

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CITY HALL PLAZA PG. 10

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MEMORIAL DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT BRIGHAM CIRCLE



Photos by Courtney Wright
Residents turned out to Brigham Circle on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, for a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial for Mission Hill veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

CAMH looking for action against student misbehavior

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During the Community Alliance of Mission Hill's (CAMH) monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 17, Dave Greenup made a presentation outlining one of Mission Hill's most significant issues, student behavior, and what to do about it.

Greenup, who is a 30-year resident of Mission Hill and a

member of both CAMH and the Mission Hill Problem Properties Task Force, described just what his presentation was all about.

"The reason for this presentation is to document what's going on with the student issues; we are all well aware of them, we want to create a call to action for the city and the universities," said Greenup.

Continued on page 5

Sharon Durkan, candidate for Boston Council District 8, racks up local endorsements

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Sharon Durkan is racking up endorsements in her second month of campaigning for the seat formerly held by Kenzie Bok. This month, she has earned the endorsements of State Senator Lydia Edwards, Former Councilor Josh Zakim, oldest living Tuskegee Airman, Brig. Gen. Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, Jr. and the Ward 10 Democratic Committee.

"Sharon is a community activist, advocate, leader, and trusted friend," said State Senator Lydia Edwards. "Sharon's years of organizing as Ward 5 Chair and proven dedication to housing, climate, and environmental justice makes her the perfect choice to represent District 8. With Sharon's expertise and ded-



Sharon Durkan with Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, Jr.

ication, our community will be well represented and fought for in all her work. I wholeheartedly endorse her for City Council and

Continued on page 2

Little change for Mission Hill in new redistricting map

BY ADAM SWIFT

The Boston City Council approved a new redistricting map by a 10-2 vote last Wednesday, May 24, ensuring that there will be no delays for the fall elections.

Mayor Michelle Wu subsequently signed the redistricting ordinance passed by the council.

The initial drawing of a new redistricting map was blocked by a federal judge, who ruled that the council improperly considered race in drawing up the new map.

The new map keeps the boundaries for District 8 and the Mission Hill neighborhood very close to the boundaries it has seen for the last decade.

Currently, the district is without a city councilor. Kenzie Bok was chosen by Mayor Wu to be the administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. A special election is scheduled for July 25 to select a new District 8 Councilor.

The redrawn map presented by civil rights committee chair Ruthzee Louijeune looked

to comply with the judge's order and kept together areas of southern Dorchester in Councilor Frank Baker's District 3.

The new map also kept a Mattapan precinct in Councilor Ricardo Arroyo's District 5, as well as uniting the Little Saigon area of Dorchester and keeping together Chinatown and South Boston.

Louijeune said she continues to believe that independent redistricting commissions are the

Continued on page 8

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or call 781-485-0588 for your Mission Hill information

Brendan Behan Pub to celebrate 35 years

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

On Sunday, June 18, beginning at 2 p.m., the beloved Brendan Behan Pub is holding an event to celebrate its 35th anniversary, welcoming all to enjoy live music, giveaways, food, drinks, and more.

The pub, which is named after the famous Irish poet Brendan Behan has been a staple of Jamaica Plain for many years and was originally under the ownership of Gerry Brennan and Finbar “Butch” Murray.

“These two guys – they did a phenomenal job by opening and creating a very friendly atmosphere with live music and all the good stuff – from the moment they opened, they were very, very successful,” said the current Owner, Michel Soltani.

“I remember myself when they opened – it was a beautiful setup.”

While Brennan and Murray had their share of success – when it was time for them to move on and retire, they sold the pub to Soltani – who at the time was involved with Mission Bar & Grill – and his partner Harry Walsh in 2007.

Soltani then became the sole owner of the pub about four or five years ago, while Walsh went on to focus on the Mission Bar & Grill.

“Since then – technically – we let it be as it is. We just did some light renovations because we didn’t want to change the inside – everybody was worried about us just destroying the bar,” said Soltani.

Although there were minor renovations to the bathrooms back then, Soltani said, “We continued doing what was previously done by those two smart guys – we just let it be and continued operations.”

While the Brendan Behan Pub has seen its share of success over the years, one roadblock almost derailed the establishment

before it could reach 35 years – the pandemic. However, that obstacle was overcome by what some may consider sheer serendipity.

Before the pandemic about five years ago, Soltani had requested that the pub’s back patio be zoned so that it could serve patrons because, at the time, it was just an area for trash.

“As soon as we opened – the Covid kicked in a month after,” said Soltani. The new zoning for



the back patio enabled the pub to stay open during the pandemic, even during the winter when it was covered and had heat.

“The back patio

was technically a solution – we could advertise and say here, come on down, our back patio is open, and it’s heated, and that technically saved us from going bankrupt and causing us to be closed for good,” said Soltani.

While the pub was able to power through to year 35, it did not come without hardships. Soltani indicated that everyone on the staff got Covid, and significant business debt was taken on. However, through it all, he

alluded to how supportive those in Jamaica Plain have been.

“During the pandemic, the Jamaica Plain people they really 100 percent supported business, especially the staff; they were treating our staff real good and trying to make sure the Behan would not close like others,” said Soltani.

Now with Covid in the rear-view mirror, the Brendan Behan Pub’s celebration will not only commemorate its 35th anniversary but serve as a day for everyone to come out to a community jewel and have some fun.

“We want to get everybody coming in – checking out the back patio, checking out the front, listen to the live music, and just get together,” said Soltani.

“We are very, very excited to see the people which we have not seen for years for different reasons.”

Durkan

Continued from page 1

look forward to partnering with her in the State Senate for our shared communities.”

“I’m honored to have the support of my friend Lydia Edwards,” said Sharon Durkan. “Senator Edwards is a public servant I have admired for a long time and gotten a chance to work closely with as Chair of the Boston Ward 5 Dems.”

“I’ve had the privilege of knowing Sharon for years, and I have been consistently impressed by her dedication to the district and her unwavering commitment to serving the community as Ward 5 chair,” said Former Councilor Josh Zakim. “There is no better person to represent the diverse population of district 8. Sharon’s experience as a renter gives her a distinct perspective on affordable housing. I’m confident Sharon will be a champion for reliable

transit and safe streets, climate justice and improved mental healthcare access.”

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of Josh Zakim, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for years,” said Durkan. “With his invaluable support, I am confident in our ability to continue to best serve the needs and aspirations of District 8 residents.”

“I am beyond excited and grateful to earn the endorsement of Brig. Gen. Woody Woodhouse,” said Durkan. Sharon joined Brig. Gen. Woodhouse with other members of the Mission Hill Post during the recent annual Memorial Day Service.

“As the former Chair of the Ward 5 Dems and someone who has been deeply involved in local organizing, the endorsement of the local ward committee means a lot to me,” said Sharon. This is one of the most impactful and meaningful endorsements a candidate can earn. It means the world to me that Mission Hill residents are backing me to be the next District 8 City Councilor.”

This announcement builds upon endorsements made by Rep.



Candidate for District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan with State Sen. Lydia Edwards.

Jay Livingstone, Former District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok, and UNITE HERE Local 26. As of May 11, Sharon is the only candidate to have made the ballot for the July 25 Municipal Special Election. She is running to represent District 8 on the Boston City Council, which includes Back Bay, Beacon Hill, West End, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle and Fenway–Kenmore.

To learn more about Sharon Durkan and her campaign, visit sharondurkan.com or connect



Former District 8 Councilor and community activist Josh Zakim has endorsed Sharon Durkan for District 8 councilor.

with her on Twitter, or Instagram.



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Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

The Mission Hill Post 327 held a meeting last week at Victory Point Restaurant in Quincy. Plans were finalized for our Memorial Day ceremony at Brigham Circle and also a drive for new members was discussed.

We have only one African American member, our beloved and famous Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse and we welcome all people who have served our country at the Mission Hill Post. For membership information our Mission Hill Post Commander, Col. George Rollins can be reached at 703 - 209 -2124. I

attended the Mission Grammar School - Road to College Gala last week at the Priest Garden and it was a wonderful evening, starting with a heartfelt greeting by the students.

Laura Adams received the prestigious Kevin Fitzgerald Alumnus of the Year Award for her dedication in working with our Mission Hill Senior citizens. Laura gave a fine speech, talking about the love emanating from Mission Grammar School and her long family lineage who attended Mission Grammar.

John Jackson accepted the Mary Leydon Commitment to Education Award. John is a men-



Students from the Mission Grammar School at the ceremony.



Left to right, M.H. Post 327 veterans Peter Scott, Tom McCarthy and Jim O'Neill.

tor and basketball coach and Director of the Tobin Community Center. The Mission Hill Post 327, most of whom are Mission Grammar alumni, received the Community Partnership Award and congratulations to Gregg Henning on his Legacy of Leadership Award. Aliece Dutson, President of Mission Grammar and Principal Caroline Silney did a fine job, showcasing the 143 year old school, and making the evening a success. Happy 86th birthday (May 28) to Robert "Robo" Payne, a former Mission Hill businessman and a great guy.

Robo owned and operated Mechanical Cooling Co., which was located at the bottom of Pontiac Street and employed dozens of Mission Hill residents throughout the 70's and 80's. Robo occasionally stops in Mike's Donuts to say hi to the boys and he is still sharp. Robo's company sponsored the Owls Nest, the famous Mission Hill softball team back in the old days in the fun Mission Hill Softball League... Congrats to Mike Killion and Sheila Killion, a loving couple from Mission Hill upon their 50 years of marriage (May 18, 1973). Sheila has the distinction of performing in one of the last Pilate's Daughter plays at St. Alphonsus Hall in the early 60's. Pilate's Daughter, the renowned religious play, was first performed in 1901 and drew large audiences from throughout New England.. M.H. Little League bumper stickers have been spotted on cars around the neighborhood. Little League President Dan Weldon may still have some of the cool stickers and they're only a few bucks.. R.I.P. Michael "Sonny" Ward who passed away last month at age 82. Sonny, from the Mission Hill project, served in the U.S. Marines for four years. Sonny, a



"Woody" and Col. George Rollins.

retired custodian at Ma. College of Art, was a devout supporter of Mission Church..I had a delicious lunch at Penguin Pizza last month and it was nice chat-

ting with the restaurant's newest owner, Pamela Carthy..

Good luck to John Fitzgerald

Continued on page 4

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Thursday	Aug. 10	Soul of Boston	6:00-8:00
Thursday	Aug. 24	Barside	6:00-8:00
Thursday	Sept. 7	Lucky 13	6:00-8:00

Rain dates for each concert will be the following
Wednesday after the scheduled date and same time.

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Mayor Michelle Wu announces initiative to make streets safer

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

In a press conference at Thetford Evans Playground in Mattapan on Monday, May 22, Mayor Michelle Wu unveiled the City of Boston's Safety Surge, an initiative to make city streets safer for everyone.

As part of this initiative, the city is committing to installing speed humps, redesigning intersections, and updating traffic signal guidelines throughout all neighborhoods to enhance street safety.

"We are looking to having safer streets all across Boston. Not just here around one park as beautiful and as treasured a space as it is but every single neighborhood. We want to make sure our streets are safer for drivers, for cyclists, for pedestrians, and everyone who needs to get around," said Wu.

"Our streets should be a source of connection, not a threat to our safety, and we want to make sure that we're not rationing that safety in limited areas across the city following when major

incidents and injuries happen, but we want to be proactive, preventive and really work with communities at a much broader scale and much more accelerated pace to make this happen."

In terms of speed humps – the initiative will lead to the construction of 10 speed hump zones per year. These speed humps can be driven over safely at 20-25 MPH. It should be noted that, per the city's website, major arteries and roads that carry an MBTA bus route will not be included in this portion of the initiative.

Residents can visit <https://www.boston.gov/making-neighborhood-streets-safer> to view which streets are on the docket to receive speed humps over the next three years.

As for the intersections portion of the Safety Surge – this component will make it so the city designs 25-30 non-signalized intersections per year.

Regarding intersections, Boston's Chief of Streets, Jascha Franklin-Hodge, said, "Each year, we will design safer intersections using street safety

tools that will allow for better sightlines, slower speeds, clear crossings, and defined spaces for all."

These safety tools include things like curb extensions, pedestrian warning signs, and much more which can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/street-safety-toolkit>.

Finally, the signals aspect of the initiative includes updates to the city's Traffic Signals Operations Design Policy.

These updates include an increase in the use of pedestrian head starts – meaning pedestrians will get the walk sign before drivers can proceed, an increase in no turn on red areas, and an increase in the use of "auto recall," which gives pedestrians the walk sign automatically without hitting a button.

The city plans to update at least 50 intersections a year with these new updates to the Traffic Signals Operations Design Policy.

The city is also doing major corridor projects in areas

the city's website says have a "history of excessive speeds and crashes that have resulted in death and injury." These areas include Blue Hill Avenue, Centre Street in West Roxbury, Cummins Highway in Mattapan, and Tremont Street in the South End.

"The streets we build must reflect our belief that everyone, regardless of their age or ability, should have the freedom to travel safely and without fear," said Franklin-Hodge.

"The City of Boston is putting that idea into action in asphalt, in concrete, in paint, in flex posts, and signs and signals as we work toward a future where no family ever has to experience tragedy or trauma on our streets."

In terms of how the city is balancing safety and traffic – considering Boston's traffic was ranked the fourth worst in the entire world in 2022 by INRIX – a transportation analytics company – Wu said, "Traffic is one of Boston's biggest concerns."

"We're building housing; we're investing in our schools; we're adding new jobs people

have to be able to get around to where they need to go. As our city grows, it won't work if the only way you can get around is driving a car," she continued.

Wu alluded to the idea that the changes made through the new Safety Surge would make other forms of transportation more viable before saying there is also a need to continue pressuring the MBTA.

"It can't be an either-or conversation about whether people can reliably get to work or whether they can be protected and safe as they're walking around their communities. We need to do both; we know we can," said Wu.

For more information on the Safety Surge and all its components, you can visit <https://www.boston.gov/transportation/safety-surge>.

"I want to thank all of our residents across each and every neighborhood for your advocacy and looking forward to continuing that with the specific changes that we'll be making in the weeks to come," said Wu.

NEWS BRIEFS

DATES SET FOR 2023 MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL

The 2023 Mission Hill Arts Festival kicks off on June 10 this year, at The Yard, 1481 Tremont St., Boston.

The theme for the 2023 Festival, is E X U B E R A N C E.

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The dates and performers for scheduled events are as follows:

- June 10 — Bill Pierce
- June 24 — Jalen Bunch
- July 8 — The Loop
- July 22 — Lee Fish
- August 5 — Alex Fatato
- August 19 — Kevin Harris

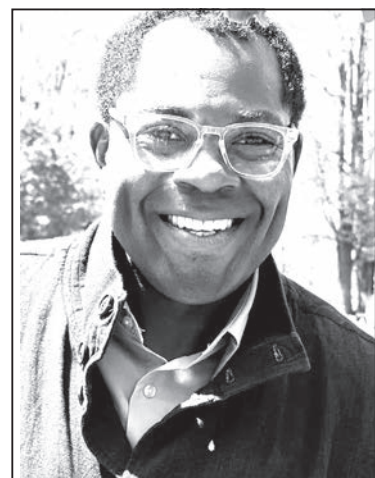
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on-site to fuel the local community with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and assorted fan-favorite MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats. Dunkin' will brew up even more fun with customized lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. In addition, each family in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last. Dunkin' will brew up even more fun with customized lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market. Additional support by City Express.

For more information and updates on possible weather cancellations, please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-635-4505, on our social channels @boston-parksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, or by visiting the Parks Department website.

DISTRICT 8 COUNCIL HOPEFUL MONTEZ HAYWOOD TO HOLD MEET-AND-GREET JUNE 6 AT BLACKSTONE'S

Montez Haywood, a candidate for the District 8 City Council seat, will hold a meet-and-greet on Tuesday, June 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Blackstone's of Beacon Hill at 40 Charles St.



District 8 City Council candidate Monez Haywood.

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CAMH

Continued from page 1

"We want to make actionable recommendations, you know we don't want to leave it open to say, well here's the problem go do something and then to entrust a working group, more than likely from the Community Alliance, to monitor and verify the results of what we've asked of the various departments," Greenup continued.

To better understand the student issues plaguing the neighborhood, Greenup displayed a list of 911 calls made about loud parties and noise. This list revealed that over Halloween weekend last year (Oct. 27-30), 13 unique 911 calls were made.

Moreover, over Saint Patrick's Day weekend this year (Mar. 17-19), nine unique 911 calls were made. In total, there were over 300 unique calls made to 911 for loud parties in 2022.

It should be noted that Greenup indicated that multiple 911 calls for the same property were only counted once. "Unique calls and I'll mention that, in that, if I called about 3 Folsom Avenue and two other people called about 3 Folsom, it's only listed as one call," said Greenup.

Not only did Greenup supply statistics to illustrate the problems the neighborhood is having with students, but he also presented emails from residents who have had students try to use the bathroom in their driveway and students having open fire pits.

Greenup also cited "nuisance properties," 95 Calumet Street and 3 Folsom Avenue, both of which had nine 911 calls over 2022 and 2023, and 226 Calumet Street, which had eight 911 calls over the same period.

While Greenup acknowledged that existing systems are in place

to help take action against these problems, he said they need some adjustment.

Some of the existing systems in place that, according to the presentation, need to be adjusted include the Boston Police Department's (BPD) Community Liason and Northeastern University's (NEU) Community Engagement Contact, both of whom are on medical leave, according to Greenup.

Moreover, Wentworth Institute of Technology's (WIT) weekend ride-along detail, which Greenup indicated has not been staffed in over 10 weeks, and NEU's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) which he called a failure were also mentioned as systems that need adjustment.

Greenup also indicated the need to adjust the Problem Properties Task Force, which former City Councilor Kenzie Bok was Chair.

"We did meet with our Councilor and other residents to design a system where we would be able to text a phone number and not necessarily depend on 911," said Greenup.

"But we were told, after eight months, we were told that it was difficult to implement with no councilor in place."

With all this being said, Greenup brought forth a detailed action plan as part of his presentation; some of the aspects of this plan are as follows. The action plan includes contacting At-Large City Councilors to get someone to chair the Problem Properties Task Force's meetings and implement the aforementioned text system.

Another part of the plan would be to reach out to both the Presidents and Community Engagement teams of NEU and WIT to see if they can communicate to residents how the

universities enforce things like off-campus code of conduct and much more.

Reaching out to City Departments to ensure things like rental registrations and red ticket payments are enforced and filing nuisance complaints against property owners who do not take action against parties was another aspect of the plan mentioned.

Furthermore, Greenup's action plan brings forth the idea of creating a petition outlining the neighborhood's desire for action on student issues which would be addressed to people like Mayor Michelle Wu, At-Large City Councilors, Presidents, and Community Engagement staff of NEU and WIT, and various city department heads.

Finally, other parts of the plan include circulating information to the media and having a CAMH working group monitor this process.

Seemingly, the only representative from either NEU or WIT present at this meeting was Michael FitzGerald, a Special Events Manager who is part of NEU's City and Community Engagement team.

FitzGerald's appearance seemed to be helpful in that he was able to listen to what residents of Mission Hill have been having to deal with and was able to answer questions.

Probably the most helpful aspect of FitzGerald's appearance is that he indicated he would let John Tobin, the Vice President of City & Community Engagement at NEU, and David Isberg, Assistant Vice President know that there is a push to meet with them.

In what was an informative and detailed presentation, the call from residents for action on this subject was so clear that CAMH did not even have a vote on it.

"Initially, I had planned to have a vote whether we should take action, but I think there seems to be overwhelming agreement that this needs to be followed up," said Martin Beinborn, CAMH's President.

Overall, it seems like the neighborhood is ready for some action to quell student issues. "The people on this call or in the Harvard School of Public Health, we're pissed off, and we want action," said Greenup.

Hill Happenings

Continued from page 3

who announced his candidacy for Boston City Councilor from District 3 in Dorchester. John, who is married with 3 children, is smart and personable and he would be a welcome addition to the Council. John comes from a wonderful Mission Hill family and he is the oldest son of the late Kevin Fitzgerald and Tricia Fitzgerald..

Brendan Behan Pub in Jamaica Plain will celebrate its 35th anniversary Sunday, June 18.

The festivities begin at 3 o'clock and there will be food, fun and raffles. Brendan Behan, which was previously named Tommy-Johns, is a dazzling pub and I and my gang go there on Saturday evenings when a handful of talented musicians delight the crowd playing Irish music.. It was nice having lunch with Mission Hill "Marathon Man", Big Jim Moynihan and his entourage last week at the Corrib Restaurant in West Roxbury. Big Jim slimmed down a bit and he's looking good..Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

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The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, June 12, 2023, through Friday, June 23, 2023 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at boston.gov/procurement/ and clicking on the supplier portal button to access event ID # **EV000012555**

The term of the contract shall be for three (3) years starting July 1, 2023 ending June 30, 2026

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to **M.G.L. c.30, s. 5** and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

Sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, June 26, 2023 by login onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above listed event number. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will **commence on or about Monday, July 10, 2023.**

Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner
(June 12, June 19, 2023)

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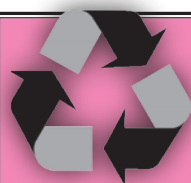
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Mayor Michelle Wu announces Legacy Business awardees

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu last week announced the inaugural list of Legacy Business awardees, a group of 30 businesses including Liz's Hair Care of Mission Hill that represent the rich diversity and cultural fabric of all Boston neighborhoods. This program – the most expansive in the country – was developed by the Office of Small Business within the Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet and will support awardees through increased visibility and connecting them with City services. This new program will provide targeted technical assistance with a focus on succession planning, growth, business updates, and employee ownership. Businesses will also receive a commercial lease toolkit, legal consultation and other resources from City of Boston partners.

The City of Boston will recognize the inaugural cohort of 30 Legacy Businesses at an Awards Celebration at Faneuil Hall on Monday, May 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend this free event to support our small business community, and to register in advance at legacy-



Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

Mayor Michelle Wu joined business leaders from across the City for the first annual Legacy Business Awards at Boston's Historic Faneuil Hall.

business.eventbrite.com.

"Our legacy businesses are pillars in our communities and expand opportunity for our residents and families across Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thrilled that we get to honor these staple businesses who invest and uplift our communities. Congratulations to our thirty newly selected legacy businesses

and we look forward to being able to support these foundational businesses across Boston's neighborhoods for years to come."

"These small businesses are an integral part of their neighborhoods, and they not only provide indispensable services to our communities, but they also help to make our city vibrant," said Council President Ed Flynn.

"I'm happy to see that longstanding businesses in District 2 are being recognized, including ones in Downtown, Chinatown, South Boston, and the South End. Congratulations to all the awardees, let's continue to support our wonderful neighborhood businesses."

"I am grateful for Mayor Wu's unwavering commitment to supporting and preserving legacy businesses throughout the City of Boston," said Councilor Brian Worrell, Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Professional Licensure. "The Legacy Business Program provides vital support to these businesses, helping to ensure their continued success for generations to come. By recognizing the importance of these businesses and providing them with the resources they need to thrive, we can maintain the cultural fabric and unique character of our neighborhoods."

Legacy businesses are longstanding, independent enterprises that make a strong contribution to residents, communities and neighborhoods across Boston. They are cultural anchors and repositories of community traditions and stories. These iconic businesses have helped define Boston as an innovative, family friendly and world-renowned city. By recognizing these businesses on an annual basis, this program will help to further Mayor Wu's vision of a family-friendly city that ensures each neighborhood is a vibrant destination for all to visit and support.

"We were proud to fulfill Mayor Wu's pledge to recognize and honor those businesses that continue to make our neighborhoods the cultural jewels they are today," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Due to the work of our Small Business team, residents will be able to come together every year to celebrate the achievements of these local community institutions, and the City will be able to provide needed resources to ensure they remain for generations to come."

"The response was tremendous, and this has truly been a community driven process, which is part of the beauty of it," said Aliesha Porcena, Director of Small Business. "Boston residents submitted over 1,400 nominations, and we are so happy to acknowledge the group of inaugural businesses this month. Our office supports small businesses to start, grow, and stay in Boston. This inaugural cohort represents 30 businesses that are staples in our communities, and part of our rich history- it's an honor to celebrate these businesses who have given our city and communities so much. We are committed to provide continued support and services to these businesses".

A full list of the 2023 inaugural cohort of the Legacy Business Program Award winners are listed in the above graphic and available online.



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Continued on page 7

Massport announces schedule for summer runway work at Boston Logan

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) announced the Runway 15R-33L Safety and Pavement Rehabilitation Project schedule for this summer. In collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Massport will begin work on Runway 15R-33L in August, with construction planned for approximately 100 days.

Serving as the longest runway at Boston Logan, Runway 15R-33L is primarily used by the FAA during northwest winds, which are typically prevalent in winter and spring months, and is the preferred late-night over Boston Harbor runway for noise abatement purposes. Runway 15R-33L was last rehabilitated in 2012.

Beginning August 14, Runway 15R-33L will be closed to all aircraft arrivals and departures. Consistent with FAA requirements, the project will improve runway safety by enhancing the lighting and the surface conditions. Work will be done in several phases to include the

following:

- Replacing pavement and improving runway and taxiway intersections;
- Upgrading electrical infrastructure;
- Converting runway lights to energy efficient LEDs.

In addition to the runway rehabilitation elements, FAA recommended safety improvements will be made to several taxiway intersections to reduce the potential risk of aircraft runway incursions and to enhance airfield safety overall.

This August date was determined based on close coordination with the FAA and airline stakeholders while being mindful of the Summer Tunnel closure. During the first few weeks of the closure, pavement will be removed and electrical elements will be installed. The majority of the pavement installation will occur in September and October.

Comprehensive mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce construction noise and other impacts to the surrounding communities. Those measures include:

- Reducing noise from truck back-up alarms within OSHA guidelines and other regulations;
- Maximizing daytime work, particularly noise producing activities;
- Establishing airside haul routes that will maximize distance from neighboring homes, particularly at night;
- Hauling waste and other materials during the day to the extent possible;
- Prohibiting trucks from using City of Boston streets to and from the airport

All construction traffic will access the airport via Routes 90/93/1A and Coughlin Bypass Rd.

- Aiming all lighting used for night operations away from the communities

Massport will be holding a Virtual Information Session on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. and encourages members of the public with any questions or concerns to attend.

Zoom Link: <https://massport.zoom.us/j/82838493328>
Meeting ID: 828 3849 3328

Legacy Business

Continued from page 6

“El Oriental de Cuba has been a favorite family owned restaurant for the past 30 years, and it is an honor to be recognized by the City of Boston,” said Yvonne Torres, owner of El Oriental de Cuba. “Receiving the Business Legacy award not only acknowledges the restaurant itself, but the incredible community of Jamaica Plain that has kept this restaurant alive during and after the pandemic. My father Nobel Garcia and late owner, well known and loved by everyone, would have been extremely proud to see his restaurant be recognized as a legacy institution.”

To qualify for the Legacy Business program, businesses must have:

- Operated for at least 10 years in the same location within the City of Boston.
- Contributed to the cultural, historical, and societal assets of Boston’s community or neighborhood.
- A plan to maintain its business in the City.

The process of identifying the 30 Legacy Businesses included nominations from the public, review by the City Council, and selection by a committee that included representatives from City departments, and Main Streets organizations. Selections were based on application scoring and community support. The committee ensured that the list was representative of Boston by industry, neighborhood, gender, and race.

“Ron’s has been a part of life in Hyde Park going back decades. As a kid I bowled and attended birthday parties there. They hosted visits for us as school kids demonstrating the ice cream making process. The Covitz family are generous and contribute to local programs. Their ice cream is amazing. I am always proud to bring friends and visitors to try some,” said Lauren Firnstein, Boston resident.

“Liz’s Hair Care embodies black excellence & legacy. Owned and operated by Liz, a black woman from Boston, LHC has been in business for over 20 years and Liz has over 30 years of hair experience. She empowers

POC to look and feel their best by making them look beautiful, offering hair care tips, and giving them the advice needed to excel. Her salon is perfect for the new professional or the college student looking to nail that interview. She is committed to teaching new stylists and leaving a positive mark on their future of hair care. She is kind, funny and always willing to go out of her way for her customers! Her historical shop will leave a lasting mark on Boston history!” said Ashley Jackson, Boston resident.

“Neighborhood businesses have contributed to the fabric of our city’s culture and represent the diverse people who live in our city,” said Brianna Millor, Chief of Community Engagement. “Congratulations to all of the Legacy Business Program Winners!”

In addition to the Legacy Business Awards and related programmatic support, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion has committed \$1 Million in grant funding to be awarded to a non-profit organization to help support long-standing small businesses in the City of Boston.

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Nightly Cleaning of the Main Office
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EV000012478

Contact Information

Hazel McAfee Grants Manager
617-635-4920 x 2704

The City of Boston (the City), acting by the Commissioner of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally described above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids.

The bid documents will be accessible online on or about Monday, May 22, 2023 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at boston.gov/procurement/ and clicking on the supplier portal button to access event ID # EV000012478

The term of the contract shall be for two (2) years starting July 1, 2023 ending June 30, 2025

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to M.G.L. c.30, s. 5 and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

Sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday

June 6, 2023 by login onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above listed event number. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will commence on or about Monday, July 3, 2023.

Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner

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Redistricting

Continued from page 1

best way to proceed and that legislators have a self-interest in these lines that will sometimes mask what is best for the people who live in these districts and how best to empower communities.

“I would like to thank my council colleagues for their diligence, passion, and collaboration throughout this long process, and their belief in my leadership,” said Louijeune. “The work we’ve done together at every step is crucial to building a better Boston for our residents. I would

also like to thank the community leaders and residents who took the time to make their voices heard. You are central to the work that we do and your feedback has been invaluable.”

At-Large Councilor Erin Murphy said she was relieved that the redistricting process was completed, and that the council ultimately restored the constitutional rights of the city’s constituents.

“Safeguarding the voting rights of our constituents – regardless of the neighborhoods in which they live – should always be top of mind for elected officials,” said Murphy. “As Vice

Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement, I’m pleased that we eventually did so in an equitable and transparent way, in which the voices of the public and the input of every City Councilor were heard and included. I also hope that we, as a body, learn some lessons from this – about respect for the rights of every Bostonian and for each other.”

At-Large Councilor Julia Mejia and District 6 Councilor Kendra Lara, whose district includes parts of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and West Roxbury, cast the two dissenting votes against the redrawn map.

In a joint statement, Mejia and Lara stated that they believed a number of common community concerns had been ignored and that there was a lack of transparency in the process.

“During redistricting, we had an opportunity to empower historically marginalized communities, but, instead of bolstering their power, we deprioritized them and maintained the status quo,” the statement read. “Councilor Lara’s map provided us with a clear path forward. It responded to the judge’s order, and it did so in the least disruptive way possible while preserving communities of interest. The chair and the body did not properly consider this option to the detriment of Boston voters.”

The new redistricting map will remain in place for the next 10 years.

BPS celebrates valedictorians at 25th annual luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Superintendent Mary Skipper, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson honored the outstanding accomplishments of the 2023 Boston Public Schools valedictorians yesterday at Fenway Park. The ceremony brought together a diverse group of high-achieving students, their families, and esteemed members of the community.

Mayor Wu, the Boston School Committee, and Superintendent Mary Skipper honored 33 seniors who are graduating at the top of their class. The students were accompanied by their school leaders and two loved ones. Each valedictorian received a \$100 Amazon e-gift card, a citation from the Boston School Committee and Superintendent, and four free tickets to see the Boston Red Sox, presented by Red Sox President Sam Kennedy.

“It is such a privilege to honor so many talented and hard-working young people today at the 2023 Valedictory Luncheon,” said Superintendent Mary Skipper. “Every year, so many wonderful students graduate from

the Boston Public Schools and each has so much to offer the world. Despite all of the trauma and hardship caused by the pandemic, our valedictorians strove for greatness and we are so proud of them and their accomplishments.”

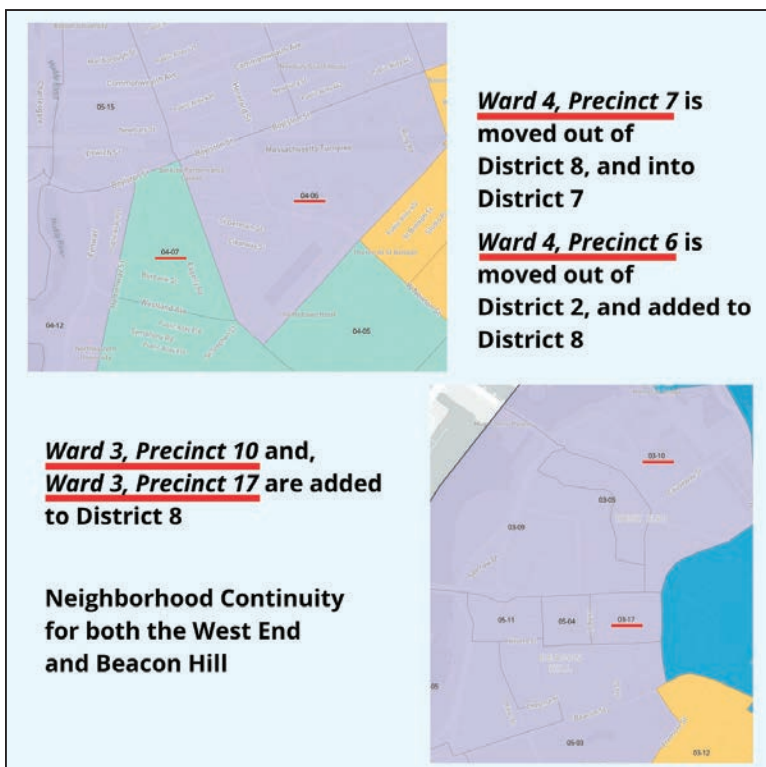
The first event of this kind was held at the Parkman House in 1999. Its’ success has enabled the event to grow to a larger venue to include families, BPS staff, and partners from Boston’s higher education, business, and philanthropic community. Any proceeds from the event will benefit the City of Boston Scholarship Fund.

“Our Boston Public Schools students are an inspiration, and I’m so proud of these valedictorians who worked incredibly hard to earn this honor,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. We are grateful for all that these students do to inspire, mobilize, and enrich their communities, and are excited to see all that they accomplish as leaders!”

The success of the event was made possible through the generous support of major sponsors, including The Boston Red Sox, Eastern Bank Foundation, and Wentworth Institute of Technology are the major sponsors of this year’s event.

This event will showcase the accomplishments of 33 valedictorians, representing 32 schools. Over one-third of these young people will be the first in their families to attend college and 11 are students who have spent their entire education career at BPS. This diverse class also includes 11 students who were born outside the United States, hailing from China, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, and Jamaica.

“These young people have accomplished so much,” said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. “Each and every one of our valedictorians has worked hard and earned this despite the unprecedented challenges from the past few years. Congratulations to all of our valedictorians. Good luck and thank you for the impact you



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

'MAYA'

Maya is 2 and adores other dogs of all ages and sizes. She's a little shy with new people and needs a quiet neighborhood. She is housebroken, walks well on a leash, enjoys car rides, and loves a good snuggle.

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Continued on page 9

Valedictorians

Continued from page 8

have left on BPS.”

The BPS Valedictorians Luncheon has grown to accommodate a larger venue, including BPS families, staff, and partners from Boston’s higher education, business, and philanthropic communities. This annual celebration of academic excellence serves as a testament to the commitment and dedication of Boston Public Schools to provide the highest quality education possible.

Below is the slate for the 2023 Valedictorians:

Boston Arts Academy

Ariya Patel, Boston, Northeastern University

Boston Community Leadership Academy

Raysa M. Mendoza, Boston, Boston University

Boston Day Evening Academy

Kayla Quinlan, Dorchester, Wellesley College

Boston International High School



Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon

Mayor Michelle Wu and BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper welcome all of the BPS high school Valedictorians for a luncheon at Fenway Park.

Boston Latin Academy
Chenaya Valeus, Mattapan, Centre College

Boston Latin Academy
Ana Tejeda, West Roxbury, MIT

Boston Latin School
Elizabeth Choi, Jamaica Plain, Harvard College

Boston Latin School
Mira Yu, Fenway, Harvard College

Greater Egleston High School
Kyara Paredes, Dorchester, Bunker Hill Community College

Henderson Upper Inclusion School

Jader Contreras, East Boston, Undecided

Josiah Quincy Upper School
Hui Yan Lei, Boston, Northeastern University

New Mission High School
Courtney Sarfo, Boston, Northeastern University

Snowden International School

Rosmary Martinez, Charlestown, Northeastern University

The English High School
Kaelyn McInnis, Dorchester, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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Mayor Wu launches PRIDE programming, other summer events happening on City Hall Plaza

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Offices of Arts and Culture and Tourism, Sports & Entertainment have announced the kick off of its first season of community arts and cultural programming on City Hall Plaza, launching with the City of Boston's PRIDE Kickoff on June 1.

"The renovation of City Hall Plaza has transformed it into a welcoming, accessible civic space for all, and we are so excited to usher in a new series of programming by starting with a celebration of Boston's LGBTQ+ community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We look forward to seeing residents and visitors gather together on the Plaza and experience the space in a new, joyful way."

As part of this season of programming, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is working in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement to support several events celebrating Boston's LGBTQ+ community, including:

Boston Urban Pride's Music and Arts Festival - July 2, 2023 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

This event organized by Boston Lesbian Gay Urban Foundation in

collaboration with Diggity Dom is a showcase of local QTBIPOC emerging artists who are launching into the Boston music scene. Hosted by Amanda Shea the festival will include performances, a variety of LGBTQ+ vendors, and several resource tables for community members.

BBG Fest - July 8, 2023 from 12-10 p.m.

The inaugural BBG Fest produced by Beats by Girlz Boston will bring together girls, women, and gender-expansive people in a celebration of live music and the arts, with the mission of addressing the systems of inequity within the music industry through education, networking, performances, opportunities, and community. BBG Fest aims to uplift the incredible and underrepresented performers in our city, featuring a diverse and unique lineup, including Brandie Blaze, Bad Snacks and Mint Green. BBG Fest will also be partnering with Boston Women's Market to curate a space for local makers and artists of all kinds to showcase their work. This free, one-day event is open to the public, welcoming everyone of all ages in Greater Boston.

In addition to the above programming, City Hall Plaza will host the following lineup of events:

D&D Beer Garden on City Hall Plaza

Opening June 7, the new D&D Beer Garden is a partnership between two Boston-born and Boston-owned breweries, Distraction Brewing of Roslindale and Democracy Brewing of Downtown Crossing. More details will be announced in the coming days.

Donna Summer Disco Party

This annual summer disco party honoring five-time Grammy winner and Boston native Donna Summer is coming back to City Hall Plaza with a roller skating rink on June 16. O'Mega Red will be performing his hit song "Angel" featuring Donna Summer and there will be a special tribute performance by Mary Gaines Bernard, Donna Summer's sister and longtime backing vocalist. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public and will take place between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Open Your Heart: Immigrant Stories and Music from Boston and Beyond

This live staged event on June 30 from 6-8 p.m. will feature stories

about several youths' journeys as immigrants or children of immigrants who came to the U.S. and ultimately landed in East Boston. The event is produced by Hoopla Productions in collaboration with the youth nonprofit ZUMIX.

5 Days of Chess

5 Days of Chess, a series of four free chess workshops led by JP Chess on July 2, July 9, July 16, and July 23 from 2-5 p.m., followed by a chess tournament on August 6.

Summer Dance Party Series (More details to come)

This annual family-friendly event series will feature a variety of music genres including Salsa on July 20, R&B on August 10, Country Line Dancing on August 24, Afro Beats on September 14, and House Music on September 22. The series will be held from 5-8 p.m. on the main plaza.

Activating Art: A Movement for Social Change (More details to come)

Activating Art is a series hosted by Boston Music Award winner Amanda Shea that centers art as a vehicle for social change. Some of the topics throughout the series will include reproductive justice, free speech, reparations and more. They will also choose a local nonprofit to honor and highlight with each session. The sessions will be held on August 17, August 24, August 31, and September 7 from 5-8 p.m., and September 10 from 12-6 p.m.

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture invested a total of \$136,700 in City Hall Plaza events as part of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Additional programming will be added within the coming months.

"Having a variety of new performance and gathering spaces on the Plaza opens up so many opportunities for innovative arts and cultural programming, and we're so grateful to have our City Hall Plaza Engagement Manager Billy Dean Thomas on board to lead us in curating this programming," said Chief of Arts & Culture Kara Elliott-Ortega. "We're happy to help bring these events to the Plaza, and look forward to continuing to support artists, creatives, and cultural organizations in bringing their work downtown."

"Activating City Hall Plaza this summer is an amazing opportunity to bring residents,

families and visitors together. We want everyone to take advantage of all Boston has to offer as we support our organizations from so many different communities," said John Borders IV, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. "As we approach the start of the summer, we are excited to create space for people of all ages across the city and region to gather and be together."

City Hall Plaza reopened to the public last fall after a renovation that transformed it into a civic space for all residents, with universal accessibility, new communal spaces, increased environmental sustainability, and critical infrastructure improvements that will ensure the plaza is safe and accessible for generations to come. The renovation included creating seven new "plug and play" locations for community groups to utilize, with space for 10,000 to 12,000 visitors on the main plaza and room for a 20,000 to 25,000 person gathering on the entire plaza. The new design also includes three smaller event and gathering places, and a new civic building on Congress Street equipped with a bathroom and other facilities to support public gatherings.

Last year, the City of Boston released a Call to Artists for public art to complement the renovation of City Hall Plaza. There were two separate opportunities outlined in the call. The first was a short-term artwork for the north entrance to the building. The second was for a graphics display for the exterior of City Hall. These commissions are envisioned as the first of a series of artworks for this site that will recognize and celebrate the stories of Boston and City Hall Plaza.

The City selected Rhea Vedro to create the short-term artwork, which will be a sculptural installation on the planting bed at the north entrance. Yuke Li was commissioned to create 2D graphics for the new display system on the west exterior wall of City Hall and the wall panels near the new civic pavilion. The graphics have been installed, and the sculpture is expected to be installed this year.

To learn more about upcoming events on City Hall Plaza and how to host events on the Plaza, visit boston.gov/cityhallplaza.

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CITY PAWS

Shrinking World Syndrome

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

On a recent stroll with a friend and his senior Cairn Terrier, this wise dog guardian talked about how important it was to continue with the longest walks his little dog would take, no matter how slow. Watching the dog sniff her way along the sidewalk, pausing to inhale an intriguing aroma a second or third time, we agreed.

He was preventing shrinking world syndrome. In an article on teaching old dogs new tricks on the website The Wildest, author Jeannette Cooperman quoted certified veterinary behaviorist Dr. Lore Haug. “A lot of old dogs get what I call the ‘shrinking world’ syndrome.” “Their owners get in a rut with them; they start walking the dog less... and they don’t train the dog or teach him tricks. The dog doesn’t get as much stimulation and enrichment — maybe they stop taking

the dog to the dog park — and there’s a significant decline in mental and physical challenges.”

Symptoms

Dr. Haug outlined the changes you might see if your dog begins to have the cognitive dysfunction that isolation can cause. These include changes in their sleep patterns, disorientation, housetraining mishaps, pacing, and vocalizing at night. Your dog may begin to experience separation anxiety and cling to you. On the other hand, a senior dog might be less interested in greeting or interacting with family members. Slowly they are not acting like the dog you knew.

Prevention

We are all becoming aware of the importance of socialization, exercise, and stimulation for the human brain. The same is true for dogs. However, in the case of

dogs, it’s easier to take the steps that will prevent decline than when a person in our family decides to spend hours in a recliner watching a screen.

First, look around and see if you can change anything about your home that will make your dog feel safer or more secure doing simple things like walking around, getting up on the sofa, joining you on the bed, or enjoying a meal. Non-skid rugs may make walking on slippery floors easier. Steps up to a couch or bed to visit you or a favorite window view could help.

Nightlights along the floor may help low-vision dogs find their way in the dark. You can use scented toys to play with a blind dog and dog whistles, clickers, and noise makers that can catch the attention of dogs with hearing loss.

Slow walks can be interesting for older dogs if they are physically



Photo by Jack Plant

While rest is essential for a senior dog, exercise, and stimulation are also needed to avoid shrinking world syndrome.

up to the task. You can bring a stroller for a small dog or a wagon for a larger pal. This will ensure you can give your dog a rest or a ride home when they tire. Sitting on a bench or blanket in the park might be a welcome change of scenery for a dog.

Training

Teaching your old dog new tricks or behaviors is a great way to stimulate their time at home. Sometimes, it might be an adaptation of a behavior the dog already knows. For example,

you could teach the hand signals that match the words you use to communicate, like sit, down, and wait.

It’s hard to watch your dog age, but knowing you can prevent some of the changes can give you a way to be proactive to slow the aging process. What’s more, many of the tasks that are good for your dog are also good for you!

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

Wu announces new program to support tree canopy growth

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Mass Audubon at the Boston Nature Center to announce a new City program to expand tree planting and maintenance on private land. The City has selected Mass Audubon to design and operate a program to support tree canopy growth on private property in Boston. Mass Audubon will serve as the convener of the Tree Alliance, which will include a larger group of non-profits who will collaborate on an annual plan for tree planting, maintenance, and public education activities for participating groups such as community centers, houses of worship, and non-profit organizations. The Tree Alliance will bolster Boston’s tree canopy to enhance livability and public health throughout Boston’s neighborhoods, with a particular focus on Environmental Justice communities. This program follows the recommendations of Boston’s first Urban Forest Plan (UFP), an assessment of Boston’s urban forest with suggestions to improve the way trees are cared for and ensure the urban forest is available to the entire community.

Mayor Wu made the announcement during a microforest planting event at the Boston Nature Center, a 67-acre wildlife refuge owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Mattapan. The microforest will transform an unused parking area with a high-density planting to mitigate the urban heat island effect, support biodiversity, and buffer against flooding and erosion. Mass Audubon staff and volunteers, as well as a team of PowerCorpsBOS members, the City’s youth green jobs program, will plant 200 native trees and shrubs and an additional 180 perennial plants at the Boston Nature Center.

“Increasing the number of trees in Boston will enhance our neighborhoods’ livability, health

and resilience benefiting both our climate and our residents,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I’m grateful to our partners at Mass Audubon and Speak for the Trees for their support in bringing and maintaining trees on private land to complement the city’s efforts to have a robust density of trees on our streets, in our parks and across our city-owned properties.”

Boston’s urban forest includes all of the trees within City boundaries, a portion of which is located on public land, particularly on sidewalks and in public parks. Over 60% of the tree canopy in Boston is privately owned and controlled. The efforts through the City’s new Urban Forestry Division are designed to support trees on public land. In order to

make an impact on the whole urban forest, the City’s efforts on public land must be matched by work on private land, requiring collaboration with landowners and other stakeholders. The Tree Alliance partnership will oversee the development and administration of a tree planting and maintenance program for trees on privately-owned land. Mass Audubon is charged with distributing resources to the program participants while developing a long-term tree planting and maintenance program. This collaboration will help to support growth of the urban forest in partnership with landowners and provide public education opportunities to build awareness around tree care and other topics.

“Having a healthy urban tree canopy is critically important to our environment and quality of life, as trees not only beautify our surroundings, but they also provide many environmental benefits,” said City Council President Ed Flynn. “I applaud the work that the City of Boston and the Tree Alliance will be doing to expand and protect our urban canopies, and I look forward to working with them.”

“I applaud the Administration for their deep commitment to growing and maintaining our City’s tree canopy,” said Councilor Kendra Lara, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks. “The unified private, nonprofit, and government efforts show

Continued on page 13

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WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RETURNS TO PARK PLAZA HOTEL



Shown above, State Rep. Jay Livingstone, State Senate President Karen Spilka, and WLP Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon.

Shown to the right, Nancy Schön, the artist who created the "Make Way for Ducklings" sculpture in the Public Garden, and her daughter, Susan Schön, an art and textile designer.



PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI

Women's Lunch Place celebrated its 12th annual eat LUNCH give fundraiser on Friday, May 12, at the Grand Ballroom in the Park Plaza Hotel.

The event was a celebration of the tireless work for the city's homeless women that the Back Bay women's shelter has performed in the four decades since its inception in November of 1982, as well as a networking event for companies, groups, and individuals interested in supporting WLP's mission.

This year's fundraiser also honored the inaugural members of the Presidents' Council, all former board members of WLP, including many prominent, local business leaders from the past 40 years.

The event raised over \$300,000 for women experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

To learn more about WLP, visit womenslunchplace.org.



Michelle McGee, owner of Kearney, Donovan and McGee, and Marty Walz, former state representative.



Dianne Phillips, a partner at Holland & Knight and J. W. Carney Jr., defense attorney.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette

2023 Publishing Calendar

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JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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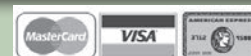
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mission Hill Gazette

Jamaica Plain Gazette



Canopy growth

Continued from page 11

that all sectors are critical partners in our efforts toward a more resilient Boston.”

“Trees play a vital role in our communities and are necessary in combating the impacts of climate change,” said Councilor Ricardo Arroyo. “I applaud Mayor Michelle Wu for her leadership and all the stakeholders whose participation in the Tree Alliance will ensure Boston is a leader in access to, and protection of, trees.”

In 2022, the City released the Urban Forest Plan (UFP), to equitably chart the growth of Boston’s urban forest and the Heat Plan to address the impacts of extreme heat driven by climate change. Together, these plans provide an approach to build a safe, healthy, and resilient city for all residents. Maintaining and planting trees in alignment with the UFP is one strategy to support the long-term health and safety of residents, particularly in Boston’s Environmental Justice neighborhoods. The data produced by the Heat Plan and the UFP provide a foundation for where tree planting and maintenance efforts are needed to equitably expand tree canopy and address the long-term impacts of extreme heat. To grow a strong urban forest, partnership and coordination across the public agencies, community groups, and private organizations who steward urban trees is critical.

“Boston’s history of disinvestment and redlining has led to inequitable access to trees,” said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. “Trees are a crucial component of Boston’s work to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. I am thrilled that the Tree Alliance will support our goals of creating healthy, resilient and beautiful communities.”

Last September, Mayor Wu launched a new Urban Forestry Division within the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) to expand Boston’s ability to maintain existing and plant new trees. The Forestry Division has since hired a Director of Urban Forestry, three new Arborists, an Administrative Assistant, and is still in the process of hiring new field labor crews. The City of Boston’s tree related workforce has expanded from five to 16 positions.

The concept for a tree planting and maintenance program was inspired by similar programs in other cities, namely L’Alliance

Forêt Urbaine in Montreal. In this model, the municipality developed an official contractual relationship with one organization, which serves as the central convener for the L’Alliance and Fiscal Agent to distribute public funding for planting and maintenance projects. Together, the Alliance created a governance structure to allow organizations of all capacities to participate in decision-making and access public funding resources for projects. The L’Alliance works together to create and coordinate tree planting and maintenance efforts. Public funds, issued as grants, are provided to collaborating partners within the L’Alliance for projects, working in coordination with private property owners. The Tree Alliance in Boston will have a strong focus on the needs of Boston’s communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

“We applaud Mayor Wu’s Tree Alliance initiative to enhance Boston’s tree canopy so that City residents—particularly those living in environmental justice communities—can experience more of the health and climate benefits trees provide,” said David O’Neill, President of Mass Audubon. “Mass Audubon is honored to support the alliance of nonprofits that will work collaboratively with private landowners willing to plant trees on their properties to provide more equitable access to nature, improve human health and wildlife diversity, and battle climate change.”

Organizations that are interested in participating in Boston’s Tree Alliance should contact BostonTreeAlliance@massaudubon.org for more information. Additionally, Mass Audubon will be hosting an informational kick-off meeting in late summer/early fall. Mass Audubon will be hiring an Alliance Coordinator to support programming and implementation. To learn more about this position, visit massaudubon.org/jobs/community-engagement-coordinator-boston.

The Tree Alliance is a key strategy to expand and preserve Boston’s tree canopy. Boston’s Healthy Places Initiative focused on increasing open space, cooling our neighborhoods, and protecting Bostonians from the impacts of climate change. Healthy Places is a collaboration of three City plans including the Urban Forest Plan, Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston, and the seven year update to the City’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Largest Pizza Festival returns to City Hall Plaza

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Pizza Festival is pleased to announce its return to City Hall Plaza in Boston’s government center. The largest consumer pizza event in New England will take place on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The Boston Pizza Festival will feature over 30 of the best pizzerias in the New England and Greater Boston areas, along with select participating pizzerias hailing from Italy. The festival will feature something for everyone, with vegan and gluten-free options. Each pizzeria will be cooking in Marra Forni artisan pizza ovens. This year, Anheuser-Busch will be sponsoring the refreshments throughout the weekend, alongside 19 Crimes for the wine. The two-day celebration will also showcase a chil-

dren’s pizza tossing station, an interactive pizza-making demo with the Dough Connection, and live music and entertainment.

“After a three-year hiatus, we cannot wait to bring back an impressive roster of pizzerias representing the best Boston has to offer, along with a few special selections Raffaele and I hand-picked straight from Italy,” said Giancarlo Natale, co-director of the Boston Pizza Festival. “Our hope is to make this year our biggest and best Boston Pizza Festival to date.”

Admission to the festival is free, with pizza tokens available for \$3.00 available for purchases in varying packages upon arrival. Each token is good for one full-size slice of pizza.

“From classic Margheritas to creative toppings and artisanal pies, the Boston Pizza Festival will showcase the very best of the

vibrant pizza scene in Boston and beyond,” said co-director, Raffaele Scalzi. “We look forward to continuing to share our passion for pizza with fellow Bostonians and visitors as the festival returns to the city.

Some of the participating pizzerias include:

- Rina’s Pizzeria (Boston, MA)
- da LaPosta (Newton, MA)
- Florina Pizzeria (Boston, MA)
- Montebella’s (Gluten-Free)
- DaCoopas Pizza (East Boston, MA)
- Motor City Detroit Pizza (Detroit, MI)
- Il Sarago (Calabria, Italy)
- Pizza Taxi (Amalfi Coast, Italy)
- Wicked Cheesy (Tewksbury, MA)
- Cafe Quattro (Boston, MA)
- Eat Cini’s (Boston, MA)

And a dessert pizza booth selling Nutella pizzas!

Atlantic Hurricane season kicks off June 1

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

In conjunction with the beginning of Atlantic Hurricane Season today, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) announced a series of online resources for the Commonwealth’s residents to deepen their awareness of and prepare for the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes. Residents are encouraged to go online, make a plan, and stay informed about storms that may emerge this season.

“With severe weather events occurring more frequently due to our changing climate, it’s more important than ever that Massachusetts is prepared to respond before, during and after emergency weather situations like hurricanes,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our administration has a host of helpful resources available, and we encourage everyone to go online, make a plan and stay informed about potential storms to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.”

“History shows that regardless of where you are in Massachusetts – on the coast or inland – a tropical storm or hurricane can have significant impacts on your area,” said MEMA Acting Director Dawn Brantley. “Ensuring Massachusetts communities are prepared for hurricane season requires immense collaboration among emergency management

partners at the state and local levels, as well as participation from all residents to prioritize personal preparedness.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seasonal outlook predicts near-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic this year, but it only takes one storm to cause significant impacts.

The beginning of hurricane season is a timely reminder for all residents to prepare for the effects of a hurricane by learning if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone, developing an emergency plan that reflects your local conditions, building an emergency kit to meet your household needs, and staying informed before, during, and after the storm. If you have a disability or care for someone who does, it may require extra planning to handle an emergency.

Steps to Prepare

- **Know Your Evacuation Zone** – Visit www.mass.gov/knowyourzone to learn if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone. If you live in an area that may flood and may need assistance evacuating, plan with family, neighbors, and friends who may be able to assist, and contact your local public safety officials to make them aware of your needs.

- **Make an Emergency Plan** – A plan should address how your family would communicate,

evacuate, and shelter in place if needed. Be sure to account for the needs of all your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with access and functional needs, and pets: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>. If you receive medical treatment or home health care services, work with your medical provider to determine how to maintain care and service if you are unable to leave your home or have to evacuate.

- **Build an Emergency Kit** – Build an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. For tips on what to include, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>

- **Stay Informed** – Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social and traditional news media, Mass 2-1-1 and local notification systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>

MEMA will share preparedness and safety information throughout hurricane season. For more resources, visit the Hurricane Safety Tips section of MEMA’s website at <https://www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes>.

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to the Class of 2023

A high school graduation is a singular event in the life of every community, where almost everybody knows one of the graduates or their families. All of us share the happiness and sense of achievement of our young people who will be receiving their diplomas. And for all of us, a high school graduation brings back our own fond memories from our long-gone youth.

For the graduates themselves, their high school graduation marks both an end and a beginning. They no longer are children, either in the eyes of the law or in reality. They are full-fledged adults who will be leaving the sheltered harbor of their families and communities and setting sail on a journey that none of them will be able to anticipate, but which will be full of surprises, both good and otherwise.

Yes, graduation is a bittersweet time, both for the grads and their family members.

For the parents who will be watching their sons and daughters step to the podium when their name is called, no doubt they will be thinking of how fast time has gone by since they first brought their child by the hand to preschool and kindergarten.

Such moments bring to mind the sentiments expressed in the lyrics of the song, Sunrise, Sunset, from the musical Fiddler on the Roof:

Is this the little girl I carried
Is this the little boy at play?
I don't remember growing older
When did they?
When did she get to be a beauty
When did he grow to be so tall?
Wasn't it yesterday when they were small?

We congratulate the Class of 2023 for all of the accomplishments that have earned them the right to step onto that podium to receive their diplomas.

We know we join with all of the members of our community in wishing them blue skies and sunny days, both on their Graduation Day and in the years ahead.

Biden, McCarthy deserve praise

As this is being written, it would appear that the deal struck between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy over the weekend to raise the nation's debt limit has averted what would have been a cataclysmic economic event, not only for the United States, but for the entire world.

By no means are we experts in the intricacies of the bond markets and their interaction with the world economy, but it's clear that if the U.S. government had been unable to pay its bills, there would have been significant consequences for the entire global economy.

In our country, there would be a question as to whether Social Security payments, salaries for the military and other government employees, and countless other obligations would be paid on time.

We have to admit that we were among the skeptics who thought that Joe Biden could not have pulled it off, but he managed to do it. And yes, we also have to say that Kevin McCarthy rose above the fray, so to speak, for the good of the country.

Hopefully, their agreement will receive the support it deserves from the members of their parties in Congress so that our elected officials can return to the job of actually governing.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Op-Ed Enjoy your stuff, but be prepared to let it go

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

One of the perils of life is putting too much value on "stuff." Stuff can be about anything. It can consist of what we have or what we don't have.

Much of life is about our stuff. Our house, cars, things in the house. Things around the house and things in the garage, storage building, barns and more barns. If we work hard, it's possible to accumulate lots of stuff. Often, we have more than we need.

We paint, stain, groom and polish our stuff. Sometimes we put in in cases, drawers, cabinets and even safes. We know how difficult it is to buy and accumulate. Stuff is expensive.

We take pride in our stuff. We admire, adore and feel good about what we have. We remember days when we didn't have much, wanted more and maybe felt poor. It felt good to get a check and even better to put a few dollars in the bank.

Me, me, and I often became our most significant heroes. We applaud ourselves because we did it, whatever it is. It's all good because we know where we could be or what could have been or what even might be if luck, circumstances and health had changed or still might change.

The problem with stuff is that it does change. It fades, erodes, rots, burns, is stolen, or simply becomes worthless. What might have been valuable may have changed. Life is always chang-

ing.

If you have a lot of stuff then you have lot to worry about. You can't keep from worrying some.

In time, all of your stuff will belong to someone else. Your land. Your prized possessions. All that you have worked to collect and preserve. Stuff is passed on or gained by someone else. You can make a plan of passing your stuff on to someone else but they may not really care about it and immediately hand it over to a complete stranger. Once anything is out of your

hands then who knows what will happen.

We all die sooner or later and we take nothing with us. All of our stuff is left behind and eventually, sometime down the road of life, everything will end up in a junk or trash pile. Fifty years from now people you have never heard of might sleep in your bed in your house, if your house is still in existence.

There once was a man who had so much stuff that he had to

Continued on page 15

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

Mission Hill GAZETTE

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COMMENTARY

The City won't be able to ever solve its rat problem until it changes the garbage pickup schedule

Editors note: The rat problem, not only affects the Beacon Hill area, but many of the neighborhoods in Boston including Mission Hill, the South End and Back Bay. This is one opinion that may alleviate the problem.

By ROB WHITNEY

I have lived on Beacon Hill since 1985, and I have been living with Beacon Hill's rat problem ever since moving here – and it's getting worse! An Axios report in December 2022 cited Boston as the “rattiest” city in the nation, according to 2021 American Housing Survey data that ranked metro regions by the number of rodent sightings inside homes. With 21.6% of respondents reporting rodent sightings, Boston beats Philadelphia's 19.5% and New York City's measly 15.3%. According to WBUR, cities in the Boston region and across the northeast have recently been facing a worsening rat problem. WBUR recently reported that in the City of Boston, rat and rodent complaints increased by 48% from 2019 to 2021.

Boston City Council President Ed Flynn has described rat infestations in his district, which included part of the North Slope of Beacon Hill, as the issue he's likely focused on the most since joining the City Council some six years ago. Former City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who until recently represented Beacon Hill and is a Beacon Hill resident, has described the city's rat problem as “a critical public health issue.” Councilor Bok also noted that the problem is exacerbated by a couple of factors, including the fact that in parts of the city like Beacon Hill, there isn't adequate room for large trash barrels to be left on the sidewalk or inside homes, and as such, they can't be used to store resident's garbage overnight. Instead, plastic garbage bags must be used.

Another factor in the Boston's exploding rat problem is that

since the City changed the garbage pickup time in the summer of 2019, from 7 a.m. to 6 a.m. on garbage pickup days, Beacon Hill residents now mostly put their garbage out the night before the pickup day, with the garbage sitting out overnight, thereby effectively feeding Beacon Hill's rats. In 2019, when the City announced that it was changing the garbage pickup time to 6 a.m. from 7 a.m., and that it was entering a five-year, \$28 million contract with East Boston-based Capitol Waste Services, effective, July 1, 2019, it represented that the garbage hauler was “contractually bound” to begin garbage pickups at 6am on Beacon Hill.

On Beacon Hill, a Town Hall sponsored by the Beacon Hill Civic Association (“BHCA”) was held in June 2019, at which Beacon Hill residents came together and heard from City officials about the proposed change in garbage pickup times. Almost unanimously, Beacon Hill residents at that meeting opposed the change to an earlier garbage pickup time, stating that the earlier pickup time would likely compel Beacon Hill residents to put out their garbage the night before, so as to not have to get up before 6am on pickup days to put out their garbage bags. And in fact, this has occurred exactly as was predicted – more garbage is now being put out the night before garbage pickup day than ever before. Even before 2019, when the garbage pickup time began at 7am on pickup days on Beacon Hill, many residents put out their garbage the night before, thereby effectively feeding Beacon Hill's rat population overnight twice a week.

The BHCA spent many years before the summer of 2019 educating the Beacon Hill neighborhood that garbage should not be put out the night before pickup day because of the rat problem and encouraging residents to instead get up early on garbage



Robert A. Whitney.

pickup day before 7am and put out their garbage at that time. The education campaign was very successful, with many residents forgoing putting out their garbage the night before pickup day! But when the City changed the garbage pickup time from 7am to 6am in July 2019, all the many years of educational effort fell to the wayside, and many residents went back to putting out their garbage the evening before pickup day. For many residents, getting up before 6am on pickup day to put out their garbage was just too inconvenient.

New York City has had similar and increasing problems with its plastic garbage bags being left out overnight and thereby becoming an easy and reliable food source for its own large population of rats. According to NBC News, New York City health inspectors documented about 60,000 instances of rodent activity in the 2022, compared to about 30,000 rodent citations in 2021. New York's Mayor Adams, in late 2022, signed a legislative package aimed at eradicating rats in New York City, which included a provision to significantly reduce the number of hours plastic garbage bags are allowed to remain on public sidewalks at night before pickup.

At a hearing held at Boston City Council on April 11, 2023, on the rat issues in Boston's own neighborhoods, Councilor Bok noted that leaving thin plastic

bags of garbage out overnight on Beacon Hill, which is the status quo in that neighborhood, isn't a workable solution to the neighborhood's problem with rats. Instead, Councilor Bok recommended scheduling garbage pickup for late morning on pickup days so that residents wouldn't have any excuse for putting out their garbage the night before. Councilor Bok was correct – the only real solution to the rat problem is to deprive the Beacon Hill neighborhood's rats of their overnight food supply.

Beacon Hill and other City neighborhoods have tried other potential solutions, including the use of folding fabric “barrels” in which to place plastic garbage bags overnight, but this turned out not to be a realistic solution: many of the fabric barrels were stolen or damaged, and rats could still easily gain access to the garbage bags placed in the lidless barrels. John Ulrich, Assistant Commissioner in the City's Environmental Services Department, who heads the rodent control operation in Boston, has noted in testimony before the Boston City Council that rat activity in the City's neighborhoods is based on three things: “food,

water, and shelter, which are typically easy for rodents to find in Boston because of its density.” Assistant Commissioner Ulrich's comments are dead-on correct: unless the rat population's food supply is eliminated, the rat problem will never get under control in our neighborhoods.

Instead, the only solution that will actually work is to get the plastic garbage bags off the streets overnight in Beacon Hill and Boston generally. And the only way to accomplish this goal is to have a later pick up time on garbage collection days so that residents have time to put out their garbage bags on our sidewalks in the daylight hours of the morning just before pickup begins. Beacon Hill residents support this change. In 2021, the BHCA took a poll of Beacon Hill residents asking them about changing the garbage pickup time to help alleviate the rat problem. Over 85% of Beacon Hill residents polled supported the idea of having later pickup time in the morning on garbage and recycling days, thereby reducing the amount of garbage put out the night before and re-

Continued on page 16

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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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Op-Ed

Continued from page 14

build multiple barns. One day he was self-talking, “I have so much stored up for many years. I'm going to take it easy, eat drink and be merry.” Later that day he died. Jesus talked about this

guy in one of his stories found in Luke chapter 16. Chances are anyone might identify with the man Jesus talked about if our existence becomes too wrapped up in all of our stuff.

Enjoy your stuff but be prepared to let it all go.

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.

DA Kevin Hayden names Charlene Luma as Chief of Staff

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden last week named Charlene Luma, current chief of the office's Victim Witness Assistance Program, to be his next chief of staff.

"Charlene is a smart, organized and driven public servant who not only knows the office but also knows the city and the county. Her deep knowledge of our operations and her many ties in the neighborhoods and communities throughout Suffolk County make her a superb fit for the job. I'm thrilled to have her in this important position," Hayden said.

Luma is a native of Boston with over 18 years of experience as a clinical social worker

working with high-risk individuals and families. In addition to her SCDAO responsibilities, Luma is a Commissioner of the Massachusetts Peace Officer & Standards Training Commission and adjunct professor in the Boston College School of Social Work. Luma launched and served as director at the Boston Trauma Response Team providing trauma response services to those impacted by homicides and violent crimes in Boston.

Luma's past experience includes managing a program that provides clinical services to court-involved youth and adults, providing therapeutic services to victims of domestic violence, and working as a clinician alongside police officers to provide services to the most high-risk youth in the

Boston community.

"I am honored and thrilled to be named chief of staff for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. This is an incredible opportunity to contribute to and serve the Suffolk County community. I look forward to working alongside District Attorney Hayden and a team of dedicated colleagues in implementing transformative initiatives, creating safer communities, and finding new ways to enhance engagement with our communities," said Luma.

Outside of her professional career, Luma enjoys serving her community through volunteerism. She has been an active member of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, previously serving in numerous leadership roles, including board

member of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, president of the Young Professionals Network of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, and national secretary for the National Urban League Young Professionals. She currently serves on the Community Advisory Board for the Center on Crime, Race, and Justice at Northeastern University.

Luma has received the 2021 Boston College School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award, 2020 National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts Emerging Leader award, and the Boston NAACP Difference Maker award. She was a Boston Business Journal "40 under 40" award recipient in 2015.



Charlene Luma.

Luma lives in Boston and is a graduate of YW LeadBoston, the Institute for Non-Profit Management & Leadership Core program at Boston University and the Lewis Family Foundation Strong Leaders program. Luma holds a B.A. in psychology and a M.A. in social work from Boston College.

Rat Problem

Continued from page 15

ducing the food supply available for rats on Beacon Hill.

Therefore, the City of Boston's

next garbage hauling contract should include the requirement that garbage collection on Beacon Hill and other City neighborhoods that utilize plastic garbage bags cannot begin until 9:00am at the earliest on garbage pickup

days. In addition, it should not be permissible for City residents to put out their plastic garbage bags the night before pickup days, and instead, garbage bags should only be allowed to be put out on the sidewalk during day-

light hours immediately prior to 9:00am on garbage pickup days. If we make these simple changes, our City neighborhoods, including Beacon Hill, will at least have a fighting chance in their epic battle against the rats.

Rob Whitney, is an attorney and lives on Phillips Street on Beacon Hill with his family. He is the former Chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association.



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