

HILL HAPPENINGS PG. 5

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16 PAGES  
VOLUME 31 • NUMBER 11



# Mission Hill GAZETTE

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## ANNUAL MISSION HILL 5K ROAD RACE



Shown above, hundreds of walkers, runners, and volunteers connected at the Mission Hill Road Race on September 30th, organized by Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, with the mutual goal of building community and supporting Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park, now a level I arboretum.

Shown below, right, Volunteer "human arrows" from many university clubs including the Northeastern Alliance of Civically Engaged Students, NU Alpha Phi Omega, NU Figure Skaters, NU Marketing Association, and MCPHS Alpha Zeta Omega point runners in the right direction. Shown below, left, Local Sociedad Latina youth proudly show off their medals after completing the loop atop Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park, also winning them a Road Race t-shirt.



## CAMH discusses Hillside Street project

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During its monthly meeting in October, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) heard an initial presentation for a project at 14 Hillside Street.

As part of this proposal, the building on Hillside Street would have a gut renovation and have

its occupancy confirmed as a three-family dwelling.

According to Attorney Derric Small, who presented the project to CAMH, the assessing department has assessed the property as a three-family since the 1980s.

However, Small said, "When we went, and we applied for permits to do the work, they (In-

spectional Services Department) said, oh, there's no record of occupancy."

He went on to say, "It's very common that when you go to ISD (Inspectional Services Department), look at a building jacket they will have either no record

*Continued on page 7*

## Community gets look at Parcel 25, Phase 3 Project change

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

At a public meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) on October 23, the plans for Phase 3 of the Parcel 25 project located on Tremont and Station Streets were revealed.

This public meeting comes off the heels of the project's proponent, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, filing a notice of project change back in September.

Initially, there was approval for the third phase of this project, which would have brought a 10-story 161,500 gross square foot office building and 185 be-

low-grade parking spots to the site.

However, Nicholas Zozula, Senior Associate at McDermott, Quilty & Miller LLP, the project's Permitting Attorney, explained that there have been some changes and why those changes were made.

Now, the third phase of the Parcel 25 project is proposing to construct a six-story building with 33 above-grade parking spaces and would include 94 units of 100% affordable rental housing.

"Despite years of pursuit, you know, obviously, a lot has changed in the past several

*Continued on page 2*

## SPOTTED AT FALL-O-WEEN



Jon Seamans Photo

Olga and John Devine of Roslindale brought 2 ½ -year-old Evie to Boston Common for the October 20 Fall-O-Ween family festival hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston and sponsors College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving, HP Hood LLC, and Xfinity.

# City issues reminders ahead of municipal election

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Election Department is reminding voters that the Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7. The election will determine At-Large and District City Councilors for the City of Boston. Due to redistricting, the district that residents live in may have changed. Residents can get information about which City Council district they live in and view a sample ballot.

## In-person Early Voting

In-person Early Voting runs through Friday, November 3.

City Hall is Boston's primary early voting site, with voting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Voters are encouraged to enter City Hall through the Hanover Street entrance to access the early voting location on the second floor.

Neighborhood early voting locations will be available throughout the city on from noon to 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 2.

All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check in. Voters are advised that state-issued identifications are optional for quicker "check in," but are not

required. Early voting locations are well staffed with poll workers and interpreters, and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

## Vote-by-Mail

Vote-by-mail ballots may be returned using one of 21 drop boxes located throughout the City; in-person at the Boston Election Department located at City Hall Room 241; at an early voting location during the prescribed hours for voting; or via U.S. Mail.

Voters are asked to return all signed ballot packages, whether using a drop box or the US Mail in the white postage paid

return envelope included with their vote by mail ballot. Ballots must reach the Boston Election Department or a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7 to be counted. Ballots cannot be delivered to a polling location on Election Day.

## Accessible Voting

The Accessible Electronic Voting System allows voters who are unable to independently read, write, hold, or physically manipulate or mark ballots to submit their ballot via a secure electronic delivery system.

## Voting on Election Day

Polling locations open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. A list of polling locations can be found here. As a reminder, voters should check their registration status via the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. Printed ballots will be available in English and Spanish. Chinese and Vietnamese ballots will be available where required. Language interpreters will also be available upon request. All voting locations are wheelchair accessible and are equipped with AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal for voters with visual or hearing impairments.

## Parcel 25

Continued from page 1

years, never mind the past decade. This institutional office space that was kind of seen as an economic engine for the overall project at the outset did not really materialize, became less necessary, and as we all know, housing is even more important than it was even when this was first instituted," said Zozula.

Zozula cited several aspects, such as the cost of construction, existing site conditions, lower demand for office space, and the need for more housing, causing the change in plans.

The updated Phase 3 plan, which, as mentioned, offers 94 units of Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program rental housing, includes 24 one-bedrooms, 55 two-bedrooms, and 15 three-bedrooms.

Regarding affordability, 10

units — five two-bedrooms and five three-bedrooms — will be offered for extremely low-income (ELI), homeless, or formerly homeless at or below 30% of area median income (AMI).

Moreover, another nine units — six one-bedrooms and three three-bedrooms — will be at or below 30% AMI as well.

10 units — three one-bedrooms, four two-bedrooms, and three three-bedrooms — will be offered at or below 50% AMI.

The remaining units will be offered at or below 60% and 70% AMI. 42 units will be offered at or below 60% AMI while 23 units will be offered at or below 70% AMI, with each category

having a mixture of one, two, and three-bedroom units.

Regarding accessibility, 15 units will be group two, and 79 will be group one. Further, common areas and entrances will be ADA and CBH-compliant.

Additionally, Nick Buehrens, an Associate Principal at Utile, the project's architect, went over some of the other aspects of the project, such as site and landscaping plans.

For example, the site will have 94 interior bike spaces, and there are conversations about potentially adding blue bike locations on the property.

In terms of vehicular access, there are conversations about having a pick-up/drop-off area on Tremont Street, and the garage entrance and trash pickup would be off Station Street.

He also talked about landscape opportunities, such as improving pedestrian pathways through the site and more.

The project also has sustainability aspects, which include targeting passive house certification. "We'll have a very robust building envelope design, so very highly insulated, air-tight, very

efficient building systems, and that will also provide great levels of climate resilience... and improve the long-term durability and operational costs," said Buehrens.

When it came time for discussion, there were some comments about wanting more bike parking, more open space, and less vehicular parking; the sentiment among those at the meeting seemed to be positive.

"I just want to state my strong support for this. NHS is the only developer in Mission Hill that supports affordable housing," said one resident.

"I think the amount of affordable housing that this is offering is pretty incredible," said another resident.

This same resident supported the project so much that she requested it be fast-tracked to completion.

"Developers who build crap that we do not want in our neighborhoods seem to be able to do so with a pretty hefty amount of speed, whereas projects that the community wants to see that is really answering a neighborhood need — a citywide need — just really get dragged along in a really slog like fashion."

Later, another resident seemed to agree and said, "The city needs this, the neighborhood needs it, let's move it along."

As for the next steps, the comment period for the project is open until November 6th. If you want to leave your comments, view the plans, or view the meeting recording, you can visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/parcel-25>.



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# got pumpkins?

## Compost them in the Common on Nov. 6

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston does Halloween right. We decorate our stoops with pumpkins and a skeleton (or three); we dress up in costumes, kids and grown-ups alike; the city closes our streets to traffic; and neighbors open doors to trick or treaters. This makes for a wonderful night of community and revelry preparing us for the long winter ahead.

But once this night is over, we are left with lots and lots of pumpkins. In the US, we dispose of nearly 1.3 billion pounds of pumpkins each year after Halloween. And when these pumpkins are thrown in landfills or incinerated, they get truly spooky by warming our planet.



This year, don't throw your pumpkins (or gourds!) in the trash, bring them to the Boston Common and turn them into compost instead. The Mothers Out Front Downtown Boston team, with permission from the city, has arranged for Black Earth Composting to bring a truck into Boston Common to take our pumpkins away and turn them into nutrient rich soil. On November 6, the Black Earth truck will be parked in the Common near the corner of Charles Street and Beacon Street and available to take your pumpkins from 2:30-5:00.

Why compost? Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions. In Massachusetts, food waste accounts for more than 25% of our waste stream after recycling. Across the country, municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emis-

sions and ~40% of that methane is generated from food scraps.

Methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas—it absorbs ~84 times more heat than carbon over a 20-year time frame and is responsible for 30% of the planet warming we've seen so far. The good news is that methane is a short acting gas—after about 11 years, it dissipates in the atmosphere. This means that reducing methane emissions now is the best lever we have to slow the pace of temperature rise, helping to avoid climate tipping points and enabling us to reach the goals of the Paris Climate Accord.

Composting also creates rich soil—soil with increased microbial activity that suppresses plant disease and with better soil “structure” which improves water retention preventing floods, drought, and erosion, and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Compost creates healthy soil with rich organic matter that not only supports plant health and growth, but also sequesters carbon deep in the earth where we need more of it to go. Compost is just wonderful stuff, and your pumpkins can help.

Composted pumpkins need to be as natural as possible—paint, stickers, and other added doodads cannot be composted, so please clean them as well as you can before composting. Wax is also a problem so using battery operated lights is preferred over candles or you can clean out any wax before composting. Basically, make the pumpkin scary, but keep it natural.

The Mothers Out Front Downtown team will be on hand at the truck on November 6 to help out and answer any questions you may have about composting.

If you find yourself inspired to start composting the rest of your food scraps, Boston is planning to expand its composting trial again this fall. You can sign up at [www.bostoncomposts.com](http://www.bostoncomposts.com). Contrary to some bad information out there, composting will help our rat problem by keeping food scraps off the streets.

We look forward to seeing you and your pumpkins on November 6 between 2:30 and 5:00 on the Boston Common.

The truck will be there rain or shine. If you would like to learn more about the Mothers Out Front Downtown team and

join with your neighbors to help the climate, you can email us at [info.ma.downtown.boston@mothersoutfront.org](mailto:info.ma.downtown.boston@mothersoutfront.org).



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# BPDA Board approves project at 1558 Tremont Street

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

A project that would bring almost 100 units to 1558 Tremont Street was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors during a board meeting in October.

Daniel Polanco of the BPDA explained during the board meeting that the project would consist of a six-story mixed-use building consisting of 95 rental units, around 3,228 square feet of first-floor retail, and 53 parking

spaces for the use of Boston's Basilica of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help and residents.

Regarding unit make-up, there are plans for 59 studios, 22 one-bedrooms, and 14 two-bedrooms. As for affordability, the project will offer 17% of the total units — 16 units — as Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) units, with three at 60% of Area Median Income (AMI).

One significant aspect of this project to note is that there is a proposed deed restriction preventing units from being sold

to full-time undergraduate students. "This restriction is monitored, and the books are subject to audits from a local community group to ensure compliance," said Attorney John Pulgini.

Further, in speaking more about the project, Pulgini said, "Additionally, as part of this proposal, the developer's investing significant capital in public realm and traffic calming measures that will make this area safer for vehicular and pedestrian travel."

A release from the BPDA that outlined the proposal's approval noted that the project would supply things like new sidewalks and street trees and would be making a \$49,000 contribution to the Boston Transportation Department for the city's bike share program.

After a presentation of the project was made, there were several questions from the board about it. One central question concerned the restriction of undergraduate students living at

the site.

Specifically, Board Member Brian Miller asked how that would be accomplished. Pulgini explained it is through an agreement with NHS, "He (the proponent) restricts the buildings that he cannot rent to full-time undergraduate students, and in return, they're authorized to go in and audit his books to make sure that he's compliant with that."

"He has done that, and it has worked very well," added Pulgini Priscilla Rojas, the Board's Chair who indicated she was not a big fan of the deed restriction, asked about the rationale behind including it.

Pulgini assured Rojas that this restriction is voluntary on the proponent's part and said, "There are a lot of people who live there (Mission Hill) that are very inconvenienced by the amount of students that live in that community."

Additionally, Rojas went through several themes of opposition and acknowledged that there had been a "bunch of" opposition emails that went through leading up to the board meeting.

The first theme of opposition she asked about was parking. Rojas explained that some folks thought there were only nine spots for residents because the parking is shared with the church.

Dartagnan Brown of Embarc Studio explained that there are 44 spaces for the church and nine for "on-site" and that there have been talks about a carshare program.

However, Pulgini indicated, "It's also off hours too, so they can be used by both because of the times that the church overlaps — the residents can use parking as well."

Other aspects of opposition Rojas mentioned were height and density, along with the size of the units.

In terms of the unit size, Pulgini said, "The market analysis — the study that went into this — was that post-Covid people no longer want to live with four roommates because of obvious reasons."

He also made the point that nowadays, people are having fewer kids than they were 20 to 30 years ago.

"Where much of the housing stock in Mission Hill are large units, and quite frankly, a lot of people don't want more bed-

rooms; they want less bedrooms," said Pulgini.

Shortly after Rojas' comments and questions, the board unanimously approved the project. However, this approval has come with some frustration, namely from the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH).

Specifically, CAMH's President, Martin Beinborn, penned a letter to District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan expressing disappointment from the group that she did not take a position of opposition before the BPDA vote.

Further, the letter includes the results of a vote that was held requesting that Durkan testify in opposition to the project when it goes before the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA). The aforementioned vote had 23 eligible voters wanting Durkan to oppose, with one voter abstaining.

In correspondence with the Gazette, Durkan provided an email she had shared with neighbors. In this email, she indicated that while she did not support the project before the BPDA Board vote, she did not feel it was the right decision to oppose the project, citing project modifications over the past two years and the need for housing in the city.

Moreover, the letter reveals that Durkan will be following the process that would ensure the views of the Mission Church from Kevin Fitzgerald Park are maintained.

The letter also indicates that Durkan will be there to support the Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services — the entity the proponent is slated to enter an agreement with that would restrict full-time undergraduate students from renting at the site.

It should be noted that Anthony Baez of Durkan's Office explained that they are now aware that the deed restriction mentioned above is "still being worked on."

In closing, Durkan wrote, "Community feedback is so essential to all development review processes and I was grateful to see that the community did shape meaningful changes to this project from the original proposal to the approved plan."

"Thank you again for your feedback and being involved in the community in this way," she added. As of October 31, Durkan says the project has yet to be scheduled to go before the ZBA

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# Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

I first met George Salah eight years ago when a friend told me of a 92-year-old World War II veteran from Mission Hill.

I contacted this wonderful man have since had several lunches, dinners and drinks with him. George, who lives in Brookline, is blessed with good health, and he celebrated his 100th birthday Oct. 25 with family and close friends.

He is a member of the Mission Hill Post 327, and George, a former construction worker and a gifted designer, helped build the Mission Hill Post building in 1960. George grew up in Mission Hill on Whitney Street, and he graduated from Boston English in 1940. He was a fine athlete, playing Boston Park League Football for the Mission Hill Bulldogs, and he also took up boxing and laced on the gloves

at the old Boston Arena.

Soon thereafter, he enlisted in the Navy during wartime and drove Navy landing craft in the Europe and Pacific theaters. He won numerous battle stars including those at Omaha Beach, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. George has done yeoman's work volunteering his time on behalf of veterans and a while back he was the "Veteran of the Year" in Brookline for his volunteer work.

I last saw George a few weeks ago when he was sipping a drink at the bar at the Corrib Restaurant in West Roxbury. I engaged in a warm telephone conversation with George on his 100th birthday and felt so proud to be his friend. God Bless George.

Richie Curran passed away peacefully last month surrounded by his loving kin. Richie, along with his wife, Mary Jane, raised a wonderful family, and hundreds of times, I walked by their

Pontiac Street porch to chat with Richie and the Currans. I enjoyed going to lunch with Richie and having coffee with him at Mike's Donuts because he was always cheerful and witty.

Richie was a bricklayer and a retired construction inspector for the City of Boston. Richie was an Air Force Veteran and a member of the Mission Hill Post.

I got to know Richie 50 years ago when Richie was the bartender at Ed Burke's Tavern, and he served me many bottles of Schlitz at that famous Mission Hill watering hole.

Congratulations to Attorney Olivia Todd, a nice and brilliant young lady who recently passed the bar exam.

Olivia, who studied at the New England School of Law, is the daughter of Kevin Todd and Tina Todd. Her grandfather, John Todd is often referred to as "The Mayor of Mission Hill."

Condolences to the family of Bobby Hounsell, a former Mission Hill resident who passed away last month. Bobby, who was living in Mansfield, was a retired Postal worker and a fun-loving guy.

I hadn't seen Bobby in years, but I fondly recall playing basketball with him up the Hill back in the old days. Bobby was an excellent hoopster, and he also had a good poker player when he would occasionally join us at the Mission Hill Post for our Friday night games. I enjoyed being at the card table with Bobby because he added his personal touch of levity.

RIP, Bobby, who will be dearly missed especially by his wife Donna (Cassio) Hounsell and his daughter Jacqueline Hounsell.

I attended a fundraiser last month for "Spontaneous Celebrations," a terrific Community Center in J.P.

The event was co-chaired by Randace Rauscher and Kacy Hughes and the talented Col. Broccoli and his Legion Baseband provided the entertainment. Randace, when she's not organizing local community events, likes to hang out with the boys at Mike's Donuts especially when it's blueberry muffin time.

Congrats to Mission Hill Post 327 Commander Col. George Rollins and Post members for being honored with an Official Resolution from the Boston City Council for the continuous support of our noble veterans.

The Mission Hill Post members will participate in our Veterans Day ceremony Saturday, Nov. 11, at Brigham Circle. Please join us for this inspiring event beginning at 11 a.m. God Bless our Veterans.

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

## Ready to fall back? When you change your clocks, check your alarms

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

With the end of daylight savings time coming on Nov. 5, Massachusetts fire officials issued a seasonal reminder to check your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and change the batteries when you change your clocks.

"Working smoke and CO alarms are crucial home safety tools," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "As we 'fall back' this weekend, be sure you have the best protection by putting fresh alkaline batteries in alarms that use them and replacing alarms that are out of date."

Today's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have the manufacturing date printed on the back of the device. Smoke alarms should be replaced when they're 10 years old, and CO alarms should be replaced when they're five to seven years old, depending on the model. Unless you have newer alarms with 10-year sealed batteries, this is also a good time to replace the alkaline batteries in all your alarms. And remember to test your smoke and CO alarms once a month to be sure they're working properly.

**Heating Season brings Carbon Monoxide hazards**

Hyannis Fire Chief Peter J. Burke, Jr, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, emphasized the importance of working carbon monoxide alarms as we enter the colder months.

"Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of poisoning deaths in the United States, and heating equipment is the main source of carbon monoxide in the home," Chief Burke said. "We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide. Working CO alarms are the only way to detect this invisible killer."

### Replacement Alarms Should be Photoelectric With 10-Year Sealed Batteries

Replacing your old smoke alarm? The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code requires replacement battery-operated smoke alarms in older one- and two-family homes to be photoelectric and have sealed, long-life batteries and a hush feature. This makes it less likely that someone in the home will use the batteries for another device, forget to change them twice a year, or remove them when cooking causes smoke in the kitchen.

"Disabling a smoke alarm puts you, your loved ones, and everyone in the building at risk,"

said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Never remove batteries from a smoke alarm except when putting fresh ones in."

### Alarms Should Be Listed by an Independent Lab

Massachusetts requires that all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Listed devices will have the laboratory's mark on the back. In recent years, fire officials have seen numerous smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that were purchased online and either have counterfeit marks or no mark at all.

"If the price seems too good to be true, then it probably is," said Chief Burke. "Smoke and CO alarms can be the difference between life and death, but only if they work properly. If you're purchasing a new alarm, choose one from a well-known, national brand."

### Create & Practice a Home Escape Plan

"In the average house fire, you could have less than three minutes to escape after the smoke alarm activates," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Creating and practicing a home escape plan

that includes two routes out will help you make the most of that precious time to get outside be-

fore poisonous gases and heat make escape impossible."

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# What's Happening on Main Streets

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On September 21st, New England Baptist Hospital collab-

orated with the Tobin and to host the second "Senior Birthday Party" since the pandemic. Residents from all over the neighborhood were in attendance

to receive a gift and lunch. A big round of applause to Yellow Door Taco's Jarek Mountain and Colleen Hagerty, who not only brought the ingredients for their

chicken tinga and charred broccoli tacos, but showed volunteers how to properly assemble the gourmet spread. The tacos were a huge hit- thank you Yellow Door Taqueria!

The Annual Mission Hill Road Race was held with over 400 registered walkers and runners. Mayor Wu was on hand to start off the walkers at 9 a.m., and was joined by Councilors-at-large Erin Murphy and Ruthzee Louijeune, District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan. Leading the speaking portion was Mission Hill's own John Fitzgerald, currently running for the District 3 City Council seat. Another Mission Hill native Henry Santana was also in attendance, and is running for one of the four City Councilor at Large seats up for grabs this November 7th. Once again, the Mission Hill Artists Collective and their artisans set up tables in Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park during the event to sell

their work. The rain held off and a great day was had by all.

Now for some updates from our local restaurants:

- Check out the new website for Lilly's at <https://lillysgourmetpasta.com/>. Back by popular demand is the choose your own pasta option, come in any day this week and mention their new website AD before 3 p.m. and receive an additional 15% any 'create your own pasta' order for dine in or pick up!

- Penguin Pizza is doing half price apps Monday-Thursday 3-5 p.m. and their \$.50 wings Mondays at 5!

- Solid Ground Café is now catering! Stop by their location to pick up catering menus or find it online at [www.solidgroundcafe.com/](http://www.solidgroundcafe.com/)

If you'd like me to include you in the next edition, please reach out at [missionhillmainstreets-boston@gmail.com](mailto:missionhillmainstreets-boston@gmail.com).



## Mission Hill Pathway Community Meeting



Scan here:



Our team is proposing to redevelop 77 Terrace Street and 778-796 Parker Street. Come attend our first community meeting and learn more about the existing conditions, the opportunity for affordable homeownership, and the design of the proposed open space. Hear more about our ideas and become a part of our process.

**November 28th, 2023**  
**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Location:**  
**Tobin Community Center**  
1481 Tremont St, Roxbury, MA 02120

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/MissionPathwayCommMtg1>

### Our proposal

- 40 affordable condos for first-time homebuyers
- Neighborhood service-based retail program centering entrepreneurs of color
- 30,000 SF of community gardens and open space
- A Net Zero Carbon mixed-used building that celebrates the character of Mission Hill



Chicken tinga and charred broccoli taco from Yellow Door Taqueria.

## Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

We are grateful for all the support you all have given us over the years!

1605 Tremont St. Boston, MA  
617-232-2705  
[www.lizshairecare.com](http://www.lizshairecare.com)

## CAMH

*Continued from page 1*

of occupancy or they will have something contrary to what the assessing department has which we have in this case.”

With the renovation, Small said a kitchen will be removed from the basement, all new sprinkler and fire protection systems will be added, and an exterior egress will be removed in lieu of interior stairs being built within the building.

Moreover, the proposal is in need of zoning relief due to two violations, the first being off-street parking.

Small indicated that the property has “plenty of parking” from an existing 10-foot driveway on

the left side of the building. However, he explained that “Because the Inspectional Services Department doesn’t consider tandem spaces to be legal spaces, they are citing us for that.”

The project has also been cited for forbidden use as the property falls within a 2F-4,000 zoning subdistrict.

When it came time to discuss the proposal, many residents in attendance had questions surrounding the units, amount of bedrooms, as well as current and prospective tenants. Currently, Small said “a couple of” professionals and “a couple of” graduate students live at the property.

Further, there seemed to be confusion for at least one resident regarding the number of

bedrooms as opposed to the number of living rooms.

“We talked about this at the project review meeting, and I said there did not seem to be living rooms on the second and third floor, and now I see the revised plans have turned one of the rooms that’s currently labeled as a bedroom into a living room,” said the resident.

In response, Small explained that there was a mistake in the plan and that the room in question was “going back into a living room.” Later in the meeting, this point spawned some concern from a couple of residents about living rooms actually being used as bedrooms.

“My concern is that if the owner who is doing this renova-

tion has owned the building for a while and there are rooms that have been bedrooms that are now going to become living rooms,” said the resident.

“I have a really hard time thinking that those living rooms are not going to continue to be bedrooms because he’s going to need to maximize income,” the resident added.

Small made the point that this concern could be policed through ISD in that the project would need to be built out to the plan’s specifications, or else it would not receive a certificate of occupancy.

Even with that said, another resident echoed these same concerns, saying, “There’s zero confidence that a landlord is going

to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to renovate a property, to bring it up to code with sprinklers et cetera and decrease his occupancy.”

There were also other comments about the proposal; one statement was read by an attendee from a resident who could not be at the meeting and opposed the project, citing overgrown weeds and trash issues at the property.

As the meeting progressed, several other topics were touched on, such as the safety of occupants, the use of an existing garage on the site, and more.

Since this was an initial presentation for the project, a vote was not held. CAMH is slated to meet again on November 15.

# WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR MISSION HILL GAZETTE

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# Three named to BPL Board of Trustees

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Public Library (BPL) announced that Jim Canales, Raymond Liu, and Porsha Olayiwola have been appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve on the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees.

The Trustees' mission is to preserve and provide access to historical records of our society, and to serve the cultural, educational, and informational needs of the city of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"I'm thrilled to appoint Porsha, Jim, and Ray to the Boston Public Library Board, bringing their expertise and love for Boston to one of the most historic and impactful institutions in our city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the outgoing Trustees for their careful stewardship of the Boston Public Library and look forward to more years of enrichment and education with BPL throughout our neighborhoods."

"On behalf of my fellow trustees, we are delighted to welcome Jim, Ray, and Porsha to the Board," said Priscilla H. Douglas, Chair of the BPL Trustees. "Their unique talents, expertise, and community connections will

ensure that the Boston Public Library continues to be a welcoming and equitable institution, even better positioned to offer enrichment and education -- free to all."

Incorporated in 1878, the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees establishes policies and sets the strategic goals of the library, oversees the general operating and administrative policies, and acts as an agent of public trust governing the library. The BPL Board of Trustees works together with the library president to carry out responsibilities that involve governance and policy-making, financial and development oversight, and the work of strategic planning.

The Board also recognized outgoing Trustees Jabari Asim, Ben Bradlee Jr, and Linda Dorcea Forry for their service at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 26.

The Board of Trustees consists of 15 trustees, all residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and appointed by the Mayor of Boston. Trustees hold their office for a term of five years and until their successor is appointed.



Jim Canales, Raymond Liu, and Porsha Olayiwola, the latest Board Members appointed to the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees.

## Jim Canales

Jim Canales is president and a trustee of the Barr Foundation, which focuses on elevating the arts, advancing solutions for climate change, and helping all young people thrive in high school and beyond. In 2023, Barr's grantmaking is projected to be \$150 million.

Prior to Barr, Jim spent over two decades at The James Irvine Foundation, including service as president and CEO from 2003 through 2014. Before working in philanthropy, Jim was a high school English teacher, after earning a bachelor's in English and a master's in education from Stanford University.

Jim currently serves as vice chair of the Kaiser Family Foundation

and a trustee of both the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Eastern Bank Foundation. Jim's prior board involvement includes a ten-year term as a Stanford University trustee. He has also served as chair of the boards of the College Futures Foundation, KQED Public Broadcasting, the Stanford Alumni Association, and Larkin Street Youth Services, and as vice chair of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

## Raymond Liu

Dr. Ray Liu is the Vice President of Mass General Brigham Global Advisory, serving as the leader of the system wide international advisory services team, with direct responsibility for strat-

egy, operations, and financial performance of Global Advisory. Global Advisory collaborates with governments, international institutions, healthcare systems, and investors to drive transformative, sustainable change that delivers best in class local and community health care. Global Advisory leads enterprise-wide international advisory efforts, focusing on strategy, system coordination, business development, and project delivery on behalf of Mass General Brigham healthcare system and its member hospitals.

Dr. Liu brings over a decade of experience and leadership in clinical and hospital operations through his previous roles at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Liu previously served as the Associate Chair for Business Strategy and Analytics for the Department of Radiology, the Director of the Radiology Consulting Group, and the Service Chief for Operational Redesign. His portfolio includes extensive work in operational efficiency, data analytics, and new business development, building upon his experience as a healthcare consultant for McKinsey & Co. Nationally, Dr. Liu serves on the Board of Directors for the Society of Interventional Radiology, where he is a Fellow, Treasurer, and former Chair of the Health Policy & Economics Division.

Dr. Liu graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Medical School and went on to complete dual residencies in pediatrics and diagnostic radiology at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University. Dr. Liu returned to Boston to complete his fellowship in interventional radiology at

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



## 'COOPER'

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Continued on page 9

# Project Bread hosts another successful Interfaith Mini Walk for Hunger

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On Sunday, Oct. 22, over 75 participants of different faiths united both in person and virtually for the annual Interfaith Mini Walk for Hunger. Together, they raised \$15,000 to support Project Bread's year-round efforts to prevent and combat food insecurity statewide and are continuing to accept donations in the coming weeks. The 3-mile family friendly walk started and ended at Temple Beth David in Westwood. As in previous years, Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Hindus from surrounding towns participated. However, the walkers did not need to be members of a house of worship to participate.

Project Bread is the leading statewide anti-hunger organization in Massachusetts. As 1 in 5 households through the state struggle with food insecurity, the nonprofit connects people and communities to reliable food sources and advocates for policies that make food more accessible for all.

"When people come together to fight for something, it unites them for a common purpose," says Alexa Drolette, Senior Director of Development at Project Bread. "The fundraising efforts from this Walk will go toward ensuring that everyone in Massachusetts has reliable access to

healthy food."

During the event, remarks were shared by the clergy members, along with Dr. Jeffrey Greenwald for Temple Beth David, co-chair of the Walk, Alexa Drolette from Project Bread, and Trish Tucke from the Westwood Food Pantry. Walkers brought over 20 bags of non-perishable food items to donate to the food pantry and live music was played by Larry and Kyra Kramer of the Route 109 Band. The Interfaith Mini Walk for Hunger received major support from their Gold Sponsors: Wegmans and Dedham Savings Bank. Roche Bros donated snacks and drinks for the day, as well as pantry supplies.

"We were so pleased to be joined by the greatest number of houses of faith in the Walk's history, all coming together in solidarity, showing that addressing hunger in our community is an issue that transcends all differences in faith, culture, background, and politics," says Dr. Jeffrey Greenwald, one of the organizers from Temple Beth David.

Money raised from the annual Interfaith Mini Walk for Hunger will fund statewide hunger prevention efforts, advocacy for permanent policies that solve hunger, and local partnerships with organizations and people



Photo by Debra Grossbaum

Temple Beth David Rabbi Karen Citrin leading a benediction before The Walk for Hunger. Pictured L to R: Rev. Michael Bousquet, St. John's Episcopal Church in Westwood; Rev. Catherine Miller, First Baptist Church of Westwood; Rev. Dave Egan, First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Medfield; Imam Abdelrahman, Islamic Center of New England; Rev. JT Hills, First Parish of Westwood.

with lived experience with hunger to develop community-driven solutions.

People experiencing food insecurity should call into Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org/get-help](http://www.projectbread.org/get-help).

Project Bread, the leading

statewide anti-hunger nonprofit, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating

for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org).

## Trustees

Continued from page 8

Brigham and Women's Hospital, including training at Children's Hospital of Boston.

Dr. Liu focuses his clinical interests in the fields of interventional oncology and pediatric interventions with a special interest in Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia and the treatment of pulmonary arteriovenous malformations. His research interests are focused on the economics of interventional radiology, operational efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. Dr. Liu lives in Brookline, MA with his wife and three children.

### Porsha Olayiwola

Porsha Olayiwola is a native of Chicago, IL who writes, lives, and organizes in Boston, MA. Olayiwola is a writer, performer, educator, and curator who uses Afrofuturism and surrealism

to examine historical and current issues in the Black, woman and queer diasporas. She is an individual World Poetry Slam Champion and the founder of the Roxbury Poetry Festival. Olayiwola is the 2021 Artist-In-Residence at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum as well as a 2020 Poet Laureate Fellow with the Academy of American Poets. Olayiwola is currently teaching in her role as the Jacob Ziskind Poet-In-Residence at Brandeis University. She is the author of *i shimmer sometimes*,

too. Olayiwola is the current poet laureate for the City of Boston. Her work can be found in or forthcoming from TriQuarterly Magazine, Black Warrior Review, The Boston Globe, Essence Magazine, Redivider, Split This Rock, The Academy of American Poets, Netflix, Wildness Press, The Museum of Fine Arts, and elsewhere.

Olayiwola is the co-founder of the literary gathering space Words as Worlds and just Book-ish, opening in 2024 in Fields Corner.

# Boston Police celebrate graduation of new recruits

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Police Department (BPD) celebrated the graduation of the most diverse class of recruits from the Police Academy. Class 63-23 spent 29 weeks training in physical, tactical, and classroom activities. Additionally, for the first time, the recruits received language access training. The Boston Police Department and the Office of Language and Communications Access (LCA) partnered to embed robust language access training into the Boston Police Academy so the new officers are able to serve all residents regardless of the language they speak. This training helps ensure the City of Boston's workforce is trained to be culturally competent, bolsters trust with community, and eliminates barriers to access to resources and services for Boston

residents.

The first half of the language access training provided an overview of the City's language and communications policy, the City's language standards, and the responsibility of all departments to ensure all residents have access to City services and resources. The second half of the training outlined the specific steps officers will take to assist constituents in need of interpretation over the phone or through the City's video remote interpretation, an instantaneous interpretation service provided on a webcam-enabled device for languages such as American Sign Language. Language access training was also offered to Boston Police cadets.

"This is one of the largest and most diverse classes of BPD recruits the City has welcomed, with 134 new police of-



*The graduating class of new recruits is sworn into the Boston Police Department during a ceremony held recently.*

ficers ready to serve and protect our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thankful for the leadership of Commissioner Cox, Academy staff, and all the community partners who helped train these officers. Most of all I'm grateful to this newest class of Boston Police officers focused on building trust and community throughout our neighborhoods."

"This recruit class truly represents the City that they will

be swearing an oath to serve and protect," said Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox. "Not just in race, ethnicity, and culture; but in lived experience and commitment to serving all communities with fairness and respect. Congratulations to the class of Class 63-23 for the tremendous hard work and sacrifice that it took to become Boston Police Officers."

The graduating class totals 133 recruits. The class is the most diverse class yet, over 60 percent of graduates are people of color. Fifty nine of the recruits speak another language other than English, representing 16 other languages. Additionally, the recruit class includes the first Somali officers and an officer who is hard of hearing. The new officers include 18 who served in the military, with 14 veterans who served in the National Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, or U.S. Marine Corps.

As part of their academy training, recruits volunteered at and attended several community events, working directly with the constituents they will serve. They attended community meetings, recreational programming with youth and older Bostonians, park openings, welcomed students to schools, and visited houses of worship. The recruits' engagement in community underscores BPD's intentionality about training officers in community policing to build trust with residents and be culturally knowledgeable.

"Boston has over 105,000 res-

idents who identify as speaking a Language other than English (LOTE) and needing language assistance. Our office's citywide efforts to make systemic change are only possible through these intentional partnerships across departments that focus on integrating language and communications access at the forefront of each and every program," said Jeniffer Vivar Wong, Director of Language and Communications Access. "The Boston Police Department's commitment serves as a model for implementing language access throughout the City's departments to eliminate barriers to city services for our residents. This work also couldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication from the LCA team, especially Robbie Adams, Florence Glynn, Gayana Daniel and Felida Milhomme."

Beyond the work with the Boston Police Department, LCA has also collaborated with other departments to ensure their front-facing programs and initiatives are in compliance with the City's language standards. Currently, the office of Emergency Management has one of the largest multilingual text alert systems and is available in Boston's top 11 languages. The Mayor's Office of Housing provides multilingual forms and the Disability Commission's ADA grievance complaints are also translated into 11 languages. Residents can call BOS:311 and request an interpreter over the phone or use the BOS:311 app available in the City's top 11 languages.

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# Mayor Wu announces Supplier Diversity Week

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City officials and local business owners to declare this week Supplier Diversity Week. She also announced progress toward reaching the City's supplier diversity goals along with several initiatives to foster a fair and competitive marketplace by bolstering the operational capabilities of Boston-based businesses historically excluded from competing for City contracts. Through additional investments in staffing and technology improvements, the City hopes to build on the progress made in Fiscal Year 2023 and further increase its discretionary spending with diverse firms towards its aspirational goal of 25 percent.

In an effort to further create transparency around supplier diversity and share the City's progress, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEIO), Departments of Supplier Diversity (DSD), and Procurement Department will soon release a report on equity in City contracting. The City of Boston awarded contracts valued at a total of \$151 million, or 14 percent, to certified MWBEs during the 2023 Fiscal Year, which represents a substantial increase from 6 percent in the 2022 Fiscal Year. The City awarded a total of \$1.08 billion in contracts that began in the 2023 Fiscal Year.

"This is about making more opportunities for all of our City residents, not just for the entrepreneurs and employees who will be directly impacted, but also the rest of the communities who will feel that ripple effect of when small, local businesses in Boston get to grow to their full potential," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We know we have to stay together as one community, keeping all of us accountable when it comes to supplier diversity and pushing all of us to do more."

"Ensuring that a greater share of City contracts are awarded to local, small, diverse firms has been a top priority because Mayor Wu and our team know that the development of some communities cannot coexist with the underdevelopment of others," said Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Segun Idowu. "I am grateful for the hard work of the Supplier Diversity and Procurement teams who are both



City Officials and local business owners joined Mayor Michelle Wu for a photo during the conference.

ensuring that existing local firms have an opportunity to work with the City, as well as building the pipeline of new companies that can seek similar work through our SCALE program."

"We know that our purchasing power is just that – power that we can use to build generational wealth in our neighborhoods and support small, local, and diverse businesses," said Chief Financial Officer and Chief Procurement Officer Ashley Groffenberger. "Under the leadership of Mayor Wu and in deep partnership with Chief Idowu, I am proud of the work we have undertaken to expand our reach and impact in advancing the City's supplier diversity goals."

"I went from having zero contracts in Boston to being awarded contracts worth nearly one million dollars in the course of a year," said Rose Staram, owner and founder of RoseMark Production, who received a contract through the Sheltered Market Program. "This highlights the transformative power of seizing opportunities for people of color and women, which the Mayor and her executive leadership team has made possible. The Mayor's Office has actively pursued the simple, but not easy task of leveling the playing field in the world of contracting. It is a testament to her ability to overcome obstacles, build connections, and prove our worth as women and people of color. We are forever grateful for this program."

As part of Supplier Diversity Week efforts, the City today announced several new initiatives, including the Supplying Capital and Leveraging Educa-

tion (SCALE) program to support small, local businesses with technical assistance, educational programming, consulting services, and grant funding using the Contracting Opportunity Fund and America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These initiatives aim to build generational wealth and opportunity for local minority business enterprises (MBE's), women business enterprises (WBE's), veteran business enterprises, and LGBTQ+ business enterprises.

## S.C.A.L.E. Program

Mayor Wu announced the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) business accelerator program. The RFP will utilize \$2.4 million of the \$9 million in American Rescue Plan funding allocated for this program to support industry-specific technical assistance, educational programming, and consulting services. It is designed to connect small businesses, particularly disadvantaged firms who face challenges accessing financial capital, business resources, and essential knowledge, with the tools needed to compete for public, private, and institutional contracts.

The RFP seeks partners who will work collaboratively with the Department of Supplier Diversity to empower small businesses in specific industry sectors, ranging from snow removal to HVAC services. The priority industry sectors were chosen because they represent areas of high City spending. With the goal of supporting at least 18 small, Boston-based business-

es in its first year, the SCALE program will provide business participants with the tools, training, and significant capital to address key capacity issues that prevent smaller businesses from competing for larger government and institutional contracts.

As part of Mayor Wu's pledge to make Boston a Green New Deal City, the RFP also emphasizes the City's preference for proposals that can help participants adopt cost-effective solutions aligned with environmental sustainability goals by contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Interested firms are encour-

aged to carefully review the RFP and submit their proposals in accordance with the outlined guidelines. For more information and to access the RFP, please scan the QR code..

Continued on page 16



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# Council candidates on hand for WECA meeting

BY DAN MURPHY

Four at-Large seats in November's general election were on hand for the monthly meeting of the West End Civic Association (WECA) on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Amy Lowell Apartments.

Candidates for the four City Council at-Large seats in attendance at the WECA meeting included incumbent Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy, along with political newcomers Catherine Vitale and Shawn Nelson.

(City Council at-Large candidates and political newcomers Clifton Braithwaite and Bridget Nee-Walsh were also scheduled to appear but didn't attend, while Nelson, who wasn't originally slated to appear, was on hand for the meeting, said Sebastian Belfanti, president of WECA.)

Now serving in her first term, Councilor at-Large Louijeune said she doesn't believe that constituents will trust elected officials to tackle larger issues,

unless they can effectively first handle smaller tasks, such as trash pickup.

Councilor at-Large Louijeune recognizes how difficult making ends meet can be for some Bostonians, and said she supports proposed rent-control measures in the city. "It's incredibly important that we use every tool in the toolbox," she said.

Additionally, Councilor at-Large Louijeune voiced her support for the plan to redevelop the West End Branch Library to include an affordable-housing component above it.

Asked for her opinion of the bike lane now being proposed for Charles Street, Councilor at-Large Louijeune acknowledged that bike lanes are generally "a difficult conversation for people" and suggested that perhaps another, less divisive location for them could be found on Beacon Hill besides Charles Street.

"I'm here to support bike lanes that the community can also get behind," she said. "I think we do

need to build a Boston for our future, and that includes building our streets so people can get to where they want to go."

Councilor at-Large Mejia, now in her second term, was elected to office by a margin of just one vote in November of 2019.

While acknowledging that as a newcomer to politics she has "learned her job publicly," Councilor at-Large Mejia proudly pointed to the 15 pieces of legislation she's had a hand in passing in her three and a half years in office; these include an ordinance for the city to establish a Literacy Task Force, which measure literacy rates in the city and how they relate to poverty, she said.

Councilor at-Large Mejia asserted that she brings "profound lived experience" to the job.

"I have the gift of bringing people together across their differences," she said. "I love what I do. I was born to serve, and I want to take what I've learned to a whole, new, other level."

Moreover, Councilor at-Large Mejia, who moved to Boston from the Dominican Republic at age 5 and attended BPS, said, "I'm always fighting...because I'm impatient. The things I survived, 30 years later, I still see happening in Boston Public Schools."

Councilor at-Large Murphy was elected to the council in late 2021 after spending the previ-



City Councilor at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune.



Courtesy photos  
City Council at-Large candidate Shawn Nelson.



City Councilor at-Large Erin Murphy.



City Councilor at-Large candidate Catherine Vitale.

ous 24 years working as a BPS teacher, and although she has spent her entire life living in the District 3 neighborhood of Dorchester, she said she chose to serve as an at-large representative to serve the entire city.

On the matter of rent control, Councilor at-Large Murphy said she and District 3 City Councilor Frank Baker were the only two members of the council to vote

against Mayor Wu's rent control proposal in March.

"I don't think rent control is going to be the tool that gets us out of the housing crisis," she said.

While Councilor at-Large Murphy acknowledged the need for more housing in the city, she expressed her apprehension about the seeming disregard for residents' concerns regarding both PLAN: Charlestown and PLAN: East Boston – far-reaching development plans led by the Boston Planning & Development Agency for those two neighborhoods.

"I want to make sure every neighborhood has the ability to voice their concerns regarding any changes that are coming," she said, while acknowledging that each city neighborhood is unique and comes with its own set of challenges.

Vitale, a Dorchester native and a first-time candidate, said she was compelled to run for office after the state's Department of Children & Families took away her children for five months in 2018. It was subsequently "determined in court" that her children should never have been taken away from her, said Vitale, and her family was reunited. But since then, she and her children have experienced

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# Lindsey Santana named Deputy Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced Lindsey Santana as a new Deputy Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). The Office of Neighborhood Services plays an integral role in connecting residents to City services and resources, facilitating resident input in all aspects of local government, ensuring the appropriate City departments respond to constituent service requests, attending neighborhood meetings, and responding to emergencies such as fires to help displaced residents.

"I'm thrilled these two accomplished leaders are joining our Office of Neighborhood Services. Lindsey knows every corner of City Hall and leads with compas-

sion and expertise," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Lydia has a proven track record of advocating on behalf of South Boston families and building community. I look forward to working with both of them to better address the daily concerns of our residents."

Santana started her career in City Hall as a Community Project and Marketing Coordinator for the Office of Public Service, which is now known as the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing. She later became the Jamaica Plain liaison in ONS and served in that role for two years. Santana has also served as Community Engagement Manager for the Environment Department and most recently served as the Chief of Staff for City Councilor Brian Worrell.



Lindsey Santana.

"Lindsey's return to the Office of Neighborhood Services is a win for the team," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "Her background as a former neighborhood liaison and her experience in local government makes her fit to be an effective leader to support our neighborhood liaisons in delivering impactful constituent services."

In her new role within the Office of Neighborhood Services, Santana will build on the Office's work to provide essential services to constituents and work towards deepening the City's re-

lationship with local businesses, organizations, and residents. She currently resides in Brighton and is pursuing her Master's in Public Relations at Boston University.

"I am excited to contribute my knowledge and expertise to make the Office of Neighborhood Services stronger than it has ever been," said Office of Neighborhood Services Deputy Director Lindsey Santana. "As the deputy director, I will empower liaisons to continue to be motivated leaders that deliver excellent constituent services for our neighborhoods."

## CITY PAWS

### Leaky Dogs

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Having had two dogs who lived to a ripe old age, dogs with urinary tract infections, and fostered dogs with house training issues, we've had experience with leaky dogs. Don't be dismayed if your canine pal begins to have signs of urinary incontinence.

#### Off to the Vet

Any sudden change in house training or signs of leaking urine are reasons for a visit to your veterinarian to find a cause. Wash-

ington State University's School of Veterinary Medicine notes that urinary incontinence is the involuntary passing of urine. This leak differs from diseases and infections that cause a pet to urinate frequently. However, these possible causes should be eliminated and treated before you consider a dog incontinent.

#### Causes of Incontinence

The WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital identifies many conditions that might cause incontinence in dogs. "... includ-

ing abnormalities in parts of the brain and spinal cord that control bladder function, birth defects, and disease. As pets age, they may become incontinent because muscles that hold urine in the bladder weaken."

Your veterinarian may order tests to determine the cause of your dog's problem. They will most likely want a urine sample to look for bacteria. Blood tests can give them information on

*Continued on page 15*

## WECA

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homelessness on three occasions while the children's father was battling substance abuse.

"I see how these systems are created to keep people in poverty," said Vitale, who has worked as an activist for the past three years and described herself now as a single mother on welfare living in Section 8 housing.

Vitale pointed to the ongoing crisis at Mass. and Cass. as one such failure in the system. "Obviously, what we're doing there isn't working," she said. "And it's just going to get worse."

Vitale also said that she thinks the Long Island city is currently uninhabitable. "We need a holistic treatment center," she said.

Vitale said she believes providing ferry service to Long Island would be a more viable path forward for reopening the facility than the arduous task of rebuilding the bridge.

Moreover, Vitale, who home-schools her children, said she is now seeking a seat on the City Council because she's "not happy with Boston Public Schools for many reasons" and because she wants to see her children enjoy a better quality of life than what she has experienced.

Even if she isn't elected in the upcoming election, Vitale said she intends to run again in 2025.

"I'm not interested in being a career politician, and I'm not interested in being a lawyer," said Vitale, "and it seems like they're all one of those two things."

Another Dorchester native and newcomer to politics, Nelson served in the U.S. Marines after graduating from English High School. He now works as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Nelson expressed his frustration with ubiquitous potholes, along with the "cracked sidewalks" and the deteriorated condition of the city's streets, despite Boston's high tax base.

"If Boston is so rich, why do we have these problems?" Nelson asked. "The money is not being properly used."

Likewise, Nelson voiced his dismay at seeing proposals, like bike lanes, pushed through at the city level, even when they run counter to the prevailing wishes of the communities themselves.

"The government works for us and not the other way around," he said.

Nelson called for an elected Boston School Committee "so we can hold people accountable."

Meanwhile, Nelson said he wouldn't support rent control because he believes such measures entirely disregard the interests of landlords.

"There are always two sides," he said. "It's not just the renters; it's the homeowners, too."

The city's municipal election takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 7.



There are many styles of diapers and belly bands for those who live with a leaky dog.

## EDITORIAL

# Get out and vote on Tuesday

Many of us view local government in the same way that we think about the weather: Everybody complains about it, but nobody does anything about it.

However, unlike the weather, there actually is something we can do about the future direction of our local government: We can get out and vote.

We've always found it ironic that the turnout for national elections far exceeds the turnout for local elections. Local government has a much more direct impact on our daily lives than what happens in Washington. Our local government officials are responsible for just about everything that affects the quality of life in our communities, including our schools, public safety departments, trash collection, snow removal, street repair, etc., etc., etc.

Local governments are holding elections across the state this Tuesday, November 7. We urge all of our readers to take the time to get out and vote in order to elect the leaders in our community who best will reflect our values and goals for ourselves and our families.

## House Democrats: Total failures

It is clear that the decision by the Democrats in the House of Representatives to allow a small band of narcissistic and anarchistic Republicans, led by the odious Matt Gaetz of Florida, to throw the Congress (as well as the country and the world) into chaos when they sided with Gaetz's small band of fellow GOP anarchists to remove former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has completely backfired.

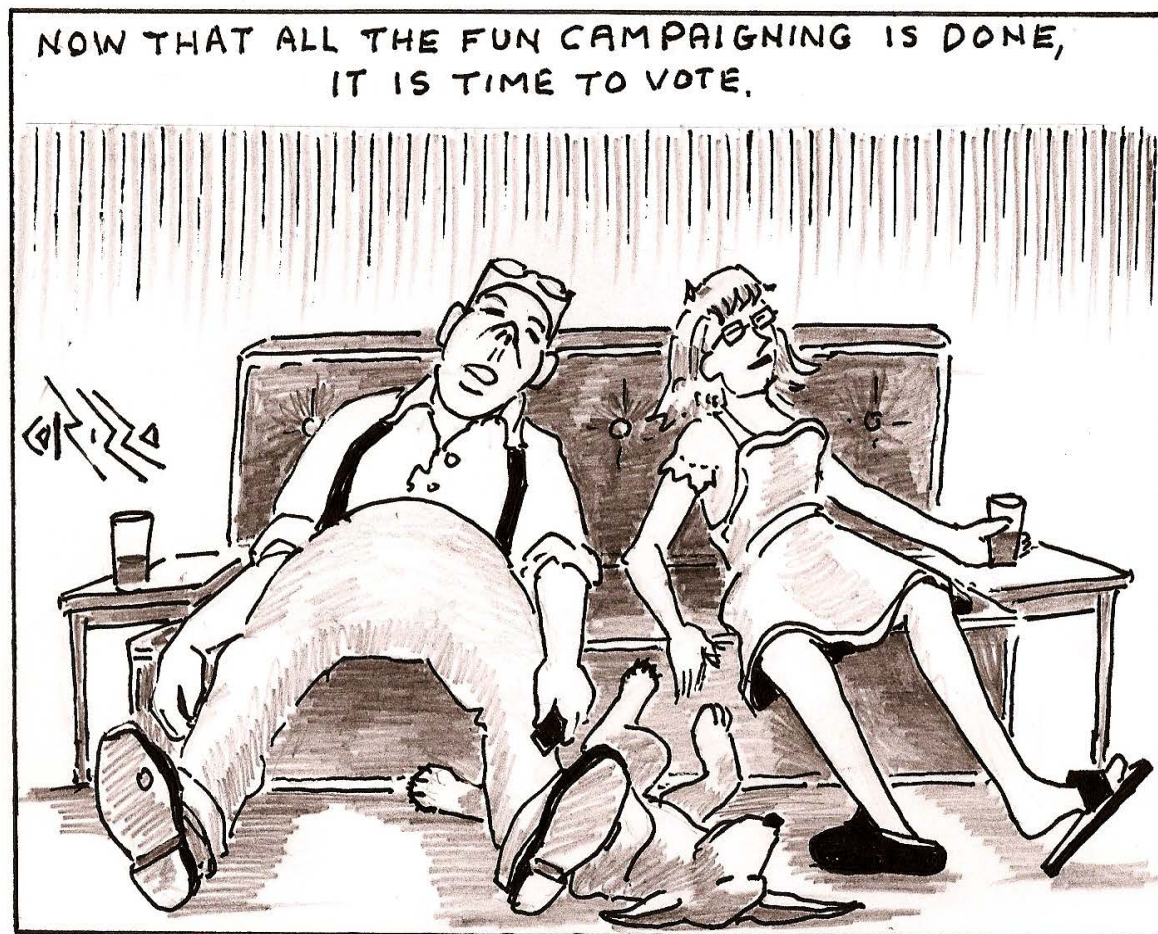
It is axiomatic in politics that you always should have a plan (with a desired end result) before embarking on a course of action. But with the unanimous election last week by the Republicans of little-known Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson to the speakership after three weeks of dysfunction, it is obvious that House Majority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and his team had no plan or strategy of any kind. Sure, they were able to gloat for a few weeks while the Republicans stumbled and fumbled, but in the final analysis, the Democrats ended up with the worst of all possible outcomes: The Republicans now are completely united and Congress has a Speaker (a position that is second in line to become president) who is so far right-wing, that he is somewhere out in the proverbial left field on just about every issue imaginable. In addition, Johnson was a staunch supporter of Donald Trump's efforts to undermine the election and has gone on record as opposing further military aid to Ukraine.

Sometimes -- SOMETIMES — politicians have to put the good of the country above their party's perceived short-term political gain. Yes, Kevin McCarthy was a sniveling snake, but he did do the right thing in June to craft a compromise with Joe Biden to raise the debt ceiling and then again in September to pass a short term budget deal that averted a government shutdown.

Democrats complained that McCarthy could not be trusted and that he's a liar (all of which is true) — but really? All politicians are less-than-truthful to some extent, from Joe Biden on down — do they think the people don't know that?

In short, the Democrats "strategy" of just standing by and allowing McCarthy to fall has turned out to be a total disaster, with the immediate beneficiaries of their inaction and their miscalculations being Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin.

The Democrats forgot a cardinal rule of politics: The enemy of my enemy is my friend, as well as a cardinal rule of life: The devil you know is better than the devil you don't.



Vote Tuesday, Nov. 7

## LETTER

### Cardinal publishes letter to the Archdiocese on major humanitarian and societal crisis

#### Dear Editor:

*Cardinal Seán O'Malley has written to pastors and the parishes of the Archdiocese regarding a growing humanitarian and societal crisis that is building in the Commonwealth and Archdiocese of Boston. The issue involves the fate of immigrants arriving daily in Massachusetts, and in need of basic shelter and compassionate care.*

*The Cardinal highlights the immediate challenges and growing crisis and offers guidance to parishes how they can assist in meeting essential needs of a rising immigrant population. The following is the text of the letter:*

I write to you to speak about a major humanitarian and societal crisis that is building in the State of Massachusetts and within our Archdiocese. Please take the time to review this letter with your parish staff and prepare your parishioners to be ready and willing to assist. The challenge is the fate of immigrants arriving daily in Massachusetts, and in need of basic shelter and compassionate care and welcome.

First, allow me to give a brief

explanation of the crisis that we are currently facing, but which is sure to become much larger. Next, I will outline what we have done and what we are doing. Finally, I will ask for specific help, so that we can act now before the need becomes overwhelming.

I. The Situation: Presently there are 7000 families being cared for in state sponsored shelters (approximately 20,000 individuals); by October 31st the expectation is that 7500 families will be with us.

Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll have been deeply committed and determined to care for a rising immigration population, but they have also been honest in saying that the Commonwealth faces a mounting crisis beyond its capacity to respond effectively.

II. What we have done: The Archdiocese, through Catholic Charities, St. Mary's Center for Women and Children and the Archdiocesan Planning Office for Urban Affairs has worked closely with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and with other non-profit agencies even as the flow of immigrants has in-

creased geometrically in the last few months. All three of those agencies have expanded capacity to address both the short and long-term needs for housing and supportive services. Over these past months, we have offered the State the use of 8 of our buildings, which we hope it will be able to authorize and use. In addition, some of our parishes have already received new shelters and people into their communities as the Commonwealth has greatly expanded its shelter capacity. The Archdiocese has offered assistance to those parishes, and we will continue to offer help to any parishes and communities we are not yet aware of needing assistance. As noted above, our three Archdiocesan affiliated agencies are deeply engaged in this crisis. Our relationship with the Healey-Driscoll administration has been constant and consistent. Recently, we have partnered with our very effective Saint Vincent de Paul Society to plan for how we can prepare for the cold weather coming; most of the recently arrived families are from warmer climates.

III. How can each and every

# Massachusetts Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program's Winter heating season to begins

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) is pleased to announce the start of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 2023-2024 winter heating season. LIHEAP is a free, statewide service funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that helps

eligible households stay warm during the winter months by paying a portion of winter heating bills.

Applications for home energy assistance are currently being accepted online at [toapply.org/massliheap](http://toapply.org/massliheap), and income-eligible households may receive financial help to offset heating bills from November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

Both homeowners and renters can apply online or through

local administering agencies for LIHEAP assistance. Households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify for aid, which will be paid directly to their heating vendor.

Eligibility is based on several factors, including household size and combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households – including those with the cost of heat included in the rent – can receive assistance for all

sources of heat, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal.

“The Massachusetts home energy assistance program is free, because no resident should have to worry about heating their home during the wintertime,” said Ed Augustus Jr., Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. “High fuel costs can have a devastating effect on household budgets and can even endanger

Massachusetts’ most vulnerable residents. We encourage anyone who needs heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. And to please share the information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this free resource.”

For more info, or to find your local LIHEAP agency, visit [www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP](http://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP).

## City Paws

Continued from page 13

kidney function or disease. Ultrasound and X-ray views may be needed to examine the urinary tract. Once they narrow in on a cause, your veterinary team may suggest a medication or surgical procedure to correct the problem.

### Living with a Leaky Dog

If your dog has a leaking condition that you will live with, there are many products to prevent damage to your home. For a mild leaker, washable, waterproof blankets or throws can cover your furniture and the space you share with your dog in your bed. We’ve relied on the Mambe brand of products for years and love them. They come in many sizes and colors.

You can use the small square, washable incontinence pads (made for people to put on the seat of chairs) when the dog is sitting on someone’s lap or as a spot for the dog to sit when you visit someone’s home, business, or in a car, bus or train.

As our Maggie Mae aged, she leaked quite a bit. We used diapers on her. It took a little while for her to adjust to them, but she soon did. When we took in a foster whom we named Cooper, he had a severe urinary tract infection and was not housetrained. We used bellybands with pads to keep him from damaging the house each time he raised his leg.

Diapers for dogs come in many styles and sizes. Some are washable and reusable with disposable liners. Others are entirely disposable. We kept trying

different types until we found the ones that worked best.

A dermatologist discovered our Poppy’s slow leak when looking for a cause of a skin infection. The medications we tried didn’t work or had side effects. By logging the details of her leaks, we found that she leaked when she waited too long to urinate. Fortunately, she uses puppy pads inside. We continue to log her urinary details and set reminders to have her go on her pads more often.

Finally, contact with urine can cause problems for your dog’s skin. If you use a diaper or bellyband, check and change the pad often and clean the skin with a mild soap or chlorhexidine wipe. Ask your vet to examine the dog’s skin on every visit.

## Letter

Continued from page 14

parish help: The challenge is a local one in the sense that only some of the neighborhoods and parish communities will deal with shelters in their areas; however, the challenge is for all of us as an Archdiocese. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society has the appropriate storage and ability to collect and distribute items directly to those in need. Therefore, my request is that you work with them in your parishes/collaboratives for a drive this November prior to the cold weather.

Accordingly, I am asking parishes to consider the following:

1. If you do not have a St. Vincent de Paul bin in your parish, I urge you to please contact their vendor directly, CMRK. which delivers their bins to parishes. Simply call (508) 351-9000 and ask for Patrick to schedule a delivery.

2. Announce this invitation and the reason for it to your parishioners and invite them to donate winter coats, boots, socks which will be picked up on November 18 just prior to Thanksgiving.

3. The St. Vincent de Paul Society will pick up the clothing, store it at its facility in Stoughton. and then distribution will be made to those in shelters throughout the Archdiocese.

4 In addition to winter clothing, other resources which can be donated at the same time and in the same bins include the following items: diapers. toothbrushes (adult and child size). toothpaste, soap, deodorant, mouthwash, combs, lotion. shampoo. washcloth, and Kleenex tissues.

5. Beyond these immediate actions, there may arise a time when all shelters are filled to capacity and weather conditions require immediate assistance for families in the New England winter. If this occurs offering short-

term critical care and shelter in the biblical sense of “welcoming the stranger” will be the appropriate response from the Archdiocese as a whole. If you have buildings for this short-term purpose, please contact Fr. Bryan Hehir’s office at (617) 746-5738 or (617) 746-5733.

I stress that this is a crisis but is only going to expand. I offer this invitation in the spirit of Pope Francis who has asked us as Catholics to watch the “peripheries” of society where suffering is located. In our time, migrants and refugees are among the most vulnerable individuals and families in the United States. It is my hope and desire that as a Church we respond generously and effectively.

With the assurance of my prayers and gratitude for your service to the Church,  
Devotedly yours in Christ,

**Cardinal Sean O'Malley**

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## Mission Hill GAZETTE

Circulation 7,000

Published 12 times a year in Mission Hill by Independent Newspaper Group

Patricia DeOliveira  
Advertising Manager

[Patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com](mailto:Patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com)

617-524-2626

Sandra Storey  
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1993-2011

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## Supplier Diversity

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### Contracting Opportunity Fund

Mayor Wu also announced that 51 local, minority- and women-owned businesses have received grants from the City of Boston's 2023 Contracting Opportunity Fund. The Contracting Opportunity Fund is an initiative that supports capacity building investments for Boston-based businesses.

This marks the fund's third consecutive year of grantmaking, demonstrating the City's ongoing commitment to facilitating small business participation in and competition for municipal contracts. Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Department of Supplier Diversity recently disbursed approximately \$750,000 in grants of up

to \$15,000, focusing on six priority sectors that represent areas of high municipal spending.

Of the 51 businesses chosen to receive grant funding this year, 31 percent are women-owned and 78 percent are minority-owned, with Black-owned businesses comprising over half of recipients. Over half of recipients are also small businesses and a combined 45 percent of grant recipients' businesses are located in the neighborhoods of Dorchester and Roxbury.

"I have a couple of painting jobs coming up, and I had to use all of my savings to secure the contract. Essentially, I am still in business because of the Boston Contracting Opportunity Fund Grant," said Bryant Williams, the owner of BWilliams Painting Company. "I will be able to pay for some insurance, part of my business mortgage, and equipment. There is no way I would

have recovered from my deficit if not for this grant, which kept me afloat and allowed me to fulfill my contract with Northern Contracting, a partner I've been contracting with for years. This is truly a blessing."

The Boston Contracting Opportunity Fund grant was first announced in the spring of 2021, designed through extensive dialogues and community conversations with small, diverse business owners to address barriers in public contracting identified in the City's 2020 Disparity Study. The study confirmed that businesses owned by women and people of color are widely available to perform City contracts, but are substantially underrepresented in the City's spending on construction, professional services, and goods.

The selection process was rigorous, involving a thorough review of applications by the De-

partment of Supplier Diversity and external partners, including the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA), Amplify LatinX, and the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF). Businesses were evaluated based on their ability to meet specific eligibility criteria and their proposed uses of the capacity-building fund. Funds may be used to invest in capacity-building activities such as the purchasing of new equipment, expanding rental space, and acquiring bonding or insurance, among other uses.

### Supplier Diversity Compact

At today's press conference, Mayor Wu and local small business support organizations signed "A Compact to Build Local Economic Growth." Through this compact, the City and its partners commit to implementing the following principles of supplier diversity and small business

growth: awareness of resources, certification to strengthen the pipeline of qualified businesses ready to work with the City, engagement with firms and local stakeholders, policy development to codify successful practices, and transparency.

As part of Supplier Diversity Week, the City is hosting a series of in-person and virtual workshops for small business owners. More information can be found here.

The Department of Supplier Diversity (DSD) of the City of Boston is dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in City contracting. DSD certifies businesses owned by people of color, women, veterans, and small and local businesses, and manages programs to encourage their participation in public contracting and foster their growth.



## THE RYAN SHAW MEMORIAL 5K RUN

Benefiting The Ryan Shaw Foundation

Saturday, November 4th, 2023

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Come run, jog, or walk with us!

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