

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS — PAGE 4

FREE
12 PAGES
VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 12

Mission Hill

GAZETTE

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DECEMBER 6, 2024 — JANUARY 2, 2024

ENGLISH HIGH TOPS LATIN IN TURKEY DAY GAME



Photo by Patrick O'Connor

The English High School football team get together for a team pic at Harvard Stadium on Thanksgiving morning after beating their rival, Boston Latin School by a score of 28-12. The Blue & Blue, led by Ryan Conway '89 ended the season at 4-6. Boston Latin ends at 5-5.

CAMH hears plans for permanent supportive housing at enVision Hotel

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During the Community Alliance of Mission Hill's (CAMH) monthly meeting in November, attendees heard Victory Programs' plans to acquire the enVision Hotel at 81 S Huntington Avenue for permanent supportive housing units.

Victory Programs, a local

non-profit organization that works in addiction, homelessness, permanent supportive housing, and community center services, has rented the hotel since November 2021 and has 55 transitional shelter beds there.

Now, Victory Programs' Executive Director Sarah Porter says the organization is in the process of acquiring the hotel and

plans to convert it to 41 units of permanent supportive housing in the next five years. Additionally, Porter indicated that the hotel's current footprint would remain the same.

As part of the plan, the building will continue to provide on-site support 24 hours a day, ev-

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77 Terrace Street project presented at public meeting

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Last month, a project at 77 Terrace Street, coined Mission Hill Pathway, that would bring affordable housing and more to city-owned land in the neighborhood was presented to the community at a meeting hosted by the Planning Department.

The project spearheaded by ODJ Dev LLC would include 48 affordable condominiums, more than 2,000 square feet of retail space, over 200 square feet of fitness space, and around 700 square feet of amenity space.

The unit mix includes eight studios, 24 one-bedrooms, 13 two-bedrooms, and three three-bedrooms. The proposal also includes 14 parking spaces and 1:1 residential and retail bike parking.

In addition to the housing component, the project would contain nearly 18,000 square feet of open space and urban wild and over 10,000 square feet of community gardens.

"We have a lot of land that has been out of commission for about 40 years, and so the big idea is, you know how do we take on those challenges, get this land back into productive use and essentially while bringing it back into productive use make sure that it's characteristic of really Mission Hill neighborhoods which are really great places for people," said Kevin Maguire, a member of the development

team.

Maguire later highlighted the changes in Mission Hill. He said that out of the more than 350 units on Terrace Street that were approved or are under review, only 40 offer affordable homeownership, and none offer new open space amenities for public use.

Moreover, he discussed how the abovementioned changes led to the development team's vision, which, as stated in the presentation, is a "modern precedent for climate-forward neighborhood infill development."

Maguire detailed this vision more in discussing plans to enhance the residential character of Parker Street, bring homeownership and retail space on Terrace Street, and improve the public realm on both Parker and Terrace Streets.

After outlining the abovementioned programming for the site, Andres Bernal of JGE showed some images of the site and discussed some challenges. These physical challenges included grade changes, encroachments, canopy preservation, and more.

It should also be noted that the site is slated to undergo remediation, the details of which were covered in a November Mission Hill Gazette story — [https://missionhillgazette.com/2024/11/01/mission-hill-pathway-team-holds-another-com-](https://missionhillgazette.com/2024/11/01/mission-hill-pathway-team-holds-another-com)

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Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com or call 781-485-0588 for your Mission Hill information

Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour returns to Mission Hill Dec. 7

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

For the 28th year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees while bringing holiday spirit to children across Boston. The event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa, tree lightings, and more.

This year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will start on Saturday, December 7, and end on Sunday, December 8, in neighborhoods throughout Boston.

Saturday December 7

- 2 p.m. - Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain

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- 3 p.m. - J.P. Monument, Jamaica Plain

• 3:45 p.m. - Brigham Circle, Mission Hill

• 5:45 p.m. - Blackstone Square, South End

• 6:45 p.m. - Oak Square, Brighton

Sunday December 8

• 4 p.m. - Paul Revere Mall, North End

• 5 p.m. - Winthrop Square (the Training Field), Charlestown

• 6:15 p.m. - Maverick Square, East Boston

Hill Happenings

We were blessed with a beautiful day for the Mission Hill Post 327 Veterans Day ceremony at the Brigham Circle Memorial site. Dozens attended the wonderful commemoration of our veterans which was presided by our M.H. Post Commander, Col. George Rollins.

World War II hero, Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse spoke passionately about our veterans and love of country. Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan gave a nice oration to the crowd and Jimmy O'Neill laid a wreath on the memorial stone that bears the names of fallen Mission Hill soldiers.

It was nice shooting the breeze with Sharon and others afterwards across the street at The Mission while enjoying great food. Talented bugle player Gar-

ret Savluk played some beautiful patriotic tunes at the event and thanks to Maria Weinograd of Mike's Donuts for supplying the

coffee, donuts and muffins. Welcome to my friend, Ted Stanton, a great guy who is our newest M.H.

Continued on page 3



Maryanne O'Keefe (center in dark shirt) and her husband Yogi O'Keefe behind her at Blinstrub's nightclub in 1963.

77 Terrace Street

Continued from page 1

munity-meeting/.

Following the discussion of physical site challenges, Bernal provided an overview of floor plans, renderings, and more, while Shauna Gillies-Smith detailed landscaping plans and public realm improvements.

Eventually, the floor was returned to Maguire, who provided details on the two other significant aspects of the project besides the housing—the community gardens and the open space, coined the Parker Street Wild.

Specifically, the community garden that Maguire indicated would be administered by The Trustees — formerly the Trustees of Reservations — could in-

clude 51 in-ground plots, new fencing, accessible paths, and more.

The Parker Street Wild, which would be controlled by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, would include two paths, a kids' area, an overlook, and an art forum.

"We're being very careful about limiting activity, where does activity take place, and so controlling activity again to some extent bringing it back to the original program or kind of the guerilla art park concept," said Maguire.

Finally, Maguire spoke briefly about the project timeline, which includes permitting and funding from 2024 through early 2025 and construction in late 2025 and 2026.

Following the presentation, residents were given the oppor-

tunity to ask questions and provide comments.

One resident expressed his worries that the project would actually be built, given the challenges of remediation and securing funding to subsidize the housing.

In response, Maguire said, "I sincerely believe that they [the city] would like to try and get this done because there's been a lot of promises made and a lot of promises that have not been kept, and a lot of challenges uncovered along the way."

"We have been successful in the past because we've tried to be really open, transparent, and honest with the community, and if we are talking to the city or the state and the community is supporting and talking to the city and the state then the real pressure comes from the community."

Other residents made comments about the community garden aspect of the project. For

example, one resident did not favor the community gardens because, after a period of time, they thought they were not well-kept or aesthetically pleasing elsewhere in the city and preferred either more housing or urban wild.

However, other attendees made it known that they were fans of the planned community garden.

Another topic of discussion was students and the issues residents have faced regarding what they say is poor behavior.

One attendee noted that a portion of the park called "students art forum" in the presentation should drop the word students, so it did not encourage the thought that it was an extension of their campus.

There was also a fear that if the condominiums were not required to be owner-occupied, they could just be rented and eventually taken over by stu-

dents.

However, Dariela Villón-Maga, another member of the development team, said, "It's stipulated under both the city and the state that these will be deed-restricted units that require folks that buy them to live in them, and the deed rides for 30 years, and there's a 20-year renewal that the city can exercise as part of the documents folks will have to sign."

After other topics, such as training for first-time homebuyers, were discussed and supportive comments were made, the meeting ended.

For more information about the project and to view the recording and presentation from this meeting, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/77-terrace-street>.



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Mayor Michelle Wu with City and State officials and leaders, celebrating the award.

City secures \$9.8m to build climate-ready workforce

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, alongside federal, state, and local officials, announced Boston's receipt of a \$9.8 million NOAA grant to develop a workforce skilled in climate and coastal resilience. This

funding aims to create training programs, place workers in high-demand jobs, and support equity-focused career pathways.

"This funding will help us build a skilled workforce to protect our communities while creating economic opportunities," said

Mayor Wu. "It's a generational investment for a safer and more resilient Boston."

The grant, part of NOAA's Climate-Ready Workforce initiative under the Inflation Reduction Act, was the largest awarded among nine selected projects nationwide. Boston's programs will prepare workers to implement coastal resilience projects, maintain water systems, and strengthen emergency response, with an emphasis on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Boston faces significant climate challenges, with potential losses of \$1.4 billion annually from flooding by the 2070s, ac-

ording to the Climate Ready Boston Report. The city's Green New Deal framework and coastal resilience plans have positioned Boston as a leader in climate adaptation and equity-driven policies.

"Building resilience isn't just about infrastructure; it's about people," said Environment Commissioner Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "This funding supports equity-driven job creation, breaking barriers and fostering sustainability."

The Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance will lead this initiative, involving over 30 stakeholders and aiming to fill 1,200

climate-resilience jobs over four years. Training will incorporate wraparound services like childcare and stipends to ensure success for underrepresented communities.

"The Alliance will address critical workforce needs while advancing Boston's climate goals," added Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Worker Empowerment. "It's a transformative step toward an equitable green economy."

This collaboration underscores Boston's commitment to preparing its workforce to meet the challenges of climate change while driving economic opportunity and sustainability.

Hill Happenings

Continued from page 2

Post member.

I was honored to be invited to the Ma. Veterans Day celebration at the State House, M.C.'d by Col. Rollins which I attended before our Mission Hill. event. Col. Rollins did an excellent job introducing several majestic veterans and Gov. Healey and the Col. culminated the ceremony with a few stately remarks. .

Condolences to the Killion family on the passing of their beautiful sister Patty Killion. Patty, a Mission High 1960 graduate, was beloved and a bright light in the world. R.I.P., Patty.. Randy Susan Wolfson recently had her fifth novel published, "The Many Mothers of Ivy Puddingstone". I haven't read the book yet but I shall, as there are several Mission Hill tidbits, including the Church, Mike's Donuts, Fermoyles Drugstore and Randy's favorite M.H. softball team, "Leo's Bomb Tossers". Randy formerly lived in Mission Hill and she was a charming bartender at my favorite watering hole, Winnie's Pub. I became friends with Randy in the late 70's when she, I and our mutual dear friend Kris Alden wrote for the popular Mission Hill newspaper, "The Good News."

Among the three of us and others we wrote some riveting stories although my column was relegated to one topic, titled "Mossy on Sports"..Happy birthday to a wonderful woman, Maryanne O'Keefe (Dec.19) a former Mission Hill resident who contributed vigorously to our neighborhood. Maryanne served on the board of Mission Hill Housing for years.

Thanks to Maryanne's nephew, Jim Ludvigsen for sending me the 60 year old photo of Maryanne and her late husband Donnie "Yogi" O'Keefe at the famous Blinstrub's nightclub in South Boston. Several Mission Hill residents saw the Righteous Brothers perform at Blinstrub's and I was thrilled to hear Dionne Warwick sing there, not long before it burnt down in 1968. It was a pleasure chatting with Rachel-Asmeret Amanuel at Mike's Donuts last week. She is a Real Estate broker and her office is at 74 Fisher Ave. Rachel grew up in Mission Hill and she is so nice.. Several Mission Hill residents recently spotted youthful looking Claudia Napolitano dashing through the West Roxbury streets. Claudia, an avid jogger, is also a gifted singer and she was my neighbor back in the Mission Hill project days. .

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.



City of Boston
Planning
Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

DEC
11

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

36 PARKER HILL AVENUE

Register: bit.ly/4hRB8qy

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 229 2955



**PROJECT
PROPOSER:**
The Rise at Longwood
Development Team

DESCRIPTION:

The Planning Department is hosting a virtual Public Meeting for the proposed 36 Parker Hill Avenue project located in Mission Hill. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application (SPRA) that was filed and its potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public.

The Rise at Longwood Development team is proposing a five (5) story building of approximately 30,861 square feet of gross floor area ("GFA"), including thirty-eight (38) residential rental apartments, with a mix of studios and two-bedrooms unit types. The ground floor programming accommodates a shared outdoor courtyard with new catenary exterior lighting, soft seating and pavers, a fitness/yoga studio, indoor/outdoor bike storage and a modest amount of off-street parking. The project also envisions an outdoor roof deck amenity for residents.

Website:

bit.ly/36-parker-hill-avenue

Close of Public Comment Period:
12/20/2024

Mail to: **Scott Greenhalgh**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4271
Email: scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov

What's Happening on Main Streets

By COURTNEY WRIGHT

As we transition from the holiday of giving thanks to the winter holidays, I thought of one of my favorite literary quotes that I like to reflect on this time of year. I think of this past month when so many of our organizations, institutions and neighbors have spent their time, energy and resources providing a piece of the holidays to MH residents, young and old. From the 500 turkeys donated by Stop and Shop in coordination with New England Baptist Hospital, to the volunteers who came out to the Tobin Community Center on November 26th to bag and distribute these to 500 families around the neighborhood. I think of the camaraderie and spirit of service that exists in our local business community who helped to provide hot meals to even more seniors and families during the week of Thanksgiving

"It is a miracle if you can find true friends, and it is a miracle if you have enough food to eat, and it is a miracle if you get to spend your days and evenings doing whatever it is you like to do, and the holiday season-like all the other seasons-is a good time not only to tell stories of miracles, but to think about the miracles in your own life, and to be grateful for them, and that's the end of this particular story."
 — Lemony Snicket, *The Lump of Coal: A Christmas Holiday Book for Kids*

but also for the myriad of community events leading up to it. It is these examples of community and taking care of one another that happen in big and small, seen and unseen ways every day in this community, that give us so much to be grateful for this time of year.

You will notice that the usual snowflakes that have adorned the light poles along Tremont St. will not be present this holiday season. Having borne the brunt of the elements for the last 10-15 years, we are working on replacing them with a more energy-efficient version and one that

is compatible with the updating of Boston's streetlights that has been ongoing for the last year (we learned the hard way about compatibility with streetlights last year when only 5 of the 15 lit up). I know that so many love the snowflakes and the sense of

holiday they bring to our business district, so rest assured they will be back! In the meantime, it is our hope that the wreaths we will be giving to businesses will provide some semblance of the warmth reminiscent of this time of year. In addition to updating

the snowflakes, we are also looking forward to update the spring time planters so if you have ideas for what you would like to see, please don't hesitate to reach out with your ideas and suggestions

Please join us this Saturday December 7th (tomorrow by the time you read this) in Brigham Circle for the Tree lighting ceremony with the Mayor's Trolley expected at 3:45. There will be refreshments of hot chocolate and coffee and of course the world's best munchkins (thank you Maria and Mike's Donuts!) and the

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CAMH

Continued from page 1

ery day, with case managers, a social worker, and recovery coaches. Medical providers will continue to visit weekly. All the units will be single occupancy, and there are plans for community and group space.

Later, Porter highlighted the success of the shelter beds since the organization rented out the hotel. For example, 208 people have gone through the hotel and been housed at one point since November of 2021 — 57 of which have left and found permanent housing.

"It's a hefty amount of work that has happened — really positive work in this neighborhood. We're quite proud of what has happened, and we've worked really hard to make sure that we've had as close to a positive impact on the neighborhood as we possibly can," said Porter.

Regarding the timeline, Porter noted they were on track to acquire the building this month and indicated that renovations, which she said would happen with individuals in place, are not expected to begin until June 2027. The plan is for the building to be fully operational and leased up in March 2029.

"It will remain a shelter for at least the next two to three years while we secure all the financing we need, while we do all the planning and as we get ready ideally toward renovation," said Porter.

Following the presentation, residents began to ask questions and make comments. One resident asked about the future zoning process that Porter men-

tioned would happen.

Taylor Morley, Victory Programs' Chief Operating Officer, explained that they will initially apply for conditional use through the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) as transitional housing.

"As we work toward that construction closing and the plan to make it permanent housing, we'll do a permanent change to multi-family residential," said Morley.

There were also questions regarding funding. Porter indicated that since they opened the shelter in 2021, they have received shared funding, at times from the state and at times from the city.

However, she noted that the "vast majority" of state funding will expire at the end of the year, and the city will then provide the majority of funding.

Porter said the city and state

are funding the hotel's acquisition, with a small portion coming from private funds.

Following comments and questions from those in attendance, Porter emphasized that they want this to be an open and communicative process.

"This is sort of — I'm hoping — the beginning of a conversation. We're meeting with the electeds; we've put out requests to meet with other neighborhood groups," said Porter.

"Our goal is to make sure that everyone knows where we're going, that no one is caught off guard, and to be in conversation."

For more information about CAMH, visit its website at <https://www.camh.boston/>. According to its website, the next CAMH meeting is December 18th.

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New tools to assist residents in building Accessory Dwelling Units

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The City of Boston has announced a new program to support Boston homeowners in building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their property. This initiative, administered by the Boston Home Center (BHC), a division of the Mayor's Office of Housing, offers a new bank loan option alongside grants and other financial assistance to help cover costs related to designing, permitting, and building an ADU. Additionally, the Planning Department is releasing an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Guidebook, an illustrated manual that will help property owners in Boston who may want to build an ADU on their property. This book is available online, and in all Boston Public Library branch-

es. Building on the Mayor's leadership to make Boston a home for everyone, these steps are important to increasing the City's multigenerational housing stock, keeping families together and building wealth.

"Accessory Dwelling Units are a powerful tool in our efforts to address the housing crisis in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By creating more flexible and affordable living options, ADUs allow homeowners to maximize their property while contributing to the availability of housing in our neighborhoods. This initiative not only supports families looking to generate extra income or house loved ones but also strengthens our communities with more diverse and accessible housing choices."

Through the loan programs,

the BHC provides income-eligible owners of 1-3 unit homes who plan to add an ADU with a Technical Assistant Grant of up to \$7,500. This grant provides eligible homeowners with targeted funding and staff guidance throughout the pre-construction phases of researching, designing, and permitting their ADU. Additionally, homeowners can apply for an ADU Loan from the City of up to \$50,000 to support construction costs. The ADU Loan carries 0% interest and is deferred, meaning there are no monthly payments. Homeowners approved for this program are paired with a BHC Construction Specialist who monitors progress throughout the building process. Eligible homeowners who receive an ADU Loan may also explore additional financing opportu-

nities with participating lenders. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet specific income and asset limits.

"Accessory Dwelling Units are an important part of our strategy to expand housing options in Boston," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "ADUs give homeowners a way to create additional living spaces that can serve as a source of income, provide housing for family members, and help address the city's housing needs. By making it easier to build ADUs, we are supporting residents, increasing housing supply, and strengthening neighborhoods."

As part of this effort, the City is also piloting a new

ADU Bank Loan in partnership with local banks, Leader Bank, Dedham/Southshore Bank, Needham Bank, and the Cooperative Bank. Recognizing the challenges posed by construction expenses, the Boston Home Center and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics initiated a collaboration with Harvard's Laboratory for Values in the Built Environment and local lending institutions to develop innovative solutions that ensure low- and moderate- income homeowners can access the unique benefits ADUs provide. This resulting loan fills a gap in the market, providing affordable

Continued on page 7

What's Happening

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infamously delicious baked goods of Solid Ground Café (thank you Lucia and Keith!). Pam Carthy and the Penguin will be supporting the event as well- please grab a slice of pizza while we wait for the Trolley! We will be giving out canvas "Shop Small" tote bags in honor of Small Business Saturday this past weekend in hopes that throughout the whole season (and year for that matter) you will continue to shop locally

in Mission Hill and help promote our businesses to those around you.

Rain or shine, frigid or warm, we will be there, and I hope you will be too!

Our artists at the Mission Hill Artists Collective have been busy and have a lot happening this month for us to look forward to and enjoy. The Mission Hill Holiday Market returns on Friday, December 13th and Friday, December 20th from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in the main plaza entrance of One Brigham Circle (1620 Tremont). There will be an assortment

of original paintings, a diverse variety of hand-crafted jewelry, handmade products, seasonal products and more. Please come out and support Mission Hill's local artists and artisans this holiday season!

MIKE'S DONUTS

Happy Holidays! **A GREAT NEW 2025!!**

Thank You All!! We're grateful for an awesome year and honored to serve you! Stop by for gourmet dark roast coffee

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT STONYBROOK METAL ARTS



Anne Sasser, co-owner of Stonybrook Metal Arts, stands with David, made by the other co-owner Morris Norvin.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Stonybrook Metal Arts at 24 Porter Street in JP held a Holi-

day Open House. The event featured the work of resident artists as well as classes in welding, casting, jewelery making, and

more. Visitors could purchase gifts for the holidays or even learn how to make them.



Artist Chris Burke shows visitors his many examples of his work including a complete chess set.



Inset: A chess set queen fashioned as the Greek mythological character Medusa by metal artist Chris Burke.



Metalworking artist Eve Schauer conducts a class on making molds for aluminum pieces.



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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT STONYBROOK METAL ARTS



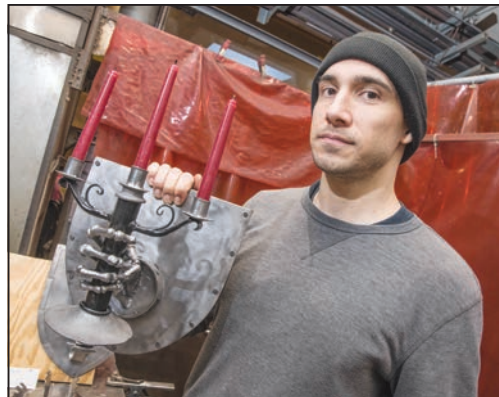
Molten aluminum is poured into molds.



The audience, kept a safe distance back from the activity, is captivated by the metalworking demonstration.



Taking a break from a visit with their son living in JP, Honi Kawut and Mark Landsberg work on making molds.



Artist Danilo Vega-Micci shows off his candleabra piece.



Artist Kalamu Kieta with his piece *Sculptural Land Camera*, a repurposed professional video camera from the 1970s.



Jewelry artist Kylie Weinzierl shows some of her impressive work.

ADUs

Continued from page 5

financing to cover construction costs associated with building ADUs.

“Our research shows that homeowners need new loan products to meet the unique opportunity that rental ADUs can offer homeowners, and provide equitable access to ADU financing,” said Charu Singh, Research Associate at the Laboratory for Values in the Built Environment at Harvard GSD. “I’m proud of the groundbreaking work our group has done to equitably expand the lending toolbox, especially during this time when Boston is struggling with too few housing options and high costs.”

Building on Mayor Wu’s commitment to remove barriers to building ADUs across Boston’s neighborhoods, the ADU Guidebook is designed to provide homeowners with practical guidance and inspiration for adding an ADU to their property, whether it is for additional living space, rental income, or housing family members. The ADU Guidebook features realistic, buildable designs tailored to Bos-

ton’s neighborhoods. Although the designs will still require permits and may need review by the Zoning Board of Appeal, they offer a clear starting point to help residents more easily move forward with their ADU. It will be available online and at all Boston Public Library branches.

“This Guidebook is a fantastic starting point for anyone looking to add another unit to their home, and we hope it will inspire people to see ADUs as an expedient and unique way to add to our housing stock,” said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. “I look forward to

working with the community on new complementary zoning that will make the process of adding an ADU more flexible and affordable.”

These initiatives align with the City’s broader zoning reform efforts to enable more housing options across Boston. By updating zoning regulations, the City aims to break down barriers and foster flexible housing solutions. ADUs not only help increase the housing stock but also offer residents opportunities to age in place, provide extra space for growing families, or generate rental income.

ADUs can help residents stay in their neighborhoods, adapt their homes, and address their evolving needs. By allowing various forms of ADUs, the City aims to help homeowners fully utilize their properties, create more space, or unlock new income opportunities.

Founded in 2010 as one of the first municipal innovation offices in the world, the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics serves as the City’s civic research and design team, building partnerships between internal and external agencies to pilot projects that increase the quality of life for all of Bos-

ton’s residents and visitors.

The City of Boston’s Planning Department shapes growth that serves Boston’s residents and centers their needs. Our mission is to address our City’s greatest challenges: resilience, affordability, and equity, and to take real estate actions and prioritize planning, development, and urban design solutions that further these priorities. We seek to build trust with communities through transparent processes that embrace predictable growth and shape a more inclusive city for all.

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OPEN NEWBURY STREET RETURNS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Mayor's Office Photos by John Wilcox

Following on the success of the city's continuing Open Newbury program, the inaugural Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll transformed a stretch of Newbury Street into a pedestrian-only, vehicle-free walkway on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Open Newbury, which the city launched in the summer of 2016 and continues to hold each summer, opens up a mile-long, eight-block stretch from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue for shopping, dining, and family-friendly activities.

Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll is scheduled to return from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, and in case of inclement weather, a makeup date has been scheduled for Dec. 15.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Cooking and mental health

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Researchers and doctors are slowly looking to food to improve mental, emotional, and brain health. Recently, we've read reports on the benefits of cooking as a therapy for depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Research points to ways cook-

ing can improve executive and cognitive function in those with mild cognitive impairment. Other studies promote cooking for patients with obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.

Benefits of Cooking

It's often suggested that you

keep learning to improve your brain health. You might learn a new language, practice meditation, yoga, or tai chi, play word games, volunteer, or become physically and socially more active. Research has shown that cooking can be added to this list. For us, cooking and learning about food, wine, and food culture are a focus for our lifetime learning goals.

Food and Wine magazine quoted Hillary Ammon, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist at the Center for Anxiety & Women's Emotional Wellness. "Cooking can serve both purpose and pleasure, Ammon says. "It is a hobby that can provide a sense of purpose — nourishing your body or cooking for others — and a sense of pleasure, in that it brings you joy or satisfaction," she explained. "When we consider some of the basic tenets of treating depression in therapy, we are often looking to ensure people have both purposeful and pleasurable activities in their lives."

Cooking Therapy

Other findings show that the steps you take in cooking, such

as planning what to cook, following a recipe, and being creative, improve your executive function capacity. Initial research on

the topic has led to programs of "Cooking Therapy."

Continued on page 11



(Photo by Yunus Tug)

Cooking is good for your mental health and brain health. Cooking with others increases the benefits.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



SKYLAR

Skylar is a beautiful 7 year old gal who was adopted years ago and then found herself back at the shelter because her family was gone long hours daily. She is a big girl and so sweet! She is hoping her new family will come along soon, as she is used to being a family pet!

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

Sarah Carroll, REALTOR®

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16 Clarendon St., Boston MA 02116

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THE RESIDENTIAL GROUP

WHERE TO FIND THE GAZETTE?

Name	Address
7-Eleven Store	415 Center / Huntington Ave
Levinson Bldg	835 Huntington Avenue
Neville Building	Huntington Avenue
Robert & Theresa Parks Community Building	Mission Park Drive
Flynn House	805 Huntington Ave
Huntington Market	818 Huntington Ave
Huntntgton Pizza	784 Huntington Ave
Carman' S Beauty Salon	764 Huntington Ave
Green Coffe Shop	750 Huntington Ave
Davos Wine& Spirits	754 Huntington Ave
Flames	746 Huntington Ave
Hollywood Dry Cleaners	742 Huntington Ave
Udb Uq	738 Huntington Ave
Halal Indian Cuisine	766 Huntington Ave
Brigham Liquors	732 Huntington Ave
Brighman Circle Chines	728 Huntington Ave
The Mission Pub	724 Huntington Ave
Stop & Shop	Tremont And Huntington
Walgreens	Tremont And Huntington
J P Lick's	Tremont And Huntington
Bank Of America	Tremont And Huntington
Citizens Bank	Tremont And Huntington

Name	Address
Puddingston Tavenen	1592 Tremont St
Tremont House Of Pizza	1590 Tremont St
Subway Sandwiches	1578 Tremont St
Mini Mart	1576 Tremont St
Boston Property	1570 Tremont St
Elen Real State	1568 Tremont St
Spinney Auto Insurance	1560 Tremont St
Mikes Donut	1524 Tremont St
Lillys Gourmet	1528 Tremont St
Crispy Dough Pizza	1514 Huntington Ave
Discount Auto Part	1486 Tremont St
Laundromat	1460 Tremont St
Dunkin Donut	1631 Tremont St
Solstice Café	1623 Tremont St
Mission Hill Liquors	1623 Tremont St
Flann O'brien 'S	1621 Tremont St
Mission Hill American Legion	1617 Tremont St
Mission Hill Properties	1607 Trewmont St
Mission Hill Post Office	1575 Tremont St
1575 Longwood Street Apts	1575 Tremont St
Needham Bank	Tremont St
Bruggels Bakery	375 Longwood Ave

WHEN TO FIND THE GAZETTE

Below is our Publishing Calendar for the 2025 Year. We'll see you the First Friday of each month!

JANUARY

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EDITORIAL

Remember the needy on your shopping list

Americans already have been spending a record amount of money thus far this holiday season, spurred on by the extended "Black Friday" (we are using air quotes because Black Friday sales began in early November), Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday shopping days.

However, amidst our zeal to find the "perfect" gifts for our family members and friends, we hope that our readers make the effort, no matter how small, to remember those in need this holiday season.

As we noted in this space two weeks ago, homelessness is at an all-time high in this country. For example, almost one-in-eight New York City school children experienced homelessness during the most recent school year.

The simple reality is that for far too many of our fellow Americans, the holidays bring little or no joy.

There are countless ways by which each of us can make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, ranging from toy drives to food banks to Salvation Army Santas. With Christmas fast approaching because of the shortened holiday season, we urge everyone who has the ability to do so to make that small effort to help those for whom the holidays are just another day.

Hopefully, Musk will bring us self-driving cars

Everyone concedes that Musk unquestionably is a visionary who already has revolutionized the automobile industry. He was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for the success of Tesla, which made electric vehicles available to the mass market. Tesla has done more than any other company in the world to address the existential threat of climate change caused by fossil-burning fuels.

Two months ago, Musk held a publicity event for the press and investors to showcase his plans for self-driving robo-taxis, which he said will be available by 2027. Self-driving vehicles will be powered by AI and Musk's companies have committed to buying billions of dollars of AI computer chips from Nvidia, the American chip company founded by another visionary, Jensen Huang.

A few months back, we wrote of our visit to San Francisco and mentioned that we drove in autonomous electric taxis operated by Waymo, which was founded by Google. Our experience, as has been the case with everyone who has used Waymo, was amazing.

Waymo is now expanding to Los Angeles, Phoenix, Austin, Atlanta, and Florida and clearly is the industry leader in robo-taxis.

Self-driving electric vehicles represent the future -- and it is coming faster than anyone ever expected thanks to Nvidia, whose AI chips will be key to the revolution. Self-driving electric vehicles not only will be good for the planet, but they also will benefit each of us in our everyday lives -- they will be safer (all but eliminating the carnage that exists on our highways today), they will reduce our auto insurance and repair costs, and they will allow for greater independence for both the young and old for whom driver's licenses are iffy propositions.

Although Waymo is doing great things with robo-taxis, a car manufacturer such as Tesla can scale-up production to meet the mass market. We would note here that GM tried the robo-taxi field with its Cruise fleet, but it presently is on hold because of safety issues. Although Waymo already has a huge lead on Tesla, we have no doubt that once Elon Musk sets his mind to it, Tesla will catch up to -- and surpass -- Waymo. And, we hope, the sooner the better.

All I want for Christmas is scooters off our sidewalks

BY SHARON DURKAN

This holiday season, as shoppers fill our streets and families visit our iconic neighborhoods, my greatest wish is that everyone has a safe and welcoming experience, but too often I hear about reckless scooters and mopeds overwhelming our streets. In District 8 and beyond, we have heard the familiar story that residents are dodging unregistered vehicles on sidewalks, cyclists are squeezed out of bike lanes, and pedestrians cross in fear.

These dangers aren't just inconvenient, it's a situation that's waiting to escalate. That's why, as chair of the City Council's Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation, I convened a hearing earlier this year to address the urgent need for stronger rules and enforcement for micromobility devices like scooters, mopeds, and e-bikes.

The testimonies we heard from residents were sobering. Families described mopeds speeding on sidewalks, weaving through oncoming traffic, and ignoring pedestrians in crosswalks. Others pointed out the lack of clarity about enforcement—unsure when enforcement could occur in specific situations. One resident from Beacon Hill noted that while recent crackdowns have reduced some reckless behavior, the issue persists because offenders assume their actions will go unpunished.

It's clear we need a multi-faceted approach to reclaim our streets and sidewalks. One that requires a lot of partnership between the City of Boston Transportation Department, the Boston Police Department, residents, app-based delivery companies, and state lawmakers. Boston has made strides in expanding micromobility options, but as we introduce new modes of transportation, we must also ensure they can coexist safely with pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

Here's how we can do it:

Hold Delivery Platforms Accountable

Many of the scooters and mopeds creating chaos belong to delivery drivers for platforms

like DoorDash, GrubHub, and Uber Eats. At our hearing, we discussed the importance of holding these companies accountable. We must demand that companies ensure that their delivery drivers are registered, have valid licenses and insurance, and monitor their compliance with traffic laws.

Our office has already been proactive on these matters. We've met directly with UberEats, GrubHub, and DoorDash to urge them to adopt stronger training programs that acknowledge the "Rules of The Road" and enforce guidelines that demand, and incentivize safety among their drivers. These conversations are an important step toward holding these platforms accountable, but we still have a lot of work to do!

Enforce Traffic Laws Aggressively

Our hearing reinforced the need for stronger enforcement. Residents repeatedly cited reckless moped drivers as a major hazard, yet many operators seem undeterred by existing laws. Boston Police must have the tools, and the mandate, to confiscate unregistered vehicles, and crack

down on violations like driving on sidewalks or blowing through red lights.

And I'm not asking the Police Department to chase scooters or mopeds, this may be unsafe for the operator and nearby pedestrians and the law enforcement themselves, but we need automated enforcement mechanisms, such as cameras that detect speeding and red-light running, which would require coordinated action between the State and City governments. Cities across the U.S. have used these tools to great effect, reducing dangerous behaviors without overburdening police.

The Boston Police Department has worked with the Boston Transportation Department, and in partnership with my office to remove the most dangerous users from the road, impounding unlicensed scooters in violation of the law recently. These measures, while impactful, must be part of a broader, more sustained approach.

Create a Culture of Safety

Education and incentives can and should complement enforce-

Continued on page 11

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Mission Hill GAZETTE

Circulation 7,000

Published 12 times a year in Mission Hill by Independent Newspaper Group

Patricia DeOliveira
Advertising Manager

Sandra Storey
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1993-2011

Patricia@jamaicaplainingazette.com

617-524-2626

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Fresh & Local

Continued from page 8

There are many versions of cooking therapy, which is a new approach. Ammon explained that it can involve a patient cooking with their therapist. While cooking, the therapist can lead a relaxed discussion of the patient's mental health issues.

Side Benefits

One side benefit of cooking is improved nutrition. When you shop for good ingredients, choose recipes that will improve your health conditions, and cook the food yourself, you make a big step towards eating what's good for you.

As more links between your brain health and microbiome

are proven, cooking at home will enable you to add more fiber, fermented foods, and foods rich in Omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants to your menus. Even learning what these are is a benefit.

Cooking can be a form of self-expression and a creative outlet for many. It can also promote mindfulness, enhance self-esteem, and promote self-care. Cooking with and for others is an excellent form of socialization. People have always bonded through food. For those who have always cooked, teaching and supporting those who could benefit from learning to cook can be mutually beneficial.

Today, physicians are happy to refer patients with specific health conditions to registered dietitians who can provide food

guidelines as a control factor. We were recently prescribed the MIND Diet as one that would be great for our brains. It combines the Mediterranean and DASH diets and is recommended for seniors as a preventative measure against cognitive loss.

Since it is always a good idea to check in with your primary care physician before you make any lifestyle changes, make an appointment and ask for guidance on how you might use this new research on the value of cooking and cooking therapy to help manage any brain-related issues you would like to discuss.

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

Op-Ed

Continued from page 10

ment. Drivers should complete safety training courses and understand the consequences of reckless behavior. Educational materials (available in multiple languages) should be widely distributed. At the same time, delivery platforms can incentivize safe driving by rewarding drivers with clean records and creating metrics to measure driving performance. Given the location based platform, they know which drivers skirt laws, speed and drive dangerously. We need to change the intensive system here to promote responsible behavior to improve public safety.

Engage and Empower Residents

Our neighborhoods are filled with vigilant residents who care deeply about their and their neighbors' safety. If you don't believe me, check out the 3-1-1 website! We should continue to encourage residents to document and share incidents on 3-1-1 and this data should directly inform enforcement locations. While some of this is already taking

place, as a City we should do a better job communicating with residents that their feedback is utilized, creating true partnership for the safety of our streets. There have already been some wins in this department, but we need to continue to center the feedback of resident reporting.

Build Streets That Work for Everyone

The broader issue of micro-mobility safety is intertwined with Boston's transportation infrastructure. Making sure that drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians are out of conflict by providing dedicated space for all road users, will reduce conflicts. Physical traffic-calming measures, like bollards or cast concrete barriers, or raised rumble strips and speed humps, can prevent reckless driving.

I also want to recognize and celebrate the efforts already underway by the City of Boston Transportation Department (BTD). They've taken significant steps to enhance safety as more residents and visitors embrace two-wheeled transportation as a green, congestion reducing solution, and are working towards

realizing Vision Zero.

Realize Vision Zero

Boston's commitment to "Vision Zero", eliminating fatal and serious traffic crashes by 2030, demands that we take swift and decisive action. This is about creating a city where every mode of transportation can coexist safely. The testimonies and emails we have received have underscored that residents want action, period.

*I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree*

*I just want safe streets for all
Paths where no one fears to fall
Let this dream come true
All I want this season is peace
for you*

Happy holidays to all!

Sharon Durkan is Boston City Councilor for District 8, including the West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway and Mission Hill, and is Chair of the Council's Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com.

Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-7662

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Looking for a reasonable parking space 3 or 5 days a week within walking distance to Brigham and Women's Hospital in September. Please respond to Bostoncaz@aol.com / 617-730-3031

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Self Esteem Boston is seeking an experienced, reliable, psycho-educational group leader to work 2 or 3 days per week for up to 28 hours weekly to facilitate self-esteem educational programs for women in transitional recovery programs across greater Boston.

Group leader experience required: BA + 10 yrs exp, or MA + 5 yrs exp. Car required. 2 year commitment preferred. Must enjoy driving in diverse Boston neighborhoods. M.Ed, LICSW, LMHC, LADC, or CADAC a plus.

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Resume to: Marion B. Davis, President, Self Esteem Boston

P.O. Box 301155, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (EOE) or email to: empowermail@selfesteeemboston.com

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Boston's biggest and most magical festive experience is coming

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A new tradition lights up Hood Park with massive light displays and seasonal magic for the entire family

Winter Fest, a large-scale, immersive winter experience has transformed Hood Park in Charlestown into a dazzling wonderland featuring a breathtaking festival of lights. From December 5th through January 25th,

guests can enjoy ice skating, an Après Ski Veuve Clicquot Gondola Lounge, charming shopping vendors, festive food & beverage, and a life-size ice castle adorned

in twinkling lights.

Presented by team behind Wicked Haunt Fest, highlights include special meet-and-greets with Santa on the weekends, a whimsical toy workshop, and a life-size gingerbread house. Winter Fest will offer themed food and beverage stations featuring winter warmers such as decadent hot chocolate with seasonal toppings like house-made marshmallow and crushed peppermint as well as select beers and wines. The Après Ski Veuve Clicquot Gondola Lounge transports guests to Aspen and is the perfect photo-worthy place to make a champagne toast.

The festival's stage comes alive with local artists performing beloved holiday classics that capture the spirit of the season. The festivities kick off with the

lighting of a majestic 32-foot Christmas tree and continue with attractions for visitors of all ages. Winter Fest is proudly sponsored by Beasley and Bent Water Brewing, whose support helps bring this magical celebration to life.

"We set out to create an experience that feels like you're stepping into a storybook, where every corner brings a new moment of magic," said Creative Director, Carl Rugato. Katie Kwiatkowski, Director of Events and Marketing at MNM Restaurant Group says Winter Fest is more than a festival, "it's a celebration of community, seasonal traditions and the beauty of winter."

With its easily accessible location and ample parking—offering three hours of free parking—Winter Fest promises an

enjoyable experience without the hassle of overcrowded spaces. Whether guests are planning a festive family outing or a romantic winter escape, Winter Fest ensures a relaxed and spacious environment for everyone. The festival is located at 100 Hood Park Dr., Boston, MA, 02129.



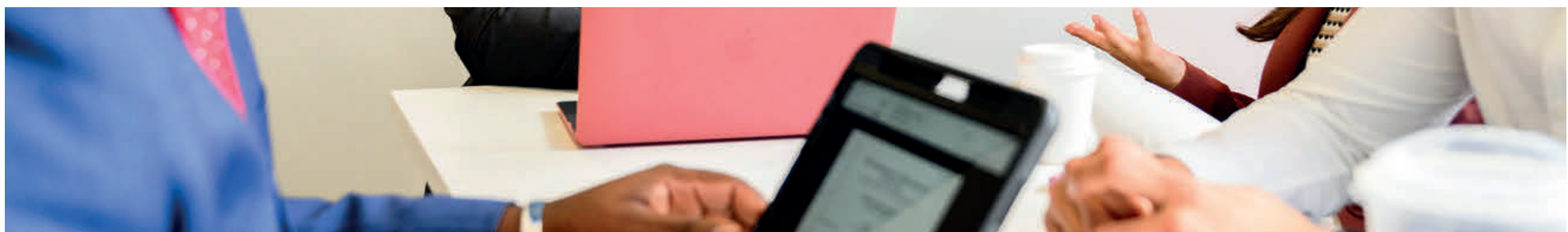
Scan here to visit their website for more information and schedule of events.

For tickets, event hours, and additional information, visit www.winterfestboston.com or follow on social media @boston-swinterfest.



Derek Kouyoumjian photo

Tradesman at Hood Park is decked out for the holidays.



Non-Profit & Small Business Development Series

Join Northeastern City and Community Engagement for a series of online and in-person trainings around key topics for non-profits and small businesses.

Register Here:



Colleges and Universities can be important stakeholders for non-profit organizations and small businesses. Join representatives from across Northeastern University as they share more about opportunities to engage with the student, staff, research, facility, and community resources for organizations and small businesses.

December 11th
12:00-1:30pm

Online Only

