

Sample #1:



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More than 250 from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket March to State House to Demand Changes to Address Housing Crisis

(Boston, MA) – March 23, 2023 - A group of more than 250 residents from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket will march on Beacon Hill this week to draw attention to the severe housing crisis on the islands and to seek transfer fees on high-end real estate. From high school students to law enforcement to healthcare workers, the group is comprised of various stakeholders who are feeling the impact of the soaring cost of housing in their communities.

Led by Julian Cyr, (the state Senator for Cape Cod and the Islands) and Dylan Fernandes, (state Representative for Falmouth, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket), both understand the urgency to protest affordable housing on the islands otherwise we are forcing residents from their homes, threatening public safety, healthcare, commerce and the islands' sense of community.

The rally was organized to demand the adoption of a transfer fee on high-end real estate transactions as a means of generating funds to address the housing crisis. The transfer fee proposal would create a fee of 0.5 to 2 percent on high-end real estate transactions with exemptions for lower-cost properties. The funds generated from the transfer fee would be used creatively by each community to address their specific housing problems.

According to a recent op-ed by Julian Cyr, the state Senator for Cape Cod and the Islands, and Dylan Fernandes, the state Representative for Falmouth, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, the housing problem is most severe on the islands. The average home price on Martha's Vineyard is \$2.2 million, up 3 percent from 2021, and the median home price of \$1.5 million is up 17 percent. On Nantucket, the average home price is \$4.4 million, up 24 percent in the last year. The median price is \$3.1 million.

Adoption of the transfer fee is by local option only, and the details are up to each city or town: how much the fee would be, what would be exempt, and how the funds would be used. The money raised would be significant and could go far beyond just building more affordable homes or apartment buildings.

About CCMVHB

CCMVHB is a citizens' campaign. Our mission is to preserve the Island community by establishing a Housing Bank that provides significant permanent funding to advance year-round housing. The campaign is led by a 19-person volunteer Steering Committee and one paid staffer.

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Sample #2:



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PVMHS Students Complete One-of-a-Kind Fiber-Optics Internship Program in Partnership with Astound



Finishing the second year of the PVMHS internship program in partnership with Astound/RCN, interns walk away with valuable experience in the fiber-optics field.

(Boston, M.A.) – May XX, 2023 – Astound Broadband Powered by RCN, the sixth-largest U.S. cable provider, powered by leading regional providers RCN, Grande Communications (Grande), Wave Broadband (Wave) and enTouch Systems (enTouch), has concluded the second year of a fiber-optics internship program at PVMHS (Peabody Veterans Memorial High School) in partnership with PVMHS's [Careers and Technical Educational \(CTE\) Program](#). This 4-week program allowed for both student and employee interaction to learn from experienced professionals in the industry. Students entered a multi department rotation working in Installation & Repair, Outside Plant – Line Technician, Construction/Engineering, and Switch/Transport.

Astound initially partnered with Peabody Veterans Memorial High School's CTE program in 2020. Mike Campbell, Astound's Senior Director of Operations, and his team, collaborated with CTE Director Maria

Ferri and Electronics Instructor Dale Larocque, to design and build a fiber-optic lab at PVMHS meant to enhance the student experience in support of the Electronics Program curriculum as the students receive instruction on fiber-optic technology. The average salary of a fiber-optic technician in Massachusetts ranges from \$58,000 - \$74,000, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015) making it a desirable career path for a growing industry.

At no charge to PVMHS, Astound designed and installed a versatile lab that includes fiber-optic racks, patch panels, transmission equipment and other materials used in the industry today. The lab provides students a practical, in-class experience to enhance their instruction and provides the instructor with the ability to customize lab exercises to adapt to students' various learning styles. The lab includes active, long-distance circuits, travelling across multiple points in Astound's Massachusetts fiber network and returning to the lab. At this lab, students have been able to run exercises, trouble shoot problems and build their skills and experience for a career in fiber-optics. Astound created this paid internship program for up to four seniors to acquire on-the-job skills by working in internships supervised by Astound technicians.

This fiber-optic program is the only certified high school program of its kind in the U.S. [The Fiber-optic Association of America](#) is partnering with PVMHS's and certified instructor Dale Larocque for curriculum support and potential certification for qualified students. The FOA, an international non-profit educational association chartered to promote professionalism in fiber-optics through education, certification, and standards and the certifying body for fiber-optics worldwide, is also looking to feature the PVMHS program as a model for other high schools in the U.S.

About Astound Broadband

Astound Broadband (astound.com) is the sixth largest cable operator in the U.S., providing award-winning high-speed internet, broadband communications solutions, TV, phone services and fiber optic solutions for residential and business customers across the United States. Astound Broadband is comprised of organizations formerly known as RCN, Grande Communications, Wave Broadband, and enTouch. The company services Chicago, Indiana, Eastern Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York City, Maryland, Washington, DC, Texas, regions throughout California, Oregon and Washington.

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Sample #3:



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HarborOne Appoints Susan Stewart Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer



(Boston, MA) – February 28, 2023 – HarborOne Bank today announced its new Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, Susan Stewart, a finance veteran with twenty years of extensive experience in human resources. Stewart brings to HarborOne a wide variety of skills and expertise, with an emphasis on talent management, change management, and internal communications.

Stewart previously served as SVP, Chief People and Administrative Officer at State Street Bank, and led HR for a privately held technology firm. At HarborOne she will lead the human resources division, talent management, total rewards, and human resources business partner teams.

“Susan brings to HarborOne two decades of US and international human resource experience at vibrant, forward-thinking Fortune 500 firms,” said Joseph Casey, President and CEO of HarborOne. “She’s going to be a valuable part of our senior management team.”

Stewart has also served as a human resources consultant to clients across all economic sectors including healthcare, education, and nonprofits.

Stewart received a Master of Science in Business Management from Lesley University and graduated from Emmanuel College with a degree in English Language and Communications.

About HarborOne Bank

HarborOne Bank is headquartered in Massachusetts, with \$5.36 billion in assets. HarborOne Bank serves the financial needs of consumers, businesses, and municipalities throughout Massachusetts and Rhode

Island through a network of 31 full-service branches, and two commercial loan offices in Boston and Providence. The Bank also provides a range of educational resources through “HarborOne U,” with free digital content, webinars and recordings for small business and personal financial education. HarborOne Mortgage, LLC, a subsidiary of HarborOne Bank, is a full-service mortgage lender with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire and is licensed in seven additional states.

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Sample #4:



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FAN EXPO Boston Will Not Be Impacted by the SAG/AFTRA Strike

(Boston, MA) – July 27, 2023– [FAN EXPO Boston](#), the three-day pop-culture extravaganza at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) August 4-6, 2023, is reassuring fans that the SAG/AFTRA strike will have no impact to the show. Celebrity meet-and-greets, autograph signings, photo ops and panels will still happen.

According to SAG/AFTRA guidelines:

- Celebrity guests can participate at FAN EXPO.
- Celebrity guests can participate in panels and fan meet-and-greets. During panels, they won't be able to talk about struck work, but general topics are fine to discuss.
- Autographs will still happen. Celebrity guests will only be able to provide their headshots to be signed at their table, but if a fan brings an image or collectable with them depicted in struck work, they are able to sign it.
- Photo Ops will still happen – Celebrity guests will be able to take photos with fans.

Official FAN EXPO HQ Statement:

As the guidelines of the SAG-AFTRA strike come to light, it is understood that individual performers have permission to participate in pop culture conventions if they are not promoting major studio/streamer projects. Given the majority of our celebrities fall into this category, we don't expect it to impact FAN EXPO HQ events. We look forward to an exciting FAN EXPO season and as always will update fans on any changes and additions. We hope this comes to a quick resolution for all parties involved.

Visit www.fanexpoboston.com for full details on all the attractions and guests joining FAN EXPO Boston this year.

ABOUT FAN EXPO HQ

FAN EXPO HQ is the largest comic con producer in the world. Collectively it hosts nearly one million fans annually at FAN EXPO Canada™, MEGACON Orlando, FAN EXPO Dallas™, FAN EXPO Boston™, FAN EXPO Denver, FAN EXPO San Francisco, Calgary Comics & Entertainment Expo, FAN EXPO Vancouver™, Toronto Comicon, Dallas FAN FESTIVAL and Edmonton Comics & Entertainment Expo. In 2022, FAN EXPO HQ presents six new shows previously organized by Wizard World: FAN EXPO Chicago, FAN EXPO Philadelphia, FAN EXPO St. Louis, FAN EXPO Portland, FAN EXPO New Orleans, and FAN EXPO Cleveland. The latest schedule of events is available [here](#), along with up-to-date ticket information. Discover. Celebrate. Belong.

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Sample #5:

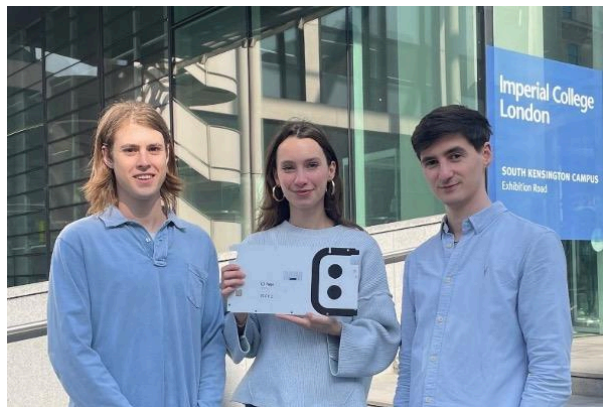


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National Braille Press Announces Touch of Genius Prize Winner Paige Connect *UK-based Team of Inventors Win This Year's Prize*



(Photo Courtesy of National Braille Press - fom left to right: Sergio Gosalvez, Nina Moutonnet, and Gregory Hargraves with the Paige Connect device)

(Boston, MA) – June XX, 2023 – National Braille Press (NBP) announced today that the 2023 winner of the Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is Gregory Hargraves, of the Imperial College of

London, who, along with two colleagues, created [The Paige Connect](#). The Touch of Genius Prize competition attracts ideas from inventors around the globe who seek to improve the lives of people who are blind and have low-vision. The winner of the competition receives \$10,000.

The Paige Connect was invented by Hargraves, Sergio Gosalvez and Nina Moutonnet, all engineers from Imperial College in London. The Paige Connect is an adaptation of the traditional Perkins Braille, the most widely used mechanical braille writer in the world, that lets you save and share print translation. The Paige Connect is a simple PC board with Wi-Fi and sensors. The Paige Connect team was officially presented the award virtually, at NBP's annual meeting on June 22 in Boston.

“The Paige Connect is a device that will improve and enhance the way that blind and low-vision individuals write on their traditional braille,” said Brian Mac Donald, President and CEO, National Braille Press. “We applaud the Paige Connect team for inventing this amazing device. It’s ease of use, functionality and low price point made it a winner among all the entries in this year’s Touch of Genius competition.”

The Paige Connect sensors receive the mechanical keystrokes from the Perkins Braille and converts them into a digital output. Typing is connected by its Wi-Fi to a phone, tablet or PC. The user can type on the traditional braille and can save the content digitally onto the web app. The web app has its own software that translates braille into print for the user to collaborate with sighted peers, parents, and teachers. Estimated cost of Paige Connect is \$60USD. Next steps for the Paige Connect is to bring the product to market after consumer safety testing and certification.

(SUGGESTED QUOTE FROM HARGRAVES ON BEHALF OF PAIGE CONNECT)

“The mission of the Paige Connect is to make braille affordable for everyone, help people communicate, collaborate, and engage with the braille community to better serve them in their everyday lives, said Hargraves. “We are grateful for the Touch of Genius Award and we are focused on the next phase to bring the Paige Connect to market in the U.S., the UK and all over the world.”

The selection of the Paige Connect was made by the Touch of Genius committee that is comprised of eight experts in the field of braille and tactile literacy from across the U.S. who have come together every year since 2007 to judge the award nominations. Committee Chair is Edward Bell, Ph.D. Director of the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University.

The [Touch of Genius Adjudication Committee](#) includes: Edward Bell, Joann Becker, Frances Mary D’Andrea, Ph.D., Judy Dixon, Paul Parravano, Noel Runyan, Janet Ulwick-Sacca and Brian Mac Donald.

The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is provided by the support from The Gibney Family Foundation. The Gibney Foundation works with non-profit organizations and provides grants to help them create sustainable solutions and assist in making the non-profit world strong and connected. The Lavelle Fund was also instrumental in supporting the Touch of Genius Prize this year. The Touch of Genius Prize attracts innovators from around the world in the fields of education, technology, engineering, graphics, and literacy. It fosters and rewards innovation by offering a compelling incentive to support and expand braille and tactile literacy efforts for the blind.

About National Braille Press

National Braille Press is a non-profit braille publisher and producer of braille products. NBP creates products and programs to support braille and tactile literacy in the blind community and to provide

access to information that empower blind people to actively engage in work, family, and community. For more information visit www.nbp.org

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