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THE NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW

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Inter Club Boston members showing celebrating Italy beating Parma 2-0.

LOCAL CLUB CELEBRATES ITALY'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

By Gianfranco Iaia

Over 50 people at the Inter Club Boston, located in the North End, celebrated Italy beating Parma 2-0 crowning them champions of Italy for the 21st time in their history.

After a disappointing end to last years season losing the champions league final, Inter bounced back demonstrating their supremacy in the Italian league.

This marks the second league title in the 3 years that our club has been open for.

After the win, President Gianfranco Iaia gave a moving speech of what it meant to be an inter fan and of the importance of the club.

Then many members lingered outside the club as blue and black smoke bombs were lit, used air horns and chanted inter songs to celebrate like they did in Milan, Italy.

The season will conclude on May 24, and sign ups for next years Inter Club will open the following day.

For more information visit interclubboston.com for more information.

Financial literacy workshop offered at ABCD North End NSC May 15

Special to the regional Review

The ABCD North End NSC Team will offer a financial literacy workshop, hosted by Eagle Bank, on Friday, May 15, at noon at the ABCD North End Neighborhood Service Center (NE NSC), located at 1 Michelangelo St. in the North End.

The workshop will focus on cyber fraud, scams, and exploitation, with helpful information and tips to help protect yourself and your finances. Lunch will be generously provided by Regina Pizzeria.

Registration is encouraged. Call 617-523-8125 to reserve your spot.

West End Museum to offer upcoming programming

The West End Museum will offer "Remnants of Urban Renewal Walking Tour" on May 16 at 11 a.m., kicking off outside the museum at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7. Get outside with former museum curator Duane Lucia during a one and a half hour walking tour exploring the few buildings that were not destroyed by urban renewal in the 1950s and '60s when more than 50-acres of tenement buildings occupied by roughly 7,000 residents that were demolished under the premise of 'slum clearance' in The West End. Those that remain represent an impressive lineage of early Boston architects and the legacy of the neighborhood that was turned to rubble.

(WORKSHOP *Pg. 15*)

Visit www.northendregional.com
Email editor@reverejournal.com or deb@thebostonsun.com or call 781-485-0588 for your Regional Review information

Council city services committee focuses on potholes

By Adam Swift

The statistics show it has been a bad year for potholes in Boston so far, thanks to heavier than average snow and freeze and thaw cycles this winter.

But the city's Public Works Department is addressing the potholes at as high a rate as it has in past springs, according to Nick Gove, Boston's Chief of Streets.

Gove appeared before the city council's city services committee, chaired by Councilor Ed Flynn, on Friday, May 8.

Gove, along with Superintendent of Street Operations Danny Nee and public works Chief Engineer Norman Park, provided an overview of the city's pothole repair operation and the conditions that have led to more pothole calls than usual this spring.

In addition to the nuts and bolts of pothole repair, Gove also had some good news on the financial side of the issue.

"During this budget process, are you confident that you have enough funding in the FY27 budget … for pothole repairs?" asked Flynn.

Gove said he believed there is.

"I would say not just pothole repairs, but I think we have sufficient funding to support a real-

(POTHOLES *Pg. 10*)

NEW Health celebrates 55th anniversary

Special to the Regional Review

Marilyn Stempler

At the heart of NEW Health is something truly special: our staff. Our physicians, nurses, counselors, and support teams show up every day with skill, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people they serve. They don't just provide care – they build trust, offer dignity, and treat every patient with respect.

"As a member of the board, I feel incredibly honored to be part of this milestone. I am most proud of our staff and the work they do every day to bring high-quality healthcare to our community. They are phenomenal! They are dedicated, compassionate, talented, and are deeply committed to partnering with patients and their families to empower them in making their healthcare decisions." Said Marilyn Stempler, a 20-year board member.

"One of the programs closest to my heart is the food access program which directly targets the most undeserved in our community. Last year it provided 400 bags of shelf-stable foods given to patients, 1,500 bags of produce distributed, 200 Thanksgiving meals given out, and over $22,000

(NEW HEALTH *Pg. 2*)

EDITORIAL

THE DUMPING OF RAW SEWAGE HAS TO BE FIXED

The "plan" recently announced by the Mass. Water Resources Authority (MWRA) that would continue to allow for raw sewage to be dumped into our watersheds in the Greater Boston area during periods of heavy rainfall is, in a word, unacceptable.

We hasten to note that we do not blame the MWRA for this sad state of affairs.

Rather, it is the lack of political will by our elected officials to address this issue that is the problem.

This is reminiscent of the situation we faced decades ago when the Charles River was the subject of the pop song "Dirty Water" and when the high levels of pollution in Chelsea Creek, the Mystic River, and Boston Harbor peeled the paint from homes and cars in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

It was not until the 1980s that Governor Michael Dukakis finally took the action necessary to create the MWRA, which has done so much to make our harbor and surrounding waterways cleaner.

About a decade after the MWRA's creation, Dukakis's successor, Bill Weld, dove into the Charles River from a dock in his suit clothes to demonstrate how much cleaner the Charles had become.

But the job of making our waterways free from raw sewage remains unfinished. We -- both our public officials and citizenry -- need to commit to a plan that will eliminate raw sewage from the waterways that surround us.

Accepting the status quo for generations to come is not the answer.

HAS OUR NATIONAL DEBT REACHED A TIPPING POINT?

Last week it was reported that our national debt officially has surpassed 100% of our GDP (gross domestic product). Our national debt (as of the report) now totals $31.27 trillion, while GDP stands at $31.22 trillion.

This marks the first time since WWII -- when the country went heavily into debt to pay for the war effort -- that the national debt has exceeded our GDP.

For those who assert that our national debt is out of control, this milestone (if you can call it that) is an ominous sign. The alarmists assert that this high level of debt is unsustainable and eventually will wreak havoc on our economy.

There is a lot of truth to that position. The interest cost on the national debt now exceeds $1 trillion each year. This is more than we spend on anything else in our national budget (including Medicare and defense) other than Social Security.

Moreover, there is no end in sight to our escalating national debt. The tax cuts enacted by Congress last year in the so-called Big Beautiful Bill, which primarily benefit the very wealthy, will reduce revenue by trillions over the coming years.

Those who have asserted in the past that the federal government's growing debt was not a problem relied on low interest rates to support their position. It made sense, they said, for the government to borrow when interest rates were low.

In 2020 for example, the U.S. government paid an interest rate of approximately 1.6% on our outstanding debt and interest payments totaled approximately $345 billion.

But now we are paying almost triple that rate and almost triple that annual payment. Moreover, the interest payments on the debt are predicted to double to $2 trillion annually by 2036.

By contrast, within the two decades after World War II, the country's debt-to-GDP ratio had been reduced to 34%. But given the present trajectory, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to reach 125% by 2036.

To be sure, there is nothing magical about our debt-to-GDP ratio exceeding 100%. Yes, it sounds bad, but what effect it will have on our economy is anyone's guess -- and about all anyone can say is that only time will tell whether we have reached a tipping point.

News Briefs

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Please join us for a financial literacy workshop hosted by Eagle Bank on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 12:00 PM at the ABCD North End Neighborhood Service Center (NE NSC), located at 1 Michelangelo Street in the North End.

The workshop will focus on cyber fraud, scams, and exploitation, with helpful information and tips to help protect yourself and your finances. Lunch will be generously provided by Regina Pizzeria.

We are grateful to Eagle Bank for hosting this important workshop and supporting our community.

Registration is encouraged. Please call 617-523-8125 to reserve your spot.

NADAV FAREWELL CONCERT SET FOR MAY 28 AT BOSTON SYNAGOGUE

A Nadav Farewell Concert is set for Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at The Boston Synagogue, located at 55 Martha Road.

Nadav Brenner (born 2000) is a Boston-based guitarist, composer, and singer-songwriter. With an extensive jazz education and some Israeli chutzpah, Nadav doesn't shy away from any music that catches his ears. He is currently engaged in indie folk, Klezmer, contemporary classical music, modern jazz, and improvised music.

Register for the event online at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1987433372718?aff=oddtdtcreator

WEST END MUSEUM TO OFFER UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

"Remnants of Urban Renewal Walking Tour" takes place May 16 at 11 a.m., kicking off outside the museum at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7. Get outside with former museum curator Duane Lucia during a one and a half hour walking tour exploring the few buildings that were not destroyed by urban renewal in the 1950s and '60s when more than 50-acres of tenement buildings occupied by roughly 7,000 residents that were demolished under the premise of 'slum clearance' in The West End. Those that remain represent an impressive lineage of early Boston architects and the legacy of the neighborhood that was turned to rubble.

Finally, WEM's Boston Themed Trivia returns May 21 at 6 p.m. to The Pennyweight Hotel. Flex your local knowledge and enjoy tasty food and drinks. This event is not to be missed.

More information and links to purchase tickets can be found online at: thewestendmuseum.org.

MAYOR'S CUP FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 6

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department announced that registration is open for the second annual Mayor's Cup Flag Football Tournament, offering young athletes across the city a new way to compete, build skills, and have fun this summer.

The tournament will take place Saturday, June 6, at West Roxbury High School Athletic Fields, 1205 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury.

Flag football is a fast-growing, non-contact version of traditional football that is an accessible and inclusive option for youth of all skill levels. With rising popularity across the country, the Mayor's Cup Flag Football Tournament offers Boston youth a chance to get in the game and experience the excitement firsthand.

Team registration is open now through Sunday, May 31. Interested teams can register online at boston.gov/parks-sports. For more information, contact Woodley Auguste at woodley.auguste@boston.gov or (617) 961-3084.

To stay up to date on news, events, and improvements in Boston parks visit boston.gov/parks, call (617) 635-4505, join our email list, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Facebook and Instagram, and @parks.boston.gov on Bluesky.

NEW HEALTH *(from Page 1)*

given in grocery store gift cards. We also have a community refrigerator and community garden at our Charlestown location. Fresh produce is provided to patients through the fridge," she added.

For over five decades, we've helped thousands of families in Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. But we can't do it without your help. Thank you for being part of this important work and for helping us build a healthier future for our community.

In honor of the anniversary, we launched the "55 for 55" campaign to help us better support our staff and expand our programs. Our goal is to raise $5,500 by the end of the month. I invite you to make a special 55th-anniversary gift – a gift of $5, $55, or $550 will help us launch the next 55 years. And if you make a leadership donation of $500 or more you will be welcomed into our Community Care Society.

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News, Notes and Whatever

By Phil Orlandella

FOCCP PRESIDENT STEPPING DOWN

Friends of Christopher Park Joanne Hayes Rines will step down in 2027 which will mark 18 years at the helm of the all-volunteer community group that are the caretakers of the popular public park.

Joanne believes it's the time for younger residents with new ideas get more involved with the group that has and continues to make the park a great place for the community to enjoy over the past 25 years.

Although stepping down as president Joanne will continue to be a member of FOCC at some capacity.

FOCCP CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

For 25 years Christopher Columbus Park located at the outer edge of the North End on Atlantic Avenue has been a treasure for many North End Waterfront residents and their families.

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) for all of the 25 years have done a spectacular job of caring for the park and it's two beautiful gardens, working with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

They have also made the park a great place to visit, sunbathe, sitting on a bench to read, have a family picnic, enjoy the kids park, meet with friends and neighbors or participate in the many events, activities and programs the Friends organize each year.

PERMANENT PLAQUE HONORING BOBBY D INSTALLED ON BILL RUSSELL BRIDGE

Last summer the Promenade on the Bill Russell Bridge on the North End side was named in honor of Robert "Bobby D" DeCristaforo a lifelong resident and community activist according to John Romano one of Bobby Ds friends.

"It was a great ceremony on a beautiful day, however, there was just a prototype sign at the time," Romano said. He added, "Recently City of Boston had a permanent plaque installed".

"Mayor Michelle Wu and North resident State Representative Aaron Michlewitz are responsible for the plaque placement that will keep Bobby's memory alive forever," Romano added.

NEW MURAL COMING DEWEY SQUARE

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy recently welcomed Boston born Rixey who already started work on the 2026 Dewey Square Mural one of the city's most vibrant and visible canvases for public art.

May 1 through the first week in June neighbors, community members and visitors watch the artwork come to life in real time.

Rixey and all her woman painting team brought a bold new vision to the heart of downtown.

Rixie's mural, "The Midnight Ride" reimagines familiar histories through world-building, storytelling and meaningful dialogues inviting visitors of all ages to pause, reflect and see themselves within a shared continuing evolving story.

Saturday, June 27 (3-6pm) there will be an opening reception for the completed mural.

POETRY READING AT LIBRARY

A poetry reading with local author and poet Harris Gardner was recently held at the North End Library, 25 Parmenter Street.

Gardner read from his latest poetry collection, No Time for Death.

FOCC ANNUAL SOCIAL

Learn how the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) help keep the park thriving as the all-volunteer membership celebrates their 25th anniversary at the group's annual membership social at Tia's on the Waterfront.

The Social will also celebrate FOCCP's 25th Anniversary of caretaking and providing activities on the Park.

The Social will be held on Wednesday May 20 from 6-8pm.

NEHS HOST TALK ON HISTORIC GREEN DRAGON TAVERN IN THE NORTH END

Sponsored by the North End Historic Society Jeremy Bell recently presented his research on America's famous Freemason Grand Master Paul Revere at the North End Library.

Meeting at the legendary Green Dragon in the North End, Revere's Lodge of St. Andrews served as a crucible for the revolution.

Bell recounted the extraordinary story of the Lodge's origins in the 1730s London, utilizing dozens of rare period prints to connect the dots.

PARKARTS WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP COMING TO COLUMBUS PARK

The Boston Parks Department has announced the return of its popular ParkArts Summer Watercolor Painting Workshop series at Columbus Park on Saturday May 31st from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

The free program is for Boston residents 9 and up welcoming artists of all skill levels to create their own green space inspired masterpieces.

Materials and instructors will be provided. Pre-registration required. For more information visit www.boston.gov/watercolor.

LIBRARY AUTHOR TALK

Presented by the Friends of North End Library and made possible by the generosity of John D. McGonagle Foundation, local author Karen Chalfen spoke on her latest book "From End to Beginning" and explained what inspired it.

FOCCP ELECTS OFFICERS

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) have elected Officers/ Directors at Large at their May monthly meeting.

President Joanne Hayes Rhines, Vice President Mary Gaye Grizwin, Treasurer Allison Seavey, Clerk Audrey Tortolani, Directors At Large Susanne Lavoie and Patricia Sabbey.

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Comprehensive immigration bill 'PROTECT Act' passes in the Senate, with equal protection and due process initiatives filed by Senator Edwards

Special to the Regional Review

Senator Lydia Edwards joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass An Act Promoting Rule of Law, Oversight, Trust, and Equal Constitutional Treatment — the PROTECT Act (S.3072) — landmark legislation designed to safeguard and support immigrant communities across the Commonwealth.

The PROTECT Act reaffirms Massachusetts' commitment to being a safer, more just, and welcoming place for all. At a time when heightened federal immigration enforcement has fueled fear and division, this legislation ensures that residents can access courthouses without intimidation—so they may participate in legal proceedings, assert their rights, and seek justice.

The Act would enact several protective measures – from enhancing privacy legislation to strengthening law enforcement protections – including:

• Guarding residents from civil rights violations.

• Enhancing protections at sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals, houses of worship, childcare centers, and state courthouses.

• Prohibiting new 287(g) agreements.

• Permitting pre-arrangement of guardianship.

• Prohibiting state and municipal participation in immigration enforcement.

• Preserving authority to investigate and prosecute crime.

• Supporting victims of crimes.

• Protecting public employees from baseless federal probes.

• Blocking unauthorized deployment of other state' National Guards in Massachusetts.

Also embedded in the PROTECT Act are several initiatives filed by Senator Edwards centering due process and ensuring efforts to support immigrants and immigrant communities continue including:

Protecting courthouses by expanding the definition of a "courthouse" to include not just the building itself, but also the surrounding area, which may cover nearby walkways, driveways, alleys, sidewalks, parking areas, and any connected paths.

Establishing a statewide immigration commission to study and address immigration issues in Massachusetts. The commission would include members appointed by state officials, legal organizations, and advocacy groups, and would be co-chaired by appointees from legislative leadership.

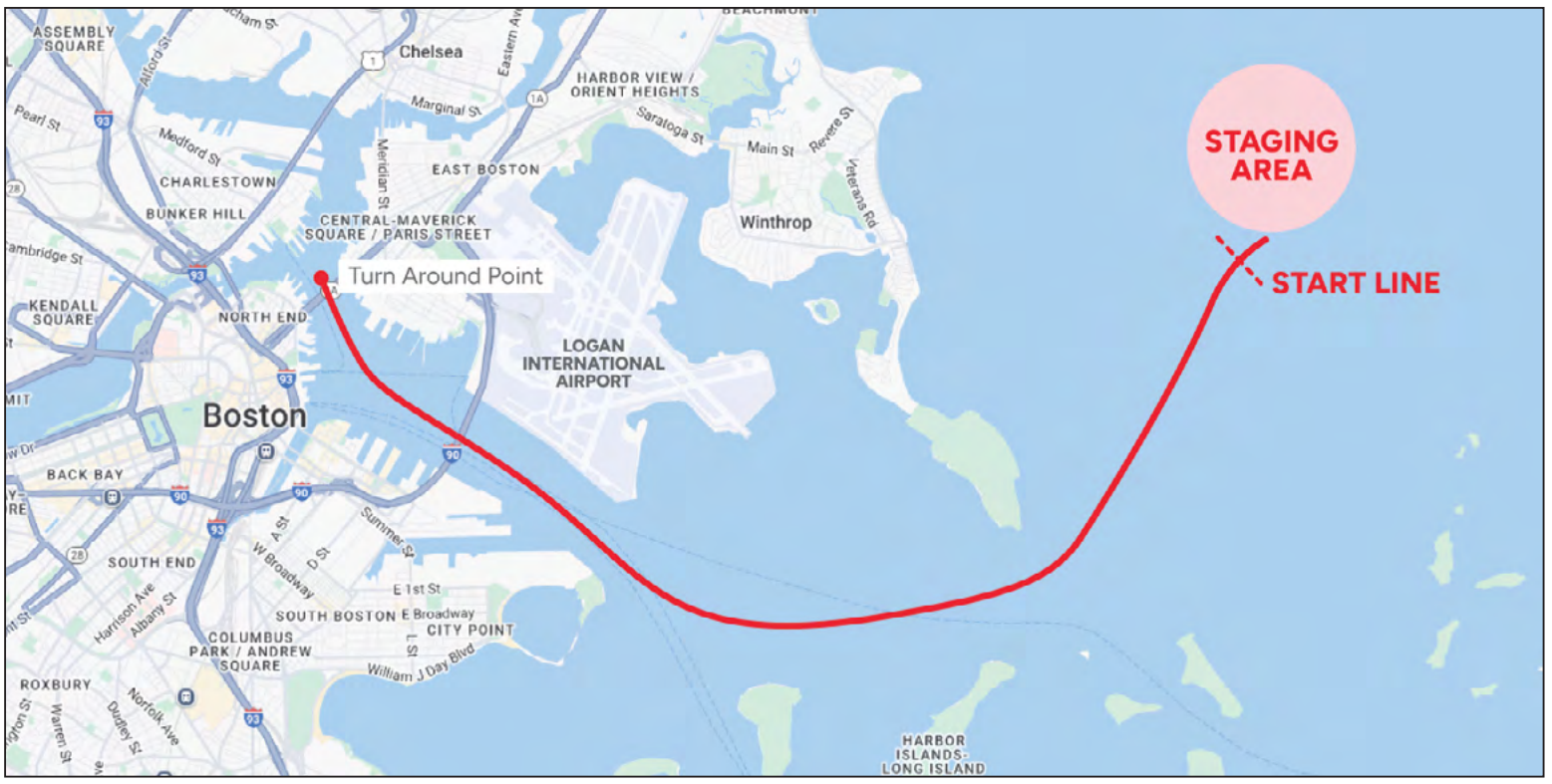
"I'm proud to advance stronger protections for immigrants in Massachusetts—neighbors who are too often underrepresented, yet essential to the strength and vitality of our Commonwealth," said Senator Edwards. Immigrants are foundational to our economy, powering industries across the state and sustaining the businesses and services that benefit all of us. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Chairman Rodrigues, and my fellow Black and Latino Caucus members for moving this forward with urgency and purpose."

"This work has been years in the making, and it will not stop here."

To read the PROTECT Act, visit https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S3072 .

Sail Boston 2026 to commence with the Meet Boston Parade of Sail

Special to the Regional Review



This July, Massachusetts will welcome more than 60 ships from around the world as the Sail Boston 2026 celebration arrives in Boston Harbor. In the largest convergence of ships to assemble in the area since 2000, millions of spectators are expected to enjoy the Meet Boston Parade of Sail throughout Boston Harbor on Saturday, July 11.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. beyond Deer Island in Massachusetts Bay, crew and cadets will prepare to bring their ships into the city's inner harbor (past Castle Island) close to 10:15 a.m. The ships will turn around in Boston's inner harbor before heading to various berthing locations throughout the city. Once berthed, the ships will be open for public visitation through July 15, and include sailing exhibitions, sailing workshops, and opportunities to interact with multinational crews and representatives. Among the vessels convening in the Boston Harbor this July are 12 Flag Ships, representing allied navies from around the world.

"Sail Boston will give millions of residents and visitors the chance to experience our city and its beautiful waterfront through a spectacular display of some of the world's largest wooden vessels, just steps from our city center," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited for our harbor to serve as the final stop of their journey, and I look forward to continuing our work with partners and the many city, state, and private agencies whose collaboration has been essential to bringing this landmark event to life."

Boston proudly serves as the fifth port of the Sail 250 Regatta, a global gathering of tall ships and military ships to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States. Tall ship celebrations are a beloved Massachusetts and Boston tradition that dates to 1976, when a band of ships came to Boston Harbor as part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration. Sail Boston has managed the convergence of the tall ships in 1992, 2000, 2009, and 2017.

"Boston's maritime history is so unique; it is integral to our identity, which Sail Boston will showcase in spectacular ways," said Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of Meet Boston, the presenting sponsor of Sail Boston. "Sail Boston will offer wonderful experiences for visitors and residents alike, shining a light on our museums and cultural institutions, our world-class dining opportunities, the Boston Harbor Islands, and all the beautiful parks and green spaces that align our iconic waterways."

"We are thrilled to welcome the world to Boston this July," said Dusty Rhodes, Executive Director of Sail Boston, Inc., the organization in charge of the event. "By bringing these ships into our harbor from all over the world, we hope to promote our city as a leading destination for world-class – and free - events, like the Parade of Sail and two fireworks displays."

Sail Boston is managed and produced by Conventures, Inc., Boston's premier event and production agency, in partnership with the City of Boston, Massport, and Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. The event is supported by dozens of local companies, headlined by presenting sponsor Meet Boston.

For more information on Sail Boston 2026, participating ships, or media opportunities please contact T.K. Skenderian at tkskenderian@conventures.com. To learn more about Sail Boston and the Sail 250 Regatta, visit www.SailBoston.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram and join the conversation using #SailBoston.

Since 1992, Sail Boston, Inc., a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization, has hosted more than 475 international tall ships and vessels of interest to Boston and many Massachusetts coastal communities. Sail Boston, Inc. endeavors to develop programs that provide economic development and cultural enrichment for citizens, businesses, and visitors in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For more information on Sail Boston, Inc. and Sail Boston 2026, please visit SailBoston.com.

Sail250® is a global gathering of Tall Ships to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States. With stops in New Orleans, Norfolk, Baltimore, New York City, and Boston, each stop will gather crew, cadets, and visitors for an unforgettable experience in celebration of our nation's birthday.

Artist Rixy to bring 2026 Dewey Square mural to life

Special to the Regional Review

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is delighted to welcome Boston-born artist Rixy, who will begin work this week on the 2026 Dewey Square Mural—one of the city's most vibrant and visible canvases for public art.

From May 1, 2026, through the first week of June, neighbors, community members, and visitors are invited to watch the artwork come to life in real time, as Rixy and her all-women painting team bring a bold new vision to the heart of downtown.

Selected through the Conservancy's first-ever national open call in partnership with Embrace and Everyone 250, Rixy's upcoming mural, The Midnight Ride, reimagines familiar histories through world-building, storytelling, and meaningful dialogue—inviting visitors of all ages to pause, reflect, and see themselves within a shared, continually evolving story.

Throughout the mural painting process, community members, families, and visitors are invited to stop by, take in the process, and return often as new details emerge each day. Whether it's a morning coffee break with colleagues or a picnic lunch with friends, join us at The Greenway during the month of May to witness contemporary art coming to life in Boston.

Key dates for the public and media include:

April 20–25: Scrape and prime the previous mural

April 24 (1–4 PM): Aerial lift training for mural team and Conservancy employees

May 1 – June 5 (weekdays 9 AM to 6 PM): Mural painting in progress at Dewey Square

May 21 (12–1 PM): Meet the Muralist Lunch & Learn with Rixy at the Dewey Square Mural

June 16 (12–1 PM): Online Artist Talk with Rixy Learn more about Rixy, her work and what it takes to paint large-scale walls. RSVP via Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link.

June 27 (3–6 PM): Opening Reception & Community Celebration for the completed mural

Since 2012, the Dewey Square Mural has served as a dynamic canvas for contemporary public art in Boston, welcoming millions of visitors each year and sparking connection, curiosity, and joy in a shared civic space.

This summer, Rixy's mural offers a fresh invitation to engage with our shared histories, reimagine accepted narratives, and envision new futures together.

Follow along on our Instagram @greenwaypublicart or learn more at https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/rixy

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a nonprofit responsible for the administration and care of the park. The majority of the Conservancy's annual budget is made up of generous donations from the community, and it is with their support that the Conservancy cultivates a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

The Dewey Square Mural is funded, in part, by Massachusetts250, Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, Meet Boston, Holland America, and an Anonymous Donor.

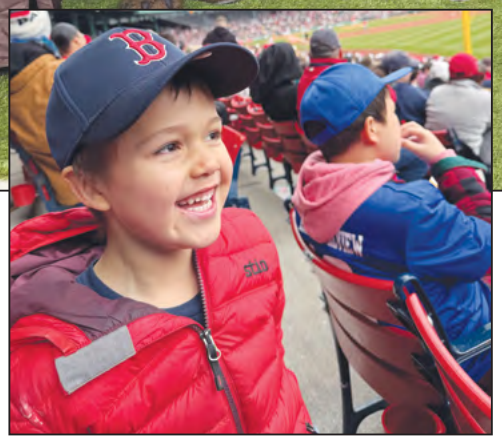
Public Art on The Greenway is made possible with major support from the Barr Foundation, Goulston & Storrs, the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation, and the Wagner Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, Robert & Doris Gordon, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and The New Commonwealth Fund.

PORTRAIT OF THE MIDNIGHT RIDE PAINTING TEAM COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Pictured (left to right) are Sagie Vangelina, Rixy, and Ayana Mack.

Special thanks to our co-commissioning partners Embrace and Everyone 250 and our project partner, Marr Companies.

30 NEAA FAMILY MEMBERS ATTEND RED SOX GAME



One of the 30 attendees was 4 year old Marcus Hammond-Meyer, who attended his first Red Sox Game ever! Marco plays in the NEAA's Instructional/T-Ball Program held every Saturday morning.

By John Romano

The North End Athletic Association took 30 NEAA Family Members to the Red Sox Game on Sunday, May 3. Once or twice a year the NEAA will purchase tickets for a game for players and their family to go to a game.

Prior to this game, players were able to go on the field and walk around the outfield warning track and be in the Annual parade. It is a fun way to enjoy being at Fenway!

Coletta Zapata introduces legislation strengthening tenant protections

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) introduced an ordinance to strengthen tenant protections during rental inspection code violations amid the ongoing housing crisis, including increasing penalties for landlords found in violation. Currently, Boston is facing a historic housing shortage driven by rents among the highest in the nation, limited housing production, and a tight market that has created a sustained imbalance of power between landlords and tenants, leaving residents reluctant to report unsafe conditions or assert their rights for fear of retaliation or displacement.

"No resident should be scared to report unsafe living conditions or assert their legal rights for fear of retaliation or loss of housing. It is incumbent upon us as a City to ensure strong tenant protection policies are in place to mitigate the ongoing impacts of the housing crisis," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "I look forward to the discussion with the administration and my colleagues as we work to address ongoing constraints and close underlying policy and coordination gaps."

Coletta Zapata's legislation aims to enhance safeguards against landlord retaliation, improve coordination between City departments, and ensure that tenants facing habitability issues are proactively connected to the resources and support they need to remain safely housed. The ordinance proposes increasing fines for landlords found in violation, raising the initial registration fee from $25 to $75 and the annual registration fee from $15 to $50. It also increases violation inspection fees from $15 to $150. Additionally, failure to comply with the ordinance would result in a $300 fine per day, rather than per month. Councilor Coletta Zapata's proposed increases come after more than a decade without updates to these fees, ensuring they now reflect inflation and rising labor costs and better align with current market realities so the City of Boston can effectively deliver these services.

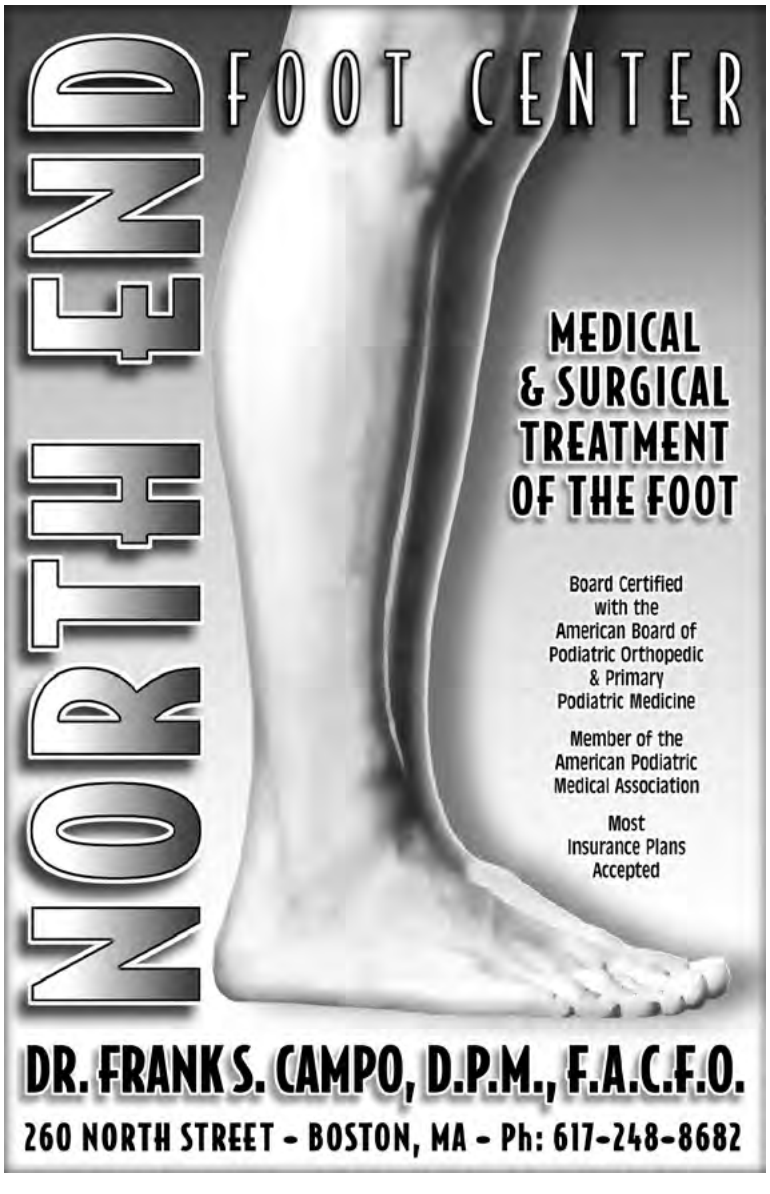
The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) plays a critical role in enforcing Boston's housing and sanitary codes and serving as a frontline resource for tenants and property owners. Its enforcement of tenant protections has at times been limited by staffing constraints, resource demands, and a growing caseload citywide. These challenges highlight coordination gaps in consistently connecting tenants facing serious code violations with the Office of Housing Stability and other supports, underscoring the need to strengthen interdepartmental coordination, resources, and enforcement tools to ensure timely assistance and clearer pathways to resolution.

Councilor Coletta Zapata's intent behind filing the legislation is rooted in the importance of strong local policies and interventions, especially given housing market conditions defined by persistently high costs and limited vacancy. In such a housing market, even minor tenancy issues can quickly escalate into housing insecurity, underscoring the need for measures that stabilize tenancies, prevent unnecessary displacement, and protect residents from the cascading economic and public health consequences associated with housing loss.

"Tenants in Boston too often face sky-high rents, substandard conditions, and eviction if they speak out in support of their rights. This ordinance strengthens rules requiring that apartments pass inspection, modernizes fees so that the inspection program can continue, and protects tenants from retaliation from dishonest landlords," said Councilor Ben Weber, co-sponsor of the ordinance. "I am proud to join Councilor Coletta Zapata in filing this ordinance which will update antiquated registration fees and hold landlords who fail to register accountable."

"As a renter myself, I understand the impossible choice too many Boston residents face: speak up about unsafe conditions and risk losing your home, or stay silent and live with the consequences. This ordinance directly addresses that imbalance of power by strengthening tenant protections, preventing retaliation, and ensuring that residents are proactively connected to the support they need," said At-Large Councilor Henry Santana. "By improving coordination between the Inspectional Services Department and the Office of Housing Stability, we are not only enforcing our housing codes; we are building a system that prioritizes stability, accountability, and dignity. I'm proud to stand with my colleagues in advancing a policy that moves us closer to a Boston where every resident can live safely and securely in their home."

A hearing will be scheduled in the coming months. Details will be posted on the Councilor's social media channels.



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Wu appoints Marcela Dwork as press secretary

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Marcela Dwork as Press Secretary. Dwork will begin serving in her role on May 4, 2026, and will lead the Mayor's Press Office.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Marcela to our team," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Her career has been marked by a commitment to community and passion for sharing the stories that drive our city. I look forward to her leadership of our Press Office and its critical role in ensuring information about City services and initiatives is easily accessible to all members of our community. I'm excited to work alongside Marcela as we continue to engage Boston's diverse, vibrant neighborhoods and make Boston a home for everyone."

Dwork is a strategic communications professional with experience across public, nonprofit, and media sectors. She most recently served as an Account Director at Denterlein, a Boston-based strategic communications and public relations agency. Her previous roles include Press Secretary for Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Development Associate at the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and on-air reporter for Univision Boston.

PHOTO COURTESY MATT STONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Marcela Dwork

"I am excited to return to public service in this role and work alongside Mayor Wu to connect residents across neighborhoods," said Marcela Dwork, Incoming Press Secretary. "As a bilingual communicator, I also look forward to helping ensure that the City's diverse communities receive timely, accurate information and stay connected to City Hall initiatives."

Originally from Bucaramanga, Colombia, Dwork immigrated to the United States at age 22. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.

As Press Secretary, Dwork will serve as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and members of the media, communicating the Mayor's priorities through press conferences, interviews, public events, and press materials. The Press Office works closely with speechwriting, digital, and photography teams to deliver a coordinated message that reflects the Wu administration's vision and commitment to transparency and public trust.

Send us Your News

The North End Regional Review encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to editor@reverejournal.com. The North End Regional Review assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

Wu appoints Diana Fernandez Bibeau as new Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Diana Fernandez Bibeau as the new Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space. Fernandez Bibeau will begin serving in her new role on June 1.

"I'm thrilled to appoint Diana Fernandez Bibeau as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and Deputy Chief of Open Space," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Diana brings years of experience as a dynamic problem solver and visionary designer, grounded in deep personal connection to the communities we serve and the role of public spaces in connecting us all. Her leadership will build on Boston's legacy stewarding the nation's oldest and most beautiful park system. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Interim Commissioner Cathy Baker-Eclipse over the last year and look forward to our continued work creating beautiful, welcoming, and resilient open spaces where every resident feels at home."

Fernandez Bibeau, who has served as Boston's Deputy Chief of Urban Design for the Planning Department since 2022, brings over 15 years of experience in the private and public sectors to the position, including a substantial design portfolio to advance equity, sustainability, and resilience through Boston's built environment. Prior to joining the Wu administration, she practiced landscape architecture and design at Sasaki for over seven years, working on several significant projects, including the Frederick Douglas Memorial in Roxbury and coastal resiliency efforts in Charlestown and East Boston, and led large parks projects across the country, such as the Port of Los Angeles Wilmington Waterfront. She will also be making history as the first Latina to serve as Commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, responsible for leading over 300 full-time staff and the stewardship and programming of 2,200 acres of permanently protected open space.

Diana Fernandez Bibeau

As Deputy Chief of Open Space, a new leadership position in the City of Boston, Fernandez Bibeau will serve as the primary strategic convener for open space policy, facilitating alignment across City cabinets, departments, and external stakeholders. Bridging city, state, federal, and private entities, this new role will ensure a cohesive and equitable vision for Boston's public realm. For years, the City of Boston has invested in improving the maintenance, infrastructure, and programming of its parks. Fernandez Bibeau will build on this foundational work, using open spaces to build local resilience against climate change and meet the recreation and programming needs of Boston's diverse communities.

"Parks are my passion. As an immigrant, they were the first spaces where I felt welcome, sparking my dream to become a landscape architect," said Diana Fernandez Bibeau. "I'm eager to build on the Parks Department's legacy of excellence by bringing a renewed perspective to how we grow, protect, and program our parks. I look forward to delivering on Mayor Wu's vision—ensuring Boston's public spaces are exceptional, safe, and welcoming for everyone."

"Diana Fernandez Bibeau is the leader Boston needs to propel our treasured historic parks and open spaces into the twenty-first century," said Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett. "Her innovation, experience, and vision will help ensure that Boston's open spaces remain places our communities can enjoy, all while building our resilience against climate change. I look forward to working with Diana to ensure that our parks and open spaces throughout the City meet the needs of current and future generations alike."

"Diana is relentless in her pursuit to deliver the best outcomes for Boston residents. As part of our effort to change the culture of planning and development in Boston, she led a team that created an inclusive design vision that promotes predictability and quality. She elevated design with creativity and ambition, and I know she will bring that same spirit to Parks and Recreation," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I am glad she is not going far and I'm excited to work with her in this new role."

Fernandez Bibeau brings a unique perspective to her work, deeply informed by a lifetime of navigating complex transitions. From her early childhood immigration from the Dominican Republic to the fierce determination required to balance young motherhood with her education, her trajectory is defined by profound resilience. She channeled this work ethic into her studies—earning a degree in Landscape Architecture from Temple University—and into her career and academic scholarship.

Fernandez Bibeau is a proven thinker, collaborator and leader, who works seamlessly with architects, planners, urban designers, ecologists and civil engineers on the design of equitable and sustainable places. She writes and lectures on landscape architecture, urban design, and equity. Her work has been published and nationally recognized through the Urban Land Institute (ULI), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the American Planning Association (APA). She has also been awarded the 2019-2020 LAF Fellowship in leadership and innovation, honored with the Emerging Professional Medal in 2020 and named a 30 under 30 Leader for Temple University.

She resides in West Roxbury and is a proud mother of three, a Boston Public Schools parent, and an avid gardener with her husband, Devin Bibeau.

Wu announces White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu in partnership with Boston Legacy FC announced the creation of the White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council (WSNAC), a 15-member advisory body established to engage communities and provide input on the White Stadium project.

Created under the project's lease and governing agreements, the council creates a structured forum for information-sharing, discussion, and community feedback as White Stadium is built and prepares for operations. WSNAC will serve as an advisory voice representing neighbors and park users on stadium operations, transportation, scheduling, logistics, and other topics of neighborhood interest.

The council members represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including residents from Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Mattapan, park users, BPS student athletes, local businesses, faith leaders, and youth sports organizations. Members will receive regular updates from the City, BPS Athletics, the Parks Department, and Boston Legacy FC, and will provide ongoing community feedback and perspectives on construction progress and stadium operations.

"The White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council will help ensure that the community continues to steer investments in two of our most beautiful and treasured public spaces in Boston—White Stadium and Franklin Park," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This group will be instrumental to making sure this project reflects the needs and priorities of our residents."

"The White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council formalizes what Boston Legacy FC believes is essential to this project's success: an ongoing, meaningful partnership with the community," said Kim Miner, Chief External Affairs Officer, Boston Legacy FC. "It will play a critical role in building trust and accountability through transparency and ongoing engagement, providing a consistent forum for listening to and sharing neighborhood perspectives."

The inaugural members of the White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council who will serve two-year terms, include:

Co-Chairs

Luis Perez Demorizi, Executive Director of Franklin Park

Matt Balk, Boston Legacy FC Head of Facilities

Anshi Moreno Jimenez, City Coordinator

Ex-officio Members

Brian Worrell, City Councilor for District 4

Benjamin J. Weber, City Councilor for District 6

Rev. Miniard Culpepper, City Councilor for District 7

General Members

Sam DePina, Boston Public Schools Athletics

Tony DaRocha, Youth Sports Coach

Camila Restrepo, Boston Public Schools Student Athlete

Rickie Thompson, Franklin Park Coalition President

Beth Santos, local Business Owner (co-owner of Ula Café) and BPS Parent

Marilyn Forman, Dorchester Representative

Tony Brewer, Roxbury Representative

Kevin Batt, Jamaica Plain Representative

Pastor Dana Gonsal, Mattapan Representative

Under the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, negotiated in December 2023, "A White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council ("WSNAC") will be established at the earliest practicable time. Membership shall include District Councilors and representatives of residents from park-adjacent neighborhoods of Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Mattapan, park users, Boston Public Schools, and the Applicant. WSNAC will be co-chaired by the Parks Department and the Applicant."

Following the stadium's inaugural season at White Stadium, the advisory council will receive and review the Annual Stadium Operations Report submitted by Boston Legacy FC, covering transportation, sound management, lighting, trash, event scheduling, and more. The council will also review the annual Transportation Management and Operations Plan and provide feedback as a representative body of residents, identifying what worked well and what could be improved in future seasons.

WSNAC members will also share feedback and ideas for the Community Annual Fund, a $500,000 commitment that will increase annually by 3% and is funded entirely by Boston Legacy. The Annual Fund will be established by the City and Boston Legacy, with guidance from its own advisory body, as established under the lease documents. It is one part of more than $252 million in privately-funded community benefits over the next 15 years stemming from the White Stadium project.

N.E.A.A. HONORS GERALD "SKIPPY" IMBERGAMO AT 2026 BASEBALL OPENING DAY

The North End Athletic Association held its Annual Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 25th at Langone Park. The day started with Dunkin Donuts goodies donated by Landmark Donuts and our good friend Bill Galatis! There were 3 games at 10am, 2 at the minor league level and 1 Major's Game to kick off the season. Formal Ceremonies with the First Pitch thrown out by Skippy commenced at 12 Noon. The park was filled with former players, coaches and even a teammate or two of Skippy's from his NEAA playing days! The event was fantastic as the Boston Red Sox had their 2013 World Series Trophy on display, The Boston Public Market, R.U.F.F., NEW Health and the BWSC Water truck were all part of a great day. There was also plenty of BBQ food provided through Joe Bono and Boston Pushcarts as well as a face painter and balloon artist. The final game of the day was played after the ceremony along with the start of the T-Ball & Instructional programs that are sponsored by the Boston Red Sox Nike Foundation and newly led by Marko Malich, Christi Gannon and Chris Filiberto, all of the NEAA.

Stella Murray, a student at N.E.M.P.A.C. sang the National Anthem while the Shriners Color Guard presented the colors. Skippy was honored by NEAA President Ted Tomasone, State Senator Lydia Edwards, Maria Perez from Mayor Wu's office, Samantha Perracchi of Councilor Coletta-Zapata's office and of course by the North End's own Representative Aaron Michlewitz - who was coached by Skippy in his early playing days before a series of trades landed him on the NEAA's Sports Coordinator, John Romano's team. It was a great day to honor a great man, who was surrounded by his family and threw a strike - right down the middle of the plate! Also in attendance to honor Skippy was former NEAA Coach Freddie Petrigno and several members of the Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus' Officers.

A special thank you to the volunteers who made the day flawless: Mark Driscoll, Sean Drummy, Rosabri Mejia, Cosmin Cristescu and Patricia Romano. As always, a BIG thank you goes out to all the volunteer coaches.

The day would not be possible without the help of our generous sponsors for the event:

Grand Slam - North End Athletic Association; Home Run - The

(NEAA *Pg. 9*)

North End Regional Review
2026 Publishing Calendar
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JANUARY

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N.E.A.A. 2026 BASEBALL OPENING DAY

NEAA *(from pg. 8)*

Previte Family; Triple - Espresso Love, Margie & Dennis Vargo, Freddie & Doreen Petrigno; Double - Mayor Michelle Wu, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Senator Lydia Edwards, SOMA YOGA, Gloria Pizzarella, Lisa Musto, Battery Wharf Hotel, Post Gazette Newspaper and Gordon & Barbara Russell; Single -Jason Aluia, Mariellen Burns, Lesley Carvalho, Councilor Gabriella Coletta-Zapata, Mike Giannasoli, Sarah & Jeff Wharton, Mangia Mangia, John Fiumara, James & Francine Gannon. Raffle Prize Donors: Tony & Elaine's Restaurant, Rocco's Cafe, Boston Bottle, Tricon Sports and The Drummy Family.

The day rounded out with tryouts for both the 13U and 15U Dodger's Travel teams - who this year are sponsored by McGovern Auto Group.

Baseball is played virtually every night, Monday - Thursday on both fields at Puopolo Park and also at Langone Park. Stop by and route for all the great kids enjoying an awesome game!

Wu announces update on transportation access plan agreement for White Stadium

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that, city leaders signed a Transportation Access Plan Agreement (TAPA)—a formal set of commitments by a development team that is required of all Article 80 large projects—between the City of Boston and Boston Legacy Football Club (BLFC) for White Stadium. The agreement serves as a framework that sets clear rules for how fans will travel to and from White Stadium on Boston Legacy game days and locks in BLFC's core commitments, including fully funding the transportation plan, at no cost to taxpayers.

For the first time, there will be a formalized transportation plan to manage how fans get in and out of White Stadium on BLFC game days while protecting Franklin Park and its surrounding neighborhoods. The plan was shaped by nearly two years of community input, including dozens of public meetings and conversations, and creates a blueprint for managing all large-scale events in Franklin Park moving forward.

The City will now launch the next round of community engagement and invite residents to help shape key details, such as the boundaries of the resident parking protection zone, the number of visitor parking passes for households, and managing parking on BLFC game days for other users and events at Franklin Park. On Thursday, June 11th, the City invites all interested members of the community to a public meeting at the William J. Devine Golf Course Club House, where residents can weigh in on all of these decisions and more before details are finalized.

"Franklin Park and White Stadium have hosted some of Boston's largest gatherings for decades. Now, for the first time, we have a comprehensive plan to get people there safely and efficiently while protecting the beautiful parkland and surrounding neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "After nearly a hundred meetings over the course of two years, we've reached an agreement with Boston Legacy FC to deliver a fully-funded transportation plan that will set the standard for managing big events at Franklin Park—at no cost to taxpayers. We now look forward to hearing directly from residents to finalize key details and we encourage everyone to join an upcoming community meeting."

"Franklin Park has long needed a structured approach to managing large events, and this agreement is an important step toward achieving that. We look forward to continuing to work with the City and Boston Legacy FC to make sure the final details protect our park and our neighbors," said Rickie Thompson, President of the Franklin Park Coalition.

The transportation framework includes the following benefits:

For Fans:

• Fans can get to games by public transit, shuttles, biking, walking, or rideshare, and they'll make this choice when they buy tickets, helping the City plan ahead and minimize impact on the community.

• Free shuttle service will run from Forest Hills, Ruggles, and JFK/UMass stations, plus shuttles from satellite parking lots located outside of the City, all operated and paid for by BLFC

For Residents and Park Users:

• No BLFC spectator parking in Franklin Park or on neighborhood streets will be allowed on Boston Legacy game days

• A dedicated game-day residential parking protection program for on-street parking will be in place and fully enforced—with all enforcement costs covered by BLFC

• A parking reservation system for Franklin Park lots will ensure that zoo visitors, golfers, youth sports families, and other park users always have access to the Park on game days

For Surrounding Neighborhoods:

• Traffic cameras connected to the City's Traffic Management Center will enable real-time monitoring on game days

• A fully electric shuttle fleet for game days targeted for deployment within two years, a direct result of community feedback

• After the first 10 games of the inaugural season, a report will be submitted to the City and the White Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Council, allowing the transportation plan to be evaluated and adjusted based on what actually happens. This report will also be prepared and reviewed annually after each season with the Council.

"We are committed to being a responsible partner in this community, and that includes how our fans get to and from White Stadium. This transportation plan ensures that match days at White Stadium are not only exciting for fans, but respectful of Franklin Park and its neighbors," said Jennifer Epstein, Controlling Owner of Boston Legacy FC. "We're proud to fully fund a model that prioritizes access, sustainability, and accountability from day one."

The TAPA also includes site plans and operational exhibits, detailing shuttle drop-offs, pick-up zones, and dedicated bike parking areas, that lay the groundwork for the operational details for how to execute the game day transportation plan. Many of the decisions that matter most to residents are still ahead: Join the City and Boston Legacy Football Club on Thursday, June 11th at 6PM at the William J. Devine Golf Course Club House in Franklin Park. With a "community fair" format, the meeting will allow the City to hear feedback on the variety of key transportation plan decisions yet to be made. Additional engagement opportunities will also be announced at boston.gov/whitestadium. This announcement can also be accessed on Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, Youtube, and TikTok.

POTHOLES *(from Page 1)*

ly strong pavement program next year," said Gove.

The chief of streets said that pothole repair is a critical city service and something his department spends a lot of time on.

"We understand that potholes are a very frustrating perennial issue in Boston and other cold climate cities," said Gove. "Public works has adopted and implemented standard operating procedures to address this roadway defect."

The primary cause of potholes is water infiltration, with rain or snow melt seeping through cracks in the asphalt, saturating the soil and softening the aggregate base beneath the roadway.

"During freeze/thaw cycles this water under the road freezes and expands, creates a gap under the immediate roadway surface, and when that ice melts the void that is left beneath collapses under traffic flow," said Gove. "Proper drainage and stormwater infrastructure is a key factor in helping manage potholes. If water can't drain away from the roadway, it can pool at low spots, around manhole castings and curb cuts and that contributes to that freeze/thaw cycle problem."

Aging infrastructure such as old pavement, roads that have been compromised by utility repairs, and roads that have been compromised by poor base compaction are more susceptible to potholes than roads that are in good condition, Gove added.

The past winter saw significant snowfall as well as a long duration of sub-freezing temperatures that led to more freeze/thaw cycles than in the past five years.

"These factors all contributed to a particularly challenging pothole season this spring," said Gove. "But while this spring's 311 pothole requests did increase sharply in March, like every spring, our concentrated effort and response helped to reduce the volume of incoming requests. This eventually results in lower and more stable service requests outside of the spring pothole season."

Statistics showed that over the past five years, the most requests for pothole repairs came in from East Boston with over 4,000. During the same period in Charlestown, there were just under 1,000 requests for pothole repairs.

"While repairing potholes is a critical basic city service, it is only one component of our larger roadway maintenance program," said Gove. "It is why we have invested heavily in roadway maintenance over the last several years. We resurfaced over 50 miles of roadway surface last year, and we're planning on doing another 45 this year."

The public works engineers continually assess and grade the condition of pavement on every street citywide and work with the utility companies to make sure they have done any necessary repairs and upgrades before the city goes in to resurface a road, according to Gove.

Every morning, Gove said public works crews pick up asphalt bituminous concrete as the department organizes 311 requests that come in by neighborhood.

"We assign them to the respective public works district yards," said Gove. "Crews prioritize the most efficient ways to complete the work. But also, they are not just doing the reported cases; if they get a case on the street and they show up and there are a half dozen other potholes around … they are addressing those potholes as well."

Since 2021, pothole repair closures have matched the demand coming in across all districts, he added.

"Our average resolution time is 18 hours, which we think is pretty impressive," said Gove. "Over two-thirds of all cases are completed within a 24-hour period. I think this demonstrates that we have put a lot of resources into addressing this issue."

Councilor John Fitzgerald asked if there were any new technologies or innovations coming down the road that could help lower the number of potholes in the city and make road repaving easier.

"I think first and foremost, because of the age of the city, we have utilities that are almost a century old, and in some cases, even older," said Gove. "The utilities are putting a big investment in upgrading that infrastructure, so over time, getting that infrastructure it needs to be. So in a perfect world, we would construct a road in concrete with perfect drainage but that unfortunately isn't realistic here.

"Every time, and particularly now because we are investing heavily in ramps; we are, as we are doing even roadway resurfacing, not even full reconstruction, these opportunities when we are doing ramps gives us extra ability to address (defects and puddling) we are able to address some of that."

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City Council News

COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR VETERANS' SERVICES

During this week's Council meeting, Councilors Murphy and Flynn offered a resolution urging support for a budget amendment to fully fund the Office of Veterans' Services in the FY27 budget. The resolution was adopted.

The resolution states that the Office of Veterans' Services provides outreach, assistance, programming, advocacy, and support to veterans, military families, and surviving spouses in Boston. It also notes that the proposed FY27 budget includes a reduction of approximately $724,000 to the department, representing a cut of more than 14%.

According to the resolution, the Office of Veterans' Services is one of the smallest funded departments in the City and has limited ability to absorb a reduction of this size without affecting services and programming. The resolution further states that restoring the proposed reduction would represent a modest amount within the overall City budget, while the impact of the reduction on veterans, military families, and surviving spouses would be significant.

The resolution notes that this is the first budget cycle since the Council received budget amendment authority in which the Council is facing budget cuts rather than the ability to add funding from a surplus. It also states that Councilors Murphy and Flynn intend to file a budget amendment to restore the approximately $724,000 reduction and fully fund the Office of Veterans' Services.

COUNCILORS CALL FOR REVIEW OF NATIONWIDE SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION

As school districts across the country pursue legal action tied to youth mental health impacts, Councilors Culpepper and Mejia introduced a resolution calling on Boston Public Schools to evaluate whether to join the nationwide social media litigation.

The resolution references the federal case known as Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 3047), in which school districts and municipalities allege that major social media platforms have contributed to a nationwide youth mental health crisis and disrupted educational environments.

Boston Public Schools has identified youth mental health as a priority and has invested in behavioral health services while recognizing the connection between student well-being and academic success.

The resolution states that the litigation seeks to hold social media companies accountable for costs imposed on public institutions and to recover financial resources that could support student services, prevention efforts, and school-based mental health supports. It also notes that participation in the litigation is generally pursued on a contingency fee basis, meaning school districts would incur no upfront costs.

The adopted resolution calls on Boston Public Schools to conduct a thorough and timely evaluation of the costs and benefits of joining the litigation and to present its findings to the Boston School Committee. It further states that the review should determine whether participation would support the City's commitment to student mental health, educational equity, and responsible fiscal stewardship.

MAY IS ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

Asthma affects daily life for many Boston residents, particularly when air quality, housing conditions, and environmental factors contribute to flare-ups and breathing difficulties.

Councilors Pepén, Mejia, and Louijeune introduced a resolution recognizing May as Asthma Awareness Month in the City of Boston.

The resolution describes asthma as a chronic lung disease that causes airways to narrow, swell, and produce extra mucus, making it difficult to breathe, especially when air quality is affected by pollution, allergens, climate changes, and other irritants.

According to the resolution, the American Lung Association estimates that more than 27 million people in the United States live with asthma. While there is no cure, the resolution states that lifestyle choices and climate resiliency policies aimed at reducing pollution can help manage the disease.

The Health of Boston 2023 Asthma Report documented higher asthma prevalence among Black adults compared to White adults, as well as higher rates among adults with lower household incomes and residents living in publicly supported housing. The report further showed that from 2017 through 2021, asthma-related emergency department visit rates declined across all age groups, though higher visit rates remained among Black and Latinx patients than White patients. Residents between the ages of 0 and 17 experienced the highest rates of visits.

The resolution highlights the Boston Public Health Commission's Asthma Prevention and Control Program, including the Breathe Easy at Home Program and the Boston Asthma Home Visiting Program, which work with City partners to address housing conditions that may trigger asthma flare-ups.

The Council formally recognizes May as Asthma Awareness Month in Boston and states its commitment to working toward clean air across the city.

GEORGE GREENIDGE DAY ANNOUNCED

Councilors Culpepper, Mejia, and Worrell introduced a resolution in support of recognizing May 11, as George Greenidge Day in the City of Boston.

The resolution states that George C. Greenidge, a Roxbury native whose actions helped challenge racial discrimination in Massachusetts, demonstrated extraordinary courage in challenging racial discrimination prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act. It notes that on May 11, 1954, Greenidge took action against the Pullman Company, resulting in a landmark agreement prohibiting discriminatory hiring practices in Massachusetts.

His actions helped contribute to broader civil rights protections and reflected the role of Boston residents, particularly in the Roxbury community, in advancing the fight for equality.The legacy of George Greenidge and the Greenidge family reflects a longstanding commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity in the City.

Recognizing May 11 as George Greenidge Day provides an opportunity to honor his contributions and educate future generations about Boston's role in the civil rights movement.

The Council remains committed to acknowledging and uplifting individuals and communities whose advocacy has shaped a more just and equitable society, and recognizes and declares May 11th as George Greenidge Day in Boston.

Council Supports Proposal to Create Committee Focused on Retaining Young Adults in Boston

Councilors Flynn and Murphy introduced a resolution in support of establishing a committee to maintain and attract young adults to the City of Boston.

The resolution states that young adults play a critical role in Boston's community and economy, and notes that cities experienced revitalization beginning in the 1980s driven by industry growth and improved networking opportunities among young residents. It also states that students from around the world often remain in Boston after graduation to begin their careers and establish roots, though recent trends have shifted.

According to the resolution, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated migration out of cities among both younger and older residents, and this shift has been reinforced by rising costs of living, a lack of affordable housing, and employment challenges.

The 2026 Young Residents Survey by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Foundation reported that 26% of residents in their 20s and 30s are likely to leave Boston within five years. It states that respondents identified job opportunities, affordability, and public safety as key factors influencing their decision to stay.

The resolution also cites labor and housing data, including a reported increase in unemployment among college graduates ages 22–27 and survey responses indicating challenges in securing employment. It further notes a decline in housing production in Boston in recent years, including reduced housing approvals between 2020 and 2025, and reports that Boston lagged behind peer cities in housing production.

The resolution states that millennials and Gen Z will face evolving challenges, including artificial intelligence regulation and digital dependency, and emphasizes the importance of studying strategies to maintain and attract young people. It calls for the creation of a committee composed of young adult residents, business professionals, and City leaders to focus on retaining and attracting young adults to Boston.

MAY IS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

Boston's historic buildings and neighborhoods are being highlighted as the City marks National Preservation Month and celebrates five decades of its local landmarks agency. Councilors Durkan, Louijeune, and Pepén introduced a resolution recognizing May as National Preservation Month in the Landmarks Commission's 50th year.

The resolution notes that Boston is one of America's most historic cities, with a built environment reflecting key moments in U.S. history, including the Revolution, abolition, and immigration.

It references the establishment of National Preservation Week in 1972 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which was expanded to a month-long observance in 2005 to broaden opportunities to celebrate historic places and promote heritage tourism.

The resolution states that Boston is home to many historic sites that should be recognized, protected, and celebrated for their economic, social, cultural, and educational value to the City's communities.

It highlights the Boston Landmarks Commission, established in 1975, which works to protect and enhance Boston's historic and environmental character. The resolution notes that the Commission is marking its 50th anniversary this year and oversees more than 9,000 properties in coordination with the City's historic district commissions, reviewing design changes, regulating demolition, and supporting preservation planning, including the creation of new landmarks and historic districts.

Last year the Commission landmarked seven new structures and reviewed more than 933 design review applications, representing approximately $723 million in investment.

Preservation plays a role not only in protecting the past but in shaping Boston's future by guiding development and investment to support neighborhoods over time. The Council recognized May as National Preservation Month and reaffirmed its commitment to preserving Boston's historic resources across all communities.

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Sen. Edwards, housing advocates, celebrate one year of eviction sealing in the Affordable Homes Act

Special to the Regional Review

One year ago this week, a historic provision championed by State Senator Lydia Edwards went into effect as part of the Affordable Homes Act – fundamentally changing the trajectory of thousands of Massachusetts residents by granting the right to petition courts to seal certain eviction records.

In its first year alone, 6,284 petitions to seal eviction records have been filed across the Commonwealth, underscoring both the urgent need for this reform and its immediate, tangible impact.

"I believe in second chances, " said Senator Lydia Edwards. "For too long, eviction records – often stemming from circumstances beyond a tenant's control – have locked families out of housing and opportunity. Today, thousands of Massachusetts residents have a pathway forward. I want to thank Attorney General Campbell, Governor Healey, Senate President Spilka, The Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities, Leader Michael Moran, and the countless advocates who realized the urgency in this issue and acted on it accordingly a year ago today."

The law protects an array of circumstances including fault-based and no fault evictions, each with specific parameters dictating the process and regulations. When applying for new housing, the tenant may legally state that they have "no record" of a prior eviction.

Sen. Lydia Edwards (center) joined by housing advocates during the conference celebrating one year of the eviction sealing provision of the Affordable Homes Act.

To aid constituents in utilizing the provision, Senator Edwards has held three successful "Supper and Sealing" workshops, community-based events dedicated to connecting residents with legal professionals to expedite the sealing process for both eviction records and CORIs (criminal records).

Advocates and partners like Greater Boston Legal Services, North Suffolk Community Services, Maverick Landing Community Services, Big Hope Project, Harvard Law School Legal Services Center and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute have made this possible.

Additionally, the Legal Information & Technology Lab at Suffolk University Law School has played a critical role in expanding access. By developing an online petition tool, the Lab has made it possible for residents to begin the sealing process directly from their smartphones—eliminating barriers such as transportation, time off work, and court navigation.

The success of eviction sealing in Massachusetts demonstrates what is possible when policy centers equity and lived experience. This reform represents a meaningful step toward a more just and accessible housing market.

Quotes of Support

"Our Affordable Homes Act is about making it easier and more affordable for people to find housing," said Governor Maura Healey. "Eviction sealing is a crucial part of that. No one should face huge barriers to getting housing because of a hardship they faced long ago. I'm grateful to Senator Edwards and the Legislature for their partnership on this important policy which is already making a difference for thousands of Massachusetts residents."

"HLC recently concluded a statewide fair housing listening tour to hear directly from residents about how our new fair housing office can better serve their needs. In every region, we heard from people who have been denied housing opportunities because of decades-old eviction records and discrimination," said Juana Matias, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC). "Eviction record discrimination remains a significant barrier to housing stability. But one year into eviction record sealing, we are better positioned to support residents in crisis, connect them to resources, and help more families remain stably housed in Massachusetts."

"One year ago, Massachusetts took a bold step toward fairness and opportunity with the passage of the Eviction Sealing Law – a milestone that has already opened doors for countless families and residents to secure stable housing and rebuild their financial futures," said Attorney General Andrea Campbell. "This law is a lifeline that helps break cycles of instability and restores dignity to those too often shut out of the housing market. Thank you to Senator Edwards and Leader Mike Moran for their unwavering advocacy and leadership on this important issue, and to Senate President Spilka and Speaker Mariano for their commitment to this legislation, which ensured that it became law."

"The Senate prioritized this policy because we know that one difficult chapter in our lives does not define who we are," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Now, as nearly 5,000 people have submitted petitions under this policy, it is clear that passing this measure was the right thing to do—and that it is changing lives for the better. I applaud Senator Edwards, whose steadfast leadership and moral clarity were instrumental in bringing this reform to fruition. Her work reflects the very best of what we strive to achieve in the Senate, advancing policies that expand opportunity, restore dignity, and change lives."

"Senator Edwards' steadfast leadership was instrumental in getting the eviction record sealing law passed," said Tyler White, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. "In the year since it took effect, the law has empowered thousands of tenants to start fresh in their search for new housing—and countless others will benefit in the years to come. The spirit of the law is simple: tenants should not be perpetually disadvantaged and made to suffer lifelong consequences as a result of their eviction records. We look forward to continuing our work with Senator Edwards to advance housing justice in Massachusetts."

City of Boston hosts 12th annual Citizenship Day

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), and Project Citizenship hosted the City's annual Citizenship Day at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. The annual event provides free legal help with citizenship applications for immigrants eligible for naturalization. This event builds on the City's efforts to make Boston a home for everyone and on its longstanding commitment to connecting residents with services and supporting eligible residents with citizenship applications.

"For more than a decade, Citizenship Day has helped Boston residents apply for U.S. citizenship at no cost. Now more than ever, naturalization offers an important pathway to stability, opportunity, and a more secure future," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, Project Citizenship, and the hundreds of volunteers who help make Boston a welcoming home for everyone, no matter where you come from."

Since 2014, MOIA has partnered with Project Citizenship to host Citizenship Day, New England's largest one-day citizenship clinic. Before this year, the clinic has served over 3,200 people from 115 countries. To date, the event has helped more than 1,900 eligible immigrants become citizens.

Between legal fees and USCIS application fees, becoming a U.S. citizen can be prohibitively expensive for residents. On Citizenship Day, hundreds of community volunteers, law students, and pro bono attorneys help people complete their citizenship applications for free and determine whether they qualify for a USCIS fee waiver. It currently costs $760 to file a citizenship application. Since the event's inception, over 2,000 fee waivers have been submitted for qualifying applicants.

"Citizenship can be a life-changing benefit that allows for increased family reunification, stability, and opportunities to become more civically engaged through voting and running for office. We are proud to have sponsored this event for over 12 years," said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement.

In Boston, 1 in 10 residents is a naturalized citizen, and about 30,000 residents are eligible for U.S. citizenship. MOIA encourages all eligible immigrants to apply for citizenship. Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years old, lawful permanent residents for five years or three years if married to a U.S. citizen, able to read, write, and speak basic English, and not have traveled extensively outside the U.S. in the past five years.

"At a time when many who weren't born in this country feel especially vulnerable, Boston Citizenship Day honors the important role that immigrants play in our communities," said Gail Breslow, Executive Director of Project Citizenship. "By providing free legal help, we make sure everyone eligible has access to the benefits and protections of citizenship, as well as the opportunity to participate fully in our democracy."

Project Citizenship screens applicants to ensure registered participants complete their applications on Citizenship Day and are processed for naturalization. To learn more about Citizenship Day in Boston, eligibility, and the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, visit: boston.gov/citizenship.