Sumner Tunnel to Be Closed Through August 31, 2023

Editor’s note: In an effort to better serve and inform our readers, Sampan will be publishing regular updates throughout the course of this closing in all print issues (starting with this one) through the end of August. Updates will also be posted online. Our focus will be on the purpose of the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project and progress of the repair. In this issue, we are posting the current alternative means of travel options that will be available during the closure. Please also use MassDOT 511 Real Time Traffic monitoring to help review traffic conditions and closure. Please also use MassDOT 511 for additional information.

TRAVEL TO/FROM EAST BOSTON AND NORTH END

MBTA Blue Line and Parking

• The entire Blue Line in both directions will be fare-free to riders. Gates will be open at all Blue Line stations from Wonderland to Bowdoin.

• An additional train will be added to the Blue Line in the midday period to help support more riders riding the line.

• All MBTA parking lots and garages will be open at all Blue Line stations from Wonderland to Bowdoin.

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Discounted Tolls

• Discounted tolls will be provided for the Tobin Bridge and Ted Williams Tunnel for those registered in the Resident Discount Program.

• Real Time Traffic monitoring will be available at 13 local intersections.

Updated on Page 3

All Immigrants Soon Eligible for Standard Driver's License in Massachusetts

Work and Family Mobility Act will allow residents to obtain license regardless of status.

By Sampan Stuff

Starting July 1, eligible Massachusetts residents will be able to apply for a learner’s permit and road test to obtain a driver's license, according to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Newly translated materials are also being prepared under the Work and Family Mobility Act.

Under the new law, residents can apply to obtain a standard (class D or M) driver's license, regardless of immigration status.

"The Work and Family Mobility Act is a benefit for public safety, for our economy, and for our immigrant residents who should be able to drive to work, school, or the grocery store without fear. We are grateful to the advocates, legislators and public safety leaders who have worked so hard to get us to this point," said Gov. Maura Healey in a statement. "We are excited to begin implementing this new law, and the RMV has been working diligently to ensure a smooth process for all eligible applicants."

Some immigrant rights’ groups cheered the new law as well.

"The Driving Families Forward Coalition has been working with over 270 coalition partners to spread the message of this important moment," said Lenita Reason, Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center and co-chair of Driving Families Forward. "We are grateful to Governor Healey, her new administration, and the Registry of Motor Vehicles for all their hard work to ensure that community members receive the information necessary to successfully obtain a standard driver's license starting on the first business day of implementation."
Over the past several months, the RMV has identified and created informational resources and tools specifically to help guide new customers as they begin the process to secure a Standard license credential, said the RMV. Materials will be in 15 languages, permits available in 35 languages, and interpreters (phone and in-person) will be available in more than 100 languages.

To prepare for the application process, the RMV is also providing tips to eligible residents in advance:

1. Appointments are required: You will need to make two separate appointments online to take your learner’s permit exam and take a road test. Walk-ins will not be available. Starting July 1, make your appointment at mass.gov/myrmv. Appointments will fill up fast at popular RMV locations (Haymarket, Watertown, Quincy), so consider expanding your location preferences to find more availability.

2. Prepare your documents: Before your appointment, be sure to gather a proof of identity; proof of date of birth; social security number, social security denial letter, or affidavit; and documents proving Massachusetts residency. For the expanded list of acceptable documents, see Mass.Gov/WFMA. If any documents are not in English, the RMV will require the document to be accompanied by an English translation.

3. Standard fees apply: Costs are $30 for a learner’s permit exam fee, $35 for a road test fee, and $50 for a Class D driver’s license fee. The RMV encourages applicants to pay online in advance at mass.gov/myrmv.

4. Study and practice driving: Learn the Massachusetts rules of the road so you can successfully pass your learner’s permit exam. Practice driving with a licensed driver in the car before you take your scheduled road test. Be sure you know how to use hand signals, how to turn the vehicle on, how to use directional signals, and how the vehicle mirrors while driving.

5. Bring an interpreter if possible: Customer service centers will have translation services available by telephone for your appointment. If you need an interpreter for your road test and have a friend, loved one, or someone else who can accompany you to translate, the RMV encourages you to bring them along. Otherwise, you can request an interpreter from the RMV when scheduling a road test.

6. Bring a licensed driver and a vehicle to your road test: All applicants for a driver’s license must bring a licensed driver and a vehicle to your road test.

7. Beware of bad actors: The RMV cautions residents to beware of fraudulent websites and scams. The RMV is the only organization permitted to issue a driver’s license and to collect fees. Customers needing credentials should never pay someone for an RMV appointment. There are no special brokers authorized to help you get an appointment or a license. Make sure that you pay fees only at Mass.gov/myrmv or in person at an RMV location.

For more information go to mass.gov/WFMA or call (857) 368-WFMA.

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**Elemental Review**

By Harmony Witte

Pixar’s Elemental is a sweet, transfixing tale of an immigrant family of fire elementals making their way through their new life in Element City and the unlikely love story that unfolds. The film follows two generations of a family who are new in a city full of anthropomorphic water, land, earth, and air residents. A city that its very infrastructure is not made to accommodate fire elementals. When the young, temperamental, Ember, meets an easy-going water elemental called Wade, sparks fly, and they go on a quest together to save their families’ livelihood.

Directed and co-written by Korean immigrant, Peter Sohn, the film starts with a fire elemental, Utri dár i Búrdi, and his heavily pregnant wife, Fišh i Sidder, reluctantly leaving their home in Fire Land with their suitcases and making the treacherous journey by boat to Element City. When they arrive, they find a different kind of place where even their names are changed to make them fit in more with the Element City standards. The newly named Bernie and Cinder Lumen struggle to find accommodations with the locals being unwilling to rent to them because of their fire abilities. Eventually, they find a place that needs a little work and make it their home. They open a shop specializing in fire elemental goods and a fire elemental community grows around them. They proudly protect the blue flame that they brought from their homeland, because as Bernie says, “The blue flame holds all our traditions and gives us the strength to burn bright.” Ember is born and they train her in the ways of delivering goods and customer service, grooming her to run their shop one day.

As she grows, Ember struggles with her temper, often blowing up at customers in the shop—literally. This leads to her father saying, “Please forgive my daughter, she burns bright, but sometimes too bright.” Her mother laments at her daughter’s potentially lonely future if she can’t change, comically declaring “she just has a loveless, sad, future of sadness.” It’s exciting when she meets Wade, a city inspector, and they slowly start to build a relationship. The humorous love story in this film is top notch. At one point Ember and Wade see a film together called Tide & Prejudice, the pun comes into play later when they share the most electric hand-touching moment since 2005’s film version of Pride & Prejudice. It’s a delight to watch Ember go from declaring “elements don’t mix” to a water teen with a crush on her, to considering what could happen if they did mix. Ember begins to learn to be happier and goes on a simultaneous journey of self-discovery, expanding her world, and learning what she truly desires out of life.

Pixar does not disappoint with the animation. They always innovate and introduce audiences to new experiences with their immersive world-building and Elemental was no exception. There was one underwater scene with Ember inside an air bubble, surrounded by flower blossoms, with light refracting in all sorts of interesting ways that was just stunningly beautiful. The Pixar animators put so much effort into capturing light and shadows, and perfecting the mechanics of water, that it overwhelms the audience’s eyes and nearly goes unnoticed on a first viewing. There was a scene where Ember ran across flames changing her flame’s colors to match each one that was simply gorgeous. The film has a great soundtrack with one love song, Steal the Show, performed by Labu, which is bound to be a hit.

The voice actors did great work in Elemental, especially the actress who voiced Ember, Leah Lewis. She carries the film admirably with her wide-ranging emotions. The actor who voiced her father, Ronnie Del Carmen, also did a great job as the lovable Bernie. Catherine O’Hara made an appearance as the hilarious Brook, a water elemental with a knack for crying. Pixar introduced their first canonically nonbinary character with Kai Ava Hauser’s, Lake, in a blink-and-you’ll-miss-it appearance. However, the lack of big-name talent for the voice actors might be contributing to the low box office performance.

There were some problems with the movie. Critics have compared the plot of Elemental and declared it too similar to Pixar’s 2016 hit Zootopia. I can confidently say this film is not the same premise as Zootopia, or even very similar, except they both involve a character thrust into a new situation which happens to take place in a city. The extended metaphor about xenophobia and interracial dating only goes so far with this movie before it begins to break down a bit at the edges. The way her father spoke in broken English sometimes felt too much like a caricature. He repeatedly refers to Wade as “a water” instead of a water person as politely instructed. Some of the characters would use what was meant to be a slur such as “watch it, Sparky,” or what seemed like a microaggression toward the fire elementals, but it wasn’t exactly clear if any offense was intended or why the way the character reacted, leaving the audience to guess at what had just happened.

Pixar filmmakers expect a certain degree of originality and inspiration when they see a new film and Elemental delivers. Pixar delivered a beautiful love story wrapped up in an immigrant story while creating a whole new world through which to tell the tale. With compelling music, stunning animation, and superb acting this is a movie that families will want to watch repeatedly with each other.
Sumner Tunnel to be Closed Through August 31, 2023

Continued from Page 1

MBTA East Boston Ferry
• The East Boston ferry will be free during the tunnel’s closure.
• The East Boston ferry service operates between East Boston at Lewis Mall and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf. East Boston ferry service schedules are available online with all ferry service schedules available at mbta.com/ferry.

Seaport Ferry
• Travelers can also use the existing Seaport ferry, which offers service between North Station and the Seaport and East Boston and the Seaport.

TRAVEL TO/FROM THE NORTH SHORE

Commuter Rail and Parking
• Zone 1A ($2.40) fares along the entire Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail line directly into North Station. Parking at Salem and Swampscott is reduced to just $2 per day. Free parking will be available at all MBTA lots north of Salem, including Beverly, Gloucester, Hamilton/Wenham, Newburyport, North Beverly, Monserrat, Rowley, and West Gloucester.
• Blue Line benefits also apply. Travelers are encouraged to consider the Wonderland Station parking lot if coming from the North Shore.

Lynn Ferry
• Beginning Monday June 26, 2023, a new Lynn Ferry will operate five days/week on weekdays only, with 10 trips per day. Schedules are being finalized and will be released as soon as they are available.
• During the Sumner Tunnel shutdown, riders may use a Zone 1A fare ($2.40). The Lynn Ferry will operate between the Blossom St. dock in Lynn to Long Wharf, Gate 4, in Boston (near Aquarium).
• Free parking at the City of Lynn-owned lot will be available near the Blossom St. dock. Bicycles are allowed on the ferry.

Winthrop Ferry
• MBTA will operate Winthrop Ferry service beginning this summer. During the Sumner Tunnel shutdown, riders may use a Zone 1A fare ($2.40).
• The route will provide service to Winthrop, Quincy, Logan Airport, Aquarium and Seaport five days a week. Schedules are being finalized and will be released as soon as they are available.

Salem Ferry
• Travelers can also utilize the existing Salem ferry.
• Schedules available here: https://www.bostonharborcruises.com/salem-ferry/

TRAVEL TO/FROM LOGAN AIRPORT

Logan Express
• There will be a 25% discount when you buy tickets online, and children under 17 ride free.
• Adding additional parking capacity at Braintree Logan Express.
• Providing passengers who take water transportation to the airport a “Ticket to Skip” to the front of the line for checkpoint screening.
• Added stop at Logan Airport by the Winthrop Ferry.

Silver Line
• An extra bus will be added to the SL1 schedule between 8 AM – 2 PM to add more service frequency due to increased trip time on the Ted Williams Tunnel.
• The SL1 stops at Logan Airport and is always free for commuters traveling from the airport to Boston.

MassDOT also has a working partnership with public safety agencies and Boston EMS to support public safety during the Sumner Tunnel closure. There will be 2 dedicated ambulances for East Boston, 2 rotating ambulances to support the day shift, 2 rotating ambulances to support the evening shift, and 1 rotating ambulance to support the overnight shift.

For additional details on the Sumner Tunnel and the project, please visit mass.gov/sumner-tunnel and sign up for email updates at MassDOT.

ECC Licensed Infant/Toddler Teacher

Buds & Blossoms Daycare Center is currently seeking an ECC licensed infant/toddler teacher. The teacher must be warm, friendly, nurturing and professional. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to the following: Teacher/Child interactions, Teacher/Parent communication, Preparing and following the curriculum with the philosophy of Reggio Emilia, following all Health/Safety/Nutrition guidelines.

Qualifications/Requirements: Associate Degree, 4 Early Child Education (ECE) Courses, ECC Teacher License; 1 year experience, fluent in Mandarin and English

Salary range: Commensurate with experience and education. Full benefits package.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to:
Buds and Blossoms Daycare Center
87 Tyler Street, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02111
Email: hr@aaca-boston.org

For more information or reasonable accommodation, please call the property but identify you. We provide free language assistance by phone, just state your language and hold for an interpreter.

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(401)826-1490
318 Providence Street

To place a call using Mass Relay, dial 711
Protecting Boston Parks for All

By Alina Chaudhri

Boston has plans to craft a green space over Interstate 90, the highway that has divided the Chinatown neighborhood since the 1960s. The city believes that the construction of the park is long overdue considering families and friends have been separated for quite some time. However, while Boston attempts to keep ethnic groups, lower-income households and pedestrians in mind, residents and community advocates vigilant that the city will not strip minorities of adequate space to live and thrive.

Well invested parks have good and bad potential. They can either deliver to its communities with no harm, or hurt them by making a location more competitive and expensive to live in. Sometimes they unintentionally kick communities out.

sticks to nature and stay healthy. In addition to providing an open space that encourages a physical lifestyle and helps to relieve high cholesterol, hypertension, and obesity, parks have been known for bolstering mental health. Parks are said to alleviate stress and better cognitive functioning and attention. Those who spend time in parks tend to be less anxious and depressed, their happiness levels more balanced. While the presence of nature could serve as an explanation, so could the events parks hold that foster a sense of community, and in turn, help reduce crime.

Boston’s parks provide natural ecosystem services both to its plants and its bordering communities. They help manage air quality, temperature, and water. As a research study suggests, trees in urban settings can remove up to 7,111,000 tons of toxic from the air each year. Vegetation prevents temperature from becoming too hot, and it filters rain while protecting drinking water.

Of course, in addition to the wonder’s ability to benefit wildlife by providing a space for animals to call home, the parks and green spaces help Bostonians connect to nature and stay healthy. In addition to providing a green space that encourages a physical lifestyle and helps to relieve high cholesterol, hypertension, and obesity, parks have been known for bolstering mental health. Parks are said to alleviate stress and better cognitive functioning and attention. Those who spend time in parks tend to be less anxious and depressed, their happiness levels more balanced. While the presence of nature could serve as an explanation, so could the events parks hold that foster a sense of community, and in turn, help reduce crime.

Boston’s Chinatown is about 10 mins from the Public Garden and Boston Commons. A thoughtful balance of greenery and water, the famous park has something to satisfy all groups. From multiple pathways to walk, a tennis court at its center, and benches to sit on, there is also the frog pond. During the warmer seasons, the frog pond’s vicinity includes a carousel for younger audiences, a spray pool, and offers free yoga classes. The even closer Chinatown Park that sits outside the entrance to the Chinatown Gate contributes to its surrounding community by providing spaces for small and large gatherings. While children use the space to play, elders use the space for games. The City continues to look out for the Chinese population, conscious of the advantages and disadvantages of creating new park spaces.

With a $1.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Boston has plans to craft a green space

With demographics consisting of 52.11% white, 24.2% black, and 9.82% Asian and the significant wealth gaps remain the median net worth of 9.82% Asian and the significant wealth gaps remain the median net worth of 52.11% white, 24.2% black, and 9.82% Asian.

In 1960, African Americans and one-third of New York’s present day Central Park. It’s now vanished, as the populations that formed it dispersed to live elsewhere when the park was formed. It would be a shame if Boston followed suit, building parks only to see them hurt the very people they were meant to serve.

Therefore, the city must think carefully before investing in new green spaces. Creating public space is not a simple task, requiring lots of thought and debate about future implications. While parks have the power of good, they also have the power of bad. Will new or expanded parks enhance or restrict the lives of the residents.
Events Calendar

Please email ads@sampan.org to add events to the calendar

- **AACA Understand Income Taxes Free Workshops**
  July 9th, 11am-12pm, AACA 87 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111. Workshop 1, Tax Credits You Are Entitled to, Apply for: Recovery Rebate Credit, Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Education Credit, Energy Credit and others. RSVP: ltc@aaca-boston.org. Tel: 617-647-8429; Office: 617-426-9492 ext.285. https://www.aaca-boston.org/

- **Local Residents Ride Free**
  JULY 1, 2023 - JULY 31, 2023. Show your pride for your city by taking your loved ones to your favorite spots around Boston! Massachusetts residents can explore Boston with Old Town Trolley for FREE when accompanied by a full fare adult paid guest with Homtown Pass. Go to Homtown Pass for more information: https://www.hometownpass.com/

- **Boston Jerk Fest Caribbean Foodie Festival**
  July 7-8, McCurdy Track, 145 N Harvard St. Are you ready for Boston’s hottest festival? The 10th Annual Boston JerkFest is back for 2 days of fun in the sun this summer. Boston JerkFest was recognized as the Best Food Festival in 2022 by Boston Magazine. The festival was noted by Zagat as one of Boston’s top 10 Summer Food Festivals. https://bostonjerkfest.com/

- **Tai Chi at Castle Island**
  July 8th - August 19th, 10am-11am. Brewer Fountain Boston Common, Tremont St, Boston, MA 02108. For most of the 19th century, Boston’s working women’s voices were not being heard. It would take the creation of the Women’s Trade Union League founded by Mary Kenney O’ Sullivan in Boston to show women how to organize themselves into trade unions. On this tour, discover how women’s voices grew from the foundation laid by the Denison House and the WEIU (Women’s Education & Industrial Union). Learn about the proud, defiant women who led Boston’s women’s trade unionism and suffrage movements, and the struggles these movements faced, divided along class lines.
  https://bostonbyfoot.org/

- **Boston Lights at Franklin Park**
  July 21 - Sept 24, 6pm-10:30pm. Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Rd, Boston, MA 02121. Franklin Park Zoo transforms into an evening wonderland as more than 55 brilliant outdoor displays take you through the rainforest, a celestial universe, a bamboo forest with pandas, the ocean, a canopy of Asian lanterns, and much more. Not to be missed: a 66-foot rose-lined corridor (planning to propose? This could be the perfect spot) and an even longer oopus tunnel with blinding eyes.
  https://www.zoonewengland.org/

- **Berklee Summer in the City: Free Summer Concerts in Boston - 2023**
  Berklee College of Music students, faculty, and alumni give hundreds of free outdoor concerts all over the city from May 1 and throughout the summer, usually going through September. Music ranges from jazz to classical, Latin to funk, folk to world, and are free. Find the schedule here at Berklee events website https://www.berklee.edu/events

- **The Boston French Film Festival**
  July 6–16, 7pm- Remis Auditorium of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. The Boston French Film Festival returns to the MFA to bring you the latest Gallic cinema par excellence. Catch the razor-sharp heist comedy The Innocent, directed by and starring Louis Garrel; Final Cut, a meta film about a B movie shoot that goes off the rails from the director of 2011 Oscar winner The Artist; Pacifiction, a fever dream set in Tahiti that goes off the rails from the director of No Country For Old Men; Typesetter, a Cannes award–winning thriller about two lovers on the brink of war who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.

- **Museum of Science Exhibits – 2023**
  1 Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Visit website for more information: https://www.mos.org/coming-soon

- **Tea Coils, open July 1st.**
  Discover the science behind electricity in this exciting live presentation. Our largest Tea coils produce bright and loud sparks which can be up to 8 feet long!

- **Jane Goodall - Reasons for Hope, open July 1st.**
  The Museum’s newest giant-screen film, Jane Goodall - Reasons for Hope, draws on decades of work by the world’s most famous living ethologist and naturalist.

- **Oppenheimer- Friday and Saturday Nights - July 21 - August 5.**
  Written and directed by Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer is an IMAX®-shot epic thriller that thrusts audiences into the pulse-pounding paradox of the enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.

- **Boston Medical Onsite Hiring Event.**
  July 12 from 2 to 6pm, Located in the Menino Building Lobby, 840 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. Hiring Dietary Aide, Cook, Food and Nutrition, General Service Associate "Floor Buffer", Transport, and Cleaner positions! https://jobs.bmc.org/

7/23/2023  SAMPAN
Immigrants and Their Stories: A Series of Narratives

By Mary Wong-Sommer

Hu Yang comes from the city of Tai Shan in Guangdong Province, China. After graduating from college, he began working as an intern at the Bank of China. He remained at the bank for 17 years, rising to the position of Loan Officer Manager. Hu Yang speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taishanese (the local dialect) fluently. He learned English in school.

When Hu Yang’s parents moved to America some 20 years ago, they urged him to join them. Hu Yang was established in China, but in order to be closer to them and to provide his young daughter with a better education, he agreed. His parents applied to sponsor him to the US in September 2019, in time for his daughter to begin the new school year.

Hu Yang, from China

In June 2019, Hu Yang, his wife, and daughter left this country and returned to China. It had been so hard in the US. In China, he had friends and almost 20 years of work experience. In America, there was no one he could talk to and he always stayed home.

“Surely, you’re a loser”

Hu Yang had expected to stay in China, but within three months, he and his wife decided to go back to America. Why? He lists several reasons: First, his parents were in the US. Second, he lost his banking job when he moved to America and now he was unemployed. Sometimes he felt that when people looked at him, they thought “You’re a loser”. Hu Yang hoped that if he returned to America he could become successful one day. Furthermore, there was the immigration regulation that if they remained longer in China, the family would not be allowed to enter the US. If they went back to America, however, they could still visit China in the future.

Return to China

In his free time, Hu Yang has traveled to New York City, Long Island, Boston, Washington DC, and to see the foliage at Mt. Washington. He likes to visit universities and has already been to Brown, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, and Harvard. He enjoys the fact that in America you can study different things and you can meet people from different places, try food from many countries, and visit all kinds of locations.

Back to America

The young Chinese immigrants. They, too, told him that they were confused about this country. They felt like Americans are different from Chinese, with a different language and different food.

In America, they could only speak to his family - and the adults worked every day and were too tired to have conversations when they came home. Slowly, he became more and more confused. His wife felt the same way. Sometimes Hu Yang met other Chinese immigrants. They, too, told him that they were confused about this country. They felt like Americans are different from Chinese, with a different language and different food.

Hu Yang's wife works in housekeeping at a large hotel. Her English is not as good as her husband's, but she tries to learn. She often tells her daughter, "We speak English at home", but in the end, they primarily speak Taishanese.

Upon his return to America, Hu Yang began working at the front desk of a Chinese restaurant that is an hour away from his home. Work begins at 10:30 am and sometimes, if they're very busy, he stays until 10:30 pm or even midnight. If necessary, he helps out in the kitchen, or delivers food.

What surprised him? America isn't as advanced as China!

Hu Yang tells me that the Taishanese have a long history of immigration to America. In Tai Shan, people imagine that America is far more advanced than China and Hu Yang expected to see beautiful, modern cities everywhere. Instead, he found many old buildings, some dirty streets and very slow public transportation. Not only that, but here people pay for things with cash or credit cards, while in China all you need is the WeChat app on your phone. No one carries change. As he puts it, China is more advanced in a lot of things.

Hu Yang was also surprised that he couldn't buy live chicken here and he misses "fresh" food. Frozen chicken simply isn't as delicious.

What does he miss in America? Having friends.

Hu Yang has lived in the US for four years. Sometimes, he says, "the feeling is not good". He had a good job in China, but in America he has been working long shifts in a restaurant.

How does he feel about his situation now?

Hu Yang has lived in the US for four years. Sometimes, he says, "the feeling is not good". He had a good job in China, but in America he has been working long shifts in a restaurant.

Training for the future

To improve his situation, Hu Yang decided to study English after his return to the US and enrolled in language classes while he was also working at the restaurant. His English level rose high enough for him to qualify for a training program for immigrants in Banking and Finance, which he has completed. He then applied for, and was accepted for, a job at an American bank that has many Chinese clients and does business with Asia. He will begin as a bank teller and believes that his ability to speak three Chinese languages will help him better serve the bank’s Chinese customers.

What are his goals?

In the future, Hu Yang hopes to be able to rise from the position of bank teller and become more involved in customer service. He would like to buy a house, but that's very expensive in America. And he would like to improve his English so that one day he can converse fluently with other Americans.

Does America feel like home?

When I ask what name he would like me to use for this article, he immediately replies "Hu Yang". The hu is a tree that grows in northern China. It's strong and can withstand harsh conditions.
SAMPAN
A Publication of the AACR
www.sampan.org
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Tel: (617) 426-9492 x 206
Fax: (617) 482-2316
info@sampan.org
editor@sampan.org

Chinese Editor
DongDong Yang

English Editor
Christopher John Stephens

Editorial Committee
Adam Smith
Ed Cruty

Correspondents
Harmony Witte
Alina Chandhri
Mary Wong-Sommer
DongDong Yang
Kris Krein-Si
Daniel Steinberg

Translators
Ben Lee
DongDong Yang

Advertising & Production
J. Wu

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FREEDOM 自由
zi you

Affordable Housing Lottery
Mill River Wakefield
259 Water Street
Wakefield, MA

Three 2 Bedroom Apartments at $2,235

Residents can easily access the shops and restaurants of downtown Wakefield and 1 mile from the MBTA commuter rail and Lake Quannapowitt. The building is below 80% of the area median income. Units feature stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, hardwood floors, and includes a washer and dryer. Mill River is located a half mile from the shops and restaurants of downtown Wakefield and 1 mile from the MBTA commuter rail and Lake Quannapowitt. The building is equipped with an elevator.

Minimum Household Income Limits
$82,950 (1 person), $94,800 (2 people), $106,650 (3 people), $118,450 (4 people)

Maximum Household Asset Limit is $75,000

Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Application Deadline
July 7, 2023 at 2:00pm

Lottery
August 28, 2023 at 2:00pm via Zoom

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 704-0000 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02464. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducir gratis disponible.

Wellesley Affordable Housing Lottery
Terrazza, 12-18 Hollis Street, Wellesley, MA

THE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM
OPEN AGE COMMUNITY

This is a lottery for the four (4) condominiums being built at Terrazza located in Wellesley, MA. The homes will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes of 80% or below 80% of the Area Median Income. The two bedroom homes range from 1,778 square feet to 2,055 square feet. All homes include access to the community amenities such as the private courtyard and grill, a fitness center, pet spa, movie lounge, bike room, and conerooms and club rooms. A dedicated surface parking spot is included with each affordable condominium. Residents can easily access the shops and restaurants in Wellesley’s town center by foot and also be in close proximity to the Wellesley Square train station. The affordable homes will be ready for occupancy shortly after the lottery.

Application Deadline
August 28, 2023 at 2:00pm

Lottery
September 7, 2023 at 2:00pm via Zoom

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.mcohousingservices.com or call 978-456-8388 and leave a message or postal mail MCO Housing Services, P. O. Box 372, Harvard, MA 01451. Free translation available. Traducir gratis disponible.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:
https://form.jotform.com/383BHOusing/terrazza

Highland at Vale
Woburn, MA

LIMITED NUMBER OF (2) OF AFFORDABLE ONE, TWO, & THREE BEDROOM HOMES

Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Application Deadline
July 7, 2023

Lottery
September 7, 2023 at 2:00pm via Zoom

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.ahbhousing.com or call (617) 704-0000 and leave a message or postal mail SBH Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02464. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducir gratis disponible.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:
https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/highland
The Mysterious World of Cirque Du Soleil: Behind the Magic

By Dong Dong Yang

Cirque du Soleil is a Canadian entertainment company and the world's largest theater production company. Known as Canada's "National Treasure," it is the fastest growing, highest-earning and most popular art group in the world today. Corteo is a centerpiece play from Cirque that combines elegant aerial acrobatics and shocking theatrical performances. "Corteo" means "cortege" in Italian, which means a process of joy and refers to a happy team imagined by the clown, Mauro, who envisions that his own burial will take place amid a carnival atmosphere and be attended by tender angels. The show contrasts the carnival atmosphere and be attended by 20-30 technicians, basically divided into props, carpentry, sounds, lighting, wagging, trapeze, chefs, costumes, stage management, office assistant, etc. Every department needs to be responsible for its own work to ensure that every detail is close to perfect. The most important thing between the different departments is trust and that they do not delay each other.

Our crew members are from different countries and we often travel to different places and cities. I need to adapt to a new environment and working styles. I like meeting people from different backgrounds, learning languages, enjoying food and experiencing various cultures. After a few years of touring, many crew members will join different shows or tours. I am lucky to have made some great friends over the years.

A few years ago, Cirque du Soleil toured back to my hometown - Hong Kong. It was the first time my family and friends came to see the show. I was very proud to show them my work. There are not many crew members who come from Hong Kong and can tour with Cirque du Soleil, maybe only about 5 people from the Hong Kong area.

Every time I call my family, they always ask me when I will be back home. I miss them so much! My family sees I am doing the things I love so they are all very supportive. Usually after a twelve week tour, we will get about a 2 week break, and the manager will arrange for us to travel home. After the tour in the U.S., we will go to Mexico in October. My plan is to visit my family after that. Hopefully I can buy a ticket that only stops at two places, but most likely need to transfer three times to be able to get back to Hong Kong.

During the past two years of the pandemic, the tour was paused. Until April last year, the Corteo - Cirque Du Soleil team started rehearsing for a month in Canberra, Australia, and then continued the tour in Europe.

Chuang continued: “Corteo is a show that leads the audience into a magical world and temporarily away from reality. The staff behind the scenes are like magicians, presenting fantasy and joy in the best way. I love my job, I don’t feel like I’m working at all. I enjoy it every single day! It’s amazing to be able to be part of creating a magical world and be able to present on the stage. When you hear the laughter and applause, you know that you have accomplished your goal. We set up the stage in the middle and will divide the audience into two sides in Agganis Arena, which is very close to how we stage our big screen show. The acrobats, the actors and the musicians work very well together – it is... perfect. Corteo will tour in the U.S this year and I hope everyone will come to enjoy it. https://www.cirquedesoleil.com/corteo

We celebrated the 18th anniversary of Corteo - Cirque Du Soleil two weeks ago. We ate, sang and danced together. Every dream will have a beginning and an end, and I am very lucky to live in one of them every day.”

The Somerville (MA) Housing Authority is seeking highly qualified and experienced applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the management of 584 Federal units, 575 State units, 158 Section 8 New Construction units, 166 Section 8 Project-Based units, 1,151 HCV allocations, 13 SRO units 1 State AHVP and 12 State MRVP. The candidate must be familiar with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Housing (EOHLC) Requirements and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 37.5 hours per week. Salary is commensurate with experience and will include excellent benefits in accordance with EOHLC and HUD guidelines. Candidates subject to certain qualifications verifications prior to employment. Full job description is available Submit a cover letter and resume by emailing to: DVYMainaii@gmail.com and/or mail to: D&V/Mainsail P.O. Box 3571 South Attleboro MA 02073. The deadline for receipt of applications is July 24, 2023, by close of business. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Somerville Housing Authority is an EOE.

Full Job Description available at sha-web.org.
South Cove Community Health Center
華人醫務中心

Job Announcements

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- Dental Assistant (FT) – Boston/Quincy
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- Birthing Coach (FT) – Boston
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- Accounts Receivable Representative (FT) – Boston
- Medical Record Supervisor (FT) – Boston

Please search Indeed.com for more position information.

Or Contact our HR Department:

617-521-6701
Le.jiang@scchc.org

http://www.scchc.org
Government Support Must be Increased to Make New Technology Affordable

By Kristen Si

While it may be easy to forget in the summer heat, New England suffers from some of the most brutal winters in the country. With temperatures occasionally dropping below zero degrees Fahrenheit every year, the cost of living in Boston is underlined with the additional cost of keeping people warm in their homes. Annually, New Englanders pay hefty costs for utility bills, with the cost of energy being some of the highest in the country. Using 2022-2023 data, the website MoneyGeek ran an analysis on Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, and found that Massachusetts had the 14th highest gas bill costs when compared to other states in the country, coming in at $171 per month. This marks a $30 increase from previous years.

In the face of rising energy costs over recent years, some states in New England have turned to a potentially warmer side of the machine. The use of devices which are able to transfer heat from the surrounding air, but geothermal and absorption heat pumps are also available. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heat pumps may reduce energy usage by nearly 50% compared to traditional methods of heating and cooling homes. The increased efficiency of this technology has in large part been due to recent technological advances in heat pumps.

Many of these innovations were developed through programs such as the Residential Cold Climate Heat Pump Technology Challenge, which was launched in 2001 by the U.S. Department of Energy. One significant issue that Bostonians may face when trying to upgrade heating systems to more modern technologies is the limitation of their current home infrastructure. With many homes in Boston being older, the installation of technologies such as heat pumps may be a costly and difficult process. Despite the fact that more efficient energy systems save people money over a longer period of time due to reduced utility costs, the upfront cost of hiring contractors and buying the required equipment provides a significant hurdle, especially for low income families.

The challenge is the balancing of the long-term effects to the environment with the short-term harm that a lack of affordable energy can cost for people living through tough winters. According to Payscale, the cost of living in Massachusetts is already 50% higher than the average cost of living in the United States, with utilities being 25% higher in cost than for the average American. It is clear that the cost of energy is cutting into the bottom line of many families in Boston. One solution may lie in rebates, which are reimbursements made by utility companies or the government in exchange for people installing new energy efficient systems in the home. One such program is the Mass Save program, which offers income-based rebates for whole or partial home installation of heat pumps. The program offers a $10,000 rebate for people who undergo a full-home installation, with rebates being as high as $16,000 for low-income families. The program also offers payment options which span over several years to help families pay for the cost of installing new equipment. While homes must meet specific requirements in order to qualify for heat pump installation as well as the rebate, the program provides a good option for some families to get access to this energy saving technology. An important partner in the effort to incentivize energy efficient renovations must be the government. As energy companies will otherwise have little incentive to move away from currently existing energy sources, a priority will have to be put on the environment in future legislation for incentive programs to continue to exist. It is only by driving both innovation and consumer availability can sustainable solutions to heating and energy in the future be reached.

Despite the current ongoing efforts of developing new technologies for energy efficiency, as utility and energy costs continue to rise along with the increasing pollution that heating and cooling bring to the environment, more needs to be done in order to ensure that energy saving technologies continue to be developed. It is important that energy saving technologies become accessible to the general public through programs that can provide adequate support and funding to incentivize people to engage in saving energy.

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Dúlì
With the nation bogged down in partisan, polarized debate surrounding immigration, the DIGNIDAD Act provides the first bipartisan effort at reform effectively transcends party lines with seemingly practical solutions and works to address security, documentation, and humanitarian aid. The system currently faces a backlog of 1.6 million cases and unprecedented humanitarian displacement in Latin America. The situation shows no signs of slowing. The evenly divided Congress could prove a barrier to this bill’s eventual enactment. For now, the results remain very uncertain, and the sluggish US government will continue to deliberate in the coming months.

Last May, Congresswomen María Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Veronica Escobar (D-TX) introduced a new immigration reform bill called the “Dignity Act” or the, “DIGNIDAD (Dignity) Act of 2023.” The bill is a bipartisan effort that aims to “fix our nation’s broken immigration system,” according Salazar. An effort that reaches across party lines to inspire true change within the US’ broken and backlogged immigration system, this new reform bill is necessitated by Title 42’s expiration which has caused significant immigrant inflow, especially from Latin American countries.

Salazar and Escobar proposed that the US establish an entirely new legal status for undocumented immigrants in the United States. The “Dignity” legal status would grant undocumented migrants a genuine legal status, one similar to a green card or work visa, that would let immigrants reside in the USA without fear of deportation, and give them access to some governmental institutions and services. The “Dignity” title would be permanently renewable and is aimed at bringing some 11 million undocumented people out of the shadows. The primary requirements to participate in the program would be to pass a criminal background check, pay all outstanding and future taxes, and provide $5,000 over seven years. The proposed bill would not change existing citizenship pathways such as the Dreamers or Redemption program.

The DIGNIDAD Act also addresses many critical flaws in the current US Asylum system as well. It provides for the construction of 5 facilities outside of the US, to offer immigration services and asylum pre-screening in key Latin American locations. This builds on Biden’s efforts to have asylum seekers apply online prior to admission to the USA. Additionally, the act would create Humanitarian Campuses across the USA that would serve as locations for asylum screening, cases, and interviews. After taking a Credible Fear Interview (CFI), asylum cases would be processed in a 45-day period, and a secondary review can be requested after the initial ruling. The DHS would also be required to have 500 asylum officers available across these campuses.

If enacted, the DIGNIDAD Act will challenge both Republicans and Democrats to support ambitious new directions in immigration. Congresswomen Salazar and Escobar were courageous enough to cross the aisle and provide the first non-political immigration reform effort that Congress has seen in years. Let’s see how brave their colleagues will be to join them.

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To learn more about our work and how you can support us, visit rosiesplace.org.
In the News

Celebrating Independence Day 2023 with Naturalization Ceremonies

USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Service) celebrated Independence Day this year by welcoming more than 5,500 new citizens in more than 180 naturalization ceremonies between June 30 and July 7. Each July 4, we celebrate the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776, declaring that the 13 American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation—the United States of America—and were no longer part of the British Empire. USCIS commemorates this momentous occasion by hosting special Independence Day-themed naturalization ceremonies across the country. Throughout these ceremonies, USCIS honored and recognized the commitment and contributions of our newest U.S. citizens.

Faneuil Hall | Photo courtesy of Charlie Mei

Celebrating Independence Day 2023 with Naturalization Ceremonies | Photo courtesy of Charlie Mei

Boston Harborfest Fourth of July, 2023 Celebration - June 30th- July 4th, 2023

Festivities began on June 30 and ran through July 4. Events took place primarily in Boston's Downtown Crossing and Christopher Columbus Park this year.

Photo courtesy of DongDong Yang