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THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

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Durkan advocates for exemption for Charlesgate project

By Dan Murphy

In response to a developer's plan to subdivide a parcel as a way to circumvent the Boston Parks Commission's Parks and Parkways Ordinance, District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan intends to file an amendment that would exempt only the 2 Charlesgate West address from the existing ordinance.

Morro, a developer of multi-family housing, has proposed a 276,000 square-foot project comprising 400 fully furnished, smaller dwelling units; 2,900 Square feet of retail at the

Ipswich Street level; and indoor bike parking for 408 bikes. No onsite parking is proposed for the project, although it would create an off-street loading area.

As proposed, the site would be divided into Lot A, fronting the Back Bay Fens, which would have a maximum height of 70 feet; and Lot B, fronting Ipswich Street, with allowable building heights in the range of 295 feet.

Councilor Durkan outlined her plan to file the amendment ordinance at a city-sponsored, joint -Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and public meeting for the 2 Charlesgate West project held



COURTESY OF THE CITY'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

A view of the rendering for the proposed 2 Charlesgate West project as seen from Ipswich Street.

virtually on Monday, July 1.

Councilor Durkan acknowledged that the project had taken root long before she was elected

virtually on Monday, July 1.

the City Council last summer. But she voiced her support for the project based on it creating "affordability and accessibility" in terms of both new housing in the neighbor-

hood, along with investments in parkland, landscaping, and wayfinding, among other amenities for the neighborhood.

The project had originally

(CHARLESGATE., Pg. 3)

NABB LBU Comm. hears from two applicants

By Dan Murphy

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Licensing and Building Use (LBU) Committee heard from representatives for two proposed businesses – a tea shop and cookie shop, respectively – during its monthly meeting held virtually on Monday, July 1.

In the first matter, Hay Tea – a China-based chain of tea shops which now has around 300

(NABB, Pg. 3)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The proposed future home of Hay Tea at 223 Newbury St.

CHANGES AT THE T

MBTA to launch contactless payment system on Aug. 1

Special to Sun

MBTA will be rolling out its new contactless payment system on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Contactless payment will then be accepted onboard buses, Green Line trolleys, and at all gated subway stations.

Besides providing more flexibility for commuters this new option will allow riders to pay by tapping a contactless credit/debit card, phone with a mobile wallet, or watch on fare readers on buses, on Green Line vehicles, and at all gated subway stations. A one-step option for pay-as-you-go travel, riders can save time by using their contactless credit/debit card, phone, or

watch instead of purchasing and reloading a CharlieCard. Riders can look for the contactless symbol, tap their card or device on the reader at the fare gate or the reader at the vehicle door, wait for the green checkmark, then ride. Riders with weekly or monthly passes or those who would like to continue to use their CharlieCards will not be impacted by the change. The current ways to pay will remain the same.

Riders in reduced fare programs (such as Senior, Student, and TAP) will have the option to link their benefits to their contactless card, phone, or watch.

Moreover, riders will be able to manage their contactless

cards, phone, and/or the watch they use for travel through an online Charlie account at charlie.mbta.com, by calling the Customer Support Center at 617-222-3200, or by visiting the Charlie Service Center. A Charlie account allows riders to check their balance, manage their charges, view their trip history, and access other self-service tools for quick and easy account management. Registration is optional.

Meanwhile, riders who do not want to link their benefits to a contactless card, phone, or watch will be able to continue using their current payment method.

Visit mbta.com/TapToRide for more information.

EDITORIAL

HURRICANE BERYL: A HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME?

By now we've all become aware of Hurricane Beryl, which left a trail of death and destruction in its wake during the past week stretching from the Southern Caribbean to Texas as it set records for the strongest-ever hurricane -- a Category 5 -- this early in the season.

Beryl grew -- and maintained -- its ferocity thanks to the warmest-ever sea surface temperatures for June in the Atlantic. Warm ocean waters are the jet fuel for hurricanes and in the case of Beryl, provided the key ingredient for Beryl's rapid intensification and re-intensification as it traveled over thousands of miles of ocean.

Hurricane forecasters in April issued a forecast for an extremely active hurricane season and Beryl's record-setting run appears to be only a prelude to what may be in store for those of us who live along the coast in the coming months.

As we have noted in the past, there is no escape anywhere in the world from the effects of climate change. We can only hope that our little corner of the globe will luck out for another year and we'll escape the wrath of the worst that Mother Nature can throw at us.

READY TO TURN ON, TUNE IN, DROP OUT

As newspaper people, by necessity we're political junkies, whether at the local, state, or federal levels.

When it comes to national news, we try to read as much as we can from reputable news sources to learn as much as we can about the issues and the candidates.

So it's always been a bit of a surprise when we see polls indicating that public interest in the upcoming election is at an all-time low.

We realize that this is a result of many factors, chief among them that we have two candidates for president who are old enough to be the great-grandfathers of the youngest voters and that neither candidate provides inspiration to any of us. In addition, with their surrogates and spokespersons feeding us the same banal "spin" night after night, trying to convince us not to believe what we see and hear with our own eyes and ears, we all just want to tune out the mind-numbing noise.

We want the truth, but all we get is something far short from both sides.

We were listening to the Classic Rock station on our Sirius Radio the other day and the haunting sound of "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield came on. The song was written in the mid-'60s, but it's as timely today as it was then with lyrics perfectly capturing today's political climate:

There's battle lines being drawn
Nobody's right if everybody's wrong
Singing songs and they carrying signs
Mostly say, "Hooray for our side"

In the wake of the fiasco of the first presidential debate, even we are ready to throw in the towel -- we give up.

Or, to put it another way, in the famous words of advice espoused by Timothy Leary (the Harvard professor-turned-guru of psychedelic drugs) at the same time that For What It's Worth was playing on the airwaves, it just might be time to, "Turn on, tune in, drop out."

GUEST OP-ED

Medicare Savings Program, Property Tax Workoff and City savings for older adults

By Mayor Michelle Wu

I'm excited to let you know about two important programs that help our older residents save more money:

The first is the Medicare Savings Program (MSP)—which now offers more savings to more residents. Thanks to changes that went into effect earlier this year, assets are no longer counted against your eligibility for this program, eliminating a major barrier for access. And, on top of that, the amount of money you could save on Medicare-related costs like premiums, copays, and prescriptions has increased as well—from \$2,500 a year to \$3,000.

The second program I want to tell you about is Age Strong's Property Tax Workoff Program (PTWOP). The PTWOP invites Boston homeowners age 60 and older to volunteer with the City in order to work money off of

their property taxes. PTWOP volunteers have the freedom to determine their own schedules and provide support to various City departments from the Boston Public Library and our senior centers, to the Disabilities Commission or the Office of Veterans Services. This year—thanks to advocacy from AgeStrong and our partners in community—older adults can now earn \$2,000 off their property taxes—up from \$1,500. Examples of past PTWOP projects include helping children with school work at the Leahy Holloran Community Center, directing traffic at the annual Boston Americans with Disabilities Act event, and assisting with the distribution of free air-conditioning units to Boston families.

Applications for PTWOP are now open. For more information, call Age Strong at 617-635-4366 or visit <https://www.boston.gov/>

departments/age-strong-commission/senior-property-tax-work.

There are also a number of other savings available to Boston residents age 60 or older. Age Strong's trained advocates can help you find out if you're eligible for savings on transportation, food resources, fuel assistance, water and sewer discounts, and health insurance. Call to schedule an appointment with an advocate at 617-635-4366 or ask an Age Strong advocate the next time you see one at one of our in-person events in your neighborhood.

Our goal is to make Boston a home for everyone—and that means creating every opportunity for our residents of all ages to thrive in our community.

I hope these programs help save you money and make Boston a better home for you and your loved ones.

Michelle Wu is the Mayor for the City of Boston.

Healey proclaims 'Hurricane Preparedness Week'

Special to the Sun

Governor Maura Healey signed a proclamation declaring the week of July 7 to July 13, 2024, as "Hurricane Preparedness Week," to emphasize the importance of planning and preparing for hurricanes and other tropical systems, which most often impact Massachusetts during the months of August and September.

During the week-long initiative, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will focus on hurricane preparedness messaging and offer informational resources to individuals and municipalities on what can be done before, during, and after a tropical system impacts Massachusetts to protect life and property.

"During Hurricane Preparedness Week, I urge all residents to take stock of their emergency

supplies and to plan and prepare ahead of peak hurricane season," said Governor Healey. "Near-record warm ocean temperatures are expected to fuel more frequent and intense tropical storms, meaning there may be increased likelihood for us in Massachusetts to experience a hurricane."

Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. This year, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center anticipate an above-normal 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season with 17 to 25 named storms.

"While areas along the coast are more likely to sustain damage from hurricane hazards such as high winds and storm surge, we know from experience that tropical storms can impact areas across the state, both on the coast

and inland," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll.

"If you live or work within an evacuation zone, now is the time to plan where you would go and how you would get there if a tropical system were to impact Massachusetts," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "Our state and local emergency management agencies regularly plan and train to respond to hurricanes and other severe weather hazards, and I encourage all residents and visitors in Massachusetts to do the same."

In advance of peak hurricane season, MEMA developed and published online hurricane safety tips and resources and distributed a multilingual hurricane preparedness toolkit to Emergency Management Directors throughout the Commonwealth to reach all individuals, including

(HURRICANES, Pg. 4)



The proposed future home of Chip City at 316 Newbury St.

D. MURPHY PHOTO

NABB (from pg. 1)

locations worldwide – intends to open a store at 223 Newbury St. Its application with the city would require a zoning change from retail to restaurant while the establishment, which would serve a variety of tea drinks, has no plans to serve either alcohol or food.

The business’s proposed hours of operation are 11 a.m. to

10 p.m. daily, said Justin Byrnes, an attorney for the applicant.

The proposed shop would span 786 square feet – around 600 square feet of which would be kitchen space used for the assembly of drink and drink toppings, said John Pulgini, another attorney for the applicant.

A new sign proposed for the business is the only expected exterior change, added Pulgini.

Regrading trash removal and storage, Pulgini said those details were still being finalized with the landlord. Elliott Laffer, a long-serving NABB board member, as well as the former committee chair, advised him that since the tea shop isn’t expected to generate much trash, “it would be nice to keep it inside.”

In another matter, Chip City – a chain of shops selling fresh-based cookies with around 25 locations, mostly based around New York City and in New Jersey – intends to open in the garden-level space formerly occupied by Dependable Cleaners at 316 Newbury St.

The proposed hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, which mirror those of Chip

City’s location at 97 Causeway St., near the TD Garden, said Daniel Brennan, a consultant for the applicant.

New exterior signage reflecting the new business and its branding would be installed above the door, said Brennan.

Besides cookies, the approximately 1,100 square-foot store, which would offer no on-site seating for customers, would sell ice cream (for ice-cream sandwiches) and milk (i.e. milk and cookies), said Brennan. (

The applicant is only seeking a CV [Common Victualler] from the city for the proposed business and won’t require a restaurant license.

The cookies would arrive frozen from the company’s commissary in New York, said Brennan, with deliveries made about once every two weeks.

The proposed Newbury Street store is expected to generate about two bags of trash each day and has a small alley accessible for trash pickup, said Brennan, who added that the applicant would discuss trash pickup with their landlord.

Laffer again asked the applicant to keep trash inside “as much as is possible.”

Conrad Armstrong, committee chair, told both applicants he would notify them of NABB’s Executive Committee’s determinations on their respective applications with the city (i.e. to oppose or not oppose the application) on July 12 – one day after the Executive Committee’s next scheduled meeting.

CHARLESGATE (from pg. 1)

been proposed by Scape, a British real estate developer and Morro’s sister brand, in 2021, then conceived as a 251,000 square-foot building, comprising 400 residential housing units, 3,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and 75 below grade parking spaces.

Councilor Durkan pointed to how the IAG, which comprises representatives from some of the most significant Fenway stakeholders, helped shape the project. She said she intended to file her proposed ordinance amendment at the City’s Council’s July 10 meeting at City Hall, and to get it passed before the city considers any zoning variances related to the project. Councilor Durkan’s office has also pledged to work with the Boston Parks Department to ensure that the new ordinance amendment is implemented in an effective and timely manner, said Kennedy Avery, the councilor’s chief of staff.

The 2 Charlesgate West application is tentatively set to go before the Boston Planning & Development Agency board for a vote at its July 18 meeting, said Brett Bentson, a principal at Utile Architecture, and if it’s approved, the applicant would then be seeking zoning relief from the city for the project soon thereafter.

Councilor Durkan said her proposed ordinance amendment would hinge on the understanding that no future developers are able to subdivide their parcels as a way around the ordinance.

(The Boston Parks Commission’s Parks and Parkways Ordinance, which mandates that any construction or alteration made within 100 feet of a park or parkway requires the commission’s approval.)

Although Councilor Durkan said some might view her proposed ordinance amendment as a ‘compromise,’ she countered that “innovation isn’t possible without a compromise,” and that “the Fenway has achieved both through this project.”

Councilor Durkan also pledged to work with the city and the developer to create a ‘dedicated revenue stream’ for the Boston Parks Department via on-site street-furniture advertising.

Meanwhile, David Hunt, chief development officer for Morro, detailed the nearly \$3.2 million in community benefits from the project, which marks a \$558,000 increase from when the developer last presented their plans in

April.

Among these benefits are the creation of 68 on-site, affordable apartments, which account for 17 percent of the project’s 400 total units; a \$300,000 contribution to the Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) for affordable housing in the Fenway, which amounts to a \$200,00 increase from before; a \$500,000 contribution to the Boston Parks Department’s Back Bay Fens Trust Fund, which marks a \$400,00 increase from before; and \$100,000 to the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for tree care in the Back Bay Fens.

A sum of \$850,000 has also been earmarked for the creation of a ‘Grand Public Stair’ and elevator connecting Boylston and Ipswich streets, along with \$50,000 to create accessible restrooms for Emerald Necklace visitors.

(Since the public staircase would be built on private property, Morro would bear its maintenance responsibilities, including snow removal and landscaping, said Hunt. He added that the affordable housing units would be memorialized as such for 30 years to start while the city has the option to subsequently extend those terms for another 30 years; he said if the city would allow it, the developer would designate the units as affordable into perpetuity, as was their original intention.)

Pam Beale, an IAG member, applauded the developer for changing their proposal in deference to the community’s concerns and voiced her support for the project, which, she said will bring housing and other benefits to the community. She also applauded the project’s ample mitigation package.

While Marie Fukuda, another IAG member and longtime Fen-

way resident, also commended the developer for adapting the project in response to community feedback, she said, “My main concern is the project is too big.”

Fukuda added that the project is out of scale, compared to adjacent buildings, and also isn’t compliant with the city’s current zoning regulations. She said the promised mitigation can’t be sufficient enough to justify “casting aside” zoning and park protections, and as a result, these resources should be allocated towards the parks.

“If the goal is to build a reasonable project, with reasonable park protections, you haven’t done it,” said Fukuda. “If the goal was to build a project despite zoning and park protections, I guess that you’ve accomplished that.”

Furthermore, Fukuda said she was disappointed to see that the proposed public staircase wouldn’t connect to walking paths that front homes. She also said she doesn’t want to see any street-furniture advertising in the parks and thinks it should be limited to Ipswich Street.

During public testimony, Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association, was among those who lamented the project’s proposed height, which, at 275 feet plus mechanicals, would exceed the gateway’s allowable height of 140 feet by more than 100 percent.

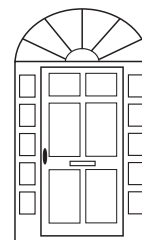
“The height is simply out of ratio with the other buildings – it’s simply too tall,” he said.

Horn also expressed deep concern that per the shadow study, the project would cast three new hours of shadow on parkland from noon to 3 p.m. on spring days; and that the project is also expected to have an adverse wind impact on the area, especially in cold weather.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHARLESGATE FARMERS MARKET IN FULL SWING

The Charlesgate Farmers Market is open every Sunday between June 23 and Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in DCR Charlesgate Park at Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and West. Berklee Students will be performing throughout the market times.

Some of the 20 vendors on hand will be Dicks Market Garden for fresh produce; Captain Marden's Seafood; and Cape

Ann Fresh Catch; The new Eastern Standard bakery has also joined the Farmers Market with fresh bread, croissants and other delectables

SUMMER JAZZ CONCERTS AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK

The Boston Public Library and Friends of the South End Library present Jazz and Blues with Pat Loomis and Friends on Wednesdays, July 17 and 31; Aug. 14 and 28; Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at South End Library Park.

New public art installation recognizes legacy of slavery in Roxbury

Special to the Sun

At the Shirley-Eustis House in Roxbury, a new art installation placed on the publicly-accessible grounds recognizes five Africans enslaved by the family of Royal Governor William Shirley in the eighteenth century. Officially opened in a small ceremony several weeks ago, the installation, completed by Roxbury artist Sid-Marie Arroyo, includes five locally-sourced stones each engraved with the name of an enslaved person and painted with the image of a bird seen on the grounds of Shirley Place. Accompanying signs expand upon the person's name with information about their life and work, and include QR codes that visitors can scan to learn more about the history of enslavement at the Shirley-Eustis House and in Boston. Nearly every aspect of the stones is intentional, from the choice of stone material, to the matching of bird species, to the placement of the stone on the property.

The timing of this press release coincides with the third annual proclamation of Quock Walker Day in Massachusetts on July 8, 2024. The day recognizes the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's 1783 decision to uphold the self-emancipation of a formerly enslaved man named Quock Walker, which also legally ended slavery in Massachusetts. Walker was also awarded damages in a civil case brought against his former enslaver for assault and battery. While slavery continued in the Commonwealth in other forms after this date, the case was a landmark decision in the United States and was the first of many cases brought by self-emancipat-

ed former slaves against their former enslavers.

SidMarie is an AfroLatina artist from Massachusetts. Born and raised in Boston, she began to develop an interest in painting after taking some elective art courses at Umass Boston, while attaining her bachelors degree in Africana studies, the study of the African Diaspora, back in 2010. Since then, she has enjoyed using paint to honor and celebrate notable figures of the diaspora of contemporary African American and AfroLatino culture. She's installed a number of murals at youth centers across the city, often collaborating with local community members to complete the installations.

Her approach to the memorial stones at Shirley Place centered on birds, a universal symbol of freedom and transcendence. She considered the use of birds that would've been present during the time of the formerly enslaved people on the property set to the backdrop of vibrant, blended color.

The Shirley-Eustis House is a National Historic Landmark located at 33 Shirley St. in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The 1747 house, preserved at Shirley Place, is one of only four colonial governors' mansions remaining in the United States. It was also owned by a Massachusetts governor of the early Federal era, whose lasting aesthetic marks on the house reflect its nineteenth century story. The Shirley-Eustis House Association preserves the site to explore the early history of our nation and the community of Roxbury. More information can be found on their website: www.shirleyeustishouse.org.

NIMOY'S SON SPEAKS AT WEST END MUSEUM

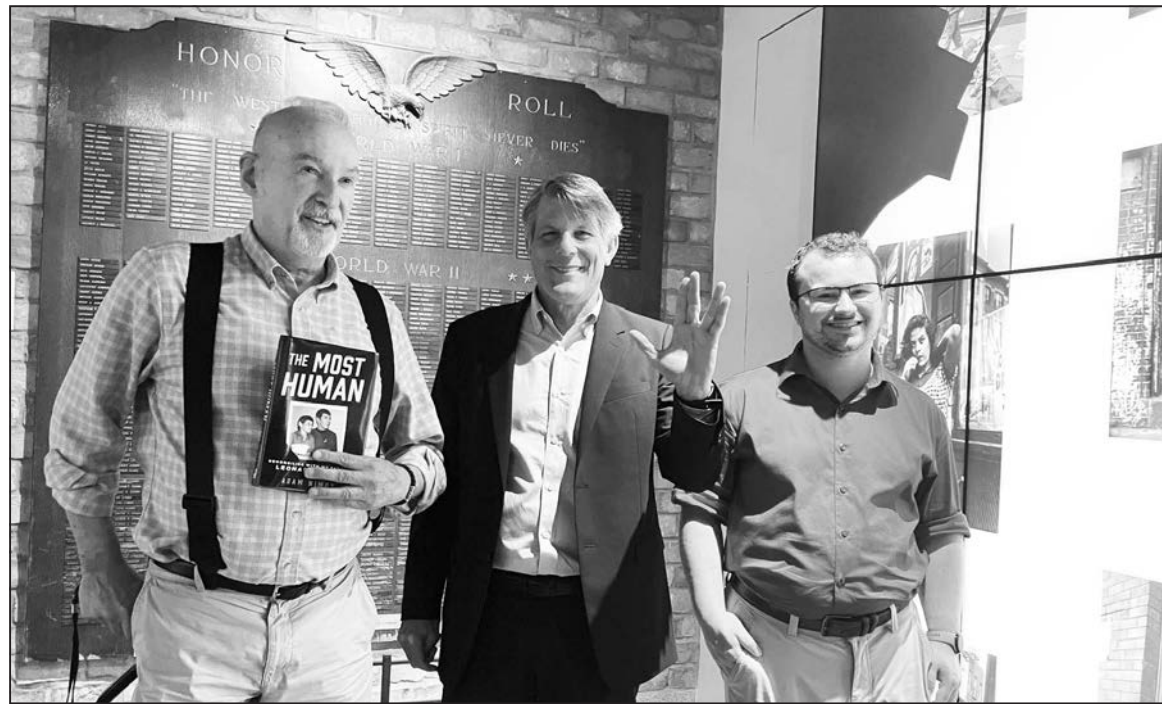


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM STOCKER

Adam Nimoy, the son of the late West End native Leonard Nimoy, who iconically portrayed Mr. Spock in the original 1960s 'Star Trek' TV series, was on hand for an Author Talk on Sunday, June 30, at the newly renovated and reopened West End Museum.

At this time, Adam Nimoy, now 67, discussed his recently published memoir, 'The Most Human: Reconciling with My Father, Leonard Nimoy' (Chicago Review Press).

Adam Nimoy (center) is seen with Tom Stocker, a South End visual artist (at left), and Sebastian Belfanti, the West End Museum's executive director (at right).

Stocker is the main impetus behind a plan to erect a memorial to Nimoy on the grounds of the Museum of Science. The proposed memorial would take shape as a 20-foot-tall, stainless-steel monument depicting the Vulcan hand salutation, which would be illuminated from within using LED lighting. The Vulcan hand salutation (along with its accompanying spoken expression of well-wishing, 'Live Long and Prosper') ranks among the most indelible and instantly recognizable images from the 'Star Trek' universe.

As of publication, the Museum of Science's fundraising campaign to build the memorial Nimoy had raised just over \$390,000 towards the goal. To contribute, visit mos.org/Nimoy.

HURRICANES (from pg. 2)

underserved and vulnerable populations. MEMA has also partnered with MassDOT and several regional transit authorities to place hurricane preparedness messaging on digital billboards and buses. MEMA continues to address hurricane preparedness, response, and recovery efforts through numerous coordination meetings, trainings and exercises, including annual training for local officials on Hurvac – an online tool that assists emergency managers with evacuation timing, decision, and technical support.

"We were fortunate last September when Hurricane Lee tracked offshore as it approached Massachusetts, but this once again highlighted the need for us to be prepared," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. "Every household should have an emergency kit and a plan inclusive of all members' needs and abilities."

How residents and visitors can prepare:

Know Your Evacuation Zone – Visit www.mass.gov/knowyourzone to learn if you live or work in a hurricane evac-

uation zone. If you live in an area that may flood and may need assistance evacuating, plan with family, neighbors, and friends who may be able to assist, and contact your local public safety officials to make them aware of your needs.

Make an Emergency Plan – A plan should address how your family would communicate, evacuate, and shelter in place if needed. Be sure to account for the needs of all your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and pets: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>. If you receive medical treatment or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home or have to evacuate.

Build an Emergency Kit – Build an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. For tips on what to include, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>

Stay Informed – Every family should have multiple methods

for receiving emergency alerts and is encouraged to reach out to their local officials for preparedness and emergency information specific to their community, including available local emergency notification systems. The Commonwealth's 2-1-1 hotline is available 24x7 for non-emergency assistance and is available with translation in more than 150 languages and can be accessed via video relay services. To learn more about additional ways to receive alerts and information, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, and social and traditional news media, visit: www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts

MEMA will share preparedness and safety information throughout hurricane season. For more information, including interactive evacuation zone maps, multi-lingual social media toolkits and flyers, preparedness tips, videos, and more, visit MEMA's Hurricane Season Preparedness webpage.

BLO brings free orchestral music to the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade now through August

Special to the Sun

Boston Landmarks Orchestra (BLO), under the direction of Music Director Christopher Wilkins, is gearing up to offer another season of enchanting musical experiences under the stars in Boston. From the iconic DCR Hatch Memorial Shell to Boston neighborhood venues, the ensemble brings the joy of live orchestral music to audiences of all ages. With a diverse lineup that highlights community, inclusivity, and accessibility, these free concerts promise to be a source of delight and inspiration for all who attend. Landmarks Orchestra invites everyone to join us for an unforgettable summer filled with beautiful music and shared moments of connection.

Music Director Christopher Wilkins says, “It’s always a happy occasion to have the orchestra back together again. There’s nothing like making music on a beautiful summer evening along the banks of the Charles. Our special aim is to connect with people of all backgrounds, Bostonians from a variety of cultural traditions.”

Board Chair Emmett G. Price III adds, “We are tremendously grateful and excited for this substantial commitment from our long-standing partner, Free For All Concert Fund, in bringing exceptional LIVE music to Boston’s historic Hatch Shell. Free for All has signaled our value and our importance to the arts and culture fabric of Greater Boston and we are hopeful that others will join the cause and aid us in accomplishing our courageous and timely mission.”

Regarding the Free for All Concert Fund’s major grant to Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, Chair



MICHAEL DWYER PHOTOS

Scenes from previous BLO free orchestral concerts at the Hatch Shell.

of the Free for All Concert Fund board, said “Free for All is proud to support the great work of Boston Landmarks Orchestra as it continues to advance the legacy of our mutual founder, the late Maestro Charles Ansbacher. This two-year grant of up to \$1.275M allows Landmarks to pursue our shared mission of bringing great music to all the people of Boston for free. We look forward to another memorable summer of beautiful music on the Esplanade.”

2024 Summer Concerts and Events

ASL interpreters will be present at many performances; see the website for current details.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Wednesday, July 17, 5:30pm ET | Hatch Shell

<https://www.landmarksorchestra.org/events/current-season/block-party-hatch/>

Join Landmarks Orchestra for a day of family fun! Free snacks will be provided; we hope to see you there!

Activities include:
String instrument try-out with Johnson Strings
Maestro Zone
Face painting
Knucklebones
Performances by:
Four Strings Academy
HONK!

**GERSHWIN & WILLIAMS:
AMERICAN ICONS**
Wednesday, July 24, 7pm ET | Hatch Shell

<https://www.landmarksorchestra.org/events/current-season/gershwin-williams/>

Our 2024 Esplanade season begins with a spotlight on two of America’s most beloved composers: George Gershwin and John Williams. From the timely Olympic Fanfare to themes from Jaws, E.T.—and a little Star Wars as an encore—the program also includes Jessie Montgomery’s Freedom Songs, based on spirituals, and the vibrant Second Symphony by Boston composer Randall Thompson. Come at 6:30 for a special prelude concert by students of the Four Strings Academy.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Christopher Wilkins, conductor
Joelle Lamarre, soprano
George Gershwin Girl Crazy Overture
Jessie Montgomery Freedom Songs
Randall Thompson Symphony No. 2
John Williams
Olympic Fanfare and Theme
The Cowboys Overture
Music from Jaws
“Viktor’s Tale” from The

Terminal, Rane Moore, clarinet
“Flying Theme” from E.T.: the Extra-Terrestrial

**BRAHMS & DVOŘÁK:
SONGS WITHOUT WORDS**
Saturday, August 3, 7pm ET | Hatch Shell
<https://www.landmarksorchestra.org/events/current-season/brahms-dvorak/>

The orchestra “sings” in two melodious staples of the symphonic repertoire: Brahms’s Academic Festival Overture and Dvořák’s popular Symphony No. 8. Julia Perry’s Three Spir-

ituals receive their first public performance, while Joel Hoffman’s moving Self-Portrait with Gebirtig features our Principal Cellist, Aron Zerkowicz, as soloist. Alfven’s bubbly Midsummer Vigil make this the perfect program for a midsummer Saturday evening.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Christopher Wilkins, conductor
Aron Zerkowicz, cello
Johannes Brahms Academic Festival Overture
Hugo Alfven Midsummer Vigil (Swedish Rhapsody No. 1)
Joel Hoffman Self-Portrait with Gebirtig, Aron Zerkowicz, cello
Julia Perry Three Spirituals (first public performance)
Antonin Dvorak Symphony No. 8

**Chamber Music:
The Rivers School Conservatory**
Saturday, August 10, 7pm ET | Hatch Shell
The Rivers School Conservatory performs an evening of chamber music at the Hatch Shell.
For the full season of performances, program notes, and more, visit [landmarksorchestra.org](https://www.landmarksorchestra.org).



Senator Nick Collins
FIRST SUFFOLK DISTRICT

District Office Hours

Cacao
570 Columbus Ave, South End
Friday, June 28th 10:00AM-1:00PM

South End Buttery
314 Shawmut Ave, South End
Friday, July 12th 9:00AM- 12:00PM

Southwest Corridor Park
End of Durham St, South End
Friday, July 19th 10:00AM- 1:00PM

Tatte Bakery & Cafe
345 Harrison Ave, South End
Friday, July 26th 10:00AM- 1:00PM



Mayor Wu announces citywide heat advisory in effect for residents

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu announced a heat advisory for the City of Boston beginning through Friday, July 12, due to the upcoming weather forecasts. High temperatures will reach into the high 80s, with the heat index expected to reach the 90s. The current City of Boston heat advisory threshold is 3 days or more of 90 degrees heat index, sustained for 2 or more hours per day.

“City staff are working to ensure Boston has an enjoyable and safe summer, and we’re asking residents to do their part to protect themselves from hot and humid weather,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “While this is not a heat emergency, we are advising people to take the necessary precautions such as taking breaks when working outside, staying hydrated, and checking on each other in the heat.”

“The Office of Emergency Management is coordinating closely with the National Weather Service (NWS) and Boston Public Health Commission on the weather and its impacts to our constituents. We are in communication with our partners, particularly those that work directly with vulnerable populations, to ensure they have what they need and will be available to support any resource or coordination needs that may arise,” said Chief of Emergency Preparedness Adrian Jordan. “We want to remind residents that extreme heat can be dangerous. Sustained periods of high heat increases the risk of heatstroke and other heat-related illnesses, especially for children, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions.”

The City of Boston is taking critical immediate action to provide heat relief, including short-term, actionable steps toward relief during heat waves. The City of Boston has been engaging in a variety of projects to support extreme heat mitigation and improved health for residents. Anyone, regardless of their medical conditions, can feel the impacts of extreme heat. During a heat wave, Boston Emergency Medical Services typically experience an 10-15% increase in calls to 9-1-1 for people of all ages.

Splash pads will be open at parks and playgrounds throughout the City. Several city pools are open for people to cool off and operating hours can be found at boston.gov/pools. Memberships to all City pools are free. Learn more about how to create a membership and register for a swim session at boston.gov/BCYF-registration. Because of a collaboration between Boston Public Schools, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the Public Facilities Department, and the Property Management Department, investments of City funding, and improved facilities assessment, the City is on track to have more pools open this year than in previous summers. The BCYF Mildred pool opens tomorrow and the BCYF Perkins pool opened just yesterday.

Boston Public Library locations are also available for residents to seek relief from the heat. Patrons are always welcome to participate in BPL’s summer programming for kids, teens, and adults.

Information on heat safety tips can be found online at boston.gov/heat and by following @CityofBoston on Twitter. Res-

idents can sign up for AlertBoston, the City’s emergency notification system, to receive emergency alerts by phone, email, or text. Sign up online here. Residents are also encouraged to call 311 with any questions about available City services.

The Mayor issued the following heat safety tips:

- Children and pets should never be left alone in vehicles, even for short periods of time.
- Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids regardless of activity level. Avoid alcoholic beverages and liquids high in sugar or caffeine.
- Keep cool with frequent cool showers, shade, and air conditioning or fans.
- Limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas and be extra cautious from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., when the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation is strongest.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion. Heavy sweating, cool and clammy skin, dizziness, nausea, and muscle aches could all be signs of heat exhaustion. If symptoms persist, call 9-1-1 immediately. Do not delay care. Heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S. and can exacerbate underlying illnesses.
- Adults and children should use sunscreen containing an SPF-30 or higher and wear protective, loose-fitting clothing including long sleeve shirts and hats.
- If you have a child in your home, use child window guards in addition to screens on any open window on the second story or above. Falls are the leading cause of injury for children under the age of six.
- Secure all window air conditioner units according to the

manufacturer’s specifications.

- If you are heading to a beach, lake, or pool to beat the heat, swim where lifeguards are present. Always watch children near the water and make sure they’re wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Please call or check on neighbors, especially older adults and people with disabilities.
- Please keep pets indoors, hydrated, and cool as asphalt and ground conditions are significantly hotter and unsafe during heat.

Helping Individuals

Experiencing Homelessness:

- If you see individuals out in the heat who appear immobile or disoriented, please ask them if they need assistance and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) operates emergency shelters at 112 Southamptn St (men’s shelter) and 794 Massachusetts Ave (women’s shelter). These facilities are air conditioned and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Amnesty will be called at temperatures of 90 degrees or above, so those with non-violent restrictions can access shelter out of the heat.
- The City of Boston works closely with a network of shelter providers to ensure there is adequate shelter, food, water, and a cool respite from the heat.
- Street outreach teams providing recovery services remain operating as normal during summertime weather. Outreach teams are providing water on outreach routes.

Playground Safety:

- Shoes should be worn outdoors, including playgrounds

and turf athletic fields, as surfaces can become extremely hot and cause burns, even on splash pads and spray decks.

Outdoor Fires and Grilling:

- No outdoor fires are allowed in Boston, including fire pits, chimineas, and bonfires.
- Charcoal grills must be on the ground and away from buildings. Keep in mind the wind and never leave grills unattended. Dispose of the ash in a metal container once completely out.
- Propane tank grills are only allowed on first floor porches with steps to the ground. Do not place propane tank grills near air conditioners or up against a building. Make sure all connections are tight and never carry propane tanks into a home.
- Grills should always be used in a well-ventilated area.

The City of Boston’s work is guided by the Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston framework to prepare for hotter summers and more intense heat events. The Heat Plan presents 26 strategies that will help build a more just, equitable, and resilient Boston. Visit boston.gov/heat regularly to learn more about the latest strategies for staying cool and to access the most up-to-date resources available. Each individual, family, and community’s plan may look different: from accessing one of Boston’s public pools or parks, or requesting a pop-up cooling kit for use at an outdoor event. You can read more about the strategies to stay cool this summer in the Summer Cooling Guide. In all extreme heat situations, please look out for your community, specifically heat-sensitive residents like elders, children, or unhoused people.

Project Bread secures \$10,000 grant to bolster anti-hunger efforts across the Northeast area

Special to the Sun

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the nation’s leading anti-hunger advocacy organization. This grant will bolster Project Bread’s pivotal role in advancing the Northeast Regional Anti-Hunger Network

(NERAHN), a coalition dedicated to eradicating hunger in the seven-state Northeast region. States include Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The grant is made possible by the Walmart Foundation.

“We are grateful to FRAC for their support, which will enable us to strengthen NERAHN and

(PROJECT BREAD Pg. 8)



NERAHN gathering at the FRAC Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. held from June 3–5.

CSC announces cast for Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale'

Free Shakespeare on the Common returns July 16 – Aug. 4

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) and Steven Maler, Founding Artistic Director, are pleased to announce the cast of this summer's production of Shakespeare's moving epic,

The Winter's Tale, on the Boston Common, directed by Associate Artistic Director Bryn Boice.

Performances begin on Tuesday, July 16 and run through Sunday, August 4 at the Parkman

Bandstand. The production is presented in partnership with the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods, and Boston Chief of Arts and Culture,

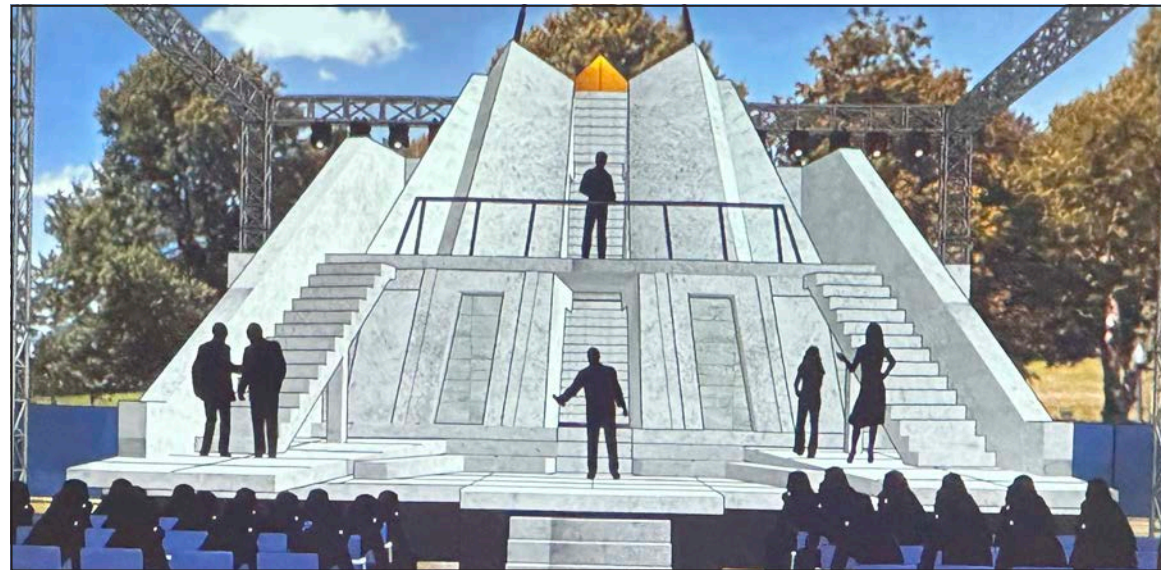
Kara Elliott-Ortega.

King Leontes of Sicilia falsely accuses his wife, Hermione, of infidelity with his best friend, the King of Bohemia. Inflamed by jealousy and convinced that he is right, Leontes banishes his newborn daughter Perdita as his wife dies of heartbreak. Perdita grows up in Bohemia under the care of a shepherd. Sixteen years pass before old wounds can heal, betrayals can be forgotten, and new alliances formed. Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale is a captivating parable of betrayals, renewed hope, and the transformative power of time.

The principal cast members include an all-star group of New England-area talent including: Nael Nacer (Macbeth, The Tempest at CSC, A Prayer for the French Republic at the Huntington and Broadway)

as Leontes; Marianna Bassham (Macbeth, Othello, Twelfth Night at CSC, People Places and Things at Speakeasy Stage) as Hermione; Omar Robinson (Macbeth at CSC, King Hedley II at Actors Shakespeare Project) as Polixenes, King of Bohemia; Paula Plum (multi-Elliot Norton Award-winner, founding member of Actors' Shakespeare Project) as Paulina/Time; Tony Estrella (Cymbeline at CSC, A Prayer for the French Republic at The Huntington, Artistic Director at Gamm Theatre) as Camillo; Richard Snee (The Taming of the Shrew at CSC, The Minutes at Umbrella Stage) as The Shepherd; Robert Walsh (Coriolanus, Macbeth, Henry V at CSC, founding member of Actors Shakespeare Project) as

(SHAKESPEARE Pg. 8)



A view of the set design for the upcoming performances of 'The Winter's Tale'.

MWRA annual report confirms high quality of region's water, ranked among nation's very best

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which supplies drinking water to fifty-three area municipalities including Boston, is mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household within its service area. Sourced from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, local drinking water undergoes hundreds of thousands of tests annually, is constantly being monitored and this year once again meets or surpasses every federal and state safe drinking water standard. MWRA drinking water is considered among the nation's best.

Executive Director Henry Vitale of Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), which partners with MWRA to provide Boston's award-winning drinking water, noted that the focus on quality is imperative every step of the way from "the reservoir to the tap." In that spirit, he said, BWSC is continuing its aggressive campaign to remove all private lead service pipes remaining in Boston. "We want everyone in Boston to enjoy our high-quality drinking water safely," said Vitale. "If people have a lead

pipe supplying water into their residence, suspect they have lead or are unsure, please call Boston Water and Sewer Commission right away."

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has directed the Commission to provide both free inspections to determine if pipes are lead or not, and for the lead replacement program itself to be cost free. Boston property owners who would like to take advantage of the no-cost private lead service pipe removal program are urged to call the BWSC Lead Hotline for assistance on this or any other lead related issues at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's Lead Service Map at: <https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/map-room/lead-service-map> to look up information the Commission may have on the status of their property.

While both MWRA's and BWSC's public distribution mains are lead free, thousands of older Boston properties may still have a private lead service line. Replacement of private lead service lines is an important public health issue because excessive amounts of lead in the body

can cause serious adverse health effects, especially for young

children and pregnant women. Again, call our Lead Hotline at

617-989-7888 for more information.



Photo by Adrien Sipos © AdrienSiposPhotography.com
Artwork by Elaina Bates Egan © ElainaBatesEgan.com

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Event Date: September 7th, 2024 | City Square Park in Charlestown, MA
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Visit www.ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com



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SHAKESPEARE (from pg. 7)

Antigonus; Ryan Winkles (Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle and Here We Go at CSC, Joy and Pandemic at the Huntington, "Boston Strangler") as Autolycus; Joshua Olumide (A Raisin in the Sun at New Rep, the Oscar-winning film "American Fiction") as Florizel; and Nettie Chickering (Much Ado about Nothing for CSC) as Emilia.

The cast also includes the CSC2 company with Clara Hevia as Perdita, Cleveland Nicoll as Clown, John Blair as First Lord, Bella Grace Harris as Gaoler/Bohemian Servant, Ednilson Tavares as Second Lord, Ryan Richard Doyle as Cleomenes, Dyce Stephens as Dion, Chloe Boyan as First Lady/Dorcas, Rilyn Gardner as Second Lady/Mopsa, and Anne Borzner as Doctor/First Gentleman, with youth artist Eviva Rose (Macbeth for CSC) as Mamillius.

Scenic design is by James J. Fenton, Costume Design by Rachel Padula-Shufelt, Lighting Design by Max Grano de Oro, Music Composed by Mackenzie Adamik, and Sound Design by David Remedios, with Movement and Choreography by Victoria Awkward.

Director Bryn Boice is an award-winning director, educator, actor, and producer, as well as CSC's Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education & Training. For CSC Bryn helmed Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle & Here We Go – two Caryl Churchill one-acts – which garnered her the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director, Large Theatre. Other recent Boston-area credits include: The Sound Inside and The Children (both Elliot Norton nominated for Outstanding Production, Speakeasy Stage); The Book of Will, Into the Breeches! (Elliot Norton nom. for Direction and Production, Hub Theatre Company); Tall Tales from Blackburn Tavern, Gloria (Gloucester Stage); The Half-Life of Marie Curie (The Nora Company); Admissions (The Gamm Theatre); Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes (Greater Boston Stage Company); an all-female production of Julius Caesar for Actors' Shakespeare Project; and a number of Apprentice Repertory Company and Stage2 productions for CSC. New York, regional and other Boston credits as an actor and/or director include work with Asolo Repertory Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Anthem Theatre Company,

Okoboji Theatre, InProximity Theatre, Theatre Row, Martha's Vineyard PAC, Monomoy Theatre, Caroline's on Broadway, and Manhattan Theatre Club. Before turning full-time to CSC, she taught at Salem State University, where her wide-ranging experience allowed her to teach Voice for Performance, Applied Stage Movement, Public Speaking, Directing, Acting III (Early Realism), Dramatic Theory & Criticism, and Dialects, among others. MFA in Directing, Boston University. MFA in Acting, Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (FSU). Member AEA. For more information visit www.brynboice.com

The Winter's Tale is supported by our generous sponsors and partners including The Liberty Mutual Foundation, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Daymarc Foundation, the Paul and Edith Babson Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Ovation TV, Xfinity, the City of Boston, the Theater League of Kansas City, GBH, EDGE Media Network, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Downtown Boston BID, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston Parks and Recreation, Suffolk University, The Newbury Boston, Barton and Guestier, and Boston Common Magazine.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC), best known for its annual free performances on Boston Common, is a non-profit theater organization founded in 1996, dedicated to artistic excellence, accessibility, and education. CSC's Free Shakespeare on the Common has served over one million audience members over its 27-year history and has become a beloved summer tradition enjoyed by more than 50,000 people annually. Most recently, CSC presented Macbeth (with Faran Tahir and Joanne Kelly), directed by Steven Maler in 2023, Much Ado About Nothing, directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian in 2022, and The Tempest (with John Douglas Thompson as Prospero) to great acclaim in 2021.

In addition to its live theatre productions, CSC also provides robust Education and Training programs, including our Apprentice Training Program and CSC2 company for early-career actors, and Stage2 programming for middle and high school students and educators. For more information, visit commshakes.org.

CITY PAWS

Pets and Pain Alerts

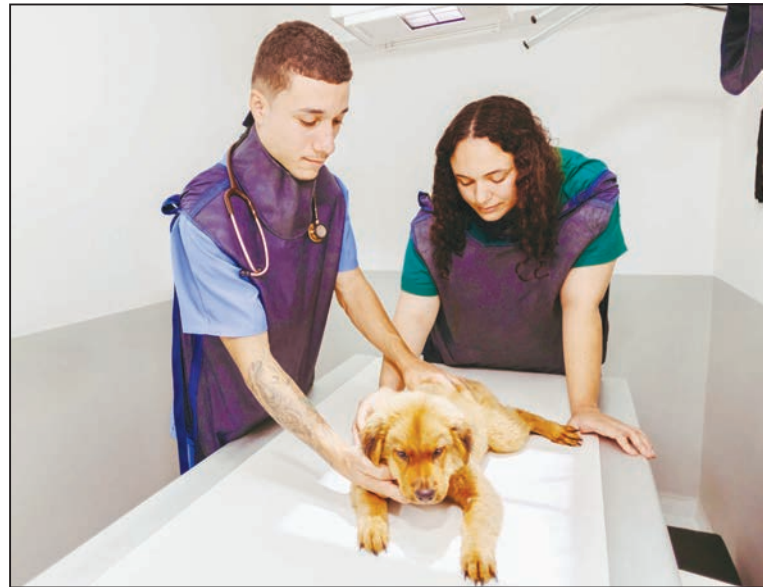
By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Part of our job as pet guardians is to tune into the signals that might mean our furry family member is in pain. Animals have evolved to hide pain since

it would show weakness to other animals. Therefore, we must react to the slightest changes in a dog or cat's behavior.

Signs of Pain with Movement

Most of us react quickly if



To confirm the source of the pain, a visit to the veterinarian for an X-ray or other test may be needed.

our dog is limping, having trouble climbing stairs, or jumping up on the sofa. These can signal an injury, infection, arthritis, or something stuck in a paw. Your first reaction should be a gentle check of the feet, looking for any sign of a cut, broken nail, soreness, or infection. You might also gently massage the muscles in the area while watching for any sign or sound of pain.

Body Signals

Your pet may try to hide its pain from you, but its body may give it away with drooling, trembling, shaking, or twitching. Some animals will change their body stance, tilt their heads, or have one ear down if hurting.

You can also do a quick home exam of body temperature, pulse rate, and respiration per minute to help you decide if a quick trip to an emergency vet, making an

(CITY PAWS Pg. 10)

PROJECT BREAD (from pg. 6)

drive meaningful progress in the fight against hunger across the Northeast," said Leran Minc, Assistant Director of Policy at Project Bread, leading convener of NERAHN. "In our regional coalition, we are leading on national hunger policy – we have three of the eight states nationwide providing free school meals to all students (MA, ME, and VT). Together with our coalition partners, we aim to ensure everyone across the region has access to the nutrition they need to thrive through the continued expansion of resources and system change for families and individuals."

Using funding from this grant, Project Bread will re-convene NERAHN following a 4-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The efforts began with a gathering of member organizations during the FRAC Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in June. This fall, Project Bread will host a convening with all 14 member organizations to align regional efforts, to bolster policymaking decisions on a federal and state by state scale, and to amplify the role of federal nutrition programs as a solution to food insecurity, targeting USDA's Northeast Regional Office and our respective Con-

gressional delegations.

Federal nutrition programs are among our nation's most important, proven, and cost-effective solutions for reducing hunger, poverty, and health. These programs include:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as the nation's first line of defense against hunger by providing financial resources to help millions of people afford to put food on the table.

- The School Nutrition Programs fuel children's health and learning and combat childhood hunger.

- The Afterschool Nutrition Programs provide nutritious meals and snacks to children at educational and enrichment programming after the school day ends.

- Summer Nutrition Programs offer nutritious meals to low-income children, replacing school breakfasts and lunches served during the school year.

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support, and health care and social service referrals to more than 6.6 million women

and young children, including nearly half of all infants born in the U.S.

- The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family child care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult care centers, and homeless shelters.

"Hunger continues to affect the health and well-being of far too many individuals and families in New York and the New England states," said Kelly Horton, interim president of FRAC. "We are proud to be a part of this collective effort to expand equitable access to federal nutrition programs so no one faces the unimaginable and inexcusable stress of hunger."

People experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts should call or text Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits and Summer Eats meal sites, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org/get-help.

MBTA achieves historic labor agreements with entire workforce

Healey Admin.,
MBTA General
Manager Eng secure
contracts with all 28
unions in record time

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has reached a landmark achievement by successfully negotiating agreements with all 28 of its affiliated labor unions, representing 16 collective bargaining agreements. This accomplishment, the first of its kind since 2009, was realized within 18 months of the Healey-Driscoll Administration taking office and under the leadership of MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng.

"The success of the MBTA depends on a well-trained, motivated and empowered workforce. That's why, from day one, our administration has been committed to partnering with labor to efficiently secure agreements that ensure workers receive competitive wages and benefits and strengthen our efforts to recruit and retain the best talent. I'm grateful to General Manager Eng and his team for their leadership, to our labor unions for their partnership, and to the men and women who keep the T moving forward for their hard work," said Governor Maura Healey.

Key Highlights:

All agreements finalized within one year of negotiations, a significant improvement from previous multi-year processes.

Four-year terms for all 16 contracts, ensuring the longest period of labor stability since the 1980s. Enhanced wages and incentives to boost recruitment and retention efforts.

Built upon the historic pension agreement with the Carmen's Union (March 2023) and similar agreement with the Transit Police Association (Fall 2023).

The final agreement, ratified with the MBTA Plumbers in June 2024, completes a series of contracts modeled after the August 2023 agreement with the Boston Carmen's Union, ATU Local 589.

These agreements address long-standing labor concerns and aim to stabilize and expand the MBTA workforce.

"This is a significant step forward in creating the infrastructure and support that is needed for our workforce to implement the current and future work of the MBTA. I am deeply grateful to everyone who worked to make this a reality and to ensure that our frontline workers have everything they need to provide quality services to residents and travelers," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration understood from the beginning that rebuilding our

workforce was paramount to restoring the reliability of safe public transit. I'm thankful for the efforts across our organization that negotiated and settled these contracts with our labor partners in record time. These contracts provide a level of stability we haven't seen in decades," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Union workers and the new hires we're eager to bring on are on the frontline of providing reliable safe service for many communities. I'm so proud to stand side by side with the MBTA workforce."

"It's awesome to hear that all the Union contracts at the MBTA are under agreement. It is a historical accomplishment and emphasizes how progress can be made when labor and management work together. We are very thankful for the Governor and her team," said MBTA Board Director Robert Butler. Butler is also the President of the Northeast Regional Council of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART). He has served over 20 years as a Journeyman in Local 17, giving him a

For Immediate Release: Monday, July 3, 2024 Contact Us: mediarelations@mbta.com

strong understanding of the needs of trade employees that

he uses to advocate for worker's rights.

Workforce Development Initiatives:

Over 1,900 new hires since the beginning of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, including more than 1,600 in 2023 alone.

\$20 million investment from a supplemental budget to support hiring efforts and the Local 589 Agreement.

Comprehensive approach focusing on recruitment, retention, skills training, and leadership development.

Restructuring of senior leadership and improvement of frontline teams, safety protocols, engineering, and planning.

"Making these frontline MBTA jobs competitive like was done in the recent Local 589 contract and others that followed is important not just because many of these jobs can provide a pathway to the middle class, but because the system absolutely needs to attract and retain experienced frontline workers in order to improve. We give the administration and the general manager credit for engaging with the frontline workforce through collective bargaining in a manner that is positive, productive, and respectful," said Carmen's Union Local 589 President Jim Evers.

"Under the new general man-

ager and the Healey-Driscoll administration, a lot of trust has been restored among the workforce and we absolutely give them credit for making essential investments in the frontline workforce through a professional and respectful collective bargaining approach," said IAM District 15 Assistant Directing Business Representative and Chairperson of the MBTA Coalition of Unions Mike Vartabedian.

"The Massachusetts AFL-CIO represents thousands of union members who work at the MBTA, as well as thousands of union members who rely on the MBTA to get to work. We appreciate that the Healey-Driscoll Administration understands the critical role that public transportation plays in the lives of working people, and how important it is to respect and listen to the hardworking union members who make our public transportation system run," said MA AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch.

These agreements and workforce initiatives mark a turning point for the MBTA, setting the stage for improved service reliability and system modernization. As the MBTA moves forward with a stabilized workforce, it is now better positioned than ever before to meet the evolving transportation needs of the Greater Boston area.

The Parks Department summer golf course concert series returns

Special to the Sun

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's live music offerings continue in 2024 with a series of Wednesday evening summer concerts on the patios at the City of Boston's two golf course clubhouses.

Enjoy a variety of musical styling from a lineup of local artists at the George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse at 420 West Street in Hyde Park and the William Devine Golf Course Clubhouse at 1 Circuit Drive in Dorchester.

Held in July and August, the Golf Course Concert Series is part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's year-round ParkARTS program. This series is sponsored by Bank of America. All shows are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The schedule is as

follows:

Wednesday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

It's a "J" Thing - guitar, vocal, and violin trio.

George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse

Wednesday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Last Call - Funk and R&B group.

William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse

Wednesday, July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Madi Ryan - Boston-based singer-songwriter.

George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse

Wednesday, August 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Albino Mbie - Afro-pop and Mozambican jazz.

William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse

Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Jon Hollywood- New England-based solo acoustic artist.


George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse

All ParkARTS performances are free of charge. For more information, please visit


boston.gov/golf-concert-series. 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 and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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NSCS promotes Judi Lemoine to Chief Executive Officer

Special to the Journal

The Board of Directors of North Suffolk Community Services (NSCS), a nonprofit behavioral health and human services provider, today announced that Judi Lemoine has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

Lemoine, who has been interim CEO since January, has been at NSCS for more than 30 years, most recently serving as Senior Vice President for Clinical Operations and Systems Integration. In that role, she was responsible for all organizational operations, including the January 2023 launch of North Suffolk's community behavioral health center in East Boston.

"Judi has served in many different roles in our organization throughout her very long career

with North Suffolk and, as a board, we unanimously believe that she is the right person to lead North Suffolk Community Services as president and chief executive officer," said Board Chair Virginia Todd. "As we grow and evolve to meet the needs of our communities, Judi will ensure that we stay true to our mission of treating everyone with dignity and respect, prioritizing the people we serve and recognizing the value of our employees."

During her career with the organization, she has held multiple leadership positions, including Program Manager of Day Services, Director of Ambulatory Services and Director of Operations. In each of these positions, she developed and expanded programming based on the needs of the clients and the communities

served. In 2012, Judi was promoted to Chief Operating Officer, responsible for the overall clinical and rehabilitative operations and related activities of the agency, including management of staff, fiscal, capital and community resources.

Lemoine began her career at North Suffolk as a registered nurse at the Conexions Day Treatment program, where she developed the field placement training for nursing interns in the outpatient clinics and day treatment programs as a Community Preceptor Supervisor for the nursing programs at Simmons University and Northeastern University.

"At North Suffolk Community Services, our workplace culture is rooted in dignity and respect. I have immense admiration for this innovative and compassionate team dedicated

to serving our communities," said Lemoine. "It is an honor to lead the agency where I began my career in behavioral health care and where I have spent nearly my entire professional life."

Lemoine is a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Simmons University. She was recognized with the induction into Sigma Theta Tau as a Nursing Leader for her development of field placements in the outpatient and day treatment programs.

Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Community Services, formerly North Suffolk Mental Health Association, touches the lives of nearly 15,000 people annually in more than 75 programs throughout Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, Charlestown, and Boston. North Suffolk supports adults, children, and families across the lifespan with behavioral health issues, substance use disorders



Judi Lemoine

and/or developmental disabilities. The organization employs more than 1,000 talented individuals who provide services in nine languages, including ASL, through a community behavioral health center and three outpatient clinics; mobile crisis response team; 39 residential programs; two Recovery Support Centers and a Recovery Learning Center. It operates a Training Center for employees and the community as well as a 24/7/365 Recovery Support hotline. Visit nortsuffolk.org.

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All ads must run in July to receive promotional pricing.

CITY PAWS (from pg. 8)

appointment, or watching and waiting a few days is the best response.

Behavioral Pain Signals

An animal in pain can be grumpy, just as you can be if you're in pain. Aggression can be a sign of pain. If that's the case, you should know how to use a muzzle or make one before you handle your dog or cat.

Whimpering or growling can be audible symptoms of pain. Restlessness may mean the animal can't find a way to be comfortable. Cats are more apt to hide when in pain.

Any break in house training or appetite needs investigation to learn if there is a medical cause. Unexplained weight gain or weight loss is essential to note and gives you a reason to weigh your pet on a regular schedule.

Decreased self-grooming can be an essential change to note in cats. On the other hand, licking or increased grooming of a specific spot calls for examination.

Another body signal is a decrease in activity. If your dog is sleeping more, reluctant to walk with you, or not interested in playing, you should watch for additional alerts.

Specific Alerts

A change in appetite might mean a dental problem that

makes eating hurt. If you brush your dog's teeth, note any changes or sore spots that might need veterinary care.

Both dental and ear issues can cause dogs to rub their faces to relieve the pain. With ear infections, they might shake their head more than usual. However, if it is an excruciating ear infection, they might not be able to shake at all.

You Know Your Pet Best!

There is nothing wrong with following your sense that something is off, even when you can't point to a specific item.

It's important to note that some pain, such as arthritis, doesn't always make its presence known in a dramatic way. It can start small and gradually increase over time, making long-term observation and care crucial for our pets' well-being.

Our tip for this may be right in your hand. Set a reminder to take routine videos of your pet walking, climbing stairs, or playing. Not only will these give you and your veterinarian comparisons, but they will also provide lovely memories of your pet at various life stages.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Horstmann, Kari K	Bean And Fischer Bean	6 Clarendon St #402	\$1,310,000
Mahadeshwar, Kedar J	Shackelford, George T	114 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$1,230,000
Mckenzie, William S	Dempsey, Leigh A	184 Marlborough St #1	\$1,770,000
Gupta, Tanvika	Joan Lenington 2011 T	226 Marlborough St #2	\$2,300,000
Ballyargus LLC	George A Bicher Nt	417 Beacon St #1	\$1,705,000
Lazar, Melissa	City Pug Rt	333 Commonwealth Ave #6	\$1,640,000
Kirpalani, Kamal	Carlson, Donald G	17 Gloucester St #5	\$2,125,000
BEACON HILL			
Sonsino, Jeffrey	Degennaro Properties LLC	21 Beacon St #7A	\$666,000
63 Mt Vernon Street Nt	Bpg Mount Vernon LLC	63 Mount Vernon St #PH	\$9,500,000
Smith, Brett	Rudin, Seth	3 Myrtle St #2	\$1,050,000
Kraft, Alfred L	Gurnon, Catherine P	145 Pinckney St #203	\$725,000
Elia, Paul W	Root, David J	52 W Cedar St	\$3,325,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
47-55 Unit 12j Lagrange S	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #12J	\$685,000
Hacker, Jonathan J	Lim, Shenkiat	12 Yarmouth St #C	\$817,500
Donovan, Carrie B	Walz, Gerd	21 Father Francis Gilday St #207	\$985,000
Powers, Ryan	Joseph A Caprio RET	126 W Newton St #2	\$2,650,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Hicks Rt	Jerrold A Olanoff RET	45-63 Atlantic Ave #10C	\$1,300,000
Harbor 10a LLC	Dty Investments LLC	85 E India Row #10A	\$675,000
12 Foster Street LLC	Torrington Webb LLC	12 Foster St	\$5,750,000
Kuo, Ying-Hua	Hillyer, Kuldip	1 Franklin St #3112	\$2,050,000
Gorman, Ryan P	Chittenden, Steven	210-216 Lincoln St #801	\$1,200,000
207 South Street Rt	201 South St Owner LLC	201-207 South St	\$13,000,000

Elected officials respond to last week’s vandalism in Common and Public Garden

By Dan Murphy

Local elected officials were disheartened to see several landmarks on the Boston Common and in the Public Garden tagged with alleged pro-Palestinian graffiti just ahead of the July 4 holiday.

According to published reports, Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Common, along with 15 park benches, were all tagged with red graffiti. The words ‘Free Gaza’ were spraypainted on the Public Garden footbridge while the George Washington Statue in the Public Garden was tagged with the phrase, ‘End Zionism,’ among other acts of reported vandalism in the two parks. (The City of Boston has since removed the graffiti.)

Boston Police have categorized the spate of vandalism as a hate

crime and said that six possible suspects were caught on video around 11:50 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, but no arrests have been made to date.

Mayor Michelle Wu told WCVB-TV in the immediate aftermath of the crimes: “The Public Garden and the Common are some of the most visible places in the city, especially on a weekend, a week and a holiday like July 4th, when we are welcoming people from all around the city and region and world.”

Rep. Jay Livingstone told this reporter: “I think it’s offensive and wrong. If people want to show their support for Palestine, they shouldn’t be using anti-Semitic language, and there’s no need to deface public [landmarks].”

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan said in a statement: “When city staff and the Graffiti

Busters team were made aware of vandalism on the Boston Common, they responded quickly, but there was a lot of ground to cover, on a day when they should’ve been able to enjoy a day with their families. I’m grateful for their dedication, but it shouldn’t have been necessary. In a time where hundreds and thousands visit our Parks in record numbers, both residents and visitors, it’s a shame that vandals targeted historical monuments during a time when we should be celebrating and reflecting on our nation’s history.”

Likewise, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn posted on X (formerly Twitter) he was “disgusted” by this “antisemitic and anti-American...desecration of [the] memorials,” and that he believes this act of vandalism should be prosecuted a hate crime.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The lovely oriel window in the last clue is on 477 Commonwealth Avenue, built circa 1899. Today, the building is owned by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is classified for tax purposes as “Non-Transient Group Quarters / Rectories, Convents, Monasteries” by Boston Assessing.

You’ll find the next clue in the South End.
Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured?
Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

282 BEACON UNIT #6, BACK BAY

4 BEDROOMS | 4F BATHROOMS | 3,200 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$4,990,000



100 BELVIDERE STREET UNIT #4G, BACK BAY

2 BEDROOMS | 2F 1H BATHROOMS | 2,654 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$5,295,000



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