

HILL HAPPENINGS, PAGE 3

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Mission Hill GAZETTE

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS

Right, Yellow Door Taqueria partnered with Jennifer McCabe of McCabe Gardens and Floral Design to put on a flower arranging class at their 1619 Tremont Street location on the evening of February 13th. See page 6 for more "What's Happening on Main Streets."



Below, Solid Ground Cafe owners Lucia and Keith with Chef Ashley Lujares.



CAMH supports new Burney Street building

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

At its monthly meeting on February 21st, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) voted to support a project at 8 Burney Street, which includes demolishing the current structure and constructing a new building.

This project, initially presented at January's CAMH meeting, would, as mentioned, demolish the existing three-story building at the property, and a new five-story building with nine units would be erected in its place.

Dermot Doynne, the property

owner, presented the proposal to those in attendance at this month's meeting and explained that, at one point, the building was a four-bedroom, three-unit building.

However, he explained that they have rented it out as three, three-bedroom units "to comply with the rules in Mission Hill."

As part of the nine-unit proposal, there are plans for the building to contain three studios, four one-bedrooms, one two-bedroom, and one three-bedroom. "The density is not really going to change; it's going to be 12 beds,"

Continued on page 2

Emerald Necklace Conservancy files suit to stop redevelopment of White Stadium parkland

BY ADAM SWIFT

Mayor Michelle Wu and members of her administration touted how a redeveloped White Stadium will benefit the city's students and residents at a virtual community outreach meeting on Feb. 12.

A little over a week after the Feb. 12 meeting, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and 15 citizens filed suit against the city of Boston, Wu, Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and others to stop what it characterizes as the proposed privatization of White Stadium and 1.5 acres of surrounding pub-

lic parkland in Franklin Park.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners have a public-private partnership with the city of Boston and Boston Public Schools to renovate White Stadium to bring a professional women's soccer team to Boston in 2026.

Under the agreement with the city, Boston Unity will redevelop the west grandstands and create a public area called the Grove just outside the entrance of the stadium. The city would be responsible for the redevelopment of the east grandstands as well as the field itself.

Boston Unity would have full

Continued on page 7

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

Coalition builds momentum for ranked choice voting in Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The coalition group Ranked Choice Boston (RCB) announced the addition of a new partner to its campaign, as it continues to build momentum to promote rank choice voting in the City of Boston. RCB, along with the voting rights group MassVOTE, last night held a gathering with its new group partner Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), a Latinx-led organiza-

tion that advocates for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all of East Boston.

RCB has witnessed an increase of support from allied groups around the City with currently over thirty coalition members since its launching on August 2023, marking a significant step toward its collective mission to create a more just and inclusive democracy.

“Our most active members

and volunteers have expressed that with the implementation of Rank Choice Voting, we strongly feel we have the opportunity to have authentic representation in Boston” said Enilda Lovo, Lead Coordinator of NUBE. “We are extremely excited at the possibility of enacting in the near future this fairer system of voting in Boston”

Among those who participated at the event include Boston At-Large City Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, City

Councilor Enrique Pepén, and RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall, who is President and CEO, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, as well as Latinx leaders from the East Boston community.

“We are proud to join fellow democracy advocates and justice seekers in this growing coalition to advance ranked choice voting. Our collective efforts will seek to mobilize Bostonians of every neighborhood to have a strong presence in their communities

and at the ballot box,” said RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall.

RCB’s mission is to empower individuals and foster civic participation, ensuring that every voice is not only heard but also honored. To that end, RCB has called on the support of key voices in the voting rights and community empowerment space to help lead this effort with campaign Coalition Co-Chairs Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE;

SJC Clerk Maura Doyle will not seek re-election in 2024

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk, announces that she will not be seeking re-election in 2024

“It has been an incredible honor to work at the Supreme Judicial Court for 32 years, first as an assistant clerk for 4 years and then as the Court’s elected Clerk for the past 28 years, during which time I have had the privilege of working with 28 justices and 6 chief justices.

I have been invigorated over the years by the numerous collaborations I have had with my

constituents, court professionals, attorneys, law schools, and bar associations. Most of all, I have cherished working with my extraordinary staff and assistant clerks who have aided me in creating an incredibly responsive, accountable, and professional office for all who seek relief from the highest court in the Commonwealth.

However, I will not be seeking reelection in 2024 because the time has now come for me to step back from public life and look to a future spent with my amazing family who have graciously supported me throughout the years.”



Maura S. Doyle, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Stormwater

Continued from page 1

said Doyne.

Additionally, two roof decks, a headhouse, and no parking spaces are planned as part of the proposal.

Moreover, though the height of the building would increase, and a headhouse would be incorporated on top with the roof decks, Doyne indicated it would be comparable to surrounding buildings.

“The actual overall height compared to the buildings next to us — it’s going to be lower than everything around us even with the expansion. The only way it might not be, and it would be pretty close, will be the building in front of us,” said Doyne.

Doyne also explained that the units are going to be built as and eventually turned into condos, but he said, “Right now, I’m looking at long leases.”

Regarding the zoning relief requested in conjunction with the project, it would need variances for use, parking, lot area, open space, rear yard, side yard, and height.

Luis Santana, a consultant who presented the project at January’s meeting and arrived later on during the presentation, spoke about the zoning violations.

“The existing three-family is non-conforming to pretty much

all the zoning parameters,” said Santana.

“So some of those non-conformities such as the height and the FAR (floor area ratio) will definitely be increased,” he added.

Throughout his presentation, Doyne took several questions from those in attendance and provided answers.

For example, an attendee wanted to know the rents of the studio and one-bedroom units.

Doyne had theorized about different prices but wanted to know more about the cost of the project and later said, “I’ll be reasonable.”

Another attendee asked if any excavation had to be done in conjunction with the project, to which Doyne indicated there was not.

An attendee also asked if there would be a unit in the basement in which there would be a studio, and Doyne expanded on his answer and indicated there would be a utility area with a bike rack as part of the project.

After Doyne wrapped up his presentation and all of the questions from the audience had been answered, the proposal went up for a vote.

Ultimately, those in attendance supported the proposal by a vote of 13-5. The next CAMH meeting is scheduled for March 20th.

Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Conservation District

The Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Conservation District Commission will hold a public meeting on March 7, at 6 p.m.

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended. Applications are available for review during business hours at the Office of Historic Preservation. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated other-

wise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

Attention: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to: <https://zoom.us/j/99503531241> or calling 1 929 436 2866US and enter meeting ID 995 0353 1241#. You can also submit written comments to staff via email at MissionHillACDC@boston.gov.

I. Advisory Review

APP # 24.0746 MHT

1615-1617 Tremont Street

Applicant: Joshua Sydney

Proposed Work: At the com-

bined parcel of 1615-1617 Tremont Street: demolition of existing structure at 1617 Tremont Street; build new structure with full basement and four stories of new construction above grade. Repair and restore facade of 1615 Tremont Street; demo rear facade and connect to new 1617 Tremont street building with new contiguous floors at each level.

II. Ratification Of 12/7/23 Meeting Minutes

III. Staff Updates

IV. Projected Adjournment: 7:00 pm



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Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

About 35 years ago, my childhood friend, Jim Moynihan, and I were exiting the Corrib Restaurant parking lot in Jim's taxicab, when suddenly I heard a clamor of a hand slapping at the door.

I looked up and it was Mayor Ray Flynn who shouted at me, "Don't forget to give Big Jim a tip."

It was a little thing but a big thing, as Big Jim had an ear-to-ear smile, delighting in the Mayor's friendship, which began when they ran side-by-side in several Boston Marathons and drank a few Budweisers at Winnie's Pub.

Big Jim died last month at the West Roxbury V.A., two weeks after his 75th birthday, after a valiant battle fighting pneumonia and ensuing complications.

Jim, often called 'Big Jim Taxi Man,' enjoyed driving his cab, and he had a warm relationship with many of his regular customers.

Jim loved running road races despite his massive physique. Big Jim organized the initial Mission Hill Road Race in 1981, which has become a signature M.H. event.

A 1966 Mission High graduate, Big Jim was a terrific card player and a great chess player, and he took pleasure in gambling. Dostoevsky, the brilliant Russian novelist who wrote "The Gambler" in 1866 said: "A man can be wise as Solomon and have an iron character and still be carried away."

One early Saturday in 1970 in the Peter Bent Lounge (currently The Penguin) after playing the pinball machine against his buddy, Dave Hardy, for big money, Jim was about to accept a \$100 bet with the bartender on the winner of the popular Candlepin



Bobby Kelly, "Big Jim" Moynihan (holding \$2 Million scratch ticket) and Maurice Martin at M.H. Liquors in 1995

Bowling Show that was starting at noon on Channel 5. Jim declined the bet after I tipped him off that the three-string bowling match was pre-recorded and had taken place the previous Thursday at Boylston Bowldroom.

Big Jim had a weakness for sports betting, and he was deeply in debt but he struck paydirt on the morning of June 3, 1995, when he bought a \$5 "Casino Action" scratch ticket - worth \$2 million. By the long arm of coincidence, Big Jim scratched the lucky ticket at Mission Hill Liquors, where I worked and was part owner. Quipped Big Jim's friend, John McCann: "A millionaire from scratch."

Big Jim comes from a terrific family who grew up in Tobin Court in the Mission Hill project. Big Jim's older brother, Jack Moynihan, who is gifted with a jolly sense of humor, beautifully and jocularly eulogized Jim at the funeral mass at St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury. After

the mass and interment at St. Joseph cemetery, dozens of us journeyed to the nearby Elks Lodge in West Roxbury to tell some tales about our beloved friend. The Big Jim stories started when we arrived at the Elks at noon and lasted until we departed at 6 p.m.

Congrats to Billy Raynor, the former great Catholic Memorial basketball player who had his Number 44 retired Feb. 2 in a ceremony at Perry Gymnasium in West Roxbury.

Billy grew up in Mission Hill, and he teamed with another excellent Mission Hill hoopster,



Photo by Tom Moynihan

Maurice Martin and "Big Jim" Moynihan, Mike Murray in background. My last lunch with Big Jim at Corrib Restaurant.

Charlie Kelly, on the terrific C.M. teams in the early '70s.

Nice touch by Boston City Councilor, John Fitzgerald, who took several rides with the Boston Police in his Dorchester District 3 area, getting to know the people and places.

John is the son of Mission Hill's late and beloved Kevin Fitzgerald.

Condolences to the family of Peter Looby, who passed away last month at age 84.

Peter, from the Hill, was a rugged football player at Mission

High in the '50s, after which he graduated from Boston College and later worked for Digital Corp.

Peter was a great, fun-loving guy, and I had the pleasure of occasionally having a few beers with him.

Peter was married to Mary Killion of the wonderful Killion family from Fenwood Road.

Last week, I was among the crowd, packed into the New England Baptist Hospital. Chapel to hear Mission Hill's beloved World War II Tuskegee Airman,

Continued on page 11



Shown at New England Baptist Hospital for a WWII speech are Chrissy Dwyer, of N.E.B.H., Maurice "Mossy" Martin, Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, guest speaker, and Dave Passafaro, President of N.E.B.H.



716 Columbus Avenue Public Meeting

MARCH

6

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/4bDhVpf

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 049 4415



Project Proponent:
Northeastern University

Close of Public Comment
Period: **3/11/2024**

Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting to discuss the Project Notification Form (PNF) for the proposed 716 Columbus Avenue project, received by the Boston Planning & Development Agency on 1/16/24. This meeting will include a presentation from the University team followed by Q&A and comments from the public.

The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a Boston resident. Language Access services are available at no cost to you. If you require these services, please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov no later than 3/1/24.

La información de esta reunión es fundamental para usted como residente de Boston y parte interesada. Dispone de servicios de idiomas de forma gratuita. Si los requiere, comuníquese con quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov antes de la siguiente fecha: 3/1/24.

对于您作为波士顿的居民和利益相关者, 本次会议的信息至关重要。与会的语言服务免费。如果您需要这些语言翻译服务, 请在下方的日期时间之前联系 quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov: 3/1/24.

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者, 這次會議中的資訊對您非常重要。我們可以向您免費提供語言輔助服務。如果您要求這些服務, 請在以下時間之前聯絡 quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov: 3/1/24.

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4219
email: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

JP OBSERVER

Public trees to be protected here as of March 28

But what's next for the majority of trees—those that grow on private land?

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Permission of the Parks and Recreation Department, through a Tree Warden, will soon be required for anyone—including city officials themselves—to have healthy trees removed from City of Boston property. Getting that permission will require a well-publicized public hearing.

An ordinance spelling out those and other new processes for City of Boston tree removal on its own properties—such as parks, school grounds, libraries and public housing—was passed unanimously by the Boston City Council on Dec. 13 and signed into law by Mayor Michelle Wu at the end of January. The public tree protection ordinance (TPO) will go into effect on March 28.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has long had a law regarding preserving “public shade trees” that is referenced and treated in the new Boston ordinance as a separate category of public trees from those on City property.

The original draft TPO, that also regulated removing trees on private property, was first submitted and discussed by the

Boston City Council in 2021. All Council members signed on to co-sponsor it within a short time.

But the provisions that covered removal of private trees—which make up about 60 percent of the tree canopy here and represent the greatest losses of trees, according to the Parks Department—were dropped about a year ago.

At a government operations committee hearing of the council it was decided to bifurcate the first ordinance to deal with regulating public trees first, to be followed by developing the potentially more controversial rules for private tree removal later.

“Later” should be coming soon.

Jamaica Plain has a 44 percent tree canopy, the largest of any Boston neighborhood. About eight acres of canopy were lost here between 2014 and 2019, according to City assessments.

Now that the public tree part of the TPO has passed into law, it's time for Boston to revisit the most significant part of tree protection regulation—creating prior review of possible removal

of trees on private land.

The original 2021 draft ordinance was similar to regulations on the books in quite a few cities and towns around the country, including Austin, Tex., Atlanta, Palo Alto (updated from original from 1951), Portland, Ore. and Seattle. Friends of Urban Forests lists about 50 cities and states that have official tree protections around the country on its website. <https://friends.urbanforests.org/tree-ordinances-in-other-states/>

Massachusetts cities that have TPOs governing private tree removal include Cambridge, Canton, Newton, Somerville, Salem and Wellesley.

An extensive Urban Forest Plan (UFP), developed by the City of Boston with lots of community and expert participation over more than a year, and released in September, 2022, calls for regulations protecting trees as a critical action item within the first five years.

Since then, the Urban Forestry Division of the Parks Department expanded its workforce to care for thousands of trees and secured a grant of \$11.4 million from the U.S. Forest Services Urban and Community Forestry Program, according to a press release from the City.

In an online poll of the UFP's equity centered Community Advisory Board (CAB) in March, 2022, 85 percent of the 35 voting CAB members said they believe “the existing tree protection regulations need to be strengthened;” 54 percent said regulation of private tree removal should happen in “all instances;” 38 percent said “just during land development or construction projects.” Three percent were unsure.

No one said that “tree removal

on private property shouldn't be regulated at all.”

Trees make incredible contributions to the well-being of cities and their residents, as the UFP says. They reduce storm water run-off, air pollution, the heat island effect, rates of respiratory ailments and energy usage. They provide wildlife habitat and give off oxygen while taking in harmful carbon dioxide. They are visually pleasing and provide shade and privacy.

Former local District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley cited a study that showed the average tree gives \$293 worth of benefits a year to its community at a City Council hearing in 2018.

Boston's tree canopy covers about 27 percent of the city, according to a Tree Canopy Assessment put out by the City in 2020 that analyzed tree cover changes in the City from 2014-2019. That isn't high.

Findings from the same City of Boston Tree Canopy Assessment of 2020 show that Jamaica Plain saw a net loss of about eight acres of canopy coverage, most of which came from “residential, mixed use and public open space,” according to the Parks Department in 2021 and quoted by the Gazette.

During Mayor Marty Walsh's administration, the goal of 35 percent tree coverage in Boston by 2030 was set. That will be difficult to achieve just by planting new trees. Preserving mature trees, which bring more benefits than young ones, is important, especially in Boston's environmental equity neighborhoods.

Key to thinking and planning for Boston's urban forest is the fact that lower income neighborhoods with significant populations of people of color are being negatively impacted by a lack of trees. Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury residents suffer from related health issues.

“It's no coincidence that many of the communities disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and the urban “heat island” effect also have inadequate tree cover.” Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said when the

Urban Forest Plan, which has “equity” for those neighborhoods as a primary goal, was originally announced.

District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, who drafted the original TPO in 2021, said at a Council hearing where Woods was present that equity was a major goal of both the UFP and the TPO.

At the moment, the brakes seem to be on regulating removal of private trees in those environmental equity neighborhoods and all of Boston, actually for some good, practical reasons.

But drafting and passing an ordinance regarding private tree removal should be put on the fast track in six months to a year. Every day those regulations are not in place, the environmental advantages they will bring to our neighborhoods and city are postponed.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of work to be done in coming months to prepare for drafting and passing the new private tree ordinance.

JP's new District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber and David Meshoulam, co-founder and executive director of Speak for the Trees, said in separate interviews earlier this month they are happy to have the public tree ordinance on the books. Both said they want to monitor the implementation of that ordinance before moving on to regulating removal of privately owned trees, specifically paying attention to enforcement of the new rules and processes.

A Parks Department spokesperson pointed out another two reasons to not rush into creating the next TPO. City Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Spaces Mariama White-Hammond, who was a key person in leading the Parks Department's UFP process and acting as a resource on the TPOs, will be leaving her position in April. Her replacement will need to be brought up to speed on tree protection activities here, along with myriad other subjects.

The Parks spokesperson also pointed out that the public tree

The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust

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

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

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5PM on March 31, 2024.

Please email any questions to hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org.



Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust



Brendan Behan Pub
378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

Observer

Continued from page 4

ordinance that goes into effect next month calls for creation of an Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC) of at least seven members. She said that group that will be convened this summer can be a valuable source of input.

With the UFAC, which can possibly help shape and guide the ordinance governing private trees, and a new chief of environment in place, additional input from City agencies relating to private property, including the Planning and Inspectional Services Departments, will be sought, along with residential property owners, neighborhood associations, institutional property owners and advocates for various causes, according to the Parks Department spokesperson.

Public education needs to be done during coming months to make sure the private TPO is considered with a maximum of knowledge and a minimum of fear and interference on the part of the entire, interested Boston community.

The Parks Department working with tree advocacy and environmental groups in Boston can play an important role in gathering and sharing information necessary to make good decisions about developing private tree protections that work for everyone when the time comes.

Discussions about a private TPO will go better if all participants have already:

1. Familiarized themselves with some tree protections already in place in a city or cities around the country.

Boston is not alone. Urban tree protections are not some wild experiment cooked up by local tree-huggers. As individuals and organizations, the community can learn a lot from the tree ordinances and experiences of other cities. There's no need to invent this private TPO wheel from scratch. We can look at existing regulations while crafting our own.

Councilor Arroyo asked his staff to contact some of those cities for information, especially about any pitfalls they had encountered, as he drafted the original ordinance. Although specifics and lingo can be different, and provisions in some cities are scattered throughout various parts of their laws, successful TPOs have a lot of basics in common.

Most tree protections go easy on small homeowners. Most make dealing with DDI ("Dead, Diseased, Imminent Hazard," according to Austin) trees easy, too. Developers, attorneys, architects, landscapers and builders often treat the rules as just another part of a building code they already have to follow. Quite a few, I've heard, are into protecting trees and the environment as the ordinances say.

"the average tree gives \$293 worth of benefits a year to its community"

My brother and his wife own a single-family house in a newish development in Austin, which has had tree protection regulations since 1984. I asked him last week, objectively speaking, what his experience with those regulations there has been. He said he and his wife have had to have four trees on their property cut down over the years because they were diseased or leaning way over. No special permits were necessary because they were smallish trees and were not healthy.

On the other hand, he said, he is very happy that builders of a nearby housing development preserved lots of mature trees along the shared fence and planted other new trees throughout the development to keep with the City's regulations. He said he likes knowing that the environment of all of Austin, not just his neighborhood, is better because of tree protection rules.

People who have friends or relatives in other cities with TPOs might want to ask them about their experiences.

2. Read the City of Boston's Urban Forest Plan and its appendixes. <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/urban-forest-plan>

3. Read the provisions regard-

ing trees on public and private land in the original ordinance submitted to the Boston City Council in 2021. <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>

and of the one regarding trees on public land that just passed with a link to it here: <https://www.boston.gov/news/mayor-wu-signs-public-tree-protection-ordinance-advancing-urban-forest-plan>. They give a good idea of how private tree provisions might go.

4. Think in terms of the widely different types of private ownership of trees that will need to be considered when tailoring an ordinance suitable to each of them: institutional, commercial, small homeowner, large residential property owner or entity, new developments of various sizes, etc.

5. Think in terms of what trees should be protected based on history, size, age, etc.

6. Everyone interested in the topic of tree protections should be open, not only to taking in information, but also to holding transparent, sometimes public dialogues with others when discussing protections and any concerns.

7. After the private TPO passes, outreach about it should be done to everyone in the city in various ways, including in brochures like the ones the City puts out now every winter regarding dealing with snow and low temperatures. It's not too late to educate the entire community about the public TPO either.

District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon—a co-sponsor of the urban tree protection ordinance as well as the original one, along with former Councilors Arroyo and local District 6 Councilor Kendra Lara—said at the Dec. 13 Council meeting that she was "delighted" that the "critically important" public TPO had passed.

"This is one phase," Breadon pointed out. "I am committed to continue to work for public and private tree protections."

Isabella Gambill is Assistant Director of Climate, Energy, & Resilience at A Better City (ABC),

an organization that "represents a multi-sector group of nearly 130 business leaders united around a common goal: to enhance the Greater Boston region's economic health, competitiveness, equitable growth, sustainability, and quality of life for all communities," according to its website.

ABC has not taken a position on either the new urban tree protection ordinance or an upcoming private tree ordinance.

One thing is clear right now. Boston needs a private TPO. We need to prepare to draft and pass it after some prior practical actions, community education and monitoring of enforcement of the existing public TPO.

"No one will be surprised to hear that I am very supportive of a tree ordinance," local environment and open space advocate Sarah Freeman of the Arborway Coalition, said during her City Council testimony when the first TPO, with urban and private trees included, was introduced in 2021.

"The best time to enact it was 20 years ago," she said. "The second-best time is now."

The same is still true of the part of that ordinance that re-

mains to be enacted three years later.

Putting a lot of time between the public TPO taking effect next month and developing a draft ordinance to add the majority of trees (private ones) to those we are safeguarding is slightly dangerous.

People quickly forget. And it's tempting to want to ignore policies that could be controversial and a little complicated. The thought of private tree protections makes many people happy, but it makes a few people, especially those not familiar with what they typically entail and the benefits they bring, nervous, especially at first.

We can't let the beginning of public tree protection in Boston mark the end of caring for more numerous, more threatened privately owned trees. That would be a real shame.

And for a city that takes pride in its concern for science, greenspace and the environment, failing to pass a good private TPO would be downright shameful.

Sandee Storey is Publisher Emerita of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.



JP

CHILDREN'S SOCCER

For kids 3.5-6.5. Online Registration is NOW OPEN

Volunteers needed to assure our ability to hold a Spring 2024! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

Regular season registration ends on April 12, 2024

The Spring season runs from Wednesday, April 24th through Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

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

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

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

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 12 de abril de 2024

La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 24 de Abril hasta domingo el 23 de Junio de 2024.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

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

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



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now a human good community

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- Medication administration

(617) 522-7600 | www.MountPleasantHome.org
301 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain



What's Happening on Main Streets

BY COURTNEY WRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Despite February being a short month, it was a very busy one for area restaurants with their various Valentine's Day menus and drink specials that helped make the season of love much especially festive in Mission Hill. Valentine's Day also inspired some cool collaborations between local restaurants and independent women-owned florists in the city. Yellow Door Taqueria partnered with Jennifer McCabe of McCabe Gardens and Floral Design to put on a flower arranging class at their 1619 Tremont Street location on the evening of February 13th. The event was well attended with all of us who took part leaving with a lot of fun information and good pointers on organizing flower arrangements and most importantly- keeping them alive. They are hoping to do more events with McCabe Gardens in the future so be on the lookout for future events. Yellow Door is hosting another event this upcoming Monday, March 4th at 6 p.m. called "Sip & Stitch". This class will be expertly led by Stitch House owner Annissa Essaibi George and you'll learn how to knit your very first cowl. Tickets are \$65 on opentable and covers personal coaching, knitting needles and yarn, and will include a "Big Sister" Margarita with a portion of each ticket bought going to Boston's own Big Sister Association.

Down the street, Solid Ground Café teamed up with Emily's Flower Kitchen to supply pre-ordered Valentine's bouquets for pick up at the café. Solid Ground is also looking to do more partnering with Emily's Flower Kitchen in the fu-



Mission Grammar School's cheerleading squad.

ture as well and I can't wait to see both of these partnerships continue to blossom (pun intended) so that as a neighborhood we have even more fun events to participate in in the future.

Speaking of Solid Ground and collaborations- they had a wildly successful pop-up event with Chef Ashley Lujares of Mango Tao Yum. People were able to pre-order a Busog Box which included a mix of hand-picked Filipino favorites with a spin. In addition to ordering the boxes for pick up, the pop-up also featured a walk-in menu from 5:30-8:30 p.m.- lines were out the door! Thank you to Solid Ground and Ashley Lujares for bringing some very well received Filipino flair to Mission Hill! Check out Solid Ground as well and snag some of their new merch!

While the Super Bowl wasn't particularly big to us New Englanders this year, I am excited for March and college basketball. A lot of us get caught up in the March Madness tournament in college basketball every year, but this year- us in Mission Hill- have a very exciting and very local reason to be invested, Tre Norman playing as #5 for Marquette University.

Tre grew up playing in the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League for the Mighty Mission right here in our very own Tobin Community Center. Norman went on to win a Division 2 state championship as a freshman at Tech Boston Academy before being recruited to Worcester Academy for his basketball prowess. His success continued. Tre was a top-100 recruit, rated 89th nationally by 247Sports.com at Worcester Academy and was drafted to the always competitive Marquette University, who are currently ranked 5th with a 21-6 season going into March. Tre made the decision to announce his choice of Marquette in the gym at the Tobin Community Center, surrounded by the family, friends, and coaches who helped him along his journey to NCAA success. I hope you will all join me in paying a little closer attention this year and root for our local basketball hero, Tre Norman and Marquette. For this month, may we all be Golden Eagles!

There is also exciting basketball news happening at Mission Grammar School who last year were able to re-launch their 5/6th grade basketball programs. The 5th grade girls team won the division championship last year (go MG!) and this year they've added a 3/4th grade girls and boys team as well. Additionally, a cheerleading squad has been created with 15 cheerleaders! All teams are coached by Mission Grammar staff members and parents and practice at the Tobin Community Center. The teams compete weekly in Boston and surrounding towns, check them out!

There is a lot to celebrate and be excited about here in Mission Hill but there are also some things to be concerned about as of late. There have been an increasing amount of incidents affecting lo-



Mission Grammar School's Girls basketball team.

cal businesses and restaurants related to antisocial behaviors and drug use in the Mission Hill business district. These issues have been discussed at the Community Alliance meetings as well as the monthly Mission Hill Crime Committee meetings which I encourage others to attend. While efforts are underway with street outreach and recovery teams, local officials and Boston Police, it is important to remain vigilant and call 911 when you witness illegal or troubling behavior around the area. Boston Police and our local Community Service Officer Mike O'Rourke ask that we call 911 when we see something happening so that there is documentation of the incident. Even if you feel that 911 should be reserved for emergency calls, we have been instructed to do so if we want incidents reported

in the system as that is what is used to determine the appropriate response. I will be going around with flyers given by BPD with this information to all local businesses in the next week but it is good for everyone to be aware so that collectively we can bring the necessary attention to get issues resolved. Outdoor dining applications are open and with restaurants moving seating to outdoor spaces come May, we are working steadfast and speedily at Mission Hill Main Streets to do our part to make sure the environment is one that is most accommodating safety wise to our local establishments and patrons. If you have any events or announcements that you'd like me to feature on social media or in future gazette articles, please feel free to reach out at mission-hillmainstreetsboston@gmail.com.



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New England premiere of 'Eurydice' includes new arrangement from Boston-born composer

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) presents a new production of composer Matthew Aucoin and librettist Sarah Ruhl's opera *Eurydice* – a retelling of the Orpheus myth from *Eurydice*'s viewpoint – directed by Doug Fitch and conducted by Aucoin. BLO, with Opera Grand Rapids, has co-commissioned a new, more intimate orchestral arrangement from Aucoin that premieres here. Sydney Mancasola, and Elliot Madore perform the roles of *Eurydice* and *Orpheus*.

Eurydice runs for five performances over two weeks, from March 1 to March 10, 2024, at the Huntington Theatre.



Sydney Mancasola.

Both Ruhl and Aucoin are recipients of the MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship. Aucoin



Elliot Madore.

was born and raised in Boston. His 2015 opera, *Crossing*, was premiered in the city by Ameri-

can Repertory Theater.

Ruhl's libretto for *Eurydice* is adapted from her 2003 play of the same name. In both, she challenges the traditional myth of Orpheus and the Underworld by giving voice and prominence to a character often relegated to the background. Ruhl has said, "in the myth, we never hear from *Eurydice* – she is always a cipher. I'm interested in her voice, a voice that hasn't been heard before."

BLO General Director & CEO Bradley Vernatter praises both Ruhl's writing and Aucoin's music, saying "I fell in love with Sarah's poetic adaptation...so

much so that a line from the libretto ('All I have I give for love') anchors our season materials. Matt's score is stunning, and I was convinced it would shine for a chamber ensemble."

Tickets

Tickets for *Eurydice* start at \$33 and are available now through the BLO website at blo.org, by reaching BLO Audience Services at 617.542.6772, or via email at boxoffice@blo.org.

Matthew Aucoin's residency is made possible by Katie and Paul Bittenwieser. The commission of *Eurydice* is supported in part by a gift from Pat and Bill O'Connor.

White Stadium

Continued from page 1

use of the stadium for about 20 game days from May through November, while the updated stadium would be open for use by the city, school sports and other activities, and possible community events the rest of the year.

"The Project Site, a portion of Franklin Park, has been held in trust for over 74 years for the beneficiaries of the White Fund Trust-the residents of Boston," the complaint from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reads. "In that time, the Project Site has been used as an open space for public recreation, public school sporting events, and numerous music and cultural festivals. In 2023, the City began discussions with Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC to undertake a joint venture to redevelop the Project Site as the home for a professional sports team (the "Project")."

The project, if permitted to go forward, would illegally transfer the public trust lands constituting the Project Site to private parties, ensuring extensive, exclusive use of public trust lands by a private party for the operation of a professional sports team and

associated uses, the complaint further states.

"Although White Fund Stadium has fallen into disrepair and is in need of substantial renovations, the City has failed to consider any alternatives to the Project, all while rapidly pushing forward the Project and ignoring the terms of the White Fund Trust and the requirements of Article 97," the complaint states.

Wu stated that she is excited about the opportunity the redevelopment of the stadium represents, and that it would triple the number of hours that it could be used by the Boston Public Schools and the public.

"The soccer team is just a small portion of how it would actually be used," Wu told Boston25 news. During the Feb. 12 meeting, Wu said she understood that the White Stadium project was a complex project involving the park, the schools, and the community.

The mayor also said the redevelopment of White Stadium would uphold the vision of Frederick Law Olmstead to increase activity for the public in public parks. Karen Mauney-Brodeck, the Executive Director of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, spoke at the Feb. 12 virtual meeting, and

said she understands that the stadium needs work.

"I don't want to slow this down, but it's regrettable that the community was not asked first: no one from the community was asked if it wanted a professional Women's soccer team," Mauney-Brodeck stated.

Concerns about traffic and an influx of people to the neighborhood were also raised in the complaint, which was received in Superior Court on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"It would fundamentally alter

the nature and feel of a significant portion of Franklin Park during the majority of fair weather weekends each year," the complaint states. "Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC proposes to host at least 20 home games on Saturdays between April and November, causing a rapid influx of over 10,000 people on those days, and radically changing the public open space of Franklin Park, well beyond the boundaries of the Project Site, for a huge portion of summer weekend days. This does not even factor in the additional

exclusive use of the Project Site during practice sessions for the professional soccer team on at least 20 additional Friday evenings, and the continuous, exclusive use of the West Grandstand buildings and the "Grove" portion of the Site by Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC."

The Grove portion of the project is a proposed outdoor space in front of the stadium that would be used for public events and gameday activities, according to the developers.

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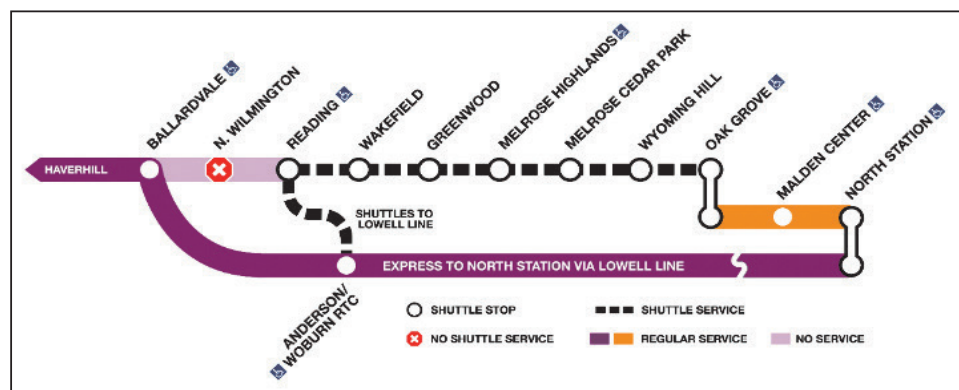
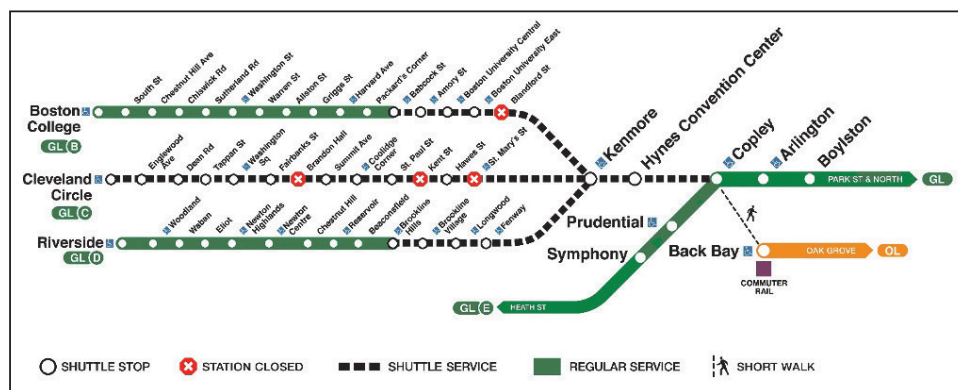
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March service changes: MBTA continues repair work to improve reliability across the system

The MBTA announced service changes in March on the Green, Red, Orange, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, Framingham/Worcester, Haverhill, and Newburyport/Rockport lines. The MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the system for riders.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors

and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Green Line:

As previously announced, Green Line service on the B branch between Copley and Babcock Street, on the C branch between

Copley and Cleveland Circle, and on the D branch between Copley and Brookline Hills will be suspended all day from start to end of service for 18 days from February 20-March 8.

A page with dedicated information for riders is available at mbta.com/GreenLine.

B Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Babcock Street and Copley stations.

Riders should note that shuttle bus service will not be available at Blandford Street station in both directions and should instead utilize shuttle bus service at the next nearest stop.

Outbound B branch riders will not be charged a fare at Babcock Street (outbound/westbound only).

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

Riders can also utilize free Route 57 bus service for alter-

nate travel between Kenmore and Packard's Corner.

C Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Cleveland Circle and Copley stations.

Riders should note that shuttle bus service will not be available at Saint Mary's Street, Kent Street, or Brandon Hall in both directions and should instead utilize shuttle bus service at the next nearest stop.

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

D Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Brookline Hills and Copley stations.

Riders are encouraged to consider walking 5-10 minutes from Brookline Hills and Brookline Village to Riverway station on the E branch for Green Line train service.

Outbound D branch riders will not be charged a fare at

Brookline Hills (outbound/westbound only).

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between South Station, Back Bay, and Lansdowne stations during this Green Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Lansdowne.

As a result of this service change, riders traveling on Green Line trains between Government Center and Copley are encouraged to plan extra time and should anticipate longer waits.

Riders are strongly encouraged to utilize the Orange Line in the downtown area as a service alternative, especially during morning and evening peak travel periods as there will be fewer Green Line trains in the downtown core. The fare gates at Back Bay will be open to riders, allowing free fares for riders who choose to utilize the Orange Line during this service change.

Riders should also note that this service change overlaps with a planned weekend closure on the Red Line between Harvard and Broadway from February 24-25[CN1] and between Park Street and JFK/UMass on March 2-3. Additional details are available at mbta.com/RedLine.

As previously announced, this service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. To improve safety, reliability, and the customer experience, crews will perform track and tie replacement work; infrastructure upgrades; station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing; and more.


On the Red Line:

Red Line service will be suspended between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 2-3.

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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JP AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES BLACK NURSES AT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

At the American Legion Post 76 on South Street, Post 296 All Medical-Nurses held its annual event for Black History Month recognizing the contribution of Black nurses in the US military.



American Legion Commander for District 7 Suffolk County Karen Scott, keynote speaker BG Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Massachusetts Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office of Veterans Services, with Marcia Sharpe and Commander Neysa Wright from Post 296 shown during the annual Black History Month event at the American Legion Post 76 on South Street.



Members of American Legion Post 296 with American Legion Commander Sandra Davis.



The Commander of Post 296 Neysa Wright presents keynote speaker BG Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Massachusetts Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office of Veterans Services with a certificate of appreciation.



Darsalle and Raymond Boyd catered the event with a buffet of many soul food selections.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Community Meeting for a Proposed Cannabis Establishment is scheduled for:

Application Name: Soni DOT LLC

Application Address: 1576 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02120

License Type: Cannabis Retail Dispensary



Join virtually on Zoom via link below - this is NOT an in person meeting:

Date: Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Time: 6:00PM

Event Link: <https://bit.ly/1576Tremont>

Event Password: 856 1935 5595

Call in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Hosted online per the Cannabis Control Commission 4/27/2020 administrative order

There will be an opportunity for the public to raise comments, questions, and concerns.

If you any questions or comments about this proposal, please contact:

Maggie Van Scoy

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

(617) 635-2679 | margaret.vanscoy@boston.gov

Please note, the City does not represent the owner(s)/developer(s)/attorney(s)/applicant(s). The purpose of this notice is to notify area abutters to this project proposal. This flyer has been dropped off by the proponents per the city's request.

CITY of **BOSTON**

 Neighborhood Services

MBTA

Continued from page 8

buses will make all stops between Park Street and JFK/UMass.

There will be free fares at Park Street and JFK/UMass stations with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between JFK/UMass and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond JFK/UMass.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary inspections of Red Line tunnel infrastructure. Crews will also maximize the unencumbered access to the work area by performing power and signal work along the Red Line as well as station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing.

· Accessible shuttle bus service will replace Red Line trains between Broadway and Ashmont Stations on the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North Quincy Stations on the Braintree Branch all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and Ashmont / North Quincy.

There will be free fares at Broadway and North Quincy stations with the fare gates open. Riders boarding Mattapan Line trolleys at Ashmont also do not have to pay a fare.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service. [CN2]

· Accessible shuttle bus service will replace Red Line trains between Broadway and JFK/UMass Stations on the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North Quincy Stations on the Braintree Branch all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 30-31.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and JFK/UMass / North Quincy.

There will be free fares at Broadway, JFK/UMass, and North Quincy stations with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service.

On the Orange Line:

· Orange Line service will be suspended between Forest Hills and Ruggles stations all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 9-10.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Forest Hills and Ruggles.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

This service change is in place for crews to perform critical signal improvement work.

· As previously announced, Orange Line service will be suspended between Jackson Square and North Station all day from start to end of service for four days from March 18-21.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Jackson Square and Back Bay. From Back Bay, riders can travel less than a quarter mile (about a 5-minute walk) to Copley Station on the Green Line for continued service to the downtown area and North Station.

There will be free fares at Jackson Square and Back Bay stations with the fare gates open. There will also be free fares at Copley station inbound/eastbound on the Green Line with the fare gates.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

This service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. Crews will perform track and tie replacement work; infrastructure upgrades; station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing; and more

On the Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines:

The Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines, which run adjacent to the Red Line, will also experience service changes due to work on the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Accessible shuttle bus service will replace all trains between South Station and Braintree during the following times and dates:

Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on Friday, March 22, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24.

Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on Friday, March 29, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 30-31.

Accessible express shuttle bus service will operate directly between South Station and Braintree Station.

Passengers should note that bicycles are not allowed on shuttle buses, and regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Braintree Stations.

Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on-site at impacted stations to support riders.

The diversion schedule will be available online at mbta.com/CommuterRail.

On the Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line:

· Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between South Station and Framingham stations from start to end of service on March 2.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace service between South Station and Framingham.

Passengers are expected to purchase a regular subway fare and/or Commuter Rail interzone fare.

This service change allows crews to perform Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

On the Haverhill

Commuter Rail Line:

· Accessible shuttle buses are replacing Haverhill Line trains between Ballardvale and North Station during the weekends of March 9-10, March 23-24, and March 30-31. This service change allows crews to perform Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

Shuttle buses will replace train service between Reading and Oak Grove where passengers can connect to Orange Line subway.

A shuttle bus will also provide service between Reading and Anderson/Woburn for connections to the Lowell Line and Haverhill Line.

The shuttle service between Reading and Oak Grove will stop

in Wakefield, Greenwood, Melrose Highlands, Melrose Cedar Park, Wyoming Hill, and Oak Grove.

North Wilmington Station will not have shuttle bus service with passengers encouraged to utilize Lowell Commuter Rail Line service at Wilmington Station instead.

Train service for passengers between Ballardvale and Haverhill will be re-routed along the Lowell Line after Ballardvale, making one additional stop at Anderson/Woburn and then running express to North Station. Riders desiring service to or from Reading and Oak Grove should disembark at Anderson/Woburn and board the shuttle bus service.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and is available on mbta.com.

On the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line:

· The entire Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line on both branches will be suspended between North Station and Newburyport and North Station and Rockport from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24. Service between North Station and Swampscott will also be suspended on the weekends of March 9-10 and March 30-31.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

This service change allows for station improvement work at Beverly Depot station and for crews to perform Positive Train Control (PTC) / Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. PTC/ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

The MBTA previously announced service changes in February. More information is available here.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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Boston finalizes regulations to ensure large buildings achieve carbon neutrality by 2050

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston's Environment Department have finalized regulations for Boston's Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). The updated regulations were adopted by the Air Pollution Control Commission during their December hearing. These rules set the standards for implementation of BERDO, which sets carbon targets for existing buildings that decrease over time with all buildings achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This vote for adoption marks the end of the third and final phase of BERDO 2.0 regulations development. Additionally, the City of Boston has invested \$3.5 million in the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund. The Equitable Emissions Investment Fund is an innovative funding tool that will support emissions reduction projects in Boston buildings, while prioritizing benefits to Boston's environmental justice communities.

Buildings in Boston account for nearly seventy percent of citywide greenhouse gas emissions. BERDO buildings are responsible for five percent of the building stock in Boston and account for over forty percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions.

"Policy is only as strong as its implementation, so I'm very grateful to the team for working hard over two years to translate the landmark BERDO ordinance's mandate into specific regulatory details that will make implementation clear and accountable, with dedicated resources to ensure equitable progress across the city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The official vote on these BERDO regulations marks a critical milestone and turning point in building a greener and healthier city for everyone. The properties covered by this mandate are the 5% of buildings that comprise 40% of Boston's total emissions, so full implementation to decarbonize this sector will be the most significant step we can take. Our charge is to lead the way on climate action for cities, and Boston will continue to accelerate decarbonization through every means

possible."

In 2021, the amended ordinance was unanimously approved by the Boston City Council with the goal of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging efficient use of energy and water, and developing investments in a green economy. The BERDO ordinance sets emissions targets and reporting requirements for non-residential buildings greater than or equal to 20,000 square feet and residential buildings that have 15 units or more. The ordinance also established the BERDO Review Board with community representation to increase accountability and transparency, as well as an environmental-justice focused Equitable Emissions Investment Fund. In order for buildings to reduce their emissions, building owners may choose to carry out: energy efficiency improvements, switch to clean, efficient and electric heating systems, or fossil fuel free systems, purchase clean energy, and/or make alternative compliance payments into the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund. Building owners must reduce emissions from their buildings below a sector-specific emissions standard, or limit, and all buildings are expected to reach net-zero by 2050. Buildings must begin complying with these emissions limits in 2025 or 2030 depending on their size.

"The final regulations were designed to accomplish significant emissions reductions while paying attention to equity and affordability," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "I am thrilled that Mayor Wu has committed to investing in the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund that will ensure that environmental justice communities have the resources needed to decarbonize and retrofit their buildings."

The finalized regulations range from topics that address complex building portfolios, individual compliance schedules, hardship compliance plans, fines and enforcement, compliance with emissions standards, and the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund. The new investment fund will

collect all alternative compliance payments and penalties made to BERDO and invest them in local building carbon abatement projects that support environmental action while directing funds towards environmental justice communities. In addition to funding carbon reduction projections in buildings, projects supported by the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund may have supporting benefits including improving or promoting affordable housing and tenant protections, local air quality improvement, indoor environmental quality and health for building tenants, economic inclusion, training, and technical assistance for Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWD BE) and cooperative contractors, equitable workforce development training programs for residents who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, projects with community ownership of housing and renewable energy infrastructure, and reduced energy burdens. All funding awards will be overseen by the BERDO Review Board, a nine-member independent board of volunteers who monitor, enforce, and make decisions on the day-to-day operations of BERDO. The Review Board is charged with ensuring projects funded by the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund directly benefit the communities that disproportionately bear the burden of climate change.

The regulations and policies that guide the implementation of BERDO were developed in collaboration with a Community Advisory Group composed of ten community-based organizations and leaders in environmental justice, climate action, affordable housing, workforce development, and social justice. Community leaders frequently collaborated with the City to identify the potential impacts of BERDO on environmental justice communities and to provide advice on how to integrate equity into the rules of BERDO. Additionally, over the past two years, the Environment Department hosted seven working sessions and thirteen fo-

cus groups with hospital and healthcare institutions, commercial and multifamily real estate, affordable housing, cultural institutions, universities, Boston residents, and various other stakeholders across the City.

"With the finalized regulations for BERDO, the City of Boston is taking a crucial step to equitably achieve net zero emissions by 2050," said Lee Matsueda, Acting Chair of the BERDO Review Board. "I am grateful to the Mayor, the Environment Department team, and all of my colleagues on the Review Board for working to secure a just transition to a more sustainable future."

The ordinance was originally passed in May 2013, and required large buildings

to report their energy and water use to the City of Boston every year. The ordinance required the City of Boston to make this data publicly available. This revised ordinance is the single most impactful initiative to curb Boston's carbon emissions. Building owners or managers who are looking for technical support in complying with BERDO can contact retrofit@boston.gov.

Mayor Wu recently announced the City of Boston's new rates for the Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program, which is the largest municipal aggregation program in the commonwealth. Customers may choose to "opt up" to enroll in the Optional Green 100 rate, with

Hill Happenings

Continued from page 3

Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, give a marvelous speech.

Woody was one of only four African Americans among the 952 graduates from Yale in 1952. Woody drew his loudest applause and chuckles when he said, "I earned a BA from Yale, and it was a BAA - before Affirmative Action."

It's nice to see Mission Hill people do well, and congrats to Brian Jeloe whose novel, 'Greetings from Mission Hill,' was recently published.

I haven't read the book yet, but I shall, and the paperback can be purchased on Amazon.

Caitlin Keehnle and Conner Keehnle, a beautiful couple became the proud parents of Arthur Keehnle, who was born on Feb. 12. Arthur has the Mission Hill lineage, going back to his great grandfather, Ed 'Pops' Healey, a World War II veteran from Sachem Street.

Good luck to the nice people at Greenhouse Cafe (across from Mission Church), which opened last month. I stopped by for the grand opening festivities and had a flavorsome complimentary cupcake.

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

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Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette 2024 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY

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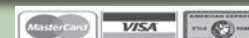
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Wu awards \$4.7 million in funding to develop Boston's Life Sciences Workforce

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced the recipients of \$4.7 million in funding to train and place Boston residents into life sciences careers, the latest stage of the City's Life Sciences Workforce Initiative. Mayor Wu was joined by Dr. Reshma Kewalramani, M.D., CEO and President of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and other life sciences industry leaders and training partners.

"Boston is the home for big ideas that can change the world. As Mayor, my goal is to help ensure that Boston remains the best place in the world to start and grow a life sciences company—to create life-saving innovations and great jobs for our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Through our Life Sciences Workforce Initiative, we're partnering with industry, training providers, and higher education to connect employers with the talented workforce that lives in our neighborhoods."

The initiative aims to leverage Greater Boston's position as the global leader in life sciences to develop more inclusive training and career pathways for Boston residents, particularly workers of color and those without four-year degrees, with a goal of hiring 1,000 Boston residents into the sector by the end of 2025. Mayor Wu announced the launch of a new collaboration between the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio), the state's life sciences trade association, and the Boston-based national job training organization YearUp, to further develop inclusive hiring and talent acquisition among Greater Boston companies, and outlined grant funding that will collectively bring 410 Boston residents into the industry.

Mayor Wu and Dr. Kewalramani were joined at the press conference by MassBio President and CEO Kendalle Burlin O'Connell, Gerald Chertavian, Founder and Senior Advisor of YearUp, Jeanne LeClair, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College, and Gretchen Cook-Anderson, Executive Director of LabCentral Ignite, and Josiah Wade-Green, a student in Bioversity and the Mass College of Pharmaceutical Health Sciences' first Biotech Career



Mayor Michelle Wu.

Foundations 8-week certificate training program. The grants are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Neighborhood Jobs Trust (NJT), and the City of Boston's FY24 operating budget.

"We're excited to host Mayor Wu and workforce training partners at Vertex to connect the life sciences industry to the hotbed of talent we have in Boston," said Reshma Kewalramani, M.D., CEO and President at Vertex. "The Life Sciences Workforce Initiative reflects our shared commitment to cultivate local talent and ensure the City's growing life sciences industry will continue to thrive."

"As someone born and raised in Boston, it's thrilling to see Mayor Wu investing significant resources to make sure people like me have the opportunity to pursue professional careers in the life sciences," said Josiah Wade-Green, a student with Bioversity and Mass College of Pharmaceutical Health Sciences (MCPHS). "Even though I only have a high school degree, Bioversity has created a career pathway for me and I can't wait to start the next chapter in my life."

The seven awardees of training grants are Bioversity and MCPHS, Bunker Hill Community College and Mass General Brigham, Just-A-Start, Quincy College and Bioprocessing Group, Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, and Roxbury Community College and the NuSq Life Sciences Training Center, and Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd).

Each awardee applied for funds to secure internship and hiring commitments from life sciences companies, train for specific in-demand industry po-

sitions, and support residents without four-year degrees who are underrepresented in the industry today.

Bunker Hill Community College is excited to build on our long experience collaborating with Mass General Brigham and Project HOPE to expand the workforce pipeline into fields connecting life sciences and healthcare," said Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College. "This grant will give Boston residents the opportunity to train as part of BHCC's Medical Laboratory Science Pathway for entry-level jobs in high-demand fields, offering family-sustaining wages and career growth. Jobs in areas like phlebotomy, medical laboratory assistant, and technician roles are the foundation of our region's life sciences economy, and a skilled, inclusive workforce is critical to equity and shared prosperity."

This funding round also establishes a workforce intermediary, developed through a joint application by Year Up and MassBio, which will be designing and launching an inclusive network of employers, training and education organizations, community organizations, and influential Boston stakeholders. The intermediary will improve employment outcomes for underrepresented talent in the life sciences sector in Greater Boston by simplifying and coordinating the process for life sciences talent and employers to reach each other.

"Life sciences is an important, growing sector in Boston and in Massachusetts, and we want to ensure individuals currently underrepresented in the industry are empowered to be successful in these careers," said Ellen McClain, Year Up CEO and President. "With this investment from the City of Boston, Year Up is excited to partner with MassBio, training and education organizations, and life sciences companies to build more on-ramps into this field for Boston residents."

"There remains a strong demand for workers in the life sciences at all levels in the Boston area, and employers have committed to bringing new and diverse individuals into their workforces," said Kendalle Burlin O'Connell, MassBio CEO and President. "Launching Bioversity in Dorchester with the support

of the City of Boston, MCPHS, and so many others has created a new pathway for residents to be trained to enter a life sciences career without anything more than a high school diploma. Now, our new partnership with YearUp will enable unprecedented collaboration across the ecosystem to facilitate the hiring of diverse talent."

"There is an immense need for entry- and mid-level workers in life science careers that is only growing as innovation continues to accelerate," said Jeanne LeClair, Director of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. "The City of Boston's initiative fits in perfectly with efforts the state is also making to recruit new faces to these highly rewarding and vitally necessary careers, via our Pathmaker program and the Commonwealth's MassTalent initiative."

This funding round follows an announcement last year that the City was funding The American City Coalition (TACC), LabCentral Ignite, and the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd) to increase community awareness of the life sciences industry and its career opportunities in Boston neighborhoods. The awareness efforts will engage 1,600 individuals in intensive career awareness programming and reach thousands more through

a robust media and community engagement strategy, all unlocking the potential for many more job placement opportunities for residents.

"At LabCentral Ignite, we're honored to be part of this amazing collective action led by Mayor Wu's administration to prepare and employ new generations of Bostonians from communities historically disconnected from the life sciences and the groundbreaking health innovations, career advancement, and wealth creation the field enables," said Gretchen Cook Anderson, Executive Director of LabCentral Ignite. "We're moving fast and intentionally, together, to demystify the industry, share the faces and stories of people in the industry who reflect our Black, Brown and other underrepresented communities, and put people on the right educational and training pathways to join this life-saving field. This is an historic era for inclusive focus on biotech workforce development that also stands to, in turn, advance health equity."

The City's Life Sciences Workforce Initiative was developed with support from the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, which advances research and develops new curriculum and teaching tools to help city leaders solve real-world problems.

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EDITORIAL

Tuesday is the Presidential Primary election

This Tuesday, March 5, is the quadrennial Presidential Primary Election Day when Democrats and Republicans (as well as the members of the Libertarian Party) will have an opportunity to choose their candidates for President.

In addition, although those who are registered as Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians must vote in their own party's primary, those who are registered as Unenrolled (also known as Independents) may choose to vote in any party primary.

On the Democratic side, the candidates are President Joe Biden, Marianne Williamson, and Dean Phillips. For the Republicans, the only remaining announced candidates, Donald Trump and Nikki Haley, will be on the ballot.

We would note that there also is a separate line on the ballot for "No Preference." Although the consensus is that the selections of the major party candidates, Joe Biden for the Democrats and Donald Trump for the Republicans, are a foregone conclusion, voters still have the opportunity to express their overall regard for those candidates by filling in the oval for "No Preference." Nikki Haley recently was on the Republican ballot in Nevada (Trump was not) and she actually lost to the choice for "None of the above" -- truly a harbinger for her candidacy.

Tuesday's primary also serves as the election for the candidates for the State Committees (male and female) and the local city and town committee members for each party. The Presidential Primary serves as the once-every-four-years opportunity for party voters to choose the future direction of their party with the election of their state and local party committee members.

Early voting for the primary already is underway. We urge all of our readers either to vote early or on March 5. Every election has consequences and only by voting at every possible opportunity can we express our preferences to our elected and party leaders.

Thank you, Maura Sweeney Doyle

We wish to take a moment to offer our sincere thanks to Maura Sweeney Doyle, a native of Winthrop, who announced last week that she will not be seeking re-election to the office of Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) for Suffolk County, a post she has held for the past 28 years.

Although the clerk's job is elected only by the voters of Suffolk County, the clerk serves the entire state in two important areas. The first is that the office handles all petitions to a single justice of the SJC from throughout the state. Requests for injunctions and other emergency relief, including all petitions for which there is no specific statutory authorization to another court, are handled through the office of the SJC Clerk for Suffolk County.

The other is that the office handles applications for the Massachusetts Bar (every lawyer in Massachusetts is sworn-in by the Clerk of the SJC for Suffolk County, who signs every bar admission certificate) as well as all bar disciplinary proceedings.

Generally speaking, both of these functions are what are referred to as under-the-radar in terms of the public's perception (although SJC single justices have handled many high-profile matters over the years), and only when there is a mishap do they receive public scrutiny.

However, during Maura's 28-year tenure as the clerk, there never was even a suggestion of anything improper, which is another way of saying that she performed her job with the utmost degree of professionalism and integrity.

During an era when public service is viewed under a microscope and criticized for everything imaginable (whether fairly or unfairly), Maura Sweeney Doyle epitomized the ideal of a public servant who went about her job day-in and day-out without fanfare and with a deep commitment to serving the public interest.

We know we join with all of our fellow citizens of the Commonwealth in thanking Maura for her three decades of exemplary service and wishing her the best in her retirement years.

LETTER

We welcome Soni DOT

To the Editor,

As direct abutters and small business owners, we want to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed cannabis facility by Soni DOT at 1576 Tremont Street. The initiative to repurpose the former Punjab Mini Mart into a new and modern dispensary demonstrates the team's commitment to enhancing and reinvigorating our neighborhood.

Soni DOT's approach to this project has been truly commendable. With a dedication to transparency, safety,

and community well-being, their proactive engagement with the community has set a new standard for our neighborhood -- addressing many potential concerns even before operations commence. It's refreshing to see a business not just enter a community, but become a part of it before they even open their doors.

We encourage our neighbors and friends in Mission Hill to welcome Soni DOT as the responsible, community-oriented operator that we know they will be. Soni DOT's establishment promises to be

a model of how businesses should coexist with their communities and neighbors. We are urging the City of Boston to approve Soni DOT's cannabis retail facility, and are confident in their ability to contribute positively to Mission Hill.

George Yianasmidis,
Tremont House of Pizza
Tariq Mehmood,
Shell Gas Station
Dipesh Dhaubhadel,
Subway

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500.

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Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

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CITY PAWS

Companion animals are living longer

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Healthcare improvements, better diet, exercise, and cutting-edge scientific research have extended the lifespan of humans. Similar movements in the veterinary field are allowing our companion animals to live longer, healthier lives. This is excellent news for all of us who consider the much-loved furry members of our household to be family.

Nature vs Nurture

Since most are bred, housed, fed, and cared for by humans, domestic dogs live longer than their Canidae family of mammals like wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals, and dingoes. For decades, how we care for our companion animals has improved with more routine veterinary care, dental care, better grooming, better compliance with vaccination recommendations, higher quality food, greater acceptance of neutering, and a change in how we treat our animals.

Breed, Face Shape, and Size Matter

A recent Companion Animal Psychology article summarized a British Study's findings. Zazie Todd, Ph.D., reported, "The study of over 150 breeds and crossbreeds shows that size matters, as little dogs live longer—and so do those with a medium head shape rather than a flat face."

Most of us understand that larger breeds, like Great Danes, Mastiffs, and Saint Bernards, have shorter lives. The Schipperke, Shiba Inu, Papillon, Border Terrier, Italian Greyhound, and Miniature Dachshund were among the small breeds noted to have longer lives.

Face shape is also a factor. Brachycephalic or flat-faced dogs, from the French Bulldog to its larger cousin, the English Bulldog, have shorter lifespans regardless of size. These breeds may struggle to breathe if they develop Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome. Dogs with medium-shaped faces lived slightly longer than those with

long faces.

More Support May Be Needed

Knowing that the dog or cat we bring into our life may live longer than in the past, we may need to think a bit more about planning for a support system to care for that pet if it outlives us.

This is a common concern of people with a large bird like a

Parrot who could live 50 years or more. We looked at discussions in bird forums to learn how these guardians addressed this issue. One answer is to become part of a local bird club or Aviculture Society. Another was to prearrange for care with a rescue organization or humane society.

We've been part of West Highland Terrier rescue organizations for many years and developed friendships with others who know the breed's strengths and weaknesses. Through routine communication, they even know a bit about our Poppy in particular.

In Massachusetts, you can establish a trust that you can fund to care for an animal if and when you are unable to do so.

Mutually Beneficial

Some of the things dog guard-

ians do for their furry companions are mutually beneficial. We know that more exercise, socialization, fun, and stress relief can extend the lives of all species. Our companion animals provide us with many opportunities to relax and enjoy life.

In the case of dogs and humans, we'll let the American Heart Association have the final word on the topic. They reported, "As dog lovers have long suspected, owning a canine companion can be good for you." Two studies in one of their scientific publications suggested, "... your four-legged friend may help you do better after a heart attack or stroke and may help you live a longer, healthier life."

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



Reports of companion animals living longer is excellent news for all of us who consider the much-loved furry members of our household to be family. (Photo by Eric Ward)

Boston's top ten dog names of 2023 unleashed

Boston dog licensing deadline is March 31

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year.

"Licensing your pet is not only a legal requirement, but it also serves as their identification," said Alexis Trzcinski, the Director of Animal Care and Control. "We always advise pet owners that having a license provides a quicker way for them to be reunited with you if they get lost."

All dog owners must license their dogs by Thursday, March 31, 2024. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog's current rabies certificate. For spayed and neutered pets, owners must submit proof of spaying or neutering if they

Female Luna..... Bella..... Daisy..... Lucy..... Rosie.....
Male Charlie..... Teddy..... Max..... Milo..... Cooper

Female Penny..... Lola..... Stella..... Millie..... Winnie.....
Male Leo..... Finn..... Winston..... Oliver..... Ollie

have not done so previously.

Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50.

In preparation for the 2024 licensing deadline, the Animal Care and Control Division analyzed licensing data from the previous year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2023.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link

to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control's how-to article on boston.gov/departments/animal-care-and-control.

Please call (617) 635-5348 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

The City of Boston will also host a series of dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from March 2 to June 15 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit boston.gov/animals, or call (617) 635-1800.

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The Gazette accepts all major credit cards.

WINTER HARBOR CRUISE SET FOR SATURDAY

How has Boston's waterfront changed? What types of commerce continues? What challenges do we face along the waterfront?

On Saturday, March 2 at 10 a.m. join the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk (FBHW) for a 2 ½ hour cruise around Boston's inner harbor on a multi-deck, heated vessel. FBHW tour guides will discuss the history of the city, its harbor, and how much the waterfront neighborhoods and the harbor continue to evolve – nearly 400 years after

the city's founding.

The tour departs from and returns to Long Wharf on a Boston Harbor City Cruises' marine vessel. We will begin boarding at 9:45 AM and will depart at 10:00 AM (sharp) - returning at approximately 12:15 PM. Specific dock location and boarding information will be sent out days prior to the tour.

Cost \$20.

Register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-the-harborwalk-winter-harbor-cruise-tickets>.



The downtown Boston waterfront.

COURTESY PHOTO



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Financial Literacy Workshop

Free!

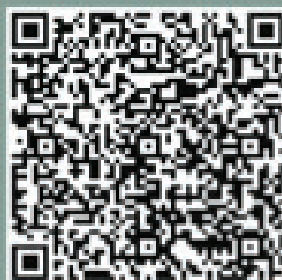
March 11th
March 18th



ENGAGE EDUCATE EMPOWER

6:00-7:30PM
Northeastern Crossing
1175 Tremont St, Roxbury, MA

Register Below!



[Communityengagement.northeastern.edu](https://communityengagement.northeastern.edu)



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@nuengaged

