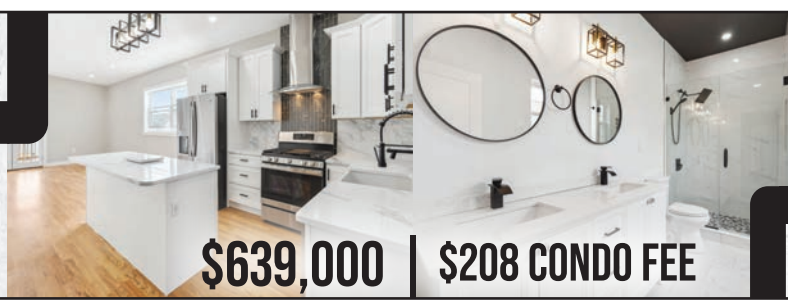



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 FREE



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Public meeting planned for future of Chain Forge building in Navy Yard

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The City of Boston Planning Department will be holding a virtual community meeting on September 17 at 6:00 pm regarding Chain Forge (Building 105) in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The purpose of the meeting is to gather ideas for rehabilitation of the building.

Chain Forge, also known as Building 105, is an approximately 58,800 sf historic building in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The

Planning Department invites the community to envision the future of this iconic landmark together.

How to Participate
 Please register in advance: bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting1
 Meeting ID: 161 150 4639
 Toll Free Call in Number: (833) 568-8864

To learn more please visit bit.ly/ChainForge. If you have any questions, contact Yoon Cha at Yoon.Cha@boston.gov or 617 918 6234.

Applications are open for Spooky Streets Grant

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Community Engagement Cabinet's Office of Civic Organizing have announced applications are now open for the Spooky Streets Grant Program. This funding builds on the Mayor's efforts to create a fun and safe environment for kids and families to enjoy community. Residents and community groups who apply and get approved will receive a mini-grant for \$250 to

purchase items such as candy, pumpkins, decorations, and face paint, making it easier and more affordable for neighborhoods to host Halloween block parties.

"We're working to make Boston the best place in the country to raise a family," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These spooky streets block parties provide safe, fun, and festive opportunities for our families to celebrate Hallow-

(SPOOKY STREETS Pg. 4)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (right) welcomes Melanie Pinette (left) and Mass. Women's Political Caucus Chair Shannon Montanez to her Birthday Celebration Tuesday. See more photos on Page 6.

Councilor Coletta Zapata announces launch of city's Food Cart Pilot Program

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata is proud to announce the launch of the Food Cart Pilot Program, following a year of advocacy and collaboration with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. The program is designed to simplify the street vending process, allowing entrepreneurs to comply with city regulations while reducing high startup costs.

new pilot program, the city has introduced several key initiatives, including a concierge service to assist vendors with the permitting process, a streamlined application system, and a clear roadmap to guide vendors through City Hall. All materials have also been translated into Spanish, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese.

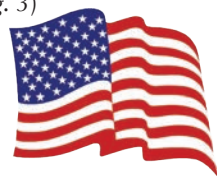
- Maverick Square, East Boston
- City Hall Square, Downtown
- Phillips Square, Chinatown
- McKim Branch and Adams Street Branch, Boston Public Library

"I'm excited to see the Food Cart Pilot Program come to life, making street vending more accessible to our small business entrepreneurs," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "Previously, street vendors faced a maze of bureaucra-

(FOOD CART Pg. 3)

Under the

09/11/01 | NEVER FORGET



CNC MEETING DATES

CNC Soccer Stadium Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 26, 2024

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Soccer Stadium Committee will hold its first in-person public meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. Bring your questions and concerns or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com. Check CNC02129.org for updates.

EDITORIAL

REMEMBERING 9/11

For anyone who is old enough to remember September 11, 2001, all of us know exactly where we were and what we were doing when we heard the terrible news. For this generation of Americans, that day was as memorable as was the assassination of John F. Kennedy for a previous generation. On both occasions, time seemed to stand still for all Americans as we processed the tragic events.

The replays on TV this week of the hijacked jets crashing into the twin towers still seem like a nightmare -- did it really happen or was it all just a dream? But as much as we'd like to unwind the past, the reality is that 23 years later, the events of 9/11 clearly have changed all of our lives and have had a dramatic impact on the course of world history.

The invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the long and costly wars that followed, never would have occurred. Those wars forever changed the trajectory of our world in so many respects: The deaths and injuries of thousands of our brave members of the American armed services; the destruction of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians in those countries; the destabilization of Syria and other nations in the Middle East and Africa that gave rise to a new terrorist organization, ISIS, that resulted in the greatest number of displaced persons in the history of the world, an exodus that has led to the rise of right-wing groups in democracies world-wide that threatens to destabilize our long-standing alliances; and the rise of Iran, which has partnered with Russia, to bring death and destruction to Israel, Ukraine, and beyond.

However, amidst the discussions by historians and analysts of the global effects of 9/11, we must never forget the impact that 9/11 had on the families and loved ones of those who perished that day, many of whom were from our area and who were passengers on the planes that left from Logan Airport.

Nearly 3000 Americans died in the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon and on the flight of a fourth plane in which the passengers of the plane overwhelmed the hijackers before they could reach their target, the U.S. Capitol.

In addition, the heroism of New York City firefighters, of whom 343 died when the towers collapsed as they were racing inside to rescue occupants, as well as another 71 law enforcement officers (and one National Park Service officer who died when the fourth plane crashed into national parkland in Pennsylvania), must never be forgotten. In addition, another 360 firefighters have died from diseases since that time because of the toxic fumes they inhaled.

We recently had occasion to visit the 9/11 memorial in downtown Manhattan where there is now a beautiful building, known as the Oculus, and the soaring Freedom Tower.

But despite the passage of more than 20 years, the memories invoked by that terrible day brought us a deep sense of grief, not only for those who perished and their families, but also for the world as we knew it that existed before 9/11.

9/11 changed our lives forever. We can only hope that we will be able to navigate the treacherous world we are facing with the necessary strength and wisdom equal to that task, both for ourselves and future generations.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TOM MACDONALD AND THE CHARLESTOWN HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY

Dear Editor,

As a longtime Charlestown resident, I had no idea that we had a food pantry in our community much less that it's been in existence for the past two decades! The man behind it all is Tom MacDonald.

While Tom is best known as the social ministry director at the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative (which oversees the operation of the Harvest on Vine food pantry), in his spare time he is a suc-

cessful writer of mystery novels. He is an inspiration to the community and the volunteers with whom he works. His open-door policy and willingness to be there 150% for those in need is incredible. He gives so much of himself, and most don't fully understand the half of it unless you see him in action. Tom will never let you know how many people he serves in this community. I can truly say, I have never met anyone more caring and generous than Tom.

If you haven't gotten to know Tom MacDonald, you should stop in and get to know him. He's an extremely humble, generous, car-

ing, honest, hard-working man who is extraordinary, and he could use your help.

This month on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at Brewer's Fork starting at 1 PM., Tom will be hosting his annual fundraiser for Harvest on Vine and all are welcome. Donations are \$50 Per person. If you can't join us, contributions are also welcome at Harvest on Vine - Charlestown Catholic Collaborative (stmaryscatherine.org). Please remember to put a notation with your donation to "Harvest on Vine."

Lisa Talbot
Harvest on Vine Volunteer



CHARLESTOWN
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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NEWS BRIEFS

USS CONSTITUTION TO GO UNDERWAY FOR 2024 CNO CHIEF HERITAGE WEEKS

USS Constitution is scheduled to get underway for the 2024 Chief of Naval Operations' Chief Petty Officer Heritage Training Weeks on Friday, September 13, at 10 a.m.

The ship will remain closed following the underway.

USS Constitution Sailors, alongside 120 Sailors selected for promotion to chief petty officer, will sail in Boston Harbor. During Chief Petty Officer Heritage Weeks, the crew of USS Constitution will train over 220 newly selected chief petty officers in the same skills as 19th-century Sailors, including gun drills, pike drills, sailing, and musket drills, to foster meaningful leadership development.

For over 20 years, select Sailors advancing to chief petty officer have come to USS Constitution to spend a week living aboard "Old Ironsides," fully immersed in naval heritage.

A 21-gun salute will be fired, which can be viewed from Fort Independence on Castle Island at approximately 11:30 a.m. Additionally, USS Constitution will fire a 17-gun salute as she passes the

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where she was built and launched on October 21, 1797.

The cruise will be visible from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island, and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

USS Constitution is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for public visitation.

USS Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State. She played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

BOSTON MOVING ARTS PRESENTS 'WELCOME HOME' DANCE CONCERT

Boston Moving Arts will host the "Welcome Home" dance concert on October 18 and 19, 2024, at Boston University Dance Theater. This performance, highlighting homecoming and connection, features choreographers from Boston, Montreal, and Washington State. Boston-born Andrew Skeels makes his local debut with "Unkempt," a raw look at relationships, while FLOCK, a German-American company, showcases "Somewhere Between," a piece exploring childhood myths.

FOOD CART (from pg. 1)

This program simplifies the process, helping vendors quickly establish their businesses without the burden of expensive brick-and-mortar costs or food trucks. This initiative creates economic opportunities and pathways to generational wealth, and I encourage all interested residents to take advantage of it."

In August 2023, Councilor Coletta Zapata proposed an ordinance to streamline the creation of small vending businesses. This ordinance established guidelines for street vending zones, improved oversight by city departments, and reduced permit fees and fines. The launch of the pilot program marks the first step in these efforts. The Councilor is committed to further reducing costs and expanding access so all Bostonians can participate and benefit.

Streamlining the street vending process is expected to boost neighborhood economies by providing more business opportunities to residents and increasing foot traffic. Several cities around the United States have developed and implemented similar regulations with favorable outcomes for res-

idents and business owners alike. Moreover, studies have shown that when street vendors were removed in Brooklyn, New York, local businesses saw a 20% decline in revenue due to reduced foot traffic.

Vendors interested in applying to the Food Cart Pilot Program can do so at bit.ly/FoodCartPilot. For assistance in starting a food cart business, vendors can contact the Office of Small Business at smallbiz@boston.gov or (617) 635-0355.

For further information, please contact Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata's office at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.



Scan here to apply to the program on the City's website.

Tickets are \$30, available at bostonmovingarts.com.

SUMMER SHACK CELEBRATES SEPT. BIRTHDAYS

Summer Shack, located in Back Bay and Allston, is offering a special birthday treat this September at its Boston and Cambridge locations. Guests celebrating a birthday in September can enjoy a complimentary 1lb lobster by showing proof of ID. The offer is valid for dine-in customers from September 1st to September 30th, with no purchase necessary. Reservations are recommended as spots are limited. Gratuity is not included.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit Summer Shack's website at summershack-restaurant.com.

KING RICHARD'S FAIRE RETURNS FOR ITS 43RD SEASON

The 43rd annual King Richard's Faire, New England's largest Renaissance festival, will run weekends to October 20, including Monday holidays, at an 80-acre site in Carver, MA. The Faire offers a wide variety of entertainment, including jousting tournaments, acrobats, musicians, and unique attractions like live unicorn rides.

During Fandom in the King-

dom Weekend (September 14-15), attendees can enjoy Harry Potter-themed activities, including all-day Magical House Meetups and a Sorting Hat Ceremony at 4:00 p.m. on the King's Stage, followed by a costume parade to the Tournament Field.

The following weekend, All's Faire in Love and War (September 21-22), features a Vow Renewal Ceremony at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and a Viking Tug O'War contest on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. on the Tournament Field, with 50 participants max.

For tickets and full event details, visit kingrichardsfaire.net.

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 5)

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com
 The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com
 The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com
 The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com




Our annual Guide to Schools is a resource for parents running in 4 Boston newspapers on September 26

In the hands of over 75,000 weekly readers

Promote your school or Open Houses with us.

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ADVERTISING IN THE GUIDE:

LISTINGS *Free Listings with every Ad!*
 A brief text descriptive and contact information \$75 per listing, {not included with ads}
 We have sections for Schools, DayCare, After School Programs, kids related retailers.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING - all ads run in color in all 4 papers.
 \$60 per column inch -(2x5 and under) ads that run in the guide can run at this rate through October.

COMMON AD SIZES
 2 col (3.9") X 3" - \$300
 2 col (3.9") X 5" - \$550
 Quarter Page = 2 col x 8" (3.9" wide) \$800
 Half page = 5 col x 6.5" (10.25" wide) \$1,500.00 Full page = 5 col x 13" \$2,500.00

Prior sections are available if you would like to see samples.
 Please call or email with questions. Deadline September 20, 2024

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 781-485-0588 x 101 deb@thebostonsun.com

Sioux Gerow Advertising
 617-241-8500 charlestownads@hotmail.com

Maureen DiBella Advertising
 781-485-0588 x 103 mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

Published by the Independent Newspaper Group

FULL PRINT EDITION AVAIL. ONLINE

RSM DONATES TOILETRY KITS TO KENNEDY CENTER

Courtesy photos

RSM kicked off its "Power of Love" season by generously donating 200 toiletry kits to the Kennedy Center for Charlestown children, from birth to 18. Staff from RSM's Boston Office spent an afternoon sorting and packing kits at the Center's Communi-

ty Services Department. "Back-to-school shopping has become increasingly expensive, and we're always looking for creative ways to help alleviate costs to families. This donation will surely help kids have a "fresh" start to the new year," said Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services, at the Kennedy Center.



SPOOKY STREETS (from pg. 1)

een with their neighbors, and that is why we're making it easier for everyone to apply for a grant. I can't wait to see the costumes, decorations, and community gatherings this coming fall!"

This summer, the Mayor's Office

of Civic Organizing provided 54 grants to residents and community groups totaling \$31,500 across 14 neighborhoods in Boston through the City's Block Party Grant Program. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement helped

fund two block parties in support of non-profit organizations that serve the immigrant population in Boston.

"We're thrilled to expand our community-building efforts through the Spooky Streets Grant.

Since launching our Summer Block Party Grant initiative in 2023, our office has been dedicated to creating more opportunities for residents to connect and activate their streets," said Director of the Office of Civic Organizing Nathalia Benitez-Perez. "With the Spooky Streets Grant, we hope to support even more events, bringing fun and traffic-free streets to Halloween and Harvest gatherings."

For residents interested in applying, please see below:

Apply for the Play Street Closing Permit first here. Then you will be prompted to apply for the Spooky Streets grant.

To be eligible, all block parties must be free and open to the public.

Block parties cannot be hosted on parks or private lots, and must be on a public street

Block parties must be hosted the week leading up to Halloween from Friday, October 25 - Sunday, November 3.

Block parties do not have to be Halloween-themed.

"Activating our streets in the fall with fun activities that bring joy to our City's youth and families makes me so proud to call Boston home," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "Supporting individuals and organizations to fund efforts to expand our block party program is the positive energy we need in our city."

In partnership with the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM), the City of Boston has streamlined the block party permit application process to improve constituents' experience and speed up approvals. The City has also expanded what activities are allowed at block parties without additional permits, including potluck food, tables and chairs, 10 by 10 tents, and more. A Block Party Planning Guide is available to help explain the planning process of hosting block parties in neighborhoods.

"Block parties are one of the best ways for residents to connect and build community with their neighbors," said New Urban Mechanics Program Manager Nate Lash. "We are so happy to have made the permitting and planning process easier for residents."

The deadline to apply for a Spooky Streets grant is Friday, September 20 at 5:00 p.m. The application can be found here (along with the necessary application for a Play Street Closing Permit), and residents and community groups can visit boston.gov/spooky-streets to learn more.

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.



City of Boston
Planning
Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

SEP
17

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

CHAIN FORGE (BUILDING 105)

Register: bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting1

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 150 4639



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Chain Forge (Building 105) RFP Visioning Session

Please join the City of Boston Planning Department for a virtual community meeting on September 17th, 2024 at 6:00pm EST regarding Chain Forge (Building 105) in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The purpose of the meeting is to gather ideas for the rehabilitation of the building.

To participate, please register in advance at: bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting1. Meeting ID: 161 150 4639. To learn more about 21-29 Fernboro, please visit bit.ly/ChainForge. If you have any questions, contact Yoon Cha at Yoon.Cha@boston.gov or 617 918 6234.

Mail to: **Yoon Cha**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Phone: 617.918.6234
Email: yoon.cha@boston.gov

Website:
bit.ly/ChainForge

Close of Public Comment
Period:
10/01/2024

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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NEWS BRIEFS (from pg. 3)

FREE PRESENTATION ON SEA-LEVEL RISE BY MIT PROFESSOR KERRY EMANUEL IN WINTHROP

Local residents are invited to a free presentation by Kerry Emanuel, a meteorology professor at MIT, about the realities of sea-level rise and its potential impacts on homes, budgets, and families. The event will take place on Thursday, September 19, at 6 pm in the Lyceum Room at the EB Newton Building, 45 Pauline Street. The presentation will also include a brief legislative update from the Winthrop chapter of Mothers Out Front. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact wintthroptgether@gmail.com.

FIESTA EN LA PLAZA WELCOMES LATINX HERITAGE MONTH SUNDAY

This Sunday, Fiesta en la Plaza will welcome Latinx Heritage Month to Boston's City Hall Plaza and Pavilion with a diverse artistic lineup, announced Ágora Cultural Architects.

This second edition of Fiesta en la Plaza will showcase the rich diversity of Boston's Latin American communities. On Sunday, the first of three days of activities, an artistic program will include a comparsa and performances of

folk, pop, and jazz music. "We return to this important square in the City of Boston with a party that wants to unite all our communities to celebrate with the joy and rhythms that characterize us. It is also a great opportunity to continue promoting the great talent of so many Latin American artists who live in this city," said Elsa Mosquera, co-leader of the event's curator and producer, Ágora Cultural Architects.

The Fiesta Welcome will feature award-winning saxophonist Emar Colón with pianist Alain Mallet, followed by the trio of Puerto Rican singer and cuatro player Fabiola Méndez. The public can dance to different rhythms accompanied by the MetaMovements dance group. The closing of the first day will be in charge of the band of the creative Colombian artist Manuela Sánchez Goubert.

Fiesta en la Plaza will continue with events at the Civic Pavilion on September 19 and 27. On Thursday, September 19, the evening will open with a panel of Afro-Latin artists hosted by cultural reporter Cris-tela Guerra and with the support of Boston's Latin Quarter. This will be followed by two documentaries by the Puerto Rican Documentary Filmmakers Association, Santiago de las Mujeres (1:03 hr) and ART21: Daniel Lind-Ramos (13 min). The Fiesta will close on September 27 with a night of dancing to the rhythm of the Cuban group Clave & Blues and the dancers of El Bonche in Boston.

WLP's annual Spaghetti Dinner returns Oct. 18 to the Fairmont Copley Plaza

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Women's Lunch Place's annual fall gala, its Spaghetti Dinner, will take place on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

WLP will celebrate its donors and partners who have invested in building a healthy community for women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty.

This year's event will include a dynamic musical performance by local artist Miranda Rae, as well as speeches from Kate Walsh, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Chef/Owner Douglass Williams of MIDA Restaurants,

and the Honorable Linda Dorce-na-Forry, former State Senator.

From nutritious meals to addiction recovery and housing, WLP's programming and partnerships help Boston's most vulnerable women find stability in a supportive community. These programs are made possible by WLP's partners, two of which will be honored at Spaghetti Dinner.

The Miriam Fund, celebrating its 25th year, is a philanthropic community committed to expanding opportunities for women and girls. The Miriam Fund partners with WLP to fund the Legal Services Program which helps narrow

the justice gap for WLP guests.

RIZE Massachusetts is an independent nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts and reduce its devastating impact. RIZE has been integral in helping establish WLP's substance use disorder recovery programming.

Each year, Spaghetti Dinner raises funds that sustain the critical services WLP provides. This year's event occurs at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel on Friday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m. To reserve a seat, sponsor the event, or learn more, visit womenslunchplace.org/sd



KEIKO HIROMI PHOTO

A packed house was on hand for the Women's Lunch Place's Spaghetti Dinner last year in the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel's ballroom .



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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA

Cary Shuman Photos

Many friends and supporters joined District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata at a Birthday Celebration in her honor Sept. 10 at the ReelHouse in East Boston.

Coletta Zapata, whose district includes the neighborhood of Charlestown, was celebrating her 32nd birthday at the event.

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio was a special guests in attendance, offering a strong message of support for Coletta Zapata and lauding her outstanding record of accomplishments as a member of the Boston City Council.

In her remarks, Coletta Zapata thanked the many guests for celebrating her birthday with her and their enthusiastic support of her diligent efforts on the City Council.

Known for her office's superb constituent services, Coletta Zapata has emerged as a dynamic new voice for all residents during her time on the City Council.



David Lank, shown holding his son, Theodore Lank, wishes City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata a happy 32nd birthday at the celebration in her honor Tuesday at the ReelHouse in East Boston.



Former Boston city councilor Michael P. Ross (second from left), an attorney at Prince Lobel, is pictured with Maggie Roberts, Joe Hanley, and Tom Miller at the Birthday Celebration for City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.



State Auditor Diana DiZoglio (right), a special guest at the event, attended the Birthday Celebration in support of City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.



CHARLESTOWN 16TH ANNUAL

Candlelight Vigil

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

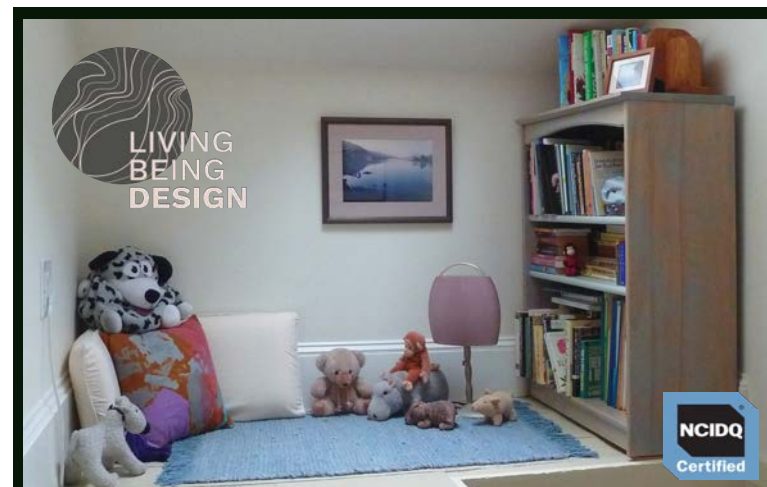
6:30 PM AT HAYES SQ. CHARLESTOWN

(RIGHT OUTSIDE OF ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH)

THIS VIGIL IS TO HONOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST TO ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR A LOVED ONE,

PLEASE EMAIL A PHOTO WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME TO

SLUNDIN@CHAPTERSRECOVERYCENTER.COM



Christine Cavataio, LEED AP
617-510-8659

Interior Design Consultant
LivingBeingDesign.com



Explore the Bay State's skeletons beneath Old North Church

Special to the Patriot Bridge

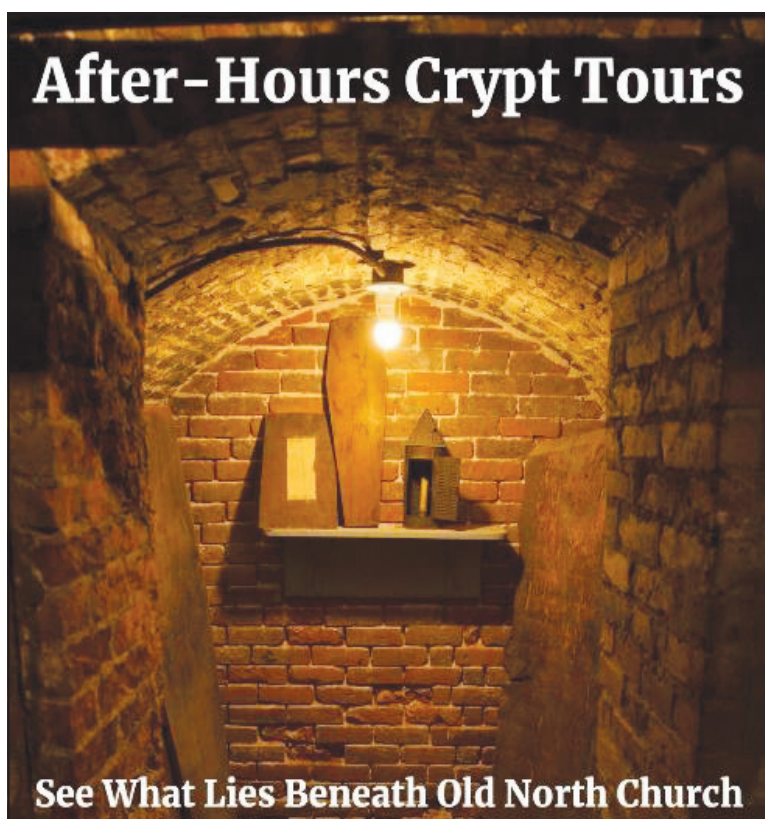
Massachusetts is the hub of haunted happenings centered around tales of old Revolutionary War heroes, the Salem Witch Trials, paranormal activity, and so much more. But, perhaps one of the lesser-known attractions with arguably the most Bay State skeletons in its closet – an estimated 1,100 to be exact – is the crypt underneath the Old North Church & Historic Site. After-Hours Crypt Tours beneath Boston's oldest surviving and operational church begin Sept. 13 and will run through Halloween weekend.

These 45-minute guided adventures are jam-packed with fascinating stories about the people buried in the crypt, colonial death practices, and the latest archeological discoveries. This hidden piece of history is the final resting place of prominent colonial figures, like Captain Samuel Nicholson, first commander of the USS Constitution, and Major John Pitcairn, the commander of the British marines who made the ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Forgotten generations, those whose stories are lost to time, are also accounted for as they were laid to rest together in The Strangers' Tomb.

Beyond the bones, the Old North Church basement is dark and narrow and lined with 37 brick tombs sealed with wooden or slate doors that were constructed nearly 300 years ago. After-Hours Crypt Tours participants should be comfortable in a basement setting and navigating tight spaces. With low lighting and uneven surfaces, the space is not wheelchair or stroller accessible. Old North Church is an active place of worship, and visitors are asked to respect the sacred space.

After-Hours Crypt Tours will run Friday and Saturday nights at 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. starting Sept. 13. In anticipation of the spooky season, tours will increase to run every night from Oct. 18 through Nov. 2. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased in advance. The brave souls who dare to join Old North can purchase tickets to reserve their spots today: <https://www.oldnorth.com/admission-pricing/>

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church & Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church



in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works

collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S. National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. In 2023, Old North Church & Historic Site was designated as

a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), joining a global network of historic sites, museums, and memory initiatives that

connect past struggles to today's movements for human rights. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

Harvest on Vine Emergency Food Pantry

Fri., Sept. 13, 3pm - Set-up

Sat., Sept. 14, 10am - Distribution

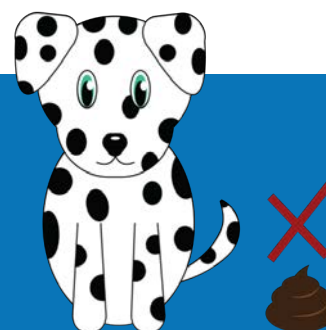
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Schools urged to register for the BCYF Spelling Bee

Special to the Patriot Bridge

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

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

How to get involved:

- Register your Boston school with Scripps National Spelling Bee online by December 31, 2024 at www.spellingbee.com/enrollment. This will also serve as your registration for BCYF's Bee. (Save money by opting into Early Enrollment by October 31, 2024).

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

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

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

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

Benefits of participation:

- Exclusive online access to the

teachers-only section of spelling-bee.com.

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

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

- Supplemental vocabulary materials for classroom and school levels.

- Customizable certificates for your participants and school champion.

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

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

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

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



Consider the difference between eating an apple mindfully and grabbing one to chomp down while running to catch your bus.

Mindful vs mindless eating

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Think about the food you've consumed over the past 48 hours. How much of it did you sit at a table and savor without distractions other than quiet and relaxed conversation with your dining partners? What meals or foods did you truly enjoy? What were your outstanding dining moments? Did you do any mindful eating? Would it make a difference in your life and health if you did more mindful eating?

How much mindless eating did you do? How much did you eat at your desk, walking down the street, scrolling on your phone or computer, watching media, or as bites you grab while doing another chore? Today, most of us do far too much mindless eating.

From Mindless to Mindful

The transition to more mindful eating can be a slow, step-by-step process. Here's an exercise to help you experience various aspects of mindful eating.

Plan a trip to a farmstand or farmers market and purchase two varieties of local apples. For some mindful eaters, the process begins with a thoughtful selection of the food they purchase.

Then, invite someone to taste the apples to compare the look, flavor, texture, and aroma with you. Some people find that sharing a meal and talking about their food results in more mindfulness about the food as they eat it. We love sharing apples this time of year and know this process results in more apple enjoyment than just eating an apple alone.

Compare the apples, enjoying their shape, colors, markings, and aroma, if any. Next, slice them and compare their crunch, sweet-to-sour balance, texture, and flavor. Finally, describe what you discovered about the apples. Think about the difference between eating an apple mindfully and grabbing one to chomp down while running to catch your bus. This is the difference between mindless and mindful eating.

Steps for Mindful Eating

Step one is eating slowly, without distractions, and enjoying what you're eating. Next comes a very good suggestion for overall health and weight control: take smaller portions and learn to recognize when you're full. It takes time for your brain to register that you are full. The faster you eat, the

more likely you are to eat past the point where real hunger is satisfied.

Before you decide to eat something, ask yourself if this is to answer a hunger pang or another trigger. Are you craving food or comfort, fighting depression or anxiety, or rewarding yourself with a treat?

Try to become aware of your triggers. This can be something as simple as turning on your favorite media and sitting on the sofa. Your sofa may be the place where you routinely allow yourself to snack, and you are now craving snack food.

Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk known as the "father of mindfulness," wrote a great book on this topic, "How to Eat." We'll let him have the last word. "When you put a piece of fruit into your mouth, all you need is a little bit of mindfulness to be aware: 'I am putting a piece of apple in my mouth.' Your mind doesn't need to be somewhere else. If you're thinking of work while you chew, that's not eating mindfully. When you pay attention to the apple, that is mindfulness. Then you can look more deeply and in just a very short time you will see the apple seed, the beautiful orchard and the sky, the farmer, the picker, and so on. A lot of work is in that apple!"

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



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Boston Ballet presents 'Fall Experience'

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Boston Ballet and Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen present Fall Experience, a program featuring four innovative and diverse works: Crystal Pite's The Seasons' Canon, a world premiere by Principal Dancer Lia Cirio, Sabrina Matthews' Ein von Viel, and Resident Choreographer Jorma Elo's Plan to B. Fall Experience runs October 24–November 3 at the Citizens Opera House.

"There is no better way to welcome our audiences to Boston Ballet's 61st season than this program that showcases a diverse selection of works that are relevant to today and to the artform," said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "We are proud to continue our work to spotlight female artists. Three of the ballets are choreographed by women, including Crystal Pite, one of the greatest choreographers on the world stage today. I'm also thrilled to celebrate our own Lia Cirio, for her 20th season as a dancer with the Company as well as the debut of her second world premiere for Boston Ballet on the Opera House stage. I'm thrilled to bring back Sabrina Matthews' fascinating Ein von Viel and Jorma Elo's ever thrilling tour de force Plan to B, one of the first works he created on the Company."

The Seasons' Canon

A highlight of the entire season, Crystal Pite's The Seasons' Canon is an extraordinary and immense ballet featuring 54 dancers on stage. Originally created for Paris Opera Ballet, this is the first work by Crystal work that Boston Ballet has presented. Set to Max Richter's rendition of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, Pite's choreography draws on human emotion and her own life experiences.

"For me, the process of creation is like looking through a lens. It's an opportunity to see the world in greater detail and clarity. It's a magnified experience. Choreography is a way for me to grapple with the very meaning of creation. It is the crafting, colliding, collaging, framing, layering and excavating—the acts of making, and of seeing—that most deeply connect me to nature and all the beauty and brutality it contains," said Pite. "The Seasons' Canon is a gesture, an offering. It's my way of confronting the vastness and complexity of the living world, while at the same time giving thanks for it."

World Premiere

Principal Dancer Lia Cirio has been an artist with the Company for 20 years, and this world premiere marks her second choreographic work for the Boston Ballet main stage. Cirio's ballet showcases neo-classical pointe work, her own personal style, and her ability to highlight the unique talent of her fellow dancers.

"I am increasingly drawn to art and dance that challenge my thinking and move me through their interpretation of choreography and embodiment of music," said Cirio. "I am deeply aware of Boston Ballet dancers' immense talent, which I witness daily. It is a true honor to create with them, and I hope our collaboration brings out the best in us all."

This piece, my second for the Boston Ballet main stage, reflects everything I've learned as a professional dancer. While it is neo-classical in technique, it is also distinctly my own, infused with my quirks, thoughts, and inspirations. I was initially drawn to Auerbach's preludes for their emotional dynamism, where so much is expressed in mere moments. My set, reminiscent of paper sculptures, embodies both vulnerability and strength, qualities that drive my choreography. Additionally, I am inspired by an end-of-the-world, dystopian atmosphere, adding another layer to this work."

Ein von Viel

Set to Bach's beloved Goldberg Variations, Sabrina Matthews' ballet is an intimate dance between two artists and a solo pianist. The piece was originally commissioned by Mikko Nissinen for Alberta Ballet in 2001 for two male dancers. For Fall Experience 2024, the casting subverts traditional gender roles—the duet will be performed by two males or two females, depending on the performance.

"Ein von Viel is an intricate and soulful collaboration between two dancers and a pianist. The simplicity of a trio is juxtaposed by the required complex technical skills. The artists are interconnected and strengthen one another, and are elevated by Bach's celebrated Goldberg Variations. The work explores our human connection. Revisiting Ein von Viel with Boston Ballet is a pleasure. Boston Ballet is committed to excellence, and perpetually pushes the boundaries of artistry and physicality," Matthews said.

Plan to B

Returning for the first time since 2014, Jorma Elo's Plan to B is one of the most dynamic and thrilling ballets ever created. Six dancers captivate in a flurry of solos, duets, and trios that move with passion and velocity to the vivacious music of Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber. The ballet reflects on the inevitable unpredictability of life and the hesitation and nervous energy we experience when we take leaps into the unknown.

"I am very excited to work on Plan to B with the great Boston Ballet dancers," said Elo. "It is always touching to see how they completely immerse themselves in the musicality and choreography."

Plan to B changed my life fundamentally. Revisiting the piece always brings me back to the moments with the original cast in the studio. The creation was really triggered by the shared experiences with those dancers. I think the nervous energy of the unknown, wanting to make this composition shine, is a big part of the ballet's soul and is something that every generation of the new dancers performing it can relate to on some level.

Sylvia Popes' support of Plan to B's premiere 20 years ago and her continued support of my career has been vital in making it possible for me to create. I'm very happy that Mikko is bringing back this work, and it will be very interesting to see how Boston audiences react to this year's version."

All nine performances of Fall Experience will take place at the Citizens Opera House (539 Washington St, Boston, MA 02111):

- Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, Oct. 27 at 1:30 pm
- Thursday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, Nov. 2 at 1:30 and 7:30 pm
- Sunday, Nov. 3 at 1:30 pm

Tickets start at \$25. For more information, visit bostonballet.org or call 617.695.6955.

Fall Experience runs approximately two hours with one intermission.

World Premiere

Choreography: Lia Cirio

Music: Lera Auerbach's 24 Preludes for violin and piano selections

Set Design: John Farrell

Lighting Design: Brandon Stir-

ling Baker

Costume Design: Marija Djordjevic

Ein von Viel

Choreography: Sabrina Matthews

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Costume Design: Carolyn O'Brien

Plan to B

Choreography: Jorma Elo

Music: Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber

Costume Design: Jorma Elo

The Seasons' Canon

Choreography: Crystal Pite

Music: Max Richter (Recommended by Max Richter: Antonio Vivaldi The Four Seasons, 2012)

Scenic Design and Reflected Light Concept: Jay Gower Taylor and Tom Visser

Costume Design: Nancy Bryant

Lighting Design: Tom Visser

Staging: Eric Beauchesne and Anna Herrmann

The Seasons' Canon is a co-production with Boston Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Freedom Trail After Dark Experiences

Lantern Tours return in September and October

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Discover the Freedom Trail in a new light – after dark – on the official Freedom Trail® Lantern Tours. Freedom Trail Foundation announces the return of the unique Lantern Tours, offering visitors and residents the opportunity to experience the sinister history and mystery of the Freedom Trail by lantern-light! The annual Lantern Tours will be offered on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. from September 12 until October 26, and Wednesday, October 30. Official Freedom Trail historic sites' Crypt Tours also return in September and October.

Duels, the grave of a ruthless pirate, punishments of convicted witches and more: all real and explored on the Freedom Trail Lantern Tours. Investigate the ghoulish side of Boston's iconic red-lined-path and hear historic tales too dark and macabre for daytime. Join Freedom Trail Players®, darkly garbed with lanterns, and bring true accounts of appalling crimes, spies and assassins, to life on these 90-minute walking tours.

Lantern Tours start on Boston Common and illuminate the Granary and King's Chapel burying grounds as the final resting places of convicted pirates and others

connected to Boston's less-illustrious past. Locations such as the Boston Massacre Site and the former site of the Old Gaol (Old Jail), adjacent to the Old State House and home to many of old Boston's most infamous criminals, are also featured along the way on the Freedom Trail.

"The Freedom Trail welcomes the return of the annual Lantern Tours as well as historic sites' Crypt Tours, which give visitors and residents the opportunity to experience true, lesser-known and dark, Boston history" says Suzanne Taylor, Executive Director, Freedom Trail Foundation. "These unique tours offer one-of-a-kind voyages through Boston's most historical sites by lantern light and are must do's!"

Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children 12 and under. Purchase of a ticket includes a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund, which helps support preservation projects at official Freedom Trail historic sites. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center (9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) or online at TheFreedomTrail.org. Lantern Tours may also be scheduled as a private group tour year-round. For more information about the Lantern and Crypt Tours, please contact the Freedom Trail Foundation at (617) 357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

Annual ALS & MS Walk for Living set for Oct. 6; honors Jeffrey Siegal

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Despite devastating diagnoses, the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and MS (multiple sclerosis) residents at the Leonard Florence Center for Living face each day with optimism, courage, determination and humor. ALS resident Martha Waite is a perfect example. Martha was diagnosed with ALS in October of 2018 at the age of 67. She first experienced “drop foot,” losing the use of her right leg, and then her left.

Martha graduated from Gordon College with a Bachelor of Science degree in both Elementary and Special Education and taught in private and public schools for over 30 years. She was ordained as a pastor in December of 2016 and worked as a children’s pastor with House of Hope Church for the homeless in Lynn. Today, Martha continues to work as the children’s pastor at First Baptist Church on



Walkers making their way along the route during the 2023 ALS Walk for Living.

the North Common and serves as the Director for House of Hope.

As Martha notes, living with other residents who have ALS helps her tremendously. “We have

the unique opportunity to get to know others with this disease – people who understand exactly what we are going through,”

says Martha. “We encourage each

other.” Martha recalls her first days after moving into the Leonard Florence Center. “What really impressed me the most was the fact that there were none of the smells that you typically encounter in most nursing homes. I had my own room, my own bathroom and access to the café, spa, deli, chapel and library. The Center is genuinely my home.”

The ALS & MS Walk for Living enables residents as well as other attendees to participate in wheelchairs, ventilators or by foot. The two-mile walk, now in its 16th year, has become a much anticipated event in the local community. The Leonard Florence Center is operated by non-profit Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, an affiliate of Legacy Lifecare.

This year’s Walk for Living will honor Jeffrey Siegal, President & CEO of Geriatric Medical & Surgical Supply and its employees. Headquartered in Woburn, the company is the largest LTC focused distributor in New England and the fourth largest nationwide. With its mission to improve long-term care, Jeff and the Geriatric Medical family have close ties with Chelsea Jewish Lifecare.

“We are thrilled to pay tribute to Jeffrey Siegal and the wonderful employees in his company,” says Barry Berman, CEO of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare. “Everyone at Geriatric Medical has been extremely supportive of our organization. Their passion, dedication and generosity are truly remarkable.”

“I am so proud to be involved with the Leonard Florence Center for Living and the 2024 Walk for Living,” says Jeffrey Siegal. “The Center’s residents continuously inspire and amaze me. It is my fervent hope that this event will

increase awareness about living with ALS and MS.”

WCVB Channel 5 news anchor Maria Stephanos, this year’s Walk Ambassador, will emcee the event. On a recent visit to the Leonard Florence Center for Living, Maria reflected on the word “living” in the center’s name. “That word means everything to the residents who call the center home,” explains Stephanos. “Walking into the Leonard Florence Center and you immediately see and feel that this is a very special place.”

The 2024 Walk for Living will take place at 10am on Sunday, October 6 at 165 Captains Row on Admiral’s Hill in Chelsea. Every single dollar raised goes directly back to patient care and programs for ALS and MS residents. To register, go to the Walk for Living website and click on register.

Following the dog friendly walk, there will be a BBQ hosted by Chili’s, face painting, live dance performances, a petting zoo and more. The \$20 donation fee includes a Walk for Living tee shirt as well as all food and activities.

The Platinum level sponsor is M&T Banks; Gold Level is A.H.O.H.; Independent Newspaper Group is the media sponsor. For more information or to make a much-appreciated donation, please visit www.walkforliving.org or contact Walk Director Maura Graham at mgraham@chelseajewish.org or 617-409-8973. All donations are tax deductible.

Chelsea Jewish Lifecare is redefining senior care and re-envisioning what life should be like for those living with disabling conditions. The eldercare community includes a wide array of skilled and short-term rehab residences, ALS, MS and ventilator dependent specialized care residences, traditional and specialized assisted living options, memory care, independent living, adult day health, and homecare and hospice agencies that deliver customized and compassionate care.

Legacy Lifecare Inc. is a non-profit management resources collaborative that provides small-to-mid-sized organizations with the infrastructure needed to succeed in today’s complex senior care environment. Affiliates include JGS Lifecare of Longmeadow, Deutsches Altenheim of West Roxbury, Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Jamaica Plains, Elizabeth Seton Residence and Marillac Residence of Wellesley, Sophia Snow Place in West Roxbury and Saint Joseph Living Center of Windham, CT.

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State Health Officials announce additional human cases of West Nile Virus

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced three additional human cases of West Nile virus (WNV). All three individuals are in their 60s. One is a woman who was exposed in southern Bristol County. The second is a man in his 60s who was exposed in Suffolk County in an area already at high risk. The third is a man who was exposed in Barnstable County. This brings the total number of WNV cases this year to 10 in Massachusetts.

WNV risk levels in the following communities are being raised to high: Barnstable, Mashpee, Sandwich, and Yarmouth in Barnstable County; and Acushnet, Dartmouth, and New Bedford in Bristol County.

“West Nile virus does not always raise as much concern as EEE, but it remains a potentially very serious disease, especially for those over the age of 60 or with certain medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, or an organ transplant,” said Public Health

Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “I encourage everyone to take measures to protect themselves: use mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient when outdoors, wear long sleeves and pants, and be aware of peak mosquito hours.”

There have been 302 WNV-positive mosquito samples so far this year detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. There were six human cases of WNV and no animal cases in 2023. No animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year.

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

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instruc-

tions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

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

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths fre-

quently.

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

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosqui-

toes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

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Wu announces call for Boston's next Poet Laureate

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced the City of Boston is seeking applications and nominations for its next Poet Laureate. Established in 2008, the Boston Poet Laureate Program has been a cornerstone of Boston's creative sector, drawing residents into the rich and transformative world of the literary arts. Poetry has the unique power to capture our history, illuminate the present, and spark hope and change for the future. Porsha Olayiwola currently holds this role. Building on the work she has done since becoming Poet Laureate in 2019, Olayiwola will be teaching in the English Department at Emerson College and opening a bookstore, just-Book-ish, in Fields Corner.

"One of the most unique and special roles in our City has opened," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Poet Laureate is a very important role in our artistic community and beyond. I encourage all residents who have a passion for the literary arts to apply, and I look forward to seeing the ways in which the next Poet Laureate will serve the City through their passions and creativity."

Boston's Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for the city's

literary and creative communities, working in tandem with these partners to elevate the role of poetry in the everyday lives of Bostonians, and inspire critical reflection through written and spoken word.

"Boston's Poet Laureate is called upon not only to encourage a love of the literary arts in the city, but to create spaces for us to connect with and nurture our creativity," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "They challenge us to think differently and to have the courage to express ourselves in community. I am grateful to Porsha for using her gifts to illuminate the beauty and complexity of our city and excited to see how the next poet laureate will inspire us with their unique voice."

Since its inception, the role of Poet Laureate has been held by three individuals: Sam Cornish was Boston's inaugural Poet Laureate, followed by Danielle Legros Georges, and currently Porsha Olayiwola holds this role. Porsha will be closing out her tenure with a workshop series this fall in conjunction with the Boston Public Library.

"Serving as the poet laureate for the city of Boston has been one of the greatest dreams of my work," said Porsha Olayiwola. "I've become embedded into the rich literary tradition associated with the

area. It is my only hope that I've, in turn, helped to propel the city's literary scene and push the possibilities of poetry."

The Poet Laureate is a ceremonial appointment with a term of four years. Some of the key responsibilities of the role include:

- Presenting works at civic events and attending official functions as a literary ambassador
- Developing public programming across the city, including workshops and showcasing events
- Enhancing current Boston Public Schools and Boston Public Library poetry programs through events, engagement, and outreach
- Acting as the juror for the Mayor's Poetry Program at City Hall
- Serving as a resource for the City, the literary community, and Boston's residents during National Poetry Month in April
- Participating in the Youth Poet Laureate application and selection process
- Mentoring the Youth Poet Laureate through regular meetings, public event preparation, published works, and holding relationships with Boston Public Schools and Boston Public Libraries

To be considered for the role, applicants must be at least 21 years old, be a current resident of

Boston who has lived in the city for at least two years prior to nomination, be active as a professional poet, and produce work that reflects the vibrancy and life of the City of Boston.

The position will be chosen by a Selection Panel, consisting of a distinguished group of literary professionals that will act as a search committee. The Selection Panel will evaluate all entries and hold interviews with the final candidates. The City will announce the new Poet Laureate in January 2025, with a term beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 31, 2029.

Interested candidates can join

the current Poet Laureate, Porsha Olayiwola, and Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture staff for an information session and office hours to learn more. There will be an information session on September 6, 2024, at 1 pm, and a second session on September 12, 2024, at 6 pm.

The deadline to apply is Monday, September 30, 2024 by 5 pm. Applications can be submitted online or by mail. Digital entries are encouraged but all entries will receive equal consideration.

Learn more and submit your application or nomination at boston.gov/callforpoets.



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