



THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Courageous Sailing campers create art with sculptor Michael Alfano

By Robin DiGiammarino,
President, Navy Yard Garden & Art

For a second year, Navy Yard Garden & Art collaborated with Courageous Sailing to provide campers with an opportunity to work with sculptor Michael Alfano. Twenty of Alfano's sculptures are currently on display for the public art installation Of Many Minds. Paired with quotes, these sculptures are installed along the Boston Harbor in the Charlestown Navy Yard and adjacent to Courageous Sailing. Last summer Alfano taught campers sculpting techniques using wire. Back by popular demand, Alfano taught techniques to sculpt with clay. Alfano said: "It was amazing to see the campers having fun, totally engaged and also learning a little something about art and sculpting

(ART Pg. 3)



One of the campers, using a sculpting techniques learned from Michael Alfano, works on a clay face.

DiDomenico celebrates transformative budget that brings unprecedented education funding

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico worked alongside his colleagues to secure billions of dollars in this year's state budget to improve our schools, support educators, expand access to early education and ensure students from all zip codes and of any ability can learn and thrive. This broad funding will invest tens of millions of dollars into all levels of education in

Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, and Everett.

"Education funding has been a top priority of mine for my entire Senate career, and I can say, without a doubt, this has been the best budget for education that I've seen throughout my 13 years at the State House," said State Senator Sal DiDomenico, Senate Vice Chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Education. "These transformative investments are

going to be a game changer for residents in my district and for districts across Massachusetts. I want to thank Senate President Karen E. Spilka, Chair Rodrigues, the Ways and Means staff, and all my colleagues for putting together a budget that will guarantee all our students can eat for free, fund schools to ensure children can get a world class education and increase access

(FUNDING Pg. 3)

Sullivan Square project heading to BPDA board

By Adam Swift

After nearly two years of development and public meetings, the 40 Roland St. mixed-used project is getting close to a vote for approval by the Boston Planning and Development Agency Board.

The board was expected to schedule a public hearing on the project on Thursday for its September meeting.

"The sites are just west of I-93 and the Lost Village inner belt neighborhood of Charlestown," said project architect Laura Rushfeldt at a BPDA Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public hearing

on the project last week.

The project consists of 127 housing units at 128 and 145 Cambridge streets, over 650,000 square feet of office and lab space at a 10-story building at 40 Roland St., and the reuse of the existing building at 25 Roland St. for 25,000 square feet of subsidized community retail space. In addition, the plans call for nearly 7,000 square feet of open space at 89 Cambridge St.

Twenty percent of those housing units in the two proposed six-story buildings on Cambridge

(BPDA, Pg. 11)

Local leaders praise funding for universal school meals program

By Adam Swift

The Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget includes permanent funding for universal school meals, which will provide free breakfast and lunch to students at every K-12 school in Massachusetts.

The universal school meals initiative has been a top priority for state Senator Sal DiDomenico, who has advocated and filed legislation in support of the program for several sessions alongside his colleague, Representative Andy Vargas, and anti-hunger organizations led by Project Bread.

"This program demonstrates the best of our state's ideals, using funding to guarantee every Massachusetts student will access food at school," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate who represents Chelsea, Everett, Charlestown, and Cambridge.

"We have heard time and again from educators, advocates, and parents, that children cannot learn when they are hungry, so this program will ensure all our children can concentrate in class and enjoy being a kid. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Chair Rodrigues, and all my colleagues for their work to get this transformative program funded."

Schools across the state have been providing universal school meals throughout the pandemic because costs for this program were temporarily footed by the federal government. In 2022, federal support for the program was cut off, but Senator DiDomenico worked with his colleagues to secure enough funding in last year's state budget to continue funding free school meals throughout the Commonwealth

(MEALS Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

HOW TO HELP THE MAUI FIRE VICTIMS

The horrific and tragic disaster in the town of Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui has gripped the world this past week. The scope of this tragedy is unimaginable -- photos of the scene look like something from after the atomic bombs were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But as we all know, it won't be long before this story slips off the national radar screen. However, the rebuilding of this historic community and the lives of its residents, both physically and emotionally, will take years.

There are many ways to help the victims of this disaster and we have listed some of those below that are among the most prominent:

-- The Maui Strong Fund, run by the Hawaii Community Foundation, is accepting donations for necessities like food, clothing, and shelter for families who have lost their homes.

-- The American Red Cross of Hawaii has 220 trained responders on the ground in Maui helping with search and rescue operations. Donations to the Red Cross are also providing shelter, food, and emotional support. You can donate to the Red Cross by calling 1-800-HELP NOW (1-800-435-7669).

-- Aloha United Way, a non-profit organization based in Honolulu, has set up a dedicated fund for victims of the Maui wildfire.

-- The Maui Food Bank is accepting donations that will pay for meals provided to displaced residents in Maui.

-- The Maui Humane Society is seeking contributions to fund care for pets displaced by the wildfire.

We urge all of our readers who are able to do so to make some small contribution to help the victims of this horrific natural disaster.

CLARENCE THOMAS: THE SUPREME COURT FOR SALE

With each new revelation about the extent to which Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has accepted extravagant gifts from assorted billionaires, it has become increasingly clear that Thomas has used his office as a ticket to live the lifestyle of the rich and famous.

The news that Thomas received an all expenses-paid, \$500,000 (that's not a typo) luxury vacation from a Texas billionaire (who also paid for his godson's private school education and bought Thomas's mother's house in Georgia, fully-renovated it, and has allowed her to live there reportedly rent-free) appears to have been just the tip of the iceberg.

Two weeks ago there was the report that another billionaire bought Thomas a \$250,000 motorhome.

Then last week, the on-line investigative journalism publication ProPublica reported that Thomas regularly has received numerous other gifts from assorted other billionaires:

"At least 38 destination vacations, including a previously unreported voyage on a yacht around the Bahamas; 26 private jet flights, plus an additional eight by helicopter; a dozen VIP passes to professional and college sporting events, typically perched in the skybox; two stays at luxury resorts in Florida and Jamaica; and one standing invitation to an uber-exclusive golf club overlooking the Atlantic coast."

Thomas's defenders point out that none of his benefactors ever had cases before him, and therefore his acceptance of these gifts did not involve a conflict of interest. That may be true.

But here's the thing: Even though these billionaires may not themselves directly have had matters before Thomas, he has sided with many decisions that either have upheld their ideological philosophies or that may have benefited their interests indirectly, such as court decisions that have struck down government regulations.

Perhaps the most significant of these was the infamous Citizens United decision (in which Thomas was a deciding vote in the 5-4 majority) in which the Supreme Court struck down the laws that limited political donations by corporations. Thanks to that decision, we have seen the rise of political action committees -- known as PACS -- by which corporations and billionaires can spend unlimited funds on campaign advertising so long as they are not formally "coordinating" with a candidate or political party. The ruling has ushered in massive increases in political spending from outside groups, dramatically expanding the already outsized political influence of wealthy donors.

Clarence Thomas long has been viewed as the most incompetent and least-qualified judge ever to sit on the Supreme Court. But now, he also is by far the most corrupt.

GUEST OP-ED

Maui, devastation can happen anywhere

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Maui has long been the go-to destination for millions to experience paradise. Life has changed.

Maui is now the site of the deadliest fire in modern U.S. history. At this writing, over 90 persons are been reported dead. The lovely town of Lahaina is nothing but charred remains and embers.

The news reports of people fleeing for their lives via any means of escape possible is horrific. People who were trying to escape in automobiles have been found unrecognizable except through eventual DNA testing. The entire island is now a humanitarian crisis. Medical supplies, food, and shelter are at crisis levels.

Like you, I've watched it from my television. Maui is a tragic global news story that no one wants to hear. Maui's story reminds us that devastation can happen anywhere. It was a hurricane that swept away Ft. Myers Beach last year. A Tornado and flood destroyed parts of Kentucky. Or, it may be the fires that have destroyed so much in Cali-

fornia. Maui reminds us that no paradise is untouchable.

You might feel safe and isolated in Appalachia. You may feel very comfortable in some remote Western terrain. You may live in a comfortable suburb or city surrounded by all types of Emergency Responders; you may be living in a tropical paradise. There are no guarantees that your community is insulated from disaster.

When a tornado, hurricane, or flood cripples a community there is nothing to do except pick up the pieces and try to start over. Likewise, Maui has no other choice but it will take years. There is no overnight recuperation for disaster.

There will be ongoing questions about Maui's emergency response abilities. What kind of fire department did Lahaina have? How often had they drilled and prepared for the possibility of a widespread fire? Was it even something that the island thought possible? As the smoke settles, these questions and more will be asked.

If you are reading this in the comfort and safety of your home

or apartment then consider this; value what you have when you have it. We all take the present for granted. We take our towns, schools, stores, jobs, incomes, residences, food, health, and each other for granted. We look back to the past and cherish a town that used to be. We cherish a parent or friend who used to be with us. We value and cherish old jobs and past experiences. It's good to cherish the past. However, why not look around you today and value what and who you have -- today.


In the meantime, we certainly pray for the hurting people of Maui. Most Americans will do what they can to be helpful and supportive. We always do. That's one of many reasons our country is so great and blessed.

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.

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Universal School Meals
\$171.5 million to provide universal school meals to all students free of charge, making Massachusetts the eighth state in the country to make the program permanent.

DiDomenico said this is a cru-

Abbie Doane-Simon, STEM Education Coordinator for Courageous Sailing, added: "We love giving our campers the opportunity to explore a new medium of self-expression and they always come up with the most beautifully ridiculous things. When you're stuck in the boring bits of life, campers making goateed faces, families of ducks, top hats, and even Sponge Bob, make it easy to relax a little and remember to be

\$18 million for a free community college pilot program for nurs-

"CPS is thrilled about the recent legislation that enacts free universal school meals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," read a statement from district administration. "Free school meals have been part of our school district for some time, and our students and families benefit immensely. We're happy to see that students across the state will now experience this fabulous initiative."

Visit www.navyyardgarden.org
for more information.

\$12 million for free community college implementation supports to collect necessary data, develop best practices, and build capacity for free community college in the fall of 2024.

For K-12 education, the FY24 budget meets the Legislature's commitment to the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) by investing \$6.59 billion in Chapter 70 funding, an increase of \$604 million over FY 2023 as well as doubling minimum Chapter 70 aid from \$30 to \$60 per pupil. This will increase Everett, Chelsea, Cambridge and Charlestown's school funding by millions of dollars this fiscal year.

This budget invests \$504.5 million for the special education (SPED) circuit breaker. This is an increase of over \$30 million from FY23 levels. This critical program supports school districts with special education costs and ensures we can invest the necessary funding so students of all abilities can get the best out of our school system.

\$232.6 million allotted for fiscal year 2024 reimbursements to certain cities, towns and regional school districts for charter school

The FY24 budget also provides access to in-state tuition for students without a documented immigration status. All students who have attended a Massachusetts high school for at least three years and graduated or obtained a GED in the state will qualify for in-state tuition rates at Massachusetts public colleges or universities, regardless of immigration status. Tuition equity will help accomplish the Commonwealth's goals of growing the middle class, building the state's workforce, and supporting the economy.

\$25M rate reserve

\$20.5M for CPPI grants (Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative, also known as preschool expansion)

\$50 million to create Green School Works, a competitive grant program for projects related to installation and maintenance of clean energy infrastructure at public schools. The program will be administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and preference will be given to schools serving low-income and environmental justice populations.



Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: Charlestown Zoning Office Hours

AUGUST

21

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link:bit.ly/PlanCharlestown0821

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 412 6003



Project/Planning Initiative Description:

The PLAN: Charlestown team is holding virtual office hours to discuss the proposed PLAN:Charlestown zoning amendments. Please stop by to chat, ask questions, or share your thoughts on the proposed zoning amendments for your neighborhood!

Monday 8/21 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

To attend the office hours, please use the Zoom link included here or visit the PLAN:

Charlestown webpage to find the Zoom link

PLAN: Charlestown webpage: bit.ly/3OsPAr2

mail to: **Astrid Walker-Stewart**
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One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4496

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website:
bit.ly/3OsPAr2

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Wu announces grants for energy assessments in affordable housing buildings

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) announced the launch of a grant program aimed at supporting deep green energy retrofits (GERs) and decarbonization efforts in existing affordable housing buildings. Mayor Wu initially announced her intention to launch this program in March. The City now has established funding for energy assessments for income-restricted residential buildings, which is the first step in facilitating significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions. This initiative, supported through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, aligns with the City of Boston's commitment to the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), which sets requirements for large buildings to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions gradually to net zero by 2050. Through this grant program, the City is seeking to further the Mayor's Green New Deal by creating cleaner affordable housing units to enhance the climate, livability and justice of Boston's communities.

"Creating clean homes and improving the health of our communities must be at the center of our climate action," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Mayor's Office of Housing for their leadership in our Green New Deal efforts to make Boston's buildings greener and more energy efficient."

"By supporting comprehensive energy assessments, we are empowering building owners to make informed decisions and take meaningful steps towards a sustainable and healthier future," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "This program aligns with our commitment to BERDO and reinforces our dedication to equity, affordability, and environmental stewardship. We are excited to partner with building owners and continue our efforts to create a more sustainable and healthy Boston."

As part of the support for deep energy retrofits and decarbonization efforts, building owners of affordable housing now have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. These funds will be allocated towards comprehensive energy assessments, which will enable building owners to evaluate the current performance of their buildings and develop strategies to achieve substantial energy savings and carbon emission reductions. This initiative will also allow the City to gain more insight into the specific measures that can be taken to significantly reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions in affordable housing.

By completing these comprehensive energy assessments, building owners will not only contribute to a greener environment but also enhance the safety, comfort, and sustainability for residents. Moreover, these assessments can serve as a roadmap offering building-specific strategies to comply with BERDO while providing building owners with valuable guidance. Building owners who complete the assessments will be well-positioned to apply for additional funding from MOH and other sources to implement the identified GER measures.

"We firmly believe that the residents of affordable housing in Boston should be the first to experience the transformative benefits of the Green New Deal," said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "This means providing them with cleaner and more comfortable buildings year-round. Our commitment to this program showcases our strategic utilization of ARPA funding to make targeted investments that enhance quality of life and promote equity. As we move forward, we will persist in our efforts to secure Federal climate funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, leveraging our early successes with ARPA funds. Together, we will continue to build a sustainable future that leaves no one behind."

The City anticipates that the comprehensive energy assessments can be scoped, completed, and with funds disbursed within 3-6 months of the grant award. After a thorough evaluation process, including eligibility confirmation under ARPA guidelines and suitability assessment, MOH received a total of 20 applications representing 56 buildings and 2,078 units across the city. After review, the Office of Housing will be awarding grants to all 20 applicants. The exact amount of funds to be disbursed will be determined based on the approved scopes of work. The Office of Housing will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis. To apply, please visit this link.

"With the Mayor's Office of Housing's support, 2Life Communities can begin to comprehensively plan for the future of Leventhal House, a 254-apartment building that has served hundreds of residents for more than 50 years," said Lizbeth Heyer, 2Life Communities' Vice President and Acting CEO. "These funds will allow our organization to explore greater energy efficiency and resiliency, a reduced environmental impact, and, most importantly, enhanced comfort for our residents at Leventhal House for years to come."

It is important to note that while not all the buildings represented are 100 percent affordable, MOH's grant funds will be proportionally allocated to each comprehensive energy assessment based on the number of eligible affordable units (affordable to households at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income).

The City is embedding the Green New Deal throughout City initiatives, making healthier and cleaner communities for all of our residents. In July, Mayor Wu signed an Executive Order (EO) Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in New Construction and Major Renovations of City Buildings. While the EO exempts projects already in procurement, design, or construction, it requires all new municipal buildings and major renovations to operate without fossil fuel usage.

Additionally, previously in March, Mayor Wu launched the Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program—an initiative under the Mayor's Office of Housing supported by \$10 million in ARPA funding. Today's

BPDA Income-restricted Rental Opportunity

The Canterbury
602 Canterbury Street
Roslindale, MA 02131

2 Income-Restricted Rental Units

# of Units	# of Bedrooms	Estimated Square Footage	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)
2	2-Bedroom	1,102	\$1,766	70%

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))		Maximum Incomes (set by BPDA + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))	
# of Bedrooms	Minimum Income 70% AMI	Household Size	Maximum Income 70% AMI
2-Bedroom	\$52,980	1	\$72,730
		2	\$83,160
		3	\$93,520
		4	\$103,880
		5	\$112,210
		6	\$120,540

Minimum incomes **do not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.**

Maximum Asset Limit

70% AMI
\$75,000

Does not include retirement. Does include Real Estate.

For more information, please visit: www.TheCanterburyLottery.com or contact us via email at TheCanterbury@MaloneyProperties.com or phone at (617) 639-3064 Ext 755 | US Relay 711.

Applications are available for 17 days, from Monday, August 14th, 2023 — Wednesday, August 30th, 2023.

To request an application online, visit: www.TheCanterburyLottery.com. To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 755 | US Relay 711 or email TheCanterbury@MaloneyProperties.com

Applications are also available in-person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)

Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	August 17 th	3 PM - 7 PM	Boston Public Library – Roslindale Branch 4246 Washington Street Boston, MA 02131
Saturday	August 19 th	10 AM - 2 PM	Boston Public Library – Roslindale Branch 4246 Washington Street Boston, MA 02131
Thursday	August 24 th	3 PM - 7 PM	Boston Public Library – Roslindale Branch 4246 Washington Street Boston, MA 02131
Saturday	August 26 th	10 AM - 2 PM	Boston Public Library – Roslindale Branch 4246 Washington Street Boston, MA 02131

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, August 30th, 2023**

Mailed to:

Maloney Properties, Inc.

27 Mica Lane

ATTN: The Canterbury Lottery

Wellesley, MA 02481

- Selection by Lottery. Asset & Use Restrictions Apply.
- Preference for Boston Residents.
- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom.

For more information, free language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 755 | US Relay 711 or email TheCanterbury@MaloneyProperties.com.

For more on BPDA program eligibility, please visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs>



Equal Housing Opportunity



Our commitment to this program showcases our strategic utilization of ARPA funding to make targeted investments that enhance quality of life and promote equity. As we move forward, we will persist in our efforts to secure Federal climate funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation

(HOUSING, Pg. 5)

Urban Wild opens at Hood Park

Urban Wild, the must-see, must-experience, must-return to entertainment venue is officially open! Located in Hood Park, a 20 acre, first-class urban campus located in the heart of Boston's Charlestown neighborhood, Urban Wild's indoor/outdoor entertainment complex provides an unparalleled guest experience designed to entertain millennials, young professionals and Gen Z alike. Featuring 14 state of the art bowling lanes, a live music stage, a 180-seat beer garden, an indoor and outdoor patio, shuffleboard, ping pong, lawn games, two giant bars, and a VIP and event lounge, Urban Wild is a total entertainment destination unlike any other.

From the moment guests enter the tunnel at Urban Wild's entrance, custom art installations hand-created by artist Wet Paint transports them into another dimension, reflecting the venue's vibrant and energy-filled atmosphere. Unique, one of a kind features pop up around every corner of the venue, from LED-lit bowling lanes with interactive SPARK digital gaming technology that allows you to play Angry Birds while simultaneously bowling to custom designer bowling shoes and merchandise designed in partnership with leading sneaker retail Concepts. At the venue's 48 seat main bar, guests can enjoy

sipping on Tik-Tok and Instagram worthy shareable cocktails served in custom retro coolers and sample elevated bar food favorites such as tuna poke nachos, crazy corn elote dip and smash burgers.

To further enhance the guest experience, starting in Fall 2023, Urban Wild's live music stage will feature music spinning from local DJs as well as live concert performances from local and national artists. An elegant lounge located adjacent to the stage is designed to entertain VIP bookings, private events and corporate gatherings ranging from 15-200 people.

Urban Wild is not just an indoor destination, the venue naturally extends into an outdoor patio which embodies a festival-like feel and features string lights, greenery, palm trees, ping pong, cornhole and other lawn games.

"There is something for everyone to enjoy at Urban Wild," said Katie Lofstrom, Marketing and Events Manager at Urban Wild. "Whether you are looking for a fun-filled spot to hang out with friends and enjoy great food and drink, a one-of-a kind bowling experience for your next corporate outing or a VIP destination for a bachelor or bachelorette party, Urban Wild is a place that you will want to come back to time and time again."



Urban Wild's live music stage will feature music spinning from local DJs as well as live concert performances from local and national artists.



The LED-lit bowling lanes with interactive SPARK digital gaming technology that allows you to play Angry Birds while simultaneously bowling.

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Wu calls for resident input to inform Boston's involvement on the MBTA board

Mayor Michelle Wu is seeking ideas and recommendations from residents to inform the City of Boston's representation on the MBTA Board. Earlier this month, the State Legislature and Governor passed a state budget that created a City of Boston seat on the Board of Directors of the MBTA, giving the City a direct role in the governance of the region's public transit system. Mayor Wu wants community to be a partner in building this new relationship with the MBTA to best reflect the needs of commuters and riders.

Boston's economic strength, community well-being, and cultural vibrancy depend on public transportation and the City is ready to partner on the urgent endeavor of building the quality transit that our entire region deserves. In the coming weeks, Mayor Wu will be considering candidates to serve on the Board of Directors, which

meets monthly and holds monthly subcommittee meetings. Click here to learn more about leadership at the MBTA.

Those interested in serving should be:

A resident of Boston

A public transit rider

Connected to communities of transit riders, including employees, customers, and students

Committed to high quality, reliable, and affordable public transportation as a core strategy of economic growth, cultural vibrancy, and quality of life.

The City is also asking residents and community members to help inform Boston's involvement on the MBTA Board. Residents can submit ideas and/or interest through this form by Monday, September 5th at 5 p.m. For more information, visit boston.gov/mbta-board

Wu announces expansion of the Swim Safe program

Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston's Human Services Cabinet, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families announced applications are now open for Swim Safe Boston grants to support non-profit organizations in Boston that provide free aquatics programming to residents. The grant funding follows a successful launch of the Swim Safe program announced this summer. Demand for free swim lessons has been high, demonstrating the need for an expansion of the Swim Safe campaign. Through these grants, the city is allocating additional funding to offer year-round capacity, especially for beginner-level swim lessons.

Additionally, the City is acting with urgency to renovate several city-owned pools, many of which were built in the 1970s. Mayor Wu has made an unprecedented commitment to aquatics programming by commissioning a first-ever citywide evaluation of aquatics infrastructure with the goal of expediting the improvements needed to get city pools back open. In addition to the assessment, this fiscal year, Mayor Wu allocated

\$34.3 million in the FY24-FY28 capital plan for repairing and renovating the city's pools.

"Swimming is a life skill that goes beyond the summer months, so we're thrilled to be able to expand the Swim Safe lessons year-round," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I encourage all community partners offering aquatics programming to apply for these grants so we can continue growing this successful initiative. By eliminating financial barriers to lessons and investing in our pool facilities, we're making Boston a safer, more fun place for families."

Interested Swim Safe grant applicants should carefully review the application materials and fill out this form to be considered for a Swim Safe grant. Awardees must be non-profit organizations that operate aquatics facilities that are located in the City of Boston. The maximum award that will be considered for this opportunity is \$150,000. The grant application will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023.

Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore:

Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The funding to support swim instruction builds off the Mayor's commitment to ensure all Boston kids learn to swim and can safely enjoy our City's coastline and pools.

"The Swim Safe Boston grant program will help ensure that our partners have year-round support to help meet the high demand for swim lessons in Boston," said Human Services Chief José F. Massó. "We are excited to see so much enthusiasm for swimming and we want to continue the momentum generated this summer into the school-year."

As a coastal city with numerous pools and natural bodies of water, Boston families have an array of opportunities to enjoy water recreation. Swim Safe is focused on removing barriers to water access and increasing safety among Boston residents. Nationally, fatal drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 years old and the second leading cause of injury death for children ages

5-14 (CDC). Black and Latino youth are less likely to know how to swim and therefore are at higher risk of drowning (CDC).

The City of Boston is seeking to remedy this disparity by investing in swim lessons, repairing the city's public pools, and recruiting and training lifeguards to staff the city's pools. The grant program announced today will be available to organizations that operate pools in Boston and have experience offering programming to the public. Swim lessons will be prioritized for funding, though other free aquatics programming is also eligible for Swim Safe grant support.

"I'm a mom of five year old twin boys and grateful for the opportunity to get them comfortable and safe in the water," said Elizabeth Lendor, whose twin boys are learning to swim at BCYF Hennigan Community Center. "With paid swim programs at capacity in and around the City of Boston, it's nothing short of a miracle that we were able to get a spot for both boys and for free!"

"Boston Centers for Youth

& Families is excited to be able to offer funding to support our aquatics partners across the city," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families. "Together, we operate pools in every neighborhood and will use this partnership to offer free and accessible aquatics programming to Boston's families."

The City of Boston is working across departments to renovate several of our city-owned pools, following years of disinvestment. Over the last 3 months, the City has reopened the BCYF Paris Street Pool in East Boston and the BCYF Hennigan Pool in Jamaica Plain. The BCYF Paris Street Pool reopening was the result of a \$10.2 million investment, featuring an open, airy main entrance and lobby, fully renovated changing rooms, a new pool filter room, mechanical and electrical upgrades, building interior and exterior repairs, and other upgrades making it a more inviting and user-friendly space.

Suffolk Downs announces new summer and fall activities at the track

The HYM Investment Group LLC (HYM), the firm leading the redevelopment of Suffolk Downs, announced an exciting line-up of activities taking place at The Track at Suffolk Downs throughout the summer and fall months. From kid-friendly "Tracktivities" to the electronic dance music festival Breakaway, there will be something for everyone to enjoy at The Track.

Over the past several years, HYM has hosted numerous community-centered events at The Track, as part of the company's commitment to creatively activating the site throughout the multi-phased build-out of Suffolk Downs. Since 2021, HYM has also opened The Track to the public from dawn to dusk daily for residents and visitors looking to walk, run and play. The Dog Park at Suffolk Downs, located directly adjacent to The Track, opened last year and is available for residents, visitors and their four-legged friends to enjoy.

"Suffolk Downs will be a place that brings people together and creates community," said Thomas N. O'Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HYM. "The ongoing events

and activities taking place at The Track are an integral component of bringing our vision for an accessible, vibrant site to life."

Upcoming activities for residents and visitors to look forward to at The Track include:

Summer Tracktivities:

Suffolk Downs is partnering with Out of the Box Learning Company to offer free programming for kids at The Track this summer.

Join us in the Paddock from 10am - 12pm on Thursdays in August for hands-on science experiments, games, challenges, and more!

These events are free to attend but registration is required as staffing and supplies are limited to 40 children per event. Events are appropriate for children ages 3 and up and children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event. Events are weather dependent, and registrants will be emailed if events are canceled.

Touch a Truck:

On Sunday, September 10th, Suffolk Downs will host its 3rd Annual Touch a Truck event! Walk along The Track for an up-close view of tractors, trucks, diggers,

police cars, and fire engines. Sit in the seats, honk the horns, and take your picture on the front end! Enjoy activities in the Paddock, visit the food trucks, and jam out to music. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Breakaway

Music Festival:

On Friday September 15, and Saturday, September 16, The Stage at Suffolk Downs, a seasonal outdoor concert venue located on the infield of The Track, will host the Breakaway Music Festival, a two-day electronic dance music festival featuring artists such as Griz, Lane 8 and Porter Robinson! For tickets and more information please visit The Stage at Suffolk Down's website.

Dock Dogs:

On Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, Dock Dogs, the world's premiere canine aquatics competition, is coming to Suffolk Downs! To learn more and to register visit the Dock Dogs website.

Follow Suffolk Down's social channels and website for more information about The Track and upcoming events.

The Parish Families of St. Mary - St. Catherine of Siena & St. Francis de Sales

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

Monthly food distributions take place on the second Saturday at 10:00AM, and last Tuesday at 6:00PM.

We are so thankful for generous community support

Director, Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Cooking with restraint

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There's been a flavorful bonus from the move to eat healthier, sustainable food. Changing from ultra-processed foods to simple whole foods, you learn to enjoy nature's unique flavors. This leads to a more restrained approach to making and presenting food. This time of year, we can make a lunch of sweetcorn and tomatoes with very little added to these summer superstars. A bit of olive oil or butter and a sprinkle of salt is all we need.

Real Food, Fewer Ingredients

To quote Jamie Oliver, "Real food doesn't have ingredients; real food is ingredients." Oliver has been one of the leaders in cooking with restraint. His cookbooks like, "5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food" and "5 Ingredients Mediterranean: Simple Incredible Food" celebrate using fewer ingredients in more straightforward ways and enjoying the full flavors of the best food you can find.

The "Five Ingredient Rule" has recently become a trendy food and diet theme. In some cases, creators of simplified recipes will allow a few basic additions like a fat, an acid, salt, and pepper. This rule is also a good guideline if you buy prepared foods. If the ingredient list is long and contains chemicals

and additives, look for a better choice.

Some find that eating more 5-ingredient meals helps with weight control. It makes sense since we know that ultra-processed and junk foods are significant factors in the obesity epidemic.

Craveable Food!

We love reading menus where the chef has used few ingredients, and we can imagine how something will taste. A recent example is the crab toast at Little Whale on Newbury Street in Boston. It's avocado toast with a generous portion of crab, a sprinkle of Aleppo pepper, and fresh dill. Penny confirmed that it did not have an unwelcome dose of mayonnaise that many chefs add to many recipes. It didn't and has become a dish we crave and enjoy often.

Fewer ingredients mean you have less chance of including something your diners can't have or don't like. Buying fewer, high-quality ingredients means less food waste. When you pay a premium for the best, you tend to buy exactly as much as you need and use it immediately.

Seasonality

Another way to show restraint in cooking is to take advantage of seasonal foods. When you shop at a farmers market and take home



This crab toast is a perfect example of using the best you can buy and knowing when to stop adding ingredients to a dish.

fresh foods from the field, pasture, or ocean, they have more flavor and nutrition. Limiting what you add to the dish can let the fresh taste shine.

In spring, we often have a big plate of asparagus roasted with olive oil, salt, pepper, and a squeeze of lemon. In the fall, we roast sheet pans of root vegetables and squash with the same preparation. These become the center of our plates, with a few slices of leftover turkey

or a piece of fish on the side.

When we buy fish at the market, we cook it simply. Scallops sautéed in butter with seasoning and lemon are a perfect plate of food. Penny will top a piece of salmon with ginger, scallion, soy sauce, and sesame oil and roast it in foil packets for a restaurant-quality dinner.

There are instances when a cook has the time and wants to spend an afternoon creating a complex

curry or multi-sauced lasagna. However, for everyday meals that are healthy and delicious, we recommend editing the ingredients and letting natural flavors step into the spotlight.

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

Steps to enhance home safety ahead of a wildfire event

The state of Hawaii has been devastated by extensive wildfire activity that has scorched thousands of acres and destroyed nearly 300 structures in Maui County, forcing thousands to seek emergency shelter, injuring dozens, and killing at least 36 people in the historic town of Lahaina, according to news reports.

The relentless tally of losses makes it increasingly clear that the U.S. is facing a deep wildfire problem. Today there are nearly 45 million homes in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). According to the National Interagency Fire Center, some 71.8 million properties in the U.S. are at some level of risk from wildfire. Each year some of the largest-loss fires occur in the WUI.

In the past five years, wildfires have destroyed nearly 63,000 structures in the U.S., the majority of which were homes. Record high temperatures, crippling drought,

and high winds from severe weather events such as thunder and lightning storms have been blamed for the recent increase in wildfire activity in Canada, Europe, and in high-risk areas across the U.S. Officials predict more wildfires will erupt in the coming months due to continued dry heat and increased storm activity, prompting residents to look for information on what they can do to reduce their risk before a wildfire.

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has many resources for reporters to assist their coverage of wildfire events, including valuable information for the public and community leaders working to help reduce the risk of losing homes and communities to wildfire damage.

As media outlets continue to cover wildfire activity and its related issues, NFPA resources that may support your news coverage

include:

Expert interviews regarding wildfire safety preparedness, community activities, firefighting, and statistical data:

- Michele Steinberg, Wildfire Division Director at NFPA, oversees national policy, development regulations, and community safety, and supports wildfire-related projects that cover a broad spectrum of safety education, advocacy, training, and certification.
- Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan is a program specialist, responsible for the management of the Firewise USA® recognition program.
- Curt Floyd, NFPA senior specialist, technical lead, Engineering Technical Services, oversees NFPA standards that address the needs of the fire service and emergency responders.
- Birgitte Messerschmidt is the director of the NFPA Applied Research Group, responsible for

NFPA's research strategy, research on fire problems and other safety issues, data collection efforts, and the NFPA research library.

Subject matter expertise:

- Steps residents can take to enhance home safety ahead of a wildfire event.
- How wildfire spreads and why we must adapt to living with wildfire.
- Simple, but effective steps people can take to reduce the chances of wildfire damage to homes and property.
- Information about the Firewise USA® recognition program that empowers residents to work collaboratively in reducing wildfire risks.
- Information about Outthink Wildfire™, a comprehensive strategy that lays out five key policy changes that need to be made at the federal, state, and local levels and if followed, will end the

destruction of communities by wildfire over the next 30 years.

• Facts every resident should know about protecting themselves and lowering their risk of property loss from wildfire.

Additional information, resources, and articles:

- Prepare Your Home for Wildfire Fact Sheet
 - Home Ignition Zone Checklist
 - Wildfire Preparedness Tips
 - NFPA/IBHS Wildfire Research Fact Sheet Series
 - Blog: Clearing the Five-Foot Zone Around Your Home is Critical to Safety from Wildfires
 - NFPA Journal, May 2023 Wildfire Column: Inflection Point
- For additional resources and information, and to learn more about how to keep families safe and reduce homeowners' risk for wildfire damage, please visit NFPA's wildfire division webpage.

BPHC shares respiratory virus guidance ahead of back-to-school season

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), is encouraging everyone to prepare for the upcoming cold and flu season as students get ready to go back to school in the coming weeks amid a nationwide uptick in COVID-19 cases.

The average level of COVID-19 particles in Boston's wastewater has increased over the past few weeks (569 RNA copies/mL as of July 30); however, new weekly COVID-19 related hospitalizations are still low (35 through August 5). These increases are not cause for immediate concern but are important to be aware of with back-to-school season, cooler temperatures, and cold and flu season all approaching.

"Preparation is key when planning for a new school year and the

changing of the seasons. Cold and flu season always poses a risk, but there are several steps we can all take to protect ourselves and others, including vaccination," said

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "Everyone in your household should be up to date on vaccinations to reduce the risk of severe illness this season."

BPHC reminds residents that the City experienced a high level of flu activity last year, the highest in three years, and that flu season will likely begin in October. As families prepare to send their children back-to-school, BPHC

is reminding them of the ways they can stay safe and healthy and avoid missed days of schools amid the rising spread of COVID-19,

and likely spread of the flu and RSV in the fall and winter.

Most importantly, BPHC strongly recommends that all families stay up to date with their vaccines for COVID-19, flu, and other diseases, such as pertussis, measles, and varicella. We recommend that everyone ages 6-months and older get their annual flu shot in September or October. Families should plan ahead and schedule flu shot appointments with their trusted health care providers or at a local pharmacy.

The FDA and CDC are expected to issue approvals for updated COVID-19 vaccines and schedules in the coming weeks. BPHC will provide recommendations after reviewing the latest guidance. In the meantime, everybody should take the following steps to protect

themselves and their loved ones from getting sick with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses by:

- Having COVID-19 rapid testing kits available at home to test if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

- Staying home when sick and wearing a mask if you are around others while ill or in public

- Talking to your trusted health-care provider about treatment if you test positive for COVID-19 or flu and are at high risk for severe disease.

- Wearing a well-fitting face mask, especially in crowded indoor settings if you are at high risk of severe illness (e.g., unvaccinated or moderately to severely immunocompromised)

- Washing your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20

seconds.

- Regularly disinfecting and cleaning high touch surfaces.

COVID-19 vaccines and testing are still available throughout the city. BPHC operates two standing clinics at the Bruce C. Bolling Building in Roxbury and City Hall that offer free COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and rapid at-home testing kits which can be taken on site. BPHC has also partnered with several community-based organizations to create rapid at-home testing kit distribution hubs in neighborhoods across Boston. More information about distributions hubs is available on the BPHC website.

Department of Public Health launches statewide survey to improve community health

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is offering Commonwealth residents an opportunity to shape the future health of their communities through a statewide survey aimed at collecting input on the challenges their communities face and where resources should be directed.

DPH's Community Health Equity Initiative will use the survey findings to build on the state's efforts to provide access to social and economic opportunities that keep people healthy, like affordable housing, reliable transportation, and nutritious, affordable food.

The 2023 Community Health Equity Survey was co-designed with residents and community partners across the state and examines the root causes of health

outcomes to identify community strengths, gaps, health needs, concerns, inequities, and unintended consequences related to public health crises.

"To improve the health of people in Massachusetts, we need to hear from everyone, including the communities and individuals who have been too long denied an equal chance at health," said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. "We know Black and Brown communities have historically faced barriers to health, as have those who are disabled and many who were not born in this country. These communities have traditionally been left out of the conversation. It is especially important for their voices and experiences to be heard."

DPH will use the survey results to improve its programs, make

decisions about funding and resources, and support policies to improve health inequities. Survey results will be made available to the public and community-based organizations so they can use the findings to better serve community needs.

Residents will be asked to answer questions on topics such as:

- Access to basic needs, like health care and transportation
- Physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Experiences with COVID-19
- Experiences with housing, education, and work
- Demographic information, such as age, gender, and race.

The Community Health Equity Survey is anonymous, does not ask for identifying information such as immigration status, and cannot be

connected back to residents in any way.

DPH wants to hear from a broad range of Commonwealth residents, including people and communities often disproportionately affected by health emergencies. Surveys are especially needed from people experiencing housing insecurity, frontline workers, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ+, older adults (aged 60+), parents and caregivers of children with special health care needs, people who are pregnant, rural residents, people who speak a primary language other than English, parents under 25, young people (aged 14 to 24), veterans, and immigrants. Vital to the effectiveness of the survey is the participation of people representing racial/ethnic groups disproportionately impacted by health emergen-

cies, including American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic/Latino/Latine residents.

The survey opened July 31, 2023, and it will be available through early fall 2023. Anyone aged 14 and older can take the survey. It takes approximately 15 to 25 minutes to complete and is available in 11 languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (simplified), Chinese traditional, English, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The survey will also be available in American Sign Language later this summer.

To participate in this online survey, visit <https://www.mass.gov/chei>.



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National Grid reminds all to call 811 before starting any digging or excavation project

Serving as a crucial reminder for customers to contact 811 before digging, August 11 marked National 811 Safe Digging Day. To observe the occasion, National Grid was reminding customers and contractors nationwide to call 811 before starting any digging or excavation project (no matter how big or small) to have underground utility lines properly marked. Dig Safe® is a free service funded solely by its utility members to promote public safety and avoid costly underground utility damage.

An underground utility line is damaged every few minutes because someone decided to dig without first contacting 811. Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in severe injury or death, inconvenient service disruptions, and costly fines and repairs. Hitting underground gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer lines while digging can have a major impact on communities and businesses. Making a free request before digging online at www.811beforeyoudig.com or by calling 811 will help everyone

who digs maintain essential utility service for their communities while keeping themselves and their neighbors safe by reducing the likelihood of accidentally digging into buried utility lines.

“On August 11 and throughout the year, National Grid wants to remind homeowners and professional contractors alike to use the free 811 service before digging to keep themselves, their family, and community safe by reducing the risk of striking an underground utility line,” said Caroline Hon, Senior Vice President of Network Strategy and Planning, National Grid U.S. “Calling 811 or visiting www.811beforeyoudig.com is the only way to know which utilities are buried in your area so that you can dig safely and keep your community safe and connected. Safe digging is critical in ensuring the safety of our employees, the public, and local communities that we proudly serve daily.”

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. It’s not only the safe and smart thing to do – it’s the law! A call to 811 is the best safeguard

and the first line of defense to preventing strikes on underground utility lines. The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects, and uneven surfaces. Utility lines must be appropriately marked in each previously marked location to avoid risk.

As part of National Safe Digging Day, National Grid encourages everyone to take the following steps when planning a digging project this summer:

- Always contact 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Make a free 811 request on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don’t allow work

to begin if the lines aren’t marked.

- Visit www.811beforeyoudig.com for complete information.


Everyone who contacts 811 before digging is connected to a local 811 center that will take the caller’s information and communicate it to local utility companies. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags, or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas. The service is easy to use and free of charge.

State laws mandate that 811 must be contacted a few days before beginning projects requiring excavation. Failure to call 811 may be punishable by fines, which in some states can be as high as \$1,000 for a first offense and \$10,000 for subsequent violations.

National Grid works closely with local fire and police departments; with their strong support, people are calling before they dig. Calling 811 can avoid an incident that requires police and fire response.

Additional Resources:

- Massachusetts: Call 811 or 1-888-DIG-SAFE (344-7233) | digsafe.com
 - Metro New York, Long Island, and the Rockaways: Call 811 or 1-800-272-4480 | newyork-811.com
 - Upstate New York: Call 811 or 1-800-962-7962 | UDigNY.org
 - When It Comes to 811, There’s No Kidding Around – National Grid Safety video
- National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future — transforming our networks with more reliable and resilient energy solutions to meet state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
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James

“Cricket”

Dillon

August 13, 1969 - November 5, 1992

No matter how I spend the day,
No matter what I do,
Each night before I go to bed,
I always think of you.
And though you’re far away from me
In a very special land,
I know some day I’ll be with you
And finally hold your hand.

Dad

Boston Centers for Youth & Families to host two lifeguard hiring events

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is hosting two free lifeguard hiring events on Wednesday, August 23 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Monday, August 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BCYF Mason Pool in Roxbury. Any Boston residents with valid lifeguard certification who are interested in working as a lifeguard at a BCYF pool are invited to attend one of the events.

The lifeguard hiring events will combine all the necessary steps to become a lifeguard for a City of Boston pool in one location. These include a swim evaluation, skill evaluation, interview, and paperwork processing. Full-time and part-time positions are available as well as Head Lifeguard positions.

BCYF lifeguard positions start at \$22/hour and all lifeguards, even those who work part-time hours, are eligible for all the benefits available to City of Boston employees, including generous health, dental and retirement benefits as well as paid vacation. With pools located in almost every neighborhood of Boston, working at a BCYF pool is a great way to serve your community.

Interested candidates must be at least 18 years old and should bring the following: at least two references, contact information we can follow up on, a state ID or license, and American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification. Proof of Boston residency will be required later in the application process. We

recommend signing up at this link: bit.ly/BCYFLifeguardHiringEvent. However walk-ins are welcome. If you are interested and can’t stop by, more information about lifeguarding at BCYF as well as the link to apply can be found at Boston.gov/BCYF-Aquatics.

BCYF Mason Pool is located at 159 Norfolk Ave in Roxbury. Parking is available next to the pool or on nearby streets or it’s a short walk up Proctor Street from any of the buses that serve Massachusetts Avenue.

The City of Boston is working across departments to renovate several city-owned pools following years of disinvestment. Over the last 3 months, the City has reopened the BCYF Paris Street Pool in East Boston and the BCYF Hennigan Pool in Jamaica Plain. The BCYF Paris Street Pool reopening was the result of a \$10.2 million investment. More pools will be reopened in the coming months and this hiring event is seeking lifeguards to help staff them and other BCYF pools.

Lifeguard recruitment and pool renovations are part of Mayor Wu’s Swim Safe initiative, a commitment to support Boston residents’ safety around water.

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BWSC announces free lead pipe replacement for Boston property owners

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) announced that it now offers private lead service lines replacement at no cost to property owners, a move that is expected to accelerate BWSC's intensive efforts to make Boston lead pipe free. Funding from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will defray the costs of the initiative and enable Boston to replace remaining private lead service lines for free.

"Some ratepayers had rightly been concerned about their share of lead replacement costs, but all financial barriers have now been eliminated," stated BWSC Executive Director Henry

F. Vitale. "Property owners with lead service lines should call BWSC and schedule to have these lines removed and replaced."

With its existing Lead Service Replacement Incentive program, BWSC has long been a national leader in private lead service line replacement and has removed

thousands over the last three decades. Most recently, BWSC offered private property owners grants up to \$4,000 for lead service pipe removal, an amount that often covers the entire job or leaves a balance that can be repaid interest free. For various reasons some owners were left with larger remaining costs to remove their lead service pipes, especially those whose properties are set back from the street, a situation that increases lead pipe replacement costs. Now, Boston property owners who would like to take advantage of this no-cost program are urged to call the BWSC Lead Hotline for assistance at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's Lead Service Map at:

<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map>

to look up information the Commission may have on the status of their property.

At the source of supply, Bos-

ton's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's nor BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead. Lead can enter the drinking water when water remains standing in a lead service line for long periods of time. Also, lead

solder used in plumbing, and older brass fixtures can contribute to lead in drinking water.

Replacement of private lead service lines is an important public health issue because excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to participate in the new No Cost Lead Replacement Incentive Program, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline (617) 989-7888.

BPDA (from pg. 1)

Street will be affordable units.

At last week's online meeting, Rushfeldt and the development team from RISE highlighted the minor design changes the project has undergone in the past several months.

IAG members were generally supportive of the plan, but still raised questions about the traffic impact the project will have on busy Charlestown streets and the use of green space associated with the project.

Mike Messina, the project manager from RISE, highlighted the proposed mitigation and community benefits of the project, as well as the transportation demand management measures that will be in place. Among the highlights of the transportation plan is a proposed shuttle bus service that could be operated along with other major developers in Charlestown that would be free of charge to all neighborhood residents.

The project also includes "the creation of 1.6 acres of publicly accessible open space, both activated and passive, and that includes the 89 Cambridge St. (lot)," said Messina. "We want that final design to be one the community supports and uses."

Messina said there will be the investment of millions of dollars in roadway improvements along

Cambridge, Roland, and Crescent streets among other areas.

The 25,000 square feet of subsidized community retail space will meet the needs of local businesses and the community by helping the local business community and providing needed services for residents.

The project also preserves the historic nature of the Sullivan Square neighborhood, both with the use and rehabilitation of the existing 24 Roland St. building and incorporating an historic wall and other features at 40 Roland St.

In addition to the proposed shuttle service partnership with the developers of 66 Cambridge St., 1 Mystic Ave., and 425 Medford St., Messina said there are a number of other transportation mitigation measures included in the project. Those include Bluebike membership subsidies for tenants of the new buildings, bus shelter upgrades along Cambridge Street, and low parking ratios for the buildings on the site.

Several IAG members said they appreciated the work that has gone into the project, but that there still needed to be safety upgrades, especially for pedestrians on some of the streets around Cambridge Street.

"We need to push to get raised crosswalks on Brighton and Park-

er," said Steve Jenal. "Living in this neighborhood, we need to push for more safety for traffic coming through our neighborhoods."

Nancy Johnson said she appreciated the work that had gone into revising the plans for the project over the past several years.

"I particularly appreciate the integration of the existing buildings into the design," said Johnson.

Brian Callahan suggested the developers work with the historical society in Charlestown, especially in some of the designated open spaces, to identify and mark some of the long history of the area.

"The last person killed in the Battle of Lexington and Concord happened on Cambridge Street in the village when a British soldier heading into Charlestown proper shot a young man standing at a window," said Callahan.

Like several other IAG members, Callahan also asked that the developers work with the community now and in the future to help mitigate the traffic that comes through the residential streets.

Several IAG members said they also supported a plan for a sign or public art that would delineate the project in Charlestown from the nearby Somerville boundary.

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Healey calls for shelter support for new migrant families arriving in Massachusetts

Governor Maura T. Healey declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in Massachusetts in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability in the state. The declaration serves as a notice to the federal government and the Commonwealth that the state's shelter system is rapidly expanding capacity in an unsustainable manner, and that further assistance is urgently needed. There are currently nearly 5,600 families or more than 20,000 individuals in state shelter, including children and pregnant women.

In a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Governor Healey pointed to work authorizations as a primary driver of the crisis. She called on the federal government to

take urgent action to streamline and expedite work authorizations and increase funding to states to assist in providing shelter and services to families. She called on bipartisan leaders in Congress to address outdated and punitive immigration laws. She also called on the cities and towns, charities, advocates, faith organizations and providers to continue to partner with the administration to meet the need for shelter and work. Information about how the public can help is available at mass.gov/sheltercrisis. Anyone who can offer assistance should contact the state at shelterhelp@mass.gov or by dialing 211, which will be monitored by MEMA.

The administration recently launched the Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) program, which provides case management, legal services and other support for families

in state shelters. This program, not yet replicated in any other state, is providing an unprecedented level of legal support toward asylum, work authorization, and other legal steps to help new arrivals integrate into Massachusetts. The state is also working to establish new and innovative pathways for new arrivals to secure work. The Massachusetts federal delegation also recently wrote to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Ur M. Jaddou urging them to expedite and streamline the work authorization process.

"State employees and our partners have been miracle workers throughout this crisis—going above and beyond to support families and using every tool at their disposal to expand shelter capacity by nearly 80 percent in the last year. But in recent months, demand has increased to levels that our emergency shelter system cannot keep up with, especially as the number of families leaving shelter has dwindled due to a lack of affordable housing options and barriers to securing work," said Governor Maura Healey. "I am declaring a state of emergency in Massachusetts and urging my partners in the federal government to take the action we need to address this crisis by streamlining the work authorization process and passing comprehensive immigration reform. Many of the new arrivals to our state desperately want to work, and we have historic workforce demands across all industries. I am also calling on all of our partners—from cities and towns to the faith community, philanthropic organizations, and human service providers—to rise to this challenge and do whatever you can to help us meet this moment."

"Our Emergency Assistance system is designed to be a temporary, emergency safety-net program. It is not equipped to handle the demand that we have seen in recent months. While we have made herculean efforts to expand capacity as much as possible, we've reached a point where the expansion is unsustainable," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We know what it will take to truly address the root causes of this emergency—rapidly increasing housing production across the state and implementing comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, including work authorizations. We invite our partners in the federal government and across the Commonwealth to join us in advancing these solutions and supporting all families in Massachusetts."

In her letter, the Governor point-

ed to several primary drivers of this emergency, including federal policies on immigration and work authorizations, inadequate production of affordable housing over the last decade, and the end of COVID-era food and housing security programs. As a result, the demand for emergency shelter in Massachusetts has skyrocketed over the past year. Today, nearly 5,600 families, including very young children and pregnant women, are living in emergency shelter, many of whom are migrants who recently arrived in Massachusetts. That's up from around 3,100 families a year ago. Meanwhile, the number of families leaving emergency shelter for safe, permanent housing has dwindled, in large part due to a lack of affordable housing options.

"Teams of people from EOHHS have worked with our colleagues across state government relentlessly pursuing creative ways to provide essential resources for families in need, many of whom are new arrivals to Massachusetts," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh. "We are committed to supporting these resilient families as they find new opportunities in our state."

"Over the past year, the teams at EOHLC have been able to expand emergency shelter capacity and support more families than ever before. But now we confront significant challenges. Our service provider partners are stretched beyond their means, and it has become increasingly difficult to add new shelter units to our EA portfolio," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "The health and well-being of the families in emergency shelter are our first responsibility and we will continue to place eligible families when units become available. I thank the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor for leading an empathetic and collaborative approach to addressing this crisis, and I thank the communities and shelter service providers who have partnered with us in this incredible, ongoing effort."

The administration also announced that the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and The Boston Foundation have launched the Massachusetts Migrant Families Relief Fund to help ensure that new arrivals in Massachusetts have their essential needs met. More information can be found at unitedwaymassbay.org/migrantrelief. The Fund will:

- Rapidly deploy emergency financial assistance through our trusted network of human services and shelter organizations in the Commonwealth to ensure individuals, children, and families have

access to essential needs (temporary accommodations food, clothing, diapers, hygiene items, transportation).

- Fund livelihood opportunities and assistance such as health screenings, translation services, legal assistance, work authorizations, ESOL classes, and other socio-economic and cultural integration supports.

- Support the local community-based organizations providing direct services on already-stretched budgets and staff resources.

"As we face this unprecedented stress on our shelter system, we must embrace our collective responsibility to care for those individuals and families in need of housing and support, and to work in partnership with cities, towns and civic and community organizations leading this work," said M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of The Boston Foundation. "We are honored to join the Healey Administration, the United Way and the roster of community leaders who are tirelessly working to ensure the dignity, safety, and health and wellbeing of these new arrivals."

"We are committed to demonstrating we are a welcoming place for our newest arrivals and to connecting them to the resources and support needed to work and thrive," said Bob Giannino, President and CEO at United Way of Massachusetts Bay. "By working together, we can ensure every person in Massachusetts has their essential needs met and is treated with the dignity and respect we would all want for our own families. We are proud to stand with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and The Boston Foundation to mobilize and distribute resources with urgency and compassion to address this humanitarian crisis."

Since taking office in January, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has taken a whole-of-government approach and utilized every resource at its disposal to expand shelter capacity and support families. The administration created a standalone housing secretariat and dramatically expanded staff and resources dedicated to address this crisis. The Emergency Assistance system spread to more than 80 communities, added thousands of new units of emergency assistance housing, launched new shelter sites, including activating 50 National Guard Members at Joint Base Cape Cod, and created Family Welcome Centers to serve as central intake centers to connect families with shelter and services. Despite these efforts, demand has continued to rise at a pace that the Emergency Assistance system cannot sustain.

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