



THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## Upcoming Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival discussed at CSN meeting

By Dan Murphy

Details of the next month's second annual Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival were discussed during the virtual Aug. 2 monthly meeting of Chester Square Neighbors.

The free, self-described "festival like no other," again made possible by a collaborative effort that includes the four neighborhood associations comprising the coalition – CSN, along with the Claremont Neighborhood Association, the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association, and the

Worcester Square Neighborhood Association – is set to return on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, to Chester Square on both sides of Massachusetts Avenue between Tremont Street and Shawmut Avenue. (Two carriage ways will be closed for the event this year, as opposed to only one last year, said Carol Blair, president of CSN.)

While last year's festival featured a four-piece jazz ensemble, this year's musical entertainment will be provided by Ron Reid,

(CSN Pg. 3)

## SUMMER SCENES ON THE ESPLANADE



D. MURPHY PHOTOS  
Shown above, a view of the Charles River from the Esplanade on Sunday, Aug. 6. Shown to the left and right, kayakers on the Esplanade's Storrow Lagoon.



## Japanese restaurant poised to open in former B.Good space on Boylston Street

By Dan Murphy

A Japanese restaurant chain is poised to open its first U.S. location in the street-level Boylston Street storefront formerly occupied by a B.Good location, representatives for the proposed establishment said during the virtual monthly meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) License and Building Use Committee Meeting on Monday, Aug. 7.

Japan-based Food & Life Companies, which operates more than 1,000 restaurant locations throughout Asia, including

600 stores in Japan, intends to open Sugidama Back Bay at 665 Boylston St. Its menu offerings will include sashimi and cold appetizers; tofu dishes; tempura; hot appetizers, such as deep-fried fish and egg pudding; sushi; and a selection of sake and sake cocktails, said Yosuke Tanaka of Food & Life Companies.

"It's not fine dining, but it's sit-down dining," added Tanaka.

Attorney Dennis Quilty said the applicant would have two hearings with the city – one for the zoning relief that would allow the restaurant to operate, as well as to offer takeout (the

restaurant would be primarily a casual, seated establishment but also offer "incidental" takeout, said Quilty); and another hearing to request a wine-and-cordials license for the site.

Additionally, the applicant is seeking to change the restaurant's closing time to midnight, seven days a week, (from B.Good's previous closing time at this location of 8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday), said Quilty, as well as to increase the restaurants total occupancy from around 60 to 90. (The exist-

(SUGIDAMA BACK BAY Pg. 3)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The proposed future home of Sugidama Back Bay at 665 Boylston St.



# EDITORIAL

## DID YOU LIKE BARBIE?

Barbie, the blockbuster movie that is this year's mass culture phenomenon, has drawn a mixed reaction from critics and the public alike.

Some love it -- they're the ones who have gone multiple times to see the movie -- while others either have shrugged their shoulders, "It was okay...." or have been outright hostile to it.

It is both surprising, but not shocking, that Barbie has grossed more than a billion dollars. While it has had the good fortune to come out in a summer of fairly-boring movies, it also undeniably is a film that is like no other in recent memory. It appeals to young and old alike, featuring an all-star, multi-generational cast, including two of Hollywood's Most Beautiful People (Ryan Gosling and Margot Robbie), Rhea Perlman, Issa Rae, Kate McKinnon, Dua Lipa (in a cameo role), Will Ferrell, America Ferrera, Simu Liu, and Helen Mirren (as the Narrator).

For those of us of an older generation, Barbie brings to mind the Wizard of Oz (though the plot of Barbie is the reverse of Dorothy's journey from reality to fantasy), both on a superficial level (the bright visuals and use of music) and its deeper meaning (the loss of innocence).

Barbie is not without its flaws and, as with any work of art, has its proponents and detractors. However, it undeniably is just plain fun and accomplishes the goal of every great summertime movie -- it transports us to another world for two hours in an air-conditioned theatre, far removed from the searing heat and troubles of the world outside.

## HAVE WE REACHED THE TIPPING POINT?

The steady stream of news reports this summer about the ever-worsening effects of climate change have been depressing, ranging from the 100% loss of coral reefs off the Florida Keys (because water temperatures have reached 100 degrees), to the unprecedented floods in China, to the daily heat records in the American Southwest (where people are being treated for serious, third-degree burns if they touch the asphalt pavement).

Although the dire effects of climate change brought about by the burning of fossil fuels have been predicted for decades, the off-the-charts anomalies we are seeing this summer have far exceeded even the starkest of predictions. It is clear that scientists' warnings about climate change have been greatly understated and that climate change is happening faster than anyone had predicted.

During the height of World War II, after England had thwarted the Germans in the air (known as the Battle of Britain) and then defeated Rommel's army on the battlefield in North Africa, Prime Minister Winston Churchill uttered these famous lines, "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Churchill's message was one of hope -- the war that Hitler had begun finally was turning against him and in favor of the Allies.

But in terms of climate change, we fear we are witnessing the reverse of Churchill's words: Climate change already has begun. But, unlike World War II, it will not be taking a turn for the better -- it's only going to get worse, with far-reaching consequences that we do not even want to contemplate.

## ON BIKE LANES

Dear Editor,

The Ellis Neighborhood Association sponsored a July 24th meeting to discuss the Berkeley Street bike lane with the Boston Transportation Department. The meeting ended like other BTM meetings in the city, with unsatisfactory results. Protestations that there are no bikes to speak of on Berkeley; that taking away a lane on the only cross town east/west artery would further impeded traffic already backed up at the intersection of Tremont and Berkeley; that the block between Appleton and Chandler is commercial and needs double parking for deliveries; and that the day care pick up and drop offs on the same block take up yet another lane which altogether reduce Berkeley from three to one lane were dismissed as anecdotal. In short, community input was noted, but inconsequential to BTM, in essence a nuisance.

Shocking was the revelation that the department collected no data on Berkeley and used downtown Washington Street as a "look alike," claiming there was no money available to conduct a Berkeley impact analysis. Revealed also was the time line for evaluating the project success or failure: 2030, seven years after installation, obviously too long. It was admitted, that desired bike usage is significantly below expectations.

The issues of bikes lacking insurance, running traffic lights, having no warning mechanisms, not using designated lanes and weaving in and out of traffic were likewise regarded as irrelevant with one exception, insurance. It was the BTM representative's belief that bike riders had car insurance and their insurance would cover damage costs to cars and pedestrians, clearly unsubstantiated. Agreement also that ugly, white post were defacing the city did not change installing

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

them on Berkeley despite unobtrusive bike paths bike paths bordering parked cars in the Fenway, Dartmouth Street, Brookline Ave and along Commonwealth mall manage quite well without them. This is no small complaint.

Given the increasing and irreversible number of cars on the road each year, along with Boston's designation as being one of worst traffic congested cities in the country, the real challenge is to move cars and trucks as efficiently as possible through the city and not commandeering already inadequate road space for bicycles that are believed to quixotically make Boston green.

Recently, Mayor Wu addressed a convention of mayors touting Boston's "going green" plan, and, no doubt, did not mention resident push back, goal shortfall, and that the misbegotten project to turn Boston into a cyclist dream city is a colossal failure.

Barry Zaltman

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING

Dear Editor,

We have all felt the horrendous weather this summer. Heat, humidity, rain, thunderstorms, floods and tornadoes have wreaked havoc on our country.

The Southwest has gotten clobbered. The heated ocean waters off the coast of Florida are destroying the coral reefs. Whales are dying as they beach themselves on our shores. Ice caps are melting causing sea levels to rise. Firestorms have hit Canada hard, destroying Canadian forests and causing a tremendous amount of smoke to permeate our air.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service has stated that "July is poised to be the hottest month ever on record."

Recently, the New York Times exposed the area known as the

Fertile Crescent (Israel, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, West Bank, and Gaza) to be devastated by the effect of the shrinking up of the Euphrates River. This has caused the Mesopotamia Region to be without water in many regions. Forty percent of Iraq, an area roughly the size of Florida, has been overtaken by blowing desert sands.

Italy and Greece have also been hit hard by record setting temperatures.

Severe wildfires have scorched and devastated forests, homes, farms and animals.

All regions on our Earth have been affected. Climate Change has become real and not just words. It is not a time to be frightened but it is a time for ACTION! We must all join hands in an attempt to work together to stop this "BEAST."

We all acknowledge that there are wars across our world.... destroying lives.

But Climate Change is destroying our whole world!

It is vital for all global governments to band together to find and implement solutions to "Climate Change". We must stop supporting the oil and gas producing industries that create the fossil fuels causing the emission of poisonous gases into our atmosphere and cause Climate Change.

Wealthier countries need to financially support under-developed countries, so they will be able to share in our goals.

Finally, we all have an obligation to protect our planet but more importantly, our first obligation is to take care of our children and the generations of children to come.

Please join your environmental community in supporting the fight against fossil fuels, thus protecting our children and our Earth.

Maryalice Sharkey  
Mothers Out Front

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GUEST OP-ED

Want a friend? Be a friend

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

You may have heard this before. I went out to find a friend and none were to be found. I went out to be a friend and found them all around.

Where do you find friends?

Your best friends may be your family. You may be close to siblings, cousins, and others related to you. Growing up, I was blessed to be around a lot of aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, siblings, and parents. I didn't have to think much about searching for friends because so many relatives were always around. This is not always the case. Many people have small families or maybe even no family. Some families go in different directions, live in different places, or move on with different interests and lives.

We often find friends in school. Some of the people we shared elementary and high school with become lifelong connections. Even if we don't see each other much, we still have those great past times that help us reconnect quickly.

We connect with people at our places of employment. Some of the people you spend hours

with every day become lifelong friends.

Houses of faith are often good places to make new friends. People get to know each other in Bible study classes and other small group religious settings. The people you share your faith with will often become like brothers and sisters.

The local gym is often a place where people socialize. If you become a routine attender of an exercise class you will eventually develop some friends.

The Internet and social media have become the world's biggest connection place. To many people this is their only connection. All their "friends" are on Facebook or Instagram. Many people have thousands of social media friends. Too often the loneliest people on the planet are those who are only connected by a keypad.

There are many more places where you can connect. Many communities have baking, quilting, hunting, sports clubs, and more. Civic groups from Kiwanis, Rotary, and Ruritan groups will often meet weekly and do community projects.

You might make some friends volunteering at the hospital or nursing home. There will be

people in most of these places who will be glad to make a new friend. Talk to your local nursing home about your interest and you may be surprised how quickly your talents are utilized. You will also find some people who will be glad to make a new friend. Keep in mind this is not always easy as you will be trying to make friends with many who feel alone and forgotten.

You can always become active in the local political circles. This all depends on your level of desperation and if you don't mind being shunned by whichever party you don't declare affiliation.

Don't try to have too many friends. The Bible says a person of many companions may soon come to ruin. However, you need a few friends and hopefully you will have some good ones.

*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.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

SUMMER FUN WITH SHERRY ESKIN THIS SUMMER AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK

The Boston Public Library presents Summer Fun with Sherry Eskin on Thursdays, Aug. 10, and 17, and Sept. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the South End Library Park, 685 Tremont St.

Children ages 6 months and up and their caregivers are invited to participate in these in-person summer activities. Every week there may be books, yoga, singing, props, and dancing. No registration is required.

For more information, [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org).

SOWA SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

=The artists of SoWa Artists Guild will also open on Sundays, Aug. 13, 20, and 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 450 Harrison Ave.

For more information, visit <http://www.sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>, or <https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/>.

FREE JAZZ AND BLUES CONCERTS AT SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY PARK THIS SUMMER

Friends of the South End Branch Library will be sponsoring free Jazz and Blues concerts Pat Loomis and friends on Tuesdays, Aug. 15, and 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the South End Branch Library part at 685 Tremont St. Please bring your own chairs.

For more information, visit [friendsofsouthendlibrary.org](http://friendsofsouthendlibrary.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WORCESTER SQUARE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association presents Summer Concerts on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Worcester Square. Bring a blanket and a snack or dinner and enjoy a variety of musical groups under the trees.

The park will be open for Summer Open Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m. on several Sundays throughout the summer, including on July 30, Aug. 20, and

Sept. 24. Enjoy a relaxing time in the park, bring some games and enjoy the view on the square. For hygiene purposes (small park, lots of kiddos running around barefoot), you are asked to leave your pets at home.

You can find updates at online at [worcestersquare.org](http://worcestersquare.org), or at [Facebook.com/worcestersquare/events](https://Facebook.com/worcestersquare/events).

WARD 4 DEMS ICE CREAM SOCIAL, CO-HOSTED BY MAYOR MICHELLE WU SET FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 19

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will its host annual ice cream social, with Mayor Michelle Wu, on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Titus Sparrow Park. All are welcome to join for good ice cream, good toppings, and good company. For more information, email [ward4dems@gmail.com](mailto:ward4dems@gmail.com).

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS AT 401 PARK IN THE FENWAY

Berklee College of Music's Summer Series will offer live music from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the outdoor lawn at 401 Park in The Fenway, including Mia Walz on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Bring your lunch and enjoy free performances that span all genres by musicians from Berklee College of Music. Performances will be rescheduled in the event of inclement of weather.

MASS AVE. COALITION'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL RETURNS SEPT. 17 TO CHESTER SQUARE

The Mass. Ave. Coalition will hold its annual festival, billed as 'a festival like no other,' on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Chester Square (Massachusetts Avenue).

The free event will include music, activities, and snacks, and sponsors include Boston Medical Center Health System and Northeastern University.

OPEN NEWBURY CONTINUES

Newbury Street will be closed to vehicle traffic every Sunday

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 4)

SUGIDAMA BACK BAY (from pg. 1)

ing 16-seat patio would remain unchanged, albeit for the addition of a few planters, while the occupancy inside the restaurant would increase from 45 or 46 to around 75.)

To accommodate the added occupancy, restroom accommodations will be increased to include two "powder rooms," along with a unisex restroom, said Eric Erazo of Boston-based McMahon Architects, while a second point of egress will also

be created.

The existing awning would be refinished to reflect the brand of the new restaurant, said Erazo, while the footprint of the exterior sign will remain the same after the installation of new signage. (The Back Bay Architectural Commission must ultimately approve the proposed awning and signage.)

Trash, which would be picked up daily, will be stored within a 70-gallon trash can in an interior space at the rear of the restaurant,

said Erazo, until it's moved to a dedicated bin in the common trash-storage area for the building in the alley.

All deliveries would be made via the alley, added Quilty.

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, told Quilty and other representatives for the applicant he would notify them of NABB's determination on their application (i.e. their decision to oppose or not oppose the application) by Monday, Aug. 15.

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# DPH launches statewide survey to improve community health

Special to the Sun

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 emergencies, 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>.

## NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 3

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Oct. 15 for Open Newbury.

The route will be the same as previous years, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. Parking will be restricted on Newbury Street and adjacent streets, with enforcement beginning at 5 a.m. Signs will be posted informing drivers of the change.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/open-newbury-street> for more information on Open Newbury.

### CALL FOR WALKERS: REGISTER FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: a 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); a 10K walk (from Newton); a Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and a Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk

Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit [www.JimmyFund-Walk.org](http://www.JimmyFund-Walk.org) or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

### 'JAZZ ALONG THE CHARLES' SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Celebrity Series of Boston opens its 2023/24 performance season with the return of "Jazz Along the Charles" - a free jazz event open to all, featuring more than 100 musicians in 25 local jazz ensembles, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. along the Esplanade (rain or shine). Lead sponsors for the event are the Esplanade Association and the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation.

Performances will be staged in a 1.5 mile loop from Community Boating Inc. along the Dr. Paul Dudley White Shared Use Path to the Esplanade paths around the Storrow Lagoon, past Fiedler Field and back along the Charles River.

Visit [www.celebrityseries.org/jatc](http://www.celebrityseries.org/jatc) for more information.

## Wu appoints Shepard, Bennett to the BPDA Board of Directors

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced two new appointments to the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board of Directors. Raheem Shepard of Hyde Park, Regional Manager of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for the City of Boston and a current member of the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), is being appointed to fill a seat traditionally held by a representative of the construction trades. Shepard will fill the seat being vacated by current member Michael Monahan, whose term expires this month. Kate Bennett of Roslindale, the outgoing Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, is being appointed to fill a vacant seat. Current Board Chair Priscilla Rojas, whose seat is in holdover status, will also be reappointed. The new appointments will need to be approved by the City Council. Once they are confirmed, all BPDA Board member seats will be filled and current.

"I join the board members in thanking Mike Monahan for his years of service to the City of Boston and working people," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Raheem Shepard and Kate Bennett are tremendous additions to the Board who will bring experience and focus to make Boston the best city for families—affordable and green, with opportunities connecting every generation. I thank them and Chair Rojas for rolling up their sleeves with Chief Arthur Jemison and our entire City team to build a growing and green city for everyone."

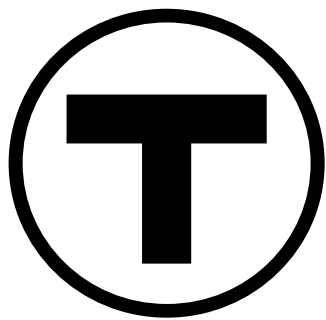
"I want to thank Mike Monahan for 22 years of service – to the ZBA for 12 years and to the BPDA for the last 10. He has been an important voice for the growth of the City," said Chief of Planning and Director of the BPDA Arthur Jemison. "I look forward to working with Kate and Raheem, who are experts in their own right on building Boston in a thoughtful way. I am confident they will help guide growth that will make our City more resilient, affordable, and

equitable."

Kate Bennett has worked in affordable housing development, policy, and planning for more than 25 years, with a particular focus on public housing revitalization as the former head of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA). Bennett has spearheaded over \$2 billion in redevelopment activity currently underway at several BHA sites across the city. She has also been instrumental in the development of the BHA's green, healthy housing and sustainability programs, and in the expansion of resident empowerment and self-sufficiency initiatives. Bennett holds a Masters in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has also managed affordable housing programs for the City of Chelsea and the City of Newton.

"As someone who has dedicated my career to housing for Boston residents and families, I share the Wu Administration's belief that our growth depends on government, community,

(BPDA Pg. 7)



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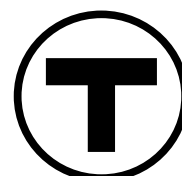
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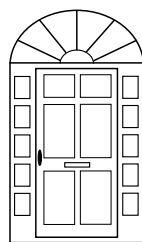


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CSN (from pg. 1)

a Berklee College of Music professor, leading a group of his students in a steel-drum ensemble. Of the \$5,000 that has been budgeted for this year's event, \$3,200 is earmarked for music, Blair said.

An additional \$500 of the budget will be distributed among five neighborhood pizzerias while other complimentary food for guests will include fruit and popcorn. (Jim O'Donnell of CSN will again preside over the popcorn machine.) The Boston Police ice cream truck, which will distribute free frozen treats, and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission water truck are also scheduled for the event.

The festival will additionally feature a raffle, with items donated by area businesses, as well as free pedicab rides for attendees.

Meanwhile, Northeastern University will create a QR code for the festival showing the benefits of neighborhood trees, said Blair, while Boston Medical Center and the Boston Planning & Development Agency also recently committed to participating in the event.

Sara Mitchell, vice president of CSN, will help oversee an area offering simple board games for children, such as Connect Four and checkers, along with arts and crafts.

Mihiro Shimano, an aide for recently elected 9th Suffolk District State Rep. John Moran, said Moran plans to attend the event, and that he would like to volunteer in some capacity.

While O'Donnell estimated attendance at the inaugural Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival, which took place on Sunday, Sept. 18, of last year, ranged between 150 and 200 guests, Blair said this year's numbers could even exceed that due to considerable amount of advertising for this year's event. "But it's really hard to know," added Blair.

In another matter, Carol Streiff, a Chester Square Neighbor who has long worked with the group on development matters, as well as a Massachusetts Avenue resident, made a presentation on

M a y o r



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Dan d'Heilly of the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association; Carol Blair, president of Chester Square Neighbors; and Teo Georgiev, treasurer of CSN, are seen, left to right, at the inaugural Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival, which took place on Sunday, Sept. 18, of last year in Chester Square.

Michelle Wu's ongoing efforts to reform the BPDA's Article 80 review process for large-scale development projects.

Mayor Wu has convened a Steering Committee to lead the reform process, said Streiff, which now comprises eight members "related to development," along with Anthony D'Isidoro, president of the Allston Civic Association and the sole representative of a neighborhood civic organization on the committee. (The Steering Committee was originally supposed to comprise 11 members, said Streiff.)

In a July 24 letter to the Steering Committee, representatives from 13 organizations across 30 neighborhoods, including Streiff, who also serves as chair of Roxbury Voices, as well as D'Isidoro, pointed to perceived flaws in the Article 80 process, including its seemingly "stubbornly opaque" nature, as well as the inconsistency of "spot zoning," such as the creation of Planned Development Areas (PDAs) to facilitate development projects, among

other concerns outlined.

The letter also urges the city to enlist at least one new Steering Committee member who represents neighborhood or environmental interests.

Moreover, Streiff pointed to what she describes as "sort of an unholy alliance between the BPDA and developers," with the BPDA being incentivized to greenlight bigger developments with higher unit counts, which in turn generate more money for the BPDA itself. (The letter also advises the BPDA to hire additional staff to closely scrutinize agreements with developers, as well as their studies on the expected impacts of their projects [e.g. shadow and traffic studies], and to undertake an "independent post-development audit of every project.")

Streiff and other signees of the letter are now requesting a meeting with the Steering Committee and the city's two consultants on this matter to discuss possible reforms to the Article 80 process, she said.



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# Developer proposes changing 1000 Washington St. from existing office use to lab-ready building

By Dan Murphy

A proposed amendment that would allow a change in use for the 11-story building located at 1000 Washington St. in the South End from office to lab space was the topic at hand during a virtual joint-Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public meeting sponsored by the Boston Planning & Development Agency on

Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Ashley Myslinski, senior project manager for BioMed Realty, the largest private real estate developer in the life science and technology industries nationwide, outlined plans to convert existing office building to a lab-ready building, which would entail the installation of additional mechanicals and a new screen wall on the roof, as

well as making façade upgrades, including adding new windows and making other improvements.

“There are not too to many changes to building itself,” she said. “It’s not terribly different than what you see today.”

As for what has prompted the building’s proposed change in use, Myslinski pointed to the abundance of vacant office space that now permeates the city and

added the building’s current office tenant is slated to move out in early 2025, when the conversion project is expected to begin.

Meanwhile, BioMed Realty has committed to keeping the converted lab building limited to Biosafety Level (BSL) 1 or 2, said Myslinski.

Construction is expected to have a minimal impact, said Myslinski, since most work would take place inside the building itself. Much of the existing building material would also be reused in the project, she added.

Additional project mitigation will include a job-linkage payment of around \$395,842;

a housing linkage payment of nearly \$1,976,839; \$20,000 each to Friends of Peter Park and Pao Arts Center, respectively; and \$10,000 to the BPDA “for community use at its discretion,” said Myslinski.

Last year, BioMed Realty converted the adjacent building at 321 Harrison Ave. from office to lab/research space; mitigation for this project included the creation of 10,000 square feet of cultural space; various sidewalk and streetscape improvements; new on-site bike storage; added retail; and a new “pocket park,” said Myslinski.



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the building located at 1000 Washington St. in the South End.

## BPDA (from pg. 4)

and developers coming together to build a stronger City,” said BPDA Board of Directors nominee Kate Bennett. “I am very grateful to Mayor Wu for this opportunity to continue to serve our community.”

Raheem Shepard is the Regional Manager of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for the City of Boston. His appointment upholds Boston’s longstanding tradition of including union representation on the BPDA Board. As a member of the ZBA, Shepard reviews development proposals which require zoning relief, and works with his fellow ZBA members and Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison to help advance the Mayor’s goal of rebuilding trust with communities through planning-led development, while advancing equity, affordability, and resilience across all functions of the City’s development review process.

“Serving on the BPDA Board of Directors is not only a great

professional and personal honor, but it’s an opportunity to work closely with Mayor Wu’s Administration to chart a course for Boston’s future,” said BPDA Board of Directors nominee Raheem Shepard.

“I am grateful to Mayor Wu for reappointing me to a new term on the BPDA Board, and I am eager to welcome Raheem and Kate,” said BPDA Board Chair Priscilla Rojas. “I appreciate the opportunity to continue supporting smart planning and development that serves the City and its residents.”

These appointments are part of Mayor Wu’s ambitious growth agenda for Boston, which is focused on advancing the City’s resilience, affordability, and equity goals. Under the Mayor’s leadership, the agency approved Inclusionary Zoning for the first time in the City’s history, completed the Western Avenue Corridor Rezoning Study and PLAN: Mattapan, which includes zoning recommenda-

tions, and completed a land audit of all City-owned parcels to unlock opportunities for new housing and growth. The agency is undertaking the first major reform to Article 80 of the zoning code, which governs Boston’s development review process, to modernize development review and increase efficiency and predictability for development.

The Mayor’s agenda also includes the creation of a City Planning and Design Department and Planning Advisory Council operating under the direction of Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. The staff of that new City agency will support the work of the BPDA Board. The Mayor has also committed to completing the neighborhood planning initiatives in Downtown, Charlestown, East Boston, and Newmarket in the coming months, and to launching a rezoning effort of Boston’s squares and corridors to create thousands of additional housing units across the City.

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**CITY of BOSTON**



# Boston Children's Rec Fest returns August 15

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department invite city youth to come celebrate the summer at the 2023 ParkARTS Boston Children's Rec Fest on Tuesday, August 15 at Franklin Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Boston Children's Rec Fest is presented with the sup-

port of title sponsor Bank of America and presenting sponsors College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving and H.P. Hood, LLC. Additional support is provided by LEGO Discovery Center Boston.

Children and families from throughout Boston have the opportunity to participate in a variety of free activities from var-

ious exhibitors including Rosalita's Marionette Puppets, ParkARTS arts and crafts, and face painting. The event will showcase active sports and play with exciting inflatable attractions such as the All-In-One Sports Arena, a family Zumba class, and hands-on clinics hosted by sports professionals teaching tennis, baseball, and soccer skills.

The event will also include free treats from HP Hood LLC.

The location of the festival is at 25 Pierpont Road in Roxbury near the rear entrance of the Franklin Park Zoo. By MBTA, take the Orange Line to Forest Hills and the #15 bus to the Zoo. By car, the park can be reached from Blue Hill Avenue, Seaver Street, or Circuit Drive. Ample

free parking is available and the park is ADA compliant.

Visit [boston.gov/childrens-rec-fest](https://boston.gov/childrens-rec-fest) to learn more. Stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](https://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## BGCB hosts soccer clinic with New England Revolution

Special to the Sun

In partnership with Santander-

er Bank, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's (BGCB) Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club hosted

a soccer clinic taught by New England Revolution players last Thursday, August 3. Sixty-five BGCB members, ages 6-12 years old, were led through a two-hour training session where they learned innovative skills and techniques to help them train and play in a fun and competitive set-

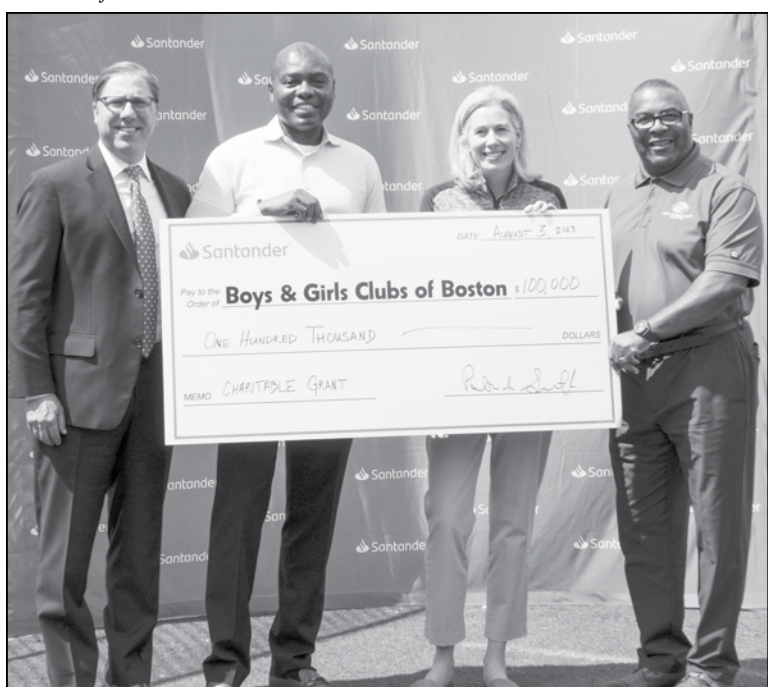
ting. The day included a hands-on clinic and autograph session, as well as a check presentation for a \$100,000 grant contribution to the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea.

As BGCB and Santander Bank continue to invest in Boston's youth and development,

this event breaks down stigmas and barriers around athletics, as well as generates opportunities for young children of color. The program hopes to draw awareness of inequities around sports including "pay-to-play" fees and access to safe and reliable fields.



A BGCB member dribbles down the pitch at the BGCB/Santander Soccer Clinic with the New England Revolution at the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea.



Santander Bank presents the \$100,000 check to BGCB Nicholas President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr.



BGCB members pose for a picture at the BGCB/Santander Soccer Clinic with the New England Revolution at the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea



# Gov. Maura Healey calls for support for new migrant families

Special to the Sun

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](https://mass.gov/sheltercrisis). Anyone who can offer assistance should contact the state at [shelterhelp@mass.gov](mailto: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 pointed 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/migranrelief](https://unitedwaymassbay.org/migranrelief). 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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# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Upcoming Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival discussed at CSN meeting

By Dan Murphy

Details of the next month's second annual Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival were discussed during the virtual Aug. 2 monthly meeting of Chester Square Neighbors (CSN).

The free, self-described "festival like no other," again made possible by a collaborative effort that includes the four neighborhood associations comprising the coalition – CSN, along with the Claremont Neighborhood Association, the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association, and the

Worcester Square Neighborhood Association – is set to return on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, to Chester Square on both sides of Massachusetts Avenue between Tremont Street and Shawmut Avenue. (Two carriage ways will be closed for the event this year, as opposed to only one last year, said Carol Blair, president of CSN.)

While last year's festival featured a four-piece jazz ensemble, this year's musical entertainment will be provided by Ron Reid,

(CSN Pg. 3)

## SUMMER SCENES ON THE ESPLANADE



D. MURPHY PHOTOS

Shown above, a view of the Charles River from the Esplanade on Sunday, Aug. 6. Shown to the left and right, kayakers on the Esplanade's Storrow Lagoon. A recent public health warning has been issued related to recent sewage discharge near the Charles River due to the recent heavy rain on Wednesday.



## Japanese restaurant poised to open in former B.Good space on Boylston Street

By Dan Murphy

A Japanese restaurant chain is poised to open its first U.S. location in the street-level Boylston Street storefront formerly occupied by a B.Good location, representatives for the proposed establishment said during the virtual monthly meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) License and Building Use Committee on Monday, Aug. 7.

Japan-based Food & Life Companies, which operates more than 1,000 restaurant locations throughout Asia, including

600 stores in Japan, intends to open Sugidama Back Bay at 665 Boylston St. Its menu offerings will include sashimi and cold appetizers; tofu dishes; tempura; hot appetizers, such as deep-fried fish and egg pudding; sushi; and a selection of sake and sake cocktails, said Yosuke Tanaka of Food & Life Companies.

"It's not fine dining, but it's sit-down dining," added Tanaka.

Attorney Dennis Quilty said the applicant would have two hearings with the city – one for the zoning relief that would allow the restaurant to operate, as well as to offer takeout (the

restaurant would be primarily a casual, seated establishment but also offer "incidental" takeout, said Quilty); and another hearing to request a wine-and-cordials license for the site.

Additionally, the applicant is seeking to change the restaurant's closing time to midnight, seven days a week, (from B.Good's previous closing time at this location of 8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday), said Quilty, as well as to increase the restaurants total occupancy from around 60 to 90. (The exist-

(SUGIDAMA BACK BAY Pg. 3)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The proposed future home of Sugidama Back Bay at 665 Boylston St.



# EDITORIAL

## DID YOU LIKE BARBIE?

Barbie, the blockbuster movie that is this year's mass culture phenomenon, has drawn a mixed reaction from critics and the public alike.

Some love it -- they're the ones who have gone multiple times to see the movie -- while others either have shrugged their shoulders, "It was okay...." or have been outright hostile to it.

It is both surprising, but not shocking, that Barbie has grossed more than a billion dollars. While it has had the good fortune to come out in a summer of fairly-boring movies, it also undeniably is a film that is like no other in recent memory. It appeals to young and old alike, featuring an all-star, multi-generational cast, including two of Hollywood's Most Beautiful People (Ryan Gosling and Margot Robbie), Rhea Perlman, Issa Rae, Kate McKinnon, Dua Lipa (in a cameo role), Will Ferrell, America Ferrera, Simu Liu, and Helen Mirren (as the Narrator).

For those of us of an older generation, Barbie brings to mind the Wizard of Oz (though the plot of Barbie is the reverse of Dorothy's journey from reality to fantasy), both on a superficial level (the bright visuals and use of music) and its deeper meaning (the loss of innocence).

Barbie is not without its flaws and, as with any work of art, has its proponents and detractors. However, it undeniably is just plain fun and accomplishes the goal of every great summertime movie -- it transports us to another world for two hours in an air-conditioned theatre, far removed from the searing heat and troubles of the world outside.

## HAVE WE REACHED THE TIPPING POINT?

The steady stream of news reports this summer about the ever-worsening effects of climate change have been depressing, ranging from the 100% loss of coral reefs off the Florida Keys (because water temperatures have reached 100 degrees), to the unprecedented floods in China, to the daily heat records in the American Southwest (where people are being treated for serious, third-degree burns if they touch the asphalt pavement).

Although the dire effects of climate change brought about by the burning of fossil fuels have been predicted for decades, the off-the-charts anomalies we are seeing this summer have far exceeded even the starkest of predictions. It is clear that scientists' warnings about climate change have been greatly understated and that climate change is happening faster than anyone had predicted.

During the height of World War II, after England had thwarted the Germans in the air (known as the Battle of Britain) and then defeated Rommel's army on the battlefield in North Africa, Prime Minister Winston Churchill uttered these famous lines, "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Churchill's message was one of hope -- the war that Hitler had begun finally was turning against him and in favor of the Allies.

But in terms of climate change, we fear we are witnessing the reverse of Churchill's words: Climate change already has begun. But, unlike World War II, it will not be taking a turn for the better -- it's only going to get worse, with far-reaching consequences that we do not even want to contemplate.

## ON BIKE LANES

Dear Editor,

The Ellis Neighborhood Association sponsored a July 24th meeting to discuss the Berkeley Street bike lane with the Boston Transportation Department. The meeting ended like other BTM meetings in the city, with unsatisfactory results. Protestations that there are no bikes to speak of on Berkeley; that taking away a lane on the only cross town east/west artery would further impeded traffic already backed up at the intersection of Tremont and Berkeley; that the block between Appleton and Chandler is commercial and needs double parking for deliveries; and that the day care pick up and drop offs on the same block take up yet another lane which altogether reduce Berkeley from three to one lane were dismissed as anecdotal. In short, community input was noted, but inconsequential to BTM, in essence a nuisance.

Shocking was the revelation that the department collected no data on Berkeley and used downtown Washington Street as a "look alike," claiming there was no money available to conduct a Berkeley impact analysis. Revealed also was the time line for evaluating the project success or failure: 2030, seven years after installation, obviously too long. It was admitted, that desired bike usage is significantly below expectations.

The issues of bikes lacking insurance, running traffic lights, having no warning mechanisms, not using designated lanes and weaving in and out of traffic were likewise regarded as irrelevant with one exception, insurance. It was the BTM representative's belief that bike riders had car insurance and their insurance would cover damage costs to cars and pedestrians, clearly unsubstantiated. Agreement also that ugly, white post were defacing the city did not change installing

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

them on Berkeley despite unobtrusive bike paths bike paths bordering parked cars in the Fenway, Dartmouth Street, Brookline Ave and along Commonwealth mall manage quite well without them. This is no small complaint.

Given the increasing and irreversible number of cars on the road each year, along with Boston's designation as being one of worst traffic congested cities in the country, the real challenge is to move cars and trucks as efficiently as possible through the city and not commandeering already inadequate road space for bicycles that are believed to quixotically make Boston green.

Recently, Mayor Wu addressed a convention of mayors touting Boston's "going green" plan, and, no doubt, did not mention resident push back, goal shortfall, and that the misbegotten project to turn Boston into a cyclist dream city is a colossal failure.

Barry Zaltman

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING

Dear Editor,

We have all felt the horrendous weather this summer. Heat, humidity, rain, thunderstorms, floods and tornadoes have wreaked havoc on our country.

The Southwest has gotten clobbered. The heated ocean waters off the coast of Florida are destroying the coral reefs. Whales are dying as they beach themselves on our shores. Ice caps are melting causing sea levels to rise. Firestorms have hit Canada hard, destroying Canadian forests and causing a tremendous amount of smoke to permeate our air.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service has stated that "July is poised to be the hottest month ever on record."

Recently, the New York Times exposed the area known as the

Fertile Crescent (Israel, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iran, West Bank, and Gaza) to be devastated by the effect of the shrinking up of the Euphrates River. This has caused the Mesopotamia Region to be without water in many regions. Forty percent of Iraq, an area roughly the size of Florida, has been overtaken by blowing desert sands.

Italy and Greece have also been hit hard by record setting temperatures.

Severe wildfires have scorched and devastated forests, homes, farms and animals.

All regions on our Earth have been affected. Climate Change has become real and not just words. It is not a time to be frightened but it is a time for ACTION! We must all join hands in an attempt to work together to stop this "BEAST."

We all acknowledge that there are wars across our world.... destroying lives.

But Climate Change is destroying our whole world!

It is vital for all global governments to band together to find and implement solutions to "Climate Change". We must stop supporting the oil and gas producing industries that create the fossil fuels causing the emission of poisonous gases into our atmosphere and cause Climate Change.

Wealthier countries need to financially support under-developed countries, so they will be able to share in our goals.

Finally, we all have an obligation to protect our planet but more importantly, our first obligation is to take care of our children and the generations of children to come.

Please join your environmental community in supporting the fight against fossil fuels, thus protecting our children and our Earth.

Maryalice Sharkey  
Mothers Out Front

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## GUEST OP-ED

## Want a friend? Be a friend

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

You may have heard this before. I went out to find a friend and none were to be found. I went out to be a friend and found them all around.

Where do you find friends?

Your best friends may be your family. You may be close to siblings, cousins, and others related to you. Growing up, I was blessed to be around a lot of aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, siblings, and parents. I didn't have to think much about searching for friends because so many relatives were always around. This is not always the case. Many people have small families or maybe even no family. Some families go in different directions, live in different places, or move on with different interests and lives.

We often find friends in school. Some of the people we shared elementary and high school with become lifelong connections. Even if we don't see each other much, we still have those great past times that help us reconnect quickly.

We connect with people at our places of employment. Some of the people you spend hours

with every day become lifelong friends.

Houses of faith are often good places to make new friends. People get to know each other in Bible study classes and other small group religious settings. The people you share your faith with will often become like brothers and sisters.

The local gym is often a place where people socialize. If you become a routine attender of an exercise class you will eventually develop some friends.

The Internet and social media have become the world's biggest connection place. To many people this is their only connection. All their "friends" are on Facebook or Instagram. Many people have thousands of social media friends. Too often the loneliest people on the planet are those who are only connected by a keypad.

There are many more places where you can connect. Many communities have baking, quilting, hunting, sports clubs, and more. Civic groups from Kiwanis, Rotary, and Ruritan groups will often meet weekly and do community projects.

You might make some friends volunteering at the hospital or nursing home. There will be

people in most of these places who will be glad to make a new friend. Talk to your local nursing home about your interest and you may be surprised how quickly your talents are utilized. You will also find some people who will be glad to make a new friend. Keep in mind this is not always easy as you will be trying to make friends with many who feel alone and forgotten.

You can always become active in the local political circles. This all depends on your level of desperation and if you don't mind being shunned by whichever party you don't declare affiliation.

Don't try to have too many friends. The Bible says a person of many companions may soon come to ruin. However, you need a few friends and hopefully you will have some good ones.

*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.*

## SUGIDAMA BACK BAY (from pg. 1)

ing 16-seat patio would remain unchanged, albeit for the addition of a few planters, while the occupancy inside the restaurant would increase from 45 or 46 to around 75.)

To accommodate the added occupancy, restroom accommodations will be increased to include two "powder rooms," along with a unisex restroom, said Eric Erazo of Boston-based McMahon Architects, while a second point of egress will also

be created.

The existing awning would be refinished to reflect the brand of the new restaurant, said Erazo, while the footprint of the exterior sign will remain the same after the installation of new signage. (The Back Bay Architectural Commission must ultimately approve the proposed awning and signage.)

Trash, which would be picked up daily, will be stored within a 70-gallon trash can in an interior space at the rear of the restaurant,

said Erazo, until it's moved to a dedicated bin in the common trash-storage area for the building in the alley.

All deliveries would be made via the alley, added Quilty.

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, told Quilty and other representatives for the applicant he would notify them of NABB's determination on their application (i.e. their decision to oppose or not oppose the application) by Monday, Aug. 15.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## SUMMER FUN WITH SHERRY ESKIN THIS SUMMER AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK

The Boston Public Library presents Summer Fun with Sherry Eskin on Thursdays, Aug. 10, and 17, and Sept. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the South End Library Park, 685 Tremont St.

Children ages 6 months and up and their caregivers are invited to participate in these in-person summer activities. Every week there may be books, yoga, singing, props, and dancing. No registration is required.

For more information, [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org).

## SOWA SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

=The artists of SoWa Artists Guild will also open on Sundays, Aug. 13, 20, and 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 450 Harrison Ave.

For more information, visit <http://www.sowaartists.com>, <http://facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild>, or <https://www.instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/>.

## FREE JAZZ AND BLUES CONCERTS AT SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY PARK THIS SUMMER

Friends of the South End Branch Library will be sponsoring free Jazz and Blues concerts Pat Loomis and friends on Tuesdays, Aug. 15, and 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the South End Branch Library part at 685 Tremont St. Please bring your own chairs.

For more information, visit [friendsofsouthendlibrary.org](http://friendsofsouthendlibrary.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WORCESTER SQUARE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association presents Summer Concerts on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Worcester Square. Bring a blanket and a snack or dinner and enjoy a variety of musical groups under the trees.

The park will be open for Summer Open Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m. on several Sundays throughout the summer, including on July 30, Aug. 20, and

Sept. 24. Enjoy a relaxing time in the park, bring some games and enjoy the view on the square. For hygiene purposes (small park, lots of kiddos running around barefoot), you are asked to leave your pets at home.

You can find updates at online at [worcestersquare.org](http://worcestersquare.org), or at [Facebook.com/worcestersquare/events](https://Facebook.com/worcestersquare/events).

## WARD 4 DEMS ICE CREAM SOCIAL, CO-HOSTED BY MAYOR MICHELLE WU SET FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 19

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will its host annual ice cream social, with Mayor Michelle Wu, on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Titus Sparrow Park. All are welcome to join for good ice cream, good toppings, and good company. For more information, email [ward4dems@gmail.com](mailto:ward4dems@gmail.com).

## FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS AT 401 PARK IN THE FENWAY

Berklee College of Music's Summer Series will offer live music from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the outdoor lawn at 401 Park in The Fenway, including Mia Walz on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Bring your lunch and enjoy free performances that span all genres by musicians from Berklee College of Music. Performances will be rescheduled in the event of inclement of weather.

## MASS AVE. COALITION'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL RETURNS SEPT. 17 TO CHESTER SQUARE

The Mass. Ave. Coalition will hold its annual festival, billed as 'a festival like no other,' on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Chester Square (Massachusetts Avenue).

The free event will include music, activities, and snacks, and sponsors include Boston Medical Center Health System and Northeastern University.

## OPEN NEWBURY CONTINUES

Newbury Street will be closed to vehicle traffic every Sunday

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 4)

ADVERTISE IN THE BOSTON SUN.  
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# DPH launches statewide survey to improve community health

Special to the Sun

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 emergencies, 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>.

## NEWS IN BRIEF Continued from Page 3

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Oct. 15 for Open Newbury.

The route will be the same as previous years, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. Parking will be restricted on Newbury Street and adjacent streets, with enforcement beginning at 5 a.m. Signs will be posted informing drivers of the change.

Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/open-newbury-street> for more information on Open Newbury.

### CALL FOR WALKERS: REGISTER FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: a 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); a 10K walk (from Newton); a Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and a Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk

Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit [www.JimmyFund-Walk.org](http://www.JimmyFund-Walk.org) or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

### 'JAZZ ALONG THE CHARLES' SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Celebrity Series of Boston opens its 2023/24 performance season with the return of "Jazz Along the Charles" - a free jazz event open to all, featuring more than 100 musicians in 25 local jazz ensembles, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. along the Esplanade (rain or shine). Lead sponsors for the event are the Esplanade Association and the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation.

Performances will be staged in a 1.5 mile loop from Community Boating Inc. along the Dr. Paul Dudley White Shared Use Path to the Esplanade paths around the Storrow Lagoon, past Fiedler Field and back along the Charles River.

Visit [www.celebrityseries.org/jatc](http://www.celebrityseries.org/jatc) for more information.

## Wu appoints Shepard, Bennett to the BPDA Board of Directors

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced two new appointments to the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board of Directors. Raheem Shepard of Hyde Park, Regional Manager of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for the City of Boston and a current member of the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), is being appointed to fill a seat traditionally held by a representative of the construction trades. Shepard will fill the seat being vacated by current member Michael Monahan, whose term expires this month. Kate Bennett of Roslindale, the outgoing Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, is being appointed to fill a vacant seat. Current Board Chair Priscilla Rojas, whose seat is in holdover status, will also be reappointed. The new appointments will need to be approved by the City Council. Once they are confirmed, all BPDA Board member seats will be filled and current.

"I join the board members in thanking Mike Monahan for his years of service to the City of Boston and working people," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Raheem Shepard and Kate Bennett are tremendous additions to the Board who will bring experience and focus to make Boston the best city for families—affordable and green, with opportunities connecting every generation. I thank them and Chair Rojas for rolling up their sleeves with Chief Arthur Jemison and our entire City team to build a growing and green city for everyone."

"I want to thank Mike Monahan for 22 years of service – to the ZBA for 12 years and to the BPDA for the last 10. He has been an important voice for the growth of the City," said Chief of Planning and Director of the BPDA Arthur Jemison. "I look forward to working with Kate and Raheem, who are experts in their own right on building Boston in a thoughtful way. I am confident they will help guide growth that will make our City more resilient, affordable, and

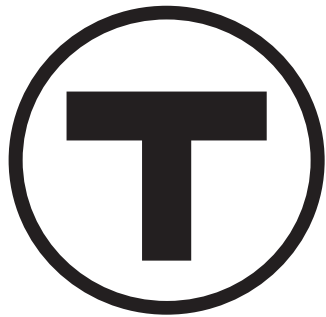
equitable."

Kate Bennett has worked in affordable housing development, policy, and planning for more than 25 years, with a particular focus on public housing revitalization as the former head of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA). Bennett has spearheaded over \$2 billion in redevelopment activity currently underway at several BHA sites across the city. She has also been instrumental in the development of the BHA's green, healthy housing and sustainability programs, and in the expansion of resident empowerment and self-sufficiency initiatives. Bennett holds a Masters in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has also managed affordable housing programs for the City of Chelsea and the City of Newton.

"As someone who has dedicated my career to housing for Boston residents and families, I share the Wu Administration's belief that our growth depends on government, community,

(BPDA Pg. 7)





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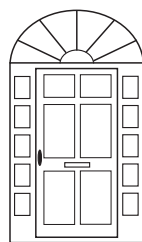


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CSN (from pg. 1)

a Berklee College of Music professor, leading a group of his students in a steel-drum ensemble. Of the \$5,000 that has been budgeted for this year's event, \$3,200 is earmarked for music, Blair said.

An additional \$500 of the budget will be distributed among five neighborhood pizzerias while other complimentary food for guests will include fruit and popcorn. (Jim O'Donnell of CSN will again preside over the popcorn machine.) The Boston Police ice cream truck, which will distribute free frozen treats, and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission water truck are also scheduled for the event.

The festival will additionally feature a raffle, with items donated by area businesses, as well as free pedicab rides for attendees.

Meanwhile, Northeastern University will create a QR code for the festival showing the benefits of neighborhood trees, said Blair, while Boston Medical Center and the Boston Planning & Development Agency also recently committed to participating in the event.

Sara Mitchell, vice president of CSN, will help oversee an area offering simple board games for children, such as Connect Four and checkers, along with arts and crafts.

Mihiro Shimano, an aide for recently elected 9th Suffolk District State Rep. John Moran, said Moran plans to attend the event, and that he would like to volunteer in some capacity.

While O'Donnell estimated attendance at the inaugural Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival, which took place on Sunday, Sept. 18, of last year, ranged between 150 and 200 guests, Blair said this year's numbers could even exceed that due to considerable amount of advertising for this year's event. "But it's really hard to know," added Blair.

In another matter, Carol Streiff, a Chester Square Neighbor who has long worked with the group on development matters, as well as a Massachusetts Avenue resident, made a presentation on

Mayor



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Dan d'Heilly of the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association; Carol Blair, president of Chester Square Neighbors; and Teo Georgiev, treasurer of CSN, are seen, left to right, at the inaugural Mass. Ave. Coalition Festival, which took place on Sunday, Sept. 18, of last year in Chester Square.

Michelle Wu's ongoing efforts to reform the BPDA's Article 80 review process for large-scale development projects.

Mayor Wu has convened a Steering Committee to lead the reform process, said Streiff, which now comprises eight members "related to development," along with Anthony D'Isidoro, president of the Allston Civic Association and the sole representative of a neighborhood civic organization on the committee. (The Steering Committee was originally supposed to comprise 11 members, said Streiff.)

In a July 24 letter to the Steering Committee, representatives from 13 organizations across 30 neighborhoods, including Streiff, who also serves as chair of Roxbury Voices, as well as D'Isidoro, pointed to perceived flaws in the Article 80 process, including its seemingly "stubbornly opaque" nature, as well as the inconsistency of "spot zoning," such as the creation of Planned Development Areas (PDAs) to facilitate development projects, among

other concerns outlined.

The letter also urges the city to enlist at least one new Steering Committee member who represents neighborhood or environmental interests.

Moreover, Streiff pointed to what she describes as "sort of an unholy alliance between the BPDA and developers," with the BPDA being incentivized to greenlight bigger developments with higher unit counts, which in turn generate more money for the BPDA itself. (The letter also advises the BPDA to hire additional staff to closely scrutinize agreements with developers, as well as their studies on the expected impacts of their projects [e.g. shadow and traffic studies], and to undertake an "independent post-development audit of every project.")

Streiff and other signees of the letter are now requesting a meeting with the Steering Committee and the city's two consultants on this matter to discuss possible reforms to the Article 80 process, she said.



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# Developer proposes changing 1000 Washington St. from existing office use to lab-ready building

By Dan Murphy

A proposed amendment that would allow a change in use for the 11-story building located at 1000 Washington St. in the South End from office to lab space was the topic at hand during a virtual joint-Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public meeting sponsored by the Boston Planning & Development Agency on

Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Ashley Myslinski, senior project manager for BioMed Realty, the largest private real estate developer in the life science and technology industries nationwide, outlined plans to convert existing office building to a lab-ready building, which would entail the installation of additional mechanicals and a new screen wall on the roof, as

well as making façade upgrades, including adding new windows and making other improvements.

“There are not too to many changes to building itself,” she said. “It’s not terribly different than what you see today.”

As for what has prompted the building’s proposed change in use, Myslinski pointed to the abundance of vacant office space that now permeates the city and

added the building’s current office tenant is slated to move out in early 2025, when the conversion project is expected to begin.

Meanwhile, BioMed Realty has committed to keeping the converted lab building limited to Biosafety Level (BSL) 1 or 2, said Myslinski.

Construction is expected to have a minimal impact, said Myslinski, since most work would take place inside the building itself. Much of the existing building material would also be reused in the project, she added.

Additional project mitigation will include a job-linkage payment of around \$395,842;

a housing linkage payment of nearly \$1,976,839; \$20,000 each to Friends of Peter Park and Pao Arts Center, respectively; and \$10,000 to the BPDA “for community use at its discretion,” said Myslinski.

Last year, BioMed Realty converted the adjacent building at 321 Harrison Ave. from office to lab/research space; mitigation for this project included the creation of 10,000 square feet of cultural space; various sidewalk and streetscape improvements; new on-site bike storage; added retail; and a new “pocket park,” said Myslinski.



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the building located at 1000 Washington St. in the South End.

## BPDA (from pg. 4)

and developers coming together to build a stronger City,” said BPDA Board of Directors nominee Kate Bennett. “I am very grateful to Mayor Wu for this opportunity to continue to serve our community.”

Raheem Shepard is the Regional Manager of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for the City of Boston. His appointment upholds Boston’s longstanding tradition of including union representation on the BPDA Board. As a member of the ZBA, Shepard reviews development proposals which require zoning relief, and works with his fellow ZBA members and Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison to help advance the Mayor’s goal of rebuilding trust with communities through planning-led development, while advancing equity, affordability, and resilience across all functions of the City’s development review process.

“Serving on the BPDA Board of Directors is not only a great

professional and personal honor, but it’s an opportunity to work closely with Mayor Wu’s Administration to chart a course for Boston’s future,” said BPDA Board of Directors nominee Raheem Shepard.

“I am grateful to Mayor Wu for reappointing me to a new term on the BPDA Board, and I am eager to welcome Raheem and Kate,” said BPDA Board Chair Priscilla Rojas. “I appreciate the opportunity to continue supporting smart planning and development that serves the City and its residents.”

These appointments are part of Mayor Wu’s ambitious growth agenda for Boston, which is focused on advancing the City’s resilience, affordability, and equity goals. Under the Mayor’s leadership, the agency approved Inclusionary Zoning for the first time in the City’s history, completed the Western Avenue Corridor Rezoning Study and PLAN: Mattapan, which includes zoning recommenda-

tions, and completed a land audit of all City-owned parcels to unlock opportunities for new housing and growth. The agency is undertaking the first major reform to Article 80 of the zoning code, which governs Boston’s development review process, to modernize development review and increase efficiency and predictability for development.

The Mayor’s agenda also includes the creation of a City Planning and Design Department and Planning Advisory Council operating under the direction of Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. The staff of that new City agency will support the work of the BPDA Board. The Mayor has also committed to completing the neighborhood planning initiatives in Downtown, Charlestown, East Boston, and Newmarket in the coming months, and to launching a rezoning effort of Boston’s squares and corridors to create thousands of additional housing units across the City.

## CITY OF BOSTON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday, August 12, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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**CITY of BOSTON**



# Boston Children's Rec Fest returns August 15

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department invite city youth to come celebrate the summer at the 2023 ParkARTS Boston Children's Rec Fest on Tuesday, August 15 at Franklin Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Boston Children's Rec Fest is presented with the sup-

port of title sponsor Bank of America and presenting sponsors College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving and H.P. Hood, LLC. Additional support is provided by LEGO Discovery Center Boston.

Children and families from throughout Boston have the opportunity to participate in a variety of free activities from var-

ious exhibitors including Rosalita's Marionette Puppets, ParkARTS arts and crafts, and face painting. The event will showcase active sports and play with exciting inflatable attractions such as the All-In-One Sports Arena, a family Zumba class, and hands-on clinics hosted by sports professionals teaching tennis, baseball, and soccer skills.

The event will also include free treats from HP Hood LLC.

The location of the festival is at 25 Pierpont Road in Roxbury near the rear entrance of the Franklin Park Zoo. By MBTA, take the Orange Line to Forest Hills and the #15 bus to the Zoo. By car, the park can be reached from Blue Hill Avenue, Seaver Street, or Circuit Drive. Ample

free parking is available and the park is ADA compliant.

Visit [boston.gov/childrens-rec-fest](https://boston.gov/childrens-rec-fest) to learn more. Stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](https://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## BGCB hosts soccer clinic with New England Revolution

Special to the Sun

In partnership with Santander Bank, Boys & Girls Clubs of

Boston's (BGCB) Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club hosted a soccer clinic taught by New England Revolution players last

Thursday, August 3. Sixty-five BGCB members, ages 6-12 years old, were led through a two-hour training session where they learned innovative skills and techniques to help them train and play in a fun and competitive setting. The day included a

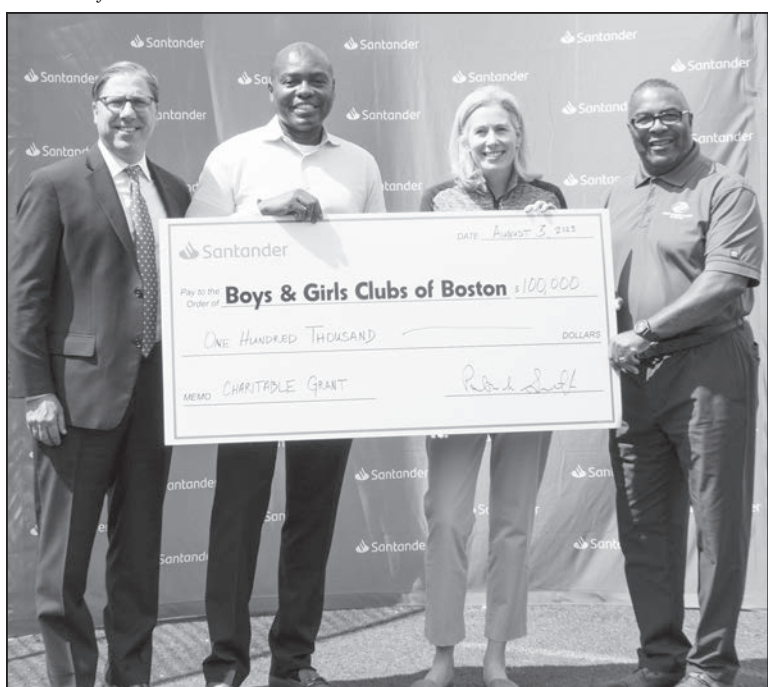
hands-on clinic and autograph session, as well as a check presentation for a \$100,000 grant contribution to the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea.

As BGCB and Santander Bank continue to invest in Boston's youth and development,

this event breaks down stigmas and barriers around athletics, as well as generates opportunities for young children of color. The program hopes to draw awareness of inequities around sports including "pay-to-play" fees and access to safe and reliable fields.



A BGCB member dribbles down the pitch at the BGCB/Santander Soccer Clinic with the New England Revolution at the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea.



Santander Bank presents the \$100,000 check to BGCB Nicholas President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr.



BGCB members pose for a picture at the BGCB/Santander Soccer Clinic with the New England Revolution at the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea.



# Gov. Maura Healey calls for support for new migrant families

Special to the Sun

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](https://mass.gov/sheltercrisis). Anyone who can offer assistance should contact the state at [shelterhelp@mass.gov](mailto:shelterhelp@mass.gov) or by dialing 211, which will be monitored by MEMA.

The administration recently launched the Immigrant Assis-

tance 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 pointed 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 [unitedwaymass-bay.org/migranrelief](https://unitedwaymass-bay.org/migranrelief). 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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