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Mission Hill
GAZETTE

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OCTOBER 6, 2023 — NOVEMBER 2, 2023

COMMUNITY DAY OPEN HOUSE

The Boston Athenaeum hosted a Community Day Open House Saturday, Sept. 30.

More than 1,500 people toured the library, art museum, and cultural center and enjoyed its art collections, exhibitions, demonstrations, and musical entertainment.

The Athenaeum staff and volunteers did a great job welcoming families from all the neighborhoods of Boston and tourists from around the world to the fun event.

The Boston Athenaeum is truly an historic gem in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, located around the corner from the State House and Boston Common.



Pictured with the frame on Community Day at the Boston Athenaeum where more than 1,500 people visited last Sunday, are Annabelle Polak and Hannah Witts.



Enjoying a visit to the Conservation Lab led by Senior Conservator Graham Patten (right) are Carmine Petrone and son, Vincent Petrone.



PJ Maglione beams with joy as his one-year-old son, Arlo Maglione, holds one of the stuffed animals inside the Children's Library.

Taking a closer look at
Mission Hill Pathway

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Early next month, lead developers for a project on Parker and Terrace Streets called Mission Hill Pathway will highlight their concept to the community that would provide affordable homeownership opportunities and vast amounts of open space in Mission Hill.

Back in August, the City of Boston designated the group of

Oxbow Urban, DVM Consulting, and J. Garland Enterprises (ODJ Dev LLC) to develop 11 city-owned parcels at 77 Terrace Street and 778-796 Parker Street.

Now, with the designation under the group's belt, they are preparing to present some initial plans to the neighborhood.

Some main programming as-

Continued on page 2

Montez Haywood
visits CAMH meeting

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During its meeting in September, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) hosted Montez Haywood, a candidate running for District 8 City Councilor.

Haywood, who fell short of current District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan in July's special election, is still fighting for the position, which will be decided during the City's Municipal Elec-

tion on November 7.

During his time at the meeting, Haywood took the opportunity to speak to residents about his background and the platforms he is running on.

Haywood was born in Flint, Michigan, and moved to Tennessee before finding his way to New England when he attended Law School at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

He explained to residents how

Continued on page 4

The Independent Newspaper Group
offices will be closed on Columbus Day,
Monday,
October 9, 2023



What's Happening on Main Streets

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

With the return of Fall, comes the return of some of my favorite annual events in the neighborhood. Halloween on the Hill will be happening on the Tuesday of Halloween from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. beginning at the Tobin Community Center at 1481 Tremont St. Families can pick up their trick or treat bags and maps of local businesses that will be handing out candy throughout the neighborhood. If you are brave enough, the Tobin youth and staff always put together an awesomely scary haunted house in the basement

of the community center- not for the faint! Each year, Halloween on the Hill brings out hundreds of youth and families to celebrate and enjoy Halloween safely and with lots of fun activities. Look out for flyers with more information.

On September 21st, New England Baptist Hospital collaborated with the Tobin and to host the second "Senior Birthday Party" since the pandemic. Residents from all over the neighborhood were in attendance to receive a gift and lunch. A big round of applause to Yellow Door Taco's Jarek Mountain and Colleen Haggerty, who not only brought the

ingredients for their chicken tinga and charred broccoli tacos, but showed volunteers how to properly assemble the gourmet spread. The tacos were a huge hit- thank you Yellow Door Taqueria!

The Annual Mission Hill Road Race was held this past Saturday with over 400 registered walkers and runners. Mayor Wu was on hand to start off the walkers at 9 a.m., and was joined by Councilors-at-large Erin Murphy and Ruthzee Louijeune, District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan. Leading the speaking portion was Mission Hill's own John Fitzgerald, currently running for the District 3 City Council seat. An-

other Mission Hill native Henry Santana was also in attendance, and is running for one of the four City Councilor at Large seats up for grabs this November 7th. Once again, the Mission Hill Artists Collective and their artisans set up tables in Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park during the event to sell their work. The rain held off and a great day was had by all.

This coming Saturday is the Society of St. Vincent DePaul at Mission Church Friends of the Poor Walk. Sign in is from 9-10 a.m. at Mission Church and the walk begins at 10 at the Church and goes to Green Street Station along the Southwest Corridor. More info and registration can be found at www.fopwalk.org/event/2913. Also this weekend, the Mission Hill Post Golf Tournament that was scheduled for September 30th and delayed due to weather will instead be held this coming Saturday, October

7th at the Norwood Country Club at 1 p.m.

Now for some updates from our local restaurants:

- Check out the new website for Lilly's at <https://lillysgourmetpasta.com/>. Back by popular demand is the choose your own pasta option, come in any day this week and mention their new website AD before 3 p.m. and receive an additional 15% any 'create your own pasta' order for dine in or pick up!

- Penguin Pizza is doing half price apps Monday-Thursday 3-5 p.m. and their \$.50 wings Mondays at 5!

- Solid Ground Café is now catering! Stop by their location to pick up catering menus or find it online at www.solidgroundcafe.com/

If you'd like me to include you in the next edition, please reach out at missionhillmainstreetsbos-ton@gmail.com.

Pathway

Continued from page 1

pects of the project include 40 affordable condominiums for families and first-time home buyers, vast amounts of community garden space, open space, a connection between Parker and Terrace Streets, and ground floor commercial space.

Specifically, on the Terrace Street side of the project, there are plans for an approximately 50-foot-tall building that would contain parking on the first level and three residential floors above.

Of the 40 total condominiums in the project, there will be a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units and a mixture of affordability.

"We're trying to provide opportunity for a broad range of Mission Hill residents," said Kevin Maguire, Founder of Oxbow Urban.

Regarding the affordability plans, the units will be sold in two different income tiers — one tier targeting 20 units at 65% of Area Median Income (AMI) and the other targeting 20 units at 85% of AMI, each with a mix of one two and three bedrooms.

Then, for parking, there are plans for 40 indoor bike spaces, and there are plans to provide around 30 parking spaces. Maguire also mentioned the possibility of having a shared vehicle or zip car and said, "There'll be transportation options."

Additionally, there are plans for retail space, and Maguire indicated that the retail space would be something that sup-

ports the residential development that happens in the neighborhood.

"We'd love it to be a local business... it's going to be neighborhood retail, I think, with a focus on Mission Hill business owners or entrepreneurs," said Maguire.

Another huge aspect of this project will be its focus on open space. Maguire spoke about the big vision for the project, which is setting the standard for what he called "climate-forward neighborhood infill development."

For example, Maguire spoke about maintaining greenery and getting innovative with controlling stormwater and other open space amenities.

Some of these open space amenities, which are on the Parker Street portion of the project, include an extension of the Mission Hill Community Garden and a pocket park.

"Because it's been open for 30 years, the neighborhood doesn't really want it to get built out — the Parker Street side — because it's become this amenity, this kind of open space," said Maguire.

"So, the idea of just leaving it open so it's this passive open space felt like a great use, both from the climate standpoint, both from an amenity for residents that live there now and then as well for new residents," he added.

Although Maguire described the open space — besides the community garden — on the Parker Street part of the development as passive, in that it will not be like a playground, he acknowledged that the space could be programmed for events.

"It's really meant to be a com-

munity resource, but it's not going to be trying too hard. It's not going to be overly programmed," he said.

An interesting aspect of the open space portion of the project to note is that it will be owned and operated by The Trustees, a statewide preservation and conservation non-profit.

While these open space initiatives seek to fulfill the vision of climate-forward neighborhood infill development, the building will also do that.

The building will be all-electric, passive house standard, LEED Gold, and have solar panels on the roof.

"It's going to be to the highest standard of building efficiency and energy sustainability," said Maguire.

While the development team has many ideas to make the site the best it can be, Maguire acknowledged that they want to work with the community to provide the most significant benefit.

"We as developers need the community to participate so that we can maximize the benefits and the impact," said Maguire.

He also said, "We really want and we benefit from community input," later adding, "To make it of Mission Hill, we need people from Mission Hill to tell us what that means in a way."

Currently, the development team is planning on having a meeting with the community in early November.

To stay updated with the project, keep in touch with the developers, and learn the meeting date when finalized, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MissionPathwayContact>.

Council unanimously approves ordinance to create an Office of Cultural Affairs

On Wednesday, October 4, Boston City Councilors voted to approve the creation of an Office of Cultural Affairs in the City of Boston. Docket #1300, Ordinance Amending City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter XII, Section 12-20, Latino and Caribbean Affairs for Public Health and Welfare, was sponsored by Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia and colleagues Ricardo Arroyo (District 5) and Brian Worrell (District 4).

Boston City Councilor At-Large and lead sponsor Julia Mejia expressed, "This ordinance was created in response to the growing need of the nearly 30% of Boston residents that identify as Latino and/or Caribbean. As we continued to work through the language, we expanded the ordinance to include other historically excluded populations, such as Cape Verdeans, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and other growing diverse populations."

Councilor Mejia added, "This office will work to develop and advocate for policies that address the unique needs and challenges by performing policy analysis and programming evaluation to ensure the social, emotional and financial well-being of these cultural communities." The Office would be staffed by a Director and Cultural Advisors who will

advance the needs of these historically excluded communities.

"Our diverse and vibrant Latino and Caribbean communities play a pivotal role in Boston, representing nearly 30 percent of our population and contributing significantly to our cultural, economic, and social life," Councilor Brian Worrell (District 4) said. "The establishment of the Cultural Affairs Office under this ordinance is a big step forward. The role's commitment to identifying model policies, practices, and programs from both within our city and across the nation is a testament to our dedication to driving positive change."

The Ordinance will also allow the Mayor to appoint a Director of Cultural Affairs who would advise and assist the Mayor in developing policies that would benefit these historically excluded populations. The Office will be part of the Mayor's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet.

"This Office will continue to ensure that the City of Boston is a leader nationally in addressing the needs and concerns of our historically excluded communities," Councilor Arroyo (District 5) said. "Systemic racism has done incalculable harm. This office will begin the work of reversing that harm."

INSTALLATION MASS



Rev. Cristiano Barbosa (left), Episcopal Vicar for the Boston area is shown with Father Philip Dabney on Sunday, September 24, as he presided at the installation Mass of Fr. Dabney as the new rector of Mission Church. The church was filled for the happy occasion and the Mass was concelebrated by the Redemptorist Fathers who have staffed the church since its founding in 1871.



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Wu announces newly selected 2023 - 2024 SPARK Boston Council

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the newly-selected 2023-2024 SPARK Boston Council. The 43-member group will spend the next year working to connect young adults to leaders in local government, City services, and one another. The SPARK Boston Council will advise Mayor Wu on City policies and programs affecting 20- to 35-year-olds in the City of Boston.

“We’re excited to welcome our newly expanded SPARK Boston Council to address the issues and interests of Boston’s young adults,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This rising generation of leaders reflects our city’s talent, diversity, and experience, and I look forward to collaborating with them.”

This year’s Council members come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, higher education, and scientific research. Sixteen SPARK Boston council members are multilingual and the Council represents almost all of Boston’s neighborhoods.

SPARK Boston’s new Director, Anthony Nguyen, is a former council member. He plans to use his experience to create space and empower more council members to become advocates in their neighborhoods, especially those that have been historically un-

derrepresented and overlooked.

“I look forward to working with such a passionate and skilled group of young professionals this year in SPARK Boston. Young people in Boston are driven. They are our City’s future leaders, first responders, organizers, business owners, homeowners, teachers, parents and more,” said SPARK Boston Director Anthony Nguyen. “This year’s council will create programming that addresses the needs of millennials and gen-z young adults. This opportunity also greatly connects members to ways that influence the City of Boston, so that it is a place where Boston-born residents and those who are new to the city want to continue to live, socialize, and work.”

“I believe that by serving on the council, I can work alongside other decision-makers who share my passion for driving positive change in Boston,” said SPARK Boston Council member and Dorchester resident Keenan Ottley. “My motivation to join the council stems from a deep sense of civic responsibility and a desire to give back to the community. I see it as an opportunity to use my skills, knowledge, and expertise to help address the challenges facing the city and to help create a more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future

for all Bostonians.”

Last year, SPARK Boston Council members spent time leading projects that included creating a holiday giving guide, filling community fridges in the winter, partnering with the Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing during their Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup in Mattapan, connecting with City leaders through SPARK’s Chief Chats, participating in voter registration events, learning about the Boston development process through their Pint with a Planner, and creating a Boston You’re My Home community mapping project and more.

“The future of SPARK Boston is bright! The individuals that are serving on this year’s council will continue the legacy of past members who lead with intention to put community first in all that they do inside and outside of the City,” said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. “I look forward to partnering with SPARK Boston in meaningful ways this year.”

SPARK Boston is housed in the Mayor’s Community Engagement Cabinet. This office is responsible for advising Mayor Wu on issues affecting millennial and gen-z populations and working with City departments and community stakeholders to

create innovative solutions. The Council meets monthly with City Hall leaders and creates free programming for their peers including voter resources, events highlighting the City’s on-going initiatives, and professional and social networking opportunities across Boston’s many neighborhoods.

The 2023-2024 Council includes:

Allston

- Fred Lu
- Abigail Chan

Back Bay

- Begum Agca Okutgen
- Robert Harrington

Beacon Hill

- Sarah Sharpe

Brighton

- Devin MacGoy
- Coleman Nee
- Nadaje Hendrix
- Ashley Slay
- Jeffery Sierra

Chinatown/Downtown

- Emma Noble Smith
- Ben Swisher

Dorchester

- Fiex Thevenin
- Keenan Ottley
- Reginald Fils
- Farhana karmali
- Aisha Donna
- Alex Burdulis

East Boston

- Amanda Miner
- Kacthary Sanclemente

- Katie McCoid
- Fenway**
- Anh Nguyen
 - Liz Cormack
 - John Kaywood
- Hyde Park**
- Johanne Antonie
- Jamaica Plain**
- Leila Dixon
 - Thienan Dang
- Mattapan**
- Rosalyna Felix
 - Edosa Osemwegie
 - Genelle Faulkner
- Roxbury**
- Olivia Grant
 - Tanesha Beckford
 - Anuradha Sahu
- Roslindale**
- James Glenister
 - Long Tong
 - Evan Zinner
- Seaport**
- Brianne Gump
- South Boston**
- Soo Ji Jung
 - Adna Mohammad
 - Collin Kelly
- South End**
- Nina Kalluri
 - Denzel Samuel
 - Greg Kinlan

For more information on SPARK Boston programming and initiatives, please visit boston.gov/sparkboston.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

he had initially worked for a private firm after law school before being hired to be a prosecutor in the City of Boston, a position he has held for 17 and a half years.

After providing residents with a brief background, Haywood spoke about why he is running and also described his position on a plethora of issues.

In terms of why he is running, he told those in attendance, “I truly believe that we have some real needs in our neighborhood.”

One of the first topics Haywood

discussed was getting help to those who are unhoused or facing substance use or mental health issues. “We should be offering more to them than merely a blanket and a pillow,” he said.

He also talked about needing to do something for these folks instead of waiting for things like the reopening of the Long Island Shelter and is pushing the idea of a floating hospital model where people can get needed services on a ship instead of being left on the streets.

“What we’re doing is, we’re identifying someone in need of services, and we’re placing them on the floating hospital ship,”

said Haywood.

“We need to have a real conversation about how we address these individuals,” he later added.

Another priority Haywood touched on was education and discussed ways the city could support its students. Specifically, Haywood’s website identifies that he would like to transition to a fully elected school board.

“We are in one of the greatest cities in the world, with some of the greatest educational places in the world. Our public school system should be the diamond and should reflect the diamond that our city is,” said Haywood.

Additionally, Haywood discussed road and sidewalk maintenance. He spoke specifically about needing to keep in mind those who are in wheelchairs when repairing things like sidewalks.

“Instead of continuing to badly patch these things, the answer is coming through these areas and tearing them out and fixing them right. We have the resources to do it,” said Haywood.

He also spoke about how when driving, residents should not be driving over several potholes and that there should be a plan people can follow to see when certain roads will be fixed and more.

Rent control was another big topic that Haywood touched on, but he was of the opinion that it would not work. “We’ve had this experiment before in our city, and it failed,” he said.

He also made the point that with potential rent control looming, it has just caused landlords in the city to raise rates in anticipation. Haywood even mentioned first-hand experience with this as

he is facing a 17% rent increase.

“This is a real issue that affects me, and I will sit back, and I will say to you we need to give people a different option,” said Haywood.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included ensuring food security for those on the margins and the need for more transparency from the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

While CAMH’s President Martin Beinborn indicated that the organization does not endorse candidates, he thanked Haywood for coming and talking with residents.

Although there were no formal endorsements from CAMH, at least one attendee voiced their support for Haywood.

“It’s refreshing to hear you speak, and I’m so grateful of your ideas, and I’m going to vote for you,” said the attendee.

If you want to learn more about Haywood’s background, his policy positions, and more, visit his website at <https://montezhaywood.com/>.



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Wu announces \$5 million awarded in new grant funding

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston has been awarded three grants totaling over \$5 million from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to boost digital equity efforts within the City. This funding will help ensure that residents within Boston Housing Authority (BHA) properties have access to affordable and dependable internet connectivity and will also be used to support ongoing efforts to enroll Boston residents in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), strengthen telehealth programs in Boston, and establish workforce development programs through refurbishing distributed devices.

"Today, nearly every aspect of daily life, from work meetings and classes to healthcare and government services, relies on access to the Internet," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to announce that Boston has been awarded over \$5 million in grant funding that will help us expand initiatives to ensure that all Bostonians have access to the technology, training, and equipment they need to thrive."

"This critical funding will allow the City to support the Boston Housing Authority, and community organizations to connect our residents with telehealth, access to jobs and learning resources, and to be able to talk to

friends and loved ones," said Santi Garces, Chief Information Officer. "We're incredibly grateful to the state and federal partners that have provided these grants to make sure every Bostonians is connected."

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 32,000 Boston households did not have broadband access. Through the City's efforts, that number has been reduced to approximately 14,000 households. The pandemic reinforced the importance of high speed internet, necessary for conferencing systems and other bandwidth intensive services (currently measured on a federal level as 25 megabits for download and 3 megabits for upload). This digital divide reinforces inequalities across Boston as access to broadband is critical for residents to study or work remotely, access telehealth and government services, and stay connected with their communities.

The funding includes two MBI grants through the state's Executive Office of Economic Development totaling over \$5 million, including \$4.55 million from the Digital Equity Partnerships Program and \$450,000 in support through the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. The MBI Planning grant will fund a survey that will inform a city-wide Digital Equity Plan, and includes establishing internet

wiring standards for affordable housing. The MBI Partnership grant will invest over \$1 million for BHA's onsite Digital Literacy Programming and over \$684,000 to expand the City's Wicked Free public WiFi network. The third grant from the FCC totals \$250,000 for the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program. The "B-Online Initiative" will fund ongoing community outreach to enroll residents in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

"We congratulate Mayor Wu and the City of Boston on these critical awards, which are a testament to the work the city has done to ensure residents not only have access to affordable high-speed internet, but also the tools and training needed to access online resources," said Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development Undersecretary of Economic Foundations Ashley Stolba. "On behalf of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, we are honored to support these important projects and to see how they expand opportunities for residents across Boston."

"MBI's digital equity programs are investing federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to close the digital divide across the Commonwealth by increasing access to affordable and reliable broadband service, internet-connected devices, and digital literacy training," said

Michael Baldino, Director of the Mass. Broadband Institute at MassTech (MBI). "Congratulations to the City of Boston on this important award, which will help us ensure that vulnerable Bostonians have access to the digital tools and resources that are so critical to our ability to succeed and thrive in the 21st Century."

The ACP is a federal program providing \$14.2 billion to expand broadband affordability. ACP provides eligible households with a subsidy for broadband service (\$30/month) and up to \$100 in a one-time discount for a digital device. The program was funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in 2021, with the strong support of Senator Ed Markey. Nearly 45,000 Boston households have signed up for broadband service and

devices through ACP, including nearly 20,000 that have been enrolled since May 2022 through close partnership with service providers and community organizations.

These grants will empower the City to make investments totaling \$2.44 million in community organizations across Boston neighborhoods through the next round of the City's Digital Equity Fund, which is launching on October 2, 2023. The City's Digital Equity Fund began in 2018 with an award of \$35,000 to a community-based organization (CBO). In 2019, the fund expanded to \$100,000 which was distributed to three CBOs. In the last iteration of the fund, just under \$500,000 was distributed to 19 organizations.



Virtual Public Meeting

Parcel 25 Phase 3

OCTOBER

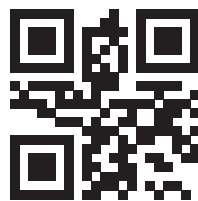
23

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3ZECD2o

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 774 4091



The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the Parcel 25 Phase 3 project located in Mission Hill. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Notice of Project Change. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the Public. The Proposed Project will include the construction of a new approximately six-story residential rental building with 94 income restricted rental units and thirty-three parking spaces.

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.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，本次会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本次会议的内容，您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务，请通过以下方式进行联系：(ebony.darosa@boston.gov)(617-918-4419)会议定于2023/10/23，请在会议前5天内申请口译服务。

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mail to: **Ebony DaRosa**

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BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

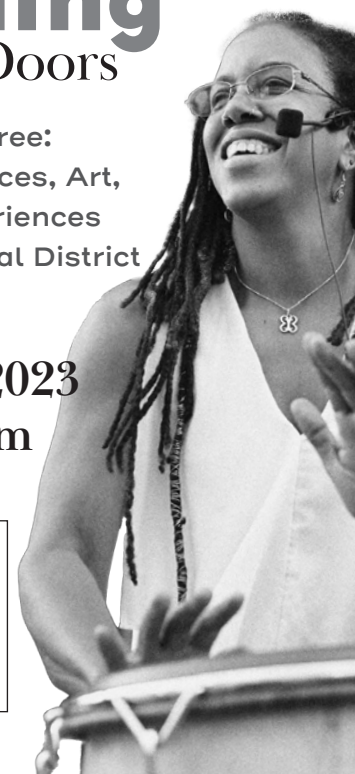
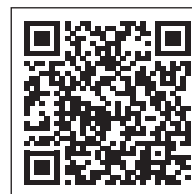
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Monday,
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10am - 4pm



Kera Washington of Project Misik performing at Opening Our Doors October, 2022.
www.projectmisik.com • Photo credit: Annielly Camargo

fenwayculture.org • [#fenwayculture](https://twitter.com/fenwayculture)
[#openingourdoors](https://twitter.com/openingourdoors)



The
Fenway
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Fenway
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City of Boston
Arts & Culture

Wu endorses Ben Weber for Boston City Council, District 6

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Ben Weber, candidate for Boston City Council District 6, has earned the endorsement of Mayor Michelle Wu. Weber is currently a workers' rights attorney representing low-wage workers in wage theft, misclassification, and discrimination cases. He is a BPS dad and youth soccer coach running to represent Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Roslindale, and Mission Hill on the City Council.

Mayor Wu voiced her confidence in Weber and her unwavering support in his bid for Council, citing his dedication to community, past work advocating for workers, and personal understanding of how to best support families and kids in Boston.

"I'm proud to endorse Ben Weber to represent District 6 on the City Council. Ben's commitment to community starts with his own family and the very personal understanding of what

it means to raise kids in our neighborhoods. As a BPS dad, youth soccer coach, neighborhood council member, and attorney fighting for workers' rights, Ben has spent many years actively working for a bright future for our city. He'll be an effective partner on the policies and constituent services for Boston to be the best city for families."

"I am deeply honored to earn the support of Mayor Wu," Weber said. "We share the same progressive ideals and, if elected, I look forward to working with the Mayor to make the City a healthier, more equitable place to live for all Bostonians."

The Mayor's endorsement is the second elected endorsement Weber has received, following Representative Samantha Montano. Additionally, Weber has been endorsed previously by unions such as 1199 SEIU, SEIU 888, Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 3, Iron Workers Local 7, IBEW 103, and the North Atlantic Regional States

Council of Carpenters.

The District 6 runoff election will be held on November 7th. To learn more about Ben Weber and his campaign, visit <https://weberforboston.com>

Ben and his wife Xan have lived in Jamaica Plain for 15 years, raising their son Noah, 16, and daughter Hannah, 11. He is running for District 6 City Council because he believes that he can contribute to a collaborative City Council that focuses on the issues facing Boston residents and families every single day.

Weber has devoted his legal career to protecting workers from wage theft and other forms of corporate greed. He represented migrant cotton workers in the Mississippi Delta, learning Spanish to better communicate with his immigrant clients, then moved to Boston in 2008 to join the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. As Counsel at the law firm Lichten & Liss-Riordan, Weber has advocated on behalf of hospital workers, Black

and Latino public safety workers, farm workers, and delivery drivers. He believes that the City Council has an important role to play in protecting Boston's workers, by ordinance and through political advocacy.

Both children were students at the Mission Hill School, where Weber's family and their close-knit community of MHS families suffered the turmoil of last year's alarming report and sudden closure. Noah is now at Boston Arts Academy and Hannah at the Curley School, but the experience showed Weber the need for BPS to communicate better, truly empower families as partners, and ensure more quality school options for everyone. In Weber's words, "I'm committed to Boston Public Schools, so I'm running to make sure that we learn from the Mission Hill School situation to guarantee every BPS student an excellent education."

A college athlete himself at Brandeis University, Weber believes in the value of youth

sports. He has served as a coach to Hannah and Noah's teams in both Jamaica Plain Youth Soccer and Parkway Soccer and has seen firsthand Boston's great need for improved public sports fields. Weber strongly supports capital investments such as the proposed renovation of White Stadium to finally provide BPS track and field athletes with the updated facilities they deserve. Weber is also a member of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, where he is dedicated to working together to achieve affordable housing solutions that preserve Jamaica Plain's diverse character and tackle the housing crisis burdening so many of Boston's working families.

Weber is running for the District 6 City Council seat currently held by Councilor Kendra Lara, representing West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and parts of Roslindale and Mission Hill.

Boston Public Health Commission encourages people to get the flu shot ahead of flu season

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is encouraging all residents ages six months and older to get their annual influenza (Flu) vaccination as flu season approaches. Flu vaccination is safe and highly effective at lowering the risk of illness and severe disease requiring hospitalization.

talization.

Getting the flu vaccine in September or October helps ensure strong protection from the virus before peak flu activity begins. As it gets colder, the risk for infection and severe illness increases.

The most common symptoms

of the flu are fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, and in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea. Flu is highly infectious and can lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and death, especially among higher risk groups, including children younger than 5 years old, adults aged 65 and older, pregnant people, and people with chronic medical conditions.

"Getting your annual flu shot should be at the top of your fall to-do list because vaccination is the best way to decrease the risk of severe illness and hospitalization from the flu especially if you are older, very young, pregnant, or have a weakened immune system," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

"If you are at higher risk and develop flu symptoms, reach out to your health care provider. Treatment may be available."

Flu vaccines are widely available throughout the city and are often covered by insurance, including MassHealth. Visit your local pharmacy, community health center, or contact your primary health care provider to set up an appointment. The new flu vaccines are also available for free at BPHC's standing clinics at the Bruce C. Bolling Building in Roxbury and at City Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointments or proof of insurance are needed.

• Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington St., Roxbury

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(2nd Floor) 1 City Hall Square, Boston

• Open Mondays from 7 am - 1 pm and Wednesdays from 12 pm - 5 pm

Additionally, residents can find other local flu and COVID-19 vaccination sites by using the CDC's vaccine finder tool.

If you do not have health insurance, or if co-pays are a barrier, call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050. Residents can also use the Health Line for information on transportation services to vaccine sites.

The Bruce C. Bolling Building and City Hall are also offering free COVID-19 testing and will soon have the updated COVID-19 vaccine. On September 12, the CDC recommended updated COVID-19 vaccines for everyone ages 6 months and older to protect against the latest variants of the COVID-19 virus. The updated COVID-19 vaccines should be available within the coming weeks. BPHC will share more information about their availability soon. Most health insurances, including MassHealth, will cover the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine, but people can contact their provider with any questions. People can also call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.



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Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

A large crowd gathered on Sunday morning, Sept. 17, at Huntington Avenue and Wait Street for a ceremony honoring former Mission Hill resident Pfc Nelson Edward Young, who lost his life during the Korean War.

Pfc Young, who joined the Army upon his 17th birthday, was captured Dec. 2, 1950, and he died two months later as a prisoner of war. The North Korean government agreed to repatriate the remains of U.S. servicemen in 1994 and in 2012 analysts were able to identify Pfc. Young.

It was an honor to meet a few of the relatives of the brave fallen soldier. Sharon Durkan, our Mission Hill City Councilor, nicely articulated her tribute to Pfc Young during her short oration. Also among the crowd was City Councilors Ed Flynn, Erin Murphy, and Mission Hill Post 327 Commander, Col. George Rollins.

The Mission Hill Post held a meeting last month at Victory Point Restaurant in Quincy, and we welcomed two new members, Davey Jelloe and Kevin Clifford. Both of these noble citizens grew up on the Hill and are Mission High School graduates.

I enjoy talking baseball with my neighbor, Jane Hovey, a longtime Mission Hill resident, and Jane will be cheering on her beloved Braves during the playoffs, particularly with the Red Sox laying an egg this year.

Jane, who still has a sharp mind, attended many Boston Braves games as a young girl at Braves Field (currently owned by Boston University), and she fondly recalls the players, including the Braves brilliant outfielder, Tommy Holmes.

The Braves, who left Boston in 1953, have a rich history, and they played at the South End Grounds on Columbus Avenue (currently next to Carter Play-ground) until 1915.

The great pitcher Tom Earley, Mission High School, 1936, hurled for the Braves from 1938-1942 and also in 1945 after serving in World War II. Incidentally,

many Mission Hill folks recall Tom's brother, Walter Earley, a beloved Boston Police Officer, who also served in World War II. Walter was quite the character, and I loved bellying up to the bar next to him in the old days at the Mission Hill Post to listen to his tales.

Condolences to the family of Gail (McLean) Traylor, who passed away last month.

Gail grew up in the Mission Hill project in a loving and old-fashioned, large family, with five brothers and two sisters. She was an animal lover who will be deeply missed. Donations in Gail's name may be made to www.mspsca.org.

Deborah Phillips, a longtime Mission Hill resident, passed away last month.

Deborah had a great work ethic, and many remember her working as a cashier at the old Calumet Market. When shopping at the Market I often went through her aisle and Deborah was always pleasant during our brief chats.

Happy birthday (Oct. 20), to longtime Mission Hill resident Paul Fitzgerald. Paul is a dutiful worker at the N.E. Baptist Hospital in Environmental Services.

Condolences to the family of Bobby Parks, a 1974 Mission High graduate who passed away last month. Bobby was a nice man with a quiet demeanor who loved animals. The Parks are a renowned Mission Hill family, and Bobby was the son of the late Robert and Theresa Parks. R.I.P., Bobby.

It was a somber time for local Pop Warner Football players last month with the disbandment of the Boston Bengals, who played their games at Clifford Park in Roxbury.

There was a lack of interest this year because of the continuous open drug use and the littered needles in the park.

Longtime Bengals coach Domingos DaRosa was a guest on the Dan Rea Show on WBZ radio last month, when he spoke about the unsanitary conditions. DaRosa, who is a terrific role model for the Roxbury kids, said, "Clifford Park is affected by the spillover from the nearby drug problems

of Mass. and Cass."

This unfortunate tale did conjure up a pleasant memory for me, having played Pop Warner Football in the early '60s. Although I couldn't crack the starting lineup, and mostly I polished the bench with the seat of my pants, it was a lot of fun. Our Pop Warner team didn't lose a game with my Tobin Court neighbor Jim Daley at quarterback and the great Johnny White as our running back.

Wedding bells rang last month for Julie O'Neill and Ryan Nichols. The delightful couple was married at Blue Ocean Center in Salisbury. A wise man once said: "Two hearts in love need no words."

Julie (O'Neill) Nichols is the daughter of proud parents Kevin and Evelyn O'Neill. Kevin O'Neill, a retired probation officer, was my Mission Hill project neighbor and among the many splendid athletes from Tobin Court.

It was wonderful to see a good



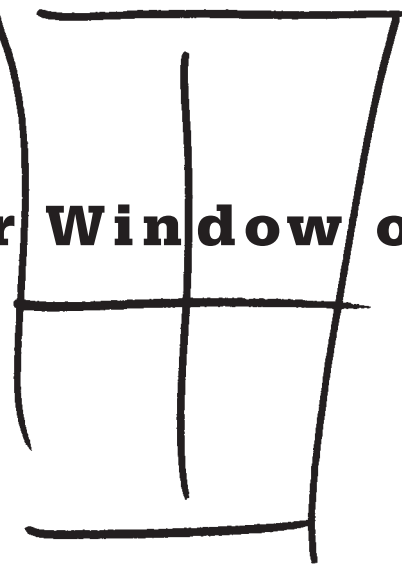
A crowd gathers for a ceremony honoring former Mission Hill resident Pfc Nelson Edward Young.

crowd at Mission Church at last Sunday's 12:30 Mass to celebrate the installation of Father Dabney as our new Rector. Father John Collins and Father John "Butch" Fuery, both of whom grew up on the Hill participated in the Mass. Mission Hill is everywhere.

The Mission Hill Post #327 Golf Tournament at Norwood Country Club will be held at noon on Saturday, October 7. Late comers are welcome.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

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CITY PAWS

Canine hobbies

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Call them hobbies, special interests, recreation, or avocation; having an enjoyable activity is good for both people and dogs. If you find something you both enjoy and can do together, that's even better.

The Best Friends Resource Center lists excellent activities that could suit you and your dog. Those include agility, therapy dog work, obedience training, dancing with dogs, flyball, frisbee, nose work, hiking, dog parks, tracking, and trick training.

Observing your dog's moments of bliss will help you decide what activities to try. What sets your dog's tail wagging? Does your hand on a leash bring a happy pup to your side? For some dogs, going outside and having a nice long walk with you is the best moment of their day. We've seen dogs excitedly quiver when someone says "car." However, other dogs shake with fear at any sign of a car ride.

Is Your Dog Having Fun?

Observe signs of stress or joy as you test various activities to find ways to enjoy time with your canine companion. None of

us would intentionally become a stage parent, pushing our dog to do something because we enjoy it or gain some kind of fulfillment of our own needs through the pup.

For our food-obsessed Poppy, bliss is tiny tidbits given as rewards for training. Our little pup runs to the sound of the treat jar opening or a call to come to one of us if she begins to bark. She also loves sitting on benches outside. If you ever see us swaying from side to side as we walk down Commonwealth Avenue Mall, it's because Poppy's asking to sit on a bench for a while.

Herders, Diggers, and Retrievers

If bred for a specific job, your dog's bliss may be in its DNA. Herding dogs will find targets for their herding hobby. We recall a Shetland Sheepdog who would try to herd any bicycle he saw. He was frantic to get those things circled up and under control.

Terriers are diggers and hunters. Our Westies have not had the opportunity to take up digging as a hobby because they've never had time alone outside. When we conduct pre-adoption home visits for Westies or Cairns, we warn prospective guardians with



Frisbee is a game you can play with your dog in your yard, off-leash recreation area, or at a Frisbee competition. (Photo by Wolfgang Hasselmann)

fenced yards that a terrier left alone out there will find a way under a fence.

Digging is in their DNA and is a hobby they would love to explore. Groundwork is the dog sport that takes advantage of the terrier's urge to dig and hunt. It's a competition where the dogs search for bait in underground tunnels.

From a harborside deck in

Provincetown, we've watched people use a ball launcher to fling a target as far as possible for their relentless retrievers. The dogs have a merry chase, galloping through the shallows and swimming for yards to fetch their prize, only to beg to do it again and again and again.

Follow Their Bliss

As you think about fall ad-

ventures and holiday gifts for your dog, figure out what will make your dog happy. Then, use that happiness to bond with and train your pal. The side benefit of activities beyond daily walks and playing with toys is that time spent training, performing, and competing can burn off some doggie energy that is harder to use up in winter weather. There's a lot of truth to the old saying that a tired dog is a good dog.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

**'PATTON'**

Patton is an energetic and affectionate lady who loves meeting new human friends and will greet them with hugs and kisses! She enjoys playdates with other dogs. She's a housebroken, loving, 3 year old pup.



"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

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Healey-Driscoll administration awards \$5.2 million to support recycling and waste reduction

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced nearly \$5.2 million in grant funding to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts across Massachusetts. The grants, made available by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), will help communities bolster their recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. The full list of awards is available here.

"Some of the most important environmental protection work happens every day in communities across our state," said Governor Maura Healey. "These grants help further our collective efforts to meet our aggressive goal of 90 percent waste reduction by 2050, while also boosting local economies by investing in the waste reduction industry."

"Residents partner with their communities to help protect the environment by recycling and reusing as much as possible," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This important funding will help municipalities implement innovative programs and policies that are proven to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction."

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program provides funding for recycling, composting, reuse, and source reduction activities that will reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention and recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by capturing the embodied energy in everyday product and packaging waste and converting it into new products. More than \$50 million has been awarded through the Program since 2010.

"Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity across our state," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tupper. "These grants help communities cycle resources back into our economy and support local businesses throughout the collection, processing, and manufacturing chain."

Funds have been awarded

in several categories, including start-up incentives for Pay-As-You-Throw programs, containers for the collection of mattresses, wheeled carts for curbside collection of food waste, equipment for the collection of mercury-bearing items, regional small-scale initiatives, and the Recycling Dividends Program.

This year, 278 communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program and will receive funding totaling \$3.65 million.

This program recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities receiving funding

must reinvest in their own municipal recycling efforts. Under the program, 15 municipalities have been awarded Recycling Dividends Program payments of more than \$50,000: Arlington, Attleboro, Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chicopee, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Newton, Quincy, Springfield, and Worcester.

"Recycling Dividends Program awards give communities the opportunity to make critical investments in their recycling programs – ultimately capturing more materials that can be recycled or reused, and helping them to reduce their waste disposal costs," said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "This is another example of MassDEP's commitment to building strategic partnerships with our local communities to build a more sustainable future."

Pay-As-You-Throw, a program where residents purchase pre-printed bags, stickers, or tags for trash disposal to pay directly for the amount of waste generated, is a proven waste reduction strategy that continues to be a priority for MassDEP. Funds

were awarded to five municipalities and totaled more than \$1 million. This includes awards between \$150,000 and \$300,000 each for Arlington, Marshfield, North Attleborough, and Westborough.

Funding for Universal Waste Sheds were awarded to eight communities for their drop-off facilities for the collection of mercury-bearing items; \$5,000 was awarded to each municipality. MassDEP also awarded \$110,000 to 11 municipalities for mattress collection containers to facilitate residential mattress recycling at their drop-off facilities; \$10,000 was awarded to each municipality.

Wheeled-cart grants for the curbside collection of food waste were awarded to the City of Medford in the amount of \$105,000 for a new town-wide collection program. The towns of Nahant and Norwood also received funding for a curbside food waste collection pilot program, at \$2,100 and \$10,500, respectively.

Finally, a grant for \$250,000 was awarded to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative – representing 12 South Shore towns – for the establishment of a permanent household hazardous waste facility based in Hanover.

"We have big climate goals in Massachusetts and achieving those goals will take a continued partnership between state government and our municipal partners throughout the Commonwealth, which is exactly what we see with these grants," said State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and through collaboration with my Small Business Advisory Council, I've heard that towns and businesses need these financial supports to implement green infrastructure upgrades, including today's \$5.2 million in SMRP grant funds, the 'Green the Garbage' composting pilot program I secured in this year's

budget, and more. Congratulations to the 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts receiving grant awards, including most towns throughout my district, and thank you for furthering the Commonwealth's collective effort to reduce waste through recycling, composting, and other mechanisms."

"The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants increase and support local recycling efforts, composting, reuse, source reduction, program development, and enforcement activities that increase diversion from our landfills and reduce disposal," said State Representative Daniel Cahill (D-Lynn), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. "This funding helps us in our efforts to mitigate and reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators. Waste prevention initiatives also reduce greenhouse

gas emissions by capturing the embodied energy in products and packaging waste and converts it into new sustainable products. These initiatives are vitally important to our communities and future."

More information about the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program can be seen here.

MassDEP's mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth; to provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives; and to ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve.



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Wu and Reparations Task Force seek partners for research on history and legacy of slavery in Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force announced the release of a request for proposals (RFP) seeking researchers to study the history and legacy of slavery in Boston. Through the RFP, the City will select partners to produce a report on the City's role in and historical ties to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the history and legacy of slavery, including original historical research and a comprehensive review of the secondary literature. The RFP and more information on how to apply can be found here.

"To help our communities heal from the legacies of slavery and the systems of exclusion and injustice that persist today, it is essential that the City fully document the City of Boston's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I urge researchers to apply to this RFP and join Boston in our commitment to deliver justice for Black residents and bring equitable solutions to our City."

"The Reparations Task Force is pleased to be able to address its responsibility by issuing the Request for Proposals," said Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Chair of the Reparations Task Force. "I have full confidence that the RFP enables us to choose the best research partners who will clearly and honestly document our City's history. I thank the Reparations Task Force members who were involved in the process of building the RFP, City officials, and the community for assisting us in this effort and look forward to the work ahead."

"There's an opportunity with this Request for Proposals not only to identify historically what has been collected and documented in the archive, in plain view, about our history, and prior attempts to erase it," said L'Merchie Frazier, a member of the Reparations Task Force, "but also to excavate a continuum of identity and a continuum of property relations—one that continues to be complex in nature as we grapple with four centuries of suffering and resistance. This RFP will help us bring in the thinking of people who will rigorously present that historical fact, with the lens of restoration."

The City seeks to award six contracts through this RFP. One contract will be awarded for each of the six (6) "units of study"

covered by the report, as follows: Boston and Bostonians' economic growth and involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and trans-Atlantic slave economies during (1) 1620-1690, (2) 1690-1750, and (3) 1750-1800; Boston and Bostonians' economic growth and involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and trans-Atlantic slave economies and their legacies during (4) 1800-1860; and the economic, social, and political legacies of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and trans-Atlantic slave economies during (5) 1860-1940 and (6) 1940-Present.

Candidates may apply to as many units of study as desired, but must submit separate proposals for each unit of study they intend to cover. The City hopes to not only thoroughly review and document historical findings on the City's role in the history and legacy of slavery, but also to tell this story in a way that has never been told before. Research partners will be expected to produce both an original historical narrative and a comprehensive literature review of major themes and events for each unit of study for which they are awarded a contract. Partners will weave together work across units of study to create a thorough accounting of the City of Boston's role in the history and legacy of slavery spanning from 1620 to the present.

The City also recognizes the importance of partnering with the community to properly build a shared understanding of the City's history. In addition to their writing and research work, selected research partners will be expected to present an update about their findings prior to the publication of the report during a meeting of the Reparations Task Force, with the opportunity for community members to engage with that ongoing work.

Candidates will be evaluated based on the quality of their research proposal; the capacity of their plan to complete their research and understanding of the topic area of historical inquiry and relevant source material; their research background, expertise, and experience relevant to the specific time period they have applied to cover, the major themes over the course of the whole history being accounted for, and the specific connections between the history and the legacy of slavery as it relates to their chosen time period(s); past

projects relevant to the objectives of the RFP and Task Force; their experience with community-engaged historical methods; their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the composition of their team; and the quality of the candidate's interview/presentation.

"The impacts of colonization and the dehumanization of people are still experienced by our Black residents in every industry throughout the world," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "In Boston, under the leadership of Mayor Wu, we are taking a step towards a more just world by confronting our history. We encourage leaders in other industries to do the same."

"Together, the Task Force and Mayor Wu have taken another deliberate step forward in both acknowledging and addressing Boston's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "As the City played a leading role in advancing the trading of human beings from the African continent and the oppression of their offspring, the launch of this significant request for proposals is an effort to become a model for cities across the nation on how to appropriately move the conversation on

reparations forward."

"This announcement is a significant milestone that speaks to the recognition of hate, of harms, of trauma, of oppression, and of economic injustices rooted in slavery," said Lori Nelson, Senior Advisor for Racial Justice. "It reflects this administration's commitment to fully acknowledge these harms and to take bold action that demonstrates truth and reconciliation. The Task Force and Black residents have begun to write a new chapter in Boston's history pages."

The City of Boston established the Reparations Task Force in accordance with a 2022 City Ordinance to study the impact of slavery in Boston. Members of the task force were announced in February 2023.

The Task Force's process in developing recommendations to the Mayor will take place in three phases: 1) Research and document the City's role in and historical ties to the Transatlantic slave trade and legacies of chattel slavery through the publication of a report 2) Assess the impact of the City's actions to date to address the legacy of slavery 3) Make final recommendations for the City for Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations addressing the City's involvement with the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The

research partner or partners for the RFP will support the Task Force during Phase 1 through their comprehensive historical report.

An optional bidder's conference, a public meeting designed such that anyone interested can ask questions about the RFP, will take place on October 12th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.. To join, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3EL9adB> (Passcode: 560740). The deadline to submit questions regarding the RFP is October 20, 2023.

The deadline to submit proposals for the request is November 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Please email reparations@boston.gov with any questions or communications concerning the RFP.

Proposers will need to register with the City as a "vendor" or "supplier" in order to submit an application electronically and, if selected, be paid by the City. Please visit boston.gov/departments/procurement/how-use-supplier-portal for step-by-step instructions to register as a new vendor and more.

Additional information, requirements, terms and conditions, and all other related information is set forth in the RFP documents on the City's Reparations Task Force homepage.

Local banks raise \$300,000 to end homelessness

A group of Massachusetts-based banks recently celebrated a campaign that raised awareness and \$300,000 for nonprofit Heading Home, which works to end homelessness.

During a recent Red Sox – Orioles game, bank representatives appeared on the Fenway Park baseball diamond to present an oversized check to Heading Home. The Boston-based nonprofit is one of the city's leading providers of emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing for extremely low-income families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The campaign, "Heading-4Home," launched in April 2023 with eight banks participating at various levels all united for the same goal.

"We are excited and proud to see community banks in Massachusetts come together in the fight against homelessness," said Northern Bank President & CEO Jim Mawn. "As community bankers, we represent



Back row (L-R): Northern Bank President & CEO Jim Mawn, Cambridge Savings Bank President & CEO Wayne Patenaude, Avidia Bank Executive Vice President Nick Karmelek. Front row (L-R): Winchester Co-Operative Bank Vice President Katie Gatcomb, HarborOne Bank First Vice President Maureen Wilkinson, Heading Home CEO Danielle Ferrier, Heading Home Chief Development Officer Suzanne Picher, Heading Home Director of Major Gifts Joe Gravellese, Berkshire Bank Senior Vice President Maria Montgomery.

a powerful force because of our collective commitment to the communities we serve. We are uniquely positioned to give back

in a meaningful way. Thank you to all the banks for your partici-

Continued on page 14

Weber and King moving on to Municipal election

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

District 6 City Council candidates Ben Weber and William King reigned supreme in the September 12 Preliminary Municipal election, beating out incumbent Boston City Councilor Kendra Lara to advance to the Municipal election slated for November 7th.

According to unofficial election results on the city's website, Weber came out on top in the preliminary race with 4,951 votes (42.25%), followed by King with 4,384 votes (37.42%) and Lara with 2,351 votes (20.06%).

Weber, a 15-year Jamaica Plain resident and workers' rights attorney, and King, a resident of West Roxbury and IT Director for a local conservation non-profit, seemed happy with the result.

"I'm happy to be here," said Weber. "It's great to have made it this far... I'm not taking anything for granted; I feel confident now that if I can reach enough voters before the final, I'll have a significant amount of support," he later added.

Speaking about his and his team's reaction to the results, King said, "We're super excited, and we're energized and pumped up, and we're ready to work hard all the way through election day."

"At the end of the day, I think it'll be a close race, but we think we have a positive message that will resonate with the voters of District 6," he said.

With the Municipal Election rapidly approaching, both King and Weber made it clear that they will continue to work just as hard to receive enough support to earn the title of District 6 City Councilor.

"We're going to do everything that we can to interact with as many voters as we possibly can and tell them about our message for the District," said King.

"I know we have a lot of work to do. I will be knocking on doors, trying to meet as many people as I can in the District before the final in November," said Weber.

Although Weber topped King in the preliminary, it was a closely contested battle for the top spot, and both candidates acknowledged that this race would

be a close one.

In what could be a barn burner of a race, every vote will count. With that in mind, both candidates spoke about why they should get votes from residents.

Weber talked about his background of living in Jamaica Plain with his wife, raising his two kids who are in Boston Public Schools (BPS), and working as an attorney for 18 years fighting for workers' rights as aspects that would help him as District 6 City Councilor.

"I think both my working experience and my experiences as a parent here would help me be an effective councilor representing the District," said Weber.

Weber also explained that he has shown through his work as an attorney, being a BPS dad, and a youth soccer coach that he would fight for things like housing affordability, schools that work for everyone in the city, and fight against climate change.

Similarly, King also spoke about his background and lived experiences being something that would resonate with voters.

For example, he talked about

understanding things those in the city have faced, such as financial struggles, the effects of violence, and trauma caused by addiction. King also spoke about how he was a BPS kid and has felt the impact of education system challenges like limited resources and overcrowded classrooms.

"I think it's about lived experiences and how I have those lived experiences, and I think that's really going to resonate with voters because the issues that they face are issues that I have faced or continue to face to this day," said King.

While these two candidates will be in a battle to achieve victory, there is at least one thing they are in lockstep about — urging residents to get out and vote.

"I urge people to get out and vote, especially for City Council

elections, because City Councilors directly interact with the residents and can improve quality of life for so many residents," said King.

"The City Council plays an important role in how our community works. So I urge everyone to follow the race and make their voices heard November 7th," said Weber.

To learn more about the background of each candidate and the platforms they are running on, you can visit their websites below.

Weber: <https://www.weberforboston.com/>

King: <https://www.kingforboston.com/>

Also, for all information pertaining to elections, you can visit the city's election webpage at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/election>.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Holiday Weekend Travel Weekend of October 6

Sumner Tunnel in Boston will be open for traffic

Commonwealth of MA offices closed Monday, October 9

MBTA Commuter Rail Unlimited Travel for \$10 on October 7, 8, and 9

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is reminding members of the public planning to travel for the upcoming holiday weekend to expect a higher volume of vehicles on the roads. Anyone planning to take a trip is encouraged to travel in off-peak hours, utilize the appropriate technology tools to make informed decisions, and consider public transportation to reach destinations.

"We anticipate higher than normal traffic volume on major roadways beginning on Thursday, October 5," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Many people have a three-day weekend and will be traveling around New England to make the most of it. We encourage motorists to make their trips when traffic may be low, check the weather forecasts, consider public transportation, and remember the rules of the road."

MassDOT is taking several steps to ensure reliable travel for the public. Scheduled construc-

tion outside of fixed work zones will be shut down beginning at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, October 6. Scheduled road work will then resume at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 10.

The Sumner Tunnel in Boston, which has scheduled weekend closures during the fall season due to a reconstruction project, will be open the weekend of October 6.

The High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on I-93 between Boston and Quincy will be open during normal morning hours on Thursday, October 5, and Friday, October 6, (from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.), however, the HOV lane will have extended hours of 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, and 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6. On Monday, October 9, the HOV lane will be closed.

The additional "swing lane" on Route 1A southbound at the Sumner Tunnel will operate during its normal hours on Friday, October 6, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The lane will not be deployed on Monday, October 9.

MassDOT's Highway Assistance Program, sponsored by MAPFRE, will be increasing patrols on all major roadways to support roadside assistance needs. Requests for assistance can be initiated by calling 911.

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Boston Public Schools and Success Boston celebrate College and Career Month

Every October, Boston Public Schools facilitates College & Career Month to help each and every BPS student navigate the fast-changing post-secondary landscape. In partnership with Success Boston and The Boston Foundation, College and Career Month features events, activities, and resources specifically designed to encourage and empower all students and their families in the education and career planning process.

To date, the Success Boston program has had remarkable success raising the college completion rate for BPS graduates from 35 percent for the BPS Class of 2000 to 52 percent for the BPS Class of 2015, an almost 20 percentage point increase.

With large changes to the higher education landscape in

the Commonwealth, including the launch of MassReconnect, the expansion of the City of Boston's Tuition-Free Community College (TFCC) Plan for all Boston residents regardless of age and immigration status, the Tuition Equity bill signed into law guaranteeing in-state tuition rates to undocumented and DACA-status residents, and the success of Early College and Innovation Pathways, it's more important than ever before that Boston's students and families understand the wide variety of resources and opportunities available to them.

"Our mission is to focus on the well-being of the whole child and accelerate our students' academic performance," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "This month, BPS will be focusing on college and career exploration,

through events like the City-wide College, Career, and STEM Fair, to help prepare our young people for college, careers, and beyond. Engaging our students and advising them about college and career opportunities will set them up for success throughout the rest of their journey in education, in career, and in life after they leave Boston Public Schools."

The goal of College & Career Month is to showcase all of the city's varied and helpful resources designed to get students prepared for, enrolled in, and successfully complete a post-secondary pathway. The project directly supports the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's statewide effort to help prepare students for Success after High

School.

"It is important that we educate the 21st-century student in ways that will set them up for success in the 21st century," said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. "That is what College and Career Month is all about: Educating the leaders of tomorrow by fostering the skills they need to succeed."

Finally, for the third year in a row, BPS is partnering with a group of social media-savvy student ambassadors to promote events and resources throughout the month. Engaging with students through near-peer advocacy is important as they gain perspective about career possibilities and experiences.

"College & Career Month gives students from across grade levels opportunities to advance their

post-high school plans and learn about potential paths to fulfilling futures," said M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "We are pleased once again to partner with BPS through Success Boston for this important effort."

College & Career Month highlights a weekly theme, with students across elementary, middle, and high schools participating in age-appropriate college and career awareness activities. The 2023-themed weeks are Exploring Skills and Interests; College and Career Readiness and Entrepreneurship; STEAM; and College Affordability and Financial Literacy.

WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR MISSION HILL GAZETTE

Anas Esta417 Brookline Ave.
UPS423 Brookline Ave.
Poke Works433 Brookline Ave.
Penguin735 Huntington Ave.
Laughing Monk.....737 Huntington Ave.
7-Eleven Store415 Center / Huntington Ave.
Flynn House835 Huntington Ave.
Levinson Bldg835 Huntington Ave.
Neville Building.....835 Huntington Ave.
JP Office.....7 Harris
Subway.....Huntington Ave.
Mamas Pizza784 Huntington Ave.
Mass & Bringham Health Center800 Huntington Ave.
Daras Wine750 Huntington Ave.
Monte Crsto754 Huntington Ave.
Flames.....746 Huntington Ave.
Solid Ground Cafe.....742 Huntington Ave.
Ilmondo Pizza738 Huntington Ave.
Halal Indian Cuisine766 Huntington Ave.
ODB liquor732 Huntington Ave.
Chines728 Huntington Ave.
The Mission Pub724 Huntington Ave.
Stop & ShopTremont and Huntington
WalgreensTremont and Huntington
JP Lick's.....Tremont and Huntington
Bank of AmericaTremont and Huntington
Citizens BankTremont and Huntington
Dental Partner.....1610 Huntington Ave.

Dunkin Donut1633 Tremont St.
Tremont House of pizza1590 Tremont St.
Subway Sandwiches1578 Tremont St.
Punjab Mart.....1576 Tremont St.
Spinney Auto Insurance1560 Tremont St.
Longwood Buiding1575 Tremont St.
Post Office1575 Tremont St.
Building650 Huntington Ave.
J Vue Building75 Alphonsus St.
Boston Debate League1542 Tremont St.
Church1545 Tremont St.
Mikes Donut.....1524 Tremont St.
Lillys Gourmet.....1526 Tremont St.
Baba Me1522 Tremont St.
Grispy Dough Pizza1514 Huntington Ave.
Milk Weed Café.....1508 Tremont St.
Chachos Pizza1502Tremont St.
Library1497 Tremont St.
Needham Bank1457 Tremont St.
Dunkin Donut1631 Tremont St.
Funtres MarketPark St.
Building30 Iroquoii St.
Building195 Calumet St.
Building256 Parker Hill Ave.
Building226 Parker Hill Ave.
Building170 Parker Hill Ave.
Benjamin Health Center120 Fisher Ave.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Food in a flash

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Whether you cook for one, two, or a household, you should master some infallible, pantry-based food-in-a-flash dishes. This suggestion even goes for those who rely on takeout, delivery, or dining out. Sometimes the weather, time constraints, energy levels, or budget may require you to assemble a quick, inexpensive meal.

Begin by thinking about meals you like, with foods you keep on hand that you can pull together at the last moment. Then, consider how these favorites could be flashier in speed and appearance using shortcuts and great quality ingredients.

Prepare Ahead

Those who do a lot of cooking already have a pantry full of options for preparing a fast meal. However, those who seldom cook can get away with adding just a few items to their meager stores with a slow walk through grocery aisles.

Pay special attention to the frozen food section. Nutritionists and chefs agree that some frozen vegetables like peas, corn, spinach, and veggie mixes are great shortcuts. Penny has discovered frozen garlic and ginger packaged in one-teaspoon cubes. Those are perfect when she doesn't want to

clean a cutting board and knife to use the fresh versions.

The canned goods aisle is another place where we buy pantry basics to make our favorite food-in-a-flash meals. We always have cans of fish, chicken, and beans on hand. Recently, we've relied more on cans of salmon and tuna with added flavors and vegetables, which make them perfect as toppers for a salad or grain bowl or as a filling for tacos or quesadillas.

While you've often heard that we should eat fewer processed foods, the reality is that experts are actually talking about ultra-processed foods. Today, with more of us thinking this way and reading the lists of ingredients and nutritional information, we have more natural food options. For example, we buy frozen rice, which is just rice. You can purchase packages of grains, broths, beans, and other products with lower sodium and fat.

Fill the Freezer with Resources

We buy tortillas, naan, and multigrain bread, then freeze what we won't use in a few days. Frozen English muffins are easy to turn into toaster-oven pizzas. Save space for a stash of healthy meals you can microwave when you have no energy to cook.

We have a freezer drawer of



A can of "Moroccan Tagine Salmon" with chickpeas, onions, roasted zucchini, quinoa, olives, lemon, carrots, and fennel tops a bowl of brown rice for a quick and healthy supper.

individual servings of components for quick meals. Penny freezes single-portion cubes for later use when she makes fillings for tacos, shepherd's pies, or a pot of chicken soup or pasta sauce. She can turn pieces of ham, sausage, and bags of leftover meat into a frittata or torta.

Speedy Substitutes

You might have time to cook pasta or rice if you remember to boil a pot of water the moment you walk into the kitchen. How-

ever, there are great substitutes that have much shorter cooking times than traditional pasta. Some ramen noodles, rice noodles, and other Asian bowl bases cook in as little as three minutes.

Fresh pasta takes less time in the pot than dried pasta. Jamie Oliver has created recipes using fresh pasta sheets cut into various widths and added to the pan where he has prepared the rest of the meal.

Critical factors in preparing fast, healthy food are shopping

well and mastering a few quick favorites. You can reduce cooking time using a toaster oven, induction burner, or microwave. Finally, we consider less cleanup an essential part of food-in-a-flash decisions. You can also use pre-cut ingredients, foil, parchment paper, and nonstick pans to make your food-in-a-flash.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

FALL-O-WEEEN CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL RETURNS TO BOSTON COMMON OCTOBER 20

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host the third annual Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets on Friday, October 20, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston. Key sponsors are College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving, HP Hood LLC, and Xfinity. Additional support is provided by LEGO® Discovery Center Boston, One

Boston Church, Celebrity Series of Boston, WBUR - Boston's NPR, and PLAY-Boston.

Adults and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of free, fun, and spooky family-friendly activities. Test your courage in our Funhouse Maze and on the Spooky Mansion Slide, try the Jumpin' Pumpkin, test your skills at the bean bag toss, and enjoy nighttime fun in our Glow in the Dark Park with LED swings, LED seesaw, and LED cornhole.

A "monster mash" of activities will include music, arts and crafts, treats, rides on the trackless train, field games, individual, and group play facilitated by Knucklebones, and LEGO® Discovery Center Boston will host giveaways and fun Hal-

loween-themed LEGO building activities.

For more information please go to boston.gov/falloween. To stay up to date with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels @bostonparks-dept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

TSA STOPPED OVER 1,800 FIREARMS AT AIRPORT CHECKPOINTS

During the first three quarters of 2023, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) intercepted 5,072 firearms at airport security checkpoints, and at

the current rate, the agency will surpass last year's record 6,542 firearms prevented from getting onboard aircraft.

In the third quarter, which ended Sept. 30, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) stopped 1,820 firearms at checkpoints. The total represents an average 19.8 firearms per day at TSA checkpoints of which more than 94% were loaded.

"Passengers may travel with a firearm, but it must be in their checked baggage," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. "Firearms are only permitted in checked baggage, unloaded in a locked hard-sided case and must be declared to the airline when checking the bag at the ticket counter. Firearms are prohibited at security checkpoints, in the secure area of an airport

or in the passenger cabin of an aircraft even if a passenger has a concealed carry permit or is in a constitutional carry jurisdiction."

If a passenger brings a firearm to the TSA checkpoint, the TSO will contact local law enforcement to safely unload and take possession of the firearm. The law enforcement officer may also arrest or cite the passenger, depending on local law. TSA may impose a civil penalty up to almost \$15,000, and passengers who present with a firearm at a security checkpoint will lose TSA PreCheck® eligibility for five years.

TSA recommends that passengers pack a carry-on bag that is empty to ensure no firearms are unintentionally left in their travel bag.

EDITORIAL

Aid to Ukraine must be approved forthwith

The entire country (with the exception of those whose goal is to cause anarchy and chaos) breathed a sigh of relief thanks to the last-minute passage by the House and Senate of a bill to fund the government for 45 days this past weekend. However, there was a glaring omission in the bill's 71 pages: The lack of funding earmarked for additional military aid for Ukraine to assist in its fight against the barbaric invasion of that country by the sociopathic dictator of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

Although substantial majorities of both parties in both the House and the Senate favor our continued and future financial support for the Ukrainians in their struggle for freedom, the funding proposed by the Pentagon for more weaponry and other aid did not make it into the final bill that was signed by President Biden. The small minority of legislators who almost crashed the government this weekend also are opposed to providing the Ukrainians with further aid for reasons known only to themselves and it was to this small group that legislative leaders kow-towed in the final bill by excluding financial assistance to Ukraine.

The news footage each and every night reveals the ongoing atrocities being committed by Putin against the Ukrainian people. Right now, they and they alone are standing up to the sociopathic Putin, demonstrating to the world that their freedom is worth fighting and dying for.

In addition, the united front of America and its Western allies against Putin's invasion is signaling to the Chinese that they should not expect that the U.S. and its Pacific allies will stand by if they decide to invade Taiwan or continue to control the South China Sea with outlandish claims about their "territorial waters."

Anyone who asserts that it is time for a "peaceful resolution" to the war in Ukraine is playing into Putin's hands. Putin wants to swallow Ukraine whole. He already had annexed a large chunk of eastern Ukraine and the Crimea when he undertook his invasion. There is no reason to think that Putin would come to the peace table now and even if he did, does anyone seriously believe that he would honor any peace deal?

We live in a world where people expect everything to be done fast and patience is not a virtue. But the simple reality is that Putin is playing a waiting game, all the while destroying and killing as much as possible, hoping that support for Ukraine by the free world will wane and eventually his tanks will roll into Kyiv. The only means by which Putin can succeed is if Ukraine's allies throw in the towel -- a move that not only would be devastating for the Ukrainians, but that would prove to have significant adverse consequences for our own foreign policy.

We urge our members of Congress to work to support a new package of aid to Ukraine ASAP. America needs to show potential dictators that the free world will stand united against their tyrannical impulses.

Tim Wakefield

We just wish to say a few words to acknowledge the passing this week of Tim Wakefield, the former Red Sox pitcher, who passed away suddenly this week from brain cancer. Beyond his remarkable success as a Major League pitcher for 20 years, 17 of which were with the Red Sox (during which time he became the all-time winningest pitcher in Red Sox history with 186 victories), Tim Wakefield was acknowledged by everyone who knew him to be the ultimate team player.

For many athletes, that is a mere cliché, but Tim Wakefield truly exemplified the meaning of that term both on and off the field. He embraced his work with the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Farber Institute in a quiet way, touching the lives of countless children, their families, and their caregivers, with his empathy and support.

Yes, Tim Wakefield will be celebrated as a famous athlete, but, in the words of the poet Wordsworth, his lasting legacy will be this:

"That best portion of a good man's life;

"His little, nameless, unremembered

"Acts of kindness and of love."

OP-ED

Representation Rooted in Experience

By WILLIAM KING, CANDIDATE FOR
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL IN DISTRICT 5

Throughout my life, I have experienced firsthand the unique challenges and prejudices of being a biracial black man. Navigating the complexities of racial identity in a society that often categorizes individuals into neat boxes can be daunting. Being biracial means constantly straddling two worlds and facing the difficulties that arise from not fitting neatly into either one. It means grappling with questions of identity and belonging and confronting stereotypes and biases from all sides. When I was younger, I had difficulty comprehending my identity, but as I grew older, I began to see it as a source of strength, one that, like so many other experiences throughout my life, has instilled in me a unique perspective and deep understanding of the issues faced by so many in our city and community.

Growing up in Boston, I experienced firsthand the challenges many families face living paycheck to paycheck. In my household, my mother dealt with multiple disabilities that prevented her from working, which meant my father had to work tirelessly at two, sometimes three jobs, just to support our family. While this was difficult for them and my siblings, I was constantly inspired by my parents' perseverance. Watching my mother, though unable to work and often ill, still showing up and volunteering at our schools and with other community organizations taught me resolve and the importance of never letting setbacks define you. Going to work with my dad on the weekends, which was sometimes the only opportunity we had to spend time with him, instilled in me the value and importance

of hard work, regardless of circumstances.

Living in a community where violence was not uncommon, I saw the devastating impact it had on families and experienced it personally, witnessing shootings, stabbings, and being held and robbed at gunpoint myself when I was a teenager. These experiences taught me that violence is an epidemic, one that will never be solved through enforcement alone but must also be addressed by looking at the root causes, such as poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and limited access to mental health services, which we must work to deal with head-on.

Having experienced the devastating loss of my sister Lacreia to AIDS, which she contracted from sharing needles while struggling with a substance use addiction, I carry with me a unique insight into the struggles of individuals and families who are affected by addiction face, a reality that extends beyond statistics and policy papers. This experience and witnessing the challenges of so many others have driven me to advocate for impactful change and comprehensive strategies to combat addiction within our community so no family needs to suffer as mine did.

During my time attending Boston Public Schools, I experienced the challenges within the system, from overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, disparities in educational opportunities, and more. At the same time, I saw what was great about our schools, encountering dedicated teachers who inspired me and played an instrumental role in shaping my character and helping me realize my potential. This includes my former High School Principal and our now Superintendent of Schools, Mary

Skipper, who sought me out after graduation when I was working a minimum wage job and not sure what my future would hold and gave me an opportunity to work in IT at BPS. This act of kindness profoundly affected me, gave me a start, and helped lead me to where I am today in my current role with the Appalachian Mountain Club. It, along with my other educational experiences, has also inspired in me a commitment to ensuring that every child not only has access to a quality education but also the help and support they need to succeed, both in and beyond the classroom.

I decided to share these personal details not only to provide insight into who I am but also to emphasize how these experiences have shaped my unique understanding of the issues faced by so many residents of our city. I wholeheartedly believe that by electing leaders who understand our diverse communities' struggles, we will be best equipped to work together toward finding tangible solutions that uplift all residents. If elected, I will be committed to building an inclusive and equitable city where every individual has the chance to thrive. While we have a ways to go in terms of achieving these goals, I firmly believe it is possible because while I experienced hardships, I also experienced so much of what makes our city great.

At the end of the day, I am confident that by working together, there is nothing we can not accomplish, and if you believe that too, I hope I can count on your vote for Boston City Council in District 6 on Tuesday, November 7th.

William King is a candidate for Boston City Council running in District 6.

Banks

Continued from page 10

pation – we cannot wait to do this again next year!"

Before the teams took to the field, the following statement was read aloud to thousands in the Fenway crowd: "On the field today, we have local bank leaders who have joined together to support Heading Home in its tireless efforts to end homeless-

ness throughout Greater Boston. This joint \$300,000 donation will support thousands of adults and children on their paths out of homelessness."

Heading Home, established in 1974, last year supported more than 2,000 people and secured permanent housing for 150 families. This includes 1,128 children, whose average age is 8-years-old.

Participating banks included: Avidia Bank, Berkshire Bank,

Brookline Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, HarborOne Bank, Northern Bank, Salem Five Bank and Winchester Co-Operative Bank.

Planning is already underway for a larger "Heading4Home" campaign, which is set to launch in 2024.

Any bank that is interested in participating should contact Northern Bank's Michelle Arnold at marnold@nbtcc.com.

OP-ED

Hell's fire – treat others the way you want to be treated

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Do you worry about going to hell? Will you burn there in hell's fire? Will you be in the hands of the Devil?

Hell may be a place where people are locked into a room with endless Presidential candidates hollering and speaking over each other to the point that nothing makes much sense and everybody ends up sounding crazier and crazier.

I accept what Jesus taught about heaven and hell. He actually talked more about hell than he did heaven. Hell is described as a very sad place of pain and suffering. I certainly do not want to leave my body and go somewhere worse. I have chosen to go to the better of the two places and I am trusting in Jesus to get me there.

As you know there is plenty of hell on earth. Why would we want to leave the hell of earth and go to more hell?

A dear friend told me recently about his sweet wife being in Intensive Care in Alabama. She

has battled multiple sclerosis for 20 years. All the medication she takes has impacted her heart. She recently had a heart attack and is now intubated. "MS sucks," my friend said.

Most of us have watched loved ones die from lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis, dementia, diabetes, and various neurological diseases. It's hell for the person and hell for the loved ones. Most likely if we live long enough, we will all go through some form of severe suffering. You might die suddenly and escape the long valley of suffering or you may not. Being intubated, struggling to breathe, walk, talk, and eat is not a way any of us want to spend our days.

So where is hell? There's plenty of it on planet earth. Almost 2 billion people live in poverty. Many of these people have to walk somewhere every day for just a bucket of water. Every day, millions are desperate for medical care but have access to none. Millions of Americans are homeless. Six million more immigrants have entered our

country over the last three years. So, there is more homelessness, poverty, misery, and hell in the streets of America than ever before.

Life and planet earth are great if you are relatively healthy, have a place to sleep, food to eat, and a little money to spend. However, health can change fast and often does. The point is there are lots of suffering people and suffering caregivers. Do everything you can to be kind to people. Give them a smile. A good word. A good deed. Be helpful when you can. You will appreciate it when it's your turn to suffer.

Many people are suffering in hell every day. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch, and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

BMOP begins its 26th season at New England Conservatory

The Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), the nation's premier orchestra dedicated exclusively to commissioning, performing, and recording new orchestral music, begins its 26th season at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, October 7 at 8:00 p.m. The ambitious program celebrates three world premieres and one East Coast premiere all commissioned by BMOP and written during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Orchestras and musicians all around the world stopped performing during the pandemic," says Gil Rose, Conductor and Artistic Director of BMOP. "Conversely, composers did not stop writing during the pandemic! We are fortunate to have a plethora of new works composed for us over the past few years just waiting for listeners to enjoy. Not surprisingly, all the pieces on this program are musical explorations of introspection, empathy, mortality (and immortality),

and time— notions that resonate with most of us."

The evening begins with *Eternal Return* (2022), by Worcester-based John Aylward (b.1980), "a composer of wide intellectual curiosity (The Boston Globe)." He describes his new work as "a contemplation on Nietzsche's idea of the afterlife which he first brought up in the *Gay Science* and then was later expanded upon by Giles Deleuze. I heard about the idea first from reading Deleuze but later found the Nietzsche thread, which compelled me even more to explore the idea."

Eric Moe (b.1954), composer of what The New York Times has called "music of winning exuberance," has a winning spirit that is represented in this new clever, skillfully constructed piece. Featuring himself on piano, *The Sweetness of Despair*, the *Necessity of Hope* (2021) is Moe's personal reflection our current ecological predicament.

"I am intrigued by the thinking of writer-activist Rebecca Solnit," says Moe, "who points out that many people seem to prefer a predictable apocalypse – the consequence of passive inaction – to the less catastrophic but also less predictable future that would result from drastic action spurred by hopefulness about the future." The two movements of the concerto split the title; the first movement, *The Sweetness of Despair*, begins and ends with sweetly despairing music while the second movement, *The Necessity of Hope*, evokes weather-related phenomena with references to storm music of the past. BMOP's long-standing relationship with Moe includes a 2011 BMOP/sound recording of three of his vivid orchestrations. WQXR Radio hailed Eric Moe: *Kick and Ride* (#1021): "At times primal and ritualistic and others sophisticated and smoky, this unbridled trio will fuel whatever flames you're currently fanning."

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Wu seeks project management firm to oversee Long Island Bridge reconstruction

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City's Public Works Department is moving to the next stage in the effort to rebuild the Long Island Bridge by seeking firms to provide construction oversight and contract assistance services for the bridge superstructure replacement project. The City aims to have an Outside Project Manager (OPM) in place by the time the City secures its final bridge replacement approvals so that construction work can begin immediately to restore access to the Long Island public health campus. Applications are due October 20, and the City will review and select a team before the end of the year.

"Families around the city and region deserve access to a comprehensive network of care as so many experience substance use and mental health challenges," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited to bring on a project management team to begin taking action in rebuilding a public

health campus and coordinate with provider partners to bring these critical services online as quickly as possible."

"I want to thank Mayor Wu for prioritizing the needs of our communities and moving this project forward," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "In the past there was a lot of innovative work happening on the Long Island campus. This new campus will be a hub for further innovation and create a supportive and stable environment for long-term recovery for generations of people."

The outside project manager will be crucial for supporting the City of Boston to rebuild the bridge. The City is awaiting its final two reviews required for the Long Island Bridge project: a federal consistency review by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and a bridge permit from the United States Coast Guard. The Coast

Guard has previously issued favorable preliminary determinations on the navigational and historic preservation elements of the City's bridge design.

"The reconstruction of the Long Island Bridge is a top priority for the City of Boston," said Julia Campbell, Deputy Chief of Infrastructure & Design for the City's Streets Cabinet. "We are seeking and expecting thoughtful and innovative responses from firms looking to help lead this signature construction project. This is a rare opportunity to help build a single structure that will provide direct access to care that will improve many people's lives."

The City of Boston recently led a tour of the Long Island recovery campus with a group of health-care providers. The purpose of the visit was to underscore the possibility of partnering with a variety of service providers to ensure a comprehensive continuum of care that best meets the needs

of individuals facing substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health challenges. As the City continues to plan for rebuilding the bridge and stabilizing the buildings on the island, the City of Boston will engage the many organizations already a part of the care spectrum.

"BHCHP is heartened to see this next step in Mayor Wu's plan to rebuild the bridge and reimagine and restore the critical health services on Long Island--services that will be transformational for individuals suffering from substance use disorder and other health issues. We look forward to working once again with the city of Boston to provide the much-needed, separate health care spaces for these medically vulnerable individuals, to promote healing for these individuals and for our Boston community at large," said Stephanie Sullivan, CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. "BHCHP is committed to the care

of our patients, wherever they are, geographically or in their recovery journey, and continue to advocate for those who are impacted by the opioid crisis or homelessness."

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced that the City of Boston secured its Chapter 91 License from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to reconstruct the Long Island Bridge. With this long-awaited license in hand, the City announced its intent to move forward with pre-construction to rebuild the bridge and restore access to the 35-acre public health campus on Long Island. With \$81 million already available in the FY24 capital budget for the bridge, the City is accelerating progress on construction immediately and set a goal that in four years the bridge would be rebuilt to a campus with a first phase of buildings ready to reopen for programming.



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