



THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Coletta, Ryan, community groups announce free harbor cruises for Charlestown youth and families

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriella Coletta and State Representative Dan Ryan, in partnership with Boston Harbor Now and Boston Harbor City Cruises, announce free trips to Spectacle Island on Friday, August 11th and Friday, August 18th for Charlestown youth and families.

With these partnerships, Charlestown youth will be able to enjoy everything Boston Harbor has to offer including access to the Islands and its beaches. The ferry to Spectacle Island departs Long Wharf North at 10:30 AM. The return ferries to Boston depart Spectacle Island at 1:30 PM, 4:30 PM, and at 5:30 PM.

Charlestown families and youth can sign up for tickets at <https://bit.ly/Charlestown-SpectacleTrips>.

"I am thrilled to get Charles-

town youth and families out on Boston's waterfront and enjoying our city's beautiful assets. Providing equitable access to enjoy our waterfront is a top priority and I am excited to be able to bring it to the community while also providing free opportunities for our youth to enjoy the water this summer," said Councilor Coletta. "I'm looking forward to seeing many families and youth at Spectacle Island and cannot wait to make beautiful memories together on the waterfront."

"I'm happy to work with Councilor Coletta and our partners in the harbor to continue to improve water access for Charlestown kids this summer. Thank you to all involved," said State Representative Dan Ryan. "Safe, affordable access to Boston Harbor and its islands is right at our fingertips because of these partnerships."

Additionally, Boston Harbor Now and the National Park Service will host the Charlestown Sunset Community Cruise on Saturday, August 8th at 6:30pm for Charlestown families. Charlestown residents will enjoy free food, art, music, harbor views, and entertainment during the evening. The cruise will embark from the Charlestown Navy Yard Pier 1, and every person, including children, must have a ticket. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.bostonharbornow.org/charlestowncruise/>.

"We're delighted to welcome the Charlestown community to the waterfront this summer," stated Rebecca Smerling, Director of Programs at Boston Harbor Now. "This initiative supports our goal of improving community access

(HARBOR CRUISES Pg. 3)



Second-generation bricklayer and union leader Thomas F. McIntyre presents plaque to Javier Ballester of The Community Builders at senior housing site.

TCB honors trade union workers with plaque

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The Community Builders (TCB) installed a plaque honoring Thomas J. McIntyre and the Bricklayers Non-Profit Corporation (BNHC) at the Building 104 affordable housing community in Charlestown. TCB acquired the Charlestown Navy Yard site from BNHC in 2022. The plaque commemorates trade union workers who transformed a former ship repair facility into affordable housing for Boston seniors in the 1990s.

Building 104, originally built in 1901, was reimagined in the late 1980s by Thomas J. McIntyre, a union leader who pioneered a collaboration among Boston's labor unions, City Hall and financial institutions to create award-winning affordable housing for older adults. McIntyre's original vision was rededicated when TCB assumed ownership and stewardship of this historic asset as part of its nonprofit mission.

(TCB, Pg. 3)

Wu signs Executive Order banning fossil fuels in new city-owned buildings

Special to the Patriot Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia, the Operations Cabinet and local climate, and labor advocates to sign An Executive Order (EO) Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New Construction and Major Renovations of City Buildings. Through signing the EO, Mayor Wu is demonstrating her commitment to accelerating climate action by requiring that all new municipal buildings and major renovations operate without fossil fuels, reducing emissions from Boston's building sector

while creating high-quality jobs, improving public health and quality of life, and advancing racial and economic justice.

Mayor Wu previously announced her intention to draft and sign this EO during her 2023 State of the City Address. The functions of the EO will take immediate effect, exempting projects currently in procurement, design, or construction. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson also joined for the signing ceremony.

"Week after week, we see the signs of extreme heat, storms, and flooding that remind us of a

closing window to take climate action," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The benefits of embracing fossil fuel-free infrastructure in our City hold no boundary across industries and communities, and Boston will continue using every possible tool to build the green, clean, healthy, and prosperous future our city deserves."

"As part of the Green New Deal for Boston, we are taking an all-of-government approach, finding ways for our Cabinets and departments to play a role in

(FOSSIL FUELS Pg. 4)

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!

EDITORIAL

MAKE THE MOST OF THE REST OF SUMMER

The days are becoming noticeably shorter and the sun is not as intense as it was just a few weeks ago. Combined with the cooler temperatures that arrived this week, the inevitability of the end of summer cannot be denied.

On the bright side however, the Labor Day weekend is more than four weeks away, which means that there still is plenty of time to create memories with our friends and family members that will last a lifetime.

So our message is simple: Let's use these next few weeks to make the most of the Summer of 2023!

SINEAD O'CONNOR WAS A PROFILE IN COURAGE

When the late Sinéad O'Connor tore up a picture of the Pope on Saturday Night Live after her acapella performance of Bob Marley's "War" in 1992, the full extent of the Catholic Church's complicity in facilitating widespread child-molestation was not fully known.

Here in the Boston area, the predations of the former priest from Revere, James Porter, who molested hundreds of Boston-area children with the full knowledge of Church officials (who had simply reassigned him to different parishes where he continued to molest more and more children) had just come to light.

Church officials assured their members that Porter was just an aberration. But a decade later, when the Boston Globe Spotlight team unveiled the full picture of the Church's misdeeds and coverups, it became clear that Porter was just the tip of the iceberg, not only in Boston, but throughout the world.

Though O'Connor, who herself had been a victim of child abuse (though not by the church), destroyed her career with her outspokenness on that Saturday Night Live appearance, the courage she displayed with that performance will far outlive her musical legacy.

WHY DESANTIS DOESN'T HAVE A PRAYER AGAINST TRUMP

For anyone who has even a passing interest in presidential politics right now, initially it may seem perplexing that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is getting clobbered in the polls by former President Donald Trump.

While it may be true that DeSantis has shot himself in the foot time and time again with his views about any number of issues that are so far Right that even the most conservative Republicans are bewildered by what he says (the most recent example being his support for teaching Florida school children that slavery may have benefited slaves), the real reason why he is trailing Trump by double-digits -- and that margin is growing larger (even in Florida) -- is that DeSantis is nothing more than just another politician.

From the moment that he rode down that escalator in Trump Tower, the big allure of Donald Trump (for his base of supporters) is that he is anything but a typical politician. His campaign rallies and rambling speeches do not follow anything close to a traditional political script.

For his opponents, particularly DeSantis, trying to outthink or outwit Donald Trump is a fool's errand. Trump doesn't play by the rules, which not only has proven bad for the country-at-large (January 6), but also means that he is not constrained by the conventions of politics-as-usual. It's not so much that Trump is playing 3-dimensional chess, but that he flips over the board whenever he feels threatened.

In addition, DeSantis faces the conundrum that by accepting Trump's pretext that the 2020 election was stolen from him, he cannot claim that Trump is a loser. In short, he has swallowed Trump's bait -- hook, line, and sinker.

The bottom line is that to Trump voters, Ron DeSantis sounds just like any other politician on the campaign stump. There's nothing about him that is even remotely appealing to the GOP base (or anyone else, for that matter), not to mention that DeSantis has an intensely dislikable personality that makes him seem to be talking down to his audience.

Trump may be a con man -- but both he and his supporters know it and even embrace it.

As for DeSantis, he is as appealing a candidate as Joe Biden -- which is the biggest insult you can toss at any GOP politician.

GUEST OP-ED

Charlestown's Future is Bright

By Arthur Jemison

Charlestown is Boston's oldest neighborhood. From its role in the revolutionary war, to its longstanding commitment to being home to people of a wide range of incomes, Charlestown has a rich history. Any visitor would be struck by the lasting character of the original peninsula -- its brick townhomes, colorful houses, narrow streets, busy family-filled parks, flourishing small businesses, and charm. Its parks and open spaces, and its proximity to Downtown and the waterfront make Charlestown an attractive place to live for longtime and new Boston residents. This square mile of the City is an amazing neighborhood with a bright future.

In recent years, Charlestown has experienced a period of rapid growth and change. While new investment is important for a neighborhood to thrive, it is important to have a plan to shape that growth in an inclusive, thoughtful way that meets the needs of the residents who live there today. This is the goal of the BPDA's current neighborhood planning initiative, PLAN: Charlestown.

What began as a "Corridor Enhancement Study" in 2019, originally intended to look exclusively at Charlestown's industrial areas along the Rutherford Ave corridor and Sullivan Square evolved over time. Through meaningful participation of Charlestown residents, the planning initiative transformed into a comprehensive neighborhood-wide plan that considers both zoning recommendations and wider community needs. Together, these recommendations will be used to inform decisions regarding land use, urban design, open space, and transportation improvements, while also prioritizing public investments throughout the neighborhood.

Our Community Engagement and Planning Departments pursued creative efforts to solicit broad feedback from the full diversity of Charlestown residents by going beyond the traditional town-hall style meetings. We hosted walking

tours through the neighborhood's industrial areas to see the untapped potential and currently inaccessible public and private areas. We supported the production of a comic book about PLAN: Charlestown and spoke at local schools to break barriers in reaching the neighborhood's youth and making planning fun and relatable. With more than 50 formal events over the course of PLAN: Charlestown -- from Pint with a Planner events at local restaurants and bars, to resident and senior events, to participation in neighborhood celebrations, our outreach and engagement involved intentional and innovative efforts to encourage people to use their imagination when envisioning the future of Charlestown. Your views were both inspirational and extremely thoughtful, and are reflected throughout the Plan's recommendations.

In the Plan, you can expect to see distinct improvements or recommendations specific to the needs of Charlestown, like creating dozens of new acres of publicly accessible open space, including two full-size soccer fields available for multi-use purposes; up to three new free neighborhood transit shuttle bus routes; commitments towards arts & culture improvements; and much more. In addition, several recommendations are tactfully targeted to the Original Peninsula and are aimed at improving the quality of life for residents, such as: enhancing historic preservation tools, promoting affordable neighbor-


hood retail along Charlestown's main corridors, public school improvements, enhancing public and social services, and more. These are all ideas that came directly from Charlestown community members.

BPDA staff have convened City Departments, including Parks, Fire, Facilities, EMS, Arts & Culture, Boston Public Schools, and others, in public forums to ensure that this collective vision will be implemented with the help of all partners.

This week, the final draft of PLAN: Charlestown was released, and we want to hear what you think. The BPDA has commenced a 45-day comment period to welcome additional public input and feedback on PLAN: Charlestown. As this process wraps up, the BPDA will begin to consider Charlestown development projects that have been on hold for the last few years while the planning process took place. Proponents of development projects in the formerly industrial areas have been changing and adjusting their proposals in response to community feedback and recommendations emerging from the planning process. Proposals that comply with the plan's emerging recommendations to grow Charlestown in a thoughtful way will be considered by the BPDA Board.

At the conclusion of this effort, the BPDA Board of Directors will vote on the adoption of the Plan, and if adopted, implementation will begin.

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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GUEST OP-ED

Seek medical truth, enjoy your life

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Does your doctor make you feel good? Does he or she tell you what you want to hear just to make you happy? If so, you probably should look for another doctor.

No one enjoys leaving the doctor's office feeling bad. We don't want to hear, "You need to change your lifestyle." We don't want to hear, "You need to cut way back on your sugar intake." We enjoy our habits. Habits are hard to break. My wife's grandfather loved smoking. He wouldn't give it up even after numerous cancer surgeries. He died at age 65.

A friend died recently. She died from what is often called fatty liver disease. Six months before she died, she told me she was terminal. She said, "I guess I drank too much alcohol throughout my lifetime." She went on to tell me that her family doctor two years prior had said her issue wasn't severe and that she didn't have to worry." She was very displeased with her doctor's passive attitude about her condition that would soon take her life.

Another friend of mine was diagnosed with prostate cancer. His doctor's approach to his con-

dition was that, "They would watch it. When it became worse, they would do something about the cancer." They watched it and they watched it kill my friend. Within a year it was out of control and had spread outside his prostate. The doctor's relaxed attitude about a serious situation did not go well for my friend.

Many doctors want to make you to feel good. Of course, we don't want a doctor whose goal is to make us feel bad. Typically, they don't want to lose you as a patient. Still, they should diplomatically tell you what you may not want to hear.

Keep in mind the doctor ordinarily knows more than we do. However, you do know how you feel. Be aware of your family history. In this information age you have to do some self-study. There is a lot of information on-line about most conditions you are facing. You have to research thoroughly though because often you can find whatever response you want on the Internet. Ask your doctor questions about your research. Tell him or her that you want to make good choices. Be willing to travel to another town if your doc-

tor refers you or seek out someone who might be able to provide the care you need.

The bottom line is we have to take personal responsibility for our health and do the best we can do. Even when we do everything, we can think of to do, these bodies are subject to disease and death.

Richard Thousand is with the Taussig Cancer Center at Cleveland Clinic. He was recently talking to me about the many medical advances made in recent years and noted more are on the way. He then said something I had only heard my dad say many times, "Glenn, we aren't going to get out of this world alive. From the moment we are born, there is something that is trying to kill us. Eventually, it's going to happen."

The bottom line is do the best we can with the information we have. Be diligent. Be thorough. Seek the truth from your doctor. Finally, enjoy your life, we all only get one.

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

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

The implementation of this plan will deliver new zoning, along with the resources, amenities and modifications that residents have been advocating for. We thank all of you for helping to improve your community through this process, and we look forward to continued collaboration over the coming months as we finalize PLAN:

Charlestown and prepare for the implementation of its recommendations to shape smart, inclusive growth in Charlestown.

Arthur Jemison is Chief of Planning for the City of Boston and Director of the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

Distribution Schedule

2nd SATURDAY of month 10AM
Last TUESDAY of month 6PM

Please contact Tom MacDonald at 617-990-7314 to volunteer



ONLINE DONATION

Please Recycle

HARBOR CRUISES (from pg. 1)

to the Harbor and Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park so that even more people can enjoy these unique natural resources."

"Boston Harbor City Cruises is thrilled to be able to support our neighboring Charlestown community by working with our partner, Boston Harbor Now, to provide increased access to Spectacle Island and its refreshing beach, for the city's youth during some of these hot summer days," said Bob Lawler, Regional Vice President and General Manager of Boston Harbor City Cruises.

Councilor Coletta's top priority is making sure Boston's waterfront is resilient and accessible for residents and visitors alike. She represents all coastal adjacent communities including East

Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and will soon represent the Downtown Waterfront. In September of 2022, she called for a hearing to establish a comprehensive planning process for Boston's 47-mile stretch of waterfront, and continues to work with Boston Planning and Development Agency and the Wu Administration to fortify our coastline to protect against sea-level rise and storm surge. These Spectacle Island trips are in congruence with her efforts regarding access to the waterfront for all.

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.


Friends of the Training Field present

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS 2023!

August 5 - Black Velvet Band
Sponsored by The Cooperative Bank

September 16 - Erin Og
Sponsored by State Rep. Danny Ryan

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




Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: Charlestown

August 3, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM


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



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!

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

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

COMMUNITY ROOM: The 2nd floor Community Room at 20 Vine St. is available to neighborhood groups for meetings.

Please call Christine Vraibel at 617-343-4627 or email christine.vraibel@pd.boston.gov to reserve.

POLICE RELATED INFO: Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

Warrant Arrest

07/19/2023 – At about 5:35 p.m., officers assigned to a plain-clothed unit were patrolling the area of Main and Austin streets, where they observed the car with excessive tint pulling out of the 7-Eleven parking lot. Police then conducted a traffic stop at Main and Green streets. Officers approached the vehicle and positively identified the operator as the person with an outstanding warrant. Officers subsequently removed the suspect from the vehicle without inci-

dent and arrested him for his warrant.

Drugs - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

07/21/23 – At approximately 2:35 a.m., police responded to 74 Bunker Hill St. for a female in a white SUV screaming and honking her horn.

Upon arrival, officers observed running an SUV parked diagonally with the front of the vehicle toward the curb and the rear of the car in the middle of the street in front of the aforementioned address. This vehicle

had a cracked windshield and dents on the driver's side front bumper.

As a result of the investigation, the suspect was arrested and charged with trafficking of a Class B substance and possession with intent to distribute of a Class D substance.

The suspect was transported to District A-1 headquarters and booked in the usual manner. Officers confiscated four cell phones, a black scale in a black bag, a box of fold-top sandwich bags, and \$155 in cash as evidence.

TCB (from pg. 1)

The plaque donation by Thomas J. McIntyre's son Thomas F. McIntyre, a regional representative with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, signifies the shared dedication of BNHC and TCB to preserve and sustain this historic apartment community.

"After 30 years of stewardship, the Bricklayers Nonprofit Housing Corporation is happy to have selected TCB to continue BNHC's legacy of providing affordable housing to Charlestown seniors at Building 104," said Thomas F. McIntyre. "This plaque commemorates the work of my father and BNPC in creating Building 104 for Boston families."

In 2022, BNHC and TCB announced the transfer of owner-

ship for Building 104, demonstrating a shared dedication to ensure the preservation and sustainable funding of this historic apartment community. Since the early 1990s, Building 104 has provided 46 one-bedroom apartments for older adults, transforming the long-closed shipfitters shop into an affordable housing gem.

"We're proud to uphold BNHC's legacy with Building 104, a cornerstone for low- and moderate-income seniors in Boston," stated Bart Mitchell, president and CEO of TCB. "For decades, BNHC has served as a national leader in creating affordable housing and serving the broader community. On behalf of our organization, I extend my deepest thanks to BNHC for entrusting TCB to

continue this stewardship and provide high-quality housing for another generation."

According to the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing, more than a quarter of the adult homeless population in the city is age 55 and older, highlighting the importance of preserving Building 104 in Charlestown and other existing affordable housing stock.

The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, known for their commitment to ensuring a living wage for all working people, has been a leader in developing affordable homeownership and rental housing in Boston's Charlestown, Jamaica Plain and Dorchester neighborhoods.

FOSSIL FUELS (from pg. 1)

climate action," said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "This Executive Order directs and empowers the Operations Cabinet and facilities managers across the City to lead the decarbonization of our building portfolio. In addition to new buildings, this order applies to major renovations because, often, the most sustainable way to make a green building is not to start from scratch."

In Boston, municipal emissions constitute 2.3% of all of Boston's carbon emissions, and over 70% of the City's emissions are from buildings. Through the Executive Order, the City is leveraging the opportunity to ensure every new capital investment in new construction or major renovation project catalyzes the decarbonization of Boston's building sector by constructing or retrofitting buildings to eliminate the use of fossil fuels in building operations.

This Executive Order puts in place a clear path to decarbonizing the City's building portfolio. As the owner of over 16 million square feet of property, the City's commitment to fossil fuel free buildings will add substantial demand to the many trades and professions that are part of the green building ecosystem. The City will lead by example with its own buildings, and will contribute to the creation of new jobs in the building trades as well as building design and maintenance, expanding local opportunities to strengthen workforce development programs, apprenticeships and other training pipelines for Boston residents to gain access to high-quality employment in the building sector.

PowerCorpsBOS supports these workforce development efforts by training Boston residents for jobs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in large buildings by learning skills to maintain building operations at peak efficiency. The program is a partnership led by the Worker Empowerment Cabinet and the Environment Department

in collaboration with the Department of Youth Employment and Opportunity, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families. The third cohort of the program began last week.

With the implementation of the EO, all new buildings will be planned, designed, and constructed so that HVAC, hot water, and cooking systems will not combust or directly connect to fossil fuels for all municipal buildings. In addition to applying to all new buildings, it also impacts alterations where structural work is planned in 75% or more of the building's square footage. Any project that replaces a building's heating, ventilation, air conditioning or hot water system, or cooking equipment must eliminate fossil fuel combustion in the affected system.

In addition, the executive order will improve public health and save the City money. Highly efficient fossil fuel-free buildings create immediate health benefits for building occupants by improving indoor air quality, increasing resilience, and lessening the symptoms of existing respiratory and other health conditions. These buildings will also be cost-effective to operate in the long run, reducing municipal energy costs and creating cost savings that can be reinvested in local municipal services.

To support the implementation, the Operations Cabinet will be launching a Facilities Condition Assessment that will identify decarbonization projects. The FY 24-29 Capital Plan includes \$132,510,000 for building design projects that will advance decarbonization.

Signing this executive order complements the work of the City's Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). This ordinance sets emissions standards for large existing buildings, requiring all covered buildings, including municipal buildings, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



Virtual Public Meeting

One Mystic Avenue

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

Zoom Link: bit.ly/43NoBw5
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 213 9267



Project Description:

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.

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.

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

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.

BPS students to participate in Jaylen Brown's Bridge Program

Boston Public Schools (BPS) is proud to announce its collaboration with Boston Celtics star Jaylen Brown's 7uice Foundation's signature 2023 Bridge Program. This multi-day camp aims to provide Boston's high school students access to a wide range of resources to help them achieve a choice-filled life. Around 100 Boston Public Schools students are registered to participate in the 2023 Bridge Program.

By collaborating with the renowned MIT Media Lab, the Bridge Program offers a transformative experience for participating high school students, introducing them to STEAM-related opportunities while focusing on emotional literacy, financial literacy and leadership.

"We are excited to join forces with The 7uice Foundation's Bridge Program to empower our Black and Brown students with invaluable opportunities and experiences," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "The 7uice Foundation's Bridge Program is a wonderful and powerful example of a true collaboration that aligns with our vision of educational equity in BPS. We are so thankful to Jaylen Brown and his foundation for helping to prepare our students to be full contributors and leaders in an increasingly diverse and technologically advanced world."

"I'm thankful to be able to team up with Boston Public Schools and the MIT Media Lab to host our third year of the Bridge Program,"



PHOTO COURTESY DOMINIQUE OLIVETO

Boston Celtics star Jaylen Brown.

said Jaylen Brown. "All kids, no matter their zip codes, should have access to these resources, and I'm committed to creating equal-op-

portunity education programs that benefit traditionally underserved communities. I see myself in a lot of these kids and want to give them

all the chances in the world to succeed and be their best selves."

The Bridge Program centers around three key areas that are crucial for students' personal and academic growth:

- **Leadership and Activism:** Connecting Bridge participants with leaders of social change to advance a transformed society in which youth of color can access opportunities that will change their lives and that of their communities.

- **Health and Wellness:** Offering programs that incorporate yoga, meditation, empathy, and emotional literacy workshops. These programs aim to cultivate mindfulness skills and support the Bridge participants in effectively communicating their experiences and narratives and promoting healing and personal growth.

- **Sustainability, Innovation & Technology:** Introduce participants to workshops led by distinguished researchers within the fields of artificial intelligence, aeronautics, virtual reality, clean technology, robotics, and sustainable food systems. In a rapidly changing environmental and technological world, the Bridge Program introduces participants to advanced technological tools and justice-based approaches that can be utilized to address the most urgent challenges of our time.

The 2023 Bridge Program incorporates the concept of "Sankofa," symbolizing the importance of acknowledging historical knowledge and wisdom to shape a better future. The program seeks to create a culturally relevant and transformative experience for all participants.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA

**DCR
Hatch Shell
7PM**

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 12**

**Mozart &
More**

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 23**

**Beethoven to
Gottschalk:
Dance Night**

For more information, visit
www.landmarksortchestra.org

BOSTON HARBOR FOR ALL: CHARLESTOWN

Celebrate summer with your community on a **FREE** sunset cruise, dinner and entertainment included.



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8
6:00 - 8:00 PM
CHARLESTOWN NAVY
YARD PIER 1**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

bostonharbornow.org/charlestowncruise

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Boston Landmarks Orchestra dedicated their performance Wednesday to honor the NAACP during their convention in our city. Seen/Unseen: The Symphonic Legacy Of Black American Women is a symphonic legacy of Black American Women and their compositions. Grammy Award

winner and Boston resident Terri Lynn Carrington was a preformer and curator of these compositions. Guest conductor Damali Willingham was accompanied by soprano vocalist Louise Toppin and tenor vocalist Robert McAvoy. Three more shows are scheduled for the Boston Landmarks Orchestra on August 12, and 23.



Music lovers gathered at the Hatch Shell to hear *Seen/Unseen: The Symphonic Legacy Of Black American Women* performed by the Boston Lyric Orchestra as part of their free summer concert series.



The audience enjoyed the evening that cooled down from the hot temperatures during the day as well as the superb music.



Grammy Award winner and Boston resident Terri Lynn Carrington introduces the next piece.



Milena Casado Fauquet, trumpet player with Grammy Award winner Terri Lynn Carrington's band.



Terri Lynn Carrington had a more personal fan base with cousins Nicole and Malachi Johnson who were happy to celebrate the acclaimed musician's work.



Landmarks Orchestra Music Director and Conductor Christopher Wilkins takes a bow.



The Maestro Zone was curated by award winning musician and conductor Sheila Del Bosque (right) who helped audience members gain a better understanding of conducting an orchestra as Julia Lukens was happy to discover.

Concert in City Square Park
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MBTA to release RFQ for 3-5 year \$120 million renewable energy contract, continues leadership in clean transportation

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The MBTA Board of Directors approved the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an up-to-\$120 million wholesale renewable electricity supply contract, upgrading the T's commitment to renewable energy and continuing its leadership in clean transportation. The MBTA is also further supporting the Commonwealth's climate change goals and meeting Clean Energy Standard requirements by recommending that 30% of its power be supplied by Massachusetts solar and wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

"This critical procurement in fully renewable energy, further highlighted by our recommendation to purchase 30% Massachusetts Renewable Energy Credits, underscores the T's commitment to electricity produced from renewable energy sources while being fiscally responsible, understanding our energy needs will continue to grow in the future," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "We're looking forward to receiving responses to this RFQ, and I thank the dedicated members of our Sustainability and Finance teams for

working so diligently to build out this procurement."

"I applaud the MBTA's commitment to renewable energy and its efforts to make clean transportation a reality," said Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper. "This procurement is an important part of our whole-of-government approach to combatting the climate crisis. I'm grateful for the collaboration we have across agencies to achieve our ambitious climate goals and deliver clean transportation to the people of Massachusetts."

To meet the transportation needs of the region, the MBTA uses many forms of energy and seeks to reduce our carbon footprint and our impact on the environment whenever possible.

Currently, the MBTA is the second largest transportation entity and the fourth largest U.S. government entity powered by renewable energy as well as the 50th largest purchaser of renewable energy overall in the country. As a leader in clean transportation initiatives, this energy procurement upgrades the T's commitment to renewables since its last energy contract in 2021.

The MBTA currently uses



approximately 360,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity annually, making the T the largest electricity consumer in the Commonwealth. The MBTA procures

its electricity supply in advance at a fixed price because it makes smart fiscal sense, providing the T with budget stability and predictability in an energy market that can frequently fluctuate. Alongside much of the Commonwealth and the country as more services convert away from carbon-emitting avenues, the T's electricity usage is also projected to increase as the MBTA transitions to battery-electric buses, electrified commuter rail vehicles, and more.

As the Commonwealth's largest electricity consumer, the MBTA is committed to utilizing 100% renewable energy sources. The MBTA's proposed electricity procurement includes both the purchase of fixed-price electricity and provisions for the purchase of RECs. RECs certify that electricity has been purchased from a renewable power source, such as wind or solar, with each certificate equivalent to the generation of 1 MWh of electricity.

The winning bid in response to the upcoming RFQ will be in place beginning January 1, 2024, for a three-to-five-year period. Responses to the RFQ may include fixed-price electricity blocks, RECs only, or a combination of the two.

The MBTA's recommendations

for the upcoming 2023 procurement include a mix of renewable energy sources – 70% hydropower from Maine Class II RECs and 30% solar and wind from Massachusetts Class I RECs. The purchase of these Massachusetts Class I RECs would help the T support the Commonwealth's climate change goals and meet Clean Energy Standard requirements. The T's previous 2021 energy contracts were a major achievement in offsetting its carbon footprint, though these contracts provided 100% renewable energy sources through hydropower from Maine Class II RECs only.

In order for the purchase of power contract to be in place by December 31, the MBTA will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on August 4 with responses due August 21. The official purchase will take place on September 13 with a transaction agreement finalized and signed with the winning bidder on September 13.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/sustainability, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, or TikTok @thembta.

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INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL BRINGS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO REVERE BEACH

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

The Revere Beach Sand Sculpture Festival was held this weekend. The theme for this year was the celebration of 90 years of

Kong. The scheduled events were delayed by Saturday night's rainstorm, which also diminished the sculptures but the people still came to see the work and enjoy the summer tradition.



The International Sand Sculpture Festival wrapped up on Sunday evening with fireworks (delayed from Saturday due to the rain), seen above, alongside the Kong sand sculpture centerpiece.



Hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets and boardwalk of Revere Beach over the course of the weekend for the International Sand Sculpture Festival.

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Boston Public Health Commission introduces the Community Health Equity Empowerment Fund

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced the creation of the Community Health Equity Empowerment Fund (CHEE Fund), a new initiative that will provide grants to local non-profits and community-based organizations (CBOs) working to advance health equity through prevention, intervention, and response services. Using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), BPHC will distribute a total of \$1 million in CHEE grants this year, equating to \$200,000 per awarded organization. BPHC has issued a request for proposal (RFP) that Boston-based organizations can complete to apply for funding. The deadline for the RFP is August 18 at 5pm.

In conjunction with BPHC, grantees will develop strategies to connect or reengage residents in health care, increase access to prevention strategies, and improve social determinants of health. The funds awarded through CHEE

must be used to help embed sustainable, consistent, and fundamental resources that promote and maintain health equity in communities with the greatest need. The CHEE Fund is a product of BPHC's Advancing Health Equity Framework (2020-2023), which aims to address the need for greater community empowerment and involvement to promote health equity in Boston's most vulnerable neighborhoods by providing residents with fair access to the resources that promote and protect the best possible health.

"One of the most important lessons learned during COVID-19 is that community-based organizations and coalitions are essential to advancing health equity," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "Many of the organizations that were so effective during the pandemic are underfunded and unable to address the other disparities facing Boston residents. Investing in organiza-

tions through the CHEE Fund is one of the many ways that we can foster community engagement and empowerment."

Health inequities are a persistent issue in Boston among communities with higher concentrations of Black, Latinx, immigrant, other historically marginalized groups. BPHC's latest Health of Boston (HoB) report noted the many ways that social determinants of health, which include quality of housing, education, employment, environmental health, health care, public safety, food access, income, and health and social services, affect the health outcomes of residents.

The most concerning finding of the HoB report was that a Roxbury census tract has the lowest life expectancy in Boston (68.8 years), 23-years less than a Back Bay census tract, which had the highest life expectancy (91.6). At the neighborhood-level, Mattapan has the shortest life expectancy (77.3 years), and Back Bay has the longest life expectancy (82.8 years). From 2017 to 2021, Black

residents in Boston experienced the greatest increase in the rate of premature mortality (37.3%), and in 2021, the premature mortality rate was more than twice as high in Dorchester (293.9) and Roxbury (282.9). These neighborhoods have higher concentrations of Black and Latinx residents and lower median income, than in Back Bay, Downtown, and Beacon Hill (140.3).

The report also highlights persistent health inequities in chronic disease outcomes by race and ethnicity. In 2021, the overall cancer mortality rate was highest among Black men (218.9) and the breast cancer mortality rate was highest among Black women (24.2). Similarly, the reports also found heart disease mortality was 37% higher for Black residents (158.5) as compared to white residents (115.6) in 2021. Further, the diabetes mortality rate for Black residents (50.9) and Latinx residents (28.6) were 3.1 and 1.8 times higher than the rate for White residents (16.1).

"The grants made available

through CHEE are a critical resource for helping us build a city that is truly equitable for all families," said

Mayor Wu. "Helping people stay connected to care and addressing social determinants of health are essential for achieving this goal."

The CHEE Fund will award funding to five CBOs to address the imbalances of access, resources and opportunities in economic, social, and other obstacles to health and health care in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Hyde

Park, and Roslindale. BPHC will prioritize funding for organizations that propose collaborative initiatives that foster community partnerships and are working with community health centers to connect residents to health care and healthcare resources.

For more information about the CHEE fund and to apply for the RFP, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/bid-listings/16039326>

Public access advocates testify in support of guaranteed hybrid open meetings

Special to the Times

At a public hearing by the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, municipal leaders, disability advocates, and open government organizations are testifying in support of legislation that will guarantee greater access to open meetings by allowing members of the public to attend and participate in meetings in person or remotely.

An Act to Modernize Participation in Public Meetings (H.3040/S.2024), sponsored by Representative Denise Garlick and Senator Jason Lewis, seeks to update the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law to guarantee hybrid meetings. As opposed to meetings conducted exclusively in person or exclusively online, hybrid meetings maximize civic engagement by allowing participants to choose the format that works best for them.

"I've been driving a motorized wheelchair since I was two years old, and it was during the pandemic that I attended my first legislative hearing – remotely," said Dianna Hu, chairperson of the Boston Center for Independent Living. "Hybrid meetings are the

latest instance of universal design, enabling residents across the state to engage with our government in a new and empowering way. We must bring this curb cut 2.0 into its rightful place of permanence."

"Hybrid access has become an essential part of public life," said Geoff Foster, executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts. "Having the option to attend meetings virtually has given many of our neighbors – particularly those with disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, or limited transportation – the ability to more easily participate in our democracy. We need to safeguard and expand this option for all members of our Commonwealth."

"Our 44 local Leagues of Women Voters across the state are deeply involved in the governments in their towns and cities. The League strongly supports this bill to assure that all residents can readily access and participate in the local government meetings that make so many major decisions about their lives," said Patty Comfort, executive director, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

"Government participation and

transparency is the cornerstone to a strong democracy," said Deirdre Cummings, MASSPIRG's legislative director. "This bill provides for both, making government meetings more accessible and

transparent."

"Hybrid meetings are the only way to maximize public access to government deliberations. We can no longer accept the exclusion of large segments of the population

from the democratic process simply because inclusion has a price tag or because change is inconvenient."

(HYBRID OPEN MEETINGS Pg. 10)

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9 Punchard Avenue RET	24 Parker Street LLC	24 Parker St #2	\$1,245,000
Eudaly, Rachel	Bailey, David B	39 Russell St	\$1,650,000
Ramos, Rachel	Bengal, Ofer	42 8th St #5403	\$515,000
Nanna, Erin	Tang, Carson	45 1st Ave #304	\$602,000
Smitchel, Steven R	Demakes, Nicholas	46 Pleasant St #1	\$1,200,000
Berry, Frederick	Ducie, Laura	59 Elm St #1	\$885,000
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MBTA Board awards contract to purchase battery electric buses

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The MBTA Board of Directors

awarded a \$119 million contract to New Flyer of America Inc. for the production and delivery of 80

new, low-floor, 40-foot battery electric buses (BEBs). This vehicle contract award includes an initial base order of 48 conventional BEBs and 32 BEBs with street-side boarding capability. This contract also provides the MBTA options to purchase up to an additional 380 BEBs.

“This contract demonstrates the T’s commitment toward reducing its emissions and is another step toward reaching our climate goals,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Philip Eng. “In addition to reducing the Authority’s greenhouse gas emissions, these 40-foot battery electric buses have many amenities to enhance our riders’ experience, like flip-up seats, accessibility features, and dual-sided passenger information screens. I would like to thank the MBTA Board of Directors for approving this contract award, our Vehicle Engineering and Vehicle Procurement teams for their

hard work on this project, our Bus Modernization team for their diligent work in supporting the T’s fleet and facilities transition to BEBs, and our Finance team for their work in securing federal funding for this procurement last summer.”

The MBTA is committed to social equity, sustainability, and energy conservation. Supporting the Commonwealth’s Net Zero emissions targets, the BEBs purchased under this procurement will reduce transportation emissions, which will result in better air quality within MBTA communities. The procurement, which is part of the Authority’s fleet replacement plan, positions the MBTA to meet the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Law mandate, which requires the T to purchase zero-emission buses only after 2029 and fully electrify its fleet by 2040.

The 40-foot New Flyer BEBs will have a range of 120 miles and

feature industry-leading safety features, including the ability to monitor the BEB high voltage battery systems and provide early fault detection. Other features include an enhanced security barrier for bus operators and ADA accommodations that meet or exceed federal requirements. Street-side capability is also an important feature that allows the BEBs to service the Harvard busway. The street-side boarding BEBs also include an additional accessibility ramp located at the rear street-side door. The contract award includes options for advanced driver safety assistance systems and on-board LCD passenger information screens.

The BEBs will replace the MBTA’s aging 2008-2009 New Flyer Emissions Controlled Diesel (ECD) fleet and the retired 2004 Neoplan Electric Trolley Bus (ETB) fleet. The contract awarded today will result in the delivery of 10 pre-production buses (five conventional BEBs and five street-side boarding BEBs) next summer. The delivery schedule will then be coordinated with targeted openings of the upgraded North Cambridge bus facility anticipated in 2025 and the upcoming new Quincy bus facility anticipated in 2026. With a design that is 100% complete, the renovated and modernized North Cambridge facility will be outfitted with state-of-the-art battery electric bus chargers and a control system to accommodate 32 BEBs. The new Quincy facility will provide inside storage and maintenance bays to accommodate up to 120 BEBs in a new, all-indoor, modern garage.

Funding for this BEB procurement comes in part from an unprecedented \$116 million federal grant that the MBTA received in FY22 through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Federal Transit Administration Low- and No-Emission grant program. This award was the largest in the nation for this grant cycle (tied with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and provides a significant boost to the T’s aggressive transition toward an entirely zero-emission fleet of over 1,100 buses by 2040.

The total contract amount awarded today to New Flyer of America Inc. is \$119,087,982.

For more information, please visit mbta.com, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, or TikTok @thembta.

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Service change on Orange and Green Lines for Government Center Garage work in effect

Special to the Patriot Bridge

The MBTA is reminding riders of a 12-day service change on the Orange and Green Lines ending August 9.

As previously announced, due to the continued demolition of the Government Center Garage by private developer HYM Construction, Orange and Green Line service changes will take place in the downtown Boston area all day

for 12 days:

- Orange Line trains will bypass Haymarket Station. Orange Line riders should instead exit at North Station or State, less than a half-mile from Haymarket (or a four-to eight-minute walk), and travel to the Haymarket area.
- Green Line service will be suspended between North Station and Government Center Station, with riders instead asked to walk above ground between these stations – Government Center, Haymarket, and North Station are each less than a half mile from each other (about a five- to 10-minute walk). The distance between Government Center to North Station is about three-quarters of a mile (about a 13-minute walk).
- Riders are also reminded that Orange Line / Green Line connections can also be made via the

Winter Street Concourse, which connects Park Street and Downtown Crossing Stations.

• Accessibility vans will also be available for on-demand transportation – Orange and Green Line riders should ask MBTA personnel for information and assistance.

For more info, please visit mbta.com/alerts, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, or TikTok @thembta.

HYBRID OPEN MEETINGS

(from pg. 9)

nient,” said Gavi Wolfe, legislative director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. “We can do better, and we know how. In fact, nearly half of all Massachusetts city councils and select boards are already conducting hybrid meetings. The legislature should update the Open Meeting Law to guarantee hybrid meetings across the Commonwealth moving forward.”

“A guiding principle of the disability justice movement is ‘Nothing About Us Without Us,’” explained Barbara L’Italien, executive director of the Disability Law Center. “By focusing on inclu-


sion and equity, and welcoming the participation of 11.5% of the population, our communities and our democracy will only become stronger.”

This legislation will provide municipalities the time and money needed to establish hybrid open meetings by:

- Creating a Municipal Hybrid Meeting Trust Fund and a grant program to help municipalities finance their modernization efforts.
- Prioritizing adoption by state agencies and elected municipal bodies.

- Allowing economic hardship waivers for non-elected municipal bodies.
- Giving more than five years – until 2030 – to phase in universal compliance.

The bill is backed by the ACLU of Massachusetts, Boston Center for Independent Living, Common Cause Massachusetts, Disability Law Center, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association, MASSPIRG, New England First Amendment Coalition, and New England Newspaper & Press Association.



Virtual Public Meeting

40 Roland Street

August 9, 2023
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Project Description:
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 quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov 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 bostonplans.org.

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201


phone: 617.918.4219
email: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov
website: bit.ly/40-Roland-Street

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Food on a Stick

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The whole idea of food on a stick makes us smile. Perhaps that's because many of the foods presented on skewers, toothpicks, and sticks of all kinds are fun. This week we'll tell you about an array of savory foods you can serve on a stick, tips on making a few, and how to eat them.

Spain's tapa and pincho bars may be what comes to mind when you think of enjoying toothpicks full of excellent taste combina-

tions. However, Japan has yakitori and kushikatsu. Greece has souvlaki, and Italy has spiedini. In Thailand, meat grilled on a skewer is street food. Take inspiration from any culture.

While regular toothpicks may be the traditional way to spear food in Spain, both by the cook and tapas eater, we suggest you invest in cocktail spears about 4 inches long to make the presentation more secure and easier to eat. Once you have these, don't overload them. The joy of many

skewered foods is that you enjoy a perfectly balanced combination of flavors in one bite.

Another idea we've adopted from Spain is putting a piece of bread under any combo with added olive oil or sauce. The bread makes delivering the tapa to your mouth neater and can then be used to dab up all the delicious liquid in the serving dish. Be sure to provide plenty of napkins.

Build a Pantry

When working with a few sim-



PHOTO BY IÑIGO DE LA MAZA

Take your adventurous eaters to the Basque country with the classic Gilda, a pincho combining an anchovy, Manzanilla olive, and pickled pepper.

ple ingredients, buying the best you can find and using the fresh food that's in season is essential. At the same time, you can have a few treasures in your pantry for making quick snacks.

Excellent canned fish, especially anchovies, will help you make some of the most famous Spanish combinations. Pickled and preserved foods will add just the right note to cut through the fattiness of meat skewers. We love adding olives, pickled peppers, roasted red peppers, and pickled vegetables to our creations.

There are also times when you need something sweet to offset a strongly acidic ingredient. You can use preserves, dried fruit, or a fruit glaze for this purpose.

Cold Skewers

You can prepare many cold skewers ahead, which makes them perfect additions to a picnic, potluck, cocktail party, or shared meal. Consider making a mixture

of popular food combinations that will please even timid eaters and add a few that will delight the more adventurous.

Skewer a local cherry tomato with a small mozzarella ball and a basil leaf for a Caprese salad tapa. Instead of a tray of antipasto, arrange skewers of salumi slices, cheese, olives, roasted peppers, or artichokes. Take your adventurous eaters to the Basque country with the classic Gilda a pincho combining an anchovy, Manzanilla olive, and pickled pepper. Traditionally, this is a guindilla/piparra pepper, but you could use peperoncino.

Hot Skewers

If you are making food on a stick to serve at home or grilling outside, you can make hot versions. Many traditional recipes include sausages cut into pieces. For simple tastes, Italian sausage and peppers with provolone cheese will work. The next level is Spanish Chorizo with Manchego and Morcilla (Spanish blood sausage) with potatoes and paprika for offal fans.

This way of serving food is perfect for occasions when it's easier for people to eat without utensils and when your guests have a wide range of food preferences. You can make vegan or vegetarian options. If you think of tapas bars where most customers stand around in groups sharing plates of tapa and sipping a beverage, you can see how the tradition of skewering the food came about.

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

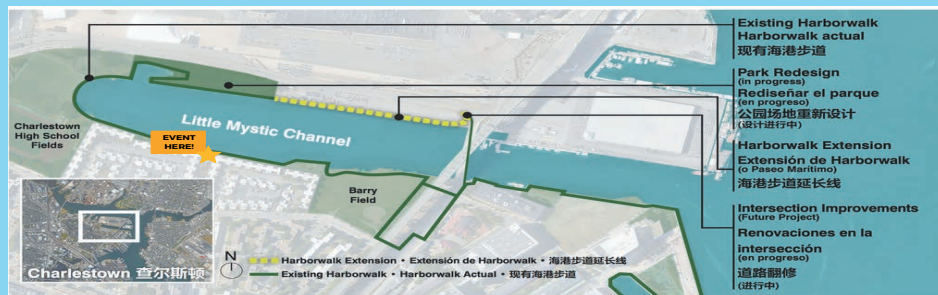
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