

WHAT'S HAPPEN ON MAIN STREETS — PG. 3

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JANUARY 6, 2022 — FEBRUARY 2, 2023

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION



First Night Boston was a series of events throughout the city to celebrate the New Year. A parade that marched from Copley Square to Boston Common, free concerts, ice sculptures, and many other activities kept young and old entertained, from one year as it turned into the next. Shown above, Fireworks light up the overcast sky over Boston Common. Shown right, Spectators endure the rain to watch the First Night Parade and kick in 2023.

Shown below, Members of the Puppeteers Collaborative march in the First Night Parade. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



CAMH begins the fight against 75 St. Alphonsus Street subdivision

MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

At its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 21, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) demonstrated its firm disapproval of a plan to subdivide the lot at 75 St. Alphonsus Street – the site of the JVue apartments – in order to build a new six-story multifamily residential rental building at 45 Worthington Street.

The proposed development, comprised of 150 units, would replace the current above-grade parking garage, which is now used by the 75 St. Alphonsus Street residential building.

During last Wednesday's meeting, attendees were asked to vote not on the project itself but on the prospect of subdividing the lot at 75 St. Alphonsus Street. An overwhelming majority – 20 of 22 respondents – voted against subdividing the lot.

While the vote demonstrated the general displeasure for the subdivision itself, the overall purpose of the vote was to allow for a CAMH-backed letter to be sent to the Inspectional Services Department, the developer, City Councilors, and Mayor Michelle Wu asking to not go forward with the subdivision.

Worthington Street resident

and Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services Board Member Ellen Moore, who spoke at length about the situation, described the need for sending the CAMH-approved letter explaining that once subdivision happens, it has poor ramifications for public feedback.

"This is a new technique for being able to build as-of-right. You subdivide the property, and then the old building – the existing building – needs retroactive variances, but because these are so-called existing conditions, the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeal) tends to let them go," said Moore.

"Then the community has absolutely no say over the new building because it's being built as-of-right, and we don't get to say that it's too dense, but we still get double the density."

Not only do those in CAMH want to send the letter to make sure their voices are heard for the potential project at 45 Worthington street, but they are also nervous about what precedent this subdivision tactic might set.

"We're also afraid that this is just going to be the new technique all over the Hill for every unbuildable lot of any size, and developers of any size, you know this is what they are going to do,"

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State Treasurer's office launches small business toolkit and resource map

Massachusetts State Treasurer, Deborah B. Goldberg, recently announced the launch of the Treasurer's Office's newly designed Small Business Resource Toolkit website. The toolkit provides access to comprehensive resources and materials for small business owners and future entrepreneurs in Massachusetts.

Under the direction of Treasurer Goldberg, the toolkit was designed to provide a range of relevant, important information, often needed, when facing the enormous challenge of starting a small business for the first time. Typically, it has been impossible to easily find the resources and advisors that can help lead to success. This website offers valuable educational materials

on how to plan, maintain, and grow a successful small business.

"By collecting relevant resources in one place online, we are providing an understandable road map for people as they begin to develop and open their own businesses," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "One of my top priorities has been to ensure that everyone has equal access to the tools and information they need to succeed. And by supporting the growth of independent small businesses, we not only positively impact their own development, but also our local communities and the state's economy, in many positive ways."

To help ensure that small businesses thrive, this toolkit provides additional information

about banks, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and community partners available across the Commonwealth.

"Successful small businesses are critical generators of wealth, they are the backbone of the economy," said State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston). "I am so thankful to Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and her team for creating a website that serves as a one-stop-shop for small businesses new and old. I look forward to sharing this new resource with my constituents."

"The State of MA Treasurer's Office has taken yet another step to actively support economic empowerment for entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout

the Commonwealth," said Samielys Rodriguez, Director – Eastern Massachusetts Center for Women & Enterprise. "The Center for Women & Enterprise Women's Business Centers are just one of many business resources in the Treasurer's new Small Business Resource Toolkit, which can provide additional support and guidance for clients to achieve their next business milestones."

"Congratulations to the Office of the Treasurer's team for their hard work and dedication in creating a website that connects and provides resources for business owners in Massachusetts," said Aliesha J. Porcena, City of Boston Director of Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion. "At the City of Boston, we are committed

to working across agencies, to make sure business owners have the resources and tools to start, grow, and build a business in Boston. As we work to address the many hurdles that businesses face, and build a community of support for businesses, this tool is an effort in that direction."

There are several organizations and community partners across the state that help business owners with technical assistance and business counseling. The Treasurer's Office's website has identified these organizations and placed them by county and category on a Small Business Resource Map. This map will be updated on a regular basis.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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- Patients, family members, staff, and interested parties who would like to provide comments are encouraged to do so. Anyone may send comments via e-mail and direct mail.
- Your comments must be received by the Magnet Program Office by January 20, 2023.

NOTE: All comments are CONFIDENTIAL and are not shared with the health care organization. Comments may be anonymous, but they must be sent in writing to the Magnet Program Office.

Address: AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER (ANCC)
MAGNET RECOGNITION PROGRAM OFFICE
8515 Georgia Ave., Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492

E-Mail: magnet@ana.org

CAMH

Continued from page 1

said Moore.

As the voting results indicated, those in attendance were not pleased with what subdividing the lot would mean, especially in the realm of public feedback.

"The troubling thing about this is that, again, I think this is an end run around public comment ... Without having either a large project review or something where people have to work by variances to be able to control this, it takes any power away from the neighborhood to say that we want some kind of input," said CAMH's Membership Secretary Gary Walling.

In what was a meeting full of agreement, there were, however, differing opinions regarding dispersal of the letter as an idea was brought forward to make the letter public on the CAMH Facebook page and to send it to media outlets.

One resident thought it would be prudent to wait to make the letter public until the developers received it in order to keep a formal and respectful dialogue.

However, others did not think it was necessary to play nice.

"I think you have to kill this thing out of the gate – ASAP – there's no sense in pussy-footing around. They're not your friends, they will not be your friends, they want to do this development, and if they're being nice in the beginning, fine, wait til it gets nasty," said Richard Giordano.

"I see no reason – no reason – to go halfway as you start this process."

Luanne Witkowski echoed Giordano's sentiment, alluding to previous proposals in the area that did not go over well with the neighborhood.

"I, too, don't think that we should be nice about it because they proposed something a few years ago; they heard that neighborhood loud and clear about how opposed we were to them putting a behemoth up on that lot, and what did they do, they turned around and found a way around it," said Witkowski.

"Let's do what we have to do to protect our neighborhood."

It is clear that for CAMH, the gloves are off in a battle that has just begun to preserve the neighborhood.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

“Celebrate endings as they precede new beginnings.”

Johnathan Lockwood Hui,
author

“Christmas parties are back in business!” as stated by one of MHMS Board members at a community holiday gathering. I felt the festive spirit as I strolled through Mission Hill. Traditionally colorful lights, window displays, and decorations are all visible signs that the holidays are here. In the neighborhood, December was a fun, event filled month! The Mayor’s Trolley and Tree Lighting in Brigham Circle Had a huge turnout and so many small smiling faces that cheered Santa and Mrs. Claus on as they handed out gifts and candy. Mayor Wu’s blinking Christmas light necklace entranced many youngsters at the event, and they followed the Mayor around much to everyone’s delight!



Mission Hill Artists Collective held two craft fairs.

Not missing a beat, Mission Hill Main Streets hoisted holiday banners, lighted snowflakes and distributed Nutcracker posters throughout the neighborhood. Small business promotions included showing your support of your local businesses with sparkling, signed snowflake cards posted in the shops. In addition the four hair salons and two barbershops in the area ran raffle prize contests (MHMS Swag!) – thanks to Carman’s Salon, In The Cut Barbershop, Liz’s Hair Salon, Sully’s Barbershop and Vanity Loft Salon for participating in this fun event.

Mission Hill Artists Collective held two craft fairs this year that were extremely well attended. On December 16th, items ranged from original artwork, jewelry, hand-made products and more. A great effort by Diana Sabella, Lydia Polanco, LeShonda Zene and Britney Zene to making this a success. We look forward to more pop-up events like this in 2023!

In the spirit of giving, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences generously donated 100 chrome books to the Tobin Community Center in time for the Tobin to get them to their



Mayor Wu at the Annual Tree Lighting Trolley Ceremony.

young members before Christmas! Executive Director, John Jackson was thrilled with the unexpected gift that he was able to share with so many of Mis-

sion Hill and Roxbury’s young residents. A big thank you to MCPHS’s Sue Gorman, Chief Ad-

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With the arrival of winter, here are some energy-saving tips

With the increase in winter energy costs, what are some quick and affordable changes one can do to lower my energy use?

Some energy-saving options that you can do yourself at home include:

- Checking and changing the air filter in your furnace on a monthly basis. Unclean filters slow down airflow and make the system work harder, thereby wasting energy.

- Adjusting your thermostat just a few degrees can make a big difference in your bill. When home, set your thermostat at 68 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for heating. Lower the thermostat 7 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit each time you leave the house for two or more hours, and then again when you go to sleep at night.

- In the winter, open window dressings during the day to capture warmth and close them at night to prevent heat loss.

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter – it allows warm air to escape right up the chimney.

- Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.

- How can the Sponsors of Mass Save help one with financial or billing assistance?

The Sponsors of Mass Save offer two income-based offerings the Enhanced Residential Incentives and the Income Eligible

Program. Both start with a no-cost Home Energy Assessment and offer discounted or no-cost products and services. You can use this table to determine if you qualify for either of these offerings. Information about State and Federally funded payment assistance programs that provide relief on winter heating bills can be found on your utility's website. Local Community Action Agencies may also provide bill assistance and financial assistance toward home improvements. Lastly, you can enroll in a budget or balanced billing plans, which allows you to pay the same amount each month for energy. Based on an estimate of your energy usage for the year, your utility will bill you in 12 equal increments.

- What is a no-cost energy assessment, and how does one qualify?

Whether you're a homeowner, renter, landlord, or business owner, the Sponsors of Mass Save® offer no-cost virtual or in-person Energy Assessments. This assessment is a great way to find energy-saving opportunities within your home or business. An Energy Specialist will assess your current energy use, help you develop a plan to make your home or business more energy efficient, as well as educate you on available rebates and incentives.

- What kind of help can one expect to receive from the Sponsors of Mass Save?

On top of no-cost assessments and financial assistance programs, the Sponsors of Mass Save also offer a range of rebate

options and incentives. To see available rebate options for both your home or business, follow the links or visit www.masssave.com

- Where do one go to get energy efficient products? (Mass Save Marketplace)

To find and purchase affordable energy efficient products, use the Mass Save Marketplace. Access sales through the residential or commercial marketplaces for items such as electronics, appliances, and other equipment, valid through 12/31/22.

- Con el aumento en los costos de energía durante el invierno, ¿cuáles son algunos cambios?

Algunas opciones de ahorro de energía que puede hacer usted en casa incluyen:

- Revisar y cambiar el filtro de aire de su horno mensualmente. Los filtros sucios bloquean y reducen el flujo de aire, haciendo que el sistema trabaje más y desperdicie energía.

- Ajustar su termostato solo unos pocos grados puede hacer una gran diferencia en su factura. Cuando esté en casa, configure su termostato a 68 grados Fahrenheit o menos para la calefacción. Baje el termostato de 7 a 10 grados Fahrenheit cada vez que salga de la casa por dos horas o más, y de nuevo cuando se vaya a dormir por la noche.

- En invierno, abra las cortinas/persianas durante el día para captar el calor y ciérrelas por la noche para evitar la pérdida de calor.

- Mantenga cerrada la compuerta de la chimenea a menos de que haya fuego. Mantener la compuerta abierta es como

mantener una ventana completamente abierta durante el invierno: permite que el aire caliente escape por la chimenea.

- Cambie a bombillas de diodo emisor de luz (LED por sus siglas en inglés) certificadas por ENERGY STAR®. Los LED usan hasta un 90 por ciento menos de energía que las bombillas incandescentes y duran hasta 25 veces más.

- ¿Cómo pueden ayudarme los patrocinadores de Mass Save con asistencia financiera o de facturación?

Los patrocinadores de Mass Save® ofrecen dos ofertas con base en los ingresos: los Incentivos Residenciales Mejorados y el Programa Elegible Según los Ingresos. Ambos comienzan con una evaluación de energía del hogar sin costo y ofrecen productos y servicios con descuento o sin costo. Puede usar esta gráfica para determinar si califica para cualquiera de estas ofertas. Puede encontrar información sobre los programas de asistencia de pago financiados por el estado y el gobierno federal que brindan alivio en las facturas de calefacción de invierno en el sitio web de su empresa de servicios públicos. Las Agencias de Acción Comunitaria Local también pueden brindar asistencia con las facturas y asistencia financiera para realizar mejoras en el hogar. Por último, puede inscribirse en un plan de presupuesto o facturación balanceada, que le permite pagar la misma cantidad cada mes por energía. Según una estimación de su uso de energía para el año, su empresa de ser-

vicios públicos le facturará en 12 incrementos iguales.

- ¿Qué es una evaluación de energía sin costo y cómo califico?

Ya sea propietario de una vivienda, inquilino, arrendador o dueño de un negocio, los patrocinadores de Mass Save® ofrecen evaluaciones de energía virtuales o en persona sin costo. Esta evaluación es una excelente manera de encontrar oportunidades de ahorro de energía dentro de su hogar o negocio. Un especialista en energía evaluará su uso actual de energía, lo ayudará a desarrollar un plan para hacer que su hogar o negocio sea más eficiente energéticamente y lo educará sobre los reembolsos e incentivos disponibles.

- ¿Qué tipo de ayuda puedo esperar recibir de los patrocinadores de Mass Save?

Además de evaluaciones sin costo y programas de asistencia financiera, los patrocinadores de Mass Save® también ofrecen una variedad de opciones de reembolso e incentivos. Para ver las opciones de reembolso disponibles para su hogar o negocio, siga los enlaces o visite www.masssave.com

- ¿Dónde debo ir para obtener productos energéticamente eficientes? (Mass Save Marketplace)

Para encontrar y comprar productos económicos de bajo consumo, utilice Mass Save Marketplace. Acceda a las ventas a través de los mercados residenciales o comerciales de artículos como electrónicos, electrodomésticos y otros equipos, válidos hasta el 31/12/22.

Wu announces reappointments to Boston School Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the reappointment of Jeri Robinson, currently the Chairperson, and Quoc Tran to four-year terms on the Boston School Committee. The Boston School Committee is the governing body of Boston

Public Schools.

"I'm proud to reappoint Chairperson Jeri Robinson and Quoc Tran back to the Boston School Committee, to continue the groundwork we've started to enhance the learning experience

and school infrastructure for our children and families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Both Jeri and Quoc are champions for all our students and school staff, and they're committed to digging in and making the systemic changes our communities need. I want to thank them both for their leadership and look forward to continuing our work together."

"I'm honored to continue my life's work of preparing children for a bright future," said School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. "Boston Public Schools has entered a new era, and I'm excited as ever to work alongside my fellow Committee members and BPS administration to de-

liver the world-class education students, staff and families deserve."

"The experience I gained as a Boston Public Schools parent and teacher helped me serve effectively in my first term," said Boston School Committee member Quoc Tran. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to carry on building a system that will nurture the next generation of City leaders and workers alike."

"Jeri Robinson's steady and reliable work as chairperson, and Quoc Tran's well-rounded perspective have made them trusted and valuable partners since I returned to Boston Public Schools," said Boston Public Schools Su-

perintendent Mary Skipper. "I'm thrilled they'll remain in place as we continue to improve facilities, foundations, and outcomes for students and families across the City."

Both Robinson and Tran's terms were set to expire in January of 2023.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing dis-

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Main Streets

Continued from page 3

vancement Officer for thinking of the young people in Mission Hill!

Mission Hill businesses continue to remain strong, creative and entrepreneurial in our still ever-changing environment. Recently the Boston Building Resources (BBR) at 100 Terrace Street, welcomed a new leader after 30 years. Kord Jablonski, most recently from the DeCordova, will serve as President of BBR's consumer cooperative, which sells new building materials such as cabinetry, windows, and doors, as well as Executive Director of the nonprofit reuse center, which takes in donations of high-quality reusable building materials and sells them at a fraction of their fair market value, mainly to lower-income community residents. He began his tenure on November 28. "Knowl-

edge about repairing one's home is not only empowering, but also builds economic resilience," Jablonski said. "Housing, food, financial, and climate security are all intimately intertwined, and BBR is uniquely positioned to engage and educate on these topics. I am incredibly excited by the opportunity to serve and by all that is ahead for Boston Building Resources."

BBR is always a great place to stop by and find that treasure you need for your home ... or to learn how to install that treasure! Check out their latest inventory and classes and say welcome to Kord.

Date to keep in mind include the Museum of Fine Arts' MLK Day on Monday, January 16, 2023 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The MFA, in partnership with Citizens Bank offers FREE admission, including access to "Life Magazine and the Power of Photography", for Massa-

chusetts residents. Celebrate the legacy of Dr. King by surrounding yourself with art making, performances, and talks with members of the MFA community!

For the first time ever, Boston will host the National Main Streets Conference this coming March. The 20 main street districts here in the City of Boston are part of organization and follow their established criteria and guidelines. MHMS is super excited as it is an opportunity to promote Mission Hill from a business perspective, historical significance and We will be looking for volunteers to help with established tours and onsite mobile workshops for attendees here within the community. Drop me a line via Facebook or through my email: mainstreetsellenwalker@gmail.com!

In the meantime, stay safe and watch out for your elderly neighbors. They need you even more at this time of year!



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Hill Happenings

By MAURICE "MOSSY" MARTIN

The 1964 Mission High class gathered last month for an informal reunion at Lewis' Restaurant and Grille in Norwood.

The '64 Mission group had a bountiful number of outstanding athletes including pro baseball player Tom "Dubba" Walsh, Rich Stanton, Mike Foley, and a smallish fullback, Ronnie Keefe. More importantly, they and their classmates are successful citizens and

terrific guys.

My late brother, Tom Martin, was also a '64 Mission High graduate. After high school, Tom enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam. After his military service Tom attended Northeastern University and graduated in 1971. He soon became a professor at Towson University in Maryland. After earning his doctoral degree in chemistry, Tom switched careers and worked in the laboratory at the Baltimore

branch of Barre-National, a pharmaceutical company.

Tom died in 2004, and I often think about him and dearly miss my brother.

Bobby Earley also served in Vietnam, and he is a Mission High '64 alumnus. During my wonderful days in the Mission Hill project in the early '60s, Bobby, a talented hoopster who died in 1990, mentored me on the Mission Hill basketball courts. Thanks Bobby and R.I.P.

The Mission Hill Post 327 had a wonderful Christmas party Dec. 17 at Victory Point Restaurant in Quincy. I appreciated Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse's succinct and passionate speech about the members and our goals.

Woody, a World War II veteran, also had a few nice words for Mission Hill Main Streets Director, Ellen Walker. Ellen is quick to lend a helping hand to Mission Hill Post causes.

I enjoyed chatting with John

Morrissey at the celebration. John, a Korean War veteran, told a few tavern tales going back to the days when he owned the Calumet Café (currently The Mission Bar & Grill) 60 years ago.

I told John about the time a guy walked into the bar with a piece of asphalt under his arm and ordered a beer and one for the road. It was nice seeing many of the wives at the party, particularly my charming '67 Mission High classmates, Marian.



Happy New Year 2023

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Nearly \$2.74 million awarded to combat violence against women

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that dozens of law enforcement, criminal justice and victim services organizations have been awarded grants through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant program including the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office with a grant of \$119,919.88.

The federal funds will help Massachusetts agencies in efforts to prevent, reduce and improve responses to acts of gender-based, sexual and domestic violence; stalking; and human trafficking. The 44 grant recipients were selected through a competitive application process administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR), a state agency that is part of the

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). Each organization funded in FY23 will be eligible for additional funding during the three following years.

"These grants allow our Commonwealth to enhance our work combatting domestic violence and sexual offenses. Meeting the needs of survivors, providing safety nets for those seeking to escape, and holding perpetrators accountable requires a coalition of law enforcement and service providers. VAWA funds have allowed us to build these vital partnerships and provide resources, not just in 2023, but for years to come," said Governor Charlie Baker.

"Since taking office, this administration has shown an un-

paralleled dedication to ending domestic and sexual violence. As chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, I've had the privilege of working with professionals and organizations across the Commonwealth that are committed to this mission. This funding will allow state agencies, police and service providers the resources they need to effectively respond to and reduce these offenses," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

"These grants help improve how law enforcement and the criminal justice system respond to violence against women through training opportunities and enhanced capacity to investigate and prosecute these offenses. It also ensures that the victims of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual assault and exploitation, and stalking have access to the services they deserve," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy.

"The VAWA Grant Program is one of the most impactful programs administered by the Office of Grants and Research. These funds help ensure that victims have access to the protections of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, as well as trauma-informed and culturally-competent services. We look forward to working alongside all our funded partners to achieve this mission," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton.

The VAWA Grant Program is funded by the Department of Justice. Through an application review process, recipients were selected from across four categories: Courts, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Victim Services, and Discretionary.

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Baker signs executive order to establish Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team

Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order to establish the Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT). Led by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS), MA-CIRT is established with the mission of enhancing the Commonwealth's ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from significant cybersecurity threats. The Governor signed the executive order as Massachusetts and other jurisdictions confront an overall increase in cybersecurity threats to websites and networks.

"State governments and other organizations across the country are increasingly being targeted by bad actors aiming to disrupt operations and compromise information systems," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This executive order will further strengthen the Commonwealth's policies, procedures, and resources required to prevent potential threats and appropriately respond to attacks on government infrastructure and services. As state governments expand their digital footprints, moving more services online and allowing for a more connected workforce, it's critical that we make the necessary investments to protect this critical technology infrastructure from acts of terrorism and criminal, organized crime, and gang activity."

"Cybersecurity attacks threaten Commonwealth technology networks and the continuity of essential government services

we provide to the constituents we serve," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "With the establishment of MA-CIRT, the Baker-Polito Administration continues to invest and prioritize the delivery of effective and reliable government services to the people of the Commonwealth."

"With my background in public safety, I know the importance that leadership buy-in plays in swift, organized, and effective response to an external threat," said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curt Wood. "The Baker-Polito Administration is once again leading from the front on government cybersecurity and I thank Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and my fellow leaders in cybersecurity and public safety for their partnership on the issuance of this critical executive order that will serve the Commonwealth for years to come."

Under the direction of the EOTSS Secretary, the formation of MA-CIRT convenes cybersecurity and public safety experts from across state government as required members, including leadership representatives from:

- The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
- The Commonwealth Security Operations Center
- The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- The Commonwealth Fusion Center
- The Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit
- The Massachusetts National

Guard

- The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

The Executive Order reinforces Massachusetts as a leader in cybersecurity enhancement efforts through a variety of strategies. To prevent against attacks and increase the Commonwealth's cybersecurity resiliency, the Order underscores the need for preparing for and marshalling a coordinated response, mitigation, and recovery effort from significant cybersecurity threats or incidents. Additionally, the Order:

- Requires MA-CIRT to review cybersecurity threat information and vulnerabilities to make informed recommendations and establish appropriate policies to manage the risk of cyber incidents for executive department agencies and all other state agencies served by EOTSS.
- Requires MA-CIRT to develop and maintain an up-to-date Cyber Incident Response Plan, which will guide the actions of the Commonwealth's key public safety and information security and technology teams, state agency resources, and security professionals in responding to and minimizing the impact of significant cybersecurity threats to Commonwealth systems. The Plan is required to be submitted annually to the Governor for review and approval.
- Empowers the EOTSS Secretary to serve as MA-CIRT lead, with the approval of the Governor, to direct MA-CIRT in response to a significant cyber

incident.

- Requires the routine exchange of information related to cybersecurity threats and reported incidents between the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

• Requires EOTSS and MA-CIRT to consult with the Massachusetts Cyber Center and assist the Center with efforts to foster cybersecurity resiliency through communications, collaboration, and outreach to state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and industry partners.

- Requires executive department agencies to comply with protocols and procedures established by MA-CIRT and all related policies, standards, and Administrative Directives issued by EOTSS.

• Requires Commonwealth executive department agencies and other state agencies served by EOTSS to identify and report significant cybersecurity incidents and coordinate efforts to mitigate and prevent further damage from cyber incidents.

- Requires all executive department personnel to annually complete the EOTSS approved security awareness training program administered by the Human Resources Division.

• And strongly encourages other governmental entities throughout the Commonwealth not served by EOTSS to report cybersecurity threats or incidents to the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

In 2021, Congress recognized

the increased cyber threat posed to state and local governments by establishing a \$1 billion State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The four-year grant program requires 80% of funds go toward assisting municipalities in enhancing their cybersecurity posture. This new federal program compliments the various support for municipal cybersecurity efforts offered by the Baker-Polito Administration, including: the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program, Free Cybersecurity Health Check Program, and the Community Compact IT Grant Program, which was established by Governor Baker's Executive Order 554 in 2015.

EOTSS was established in 2017 as the Commonwealth's lead technology and cybersecurity agency via Article 87 government restructuring legislation filed by Governor Baker and approved by the Legislature. Its mission is to lead initiatives to modernize the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure assets, continually strengthen government cybersecurity operations and standards via the consolidation of infrastructure and cybersecurity operations for the Commonwealth into a centrally managed state agency and leverage innovative technology solutions to offer user-friendly digital services to its constituents.

School Committee

Continued from page 4

strict policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods, and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Robinson, now retired, served

as Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum. She brings more than 40 years of experience in teaching and consulting in the fields of early childhood and museum education. She is the developer of the PlaySpace exhibit – one of the earliest prototypes for early learning family spaces in children's and other museums – founder of the Boston Cultural Collaborative for Early Learning, and co-founder of both Families First Parenting programs and "Countdown to Kindergarten." For many years, she has provided training and consultation to schools, early child programs,

museums, and other organizations.

Ms. Robinson is a proud graduate of Girls Latin School. She received her B.S., M.S. Ed. and an honorary Doctorate in Education from Wheelock College, and serves on numerous boards dealing with family, community, multicultural, and early childhood education issues. In recognition of her work, Ms. Robinson has received awards such as the Wheelock Centennial Award, the Boston Parents Paper Family Advocate Award, the Women Who Care Award, and the Lucy Wheelock Award, was a 2004 participant in the Schott Fellowship

in Early Care and Education. In 2005, she was named to the American Association of Museums, Centennial Honor Roll, in recognition of her contributions to the museum field in the past century and in 2010, was the recipient of the Abigail Elliot Award, given by BAEYC.

Tran is the parent of four BPS graduates. Prior to his retirement as secretariat deputy director of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, he developed and implemented diversity and inclusion strategies for over 22,000 employees, and

created diversity and affirmative action plans to retain a diverse workforce. Prior to this role, he was the executive director of the Vietnamese American Civic Association (VACA), where he managed all operations of the organization related to serving the social and public assistance needs of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants. Mr. Tran was a BPS high school teacher for six years. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, a master's degree in education from Northeastern University, and a doctoral degree in law from Suffolk University.

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

It was uncertain if many would venture out on the last night of 2022 with the rain coming down, but the unseasonably warm temperatures in the upper 50s helped bring out the crowds. First Night Boston was a series of events throughout the city to

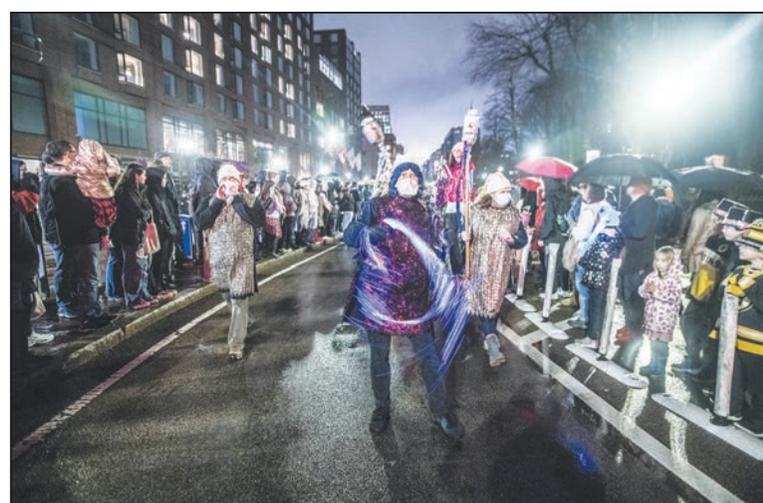
celebrate the New Year. A parade that marched from Copley Square to Boston Common, free concerts, ice sculptures, and many other activities kept young and old entertained, from one year as it turned into the next.



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



Hasaan and Mahira Iqbal.



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



The trees of the Boston Common are colorfully lit to help revelers celebrate First Night.



History reenactors representing The Boston Tea Party exclaim "HUZZAH!"



Ruby and Gus aren't waiting for Midnight to share a New Year's kiss.



The Hot Tamales Brass Band soldier through the rain to bring their music, keeping spirits dry in spite of the rain.

Register now for spring classes!

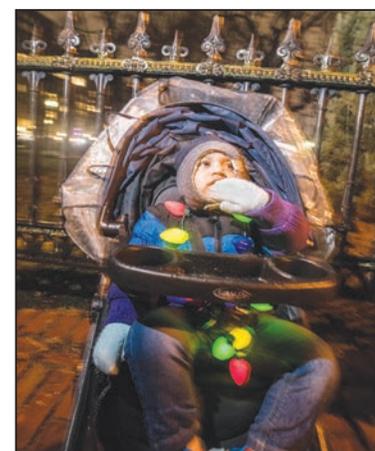
Spring classes start throughout January

rcc.mass.edu/register
857-701-1200





Electrifying Brass was a free percussion and organ performance at The Old South Church as part of Boston's First Night celebrations.



Amay Nirmal is excited to watch the remainder of 2022 turn into the start of 2023.

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Mark Pelliter of the Puppeteers Collaborative "high" fives a spectator in the parade.



First Night revelry on the Commonwealth Ave Mall.



Spectators line up along Boylston Street to watch the First Night Parade.



Valeria Huyke's outfit lights up the Boston Common for her and Timothy Devino.



Trumpet player Andrew Sorg of The Old South Brass performs in the balcony.

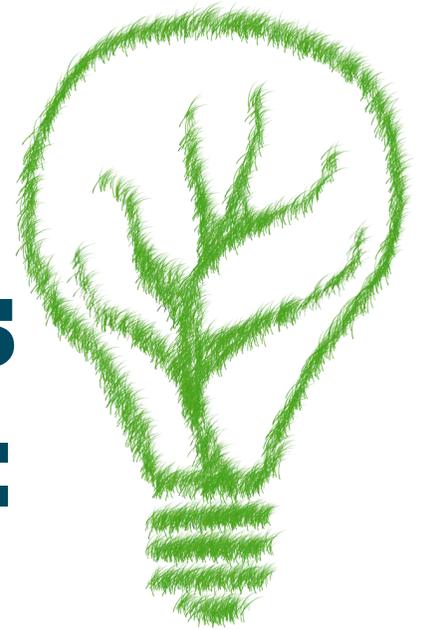


Organist Mitchell Crawford preforms "Fanfare" For The New Year.

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2:00–6:00

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Top five pet New Year's resolutions for 2023

By KIM SALERNO, FOUNDER/CEO
TRIPSWITHPETS

We all make some type of New Year's resolution. We set goals for ourselves to eat healthier, lose weight, spend less time on our phones, exercise more, be more mindful – yada yada yada. Well, it doesn't stop with just us. With all the unconditional love and joy pets bring us, an overwhelming number of pet parents also set New Year's resolutions for their pets.

There are countless ways that we can further enrich the lives of our pets. What better time to get started than the New Year ahead.

TripsWithPets surveyed pet parents to find out what their New Year's resolutions are for their furry family members in 2023. Here are the top 5.

#1 Do more together

There's no better way to bond more with your pet than engaging in new activities together. Top spot on the resolution list for pet parents in 2023 is taking more pet-friendly road trips and exploring new things to do with their pets. Paddleboarding, kayaking, hiking, and exploring pet-friendly places to shop, dine, and stay are among the activities noted.

#2 Introduce natural ways to support pet health

Loving our pets as we do means doing all we can to ensure they lead long, healthy, and happy lives. Many pet parents have resolved to take a closer look at natural health care for their furry family members. This includes their pets diet/nutrition, supplements, lifestyle, and alternative therapies – such as acu-

puncture, laser treatment, homeopathy, and the like. Improving our precious pets' well-being is the ultimate goal.

#3 Brush pet's teeth regularly

Daily brushing of your pet's teeth is just as important for him as it is for you. Regular tooth brushing helps to prevent gum disease – and even other diseases. Yet, many pet parents overlook it.

What makes it a bit tricky is if you don't start your pet out when he is young, it becomes more challenging to make him amenable to getting his teeth brushed as he gets older. That's what typically makes many pet parents "intermittent" tooth brushers.

The good news is, News Year's resolution #3 is that pet parents plan to commit daily to brushing their dog's and cat's teeth.

#4 Get more exercise

We all need to move our bodies more - and that includes our pets. It's not just about losing weight, it's about overall health - mind, body, and soul. Getting out for more walks, play dates, fetch, and games of "hide and go treat" are on the docket for more pet parents in this coming year.

#5 Work on better manners & training

Whether it is barking at house guests, begging at the table, or bossing you around, most pets have some unfavorable behaviors that need to be curbed. Pet parents have committed to working with professional trainers this new year to help their pets with anxiety and behavior issues so they can be happier, more relaxed, and responsive.

Yappy New Year!

About TripsWithPets

TripsWithPets is a leader in the pet travel industry – providing online reservations at pet-friendly hotels across the United States and Canada.

With over 45,000 accommodations, TripsWithPets provides pet travelers with a wide variety of pet-friendly options.

Pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to find and book the perfect place to stay with their pets – including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.

As passionate animal advocates, TripsWithPets supports local and national 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations by raising much needed funds through their annual Partners for Animal Welfare Series (PAWS)

MHMS: SPECIAL EDITION BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

City Funding: For the latest updates on City and State funding for small business, artists, youth services and more, please sign up for the City of Boston's updates by emailing: join-funding_update@listserv.cityofboston.gov

Small Business Updates
Our Small Business Call features support services and resources available to Boston's small businesses, as well as a live Q&A. Join us Tuesday, January 31st, for our call at 3pm!
Register in advance: <https://bit.ly/small-business-call>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. You may also view the webinar and submit questions on Facebook Live! Live interpretation is available on Zoom in three languages -- Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese (Mandarin):

Mission Hill ONS (Office of Neighborhood Services) Liaison With The City Is - Maggie Van Scoy
Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, and Mission Hill Liaison Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Neighborhood Services
617-635-2679

Graffiti Busters will be back to work in the spring for both private and commercial properties. Mission Hill friends and neighbors, please let us know if there are specific topics you wish to see covered in this newsletter. Thank you and please stay safe!

Boston Public Health Commission issues flu advisory

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) issued an advisory to Boston health care providers alerting them about concerning levels of flu activity during the early stage of flu season, as well as the slow uptake of flu vaccinations and COVID-19 boosters.

BPHC is urging providers to apply the CDC's Health Advisory Network (HAN) recommendations to address increased respiratory virus activity and to mitigate severe strain on the healthcare system. The recommendations call for COVID-19 and flu vaccination to prevent the spread of both illnesses; diagnostic testing to guide treatment and clinical management; treatment protocols for confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 and flu; and proactive messaging that supports public health outcomes to raise awareness about the current flu season.

"The best way to avoid getting sick with the flu and to reduce your risk of severe infection is

getting your annual flu shot. Now that the holidays are here, taking this important, yet simple step is vital for protecting yourself and others when celebrating with friends and family," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "Everybody 6-months and older should get their flu vaccination as soon as possible."

The Boston Public Health Commission has set up several standing sites in communities throughout the city to make it quick and convenient for residents to get their annual flu shots, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, and COVID-19 testing.

All services are free for individuals ages 6-months and older, with no appointments or IDs required:

Boston City Hall,
Haymarket Room 240 (2nd floor), 1 City Hall Sq., Boston.
Open Mondays from 7am-1pm and Wednesdays from 12-5pm.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

What's for dinner?

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

If your job is meal planning and preparation, this is a question you'll ask yourself all too often in the months ahead. For us, that question is, "What's for Lunch?" since that is our main meal of the day. Even for an experienced home cook, coming up with an endless array of meals that are tasty, nourishing, and easy to prepare can be daunting.

So much so that one savvy entrepreneur offers a set of dice you can roll to help decide what to cook or order for that next meal. Each die has a bunch of options, including cooking methods, proteins, grains/carbs, herbs, bonus ingredients, and vegetables for each season.

Penny uses a similar approach to add cultural variety to our meals. She purchased Wendy MacNaughton's illustrations of the flavor wheels from the book "Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" by Samin Nosrat. They conveniently live on our refrigerator. She can then choose the salt, fat, and acid that will spin what we have on hand into the taste of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, or South America.

Reduce Decision Fatigue

Steve Jobs often wore a black top and jeans to eliminate one daily decision. In the world of food, this has resulted in themes like Meatless Monday, Taco Tuesday, Fish on Friday, or Sunday Roast.

Many long-time cooks devel-

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes

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

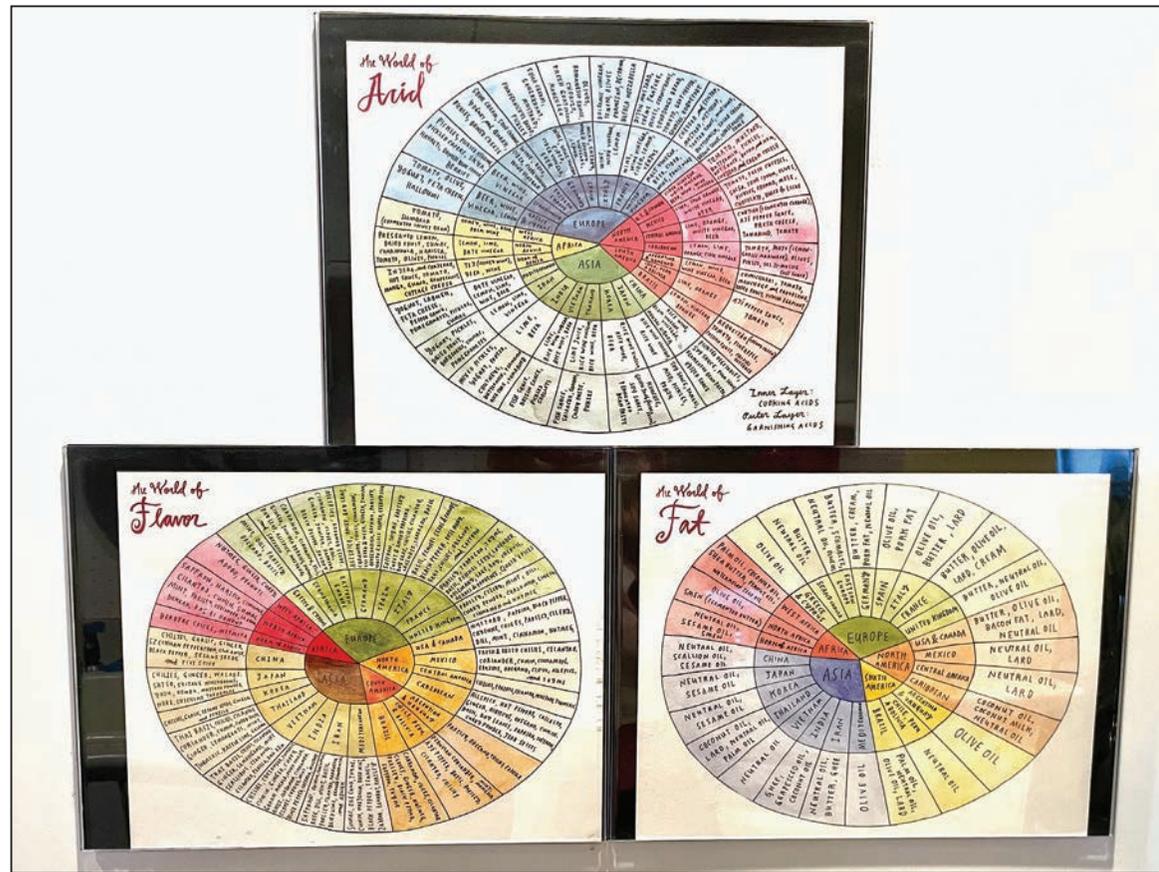
Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

op a rotation of dishes they can whip together without referring to a recipe. Some of these may be recipes made from leftovers and pantry staples at the last moment, like tacos, egg dishes, quesadillas, grain bowls, salads, soups, and sandwiches.

Intentional Leftovers

When she has enough time, Penny will make a large batch of soup, stew, a casserole, or a braised or roasted dish that we'll dine on for a few days. She'll freeze some of these as single servings to feed us on busy days. As she cooks, she'll also make extra supplies of cooked and spiced minced lamb or beef, sauces, and poached chicken to turn into a quick meal.

We have food writer David Leite to thank for the jar of cooked onions and garlic that's often in our refrigerator, ready to give us a head start on a meal. In his book, "The New Portuguese Table," Leite wrote, "I find spending up to half an hour sautéing onions takes a chunk out of busy weekday evenings, so I make big batches of the stuff and scoop out what I need when I'm at the stove."



Illustrations of the flavor wheels from the book "Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" live on our refrigerator. We use these to spin a meal to the taste of Africa, Asia, Europe, North or South America.

Stuck in a Food Rut?

In avoiding decision fatigue, you may be bored with what you're cooking and eating. There are many solutions for this issue thanks to prepared food, the Internet, and our excellent library system.

Type "recipe for" plus an ingredient or two into a web browser, and you'll find hundreds of options for a new dish. Pick one that sounds good to you. If you

learn better by watching than by reading, do the same on YouTube.

If you have a cookbook collection, pull a favorite off the shelf or open one in your e-reader for inspiration. You can also download many ebook versions of popular cookbooks from your library. Or, you can stop by and scan the library shelves to choose something from a favorite author, culture, or cooking method.

Finally, you can have a few prepared meals in your freezer to give the cook a break. Or, you can dine out or order takeout from restaurants that still need your support to survive the slower winter months.

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

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'BUDDY'

Buddy is a houstrained, social dog who loves people and other dogs. He is about a year old and very smart. He will thrive on lots of exercise and training to keep him busy!

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

Sarah Carroll, REALTOR®

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2023 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY

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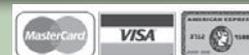
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 Mission Hill Gazette  Jamaica Plain Gazette



Wu announces the Space Grant program to help small businesses

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the SPACE Grant program in partnership with the Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEI). The program will identify creative ways to bring people back to major commercial districts, revitalize the economy as we emerge from the pandemic, and close the racial wealth gap. Through this program, up to 50 local entrepreneurs will receive substantial grant funding to help them open new storefront businesses in vacant commercial spaces across Boston, with particular emphasis on major commercial hubs like Copley, Downtown, Fenway, and Seaport to increase the diversity of storefront businesses in these neighborhoods.

The SPACE (Supporting Pandemic Affected Community Enterprises) Grant program will provide grants of up to \$200,000 over a three-year period to subsidize rents, upfront capital costs, and necessary infrastructure to help local, small, diverse businesses seeking to fill vacant storefronts. The City plans to collaborate with MassDevelopment, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, Downtown Boston BID, Main Streets, local commercial banks and CDFIs, and property owners to ensure that participating small business owners have access to additional financial resources and assistance to open and thrive in their new locations. The City expects the first cohort will include approximately 10-15 businesses.

"The SPACE grant program is critical to bolstering our local economy and will help local, small, diverse businesses open new locations across our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This grant program addresses commercial vacancies by connecting entrepreneurs with crucial support and the chance to grow. I'm thrilled to launch this program and grateful to our Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet and all of our partners for their critical work to ensure that Boston's thriving, inclusive and equitable for all."

OEI has received preliminary interest from a range of entrepreneurs through a recent survey and the Boston Main Streets. This initiative will prioritize helping Boston small businesses that were most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Arts, creative economy, and entertainment;

- Childcare;
- Fitness, recreation, wellness;
- Food service and production;
- Laundry services;
- Repair and maintenance;
- Restaurants; and
- Retail

The SPACE Grant program is funded by a \$9 million investment from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in Boston's local economic recovery, and will support both entrepreneurs looking to open their first brick and mortar storefront business, as well as current small businesses in the City of Boston looking to expand to new locations within the city.

Grantees will be matched with technical assistance providers that are part of OEI's Small Business Technical Assistance Program to set them up for success. In addition, grantees will benefit from workshops and one-on-one coaching to guide them through the operational steps of opening a new storefront location. These skills will include lease negotiation and other legal support, financial, marketing, or other areas of expertise. To assist interested entrepreneurs, OEI will hold a virtual workshop in mid-January 2023 focused on how to write a business plan for entrepreneurs. For more information, sign up for the City's small business e-newsletter.

"The SPACE Grant program is a direct response to the immense need for innovative ways to fill storefront vacancies and bring vitality to our neighborhoods that we heard from business owners on the ground, whether through our weekly Main Streets walks, surveys, or our one-on-one engagement," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "I am grateful to our team and our partners who built this program, and am happy to launch an effort that will bring about a more robust economy and greater diversity to our city."

Businesses can apply to the SPACE Grant program online at: boston.gov/space-grant. Applications are available in multiple languages.

First cohort application deadline: February 17, 2023

Grantees chosen: April 2023

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for a SPACE Grant:

- Business must be incorporated in a Qualified Census Tract

OR one of the prioritized business industries mentioned above.

- Business must have fewer than twenty-five employees (not including the business owner).

- Business owners must provide proof of a Boston business address (e.g., a signed lease, business permit / license / title, utility bill in which the business is named directly, or other home office documentation).

- Business and business owners must be in good-standing with the City of Boston.

- Business must provide a copy of its up to date Business Certificate.

"The Wu Administration's SPACE Grant Program is a gamechanger for Downtown Boston and our neighborhoods. Providing direct financial and technical assistance to those looking to activate our vacant retail spaces will reduce existing barriers that limit equitable access to these storefronts. This program will open economic opportunities

downtown to a wider array of entrepreneurs, make our streets livelier and safer, and support wealth-building for small business owners from a diversity of backgrounds. The Downtown Boston BID and our members are prepared to fully support this effort and to help new businesses thrive and become long-term fixtures Downtown," said Michael Nichols, President of the Downtown Boston BID.

"As a Main Streets director, I am very excited for the SPACE Grant Program. This is a progressive push forward that meets the basic needs of our small businesses, while filling the vacancies that can plague our neighborhoods," said Ginger Brown, Executive Director of JP/Centre South Main Streets.

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted Downtown and its businesses, and the Wu Administration remains committed to its Downtown Revitalization plan, announced in April 2022 to address decreased foot

traffic and consumer spending. As Boston aims to encourage people back to its commercial centers, the City is moving forward bold initiatives to increase consumer confidence and support small businesses. While Boston aims to activate spaces in all of our neighborhoods, the City is also seeking to ensure its Downtown core is flourishing.

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/space-grant>

The vision of the Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet is of a resilient, equitable, sustainable, and vibrant city that centers people and creates opportunities to build generational wealth. The Cabinet consists of five City departments, including the Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, the Office of Small Business, the Office of Supplier and Workforce Diversity, and the Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment.

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January 13	JP History; Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 16)
March 10	Senior Life; St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
March 24	Real Estate Today
April 21	JP Kids;
May 12	Roslindale Neighbors;
June 9	Juneteenth
June 23	JP Pets; Congratulations to Graduates
July 21	JP History
August 11	Best of JP Ballot
September 8	Guide to JP; JP Open Studios
September 22	Real Estate Today
October 13	JP Kids; Columbus Day (Oct. 9)
October 27	Roslindale Neighbors; Halloween (Oct. 31)
November 24	Thanksgiving (Nov. 23)
December 8	Holidays in JP

*The two issues containing "Roslindale Neighbors" have a circulation of 16,420 in Jamaica Plain with an additional 3,000 distributed in Roslindale

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February 3	MH History
April 7	Senior Life
September 1	Student Welcome Guide; Best of MH Ballot
October 6	Best of MH Winners

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EDITORIAL

WE ARE LIVING -- AND DYING -- WITH COVID-19

Although the restrictions -- masking, social distancing, etc. -- that were imposed during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic are largely gone and forgotten by the vast majority of Americans, the unfortunate reality is that COVID-19 has not forgotten us.

More than 315 Americans still are dying each and every day from COVID-19 -- that's about 115,000 deaths per year -- making COVID-19 the third leading cause of death in the U.S. after heart disease and cancer.

Ordinarily, those huge numbers would be cause for a public health emergency. But in comparison to the 3,000 deaths per day that were occurring during the first two years of the pandemic, we've become complacent.

We also would note that beyond the still-shocking death toll, COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc with our economy, with even the most conservative estimates asserting that thanks to time lost from work, hospitalizations, long-term medical care, and other disruptions, COVID-19 continues to cost us more than \$500 billion per year -- a huge sum attributable to a little bug.

Perhaps one reason why we have become so blasé about the risks of COVID-19 -- beyond "pandemic fatigue" -- is that COVID-19 has become a deadly disease almost exclusively among our country's senior citizens.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, people 65 and older accounted for 75 percent of all American Covid deaths. That dropped below 60 percent by September, 2021. But today, Americans 65 and over account for 90 percent of new COVID-19 deaths, even though 94 percent of American seniors have some level of vaccination.

However, far too many seniors have not received the new bivalent booster that became available a few months ago. Given that the immune systems of those over 65 are weaker to begin with and that the protection of the vaccine weakens over time, especially for seniors, the failure of senior citizens to get the latest bivalent vaccine booster has created a perfect opportunity for COVID-19 to infiltrate our senior population.

In our view, there are two takeaways from these statistics: First, every senior should get the new bivalent booster ASAP. Second, those who come into contact with seniors, whether in their personal or business lives, should wear a mask in order not to spread the disease to our most-vulnerable population.

Sorry to say, COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon. But two simple steps for our seniors and those who care about them -- an updated vaccine and a mask -- can go a long way toward mitigating the ongoing human tragedy of this pernicious disease.

PELE, THE ONE AND ONLY

Over the course of the past 60 years, there was one person who indisputably was the most famous man on the planet -- and that person was Pele.

Even those who knew nothing about soccer -- or any other sport -- still recognized his name in all four corners of the globe.

Pele revolutionized not only the game of soccer with his speed, finesse, power, and skill, but also the sports world in general. He became the first global superstar and elevated athletic competition into the realm of the international arena more than any person ever has.

It is because of Pele that more American children -- boys and girls -- play soccer today than any other sport in our country.

But what truly made Pele great was his incredible humility. He became an international star at the age of 17 when he led Brazil to the first of three World Cups in 1958, but throughout his long life, he never forgot his roots in the impoverished favela of his hometown of Santos, where he learned his soccer skills on the streets.

Pele served as an ambassador both for his country and the world of sports for decades, radiating his warm smile and joy wherever he went.

Pele was a beautiful man who played the beautiful game as no one ever has, both on and off the pitch. He will be missed.



PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

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

Mission Hill GAZETTE

Circulation 7,000

Published 12 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

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OP-ED

Those who are grieving and suffering loss

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Throughout the years, many of us watched Barbara Walters from NBC to ABC. I always tried to watch her special interviews. Often, the people she interviewed on primetime television specials were “the” high profile people at that given time. She became the highest paid journalist of her day being the first to sign a million-dollar contract with ABC.

Regardless of what we do in life we are still confronted by difficulties that often debilitate us. Walters had survived her own personal struggles, like we all do, including four divorces. Unfortunately, her reported battle with dementia took its toll on her health. We can all accomplish

much in life. Maybe not as much as Walters or maybe even more. Regardless, there is much about life we can't do anything about other than try to deal with it and do the best we can.

At least 37 people died from the recent winter storm in Buffalo, New York. Families are grieving. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, freezing temperatures, and snow have wreaked devastation on our country in the last twelve months. Loss of life can come from disease, weather, accidents or unconscionably by design.

We all have been horrified by the death of four college students in Moscow, Idaho. It's been beyond us how four beautiful people could be stabbed to death

in their beds reportedly between 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning. A young man who is a student at nearby Washington State University on the Pullman campus has been arrested at his parents' house in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania. Moscow police believe they now have the murderer in custody.

How anyone could commit such a heinous crime is beyond our comprehension. I'm sure it was beyond the scope of thought for these innocent young adults. We never know who is taking note of our lives, whereabouts and activities. Regardless of how calm and safe your community seems you can't take anything for granted. Lock your doors. Lock your bedroom door. Keep your

handgun on your lampstand and try your best to create an environment that protects you as much as possible. With so many people sleeping in the rental house in Moscow, I'm sure these young college students felt safe. What appeared to be safe for them became an opportunity for an evil mind.

Typically, the attacker has the element of surprise on his side. It's always best to try to think ahead. Sadly, four Idaho University students were killed by someone who planned, plotted, and was patient enough to find the right moment to carry out the murders.

Accepting and dealing with what we cannot change is one thing. Preparing for life but roll-

ing with the punches, the turns and twists is another. Being watchful, careful, and never taking anything for granted could make the difference between life and death

Pray for these families and all the many friends and loved ones as they grieve and suffer from such devastating loss.

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.

Upcoming weekend service changes on Orange, Green, Red lines in January

The MBTA announced upcoming service changes this month on the Orange, Green, and Red lines. Because of the continued demolition of the Government Center Garage by private developer HYM Construction, Orange and Green Line service changes will take place in January in the downtown Boston area. Additionally, the Medford Branch of the Green Line will be replaced with shuttle bus service from start to end of service on Sunday, January 8, to accommodate water line work. The Red Line will also experience service changes during the weekend of January 7-8 in order for the MBTA to perform work at JFK/UMass station.

• The MBTA has been working closely with the City of Boston and the developer in order to accommodate the private Government Center Garage work affecting both the Orange and Green Lines:

• Riders should note that Haymarket-area buses will not be diverted during these weekends

and will continue to stop at the temporary Haymarket bus stops. A list of Haymarket bus routes and these temporary stops is available at mbta.com.

• Orange and Green Line trains will bypass Haymarket station during the weekends of January 7-8 and January 21-22. Orange Line riders should exit at North Station or State and walk to the Haymarket area. Green Line riders should exit at North Station or Government Center station. These stations are less than a half-mile from Haymarket, or a four- to eight-minute walk.

• Closures will also take place on the Orange Line between Back Bay and North Station and on the Green Line between North Station and Government Center Station during the weekend of January 14-15. Orange Line riders are asked to use Green Line service between Copley and Government Center stations. Green Line service between North Station and Government Cen-

ter Station will be replaced with shuttle bus service. The purpose of these weekend diversions is to accommodate the private Garage demolition work. The MBTA will also perform maintenance on track, signal, and power systems, including the replacement of rail between Chinatown and Tufts Medical Center stations.

• Extra MBTA personnel and Transit Ambassadors will be on-hand to assist customers. Accessibility vans will also be available for on-demand transportation – riders should ask MBTA personnel for information and assistance. More information on alternate paths of travel will be available at mbta.com/alerts.

• Riders are also advised that, due to the complexity of the continued demolition of the Government Center Garage by HYM Construction, additional weekend diversions will be necessary in the coming months to accommodate the ongoing work. The MBTA apologizes for this inconvenience and will announce

additional service changes in advance as they are confirmed and scheduled. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on Twitter for up-to-date service information.

• Green Line Medford Branch trolleys will also be replaced with accessible shuttle bus service between Medford/Tufts and East Somerville stations in both directions from start to end of service on Sunday, January 8. The purpose of this one-day diversion is to perform emergency repair work on the water lines that service Medford/Tufts station, which require additional insulation. Riders may also utilize Bus Routes 80 and 87 for

service throughout the area on January 8.

• Red Line Ashmont and Braintree Branch trains will be replaced with accessible shuttle buses between Broadway and Ashmont stations and between Broadway and North Quincy stations during the weekend of January 7-8. The purpose of this weekend diversion is to perform work on the pedestrian bridge between Columbia Road and the lobby at JFK/UMass station. After necessary repairs are completed, the MBTA will reopen the pedestrian ramp at Columbia Road.

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Wu names Terrell as Executive Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equity

Mayor Michelle Wu announced Robert Terrell as Executive Director of the City's Office of Fair Housing and Equity. The existing office, which is within the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, prevents discrimination and ensures equi-

table access to housing in Boston. "In this moment as Boston continues to grow, ensuring every resident has a safe, healthy, affordable home is the foundation for a brighter future for everyone," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

"The Office of Fair Housing and Equity is crucial in tackling discrimination and ensuring every resident and family has equitable access to housing across all of our city's neighborhoods. I'm grateful to Mr. Terrell for his



Robert Terrell.

leadership and commitment to centering equity in our housing work and serving our city."

"Having Robert Terrell's experience and passion for housing equity is essential to our mission of building a city for everyone," said Chief of Equity and Inclusion Mariangely Solis Cervera. "I'm excited to work beside him as we create new solutions for equitable and fair housing practices for our residents."

As Executive Director, Terrell will work to enforce local, state, and federal fair housing law in Boston to protect renters and buyers from discriminatory practices. Terrell's work in Boston's fair housing space has focused on the impact of gentrification and displacement in Roxbury and within transit corridors across the city. In this new role, he will build on this to play a key role in centering racial justice and housing equity in city processes and protecting the interests of Boston residents. Terrell will also work to expand the investigatory capacity of the office to better receive formal complaints when laws are violated, increase access to trainings about housing rights for residents, and ensure fair housing is embedded into city policies.

"I am very excited to join the Office of Fair Housing and Equity as its new Executive Director. I look upon civil rights and fair housing work as a sacred trust. I want to assure everyone in Boston that we will do our utmost to combat housing discrimination in whatever form it takes," said Robert Terrell. "If you've ever been unjustly denied housing because of the color of your skin, the language you speak, the country you come from or whom you choose to love, our office is

here to stand with you. We will enforce our fair housing laws justly, uphold the rights of our protected classes and we pledge to do so under all conditions and at all times".

Recently, Terrell served as the Fair Housing, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the Boston Housing Authority's Office of Civil Rights. In this position, Terrell assisted in the development of the Boston Housing Authority's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative and chaired their Fair Housing working group, and supported the development of the Expanding Choice in Housing Opportunities (ECHO) Program that collectively created a framework central to how Boston removes barriers to fair housing today. This work eventually led Terrell to also play a role in creating a new Assessment of Fair Housing for the City of Boston.

Prior to joining the City of Boston, Terrell held leadership positions with many local organizations such as the Roxbury Neighborhood Council, the Madison Park Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Citizen's Housing and Planning Association's (CHAPA), Action for Equity's Housing Committee, the Boston Branch of the NAACP, the Planning Committee of the Annual Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference, and the Assessment of Fair Housing's Community Advisory Committee and its Monitoring Committee.

Terrell also lectures part-time at Tufts University's Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning where he received his Masters in Public Policy.

Robert also holds a BA in Government and Sociology from Bowdoin College.

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