

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS, PG 9

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# Mission Hill GAZETTE

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## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT MISSION CHURCH



Children who received their First Holy Communion get together for a group photo on Sunday, May 5 after the noontime Mass at The Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, also known as Mission Church.

Photo by Patrick O'Connor

## Mike's Donuts named Legacy Business

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced the winners of the 2024 Legacy Business Awards, a group of 30 businesses representing 19 of Boston's neighborhoods, and, as a collective, have been in business for 1,281 years. A public awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, June 4. Mike's Donuts, of Mission Hill, was among the award recipients.

This is the second year of

the Legacy Business Program. Awarded businesses are longstanding, independent enterprises that make a strong contribution to the residents, communities, and neighborhoods of Boston. By recognizing and supporting Legacy businesses on an annual basis, the Program helps further Mayor Wu's vision for a family-friendly, vibrant city with sustainable community businesses.

"Our legacy businesses are an-

chors in our communities. They connect residents with resources, and expand access to opportunity for families across Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm thrilled to announce the second class of Legacy Business awardees who uplift communities across our city. Congratulations to our 30 newly selected legacy businesses and we look forward to supporting you all in the years ahead!"

This year, the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion received 1,561 nominations. In total, community members nominated 276 qualified businesses. To be eligible, businesses need to be located in

## CAMH Board submits Open Meeting Law complaint against ZBA

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

According to a document obtained by the Mission Hill Gazette, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) Board has submitted an Open Meeting Law complaint against the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) regarding an issue with advertising a hearing on an Article 80 project in the neighborhood.

The abovementioned document, dated May 24th and signed by CAMH's President Martin Beinborn, alleges that the project at the April 30th ZBA hearing was "misleadingly advertised" as 100 Saint Alphonsus Street when it had been frequently known as and was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board in October under the address of 1558 Tremont Street.

The abovementioned project, which proposes a six-story building with 95 residential units and 53 parking spots — 44 for the Mission Church — was approved during the April ZBA hearing, where the violation was alleged, by a vote of 5-1.

In the aforementioned document, Beinborn argued that the alleged violation compromised community participation in that the CAMH Board received correspondence from residents who felt "misled" and thereby "excluded from providing input."

"Relabelling, without prior warning, from '1558 Tremont' to '100 St. Alphonsus' was particularly misleading as some mistook this for another pending, similarly sounding Article 80 project in the area, 100 Smith

Continued on page 2

## Tremont Street Dispensary gets 'no' vote at CAMH meeting

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During its monthly meeting in May, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) overwhelmingly voted in opposition to a proposed dispensary at 1576 Tremont Street called Soni DOT.

In April, Aditya Soni went before CAMH to present his vision for the proposed dispensary, which was covered in the

last edition of the Mission Hill Gazette — <https://missionhillgazette.com/2024/05/06/camh-mulls-proposed-dispensary-on-tremont-st/>.

April's meeting featured some trepidation from those in attendance due to concerns stemming from the operation of the previous business at the site — Punjab

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## Open Meeting Law

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Street/corner of St. Alphonsus St., a project that also involves 80 Smith Street / St. Alphonsus Hall,” wrote Beinborn in a description of the alleged violation.

“The fact that ‘1558 Tremont St.’ was suddenly relabeled as ‘100 Saint Alphonsus St.’ without any highlight of the address change (not even ‘100 Saint Alphonsus aka 1558 Tremont’) significantly obscured what would be on the ZBA’s hearing agenda on 4/30/2024.”

The only member of the ZBA who voted against the project was Hansy Better Barraza, who actually requested clarification regarding the address change during the April hearing due to concerns raised by community members.

John Pulgini, the project’s Attorney, spoke about the address change, saying, “As with any project, when you go through the Article 80 process, the address at that time was 1558 Tremont, when you submit your plans to ISD (Inspectional Services Department)... the address is established where the front door is, the entrance to the building, so that is where the Saint Alphonsus address came from.”

Daniel Polanco, a BPDA project manager, also spoke about the address change but said he was unaware of it and that the BPDA Board approved the project under the Tremont Street address.

Polanco also addressed the community’s sentiment about the project during the Article 80 process. He acknowledged “a lot of opposition” but attributed it to the proponent’s relationship with the community, something Beinborn disagreed with in his description of the alleged viola-

tion.

“The misleading relabeling for the ZBA hearing is noteworthy because, during the preceding Article 80 process, the proposal had been met with overwhelming community opposition as documented by many letters and multiple recordings on the BPDA website,” wrote Beinborn.

“By keeping much of the critical public out of the ZBA hearing, incorrect statements could be made by proponents with insufficient pushback, e.g. the community did not like the project mostly because of the developer.”

In describing the alleged Open Meeting Law violation, Beinborn argued that most of the opposition’s concerns were about height, density, parking, and other issues.

Further, Patricia Flaherty, the Executive Director of Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS), disagreed with Polanco’s assessment in the meeting, indicating that MHNHS has supported past projects on Tremont Street from this developer and said that this project was too high and too dense.

Not only that, but back in October, during the meeting in which the BPDA Board approved the project, the Board’s Chair, Priscilla Rojas, acknowledged a “bunch of” emails in opposition leading up to the meeting, which dealt with height, density, parking, and unit size.

As part of the complaint filed, Beinborn requests that the ZBA hold a new meeting, which is advertised and labeled appropriately, so the community “has a fair chance to testify and refute incorrect statements.”

Earlier this week, at a hearing on Tuesday, the ZBA unanimously approved a motion to “refer the complaint to ISD legal advisor to prepare a response on behalf of the board.”

## Wu appoints Byron Rushing to Reparations Task Force

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force recently announced the appointment of former State Representative Byron Rushing to the Reparations Task Force. With this appointment, the task force members will continue to build and convene around Boston’s work regarding research and community engagement around reparative solutions for the descendants of enslaved persons.

“Byron Rushing is a groundbreaking leader and legendary advocate for justice whose work has moved our city forward,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Throughout his life, he has always fought for voices who have gone unheard and uplifted communities across the state. I’m grateful for Byron’s service on the Reparations Task Force and know that he will be an invaluable member guiding this critical work.”

Rushing’s appointment adds a range of experience and strong understanding of Boston’s communities that will build on the task force’s composition and current work. The Reparations Task Force consists of community leaders in law, academia, community organizing, and education and represents diversity in age, gender, and discipline to fully encompass the Black experience in Boston. The task force is currently working with two teams of research partners who are studying and documenting the City’s role in the transatlantic slave trade.

“As the Boston Reparations Task Force conducts our examina-

tion of the historical and present impacts of slavery in the City of Boston, we are pleased to welcome State Representative. Byron Rushing (Ret.),” said Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Chair of the Reparations Task Force. “We thank Mayor Wu for her leadership in appointing Representative Rushing. I am delighted with his appointment because of the thoughtful deliberations he will bring as we, in collaboration with the community, work towards presenting recommendations for a reparations plan for Boston.”



Former State Rep. Byron Rushing.

Former State Representative Byron Rushing has served as a vital advocate for

Black communities across Boston and Massachusetts. During his time in the State House, Rushing represented the 9th Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1983-2018. Rushing rose to become Assistant Majority Leader, the highest-ranking leadership role ever held by a person of color in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

“The task of determining reparations is one of utmost importance in this moment as Boston

and communities across the country take on helping people reconcile, move forward and recover,” said Byron Rushing. “This work will not be easy because it begins with the history of Boston’s involvement with slavery and the slave trade. I’m thankful to Mayor Wu and look forward to working closely with every member of the task force and community to ensure that we center this work on equity and justice and truth.”

Before his service as a legislator, Rushing participated in the civil rights movement and worked in various capacities for the Congress of Racial Equity (CORE) and the Northern Student Movement before becoming President of Boston’s Museum of African American History. As State Representative, Rushing worked to pass a groundbreaking law to ban discrimination the basis of sexual orientation, led Massachusetts’ fight against apartheid in South Africa, championed marriage equality, and worked to address racial disparities in our legal system.

In January, Mayor Wu and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force announced the selection of two teams of historians who will research and document the City of Boston’s involvement in and historical connections to the transatlantic slave trade, as well as the institution and aftermaths of slavery. The research teams are in the process of conducting original historical research and a comprehensive review of major themes and findings on the City’s history from 1620 to the present. For more information about the task force visit [boston.gov/reparations](https://boston.gov/reparations).

## Advent School welcomes Sean Harlow as New Director of Development

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Advent School is thrilled to announce Sean Harlow as the School’s new Director of Development, effective May 2024.

“I’m excited to have Sean’s perspective on the team,” says Advent’s Head of School Nicole A. DuFauchard P’20. “He has dived into the Advent community at the recent Art Stroll and worked alongside outgoing director Washawn Jones for weeks to fully continue Washawn’s great work.”

Sean brings over two decades of experience in educational advancement to Advent, having

served in leadership roles at prestigious institutions such as Harvard Law School, Rice University, St. John’s Prep, Washburn University School of Law, and Tabor Academy. Sean has fostered strong connections with alum, secured annual gifts, championed major and deferred gifts, and expertly managed volunteer programs throughout his career.

A distinguished academic, Sean holds a Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law, a master’s degree from the University of Alabama, a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College, and a Thayer Academy graduate.

Sean is eager to connect with

Beacon Hill and surrounding communities to understand how The Advent School complements the city’s legacy of being a global leader in education.

“Advent is a School with a mission and a team that I have long admired,” says Sean. “I look forward to working with Advent’s many champions – students, faculty, parents, guardians, alumni, and friends – to set the School up for success today, tomorrow, and well into the future.”

The Advent School serves children in grades ECC (Early Childhood Center) through Sixth Grade from over 40 Boston-area neighborhoods.



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# He's the oldest known alumnus of America's oldest free public high school

Meet Arthur 'Harold' Green, 107, of English High School, Class of 1934

By STAN HURWITZ /  
STANHURWITZ@GMAIL.COM

In 1916, World War I had been raging for two years, the National Park Service was founded, and Einstein completed his theory of relativity. There were signs of the coming Russian Revolution. You could mail a letter for two cents. And Arthur 'Harold' Green was born!

Arthur Green was born in Savannah, Georgia, and the family moved to Baltimore when he was four amidst The Great Depression. At high school age, he was sent to Boston (Roxbury) as part of the Great Migration to live with his godfather where the schools were better and there was less racism, according to his

only child, Myra, a news writer at ABC News in Baltimore.

She says the family chose EHS because of its reputation: an excellent teaching staff and sports opportunities including baseball, football and diving.

We asked Myra if her dad's birthday cake had 107 candles. "You know," she chuckled, "He's had so many birthdays, I can't keep track of what we did to celebrate each one!"

Last year, the Baltimore Orioles honored Arthur, one of their oldest fans, by inviting him to throw out the first pitch at an Orioles - Colorado Rockies baseball game, a dream since he turned 100. He wore uniform number 106, of course. He loves

to reminisce about how incredible it was to watch in person legendary players like Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson and Lou Gehrig.

During the 2023 baseball season, Arthur was featured on Good Morning America as the 'Play of the Day' when he threw out the first pitch. Last October he participated in 'Veterans Honor Flight' in Washington honoring service members who perished. Highlights included visits to war memorials and monuments and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Arthur worked as a mailman until he was drafted. He served with distinction during WW II and the Korean War. Later he returned to his job at the USPS until he retired in 1972. Then he launched two side gigs, as a real estate owner and as a wedding photographer.

Those who know him say that, through the decades, Arthur has exemplified EHS's 203 year-old principles of 'Honor, Achievement and Service' that underlie an EHS education.

Arthur still lives independently and takes long walks. His secrets to longevity? Keeping active, challenging his mind with crossword puzzles, reading the paper, and eating lots of fruit.

As we said last year, "We thank Arthur whose life story adds lift to our step and joy to our heart. As more of us live longer, we hope to encounter a similar life well lived."

The EHS Alumni Associ-



Arthur stands between two Marines during 2023 Veterans Honor Flight in Washington.



courtesy photo

Arthur Green and daughter Myra during October 2023 Honor Flight in Washington.

ation's annual fundraising activities support newsletters and today's English High students through Scholarships, Tutoring, the Career Pathways Program,

and Music & Arts. For more info and/or to donate: <https://english-highalumni.org/> ; 781-956-4774 / [mthomas@englishhighalumni.org](mailto:mthomas@englishhighalumni.org).

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# Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

A group of contemplative individuals gathered at Brigham Circle on Memorial Day to pay homage to those veterans who lost their lives in defense of our country.

Col. George Rollins, Commander of the Mission Hill Post 327, presided over the observance and M.H. Post members Bill Mullin, and Jim O'Neill placed a wreath on the monument. Bill, Jim and Mike Killion then read the names on the memorial stones of all the veterans from Mission Hill who died in the line of duty.

World War II veteran Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse spoke passionately about representing Mission Hill when he attends the 80th anniversary of D Day in Normandy, France, on June 6.

M.H. Post member Garret Savluk did a fine job playing "Taps" and "Amazing Grace" on his bugle.

Other notable faces in the Brigham Circle crowd included Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan, Mission Hill Main Streets Director Courtney Wright, and former M.H. Main Street Director Ellen Walker, whose heart never left Mission Hill.

After the ceremony we crossed the street for some terrific food

at the Mission Bar & Grill. At the Mission someone jokingly cited the old Mission Hill adage: "No drinking before noon," but I think I heard the noon church bells ringing.

Our country lost a great hero when Mission Hill Post member George Salah passed away April 16, a month shy of his 101st birthday.

George, who grew up in Mission Hill on Whitney Street graduated from Boston English in 1940. Shortly after high school, he enlisted in the Navy and drove Navy landing in the Europe and Pacific theaters.

He won numerous battle stars including those at Omaha Beach, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. I'm fortunate to have known George and on many occasions to have had dinners and beers with this remarkable man.

Mission Church Redemptorist priest Father Philip Dabney and parishioner Fred Cataldo traveled South to visit Father Robert Lennon at a nursing home in New Smyrna, Fla.

Father Lennon, who was the Healing and Restoration Minister at Mission Church for 30 years, was upbeat and grateful for the visit.

A belated Happy Birthday (May 23) to Janese King - Marshall, a charming young lady who is the assistant manager at the



From left Col. George Rollands, Councilor Sharon Durkin, World War II veteran Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse and Tom Marroni from the Mission Hill Post.

Charlesbank Cooperative (650 Huntington Ave.) where I reside..

Condolences to the family of William "Bill" Nagle, who passed away last month.

Bill graduated from Mission High School, where he was a star football player.

Mike Killion remembers Bill at Mission High from the '60s when they were teammates. "Bill was a good guy and a terrific speedy running back," he said.

Bill later graduated from Boston State College, and he became a schoolteacher, teaching in several schools throughout Massachusetts.

I attended the Mission Gram-



Shown above and below, more scenes from the Mission Hill Post's Memorial Day ceremony.

Continued on page 5



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# SPARK

BOSTON'S FUTURE

## Wu announces applications open for the 2024-2025 SPARK Boston Council

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced applications for the 2024-2025 SPARK Boston Council are now open and available online. The SPARK Boston Council is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council made up of 20 to 35 year olds charged with spearheading the City's efforts to engage Boston's young adults. Applications are due Friday, July 5, 2024.

"SPARK Boston is an invaluable way to get involved in city government and have your voice heard about the top issues impacting you and your peers," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I look forward to getting to know the new SPARK Boston Council, and

thank the outgoing one for their hard work in representing all corners of our city."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough, the 2024-2025 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for young adults. Throughout the SPARK Boston Council term, participants hear from key members of the Mayor's administration, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education, housing, nightlife, and civic innovation.

"SPARK Boston is an opportunity for young adults interested

in getting more civically involved and engaged in our local government process of helping Boston residents," said SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough. "By applying for the SPARK Council you are gaining a network of like minded peers and will be in rooms with decision makers and shakers who work towards creating a better Boston for everyone!"

Past council members have come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, higher education, and scientific research. The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members are encouraged to attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee meeting a month.

Applicants must reside in Boston, and be willing to commit 15 hours monthly to the SPARK Boston program. SPARK Boston and its previous iteration ONEin3 have now been serving young adults and the City of Boston for over 18 years.

"SPARK Boston Council members are changemakers in our city. I am so proud of the work of our current Council for their leadership this year," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "If you are a young adult and interested in deepening your service within Boston, I encourage you to apply to become a member of the 2024-2025 SPARK Boston Council."

The 2023-2024 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term this August, but have already taken part in several opportunities including attending Mayor Wu's State of the City, volunteering during the Office of Civic Organizing's Civic Summit, and organizing thousands of toys for Toys for Tots. The 2023-2024 council has continued legacy & signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, which are events designed to bring City Hall staff

and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; Chief Chats, fireside discussions with cabinet leadership; and Pint with a Planner, an event series in partnership with the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

"If you're looking to grow your perspective and meet people you would otherwise not, then SPARK Boston is for you," said Samantha Montañó, State Representative and SPARK Boston alum. "I had an amazing experience learning from my cohort and seeing our city through their eyes. If I had the opportunity to rejoin, I would definitely do it again!"

"SPARK Boston provides members with opportunities to engage with civic leaders including reconnecting with alumni," said Long Tong, current SPARK council member. "The most impactful activity I worked on was coming up with a way to create voter turnout maps of Boston which allowed residents to see how engaged each neighborhood of Boston is with the City, and how engaged the City should be with each neighborhood of Boston."

## ParkARTS Summer Watercolor Painting Workshops return

Special to the Gazette

Budding artists ages nine and up are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for its popular Summer series of ParkARTS Watercolor Painting Workshops during the month of June at six Boston locations. The series of free workshops is just one of the many offerings of the 2024 ParkARTS program. The Title Sponsor is Bank of America.

The workshops welcome artists of all skill levels to create their own water-inspired masterpieces. Materials and instruction by local artists are provided. This series is open to Boston residents. Registration is required. For more information, please visit [boston.gov/watercolor-workshops](https://boston.gov/watercolor-workshops).

Classes are held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., weather permitting. Dates and locations for the workshops are as follows:

**Saturday, June 8**  
Langone Park  
529-543 Commercial Street,  
North End

**Sunday, June 9**  
Boston Public Garden (Lagoon)

**Saturday, June 15**  
Chandler Pond  
98 Lake Shore Road, Brighton

**Sunday, June 16**  
Jamaica Pond Boathouse

507 Jamaica Way, Jamaica Plain

For general information, please visit [boston.gov/parks](https://boston.gov/parks). Stay updated with news, events, and design and construction

work in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at [bit.ly/GetParksEmails](https://bit.ly/GetParksEmails) and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## Hill Happenings

Continued from page 4

mar School Road to College fundraiser on May 23 at the Church Parish Center, and it was a wonderful evening.

I loved hearing sixth-grader Legend Wilson speak with pride about his school. Legend culminated his speech by announcing that he earned a full scholarship to Boston College High, which was greeted with a thunderous

ovation.

Talented Julian Mercado also earned a scholarship to B.C. High.

Congratulations to Bruce and Maria Weinograd of Mike's Donuts on being named a recipient of Boston's Legacy Business Award, which is awarded to those enterprises that make a strong contribution to their community. The hard-working and generous couple bought Mike's in 1976.

Every morning, I cross the street at Mission Church to Mike's Donuts to start my day with a coffee and muffin, served by the nice workers while I'm surrounded by friends. Mike's Donuts is the best.

What did the donut say to the coffee?

"I'm dough - lighted to see you."

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

## Plaster all cracked up?

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# Wu announces three new neighborhood liaisons

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced new staff in the Office of Neighborhood Services, including Anthony Nguyen as the Mid-Dorchester Liaison, Josh McCorkle as the Roslindale Liaison, and Maccon Bonner as the Mission Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Beacon Hill, and Back Bay Liaison. The Office of Neighborhood Services is integral 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.

“Our neighborhood liaisons are our residents’ direct connection to City Hall and its services,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Anthony’s passion to serve from growing up in Dorchester and working at SPARK ensures that our residents will be heard and supported with compassion. Maccon knows City Hall and has shown his dedication to delivering for constituents. Josh’s background in communications and education will empower residents to continue to stay connected to City resources. I am excited for these three liaisons to become familiar faces in their neighborhoods.”

Anthony Nguyen is a proud



Maccon Bonner

lifelong Dorchester resident with a passion to serve the Mid-Dorchester community. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, Nguyen was the Director of SPARK Boston. He joined SPARK Boston in 2021 and held the position of captain, volunteering his time assisting with programming efforts. As the son of Vietnamese immigrants he understands the importance of community, cultural awareness, and advocacy for those who traditionally have lacked the opportunities to engage civically.

In taking up his role as the Mid-Dorchester liaison supporting Uphams Corner, Bowdoin/Geneva, Four Corners, and Codman Square areas, Nguyen is excited to deepen his service in the neighborhood he calls home. Since Dorchester is the largest neighborhood in the city, there are two liaisons who provide con-



Josh McCorkle

stituent services for the neighborhood. The areas Dorchester Liaison Ross Cochran serves includes Dorchester Bay, Savin Hill, Ashmont, and Lower Mills.

“I look forward to working closely with residents to continue improving our neighborhood and address constituent concerns,” said Mid-Dorchester Liaison Anthony Nguyen. “I am excited to meet community leaders who have dedicated so much time to their neighborhood as well as the next generation of civic leaders. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to serve the city I was born and raised in.”

Maccon Bonner was born in Boston and raised in Brentwood, New Hampshire. Bonner returned to Boston to attend Suffolk University in 2020. He interned for the Boston City Council District 8 office. He has a passion for connecting with constituents and bringing City Hall out of City Hall by making



Anthony Nguyen

government accessible for all. Bonner is a resident of Mission Hill.

“Becoming a neighborhood liaison is a new chapter in my life,” said Mission Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Beacon Hill, and Back Bay Liaison Maccon Bonner. “I can’t wait to help continue to cultivate an environment where our neighbors, businesses, and institutions work in tandem with the great people in City Hall to address concerns and meet the needs of the community.”

Josh McCorkle is an experienced education, marketing, and communications professional. A Brookline native, he has a bachelor’s degree in English from Boston University and a master’s degree in elementary special education from Lesley University. Before joining the Office of Neighborhood Services, McCorkle worked as a teacher, university administrator, operations professional, and editor.

“As the Roslindale liaison, I plan to make community members feel that they have a clear line of communication with City Hall so that they can feel confident that their government is working for them,” said Roslindale Liaison Josh McCorkle.

“Anthony, Josh, and Maccon are compassionate leaders who are a great addition to the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services,” said Office of Neighborhood Services Executive Director Beata Coloyan. “I encourage community members to attend liaisons’ weekly Coffee Hours every Friday in neighborhoods to get connected to resources, personally meet their respective liaison, and receive guidance on how to navigate City services.”

The City of Boston’s Parks and Recreation Department is currently hosting Mayor Wu’s Neighborhood Coffee Hours. This spring event series is a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor, neighborhood liaisons, and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods.

The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) encourages, facilitates, and maximizes citizen input and participation through service requests, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and emergency responses. To report non-emergency issues to the City, residents are encouraged to connect with BOS:311 by dialing 3-1-1 or downloading the free BOS:311 app on iOS or Android platforms.

## Coletta Zapata holds second hearing on Mayor’s proposed property tax classification

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) chaired a Government Operations committee hearing last Thursday to discuss a petition for a special law regarding property tax classification in the City of Boston. This Home Rule Petition was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and is a temporary tool seeking to protect residents from property tax increases to mitigate potential revenue shortfalls from declining commercial valuations.

The proposal comes following recent reports highlighting a potential nationwide decline in commercial property valuations due to slow economic growth following the pandemic and shifting dynamics in downtown cores.

The legislation would go into effect for five years and ensure that homeowners and residential property owner’s taxes would not increase by upwards of 30 to 40% in one fiscal quarter.

During the hearing, councilors once again shared concerns about the success of the proposal, potential unintended consequences and asked for additional information and data on the tax assessment for Boston.

“I foresee the main beneficiaries of this proposal being individuals that own properties that are house rich, cash poor like many of our seniors and tenants renting small properties in Boston,” said Councilor Coletta Zapata. “However, I’m still concerned that increases in commercial property taxes, particularly on smaller commercial property owners and small busi-

nesses, will unintentionally stifle unnecessary economic growth in Boston and hurt our small businesses. We must consider the long term impacts of our changing economy and impacts the pandemic has had on workplace vacancies and tenancies. Boston must prioritize additional sources of revenue as part of a suite of solutions for a long term plan.”

In an effort to protect small businesses against any unintended consequences due to this proposal, Councilor Coletta Zapata has filed an ordinance to adopt the small commercial tax exemption as a local option in the City of Boston. This ordinance would provide financial relief for small businesses, valued under a million dollars or with 10 employees or less, that cannot afford the increased costs of operating

in Boston.

The hearing began with public testimony from Boston residents. Councilors also heard from representatives of labor unions, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, Urban Edge and representatives of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Ryan, LLC, Back Bay Association, and Eastern Bank.

Members of the administration present included:

- Ashley Groffenberger, CFO of the City of Boston
- Nicholas Ariniello, Commissioner of the City of Boston Assessing Department

Councilors in attendance included Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia and District Councilors Ben We-

ber (District 6), John Fitzgerald (District 3), Brian Worrell (District 4), Ed Flynn (District 2), Liz Breadon (District 9), Enrique Pepen (District 5) and Tania Fernandes Anderson (District 7).

A recording of the hearing can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBwBaJ8UyP4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBwBaJ8UyP4)

The home rule petition first needs approval from the Boston City Council then it would be sent to the State Legislature who also needs to approve it before it can take effect. A working session has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 4 at 2pm. More information can be found at [www.boston.gov/public-notice/16170741](https://www.boston.gov/public-notice/16170741).

For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at [gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov](mailto:gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov).

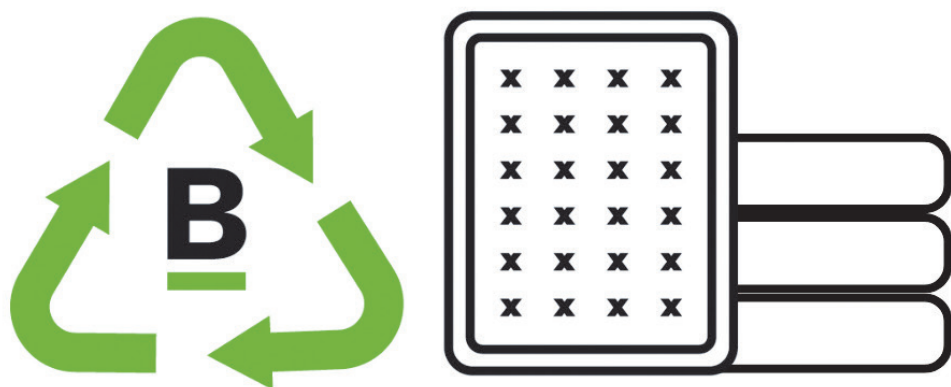


## CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH



Photo Courtesy The City Of Boston

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu hosted a flag raising ceremony Monday to celebrate the start of Pride Month. "Pride Month is an opportunity to reflect on the long and revolutionary history of Pride and the struggle that brought us to this moment," said Wu. The City of Boston and Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement will be celebrating National LGBTQ+ Pride month throughout June. Visit [www.boston.gov](http://www.boston.gov) for details of events planned.



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Public Works



## LAG meeting highlights changes to White Stadium renovations, transportation plan

BY ADAM SWIFT

Transportation plans highlighted the second White Stadium Impact Advisory Group meeting held last week.

In addition to diving into proposed changes to address transportation concerns from residents about the project, there were also several changes to the redevelopment of the stadium itself that were discussed.

The redevelopment of White Stadium is a public-private partnership between the city and Boston Unity Soccer Partners. The private group is aiming to bring a women's professional soccer team to the revamped stadium in 2026. The city has touted that the redeveloped stadium will be a greater asset for Boston Public Schools athletics as well as the public that uses Franklin Park.

However, not everyone is on board for plans to revitalize the stadium and make it home to a professional soccer team.

A group known as the Franklin Park Defenders is continuing legal action to try to stop the public-private partnership development in Franklin Park.

According to the Franklin Park Defenders, there are concerns about the project, including what they call the unconstitutional privatization of public land; the displacement of BPS student-athletes and the local community from White Stadium and Franklin Park; the absence of a realistic transportation plan for 20 annual game days that will draw more than 10,000 attendees to the stadium; and any other concerts or events to be

planned in the new facility once leased, and the lack of adequate community participation in decision making about how best to improve the park throughout an incredibly fast-moving redevelopment process.

While the legal action was not brought up during last week's presentation by the Boston Unity Soccer Partners team and city officials, there was an emphasis on transportation and other tweaks to the plans to address some concerns. A third IAG meeting is scheduled to take place in June.

"A lot has happened since the last (IAG) meeting," said Jennifer Epstein, the controlling manager for Boston Unity Soccer Partners. "I think you will see that the overall project continues to improve as we make adjustments based on all the comments we've received. The renovation of White Stadium is a true collaboration between the community, the city, and our team."

Morgan McDaniel, Boston's deputy operations chief, gave a brief rundown of the long history of the attempts to renovate the historic White Stadium as well as the benefits of the current plan.

"The partnership will provide transformative opportunities to revitalize the stadium as a hub for BPS athletics," McDaniel said.

The renovated stadium will feature a premium natural turf field, and there will be a dedicated maintenance position to keep the field and the surrounding areas clean and in good condition, McDaniel added.

"We also believe that there are a lot of benefits to bringing

*Continued on page 11*



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## Legacy Business

Continued from page 1

Boston and be in operation for at least 10 years.

The nominations were reviewed by the City Council, and selected by a committee that included representatives from City departments, and Boston Main Streets. Selections were based on application scoring and community support. The committee ensured that the list was representative of Boston by industry, neighborhood, gender, and race. "I am proud to continue this hallmark initiative of Mayor Wu that invites residents across the city to honor the commitment, investment, and impact that small business owners have made in our communities for decades," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Because of the work of our Small Business Team, this initiative continues to ensure the stability of these community bedrocks for generations to come."

The list of awardees is as follows:

- Akiki Auto Repair, Hyde Park
- Alex's Chimis, Jamaica Plain
- Anshur Restaurant, Roxbury
- Brendan Behan Pub, Jamaica

Plain

- Broadway Lock Company, Inc., South Boston
- Charles Street Supply, Beacon Hill
- Cornwall's, Fenway
- Daniel's Bakery, Brighton
- Dorchester Reporter, Dorchester
- El Mundo Boston, East Boston
- Family Hardware Corp., Dorchester
- Flint Cleaners, Allston
- Frugal Bookstore, Roxbury
- Gloria's Beauty Center, Allston
- House of Culture, South End
- Kids R Kids, West Roxbury
- Lawson's Barber Shop, Roxbury
- Mei Sum Bakery, Chinatown
- Mike's Donuts, Mission Hill
- Parziale's Bakery, North End
- Restaurante Cesaria, Dorchester
- Rosa's Liquors, Dorchester
- Sanchez Market, Charlestown
- Sophia's Grotto, Roslindale
- Tony's Market, Roslindale
- Trident Booksellers & Cafe, Back Bay
- Vaughn Fish & Chips, Dorchester
- Walnut Deluxe Cleaners and Tailors, Dorchester
- West Roxbury Framing, West Roxbury
- William Browne & Sons, Mat-



Courtesy Photo

Maria and Bruce Weinograd with their family at the 2024 Legacy Business Awards ceremony.

tapan

"Over the past 16 years, the Roxbury community has told us numerous times how appreciative they are to have a bookstore in their community. A bookstore that is an immediate reflection of who they are, and their experiences, dreams, and current ideas," said Leonard and Clarissa Egerton, owners of Frugal Bookstore. "It is beautiful to be recognized by the City of Boston, where we grew up. And to have

the Legacy Business Award given to us is a further indication of our community's commitment to our longevity. We are deeply honored."

"We are thrilled to be recognized by the City of Boston and the Roslindale Community as a Legacy Business," said Deb and Tony DeBenedictis, owners of Tony's Market. "After celebrating our 60th anniversary in business this year, we are so hopeful about the continued growth of our community and look forward to the

support and visibility that comes with this award."

"This year's 30 Legacy Business winners represent businesses that are staples in our communities and part of Boston's rich history," said Aliesha Porcena, Director of Small Business. "This program is designed to provide continued support and services to the winners, and other small businesses throughout the city. I look forward to working with local partners to ensure these businesses continue to thrive."

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# MBTA advances nearly 1,000 units of housing

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is proud to announce the completion of five Collaborative Agreements to Advance Housing Transit-Oriented Development Projects within the past year under the leadership of MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng, including the 18.98-acre site at Attleboro Station. The agreements represent a cross-section of Memorandums of Agreement (MOA), purchase and sale agreements, easements, or amendments to existing agreements that make these projects possible. These agreements have enabled the development of nearly 1,000 housing units, many of which are affordable, demonstrating the MBTA's commitment to supporting housing development in concert with local communities.

Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus and MBTA General Manager Eng joined Attleboro officials to highlight this site, which is the culmination of a vision that began over 30 years ago under the Administration of the late Judy Robbins, former mayor of Attleboro, Massachusetts, who first conceived the plan for the development of this land.

"Housing near public transit is good housing policy, it's good transportation policy, and it's good climate policy," said Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "Massachusetts is in desperate need of more affordable housing. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to working with our local communities and the MBTA to repurpose underutilized land and transform it into vibrant, livable communities. This housing means more opportunities for families to thrive and call Attleboro home."

In addition to these collaborative agreements, the MBTA and its development partners have also recently completed and opened several new housing projects, further contributing to the region's housing stock. Today's event was part of the Administration's statewide Housing Campaign to call attention to the urgent need to lower housing costs throughout Massachusetts. Yesterday, the Administration announced \$12 million in Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) to 54 Community Development Corporations across the state. Events last week focused on transforming public housing, identifying housing solutions with the business industry, ending veteran homelessness, the impact of housing on health care,

and the Healey-Driscoll Administration's partnership with cities and towns to find solutions.

"We know that a sound transportation system is vital to ensuring and improving quality of life for riders, communities, and businesses that we serve. These collaborative agreements are a testament to the power of partnerships as we all strive to address the need for housing," said MBTA General Manager Eng. "When we invest in public transportation, we are investing in vibrant and sustainable communities. We thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration for their

***The Agency is also supporting the construction of over 1,800 units of market-rate housing and 500+ units of affordable housing in communities across its service area...***

leadership in this critical work as we do our part to support the creation of housing developments that are affordable and equitable."

The MBTA's Transit-Oriented Development and Innovative Delivery (TOD/ID) program fosters sustainable growth and improved transit access by partnering with developers, municipal and state agencies, and other stakeholders. This collaborative approach has led to successful transit-oriented development projects at Assembly Station, Jackson Square Station, Wonderland Station, and North Station.

"In Attleboro and beyond, the key to solving our housing shortage is boldly building more homes and various types of housing across price points," said Attleboro Mayor Cathleen DeSimone. "We must commit to moving beyond the traditional single-family home and embrace again multi-family housing, mixed-used developments, smaller homes and smaller lot sizes, and accessory dwelling units. Adding homes near transportation hubs is one important way of advancing both our housing objectives and the state's climate initiatives. If we want to continue welcoming working families to live and thrive here, building more housing is essen-

tial to the economic and cultural future of Attleboro and the Commonwealth."

The five MBTA Transit-Oriented Development Collaborative Agreements relieving the debt of the nonprofit Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services. The relieved outstanding mortgage obligation on a former MBTA property, allowed the nonprofit to advance a 100% affordable housing project of up to 94 units near Roxbury Crossing Station.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made key investments in both housing and transportation across the state," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Today's event reinforces our commitment to delivering a transportation system that can strengthen the state's economy, provide access to employment and housing, and improve the quality of life for all our residents."

Looking ahead, the MBTA is working to advance redevelopment at key transit hubs such as Quincy Center, Riverside, and Alewife stations. The Agency is also supporting the construction of over 1,800 units of market-rate housing and 500+ units of affordable housing in communities across its service area, with an additional 6,000 units in the design and planning review phases.

"We appreciate the support of the MBTA to increase the land offering for our project and look forward to the successful expansion of housing opportunities in Attleboro," said Attleboro Redevelopment Authority Chairperson Rose Larson.

The land surrounding the Attleboro Station has a long history of industrial use and contamination. The site of Renaissance North and bus loops was once home to Automated Machine Products - North, while the site of One Wall Street housed Automated Machine Products - South and the Old Barn. The area immediately south of the Commuter Rail platform was previously occupied by a police station, Department of Public Works laydown yard, and municipal landfill. Further south, the land at Olive Street was once a chemical company site, with an outbuilding that caught fire. Over the decades, these parcels were contaminated by various sources. Through the collabo-

rative efforts of MassDevelopment, MassDEP, MassDOT, the FTA, the City of Attleboro, and the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority (ARA), these parcels were acquired and remediated to allow for dense residential use. This massive undertaking has prepared the land for its future purpose.

Looking ahead, the ARA is set to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) as the first of two steps in selecting a Master Developer to guide the redevelopment of the transit-oriented development land. The RFQ will enable the ARA to identify a pool of qualified development teams with the necessary experience and financial capacity to undertake a project of this scale. In addition to assessing the qualifications of interested developers, the ARA will use the RFQ to better understand each team's abilities, portfolio, and vision. This information will help the ARA craft a more prescriptive Request for Proposals (RFP) in the second step, which will be released directly to the developers selected in the RFQ process. The RFP will require certain project elements, such as a minimum percentage of affordable units, open space, and engagement of woman- and minority-owned businesses in the development.



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## MOUNT PLEASANT HOME HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL CHOWDERFEST COMPETITION

Nine chefs from Healthcare Services Group, the dining services contractor for Mount Pleasant Home, presented their version of “chowdah” to the staff and residents during the inaugural Chowderfest Competition, held at Mount Pleasant Home on May 9. From basic New England Clam Chowder to Chicken and Corn Chowder to Southwest Poblano Chowder, all were fantastic versions.

The results are as follows:

Best Chowder: Genry Cerrato, Sophia Snow Place

Runner Up: Hector Vega, Springhouse Senior Living

Best Consistency: Genry Cerrato, Sophia Snow Place



*Residents enjoy the many different takes on chowder from Mount Pleasant Home's dining services chefs.*

Runner Up: Lisa Vadnais, Pine Point Maine

Best Table Display: Marcel

Pevost, Mount Pleasant Home

Runner Up: Gary Hall, Marian Manor

## White Stadium

*Continued from page 8*

a national women's soccer team to Boston,” McDaniel said. “For many people in our community, it will boost community pride and set a new standard for student athletes.”

The renovated stadium will provide for increased BPS and community use with new facilities and expanded hours, McDaniel said.

“Boston Unity is going to be about 10 percent of the time taken up at the stadium, the rest of the time is going to be for BPS and community uses,” said McDaniel.

Andre Vega of Moody Vega, part of the Boston Unity design team, highlighted some of the changes that have been made to the stadium renovation plans as the result of meetings with the BPS, the BPDA, and the Parks Commission.

“We’ve reduced the overall width of the field, as well as the width of the east and west grandstands to be able to pull the east grandstands away from Playstead Road and away from the property line, which gives us the ability to preserve some of the trees along that property line,” said Vega.

There are also changes to the Grove public access area, including the removal of a small building and the replacement of permanent fencing with temporary fencing to make it less visibly intrusive from the playstead area, Vega said. In addition the scoreboard in the stadium will be smaller than originally proposed and closer to the field.

In addition, Vega said a new eight-lane track will provide new field sports opportunities at White Stadium.

Nick Gove, the city's deputy chief of transportation, said the city has collaborated and taken input to create a comprehensive transportation plan for White Stadium and the area for game days and beyond.

“We have heard about the existing transportation challenges the community faces for any large events currently held at Franklin Park,” said Gove. “Since proposing this plan, the Boston Transportation Department and Boston Unity have been collaborating to best answer one particular question, which is how do we best manage traffic on NWSL game days to best serve residents and visitors while improving transportation challenges for existing events at White Stadium.”

Gove said the city used public feedback from transportation meetings, Franklin Park Action Plan guidelines, city transportation initiatives in nearby neighborhoods, and a new commitment to staffing from the Boston Parks Department to help address the transportation issues.

“One of the major advantages of this project is that there will be a transportation plan for events of all sizes both at the park and the stadium,” said Gove.

Brian Beisel of transportation consultant Howard Stein Hudson said a major component of the transportation plan is that there will be no parking onsite for spectators. Those going to the games will use a combination of public trans-

portation, off-site parking and shuttles throughout the region, rideshares, and bicycling and walking.

Gove said the city is committed to supporting pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the project, and is implementing traffic calming and sidewalk improvements on the pedestrian routes from the nearest T stops to the stadium.

There will be two loops, one to the north and one to the south, for shuttle buses traveling from the off-site parking areas to the stadium. While there could be as many as 75 shuttle buses over several hours coming into the two sites on game days, Beisel said there will only be four buses per shuttle parking area at any given time.

The city's transportation department will also be creating and implementing a neighborhood-specific game day parking program for residents and their visitors, Gove said. The resident permit parking stickers will be valid for four hours before and one hour after game times.

Signs will be posted with the parking restrictions, and violators will be subject to a \$100 fine as well as being towed. Gove said there will be increased enforcement from the transportation department on game days, and in addition, Boston Unity will be hiring a senior operations manager to help deal with public feedback on traffic, parking, and other operational issues.

People attending the soccer games will not be allowed to park in Franklin Park, Gove added.

“We know this is a really important topic and we want to as-



*The competing chefs gather for a photo.*

sure people that we are working through this with various stakeholders, including the zoo, the golf course, and permit holders,” said Gove.

Concerns raised by some IAG

members included the potential lowering of the profile of the grandstands at the redeveloped stadium, as well as the ability to enforce traffic measures on game days and during other events.

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



## BRAD

Brad is an adorable pup who loves the company of his favorite people (but not everyone is his favorite!) He enjoys being carried around and cuddling on the couch. He's fine around other dogs for walks but doesn't like to share a home. Brad is about 2 years old and weighs 17 lbs.

“Gazette Pet of the Week” is sponsored by

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

The MBTA has announced service changes in June on the Orange, Red, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, Needham, and Haverhill lines. The

MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the system. Riders can find more informa-

tion on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at [mbta.com/alerts](https://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 Orange Line:

Orange Line service will be suspended in the following areas during the following dates and times:

Between North Station and Oak Grove stations beginning at approximately 8:45 PM on Friday, June 7, and continuing all day and every day for the weekend of June 8-9.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between North Station and Oak Grove.

Riders are encouraged to consider the Haverhill Commuter

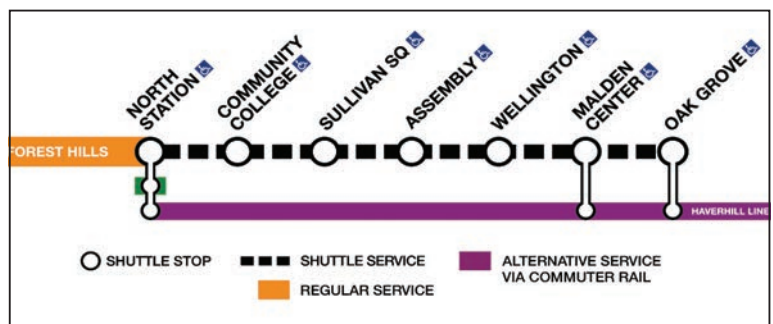
Rail Line for fare-free service to and from Oak Grove, Malden Center, and North Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Oak Grove.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform critical signal upgrade work.

Between Wellington and North Station all day and every day for nine days from June 22-30.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Wellington and North Station.

There will be free fares at



Wellington and North Station with the fare gates open.

Riders are encouraged to consider the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line for fare-free service to and from Oak Grove, Malden

Center, and North Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Oak Grove.

This service change is in place in support of MassDOT's Maf-fa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge

Superstructure Replacements project and the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. The Maf-fa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project will replace the two deteriorated bridge superstructures and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more.

## On the Red Line:

Red Line service will experience service changes in the following areas during the following dates and times:

Red Line service will be suspended between Alewife and Harvard stations during the weekend of June 29-30.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Alewife and Harvard.

Bus Route 77 will be fare-free.

Riders are encouraged to consider the Fitchburg Commuter

Rail Line for fare-free service between Porter and North Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Porter.

This service change is in place to perform track preparations in advance of Track Improvement Program work planned on the Red Line next month. 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.

Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Braintree stations on the Braintree Branch during the weekends of June 8-9 and June 15-16.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and Braintree.

Riders are encouraged to use Commuter Rail express shuttle bus service from Braintree if possible. Express shuttle buses will operate directly between South Station and Braintree.

Riders should note that regular Red Line train service will operate on the Ashmont Branch between JFK/UMass and Ashmont.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorches-

ter Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the Track Improvement Program. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the Dorchester Avenue 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. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more.

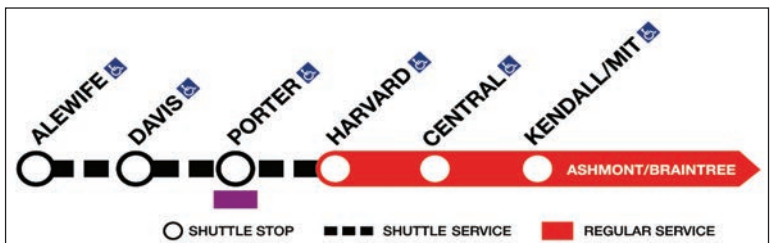
The outbound/northbound platform at Kendall/MIT station will be closed beginning at approximately 8:45 PM on Friday,

June 28, and continuing all day and every day for the weekend of June 29-30.

Outbound/Northbound Red Line trains will bypass Kendall/MIT during this time.

For outbound/northbound riders disembarking at Kendall/MIT, riders should instead travel to Central station to board an inbound/southbound train back to Kendall/MIT. The fare gates will be open at Central inbound/southbound for a free transfer.

For outbound/northbound riders boarding at Kendall/MIT, riders should instead board an inbound/southbound train, disembark at Charles/MGH, and travel to the outbound/northbound platform for continued



Continued on page 13

# WHERE TO FIND THE GAZETTE?

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Levinson Bldg .....	835 Huntington Avenue
Neville Building.....	Huntington Avenue
Rob.ther.parks Comm.bldg.....	Mission Park Drive
Flynn House.....	805 Huntington Ave
Huntington Market.....	818 Huntington Ave
Huntntgton Pizza .....	784 Huntington Ave
Carman' S Beauty Salon.....	764 Huntington Ave
Green Coffe Shop .....	750 Huntington Ave
Davos Wine& Spirits .....	754 Huntington Ave
Flames.....	746 Huntington Ave
Hollywood Dry Cleaners.....	742 Huntington Ave
Udb Uq.....	738 Huntington Ave
Halal Indian Cuisine .....	766 Huntington Ave
Brigham Liquors.....	732 Huntington Ave
Brighman Circle Chines .....	728 Huntington Ave
The Mission Pub .....	724 Huntington Ave
Stop & Shop .....	Tremont And Huntington
Walgreens .....	Tremont And Huntington
J P L Ick's .....	Tremonte And Huntington
Bank Of America .....	Tremonte And Huntington
Citizens Bank .....	Tremonte And Huntington

Puddingston Tavenen .....	1592 Tremont St
Tremont House Of Pizza.....	1590 Tremont St
Subway Sandwiches .....	1578 Tremont St
Mini Mart.....	1576 Tremont St
Boston Property .....	1570 Tremont St
Elen Real State .....	1568 Tremont St
Spinney Auto Insurance .....	1560 Tremont St
Mikes Donut.....	1524 Tremont St
Lillys Gourmet.....	1528 Tremont St
Grispy Dough Pizza .....	1514 Huntington Ave
Wan Convenience .....	1508 Tremont St
Discount Auto Part.....	1486 Tremont St
Laundromat .....	1460 Tremont St
Dunkin Donut .....	1631 Tremont St
Solstice Café.....	1623 Tremont St
Mission Hill Liquors .....	1623 Tremont St
Flann O'brien 'S.....	1621 Tremont St
Mn American Legion .....	1617 Tremont St
Mission Hill Properties .....	1607 Trewmont St
Mission Hill Post Office.....	1575 Tremont St
1575 Longwood Street Apts.....	1575 Tremont St
Needham Bank .....	Tremont St
Bruggels Bakery .....	375 Longwood Ave



## On the Commuter Rail

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 during the weekends of June 8-9 and June 15-16.

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace all trains between South Station and Braintree. Express shuttle bus service will also 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.

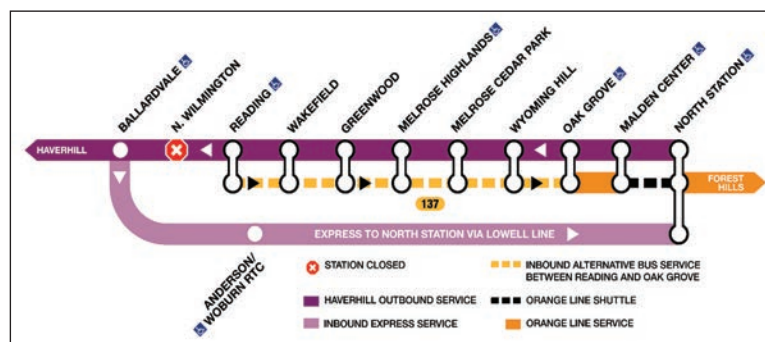
Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on-site at impacted stations to support riders.

The diversion schedule will be available online at [mbta.com](https://www.mbta.com).

## On the Needham Commuter Rail Line:

The Needham Commuter Rail Line will be suspended between Needham Heights and South Station during the weekend of June 8-9, and all day and every day from June 28-July 1.

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will operate between



Needham Heights and Newton Highlands on the Green Line D Branch as well as Needham Heights and Forest Hills on the Orange Line.

Passengers can present their June mTicket monthly pass to Green Line operators and/or Transit Ambassadors to board the Green Line D Branch at Newton Highlands and Orange Line at Forest Hills.

Bus Routes 35, 36, 37, and 59 will be fare-free.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on [mbta.com](https://www.mbta.com) soon.

This service change allows 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.

## On the Kingston Commuter Rail Line:

The Kingston Commuter Rail Line will be suspended between Kingston and Halifax station during the weekend of June 22-23.

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will operate between Kingston and Halifax.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on [mbta.com](https://www.mbta.com) soon.

This service change is in place while Keolis crews perform work on the Landing Road Bridge in Kingston.

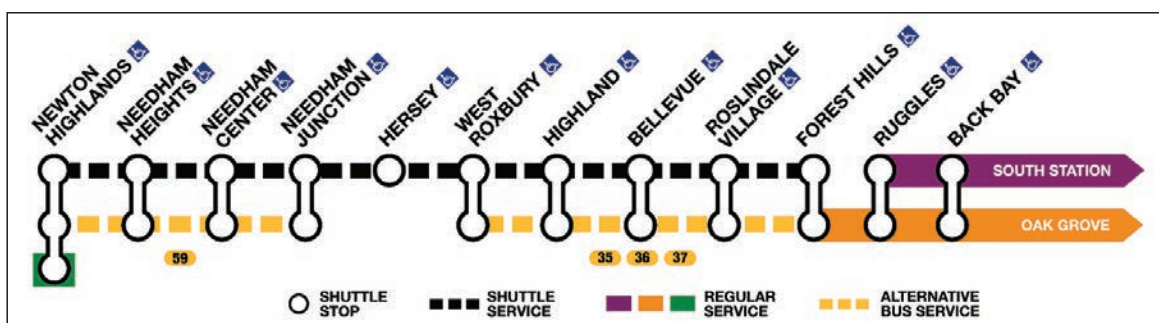
## On the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line:

A special Construction Schedule will be in effect on the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line beginning May 20 through the end of the summer. The Construction Schedule is available now at [mbta.com](https://www.mbta.com).

During this time, mid-day inbound trains will operate express between Ballardvale and North Station.

For service to Boston, passengers are encouraged to consider a free connection with Bus Route 137, which operates parallel service.

Passengers may also consider connecting with Lowell and Haverhill Line train service at Anderson/Woburn station.



## Red Line

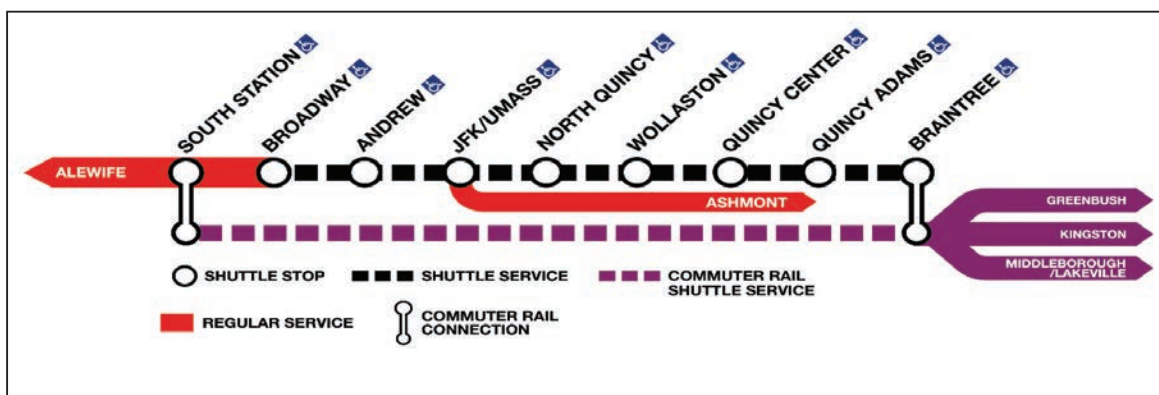
Continued from page 12

train service. Riders can move

between the platforms for free at Charles/MGH without passing through fare gates.

This service change is in place to accommodate the adjacent

transit-oriented development project, which has partnered with the MBTA to rebuild and update the outbound/northbound Kendall/MIT station entrance.



## Dispensary

Continued from page 1

Mini Mart — which was owned by Soni's father, Rakesh Soni, potential impacts on the Mission Grammar School, and more which were detailed thoroughly in last month's paper.

Fast-forward to the May meeting, and Soni returned to CAMH to provide updates and answer residents' questions.

In terms of updates, Soni indicated that they had met with Mission Grammar School. "We spoke in detail about the pick-up and drop-off times around the school and regarding traffic and how that might interact with the dispensary being right around the corner," said Soni.

"So we talked about ways we could mitigate taking in orders at that time to potentially help with addressing that."

Soni also indicated that there was a discussion about supporting the school like other businesses in the area do, whether monetarily or through events, and that they would work with the school on that topic in the future.

Finally, the school's planned extension was also discussed, and Soni mentioned that it would be factored into the dispensary project.

Soni also addressed concerns a community member raised regarding a property his father owned at 36 Cherokee Street.

"In discussing that with my father, I understand that as of today, all enforcement violations that have been raised have been either paid or appealed," said Soni.

He also indicated that there were concerns about the proposed business's potential responsiveness and said, "I can assure you that if any of you guys have any other concerns that might come up in the future, you can always reach out to me."

Soni also attempted to quell confusion surrounding the business's structure and explained that Soni DOT LLC would be a "single manager, manager run LLC," meaning that he would be the manager, the only one with the authority to sign contracts with the business day-to-day, and would be responsible for running a safe and secure facility in compliance with regulations.

"My parents, Rakesh and Aditi, will be members, and they'll have a financial interest in the business but only participate in significant corporate transactions such as entering a construction financing agreement or things similar to that," said Soni.

Following the brief presentation, attendees could ask some questions before the proposal went to a vote.

One attendee had a question about the business safely and effectively taking in deliveries, considering the storefront's location.

Soni indicated that the deliveries would be made through an alley shared by the property and the Subway next door.

"They come in very discrete like sprinter vans. We've got two or three boxes max, so they're quickly in and out; they don't try to put any type of packaging or branding on it, so it is all very secure and quick," said Soni.

It was also mentioned that the business must submit security plans to the Cannabis Control Commission. There are plans for cameras, and there is an obligation to report any incidents to the police immediately.

Another resident commented that he had heard that the proponents met with Mission Grammar School but that they opposed the project and wanted to know about the outcome of the meeting from the proponent's perspective.

It was indicated that CAMH was copied on an email concerning the school's stance and that the proponents did not receive a final indication.

Finally, the same resident who asked about the meeting with the school asked about the shared alley in relation to reaction from direct abutters and mentioned that at the last meeting, there were indications that the direct abutters on either side of the property were not in support.

In response, Soni spoke about the shared alley and mentioned that his father owns the Subway portion of the building next door, and the people who rent it out from him are supportive of the project.

Ultimately, when the proposal went to a vote, those in attendance opposed the project by a vote of 18-2, with one voter abstaining.



# EDITORIAL

## Let us never forget those who went ashore on D-Day

Eighty years ago this week, on June 6, 1944, the United States and its allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in military history. Almost 133,000 troops, supported by 7,000 ships and 195,000 naval personnel, plus almost 12,000 aircraft, landed on the shores of Normandy, France on that fateful day. The brave soldiers who landed on those beaches knew what was awaiting them -- batteries of German defenders who had a seemingly insurmountable logistical advantage. But somehow, the Allied soldiers overcame the odds and took the beaches, establishing their presence on the European continent. Within 30 days, a million more Allied soldiers had landed on those beachheads, and within 11 months, they had fought their way to Berlin.

However, the D-Day victory came at a great cost, with 4,415 Allied personnel killed, including 2,501 Americans, with more than twice that many wounded.

The D-Day invasion was seared into our memory as a young child when we watched the epic 1962 film, The Longest Day, in the Winthrop Theatre with a group of friends. Although the Longest Day depicted the invasion accurately, it nonetheless did not display the carnage and horror (in keeping with war films of that era, which were less than 20 years removed from WWII) that later were graphically depicted in the 1998 film, Saving Private Ryan.

Saving Private Ryan ushered in a new wave of verisimilitude filmmaking about WWII, which have included Band of Brothers, The Pacific, and the recent Masters of the Air on Apple TV, all of which paid homage to those who served our country and made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Today, fewer than one percent of the 16.5 million Americans who served in WWII are alive today. Ten years from now, there will be only a handful WWII veterans, if that. It is more imperative than ever therefore that, in the words of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, "... we never forget what they did ...and we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

## The reports of San Francisco's demise are greatly exaggerated

When a journalist contacted the humorist and author Mark Twain regarding rumors that he had passed away, Twain said to the reporter, "The report of my death was an exaggeration."

We were thinking of Twain's witticism when we visited San Francisco a few weeks ago to see our daughter. Even though Kate, who has been living there for about a year, assured us that the city is perfectly safe, we still were a bit wary, as were others when we told them that we were going there.

News reports have depicted San Francisco as a place that appears to be only slightly-less apocalyptic than one of those Mad Max movies (a new prequel, Furiosa, is now in theaters), with rampant drug use and street crime -- and that's from the mainstream media.

But we are happy to report that San Francisco is thriving, bustling -- and safe. The waterfront park near the Golden Gate in the Marina District was filled with runners, folks walking their dogs, and tourists. The famous streetcars were packed, as were the waterfront attractions at Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 (including the enormous sea lions who have taken up residence there), the huge marketplace at the Ferry Building, and Ghirardelli Square. The farmers markets we visited were both huge and thronged and the ferries to Sausalito and Tiburon (we visited the latter) carried hundreds of passengers to those quaint towns on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge. Walking up and over the famous, twisty, rose-terraced Lombard St. to the North Beach neighborhood was a delight.

In addition, San Francisco's airport, similar to Logan, was a breeze, with clear signage for ride-share pickup, and with great food options for the long plane ride home.

There is one other thing about San Francisco that has to be seen to be believed: The city's famous fog that rolls in from the ocean and across the bay. Most of California was basking in the 80s during our visit, as was Tiburon, but the city itself was shrouded in fog to some degree every day (which actually made for pleasant walking). The constant fog and accompanying chill made us think of another saying often attributed (incorrectly) to Mark Twain, "The coldest winter I ever spent was my summer in San Francisco."

The reason we mention all of this is because our visit served to remind us that news reports in the national media so often are unreliable. There is no substitute for going to a place to see with your own eyes what's going on and what the real story is.

Or, to use another axiom, "Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear."

*A street performer silhouetted by the setting sun and framed by the Golden Gate Bridge plays the violin at Crissy Field Park in the Marina District in San Francisco.*

# OP-Ed

## The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL

We are more than halfway through our Fiscal Year 2025 budget process, with nearly 20 hearings and one public testimony session in the books. It's a great time to reflect on what we've learned through these hearings as we continue our discussions around the budget.

Here are some of the key takeaways:

At our initial hearings with the Office of Budget Management, the administration testified that the repayment of general obligation bonds is at 5.95% of the Operating Budget's size, a number below the 7% threshold that allows the city to maintain its AAA bond rating. From there, the city broke down how net state aid has declined from 20% of the city's budget in FY03 (\$375 million) to 2.7% of the FY25 budget (\$123 million), as well as sharing that 23,000 new housing units have been permitted, but construction has not yet begun. Additionally, numerous other home-rule petitions that would allow for increased revenue for the city, from an expansion of liquor licenses in underserved communities to the real-estate

transfer tax, are waiting for approval at the state level.

During the past few months, we have also dug into job vacancies citywide. The city showed 760 job postings in April 2024 compared to 960 in April 2023. These numbers, however, only set a floor as they don't include BPHC, BPS, or the full picture in certain departments. The Boston Police Department, for example, has more than 500 vacancies, but only has 20 positions posted at present. We will dive deeper into consistent underspending in permanent employees at our working sessions.

The administration's testimony also showed the composition of the \$344 million increase from FY25. The BPDA's partial move into the city's operating budget is one part of it, with \$32 million extra dedicated to the Planning Department. With several new collective bargaining deals raising the pay, especially for our police, firefighters and lowest-wage workers, the city is seeing a \$150M spike in wages for non-Boston Public Schools personnel. Additionally, \$81 million of the budget hike is going to BPS as it eases off the ESSER

*Continued on page 15*

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

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## Budget

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funding of the past few years. Those three sources make up \$263 million of that \$344 million increase, leaving an \$81 million increase (less than 2% overall) elsewhere in the \$4.6 billion budget.

With declining enrollment trends, we are asking tough questions about the fiscal picture of our education system, including why only two schools are merging in the 2025-26 school year. It's a topic we delved into at our hearings with the schools district in late April. Boston Public Schools was in for three hearings last month on its \$1.8 billion slice of the budget, with another scheduled on May 23 at 10 am. The three hearings touched on various topics, including a school bus tracking pilot to debut this summer, the inclusive learning plan for the fall, and a need for more support for LGBTQ+ students. At our working session later that week, councilors discussed the hypothetical process if the Boston Public Schools budget was rejected by the City Council. The upcoming hearing will focus in large part on the long-term facilities plan and will occur the night after the district is scheduled to present its closures and mergers for the 2025-26 school year to the School Committee. This also comes on the heels of our process with BPS that began in February and included several programming audits, as well as funding for more reading specialists, athletics, and Hub Schools.

In meeting with our Streets Cabinet in April, we learned that there have been 10 fatalities in Boston streets in the past 5 months, and while hokeys and parking-enforcement officers have seen an uptick in hiring, the department has still only filled 65% of its 940 budgeted positions. We also zeroed in on

nearly \$500,000 in consistent underspending on Public Works' lease/ purchase line item.

At the Equity Cabinet's hearings, we learned about Fair Housing's push for a general counsel position, and the need to declare survivors of domestic violence as a protected class.

During our hearing with Inspectional Services, Property Management and Public Facilities, we learned more about how the city keeps scofflaw data and the desire for a fourth vehicle dedicated to graffiti removal.

The Boston Fire Department presented its budget early this month as well, with a look at the mostly civilian positions that are vacant as well as a need for more capital investments in a few firehouses. Additionally, Fire Commissioner Burke testified that if trucks were staffed with more permanent employees than are budgeted, then the rising overtime costs could be reined in.

The Office of Human Services' Early Childhood and Office of Returning Citizens both discussed new initiatives, from universal pre-K to BHA vouchers.

Last week, we heard from the Economic Opportunity & Inclusion cabinet, as well as Boston Public Library and BCYF, which all have experienced hiring difficulties. BCYF elaborated on how its lifeguard hiring challenges persist, and how it has shifted some pool oversight to Boston Public Schools and is moving away from on-site daycares despite the child care crisis in the city. There was also a push to get BCYF to expand its indoor infant and toddler play areas that are only available in South Boston and Roslindale during weekday daytime hours. BPL discussed how they have extended weekend hours at all its libraries, they are partnering with Project Bread to offer food assistance to those in need, and they've created non-literary community programs such as cooking classes at its mobile kitchen. The Planning Department, which will begin in earnest on July 1, discussed

its new organizational structure while breaking down its capital reserve of \$16.5 million and their overall need for capital, including \$150 million for coastal resiliency. They also described that some positions, such as Supplier Diversity, will remain despite redundancies across other city departments. Our final hearing of the week was with the Department of Innovation and Technology, which detailed its increasing collaboration with city departments despite the lack of clear authority. They also described digital equity issues, and reforms with 311.

We've started this week of hearings with two appearances each by the Boston Police Department and the Boston Public Health Commission. This week will also include our first off-site hearing of the budget cycle on May 16 at the Lilla Frederick School. The 6 pm hearing will focus on Age Strong, Youth Engagement & Advancement, and Youth Employment & Opportunity. It will be a great opportunity to mix our youth with our seniors, allowing for cross-generational opinions to be shared rather than siloed. And, of course, we'll be concluding the week with our second of four Working Sessions of the budget cycle.

Please spread the word about our second public testimony session on May 28 at 6 pm. At our first public testimony session, which was held on the first day of budget hearings, constituents focused on the need for more funding for youth jobs, Caribbean history, potholes and sidewalks, as well as more grant opportunities for agencies such as Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and Catie's Closet. We are looking forward to hearing more from community members on the budget priorities that will impact their lives for the better.

*Boston City Councilor Brian Worrell is the Chair of the Committee on Ways & Means.*

# Wu launches citywide youth sports directory

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the debut of the City of Boston's first online Youth Sports Hub, including a central, online directory of youth sports organizations across the city. This new resource empowers families to find accessible sports opportunities in their neighborhoods and serves as a one-stop-shop to learn about youth sports offerings and resources the city offers to sports providers. Creating easier access to athletic opportunities is a part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore,

her initiative to ensure Boston's youth are empowered to find and pursue their passions. Mayor Wu also announced the City's first Youth Sports Initiative Manager and an investment of \$100,000 in mini-grant funding to support neighborhood sports leagues. These initiatives aim to support the goals of the Mayor's Youth Sports Initiative strategic vision and making Boston a home for everyone.

"The Mayor's Youth Sports Initiative is about making youth sports accessible and inclusive

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## Sports Directory

Continued from page 15

for all our city's families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This initiative is not just about increasing participation, but also about breaking down barriers and ensuring that every young person in Boston has the opportunity to engage in sports. With the Youth Sports Hub and our dedicated Youth Sports Initiative Manager, we are taking significant steps to make this vision a reality."

While Massachusetts is a leading state for youth sports participation, Boston's high school student involvement (34%) lags significantly behind the state average for youth aged 6-17 (63%). Throughout 2023, the Mayor's Office and the Human Services Cabinet engaged with internal and external partners to assess the city's youth sports ecosystem and develop strategies for a comprehensive youth sports initiative that can decrease this participation gap and build community across neighborhoods. With the Youth Sports Hub live,

the goal is to make it easier for more families and children to get involved with sports. These announcements align with the City's commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive youth sports community.

"This hub will centralize key information for families, making it easier than ever to find and participate in youth sports programs," said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. "We are committed to creating a seamless experience for families and providers alike."

The Youth Sports Hub will serve as the new landing page for Parks and Recreation and BCYF sports programs, showcasing highlights from the city's accomplished athletes, and hosting the Youth Sports Directory with information about over 100 sports programs. This searchable directory allows families to find sports opportunities by neighborhood, age, sport, and other criteria, including registration instructions for each program. Program representatives not yet listed in the directory are encouraged to fill out this form.

"The Youth Sports Directory is a critical outreach tool for our youth programs," said Charlie Cofield, a community sports leader and dedicated parent who has mentored numerous Boston youth by creating city-wide sports programs and events. He adds, "Recognizing the need for this resource is a win-win for the community and the City of Boston as a whole."

Mayor Wu also announced the hiring of the City's first Youth Sports Initiative Manager, Tyrik Wilson. Wilson serves as a liaison between youth sports providers and the City of Boston, working to create more city-wide opportunities for youth athletes and spotlighting their accomplishments.

"I am excited to take on this role, and appreciate the opportunity to find new ways to invest in programs for our young athletes that I wish I had while growing up in Mattapan and around the city," said Tyrik Wilson, Youth Sports Initiative Manager. "Our goal is to invest in our youth and build stronger connections in our community. The vision is

to eventually create a better bond between our families, local sport organizations, and the schools"

Before this role, Wilson has worked with youth for the past 15 years in a variety of roles, as a coach, mentor, counselor, and developmental trainer. Starting in 2013, he also worked as a WIC Program Specialist for the USDA-Food and Nutrition Services Program (FNS) for 10 years coordinating programs in three different states. During his time, Wilson also served as the Lead Diversity and Inclusion Specialist where he hosted cultural events locally and nationally. Prior to joining the City in February 2024, Wilson also served as a consultant for Thacher Montessori School, where he worked with youth with a variety of organizational and behavioral challenges.

"This role is crucial because it specifically focuses on the youth," said Jaylen Hunter-Coleman, sophomore point guard for the Charlestown High School basketball team. "There needs to be more events to celebrate the youth, and the Boston Youth

Sports Hub is great because it helps the community connect with each other and with Boston more."

"It's essential to have a role dedicated to providing kids with the resources they need to be successful," said Tony Darocha, Track Coach and founder of the Boston United Track & Cross Country Club. "Investing in youth is key to building a successful city."

The Hub can be found at [boston.gov/sports](https://boston.gov/sports), the Directory at [Sports.boston.gov](https://Sports.boston.gov).

The City of Boston's Community Engagement Cabinet recently awarded 40 grants for up to \$5,000 totaling \$100,000 as part of the Mayor's Youth Sports Grant. This grant is an extension of the Mayor's efforts to improve access to youth sports for Boston Public School (BPS) students and provide fiscal support to non-profit organizations to enhance sports programming. The Mayor's Youth Sports Grant was funded by the Massachusetts State budget for FY24. Learn more about the Mayor's Youth Sports Grant



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