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FREE

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Mayor Michelle Wu (fourth from left) at the Robert A. Georgine Tower 28th anniversary celebration.

Turissini moves to Thailand to study animals

Special to the Patriot Bridge

This spring, Julia Turissini, 20, of Charlestown spent three months in Thailand helping animals and learning hands-on what it's like to be a veterinarian. Traveling on the selective Thailand Veterinary Semester Abroad hosted by



Julia Turissini is enjoying the hands -on work she is doing in Thailand, especially with the elephants.

study-abroad organization Loop Abroad, Julia was part of a small team that learned alongside veterinarians from around the globe while volunteering with elephants, sea turtles and other marine life, zoo animals, and shelter dogs.

The Thailand Veterinary Semester Abroad program brings together undergraduate students from across the U.S. and Canada to move their studies to Thailand for a semester so that they can work in small groups with veterinarians who specialize in different fields. Students are based in Chiang Mai, Thailand but travel throughout the country to see different shelters and sanctuaries, learn from local vets and scientists, and volunteer with a variety of species in need.

While they learned about veterinary medicine, conservation, and Thailand, Julia and her team also

(Animals Pg. 8)

Continuing to fill a growing need

Robert Georgine A. Tower celebrates 28th anniversary in community

Michael Coughlin Jr.

The Robert A. Georgine Tower, a low-income housing facility that serves seniors in Charlestown, on 100 Ferrin Street, celebrated its 28th anniversary on Thursday, July 13.

The tower, which was opened back in 1995, is comprised of 42 units and currently serves 58 low-income seniors, and was named after Robert A. Georgine. According to a program from last Thursday's anniversary celebration, Georgine was a "national union leader."

Not only did Georgine serve on the AFL-CIO's Executive Council, but he was also the Chief Executive of the Union Labor Life Insurance company. Per Thursday's program, "In recognition of his [Georgine's] outstanding contributions to Americans of all ages, the property was dedicated in his honor." Thursday's celebration featured several speakers and visits to the development from elected officials such as Mayor Michelle Wu, which to Paul Sullivan, who has been at the facility for 12 years and currently serves as its Community Manager, was nice to see.

"It's nice to see that they [elected officials] support us; we hear from them quite a bit. Many of them are supportive to us on a regular basis," said Sullivan.

One elected official who spoke well of the tower was City Councilor, Gabriela Coletta. In a statement about the anniversary, she said, "I am thrilled to join in the celebration of the 28th anniversary of the Robert A. Georgine Towers."

"This building has a long history of servicing our elders with robust programming and amenities. The residents here are deeply

(Tower, Pg. 2)

CHARLESTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALENDAR

CNC Development Committee Meeting, Thursday, August 10, 2023, 7 p.m., location to be determined. The CNC Development Committee will hold an in-person, public meeting on Thursday, August 10th from 7-9 p.m. The meeting location will be updated on our webpage cnc02129.org. There are no guests or presentations. The committee will be discussing recent development project updates (One Mystic Ave., 40 Roland St.), the BPDA's PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood needs analysis, the PLAN:Charlestown draft to be released 8/3, and our fall agenda. Charlestown residents are encouraged to bring their neighborhood development related questions, concerns, and suggestions to the meeting or to reach out to us at cnc02129@gmail.com.

Summer Hiatus: The CNC does not hold general meetings in July and August. Committee meetings may still be scheduled at the discretion of the committee chair and council members may hold informal drop-in events to connect with residents. During the summer hiatus, please contact the executive committee with any pressing neighborhood concerns at cnc02129@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing everyone at the September general meeting!

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TOWER (from pg. 1)

invested in the Charlestown community, and one another, and it is always a pleasure to visit. Congratulations to all," she added.

State Representative Dan Ryan also spoke about the tower, saying it is a "Great repurpose of what was always a municipal amenity for the neighborhood."

Ryan talked about how the development used to be the home of the Lexington Street Gym or "The Lexi," as well as "Little City Hall."

"There's always been a neighborhood use for that building, and to convert it into housing so that Charlestown people can stay in Charlestown in their golden years is a great reuse of a public amenity," said Ryan.

Moreover, Sullivan spoke specifically about how it was nice to see Wu. "It's nice when you see Mayor Wu come out after she published last week that she's trying to make available more affordable housing," he said.

Sullivan's comments about Wu's visit to the facility underscored a bigger theme — the need for more affordable housing.

"I truly believe that given the rents and the inflation that we're facing over the last few years — I think the demand for it is probably at its highest point right now that I've seen in the 12 years that I've been in affordable housing," said Sullivan.

Sullivan indicated that there is minimal turnover at the tower, and they have long wait lists showing the need for housing for seniors in



The Robert A. Georgine Tower is on the former site of the Lexington Street Gym.

lower income brackets.

"I don't think people understand how heartbreaking it is when you sit here day after day, and applicants come one after another telling you that they're sick, or they're in need of housing, and you don't have available units," said Sullivan.

"You don't know how heartbreaking it is when you can look somebody in the face, and they tell

Sbpda Virtual Public Meeting

40 Roland Street

August 9, 2023

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Project Description: Zoom Link: <u>bit.ly/3PYhJIQ</u> Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 431 5228



Close of Comment Period: 08/11/2023

The BPDA is hosting a joint Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and Public Meeting for the 40 Roland Street project located in Charlestown. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss changes that have been made to the project since the last meeting. The meeting will include a presentation followed by a conversation with the IAG members, then Q&A and comments from the public.

The information at this meeting is important. Interpreting services are available. If you require translation services, please contact <u>quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov</u> no later than 7/21/23.

The Project will provide approximately 753,783 GSF of new lab/office, residential and retail development in three new buildings ranging in height from 6–9 stories, along with 279 vehicle parking spaces.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit <u>bostonplans.org</u>.

mail to: Quinn Valcich

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4219 email: <u>quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov</u> website:

BostonPlans.org Stress Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

bit.ly/40-Roland-Street

you they have cancer or they have a hardship and they don't have decent housing," he added.

Ryan commented on the affordable housing issue that is occurring in the city and across the region.

Ryan did say he thought Charlestown was lucky 30 years ago that they were able to redevelop old school buildings like the tower into affordable housing.

However, he said, "I think in terms of that type of affordable housing, we've been fortunate to kind of be ahead of the curve, but nobody also anticipated the way the market would turn in the next 30 years too."

"So I think what is considered affordable is really skewed now. It's not just about building affordable housing, but I think it's also about looking at the whole housing market in general and seeing what we can do to keep families living in the city and to keep elderly able to afford to age in place," added Ryan.

Coletta also commented on affordable housing, saying, "Creating affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for individuals and families is crucial for maintaining a healthy, vibrant city."

She went on to say, "We have to do everything we can and use every tool in our regulatory toolbox to create, preserve and protect affordability."

"I fully support stabilizing rents, expanding first time homebuyer programs through city grants, and reworking our IDP and linkage equation to produce more square footage and funds for affordable housing," added Coletta.

With all this being said and as rewarding as hitting 28 years of great service to seniors in need is to Sullivan, he made it clear — there is more work to be done.

"As rewarding as it is today, looking at it like, we've been here doing this for 28 years and been successful—I could also say there's a bigger need that if we could replicate what we do and what we do good more people could benefit," said Sullivan.



The Robert A. Georgine Tower shown three years ago.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news

releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CHARLESTOWN SOFTBALL TEAMS ARE THE CHAMPS

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BRYANT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NAMED TO SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the spring 2023 Dean's List. To earn a place on the Dean's List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement!

Lucas Ascoli of Charlestown Alex Corey of Charlestown

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's.

HOLY CROSS ANNOUNCES SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Local students were named to the College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year. The following local students made the list:

James Hauser of Charlestown, Class of 2025

Nicole Soto-Guerrero of Charlestown, Class of 2024 To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

The following earned Dean's List honors:

Lilly Ladd of Charlestown Daniel Percac of Charlestown Sam Ringrose of Charlestown Rachel Tucker of Charlestown

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/ Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.



The Under 12 Charlestown Blue Diamonds (top photo) captured the Championship in the 12U division in the City Town Softball League. Charlestown went undefeated in the season with a 16-0 record. They defeated the Watertown 5-2 in the championship game.

The Under 10 Charlestown Blue Diamonds (shown to the right) captured the Championship in the 10U division in the City Town Softball League. Charlestown went undefeated in the season with a 14-0 record. They defeated the Watertown 5-0 in the championship game



Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: Charlestown

August 3, 2023

bpda

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: <u>bit.ly/PLANCtownDraftRelease</u> Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 161 035 6543



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Project Description:

Please join the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for a virtual community meeting at 6pm on August 3rd, to discuss PLAN: Charlestown's Final Draft Plan. PLAN: Charlestown is the neighborhood's ongoing comprehensive planning initiative, considering neighborhood needs, new zoning, and public realm improvements. This meeting will be spent giving an overview of the draft Plan document, the Plan's recommendations, and the final draft 'scenario' for the neighborhood's future. This meeting kicks off the 6-week comment period for the draft plan, at the end of which the BPDA will make revisions based on community feedback. We hope you will come to share your thoughts and ask questions!

mail to: Jason Ruggiero

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phone: 617.918.4383

email: Jason.Ruggiero@Boston.gov



BostonPlans.org 5 @BostonPlans Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

EDITORIAL

THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL IS THIS WEEKEND

One of the premier events of the summer season in the Greater Boston area is set to take place this weekend when the 19th annual International Sand Sculpting Festival returns to Revere Beach this Friday, July 28, through Sunday, July 30.

America's first public beach will host 15 sand sculptors from around the world who will display their amazing creations as they compete for \$28,000 in prizes. The theme for this year's festival is King Kong, in observance of the 90th anniversary of the epic movie that captivates audiences to this day.

The festival is a free, family-friendly event that is hosted by the Revere Beach Partnership, a non-profit organization, and truly has something for everyone of all ages. The festival will feature vendors, food trucks, and a fireworks extravaganza on Saturday night in addition to the highly-competitive sand sculpture competition.

For entertainment, there will be over 20 acts of street performers, live music, and a special performance from Blue Man Group, in addition to various amusement rides. Vendors will include about 30 food trucks and there will be about 20 emerging small businesses and nonprofits taking part in the Beach Shop Pavillion.

For the first time, the Samuel Adams Beer Garden will offer live music, games, and entertainment from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, with the fireworks scheduled to go off at 9 p.m. Saturday evening.

With the promise of good weather, it is expected that close to a million visitors will turn out for the festivities. Needless to say, public transportation via the MBTA's Blue Line -- which will be free -- is the best way to attend the festival, especially with the Sumner Tunnel closed for repairs. The Revere Beach and Wonderland T stops literally are just minutes away by foot from Revere Beach.

This year's festival promises to be better than ever -- and we urge all of our readers to take advantage of this unique and fun-filled opportunity.

A SAD, TRAGIC WEEK -- SAFETY ALWAYS MUST BE NUMBER ONE

When we looked at our Boston newspapers this past Thursday, a cavalcade of headlines, one-after-another, told stories of sadness and tragedy throughout our area.

There was the four year-old boy who was struck and killed by a hitand-run driver in Hyde Park; the brothers who died in a single-car accident in Brockton; and the 11 year-old daughter of a former New England Revolution player who died in a boating accident in North Carolina. Saturday brought more tragedy -- a 21 year-old man who died while swimming in a lake in Hopkinton and a 17 year-old girl who died in a boating accident on the Cape.

These incidents remind us how precarious our lives, and those of our loved ones, can be -- and how life can take a turn for the tragic in just the blink of an eye. Accidents are the leading cause of death for young people in our country. Safety for ourselves and our loved ones never should be taken for granted and always must be our first priority in everything we do.



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Newsstand Price: Free / Subscription price: \$75 ANNUALLY

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM Marketing Director - Debra DiGregorio - deb@reverejournal.com

SHATTUCK YES, HELM NO

Dear Editor:

Two features in the July 20 edition of the Patriot-Bridge, the Helm No fundraiser and the Power House development project are entwined and deserve further analysis and consideration.

The Helm No fundraising event, featured predominately in photos, is more than just neighborhood opposition to a local project. The Charlestown Voice and the Neighborhood Voice Alliance have compiled and outlined their opposition in public meetings, at meetings with the Helm on Third proponents, on the pages of the Patriot-Bridge and on their web-(https://charlestownvoice. sites com/, https://neighborhoodvoicealliance.com/). They have documented the myriad of reasons backed by scientific research why the Helm proposal flawed in purpose, design, services and community resources.

Ironically a second article in the July 20 Patriot-Bridge mirrors the flaws of the Helm on Third. The Powerhouse CNY has asked for an extension of its development for the Navy Yard Building 108 Power House site. The Power house site is across the street from the proposed Helm site. Could the request for the extension be related? The two projects, one for new retail space with open grounds and access and the other for untreated formerly homeless people who would have no requirement to be treated for addiction, alcohol abuse and mental illness, would seem incompatible.

For validation of the opposition to the Helm on Third proposal, one should compare it to the RFP response for the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital redevelopment (Shattuck Campus Redevelopment at Morton Street Proposal | Mass.gov). This RFP response dramatically exposes the reasons why the Helm should be abandoned. The Shattuck proposal proponents bring together the expertise of both housing and treating the homeless: Boston Medical Center, Pine Street Inn, Bay Cove Human Services, Victory Programs Inc, Health Care Resource Centers, and Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program. These are housing AND medical care providers. The Helm proposes just a roof. Services are vague, poorly described, unclear in

LETTERS to the Editor

source and optional. Medical care is not provided. Helm proponents would be creating such a site for the first time compared the extensive proven experience and expertise of the Shattuck proponents. The Shattuck location is one used as a treatment center for chronic illness for decades. The Helm site is in a residential historic neighborhood without the resources for daily living of a formerly homeless population.

The time for saying No to the Helm is now. The Shattuck proposal provides a window into the failings of the Helm on Third proposal. The Helm should be abandoned and its resources rather be designated to a better crafted and conceived model such as the Shattuck redevelopment.

Gerald H. Angoff, MD MBA

LAYING OUT THE FACTS

Dear Editor:

On Page 6 of the July 20 edition, the caption with the photographs is incorrect. It reads:

"The Neighborhood Voice Alliance Inc is a group of Charlestown residents who are opposed to the renovation of The Helm On Third to become housing for recently homeless people. They held a fundraiser event at Warren Tavern to hire an attorney to help in their initiative named Helm No."

First, Charlestown Voice, a group of neighbors, has been working hard to inform Charlestown residents about the current proposal by St. Francis House and Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA). Funds are being raised by Neighborhood Voice Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, in order to fund legal representation to stop the St. Francis House/POUA proposal at the site of the now-shuttered Constitution Inn (leased by the YMCA from the BPDA).

Second, the residents who gathered at the Warren Tavern and who helped raise funds for the attorney are not "opposed to the renovation of The Helm on Third to become housing for recently homeless people."

Unfortunately, the proponents repeatedly try to paint those who are opposed to the project as "antipoor people," "anti-homeless people," and heartless NIMBY's.

The facts: the most recent St. Francis House proposal would convert the Constitution Inn to 120 housing units, broken down as follows:

32 units of permanent affordable housing for those individuals coming out of recovery/successful tenancies

24 income restricted units (16 1-bedroom, and 8 2-bedroom units)

64 units for chronically homeless individuals

These 64 units, over half of the proposed housing units, are known as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or "Housing First." PSH residents are chronically homeless and the research shows that the vast majority of these proposed residents suffer from alcohol addiction, drug addiction, and/or mental health issues; many suffer from a combination of these problems. With PSH, there is no requirement that the proposed tenants be sober, drug-free, receiving counseling or mental health treatment, or even seeking help for any of these problems.

Research has repeatedly shown that Housing First is a failed experiment. Drug users draw in drug dealers. When asked about the lack of sobriety requirements as a condition for housing, St. Francis House told us that these apartments will be their homes and they cannot and will not dictate what people do in their own homes!

I ask that you Read the Research at CharlestownVoice. com.

The Charlestown neighborhood is clearly not against housing the homeless, nor is the neighborhood against affordable and deeply affordable housing. Statistics show that our neighborhood is home to a higher percentage of affordable and deeply affordable housing than all but 3 or 4 other neighborhoods of Boston. But we ARE against housing individuals who are actively using illicit drugs and have untreated mental health issues that make them a danger to their neighbors. Our neighborhood does not have the infrastructure nor the amenities that this population will require (health care, drug treatment, affordable grocery stores, etc.). Please Read the Research at Charlestown-Voice.com.

JULY 27, 2023

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

LETTERS to the Editor

DO NO HARM

Dear Editor: I spent far too much time today reading a contentious email thread in an animated Google group, regarding the most effective way to deal with the homeless population. This was spurred by a simple

announcement for a fundraiser to oppose the proposed Helm-without pressure for attendance. Merely an email. For those of you who haven't heard, the POUA (Planning Office of Urban Affairs) and the St. Francis House are in partnership to acquire the current Constitution

acquire the current Constitution Inn in the Navy Yard. Their plan, as currently stated, is to house formerly homeless people while offering optional treatment services. PSH: or Permanent Supportive Housing is controversial and there are proponents on all sides. In effect, the proposed Helm would combine people with untreated mental illnesses, untreated substance abuse, trauma, with those who are in need of lower rents.

I don't buy it. As one lifelong Charlestown resident stood and articulated in the April SFH/ POUA/ Charlestown neighborhood meeting: "You haven't done your homework on the families."

We are all informed by our own experiences, and the Helm proposal has unearthed an outpouring of strong opinions. Always implied is that—for some firmly stated reason—the email writer has more knowledge and is better informed—and therefore pompously correct. As the homeless population has increased nationwide, the published outcomes are murkier and data is scarce. However, in case we have forgotten, ALL of us want to see an end to homelessness, and yes even become part of the solution. Our dialog and discourse should be about finding better solutions.

Like so many human conditions, the risk/benefit of it all is critical to our understanding. None of us—not the Mayor nor the POUA-- can discern, or articulate the criteria for selecting this Charlestown neighborhood beyond just a large empty building on the market. We know the infrastructure is lacking for healthcare and transportation and don't get me started on groceries. At this time, the POUA and St. Francis House are responding to questions via email without meeting.

First let's assess the risks. Here's one method: Read the stats which show that Charlestown is #5 in lower income/affordable housing with all that entails. Compare this fact with the many other neighborhoods in arrears. Or, grieve the fentanyl deaths that recently rocked Charlestown. Acknowledge that Charlestown has more children than other communities, and seven childcare options within 1.5 miles of the Helm location. Visit our satellite police station which is in danger of budget cuts. Talk to the police. Request the incident reports (easily acquired online) from other PSH homes-not shelters- but similar concepts in place. Review the 311 reports for needle pickup. Compare the proposed Helm staff with that of any treatment facility to assess what wrap around services can and can't accomplish.

Evaluate the published, statistical rate of long-term drug usage of 50-90 percent. Listen to substance abusers in recovery—several are on record. This information is current and non-political. It has nothing to do with helping or not helping the homeless, but rather, is this the way to serve them best? We owe all of us that challenge.

Now let's talk reward. I'll state it again; we all want to house the homeless. But let's get real here. We can and should design the solution to mitigate any risks to realize the reward. This means medical and psychological evidence-based treatment, then housing. When it comes to helping the homeless, in order for any community to support any proposal, the neighborhood must believe that helping folks who need it will not harm those who don't. Once the strategy is modified, to become inclusive and in intense partnership with a community, yes, that in itself is a reward.

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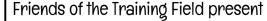
I don't expect to change anyone's deeply held opinions, nor even challenge your thinking. What I would hope is that we have not set the bar on helping the homeless so low that we won't invest in their health with more resources, and move the priority of wellbeing first and foremost. The current results—nothing to be proud of-- tell us we have nothing to lose.

"First do no harm" is not in the Hippocratic oath—that is a misnomer. But it sure makes sense to me.

Tracy Iannelli

ATTENTION 70+ YEAR OLDS

I recently graduated from Harvard Business School and I'm on a mission to make it easier and less costly to age in place. If you currently live at home, I'm interested in learning more about the various services you use to manage your life and home (as well as how you schedule and coordinate those services). If you would be willing to chat, please give me a call or email me to schedule time. You would be greatly helping an aspiring entrepreneur! All information will be kept confidential and is solely being used to help me better understand the needs of customers and develop solutions. Contact Ben Jacobson at (856) 300-6235 or bjacobson@mba2023.hbs.edu.





Family friendly concerts 3-7PM - bring a picnic & enjoy! At The Training Field - Winthrop & Common Sts.

July 8 – Boston Pub Rockers

Sponsored by Abraham Lincoln Post #11, G.A.R., Memorial Hall

August 5 - Black Velvet Band

Sponsored by The Cooperative Bank September 16 – Erin Og

Sponsored by State Rep. Danny Ryan



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WEDNESDAY

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preferred.

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GARDENS FOR CHARLESTOWN HOLD ANNUAL LOBSTERS IN THE GARDENS EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Last Wednesday evening, July 19 Gardens for Charlestown held their annual Lobster in the Gardens. The sold out event hosted 100 diners within the grounds of the gardens under the trees and in between the flowers. This year's event was run by David Nava, Sara Campbell and Ann Hargraves. The menu included lobsters fresh off the boat and corn which were cooked on the garden's patio space. It was a beautiful night filled with laughter and adoration. The Gardens thanked all who attended in support.

Established in 1978, Gardens for Charlestown is one of Boston's oldest community gardens. Unusual in that it is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk, the property includes 65 individual garden plots and ample common areas with native plantings and walking paths. An entirely volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization, Gardens for Charlestown has a threefold mission: to preserve urban green space, to create opportunities for community gathering, and to provide education to kids and adults alike in the service of environmental sustainability and a love of nature. Events like the biennial Garden Tour and annual Halloween in the Garden are neighborhood staples. This summer will also include Weatherfest, a free child and family event. For more information, contact Melanie Cevetello (president@gardensforcharlestown.org).



Gardens For Charlestown was an excellent setting for a summer lobster dinner with friends.



Brent Hayes-Hand and Maggie Somerset receive lobsters from volunteer Val Polk.



Michael Healy holds a batch of lobsters going out to tables while being photobombed by David Nava.



Gardens For Charlestown was an excellent setting for a summer lobster dinner with friends.



Tables were abuzz with lobster dining activity.



Parties brought their own diningware. This table had a stylish picnic basket to fulfill those needs.

GARDENS FOR CHARLESTOWN HOLD ANNUAL LOBSTERS IN THE GARDENS EVENT



Kate Ness helped dispense melted butter to go out to the tables.



Gardens For Charlestown was an excellent setting for a summer lobster dinner with friends.



Gardens For Charlestown was an excellent setting for a summer lobster dinner with friends.



David Nava coming up a batch of lobsters.



Cara and Dan Bradley, Brian and Carrie, Thomas, and Chad and Elissa Fix share a neigborhorly evening together dining on lobsters.



Gardens For Charlestown was an excellent setting for a summer lobster dinner with friends.



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All Deposits Are Insured In Full.

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PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY OF CRITERION PICTURES

Russell Crowe stars in the Academy Award-nominated film Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, showing at the free Movie Night at Old Ironsides on July 28.

Summer Movie Nights at "Old Ironsides" returns

USS Constitution and the USS Constitution Museum will host a series of free public Summer Movie Nights alongside the Ship this summer, beginning Friday, July 28. The "Old Ironsides" crew will project each film to guests seated on the pier alongside the legendary Ship to deliver a one-ofa-kind experience.

Each of the four films features the beauty and strength of the sea. The first screening is Academy Award-nominated Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World. Starring Russell Crowe, shot on a replica frigate, the film authentically depicts life and war at sea during the early 1800s, drawing parallels to Constitution's legendary service during the War

of 1812.

Before the screenings, Museum educators will offer free, all-ages activities and discuss the Ship's history related to the movie being shown that evening. The Museum's president Anne Grimes Rand notes, "We're excited to collaborate with Constitution's crew for a second season of Movie Nights. We hope people in the community take advantage of the chance to see these popular films in this unique setting. On the edge of the harbor alongside this great Ship, with the beautiful Boston skyline as a backdrop, the setting will provide an experience to remember."

All movie titles, dates, and times for the Summer Movie Nights are available on the Museum's website. The events will be first-come, first-served due to space. General seating is available, and guests may bring chairs and blankets to use while viewing the movie. Guests ages 18 and up will be asked to show a photo I.D. and pass through a security screening. About the USS Constitution

Museum

The USS Constitution Museum serves as the memory and educational voice of USS Constitution by offering award-winning exhibits where all ages can have fun while learning and exploring history together. The Museum's mission is to engage visitors in the story of Constitution to spark excitement about maritime heritage, naval service, and the American experience. The Museum is open seven days a week with a pay-what-you-wish admission policy, and the Virtual Museum is open 24/7. For more information, visit usscm.org.

About USS Constitution

USS Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. The ship earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the Ship's wooden hull.

ANIMALS (from pg. 1)

helped by volunteering their time and skills. From hauling elephant food to monitoring anesthesia in dog surgeries, they helped to support and care for the animals of Thailand while improving their own skills so that they can help more animals in the future.

Some of Julia's most interesting projects were volunteering at an elephant sanctuary and helping provide medical care for elephants, creating enrichment projects for zoo animals, and living on the island of Koh Tao for three weeks studying marine biology and helping to restore coral reefs and protect sea turtles. Julia and her team also participated in a spay and neuter clinic for dogs in the rural mountain villages of Northern Thailand.

Loop Abroad is the largest pre-veterinary study abroad program in the United States, hosting students in 9 countries on 6 continents throughout the year. Programs range from two weeks in summer to a full semester abroad, and college credit is available through the University of Findlay. Since 2009, Loop Abroad has specialized in pre-veterinary programs and helped students all over the world to pursue their dreams of a veterinary career. Interested participants can inquire or apply at www.LoopAbroad.com. Admissions to veterinary programs is selective and requires significant academic achievement.

By following a study abroad model instead of a voluntourism model, Loop focuses on educating its students so that they can contribute and serve in meaningful ways. It also works with locally run animal welfare organizations so that students contribute to longterm improvement on the ground in the countries they visit. With programs around the globe, Loop Abroad is able to support animal welfare and conservation around the world because of its students and their dedication to helping animals in need.

The program's Managing Director Jane Stine says, "Our students are really an amazing group of people. They are compassionate, flexible, driven, and dedicated, and it is always a wonderful experience to host them on their study abroad experience. I'm so proud of what they learn each year and the hard work that they do, and that this program allows us to provide important support to so many



Julia Turissini semester abroad exceeded all her expectations.

essential conservation programs around the world."

Of her trip, Julia says, "My semester with Loop Abroad exceeded all expectations I had about the amount of veterinary experience I would gain. I was especially impressed by the diverse range of specialties we were exposed to such as small animal, equine, marine, exotics, and wildlife. A highlight for me was the opportunity to shadow elephant veterinarians through their day to day tasks at Elephant Nature park, where they treat a variety of traumas from the patients' pasts in the tourist or logging industries. One of the many unique aspects that led me to choose this program was the SCUBA certification course. Now that I have completed this and gained my certification, I can say that observing marine life such as black tip sharks, green sea turtles, and coral reefs naturally in situ was a surreal and once in a lifetime moment. Most importantly this semester strengthened my passion for veterinary science and specifically supplemented my interest in small animal and wildlife medicine. In addition to all of the veterinary experiences, I had many opportunities to practice the Thai language and build up my spice tolerance through trying a variety of new foods while fully immersing myself in Thai culture. I highly recommend this trip to anyone looking to broaden their horizons and gain more veterinary experience."

Julia is a Junior at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, majoring in Biology with a concentration in neuroscience.

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JULY 27, 2023

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

New stormwater utility will help modernize infrastructure and support cleaner waterways

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Early next year, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) will launch a new stormwater utility that will meet an increased need to modernize Boston's stormwater infrastructure and better prepare for climate change. The proposed stormwater utility will restructure BWSC's current billing by creating a stormwater charge, as well as credit and grant programs that will allow customers to reduce their stormwater charge by performing approved stormwater management activities. The credit and grant programs are being included as part of the stormwater utility following months of conversation with the City of Boston.

BWSC expects that the majority of residential customers will not see an increase in their overall bill because the new billing structure includes a reduction to the existing sewer rate. The funds from the new stormwater charge will help make necessary improvements to Boston's stormwater management systems to better prepare the City for more frequent and intense storms, mitigate flooding, and reduce the amount of polluted runoff draining to the city's waterways. Ahead of the launch, BWSC will undertake a six-month public outreach campaign, during which BWSC will solicit feedback and share information about the proposed stormwater utility with the public.

"The stormwater charge is a fairer and more equitable way to support stormwater services," said Henry Vitale, Executive Director of BWSC. "There are some properties in the City of Boston-such as parking lots-that are not billed for water and sewer, yet these properties have a significant impact on the amount of stormwater runoff that must be managed. We're proposing that these property owners will have 'stormwater only' accounts and pay a stormwater charge."

The new stormwater charge will allow BWSC and its partners to modernize infrastructure while allowing Boston to address additional growing challenges posed by both climate change and urban development's expanding footprint.

Stormwater is generated when precipitation falls on hard impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, roads, or sidewalks and "runs off," rather than absorbing into the ground as it would in nature. When stormwater flows over hard surfaces, it collects litter, sediment, and other pollutants, like motor oil and fertilizer. Catch basins in our roadways capture stormwater

and convey it through a network of underground pipes called storm drains. Storm drains then release stormwater into our water bodies via stormwater outfalls. Stormwater does not receive treatment at the Deer Island wastewater treatment plant, which means that all the pollutants carried by stormwater enter our lakes, rivers, streams, and Boston Harbor.

In a city that receives an average of 48 inches of rainfall annually, stormwater runoff also contributes to inland flooding. Due to climate change, storms are becoming more frequent and more intense, which will result in more flooding in the coming years if BWSC and the City do not begin to adapt now.

To respond to these challenges, Boston must make improvements to our aging storm drain system, add storage capacity and stormwater treatment, and increase maintenance activities throughout the City. Infrastructure improvements will include pipe replacement and upsizing to accommodate larger volumes of water; stormwater storage features, like stormwater trenches, chambers, vaults, and other infiltration features that will be implemented wherever feasible; and additional staff, training, and equipment to facilitate more frequent and effective maintenance for all stormwater infrastructure, both gray and green.

Green infrastructure (GI) will also be a key component of Boston's stormwater management strategy. GI features mimic the natural water cycle, using plants, soil and other natural materials to capture, filter, store and infiltrate stormwater back into the ground. These features come in all shapes and sizes and have many benefits beyond stormwater management. Benefits include increasing urban tree canopy, mitigating urban heat islands, improving air quality, as well as providing access to green space and improving mental health among urban dwellers. BWSC and the City are currently building and expanding our GI Programs, which include GI planning, design, construction, maintenance, and monitoring activities. GI features like rain gardens, bioswales, bioretention areas, tree infiltration trenches, constructed wetlands, etc. will be deployed in Environmental Justice communities and areas that are already disproportionately experiencing the effects of climate change. These features will not only remove pollutants and provide much-needed stormwater storage to reduce localized flooding but will help create a more beautiful and healthy city.

proposed stormwater The charge will be used exclusively for stormwater management and

will be based on the amount of impervious surface on a property. This is the most common basis for stormwater charges across the country and will more accurately reflect the cost of collecting and managing stormwater. Additionally, customers that currently receive BWSC's elderly and disability discounts (30% on water and sewer charges) will have those discounts automatically applied to the stormwater charge.

Since BWSC's creation in 1977, its investment in sewer and storminfrastructure modernwater ization has resulted in dramatic water quality improvements in Boston Harbor, its beaches, and tributary rivers. In 2012, BWSC filed a consent decree settlement to enhance its efforts to comply with the Clean Water Act, as well as clean and revitalize Boston Harbor and its tributaries, including the Charles, Neponset, and Mystic Rivers.

The revenue generated by the stormwater charge will fund BWSC's regulatory compliance responsibilities, while also supporting a more resilient future. BWSC will make investments in measures that improve water quality, increase public awareness and protect the environment, including:

New storm drain infrastructure Repair and replacement of existing infrastructure

Green infrastructure Installation of stormwater concontrol measures

PAGE 9

Outfall restoration

Numerous other drainage improvement projects

Boston's stormwater system is New England's largest and consists of over 30,000 catch basins and 600 miles of pipe conveying stormwater to more than 250 outfalls. BWSC customers currently pay for stormwater management through the rates charged for sewer service. BWSC is in the process of determining the final amount of the proposed stormwater charge.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 Cameron, Kristin R Norris, Sandra P Goss, Matthew B Andrew S Castraberti T Patel And Desai Ft Rudnick, Lissa R Orkney, Samuel J Sood, Neil 40 Mt Vernon LLC Sycamore Tree Int Kmetzo, Renee M Qirjazi, Alexander Bartek, Matthew A Nee, Kenneth C Warner, Christopher F Pettengill, Hatley Mc5 Bunker Hill LLC Mc5 Bunker Hill LLC Ambrosi, Michael Patel, Saumil S

Blandin, Apolline M

SELLER 1 Eudaly, Nicholas R Zalaski, Keith Bourassa, Andrew Brown, Jonathan A Baldwin, Carey D Wasik, Theodore Bevilacqua, Corey Lund, James T **Rooney Jr Robert F Est** Sullivanparris Lndg T Greeley, Jonathan P Gilson, Benjamin H Rogers, Carey L Dodge, Bayard Tucker, Clive Kiernan, Kyle D 329-331 Bunker HI St LLC 329-331 Bunker HI St LLC Breakey, Emily F **J A Correia LLC** Wadland, Patrick

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North Washington St. Bridge construction look ahead posted

The Construction Look-Ahead for the North Washington At. Bridge through August 5 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

• Installation of concrete bridge barriers and sidewalks

• Off-bridge utility work and cutover to permanent bridge

• Off-bridge approach barrier and curb work

Work Hours

• Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Contraflow Pilot

• The MassDOT-implemented contraflow pilot will continue to be in effect during evening peak traffic (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

• Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic during set up and operation of the contraflow. **Travel Tips**

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone.

Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and

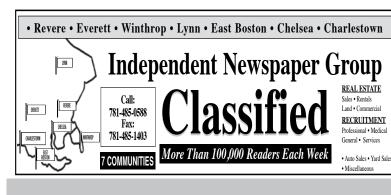
istrator@kajiasostudio.com. Kaji

manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

• Other events: July 30 at 12:30 p.m. and August 5 at 8:00 p.m. How can I find more informa-

tion?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.



Concert at Kaji Aso Studio planned for Sunday

A Concert of Japanese Traditional Instruments is planned on July 30 starting at 3 p.m. al Kaji Aso Studio that is located 40 Saint Stephen Street, Boston (seven doors from Symphony Hall).

Sumie Kaneko, a Japanese koto, shamisen and vocal artist, will lead this concert with her colleague from New York, Fumi Tanakadate, who will be performing the Japanese flutes, shinobue and noh-

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kan. These versatile and accomplished musicians will play traditional music from 17th century to present day music, highlighting the universality of this timeless music. Admission is free and this event is part of a concert series to enjoy music in a gallery atmosphere. Contact Kate Finnegan, Executive Director, 617-247-1719 for more information. Space is limited. RSVP: admin-

Virtual Public Meeting

Aso Studio programming is supported in part by grants from the Mass Cultural Council through the Cultural Sector Recovery Grants for Organizations program; by the Boston Cultural Council / Reopen Creative Boston Fund, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture; and by the Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust.



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Project Description:

August 7, 2023 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The BPDA is hosting a joint Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and Public Meeting for the One Mystic Avenue project located in Charlestown. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss changes that have been made to the project since the last meeting. The meeting will include a presentation followed by a conversation with the IAG members, then Q&A and comments from the public.

Zoom Link: bit.ly/43NoBw5

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID:161 213 9267

One Mystic Avenue

The proposed project consists of the demolition of the existing structures occupying the site and the construction of an approximately 360,5000 square-foot mixed-use building with up to 503 residential units, retail/commercial space, and approximately 111 off-street vehicle parking spaces.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

mail to: Sarah Black

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4282 email: <u>sarah.black@boston.gov</u> website: bit.ly/OneMysticAvenue

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2023 EVENT SCHEDULE





BEACH FIT STAGE

9-9:45AM: Pilates at the Beach Fit Stage 10-10:45AM: Rev'd-X HIIT at the Beach Fit Stage 11-11:45AM: Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage 12-12:45PM: Power Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage 1-1:45PM: Kickboxing at the Beach Fit Stage

KING KONG STAGE

12-1PM: Ryan Lally on the King Kong Stage 6:30-7PM: Opening Ceremonies on the King Kong Stage 7PM: Blue Man Group on the King Kong Stage

WILLIAM G. REINSTEIN BANDSTAND

11AM-2PM: Chiara at the Bandstand 3-6PM: Lee Ross at the Bandstand 8-10PM: Jermaine Hickling at the Bandstand

SAMUEL ADAMS BEER GARDEN

1-9PM: Samuel Adams Beer Garden
2-5PM: Kelsey Blackstone in the Beer Garden
6-9PM: Dan Morgan in the Beer Garden



BEACH FIT STAGE

8-8:45AM: Kickboxing at the Beach Fit Stage
9-9:45AM: Pilates at the Beach Fit Stage
10-10:45AM: Abs & Body HIIT at the Beach Fit Stage
11-11:45AM: Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage
12-12:45PM: Power Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage

KING KONG STAGE

1-4PM: Live Entertainment on the King Kong Stage

WILLIAM G. REINSTEIN BANDSTAND

11AM-2PM: Cam Hebert at the Bandstand 4-7PM: Michael Breiner at the Bandstand

SAMUEL ADAMS BEER GARDEN

1-9PM: Samuel Adams Beer Garden 3-6PM: Live Entertainment in the Beer Garden





BEACH FIT STAGE

8-8:45AM: Strength at the Beach Fit Stage
9-9:45AM: Barre at the Beach Fit Stage
10-10:45AM: Abs & Body HIIT at the Beach Fit Stage
11-11:45AM: Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage
12-12:45PM: Power Yoga HIIT at the Beach Fit Stage
1-1:45PM: Kickboxing at the Beach Fit Stage
2-2:45PM: Sculpt at the Beach Fit Stage
6-6:45PM: Turn Up Dance at the Beach Fit Stage
7-7:45PM: Yoga at the Beach Fit Stage
8-8:45PM: Hype Dance at the Beach Fit Stage

KING KONG STAGE

2-5PM: Jahriffe on the King Kong Stage 6-6:30PM: Awards Ceremony on the King Kong Stage 6:30-9PM: Live Entertainment on the King Kong Stage

WILLIAM G. REINSTEIN BANDSTAND

10AM-1PM: Ward Hayden at the Bandstand **2-5PM: Pogo Fred** at the Bandstand

SAMUEL ADAMS BEER GARDEN

1-9PM: Samuel Adams Beer Garden

1-4PM: Sean Rivers in the Beer Garden

5-8PM: Francoix Simard in the Beer Garden





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We're Changing the Way We Charge for Stormwater

What is stormwater, and how does it become a source of pollution?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground. As stormwater flows over hard (impervious) surfaces, it collects trash, sediment, and pollutants like motor oil and fertilizer. Impervious surfaces like roofs, patios, roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks prevent water from absorbing into the ground. Stormwater is not treated, so these surfaces allow more pollutants to enter local waterways. The image below shows a Boston cityscape and the features of our stormwater system.

Next year, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission will launch an expanded stormwater program that meets an elevated need for investment in stormwater infrastructure and green solutions. The program will include the creation of a proposed separate stormwater charge and credits/grants for customers who work to reduce stormwater runoff from their property.

For more information visit: www.bwsc.org/stormwater

