

MH LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY — PAGE 12

Mission Hill

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JUNE 6, 2025 — JULY 3, 2025



Volunteers cleaned, planted and pruned trees and shrubs during Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services fourth annual Arbor Day in the Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park Arboretum on Friday, April 25. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos.

CAMH discusses

Bike lane safety; supports new liquor license; holds election

Special to the Gazette

The Community Alliance of Mission Hill held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 21, via Zoom and in-person.

CAMH President Martin Beinborn presided over the session. Also on hand were Corey Jordan from State Rep. Chynah Tyler's office, Samantha Courage from District 8 City Councillor Sharon Durkan's office, and Maccon Bonner, who is the Back Bay/Beacon Hill/Fenway/Kenmore/Mission Hill Liaison for Mayor Wu's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Beinborn discussed a recent meeting held at the home of prominent businessman Jay Cashman regarding bicycle lanes in the city. Beinborn said Cashman is concerned that the bike lanes are being rushed without public input.

Beinborn said that a bike lane is in front of Cashman's house on Dartmouth St. and that Cashman has observed that the city is moving forward with the construction of bicycle lanes with insufficient information about the impact on safety for cyclists.

motor vehicle operators, pedestrians, and other users.

Beinborn said Cashman supports a formal review and feedback process of current and future bike lanes in the city, as well as training for those who operate delivery bikes and e-bikes with violations for those who don't follow the traffic laws.

Some at the meeting noted that emergency vehicle response time is being impacted by traffic back-ups caused by the addition of the bike lanes.

"The gist of the meeting was that Cashman is seeking support from neighborhood organizations for his group, known as Pedal Safe Boston, from all traffic participants and their perspectives," said Beinborn with the development of a master plan for the city.

"Jay Cashman is not anti-bike, he just wants to see good bike progress in Boston," said Beinborn.

According to the Pedal Safe Boston website, "Our Mission is: Advocating for safer, smarter, and more-inclusive streets

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

Boston gang member pleads guilty to trafficking firearms; defrauding federal credit union; hundred-thousand-dollar check theft scheme

Special to the Gazette

A Mission Hill gang member with multiple prior convictions has pleaded guilty to three separate indictments charging him with a sweeping slate of federal charges — including trafficking firearms, defrauding a credit union of over \$130,000 and stealing mail as part of a large-scale "card cracking" scheme that caused up to half a million dollars in losses.

Glenroy Miller, a/k/a "Trinny," 28, of Boston, pleaded guilty on May 9, 2025 to three counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition; one count of unlawful possession of a machinegun; one count of trafficking in firearms; two counts of conspiracy to commit bank fraud; one count of bank fraud and aiding and abetting; and one count of conspiracy to steal and possess stolen mail. U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton scheduled sentencing for Aug. 7, 2025.

In September 2019, Miller was convicted in Suffolk Superior Court of possession of a firearm without a permit; carrying a firearm with ammunition; possession of a firearm with a

defaced serial number; and resisting arrest. He was subsequently sentenced to three years in prison, followed by two years' probation. In December 2019, shortly after beginning his state prison sentence, Miller conspired with long-time friend Nadaje Hendrix to defraud a credit union where Hendrix served as a loan officer and assistant branch manager at the time. Specifically, between December 2019 and August 2021, the two defrauded the credit union by obtaining loans in the names of other individuals, including Miller's fellow inmates, as well as loans under stolen identities. In total, Miller and Hendrix defrauded the credit union of approximately \$134,000. The two were indicted by a federal grand jury in January 2024 in relation to this conduct. In October 2024, Hendrix was sentenced to eight months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty in July 2024.

In the summer of 2023, upon his release from state prison, and prior to his January 2024 indictment, Miller conspired with other Mission Hill members to engage in a mail theft and "card cracking" scheme while on probation. According to court doc-

uments, card cracking involves the theft of checks - usually checks stolen from USPS collection boxes - which are chemically washed to remove the payee information. The checks are then rewritten in the names of others who have typically been recruited into the scheme via social media, deposited into their bank accounts and withdrawn or transferred as soon the funds are made available. According to the signed plea agreement, Miller is responsible for \$250,000 - \$550,000 in losses or attempted losses via checks that were stolen from the mail, washed and/or deposited into recruited accounts between June 2023 and February 2024. In August 2024, Miller was indicted by a federal grand jury along with eight other Mission Hill gang members and associates for their alleged roles in the card cracking scheme.

Additionally, during the summer of 2023, while on state probation, Miller sold six firearms to a cooperating witness on four separate occasions on Aug. 7, 2023 and Oct. 24, 2023. One of the sales included a firearm with a high-capacity magazine equipped with a machinegun conversion device. Additionally, Miller was aware that the coop-

erating witness was a convicted felon who was prohibited from purchasing or possessing the firearms.

The charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition each provide for a sentence of up to 15 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of unlawful possession of a machinegun provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of trafficking in firearms provides for a sentence up to 15 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charges of bank fraud and conspiracy to commit bank fraud each provide for a sentence of up to 30 years in prison, up to five years of supervised release and a fine of \$1 million. The charge of conspiracy to steal and possess stolen mail provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley; James Crowley, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; James M. Ferguson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; Ketty Larco-Ward, Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division; and Randy Maloney, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service, Boston Field Office made the announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by the Boston and Wellesley Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kriss Basil, Lucy Sun and Philip C. Cheng of the Criminal Division are prosecuting the

The case was investigated under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF). OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. For more information about Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, please visit Justice.gov/OCDETF.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

across Boston; ensuring city infrastructure works for everyone, pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists; started by Jay Cashman, a leader in large-scale infrastructure projects worldwide, after he saw Boston's bike lanes being built without proper planning, public input, or transparency; pushing for thoughtful, community-driven transportation planning; prioritizing safety, accessibility, and proper site studies over rushed rollouts; and uniting residents to demand transparency, engagement, and a better master plan."

CAMH board member Adam Sarbaugh noted that bike lanes are part of a world-class city, but there is the need for a master plan and a process with the goal of "getting it right the first time." Reginald Ellis, who attended the meeting at Cashman's house, noted that upon leaving Cashman's home, he almost was struck by a speeding bicyclist. His complaint echoed similar issues voiced by Jamaica Plain residents regarding bicyclists who ride along the pedestrian pathways around Jamaica Pond where they have menaced, and even injured, pedestrians, making the pedestrian walkways dangerous, especially for senior citizens.

Many in attendance spoke about the lack of enforcement of the traffic laws (bicyclists must obey the traffic regulations), especially as regards the operators of e-bikes and e-scooters who often are traveling on sidewalks or going the wrong way on roadways.

Beinborn said that the CAMH will be inviting Cashman's group

to a future meeting to make a full presentation.

The next item on the agenda was a request for approval of a full liquor license by Merengue Express Restaurant.

Attorney Michael Vigorito, representing the long-established Cilantro Latin Kitchen d/b/a Merengue Express restaurant, 1415 Tremont St., in Roxbury, presented Cilantro's application for an all-alcohol liquor license pursuant to the new state law that expanded the number of liquor licenses in the city.

Hector Pena, the owner of the restaurant, also was on hand. Pena said he has been in the restaurant business since 1994 with his wife when they opened their first restaurant on Blue Hill Ave. They now own five restaurants, including one in Worcester, which serve alcohol.

Pena spoke of his long-stand-

ing commitment to the local community, especially the Boston Arts Academy School.

"The liquor license will help us to do better," said Pena. "With all of the uncertainty about the economy and tariffs, we really need to increase our business in any way we can."

Merengue presently closes at 6:00, but will be seeking a 10:00 closing if it gets the liquor restaurant. Pena said the goal of the liquor license is to feature Latino-based cocktails to complement the culinary dishes from the Dominican Republic.

Beinborn said a vote by the CAMH whether to support a licensing request normally is a two-step process, with the presentation occurring at a first meeting and the vote taken at a second meeting. However, Vigorito asked for an immediate vote because it would help Meren-

gue's application before the Boston Licensing Board, given that there is strong competition for the new licenses.

The members first voted to suspend the usual rules, and then voted to support a favorable recommendation for the liquor license. Merengue Express still must go before the Boston Licensing Commission to obtain the liquor license.

The next matter on the agenda was the election for board members of the board of the CAMH for a two-year term.

Five incumbents, Toni Komst, Adam Sarbaugh, Gary Walling, Candy Walling, and Luanne Witkowski, and two newcomers, Deneige Arroyo and Reginald Ellis, were elected to two-year terms.

There still is one open seat on the board.

The next meeting of the CAMH is set for Wednesday, June 18.

Hill Happenings

By Maurice 'Mossy' Martin

On Sept. 27, 1970, 20-year-old Bobby Joe Leaster was casually chatting with his cousin on St. Botolph Street when two Boston Police officers approached him regarding a murder-robbery which occurred two hours previously at Talbot Ave. Variety Store in Dorchester.

A black man with no police record, Bobby Joe fit the description of one of the two assailants, green pants and his 16-year nightmare of incarceration began with his arrest, an inept investigation, and later conviction.

After the wrongful judgment was overturned in 1986 and he received a \$1 Million settlement from the City of Boston, I got to know Bobby Joe when he lived next door to me in Mission Hill on Worthington Street.

I wrote a story about this

brave, resilient man in this paper in January 2005. Bobby Joe told me his belief in God helped him survive his horrid plight. He was blatantly victimized by a rush to judgement. After he was released from prison, he worked for years in the toughest streets in Boston, mentoring young people.

Bobby Joe comes to mind because of a terrific book recently written by Christopher Muse, "Justice Under God." Christopher is the younger of the fatherand-son legal team who never doubted their client's innocence after replacing his court-appointed attorney. God bless Bobby Joe, who died in 2020, leaving a legacy of courage and strength.

Members of the Mission Hill Post 327 and dozens in the crowd paid homage to our fallen veterans in a ceremony at Brigham Circle on Memorial Day. Our Post Commander Col. George Rollins presided over the touching observance, and Jimmy O'Neill and Peter Scott placed a wreath on the Monument. Peter and Jimmy, along with Tom Marroni and John Kelly, read the names of the Mission Hill veterans who died in the line of duty.

M.H. Post member Garret Savluk began the ceremony by playing the National Anthem on his bugle, and he beautifully played 'Taps' and 'Amazing Grace.

Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan gave a terrific discourse citing her family's proud military history. Afterwards Sharon joined us across the street at The Mission for some great food.

Thanks to Maria of Mike's Donuts for providing coffee and her famous donuts for the Brigham Circle crowd.

Several members of our Mission Hill Post attended the Mission Grammar School Road to College fundraiser at Emmanuel College May 15. I had a great time at this event, reminiscing with old friends.

M.H. Post member Brigadier General Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse, a World War II veteran, received the Community Hero Award. Christine Dwyer drew a thunderous ovation receiving the Kevin Fitzgerald Alumnus of the Year Award.

Other honorees included Maura Bradley-Gnanou, the recipient of the Mary Leydon Commitment to Education Award, and the Collins family, who received The Legacy of Leadership Award.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ellen (Killion) Prendergast, the youngest of a wonderful Mission Hill family of nine. Ellen, a Mission High and UMass graduate, was so nice one felt joy in her presence, including where she worked at Mark Harmon Law Firm in Newton.

The last time I saw Ellen was at an event at The Elks in West Roxbury, and Ellen brought her homemade Irish bread that was so good I stuck an extra slice in my pocket. Ellen was the best. Donations in Ellen's memory may be made to Friends of Dana Farber.

Condolences to the family of

Susan St. Cyr, who passed away last month. Susan loved Mission Hill, and as a member on several boards, she had a strong voice in the community. She always fought for what was right including battling for the reclaimed land on the back of the Hill. Susan was among the early planners of One Brigham Circle back in the days when Mission Hill was bereft of a supermarket and the Ledge site was undeveloped. Susan, who leaves her husband John LaRuffa and three children, will be dearly missed.

A belated happy birthday (May 28) goes to Lidia Palacio, a diligent worker for Boston Water and Sewer. When she is working in the neighborhood, Lidia stops in Mike's and lights up the donut shop with her good looks and sparkling personality...

Congratulations to good guy Paul McLaughlin on his Boston Police promotion to Superintendent to Chief of Bureau of Investigations and Detectives. Paul, always splendidly dressed and wearing a smile, greets the boys at Mike's Donuts, where he often comes for his morning coffee.

Did you hear about the cop who pulled over the motorist for eating doughnuts? He said his eyes were glazed.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

LOCAL STUDENT

EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

SNHU ANNOUNCES **SPRING 2025** PRESIDENT'S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2025 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting

term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Kendrick Raine of Mission

Whitney Knapp of Mission

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serv-

ing more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.





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MHNHS HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL ARBOR DAY EVENT

PHOTO COURTESY NANCY AHMADIFAR

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) held its fourth annual Arbor Day in the Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park Arboretum on Friday, April 25. In collaboration with the Northeastern University Arboretum team and 55+ volunteers, there were 27 new plantings ranging from new varieties of trees to shrubs.

The focus of this Arbor Day and future plantings in the park will be in the front area where the tree removals took place earlier in the spring. The removal of the invasive Norway Maple trees gave space for the replenishment and renewal of this area! We added two different types of Flowering Dogwood, one Hackberry tree, two Pitch Pines, two Hemlocks and various types of short shrubs like monk orange, mount airy, Miss Kim lilac and more!

If you want to volunteer and get more involved in the Kevin W Fitzgerald Park Arboretum, email intern@missionhillnhs.



A volunteer group planted various native pollinators in hopes of attracting more bees and adding a pop of vibrancy to this hillside area.





Volunteers, guests and neighbors enjoyed refreshments from Mike's Donuts, raffles and an amazing performance by Northeastern Jazz Ensemble throughout the event. Two representatives from the Best Bees organization spoke about the importance of pollinators and the beehive in Fitzgerald Park, which included information on MHNHS's sustainability and bee programs.





Past and present MHNHS co-ops from Northeastern University would not miss an opportunity to plant in Fitz Park!

MHNHS HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL ARBOR DAY EVENT

PHOTO COURTESY NANCY AHMADIFAR



Volunteers planted, thinned sumac, pulled garlic mustard and assisted in placing watering bags on prior Arbor Day plantings. It was a beautiful day in the park with volunteers from AEW, MHNHS board members, seniors from RTH, youth from Sociedad Latina, students from Northeastern, neighbors and MHNHS residents!







A volunteer group from Roxbury Tenants of Harvard worked tirelessly at pulling invasive garlic mustard all around the park.









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Wu announces expansion of Project Green Light signal-optimization program

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Streets Cabinet, and Innovation and Technology Cabinet announced the expansion of their partnership with Google Research to improve traffic flow in highly congested areas. The partnership, first announced last year, uses artificial intelligence to model traffic patterns and creates traffic signal timing recommendations for intersections experiencing congestion hotspots. Since April 2024, Project Green Light has analyzed traffic at hundreds of signalized intersections. The City has implemented Google Research's recommendations to optimize 114 intersections across 20 neighborhoods including Brighton, Back Bay, North End, Roxbury, South Boston, Downtown, Fenway, Charlestown, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, South End, Hyde Park, West

Roxbury, and the West End. This has led to an up to 33% reduction in unnecessary stops at certain congested intersections.

"The City of Boston is proud to partner with Google's Project Green Light to mitigate the everyday headache of traffic and use AI to improve problem intersections," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Since the launch of this partnership, we have now retimed more than 100 intersections and will continue to explore innovative ways to make it easier and more efficient to get around Boston."

"Project Green Light helps keep Boston moving safely by improving traffic flow and reducing delays at intersections," said Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Chief of Streets. "It has been a highly effective tool, and we look forward to our continued partnership with Google to expand to even more intersections in the city."

"What started as a pilot has

now expanded into a practical AI tool supporting the City's traffic engineers across every neighborhood," said Michael Lawrence Evans, Director of Emerging Technology for the City of Boston. "This collaboration allows us to respond more dynamically to changing traffic patterns, working alongside the Traffic Management Center's efforts to design and fine-tune signal systems throughout the city."

In 2023, Boston was ranked 8th in the world for highest traffic delays. Project Green Light, a Google Research initiative, uses AI and Google Maps driving trends to model traffic patterns and make recommendations for optimizing existing traffic light plans. By identifying potential adjustments in signal timing, Boston's Traffic Management Center can improve traffic synchronization with nearby intersections or change "green time" between lights to better match demand. This adjustment of green light timing and coordination with nearby intersections means drivers now spend less time waiting through multiple signal cycles, both reducing how often they are starting and stopping driving and reducing overall traffic delays.

The City of Boston has partnered with INRIX, a global leader in traffic analytics, to evaluate the impact of Project Green Light's recommendations implemented by the Traffic Management Center. During phase 2 of the Project Green Light pilot, the City has seen an average 13.5% reduction in delay, with some locations seeing improvements of up to 24%, and a 20% average reduction of unnecessary stops across newly retimed intersections. At Atlantic Ave. and Richmond St. in the North End, the City saw a 21% reduction in overall traffic delay and a 33% reduction in unnecessary stops. Beacham Street and Maffa Way in Charlestown saw a 24% reduction in delay and 34% reduction in unnecessary stops after better coordinating this signal with those nearby. Project Green Light recommendations have been observed to be most effective during periods of heavy traffic, reducing delays when congestion is at its peak.

Additional benefits include an average of nearly 4,000 gallons of estimated fuel saved over the course of a year per recommendation. At Beacham St. and Maffa Way, one of the intersections seeing the best results, drivers

collectively are expected to save up to 14,000 gallons over the course of a year. The program has also helped the City engineers monitor traffic signal infrastructure by ensuring signal control boxes, copper/fiber-optic connections, and loop sensors are working properly.

Managed jointly by Boston's Traffic Management Center and the Office of Emerging Technology, Boston's use of Project Green Light complements existing work to keep our traffic signal network responsive to current traffic conditions. This fiscal year, the Traffic Management Center has implemented 81 traditional signal retimings and typically makes over 1000 real-time traffic signal adjustments every month.

Project Green Light is now live in 18 cities on four continents. Boston and Seattle are the only U.S. cities currently included in the program.

"Green Light reflects Google Research's commitment to advancing science and improving lives with AI. We're excited to continue partnering with Boston to help reduce emissions and make its streets more efficient," said Matheus Vervloet, Product Manager, Google Research.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



The Most Rev. Cristiano Barbosa came to the Mission Church on Sunday, June 1 to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 19 youngsters.

CITY CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH WITH FLAG RAISING

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Advancement in a flag raising ceremony to kick off National LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month.

Mayor Michelle Wu joins the Mayor's Office of LGBTQIA2S+





Vendors and tables were set up around City Hall Plaza.



The flag flying high in the sky.



The flag begins its ascent up the flag pole.



There was a great turnout at City Hall Plaza for the flag raising.





Residents and attendees showing their pride at City Hall Plaza.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

By Courtney Wright

Happy June!

May was jampacked in the neighborhood! Between events, outdoor dining set-ups, street and sidewalk cleaning starting, Small Business Month, service days-I will not be able to capture it all but am happy to reflect on some of the highlights.

On Memorial Day, the Mis-

sion Hill Post held their annual ceremony in Hanlon Square to honor local veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Amazing Grace on the bugle never gets old, nor does spending time and hearing the stories of our wonderful Post members and Veterans who instill in us all such a sense of pride. As usual, there were refreshments provided by Mike's



Puddingstone Tavern provided space and other help for the free TIPS+ (responsible alcohol) 3-year certification training for Mission Hill businesses that handle alcohol.

Donuts, and a great turnout of Mission Hill stalwarts who got together for lunch following the ceremony. Thank you for your service!

On May 12, Main Streets partnered with Nick Korn and his organization OFFSITE to sponsor a free TIPS+ (responsible alcohol) 3-year certification training for Mission Hill businesses that



Christine Dwyer, Mission Grammar School Alumnus of the Year, with Tricia Fitzgerald and Mission Grammar President Aliece Dutson and Principal, Caroline Sliney.

handle alcohol. Thank you to Melo, Manager at the Mission and Puddingstone, for working with us to provide the space and coordination necessary to offer this resource. We had staff from Tavern of Tales, Mission Bar and Grill, Puddingstone Tavern and Penguin Pizza in attendance, all who left certified. We are in

the process of scheduling more trainings this summer for SERV Safe 5-year certifications and will offer a class in English and Spanish. If you are interested in this opportunity or who have staff in need of certification, please reach out to missionhill-

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The Mission Hill Post held their annual ceremony in Hanlon Square





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*Age as of August 31, 2025.

Photo by Brooke Trisolini

Main Streets

Continued from page 8

mainstreetsboston@gmail.com.

The Mission Grammar school had their annual "Road to College" on May 15th and as always, it was a beautiful evening and a reminder in the promise of our shared community potential. Local Saint and Main Streets Board Member Christine Dwyer was awarded the 2025 Kevin Fitzgerald Alumnus of the Year award, presented by Tricia Fitzgerald with a beautiful tribute. As I was looking through the program for the event, I saw the following quote in reference to Chrissy and her impact that I think encapsulates her spirit. "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members"- Coretta Scott King. We're lucky to have you, thank you for always looking out for all of us in Mission Hill!

This month, the 2025 Legacy Business Awardees were announced, and two local business owners/businesses are receiving recognition, Penguin Pizza and Merengue Express owners Hec-



The 2025 Legacy Business Awardees included, Penguin Pizza, owned by Pamela and the Carthy family, and Merengue Express owned by Hector and Nivia Pina.

tor and Nivia Pina, for their original Merengue location on Blue Hill Ave. Awarded businesses are longstanding, independent enterprises that make a strong contribution to the residents, communities, and neighborhoods of Boston. By recognizing and supporting Legacy businesses on an annual basis, the Program helps further Mayor Wu's vision

for a family-friendly, vibrant city with sustainable community businesses.

Here at Main Streets, we feel a deep sense of pride in our business community and those who run the businesses that keep our corridor active. Penguin Pizza is one of the best examples because of the way their commitment to Mission Hill man-

ifests beyond serving food and drinks- and extends into civic responsibility and support. Dermot Doyne opened the Penguin on September 24th, 2004 and a few years later, became one of the founding and original Board members of Mission Hill Main Streets. When Pamela Carthy took over in 2020, in the face of the pandemic, she remained steadfast and committed to ensuring Penguin and Dermot's legacy of giving back to the community beyond providing a great establishment. As long as Main Streets has existed in Mission Hill, a Penguin owner has sat on its Board, in turn advocating for businesses and offering suggestions, advice, and guidance on the work of the organization. We are grateful for their service and commitment to the MH Business district. We will be celebrating these achievements by these businesses at our Annual Meeting in September, but in the meantime I will leave you with this quote of Pam's: "Originating from Ireland, it can be hard to create your own "abroad" family, but The Penguin made this extremely easy for me. Over the

years we have seen wonderful lifelong friendships form inside our 4 walls. We've witnessed engagements, celebrated weddings and the birth of babies, honored deaths and survived a pandemic. Thank you to the amazing staff, both those who have moved on, and those who remain. By always treating the Penguin like your own, you have made it what it is today."

Thank you Dermot, for choosing Mission Hill over 20 years ago as the place to start your business and thank you for hiring Pam (almost) 19 years ago to carry on your vision and contributions to the neighborhood and MH Main Streets.

In other business news, we have a new barbershop! I'd like to introduce Luis Duverge and Duverge Barbershop who opened his doors the second week of May at 12 S. Huntington Avenue. The barbershop will be open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Luis "is excited to bring his expertise and enthusiasm to Mission Hill, a vibrant and diverse community that I am proud to call home. At Duverge Barbershop, we're ded-

Continued on page 14

MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

is excited to announce **Penguin Pizza**

as a 2025 Boston Legacy Business Awardee!

Congratulations to Pamela and the Carthy Family and all the staff at the Penguin!

Mission Hill Main Streets
1542 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02115
https://explore.missionhillmainstreet.com
missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com
617-232-0182









BTA announces June service changes

The MBTA announced service changes in June on the Orange, Red, Green, Blue, Framingham/ Worcester, and Franklin/Foxboro lines.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/PlannedWork. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA, @MBTA_ CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Orange Line:

- Orange Line service will be suspended in the following areas all day, every day, during the following dates:
- For three days, Friday, May 30, through Sunday, June 1, between North Station and Forest Hills, as previously announced.
 - For nine days, June 21 29:
- · During the weekends of June 21 - 22 and June 28 - 29between North Station and Forest Hills.
- On weekdays, June 23 27, between Back Bay and Forest Hills.

During the weekend dates:

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Forest Hills and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line for parallel service through downtown to North Station.
- The Green Line C Branch will also be extended to serve North Station during this time period.
- An accessible van will directly serve stations between North Station and Back Bay as well as Copley on the Green Line. Riders should see onsite personnel to request this van service.

During the weekday dates:

· Free and accessible shut-

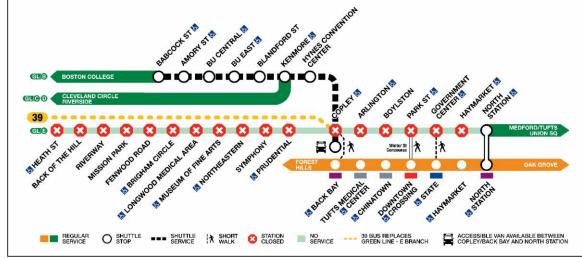
tle buses will make all stops between Back Bay and Forest Hills.

During all service change dates:

- The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.
- This service change is in place to accomplish signal upgrade work on the Orange Line. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for all riders.

On the Red Line:

- Red Line Braintree Branch service between Braintree and JFK/UMass will be replaced with free and accessible shuttle bus service during the following
- The weekend of May 31 -June 1, as previously announced.
- The weekend of June 14
- Free and accessible shuttle bus service will make all stops between Braintree and JFK/
- · Riders using shuttle buses during this service change should budget ample extra travelling time.
- Riders are strongly encouraged to use the Fall River/New Bedford, Kingston, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines for fare-free service between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Commuter Rail schedules are available on mbta.com
- Riders should note that regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected for travel beyond Braintree.
- This service change is in place to accomplish signal upgrade work on the Red Line. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase



operational efficiency and improve scheduling reliability for all riders.

On the Green Line:

- Green Line service will be suspended between North Station and Babcock Street on the B Branch, Kenmore on the C and D Branches, and Heath Street on the E Branch beginning at approximately 8 PM on Wednesday, June 4, and continuing all day, every day, for four days, June 5 - 8.
- B Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Babcock Street and Back Bay stations.
- Riders can connect to the Orange Line at Back Bay for continued service through downtown toward North Station.
- There will be free fares at Kenmore with the fare gates open. Riders can also utilize free Route 57 bus service for alternate travel between Kenmore and Packard's Corner.
- Fares will also be free at all surface-level stops west of Kenmore.
- · C Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Kenmore and Back Bay stations.
- Riders can connect to the Orange Line at Back Bay for continued service through downtown toward North Station.

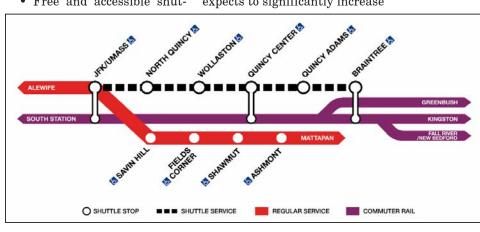
- There will be free fares at Kenmore with the fare gates open. Fares will also be free at all surface-level stops west of Kenmore.
- D Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Kenmore and Back Bay stations.
- Riders can connect to the Orange Line at Back Bay for continued service through downtown toward North Station.
- There will be free fares at Kenmore and Riverside with the fare gates open. Fares will also be free at all surface-level stops west of Kenmore.
- E Branch: The Route 39 will replace Green Line E Branch service between Heath Street and Back Bay stations. The route will be fare-free during this service change.
- Accessible van service will be available for Green Line stops between Copley/Back Bay and North Station.
- The Worcester Commuter Rail Line will be fare-free between South Station, Back Bay, and Lansdowne stations during this Green Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Lansdowne and regular fares should be purchased if traveling on a Commuter Rail Line other than the Worcester
 - This service change is

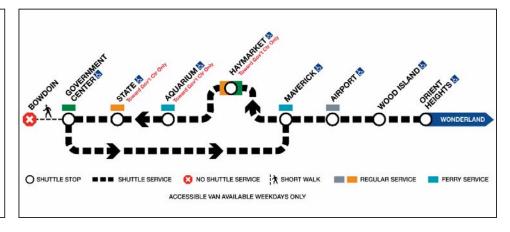
in place to perform regular, planned maintenance work. This maintenance work will address routine needs, ensure that all infrastructure is in peak operating condition, and includes inspections, adjustments, and repairs to keep the system safe and running smoothly.

On the Blue Line:

- Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights all day, every day, for nine days, June 7 - 15.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at all stations between Government Center and Orient Heights.
- Airport Station will be closed during this service change. The busway at Airport will remain open - signage will be in place to direct riders from the Bremen Street entrance to the busway for Massport buses, the SL3, 104, and Blue Line shuttle. A courtesy stop will also be available at Chelsea Street @ Brooks Street to connect community residents to the Blue Line shuttle.
- Shuttle buses will not serve Bowdoin during this service change. Riders should instead board or disembark shuttle buses at Government Center, which is less than a quarter-mile away (or about a four-minute walk).

Continued on page 11





Boston climbs to 12th on Annual Trust for Public Land ParkScore® Index

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTI

Trust for Public Land announced that Boston was ranked the nation's 12th best big-city park system on the 2025 ParkScore® index, climbing two spots ahead of last year's 14th place ranking. Atop the ParkScore rankings, Washington, DC, retained the ParkScore title, outpacing Irvine (2nd), Minneapolis (3rd) and Cincinnati (4th). The annual ParkScore® index ranks park systems in the 100 most populous U.S. cities and is widely considered the gold standard for park evaluation.

Boston ranked highly on all ParkScore rating factors. According to Trust for Public Land, 100 percent of Boston residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Among all 100 ParkScore cities, only San Francisco and Jersey City match Boston's park access achievement. Boston also scored highly for park amenities, leading the nation for "splashpads" and other park water features. Boston provides 85.2 of the popular summertime amenity per 100,000 residents, far above the national ParkScore average of 6.2.

Boston also scored well on park investment. The city spends

an impressive \$183 per resident in its park system, slightly ahead of last year's \$175 and far above the national ParkScore average of \$133. However, Boston's ParkScore was limited by below-average marks for park size. The median Boston park measures only 1.4 acres, below the national ParkScore average of 5.4.

Accompanying the annual ratings list, Trust for Public Land released new public opinion research reporting that residents throughout the United States value public parks and use them frequently. These findings remain steady across demographic and ideological lines, confirming that parks are among the least polarized spaces in the United States. Survey details are included in a special research report, Parks, The Great Unifiers, which also describes how four major U.S. cities—Atlanta, Fort Worth, Colorado Springs, and Chicago—have invested in parks to help bring people together and strengthen communities.

The research found that 89 percent of ParkScore city residents visited a public park at least once during the past year (90% self-recalled Harris voter; 92% self-recalled Trump voter) and 79% said they visit a local

park regularly and feel comfortable spending time there (80% Harris voter; 83% Trump voter). Also, respondents said they wished they had spent more time outdoors during the past year (45% Harris voter; 35% Trump voter). By contrast, only 24% of respondents said they wished they had spent more time at home and 16% said they wished they had spent more time in bars or restaurants. Nearly twothirds of respondents (66% Harris voter; 67% Trump voter) said they struck up a conversation in a public park with a person they had not known previously. The public opinion survey, National Survey on Outdoor Public Spaces, was conducted by national pollster YouGov in March, 2025 (N=2,000). Additional details about the survey are available upon request.

"Parks bring people together and deliver enormous physical and mental health benefits for visitors," Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, President and CEO of Trust for Public Land, said.

"At a time when so much in our nation seems fractured or polarized, parks may be the last ideology-free zones, where everyone can come together, form meaningful relationships, and enjoy a few hours of peace and relaxation. At Trust for Public Land, we will continue to work with park departments and leaders at all levels of government to realize the full community-building potential for parks," Hauser added.

Parkscore Rankings For 2025

Washington, DC, was rated the best big-city park system in the United States for the fifth consecutive year. The city scored well on all ParkScore rating factors. Twenty-one percent of land in the District of Columbia is reserved for parks, among the highest in the United States. The District also outperformed on ParkScore's park access and park equity metrics.

Irvine jumped to a record ParkScore finish, powered by continued progress on its planned Great Park, one of the most ambitious public park projects in the United States. Cincinnati made a big move in the 2025 ParkScore rankings, climbing to fourth position this year, well ahead of last year's eighth place rank. The Queen City's rise was due primarily to the \$5 million renovation of downtown's Lytle Park and a citywide effort to improve public access to schoolyards and other open spaces.

Boise defended its title as the best park system for dogs, with a nation-leading 9.0 dog parks per 100,000 residents, outscoring Portland, Oregon, and Henderson, Nevada. St. Paul received top marks for basketball hoops, Las Vegas scored best for playgrounds, and Boston earned top marks for splashpads and other water features.

Other major ParkScore movers this year include Port St. Lucie, Florida (+25 to seventy-third); Buffalo, New York (+19 to twenty-second); and Chesapeake, VA (+14 to thirty-sixth).

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they are needed most. Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 4 million acres of public land, created more than 5,504 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, and raised \$110 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected nearly 9.7 million people to the outdoors. To learn more, visit tpl.org.

MBTA

Continued from page 10

- Shuttle buses will also serve Haymarket in the inbound/ Government Center-bound direction only for connections to the Orange and Green lines. Additionally, shuttle buses will serve Aquarium and State in the inbound/Government Center-bound direction only.
- Accessible van service will be available for direct service to all affected stations. Riders should see onsite personnel to request this van service.
- The fare gates will be open for fare-free service at Orient Heights, Suffolk Downs, Beachmont, Revere Beach, and Wonderland.
- Riders traveling between Maverick and downtown Boston are strongly encouraged to use the East Boston Ferry, which will be free for the duration of this service change. The East Boston Ferry will have an expanded schedule during this period. Ferry schedules can be found on mbta.com/eastboston. The East Boston Ferry oper-

ates every 30 minutes and is a 10-minute ride between Long Wharf and Lewis Mall in East Boston.

• This service change is in place to perform regular, planned maintenance work. This maintenance work will address routine needs, ensure that all infrastructure is in peak operating condition, and includes inspections, adjustments, and repairs to keep the system safe and running smoothly.

On the Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line:

- Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Framingham and South Station during the following dates:
- Beginning at approximately 11 PM on Friday, May 30, through the weekend of May 31 June 1, as previously announced.
- Beginning at approximately 11 PM on Friday, June 20, and through the weekend of June 21-22.
- A dedicated diversion schedule will be available on mbta.
- Community members aiming to travel to and from downtown Boston during the weekend

work are strongly encouraged to utilize the MBTA's shuttle bus alternatives. Major traffic delays are anticipated for motorists on portions of I-90 and I-95/Route 128.

- Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace train service between Framingham and Riverside on the Green Line D Branch for continued service to and from downtown Boston.
- Shuttle buses will serve Framingham, West Natick, Natick Center, Wellesley Square, Wellesley Hills, and Auburndale with a connection to Riverside.
- For passengers who typically board at South Station, take the Red Line subway at South Station northbound/Alewife-bound to Park Street. Then connect to the Green Line D Branch westbound/outbound to Riverside to connect to shuttle bus service.
- For passengers who typically disembark at South Station, disembark shuttle buses at Riverside for inbound/eastbound Green Line service to Park Street and other downtown Boston connections. At Park Street, connect to the Red Line southbound/Ashmont- or Braintree-bound to

South Station.

- An additional free and accessible shuttle bus service will operate between West Newton, Newtonville, Boston Landing, and Kenmore where riders can use the Green Line B, C, and D Branches.
- Passengers who typically board Commuter Rail service at Lansdowne should instead travel to Kenmore (which is about a quarter mile or a six-minute walk) for shuttle bus service or to connect to the Green Line B, C, and D branches for further Red Line connections toward South
- Passengers should also note that Commuter Rail service between Worcester and Framingham will be fare-free during this service change.
- This service change is in place due to work taking place on MassDOT's Newton-Weston Bridge replacement and rehabilitation project.

On the Franklin/Foxboro Commuter Rail Line:

• Franklin/Foxboro Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Forge Park/495 and Readville during the weekend of June 7 – 8.

- A dedicated diversion schedule will be available on mbta.
- Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace train service between Forge Park/495 and Readville.
- Passengers are encouraged to consider the Providence and Fairmount Commuter Rail lines for service between Readville and South Station.
- This service change is in place due to work taking place on the East Street Bridge Replacement project.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

For more information, visit mbta.com/PlannedWork or connect with the Ton X@MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

MISSION HILL LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY

The 2025 season for the Mission Hill Little League has officially opened at McLaughlin Playground and many baseball players with their fans are excit-

ed. It's a passage from Winner to Spring with Summer just around the corner and plenty of adventures and achievements in sport to be achieved. Good luck, kids!



Cubs team members are going to help make their baseball dreams come true.



Kat and Dan McNamara with Maverick and Delilah.



Jewelz isn't on a team yet but practicing for next year.



The Pirates are ready to show Mission Hill what they've got.



The Reds are looking ready to go all the way for championship glory.



Young Violet is perched on the fence for a good view of the goings on in this field of baseball dreams.



Josniel is ready at bat while his sister Franjelly looks on, perhaps deciding to join in with her brother next year.

MISSION HILL LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Suzanne Hauck points at her son's name, DeVaughn, on the Little League trophy from 2007.



a Little League parent Josh Cahan.



Mission Hill Little League President Dan Weldon with Liam Daniels.



Aramis is ready to pitch for the Red Sox.



Bradley Perez and Noah Boucher jump for the ball during some practice plays.



White Sox player Antonio Rivera is ready to play some baseball.



Little League patent Nathaniel Curtis grills up some hot dogs.



Teammates for The Rockies assemble.



A team member for the A's is ready to show everyone how it's done.



Emmett Jenovese takes a swing with dad his dad Jeff looking

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EDITORIAL

Mayhem in the bike lane

We're bicyclists. We train for a triathlon every year, which means we're out on the road for long rides whenever weather permits. Some of our fondest memories are of bicycling with our children on family vacations to the Cape and Islands along the bike paths.

But we're also realists with a keen appreciation for the many dangers that our roadways present, even for experienced riders such as ourselves -- and for that reason, we've come to what we think is an obvious conclusion: Despite the best intentions of municipal leaders who have added miles and miles of bike lanes in their communities, our roadways are more dangerous than ever for all users, whether they be cyclists, pedestrians, or motor vehicle operators.

Moreover, we would go so far as to say that encouraging people, especially senior citizens, to use bikes as a means of transportation is tantamount to inviting them to die or suffer serious injuries -- and we are not being hyperbolic.

In New York City, there were 30 bicycle deaths in 2023, the most since 1999, of which 23 occurred with those using the ubiquitous Blue Bikes (which don't require the rider to use a helmet).

Even in the Netherlands, a country where the number of bicycles (24.1 million) outnumber people (17.6 million) and where bicycling was embedded in the culture of the country and in its roadways before there were automobiles (the roads were designed around cycling), cyclists account for the largest number of road deaths (36%), compared to 33% for passengers in motor vehicles and just nine percent for pedestrians. The age category that accounts for the largest number of deaths is 70+.

In Boston and surrounding communities, bike lanes are being installed with no sense of an overall plan. For example, in our hometown on the South Shore, there is a two-lane roadway that traverses the length of the town for about seven miles. When the town recently repaved a stretch of about 1.5 miles, they widened the sidewalk and put in a narrow bike lane in each direction.

But for the three or so miles on either end of the repaved section of the road, there is no bike lane -- and cyclists face multiple threats traversing the rest of the road, whether from where the road widens into a four-lane road with higher speed limits or a narrowing of the road in the business section where they run the risk of being "doored" by non-observant drivers who have just parked their cars.

The tragic death last fall of an experienced bicyclist on Memorial Drive at the B.U. Bridge was an example of a situation where the bike lane simply ended, bringing cyclists essentially into the pathway of motor vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed.

In short, it is clear that bike lanes are being overlaid on top of our existing roadways without any notion of common sense in their design. Those rows of stanchions we see in downtown Boston essentially create an obstacle course for everybody.

Prominent Boston businessman (and world-wide infrastructure developer) Jay Cashman is leading an effort to bring some degree of common sense to the process of creating bike lanes in the city.

Cashman is the founder of Pedal Safe Boston, an advocacy group that is urging a comprehensive, master-planned approach to bike infrastructure development.

According to its website, Pedal Safe is seeking to prioritize safety, accessibility, and proper site studies over rushed rollouts to ensure that city infrastructure works for everyone -- pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists.

In our view, the willy-nilly installation of bike lanes is the epitome of virtue-signaling — municipal planners are doing it just to be able to say they're being environmentally-friendly without any regard for the chaos they're creating. Moreover, given the cutbacks we are facing in federal funding, the millions of dollars being spent on seldomly-used bike lanes would be far better spent to maintain and improve public transportation.

As we noted at the outset of this column, we are avid cyclists. But in view of the poor design of bike lanes and the new challenges of distracted drivers (not to mention that we're not getting any younger), we have cut back our bicycling substantially in recent years.

We urge our municipal and state leaders to listen to what Jay Cashman and many residents are saying and to stop installing new bike lanes until a comprehensive plan can be developed.

"When April's high aspirations..." For those of us who are long-time Red Sox fans, the 1967 Impossible Dream team marked a turning

For those of us who are long-time Red Sox fans, the 1967 Impossible Dream team marked a turning point in the fortunes of the Sox. It was a year when they went from being among the worst teams in baseball to winning the American League pennant for the first time since 1946, and came within a whisker of winning the World Series.

As youngsters, we listened over and over to the record album that was made to commemorate that memorable season of the Kardiac Kids. The album was narrated by Ken Coleman, who at that time was the voice of the Red Sox.

One of the memorable lines on the album, in which Coleman summarized the annual lament of Sox' fans prior to '67, whose hopes for glory in spring training never were borne out, was this: "When April's high aspirations turned to September's tears."

That has been the case for Sox fans for the past few miserable seasons in which the Sox have finished dead last in the American League East. But at least the Sox were in the hunt for a playoff spot up to the All-Star break before they hit the skids.

But this year, it would appear that at the beginning of June, Boston's chances of reaching the playoffs are the proverbial slim to none.

So to paraphrase the Impossible Dream record:

"April's high aspirations

have turned to June's frustrations."

Main Streets

Continued from page 9

icated to providing exceptional service, unparalleled quality and a welcoming atmosphere that makes everyone feel at ease". Please take some time and go visit the newly renovated and beautiful space and meet Luis for yourself. We are working on a way to formally introduce and "open" to the neighborhood with a ribbon cutting but, in the meantime, please welcome him to Mission Hill.

Did you know that you can play trivia at one of our local restaurants 4 nights a week? Yellow Door is the latest establishment to offer this fun option for a night out beginning this week. Get a group of friends or colleagues and come test your knowledge this (and every) week:

- Mondays 8-10 p.m. at Yellow Door Taqueria
 - Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and 8

p.m. at Penguin Pizza

- Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Tavern of Tales
- Saturdays at 7 p.m. at Puddingstone Tavern

Finally, looking for something to do this Friday/month? Check out local artist Luanne Witkowski's art exhibition" Quiet Disruption" at the Kingston Gallery in the South End! Opening Reception: Friday, June 6, 2025, 5:00 - 8:00pm (exhibited through the end of June).

From the description Luanne provided: "The work presented here is a continued exercise in bridging processes, my concerns for the environments we share, and discovery of visual signaling and messaging in my practice. As an environmental advocate, social activist, and reflective practitioner, I find myself looking ahead and backward simultaneously. I am always curious and constantly considering the relationship between intention and action, action and results."

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

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

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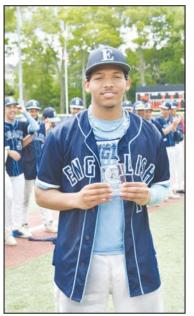
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ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM CELEBRATES CITY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

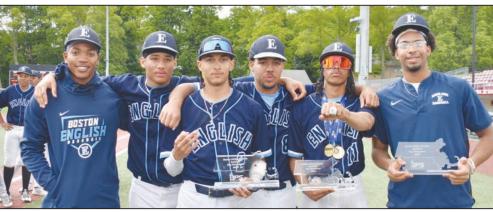
The English High School boys baseball team celebrate their city league championship on Saturday, May 24 after beating Latin Academy 6-4 and ending the season at 16-5. The MVP award was presented to Luis Mejia. The championship was the third-in-arow for the team. The boys hope to repeat as Division 5 state title champions too.



MVP Luis Mejia.



Team picture with the championship trophy.



Senior group with the championship trophy.

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