

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS — PAGE 4

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Mission Hill

GAZETTE

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JANUARY 3, 2025 — FEBRUARY 7, 2025



LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT IN BRIGHAM CIRCLE

Shown above, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Santa, Mrs Claus, and 94.1 DJ Fast Freddy Murphy light up the holiday tree in Brigham Circle. Shown right (top), Brigham Circle songs more brightly with its illuminated holiday tree.

See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.



Shown left, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with the owner of Brigham Circle restaurant Penguin Pamela Carthy and her daughters Molly and Hannah.



CAMH updated on proposed dispensary at 1576 Tremont St.

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

At the Community Alliance of Mission Hill's (CAMH) meeting last month, representatives from a dispensary proposed at 1576 Tremont Street provided updates on their plans to resubmit their application after being rejected without prejudice by the Boston Cannabis Board (BCB) this summer.

"Soni DOT (the name of the proposed dispensary) is still working on its reapplication, but we wanted to keep you all looped in and give you an update and keep you informed on where the project is at," said Quinn Heath, the attorney for the project.

As part of the update, Heath outlined some updated plans that Soni DOT will pursue while it completes the reapplication process.

The first topic he addressed was residents' concerns about the management of Punjab Mini Mart, the previous business at the site, which was owned by Aditya Soni's (the proponent's) father. Heath further specified that they heard concerns about rodents at and around the property.

"Soni DOT is excited to announce that after working with local city officials, there were repairs done to issues found in the local main waterline, and there is expected to be a major reduction in the amount of rodent activity

in and around that area," said Heath.

Additionally, while Heath indicated that the establishment is still working on the final floor plan, he said it is expected that about \$500,000 will be spent changing the building from a mini-mart to a dispensary and meeting health and safety codes.

Heath also mentioned that the proponents have once again met with Mission Grammar School. "We're continuing to explore the avenues that we have to mitigate impacts of the business on the school," he said.

Specifically, Heath noted limiting operations during pick-up and drop-off times and limiting queuing.

"For now, I'll just say those conversations are ongoing, and I know that Soni DOT intends to meet with the Mission Grammar School at least once more and several times as this application process proceeds," said Heath.

A significant change to the plans deals with how deliveries will be completed. In the previous plan, deliveries would be done through a side alleyway. Now, there are plans for a separate door and hallway on the left side of the building.

Moreover, regarding deliveries, Heath indicated that Soni DOT is looking to mitigate the impact of deliveries on Tremont Street. He mentioned that they have found that there is typically at least one open parking spot

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

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Wu, Cox highlight reduction in murders, shootings in 2024

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Mayor Michele Wu and Police Commissioner Michael Cox, along with Isaac Yabalo, a senior city advisor for public safety in the mayor's office, held a press conference at Boston Police Dept. (BPD) headquarters this past Friday to highlight the significant reduction in the murder rate and shootings in the city in 2024.

Cox began the session by noting that the 2024 statistics represent "an historic run" (which has resulted in Boston being named the safest big city in America by the Economist magazine and the Gallup poll survey), highlighted

by a 33% reduction in homicides year-over-year to a record-low total of 24 and a 14% reduction in total incidents of gunfire to 307, which also is a record-low.

"We thought it important to lay out what we have done and what we plan on doing about crime and safety in the city," said Cox. "Our mission is to partner with the community to reduce crime -- our mission is community policing. The goals of the Police Department are to build trust through community partnerships, improve professionalism among the Police Dept., and to engage the community to find out the best way to use our resources to improve public safety."

Cox then recited a number of statistics, including the 14 percent decrease in gunfire incidents year-over-year and a 37 percent decline over the past five years. He said 2024 saw the lowest number of gunfire incidents since 2011 when the city began tracking those stats. In addition, shooting victims have declined by seven percent compared to 2023, by 18 percent compared to the five-year average, and by nearly 40 percent compared to the 10-year average.

Over the previous 20 years, the city has averaged 260 shooting victims per year, but over the past three years this has declined by more than 100 victims per year; 2024 saw the third consecutive year of declines and the third consecutive year of fewer than 200 persons being shot in the city.

Most significantly, the 24 homicides thus far in 2024 are the lowest number since 1957 and by far the lowest total since in-depth data-keeping began in 2007, representing a decrease of 33 percent compared to 2023 and a 37 percent decrease compared to the average over the past five years.

However, Cox noted that so-called Part 1 crimes, which include aggravated assaults, commercial burglaries, and larcenies, have increased by one percent, but overall violent crimes are down by two percent, despite



Mayor's Office Photographer John Wilcox

Boston Mayor Michele Wu, (right) along with Police Commissioner Michael Cox, comment on Boston's crime dropping.

the three percent increase in aggravated assaults, which is attributable mainly to an increase in domestic violence incidents.

He said property crime has increased two percent, driven mainly by a 30 percent increase in shoplifting. Commercial burglaries are up six percent, but Cox said the data shows the six percent increase is entirely related to shoplifting incidents being reclassified as burglaries by perpetrators who have been previously trespassed. Cox said commercial burglaries actually are down by 17 percent without that quirk in the stats.

"In the entire time I've been a police officer, the city has never been safer from violent crime. I've never been more proud of the city and our leadership in terms of crime and crime reduction," Cox concluded.

Mayor Wu (who began her remarks by speaking in Spanish) said, "Boston is recognized as a national leader in community safety with numbers far lower than comparable cities."

"Safety is the foundation of everything we do in making Boston a home for everyone," Wu continued. "Safety is not merely the absence of harm or fear or violence. It is the positive affirmation of belonging, of people feeling excited to be part of a community where they are welcome and able to use every opportunity and every part of every neighborhood."

Wu then highlighted some of the innovations undertaken by the BPD including: the sharing of data (that previously had been privy only to the police) with the local communities that provide a shared understanding of the

Continued on page 3

Join Us to Discuss Dana-Farber's Proposed New Cancer Hospital and What It Means for Our Community

Dana-Farber is inviting feedback from the Mission Hill community regarding our plans to develop a new adult inpatient cancer hospital in the Longwood Medical Area. We encourage you to join members of Dana-Farber's senior leadership team to learn more about our plans, ask questions, and share your concerns and suggestions. This meeting is being co-hosted by Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services and Sociedad Latina.

Wednesday, Feb. 5
5:30 – 7 p.m.
One Gurney Street
Roxbury, MA 02120

• Refreshments will be served.

RSVP at communityoutreach@dfci.harvard.edu



Dispensary

Continued from page 1

in front of the building between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Finally, Heath briefly discussed Soni DOT's hiring diversity goals and added, "Soni DOT is hoping to hire City of Boston residents, with a focus on Mission Hill residents."

Following the presentation of updates, Heath took questions from those in attendance. One attendee asked if dispensaries must require patrons to enter through one door and exit through another.

However, Heath indicated that the "baseline rules" do not require entering and exiting at different doors but mentioned patrons would have their IDs

checked at the front door and would enter and exit from the same way.

Another attendee had multiple questions. First, they asked if there would be a loading zone in front of the building, to which Heath said there was no dedicated loading zone in the initial plan. The resident asked for a breakdown of the \$500,000 investment in the property that was previously mentioned, though Heath did not have more information on it. Finally, the resident asked for the capacity with the current plans, but that information was unavailable then.

Lastly, a question was raised about violations at the property, and Heath indicated all of the tickets had been paid.

Ultimately, the discussion ended shortly thereafter, and

Heath emphasized that there would be more conversations with the community in the future.

"We'll have more updates for you. Our intention is to keep you in the loop even as we move forward with the application and the process."

For more information about CAMH, visit its website at <https://www.camh.boston/>.



Brendan Behan Pub
 378A Centre Street
 Jamaica Plain

Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

The Mission Hill Veterans Post 327 celebrated a wonderful Christmas party at Victory Point Restaurant in Quincy on Dec. 7.

Because our celebration occurred on "The Day Which Will Live in Infamy," our Post Commander, Col. George Rollins, spoke eloquently about the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese and the subsequent heroism of our American troops.

Our Mission Hill City Councilor Sharon Durkan attended the party and gave a short upbeat speech, as did Brigadier General Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse. The peerless Woody will celebrate his

98th birthday Jan. 14.

Our Veterans Post is always seeking good men and women for new membership, and we recently lost two great veterans.

Leo White, passed away in Oct. at age 95. Leo, from Roslindale, was a retired Boston Firefighter and a member of the George Wright Golf Course.

Naval veteran John Morrissey passed away last month. John worked tirelessly for Disabled American Veterans. I got to know John from listening to his captivating Mission Hill stories, going back to the days when he owned the Calumet Cafe (currently The Mission Bar & Grill).

R.I.P. Leo and John.

Happy birthday (Jan. 22) to the lovely Carla Klaassens, who is known in Jamaica Plain as "The Dancing Queen."

Carla earned that moniker with her dazzling footwork on Brendan Behan's dance floor.

Scrolling down the "I Grew Up On Mission Hill" Facebook page last week, I came across a dandy poem penned by Mission Hill's Frank Pedersen. The poem, "The Town I Love So Much," is about Mission Hill.

When Frank stopped in Mike's Donuts, he was called

"51" because that was the number on his back when he was the rugged middle linebacker for the Killilea Club. He is now referred to as Frank the Poet.

Condolences to the family of Nancy Lowe (LeBrun), who passed away last month.

Nancy was a wonderful woman, who was my Mission High 1967 classmate. Nancy lived in Cumberland, R.I., and she was a woman after my own heart, being a sports fan, and she enjoyed a little gambling.

Happy 80th birthday (Jan. 12) to Billy "Bucky" Rollins, a retired

Harwich policeman who grew up in the Mission Hill project.

Billy, a Mission High graduate, was a good athlete who played football for the Dorchester Knicks in the Boston Park League.

Harwich was an alluring town on Cape Cod for beach loving revelers back in the late '60s, and Officer Rollins occasionally was forced to squelch a few loud parties, but he told me he "never lugged anyone from Mission Hill."

At my "office," Mike's Donuts, last week, I spoke with several

Continued on page 4

Crime

Continued from page 2

trends in the city, which in turn has resulted in suggestions from the community that have been helpful to the police; the largest and most diverse academy-training classes in many years; a new contract that adheres to the highest-professional standards; the deployment of community intervention teams that increase visibility and presence; and the reinstatement of weekly youth safety meetings to prevent violence.

Wu also emphasized the interconnection between the reduction in crime and violence with programs involving other city departments, particularly those conducted under the auspices of the Boston Center for Youth and Families. Wu also mentioned paid summer jobs for youth that reached a highest-ever level of 10,000 this past summer; more programming in the parks; a doubling of the level of universal pre-K; expanded early college through the school system; investments in small businesses; the increase in enrollment in the public schools for the first time in more than a decade; and the reduction in chronic absenteeism

in the schools.

"It has been an all-hands-on-deck effort," said the mayor. "This is about saving lives. The most important investment of all is to stop cycles of trauma and violence. When we do well at keeping violent crime down, we do well at doing everything else.

"But most of all," Wu concluded, "we know there is more work to do. Today is not a victory lap. It is a report out, a reflection of the type of results we can see when we all view community safety as a collective responsibility that we share together and that everyone has a part in."

Yablo emphasized some of the points made by Cox and Wu. "This has been a tremendous year of success, particularly in the reduction of firearm violence," said Yablo. He said that the city has adopted three strategies: Focusing on individuals who engage in firearm crimes; looking at how a person's environment contributes to crime; and positive policing initiatives.

"We have done constant monitoring of what the problem is," said Yablo. "We don't go into any solutions without a constant and up-to-date understanding of where the problems lie. But we are not done. We will continue to get better. We cannot rest well

until we are at zero."

In response to a question from a reporter about the single-biggest reason for the good numbers, the mayor replied, "Strong coordinated leadership, the dedication of everyone moving in the same direction on the cityside and in the community, and having that commitment every day of the year to make this the focus."



Mayor's Office Photographer John Wilcox

Senior city advisor Isaac Yablo talks about the drop in Boston's crime.

In response to a question about the open drug use that is evident in many communities, Cox responded, "We do drug investigations all the time and have become highly-responsive to our communities." However, he added, "We're not going to criminalize mental health issues. But we are doing more with the DA's office and through the courts to get help for individuals. We didn't invent the opioid crisis and we cannot arrest our way out

of it, but we do need to do more to make people in our communities feel safer and we are trying to do that by becoming more agile with these teams of officers going into places to make sure that individuals know they will be held accountable."

Cox also noted that repeat offenders are responsible for committing an outside number of violent crimes. Yablo added that there is a dedicated unit -- whom he labeled, "The 'stop shootings team'," -- that is focused on preventing firearm crimes by certain individuals. He said the unit has been tasked with reaching out to young people, typically ages 18-24, who have been involved with firearm crimes in the hope of reaching them while they're still young.

He noted that this is important because the typical age for both firearm-related criminals and their victims is between 27-30 years old.

"Boston's steady decline in violent crime reflects the collective efforts of the Boston Police Department, the Office of Public Safety, community organizations, and strategic investments, including historic funding for youth summer jobs. Community safety requires an all-hands-on-deck approach, addressing cycles of trauma and violence through every facet of city services. Thank you to our police officers, first responders, and advocates for their unwavering commitment to protecting our communities," said District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a safe and warm Holiday season despite mother nature saving all the 2024 rain for the last couple of weeks of the year.

If you entered the Mission Bar and Grill just about any day in December, it was clear that the Holidays were

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning." — T.S. Eliot*

near and people were feeling festive, as they seemed to have had a holiday party to host weekly! It always makes me happy to

see staff, students, professionals and residents from area institutions choosing local restaurants to host their annual gatherings.

On Saturday, December 7th, the annual Mission Hill tree lighting and Mayor's Holiday Trolley brought more festive

spirit to Brigham Circle. Despite the cold day, we had a great turnout of community members show up to take part in the celebration!

In addition to Mayor Wu, City Councilors Sharon Durkan (D8) and Henry Santana (at-large) spoke to the crowd and were joined by several other city officials in the audience. I think I can speak on behalf of everyone who attended when I say THANK

YOU! to Solid Ground Café and Keith and Lucia, for the hot cider and beautiful

Christmas Tree and snickerdoodle cookies and the table they were placed on; Mike's Donuts for the holiday themed donuts, munchkins and hot chocolate- and Maria Weinograd for braving the temps to help serve them; and to Pam Carthy and her staff at Penguin Pizza, who were constantly back and forth providing pizza to those in attendance as it was in high demand. We are grateful for all that you provided that kept so many of us warm. I would also like to thank Pam Carthy, Office Michael O'Rourke and our ONS Liaison Maccon Bonner for all the help with setting up and getting the appropriate city departments to prepare the space. I'd also like to shout out Maccon for assisting Main Streets in placing 35 wreaths around the business district on the coldest day of the year (up to that point)!

In addition to public celebrations and events for the holidays, a lot typically goes on behind the scenes this time of year to ensure that those in need are provided for by the community when possible. I am grateful to Yousef Irziqat, owner of Crispy Dough Pizzeria and Hebron Market, who donated close to 250 pounds of frozen meat (chicken, beef, lamb) to local families. I would also like to thank John Jackson at the Tobin Community Center, who assisted us by reaching out to and coordinating with families to pick up and drop off the



Residents grab a sweet treat while waiting for Santa Claus and the Enchanted Trolley.



Courtney Wright, MH Main Streets and Maria Weinograd, Mike's Donuts.



Boston City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Henry Santana get the crowd ready for the holiday fun.

donations from Hebron Market. Mission Hill is so lucky to have both of you and I am sure some families' holidays were made by your generosity.

Boston Building Resources would like to announce their "Fixit Clinic" set for February 8th! Don't throw it away – fix it! Bring something you need fixed or mended to this free event at Boston Building Resources on Saturday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Whether it's a bicycle, electronic gadget, small appliance, or garment that needs mending, you can get help from a Fixit Coach to walk you through repairs.

Fixing and reusing items rather than throwing them away

is an excellent way to reduce your environmental impact. Extending an item's useful life preserves the energy and resources that would be needed to manufacture a replacement. The Fixit Clinic will take place at Boston Building Resources, 100 Terrace Street, Roxbury Crossing, 02120. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fixit-clinic-tickets-1112031539269?aff=oddtcreator>

Happy January everybody, stay warm out there!

If there is anything I missed that you'd like to promote or have shared on social media, please reach out: missionhill-mainstreetsboston@gmail.com.

tric cars for city workers.

I appreciate the Mayor's concern for the environment, but do we really need a Boston Climate Council, which the Mayor created in October? The Climate Council consists of 13 Cabinet Chiefs led by Climate Officer Brian Swett and Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia.

Regarding electric cars, lithium and cobalt, which are vital for the batteries in the vehicles, are produced in the Republic of Congo and China, where child labor and unsafe working conditions are prevalent.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

Hill Happenings

Continued from page 3

Mission Hill homeowners who are bracing for the upcoming 10.4 percent Boston property tax increase imposed by Mayor Wu.

This hike comes at a time when the Mayor spent \$500,000 of taxpayers' money for 10 elec-



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Public health vending machines and Naloxone access points announced across city

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The innovative initiative by Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission is part of the City's push to reduce overdose deaths and combat the opioid crisis.

The City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) today announced a new strategy for equitably distributing the overdose-reversing medication naloxone and other harm reduction supplies. BPHC set up four public health vending machines at existing harm reduction, homeless services, and medical program facilities across the city. Additionally, the Health Commission will deploy eight indoor naloxone distribution kiosks, expanding access to this life-saving medication. These interventions are supported by Boston's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program, which placed the public health vending machines at various sites and is working with partners to place the naloxone kiosks.

"Harm reduction is about keeping people safe and alive. Unfortunately, many people living with substance use disorder don't use harm reduction tools, like naloxone and clean syringes, due to stigma, lack of access or unawareness," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "These vending machines and kiosks are a low-cost, compassionate way to destigmatize harm reduction and expand access throughout our city."

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and Office of HIV/AIDS purchased 14 harm reduction vending machines, four of which have been provided to the City of Boston. The machines are located at: BPHC Recovery Services in the Finland Building, Southampton Street Shelter, En-Vision Hotel, and the North End Waterfront Community Health Center's Charlestown public housing location. Each machine will contain harm reduction supplies including naloxone, safe injection kits, and fentanyl test strips. Sites are still developing plans on how to best utilize these vend-

ing machines and have a degree of flexibility in how they stock them. Organizations can choose to stock machines with other public health necessities like pregnancy tests, socks, and PPE.

"NEW Health (North End Waterfront Health) is proud to partner with BPHC on this initiative," said David Perry, Director of Substance Use Disorders at North End Waterfront Health. "This work reflects our continued commitment to community health care by increasing access to life saving supplies, inviting individuals into care, and reducing stigmatizing experiences for the Charlestown community." "I am thrilled to see the addi-

tion of public health vending machines and naloxone kiosks across our neighborhoods. This initiative is vital to saving lives and supporting the work of our public health officials by providing the tools and life-saving resources to deliver immediate assistance. This is a crucial step to breaking down barriers to access and ensuring that life-saving resources are available to our residents at more times and places," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1).

Funded by Carelon and the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership, the City of Boston and BPHC are installing eight indoor naloxone kiosks across the city to

enhance access to this overdose-reversing medication. The kiosks, repurposed from recycled newspaper stands, will be strategically placed in reach of populations experiencing higher overdose rates. These locations include Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, Recovery on the Harbor, SPOKE Gallery, Suffolk County Jail and House of Correction, The Phoenix, and the Woods Mullen Women's Shelter.

These kiosks not only provide access to life-saving medication but also serve as a connection to valuable resources. Each naloxone kiosk displays the phone number for the Mas-

sachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line, which offers free clinical assessments, crisis support, and referrals to treatment for substance use and mental health disorders.

"We're proud to work with the Boston Public Health Commission and sponsor the installation of naloxone kiosks where people need them most," said Dr. David Wolfe, Chief Medical Officer at MBHP and Manager Medical Director at Carelon Behavioral Health. "Making naloxone available can save lives and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders, both of which are part of our commitment to ad-

Continued on page 7

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ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR COMES TO MISSION HILL

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Confetti rains down on the crowd in Brigham Circle as the holiday tree there is officially lit.



Nicely Moshin brings plush animal toys to brighten up her day.

The Enchanted Trolley Tour took a stop in Mission Hill at Brigham Circle as Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joined Santa and Mrs Claus asking with other special guests to light up the holiday tree there. Everyone was treated to a visit with Santa and Mrs Claus, presents, and other fun activities.



Brigham Circle sings more brightly with its illuminated holiday tree.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu welcomes Santa to the stage with 94.1 DJ Fast Freddy Murphy.



Brigham Circle was packed with Santa fans.

MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

Would like to wish you a very happy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Mission Hill Main Streets

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ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR COMES TO MISSION HILL



Boston City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Henry Santana with Frosty The Snowman and Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer.



Visiting with his sister Karen, Jimmy Gately affirms that he still believes in Santa.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with Fengxiang Wei.



Pankti Gosar and Mary Ann Nelson with Mission Hill Health Movement



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Henry Santana, Housing Authority administrator Kenzie Bok, Alice Taylor from the Tenant Task Force, ABCD committee member Matilda Drayton, Director of Sociedad Latina Alexandra Oliver-Davila, and Director of Mission Hill Housing Services Patricia Flaherty



Suzanne Kratzig with Maia and Juan Martinez and Moki.

Naloxone

Continued from page 5

“The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department welcomes any and all opportunities to provide life saving and harm-reducing resources to the people in our catchment area, particularly to the men and women leaving our care and returning to our communities. We welcome this collaboration with the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission as an extension of our mission to help foster a safer, healthier and more vibrant society for everyone,” said Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins. Naloxone kiosks and public health vending machines are key components of the City of Boston’s ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis through expanding access to naloxone. This evidence-based strategy has yielded promising results; in October, the Health Commission reported a 33% decrease in overdose deaths from January to April 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Boston OD2A is funded by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,710,074.00 with 100 percent funded by

CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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

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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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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Wu announces White Stadium lease agreement

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the City of Boston has executed a Lease Agreement and BPS Stadium Usage Agreement with Boston Unity Soccer Partners, paving the way for the largest investment into BPS Athletics and White Stadium since it opened in 1949. This renovation and ongoing lease arrangement will transform the facilities and opportunities for Boston Public School students, Franklin Park lovers, and all community members. The new White Stadium complex will anchor youth sports in Boston with state-of-the-art facilities for multiple sports, as well as modern locker rooms, sports medicine, strength and conditioning for all students, and a much-desired community event space. The project will also host robust community programming; help implement needed park upgrades outlined in the Franklin Park Action Plan; and create a home for Boston's National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) team. The City and Boston Public Schools will retain ownership of the stadium and will have priority in stadium scheduling.

First opened in 1949, White Stadium has been deteriorating for decades, particularly since a fire in the 1990s rendered a large section of the facility unusable, and multiple efforts to kickstart renovations over several decades have fallen through. The City's carefully negotiated plan, shaped and propelled forward by extensive community input, represents the first concrete steps to fix White Stadium in more than 60 years. When completed, White Stadium will be one of three carbon neutral stadiums in the country. Construction is expected to begin in January.

"Delivering excellent education for BPS students includes ensuring the fullest access to sports, arts, and enrichment of every kind across the city. White Stadium is a generational opportunity to anchor citywide youth sports, revitalize community programming, and bolster our beloved, historic Franklin Park—all while creating a home for the City of Champions' newest professional team," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm so grateful for all the community members, coaches, students, and park lovers who helped shape this project to reflect the community's dreams

for the next generation. Thank you to Boston Unity Soccer Partners for their commitment to our students and community, and their comprehensive investment to make this dream a reality."

"This is an exciting moment for BPS and our student athletes who are so deserving of a world class facility to call home," said Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools. "This major investment by the City and Boston Unity Soccer Partners will have direct and lasting benefits for BPS students who will have access to state-of-the-art facilities where they can study, train and compete. The new White Stadium will also provide us with an opportunity to continue expanding on our storied athletics program. I'm incredibly proud to bring this project another step closer to reality for BPS students and I can't wait to see our teams compete on this exceptional stage."

"We are incredibly proud that our team's home will be in the heart of the city through this generational public-private-community partnership to revitalize White Stadium," said Jennifer Epstein, Controlling Owner of Boston Unity Soccer Partners. "This transformative milestone enables our club to deliver a lasting, year-round impact for Boston Public School student-athletes while uplifting the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses and providing a world-class facility for our home games. A renewed White Stadium will honor its historic roots while providing an extraordinary fan experience and we are excited to take the pitch at this iconic venue for our inaugural season in 2026."

"This marks a historic step forward not just for the future of professional women's soccer in Boston, but for the entire sports community," said NWSL Commissioner Jessica Berman. "This agreement between the City of Boston and Boston Unity Soccer Partners is a shining example of how sports can serve as a catalyst for innovation and meaningful impact. We are thrilled to see this vision come to life and grateful to Mayor Wu and the countless community voices who have made this possible. This partnership sets a precedent for how public and private collaboration can elevate women's sports and leave a lasting legacy in our cities."

The project incorporates comprehensive feedback from neighborhood residents, BPS athletes and coaches, and the Franklin Park community—shared throughout more than 60 public meetings and small group community discussions and more than 900 public comment letters. The project was also vetted by and received approvals from the Boston Civic Design Commission, Zoning Commission, Parks Commission, Landmarks Commission, BPDA Board, and the Boston School Committee.

The financial and operational landlord/tenant arrangement between the City of Boston and Boston Unity Soccer Partners is defined by multiple legally binding documents outlining the public-private partnership to deliver, operate, and maintain the complex:

Cooperation Agreement: Outlines project scope and codifies commitments regarding mitigation, community benefits, and operational details as part of the Article 80 development review approval issued in July 2024.

Lease Agreement: Establishes financial terms and legal obligations for maintenance and operations of the facility.

Stadium Usage Agreement: Codifies responsibilities and usage terms including types of permissible activities, hours of operation, and noise level and lighting mitigation.

Work Letter: Defines the scope of construction and parameters for coordinating construction activities between the two structural halves of the project.

BUSP/NWSL/City of Boston Side Letters: Reflects the team's, league's, and City's commitment to the unique partnership for the Boston Public Schools.

Through these legal agreements, the City of Boston, Boston Unity Soccer, and the NWSL are setting new standards for public benefit.

New or Renovated Amenities

With newly modernized facilities, White Stadium will sustain at least 700 programmable hours annually for BPS, ensuring year-round opportunities for student-athletes:

Regulation-size, eight-lane track and facilities for track and field for BPS to host state track meets, including new field events such as shot put and pole vault

for the first time

Natural grass field for BPS soccer, end of season football, and other BPS sports teams

BPS student athlete locker rooms

BPS strength and conditioning spaces

BPS sports medicine facilities

BPS Athletics administrative offices and space for coaching staff

BPS student lounge spaces for studying

Community event space to foster academic and social growth and celebrate student achievements or host community events.

Freshly surfaced basketball courts outside the stadium

Resurfaced and expanded tennis courts within Franklin Park so BPS can host competitive tennis matches

Modernized and expanded BPS Athletic equipment storage

For park users and community members, new upgrades will also include investments laid out in the Franklin Park Action Plan:

Public restrooms and water fountains accessible throughout the year

Freshly paved and surfaced pathways outside the stadium

New lighting for enhanced safety and wayfinding outside the stadium

Stormwater infrastructure to address drainage issues and prevent flooding

Reopening an acre of green space in the park by removing fencing south of the current stadium that has long closed off public access

Expanded public offerings

and programs in the Grove, connected to the nearby Playstead, Overlook, and future Elma Lewis Playhouse project

Enhanced seasonal maintenance as Boston Unity Soccer Partners will assist the Parks Department in the Playstead and newly planted meadow areas around the stadium

Financial Terms

Boston Unity Soccer Partners will fund more than half of the construction costs for the new complex, as they will carry out construction of the West Grandstand, public restrooms, NWSL team spaces, scoreboard, stadium lighting, technology system, and the Grove area. The City will carry out construction of the East Grandstand, BPS student athletics spaces, the grass field, and the track. Boston Unity Soccer Partners will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance for the team's spaces and all the shared areas of the facility, including the field and track. See table below for a detailed breakdown of construction, maintenance, and usage responsibilities.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners will be responsible for ongoing financial payments to the City:

Rent: \$200,000 annualized first season payment, prorated for the number of months the field will be operational; \$400,000 annualized rent, in monthly payments starting in the second season, and escalating by 3% each year afterwards. Should the lease be extended

Continued on page 11

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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that 2025 is here -- and that we now are entering the second quarter of the 21st century.

For those of us who are close to three-quarters of a century in age, as we look back at the quarter-century markers of our lifetime, we realize that when we were young, everything from the past seemed like very, very long ago.

For example, when we'd be watching WWII movies such as *The Longest Day* or *The Battle of the Bulge* in the 1960s, that war seemed to be entirely of another era. But those events had occurred less than 20 years previously.

That's about the same length of time, for example, that separates the start of the war in Iraq, which was in 2003, to today. Yet as we look back on that war, it seems like it was only yesterday that we were glued to our TV sets watching the U.S. forces advance to Baghdad.

Thoughts such as these make us realize that the one thing we've discovered about aging is that the older we get, the faster that time seems to go by.

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after re-reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about 2024 and our hopes for 2025.

Although it was published in 1850, its verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Atty. Cartwright sworn in as Clerk of SJC for the County of Suffolk

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Allison S. Cartwright, Esq., was sworn in January 1 as Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd, in a ceremony that took place in the Great Hall of the John Adams Courthouse in Boston.

Attorney Cartwright was elected in November 2024 by the voters of Suffolk County to become the SJC Clerk for the County of Suffolk, and fills the position being vacated by Maura Sweeney Doyle, Esq. Clerk Doyle was appointed to the position in 1996, and was subsequently elected in 1998, serving for 28 years before retiring on December 21, 2024. Attorney Cartwright is the second woman and first black person to hold this position since its inception in 1693.

"For nearly three decades, we have been fortunate to have Maura Doyle serving in this position, and she has done so with professionalism, passion, and dedication," said Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd. "Today, we are equally fortunate to have Allison Cartwright stepping into this role. As an experienced lawyer and manager, she is well prepared to lead the county clerk's office, and my colleagues and I look forward to working with her."

The SJC Clerk for the County of Suffolk is responsible for the management of the Court's single justice caseload, which is comprised of petitions seeking review of lower court rulings under the SJC's general superintendency power and various rules of court; bail review; appeals from State registration boards and agencies; all matters relating to Bar Admission and the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and administrative disciplinary matters filed by the Board of Bar Overseers affecting members of the bar.

"I am excited and honored to have the privilege of serving as the next Clerk of the SJC for the County of Suffolk," said Attorney Cartwright. "My team and I recognize the important role the Clerk's Office has to ensure



John Wilcox/Boston Mayor's Office

Allison S. Cartwright (right) takes the Oath of Office from SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd.

that our state's highest court maintains its independence and delivers justice in a manner that is fair, equitable, and accessible to the people of Massachusetts."

Retired Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland served as Master of Ceremonies. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Attorney Cartwright's son, Jonathan S. Cartwright. Mr. Meyer Chambers, the Director of the Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir, led a musical rendition of *America the Beautiful* (arr. by Ray Charles). Speakers included Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and State Sen. Lydia M. Edwards. Rev. Rahsaan Hall, Esq., Associate Minister of St. Paul AME Church in Cambridge, delivered the Benediction.

Attorney Cartwright began her career at the Committee for

Public Counsel Services (CPCS), as a trial attorney, working in the Roxbury office for four years. She then worked for the City of Boston as Assistant Corporation Counsel, before opening Cartwright & Coleman, a civil and criminal litigation law firm, from 1997 to 2001. In 2001, she opened Cartwright Law Office. During that time, she also mentored attorneys for the Suffolk Lawyers for Justice, Inc; from 2011 to 2019, she worked as the organization's Supervising Attorney. In 2019, she returned to CPCS as Attorney-In-Charge and then Managing Director of the Central Region, where she managed offices in Suffolk and Norfolk Counties.

Attorney Cartwright is a graduate of University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Boston College Law School.

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

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White Stadium

Continued from page 9

beyond the first 10-year term, the base rent will increase by either 3% or the average annual increase in CPI over the last ten years, whichever is larger, with the 3% annual escalator continuing after the first year of the extension term.

Revenue-Sharing: 10% of in-stadium advertising revenues (except field naming rights revenue), 10% of field naming rights revenue, 3% of concessions revenue. The City reserves the right to pursue potential additional sponsorships or revenues exclusive to the City's areas as well.

Operations and Maintenance Reserve Fund: each quarter, 40% of in-stadium advertising revenues (except field naming rights revenue), 15% of field naming rights revenues, and 5% of concessions revenues will be deposited into an O&M Reserve Fund and used for such costs, but each year when the amount of reserves in the fund has been built up to 50% of the anticipated annual operations and maintenance costs, additional funds collected on this basis will be split 50%/50% between the City and BUSP as additional revenue sharing.

BUSP will also provide financial safeguards against potential project risks:

Prior to demolition, BUSP will fund a \$25 million Construction Escrow Account that is restricted exclusively to fund direct construction costs on the site and requires City approval of expenditures. The escrow account cannot be reduced below \$10 million until total project financing is secured.

BUSP is subject to a \$45 million Pre-financing Guaranty, including escrowed funds, such that if BUSP fails to secure total project financing or cannot advance the renovation, the City will have significant extra resources to renovate White Stadium.

After BUSP secures project financing, subject to confirmation by the City, the team is contractually bound by a Completion Guaranty to complete all renovations outlined.

Community Benefits

BUSP will direct resources and investments into local community priorities:

Community Annual Fund: an annual contribution of \$500,000

in the first year, escalating by 3% annually, to be distributed to local organizations and initiatives

Franklin Park Preservation Fund: \$1 per NWSL ticket sold, to be directed toward implementing ongoing initiatives outlined in the Franklin Park Action Plan

Tree Bank: BUSP and the City will contribute to the planting of more than 500 trees within Franklin Park

Local Purchasing & Supplier Diversity: In coordination with the Black Men and Boys Commission, and under the leadership of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, the City of Boston and Boston Unity will establish a Supplier Diversity Advisory Committee to help ensure MWBE businesses are aware of available contracting opportunities and reach 50% MWBE participation in design, construction, and operations

Jobs: BUSP will create up to 500 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs

BPS partnerships: BUSP will provide scholarships, internships, and mentorship from the NWSL team to enhance opportunities available to BPS students

Sustainability: improvements in green infrastructure, all-electric facilities, and usage of green building materials

Stadium Usage

The legal arrangement will guarantee enhanced public access and codifies scheduling priority and parameters for students and community to enjoy the facilities:

Public access to the stadium and track for informal community use 6am-9pm, or 15 hours per day including weekends (when not reserved for an event), instead of the current access from 8am-4pm on weekdays only

The City and BPS will have top scheduling priority for 12 major events per year, followed by BPS and NWSL games having co-priority in scheduling, then other City or City-permitted community events, then NWSL team practices, then other BUSP events as permitted by the City

NWSL usage limited to no more than 20 games per year (including playoff games) and one team practice in the week ahead of each scheduled game

To minimize late-night noise and activity, NWSL games must start by no later than 8:30pm; affiliated programming may only start two hours prior to the game and must conclude by one hour after the game ends or 11:30pm,

whichever is earlier

To protect time for BPS and community program during the day and on weekends, NWSL games cannot take place more than two weekends in a four-week period, and no more than four weekend games per season can start before 5pm

BUSP must ensure cleanup is completed within 3 hours after each game

Next year, the White Stadium Neighborhood Council will be created, to advise the City, BPS, the Parks Department, and BUSP on public programming and provide neighborhood feedback on stadium usage.

Transportation

The game day transportation plan has been significantly refined through a robust community engagement process to minimize impacts on neighborhoods surrounding the park and will be codified in the Transportation Access Plan Agreement (TAPA) to be signed after construction documents are finalized. This represents the first comprehensive transportation strategy for major events at Franklin Park. Key elements of the game day transportation plan include:

Electric Shuttle System: Free electric shuttles for ticket holders from MBTA Orange and Red Line stations, as well as from satellite parking lots on game days

Multimodal Infrastructure: BUSP will fund a new Bluebikes station, secure bike parking, and a bike valet service

Parking Protections: Implementation of a resident permit parking system near White Stadium and an app-based parking system (via ParkBoston) for non-game visitors, including zoo visitors, golfers, and park permit holders

Enforcement and Oversight: Additional parking enforcement funded by BUSP to ensure efficient traffic and parking management

The City and BUSP will continue to create open dialogue with the community throughout the project's implementation. Regular updates through the City and the White Stadium Neighborhood Council will empower even greater direct communication across all parts of our community as the transformative vision for White Stadium becomes a reality. For more information, visit boston.gov/white-stadium.

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Self Esteem Boston

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Wu celebrates hundreds of first-time homebuyers supported by the City of Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu recently joined the Office of Housing’s Boston Home Center, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and hundreds of new homeowners to celebrate a milestone in Boston’s efforts to expand homeownership opportunities. In 2024, the Boston Home Center helped 235 households achieve their dream of owning a home. Since the start of Mayor Wu’s administration, the City of Boston has helped 678 residents become homeowners through its homebuying programs. Homeownership is a critical part of assisting residents in building wealth and countering displacement, embodying Mayor Wu’s vision to make Boston a home for everyone.

“The Boston Home Center has empowered residents to navigate the home-buying process and secured their future as homeowners,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m thrilled to celebrate these new homeowners and the transformative impact of the City of Boston’s home buying programs in building generational wealth



More than 230 Boston residents who purchased homes this year with support from the City’s first-time home-buyer program. Shown are some of the residents gathered with Mayor Michelle Wu.

and equity across our city. My deepest thanks to the Boston Home Center and its partners for their commitment to expanding opportunities for all.”

Of the 678 residents who have become homeowners through the City’s home buying programs since Mayor Wu took office, 197 people received support through the financial assistance program and 481 people participated in the ONE+Boston mortgage buy down program to secure lower interest rates. Altogether, the City provided over \$16.8 million in down payment and closing

cost assistance, averaging about \$24,800 per household, and over \$7.4 million in interest rate subsidies. These programs have been critical to increasing homeownership in Boston.

In 2024, homebuyers assisted by the City of Boston’s programs purchased homes across many neighborhoods. Most homes were purchased in Dorchester totaling 49, followed by Roxbury with 37, Hyde Park with 30, and Mattapan with 27. Other neighborhoods where residents bought homes include East Boston (16), South Boston (17), Ja-

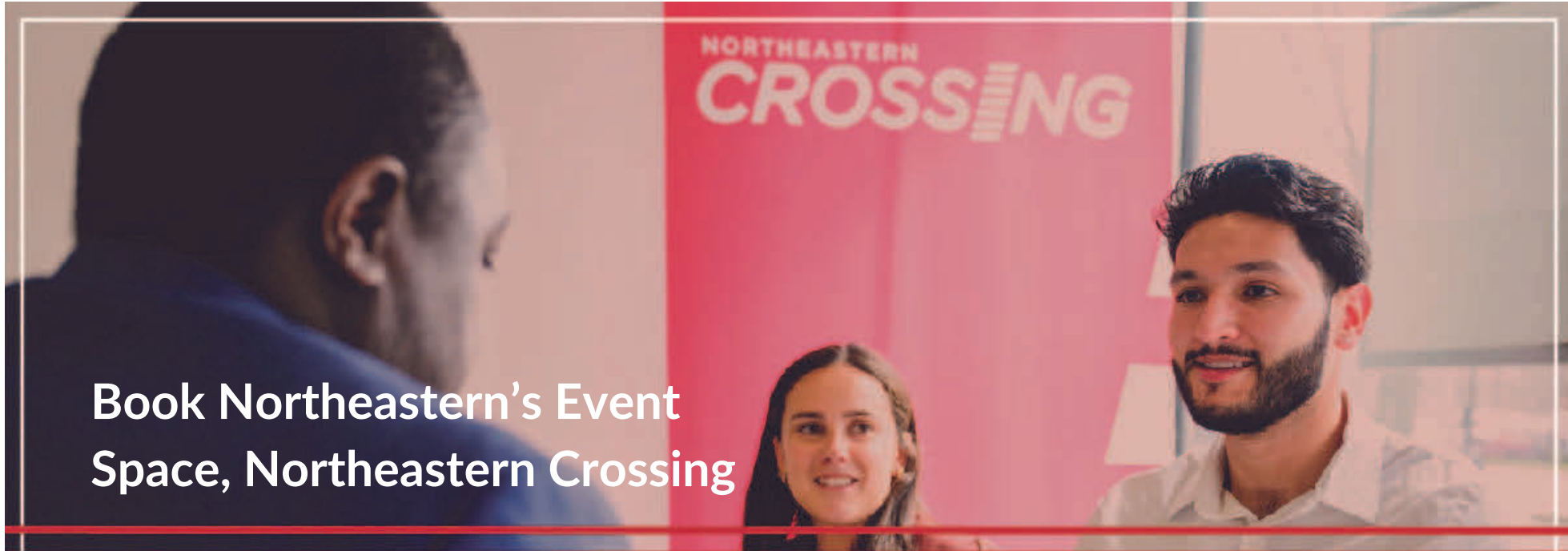
maica Plain (9), Roslindale (10), West Roxbury (10), and Brighton (12), Allston (3), Charlestown (3), Back Bay/Beacon Hill (3), Fenway/Kenmore (2), the South End (6), and the Leather District (1).

Since it was launched in November 2022 with an initial \$2 million investment, the Boston Housing Authority’s (BHA) First Home Program has helped more than 39 BHA residents become homeowners. The program offers up to \$75,000 in enhanced down payment assistance to eligible families in public housing, mak-

ing homeownership more accessible.

“The BHA First Home Program has been an incredible example of how creative city investments can transform lives and empower people to achieve beyond their wildest dreams,” said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. “Every single family that has used this program has struggled with housing insecurity, and thanks to Mayor Wu’s investment, they have come out the other side as homeowners. This is how we help families build wealth and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.”

In addition to financial resources, the Boston Home Center also provides home-buying classes, workshops, and seminars tailored to first-time buyers. In 2024, hundreds of participants attended these programs, receiving guidance that helped many take the critical steps toward purchasing a home. For more information, visit the Boston Home Center’s website or call 617-635-HOME (4663).



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