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MH Legends Pat Flaherty, Maggie Cohn, Rich Giordano, Matilda Drayton, Sophie Deng, Willia Pearl Clark and Chuck Davis; also pictured Chris Dwyer and David Passafaro of New England Baptist Hospital, John Jackson and City Councilor Kenzie Bok.

## What's Happening on Main Streets

By ELLEN WALKER  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

*"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Sir Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of England*

Once again, the Mission Hill American Legion Post 327 and Mission Hill Main Streets pulled off another fabulous ceremony to honor all veterans – those who have served and those who are still with us. The wreath-laying ceremony with Peter Scott and James O'Neil (both are Mission Grammar and High School graduates) was followed by trumpeter Garret Savluk playing the National Anthem, a wonderful ad-

dition to this annual event. Colonel George Rollins oversaw the observance and gave a moving speech regarding George Sahlas (he piloted the last boat out of Normandy Beach) among others. The crowd of guests attending the event included City Councilor At Large, Michael Flaherty and City Councilor Kenzie Bok, both longtime supporters of the Mission Hill community; Councilor Erin Murphy's office was represented as well. After the ceremony, everyone was treated to coffee and donuts by Mike's Donuts, coffee and pastries by Solid Ground Café and pizza by Penguin Pizza – what a great gesture from our local businesses! As usual, everyone shared

conversations, gave each other updates, met new friends and showed camaraderie to honor our veterans from Mission Hill.

On the opposite side of town, another community gathering, and important event, took place on November 16th. I had the good fortune of attending this year's "Building a Better Community Award" event at the Tobin Community Center. New England Baptist Hospital President David A. Passafaro, and the Board of Trustees, honored Mission Hill legends. The "legends" of Mission Hill include Willie Pearl Clark, Chuck Davis, Sophie Deng, Matilda Drayton, Patricia Flaherty, Rich Giordano and Maggie

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## Resounding pushback on Smith Street development

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Many Mission Hill residents voiced their disapproval Tuesday, Nov. 29, at a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) meeting regarding a proposed development at 80 and 100 Smith Street that is 17 years in the making.

On Tuesday, members of the development team presented their project changes to Mission Hill residents for a development

that would demolish the buildings at 80 and 100 Smith Street – the sites of St. Alphonsus Hall and the historic Convent building – to build new residential buildings.

This project was initially approved in 2005 but was then delayed due to economic uncertainties in 2007 and 2008. Over a decade and a half later, as part of an NPC Project, the proposed

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## New BPDA director takes addresses residents

By STEPHEN QUIGLEY

Six months into the top job at the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), Arthur Jemison recently accepted an invitation to hear the concerns of residents at a joint meeting of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council and the North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Jemison is no stranger to Boston. He worked at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in the early 1990s and most recently served as deputy assistant secretary at the feder-

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## Los residentes escuchan al nuevo director de BPDA

By STEPHEN QUIGLEY

Seis meses después de haber ocupado el puesto principal en Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), Arthur Jemison aceptó recientemente una invitación para escuchar las preocupaciones de los residentes en una reunión conjunta de North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council y North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Jemison no es un extraño en Boston. Trabajó en Boston Redevelopment Authority a principios de la década de 1990 y más recientemente se desempeñó

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# Wu announces 'Meet Me In The City,' new holiday initiative

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu this month announced the launch of "Meet Me in the City," a new initiative designed to encourage local tourism through special events, performances, and holiday shopping in Boston's Downtown and neighborhoods. "Meet Me in the City" encourages residents and visitors to come into the city and support local businesses in Downtown and across every neighborhood.

"Our small businesses and cultural institutions are the foundation of our communities and drive our local economy," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We all benefit from more tourism coming to Boston. As we enter this holiday weekend and approach the new year, I encourage everyone to come experience the

vibrancy of our neighborhoods and shop locally here in Boston."

Boston's dynamic small businesses and arts and cultural institutions are critical to the local economy, especially during this year's holiday shopping and entertainment season. With holiday spending forecasted by the Massachusetts Retailers Association to increase 10 percent statewide compared to 2021 and an 8 percent inflation rate, the "Meet Me in the City" initiative encourages residents and visitors in the greater Boston area to experience the city and invest in our communities.

Following a recent report by the City and Boston Consulting Group detailing some of the challenges facing Downtown Boston, Mayor Wu along with key City and business leaders have re-launched PLAN: Downtown. The plan, in conjunction with the

Downtown Revitalization report, sets a roadmap for the City to reimagine Downtown Boston as a truly inclusive neighborhood filled with new homes, diverse businesses, world-class public spaces, vibrant nightlife, and a thriving arts and culture scene.

"This initiative is an important step to encourage residents and visitors alike to shop local and increase consumer spending during the holiday season," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "More than 50 percent of Americans shop small on Small Business Saturday, and this campaign will help drive activity to Boston's Downtown and neighborhood districts this weekend and into the new year to showcase thriving, vibrant, and inclusive spaces for all of our residents and visitors to spend the holidays once again, while supporting our local econo-

my."

"Meet Me In the City" leverages the City's award winning All Inclusive Boston campaign to focus on raising awareness and elevate the visibility of the Mayor's call to shop local this holiday season through a significant commitment to advertising with neighborhood newspapers and sites, along with local television partnerships and collaborative activations. Encouraging patrons, visitors and residents to use 'the power of the purse with passion and purpose', the initiative also aims to address the shift to remote work, which has significantly reshaped the central business core. For years, Downtown Boston was one of the busiest neighborhoods in the city, with heavy, daily foot traffic driven by thousands of office workers. However, foot traffic numbers have remained down by 40 per-

cent since the pandemic. The "Meet Me in the City" initiative is aligned with the Mayor's vision to address this shift and ensure that Downtown is a vibrant neighborhood where people from all backgrounds come together.

Beginning this month, holiday tree lightings kick off the season before and after Thanksgiving, along with beloved new and familiar holiday traditions like Boston Ballet's Nutcracker, Boston Pops, Urban Nutcracker, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, Black Nativity, ice skating on the Frog Pond and the annual New Year's Eve celebration, First Night. The City of Boston's holiday tree lighting in Boston Common takes place December 1, followed by local neighborhood tree lightings throughout the city.

## Smith Street

Continued from page 1

development is on track to becoming a reality – with some tweaks.

At 80 Smith Street, the new development would remain eight stories tall; however, it would include 86 units instead of 85. Whereas at 100 Smith Street, the new residential building would go from 14 stories to 13; however, units would increase from 116 to 132.

Originally 90 Smith Street was included in the project's scope; however, due to renovations to the property back in 2010 and its use as office space, it is no longer included in the development.

Other changes include improvements to cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, as well as decreasing the number of parking spots from 221 to 87, among others.

Also, the team proposed a four-story, 45-unit income-restricted homeownership building on Delle Avenue to coincide with the NPC project at the site of the old Nuns' field. This development would also include a 9,375-square-foot community open space park.

"We took the initiative to come up with a concept – for discussion



A rendering of the proposed development at 80-100 Smith Street.

purposes – as to how we think we could further improve the approved project with a greater amount of IDP but also to dedicate it as homeownership with real open space and a quality environment," said Zoning and Permitting Attorney Joe Hanley regarding the Delle Avenue proposal.

Although the project has seen some changes since 2005, an overwhelming majority of Mission Hill residents were dissatisfied and even outright opposed the plans for several reasons.

One of the biggest concerns for residents was the proposed size of units contributing to more renters and increasing the transient population, which is already significant in the area. Of the 218 total units between the two proposed Smith Street

residential buildings, 164 would range from studio to one-bedroom plus units.

"I don't know about anybody here, but I'm going to guess that none of our developers or attorneys live in a one-bedroom with their families," said Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) Board Member Cindy Walling

"This project brings nothing to this neighborhood but more transient population," she added.

Another resident and CAMH board member, Luanne Witkowski, echoed Walling saying, "I just don't see the benefit to our community that this project brings. I see like hundreds of rental units that are only small enough for one or two people."

"We feel overrun with a student population and a transient population in this neighborhood,"

she added.

Other significant concerns include the project's effect on abutters, namely the Mission Grammar School. Jenna Clark mentioned safety concerns such as increased traffic at pick-up and drop-off areas, construction, and more.

"I keep hearing you say – the Mission Grammar School – safety is so important – and I totally agree, but I'm not hearing how you actually plan on ensuring safety," said Clark.

The development team emphasized their commitment to ensuring the safety of students and families in the Mission Grammar School community, especially in terms of pick-up and drop-off areas.

"What we're proposing is to work with a true transportation consultant like VHB and put them at the disposal of the school so they can come up with us collaboratively – with a plan that works for everybody," said Sean Curran, a member of the project's team dealing with community outreach from Waterville Consulting.

Furthermore, the proposal on Delle Avenue did not go over that well either, as residents felt that if there was going to be an opportunity for homeownership, it ought to be on Smith Street, not elsewhere.

"People have been more and more recognizing that homeownership is important, and it needs to be here on Smith Street. If you want to build it elsewhere on the Hill, I think you can have the discussion with that, but it needs to be built here," said CAMH's Membership Secretary, Gary Walling.

Patricia Flaherty also emphasized the need for homeownership on Smith Street, citing an increase in gentrification and transient developments in the area.

"When Sean Curran came out to meetings, people did talk about the need for homeownership – we didn't talk about the need for homeownership on Delle Avenue; we talked about the need for homeownership right here on Smith Street," said Flaherty.

Overall, Gary Walling probably summarized the opinions of Mission Hill residents best in that it seems like, for many, the clock struck midnight on this project years ago.

"This is not the right project for Mission Hill. We keep talking about how everything was accepted – that was 17 years ago – things change in 17 years. I know the sun and the shadows don't change, as you brought up in the last meeting, but the needs of the neighborhood do," said Gary Walling.

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## New Director

Continued from page 1

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jemison pointed out that the original mission of the BRA in the 1950s and 60s was to get rid of blighted, substandard housing -- also known as urban renewal -- but that is not the case today.

He told the audience that the two principal areas that need to be addressed now are increasing the number of affordable housing units and making the city more resilient to global warming, the latter of which is of particular concern to the North End.

With 70 percent of the city's revenues coming from property taxes, Jemison said, "Growth of the tax base needs to happen and development is essential. The city must do planning and develop-

ment at the same time that are ahead of the trends that developers are looking at, and shape them into what works for the city."

After making his introductory remarks, Jemison opened up the floor to questions to the more than 50 residents in attendance, telling the audience that he was here to take notes and to hear the concerns of residents.

Many in attendance voiced a similar concern: that the current Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) does not take the time to hear all points-of-view from residents by limiting the number of community speakers at its meetings.

As one resident bluntly put it, "Our input is ignored."

Jemison explained that because of a high threshold for projects pursuant to the city's zoning ordinances, many projects automatically go before the ZBA, which entails a high volume of work for the ZBA.

One resident mentioned that commercial development in the North End seems to be focused on only more restaurants and less on small businesses that provide services, such as a shoe cobbler.

Diane Valle of Charlestown noted that the master planning process in communities such as Charlestown is not going well, a comment that came as a surprise to Jemison.

During the meeting it was pointed out that Maverick Square in East Boston has more density than the North End, a fact that surprised some in attendance, who suggested that density in the No. End is too high.

One resident noted that developers are trying to get a 700-foot tower built in the Bulfinch Triangle where the zoning only allows for a 100-foot height limit.

This prompted another resident to ask, "Does zoning mean anything?"

"Development is not more

important than the citizens of Boston," said Jemison.

Another resident brought up the impact on the neighborhood with the growth of local colleges and the housing of students,

which is squeezing out many long-time residents.

The meeting ended with Jemison promising that he would, "love to come back and touch base again with residents."

## Nuevo director

Continued from page 1

como subsecretario adjunto en Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jemison señaló que la misión original de BRA en las décadas de 1950 y 1960 era deshacerse de las viviendas deterioradas y deficientes, también conocida como renovación urbana, pero ese no es el caso hoy.

Le dijo a la audiencia que las dos áreas principales que deben abordarse ahora son aumentar la cantidad de unidades de vivienda asequible y hacer que la ciudad sea más resistente al calentamiento global, el último de los cuales es de particular preocupación para el North End.

Dado que el 70 por ciento de los ingresos de la ciudad provienen de los impuestos a la propiedad, dijo Jemison, "el crecimiento de la base impositiva debe ocurrir y el desarrollo es esencial".

Muchos de los asistentes expresaron una preocupación similar: que la actual Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) no se toma el tiempo de escuchar todos los puntos de vista de los residentes al limitar el número de oradores en sus reuniones.

Jemison explicó que muchos proyectos pasan automáticamente ante la ZBA, lo que implica un gran volumen de trabajo para la junta.

Un residente mencionó que el desarrollo comercial en North End parece estar enfocado más en restaurantes y menos en pequeñas empresas que brindan servicios, como zapateros.

Diane Valle de Charlestown

señaló que el proceso de planificación maestra en comunidades como Charlestown no va bien, un comentario que sorprendió a Jemison.

Alguien notó que Maverick Square en East Boston tiene más densidad que North End, un hecho que sorprendió a algunos asistentes, quienes sugirieron que la densidad en North End es demasiado alta.

Un residente señaló que los desarrolladores están tratando de construir una torre de 700 pies en el Triángulo de Bulfinch, donde la zonificación solo per-

mite un límite de altura de 100 pies.

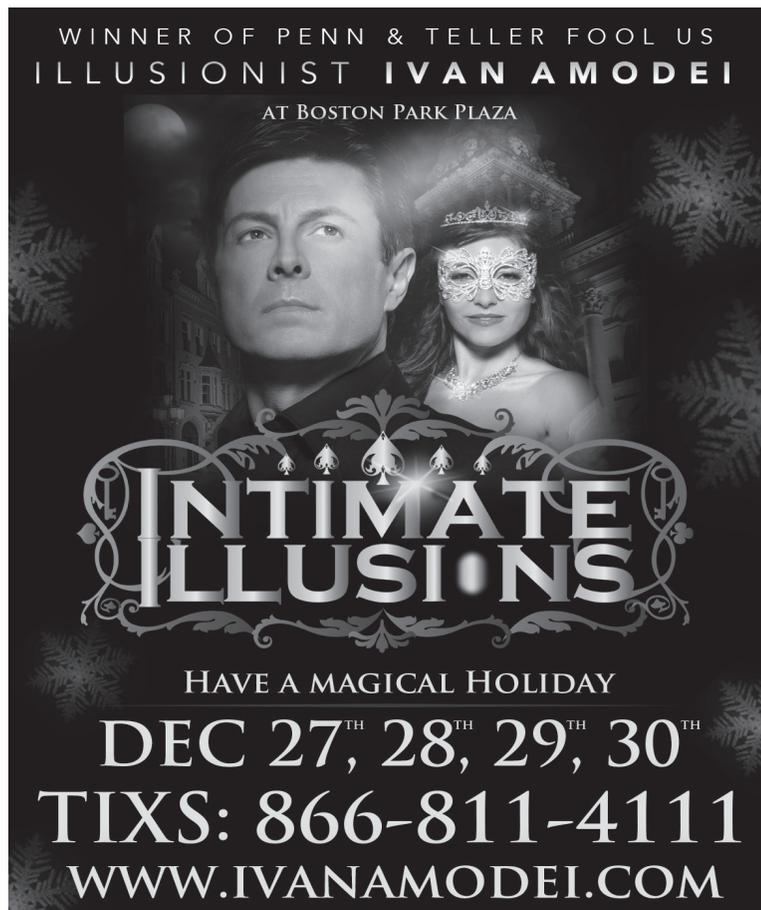
Esto llevó a otro residente a preguntar: "¿Significa algo la zonificación?"

"El desarrollo no es más importante que los ciudadanos de Boston", dijo Jemison.

Otro residente mencionó el impacto en el vecindario con el crecimiento de las universidades locales y la vivienda de los estudiantes, lo que está expulsando a muchos residentes de largo plazo.

Jemison dijo que "le encantaría volver y contactar nuevamente con los residentes".

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## Tremont/Columbus Avenue Bus Lanes Project Phase 2

VIRTUAL MEETING (ZOOM WEBINAR)

**Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

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The Columbus Avenue Bus Lanes Project aims to improve transit times along some of our busiest bus routes. Phase 2 is in the concept development stage, and will include improvements to bus stops and shelters along Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street.

We appreciate the feedback provided during our 10/26 Virtual Meeting and the 11/9 Open House, as well as feedback submitted through the project's online feedback form. To continue the conversation, a Virtual Public Meeting will be held on Monday, December 12 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. During this meeting, the project team will share feedback received so far, present initial high-level concept ideas based on your feedback and the project goals, and solicit feedback on how the initial ideas align with your feedback and areas for improvement.

Project website: [MBTA.com/tremontcolumbus](http://MBTA.com/tremontcolumbus)

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This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. The MBTA provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language (ASL) and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, braille, and large print, as available.

# Cirque du Soleil presents 'Twas the Night Before' at the Wang Theatre

STORY BY MARIANNE SALZA

Cirque du Soleil is presenting "Twas the Night Before" at the Wang Theatre through December 11. This cheerful and thrilling production is a playful twist on the iconic Christmas poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," by Clement Clarke Moore.

"It's cold outside, but we are bringing the warmth," beamed acrobat and hoop diver, Evan Tomlinson Weintraub, of San Francisco, California. "It is a moment for families to come together."

This holiday season, join Cirque du Soleil for its first Christmas show about the spirit of Christmas, and the wonders of sharing and friendship. On Christmas Eve, a father reads the classic story to his teenage daughter, Isabelle. Disenchanted by the craze of Christmas, Isabelle is uninterested in the family tradition.

Magic emerges as a spark of light; and the jaded Isabelle is separated from her father by a storm. She is whisked on a fantastical journey through a winter wonderland, where the young

girl meets reimagined characters from the poem.

Unlike in the original version of the tale, the children in "Twas the Night Before" are not snuggled in their beds, patiently awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Dressed in candy cane-striped onesie pajamas, they are wide awake and eager to see Santa in this high-energy, comical, acrobatic table routine.

"My character is so happy waiting for Santa Claus," laughed acrobat and hoop diver, Jinge Wang, of China, who plays a boy that instigates the frenzied chaos.

Similar to his character, Wang remembers being too excited to sleep on Christmas Eve. Although he spent last Christmas performing with Cirque du Soleil in Mexico, Wang associates Christmas with chilliness, snow — and, no matter the temperature — eating ice cream.

"It's a big celebration with family," described Wang about what Christmas means to him. "Everybody enjoys the Christmas atmosphere."

Wang and Weintraub's favorite trick is performed in the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Children, unable to fall asleep, anticipate Santa's arrival in an acrobatic table routine in "Twas the Night Before."

scene, when the little ones hear Santa on the roof.

"In three high, people stand on top of each other's shoulders, looking for Santa Claus. I'm the one on top. Then I fall and roll. I can't see the audience, but I can hear their screaming and clapping" explained Wang, who has studied acrobatics for 22 years, and also practiced wushu, Chinese martial arts.

Weintraub, as Prancer, and Wang, as Comet, also perform in the hoop diving act that introduces Santa's playful reindeer as a collaborative team.

"I think what's nice about



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Evan Tomlinson Weintraub (left) and Jinge Wang, acrobats and hoop diver performers in Cirque du Soleil's "Twas the Night Before."

this show is that it's built for families," said Weintraub, who celebrates Christmas on a warm beach with his family. "We tap into the memories of when we were kids, and translate that energy to them to make the show special."

Weintraub and Wang especially love the enthusiasm and awe of young viewers.

"The more feedback from the audience, the more it helps us to go further," smiled 30-year-old, Weintraub, who has been a circus acrobat for 18 years; and before that, was a gymnast. "We are giving so much energy, that when we receive it back, it's like a cycle. It gets better and better."

Friends, Weintraub and Wang, worked together in "Twas the Night Before," in 2019 when the production first debuted. To prepare this year, the acrobats rehearsed the choreography for seven weeks: six days a week for five hours.

"This show has become a hit and classic for Cirque du Soleil," said Weintraub, who appreciates the supportive teamwork of the circus. "We're not seeing outrageous changes to it. We're coming back into a roll that's familiar, which is nice. It's a significant amount of time to put in and be learning something. It's muscle memory now."

Weintraub and Wang's golden-antlered reindeer conclude the production as Isabelle is reunited with her father; and they read the poem together.

"They start to explore what Christmas means, where the spark of Christmas comes from, and what it means to share the warmth and light with each other," Weintraub revealed.

## MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

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## Main Streets

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Cohn (who were referred to as Mission Hill's "power couple"). These individuals were instrumental in the community and worked to provide housing, equity and access. Congratulations once again to each of you! John Jackson, a member of the Board of Trustees, also spoke about the importance of recognizing these individuals. As the "movers and shakers" of our community, I was

not surprised that all of them are so humble in receiving their recognitions. To all awardees, it is never about them, but rather the people that they serve – an exemplary spirit we all took note of.

A great community only thrives with appropriate attention given to the arts. The Mission Hill Arts Festival is already working on their 2023 lineup. The festival is getting better every year with an array of supporters including Celebrity Series. Did you know that Dan

Vlahos, INFocus Camera Club member, designer, artist and educator, along with interns Felica Fishel and Joseph Lopilato, designed the MH Arts Festival printed collateral? It is being recognized by MassArt x SoWA Gallery in their inaugural Design Biennial. This new exhibit opens on November 19th and the juried exhibition features select work from faculty, students, alumni and staff. Kudos to Dan, Felica and Joseph!

Recently I stopped by to view the exhibitions at Massachusetts College of Arts and Design museum, MAAM. The exhibits present a combination of works by renowned artists, students and faculty. The most impressive piece of artwork is an installation of sculpture with artistically woven fabric, which occupies the entire second floor. The "Valkyrie Mumbet" was created by artist Joana Vaconcelos. Admission is free but be sure to check the museum hours because of Holiday schedules at the school.

Mayor Michelle Wu is continuing the holiday tradition of



Mission Hill American Legion Post 327 Wreath bearers Peter Scott and James O'Neil.



Garret Savluk, trumpeter, performing the national anthem for the Mission Hill American Legion Post 327.

The Mayor's Annual Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting at Brigham Circle again this year. This is a festive celebration begun by former Mayor Thomas Menino and the popular neighborhood event is on Saturday, December 3rd at 3:45 pm. Hope you can attend and bring the family to enjoy the goodies from our Mayor!

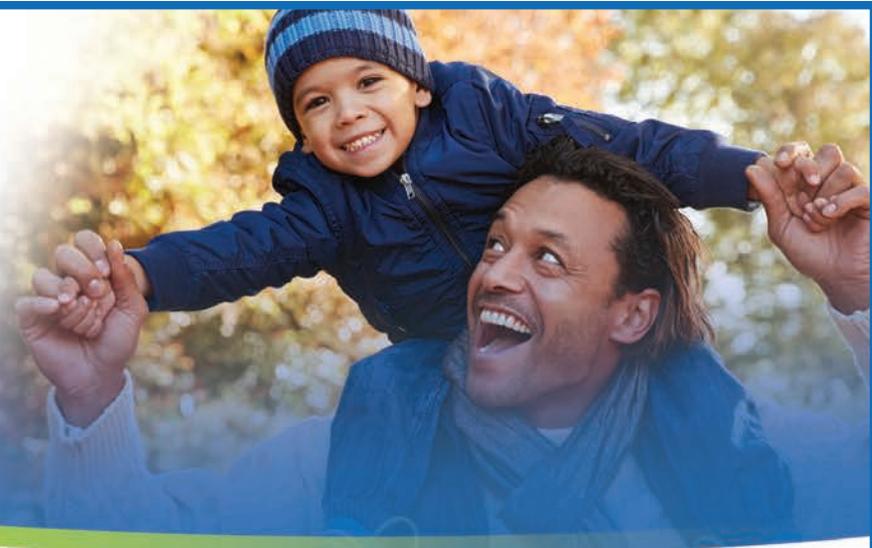
On the same day, MHMS will launch its "Shop Small, Shop Local!" campaign. The promotion runs from December 3rd to January 7th. MHMS small business promotions include (1) Spend \$5

at a local business, fill out the snowflake-card and show your support; and (2) get yourself a new look for the holidays at our local hair salons or barbershops and enter a raffle to win MHMS Swag. Participating businesses include Carman's Hair Salon, Liz's Hair Care, In The Cut Barbershop, Sully's Barbershop and Vanity Loft Salon; and most importantly (3) remember to "Shop Small, Shop Local!" this holiday season.

Until next month, take care and be safe!

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# Mass Humanities launches End of Year Giving Appeal

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mass Humanities, the state-wide council that champions opportunities for communities in Massachusetts to share their stories through grants, launched its annual End of Year Giving appeal.

Since 1974, the council has believed that the humanities needs to include diverse authors, stories, and ideas. With a proven track record of championing the

humanities, Mass Humanities amplifies the diverse ideas and stories that its grantees generate, through public events and media partnerships. Through these grants Mass Humanities aims to reinvigorate our democracy by telling, sharing, and reimagining the diverse stories and ideas of our citizens across the state.

“At Mass Humanities, we support the people and places committed to a better future. Our



Students reading about the life and legacy of Frederick Douglas during the Reading Frederick Douglas Together event organized by Mass Humanities.

grantees and partners are the architects who can rebuild our democracy,” said Brian Boyles,

Executive Director of Mass Humanities. “Your contribution to our fundraising campaign directly supports this resilient, vibrant network.”

The past two years have been trying times for nonprofits across Massachusetts. Many small organizations have been doing more with less, are understaffed and are in need of financial support to continue their work of providing meaningful access to the humanities.

In every region of Massachusetts, there are organizations and people who count on Mass Humanities to continue to tell their stories. A contribution to Mass Humanities--no matter how big or small--is an investment in our people, our mission to reshape our democracy and our ability to uplift vulnerable nonprofits this holiday season and beyond.

“The future of our nation depends on people like you, who understand that change begins at the local level when we come together to learn, share, and imagine a better way,” continued Boyles. “This has been a time of separation and anger, but it has also been a time of renewal, of personal strength, and of earth-shaking calls for a better way. In the face of rising intolerance, the humanities connect us to our place and to each other.”

Donations can be made at [www.masshumanities.org/support/](http://www.masshumanities.org/support/)

“I hope you can make a contribution and I hope you can visit a local humanities organization to be a part of this rebuilding,” added Boyles. “Together, we can reimagine the stories of Massachusetts and fulfill the promise of a democracy led by and for the people.”

Why your support matters This year, Mass Humanities

committed to bringing more organizations and people into this statewide network.

In 2022, the council saw significant results of this commitment by:

- Supporting more organizations: Mass Humanities delivered \$1 million in direct funding to Massachusetts non-profits in 2022, part of \$5 million in grants awarded since 2019.

- Reaching new communities: 42% of Mass Humanities 100 grantees were first-time grantees in 2022.

- Going to bat for grassroots organizations: 68% of Mass Humanities major grants went to organizations with annual budgets of less than \$500,000; 69% had five or fewer employees.

- Creating opportunities for diverse audiences: 73% of Mass Humanities 2022 Clemente Course in the Humanities students self-identified as people of color.

“Your contribution this month to our fundraising campaign directly supports this resilient, vibrant network,” said Boyles.

What your donation supports From the local museum director who rallies a small town to read the words of Frederick Douglass on Juneteenth to the human services center that welcomes new immigrants to record and share their stories. From the documentary filmmaker chronicling the lives and heroic persistence of her neighbors to the librarian willing to host a difficult conversation in the face of hostile threats. From the single mother juggling two jobs to study history and improve her writing skills through the Clemente Course in the Humanities to the faculty members tutoring, mentoring, and encouraging Cle-

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# Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

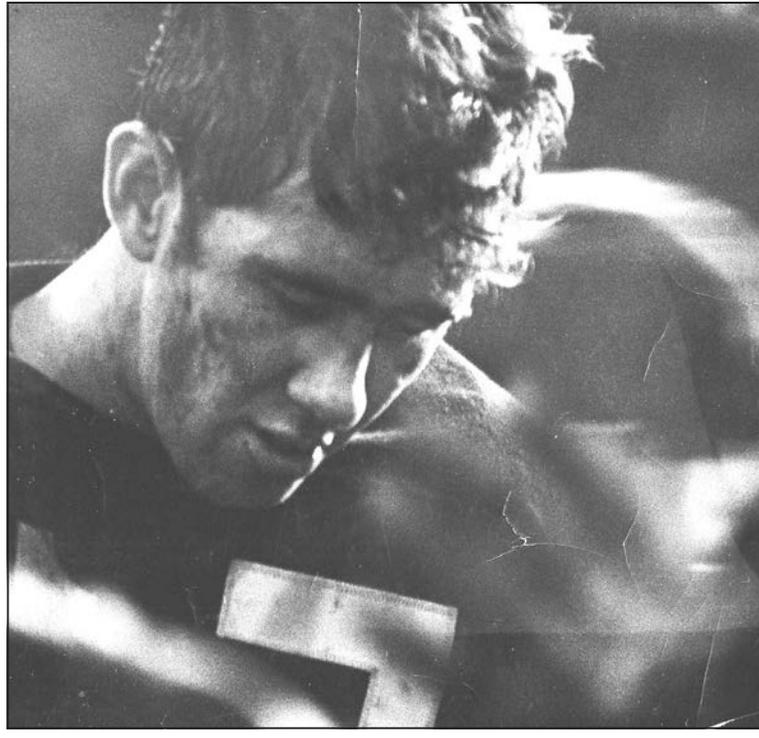
A stately crowd gathered on Veterans Day at Brigham Circle to pay homage to our servicemen, and Mission Hill Post 327 Commander Col. George Rollins directed the ceremony.

The Colonel cited two of our Mission Hill Post members, 99-year-old World War II veteran George Salah and Tom McCarthy, who survived five bullet wounds in Vietnam.

Tom, although small in stature, has always been a tough guy going back to his Tobin Court days in the Mission Hill project, and Tom played on the last Mission High football team in 1964.

A nice added feature to this year's Veterans Day ceremony was the appearance of Garret Saluk, who beautifully played the National Anthem with his trumpet. After the festivities a dozen of us enjoyed a fine meal at the Mission Bar & Grill. It was a nice gesture by Paul Fitzgerald, who happened to be at the Mission, to spring for a few rounds of drinks. Paul, a hard worker at the N.E. Baptist Hospital has always been a supporter of our veterans. His dad, the late "Big Dan" Fitzgerald from Sachus Street was a World War II veteran.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the Mission Hill Post participated in the State Veterans Parade, which started at Copley Square. I was happy to see the massive crowd



Tom McCarthy, during his time on the Mission High football team in 1964.

on a beautiful day, and thanks to Rich Gormley for the use of his limousine for the parade. Rich, who is a great guy and a Vietnam veteran, is the proprietor of Gormley Funeral in West Roxbury.

Another excellent restaurant is the Galway House in J.P. and belated thanks to the Galway for their donation to the Mission Hill Post Golf Fundraiser in October.

Happy birthday (Dec. 5) to lovely Jesse Barry, a dedicated teacher at Maurice J. Tobin School for 26 years. This is a milestone birthday for Jesse, who stops in Mike's Donuts every

morning for her coffee, always with a joyous smile.

Condolences to the family of Robert Lee Spicer, who passed away last month. Robert was living in Brockton, and he was a manager for Howard Johnson and Hotel Co. Robert comes from a wonderful Mission Hill family.

In last month's Op Ed page

in the Gazette, Glenn Mollette wrote an interesting piece about John Fetterman and Franklin D. Roosevelt and their physical handicaps.

Mollette stated that F.D.R. was "one of the greatest presidents of all time." As president from 1933 to 1945, F.D.R. had some notable accomplishments. However, not mentioned by Mollette was Roosevelt's executive order 9066, which ordered the imprisonment of 120,000 Japanese Americans a few months after Japan attacked us at Pearl Harbor.

The majority of the 120,000 were American citizens who lost their homes and businesses. This was reprehensible.

Seventy years ago, Torpie Street in Mission Hill was called "South Worthington Street," but the name changed after William J. Torpie was killed in World War II.

Last month, the rusting Torpie Street sign was replaced; however the new street sign is spelled incorrectly. City Councilor Kenzie Bok was notified of this glaring error.

William Torpie is on the Brigham Circle Memorial along with the other Mission Hill vet-

erans killed in the line of duty.

It was nice chatting with old buddy Frank Pedersen last week at Mike's Donuts. Frank, from the Mission Hill project, was a rugged middle linebacker for the Killilea Club during the glory days of Boston Park League football, more than 50 years ago when thousands of fans would flock to Fens Stadium for the games.

The Killilea Club played the Hanna Club from Roxbury in the championship game in 1969 at White Stadium before an overflow crowd. Killilea led throughout most of the game, but Hanna came from behind to win the title.

A distraught Frank Pedersen went directly to the locker room and didn't congratulate the victors despite being close friends with Hanna's coach, Buster Carline, and Hanna's linebacker, Sauce Callahan. As happens in life, friends go in different directions and it would be another 25 years before Pedersen and Callahan would reunite.

Pedersen finally congratulated his Hanna Club rival, saying, "Good game." Replied Callahan, "It's about time."

Maurice can be reached at [mossymartin2@gmail.com](mailto:mossymartin2@gmail.com)

## Mass Humanities

Continued from page 6

mente students in six cities.

The future of the Commonwealth depends on these people, these voices and these stories.

Your support can help ensure important Mass Humanities' programs and initiatives thrive across the state such as:

- Expand Massachusetts Stories: Through the Expand Massachusetts Stories grants program Mass Humanities supports projects that collect, interpret and/or share narratives about the Commonwealth, with an emphasis on the voices and experiences that have gone unrecognized, or have been excluded from public conversation.
- Reading Frederick Douglas

Together: Each year, Mass Humanities organizes and funds an event series where communities gather together to read and talk about Frederick Douglass's influential address, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?

- Smithsonian Museum on Main Streets: Mass Humanities partners with small towns to bring the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street to Massachusetts, with the goal of engaging small town audiences and revitalizing attention to rural communities.

- Clemente Course in the Humanities: The Clemente Course champions opportunities for Massachusetts residents from historically and systemically excluded communities to engage with, discuss, and author stories and ideas about our democracy.

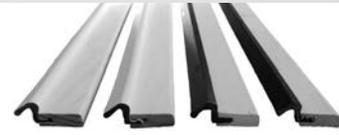


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# The Art of the Brick

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
MARIANNE SALZA

Nathan Sawaya shapes rigid, plastic LEGO blocks into intricate and dynamic figures in his exhibition, The Art of the Brick, on display in the Back Bay through Sunday, April 23. The contemporary artist is returning to Boston following sold-out

shows in Faneuil Hall in 2014. Twice as large, this installation features over 90 of his newest sculptures assembled from nearly one million LEGOs that are individually glued together.

“I think the role of an artist is to inspire. I hope that by sharing this work with the community, they are inspired. I have found over time that art is not option-



Nathan Sawaya sitting in his interactive sculpture, “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces).

al,” a message Sawaya emphasizes throughout the exhibition. “If you have a little art in your life, you’re going to be smarter.”

Visitors can explore three floors of original artwork and re-imagined masterpieces. The collection includes a description and the number of LEGOs used in each design.

On the first floor, one can view a version of Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” (3,493 pieces), and a three-dimensional, full-scale, mosaic-like replica of Gustav Klimt’s oil and gold leaf painting, “The Kiss” (18,893 pieces), of a couple embracing on a bed of grass and flowers.



“Red Dress,” 62,750 pieces, part of Sawaya’s collaboration with photographer, Dean West.

Stand beside “Dinosaur Skeleton,” (80,020 pieces), a 20-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex, which took Sawaya an entire summer to construct; or peer into “Pop-Up Book” (19,822 pieces), in which a castle appears from the middle of an open story book.

The third floor is an interactive area. In “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces), sit on a pastel wingback armchair that is surrounded by whimsical accoutrements like a heart-shaped pillow and giant soft serve ice cream cone. Families can design cars to race on a track in the creative LEGO brick play stations.

Sawaya grew up in a small, Oregon town. He has loved playing with LEGOs since he was 5-years-old; even bringing the nostalgic toys to college and storing them beneath his bed as a source of comfort.

Later in life, Sawaya discovered LEGOs as an art medium. He still enjoys receiving sets as gifts, as he finds building according to instructions to be relaxing. The 1x2 jumper -- with one stud in the middle of a plate -- is Sawaya’s favorite LEGO brick to use because it provides him options for details.

“I don’t feel the passage of time when I’m building. I go into a trance; and I am building away. I’ll do 10-12 hours with no problem. Office work for 10 hours was mind-numbing and draining,” groaned the former New York City corporate lawyer. “This is a different type of work that I really enjoy. I found my passion.”

Sawaya’s skills in contract negotiations have helped him as a businessman. His LEGO

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"Little Dancer of Fourteen" (7,100 pieces), "The Scream" (3,991 pieces), and "The Thinker" (4,332 pieces).



Sawaya's original designs on the first floor: "Pop-Up Book," "Baseball Player," "Ball and Jacks," "Pointing," and "Crayons."

### Art of Brick

Continued from page 8

sculptures have been on display in over 100 cities in 24 countries.

"The role depression played resulted in certain works," revealed Sawaya, whose sculptures reflect the construction of identity. "There are themes of emerging, transition, and metamorphosis that come out of the time I was a lawyer."

When Sawaya initially began approaching galleries to feature his LEGO creations, he received opposition; once he began using movement in human form, the art world began to open. He was approached by Warner Brothers Pictures to create a 1:1 scale replica of the Central Perk coffee shop in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Friends sitcom.

"I was trying to showcase how you could put emotion into the art," explained Sawaya. "It had to be life-size for it to work."

In The Art of the Brick, Sawaya collaborated with photographer, Dean West, to produce brick-infused images. He imitated the flow of fabric in

"Red Dress" (62,750 pieces), an asymmetrical cocktail dress with a sweetheart neckline that is worn by a model in one of West's photographs.

"In this gallery, called 'In Pieces,' we see the integration of the work into photography. That was pure joy because I got to take LEGO in a new direction. It wasn't just putting art on a pedestal," said Sawaya. "That was an amazing time for me."

View the Art of the Brick in the newly-renovated museum



Contemporary artist, Nathan Sawaya, standing beside his 20-foot-long "Dinosaur Skeleton," made of 80,020 bricks.

The first floor of The Art of the Brick exhibition features art replicas such as, "The Kiss" (18,893 pieces), and full body statues like, "Venus de Milo" (18,483 pieces), "Augustus of Prima Porta" (22,300 pieces), and "David" (16,349 pieces).

space located at 343 Newbury Street (previously Forever 21) Sunday-Thursday 10am-6pm, and Friday-Saturday 10am-8pm. Tickets cost \$24 for children and \$28 for adults. Visit [www.ArtOfTheBrickExhibit.com](http://www.ArtOfTheBrickExhibit.com) for more information.

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# Baker, Polito join roundtable discussion on opioid epidemic over the past eight years

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, Attorney General Maura Healey, and leaders from the recovery community for a roundtable discussion on the Baker-Polito Administration's collaborative progress in confronting the opioid epidemic over the past eight years. The roundtable discussion was held at A New Way Peer Recovery Center in Quincy and included reflections from individuals and family members impacted by the opioid epidemic, as well as substance misuse providers and organizations. Roundtable participants included members

of Governor Baker's 2015 Opioid Working Group.

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked with the Legislature to support a fivefold increase in spending across the state budget to address substance misuse, with the Commonwealth investing nearly \$600 million in these initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget signed by Governor Baker. The Administration also worked with the Legislature to pass two landmark laws to address the opioid epidemic: The first law, passed in 2016, instituted a first-in-the-nation 7-day limit on first time opioid prescriptions and instituted new requirements around prescription monitoring and substance

misuse screenings. The second law, passed in 2018, improved access to treatment from settings such as emergency departments and the criminal justice system, and strengthened education and prevention efforts.

"The opioid epidemic has impacted thousands of families and communities across Massachusetts, and we have partnered with many organizations, leaders and families over the past eight years to make the Commonwealth a national leader in responding to this challenge," said Governor Charlie Baker. "I am proud that our Administration and the Legislature have dramatically boosted funding that has increased access to treatment and recovery and enacted major laws that have become a model for other states and the nation. Most importantly, we have worked together to change the conversation and reduce stigma, which will help more people seek help and get the resources they need."

"Our administration has made tackling the opioid epidemic a priority since day one, and we have been proud to work with so many partners to expand access to treatment and support recovery and prevention efforts," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "Over the past eight years, Massachusetts has led the way in expanding substance misuse initiatives and getting people access to the help that they need."

The Baker-Polito Administration has worked with a wide range of partners including treatment and recovery providers, advocacy organizations, individuals, families, the courts, law enforcement, educational institutions and many others to confront the opioid epidemic. After peaking in 2016, opioid-related overdose deaths fell for the next several years, with the November 2019 report showing 99 fewer deaths than the same period from a year earlier. The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a nationwide increase in overdose deaths, but Massachusetts'



Shown at the roundtable discussion are (left to right) Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Governor Charlie Baker and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders.

numbers have continued to trend lower than nationwide figures, and the most recent report from the Department of Public Health (DPH) indicated that initial 2022 data showed overdose deaths decreasing again.

"Over the past eight years, we have made enormous strides in raising awareness and improving access to quality, equitable substance use disorder and behavioral health treatment across the Commonwealth," said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. "We have invested strategically in evidence-based resources and promising practices including peer recovery, clinical treatment, harm reduction, outreach programs and low-threshold housing, recognizing that every individual's path to recovery is unique."

"Combating the opioid crisis has been and will remain a top priority in Massachusetts," said Attorney General Maura Healey. "Together, with the Baker-Polito Administration, we have made meaningful progress in the fight against this epidemic and will continue to work toward justice, accountability, and improved access to treatment and recovery for our communities."

"A New Way Peer Recovery Support Center, hosted by Bay State Community Services, welcomes everyone impacted by substance use disorders," said

Daurice Cox, Executive Director, Bay State Community Services. "We are a safe place that offers all pathways for recovery. Our staff use their lived experience, as people in recovery or as an ally in recovery, to provide support, compassion, understanding, and connection."

Baker-Polito Administration's Collaborative Record to Confront the Opioid Epidemic:

**5X Increase in Substance Misuse Funding:** Since taking office in 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked with the Legislature to support a fivefold increase to state spending to address substance misuse. The FY23 budget signed by Governor Baker invests \$597 million in funding for substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery programs across multiple state agencies, compared to \$119 million in FY15.

**2016 Opioid Law:** Shortly after taking office, the Administration worked with the Legislature to pass landmark legislation to tackle the opioid crisis. Key components include:

- A first-in-the-nation 7-day limit on first time adult opioid prescriptions and a 7-day limit on all opioid prescriptions for minors
- New requirements for clinicians to check the Prescription Monitoring Program database before prescribing
- New requirements for schools to conduct substance misuse screenings and strengthen addiction education

**2018 Opioid Law:** In 2018, the Administration worked with the Legislature to pass a second major law that strengthened the



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# Wu announces steps to transition to renewable energy

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced next steps to purchase renewable energy for municipal properties in Boston in the form of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Through power purchase agreements (PPAs) the City seeks to purchase renewable energy from external suppliers, empowering the market as a guaranteed buyer. This announcement is a step towards achieving Boston's environmental goals that are at the intersection of equity, green jobs, and renewable energy. This procurement is part of a larger initiative to expand additional investments in municipal energy efficiency, accelerate local energy grid transformation while creating new economic opportunities and green jobs. This structure builds off of Renew Boston Trust (RBT), a City of Boston program that finances energy efficiency projects through its projected energy cost savings. The guiding principles of RBT creates green jobs, fosters cost savings, and reduces emissions through energy audits and conservation upgrades for municipal buildings.

"When the City of Boston invests in green, renewable energy, we all benefit," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This procurement will help us run our municipal buildings off of clean energy, while also creating green jobs and improving community

health for generations to come."

Throughout Boston, buildings account for nearly 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, and City-owned buildings account for nearly three-quarters of emissions from local municipal operations. To transition to a renewable energy supplier, the City of Boston is seeking proposals from qualified applicants to provide approximately 15,000 MWh per year of electricity to the City's energy portfolio, which accounts for about 10 percent of the City's annual energy needs. The City of Boston currently purchases 20 percent renewable energy, which is in alignment with the state's renewable portfolio standard. The City of Boston will work gradually to increase renewable energy sources within the current energy portfolio while helping to invest in local projects that bring co-benefits to the Boston community, with a particular focus on environmental justice neighborhoods. By providing multiple smaller procurement opportunities annually and by setting clear planning horizons, the City of Boston can reduce barriers and support the creation of a diverse, regional energy market.

"By stepping out as the first purchaser for renewable energy projects, the City of Boston will stimulate the market to meet our energy needs in a way that is resilient and supports the creation of exciting new workforce oppor-

tunities," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "This is an investment in our communities and our collective future and I am thrilled to support Boston in this work."

In addition to reducing municipal carbon emissions, the City is encouraging "renewable resource additionality", which is the development of new, local green energy sources to be incorporated into the energy grid. This step can help foster workforce opportunities and a cleaner, more resilient energy supply. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workforce development within the solar and wind energy industries are projected to have the fastest employment growth between 2020 to 2030. Wind turbine service technicians are expected to see a 68 percent increase in workforce growth and solar photovoltaic installer careers are projected to increase by 52 percent. The data also shows that each of these occupations had a median annual wage that was higher than the \$45,760 median for all workers in 2021.

"As a Green New Deal City, we look for climate investments that provide a return on climate mitigation, economic justice, and quality of life," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Green New Deal Director. "We are harnessing Boston's energy use to push the development of more renewable

energy in our region. With an ambitious and step-wise timeline for decarbonization, we hope to draw new businesses into the market with each procurement."

In addition to increasing renewable energy usage within municipal properties, the City of Boston is working across sectors to ensure all of our residents have access to affordable, clean energy. The City is encouraging residents to assess their current energy supplier and enroll in Boston's Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program. Energy prices are expected to increase significantly this winter while BCCE's rates are locked in until December 2023. Currently, all three tiers of BCCE's pricing is lower than Eversource's basic service rates, meaning residents can choose to power their homes and businesses on 100 percent local, renewable energy for less than Eversource's basic service

rate. Residents can opt in or out of the program at any time by visiting [boston.gov/bcce](http://boston.gov/bcce) or by calling 3-1-1.

In addition to sharing the RFQ, the City will pursue a variety of strategies to achieve its net-zero emissions goal including the implementation of energy conservation measures, the electrification of City operations, and the reduction and eventual elimination of the carbon emissions associated with its annual electricity requirements. This announcement is a key step towards realizing a citywide Green New Deal for Boston while achieving our carbon neutrality goals and working toward creating workforce opportunities in the energy sector. These strategies expand upon Mayor Wu's recent work to audit all public exterior lighting in Boston and the beginning of Renew Boston Trust Phase III.

## Roundtable

Continued from page 10

state's education and prevention efforts, expanded the role of recovery coaches, and improved access to treatment. Key components included:

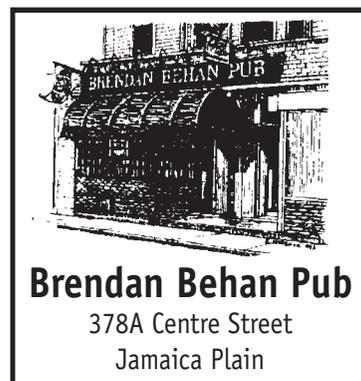
- Additional requirements for prescribers around data reporting and the institution of a new, statewide standing order for naloxone from pharmacies
- Created additional pathways to treatment from the emergency department, including more timely SUD evaluations and requirements to admit patients more quickly to treatment services
- Expanded the use of medication-assisted treatment in emergency departments, section 35 inpatient facilities and correctional facilities
- Medical Education: The Bak-

er-Polito Administration partnered with the Commonwealth's medical, dental and social work schools to develop core competencies and require increased education on opioids for students.

Expanding Access to Life-Saving Naloxone: The Administration has expanded access to Naloxone including through a standing statewide order at pharmacies. The Commonwealth has distributed over 663,900 doses of naloxone and received over 34,800 reports of successful overdose reversals. In May 2022, the Administration launched a Community Naloxone Purchasing Program, which has already shipped 1,132 doses to community organizations.

Housing-Focused Harm Reduction: In the last two years, the Administration has provided \$22 million in funding to date for housing-focused harm reduc-

tion and recovery support initiatives. This includes initiatives designed to help people transition from street and shelter settings to housing opportunities that provide stability supports, helping individuals maintain their recovery and housing stability. The state maintains an open procurement to add additional low threshold housing capacity across the Commonwealth.



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CITY PAWS

# We Are Thankful

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

It's the time of year to be thankful and to recognize all the wonderful companion animals, responsible guardians, rescue volunteers, and animal professionals around us. For many of us, our animals have been essential for coping with the changes in our lives since January 2020.

**More Companion Animals**

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reported, "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, nearly 1 in 5 households acquired a cat or dog." A survey they conducted had more good news, "... the vast majority of these households still have that pet in their home and that animals who were rehomed were placed with friends, family members, and neighbors more frequently than relinquished to shelters and rescues."

These animals provided companionship, stress relief, silly moments, a daily routine, and in the case of dogs, a reason to get out of the house. Walking the dog was an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors at a safe distance.

**Rescue Volunteers**

With everyone seeking animals to adopt, volunteers in rescue groups continued to process applications, match people and animals, and drive long distances to meet adoptive families.

These dedicated people also fostered dogs and cats for people who had COVID and rehomed ones who lost their caregivers.

While some of these volunteers worked with organized rescue groups, others were simply friends, family, or neighbors who offered to walk a dog when someone was sick or to assist someone who worked long hours in an essential job.

As the ASPCA noted, people like these ensured that animals in need found foster spots or new homes. Anyone who loves a furry family member will understand the relief a person must have felt knowing that their beloved animal was cared for and was in a safe place if they were very ill or feared they might die.

**Animal Professionals**

The VIPs in your animals' lives worked long hours under stressful circumstances. Veterinary teams had to adapt to caring for their patients without the presence of the people who usu-



In 2021, walking the dog was an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors at a safe distance.

ally speak for them. They had to deliver medical, and follow-up care reports to people waiting outside in cars. Worst of all, they had to turn away some animals who needed care.

Dog walkers had to figure out safe ways to pick up and deliver their charges. In some cases, they lost income because families were home and walked the dog themselves.

Some pet supply and grooming shops closed, while others, like ours, took orders for food and other essentials for local delivery or street-side pick-up. Our care-

fully masked groomer met us on the sidewalk for the drop-off and return of Poppy for grooming appointments. Later the shop arranged for a comfortably safe space inside the building where the exchange could occur.

**Express Your Thanks**

We're sure anyone who was helped has verbally thanked their helpers. These folks sacrificed time and, in many cases, money to take on the responsibility of another animal. Consider a small gift with a year-end thanks. In the case of a rescue

group or non-profit veterinary hospital, make a donation. You could even make a contribution in honor of a helper.

Groomers, dog walkers, and pet sitters need to make up the income they lost over the past two years. Adding a bit of extra to your tips or a holiday card with a year-end bonus would be most welcome.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



**'BUDDY'**

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THE RESIDENTIAL GROUP

# Boston Harbor Hotel announces lineup for 2023 Boston Wine and Food Festival

STAFF REPORT

The Boston Harbor Hotel is continuing its celebrated tradition of presenting exceptional wine events and dinners with the return of its annual Boston Wine and Food Festival this January 2023. The nation's longest-running wine and food festival will be directed by Boston Harbor Hotel Executive Chef David Daniels and longtime food and wine festival expert, Nancy Bean, along with Boston Harbor Hotel Wine Sommelier Nick Daddona.

Kicking off on January 12, this year's Boston Wine and Food Festival will feature an all-star lineup of intimate winemaker-hosted dinners, seminars, thematic receptions, and celebratory brunches at the iconic Boston

Harbor Hotel. A portion of the proceeds from this year's festival will benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank and the James Beard Foundation.

"This year we will bring some new and exciting events and programming to the three-month

*Continued on page 13*



Shown is a couple enjoying last year's event.

# Mass. Lottery celebrates 50th anniversary at State House event

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts State Lottery commemorated its 50th Anniversary with a celebration of its customers, retailers, employees, and the communities that the Lottery supports, all of whom have played an important role in the Lottery's success over the past five decades.

The celebration, which took place at the Massachusetts State House, included a live drawing of the Midday Numbers Game at the Grand Staircase hosted by State Treasurer and Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission Deborah B. Goldberg.

"When Prop 2 ½ was adopted in the early 1970's, Treasurer Bob Crane understood the negative impacts it would have on local communities," said Treasurer Goldberg. "It was his vision that created a lottery whose profits became the one reliable source of unrestricted local aid that people throughout the state have come to rely on. We have built upon that legacy and hope through collaboration, innovation, and good business practices to continue for another 50 years."

Prior to the drawing, Governor Charlie Baker presented Treasurer Goldberg with a Citation commemorating the Lottery's milestone achievement.

"The Lottery has been all that anybody back in the beginning could have hoped for and then some, and I'm thrilled to be here to be a part of this celebration today," said Governor Baker. "Thank you for everything you've done."

Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery



Mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox) along with State Treasurer Deb Golberg, participated in the festivities.

has generated over \$143 billion in revenues, awarded over \$100 billion in prizes, returned over \$31 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth for unrestricted local aid provided to cities and towns, and paid over \$8 billion in commissions and bonuses to its statewide network of retailers.

"As we look towards our next 50 years, we make this commitment today to continue to innovate, to continue to come out with new and exciting lottery products, and to continue on with the State of Winning, which since 1972 has generated over \$100 billion in prizes paid to our players," said Mark William Bracken, Interim Executive Director of the Mass Lottery and host of the event.

Additional speakers included Senate President Karen Spilka, Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante of Gloucester, Mayor of Newton and President of the Massachusetts Municipal Associ-

ation Ruthanne Fuller, and Gary Park, owner of Gary's Liquors in Chestnut Hill, a Lottery retail partner since 1972.

"The Lottery is so important to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in so many ways," said Senate President Spilka. "As a former chair of Ways and Means, especially when financial times were not so rosy, I have to tell you how valued and how critical the partnership with the Lottery was then and continues to be now to ensure that we continue to give the resources to our cities and towns that they all need so dearly."

"We can fully appreciate and comprehend what it means to have a billion dollars to put into the budget to help cities and towns with the things that matter," said Representative Ferrante. "Sometimes, it's not the big things, it's the smaller things, like the ability to improve a school playground, to do the

things that matter to the people that have been so supportive of the Lottery over time."

"Last year, it was \$1.1 billion that was distributed to the 351 cities and towns here in the Commonwealth, and they allowed us, with that unrestricted aid, to help our residents and our businesses at a really difficult period," said Mayor Fuller. "For us, it translated into teachers in schools, police on the streets, and firefighters available during emergencies. DPW workers paving our streets and clearing the snow. Social workers and counselors meeting the mental health needs of our residents and our children, and so much more."

"The Lottery has been fantastic for us and fantastic for a lot of Lottery agents throughout the state," said Park, a third-generation store owner who was joined at the event by his father Barry. "The commissions have helped us improve our business, the claims bonuses over the years I know went towards my and my brother's and my sister's college educations. The amazing thing about the Lottery is the amount of people that it brings into a lot of small family-run local businesses."

The event featured a live performance by local musician Andy

Brink, winner of the Lottery's "Sound of Winning" jingle contest. Brink's jingle, "Everyone's a Winner in the Commonwealth," was incorporated into the Lottery's 50th Anniversary advertising campaign earlier this year.

At the conclusion of the speaking program, a video featuring historical footage and testimonials from municipal leaders, Lottery employees, retail partners and prize winners was shown. The video was narrated by national television personality Tom Bergeron, a native of Haverhill, who hosted Lottery Live and Megabucks drawings in the 1980s while working in the Boston television market.

On display at the event were jerseys from local professional and college sports teams with "Mass Lottery" on the name plate above the number 50. Mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox) all participated in the afternoon's festivities.

A red carpet was set up near a display of movie and television posters in which Lottery branded equipment had appeared. Additional displays featured historical items, including vintage lottery terminals, advertising posters and oversized instant tickets.

## Food and Wine

Continued from page 12

long Boston Wine and Food Festival, courtesy of the hotel's Executive Chef, David Daniels, the hotel's advanced sommelier Nick Daddona, and respected wine festival veteran, Nancy Bean."

Tickets are available online now for purchase and will make a perfect holiday gift for the oenophile in your life. The upcoming Boston Wine and Food Festival

features an array of events that will ignite the senses to lure both novice and expert wine aficionados out of the house this winter. The five-star Boston Harbor Hotel's 34th annual celebration will continue the tradition of welcoming top vintners and personalities from the world of wine and food. Events will run on the waterfront destination from January through March, kicking off with the opening weekend on January 12, 2023.

The exciting lineup of wine

dinners for 2023 will include Opus One (Napa), Staglin Family Vineyard, Far Niente (Napa Valley), Battle of the Cabs, Hitchhiking through Napa with Kevin Zraly, a Wine, Dine, Divine Women's Leadership Dinner, and many more.

Tickets to this year's events are available on the website for pre-purchase. There is a special Boston Wine & Food Festival package for guests that will make a perfect holiday gift.

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CITY of BOSTON

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## EDITORIAL

### REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." -- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.*

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by record-high inflation, affects almost every American, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to record-low unemployment rates.

However, the good economy (from an employment standpoint) being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our history.

According to the US Dept. of Agriculture, more than 34 million Americans, including nine million children, are food insecure. We should recall that during the height of the pandemic when schools and senior citizen centers were closed, the biggest effect was upon our children and seniors, who relied on programs administered by the schools, government agencies, and non-profits for their only meal of the day.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston at Mass. and Cass. Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard "neighborhoods" on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunity to do so in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate. Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there will be multiple opportunities in the next four weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

There is no excuse for failing to do so.

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Christmas once started for me when the JC Penny and Sears catalogs came in the mail. They came early in the Fall and I wore them out looking at the toy section. By December the catalogs where in shambles.

My mother used to order clothes and other stuff from those catalogs. I don't remember her ever ordering toys. They usually came from the five and dime store in our town of Inez, KY or G.C. Murphy's store in Paintsville. Yet, the catalogs were fun and gave me ideas of the latest items for which to wish and hope.

I think my mother would enjoy the Internet today. She could order online like many of us are doing. Having Internet in the country is like have an updated Christmas catalog every day. There is always a means to shop and order. Back in that day ordering was tedious and arrival took weeks. Shipping back a dress that didn't fit was a long ordeal.

As a child there was always much more that I saw, dreamed of and wished for than I ever received. Some Christmases were lean and others were more abundant. Life is like that most of the time. We have hopes and wishes that never come true and some that do. It's nice when one or two

## PLEASE WRITE...

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## OP-ED

### Christmas is in your heart

come true.

We hope for good health and enough money to pay the bills. We hope for our children to have meaningful lives and to be independent. We hope for peace and to see positive results from our efforts in life. We would all like to be compensated well for the jobs we do. Being stuck in a job that is restraining with little hope of better wages is discouraging. Everyone deserves a life where internal inspiration can lead to reward and a better life.

The hardest part of life is when we feel hopeless. A terminal illness. Hard work with little to no reward. An empty house that isn't changing because you just buried a spouse. Failing when you may have tried hard or just decisions that didn't work out too well. All of these and more can be heartbreaking. Heartbreak doesn't do much for the Christmas spirit.

Those of us who have lived a few years know that Christmas doesn't come in a catalog, nor never did. It doesn't come on Black Fridays or cyber-Mondays. The multitude of Christmas pro-

grams don't bring Christmas. Decorated houses and trees are delightful but they don't create Christmas.

Christmas is an inside job. Christmas is in your heart and mind. The first Christmas was a peasant couple giving birth to a baby in a barn with a cow's trough for a crib. They were poor and just paying their taxes was about all they could afford. Yet, the child brought a joy they had never experienced.

In Luke chapter 2:19 we read "but Mary treasured up all these things and pondered in her heart..." Consider what and mainly who brings you joy and what really matters in your life and let there be Christmas in your heart during this season.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

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

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# Boston residents can still apply for holiday assistance through the Salvation Army

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Salvation Army locations across Boston are still accepting applications for holiday assistance through its annual Boston Christmas Castle distribution. Boston residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible given that spots fill up quickly.

“This holiday season, our social services teams in Boston and across the Commonwealth are seeing nearly a 50% increase in requests for assistance,” said Jeffrey Bailey, Director of Social Services, The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division. “Many of the individuals and families who are coming to us have never

needed to ask for help. Despite the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, inflation, evictions, job loss, and more, we are able to bring hope to those who need it. The Salvation Army is delivering on its promise to provide critical services and love to all in need this Christmas and beyond.”

The non-profit’s annual Boston Christmas Castle distribution will assist at least 3,000 pre-registered families in need during a three-day distribution event held at The Salvation Army’s Boston Kroc Center from December 12-14. Each year, the event makes the holiday season brighter for thousands of Boston-area individuals and their family members who are struggling financially.

gling financially.

As inflation drives the cost of living higher, millions of Americans face the growing threat of poverty and the inability to provide for themselves or their families during the holidays. The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division is a critical resource and part of the safety net for these populations across every zip code in Massachusetts.

“Our goal is to help as many families in need as possible,” said Bailey. “No one should have to choose between putting food on their table or a gift under the tree.”

To register for holiday assistance and for other resources, Boston residents should visit

their local Boston Salvation Army Corps Community Center or visit [www.salvationarmyma.org/bostonholidayhelp](http://www.salvationarmyma.org/bostonholidayhelp).

Thanks to Christmas Castle sponsors including MFS Investment Management, AGC Partners, and Eversource, The Salvation Army is able to fulfill holiday wishes and provide life-changing social services and other programs for thousands of people in Massachusetts annually. To learn more about volunteer and giving opportunities visit [www.salvationarmyma.org](http://www.salvationarmyma.org).

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 25 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction, and economic hardships through a range of social

services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, and clothing and shelter for people in need. The Salvation Army is doing the most good at 7,200 centers of operation around the country. During times of disaster, 100% of designated donations to The Salvation Army are used for immediate response and long-term efforts. In 2021, The Salvation Army was ranked No. 2 on the list of “America’s Favorite Charities” by The Chronicle of Philanthropy. For more information, visit [SalvationArmyMA.org](http://SalvationArmyMA.org). Follow us on Twitter @SalvationArmyMA and #DoingTheMostGood.

## LETTER

### Motorists are illegally passing stopped school buses at epidemic levels

Dear Editor,

41.8 million violations throughout a 180-day school year, in fact.

According to the 2022 survey conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, America’s motoring public are illegally passing school buses at “epidemic levels.”

Four Massachusetts children were struck by motorists who failed to stop for the bus in 2014, 2021 & 2022. Violations are increasing at an alarmingly rapid rate and motorists are not only endangering the lives of children, they are getting away with it.

It’s the law to stop for a school bus on both sides of the road when the red lights are flashing. When the yellow lights flash, drivers need to slow down and prepare to stop.

This is one of the first rules of the road we learn in driving school. Children are taught and

should be able to expect that cars will stop for them so they can safely get on or off the bus and also cross the street.

This is my child’s first year taking the bus. I had no idea motorists were ignoring this law until I saw it for myself. I did some research and realized that unless you are driving a school bus, or actively involved in combating the problem, people have no idea how bad the situation is.

I also discovered there are multiple bills “concerning the safety of school children embarking and disembarking school buses” that can be found on [MAlegislature.gov](http://MAlegislature.gov) and that for 11 years, the Massachusetts State Legislature has failed to pass a bill that will authorize the use of a camera system to capture live video imaging of vehicles illegally passing the school bus and would therefore enforce the law by issuing a citation in the mail.

Red flashing lights and the extended stop sign indicate the school bus has stopped to let students on or off.

I’ve been researching this “bus stop-arm camera” program and learned that technology companies can provide the cameras and implement the program with no up-front cost to the state. Some are also finding that this type of video monitoring not only enforces the law but also reduces the number of repeat offenses by 98%. (STREETSBLOG 9/13/22).

“At least 24 states have school bus stop-arm camera laws,” says the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Technology exists, our lawmakers are aware of the problem, they can amend existing laws to work around any obstacle and yet they continue to kick this can down the road.

I’ve heard privacy is a concern. Since when does the privacy of someone endangering children’s lives outweigh protecting them?

I’ve been told that it takes a long time to pass a bill. While the clock is ticking, kids are getting hit by cars and drivers are getting worse. How many kids need to get hurt or killed before anything is done?

Why isn’t there a massive “Stop for the bus” or “Don’t hit a kid” awareness campaign from the state? Is “minding the plows”

more important than our children? Bus companies welcome the technology. Mark Healey, owner of Healey Bus Company says, “Keeping the kids safe is our number one priority. Every day we talk to our drivers about safety, we provide safety education classes regularly and we are doing everything that we are supposed to be doing to keep the children safe, but we need the public to do their part too.”

This mom is doing her part. I am making some noise and talking to anyone who will listen. I also started an online petition urging the MA Legislature to pass the School Bus Stop-Arm

Camera bill into law.

This is a no-brainer folks - put the cameras on the outside of the buses, issue citations and reduce the number of repeat violations - all with no upfront costs to the state and taxpayers - to save kid’s lives.

To support this initiative, please visit <https://www.change.org/stopschoolbuspassing>

To voice your support, call the leader in your district and urge them to pass the School Bus Stop-Arm Camera law. Their information can be found on <https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Leadership>

**Maria Scheri Peabody, MA**

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# Roslindale Village Main Street hosts annual Holiday Market on Birch Street

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On Thursday, December 8 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., Roslindale Village Main Street will host their annual Holiday Market. This annual market is a festive event to bring residents, visitors,

and local businesses together to celebrate and shop for the season. Local vendors will be set up on Birch Street Plaza, at the Emerald Society Building at 10 Birch Street, and at several nearby businesses.

Come down to do your hol-

iday shopping from craft vendors, listen to live music, shop local businesses, enjoy food and drinks, and spread cheer with your neighbors and friends in Roslindale! The Holiday Market will feature 22 visiting vendors, offering everything from ceram-



Guests make their way through the displays at a prior Holiday Market.

ics and jewelry, to photography and blown glass, books, and more.

Vendors will be located inside the Emerald Society Building at 10 Birch Street, on Birch Street Plaza, and in nearby storefronts and patios at Sophia's Grotto, Distraction Brewing Company, Weesh Bake Shop, and Midnight Morning (coming soon!).

The JP Honk Band and New Liberty Jazz Band will perform throughout the Village and carolers from the Roslindale Congregational Church will be singing during the event.

"We are so excited for this year's Holiday Market! Each year, it brings so much holiday cheer to the neighborhood, and we have some fantastic vendors lined up. We love this event because it brings together local residents, established storefronts, and local vendors, and also welcomes visitors to our well-loved neighborhood." – Steve Marcelin, Event Manager, Roslindale Village Main Street

Roslindale Village Main Street (RVMS) is a community-driven nonprofit organization that seeks to promote Roslindale Village as an appealing destination and the dynamic center of our community. It brings together residents, business owners, property owners, and public agencies with a common stake in supporting a vibrant and healthy neighborhood business district and works closely with volunteers to strengthen the Village's economic vitality, physical appearance, and unique local character. RVMS was established in 1985 as one of the first urban Main Street Program in the nation.



The event will feature local musicians and carolers to help spread Christmas cheer.



A variety of vendors will be set up during the Holiday Market on Birch Street.

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