

HILL HAPPENINGS — PG. 3

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Mission Hill GAZETTE

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MARCH 3, 2022 — APRIL 6, 2023

What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

"Spring passes, and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes, and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes, and one remembers one's reverence. Winter passes, and one remembers one's perseverance." — Yoko Ono, a Japanese multimedia artist, singer, songwriter and peace activist and spouse of John Lennon of the Beatles.

For the past four years, I have experienced a wonderful opportunity as the executive director of Mission Hill Main Streets. The work has been incredibly stimulating and used every bit of my creativity, knowledge and experience. It has afforded me the opportunity to work with inspiring business owners in the neighborhood, to partner with our local elected and City officials while working with some

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Photo by Daniela Marchione

Yellow Door Taqueria's bartender Lyndsay Pingel.

Wu announces investment of \$67 million to create and preserve 802 income-restricted homes in Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu came to Jamaica Plain and joined the Hyde Square Task Force, affordable housing developers, and community organizations at the site of the former Blessed Sacrament church to announce \$67 million in new recommended funding from the Mayor's Office of Hous-

ing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT) to create and preserve more than 800 income-restricted units of housing in eight Boston neighborhoods including Mission Hill. The Blessed Sacrament site is one of the projects that will be funded. The ambitious portfolio consists of 17 projects with a total of 802

units of mixed-income housing that includes rental housing for families, while also creating new homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income Bostonians. Of the 802 units, 160 will be income restricted housing for seniors. These proposed projects meet the Mayor's Office of Hous-

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1439 Tremont just barely gets support from CAMH

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The proponents of a development at 1439 Tremont Street, proposing to build a new four-story building comprised of six units, narrowly got voters' support during the Community Alliance of Mission Hill's (CAMH) monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 15.

In what was a vote that initially was split down the middle with 46% of respondents voting in favor and another 46% opposing – 8% abstained – it was up to CAMH President Martin Beinborn to break the tie.

Beinborn voted to support the development, saying, "I will give the developers the benefit of the doubt that it's a good building."

Beinborn's vote seemed to frustrate some in attendance as some visibly shook their heads after his decision. One of the main reasons for such a highly contested vote was due to concerns about the reputation of the property owners – City Realty Management.

A resident, Dave Greenup, had done some research. In an email he showed, dated December 6,

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Image courtesy Boston Planning & Development Agency

Artist rendering of the 1439 Tremont Street development

Visit us online at MissionHillGazette.com

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

Wu announces day of volunteer service and acts of kindness to mark One Boston Day

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston put out a call to action for community-based organizations, businesses, and City of Boston employees and residents to come together for volunteer events and acts of kindness in recognition of our City's spirit of care for one another in response to the tragic events of April 15, 2013. One Boston Day, observed on April 15, honors the victims, survivors, and first responders of the 2013 Boston Marathon.

"One Boston Day honors those forever impacted on April 15, 2013 and recognizes the greatest strength of this City—our people," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We will never forget the people whose lives were lost, the many injured and forever changed, and the spirit of humanity displayed that day and beyond for those most in need. One Boston Day is a living demonstration of our strength when we come together as one."

Ten years later, City of Bos-

ton departments and workers will continue to come together in honor of the day and will be hosting service projects for people to give back to their communities. Mayor Wu today announced that the City is launching a new One Boston Day website to help publicize events hosted by community groups and residents. A 2023 Acts of Kindness Checklist is available on boston.gov/one-boston to provide inspiration and ideas on how individuals can get involved.

"On One Boston Day, we hope residents, businesses and service organizations across the city will come together and find ways to give back in service to others and their communities," said Bill Richard Co-Founder of the Martin Richard Foundation.

As we mark this tenth year, the City of Boston and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) will honor the day with a remembrance event in the Back Bay on Saturday, April 15, 2023. More details about the event will be announced in the coming weeks.

Organizations, businesses, and individuals who wish to publicize a One Boston Day event can submit information about their event here. The City will continue to add new service and other opportunities over the coming weeks and will be sharing the activities through all communications channels.

"On April 15, 2013, my family and I were standing on Boylston Street and our lives changed in an instant," said Audrey Epstein Reny, founder of the Stepping Strong Center. "We experienced an awful tragedy, but also the strength that comes from receiving the best in human kindness. For the past decade, we have kept that special Boston Strong spirit alive at The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where our mission is to turn tragedy into hope for trauma survivors through innovation, collaboration and community outreach. On One Boston Day, we invite the public to continue this tradition by con-

tributing much needed blood for trauma patients."

For details on the Stepping Strong Center's blood drive, visit here. To honor the brave first responders who played a critical role in 2013, the Stepping Strong Center will be offering Stop the Bleed training to empower residents to take action in times of crisis.

The City is also organizing a number of community events on April 15 and welcomes residents to take part. The Office of Civic Organizing, the Mayor's Youth Council, and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a community clean up at Franklin Park starting at 10:00 a.m. People interested in taking part can sign up here. Details on other City-organized One Boston Day acts of service will be made available in the coming weeks.

"On One Boston Day, we come together as a city and as a running community," said Jack Fleming, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Athletic

Association. "While it has been ten years since the tragic events unfolded on Boylston Street at the Boston Marathon, we continue to honor and remember all of those whose lives were affected. The Boston Athletic Association is committed to remembering while also celebrating the spirit of strength that has marked one of the most meaningful decades in our city's history."

Mayor Wu is encouraging Boston residents to take part in their own individual acts of kindness, including those on the 2023 One Boston Day Acts of Kindness Checklist. Examples from the checklist range from buying a cup of coffee for a stranger to donating blood. Like in years past, people are welcome to share their reflections and acts of service plans for One Boston Day on social media with the hashtag #OneBostonDay.

More on One Boston Day, including the form to register a community event, are available on boston.gov/one-boston.

Boston sees continued improvement in COVID-19 metrics

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) shared that the city continues to note downward trends in several key COVID-19 metrics. Suffolk County is now at low community level, per the CDC.

While these data are a positive sign, residents who are at high risk of severe illness and hospitalization should continue to take precautions.

The amount of new COVID-19 cases per day have decreased by 36% over the past two weeks (data through 2/24). Boston hospitals had 143 new hospital admissions through February 27, which marks a 23% decrease over the past two weeks.

Analysis of the city's wastewater shows the level of COVID-19 particles has remained stable over the past two weeks, having

decreased by 14%. Nine of the 11 neighborhood testing sites had rates that were below the citywide average of 1,222 RNA copies/mL (data through 2/19).

"The downward trends that we have noted are encouraging," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

"However, COVID-19 is unpredictable and continues to have a disproportionate impact within communities throughout Boston and among individuals who are vulnerable due to underlying illness and immunocompromise. We urge Boston residents to get boosted and to utilize the free vaccination and testing resources available throughout our city."

Indoor masking remains an important strategy to decrease transmission risk. Individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19 are highly encouraged to mask while indoors.

In addition, individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone

with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask or respirator in public indoor spaces. BPHC reminds residents that staying up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations by getting the bivalent booster is the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and severe illness that can result in hospitalization. If you have not received a COVID-19 booster since August 2022, you are due to receive the updated bivalent booster.

Bivalent boosters, as well as the primary COVID-19 vaccination series, COVID-19 testing, and flu shots are free and available at BPHC's standing clinics throughout the city. At-home rapid testing kits and \$75 gift cards for individuals who receive a COVID-19 vaccination are also available at these sites, while supplies last. Walk-ins are welcome and no IDs or proof of insurance are required.

Boston City Hall – 1 City Hall Sq., Boston

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JP



CHILDREN'S SOCCER

For kids 3.5-6.5. Online Registration is NOW OPEN

Volunteers needed to assure our ability to hold a Spring 2023! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

Regular season registration ends on April 19, 2023

The Spring season runs from Wednesday, April 26th through Sunday, June 25th, 2023

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

The spring season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 min practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturdays at 9, 10 or 11am or Sunday at 10am.

Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

Para niños 3.5-6.5. El registro en línea ya está abierto en <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 19 de abril de 2023

La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 26 de Abril hasta domingo el 25 de Junio de 2023.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los miércoles a las 4 p.m., los sábados a las 9, 10 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Necesitamos líderes voluntarios para apoyar a cada equipo, ¡no se necesita experiencia! Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más detalles o contáctenos directamente en: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.



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Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

It was heartening to see a few dozen Mission Grammar School students at Mike's Donuts last month showing their appreciation for proprietor Maria Weinograd for her generous support. Besides aiding Mission Grammar, Maria donates her time and tasty products to numerous Mission Hill events.

With sports betting now legal in Ma. several Mission Hill residents visited Encore Casino in Everett to plunk down money on the Super Bowl. A wise cliché to adhere to is, "Bet with your head, not over your head."

I stopped by the Casino last week to check out the impressive sports betting parlor and I also won some coffee money playing Texas Hold'em and a little blackjack. I scratched my head when a few players at my blackjack table were betting black (\$100) chips and devoid of basic strategy knowledge. A common blatant mistake I saw by these high



Mission Grammar School students sent a 'Thank You' poster to Mike's Donuts.

rollers was "standing" with 12 when the dealer has a deuce showing. This hand has negative

expectations either way you play it but the odds are better for the player if he "hits" the 12 instead

of "holding" and hopes the dealer busts.

Happy 80th birthday to Jim Burke, a terrific Mission Hill guy who is an Army veteran who served in VietNam. A celebration for Jim will take place Sunday, March 12 from 2 until 5 at the Squealing Pig Tavern. All are welcome and I'll see you there.

I stopped in the Yellow Door Taqueria (formerly Flann O'Briens) last Sunday evening and said hello to their nice bartender, Jessy. I haven't eaten Mexican food in many years but maybe I'll indulge on my next

visit to go along with my \$3 Narragansett beer.

The 70th Mission Hill Little League season is around the corner and league President, Dan Weldon would like to see the return of the Little League parade. For years the parade - around the Hill preceded opening day. Other festivities may also take place to commemorate the milestone.

Tom "Dubba" Walsh played Little League ball at Smith Street Playground in the 50's

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*A.P.Y. = Annual Percentage Yields. Certificate Special APYs are accurate as of 2/6/23 and are subject to change without notice. 13-Month Certificate Special APY equals 4.08% for deposits between \$500.00-\$49,999.99 and 4.18% APY for deposits \$50,000.00 and above. 13-Month Certificate Specials are limited to one per member. Minimum deposit of \$500. Certificate Specials are available for a limited time. Deposits cannot be made during the term of the account. Dividends will be credited to your account and compounded every month. Upon maturity, unless otherwise directed by member, 13-Month Special Certificate will automatically rollover into the City of Boston Credit Union 12-Month Certificate at that date's current APY. All other certificate terms and conditions will apply and may change at any time. Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Must be a member of City of Boston Credit Union to open certificate account(s). Dividend rates are accurate as of the date and time of printing and are subject to change without notice.

Wu, Immigrant Advancement award mini-grants to promote U.S. citizenship

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) are awarding \$50,000 in mini-grants to five nonprofits for creative initiatives that help green card holders become U.S. citizens. The grants range from \$2,000 to \$12,000 for programs including citizenship classes, education, and outreach. "Becoming a U.S. citizen is an important milestone yet we know for many in our communities that it can be an expensive, intimidating and never ending process," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to MOIA and these organizations for their critical work in reducing barriers to citizenship with creative and community-driven initiatives."

"Many immigrants want to become U.S. citizens but are deterred because of how much it can cost, questions about the process, and even anxiety about navigating the system," said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. "By giving diverse nonprofits mini-grants, immigrants can get help through trusted sources in their communities."

Five local organizations are selected to receive funding from the MOIA Promoting Access to Citizenship Mini-Grants. They are:

Agencia ALPHA: Funding will increase capacity to provide citizenship classes.

Azerbaijani Society of New England: The organization will hold a citizenship awareness workshop and start test preparation classes for the Azerbaijani community.

Nigerian American Multi-Service Association: The mini-grant will help launch a new "Citizenship Pathway Program" that focuses on outreach and application help to green card holders in African communities.

Project Citizenship: Funding will support the creation of a free online self-navigated portal to guide people through the naturalization application process.

Vietnamese American Civic Association: The organization will help the Vietnamese com-

munity prepare for citizenship interviews through individual and group practice sessions.

There are several benefits to becoming a U.S. citizen including being more active in the community, having the right to vote, and living in the United States without risk of deportation. About 30,000 Boston residents are eligible for U.S. citizenship.

"The fulfillment of being citizens of a country after living here for years is something that many in our community earnestly look forward to," said Godwin Nnanna, President of the Nigerian American Multi-Service Association. "This grant will help make that a dream come true for a number of green card holders

in our community."

"We're grateful for the City's support on this critical issue," said Thuan Tran, Executive Director of the Vietnamese American Civic Association. "This shows the City's understanding and recognition of the public issues faced by immigrant communities today. This mini-grant will certainly support our continuing effort to assist Vietnamese green card holders in performing their citizenship interviews competently."

These mini-grants will support programming from March through September 2023. Anyone interested in joining these programs can contact the organizations directly.

1439 Tremont

Continued from page 1

2022, the property owners had 620 Code Enforcement Violations valued at \$34,465.

The same email also revealed that the owners had 14 open building violations at the time. Since then, George Morancy, the attorney representing City Realty, indicated that the owners have addressed many of those violations.

"There were a number of violations that Dave [Greenup] found that were brought to the attention of my client – City Realty Management – and the vast majority of those were addressed, they were paid, they were cleared up," said Morancy.

"I would have to say that, again, the vast majority of those – my clients were not necessarily aware of them at the time that they happened, but they certainly were not trying to avoid them."

It should also be noted that many of the violations dealt with issues such as trash and overgrown weeds rather than building code or life safety violations. He also

said that City Realty has instituted a new policy to monitor the code enforcement database.

"They're [City Realty] not landlords, landowners, property managers who don't pay attention to their properties. Their reputation is very important to them," said Morancy.

Although, as City Realty's attorney indicated, they have done some work to clear up these violation issues, Greenup also revealed a spreadsheet of violations dated from January 31 to February 14 of this year.

That spreadsheet revealed that during the aforementioned timeframe, the owners had been given 24 violations totaling \$1,450. Most violations cited improper trash storage, failing to clean the sidewalk, and more.

However, there were three violations on Princeton Street in East Boston during that timeframe for occupying city property without a permit. Jacob Simmons City Realty's Vice President of Project Management indicated that those violations stem from an issue with a sidewalk bond and are being addressed with Public Works.

These violations and the

discussion surrounding them caused a bit of a stir in the meeting and concerned some residents.

"If we approve your development, we don't want to go through this again with what I just had to research now," said Greenup.

"It's apparent that things are not working in other areas of the city, and you're trying to come into our area of the city, and you haven't addressed the issues in the other part of the city."

Another resident who voiced his concerns was Richard Gior-

dano, who said, "The stuff that Dave [Greenup] has turned up is not a good indication of the capacity of City Realty to be an effective manager on their properties."

"I'll be honest, in the past, I've actually seen stories about tenants organizing and protesting at City Realty properties with buying up stuff and flipping, displacing people, and having a lot of rent increases."

In the end, although Beinborn did vote in support of the project, he hoped that City Realty would continue to make an effort to

clear up any violations saying, "You have a reputation to uphold in case you want to do something else in Mission Hill."

Both Simmons and Morancy were thankful for the decision. Simmons also thanked Greenup for his due diligence and research, saying, "Whether you like it or not, we made some changes that, you know, I think long term will benefit us."

"We hope to have a positive hearing at the ZBA [Zoning Board of Appeal] and are excited about this project and the future."

Hill Happenings

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and his first coach was Mr. (Ed) Kirker, a terrific mentor and my neighbor in the M.H. project. Dubba's Little League days on the Smith Street dirt field came to an end in 1959 and six years later he signed a contract to play for the Red Sox.

Dubba played three seasons in the Red Sox minor leagues and he was signed for a fourth season after playing well in spring training when his Army National Guard unit was activated and he was sent to VietNam. His dreams of Fenway Park ended but, conversing with Dubba last week, he said; "I served in VietNam but so did many other Mission Hill kids."

Dubba, who worked as a scout for the Milwaukee Brewers in the 90's, is a proud member of the Mission Hill Post 327.

The M.H. Little League relocated to Killilea Playground on Parker Hill Ave. in 1964 and the first batter on the new grassy field was Billy Westerman. Billy whiffed against hard throwing 12 year old hurler Jack Todd.

Condolences to the family of Eugene "Gene" Ford who passed away Feb. 17. I last saw Gene many years ago when he lived up the Hill and I remember him as easy going and a super nice guy. Gene was the Chaplain of American Legion Post 76 in Jamaica Plain. He leaves his wife Patricia (Magee) Ford of 49 years and his 4 children.

My condolences to the family of Susan Kane who passed away last month. Susan, a 1969 Mission High graduate, was a wonderful woman from a fine Mission Hill family. R.I.P., Susan.

The Mission Hill Post will hold their next meeting Thur., March

23, location to be announced. Any veteran seeking to join the Mission Hill Post may call our Commander, Col. George Rollins at 703-209-2124. Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

Condolences to the Schlehuber family upon the passing of their beloved mother, Winifred Schlehuber (McManus). Winifred lived on Mission Hill for many years where she raised seven children and this beautiful woman was the grandmother of 26 and 10 great grandchildren. Winifred's son, Kevin Schlehuber, who is blessed with good looks and has done modeling and has been on t.v. shows, was voted Mr. Massachusetts in 1986. Said Kevin, "After I won the contest my mother would carry a picture of me and embarrass me when she showed it to everybody". Winifred was so proud of her children. R.I.P. Winifred.

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Main Streets

Continued from page 1

of the most active community organizations in the City. I have met so many great residents of Mission Hill and they continuously motivated me to do my best for them. As all good things must come to an end, I have chosen to explore new avenues and will be leaving my role next month. I also want to acknowledge the support given me by the stellar cast of MHMS Board members who put their trust in me to carry out the mission of the organization. It has been fun – thank you Mission Hill!

The MHMS Board of Directors has selected a new director who has passionate enthusiasm, a commitment to the community and an established, long-term relationship with business owners and local organizations. I am sure you will welcome Courtney Wright as kindly as you welcomed me. Courtney comes from one of our world class educational institutions – Wentworth Institute of Technology – and is one of the neighborhoods' biggest volunteer advocates. She will officially come on board March 6th.

It is that time of year for neighborhood clean ups and MHMS is delighted to support the efforts by Northeastern University's Nikita Arya and her crew who will be hitting the streets on March 19th. MHMS, along with several other main streets, is also look-



Liz Siggers, Liz's Hair Care Salon and happy customer Shares Nairne.

ing at ways to reduce the graffiti impact in our neighborhoods through targeted projects during the warm weather months. In the warmer months, the City of Boston does offer FREE graffiti removal to residents via the 311 number when you send specific details, an address and photos, when possible. With several fo-

cused efforts, including volunteers from local educational institutions, resident volunteers and the City's Graffiti Busters, we hope to have a more attractive neighborhood this year!

On another note and just down the street at Yellow Door Taqueria (YDT), co-owner Colleen Hagerty says they "thrilled

to be in Mission Hill and are overwhelmed by the support of the neighborhood. Every week more and more residents stop in to try our tacos and margaritas and it's been wonderful to welcome local students back from their winter breaks. We have also been visited by employees of local businesses - particularly schools and hospitals - which is really exciting for us.

YDT just launched a Weekend Brunch menu and it's been going well and we want to invite everyone in to try these brand-new menu items like our Birria Eggs Benedict, Churro French Toast and our Coffee Coquito (a delicious rum, coconut, cinnamon and cold brew drink)!

With the Spring and Summer months ahead of us we look forward to outdoor dining as a YDT patio space would be the perfect setting for enjoying margaritas and tacos!" Do stop in to say hello to Colleen and her team.

Have you ever heard of Nowruz? It is an ancient Persian festival that celebrates the beginning of Spring and you can find out more at the MFA's Nowruz new year event on March 22nd. Here are a few more dates for some of our upcoming special Mission Hill events: This should be a very exciting Spring and Summer for all!

• Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th when the MH American Legion Post 327 who will hold its annual wreath-laying ceremony honoring our Veterans in



MHMS new executive director Courtney Wright.

Brigham Circle and, later that same day

• The MFA Community Day on Monday, May 29th from 10:00am to 3:00pm that will feature three local Mission Hill artists for the second year. The artists are being vetted through the Mission Hill Artists Collective. Thank you Luanne Witkowski and Lydia Pena for your support of this project.

• The annual MH Arts Festival will start June 10th, the theme is "Exuberance" and it will take place in The Yard, behind the Tobin Community Center.

A quick shout out to one of our Legacy Businesses, Liz's Hair Care Salon, who presented a MHMS Swag Bag to lucky raffle recipient Shares Nairne. Congratulations Shares!

Remember, shop small and shop local to support our business community!



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MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

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Homes

Continued from page 1

ing standards for zero-emissions buildings and represent transit-oriented, green development.

“We are partnering with community and using every tool that the City has to urgently address Boston’s housing crisis,” said Mayor Wu. “These housing awards represent significant investments in making our communities stronger and more affordable, ensuring that Boston remains a place that current residents, families and future generations can call home. I’m grateful to the Neighborhood Housing Trust and the Community Preservation Committee for their leadership and as we continue our work to build a Boston for everyone.”

In 2022, the City of Boston released two Requests for Proposals (RFP) offering funds for affordable housing developments. The Mayor’s Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Committee, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust evaluated the proposals and prioritized 17 projects. These projects will promote City goals to affirmatively further fair housing, and will efficiently utilize City resources and land to increase the supply of housing available to low- and moderate-income households.

The RFPs required developers to support and implement the City of Boston’s equity & inclusion goals. Projects where BIPOC individuals and entities represented 25 percent or more of the development team leadership received a high preference for the funding awards. Development teams where 25 percent or more of soft costs go to MBE subcontractors also received this advantage. Applicants were also required to provide information on how services offered in multi-family buildings will help support the economic mobility of residents who will live in income-restricted housing units.

“The funding being made available today will assist with the creation and preservation of 800 affordable homes. These high quality, green developments are located in neighborhoods throughout the City and will provide our residents stable housing options that they can afford,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “This portfolio of projects includes both rental and homeownership opportunities, family, senior housing and supportive housing. All of these developments will benefit and strengthen our residents, our



Residents and officials gather on Feb. 16 at the former Blessed Sacrament Church where Mayor Wu announced \$67 million in funding from the Mayor’s Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT).

communities and our City.”

“The development of housing that is accessible to residents at a variety of income levels is critically important to the future of Boston,” said Kenan Bigby, Managing Director of Trinity Financial, Inc. “We are thankful for the City of Boston’s support of the project at 2085 Washington. These funds will allow us to develop needed affordable homeownership opportunities in Roxbury.”

All the new construction projects funded in this round will be required to follow the Zero Emissions Building (ZEB) requirements outlined in the MOH Design Standards. Developers were required to submit and adhere to a Net Zero Strategy as part of the design submission. New developments will use electricity and on-site solar panels as the sole (or primary) fuel source.

“South Boston NDC is grateful for funding support from the City of Boston, which will allow us to create affordable senior housing for our most vulnerable residents,” said Donna Brown, Executive Director of the South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation. “Funding for McDevitt Senior Homes will enable elderly residents to age in community, with the supportive services they need. We applaud the City’s commitment to providing critical resources to address our housing needs.”

The new funding for income-restricted housing was made possible in part by more than \$32.5 million in municipal and federal funds administered by the Mayor’s Office of Housing. More than \$13.9 million in funds come from the NHT through the City’s Linkage policy, which extracts affordable housing funds from developers of large commercial projects.

“We’re proud to continue to

support the Neighborhood Housing Trust through the work we do at the Boston Planning & Development Agency,” said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. “In 2022, the BPDA Board approved new development projected to generate approximately \$40.7 million in linkage fees to support affordable housing in Boston. I am hopeful that there will be even more funding to go towards new, affordable homes for Bostonians, in the years to come.”

The Community Preservation Committee is recommending more than \$20.4 million for the proposed projects. These projects are part of a larger award that includes income-restricted housing, historic preservation, and open space projects. The final slate of CPA-recommended projects will go to the City Council for review and approval in February.

“Building and preserving affordable housing is critical for the health and vibrancy of our communities in Boston,” said Felicia Jacques, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee. “As housing costs continue to rise, many families and individuals are being priced out of the city, exacerbating displacement and a loss of diversity. The Community Preservation Committee is committed to investing in well-designed, climate-ready affordable housing initiatives that provide safe and stable homes for our residents. By doing so, we ensure that our communities remain inclusive while supporting economic growth and sustainability. Investing in affordable housing is an investment in the future of our city and the well-being of our residents.”

“As Boston continues to grow and thrive, it’s critical that we prioritize affordable housing to ensure that our communities re-

main diverse and inclusive,” said Catherine Hardaway, chair of the Neighborhood Housing Trust. “Affordable housing not only provides stable, quality homes for families and individuals, but also supports economic development and social equity. The Neighborhood Housing Trust is dedicated to advancing affordable housing solutions in Boston, working in partnership with developers, community groups, and residents. By investing in affordable housing, we can build stronger, more resilient neighborhoods that provide opportunities for all residents to thrive.”

In addition to these City sources, the Mayor’s Office of Housing has at its disposal significant federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that can be used for income-restricted housing development. In July, the Boston City Council approved Mayor Wu’s precedent-setting investment in income-restricted housing from ARPA funds, committing more than \$205 million to address specific housing issues. These investments include:

- \$58 million for income-restricted housing production and financial support to homebuyers
- \$30 million to transform publicly-owned land into green, mixed-income communities
- \$26 million for property acquisitions to prevent displacement
- \$20 million for greening income-restricted housing through deep green energy retrofits of existing buildings
- \$19 million to create new permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with substance use and behavioral health disorders

The following is a list of the local proposals that are receiving funding from the Mayor’s Office

of Housing and NHT, as well as recommended projects for inclusion in the current round of the CPA funding:

MISSION HILL

- The Roxbury Tenants of Harvard will develop 775 Huntington, a new 12-story, mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-oriented development with 81 income-restricted units of housing, including 57 rental units, 24 homeownership units, and first-floor commercial spaces and utilizing \$6,000,000 in funding.

To help choose appropriate developments for funding and best achieve the City’s goals to create equitable mixed-income housing, the City of Boston established funding priorities that were adhered to while making these awards. Proposals submitted were expected to fall under at least one of the priority criteria:

- Affordable housing developments that utilize City-owned land.

- Affordable housing developments targeting a mix of incomes: from units for homeless households to units targeted and restricted to incomes representative of Boston’s workforce. The City prioritizes proposals that, in addition to the homeless set aside, provide some portion of units targeting extremely low-income tenancies.

- Affordable housing developments have reduced the cost to build and/or efficiently use subsidies so that the project can move into construction more quickly.

- Affordable housing developments provide units that serve the disabled community, elders, veterans, artists, aging-out youth, etc.

- Acquisition of unrestricted housing developments to stabilize the tenancies and provide long-term affordability for a mix of incomes (i.e. unrestricted properties).

- Developments that are at risk of losing their affordability within 5 years.

- Large projects with more than 50 units of housing, of which at least 51 percent will be deed-restricted income-restricted units.

- Projects that create new income-restricted units in high-cost neighborhoods where most of the IDP funds are generated.

- Projects that contain income-restricted units that cannot be funded from other subsidy sources available under this RFP, or through the NHT RFP.

- Projects that can quickly acquire existing unregulated units and convert them into long-term income-restricted housing.

Wu announces awardees of returning citizens support grant

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Office of Human Services (OHS), and the Office of Returning Citizens (ORC) announced the award of over \$1 million in funding to 35 organizations including North Suffolk Community Services that provide reentry support services to individuals who are returning to Boston after being released from federal, state, or county correctional facilities. Of the 35 grantees, 29 organizations are either led by people of color, led by a returning citizen, or both. Over 80% of the total funding being awarded will be going to those 29 organizations. Today's awards of the Returning Citizens Support (RCS) grants mark the first-ever City funding to support community-based organizations that serve returning citizens. This is a key component of the historic investment of \$2.6 million made by Mayor Wu in the FY23 budget for the ORC. The awards are the result of a competitive grant process announced in December.

"Wrapping around our returning citizens with programming and services is vital to ensuring formerly incarcerated individuals are able to return to their lives and community successfully," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm so grateful to all our partner organizations for their commitment to supporting our community members in their reentry."

"This investment in services will boost the overall impact of the Office of Returning Citizens and help to provide relief and support to individuals who are returning to Boston from incarceration," said Chief of Human Services José Massó. "In addition to the grants for services avail-

able to all returning citizens, we are making a special effort to fund organizations that are led by returning citizens and people of color, and those that have unique expertise in providing support to underserved populations of returning citizens, such as women and people who identify as LGBTQI."

"Even though there's still work to be done, it is gratifying to begin to build a network of resources for returning citizens and especially to be able to support so many of our partners that have been doing this work as a labor of love for so many years," said David Mayo, Executive Director of the Office of Returning Citizens. "Partnerships like these are what will make Boston a better place to return home."

"Today, we take another step to right past harms by investing in organizations and nonprofits centering the needs of those returning home from incarceration, many of these led by those very same individuals," said Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune. "When we talked about investing in our returning citizens during last year's budget, this is a model for what my office wanted to see: organizations led by those directly impacted leading the way for mental health services, family reunification, supportive housing, substance abuse counseling, and workforce training. There's more to do, but this is a start."

This announcement marks a significant milestone in the city's efforts to create a network of services available to formerly incarcerated individuals returning home. The RCS grant will provide non-profit organizations with vital funding to support a variety of services including: family re-

unification; services specifically tailored to the unique challenges facing LGBTQI returning citizens; services specifically tailored to the unique challenges facing women returning citizens; education; career and employment trainings and professional skills development; clothing, food, and other basic needs; CORI sealing and expungement; transitional and permanent housing supports; Know Your Rights legal trainings; mentorship; and mental health and substance use counseling.

The following organizations have received grants as part of this funding round:

- Baystate Reentry Network
- Big Hope Project
- Black and Pink
- Boston Lesbians Urban Foundation
- Charlestown Adult Education
- City Church Boston
- College Bound Dorchester
- Family Nurturing Center
- Fathers' Uplift
- Future Hope Apprenticeship
- God's Soldiers, Inc.
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Haley House
- Healing Our Land
- Jericho Circle Project
- Justice 4 Housing Hands on Defense Program
- Justice Resource Institute, STRIVE

- Lawyer's Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Lena-Park Community Development
- Louis D Brown Peace Institute
- New Beginnings Reentry Services
- New England Innocence Project
- North Suffolk Community Services
- Nubian Square Foundation
- Out for Good Behavioral Services
- People Affecting Community Change
- Prophetic Resistance Boston
- Project Smile, Suits and Smiles
- Project Turnaround
- The Center for Teen Empowerment
- Union of Minority Neighborhoods
- United Baptist Church
- Voices of Liberation
- We Are Better Together
- Working Credit NFP

"Massachusetts residents returning home from incarceration deserve safe and dignified housing. Instead they face stigma, barriers and discrimination. Stable housing is the most crucial resource to promoting public safety, public health and circumventing recidivism. Justice 4 Housing (J4H) is an organization whose

leadership is directly affected. Our knowledge and expertise has been paramount to our success," said Leslie Credle, Founder & Executive Director of Justice 4 Housing. "I am living proof that housing is the gateway to a successful reentry. Our programs have provided permanent housing and legal advocacy support for over 100 formerly incarcerated people in our communities. Justice 4 Housing is proud to be one of the first recipients of the Returning Citizens Support (RCS) grant. We look forward to continuing working side by side with the ORC and its new Executive Director, David Mayo. This year, we will continue to provide the most critical resources which include permanent housing solutions and homeownership to the most vulnerable population in the Commonwealth."

The ORC was established in 2019 to serve as a central hub for all services related to the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals into Boston. The ORC's mission is to support individuals returning from incarceration by providing case management, referrals and connections to essential resources and services that can help them rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities. The RCS grant is a crucial part of the ORC's efforts to achieve this mission.



Virtual Public Meeting

45 Worthington Street

March 7, 2023

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3HRKlik

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 365 4179



Project Proponent:

Jefferson Apartment Group, LLC

Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Virtual Public Meeting for the proposed **45 Worthington Street** project, located in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Project Notification Form (PNF) that was filed and the potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

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email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

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Wu announces citywide permanent outdoor dining program

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the City of Boston's Permanent Outdoor Dining Program, in coordination with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEIOI), the Streets Cabinet, and the Disabilities Commission. The permanent program creates a predictable, streamlined process for business owners that will expedite application review and allow for annual renewals. It incorporates the activation of public space enjoyed during the temporary program, but addresses issues such as barriers to accessibility and concerns from public safety officials. The application to participate in the permanent program will be made available later this month with the goal of restaurant patios opening as early as May 1. The new program will include a monthly fee for all participants to help fund efforts to further expand outdoor dining more equitably across the City.

"Outdoor dining expanded as a way to keep our businesses open during the pandemic, and has turned into a popular opportunity to enjoy our streets and each other's company," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Permanent Outdoor Dining Program is a multi-departmental collaboration to reimagine our public space for the benefit of residents, business owners, and visitors. We've taken what we learned over the last couple years to inform the permanent program, and we're committed to working



Mayor Michelle Wu.

with our neighborhoods to make this program a success."

"The outdoor dining program served as a lifeline to many small businesses in the City to ensure that they could keep their doors open throughout the pandemic," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "With the success of the program, I am excited for the program to continue to operate and to keep our neighborhoods vibrant moving forward."

Business owners will be able to apply via an online portal which will be open starting on February 23, 2023. Through this portal, businesses will be able to submit their applications, track application progress, and renew the Outdoor Dining Permit annually. The application to apply will be available here.

"We were so excited to hear about the return of outdoor din-

ing. For us, as a small restaurant the pandemic forced us to get creative, and the outdoor dining program has been a critical component to our sustainability and recovery. We saw changes in consumer behavior when we were forced to rethink the way we use public spaces," said Andy Fadous, co-owner of American Provisions & Gray's Hall. "With our two businesses on East Broadway & I Street in South Boston, we were able to provide an outdoor space for the community in both the morning and evenings, open longer hours and employ more staff."

The permanent program requires businesses to submit professionally engineered site plans for outdoor dining setups on the street and sidewalk to ensure all patios meet the requirements of the state building code. The COVID-19 temporary program allowed for hand-drawn site plans and portable ramps under a temporary variance from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). The City has prepared multiple sample templates, which have been informed by the Disabilities Commission and approved by the MAAB for permanent use. The City has designated a staff member to help restaurant owners with technical assistance on engineering plans.

"With spring around the corner, we're very excited for the return of the city's outdoor dining program here in Allston," said Alex Cornacchini, the Executive Director of Allston Village Main Streets. "The last few years have shown that our restaurants have benefited from the added seating capacity, residents have benefited from the safer seating options during COVID, and the whole neighborhood has benefited from the added vibrancy these pop up patios produce."

In 2020, the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program was created under temporary state legislation as a business relief response to

the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to any of the temporary outdoor dining programs, fees were collected for the City's Sidewalk Cafe Program, which predated the pandemic.

Going forward, all approved businesses participating in outdoor dining will be required to pay \$399 per month if they have a liquor license and \$199 per month if they do not. Fees will go toward technical assistance for hiring architects to draft site plans, with the goal of expanding the program to businesses that would not otherwise be able to participate.

The City will not be permitting on-street outdoor dining in the North End this year. Restaurants in the neighborhood with adequate sidewalk width will be eligible to apply for outdoor dining if their proposal complies with accessibility and licensing requirements. Restaurants with privately owned spaces seeking to have outdoor dining patios are encouraged to apply through the Inspectional Services Department.

The scheduled closures of the Sumner Tunnel and continued congestion around the North Washington Street Bridge construction project are expected to put a greater strain on North End traffic this summer and make it harder for residents and first responders to navigate the area. With about 95 restaurants in just over a third of a square mile, the North End has the densest per capita number of restaurants in the state. This has brought unique challenges and quality of life issues expressed by residents over the course of the temporary programs, including increased traffic, sanitation issues, and accessibility problems for older residents and those with limited mobility. The City will be creating a task force to determine how these issues could be remedied in future iterations of the permanent program. This year, the

City will buy back jersey barriers from North End restaurant owners and provide relief for costs related to storing these items.

The City previously held two Citywide meetings to brief business owners and residents on the permanent program and collect feedback. City officials have heard from residents throughout the temporary program and used neighborhood concerns to inform the permanent program. Restaurants applying for the program are encouraged to actively involve residents, community members, and civic groups to discuss future plans for outdoor dining patios on any public space. Residents and community members can share their comments regarding restaurants applying to the program to the dedicated outdoor dining email address (outdoordining@boston.gov) before the business's Boston Licensing Board hearing date. Residents and community members with feedback are also encouraged to attend the scheduled Boston Licensing Board hearing.

The Permanent Outdoor Dining Program builds off of Mayor Wu's commitment to reimagine how Boston streets work for residents and visitors and how reconfiguring public spaces can foster community. In January, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) announced findings from the Copley Connect pilot in summer of 2022. Following the success of the pilot, transportation planners with the BPDA and BTDA intend to study permanent improvements to Dartmouth Street between the Boston Public Library and Copley Square Park that would improve the public realm between three of Boston's most iconic civic spaces and formally unify Copley Square. Additionally, the Boston Transportation Department will be announcing more Open Streets events in the coming months following the success of last year's events creating more than a mile of car-free space in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester.

The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust

requests proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Visit www.missionhillfenwaynt.org to access the on-line application.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5PM on March 31, 2023.

Please email any questions to hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org.



Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Nacho World Tour

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Often, a food adventure begins when leftovers become second acts. Our non-traditional nacho world tour started with a container of roasted root vegetables, leftover braised beef, and some black beans.

Penny spread tortilla chips on a sheet pan; added pieces of roasted carrot, onion, potato, rutabaga, and squash; sprinkled a layer of grated cheese; dotted it with black beans; and topped that with shredded braised beef. After a few minutes under a hot broiler, she added cherry tomatoes and scallions. She served it with sour cream and lime wedges on the side.

Recipe Development Research

The following day, we began tossing ideas around for recipes. We discussed everything from Chinese nachos with char siu (bbq pork) and hoisin sauce to Polish nachos with kielbasa and horseradish.

Now in research mode, we borrowed a copy of Dan Whalen's "Nachos for Dinner" from the library. We soon learned to enjoy his system for taking foods you love and turning those flavors into nachos. Whalen starts with a chapter on building blocks. You'll find recipes for nacho-friendly sauces, salsas, guacamoles, beans, vegetables, and proteins. For most of these, he adds a few ways to use that ingredient in nachos.

He follows with chapters for turning popular soups, salads, appetizers, sandwiches, tacos, comfort foods, brunch, and snack items into trays of nachos.

We've bookmarked his recipes for Chicken Larb, Banh Mi, Chicken Parm, and Italian Sub Nachos. Whalen even invented an array of dessert nachos. We can't wait to try the S'mores, Apple Pie, and Strawberry Shortcake nacho recipes.

Your Nachos

From what we learned, the dish was named for Ignacio Anaya, the inventor, whose nickname was "Nacho." The snack he created for a favorite customer in 1940 was fried tortilla triangles with shredded Colby cheese, heated and topped with pickled jalapeños. He was working with what he had—something crispy, cheesy, and spicy. We honor his creativity by using his formula with any ingredients that fit the role.

You can replace tortilla chips with any base layer that will work with your theme and be easy to pick up. We like toasted naan for Indian nachos. Whalen uses pie crust triangles for his Apple Pie nachos.

Nacho Tips

We suggest following the best tip we took from "Nachos for Dinner." Whalen wrote, "...sometimes it is better to reserve



Our non-traditional nacho world tour started with a container of roasted root vegetables, braised beef, and some black beans.

the toppings on the side for dipping. This keeps the chips crispy and the nachos themselves less messy, and it lets the eaters decide how much salsa, sour cream, or other cold topping they want."

Enjoy the fact that Nachos are casual food. Go ahead and serve them right on the baking sheet. This can be a perfect time to use smaller ¼ or 1/8 size sheet pans for individual servings. And line

your pan with parchment paper or foil for fast cleanup.

Another favorite tip from the book was, "Spread them out so that every chip has at least 50 percent of its surface area exposed to the pan's surface."

Finally, many of us first tasted Nachos in a favorite pub. These were likely to be a big pile of "loaded nachos" that became sog-

gy long before the plate was empty. Try for a more straightforward array of ingredients with cold toppings on the side. You may find that you prefer your clean and crispy homemade nachos better than the pile from the pub.

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



'CHIEF' & 'BLACKIE'

Chief and Blackie are looking for a home together! No kids or cats for them, but they like other dogs and warm up quickly to adults! They are 1 year old.



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Healey-Driscoll administration announces establishment of new Executive Office of Veterans' Services

Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll announced today, March 1, the establishment of the Commonwealth's new Executive Office of Veterans' Services. Former state representative and US Army Reserve Major Dr. Jon Santiago of Boston was sworn in as the Massachusetts' first Secretary of the new Executive Office of Veterans' Services (EOVS).

"I am honored to serve as Secretary of Veterans' Services and am grateful to Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll for their trust and confidence in me," said Secretary Jon Santiago. "As a US Army Reserve Major, who has served two tours overseas, I have first-hand and profound appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our veterans and look forward to collaborating with colleagues across state government, Legislature, and the EOVS team to ensure they have access to services and benefits worthy of their service." "This is a historic day for

Massachusetts veterans, service-members and their families," said Governor Maura T. Healey. "I congratulate Secretary Santiago for the distinction of being the Commonwealth's first Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Service and commend him for his commitment to serving our Commonwealth and our country."

As a physician, legislator, and US Army reservist, he brings a wealth of experiences and knowledge that will enable him to lead with compassion and move forward in continuing to improve care for Massachusetts veterans."

"With the establishment of the EOVS, under the leadership of Secretary Santiago, the Commonwealth is better positioned to make sure veterans' voices are heard, and to ensure that Massachusetts continues to lead the way in providing access to financial benefits and other vital support services, such as affordable housing for our veterans and family members," said

Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll, the daughter of a Navy veteran.

The creation of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services is the result of legislation enacted in 2022, An Act relative to the governance, structure and care of veterans at the Commonwealth's veterans' homes. The legislation includes new organizational and governance changes, elevating the Department of Veterans' Services to a Cabinet-level Secretariat.

Among them:

Organizational and Governance Changes

The Department of Veterans' Services is elevated to Cabinet-level Secretariat and removed from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and renamed to Executive Office of Veterans' Services

The State Operated Veterans' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke report to EOVS, and the Secretary of Veterans' Services.

Soldiers' Homes Governance Changes

Homes are renamed from Soldiers' Homes to Veterans' Homes

A new Office of Veterans' Homes and Housing is established, with oversight by Executive Director Robert Engell

The new Statewide Veterans' Homes Council was created in February 2023. The council consists of 19 members, chaired by Executive Director Robert Engell which includes appointments of four seats by the Governor, three seats by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Board of Trustee members of the two State Veterans' Homes Input on membership from veterans' organizations including VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, Military Officers Association of America, and Gold Star Families.

Administrative and Operational Requirements for Veter-

ans' Homes

Superintendents are appointed by and report to Secretary of Veterans' Services

Homes must apply for and maintain certain Department of Public Health licensure and CMS certification and be inspected twice annually by DPH.

Establishment of Independent Office of the Veteran Advocate (OVA)

The office is not within or subject to the control of any other agency, effective on March 1.

The Veteran Advocate will be nominated by committee, and will be jointly appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and the State Auditor.

For more information about the new Executive Office of Veterans' Services, visit mass.gov/veterans.

Boston Public Health Commission issues cocaine advisory to providers

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) issued an advisory yesterday to Boston health care providers alerting them about concerning levels of presumed opioid-related overdoses in Nubian Square among individuals who believed they were using cocaine.

BPHC attributes these overdoses to the increasing presence of fentanyl within the cocaine supply. In 2021, the State detection program found 12% of cocaine samples tested in Boston flagged positive for fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is a highly dangerous substance that even in small amounts can lead to a fatal overdose, so we urge all residents, health care providers, recovery workers, and outreach workers to remain vigilant for signs of opioid overdose, including among individuals who use cocaine," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "If you believe that someone has overdosed, call 911 immedi-

ately and administer naloxone (Narcan). BPHC offers harm reduction services to reduce the risk of fatal overdose, including naloxone (Narcan) distribution, drug testing and trainings on how to respond to an overdose. All our services are offered in compassionate and judgement free environments."

Drug testing for fentanyl, naloxone, and overdose prevention and training are available to all through BPHC's Access, Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention and Education Program (AHOPE). Individuals struggling with substance use, as well as their friends and families are encouraged to utilize these harm reduction services. Additionally, BPHC's Providing Access to Addictions Treatment, Hope and Support (PAATHS) program offers clinical treatment resources and referrals for treatment and recovery services.

For more information about harm reduction and treatment services, please visit boston.gov/recovery or call 311

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Wu, former Mayor Janey to be recognized at BAAF Champion Reception

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and former Mayor Kim Janey will be honored by Boston Arts Academy (BAA) and Boston Arts Academy Foundation (BAAF) with the prestigious Champion Award at the 2023 Boston Arts Academy Foundation Champion Reception on March 16. The event will take place at the iconic House of Blues in Fenway on Lansdowne Street and will be followed by the opening night all-star performance of *Shrek The Musical*, put on entirely by Boston Arts Academy students. This will be the first live production in the school's newly opened theater, and the first major production in-person in two years.

"We are so thrilled to honor Mayor Michelle Wu and former Mayor Kim Janey as our 2023 Champions," said Boston Arts Academy Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark. "March is Women's History Month, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate than by honoring the first two women mayors in Boston who both champion our students and the arts community."

Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent charitable non-profit organization that helps bridge the growing gap between the Boston Arts Academy's allocation from the Boston Public Schools, and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both arts-intensive and college preparatory. In 2018, Boston Arts Academy Foundation led a six-year, \$32 million comprehensive campaign called Building Our Future designed to elevate the visibility of and support for Boston Arts Academy, and to ensure the sustainability of this unique education model. In just five years, Boston Arts Academy Foundation is halfway through the campaign and have exceeded the campaign's \$20M milestone goal.

Each year, Boston Arts Academy Foundation presents the Champion Award to a member of the community who embodies the school's commitment to the arts, scholarship, and citizenship. Previous BAAF Champion Award honorees include former First Lady of Massachusetts Diane Patrick, former Boston Mayor, current United States Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts Governor Mau-



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

ra Healey and former Governor Charlie Baker.

Mayor Michelle Wu is particularly excited to be honored by such a diverse and inclusive organization. "Boston Arts Academy is an example of how we all benefit when we invest in our young people and give them the resources they need to succeed," said Mayor Wu. "I'm honored to work alongside the Boston Arts Academy Foundation and all the partners who have helped to make modernized, energy-efficient school buildings like BAA a possibility."

Mayor Wu has been a voice for accessibility, transparency, and community engagement in city leadership since being elected to the Boston City Council in November 2013. As a classical trained pianist, Mayor Wu continues to be a strong advocate for the arts in Boston. We witnessed her dedication to the arts shortly after her inauguration as Mayor, when she had the city-owned piano moved into her office so that she could play. In 2023 she pledged to make the largest investment ever in artists and the arts. She has backed that up by investing up to \$1.7 million to preserve affordable artist workspaces in Dorchester.

In addition to Mayor Wu, former Mayor Kim Janey will also be honored by Boston Arts Academy Foundation. As Boston's first woman and first black mayor, Mayor Janey successfully led the city through a multitude of unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 global



Former Boston Mayor Kim Janey.

pandemic. Mayor Janey introduced a citywide agenda of recovery and reopening, focusing on health and wellness while elevating arts and culture. Janey started the "Joy Agenda", a citywide program that featured investment in recovery and renewal through supporting arts and culture workers, local small businesses, and youth. Currently, Mayor Janey is President and CEO of the Boston-based nonprofit, Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath).

"The work being done by Boston Arts Academy Foundation is critical towards the advancement of arts and academic education in our city," said Janey. "Champion Reception is a great example of how our community leaders can come together to support the highly talented and creative students at Boston Arts Academy. I am honored to be recognized as a champion for our community and will continue to be a champion for the arts and our youth."

At the completion of the reception, guests will walk across the street and be treated to the first-ever musical performed in Boston Arts Academy's new theater. The inaugural show, *Shrek The Musical*, is an entirely student run production. Boston Arts Academy chose the show because of the themes of inclusiveness and the welcoming of the diverse and underrepresented is in line with the culture of BAA.

Tickets to Champion Reception and opening night of *Shrek The Musical* are available for a donation of \$125, while a ticket

for all other performances are \$25. Proceeds from the event will directly support BAA's arts programming and more. For more information and to purchase tickets for all four performances of *Shrek The Musical*, visit <https://bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/event/champion-reception-2023>

About the Boston Arts Academy:

Founded in 1998 as the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, Boston Arts Academy (BAA) has distinguished itself among urban public high schools as a leader in innovative and effective student-centered education. Consistently recognized locally and nationally for its achievements, BAA exemplifies the power of an arts-rich education and many BAA graduates have found success in college through the arts. In fact, for the past six straight years, at least 97 percent of BAA graduates have been accepted to college, with most being first generation college attendees. BAA's dynamic program prepares graduates to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborators, and creators. Students come from all 23 Boston neighborhoods to receive the formal arts training and academic instruction that will make them Boston's next generation of artists and cultural leaders.

In October 2018, the BAA community broke ground on a new \$125 million facility at its Fenway location, which will expand from 121,000 to 153,500 square feet and open for students in 2022. Among many highlights, it will include new and much-needed enhanced theaters, career center, academic classrooms, dance studios, music practice rooms and fashion technology studios and workspace. When BAA opens its new school building, the number of students enrolled will increase to 500, and eventually grow over

the years. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, and visit our website to learn more: <https://bostonartsacademy.org/>.

About the Boston Arts Academy Foundation:

Established in 1999, the Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization that raises essential funds from private philanthropic sources to augment the Boston Arts Academy Foundation school budget. The Boston Arts Academy Foundation helps bridge the gap between the school's allocation from the Boston Public Schools, and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both art intensive and college preparatory. Construction of the new BAA school building will not change BPS's funding formula, which does not fully cover the cost of a college preparatory academic program and a competitive arts program. Through the six-year, comprehensive Building Our Future campaign, the Boston Arts Academy Foundation is raising \$32 million to augment BAA's school budget and ensure long-term sustainability. The campaign includes raising \$10 million to bring the Boston Arts Academy Foundation endowment to \$13.5 million and securing \$15.5 million in operating reserves. The endowment and reserves support what makes BAA unique, including expanded programming, the Health and Wellness Program, STEAM (STEM+Art), and funding for the arts. The endowment will support college scholarships for graduating seniors. The campaign supports Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Annual Fund, which raises \$5,000 per student each year. Building Our Future will ensure that as BAA's student body grows, students can become successful artists, scholars, and citizens. Visit our website to learn more: <https://bostonartsacademy.org/foundation>.

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CITY PAWS

Dogs at transition points

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Throughout our lives, we encounter transition points, both positive and negative. We've noticed that these are often moments when people think about adding a dog to their lives. In each case, there are pros and cons you should consider. Some common transition points are reaching a significant age; setting up your first home; moving in with someone else; getting married; becoming a parent; changing jobs; retiring; or losing an important person or animal.

Job Change

The transition to remote work during the pandemic made it possible for many people to add

a dog to their lives. As some of these folks return to the office, they and their dogs must learn to live with that change. A job change can also mean moving, longer hours, and more or less travel. These can impact your relationship with current animal companions, and in some cases, may raise the possibility of adding an animal to your family.

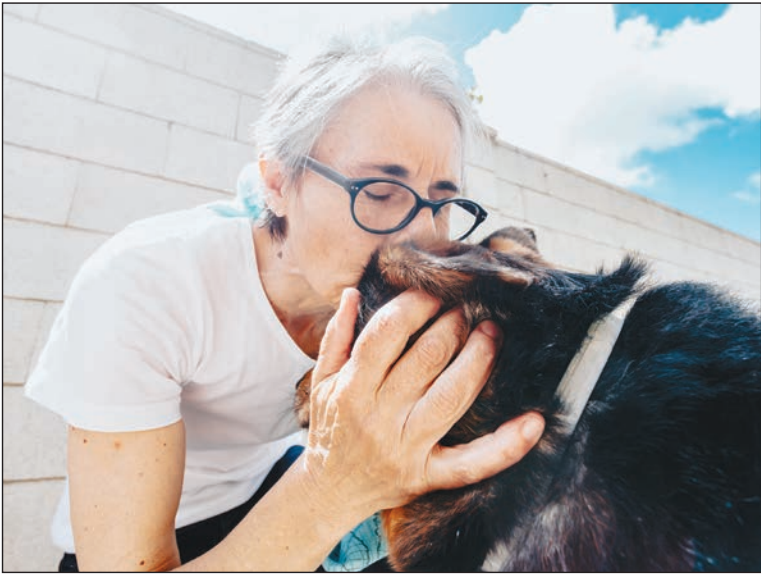
Retirement

Leaving the world of work or moving to a semi-working status is a transition point that can have a massive impact on your lifestyle and your ability to make choices that can be good or bad for your mental and physical well-being.

Research has found that dogs

positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. Patti Murphy, writing for www.travel-awaits.com, said, "After I retired I noticed that I had a lot more free time and occasional boredom creeping in. Having a dog has helped fill some of that time and given me company on days when not much else is going on. We play, we walk, we do training, and I take him to visit family members who no longer have their pets and miss having a lively creature around."

Research has shown that dogs provide a reason to exercise and become part of a community. These are important factors for heart health and cognitive function. Increased social interaction, companionship, daily routine,



Research has found that dogs positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. (Photo by Ave Calvar)

and the unconditional love of a dog can do wonders for our quality of life and mental health. However, there are factors that must enter into your decision-making. Murphy suggests that retirees consider the size and strength of a dog who might pull on a walk and sometimes need a lift from you. She also recommends a more mature animal who might need less training and have less energy to burn off daily.

Moving to a New Home

Over the years, we've conducted home visits for various rescue groups. Quite a number of these were for young individuals or couples setting up their first home or home together.

One of the first questions in the adoption process is whether or not dogs are allowed in the building and under the lease.

We gave a top approval rating to a couple from the Midwest who moved to Boston. They had leased a dog-friendly apartment, planned where they would walk a dog, and found a nearby veterinary hospital. Both were engaged in the adoption process and were enthusiastic about having a dog.

If you already have animals in your home when you relocate, let those critters get used to their new place before introducing an additional family member. Moving is stressful for our furry companions, just as it is for the humans in the family. It will be harder to give a new dog the time and peaceful atmosphere needed to transition to a new home and family.

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

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette
2023 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

NUNEZ NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Jael Nunez of Mission Hill was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

UMGC was established in 1947 to serve adults in the workforce. Today, the university enrolls some 90,000 students annually, offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, as well as certificates in more

than 125 fully online, hybrid and face-to-face programs and specializations.

UMGC has a long history of innovation in reaching students where they are, including as a pioneer of internet instruction, piloting its first online classes in 1994. The university has received numerous awards for its groundbreaking work in developing fully online degree programs, including in high-demand fields such as cybersecurity, business, data analytics, health care and education.

UMGC now offers classes to military service personnel and their families at more than 180 locations in more than 20 coun-

tries. More than half of the university's students are active-duty military personnel, their families, members of the National Guard and veterans.

MANCUSO NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Emerson College student Mila Mancuso of Mission Hill earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2022 Semester.

The requirement to make Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Mancuso is majoring in Inter-

disciplinary and is a member of the Class of 2023.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned

faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

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JAMAICA PLAIN SPECIAL ISSUES

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 28	JP Kids;
May 12	Roslindale Neighbors;
June 9	Juneteenth
June 23	JP Pets; Congratulations to Graduates
July 28	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

MISSION HILL SPECIAL ISSUES

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

The planet is so messed up

Our warm winter -- December was unseasonably warm and January was the warmest on record, while February had only a very, very brief cold snap, but also had many days of record-high warmth — is a classic good news/bad news situation.

The good news is that our heating bills, with oil prices near record-high levels because of the war in Ukraine, are much lower than they would have been. Europe similarly has had a record-warm winter, which has reduced its usage of natural gas, averting what could have been an economic disaster.

The mild winter also has been a boon for the budgets of cities and towns. The dearth of snow and ice has meant that relatively small amounts have been expended for snow removal (at least so far).

But the long-term effects of our mild winters are not good. The warm winter of 2023, coming on the heels of warm winters for the past few years, means that climate change has firmly taken root in New England. According to a recent analysis by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, winters in Massachusetts have warmed by 4.5 degrees since 1896, a rate that is faster than the national average.

Part of the explanation for this may lie in another study recently released by scientists. According to their report, ocean heat content reached a new record high for the fourth year in a row, based on measurements of ocean heat accumulating down to a depth of more than a mile.

But here's the really depressing part: According to the scientists' findings, published in the journal *Advances in Atmospheric Science*, the warmth keeps working its way deeper into the ocean because greenhouse gases have trapped so much heat that the oceans' deeper waters will continue to warm for centuries even after humans stop using fossil energy.

So while it may be true that governments and industry are turning "greener," the bottom line is that it may not make any difference, and that's especially true because even under the best-case scenarios, the world will not be carbon-neutral for decades.

The effects of our warming planet have been visible for years with the onslaught of droughts, wildfires, devastating floods, and Category 5 storms that have left no part of Earth untouched, with implications that only now we are beginning to understand.

We don't mean to be the bearer of bad news, but the reality is this: As bad as things are today for the environment, they're only going to get worse before they get better.

The economists are still just guessing

If you're like us, then no doubt you've been frustrated with the lack of consensus by economists and other so-called experts about the future of our economy. In the morning, we'll hear a prediction of a full recession in the coming months; in the afternoon, someone else will predict a mild recession with a "soft landing": and in the evening, another talking head will say that everything is fine for the indefinite future.

The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ensuing supply-chain issues, and a land war in Europe for the first time since WWII has skewed everything for which there is no direct precedent in the modern era. Today's economy is an amalgam of every economic era since WWII. We can draw some parallels to previous situations, but there are no direct analogies.

In addition, two factors are having a huge effect on the labor force, which in turn are affecting the overall economy.

The first is the retreat from the workforce of Baby Boomers, a trend that was accelerated by the pandemic. The Baby Boomer cohort has had an out-size effect on the economy and American life since they were born and they continue to do so today. In addition, Boomers are staying in their homes longer (which diminishes the supply of housing for Millennials) and, now that they have more leisure time, are traveling more (instead of buying stuff), and thus inflating the demand for service sector workers.

The other big factor accounting for the labor shortage is the trend of many younger workers both for remote work and to work fewer than 40 hours per week. These new realities are having ripple effects throughout the economy, particularly for the office real estate market and the small businesses in our major cities that depend on foot traffic from office workers.

The only thing that is clear to us is that none of the so-called experts have any idea what is going on with the economy and have even less of a clue about the future. To paraphrase Plato (quoting Socrates), the only thing they know is that they know nothing.

OP-ED

America's wars, who are the winners?

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

America was involved in Vietnam for 20 years. Our presence started small but by 1965 had significantly escalated. 3.1 million troops saw combat and at least 58,300 were killed. We spent over \$120 billion from 1965 to 1973 which led to an oil crisis and rampant inflation. Are you better off today because America fought in Vietnam? Are you safer?

America spent over \$2 trillion fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Then, we hurried and pulled out of Afghanistan leaving hundreds of millions of dollars in vehicles, buildings, bases, and weapons to be used by the Taliban. The country is now in shambles. Girls are not allowed to go to school beyond the sixth grade. Women are treated horribly by the Taliban. What did we do to help Afghanistan? Are they better off now? Are we better off for our 13 years in that country?

We invaded Iraq. We lost over 15,000 active service members and contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan. Take a look at Iraq and Afghanistan today. What did we accomplish?

We approved \$113 billion in aid to Ukraine in 2022 alone. Most Americans do not want Russia to succeed in conquering Ukraine. Efforts to help Ukraine have been supported by most Americans. How far do we go? How much can we afford? How long are we able to keep this up? Does this become another Afghanistan? American troops are not there, yet. When will this happen?

When do we start fighting in Taiwan? China wants to control Taiwan. Taiwan is rich in resources and technology. Like Russia wanting Ukraine because of its proximity and resources, China figures it just makes sense for them to control neighboring Taiwan.

China is reportedly on the verge, if not

already sending military arms to Russia. As America depletes our own defense stockpile of missiles, tanks and more, China knows we will have less to send to Taiwan. We have recently sent 200 soldiers to Taiwan and more will be going. It is scary to ponder how many more will be going in the next year or two.

In the middle of all this, who is really profiting from America's forever wars? The Military Industrial Complex will continue to make hundreds of millions of dollars with no end in sight. Manufacturers of mass weapons used in war have no end to their financial gains. Politicians who own stock in these massive companies only stand to get richer and richer. How many thousands of shares of stock in these companies do our long-term Senators and Representatives own? Stopping or slowing our military aggressions around the globe would mean their stock would go down and their massive financial fortunes would be diminished.

Politicians should not be allowed to buy stock while in office. Before running for a political office they should be required to cash their stock out so they are not financially persuaded to promote the success of certain industries.

We don't want Ukraine to fall to Russia or Taiwan to China. However, what will our country have left to fight with after we have spent billions of dollars defending them? If your livelihood comes from investments in the massive military weapon sales industries, then you are probably spending most of your time counting your money.

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.

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Statewide poll finds the two most salient issues among the state's Latino population are related to affordability

Amplify Latinx, Massachusetts-based nonprofit non-partisan, collaborative convener advancing Latino leadership representation, economic prosperity, and civic engagement, along with the MassINC Polling Group released the findings of a recent poll among about 1,200 Latino residents of Massachusetts. It is the largest ever Latino focused poll on civic engagement and economic prosperity in Massachusetts. The project also included two focus groups of Latino residents and a series of interviews with Latino elected officials.

The survey found Latino residents want state leaders to focus most on economic issues. Housing costs and healthcare costs were the top priorities followed by jobs and unemployment. Education was fourth on the list. A series of focus groups among Latino residents and interviews with elected officials found the same issues of concern. Immigrant rights fell in the middle of the list of issues, while transit improvements and climate change were near the bottom.

Full topline, crosstabs, slides, and quotes from elected officials and focus group respondents are available here.

A key part of the research project was exploring ways to boost civic engagement among Latino residents including activities such as participation in campaigns and public meetings, and contacting elected officials. A quarter or less report participating in each of these activities in the last year. Currently, civic engagement is higher among English speaking only households, those with higher education levels, and those born on the US mainland.

"We are thrilled to unveil this informative landscape of Latinos in Massachusetts, the most expansive of its kind, that presents a snapshot of our community's priorities, such as economic development including affordability, jobs, and education, among others," says Amplify Latinx CEO & President Eneida Román. "Amplify's commitment to highlighting this data presents an opportunity for our coalition to increase Latino civic engagement by leading advocacy efforts statewide. Our ongoing research projects give us the necessary tools to advocate for transformative initiatives that drive pathways for economic prosperity for all residents and business owners of our great Commonwealth."

Other results of activities reported include: posting about political views on social media was most common (26%), followed by attending government meetings (23%) and displaying a campaign sign, button, or bumper sticker (22%). One of the least frequent activities was contacting an elected official (17%). Out of all eight activities, Latino residents took part in an average of 1.43 in the last year. Activity levels decreased among residents who only spoke Spanish, lived outside of the U.S. and Puerto Rico and those without a college degree. The highest engagement was from Latino residents who identified as LGBTQ+.

The focus groups found that for many, a key hurdle was the sense that their voices were not heard or represented in the political process and that they were disappointed in past political outcomes. Even so, 73% think their community could make "a lot" or "some" difference if they pushed for change.

When polled about voting, there was considerable optimism, with 82% saying they agree voting "has a real impact on the way decisions are made" (52% strongly agree). The poll suggests boosting registration rates will require both addressing structural barriers to registering and overcoming disaffection and distrust of the political system among potential voters. Those who could potentially register but have not done so cited a range of barriers including a lack of time and little interest or faith in the political system.

About three-quarters (76%) said electing more Latinos to office was somewhat or very important. In a series of focus groups with residents and interviews with elected officials, the issue of representation came up frequently as essential to boosting civic engagement among Latino voters. Some described voting exclusively to support Latino candidates. One elected official said Latino residents would sometimes reach out to their office even if they were not their constituents.

When it comes to specific policy proposals, over three-quarters (78%) of Latino residents support "making buses and trains free to ride in Massachusetts." A majority of Latino residents support limiting rent increases (79%), helping families pay for childcare (87%), and expanding programs that support small businesses to access funds (90%).

Among other major findings:

- Abortion is not the most salient issue to most respondents, falling below many other issues in terms of priorities for state leaders. Even so, 59% say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 34% say it should be illegal. Support is highest among college degree holders, (71%), people under 30 (67%), Democrats (64%), and those who are registered to vote (65%). Its lower position on the priority list suggests it's less salient than other issues in Massachusetts, where abortion rights are more secure than elsewhere.

- Elizabeth Warren is the most commonly known Massachusetts politician while Katherine Clark is the least well known of those included in the poll. Those who were familiar with these officials were also more civically engaged and more likely to contact their public officials. Registered voters and the senior population were more likely to have heard of each of the elected officials.

- More respondents say they prefer Hispanic, Latino, or refer to their place or country of origin to describe themselves. Just 5% identified with Latinx. On this and on many other items, there were considerable differences by nationality / ancestry.

- Overall, 10% identify as LGBTQ+. Among younger Latinos (those under 30) the figure is 19%. This echoes national surveys which have suggested younger Latinos identify as LGBTQ+ at higher rates than others, a figure which has grown in recent years.

"This effort is absolutely unique in scope and scale," said Steve Koczela, "President of The MassINC Polling Group, which oversaw the poll. "The survey includes a very large sample size of Latino respondents in Massachusetts and sits alongside resident focus groups and elected official interviews."

Amplify Latinx is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit formed in 2018 by The Latina Circle, Inc. that serves as a non-partisan, collaborative convener advancing Latino leadership representation, economic prosperity, and civic engagement.

The MassINC Polling Group is a nonpartisan public opinion research firm serving public, private, and social-sector clients. MPG elevates the public's voice with cutting edge methods and rigorous analysis. Based in Boston, MPG serves a nationwide client base.

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Mission Hill Main Streets has an opening on its Board of Directors for a Mission Hill resident board member. This is a volunteer role. The board meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm, via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact missionhillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com or call 617.232.0182 for more details.

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EBNHC appoints Dr. Ryan Boxill Chief Operations Officer

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), the largest community-focused health system in Massachusetts and among the largest in the country, is pleased to announce that Dr. Ryan Boxill, PhD MBA, has been appointed executive vice president and chief operations officer (COO). Bringing more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Dr. Boxill's clinical training, business expertise, and strategic vision will strengthen EBNHC's ability to provide accessible, compassionate, high-quality care across their health system.

"As we grow to meet the needs of our community, we are thrilled to have a COO with a proven track record of expanding access to care and advancing clinical quality in a community setting. Dr. Boxill's unique combination of behavioral health training and operational leadership will add valuable expertise to our organization's diverse executive team, helping us to meet the complex demands of community



Dr. Ryan Boxill, PhD MBA.

health post pandemic," said Greg Wilmot, president and chief executive officer of EBNHC. "We believe in care that goes beyond the clinic to address wellness where it starts: in the deeply interconnected lives of the people we serve. Dr. Boxill is the leader we need to advance this mission."

Prior to joining EBNHC, Dr. Boxill served as the chief behavioral health officer for Boston Medical Center (BMC) Health System where he was responsible for leading behavioral health strategy and operations across the health system, including BMC Hospital, BMC's WellSense Health Plan, and BMC's Boston Accountable Care Organization (BACO). Notably, Dr. Boxill led the strategic planning, design, and implementation of BMC's recently launched Brockton-area Behavioral Health Center, regarded as one the most innovative, state-of-the art, and patient-centered behavioral health facilities in the country. His previous work as system vice president at Steward HealthCare drastically improved the overall performance of acute inpatient psychiatric and detox beds in his service line.

Dr. Boxill is a licensed clinical psychologist in New York and Massachusetts and holds a PhD in Cross Cultural Clinical Psychology from the California

School of Professional Psychology in Fresno, CA. He completed his pre-doctoral training at the Hudson River Regional Psychology Internship Program at the New York State Office of Mental Health and his Harvard Medical School Postdoctoral Fellowship training at the MGH-OCD Institute at McLean Hospital. Dr. Boxill has an MBA from the University of Massachusetts with a specialization in Finance, and is a certified trainer in Diversity and Intercultural Sensitivity.

"Healthcare is a basic human right and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is taking actionable steps towards improving patient care, committing to the wellbeing of its patients and workforce, and providing equitable healthcare opportunities to those who need it," said Dr. Ryan Boxill, executive vice president and chief operations officer of EBNHC. "I am thrilled to join an institution with the compassion and drive to make impactful changes in fostering a healthier community in East Boston and

beyond."

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston's South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit www.ebnhc.org.

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