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Courtesy photo

Mayor Michelle Wu kicked off the City's second annual Supplier Diversity Week by signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) entitled "Compact to Build Local Economic Growth."

Wu announces start of Supplier Diversity Week

Special to the Patriot-Beidge

Mayor Michelle Wu kicked off the City's second annual Supplier Diversity Week, reaffirming the City's commitment to supporting local, diverse businesses in city contracts. As part of this effort, Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Cambridge City Manager Yi-An Huang signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) entitled "Compact to Build Local Economic Growth," a public commitment by the City of Boston and City of Cambridge to work together to advance shared supplier diversity goals. This includes increasing public contracting for minority-owned (MBEs), women-owned business enterprises (WBEs), veteran-owned (VBEs), and LGBTQ-owned business enterprises (LGBTQBEs). The Mayor also announced the opening of applications for the Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Grant Program, the release of the annual Equity in City Contracts Report paired with a new data dashboard, and a series of events and workshops aimed at supporting residents and local business.

"We are blessed in Boston to have incredible businesses who strengthen our local economy and bring so much vibrancy to our community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "To make Boston a home for everyone, we must keep building on our work to support small, local businesses across neighborhoods. I'm thrilled to partner with the City of Cambridge to ensure that we coordinate our efforts and increase contracting opportunities for businesses that have traditionally not had access to public contracts. Through the opening of the SCALE program and Boston's strong progress towards our supplier diversity goals, I'm excited for the work the City and all of our partners will continue to do together to build wealth in our communities and support businesses across Boston."

"Thanks to Mayor Wu and her commitment to closing the racial wealth gap, ensuring that a greater share of City contracts are awarded to local, small, diverse firms continues to be a top priority for the Administration. This is evidenced by a second year of continued process improvements, deeper collaboration across the City team, and important achievements like exceeding $100 million in spending with these firms in just one fiscal year," said Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Segun Idowu. "I am grateful for the hard work of the Supplier Diversity and Procurement teams who are not just creating pathways to contract opportunities, but providing on-ramps for local and diverse firms to become competitive. This type of progress will not only transform the lives of business owners, workers, and residents, but also cast the city in a new light as a place where all dreams can grow."

"As a major buyer of goods and services, it is important that the City of Boston uses its buying power to empower local, small, and diverse businesses and to help close the racial wealth gap," said Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberger. "Under Mayor Wu's leadership, our teams have worked to streamline processes, uplift our data and lower barriers to City contracting. Now, we

(DIVERSITY *Pg. 10*)

Despite expected election outcome, Boston voters back Harris for President

By Dan Murphy

In contrast to the expected outcome of the Presidential Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5, Boston voters resoundingly supported Vice President Kamala Harris over former President Donald Trump in the race.

According to the city's unofficial election results as of the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 6, more than 76.3 percent of Boston voters (187,419 ballots cast) backed the ticket of Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, over the approximately 20.2 percent (49,654 ballots cast) of voters citywide who supported Trump and his running mate, Ohio U.S. Sen. JD Vance.

On Massachusetts Ballot Question 1, which would for the first time, give the state auditor the power to audit the state Legislature, more than 74.3 percent (168,625 ballots cast) of Boston voters supported the proposed measure while around 25.7 percent (58,290 ballots cast) opposed it.

According to the Associated

(ELECTION *Pg. 4*)

Coletta Zapata calls for N.E. construction project walk through

By Phil Orlandella

It took a long time for impacted residents to get someone to listen and take interest in their many concerns relating to the construction site at 190-190A Salem Street and 4 Snelling Place in the North End.

However, finally through the efforts of Boston City Councilor Gabriella Coletta Zapata, a walk-through/meeting with city officials was held. While the Councilwoman will not be attending her staff person Jack Imbergamo will be.

Despite all the attempts by abutters, its apparently took a petition and other information sent to the Councilor by the director of Villa Michelangelo that sparked this arrangement.

The housing complex (71 units) petition and email described a public safety problem and an increase in the rodent population created by the dumping of debris and general trash in the area of the complex's emergency egress from the ongoing construction.

Apparently, only one abutter and/or resident was notified of

COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

the walk through, Paul Pepicelli of Michelangelo Street.

A check with the two North End community groups, NEWNC and NEWRA both were notified.

It's not known who will attend the meeting from Gregory McCarthy developer Dodd House LLC or his general contractor Anthony Bellanti.

Pepicelli praised the Councilwoman for this arrangement. "She made the effort to make this happen for residents of her district when no one else would do anything."

EDITORIAL

GIVE THANKS TO OUR VETERANS

This Monday, November 11, we will celebrate the 106th observance of Veterans Day in the United States, a day of solemnity and reverence to honor those who have served in our nation's military.

Veteran's Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 to commemorate the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

World War I was marked by trench warfare in which neither the German-allied nations (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) nor the alliance among England, France, Russia, and the United States, accomplished anything. Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why the war began.

The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war. In the meantime, the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the "war to end all wars" only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 20 years later with WWII. Indeed, the roots of today's conflict in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of that part of the world after WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England, which eventually led to the so-called British Mandate for Palestine after the end of WWII.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to include the veterans of all of our wars.

There are many ways that each of us can honor our veterans, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans organizations, donating to veterans causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the great sacrifice made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we hold as Americans today.

If nothing else, Veterans Day should remind us that freedom isn't free and that maintaining our freedom since our nation's founding has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

IS DROUGHT OUR NEXT CLIMATE CRISIS?

To paraphrase Bob Dylan, we don't need a weatherman to tell us that our parched lawns and gardens are an indication that there has been a lack of rain in the past month.

But even we were surprised to learn that almost the entire country is experiencing some degree of drought conditions, making this the most widespread state of drought in U.S. history.

In New York City, which had its driest October since record-keeping began in 1869, officials are telling residents "to conserve every drop of water possible."

Climate change, which has been bringing record-high temperatures across the country every month this year -- especially this past summer -- is seen as a key driver of drought conditions.

High temperatures dry out both the atmosphere and the ground, which not only results in less rainfall, but also creates ideal conditions for wildfires, which have been sparking all across Massachusetts in the past few weeks. According to state officials, there are about 15 wildfires in a typical October, but this year there were more than 200 (which brought us that acrid smell of smoke that enveloped our area earlier this week until the direction of the wind changed).

As with everything weather and climate-related these days, our wonderful fall weather has been yet another example of good news/bad news.

Unfortunately, given that the world's efforts to reduce carbon emissions are failing badly, the bad news of the future promises to become even worse.

GUEST OP-ED

Older adults can save money during the annual Medicare open enrollment now through December 7

By Mayor Michelle Wu

With fall in full swing, I'm excited to share some important information that could help you save money on your health insurance premiums and prescription drug payments during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period from now through December 7.

Now is a great time to meet with one of our certified SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors to go over your current health needs and find the coverage that's right for you. Our health is constantly changing; reassessing your needs and your plan each year is the best way to ensure that you get the right coverage at the most affordable price.

For our Age Strong Commission, making Boston a home for everyone means ensuring that our older residents have access to the care and services they deserve—at the lowest possible cost.

So, to help you navigate the Open Enrollment process, Boston's Age Strong Commission will be hosting in-person events through December 6th. To see the schedule and location of these events, visit boston.gov/medicare.

Or, if you'd like to set up an appointment with a member of our Age Strong team at City Hall, call 617-635-4366.

Wishing you a wonderful fall.

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Wu and Immigrant Advancement announce opening of fourth round of "Weaving Well-Being" grants at inaugural immigrant advancement forum

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) announced the opening of the fourth round of Weaving Well-Being grants. This was announced at MOIA's first-ever Immigrant Advancement Forum: Our Future Now, held on October 26. This forum is a new annual, family-friendly convening launched to enhance Boston and the region's capacity to welcome, support, and uplift immigrant and refugee residents across neighborhoods. Local immigrant-serving nonprofits are encouraged to apply to the current round of Weaving Well-Being grants with $200,000 in funding available for the 2025-2026 program cycle. Applications are open until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

MOIA's Weaving Well-Being initiative cultivates a stronger network of immigrant-led and-serving organizations seeking to promote Boston immigrant residents, destigmatize mental health in immigrant communities through non-clinical, culturally, and linguistically sensitive interventions, and shift power to communities.

"Immigrant communities often face barriers in accessing mental health services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our community nonprofit partners are providing vital support networks and building systems of care through innovative ways to help people heal. I'm thrilled that the City can support their efforts and look forward to their ongoing work to ensure Boston is a home for all."

MOIA formally launched the Weaving Well-Being initiative in 2022, providing $70,000 in mini-grants to seven nonprofits that year. Since then, the program has grown significantly, with 18 partners in 2023, 21 partners in 2024, and $400,000 in grants to date. The complete list of 2024 participating community partners is available on the Weaving Well-Being website. These awarded grants were funded by the City of Boston's FY24 operating budget and are being used through January 2025.

"Chinese Progressive Association is grateful for the partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement," said Baolian Kuang, CPA's Community Organizer who leads resident-focused programs. "With this grant, residents had the opportunity to connect with and support each other, develop in-depth friendships, and collectively learn about the history and context of our neighborhood and beyond! Residents also get to participate, engage in community processes, and visit other neighborhoods in the languages they are most comfortable in."

"We are thrilled with the recent funding from the City of Boston and other partners in recognition of the stressors that immigrants face and Casserly House's connective role," said Donna Stiglmeier, Director of Casserly House.

"Sociedad Latina is excited to be partnering with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement to offer greater opportunities for Latine youth to foster positive physical and mental health by exploring outdoor adventure, movement activities, and mindfulness," said Alex Oliver-Dávila, Executive Director of Sociedad Latina.

Hundreds of participants attended the inaugural Immigrant Advancement forum, which included Weaving Well-Being workshops hosted by community-based organizations. Attendees also got to participate in various speaking sessions and featured remarks from Mayor Michelle Wu, members of the Boston City Council, and community leaders. Weaving Well-Being workshops were led by the Brazilian Worker Center (Aromatherapy), Mutual Aid Eastie (Therapeutic Crafts), and EHR Boston Communities (Yoga). Speaking sessions included Activating Immigrant Voting Power: Your Voice, Your Vote; Unlocking Education: College Access for Undocumented Youth; Weaving Well-being: Building a Movement for Immigrant Community-Driven Wellness; The Power of Your Story: Public Narrative for Immigrant Leaders; and Cooperative Solutions for Community Needs: Empowering Boston's Immigrant Communities

"The theme of this inaugural forum is 'Our Future Now'. This is not just a catchy phrase; it's an imperative—a call to action for every immigrant, every child of immigrants, and every ally," said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. "The immigrant community is not just a part of this city's and nation's future—it is its future—and that future is now."

To complement the Weaving Well-Being programming efforts, MOIA also partnered with the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research to learn how community-embedded practices improve mental health resources for immigrants. These evaluation efforts help guide the City's future investments and empower residents to speak on the importance of these initiatives in addressing the social determinants of health. To learn more about the reports, please visit these links to learn more: 2022-2023 report and 2023-2024 report.

To explore additional funding opportunities offered by the City of Boston, visit www.boston.gov/grants. For questions regarding City of Boston grant programs, please email grants@boston.gov. For interviews and footage from the forum, contact Bessie King at bessie.king@boston.gov.

About the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) strives to strengthen immigrants' ability to fully and equitably participate in Boston's economic, civic, social, and cultural life. MOIA also promotes recognition and public understanding of immigrants' contributions to the City. To learn more, visit boston.gov/immigrants.

Two full-liquors licenses, occupancy change requests at ZLC meeting

By Phil Orlandella

At its October 29 public meeting the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council's Zoning and Licensing Committee, the agenda included two requests for full liquors licenses to replace an existing wine and malt with liqueurs license, a wine and malt license and a change of occupancy request.

Schiaffo Inc. d/b/a Carmelina's, 307-309 Hanover Street and North End Lobster Company 204 Hanover Street have filed applications with the City's Licensing Board for full liquor licenses. No other operational changes have been requested.

Dror Ashuau owner of 431-439 Hanover Street has proposed a change of occupancy from children's center, store and 11 apartments to, two retail spaces and 14 residential units.

The committee will report to NEWRA that will also discuss and vote on these proposals at its meeting on Thursday, November 14, 6:30pm at the Nazzaro Community Center.

Boston's Age Strong Commission to host free Medicare open enrollment events across Boston

Boston's Age Strong Commission, the city agency serving its nearly 120,000 residents aged 60+, will host 15 free in-person events to assist older adults enroll in Medicare and make changes to their current Medicare health insurance and prescription drug coverage plans. These events are open to the public, and will be hosted in 11 neighborhoods across Boston. Make advance appointments by calling 617-635-4366.

Those not able to attend the events may schedule an appointment with Age Strong certified SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselors through December 7.

Older adults are urged to assess their health insurance and prescription drug coverage each year, as health needs and health plans change. SHINE counselors will help residents get the best coverage for the lowest cost. In addition, Age Strong will screen older adults for other cost-saving benefits including Medicare Savings Program (MSP), fuel assistance, and food resources (SNAP).

Friday, November 22
BCYF Nazzaro
30 N Bennet St., North End

To see a full list of in-person events, and information in other languages, visit
boston.gov/medicare.

NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

BILL RUSSELL BRIDGE NAMED

After many years of calling, it the Charlestown Bridge, that connects the North End with Charlestown, or visa-versa, the metal structure is getting a complete overhaul and has now been officially named, "Bill Russell Bridge", the former Boston Celtic super star that helped bring 11 NBA Championships to the City,

The naming of the bridge recognized Russell's dedication to the Civil Rights movement.

FOCCP QUARTERLY MEETING NOV. 12

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) at its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, November 12 (6:30-7:30pm) will be discussing how its past events faired, upcoming activities and possible new ideas for bigger and better events for the community to enjoy with families, friends and neighbors.

FOCCP's guest speaker will be State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, House Chair of Ways and Means.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Mariners House. 2nd Floor, North Square.

BIG JOE THE STORYTELLER PERFORMERS AT THE LIBRARY

A special performance by Big Joe the Storyteller, celebrating Italian American Heritage Month, took place at the North End Library on Parmenter Street.

Big Joe, well known for his many performances in the North End/Waterfront community, shared some of his favorite Fall and Italian folk tales in a fun and entertaining performance.

Big Joe constantly performs at many events and activities in the North End/Waterfront area.

NEAA DONATES SEWING MACHINES TO NORTH END CENTER

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has donated Singer sewing machines along with a selection of patterns and materials to the North End/West End Neighborhood Services Center at 1 Michelangelo Street.

The Center provides numerous programs for seniors Monday through Friday and expressed their appreciation for the generous donation.

REP. MICHLEWITZ SUPPORTS NO ON QUESTION 5

At a rally in North Square, North End State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, joined local restaurant owners and tipped workers to support a No Vote on Question 5 that would make no changes in the new law governing tip pooling on the minimum wage for tipped workers.

LIBRARY AUTHOR TALKS/ITALIAN MUTUAL AID SOCIETIES

An interesting and historical "Author Talks" by Tim Devin is a detailed story about Italian Mutual Aid Societies in Boston that have almost been forgotten.

In his book, Mutino Soccoro: Boston's Italian Mutual Aid Societies, Devin outlines how these societies operated, where they came from, where they went, where they went wrong, how they spouted up again during the pandemic when he started to recall his family stories and began some digging into the subject.

In the early 1900s, there were over 150 of theses societies that provided Italian immigrants with much needed social and material support.

They quickly expanded their ability to become visible forces in the community.

The societies hosted parades, public celebrations and raised money for various causes.

INTER CLUB BOSTON BOCCE TOURNAMENT

Inter Club Boston, a soccer fan club Bocce Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 16, at 12 noon at Langone Park on Commercial Street.

Everyone is welcome to attend and watch the bocce tournament. Those interested in competing will have a$10 buy in with the winning team taking home a cash prize.

Refreshments will be provided.

To enter the tournament just show up at 11am.

MassDOT announces third annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for Massachusetts' elementary schools

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the third annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts. The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2024/2025 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season. Winning selections will be announced by Monday, December 23.

"With the winter soon approaching, we are excited to announce that the third annual 'Name a Snowplow Contest' is now accepting submissions from elementary school students statewide," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Each year, this is a fun opportunity for students to show off their creativity, and we look forward to seeing which names will end up on our snowplows this winter season."

"The Name a Snowplow contest has been a major success the last two years, with great submissions from schools across the Commonwealth" said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "This contest is a fun way for kids to learn about public works and for our snow and ice crews to connect with their communities. We are excited to receive creative names for our plows this year."

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, and can be submitted by using an online portal:

https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission.

There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school. The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: 1) kindergarten through fourth grade; and 2) fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the second annual snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flower Plower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower, Snow Monstah, Fast and Flurryous. These names, which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago, remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2024-25

ELECTION *(from pg. 1)*

Press, Ballot Question 1 was supported by 71.5 percent (2,092,548 ballots cast) of voters statewide while 28.5 percent (834,026 ballots cast) of the Commonwealth's voters opposed it.

Ballot Question 2, which would eliminate the MCAS exam as a standard graduation requirement for the state's high school students, was supported by more than 56.1 percent (132,760 ballots cast) of Boston voters while nearly 43.9 percent (103,812 ballots cast) of voters citywide opposed it, according to the city's unofficial election results.

According to the AP, 58.9 percent (1,788,506 ballots cast) of the Commonwealth's voters backed Ballot Question 2 while 41.1 percent (1,247,263 ballots cast) of voters statewide opposed it.

Ballot Question 3, which would allow drivers working for rideshare companies, like Uber and Lyft, to unionize, was supported by more than 65.4 percent (148,414 ballots cast) of Boston voters while nearly 34.6 percent (78,385 ballots cast) of voters citywide opposed it, according to the city's unofficial election results.

According to the AP, Ballot Question 3 was supported by 54.1 percent (1,585,726 ballots cast) of the Commonwealth's voters while 45.9 percent (1,346,031 ballots cast) of voters statewide opposed it.

Ballot Question 4, which would have decriminalized the use of certain natural psychedelic substances for people older than 21 and allowed them to grow these substances at home for personal use, was supported by more than 52.5 percent (122,978 ballots cast) of Boston voters while nearly 47.5 percent (111,163 ballots cast) of voters citywide opposed the proposed measure, according to the city's unofficial election results.

According to the AP, Ballot Question 4 was opposed by 56.9 precent (1,703,794 ballots cast) of the Commonwealth's voters, with 43.1 percent (1,291,968 ballots cast) of voters statewide supporting it.

Ballot Question 5, which would have raised the minimum wage for tipped employees incrementally over a period of five years from $6.75 an hour to the state's regular minimum wage of $15 an hour by 2029, was opposed by more than 50.6 percent (117,043 ballots cast) of Boston voters while nearly 49.4 percent (114,078 ballots cast) of voters citywide opposed it, according to the city's unofficial election results.

According to the AP, Ballot Question 5 was opposed by 64 percent (1,938,409 ballots cast) of the Commonwealth's voters while 36 percent (1,090,498 ballots cast) of voters statewide opposed the proposed measure.

Over $4.5 million in Complete Streets Funding Program awards announced

Special to the Times

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is awarding over $4.5 million to 11 communities as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Round 1 of grants for the Complete Streets Funding Program.

These grant awards will be used by recipient municipalities to fund local multimodal infrastructure projects that improve travel for pedestrians, public transit users, bicyclists and people using other forms of transportation.

A Complete Street enables safe, convenient, and comfortable travel for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Complete Streets Funding Program aims to teach communities about Complete Streets and encourage the integration of Complete Streets into regular local planning practices. Of the 11 projects selected, 8 will benefit Environmental Justice communities.

"We are excited to announce over $4.5 million for 11 cities and towns as part of the first round of funding of the Fiscal Year 2025 Complete Streets Funding Program," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "These grant awards will assist municipalities with the implementation of Complete Streets projects, which will greatly improve safety, connectivity, and access for all roadway users. We look forward to working together with local leaders as they begin planning and implementing their projects."

"Our Complete Streets program has been a valuable funding source for our cities and towns, with hundreds of projects receiving grants in the past eight years," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We're ready to support our municipal partners as they make these key improvements to roadway safety and multimodal access."

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program was launched in 2016 and provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities to plan and implement Complete Streets. Prior to this round, the Complete Streets Funding Program has awarded 278 construction project grants across the Commonwealth, totaling over $100 million.

This round of funding provides funding to the following communities:

• Concord received $500,000 to widen and pave an existing stone dust sidewalk on Magnolia Street, the construction of a new sidewalk on Walden Street to Brister's Hill Road and construct a pedestrian/bike path from Walden Street to the Alcott Elementary School. The project will also include ADA compliant ramps, crosswalks, and signage.

• Everett received $500,000 to reconstruct a 12-foot-wide sidewalk on the western and eastern sides of Broadway between Maple Avenue and Timothy Avenue. The project will also include ADA-compliant curb ramps and high-visibility crosswalks. In addition, the project will reconstruct a new bus stop at the Lexington Street intersection and include new five-foot-wide bike lanes on both sides of Broadway, the installation of a bus-only lane, and new bike racks.

• Medfield received $500,000 for the construction of new five-foot-wide sidewalks on Dale Street, Adams Street, and Winter Street. The project will also include new pedestrian ramps, detectable warning panels, crosswalks, and new signage to help improve pedestrian accessibility, mobility, and safety.

• Melrose received $450,803 for the construction of new five-foot-wide asphalt sidewalks on one side of Swains Pond Avenue from the intersection with Penney/Dexter Road to the intersection with Beech Street. The project includes ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, narrowed travel lanes, new trees, and will close a current sidewalk gap.

• Newton received $500,000 for the construction of a 6.5-wide asphalt sidewalk on the northern side of Nahanton Street from Wells Avenue to Dedham Street. This project will help increase access to the Wells Avenue complex. The project also includes ADA-compliant pedestrian curb ramps, high-visibility crosswalks, audible pedestrian signals, and pedestrian push buttons.

• North Attleborough received $500,000 for the construction of new five-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of Landry Avenue between the J.W. Martin Elementary School and Route 152. The project includes new narrowed road lanes to allow bicycle safety, ADA-compliant curb ramps, tactile warning panels, a high-visibility crosswalk, and Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons.

• Oxford received $60,225 to connect two sidewalks on Monument Drive and Charlton Street with a new five-foot-wide sidewalk on Monument Street from Corbin Road to Charlton Street. This project will improve the safety of pedestrians in this corridor.

• Rockland received $500,000 for the construction of new five-foot-wide sidewalks on the northern side of North Avenue from Union Street to the town limit. The project includes ADA-compliant curb ramps, detectable warning panels, signage, narrowed road lanes, crosswalk improvements, and the installation of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons.

• Wareham received $500,000 for multiple projects. The grant will construct new ADA-compliant ramps and detectable warning panels at various locations on Main Street from Trinity Christian Church to Sandwich Road and on Onset Avenue from Union Avenue/South Boulevard to East Boulevard. The project includes modifying curbs and the addition of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons. The next project will create the "Walters Alley Pedestrian Zone" between Main Street and Merchant Way and finally, the grant will provide Speed Feedback signs at various locations.

• West Stockbridge received $112,612 for pedestrian improvements at the Swamp Road/Main Street intersection. The project includes the relocation of a crosswalk, the installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps, and improvement at the intersection for drivers by building permanent bollards to better direct turns. The project will also improve the walkability at the Depot Street Municipal Parking Lot by building a pedestrian zone and a new sidewalk segment while also relocating a crosswalk to better connect visitors parking in the lot to the town sidewalk.

• Weymouth received $444,685 for intersection improvements at Pleasant Street and Ralph Talbot Street. The project will first reduce the corner radius which will help halve the length of the current pedestrian crossing. Also, the project will construct seven-foot-wide sidewalks to better connect to the current sidewalk network and include curb extensions and new lighting.

Municipalities may apply for up to $500,000 in construction project funding in one application. Examples of project elements that can be implemented through the program include sidewalks, multimodal paths, bicycle lanes, improved street lighting, and pedestrian signalization at crosswalks or intersections.

Healey-Driscoll Administration announces grant opportunities for fire safety education

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that applications are being accepted for $2 million in grants to support fire and life safety education for children and older adults, the people most vulnerable in the event of a fire at home.

The Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE grant programs are administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security and the Department of Fire Services. They send local firefighters to schools, community groups, senior centers, councils on aging, and other venues to teach age-appropriate safety lessons to children under 18 and adults 65 and older.

"The SAFE and Senior SAFE grants are a smart investment in fire protection, fire prevention, and fire safety for the most vulnerable members of our communities," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "I want to thank Governor Healey, the Executive Office of Public Safety, and the Legislature for supporting these programs, and I encourage every fire department to apply."

The SAFE grant program has contributed to the steepest decline in child fire deaths in Massachusetts history. In 1994, there were more than two dozen child fire fatalities; the SAFE grants were launched the following year and child fire deaths never again reached even half that number. Massachusetts recently went more than two and a half years without losing a child to fire.

The Senior SAFE grants were created in 2014 to provide education, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation, and other services to reduce fire-related fatalities among older adults, who now represent the age group most likely to die in a fire.

Fire departments of every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority can apply to share in funding for SAFE grants, Senior SAFE grants, or both. Departments must meet certain requirements, including mandatory fire data reporting, to be considered. The Notice of Funding Opportunity, grant application, and eligibility requirements are available on the Department of Fire Services' website. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on December 10.

Fresh and Local

Hold the Mayo

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Mayonnaise is a food, like cilantro, anchovies, blue cheese, and liver, that some people avoid or outright hate. Those who have investigated mayo aversion have proposed estimates that this group comprises 20% to 25% of people. However, scientific research has yet to be conducted on that number.

Perhaps the "Hold the Mayo" movement protests the food industry's ubiquitous use of this condiment. It's slathered on sandwiches, drizzled on entrées, and mixed into salads. In some cases, it is not even mentioned on the menu. You have to ask, "Does this dish contain mayo." For most, it's an aversion; for some, it's an allergy.

Our Experience

For Penny, an emergency room visit for a severe reaction to eggnog resulted in a lifetime of avoiding mayonnaise and any other condiment or salad dressing with raw egg as their base.

"Hold the mayo" and allergy-related questions were part of our lives until a few years ago. She was tested for allergies at MGH, and the result was that she was no longer allergic.

Nonetheless, Penny decided that she had lived all these years without mayo and was much happier using the many substitutes she had discovered. They all provided more nutrition and were better for our health.

Pull up a nutrition chart for mayonnaise, and you'll find that one tablespoon contains 94 calories. The only four numbers listed for our daily % requirements are total fat 15%, saturated fat 8%, cholesterol 2%, and sodium 3%. The other 12 nutrition measurements are listed as 0%.

Mayo Replacements

As our love for international cuisine grows, we find excellent leadership from chefs who use their native condiments to add moisture and flavor to their dishes. Yotam Ottolenghi, the Israeli-British chef and restaurateur, has taught us to use hummus, tahini, and yogurt as spreads or drizzles for his recipes.

This beet, arugula, and goat cheese sandwich is perfect for a "Hold the Mayo" lunch.

Jamie Oliver educates home cooks on how to prepare simple, nutritious, and inexpensive meals. He uses yogurt, sour cream, oil and vinegar, chili sauces, and prepared condiments like tapenade or mango chutney as flavor bombs to finish a dish.

We've been inspired by local restaurateurs like Michael Serpa and Marc Orfaly, who offer alternatives on and off the menu. At Marc's former restaurant, Pigalle, the special one night was lobster rolls. When Penny declined one because of mayo, she was offered the dish made with crème fraîche and chives. She still declares it the best lobster roll she's ever had. She also began using crème fraîche as a mayo substitute.

Vinaigrettes (without eggs) are the dressing for our cole slaw, potato salad, and tuna salads. We make egg salad with yogurt or sour cream, and mashed avocado rounds out many sandwiches.

Substitute Resources

Our copy of "The Food Substitutions Bible" supplies a list of substitutes for any ingredient, including mayo. You can also search online for "mayonnaise substitutes." We like www.allrecipes.com and www.foodsubs.com for their searchable databases.

If you are a "Hold the Mayo" community member, remember you can't trust that a menu will mention that the dish includes mayo. You have to ask. We recently had lunch at a restaurant with a menu inspired by Southern USA foodways. Nearly every dish included mayo, which was often integral to the dish. After checking one entree after another, Penny made a meal of appetizers and sides.

Mayonnaise is a primary ingredient in many dishes in the American South. If you travel to that area, remember this and be ready to be told, "Sorry, we can't hold the mayo."

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH GALA

State leaders and community advocates gathered as Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) celebrated 50 years of service to older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston on Oct. 17.

The gala celebrated BSHC's efforts to expand access to home and community-based services and underscored the organization's vision to deepen its partnerships with community organizations and continue to champion policies that ensure everyone has the support they need to live with dignity and independence.

"This year's gala is a particularly special milestone, and we are thrilled to bring together people from so many sectors who embody our mission in their work and strive to make Massachusetts more inclusive and equitable," said BSHC CEO Margaret Hogan, "We have come so far but there is always more work ahead."

State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz presented Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell with the Elder Justice Advocacy Award for her leadership in establishing initiatives that protect older adults.

State Sen. Lydia Edwards presented Karen Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association, with the Community Advocacy Award for her grassroots work empowering Boston's Chinese American community.

The organization also remembered lawyer and lobbyist Patricia A. Lynch, a beloved advocate for people with mental illness and substance use disorder. State Rep. and Speaker Pro Tempore Kate Hogan and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata introduced the Patricia A. Lynch Excellence in Public Service Award, which was presented posthumously following Lynch's passing in July.

PHOTOS BY CHERYL RICHARDS

Karen Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association (center right) accepts the Community Advocacy Award. From right to left: BSHC CEO Margaret Hogan, state Rep. Lydia Edwards and Master of Ceremonies Jorge Quiroga.

Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell (center left) accepts the Elder Justice Advocacy Award. From right to left: BSHC CEO Margaret Hogan, state Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Master of Ceremonies Jorge Quiroga.

Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC) is a private, nonprofit human services agency based in Boston. Since 1974, it has been dedicated to making a difference in the communities it serves by connecting older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families with social services and resources to live safely and independently in their homes and communities. BSHC also supports caregivers in their unique caregiving journeys, empowering them to provide exceptional care while taking care of their own needs and well-being. For more information, visit bshcinfo.org.

Healey appoints Tom McGee as next chair of the MBTA Board of Directors

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Governor Maura Healey announced that she is appointing Thomas M. McGee as the next Chair of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Association (MBTA) Board of Directors. McGee has served as a board member since April 2023. He is the former Mayor of Lynn and previously served in the Senate, where he chaired the Transportation Committee. Current Chair Thomas P. Glynn has announced his intention to step down from the Board effective November 1.

"I'm deeply grateful to Tom Glynn for his lifetime of service to the people of Massachusetts, and particularly for his leadership as Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors. Working together with Secretary Tibbits-Nutt, General Manager Eng and the entire Board, Tom has overseen a transformative period at the T and worked to improve safety and reliability across the system. I thank him for his constant guidance and wisdom and wish him the best of luck in this next chapter," said Governor Healey. "I'm proud to be appointing Tom McGee as the next Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors. As the former Mayor of a Gateway City and Senate Chairman of the Transportation Committee, he knows how critical our transportation infrastructure is for the communities in and around Boston, and across our entire state. He has been a trusted and reliable voice on the MBTA Board, and I'm excited for the future of the T with his leadership."

"Massachusetts couldn't ask for stronger leaders in transportation than Tom Glynn and Tom McGee. Working together these past two years with the entire team, they have delivered improvements at the T that haven't been seen in decades," said

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "I'm thankful for Tom Glynn's years of service to Massachusetts and congratulate Tom McGee as he steps into this new role."

As Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors, Tom Glynn has helped to steer the agency through a transformative period. He has worked closely with Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MBTA General Manager Phil Eng, and the entire Board to improve safety and reliability across the system. In the past year and a half, the T has made historic progress on removing slow zones on every subway line, launched a low-income fares program and contactless pay, overseen significant improvements with hiring and retention, achieved labor agreements with the entire workforce, and renegotiated the contract for new Orange and Red Line subway cars to get the project back on track.

Prior to his service on the MBTA Board, Glynn served as the General Manager of the MBTA under Governor Michael Dukakis, CEO of Massport

under Governor Deval Patrick, Deputy Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration, and Chief Operating Officer of Partners Healthcare (now called Mass General Brigham | Integrated Health Care System). He also served as Co-Chair of the Public Transportation Committee for the Healey-Driscoll Transition Committee.

"I'm proud of the work that the MBTA Board has done these past couple of years with the strong partnership of Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and General Manager Eng," said Tom Glynn. "This Board showed up every day with the urgency necessary to meet the challenges facing the T, and we refused to settle for the status quo. As a result, we've been able to deliver major improvements across the system and dramatically improve safety and reliability. I'm confident that the T will continue making important progress under the leadership of Tom McGee."

Tom McGee has served on the MBTA Board of Directors since April 2023 and on the MassDOT Board of Directors since June 2023. He was Mayor of the City of Lynn from 2018 to 2022. Previously, he served as Massachusetts State Senator from the Third Essex district. He was a member of the Joint Committee on Transportation starting in 2003 and served as Senate Chair of the committee from 2011 to 2018. Before his election to the Senate in 2002, McGee served four terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives where he represented West Lynn and Nahant. Prior to holding office, McGee practiced law at Quinn and Morris (1990-1994) and served as an Assistant District Attorney for Essex County

(MBTA *Pg. 11*)

Celebrate the holidays on Boston's historic Freedom Trail

The Freedom Trail® Foundation invites revelers to celebrate this holiday season on the annual Historic Holiday Strolls. The festive atmosphere of the city, set against the unique backdrop of Boston's historic sites and centuries of history, makes these merry 60-minute tours a perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Walk the Freedom Trail and discover how Boston's holiday traditions evolved on the Strolls offered select Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. from November 22 through December 28.

Led by 19th-century Dickensian costumed guides departing from the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common, the Strolls are complete with a tour of holiday lights and Christmas trees along the Freedom Trail while learning about 19th-century holiday traditions. Following the Stroll, guests receive discounts off museum store purchases at Freedom Trail sites, including the Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Paul Revere House, and Old North Church's Heritage and Gift Shops (valid with any Historic Holiday Stroll receipt from November through December).

"The Foundation's official Holiday Strolls are a great way to create excitement for and usher in the season each year," said Suzanne Segura Taylor, Freedom Trail Foundation Executive Director. "Strolls' participants will be given a glimpse into the unique holiday traditions practiced throughout history, while experiencing Boston's historic sites and iconic Freedom Trail."

Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children for public tours. The Strolls may also be scheduled as private group tours pending availability. The Freedom Trail Foundation continues to offer daily public Official Freedom Trail Tours® throughout November and December and during the winter months. All Freedom Trail tours are available as private family or group tours by reservation. For more information and to purchase tickets for the Historic Holiday Strolls and Freedom Trail Tours, please visit TheFreedomTrail.org and for group tour reservations, please call 617-357-8300 press "0."

With autumn in the air, State Fire Marshal offers home heating reminder

With crisp autumn temperatures settling in across Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents that home heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide and the second-leading cause of residential fires.

"Having your heating system serviced each year will help reduce the risk of a fire or carbon monoxide incident that puts you and your loved ones in danger," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "It will also save you money by helping you heat your home more efficiently."

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 6,000 fires related to home heating equipment in the past five years. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 139 injuries to residents and firefighters, and contributed to more than $42 million in property losses. Fires that began with solid fuel heating equipment such as fireplaces, wood stoves, and their chimneys represent about half the total, while gas, oil, and electric appliances made up the other half.

Carbon monoxide is a hazard all year long, but especially in the winter as heating equipment returns to regular use. Firefighters encountered carbon monoxide hazards at more than 24,000 calls over the past five years, most of which took place in the colder months.

State Fire Marshal Davine offered these tips to protect yourself and your loved ones:

Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every household should have working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed on every level of the home. Test them every month to be sure they're working properly and replace alkaline batteries twice a year when you change your clocks. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years and CO alarms should be replaced after 5, 7, or 10 years depending on the make and model.

Fireplaces, Wood Stoves, and Pellet Stoves

Solid fuel heating appliances such as fireplaces and wood stoves have accounted for a rising share of home heating fires in recent years. Most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry byproduct of burning wood: using only dry, seasoned wood and having your chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year can reduce this risk. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away on all sides, and use a fireplace screen or keep the wood stove door closed to prevent sparks and embers from escaping. When the fire is out, shovel ashes into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside on the ground away from the building – not in the trash.

Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner with a pilot light, keep a three-foot "circle of safety" around it, clear of anything that could catch fire. Don't store gasoline, painting supplies, or other flammable solvents in the home: their vapors can be ignited by a pilot light. These heating systems should also be checked and serviced annually by a licensed professional. If you smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Space Heaters

Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, bedding, and anything else that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip, and always turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep. When purchasing a space heater, select one that's been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Never use portable propane or kerosene heaters indoors – the fire and CO hazards are simply too high.

Heating Assistance

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). No matter what type of heating equipment you use, LIHEAP may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills or maintain your heating system so it runs more safely and efficiently. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

More Home Heating Safety Tips

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the "Keep Warm, Keep Safe" tool kit for local fire departments, caregivers, and service providers, at www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe.

Mayor Wu announces Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced that Open Newbury: Holiday Stroll will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1, and Sunday, Dec. 8, to celebrate the holidays and promote the winter shopping season in the Back Bay.

The expansion of Open Newbury, a pedestrian-only event typically held in summer and early fall, into the holiday season was announced by Mayor Wu earlier this year. Since the start of Open Newbury in 2016, thousands have enjoyed food, shopping, and dining along the mile-long, eight-block stretch from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue.

"I am thrilled to present the holiday edition of Open Newbury to Back Bay this winter for all of our residents to enjoy," said Mayor Wu in a press release. "The tradition of Open Newbury that we enjoy during the summer brings so much opportunity for community gathering and economic growth for our small businesses. I am looking forward to seeing the city gather together again for Open Newbury this holiday season."

Newbury Street will be car-free from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 8. The route will be the same as the summer Open Newbury series, with Newbury Street closed to cars from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. The City encourages Newbury Street businesses to activate their outdoor spaces with programming with family-friendly activities, pop-up parklets, brand activations, and much more. In case of inclement weather, a makeup date will be held on Dec. 15.

"Introducing Open Newbury to the winter season brings together two traditions: the excitement of holiday markets and the experience of exploring one of Boston's most vibrant streets from a fresh perspective, free from cars," Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the city's chief of streets, said in a press release. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the local business community, who have made Newbury Street such an iconic part of Boston."

City Councilor Sharon Durkan added: "We know that our local businesses thrive when residents do their holiday shopping in person! With the trees sparkling with holiday lights and the excitement around a holiday stroll, these two dates will be an exciting chance to support our local businesses and build community. I cannot wait.

Parking will be restricted on Newbury Street and certain cross streets, with enforcement beginning at 6 a.m. Signs will be posted informing drivers of the change. The intersections of Fairfield Street, Gloucester Street, and Hereford Street will be car-free. The remaining intersections will be open to vehicular traffic for public safety access and general vehicular traffic flow.

"The Back Bay Association is looking forward to seeing how the Open Streets Holiday Stroll benefits the Newbury Street businesses and brings value to the retail corridor at such an essential time of year," Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president of the Back Bay Association, said in a press release. "We are proud to have secured funding to provide holiday lighting which will coincide with this event, enhancing the atmosphere for shoppers and tourists, alike, and benefitting our business community."

DIVERSITY *(from pg. 1)*

have the ability to hold ourselves accountable through an interactive public dashboard that will show progress in reaching our supplier diversity goals. I am grateful to the Mayor, Chief Idowu, and the Supplier Diversity, Procurement and Auditing teams for their dedication to this effort."

The Boston/Cambridge compact will build local economic growth by strengthening the relationship between the City of Boston's Department of Supplier Diversity (DSD) and the City of Cambridge's Community Development Department (CDD). This signed compact will ensure both departments work closely together, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, to increase contracting opportunities for, and supporting the growth and development of, MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, and LGBTQBEs. This compact will allow the City of Boston to certify Cambridge-based businesses, work with the City of Cambridge to provide access and assistance to MBEs, WBEs VBEs, LGBTQBEs, and other diverse businesses in City of Boston procurement opportunities and business initiatives. The City of Cambridge will provide City of Boston certified businesses with access to Cambridge training opportunities and help the City of Boston with determining eligibility of Cambridge-based businesses to be certified in Boston. This initiative aims to build on Boston's ongoing goal of building generational wealth, expanding economic opportunities for residents across Boston's neighborhoods and better support local MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, and LGBTQBEs.

"The City of Cambridge is excited to partner with the City of Boston and elevate opportunities for minority-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned, and other historically disadvantaged businesses," said Cambridge City Manager Yi-An Huang. "We are deeply committed to creating a more equitable and welcoming procurement process, while more broadly supporting and uplifting the many diverse businesses' in our area. This is the latest step of many that Cambridge has undertaken to improve its supplier diversity. I am especially grateful for the collaboration between the Cambridge's Community Development and Purchasing Departments and Mayor Wu's Office and the City of Boston. If they are not already, we encourage diverse Cambridge and Boston businesses to become certified now."

Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Grant Program

In line with ongoing City efforts, Mayor Wu and the Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet also announced that the City's Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) grant program will open this Friday, November 1 at 12:00 p.m. and close on Monday, December 2, 2024. The program will provide selected participants with a grant of up to $200,000 and industry-specific technical assistance for three to six months. Selected participants will be small, local, businesses and a part of industry categories that currently represent a large share of the City's public contracts. The grant program funding, provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, is anticipated to total $5 million and will be disbursed in the beginning of 2025.

Mayor Wu first announced the foundation for SCALE during Supplier Diversity Week 2023. The BDC Community Capital Corporation will now administer and execute the SCALE grant program. Once grant recipients have been selected, BDC Community Capital Corporation and technical assistance providers will work with SCALE participants to create a plan to use the funding to address key pain points that limit their businesses' ability to perform larger institutional contracts or identify investments that will help them scale.

"We are absolutely thrilled to work with the City of Boston to launch this program. The City's focus on assisting the scaling up of underserved businesses by securing public contracts, is critical to fostering economic growth and ensuring equitable opportunities for all members of our community," said Karim Hill, President of BDC Community Capital Corporation.

Equity in City Contracts Annual Report and Data Dashboard

In an effort to ensure residents and local businesses have a clear understanding of the City's contracting and spending, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEOI), Department of Supplier Diversity (DSD), and Procurement Department are releasing its annual Equity in City Contracts Report. For the first time, in partnership with the Auditing Department, this report will be released with an interactive data dashboard that will better show the City's contract spending and provide transparency on the City's progress towards Boston's supplier diversity goals.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the City of Boston achieved the following:

- Diverse companies got contracts that were worth more: The City of Boston awarded a total of $1.8 billion in contracts that began in FY24, of which $224.7 million, or 12%, was awarded to certified minority- and women-owned businesses (MBEs, MWBEs, and WBEs), representing a 40% increase in contract award value.
- The City spent more than ever before with certified businesses: Contract spending with certified minority-and women-owned businesses (MBEs, MWBEs, and WBEs) in FY24 totaled $144.3 million, or 11% of all City of Boston discretionary spending, representing an 88% increase in discretionary spending with certified businesses. Since the City began tracking these metrics, this is the first time in the City's history that diverse firms have been awarded more than $100 million in a single fiscal year.
- The City ramped up utilization of Inclusive Quote Contracts (IQC): Established by Mayor Wu's home rule petition in 2022, the IQC procurement method now allows City officials to use the written quote process, a simpler and cost-effective process for both small, local businesses and City departments, instead of procurements through a Requests for Proposals or Invitation for Bids to procure supplies and services up to $250,000 when purchasing from certified small, local, disadvantaged businesses. The City has awarded 26 total IQC's, 19 of which were awarded in FY24.
- FY24 saw a measurable increase in the number of Certified Businesses: DSD certified 209 new businesses, an increase from 157 new certifications in 2023. DSD increased the total number of City-certified businesses in the directory to 916, a 13.4% increase from the previous fiscal year.

Throughout this week, the City of Boston's Department of Supplier Diversity is hosting a variety of free and open resource fairs, sessions, and workshops to highlight and promote diversity and inclusion within Boston's business community. These workshops will provide small business owners with essential tools and knowledge to successfully navigate the City's contracting processes. To register for Supplier Diversity Week Workshops, please visit this link or boston.gov/sd.

This announcement builds on the Mayor's commitment to break down barriers for businesses, expand opportunity for residents and make Boston a home for everyone. Last year, the City of Boston's Contracting Opportunity Fund awarded approximately $750,000 in grants of up to $15,000 with a focus on six priority sectors that represent areas of high municipal spending. To advance equity in procurement, Mayor Wu launched the Sheltered Market pilot program, which allowed the City of Boston to designate certain contracts for procurement from minority- and women-owned businesses. In 2016, then-Councilor Wu and then-Councilor Ayanna Pressley presided over the City Council hearing that examined the City's procurement process and efforts to support local businesses. In 2017, then-Councilor Wu and then-Councilor Ayanna Pressley co-sponsored an ordinance that required the City to collect more data on contracting.

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

The Procurement Department's mission is to purchase the highest-quality goods and services at the lowest possible price for the City and its residents. We also support non-profits through community grantmaking.

The Broadway National Tour of 'The Addams Family' comes to Boston

A comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, the magnificently macabre hit musical THE ADDAMS FAMILY comes to the Boch Center Wang Theatre in Boston for five performances only from March 21 – 24, 2025.

Tickets for THE ADDAMS FAMILY are on sale on Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 10:00AM ET and start at $35. Tickets can be purchased online HERE. Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets by filling out this form.

Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. A man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before - keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

On the heels of Wednesday, the 3rd most-watched show on Netflix of all time, Big League Productions, Inc. presents THE ADDAMS FAMILY, a devilishly delightful musical comedy based on the creepy, kooky characters by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams.

BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS (Producer) is celebrating its 31st season of producing and general managing Broadway tours of shows and attractions throughout the world. For more information, visit www.BigLeagueProductions.org.

The Boch Center is one of the nation's leading nonprofits performing arts institutions and a guardian of the historic Wang and Shubert Theatres. As New England's largest cultural venue, the Boch Center is home to theater, classical and popular music, dance, comedy, opera, Broadway musicals, family entertainment, and more.

Located in Boston's historic Theater District, the Boch Center also offers a diverse mix of educational, cultural and community outreach initiatives, including the City Spotlights Teen Leadership Program and the Folk Americana Roots Hall of Fame; collaborates with artists and local nonprofit arts organizations; preserves historic venues; and acts as a champion for Greater Boston's arts and cultural community. Learn more at bochcenter.org.

MBTA *(from pg. 8)*

(1988-1990). McGee is a lifelong resident of Lynn where he lives with his wife Maria and has two children. He is committed to improving the state's transportation system and strongly supports regional equity.

He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at the St Mary's School in Lynn. He is also a member of the Pickering Middle School Building Committee in Lynn.

"I'm honored that Governor Healey has placed her faith in me to lead the incredible team at the MBTA Board of Directors," said Tom McGee. "We have done important work together since coming together as a Board, and I'm looking forward to partnership further with Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and General Manager Eng to deliver on our promise of a world-class public transportation system that we can all be proud of. I'm grateful for the strong leadership of Tom Glynn and look forward to continuing to build on the progress he has started."

The other members of the MBTA Board of Directors are Secretary Tibbits-Nutt, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, Framingham Mayor Charlie Sisitsky, Robert Butler, Eric L. Goodwine, Mary Skelton Roberts and Chanda Smart. Governor Healey will be appointing another member in the near future.

"It has been such an honor to work together alongside Chair Tom Glynn to ensure that the MBTA had the investment, support, and infrastructure it needed to meet the Commonwealth's transit demands now and in the future. He has led with intentionality and grit, and the MBTA is better for it," said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Having Director Tom McGee step in as the incoming Board Chair is a gift. I can't think of a better ally, advocate, and champion than him. His considerable experience and lifelong commitment to service will help us create a more robust, equitable, and reliable transit system."

"Tom Glynn has had such a storied career, and with every role he has taken on, he has led with an unmatched devotion to Massachusetts and the people he interacted with. His time as Chair of the MBTA Board was no different, and under his leadership, the T has made great strides. I've been blessed to have had this opportunity to work with Tom, and I am forever better," said General Manager Phillip Eng. "Governor Healey made a slam dunk game-winner with Tom Glynn's appointment, and Director McGee is a true professional who has also served the Commonwealth throughout his career. I'm confident the future of the MBTA is bright with him as the Chair."

OBITUARIES

Marcia ("Ma") Head

Of Boston

Marcia ("Ma") Head of Boston died on October 27, 2024 at the age of 85.

She was born on August 1, 1939 in Winthrop to Rose Barron and Joseph Stimato, Jr. Marcia earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Boston State College. She taught in the Boston Public Schools for over 40 years, including at the Abraham Lincoln School, the Josiah Quincy School, Charlestown High and East Boston High. Her specialty was teaching reading to students with learning disabilities and she was honored to be chosen for a city-wide task force to train other Boston school teachers in literacy teaching.

Marcia loved both teaching and her students, and was thrilled when she came across former students when out and about. Marcia was devoted to the City of Boston and took advantage of all it had to offer: swimming, ice skating, language studies, public concerts and most especially, her beloved North End Branch of the Boston Public Library. She was an avid reader, a frequent traveler and an enthusiastic photographer. She was known for her delicious pumpkin bread and chocolate bark and for her gorgeous hand-knitted children's sweaters, hats and mittens. Ever curious, no detail in a shop or museum was too small to escape her close examination.

Marcia is survived by her son, David M. Head (Brooke Schooley), and her sister, Helen Barron. She was predeceased by her husband, David W. Head.

Funeral Services will be private. For guest book please visit www.lehmanreen.com

THANK YIOU VETERANS

Honoring all who served

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Thank you to all who served
from the Nazzaro Center Council

Remember today and every day those who have sacrificed for all of us

North End Athletic Association

Thank you for your service and sacrifice

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It's All About Family!

THANK YOU VETERANS

DePasquale Ventures
The Tradition keeps on going

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Bricco Salumeria
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Bricco
Boutique Italian Cuisine

Trattoria II Panino
Boston's 1st Original Trattoria

Bricco Panetteria
Homemade Artisan Breads

Gelateria & Cannoli Factory
Homemade Gelato & Cannoli

www.depasqualeventures.com

Thank You Veterans!

From The Riccio Family North End

To all veterans, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your bravery and commitment to our country.

Representative Aaron Michlewitz

Courtesy Photo