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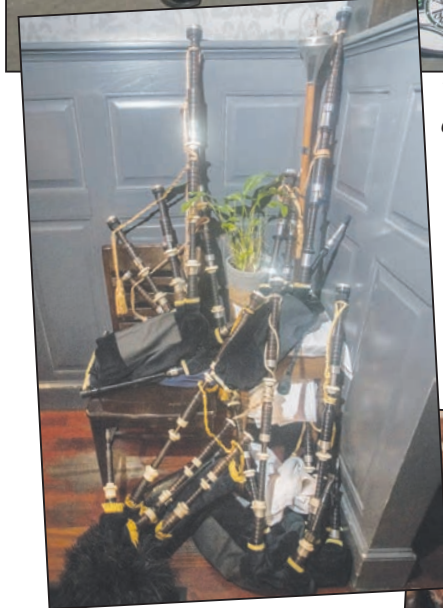
APRIL 4, 2025 — MAY 1, 2025



The Mission owner Harry Walsh (center) with members of the Boston Police Gaelic Column Pipes And Drums.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Mission Hill residents didn't have to go to South Boston to celebrate on St Patrick's Day weekend. The Mission in Brigham Circle had plenty of food times to go around.



Bagpipes from the Gaelic Column wait while their humans enjoy some fun.



Right, Tommy, Michaela, Alex, and Karl enjoy a fine night of friendship and fun. See pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS

CAMH supporting BCYF Hennigan initiative

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) hosted Luisa Harris, who discussed an initiative to “reopen and activate the sports and recreational BCYF (Boston Centers for Youth and Families) Hennigan” and supported it at its March meeting.

A petition supplied in advance of last month's CAMH meeting, which the Friends of BCYF Hennigan crafted, calls for reopening the “sports and recreational

BCYF Hennigan with quality programming and extended hours of operations, as soon as possible.”

The petition claims that the BCYF Hennigan, located on Heath Street in Jamaica Plain, is structurally sound and has a “wonderful 5-lane swimming pool that has been closed since COVID and was inconsistently open before that.” It adds that its indoor basketball court is used infrequently and Jefferson

Continued on page 2

BPDA Board approves Mission Hill Pathway project

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board meeting last month, a project also known as Mission Hill Pathway, which would bring affordable homeownership and other amenities to 77 Terrace Street and 778-796 Parker Street, was approved.

As Quinn Valcich, a senior project manager at the Planning Department, explained, the proponent ODJ Dev will redevelop the site in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Housing and

Department of Parks and Recreation.

The site contains 11 total parcels, which will be consolidated and subdivided into three, each containing a different development aspect.

Specifically, plans call for a five-story building to house 48 income-restricted homeownership units and ground-floor retail. There are also plans for 13 parking spaces.

The proposal is also slated to have a public open space area for recreation and a community

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Task force launched to address public safety in Downtown Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A cross-sector coalition of city and state officials, law enforcement, shelters and churches, institutional partners, business and trade associations, and civic organizations last week officially launched the One Downtown Task Force - a strategic initiative aimed at improving public safety, reducing crime and homelessness, and enhancing the overall experience and quality of life for all who live, work, visit, and do business in Downtown Boston

and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Task Force was created as a follow-up to the Downtown Boston Public Safety Summit, which included participation from 92 stakeholders representing 45 organizations and agencies.

The 10-member Task Force is charged with driving measurable outcomes by coordinating efforts and aligning resources across several agencies and organizations. Focus areas include congregate drug use, criminal activity (including retail theft), and homelessness.

Task Force Co-Chairs include Mayor Michelle Wu, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, City Councilor Ed Flynn, and Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association Co-Founder, Rishi Shukla.

Task Force Members include Kellie Young, Director of the Coordinated Response Team for the City of Boston; Karen LaFrazia, President and CEO of St. Francis House; Capt. Richard Driscoll of Boston Police's District A-1; Leslie Adam, Chair of the Friends

of the Public Garden board; and Michael Nichols, President of the Downtown Boston Alliance.

Embedded within the Task Force is the Joint Strategic Action Team (JSAT) - a cross-functional group composed of public officials, city and state agencies, law enforcement, shelter and outreach leaders, and civic organizations. Leveraging the group's collective expertise, perspective, and resources, JSAT will work closely with Task Force leadership to deliver coordinated, area-wide solutions.

Additionally, specialized Working Groups will focus on four high-priority areas and develop actionable recommendations in coordination with the Task Force and JSAT, including Boston Common; Winter Street; streets and sidewalks; and business, hospitality and tourism.

The Task Force is expected to remain active through fall 2025, providing a full spring, summer, and fall cycle to implement targeted strategies, make adjustments, and measure impact.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

Playground is underused.

"The inactivity of this BCYF facility has had a significant and harmful impact on all residents of Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roxbury, and surrounding neighborhoods."

Harris provided some background on the advocacy surrounding the BCYF Hennigan, indicating that over the years, she and others have been trying to get the city and the manager to "take care of the facility," but have been unsuccessful.

Moreover, she talked about past work with former City Councilor Matt O'Malley, who helped redo the stairs from Hayden to Heath Street.

Harris said O'Malley listened and got involved but added, "We were making some progress, and then of course he decided not to run again, then COVID happened."

In 2023, Harris explained that conversations had been had with City Councilor Ben Weber, who

was campaigning at the time, and that he was interested in the initiative. In the fall of last year, she indicated that other stakeholders, such as the Hyde Square Task Force, had been brought into the advocacy.

Now, there are plans for a community meeting on April 10th at the BCYF Hennigan at 6:00 p.m. with various elected officials and BCYF Commissioner Marta Rivera.

"What we're trying to do is to help them see that actually the community wants this center operational—not at the minimum level they've done so far, at least with the sports court and the couple of other activities," said Harris.

"The pool has been closed for over four years...and they have not paid attention to the pool nor to the community that could use it."

Harris mentioned they propose pool activities for seniors, adults, and families, such as lifeguard training, aqua aerobics, and wheelchair sports at the indoor sports center.

Eventually, Harris requested that those at the CAMH meeting attend the April 10th meeting and make their voices heard.

"The next step then will be to put it on the docket for the councilors to really pass all that's necessary to make it happen," she said.

Following the brief presentation, attendees asked questions about the pool and complimented the initiative and Harris' advocacy.

"I think it would be awesome to have a pool. Kids could learn how to be lifeguards, learn how to swim," said one attendee.

Another attendee said, "Luisa (Harris), I appreciate your advocacy, taking the lead and pushing on it, and I think it is a good thing because community benefits and community staples do slowly dwindle down as the city deals with other things."

As the conversation continued, other topics were discussed, such as mobilizing residents and getting them to the meeting. Harris

also shared the aforementioned petition.

Toward the end of the discussion, a motion was brought to the table for CAMH to write a letter supporting the initiative that could be brought to and used at the upcoming community meeting, and was unanimously supported.

To view the petition regarding the BCYF Hennigan initiative, visit <https://chnng.it/PHyBdvrr56>.

For more information about CAMH, visit <https://www.camh.boston/>. According to its website, the next CAMH meeting is scheduled for April 16th.

A city spokesperson responded to an inquiry from the Mission Hill Gazette regarding the petition and the recent advocacy tied to the facility.

"City staff are looking forward to a productive discussion about best ways to utilize the BCYF Hennigan space, and programming that would best benefit the community in the future. The City

is working with urgency to renovate city pools in need of repair, and is on track to have more pools open this summer than last year," they said.

"The Hennigan School pool has been closed for needed maintenance, with work done last summer including improvements to the main drain, pool liner replacement, deck retiling, acid wash, anchors, and ladders."

They added, "As part of the continued efforts to keep pools operable and proactively update mechanical components, BPS put out a bid for a maintenance contract which will be utilized in all our school-based pools. This contract entered into effect recently and has since been working on a comprehensive assessment of all BPS pools and mechanical systems. BPS Facilities will utilize this information to schedule work for the mechanical components of the pool, such as the filtration systems, which need to be addressed before the pool can reopen."

BPDA

Continued from page 1

garden.

Kevin Maguire, a member of ODJ Dev, provided some background on the project site, noting how it has been vacant for around 40 years and that there have been past struggles with redeveloping it.

"I believe we are the fourth team to be designated to try and take this project on," he said.

Maguire also indicated that this project is 100% public and that part of the project's objective is to bring homeownership and "plant a seed for the infrastructure in converting an industrial street or industrial neighborhood into a residential neighborhood."

He also mentioned that ODJ

Dev will have no interest in the property upon completion, as the open space portion will be transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation, the community garden will be transferred to The Trustees (The Trustees of Reservations), and the development will have homeowners who form their own association with ODJ's help.

Eventually, Maguire turned the floor over to Jonathan Garland of JGE Architecture & Design, who outlined different aspects of the proposal, such as floor plans, site plans, elevations, renderings, and more.

After the presentation, BPDA Board Members commented on the project. For example, there were compliments on the design and the community garden. Kate Bennett complimented the

affordable homeownership component of the project.

Additionally, Dr. Ted Landmark asked about what might go into the proposed commercial/retail space.

Garland responded, "[We're] still in conversation. We're looking at various non-profit, mission-driven organizations. I think in many respects we likely have ruled out food and beverage or retail, we just don't think the visibility along Terrace Street would be suitable."

Ultimately, the project was approved unanimously by the BPDA Board. For more information about the BPDA Board and to view upcoming and past meeting agendas, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/about-us/bpda-board/board-meetings>.

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City announces \$1 million investment to expand digital literacy across Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) last week announced a \$1 million investment to expand the City's Digital Literacy (DigLit) Initiative, a critical initiative that helps workforce development programs address digital literacy gaps. This investment will fund the next phase of the initiative, DigLit 2.0, and equip 20 Boston-based job readiness and occupational training programs with the infrastructure and capacity to deliver the digital skills necessary for residents to succeed in today's evolving job market. This expansion is funded by a Community Project Funding grant secured by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Phase 2 of the Digital Literacy Initiative, DigLit 2.0, is fully funded by FY2023 Community Project Funding totaling \$1 million (100%) from the U.S. Department of Labor with 0% (\$0.00) financed from non-federal sources. This announcement was made at the East Boston YMCA, a committed adult basic education and job training provider.

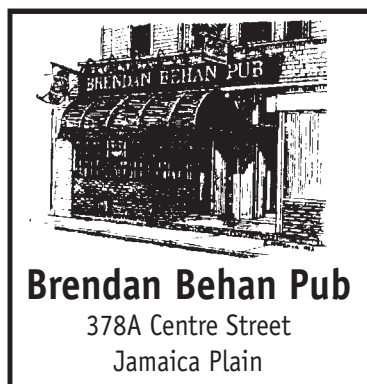
"Closing the digital literacy gap is critical in our work to make Boston a city for everyone," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Every resident across our neighborhoods deserves to be equipped with the digital skills they need to access resources, secure good jobs in an evolving economy and be connected to more opportunities. I'm grateful to Congresswoman Pressley for securing this vital funding and look forward to coordinating with all of our partners to advance this important work forward."

"I am proud to deliver \$1 million in direct federal funds that we secured for Boston's adult digital literacy initiative, which will expand access to digital skills, close gaps in our work-

force development programs, and open doors for our workers to grow and thrive," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. "I'm grateful to Mayor Wu and our local leaders for their partnership in bringing much-deserved digital literacy opportunities to our city."

This announcement builds on the City's efforts to better connect residents with job training and educational opportunities while working to close digital literacy gaps. In 2022, the Office of Workforce Development, led by the Worker Empowerment Cabinet, piloted the Digital Literacy Initiative ("DigLit") in partnership with World Education to address digital access gaps identified through extensive community-engaged research. The pilot, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, supported 25 Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs that collectively serve 3,500 students annually. The pilot also yielded successful results for the participating programs, including the increased use of digital tools, instructional software, communication tools, and technology used for instruction. A pivotal outcome of this initiative was the Boston EdTech Routine Library, a repository that contains 70+ remedial education instructional routines that integrate digital skills.

"We believe that all residents need intentional and comprehensive access to quality education, and skills and job training to thrive in Boston," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh



Nguyen. "This expansion reflects our commitment to increasing these opportunities and our collaborative approach to meeting employer demand while tapping into Boston's talent pool. Digital literacy is no longer optional—it is critical to accessing job opportunities and economic mobility. Ensuring access to digital skills training is essential to building an inclusive economy where everyone has a fair shot at success. We are incredibly grateful to Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley whose leadership and advocacy made this investment possible. Thank you to the participating organizations whose commitment to enhancing their programming will undoubtedly result in lasting positive outcomes for our residents."

Last week's launch event featured a panel featuring employers from Eversource, Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber, and life sciences alongside training providers from Just-A-Start, FCIT, and YMCA of Greater Boston. The panel was moderated by Priyanka Sharma, Director of World Education, and brought together voices from across Boston's workforce ecosystem to explore how technology is transforming middle-skill roles, shifting skill demands, and how

partnerships can better align training programs with employer needs, especially amid rapid technological shifts driven by AI.

"The YMCA of Greater Boston is deeply grateful for the City of Boston's continued investment in digital literacy through its DigLit funding," said David Shapiro, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "We are also grateful for the national leadership of Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who garnered federal investment in this effort. It is an honor to host the DigLit 2.0 Launch event at the East Boston Y, the site of our very own culinary training program with the New England Center for Arts and Training. The event is a powerful reflection of the multi-sector commitment necessary to foster job preparation, skills, and supported career pathways. It also reflects the powerful efforts to advance digital literacy skills while strengthening the very foundation of our community - its people. Together, we will continue to uplift each other with the knowledge, skills, and pathways critical to a more inclusive, competitive, and dynamic economy and City."

"At World Education, we recognize that digital skills are essential for unlocking oppor-

tunities in today's tech-driven workforce," said Priyanka Sharma, Director of World Education. "We are proud to collaborate with the City of Boston and our partners to advance a shared vision for a stronger, more resilient workforce—one where every adult has the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving economy. Through the DigLit project, we are activating digital skills programming into training programs, expanding career pathways, and empowering Boston's communities with greater economic mobility."

Following the pandemic, digital literacy skills have proven to be crucial for workplace success. A report from the National Skills Coalition emphasizes the critical importance of digital literacy for employment, revealing that, despite 92% of jobs requiring digital skills, one-third of workers lack the foundational digital skills necessary for success in today's job market. Recognizing this gap, the City has worked closely with various partners and employers to offer skills-based classes and opportunities for residents to be connected to digital literacy support. OWD continues to engage in field-building and

Continued on page 7



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What's Happening on Main Streets

April showers bring May flowers... and outdoor dining, and street cleaning, etc..

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT

I find this month's column challenging to write because I know my words will fall short in adequately capturing the joy shared at many of the events over this past month.

At Main Streets, I am lucky to share an office space with the Boston Debate League. In the last year alone, they have engaged 423 Boston students in 20+ hours of BDL-led events and 747 students overall in after-school debate programming, including our neighbors at Fenway High and EMK. On March 7, Boston Debate League held its exciting City Championship Finals at the Museum of Science, bringing together over 200 supporters - school leaders, debate coaches, peers, and families - to celebrate the achievements of this season's top debaters. With an inspiring keynote by Allison Cartwright, Suffolk County Clerk, and the presence of local leaders including City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Brian Worrell, the event featured intense

debates on the topic of Artificial Intelligence. After months of preparation, students showcased their intellectual prowess in a memorable evening, with honors going to the winning teams from Kennedy/Brown Middle School, Fenway High, Brighton High, and Woonsocket High. Check out the blog post for more highlights from the end-of-season event and to learn more about BDL and how to support the great work they do for the students in our neighborhood and City <https://www.bostondebate.org/2025/03/19/where-ideas-collide-city-championships/>.

St. Patrick's Day is always a big deal in Boston and while Mission Hill is acutely aware of the debauchery that accompanies it, we did our best to counter that and offer some festive entertainment in its place in Brigham Circle on the Saturday prior to the holiday. Beginning on Saturday afternoon, the community service arm of Northeastern's Business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, contributed about 30 volunteers to pick up trash and clean shrubbery along the business district and helped prepare Brigham Circle for that evening's event.

As students picked up trash

outside, the Parker Hill Library hosted the annual Anthology Reading of the Mission Hill Women's Writing Group. With a grant from the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust, the MH Women's Writing Group works throughout the fall with writing coaches and others to create an annual Anthology of their work. Nancy Ahmadifar works hard to put this together and her efforts are appreciated by so many, as evidenced by the great turnout of over 40 people at their event. I encourage you all to purchase a copy of this Anthology- it's wonderful.

Later that evening, the Boston Police Gaelic Column Pipe and Drum Band ended their activities for the day by performing amongst packed houses at both Penguin Pizza and the Mission Bar and Grill. I loved seeing people's faces as they entered each of the businesses and began playing. For those who didn't know it was happening, they were pleasantly surprised and joined in. It was a great night and judging by how long they hung out, I believe them when they say they can't wait to come back next year. Thank you again to MHMS Board member and Penguin owner Pamela Carthy for making the connection that made the event possible and to Harry Walsh, owner at the Mission, for being such a gracious host to the post-performance festivities and collaboration all weekend. It was a great Saturday in Mission Hill and I'm so appreciative of everyone who helped to make it possible.

This past Tuesday, the 25th was a very bittersweet day in the neighborhood as a couple events took place to celebrate and thank David Passafaro, President of New England Baptist Hospital as he prepares for retirement next month. In the afternoon, NEBH and the Tobin Community Center hosted their quarterly birthday party for MH Seniors. It was such a fun event with a great mix of Mission Hill residents; including Mossy Martin (a great writer who puts this column to shame). David was in attendance and had the opportunity to hear directly from seniors, community leaders like Pat Flaherty and John Jackson, and City staff as they spoke with admiration and gratitude about the impact he and NEBH have had on the



Tricia and Madeline Fitzgerald.



NEBHs David Passafaro hugging Christine Dwyer.

lives of so many in Mission Hill. Emily Shea, the Commissioner of Age Strong Commission was one of the speakers and presented remarks and a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Wu and the City declaring March 25th "David Passafaro Day" in the City of Boston.

That evening, an event was held from 5-7 p.m. at the Mission for David- a continuation of the afternoon party and a chance for people to come together and wish him well as he embarks on a new chapter. It was well attended by faces old and new; a fun evening to catch up with so many. City Councilors Erin Murphy and Sharon Durkan both presented proclamations on behalf of the Boston City Council acknowledging David's contributions over his great and impactful career. Rep. Sam Montano was in attendance and presented a heartfelt acknowledgement on behalf of the State House, with Corey Jordan present on behalf of Rep. Chynah Tyler, who acknowledged his contributions over his

career with a proclamation as well. In addition to participating on the MH Main Streets Board, NEBH under David's direction and via the selfless work of Christine Dwyer, has contributed so much to our organization in so many ways beyond financial. We are so grateful for their partnership and mentorship and will miss David beyond what we can express.

As we prepare for 'May flowers', April is a busy month. April 1st means that street cleaning is back, but I encourage everyone to download the 311 app and report sidewalk and street trash as you see it. MHMS is working on efforts to get regular cleaning twice a week along the business district in the next month in the absence of the availability of hoakies, but in the meantime, the squeaky wheel gets the grease so I encourage you to join me in reporting regularly to 311- graffiti, litter, etc. Graffiti Busters- the city's graffiti removal program starts back up the

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The Penguin is the Boston Police Gaelic Column Pipes and Drum Band, Pamela Carthy owner of Penguin, Sharon Durkan D8 City Councilor and Courtney Wright, ED MHMS.

What's Happening

Continued from page 4

first of May but I encourage you to report it as you see it as well in the meantime. If you want an opportunity to get your hands dirty and participate in some neighborhood clean-up efforts, April 12th, is the City's annual Love Your Block clean-up day for Mission Hill. MH Main Streets is one of the registered sites so if you would like to join our Board and other volunteers to participate in a clean-up during Love Your Block, please reach out to me at missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com. We will be meeting at Sheehy Park on April 12th at 9 a.m. and all are welcome (but if you plan to come and can let us know, please do so we can prepare supplies).

Councilor Henry Santana will be hosting office hours on Friday, April 18th at Mike's Donuts beginning at 9 a.m. These office hours provide an excellent opportunity for you to engage directly with councilor Santana (and say hi to Maria) and his staff in a one-on-one setting. Whether you have concerns about constituent services, questions about quality-of-life issues, or ideas to improve our city, they'd love to hear from you. Visit their website to sign up for a timeslot in advance: <https://www.henrysantana.com/office-hours>.

Finally, this year's Boston Marathon will be April 21st and

Mission Grammar's own Mr. Mike Morris is running for a second year in support of the brilliant scholars of Mission Grammar. Mr. Morris is a long-time teacher and current Dean of Scholars at MG, so if you'd like

to show your support, you can donate at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_db73ed3e.

I am naturally long-winded and have much more to say but will save it for May's edition. In the meantime, I hope to see you



David Passafaro of NEBH with Irma, a local senior who lives at the Maria Sanchez House.



David Passafaro and Sharon Durkan with the City Proclamation.

all at Henry's office hours or at a neighborhood cleanup. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing everyone on outdoor patios when Outdoor dining starts May 1st.

If I missed anything or you

would like something included, please feel free to get in touch at missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com.

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Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

Former Mission Hill entrepreneur Robert 'Robo' Payne passed away last month in Billerica.

Robo, along with being a skilled air conditioning and heating worker, was a great guy who employed dozens of Mission Hill workers at Mechanical Cooling, his shop on Pontiac Street in the 197's and '80s. At that time Robo sponsored the popular "Owl's Nest" softball team in the Mission Hill Softball League.

Robo loved Mission Hill, and I enjoyed chatting with him when he occasionally stopped by Mike's Donuts for a visit.

Donations in Robo's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association

Spotted near courtside at America Mutual Pavilion in Providence, R.I., for the thrilling Kansas-Arkansas 'March Madness' game were Mission Hill's Anthony 'Amps' Pitts and his grandson, pro hoop player, Wayne Selden.

Wayne, who played in the NBA for the Memphis Grizzlies and the Knicks, last played professionally in France. Wayne is an excellent role model, and he is generous with his time, organizing his yearly basketball clinic for our neighborhood kids.

I fondly recall attending an N.C.A.A. tournament game with Amps and my son, Rob when it was held at Boston Garden when ticket prices were somewhat reasonable back in 2003.

I love college basketball, but the NCAA is heading in the wrong direction. The term 'student-athlete' in many cases is a misnomer and numerous players are frequently changing schools.

In one instance, 23-year-old



Anthony Pitts and Wayne Selden.

Deivon Smith played for four different Division 1 schools, most recently St. John's.

Dan Shaughnessy the excellent Boston Globe writer calls the NCAA tournament "unregulated pro basketball" and wrote, "I'm not sure if I'd watch the men's championship game if they played it in my driveway."

Long before Shaughnessy became a household name, he covered the BNBL (Boston Neighborhood Basketball League) and he often watched the Mission Hill games up the Hill.

Mission Hill lost one of its greatest old-timers last week when John 'Jake' Lyons, from the Mission Hill project passed away at age 90.

Jake graduated in 1953 from Mission High School, where he was an All Scholastic football player. He earned a scholarship to Boston College, after which he served in the U.S. Army as a medic. Jake later taught History and English at Mission High and Catholic Memorial High School.

Jake also coached football at Mission High.

Mission had some great football teams back then, and Jake was tough and demanding on his players who loved him. Politically Jake was a diehard Democrat, and he appealed to his children "Never cross a picket line, always vote Democrat and drink your coffee black."

Donations in Jake's memory may be made to Mission Grammar School www.missiongrammar.org.

Good luck in retirement to outgoing New England Baptist



St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Hospital President Dave Pas-safaro, who is a great guy, and he was always there to lend a helping hand to his Mission Hill neighbors. I attended the terrific sendoff dinner party for Dave. at the Tobin Community Center last week. Thanks to NEBH and Public Relations Director Chris-sy Dwyer and all the volunteers for supplying and serving the food to the appreciative crowd.

Anna Corley, a beautiful Mission Hill woman, passed away last week.

Anna graduated from Mission High in 1945, and she worked as a nurse at Parker Hill Medical Center for many years. Anna loved Mission Church, and she would never miss the Novenas back in the Church's glory days when thousands of congregants would attend Father Manton's Wednesday's Novenas.

Anna recorded the Novenas, and they would later be broadcast on Boston Catholic TV.

Donations in Anna's memory may be made to Mission Church.

Condolences to the family of Mike Dineen who passed away last month.

Mike loved his country, and he was a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam. As a hulking lineman Mike was a great football player at Mission High in the early '60s.

RIP, Mike.

A tip of the hat to Laura Adams and the other workers at Roxbury Tenants of Harvard for coordinating the awesome St. Patrick's Day party, attended by 130 Mission Hill seniors at the RTH gym.

There were many sponsors, particularly The Mission Bar & Grill, which catered the delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner. Appropriately the joyous party ended with Mission Hill crooner Mark Coyle bringing the crowd to their feet with his great rendition of "Danny Boy."

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

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Wu calls for residents to come together with acts of kindness on One Boston Day

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston released the annual call to action for community-based organizations, businesses, and city of Boston residents to come together for volunteer events and acts of kindness in recognition of our City's spirit of care for one another in response to the tragic events of April 15, 2013. One Boston Day, observed on April 15, honors the victims, survivors, and first responders of the 2013 Boston Marathon. Mayor Wu is encouraging acts of kindness on Tuesday, April 15, and for people to take part in volunteer opportunities throughout the week.

"On One Boston Day, we remember the victims, survivors, families, and first responders of 2013, and center what unites our great city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "One of our darkest moments has become a call to carry out acts of kindness, volunteer, and make a difference

for our residents and our neighborhoods. I encourage everyone to reflect on this day and join in making a positive change in our communities."

City of Boston departments and workers will again this year be hosting service projects for people to give back to their communities on April 15 and throughout the week leading up to Marathon Monday, April 21. The Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing is facilitating a neighborhood cleanup for youth and families on Saturday, April 19, 2025, starting at 8:45 a.m. at Franklin Park Playstead. Interested volunteers are asked to register for the annual cleanup here.

"This April 15th, we join with people from across the city in remembering Martin, Krystle, Lingzi, Sean and Dennis," said Bill Richard, co-founder of the Martin Richard Foundation. "Our family continues to be humbled and grateful to all Bostonians who wish to carry on the generous spirit of One Boston

Day. Choose kindness in your words and actions, volunteer, or give to your favorite charity. We are proud to call Boston home."

"One Boston Day is a powerful reminder that even in the face of tragedy, kindness and courage can shine through. After my family and I survived the Boston Marathon bombings, we learned that trauma is the leading cause of death for those 44 and younger—a reality that inspired us to create The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation," said Audrey Epstein Reny, founder of The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "Through our center's work, we honor the resilience and generosity of the Boston community, turning heartbreak into hope and advancing trauma care to build brighter, healthier futures for all."

The Stepping Strong Center is partnering with the City of Boston to promote acts

of kindness through a life-saving blood drive. This Marathon Monday they will host a blood drive to benefit patients at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital who are in need of lifesaving transfusions due to traumatic injuries and other serious health conditions. The Stepping Strong Center Blood Drive will take place in Kenmore Square on April 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as part of the "One-Mile-To-Go Block Party". For more information and to schedule an appointment, please visit the Stepping Strong Center's website.

As the city marks 12 years since 2013, the City of Boston and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) will honor the day with a wreath laying in the Back Bay the morning of Tuesday, April 15. More details will become available in the coming weeks.

"One Boston Day is always a special day for the City and our sport of running because we are reminded of the power and importance of uniting, recognizing, honoring, and serving," said Jack Fleming, President and CEO of the Boston Athletic Association. "The 129th Boston Marathon, presented by Bank of America, will take place in 2025 one week after April 15, and marks the 250th Anniversary of Patriots' Day. However, One Boston Day is forever connected to our Marathon and has become the day we reflect AND take action in that we acknowledge the selfless spirit and resilience shown by Bostonians."

More information about One Boston Day, including the 2025 Acts of Kindness Checklist is available on boston.gov/one-boston to provide inspiration and ideas on how individuals can get involved.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts to provide free Bluebikes credit for riders affected by 2025 MBTA closures

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross"), the title sponsor of Greater Boston's municipally owned bike-sharing system, Bluebikes, is offering a free \$20 Bluebikes credit to help commuters affected by MBTA service disruptions in 2025. With planned MBTA maintenance work impacting service throughout the year, this initiative provides an additional mobility option for residents across Greater Boston. Fully funded by Blue Cross, this offer underscores its commitment to supporting community access and wellbeing and complements the City of Boston's free unlocks offer tied to select MBTA closures, ensuring riders have flexible, reliable options, including access to ebikes.

Starting March 31, riders can redeem the free \$20 Bluebikes credit by entering code BLUE-CROSSMAMBTAs in the "Rewards" section of the Bluebikes App. The credit applies to both pedal and ebike trips and can be used across Bluebikes' 500 stations across 13 municipalities,

including Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Credits are available while supplies last and must be used by Dec. 31, 2025.

"At Blue Cross, we are committed to providing communities with reliable and flexible transportation options," Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross, said in a press release. "As the title sponsor of Bluebikes, we're proud to provide this free credit to help commuters navigate MBTA closures, while supporting active mobility and wellbeing for our communities."

Bluebikes is municipally owned by 13 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts and jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Somerville, and the Town of Brookline. The system is operated by Lyft and has been supported by Blue Cross as the title sponsor since May of 2018.

For more information on Bluebikes, visit bluebikes.com.

Digital

Continued from page 3

capacity-building efforts to align training programs with employer needs so Boston residents gain the skills necessary to access family-sustaining, quality jobs.

"Digital Literacy has become an important skill and ever more necessary in today's workforce, it is not just the access to technology but the reliance on so many different systems and platforms," said Macy Reed, Director of Workforce Development at Boston Medical Center (BMC). "As an employer, BMC continues to offer various skills-based classes to employees to help improve performance and career growth."

Building on this initiative's success, DigLit is expanding to support 20 additional Boston-based organizations:

Asian American Civic Association
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Breaktime United, Inc.
Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston, Inc.; El Centro Adult Education Program

Community Work Services
Digital Ready
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc.

International Institute of New England

Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program
Julie's Family Learning Program

The Loop Lab
Maverick Landing Community Services

Mothers for Justice and Equality

New England Center for Arts & Technology

Operation ABLE of Greater Boston, Inc.

Somali Development Center
St. Stephen's Youth Programs
The YMCA of Greater Boston

These programs will receive technical assistance provided by World Education and funds to address their digital literacy

needs, allowing them to deliver effective digital literacy training and help bridge the digital equity gaps faced by their training participants.

"Digital literacy will equip our graduates with the ability to learn more quickly and adapt to new technologies, a crucial trait for career advancement," said Christopher Hope, Executive Director of the Loop Lab. "Their enhanced proficiency in digital tools will likely lead to greater efficiency and productivity, making them much more valuable members to their employers."

"The DigLit Initiative will help to directly address these barriers, enhancing participants' employability, job retention, and opportunities for career advancement," said Ben Hires, CEO of Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. "For many, the job search process, application submissions, and interviews have moved online, making basic computer skills a necessity."

For more information on the Digital Literacy Initiative, visit boston.gov/DigLit.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

The Sherrill House continues to make strides for seniors

STAFF REPORT

The Sherrill House, which has supported older adults in the community for more than 100 years, is enhancing its care through new and upcoming amenities.

The “not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center” is located on South Huntington Avenue and cares for about 170 older adults daily through several services.

The facility provides long-term skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, and memory care, has recently added to its services to better assist its patients and residents.

Sherrill House opened a brand-new dialysis center last June, an amenity that will not only make treatment more accessible but also help quell the

healthcare crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patients in need of dialysis treatment required transportation by ambulance to hospitals multiple times per week. Now DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House has six treatment chairs and operates three days a week for patients and residents who need hemodialysis treatment.

The new center enables patients to avoid spending long periods in lobbies and waiting rooms of hospitals before and after treatment.

Sherrill House also has other plans for the years ahead, specifically, fundraising.

In 2024, Sherrill House held a fundraising gala in November that helped close out a \$1M capital campaign to relocate and enhance their rehabilitation gym. Plans call for the existing gym to

be renovated and relocated from the ground floor to the fifth floor penthouse. The new gym will be larger, have updated state-of-the-art equipment, and feature incredible views of the Emerald Necklace and Jamaica Pond.

Plans are also underway to build a new staff cafeteria and wellness center.

A 2025 gala is being planned.

For those interested in supporting Sherrill House’s fundraising efforts, email Bethany Allen, Sherrill House’s Director of Development, at ballen@sherrillhouse.org.

Additionally, for those who would like more information about the facility’s admission process or want a tour, call 617-735-1775 or email admissions@sherrillhouse.org.



(c) Paperkites / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Older adults can prevent slips, trips and falls with these doctors’ tips

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

(StatePoint) Among older Americans, falls are the number one cause of injuries and death from injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention. Not only are seniors more at risk for falls, but when they do fall, they are at a greater risk for injuries, hospitalization and complications. Medical

Continued on page 9



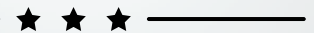
Sherrill House
Here for you...
not for profit.

ABOUT SHERRILL HOUSE

Sherrill House is a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility. We care for older adults who are rehabilitating from surgery or complex injuries, have Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia, or are unable to live independently and need skilled nursing care.

We have 182 beds and offer the following:

- Short-Term Care in our Rehabilitation Program
- Two floors of Traditional Long-Term Care
- One Memory Care floor
- DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House



“My dad was a long-term resident on the 2nd floor. The staff was wonderful, supportive, and kept me updated the whole time. It’s always hard to place a loved one in a facility, but I couldn’t have picked a better one. The staff eased my fears and lessened the guilt. Thank you”

– L.Y., Family Member of Resident

COMING SOON!

We are relocating our rehabilitation gym to our 5th floor penthouse. The new gym will enhance the experience for rehab patients.

Dialysis Center Now Open!

In June 2024, we opened DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House, a six-chair hemodialysis center.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Admissions at 617-735-1775.

BHV, Cindy Sullivan Fitness team up to offer annual 'Spring into Aging' Free Fitness Week

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Spring is almost here, and so is Fitness Week for our active agers! Each year, Beacon Hill Village (BHV) and Cindy Sullivan of Cindy Sullivan Fitness partner to offer a full week of free fitness classes in March for Boston's older adults. This year marks the 9th time this program is being offered to adults aged 50 and over in Boston. Three of the classes will be virtual and two will be offered in person. The dates for this year's fitness week are March 17-21, 2025.

Spring is a great time to jump into or strengthen your fitness routine. Exercise is a cornerstone of healthy aging, and fitting physical activity into one's day can improve life in many ways. Regular exercise can

improve strength and balance, boost mood and improve memory, and help manage or lessen the impact of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and osteoporosis.

"Running our Spring into Aging Fitness Week program for the ninth year fills me with immense excitement and pride," said Cindy Sullivan, Certified In-Home Personal Trainer and Midlife/Senior Fitness Specialist. "It's not just about the years we've been at it, but the countless lives we've positively impacted. This program is about fostering community, promoting vitality, and celebrating the incredible resilience of our senior participants!"

This year's class lineup includes:

MONDAY, 3/17, 9:30 AM – STRETCH AND FLOW (Zoom):



Participants in the 2024 Spring into Aging Fitness Week.

This NO FLOOR stretch class is designed to increase flexibility and range of movement to improve activities of daily living. There is a combo of dynamic or flow stretching, with static stretching throughout class. At the end we will add deep breathing and final relaxation exercises to promote stress reduction and relaxation. Suitable for all fitness levels.

TUESDAY, 3/18, 10:30 AM – BETTER BALANCE (In Person at Beacon House): Exercises and tips on the importance of staying strong and preventing falls. Balance is the cooperation between the brain, nervous system, muscle and bones, and the class will focus on improving that connection. Suitable for all fitness levels.

WEDNESDAY, 3/19, 10:30 AM – TOTAL BODY WORKOUT

(Zoom): Join us for our traditional weekly workout for Active Agers. This class combines a little bit of everything including low impact cardio, strength training, balance and flexibility to target the entire body. Hand weights (or alternative), a chair and 10 minutes of mat work will be included. Can be modified for many levels.

THURSDAY, 3/20, 10:30 AM – STRENGTH & CONDITIONING (Zoom): Learn the most important exercises to stay strong and independent. We will incorporate light hand weights (or alternatives such as canned goods), resistance bands (or towels), and body weight exercises into this fun class! Help to improve overall strength and balance and increase bone density. Can be modified for many levels.

FRIDAY, 3/21, 10:30 AM – FUNCTIONAL FITNESS OVER

50 (In Person at the Community Room at The Hub on Causeway): This workout will improve your "activities of daily living" – functional exercises that support four fitness goals for older adults: endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. Can be modified for many fitness levels.

For this special week only, the class fee will be waived for all participants. Advance registration is required for all classes.

To register for one or any number of "Spring into Aging" classes and discover new and fun ways to incorporate physical activity into your day, call the BHV office at 617-723-9713 or visit the website at www.beaconhillvillage.org/events. For questions on class descriptions or more event details email cindy-sullivanfitness@gmail.com. Don't delay, classes are filling up fast.

Slips

Continued from page 8

experts say that for people of all ages, a ground-up approach to fall prevention starts with healthy feet.

"Painful foot conditions, such as osteoarthritis, calluses, bunions, hammertoes and diabetes complications, can make it difficult to maintain balance and coordination when walking or standing," says Bryn J. Laubacher, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ACFAS). "Compounding the issue is that when you are suffering from a painful foot condition, it can be more difficult to engage in the strength and balance exercises that ultimately

reduce fall risk."

Experts say that eliminating foot pain can lessen one's chances of experiencing a life-altering fall. That's why the foot and ankle surgeons of ACFAS offer these steps for keeping feet and ankles strong and healthy:

Don't ignore pain: Foot pain is not just a normal consequence of aging, so don't ignore aching and suffering or resign yourself to it. You likely have a treatable condition. See a foot and ankle surgeon when you experience pain for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Examine your feet: Regularly inspect your feet. If you notice any bumps, lumps or other changes, make an appointment with your foot and ankle surgeon

Continued on page 10

Mount Pleasant Home

now a human good community

Historic 62+ Community

Mount Pleasant Home is now managed by HumanGood one of the nation's largest and most reputable non-profit operators of senior living communities.

Residents of Mount Pleasant Home enjoy quiet and scenic views and life enrichment programs among many inclusive amenities. And team members feel rewarded by the natural engagement that comes from spending their days among these amazing and welcoming people.

To learn more please visit
www.MountPleasantHome.org

301 South Huntington Avenue
Jamaica Plain
(617) 522-7600

Milton Residences for the Elderly, Inc.
www.mreinc.org 617-698-3005

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Currently taking applications for the waitlist

STATE OF THE CITY

Wu: “We will defend the people we love with all that we’ve got”

STAFF REPORT

Speaking before a standing-room-only crowd, Mayor Michelle Wu delivered a powerful State of the City address on March 19 at the MGM Music Hall on Lansdowne Street.

“Boston is strong,” Wu declared unequivocally in a speech in which the mayor outlined some of her accomplishments and unveiled new programs that will positively impact thousands of residents of Boston.

“Gun violence in Boston has hit a 10-year low, and every year since taking office, we’ve set new record lows,” Wu stated. “Boston is the safest city in the nation.”

Wu thanked both Police Commissioner Michael Cox and the

entire Boston Police Department for these safety accomplishments.

Wu pointed to businesses such as Eli Lilly, SAP, Roche, Lego, and Nvidia that have located their offices and major research and development centers in the city.

Among the several new initiatives that Wu unveiled during her speech were:

- A Business Recruitment Office to fill commercial vacancies and revitalize the downtown;
- Boston Energy Saver, a partnership with Eversource and National Grid that aims to lower heating and cooling costs for residents; and
- A Co-Purchasing Pilot Program that will help households



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

Mendez Pierre, an 8th grade student at the Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain, and self-taught musician, perform on stage at the State of the City. Mendez opened the evening with a breathtaking performance of his original composition, “Dream.”

combine their purchasing power to buy multiple-family homes with 0% interest-deferred loans from the City.

The mayor also made note of the programs in the city’s schools for the arts, advanced math, and athletics, as well as the availability of free early education for children under the age of five.

Wu also highlighted the many enhanced programs for senior citizens across the city.

The mayor briefly touched on the controversial White Stadium proposal, saying, “Four years ago, BPS student-athletes were left with a sports facility that was rarely open and had been crumbling for decades. Today, we

are renovating White Stadium into a world-class athletics hub.”

Toward the end of her speech, Wu took on President Donald Trump (without mentioning him by name), saying, “No one tells Boston how to take care of our own. Not kings, and not presidents who think they are kings.”

In closing, Wu said, “We are the city that leads in the storm, that stands up under pressure together, and finds strength in each other. We will defend the people we love with all that we’ve got.”

Wu then added, to applause, “God bless our city, God bless our people, and God save whoever messes with Boston.”



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu delivering her State of the City address. See Pages 8 and 9 for more State of the City photos.

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Trips

Continued from page 9

for evaluation.

Exercise: Simple stretching exercises can help you maintain strength and mobility in your feet and ankles, as well as provide pain relief. Talk to your physician about appropriate exercises for you.

Protect: Wear cushioned insoles or any special footwear you are prescribed, along with comfortable, well-fitting and supportive shoes, every day – even around the house.

Consider advanced options:

Know that at times, surgery is the most appropriate treatment for a given condition. Fortunately, many surgical techniques today can be performed on an outpatient basis. There are also more options than ever before.

According to Dr. Laubacher, new medical technologies and ground-breaking surgical interventions, such as bioengineered scaffolding for reconstructive surgery, minimally invasive techniques and stem cell regeneration, are helping patients restore functionality and get back to normal faster than ever before,

For more ways to keep feet and ankles healthy and prevent falls, and to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the ACFAS patient education website. Foot and ankle surgeons are experts in providing both conservative care as well as surgical approaches to foot and ankle healthcare.

“Remember, just one fall can have a major impact on a person’s independence and quality of life. That’s why it’s so important to prevent falls by taking care of your feet and ankles,” says Dr. Laubacher.

Wu announces BCYF creates, an expansion of free art classes in community centers

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

At her State of the City Address, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of BCYF Creates, an investment in free, high-quality arts programming offered at Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) community centers for youth ages 8-14. Mayor Wu made this announcement as part of her 2025 State of the City annual address, more than doubling the amount of free arts instruction available at BCYF, with classes offered in 14 different community centers. BCYF Creates is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions.

"In Boston, we believe that an excellent education must include academics, sports, arts, and enrichment across every sector," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The City of Boston is working to en-

sure that our young people have access to life-changing arts education through the talented, creative arts instructors right here in the City. I encourage all of our young people to get involved in BCYF Creates to hone in on their passions and discover new ones."

BCYF Creates is a two-year commitment to increasing the availability of high quality arts in BCYF centers during the school-year, made possible through a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and the Human Services Cabinet. The program began in January 2025 with the recruitment of teaching artists who are experienced in 14 different art disciplines. The teaching artists are paired with BCYF community centers in 10 Boston neighborhoods and will teach between one to three classes per quarter. Classes take place during after-school hours on weekdays or on Saturdays.

"We are so grateful to have the support of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture to offer enhanced arts programming through BCYF," said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. "Arts programming has the potential to expand kids' horizons, give them an outlet for their emotions and provide an avenue for self-exploration."

To participate in BCYF Creates, families must sign up directly with Boston Centers for Youth & Families through their program registration site. The enrollment platform will be updated with new classes as they come online. Classes will run through mid-June, when BCYF transitions to full-time summer programming and then will return in September 2025. Anyone needing assistance registering is welcome to call the BCYF center directly.

"With BCYF Creates, we are not just offering art classes; we are opening doors and expanding

pathways for young people in Boston," said Kenny Mascary, Interim Chief of the Mayor's Arts & Culture. "This commitment ensures that every young person in our City has access to high-quality arts education in their own community. We're excited to work with our City's amazing network of community centers to nurture the next generation of creatives, thinkers, and leaders."

Classes include an array of visual arts, from arts and crafts to printmaking and sewing, as well as performance-based arts such as spoken word, dance, and music arts including music production, modern band, and vocal performance. The goal of the program is to increase the availability of high quality youth arts programming in Boston's neighborhoods and to bring youth into the community centers who are not currently connected to BCYF.

"It is so important for children to learn, create and experience

the Arts. Beyond self expression, it builds their confidence to imagine and explore new skills," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families. "And, BCYF Creates is an exciting initiative that has the potential to engage youth who are not typically involved with our community centers."

The program is administered by Elizabeth Santiago, PhD, the Founder of The Untold Narratives, a Boston-based nonprofit dedicated to surfacing the voices of underrepresented communities through storytelling. Dr. Santiago brings decades of experience as a teaching artist herself, who leads workshops in creative writing. In addition to pairing the artists to community centers, Dr. Santiago and her team are also supporting the teaching artists as they develop their skills. The program also has an evaluation component that will track the impact of the arts investment.

Wu releases Anti-Displacement Action Plan

'A Place to Thrive' provides two-year plan to stabilize residents and small businesses

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the release of A Place to Thrive, the City's first ever Anti-Displacement Action Plan, during her State of the City address on Wednesday. A Place to Thrive lays out a two-year plan for City departments to help stabilize residents, small businesses, and cultural organizations that may face either direct or economic displacement, ensuring all Bostonians can thrive and flourish.

"To be a home for everyone, we must keep our residents, small businesses and cultural spaces rooted in our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our city's growth must help stabilize communities and deepen roots. I'm grateful for every resident and community member whose feedback has informed this plan and whose love for Boston makes us who we are."

Boston residents have shared with the City that they are concerned about displacement and that the housing shortage and rising cost of living are exacerbating their concerns. In December, the Planning Advisory Council, an internal coordinating body composed of nine City cabinets that shape Boston's built

environment, released two foundational reports on the City's anti-displacement work. The first was an in-depth analysis of concerns, priorities and feedback constituents have shared with the City related to displacement, spanning two years. The second report analyzed tools the City already uses to stabilize residents, small businesses, and cultural operators. The City provides a range of stabilizing resources across departments, but has never analyzed these tools, considered how they fit together, or shared a comprehensive set of resources with residents seeking help.

The Anti-Displacement Action Plan builds on these foundational reports, laying out a coordinated approach to strengthen Boston's existing anti-displacement tools and address specific gaps in response to community priorities. New or improved initiatives detailed in the plan include:

The Co-Purchasing Homebuyer Program, which will provide financial assistance and support to help multiple low and moderate income households pool their resources to purchase a two- or three-family home.

Proposed expansion of the City's Condominium Conversion

Ordinance from buildings with four or more units to buildings with two or more units, so that the majority of tenants facing displacement due to conversions are given reasonable notice, freedom from disruption, relocation assistance, and the opportunity to purchase.

Expansion of the City's successful Office to Residential Conversion program to include student and employer-sponsored workforce housing.

A new Direct Displacement Disclosure through the Article 80 development review process, which would require developers to disclose any potential direct displacement of commercial, cultural, or residential tenants and work with them on a relocation plan if so.

New site finding assistance to attract businesses and help match them to vacant storefronts throughout the City, including in our neighborhood commercial districts.

Creation of a Commercial Acquisition Assistance Program to stabilize neighborhood commercial districts and support property ownership for small business owners with an expanded suite of financial tools.

Launch of the City's first com-

prehensive Civic and Cultural Infrastructure Planning Framework to develop a strategy for delivering more cultural space in Boston.

The City's anti-displacement efforts are organized around four main tenets: Protect, Preserve, Produce, and Prosper, comprising tools in each of those categories to advance residential, cultural, and commercial stability. The Plan focuses on: protecting renters and lower-income homeowners from displacement, as well as small businesses and cultural community anchors; preserving affordable housing and community spaces; producing more housing and commercial/cultural space; and ultimately creating an environment for Bostonians to build wealth and prosper through homeownership, workforce development, business-ownership, etc.

As part of the Plan, the City has also released its first-ever interactive Residential Displacement Risk Map. The map measures current residential displacement pressures and community-level displacement risk across Boston. The Displacement Risk map provides a data-driven understanding of displacement risk, and will help to inform

planning, policy, and outreach. It is meant to be used by the City, residents, community organizations, academics, housing advocates, and more.

"I'm excited to see the City of Boston and Mayor Wu leading the way with a comprehensive anti-displacement action plan," said Marc Draisen, executive director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. "At a time when rising housing costs are displacing current residents and preventing newcomers from choosing the Boston region to raise their families, we must create more housing and stabilize the existing housing market. This plan includes innovative tools to do both."

"I look forward to the implementation of Boston's new anti-displacement action plan, especially the homeownership tools it includes. This is such a vital pathway to building wealth and well-being for Boston's BI-POC communities," said Tony Richards, chair of the Affordable Housing and Pathways to Homeownership Executive Committee for the Commission on Black Men & Boys. "The new Co-Purchasing Homebuyer Pro-

Continued on page 15

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE THE MISSION IN BRIGHAM CIRCLE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Alex performs some Irish step dancing with St Patrick's Day around the corner and in mind.

Mission Hill residents didn't have to go to South Boston to celebrate on St Patrick's Day weekend. The Mission in Brigham Circle had plenty of food times to go around.



Devin is celebrating his birthday.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Simonson of the Boston Police Gaelic Column.



Boston Police Gaelic Column Pipes And Drums member Sean makes new friend in Brigham Circle with Jessica, Lily, Emily and Lily.



Chris the bartender keeps the patrons at The Mission happy and entertained.

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



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Chris and Reanna are not only coworkers but also date and make a cooler team than Sam Malone and Diane Chambers ever did.



Michael, Eric, and Claire are having a wild and crazy night.



Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan (center) with Ellen Saucier and Karen Gately, Executive Director of RTH.

WHERE TO FIND THE GAZETTE?

Name	Address	Name	Address
7-Eleven Store	415 Center / Huntington Ave	Citizens Bank	Tremont & Huntington
Levinson Bldg	835 Huntington Ave	Puddingston Tavenen ...	1592 Tremont St
Neville Building.....	Huntington Avenue	Tremont House Of Pizza..	1590 Tremont St
Robert & Theresa Parks		Subway Sandwiches	1578 Tremont St
Community Building.....	Mission Park Drive	Mini Mart.....	1576 Tremont St
Flynn House.....	805 Huntington Ave	Boston Property	1570 Tremont St
Huntington Market	818 Huntington Ave	Elen Real State	1568 Tremont St
Huntntgton Pizza ...	784 Huntington Ave	Spinney Auto Insurance..	1560 Tremont St
Carman's		Mikes Donut.....	1524 Tremont St
Beauty Salon.....	764 Huntington Ave	Lillys Gourmet.....	1528 Tremont St
Green Coffe Shop	750 Huntington Ave	Crispy Dough Pizza..	1514 Huntington Ave
Davos Wine		Discount Auto Part	1486 Tremont St
& Spirits.....	754 Huntington Ave	Laundromat	1460 Tremont St
Flames.....	746 Huntington Ave	Dunkin Donut	1631 Tremont St
Solid Ground Cafe ..	742 Huntington Ave	Solstice Café.....	1623 Tremont St
Udb Uq.....	738 Huntington Ave	Mission Hill Liquors	1623 Tremont St
Halal Indian Cuisine...	766 Huntington Ave	Flann O'brien 'S.....	1621 Tremont St
Brigham Liquors.....	732 Huntington Ave	Mission Hill	
Brighman Circle Chines	728 Huntington Ave	American Legion.....	1617 Tremont St
The Mission Pub	724 Huntington Ave	Mission Hill	
Stop & Shop	Tremont & Huntington	Properties	1607 Trewmont St
Walgreens	Tremont & Huntington	Mission Hill	
J P Lick's.....	Tremont & Huntington	Post Office.....	1575 Tremont St
Bank Of America	Tremont & Huntington	1575 Longwood	
		Street Apts	1575 Tremont St
		Needham Bank	Tremont St
		Bruggels Bakery	375 Longwood Ave

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

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

EDITORIAL

Plastics: It's even worse than we thought

We recently wrote about the pervasiveness of plastics not only in our environment, but also in our bodies.

However, as ominous as we thought things were at the time we wrote those words, more-recent revelations by scientists across the globe have revealed that nano-plastics are coursing not only through every tissue and organ in our bodies, but in every living thing on the planet.

Plastics have been found in even the remotest, most pristine areas of the globe -- and are increasing in their concentration year-by-year.

Plastics, which are derived from petroleum, are used in just about everything that we take for granted in modern life. The air we breathe in our homes contains six times more plastic particles than the outside air thanks to the use of chemical plastic products in our clothing, furniture, and rugs.

In short, everything we eat, drink, or use contains plastics.

Some of the recent findings by scientists include the revelation that human brain tissues have been found to have the equivalent of a plastic-spoon's worth of plastic in them, with newer samples containing far more plastic than those from 20 years ago.

In addition, plastics have been found in the human reproductive organs and in breast milk, which means that every child born today is laden with plastic right from birth.

Having plastics in our bodies is bad enough, but it is estimated that the plastics industry uses thousands of chemicals to make its plastic products -- which means that the nanoplastics lodged in our bodies are leaching these chemicals into us as they break down inside us.

Thanks to the vast scope of the problem, no study yet has been able to establish a definitive link between plastics in our bodies and the increase in health issues that have confounded health experts, including the increases in colon cancer in young persons, higher rates of lung cancer among non-smokers, decreased fertility in both men and women, and the increase in auto-immune diseases.

However, given that many of the chemical compounds that are used to make plastics have been found to adversely affect human health, it is not a stretch to believe that the build-up of plastics in our bodies is a major contributor to the health issues that have arisen in recent years.

But here's the really bad news: Plastics in our environment are increasing every year -- and there is nothing any of us can do to decrease our exposure.

CELEBRATING THE IRISH

Patrons at The Puddingstone Tavern celebrated the coming of St Patrick's Day and the Irish heritage of Mission Hill.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Even the bartender keeps the beer and good vibes flowing.



Tricia Hunter with Sporcle Trivia provides some fun cerebral entertainment for Puddingstone patrons.



Fiona and Ashna are prepping for the St Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday.



The Puddingstone Tavern is a cozy neighborhood pub with a warm personality.

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

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CELEBRATING THE IRISH

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Mike has a formal shamrock look going while Francesco shows off his Celtics pride.



Reed and Sid are wearing their green and having fun.



Jack, Jamie, and Caroline.

Action Plan

Continued from page 11


gram and increased funding for market-rate homeownership development will support the major effort to close the racial wealth gap here in Boston.”

“Housing and displacement remains one of the biggest challenges to justice and equity facing our city,” said Noemi Mimi Ramos, executive director of the New England Community Proj-

ect. “We appreciate that Mayor Wu and her Administration recognized this, and have drafted a plan to stabilize Boston residents, small businesses, and communities. We look forward to working with the City to finalize this important strategy, so renters, BIPOC, and low-income Bostonians can continue to call Boston home.”

The City is committed to making this an ongoing, collaborative effort where residents and

small business owners have a direct role in shaping solutions. The release of this plan launches a 45-day comment period, now through May 3. Constituents can review the full plan at boston.gov/anti-displacement, and can share their feedback via an online comment form, by emailing antidisplacementplan@boston.gov, by attending a city-wide presentation, and through workshops tailored to community needs.




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CITY PAWS

Responsible vs. scofflaw guardians

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

As the snow and ice melted away, the evidence of the scofflaws with dogs appeared. Some dog guardians seem to think you don't have to pick up after your dog if no one is watching or the snow will cover it. Wrong! If you have a dog, you are responsible for removing all your dog's waste, regardless of the weather or how far you would have to go to find a trash barrel.

Proper Disposal of Dog Waste

First, you should know the legal grounds for a complaint to authorities about dog waste disposal. Check your municipality. In Boston, the webpage on the topic is (www.cityofboston.gov/animals/) under regulations it says, "You're required by law to remove and dispose of your dog's waste. This applies to waste on sidewalks, streets and parks, and neighbors' yards. You must be prepared to clean up after your dog when walking them,

either with a bag or some other means. The law also states that you must dispose of the waste either in a toilet or trash can."

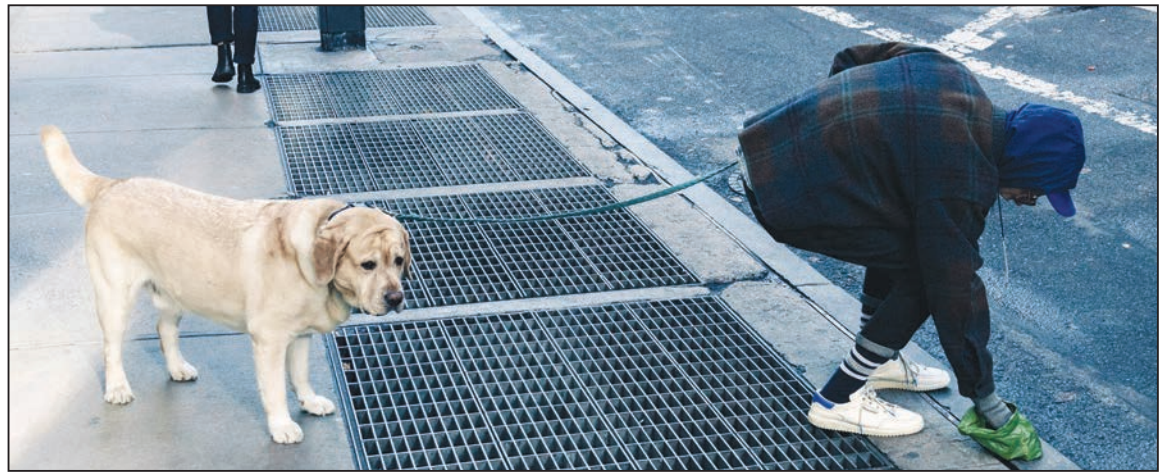
Leash Laws

Massachusetts has a state-wide leash law prohibiting dogs from being off-leash in public areas. Additionally, Section 173 grants cities and towns the authority to establish local animal control laws. Many municipalities in Massachusetts enforce leash laws within their city limits.

There are dozens of reasons to keep your dog close to you in the city. We lead them around broken glass and keep them from rolling in goose poop or some creature's remains. Even those of us who carefully watch our canine companions have had to pull some prize out of their mouths at one time or another.

Protect Pet-Friendly Buildings

If you live in a multi-family, pet-friendly building, your day-to-day behavior can help keep it



Responsible dog guardians keep their dogs on leash and pick up after them.

that way. Be the kind of neighbor you'd want to have. People who oppose pets in buildings are concerned about the annoyance of dogs barking inside homes and common areas.

Buildings that allow animals usually have rules. Ask what they are and follow them to the letter of the law. Commonly, dogs are not permitted off-leash anywhere outside your home, and you are responsible for picking up after your animal. Simple enough, but we often see these broken in our community.

If your animal ever relieves itself inside your common areas because it is ill or you were late

bringing it outside, clean it up yourself. Then, self-report the incident to management so they can deep-clean the area, preventing other dogs from marking over the spot.

Here's a tip that might catch a mess. Keep a waterproof puppy pad near your dog's leash. Then if you know something might happen on the way out, you can scoot that under your dog in time to save the cleanup. These pads are also an excellent way to dry any spill in your home, making it worth keeping a small supply on hand.

Your Dog Can't Vote

Finally, you can be a spokes-

person for responsible guardians. We need representatives who consider the needs of dog lovers. When someone asks for your vote, question their position on animal issues. For the interests of dog lovers to become important to community leaders, they must hear both sides of the story, not just complaints from those who would ban dogs from the parks, sidewalks, and the city if they could.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penney@BostonZest.com with your request.



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