

DESIGNING MOTHERHOOD EXHIBIT P. 12-13

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GAZETTE

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JULY 1, 2022 — AUGUST 4, 2022

MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL



Marcia Bibbins performs at the bi-weekly Mission Hill Arts Festival. Right, Abria Smith with her mother Sheri, a source of inspiration and support to her creative efforts. See pages 8 and 9 for more photos

BPDA approves Terrace Place project

BY JOHN LYNDIS

At its June meeting the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) board approved the project on Terrace Place that will bring 47 new residential units to Mission Hill.

South Boston-based Blair Capital is planning to construct a six-story, 40,000 square foot residential development located at 1-4 Terrace Place, that includes 47 homeownership condo

units, seven of which would be affordable under the BPDA's inclusionary policy. The project also includes 14 underground parking spaces.

At a BPDA meeting on May 23, attorney for Blair Capital, Michael Ross, said the final proposal was the result of a lot of effort and energy by Mission Hill residents, the BPDA and Blair to get this project right and something that works for the neighborhood.

After months of tweaking the

project Ross said at the meeting ahead of the BPDA board vote, "We're really pleased to be back here now, to show (Mission Hill residents) what we've been able to do. We're proposing 47 home ownership condominium units. That's something that we understood to be very important to the community. There are also 14 parking spaces within this proposal, 48 bicycle spaces inside and 10 bicycle spaces outside and

Continued on page 2

CAMH votes against Oswald Street project

BY LAURA PLUMMER

The Community Alliance of Mission Hill met on June 15, discussing an Oswald Street property.

3 Oswald St.

The owner of 3 Oswald St., Janice Ye, wants to expand the existing living area into the attic, making Unit 3 a two-story unit.

In response to a concern over drainage, Ye said she will be using pervious pavers instead of asphalt and will install a water retention system under the driveway.

Other concerns were the project's density and that owners often rent to singles and students

even after promising to rent to only families.

A CAMH member pointed out that Ye was using a residential exemption for zoning violations on more than one property. Residential exemptions apply only to owner-occupied projects. A building owned by an LLC is not considered owner-occupied.

Some members expressed a lack of trust in Ye given her apparent attempt to game the system by claiming multiple exemptions.

"What facts can I actually hang my hat on?" asked one resident.

Ye said she would evaluate her

Continued on page 2

CAMH vota en contra del proyecto de Oswald Street

BY LAURA PLUMMER

La Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) se reunió el 15 de junio para discutir una propiedad de Oswald Street.

3 Oswald St.

La propietaria de 3 Oswald St., Janice Ye, quiere expandir el área de vivienda existente hacia el ático, haciendo de la Unidad 3 una unidad de dos pisos.

En respuesta a una preocupación sobre el drenaje, Ye dijo que usará adoquines permeables en lugar de asfalto e instalará un sistema de retención de agua debajo de la entrada.

Otras preocupaciones fueron la densidad del proyecto y que los propietarios a menudo alquilan a solteros y estudiantes incluso

Continued on page 2

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

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MBTA announces service changes to Orange Line

By JOHN LYND

The MBTA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently dropped a bombshell on commuters that rely on Orange Line service.

Two weeks ago the MBTA announced weekday subway service changes that took effect last Monday on the Orange Line as well as the Blue and Red Lines.

MBTA officials said these changes are the result of staffing challenges among the ranks of subway dispatchers in the MBTA's Operations Control Center. With a limited number of dispatchers, the service changes will allow the MBTA to schedule dispatchers in compliance with new FTA directives after an investigation into a recent spate of derailments, crashes and railroad crossing accidents.

Last Monday, Orange Line weekday trains began operating every 10 minutes in the mornings, 11 minutes between trains in the evenings, and eight to nine minutes between trains during mid-day periods. Orange Line weekday summer service is typ-

ically six to seven minutes between trains during morning and evening peak periods, and every seven to eight minutes between trains during off-peak periods.

The MBTA said the Orange Line volume was about 50% below pre-Covid ridership levels according to data collected last week.

In a statement last week the MBTA said it is exploring multiple options to add capacity at the Control Center, including an aggressive recruitment campaign, offering bonuses, and potentially hiring back former dispatchers.

"If dispatch capacity permits, there may be days when the MBTA can increase the number of trains in service," said the statement. "And as soon as sufficient dispatch capacity exists, the MBTA will revert to its previous level of service."

There is one exception to the revised summer schedule. In the afternoon and evening of Monday, July 4, the MBTA will provide regular weekday service in order to accommodate people attending Independence Day festivities.

Two men sentenced for 2015 Mission Hill murder

By JOHN LYND

Two Boston men were sentenced this week for the 2015 murder of 23-year-old Luis Bodden-Maximo in a Mission Hill parking lot.

Jerome Meade, 27, was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole by Suffolk Superior Court Judge Michael Ricciuti while Javier Smith, 26, was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole in 15 years.

A jury on May 18 convicted Meade on five different charges, including first-degree murder and possession of an illegal firearm for the shooting death of Bodden-Maximo. The jury convicted Smith of second-degree murder in the case.

According to court records, on September 16, 2015, Bodden-Maximo and his girlfriend went to TGI Friday's on Tremont Street in Mission Hill for lunch. Shortly after they entered the restaurant, Smith walked in and made eye contact with the victim and his

girlfriend. Bodden-Maximo recognized Smith and immediately exited the restaurant.

As Bodden-Maximo and his girlfriend entered their vehicle in the rear parking lot, Meade approached him and said "you're an opp." He then fired at Bodden-Maximo with a handgun. Meade chased after him and continued shooting. Bodden-Maximo then fell face down onto the ground inside a Mission Hill parking lot, where Meade continued to shoot at him.

He was later pronounced dead at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

At the sentencing Melinda Bodden, the victim's mother, read a statement that she wrote, as well as one that her 17-year-old daughter, and Bodden-Maximo's sister, wrote.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden said the decisions made by Meade and Smith that day ended one life, upended two others and dramatically altered many more.

BPDA

Continued from page 1

we are meeting our goal for 15% of our units to be affordable."

In its ruling the BPDA board said the transit-oriented development will contribute \$71,688 to the Boston Transportation Department's (BTD) Terrace Street Study, and \$12,925 to the City's Bluebikes program. The new development will also support Boston's green building and carbon neutral goals with solar renewable energy systems, and targeting LEED Platinum standards.

Based in Southie, Blair is



The BPDA approved the proposed project at 1-4 Terrace Place in Mission Hill at its June board meeting.

known for its developments in Chicago like the Saint George

Plaza complex that includes 370 units.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

residential exemptions on her Mission Hill properties.

When brought to a vote, the project gained 19 votes of opposition and one of support.

CAMH will submit a letter reflecting their opposition to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

CAMH Board

CAMH

Continued from page 1

después de prometer alquilar solo a familias.

Un miembro de CAMH señaló que Ye estaba utilizando una exención residencial para infracciones de zonificación en más de una propiedad. Las exenciones residenciales se aplican solo a proyectos ocupados por propietarios. Un edificio propiedad de una LLC no se considera ocupado por el propietario.

Algunos miembros expresaron su falta de confianza en Ye dado su aparente intento de jugar con el sistema reclamando múltiples exenciones.

"¿En qué hechos puedo colgar mi sombrero?" preguntó un residente.

Ye dijo que evaluaría sus exenciones residenciales en sus propiedades de Mission Hill.

Cuando se sometió a votación, el proyecto obtuvo 19 votos de oposición y uno de apoyo. CAMH presentará una carta reflejando su oposición al proyecto a la Junta de Apelaciones de Zonificación.

La Junta de CAMH

Los miembros de CAMH votaron para aprobar los nuevos funcionarios de la junta de CAMH, que incluyen a Martin Beinborn como presidente, Gary Walling como secretario de membresía, Jim Burke como tesorero, Kara Verrochi como secretaria y Andrew Bloniarz con título pendiente.

demands, create a centrally shared file for documents, provide educational workshops on zoning laws, address transportation issues, and invite more guest speakers.

Upcoming Events

CAMH meets on the third Wednesday of the month on Zoom. Residents interested in community affairs are encouraged to attend.

Planes Futuros

CAMH presentó una lista de metas para el próximo año: formar un grupo de trabajo centrado en las demandas de los vecindarios, crear un archivo compartido centralmente para documentos, brindar talleres educativos sobre leyes de zonificación, abordar problemas de transporte e invitar a más altavoces.

CAMH se reúne el tercer miércoles del mes en Zoom. Se anima a asistir a los residentes interesados en los asuntos de la comunidad.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Webster Dictionary defines an entrepreneur as “one who organizes, manages and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise.” Over the next few months we are going to highlight some of Mission Hill’s extraordinary individuals who truly exemplify entrepreneurship.

Liz Rose, the owner of Liz’s Hair Care at 1605 Tremont Street, has been making our neighbors beautiful for the past 21 years! She is no stranger to entrepreneurship – her family has lots of them! Early on, she trained as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and then fell into the hair care field and, right from the start, she was good at it. The one thing Liz knew for certain was that she would be helping people.

After working 11 years for Olive’s, the best and largest ethnic hair salon in Boston, she struck out on her own. Many of you know that Olive Benson was renowned as a businesswoman



Liz Rose, the owner of Liz’s Hair Care.

and a talented hairdresser. Olive inspired Liz first as an ethnic woman and then as her mentor. They traveled Europe and the continental U.S. learning and demonstrating new techniques at hair shows. After being offered an opportunity for a franchise, Liz knew the time was right to go out on her own and started Liz’s Hair Care, one of Mission Hill’s Legacy businesses.

Every business has challeng-



Leo Blanco, jazz musician, performing at The Yard July 9th

es. When Liz started, she already had a huge clientele and worked alone. Quickly, Liz needed to hire staff – motivated, professional staff to train and develop. The management side of the business was a big learning experience. “Today there are still challenges” said Liz. “Our post-pandemic business world is different and evolving. The younger generation is interested in trying out new

fields, changing and developing constantly. How does one deal with that? I go to hair schools and speak to the students and present my story, teaching the skills for being a business owner and successful hairdresser. I found that for my industry, offering several scholarships in the schools, brings me opportunities to help young people learn new skills in a field that will provide them a pathway to becoming their own boss. I love what I am doing!”

A different kind of entrepreneurship is the Mission Hill Arts Festival now in its second year. MHAF’s theme this year is “Interconnections” and presents six events, which began June 11 and runs through August 20 with a wide range of exciting artistic styles, performances, and dialogues. Luisa Harris, Executive Curator of the Mission Hill Arts Festival, and long-time resident, says, “An artistic gathering should stimulate the artistic essence of the audience, creating the circumstances to alert them to ways they can create greatness for themselves and others. It’s a

way to defeat anxiety while cultivating and encouraging harmony.” For the full lineup of events visit: www.MHArtsFest.org.

The Mission Hill community has a strong appreciation for history and since 1995, Anthony Sammarco, Boston’s historian, has written and lectured on the history and development of Boston. MHMS invited Anthony Sammarco to be a part of our Fall event and to lecture on his new book “Mission Hill Through Time.” Here is an excerpt – “The Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston has long been a thriving nexus of cultures, with residents of all walks of life, including numerous workers in the medical field, making it an inclusive, busy, and evolving neighborhood. Though Mission Hill is less than one square mile, it is a neighborhood constantly in transition, with not just homeowners but renters, especially students, calling it home. What it lacks in land area, Mission Hill makes up in character, maintaining a small

Continued on page 7

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Hotel Vendome Fire 50th anniversary ceremony honors nine fallen firefighters

BY LAUREN BENNETT

On June 17, a remembrance ceremony was held for the nine firefighters who lost their lives in the four alarm Hotel Vendome Fire 50 years ago—the largest tragedy in the history of the Boston Fire Department.

Fire Lieutenant Thomas J. Carroll, Fire Lieutenant John E. Hanbury, Firefighter Charles E. Dolan, Firefighter Joseph P. Sanik, Firefighter John E. Jameson, Firefighter Thomas W. Beckwith, Firefighter Paul J. Murphy, Firefighter Richard B. Magee, and Firefighter Joseph E. Boucher, Jr., all died after a portion of the Back Bay hotel building collapsed. They left behind eight wives and 23 children.

The 50th anniversary remem-

brance ceremony was held at the Vendome Hotel Fire Memorial on the Dartmouth St. section of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which was dedicated in 1997 on the 25 anniversary of the fire.

The event was emceed by former Boston Herald columnist and current writer for The Athletic Steve Buckley, and featured several speakers, including Edward Kelly, president of the International Association of Firefighters, and Richard Magee, a retired district fire chief whose father, Richard B. Magee, passed away in the fire. He recalled his memories of that day when he realized his father did not survive the fire.

Magee said he was 17 years old the last time he saw his father. He was coming home from work,



Steve Buckley, former Boston Herald columnist and event emcee.



Several members of the Boston City Council were in attendance, including Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Frank Baker, and Kenzie Bok.

and his father was on his way out to the Vendome fire. Later that day, his sister came to the corner where Magee was hanging out with friends and told him that “dad’s been hurt at a fire,” he said. “A chill went through me. I thought, ‘something bad happened.’”

He said his father was in the rear of the building when the collapse happened after the fire had blazed for nearly three hours. Magee said his grandfather had found Richard B. Magee’s helmet. “He knew he didn’t make it,” Magee said.

Remarks were also provided



Members of the Boston Fire Department salute.

Continued on page 5

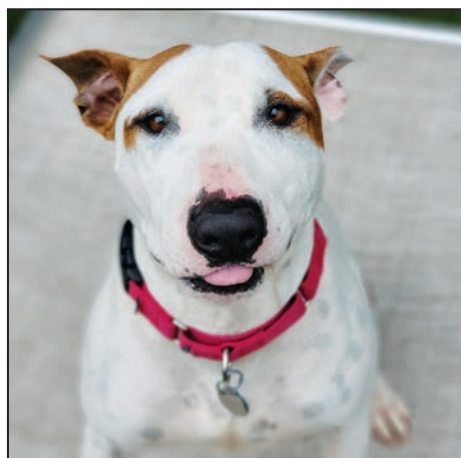
Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



‘LEMON’

Lemon is a happy and energetic 2 year old who loves



attention. He enjoys doing zoomies and would love a fenced yard. He’s adventurous and would be the perfect companion for hiking or long walks. After a good workout, Lemon is ready to have downtime and snuggle on a couch.

“Gazette Pet of the Week” is sponsored by

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Boston Fire Chaplain Rev. Daniel J. Mahoney, who recently retired, provides remarks.

Vendome

Continued from page 4

by Boston Fire Commissioner Jack Dempsey, Boston Fire Chaplain Rev. Daniel J. Mahoney, as well as Mayor Michelle Wu, who became emotional as she told the crowd about her own loss of family members to a fire.

"I'm struggling to keep it together today," Wu said, through tears. "A little over one year ago, my family lost three of our own seemingly in a flash when flames overwhelmed their home in the early hours of the morning."

Wu said she lost an uncle, an aunt, and their daughter, who was the flower girl in her wedding.

"I know personally just what your family members gave up so that someone else would not have to experience this," she said. "We are forever grateful. No firefighter fights alone."

Wu also talked about that day in 1972. "It was Bunker Hill Day," she said/ "While our city was celebrating in Charlestown or watching the Red Sox game, the Boston Fire Department did what they've always done. They rushed to the call. They continue to do this today: rushing toward danger to keep the rest of us safe."

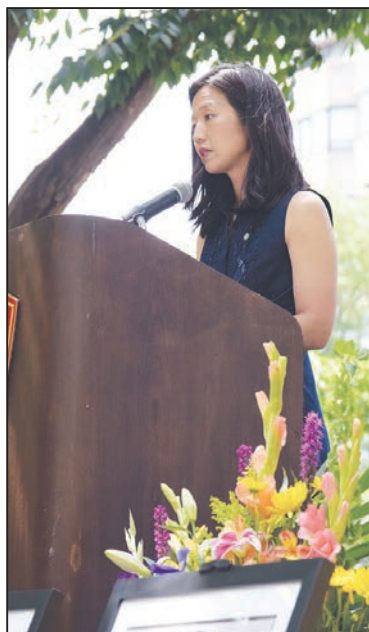
Photos of each of the nine firefighters were displayed in front of the stage, and flowers were placed at each of their names on the memorial at the end of the ceremony.

The City Council also "adopted a resolution commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Hotel Vendome Fire with grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition and memory of the lives of the nine firefighters lost in the line of duty," according to the City of Boston website.

The full recording of the ceremony can be found on the Boston Fire Department YouTube channel.



Fr. John Unni provides the invocation.



Mayor Michelle Wu delivered emotional remarks to the crowd.



After the name of each of the nine fallen firefighters were called, this bell was rung one time.

COVID-19 Boosters:

Fast Facts

Here's what you need to know:

- Like other viruses, COVID-19 changes over time, leading to new variants.
- Boosters provide protection against these variants, giving your body an added layer of defense.
- You can still get COVID-19 after getting a booster, but your risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death are greatly reduced.
- Your booster does not need to be the same vaccine brand as your original COVID-19 vaccination.

Recommended booster doses vary by age and health status.

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BOSTON HARBOR FEST MARKS ITS 40TH EDITION

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

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

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

Events happen each day; an

updated schedule can be found at bostonharborfest.com/schedule. The current schedule includes:

JULY 1 HIGHLIGHTS:

12 Noon – Harborfest Opening Ceremony with City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, city and state elected officials, the British Consul General, travel and tourism industry leaders, and presence of military and historical groups. Includes a ceremonial cake-cutting, Colonial "living historians" and more.

ALL-DAY PROGRAMMING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JULY 2 HIGHLIGHTS:

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

town Crossing)

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

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

ALL-DAY PROGRAMMING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3-6 pm – Dancing with DJ Bruno

JULY 3 HIGHLIGHTS:

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

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

ALL-DAY PROGRAMMING:

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

12-2 pm – Through Me To You

Puppetry (Downtown Crossing Steps)

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

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

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

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

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HIGHLIGHTS:

9 AM – City of Boston's 246th Independence Day Celebration. A short parade steps off from City Hall Plaza and passes Granary Burying Ground, where wreaths will be laid on the graves of patriots. The parade continues through Downtown Crossing to the Old State House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Downtown Crossing is at the crossroads of history and commerce in Boston, making it a perfect central hub for Harborfest activities," says George Comeau, Marketing and Brand Activation Manager for the Downtown Boston Business Improvement Dis-

trict. "The daily events here are designed for both residents and visitors, and the activities on the harbor are a short walk or ride from the heart of Downtown."

SPONSORS

Boston Harborfest sponsors include the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, Conventures Inc., M&T Bank, Boston Harbor City Cruises, Amazon, Cheers Boston, Boston Harbor Hotel at Rows Wharf, Hampton by Hilton and Homewood Suites by Hilton Boston Seaport District, Boston Park Plaza, Hyatt Regency Boston, Omni Hotels and Resorts at the Seaport Boston, and Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center.

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

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

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

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

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Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

I felt like a kid in a candy store last month at the Museum of Fine Arts admiring the paintings of gifted Mission Hill artist, Itsuo Kiritani. The paintings were on display for one day at the Shapiro Courtyard. Among the dozens that I viewed, my favorite paintings were one of our own Mike's Donuts and a beauty of the Coolidge Corner movie theater. Itsuo is a great guy and I see him occasionally when he and his lovely wife, Elizabeth stop in Mike's for a coffee.

Since I got older I have appreciated the M.F.A. and a canvas painting that is permanently at the museum is, "The Passage of the Delaware" by Thomas Sully-1819. This is a fabulous depiction of General George Washington leading his troops across the frigid Delaware River enroute to victory at the Battle of Trenton in 1776 five months after we declared our Independence. This is food for thought, as I and my fellow Mission Hillers fire up our grills on Monday, July 4 to celebrate America's 246th birthday.

Condolences to the family of George Stanton, a lifelong Mission Hill resident, who passed away last month. George was a Mission High graduate and he proudly served his country in the

Korean War. George was devoted to Mission Church and he was a member of the Mission Hill Post 327. May he rest in peace. Mission Hill also mourned the death of Katie King last month. I didn't know Katie but I'm friends with her siblings and they are a wonderful family. Katie was a brilliant student at Mission High, class of 1960. She and her husband, Dickie Cobb had 6 children and 15 grandchildren. R.I.P. Katie.

When several of the Mission Hill Post members gathered at Brigham Circle to observe Memorial Day, the headstone of the U.S. Private John J. Pike was brought to my attention. Pike, a Mission High graduate, was killed in action in Sicily in Nov. 9, 1943. God Bless Private Pike and the more than 400,000 from our Greatest Generation who gave their all for us.

It was nice meeting new Mission Hill resident, Doctor Todd Jones last week at Mike's Donuts. Todd graduated from Columbia Medical School May 18 and he is now working at the Brigham & Women's Hospital. Hard work paid off for Todd who is a nice guy.

Happy 50th birthday (July 7) to my son, Rob Martin and thanks for making me proud. Tayla Paschal will celebrate her milestone birthday this weekend (July 1).

Tayla is the assistant manager at Charlesbank Cooperative Apartments in Mission Hill, where I abide. She has a delightful disposition and Tayla does her job with zest, creating an atmosphere that we Charlesbank shareholders are one happy family.

Good luck in retirement to my friend, Dan Sweeney, a long time Mission Hill resident. Dan was a loyal employee in the City of Boston Housing Department. Belated Happy Birthday (June 15) to Randace Raucsher. Randace is a charming young lady and she celebrated her birthday with many friends at Brendan Behan's in J.P. Randace does a terrific job as Director of External Affairs at Ma. Dept. of Veteran Services and she is also a talented artist.

Golfer Fran Toner became a Mission Hill headliner last month when he banged a hole in one at the Riverbend Golf Course in West Bridgewater. Toner's spectacular shot occurred on the 185 yard 14th hole. Fran is an avid golfer and it is a nice respite from his job as Commissioner of Campus Police at the Shattuck Hospital.

Thanks to the New England Baptist Hospital for sponsoring the Senior Celtics Exercise Pro-



Pictured (L to R) Dan Martin (my brother) Rob Martin (my son) Carol and Mossy Martin.

gram last week at the Tobin Community Center. I enjoyed chatting with celebrity guest, Cedric "Cornbread" Maxwell. I surprised Maxwell when I repeated his 1984 quote prior to game 7 of the Celtics-Lakers series. "Climb on my back, boys", said Maxwell, who scored 24 points, leading the Celtics to the championship.

Also in our conversation was Mission Hill's favorite nurse, Mary Allendorf-Burns, now retired after 50 years of nursing. When I reminded Maxwell that Mary's work was far more important than his job, the former great Celtic adamantly agreed.

John Spinney from Marshfield

passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. John, formerly from Jamaica Plain, founded Spinney Insurance in Mission Hill 35 years ago. John, a Boston College graduate, was a distinguished businessman and Spinney Insurance is still a first class operation, run by John's son, Mike Spinney. I often stop by Spinney Insurance at 1560 Tremont St. to chat with my friend Mike and I also am a client of his.

What do ducks like about the Fourth of July? Fire quackers! Happy Independence Day. mossymartin2@gmail.com

Main Streets

Continued from page 3

neighborhood vibe while remaining one of Boston's most diverse neighborhoods. With a variety of housing, restaurants, and pubs, it also offers green spaces such as the Iroquois Woods, the Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park, and the Back of the Hill Urban Wild, making it a small neighborhood that has evolved over the last century as a destination." Do join us on September 10th at the Parker

Hill Library and experience this wonderful treat!

Please join us on July 14th at 9:30am for "Coffee with a Cop" at Dunkin, 37 S. Huntington Avenue. It is sure to be a lot of fun! We have invited both B2 and E13 officers to join us. Hope to see you there!

"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you." Langston Hughes, American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist



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MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL FEATURES ABRIA SMITH AND COMPANY

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Mission Hill Arts Festival is a form of “medicine” for the senses of the residents of Mission Hill, an intersection of culture, arts, and healing. The bi-weekly performances offers acts ranging from reggae, jazz, classical, and more. This performance by Abria Smith encompasses live music, drama, and dance.



Tim Ricketts watches from afar.



Devine Baker.



Abria Smith (right) performs vocals and dance with choreographer Jalen Bunch complimenting her movement.



Abria Smith.



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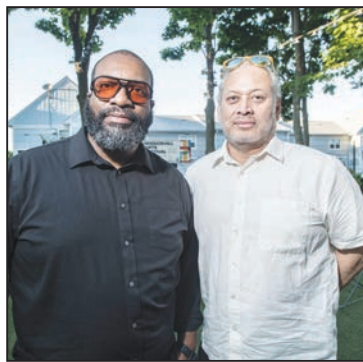
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MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL FEATURES ABRIA SMITH AND COMPANY

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian



Abria Smith (second from right) with Marcia Bibbins, Stephanie McKay, and Jalen Bunch on backing vocals.



Saxophone player Chris Warren and audience member Jose Martinez.



Debra Nelson from the South Shore asks about the collaborative process involved in creating this performance and hopes that the troupe could perform there.



Deannah Blemur.



Mission Hill Arts Festival organizers Kevin and Luisa Harris.



Vaughan Bradley-Willeman takes in the performance.



Deannah Blemur and Richie Dinkins reenact a romantic date while being shadowed by Candace Hilton and Devine Baker who represent inner-dialog and motive.



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Stephanie McKay.

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Jason Gallagher to become next headmaster of Boston Latin School

By JOHN LYNDIS

It was recently announced that the principal of the Harvard-Kent Elementary School for the last 11 year, Jason Gallagher, will become the next headmaster of Boston Latin School (BLS).

Gallagher, who led Harvard-Kent's transformation into a top performing school in Boston culminating with the prestigious 2019 EdVestorsThomas W. Payzant School on the Move prize, will take over the reins of the country's oldest public school from outgoing principal Rachel Skeritt in the fall. Skeritt announced in March she was leaving her post as headmaster of BLS after five years leading the school. Skeritt successfully



Jason Gallagher was named the next headmaster of Boston Latin School

navigated the school through two years of the pandemic as well as a change in how students are ac-

cepted to Boston's exam schools.

For Gallagher, heading to BLS in the fall is a sort of homecoming. He graduated from BLS in 1991 and his two sons also graduated from BLS in 2018 and 2021.

Gallagher, a lifelong Charlestown resident, returned to his home neighborhood after serving as a history and special education teacher at Braintree High School.

He kicked off his 21 year career with Boston Public Schools (BPS) serving first as a class teacher at the Harvard-Kent and then as an assistant principal at the District Office of Special Education before becoming principal of the school.

Over the past decade during Gallagher's tenure the Har-

vard-Kent has experienced rapid academic growth. Harvard-Kent's student population is uniquely diverse within Boston Public Schools. The school community is racially diverse, with nearly equal numbers of Latino, Asian, Black and Caucasian young people represented in the student body. Over half of the student body are English Learners, a quarter are students with disabilities, and more than two-thirds are economically disadvantaged.

Under Gallagher's leadership the school has met or exceeded MCAS targets. The 400-student school has also seen steady improvement over the past few years in both literacy and math while also narrowing achieve-

ment gaps.

The school was recognized for exceeding performance targets set by the state, one of 14 BPS schools to do so in 2019, and one of four BPS schools to do so for two years in a row.

Of his work at the Harvard-Kent Gallagher has said, "The most important thing we do every day is offer a safe and welcoming school to our students and families. We want to make our kids feel like they are in the best school not just in Boston, but in the country. If you are a member of the Harvard-Kent school community, we want you to feel important, loved and valued. And, we want you to become a proficient reader, writer and mathematician."

Mary Skipper selected to lead Boston Public School as new superintendent

By JOHN LYNDIS

In a 4-3 vote at Wednesday night's Boston School Committee meeting, Mary Skipper edged out Boston Public School Region 1 Superintendent Tommy Welch to become the next BPS Superintendent.

During a time of upheaval as BPS has recently starved off receivership, School Committee members voting in support of Skipper pointed to her current post as Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools.

At Wednesday's meeting, School Committee Vice Chair Michael O'Neill praised both candidates' qualifications and work to improve education but said BPS needs someone who is currently leading a school district and knows the monumental work that entails.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to lead the district that raised me as an educator and solidified my passion for making a difference in the lives of students," said Skipper. "This is a pivotal time in Boston and BPS' history, and nothing less than our student's and our City's future is at stake. I look forward to working with our families, educators, community leaders and our students to ensure every BPS student has the opportunity for a great education that sets them up for success in school and in life."



Mary Skipper named BPS Superintendent.

However, the close vote left some with a sour taste as many BPS staff and principals in Region 1, which includes East Boston, the North End and Charlestown, were pulling for Welch.

Region 1, which Welch has led since 2015, has experienced an enormous transformation during his tenure. Nine of the 15 schools in his Region have been recognized for the EdVestors citywide "School on the Move" Prize.

Others pointed out that even though Welch isn't a sitting superintendent his Region within BPS alone is twice the size of the entire Somerville Public School district that Skipper oversees, which has less than 3,000 students.

According to BPS, Skipper must formally accept the offer for the position in order to begin the process of negotiating the conditions of her contract with the School Committee, including salary, benefits and starting date with BPS.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Superintendent Mary Skipper as the experienced leader and dedicated partner that Boston needs for our young people and families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "In this moment of challenge and opportunity, Mary is uniquely prepared to drive forward the systemic reforms and immediate results our students deserve. Her knowledge and relationships from serving at every level in BPS—as a classroom teacher, school leader, and long-time district administrator—and as a successful superintendent in the area, will supercharge our work."

Skipper has served as the Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools (SPS) for seven years. She joined SPS in July 2015 following years of service at BPS.

She quickly made her mark in Somerville as an innovative and visionary thinker, a passionate advocate for all youth, and a strategic systems builder whose approach includes leveraging community resources to support students. Under her tenure, Somerville has emerged as

a leader in using data to inform continuous progress and ensure a student-centered approach to teaching and learning driven by an unfailing commitment to equity of opportunity and access for all students.

"Tonight's decision by the School Committee is a huge step forward for the District," said Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. "On behalf of the School Committee, congratulations to Mary Skipper on becoming Boston's next Superintendent. Under her leadership we will continue prioritizing the needs of our students so that they can receive the support and quality education necessary to excel inside the classroom. I would also like to thank Dr. Tommy Welch for his continued commitment to BPS, our students and our City."

Before coming to Somerville, Skipper was Network Superintendent of High Schools for BPS, where she oversaw 34 high schools serving approximately 19,500 students. During her time as Network Superintendent, Boston's public high schools achieved the lowest drop-out and the highest graduation rates in BPS history.

Among her most notable accomplishments while at BPS, Superintendent Skipper helped launch TechBoston Academy (TBA) as the founding Headmaster in 2002. Under her leadership, TBA grew from a 9-12

high school serving 75 students to a 6-12 school with a staff of more than 100 serving a diverse student population of more than 1,000, 30% of which were English Language Learners and 25% of which were Special Education students. The school's success was marked in 2011 with a visit from then-President Barack Obama where he delivered a major education policy speech.

During this leadership transition, Skipper will work closely with Dr. Drew Echelson, who will serve as Acting Superintendent following the June 30 departure of Dr. Brenda Cassellius.

"I'm deeply committed to working closely with Ms. Skipper to ensure a smooth transition," Dr. Echelson said. "Mary has always been a very empathetic listener who leads with purpose, humility and an unwavering belief in our children. I look forward to strengthening our work and leveraging much-needed reinforcements to accelerate reforms in BPS, especially as it relates to racial equity, Special Education, native language access, and improved transportation systems."

Skipper holds a Bachelor's in English and Latin from Tufts University. In addition, she earned a Master's in Education Policy from Harvard and a Master's in Education Leadership from Columbia Teachers College.

MHNHS HOLD 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OUTDOORS

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) held its 48th Annual Meeting outdoors in the One Brigham Circle Plaza on Thursday, June

23rd. The theme for the night, "The Mission Continues", was very fitting, as this marked the second time since the start of the pandemic that MHNHS and

the Mission Hill community had an opportunity to gather and celebrate. (Photo Creds: Nancy Ahmadifar)

Photos by Nancy Ahmadifar



Awards were given to the Kevin Fitzgerald Park Arboretum team (from left to right: Jess Johnson, Steve Schneider, Indira Holdsworth, Nadia Plaschke, & Ellen Moore) for working to certify Fitzgerald Park as a Level I Arboretum.



Almost 200 residents and guests enjoyed refreshments from Penguin Pizza & Mike's Donuts and an amazing concert by Soul of Boston after the MHNHS business meeting.



Arthur Jemison, the City of Boston's Chief of Planning and BPDA Director, was the guest speaker.



There is always dancing at the meetings.



MHNHS presented awards to Millie DeLosSantos, a dedicated resident of Mission Hill and Assistant Secretary of the organization



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Designing Motherhood exhibit opens at Mass Art Art Museum

BY LAUREN BENNETT

In its first installation in more than two years, the Mass Art Art Museum (MAAM) is now presenting *Designing Motherhood: Things That Make and Break Our Births*, in the Sandra and David Bakalar Gallery on the museum's ground floor.

The exhibition, which started at the Mütter Museum and the Center for Architecture and Design in Philadelphia in partnership with the Maternity Care Coalition, has made its way to Boston in partnership with the Neighborhood Birth Center (NBC). The NBC is expected to open in Boston next year "as Boston's first independent and freestanding birth center," according to the Designing Motherhood team.

The exhibition was created by curator and historian Michelle Millar Fisher and design historian Amber Winick, but many other hands have made this project possible, including curator Juliana Rowen Barton, PhD, artist and non-profit coordinator Zoë Greggs, and mother and city planner Gabriella Nelson.

"*Designing Motherhood* explores the arc of human reproduction through the lens of design and art from the 19th century to the present day," according



Photos by Lauren Bennett

Curator Michelle Millar Fisher shows reporters the gynecological exam tools on display as part of the *Designing Motherhood* exhibition.

to a press release.

The exhibition fills the gallery with various objects and artifacts related to birth and motherhood, which are split into 10 different sections in chronological order beginning with Exam, then moving on to Means of Reproduction, Our Bodies Ourselves, Parturition, Postpartum, Milk, Midwives, Temporary Bodies, Spaces, and Monitoring.

More than 200 works are on display, including baby monitors, breast pumps, maternity clothes, contraception options, specu-

lums, photographs, and videos, among others.

Photography from artist Jess T. Dugan is on display, depicting their partner Vanessa and daughter Elinor two days after she was born.

"The portrait captures a moment when both were exhausted but elated, like many new parents," according to exhibit information.

"In Jess' words, 'I'm interested in documenting my own family and also creating representations of queer and gender expansive families and butch/

transmasculine parenting.'"

The exhibit also features artist and woodworker Alison Croney Moses' wooden sculpture depicting her pregnant belly, called *My Belly*, which is part of her series *My Black Body*.

"Our bodies are literally rearranged, torn apart, and drained while growing humans within our womb, birthing those humans, sustaining those lives, and nurturing those tiny people in the critical years of development," Croney Moses said in information about the exhibition. She talked about the changes mothers go through during this process and returning to a new version of who they are.

"For Black mothers, this transformation occurs while living through systemic racism and personal implicit bias all made worse due to COVID 19. Our physical survival of the birthing process and living is what we are tasked with as humans. The ability to care for ourselves, to celebrate, and to commune with each other is what we need to thrive."

This exhibition was created in 2017 "to confront the large gap around this topic in the collections and classrooms where we work, as well as in culture more broadly," the curatorial team said in a statement. "Motherhood is

not just a 'women's issue.' This exhibition is for everyone because we're all born and thus all shaped by these things that 'make and break our births.'"

Juliana Rowen Barton told the Gazette that she joined this project in 2020, when the "pandemic shed a stark light on the childcare crisis."

She said she met Michelle Millar Fisher in Philadelphia, and "they couldn't get rid of me."

Rowen Barton said that the exhibit installation took about two weeks and many hands, including those of student workers, to ensure each of the more than 200 works were placed exactly right. "It was a collaborative effort," she said.

Michelle Millar Fisher said that although this show is "timely" with recent current events in the country and in the world, "it's also cyclical," she said. The exhibit is an "expression in this moment in time."

Bethany Serota of the NBC explained that "people should have access to a full range of birth care and options," and that NBC has a video about their work as part of this exhibition and will also be providing programming this fall. The NBC is a non-profit headed by Black and Brown folks, and will feature a staff

Continued on page 13

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Curator Juliana Rowen Barton, curator Michelle Millar Fisher, and MAAM Executive and Artistic Director Lisa Tung.

Motherhood

Continued from page 12

of licensed midwives and three birthing suites.

“Everyone should see this show,” Lisa Tung, Executive and Artistic Director of MAAM, told reporters at a preview event. “We are all born. It’s a shared universal experience...”

A 344-page book called *Designing Motherhood* is also a part of this project and was published by MIT Press. MAAM said that “a rich set of public programs is being planned, including connections between the exhibit content and MassArt curriculum” as well.

Designing Motherhood is on display at MAAM until December 18. Admission is free, and the museum is open from 12-8pm on Thursdays, 12-5pm on Fridays, and 10am-5pm on Saturdays. The museum no longer requires advance tickets.



Curator Juliana Rowen Barton speaks to reporters about *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a book published in the 1970s by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective.

MAAM is located at 621 Huntington Ave. For more information, visit maam.massart.edu.



Curator Michelle Millar Fisher talks about some maternity clothes from different decades.

Jamaica Pond reopens after algae bloom

By JOHN LYNDIS

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced on June 16 that Jamaica Pond was reopened less than a month after an algae bloom closed the popular recreational pond to swimming, fishing and boating.

“At the recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the public health advisory issued by the BPHC for Jamaica Pond on May 23, 2022, due to a suspected algal bloom has been lifted,” said the BPHC in a statement. “The pond is now reopened for recreational activities including fishing and boating. Swimming is generally not allowed on Jamaica Pond.”

The dangerous algae bloom that can make people and pets very sick was detected at Jamaica Pond last month.

The BPHC issued the warning for the popular outdoor recre-

ational space and temporarily closed the pond.

“The lifting of the advisory follows two weeks of consecutive tests of the pond water which demonstrated algal cell counts below the state’s safe limit,” the statement continued. “DPH generally recommends that recreational water advisories can be lifted when two consecutive weekly samples show algal cell counts below the safe limit of 70,000 cells/milliliter of water.”

The BPHC added analysis of testing of samples taken from the pond on June 7 and June 14 support the conclusion of DPH that Jamaica Pond is no longer experiencing a harmful algae bloom. On June 7, the level was 15,000 cells/milliliter and on June 14, the level had dropped to 9,200 cells/milliliter.

All signs that were posted were removed from the perimeter of the pond by June 16.

Blue-green algae can form harmful blooms in lakes, ponds, and rivers that make the water murky, and can sometimes make the water look like pea soup or paint. The bloom in Jamaica Pond appeared like a dull green discoloration that could be confused as otherwise safe pond water. The toxins in the algae may be present within the algae cells or in the water.

For humans, the primary concern is ingestion of water containing blue-green algae while swimming. Direct skin contact with the blue-green algae and inhalation of water droplets containing blue-green algae or toxins is a secondary concern. For dogs, the primary concern is the ingestion of water containing blue-green algae or scum that has washed ashore or gotten onto their skin or fur.

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EDITORIAL

Fourth of July
memories

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



OP-ED

MBTA crisis is an emergency for our region

By JOE GRAVELLESE

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

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

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

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

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

much worse would that make traffic gridlock?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 15

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

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Mission Hill/Roxbury's weekly COVID positive test-rate increases slightly

By JOHN LYNDIS

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

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

"Many parents and caregivers

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

Last week, 851 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents were tested for the virus last week and 7.6 percent were positive--this was a 7 percent increase from the 7.4 percent that tested positive between June 13 and June 20.

Sixty five additional Mission Hill/Roxbury residents contracted the virus between June 20 and June 27 there have now been 4,456 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

However, Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week

According to the BPHC, 12,787

Boston residents tested citywide and 7.3 percent were positive—a 5 percent decrease from the 7.7 percent that tested positive between June 13 and June 20.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.67 percent last week and went from 192,591 to 193,870 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

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

Dr. Ojikutu said the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, which consists of three pediatric doses, is avail-

able for children ages 6-months to 5-years old.

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

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

Mayor's Garden Contest deadline scheduled for July 13

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced the 26th annual Mayor's Garden Contest highlighting the hard work of Boston's urban gardeners. The competition provides the perfect opportunity to recognize the skills of all Boston residents who contribute to the beauty of the city's landscape.

Boston's green thumbs have until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, to submit their gardens for award contention. The contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods.

Gardeners or those nominating their favorite gardeners may find printable and online nomination forms at www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest. The preferred method of entry is to submit photos through the online application.

Alternatively, contestants may request an application by emailing their name and address to gardencontest@boston.gov. Paper applications are also available in English and ten additional languages.

Judges will fan out across the city visiting finalists the week of July 25. Once the votes are tallied, first place winners will receive the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Wu while second and third place winners will be awarded certificates. The traditional awards ceremony is scheduled to take place in the Boston Public Garden on Monday, August 15.

Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years will be automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are not

eligible to enter as contestants but are invited to return as judges.

First place winners are eligible for a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston. Terms, conditions, and blackout dates apply. In addition, Mahoney's Garden Centers will provide gardener's gift bags to the top three winners in each category, as well as gift certificates for the 2022 Hall of Fame winners.

For more information please call (617) 635-4505. Stay up to date with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Op-Ed

Continued from page 14

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

The funding and governance of the T also needs to be better integrated with the regional transit authorities of the rest of the state. One of the biggest problems we face right now is regions being pitted against each other - with residents and elected officials outside of the Boston area not wanting to fund investments in Boston, and vice versa.

This is counterproductive: the future of every region in Massachusetts is intertwined, and needs to be addressed with a commonality of purpose.

The crisis at the T is not just about the daily inconvenience and indignity to many of the service workers who power the

tention, even from people who never ride it. It's now or never, and the consequences of inaction will be dire.

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

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Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular back at the Esplanade this year

BY LAUREN BENNETT

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

Though the free program will be in-person this year, it

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

"The past three years have

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

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

Aside from performances by the Boston Pops, this year's program will feature Chaka Khan, a ten-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, as well as Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer and actress Heather Headley and singer-songwriter Javier Colon, who was winner on season one of "The Voice."

Performances will also be given

by the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums, as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Soldiers from the Massachusetts National Guard 54th Volunteer regiment will present the colors.

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

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

For more information about the hosts, performers, and what items are allowed and prohibited

at the event, visit the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular website at bso.org/boston-pops-fireworks-spectacular

Traffic Advisory

Fourth of July weekend traffic advisory from the City of Boston

The annual 4th of July celebrations will be held on Monday, July 4, 2022, bringing parking restrictions and traffic changes to the City of Boston. The City of Boston Transportation Department is implementing restrictions on the below streets to reduce congestion and illegal parking. People attending this and other events are encouraged not to drive their personal vehicles. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the Bluebikes website, and information on the MBTA may be found at the T's website. For a faster return trip, the MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket. Walking is also a great way to move around Boston. It is important to read all posted signs.

Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day



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