guilt, grief, and grit. Usually, a moment of silence on this day is a welcomed and solemn way to honor the voices from our past, but for myself, after losing three former soldiers to suicide in the past few months, silence is no longer an option and the freedom to use our voice is the greatest gift that our veterans have to offer this Memorial Day.

*Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has almost 20 years experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans' Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is the recipient of multiple awards and decorations including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.*

# Local officials react to Roe v. Wade leak

By JOHN LYNDIS

The unprecedented leak to Politico Monday that five Supreme Court Justices may be gearing up to reverse the court's landmark decision that has protected a woman's right to choose for a half century has set off a firestorm of condemnations from pro-choice advocates and elected officials.

In 1973 the Roe v. Wade case, the Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. The decision struck down many U.S. federal and state abortion laws at the time.

The first draft of a majority opinion written by Justice Alito leaked to Politico on overturning Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey calls the Roe decision "egregiously wrong from the start". Alito's opinion would allow states to decide on abortion restrictions or guarantees after nearly fifty years of federal constitutional protection.

"This is a devastating moment for our country, when lives are being threatened by a fringe minority determined to drag us back

to the dangers of decades past," remarked Mayor Michelle Wu. "It's also a call to action—that that Massachusetts must continue to lead. In Boston, we affirm our absolute commitment to protecting reproductive rights as core to building a city for everyone. We are here. We are ready. And we will continue to organize and legislate and fight for the future our communities deserve."

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who represents East Boston, called Roe v. Wade, a woman's right to choose and protecting women's health a 'fundamental' right. With conservative attacks on Roe v. Wade ratcheting up in recent years, the House has passed legislation to protect women's health and a woman's right to choose.

"Abortion care is a fundamental human right and we must legislate like it," she said. "The Senate must act before it's too late. Abolish the filibuster. Pass the Women's Health Protection Act."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren asked every member of the Senate, "What other judicial outrage must we endure from this illegitimate majority before we act? A stolen, illegitimate, and far-right Supreme Court majority

appears set to destroy the right to abortion, an essential right which protects the health, safety, and freedom of millions of Americans."

Warren said there was no other recourse but to expand the Supreme Court.

Warren was backed by Sen. Ed Markey who called for the end of the filibuster.

"Codify Roe v. Wade with a national law protecting abortion rights," he said. "Expand the Supreme Court and stop this horrifying injustice in its tracks."

Last week, the House reaffirmed its commitment to reproductive care by providing funding for reproductive care providers in its FY23 budget.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden said he fully supports Roe v. Wade.

"As a prosecutor and the chief law enforcement official in Suffolk County, I will always work in support of laws that protect access to reproductive healthcare," he said. "Equitable access to health services – not just in Massachusetts but across our nation – helps ensure the rights and wellbeing of every woman. Public health is key to public safety, and it is a priority of my office."

## Red Cross offering free smoke-alarm installations

The American Red Cross of Massachusetts will be installing hundreds of free smoke alarms to communities in need in a targeted campaign called Sound the Alarm to May 22.

"Our goal is to save lives," said Kelly Isenor, Director of Communications for the Red Cross of Massachusetts. "Every day, our disaster action teams are responding to home fires around the Commonwealth. Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half."

The Red Cross offers free smoke alarm installations 365 days a year to any Massachusetts resident (regardless of renter or homeowner status), but in the month of May, surges efforts in five vulnerable communities: Brockton, Everett, Methuen, Springfield and Worcester. Anyone interested in a free smoke alarm should call 1-800-564-1234 or visit [redcross.org/MA](http://redcross.org/MA) to schedule an appointment. During the 20-minute home visits, Red Cross volunteers will also share information on the causes of home

fires, how to prevent them, what to do if a fire starts and how to create an escape plan.

"Most people don't realize they only have two minutes to escape a home fire — and that smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years," Isenor said. "Taking action with this knowledge can be the difference between survival and tragedy."

Event volunteers are needed to install 400 smoke alarms and share fire safety information with families. Register at [SoundTheAlarm.org/MA](http://SoundTheAlarm.org/MA) to join this rewarding day of giving back. No prior experience is needed — training will be provided. You can also make a financial donation to the Red Cross to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from home fires.

This Sound the Alarm event is part of a national Red Cross initiative in May to install 50,000 free smoke alarms with partners in more than 50 at-risk communities across the country. Sound the Alarm events are a critical part of the national Red Cross Home

Fire Campaign. As of March 31, the Home Fire Campaign has helped save 1,275 lives since launching in October 2014. As part of the campaign, the Red Cross and local partners have installed more than 2.3 million free smoke alarms, making more than 980,000 households safer.

This work is made possible thanks to generous financial donations from regional partners as well as our statewide Sound the Alarm sponsor National Grid.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/MA](http://redcross.org/MA) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at @RedCrossMA.

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# MHNHS HOLDS ITS ARBOR DAY EVENT IN KEVIN FITZGERALD PARK

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) held its first annual Arbor Day Event in Kevin Fitzgerald Park on Friday, April 29. With sponsors from Speak for the Trees, Boston, American Forests, Bank of America, Northeastern University Arboretum, and AEW/

Lincoln Properties and help from Harrison McPhee, volunteers were able to plant 19 new trees in Fitzgerald Park. This community-building event was a great success and crucial as MHNHS works to certify Fitzgerald Park as a Level I Arboretum.



Photo by Michael Bryant

Volunteers helped plant 19 new trees in Kevin Fitzgerald Park, which consisted of 8 new species. This now gives Fitzgerald Park a total of 29 accessioned and labelled species of trees and woody plants, which exceeds the 25+ species count needed for a Level I Arboretum.



Photo by Michael Bryant

Harrison McPhee arborists, who donated both their time and resources, gave an instructive and informational tree planting demonstration to volunteers.



Photo by Michael Bryant

Chuck Doughty, former Director of Horticulture and Grounds at Northeastern, gave a heartfelt speech.



Photo by Nancy Ahmadifar

Refreshments, raffles, and an amazing performance by the Northeastern Jazz Ensemble throughout the event. Informational tables were also set up, which included information on MHNHS's bee program and sustainability.

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*Interested in learning more about your community or taking a data-informed approach to tackling local issues in Boston?*

**Register today!**



## URBAN INFORMATICS:

Learn how to use the Boston Data Portal

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**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**  
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