



# THE NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW

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Cutillo Park on Stillman Street renovations have been moving along, with an opening happening soon.

## CUTILLO PARK COMPLETION SCHEDULED FOR LATE SPRING TO EARLY SUMMER

By Phil Orlandella

The long-awaited opening of the refurbish Cutillo Park on Stillman Street (weather permitting) is expected to occur late spring or early summer according to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

Listed below is a general construction update that has been completed since winter.

Unfortunately we had several issues on this project including the owner of the construction company passing away unexpectedly.

The construction project should be completed in the next month (weather permitting) and reopened for late spring/ early summer use.

Many of the remaining items were temperature sensitive and are now able to be finalized.

Work That Has Been Completed Since Winter:

The basketball court has been paved (asphalt plants recently reopened from the winter allowing for this paving work to happen)

Fencing posts have been



Courtesy photos

Playground surfacing installation almost complete.

installed.

Site furnishings (tables and chairs) as well as benches have been installed.

Playground rubber surfacing was installed.

What To Expect The Next 2-3 Weeks:

Graphics will be painted on

the basketball court. (the asphalt needs to cure for a minimum of 2 weeks and the temperatures need to be warm enough to paint)

Fence fabric will be installed.

Additional new tree plantings will be installed.

(CUTILLO Pg. 7)

## Coletta holds hearing on proposed legislation of property tax classification

Special to the Regional Review

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

Boston's proposed FY 2025 operating budget totaling \$4.46 billion dollar budget is largely funded by increased property tax growth. Boston receives 71% of its revenue from property taxes. Of the 71%, 58% of that is funded by commercial property taxes. Recent reports illuminate a potential nationwide decline in com-

mercial property valuations due to slow economic growth following the pandemic and shifting dynamics in downtown cores. This makes Boston's fiscal buoyancy uniquely vulnerable due to the fact that we are heavily reliant on commercial property tax revenue to fund day-to-day operations and city services.

The proposal seeks to regulate the property tax classification limits in the City of Boston to increase the percentage of tax burden that may be shifted to commercial properties. This is an effort to ensure that homeowners and residential property owner's taxes will not increase by upwards of 30 to 40% in one fiscal quarter. The legislation is stipulated to go into effect this upcoming fiscal year until fiscal year 2029 only if the current minimum residential

(HEARING Pg. 4)

## House passes bill to remove outdated and offensive terms

Special to the Regional Review

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed two bills that update the Massachusetts General Laws by removing out-of-date and offensive terms related to persons with disabilities, and by renaming the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) as MassAbility.

"As lawmakers, we know that words matter," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "This legislation is our latest effort to ensure that our state laws do not use antiquated words that carry negative connotations, words that also serve

as a reminder of past injustices I would like to thank Chairman Livingstone and the entire Joint Committee of Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, as well as Governor Healey and the bill sponsors, for their work on this important legislation."

"The name 'MassAbility' will help to reduce stigma and better reflect the strengths and capabilities of the people we serve," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful to Speaker Mariano and the House for advancing this critical legislation."

"The language we use reflects

(OUTDATED Pg. 5)

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# EDITORIAL

## COLLEGE PROTESTERS SHOULD EMBRACE BEING ARRESTED

Acts of civil disobedience by definition imply that a person knowingly is breaking the law and is willing to accept the legal consequences.

When Rosa Parks took a seat at the front of that bus in Alabama and was arrested in 1955, she set off a legal battle -- which eventually resulted in the striking down of the segregationist law as unconstitutional -- that ignited the modern civil rights movement.

Photos of Parks being fingerprinted at the police station galvanized Americans everywhere (well, except in the Deep South) and made her an icon of the struggle for justice and equality.

Just a few years ago, the 1960s peace activist Jane Fonda, now in her 80s, was at it again, being arrested on the steps of the Capitol building weekly, this time to protest the lack of action by the government to tackle climate change.

Being arrested has been a badge of honor by protesters for whom being placed into handcuffs represents the ultimate act of defiance of those in power.

But the students today who are occupying college campuses in violation of university policies want to have it both ways: They want to defy the authorities, but feel that they are entitled to have carte blanche to do so without any consequences.

Admission to a prestigious school does not entitle a person to special treatment when it comes to laws that apply to everybody. Yes, the students have a right to protest. But school officials also have the obligation to keep their campuses open and safe for all students. When these protesting students break the law and the rules of their campuses, they should be willing -- with defiant joy -- to accept the consequences.

Unless these students are willing to have some skin in the game, so to speak, their moral outrage amounts to nothing more than a frivolous exercise.

## OPPONENTS OF AID TO UKRAINE SHOULD WATCH FRANKLIN

Here's the plot-line: A world superpower, led by a ruler-for-life who does not tolerate dissent, invades a young sovereign nation, which at one time had been part of the superpower, with a large military force in order to restore the young nation to its sphere of influence. The young nation seeks the aid of another superpower in the world in order to fight off the invading force and to assert its claim to independence and freedom.

This very well could describe the situation today among Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, but that's also the scenario that unfolded 250 years ago when the United States proclaimed its independence from England and needed military assistance from France in order to fight back against the might of the British Empire.

The new Apple TV+ series, Franklin, chronicles the effort by Benjamin Franklin (who is played superbly by Michael Douglas) to enlist the aid of France in our fight against King George, who invaded America with a vastly-superior army and navy to squash our quest for freedom and democracy.

The Americans lacked everything -- uniforms, muskets, artillery, ships -- that they needed to fight off the British. Without Franklin's diplomacy that persuaded the French to provide America with the means to defend itself, we never could have won the Revolutionary War, which lasted a long eight years from the firing of the first shots at Concord in April, 1775, to the Treaty of Paris in September, 1783.

Prior to the French government formally declaring its alliance with the United States, French citizens who sympathized with the Americans, most notably the Marquis de Lafayette, defied their country's official policy and fought with the Americans, providing both moral support to our army and highlighting the justice of our cause to everyone around the world.

Those who oppose our aid to Ukraine (which Congress finally approved after a delay of six months) in order to help the Ukrainians repel the barbarous invasion by Vladimir Putin would do well to watch the Franklin mini-series on Apple TV+.

They would be reminded that the lesson of history is plain: Freedom isn't free and, to paraphrase Martin Luther King, tyranny anywhere is tyranny everywhere.

## OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

### STAR MARKET A GOOD NEIGHBOR

North End non-profit organizations depend on sponsors and donations from local businesses to continue to provide needed services in the community.

One good neighbor is Star Market on the Hub on Causeway Street. On a regular basis has assisted the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center during many holiday events, other occasions and celebrations over the years.

Not only does Star Market provide many gift certificates for these events, at least twice a week, they donate groceries and produce to the Center, that is distributed by the Center to local seniors, families and other needy residents.

The business should be called 5 Star Market.

### NEMPAC CARRIES A BIG TUNE

It's amazing how the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) has continuously expanded over the years and is still growing.

NEMPAC has provided quality programs in the fields of Performing Arts and Music from their start up in a small facility in the Prado in the shadows of the Old North Church and Saint Stephen's Church located between Unity and Hanover Streets.

The neighborhood's, non-profit organization has managed to provide many people outstanding learning classes and actual perfor-

mance within the community and other sites in the city.

NEMPAC offered a great opportunity for people to pursue their goals down the road.

Eventually, NEMPAC was able to expand its space of operation, opening another new facility on Tileston Street.

They are now able to offer more interested parties the chance to succeed in the performing arts and music fields.

NEMPAC is a professional organization that has earned respect in the industry and the neighborhood, by becoming an excellent teaching program, their great performances they have presented over the years.

NEMPAC is an asset to the neighborhood.

## GUEST OP-ED

## Retail theft impacts consumer and employee safety, residential quality of life

By DA Kevin Hayden:

Two women are facing shoplifting charges after police recovered approximately 200 stolen clothing items in the vehicle they used to flee after shoplifting on Newbury Street Monday, and an Everett man was charged Tuesday for stealing over \$5,000 worth of designer sunglasses from Faneuil Hall Marketplace, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

The shoplifting arraignments come amid an effort by Hayden's office to work with retailers, police and the business community to increase consumer and employee safety and to help address closures of Boston stores. Four Walgreens pharmacies have closed in the city over the last two years.

"Store-based theft, especially targeted theft by repeat offenders, is a factor we must address in our effort to provide our residents convenient access to pharmacies and other retail stores. It's an issue that affects quality of life for everyone and it's an issue we're taking seriously, both by addressing the crimes themselves and the underlying circumstances," Hayden said.

MONET WILLIAMS, 28, of Lowell was charged with shoplifting by asportation and common and notorious thief. KAYLA HAR-

RIS, 29, of Mattapan, was charged with shoplifting by asportation. Judge James Coffey ordered both Williams and Harris to stay away from the Zara on Newbury Street. Both are due back in Central BMC on May 29.

At about 12:25 p.m. on April 8, Boston police responded to Zara at 212 Newbury Street for a larceny in progress. Officers were informed by a store employee that the suspects took six items worth \$163.40 and then got into a navy

Jeep driven by a third person and fled toward Massachusetts Avenue.

Officers conducted a traffic stop and observed the driver, later identified as Harris, the front seat passenger, later identified as Williams, and a male passenger seated in the rear driver side seat and multiple trash bags filled with clothing items.

Harris told officers they were

(Op-Ed Pg. 7)

## REGIONAL REVIEW

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# Brian Swett announced as the City of Boston's Chief Climate Officer

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Brian Swett as the City of Boston's Chief Climate Officer, leading the Environment, Energy and Open Space (EEOS) Cabinet. This Cabinet is currently overseen by Reverend Maria-ma White-Hammond who will be transitioning out of her role on April 26. In this role, Swett is charged with spearheading the Mayor's bold agenda on climate action while advancing Boston's commitment to sustainability, resilience, and environmental justice. The EEOS Cabinet includes the Environment Department, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Office of Historic Preservation, and the Office of Food Justice. In this expanded role, Swett will also work to develop and co-lead a new Climate Cabinet alongside Boston's Green New Deal Director, Oliver Sellers-Garcia. The Climate Cabinet will implement innovative climate policies and programs to support decarbonization and resilience, reaffirming Boston's role as a national leader in climate action.

"Brian is a visionary leader with a proven track record of taking on climate challenges to improve the health and prosperity of our communities. He brings decades of experience implementing decarbonization, resilience, and energy transition programs with environmental justice principles at the core," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am thrilled to welcome Brian back to the City of Boston and look forward to his passion, expertise, and collaborative spirit to lead us forward in our climate work, and build on the strong foundation that has already been set."

Swett is a nationally recognized leader in climate change and sustainability strategy with over two decades of leadership experience in municipal government, private sector real estate development, federal government, and non-profit sectors. He combines his advanced business, policy, and science background to lead effective policy development and management for built and natural environments. Swett's expertise includes sustainability strategy, energy and climate policy, green buildings, policy and program development, and performance management. He is cur-



Brian Swett.

rently a Principal at Arup, a global engineering, design and consulting firm focused on sustainable development. Based out of Boston, he is a board member of its Americas Region and leads Arup's East Geography, composed of Arup's offices in Boston, New York City, New Jersey, Chicago, and Washington, DC. Prior to joining Arup, Swett served as Boston's Chief of EEOS from 2012 to 2015. Over his tenure, Swett led a variety of major policy and program initiatives including developing and passing a rental inspection ordinance and Boston's energy benchmarking ordinance, BERDO. He launched Climate Ready Boston, the City of Boston's initiative to plan for the near and long-term impacts of climate change and led the update of the 2015 Climate Action Plan. Under his leadership, Boston was recognized by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) as the #1 city in the country for energy efficiency policies and programs in their 2013 and 2015 biennial rankings.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to be appointed as the

first Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston, and I am thrilled to lead the EEOS Cabinet," said Brian Swett, incoming Chief Climate Officer. "Climate change is the existential threat of our time, and I look forward to once again serving Boston residents and working alongside Mayor Wu and the incredibly talented staff at the City. Collaborating with government agencies, non-profits, and the private sector, I am confident we can deliver a decarbonized, climate resilient, and just Boston for current and future generations."

During Swett's tenure as a leader at Arup, he has led and worked on a variety of sustainability, decarbonization and resilience projects in the Boston area including the Wharf District Council Protection & Resiliency Plan, Carbon Free Boston, the Lower Mystic Regional Critical Infrastructure Assessment, and the Downtown Boston Master Plan, among others. Swett's history of executive leadership, technical expertise, and driving systemic change within large, complex organizations makes him the ideal candidate to lead Boston's sustainability strategy. Brian returns to the City of Boston with a particular focus on expediting Boston's decarbonization work, implementing climate resilience strategies, and enabling the transition to green energy, while embedding environmental and racial justice in all of Boston's climate policies and programs. The Chief Climate Officer will serve as a thought leader and communicator on Mayor Wu's climate agenda, driving engagement and awareness across Boston's communities.

"I have worked with Brian for over a decade, and his experience advancing climate action through public and private partnerships, real estate development, and business will be critical as we navigate the complexities of implementing our ambitious climate plans," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Green New

Deal Director. "I am thrilled to be working with Brian again to realize our vision for a sustainable, resilient, and equitable Boston."

"Brian is a terrific leader in the climate space and he has already helped the Boston Housing Authority design our roadmap for decarbonization in his work with Arup," said Kenzie Bok, BHA Administrator. "I am excited to see him return his commitment, passion, and creativity to City Hall."

"Boston Harbor Now is thrilled that Brian Swett is returning to the City of Boston to lead Mayor Wu's visionary work to tackle the climate crisis," said Kathy Abbott, President and CEO of Boston Harbor Now. "With his extensive knowledge and experience spanning government, the private sector, and non-profits, Brian is an exceptional candidate for this critical role. I can not think of a better leader to make real progress on Boston's climate actions."

"I applaud the appointment of Brian Swett as the Chief Climate Officer for the City of Boston. In his roles of Principal at Arup and Co-Chair of the Chamber's Cli-

mate & Energy Leadership Council, Brian's strategic and effective leadership led the successful development of projects and partnerships nationally and globally," said James E. Rooney, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. "The City of Boston will benefit from his immense expertise in energy and climate policy and sustainability strategy as he leads the climate goals of the City forward."

Swett's appointment builds on the Wu administration's commitment to enhancing climate resilience and green spaces through a citywide Green New Deal. Last week, Mayor Wu shared her FY25 Budget which included groundbreaking investments in climate action and adaptation. These investments range from new personnel investments, such as a park administrator and six new maintenance staff to maintain Franklin Park, to transformative Capital investments, such as a new \$75 million City fund that leverages State and Federal climate resilience grants. Swett will begin his new role on June 10, 2024.

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## NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER? By Phil Orlandella

### NEWRA COMMITTEE REVIEWS TWO REQUESTS

Two requests, a beer and wine license transfer and a variance for a common roof deck, were on the April 23 North End/Waterfront Residents' Association's Zoning and Licensing public meeting at 7pm.

Being held at the Mariners House, 11 North Square, the committee will discuss and review a proposal by Frank Pellino to the Boston Board for a transfer of a beer and wine license for a new 50 seat eatery, Pappare Ristorante with bar at 358-364 Hanover Street.

The location formerly housed a restaurant and an adjacent doctor's office.

Also on the agenda was a request to the Boston Board of Appeal for variance for a building code violation associated with a proposed common roof deck at 75 Fulton Street.

The committee will make recommendations to the full members for approval.

### NEMPAC PERFORMS LIVE OPERA AT THE NORTH END LIBRARY

A free special event, a sneak preview of an opera, produced by the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) Opera Project and the Boston Festival Orchestra at the North End Library, 20 Parmenter Street.

The free live performance is sponsored by the Friends of the North End Library (FONEL) with funds from its continuing improved book sale on the shelves in the back of the library.

Now in its 13th season of the NEMPAC/BFO a thrilling production of Orfeo's Italian Baroque opera, Orfeo ed Euridice will be performed on Saturday morning, May 18 from 11am-12:15pm.

In the sneak-peak review, community members from the North End will meet artists from the production.

The audience will listen to a selection of songs and duets performed from Gluck's famous score.

The event includes an interactive presentation that explores queer representation in opera, and the classics, and how the production design elements in the interpretation creates a beautiful and nostalgic 90s era gay club scene where music and community heals all wounds.

"This is a not to be missed musical," according to FONEL.

### ONCE AGAIN, GIORGIO'S PROVIDES HOLIDAY MAIL

As they have done so many times in the past, Giorgio's La Familia on Prince Street provided a great meal for the seniors at the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center at 1 Michelangelo St.

A Pasquetta (Little Easter) meal

was enjoyed by seniors as they feasted on garden salad, chicken Florentine, ricotta lasagna and mini cannoli.

### FOCCP FREE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP), each year, holds a terrific membership social to meet new friends, enjoy some food and liquor and to renew its membership and to sign up new residents.

This year's social will be held at Tia's on the Waterfront with free admission.

### NEW SCULPTURE ON GREENWAY

Far from home Sculpture Zhidong Zhang's Far Away from Home image sculpture is currently on display through March 25, 2025 on The Greenway at Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park.

The sculpture features a Curio cabinet standing more than 8 feet tall and over 6 feet wide. It serves as a display case for the artist's photographic work.

Part of the Greenway Conservancy's ongoing Chinese Zodiare series of public art program, artwork is exclusively funded by grants and private funds.

The sculpture is a great piece of artwork displayed publicly for people to view and enjoy.

### NEW BEER GARDEN AT DEWEY SQUARE

A new partnership with local brewery Night Shift Brewing will operate a pop-up beer garden in Dewey Square Park this spring starting May 8.

The new beer garden will remain open through October providing a special space to enjoy brews during the warmer months.

Night Shift on The Greenway will be further activated through events and programs such as fitness classes, events and festivals.

In addition to Night Shift, Trillium Garden on The Greenway has returned for its 8th season, operating at the corner of High Street and Atlantic Avenue across from Rowes Wharf.

Food trucks will vend at this location to compliment Trillium's offerings.

The Conservancy's website will list updated hours for the beer garden and food truck schedule throughout the season.

### BIG JOE THE STORYTELLER

An adult storytelling trip around the world with Big Joe Storyteller's show Around the World in 5 stories, a journey featuring a selection of the world.

Featuring folktales and fairytales, the show is fun, funny, heartwarming and filled with wit and wisdom.

Culled from the days of traditional oral storytelling, Big Joe's

show will give listeners a wonderful experience that is enriching and entertaining.

Presented by the Friends of the North End Library (FONEL) the show will be held at the library, 20 Parmenter Street on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30pm.

### ABSTRACT CONFIGURATION AT ARMENIAN PARK

The Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway will once again celebrate the reconfiguration of the abstract to create a new sculpture change is a popular annual event.

In conjunction, a World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One in Peace and Harmony for all ages in cities and towns in countries worldwide will take place.

A reception hosted by Starbucks will be held.

Friends of the park invite everyone to attend this special event.

### NEWNC ELECTION PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE

Signature papers to become a candidate for the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) are available at the Nazzaro Center, 30 North Bennet Street.

Candidates are required to secure 25 signatures of residents to be placed on the ballot for six available seats. Papers must be returned by May 6.

### HEARING *(from pg. 1)*

factor would result in residential properties paying a higher percentage of the total property tax levy than what they paid the year prior.

Councilors shared concerns during the hearing about the success of raising commercial property taxes and potential unintended consequences. Some raised questions about finding alternate financial strategies to avoid the increase in property taxes. Additionally, Councilors raised concerns over how increasing taxes on commercial property owners could impact small business owners.

"This proposal by the Mayor is well-intentioned to protect our residents from exorbitant increases in their property taxes and generally support relieving pressure on our seniors who are usually house rich and cash poor," said Councilor Coletta. "I am concerned that additional taxes, especially

on smaller commercial property owners, will unintentionally stifle necessary economic growth within our City."

"While the 2003 proposal was largely categorized as successful, we must consider the long-term impacts of our changing economy and impacts the pandemic has had on workplace vacancies and tenancy. Boston must prioritize additional sources of revenue as part of a suite of solutions for a long term plan. I look forward to continuing the conversation with my council colleagues and the administration to ensure Boston has all the tools in our toolbox to protect residents while assisting in our overall recovery."

In 2003, residential property values were increasing more quickly compared to commercial properties. This gap led to a significant increase in the residential

class's share of the tax burden in many communities. To address the gap, Boston Mayor Menino and the City Council filed a Home Rule Petition requesting a temporary increase to the percentage of tax burden that could be shifted to commercial properties. The following year, in 2004, the State passed legislation that adjusted the split tax rate formula which allowed a temporary increase in shifting the tax burden to commercial classes.

The passage of this legislation was successful in limiting residential tax increases for adopting communities, with 62 percent experiencing below-average increases in the 2004 single-family tax bill. Boston saw the largest increase in the average bill at 14 percent due to decreased values in the city's large commercial class and the rapid appreciation in the

residential class.

Councilor Coletta highlighted the need for additional tax data as the council continues to review the proposal. Public testimony was offered by various organizations such as the Boston Municipal Research Bureau and the Greater Boston Real Estate Board who shared concerns about Boston's commercial real estate market following the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for the city to diversify revenue sources. Written testimony was also provided by the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP).

Members of the administration present included:

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

Assessing Department

Councilors in attendance included Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia and District Councilors Ben Weber (District 6), John Fitzgerald (District 3), Brian Worrell (District 4), Ed Flynn (District 2), Liz Breadon (District 9), and Sharon Durkan (District 8).

A recording of the hearing can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKKsoXB6Tak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKKsoXB6Tak)

City officials indicated that they were looking to send the Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature before the end of the formal session, July 31, 2024. The home rule petition first needs approval from the Boston City Council then it would be sent to the State Legislature who also needs to approve it before it can take effect.

## SEAMARK SEAFOODS OPENS AT ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR

Carver Road Hospitality, an investor, developer, operator, and marketer of top-tier hospitality concepts, is pleased to announce that Seamark Seafood & Cocktails opened Friday, April 12. A contemporary interpretation of New England's timeless sea-

food dining experience, Seamark blends tradition with innovation, highlighted by Carver Road Hospitality's signature service excellence and commitment to culinary mastery. The restaurant will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 -11 p.m.,

and Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. Seamark will introduce Sunday Brunch on April 21, from 10 a.m. -4 p.m.



Kayla Fisher, Sarah Griffin, and Boston sports media rising star Kendra Middleton, pictured at the grand opening of Seamark at Encore Boston Harbor.



Betty Salemme and Gina Guange.



ING Partner and Director of Marketing Deb DiGregorio, well-known restaurateur Frank DiPasquale, and Elaine Kretas are pictured at the grand opening of the luxurious Seamark restaurant at Encore Boston Harbor.

### OUTDATED (from pg. 1)

our values, and this legislation will ensure that our laws and institutions are updated to treat the individuals they serve with dignity and respect," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). "Outdated and offensive language has no place in our statutes, and these changes underscore our commitment to advancing and uplifting persons with disabilities in our communities across the Commonwealth."

An Act relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities removes out-of-date and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws when referencing people with disabilities. The language in the bill removes all variations of outdated terms such as "handicapped," "disabled," and "retarded." The bill replaces these terms with current terminology such as "person with a disability" and "person with an intellectual disability." Additionally, the term "autistic" is replaced with "autism" in reference to Autism Awareness Month. Originally filed by Governor Healey, the House also passed legislation to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to MassAbility and to update the outdated terms included in its enabling statute.

"Removing out-of-date, antiquated and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step in ensuring that our values, as a Commonwealth, are also reflected in statute," said Representative Jay D. Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. "As legislators, it is our job to help make sure that

people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so. I am appreciative of all those who have worked on this effort before me who helped make this possible. I'd also like to thank the Speaker, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Honan, and all of my colleagues in the House for their support on this important issue."

The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities heard from many advocacy organizations in the disability community in support of the bill and all changes were vetted with relevant agencies, including Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Education, and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

"Today with the passage of this legislation the Commonwealth is taking a critical step towards fostering inclusivity and upholding our long-held principles of dignity and respect for all who call the Commonwealth home," said Representative Michael J. Finn (D-West Springfield), a lead sponsor of the bill. "We can all celebrate that it is long past time for the Commonwealth to update its General Laws, ensuring that no individual is subjected to negative and harmful language"

"Today the House of Representatives takes a transformational step towards a more inclusive Commonwealth," said Representative Sean Garballey (D-Arlington), a lead sponsor of the bill. "By removing outdated words like 'handicapped', 'disabled', and the 'R Word' from MA General laws, we make a collective

statement that Massachusetts is a place for all."

Having passed the House of Representatives, the bills now go to the Senate for their consideration.

Statements of Support:

The Arc of Massachusetts:

"The Arc of Massachusetts is grateful for the passage of the Archaic Language Bill. This legislation has been a priority to The Arc and we appreciate the efforts made by the sponsors of the bill and our legislative champions at the MA State House. Thank you to the past and present Chairs and

members of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Special recognition to the self-advocates who led the way and never gave up. Words hold power! The language people use is important and influences thoughts and attitudes about people and their capabilities. The use of inappropriate language in society and in our Massachusetts General Law perpetuates negative stereotypes about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This legislation will not just create legal change but also social change. The Arc strongly supports

the passage of this bill as a sign that Massachusetts is listening and will support people with IDD by using thoughtful and positive language in the laws."

Barbara L'Italien, Executive Director of the Disability Law Center:

"Removing archaic language in legislation plays an important role in reducing social stigma and ensuring that state agencies and courts view people with disabilities as entitled to full, equal, and integrated lives in the community."



## Virtual Public Meeting

222 Friend Street

MAY

28

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/3Qnqj3c](https://bit.ly/3Qnqj3c)

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 886 2010

### Project Description:

The Project Site is currently developed with a three-story commercial building and approximately 32-space surface parking lot. KS Partners proposes to replace the existing structure and paved parking area with an eleven-story life science building. The proposed building will be approximately 160,195 sf (gross floor area) and will measure approximately 170 feet to the top of its highest occupied floor, with a mechanical penthouse occupying less than 30% of the roof area (the "Project"). Because the Project Site has exceptional access to transit, no parking spaces will be provided within the Project; a fully enclosed loading area will be provided on the ground level of the Project.

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[bit.ly/222-friend-street](https://bit.ly/222-friend-street)





# NEW Health hosts Viva la Bocce

NEW Health is excited to start a new tradition for the North End neighborhood "Viva la Bocce." This fundraiser, Saturday, May 4, at 12 p.m. at Langone Park, is a fun-filled day of friendly competition, meeting your neighbors, and celebrating the North End.

Food and drink will be provided along with give-a-ways and prizes. The tournament will take place on Saturday, May 4th and there are limited entries so sign-up before space runs out.

If you are interested in playing but unable to register, email Danny Coakley at [dfcoakley@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:dfcoakley@mgh.harvard.edu) to join our waitlist.

Thanks to our partners at Sunny Girl, all players at the tournament will receive a complimentary sandwich ticket at the event.

Give yourself a chance to win some amazing prizes and support NEW Health as we continue our mission of providing high quality care to the residents of Boston's North End and Charlestown neighborhoods.

Special thank you to our donors: Big Night Live, Boston Public Market, Davio's, Forcella Restaurant, Injeanium, Joe's Waterfront, Redemption Strength & Conditioning, Row Republic, SOMA Yoga, the Bruins Foundation and the Patriots Foundation.

**Ticket Prices**  
 5 tickets for \$10  
 10 tickets for \$15  
 20 tickets for \$20

Tickets can be purchased with cash or through Venmo.

Raffles will be drawn at Viva la Bocce Saturday, May 4th at Langone Park

You do not need to be present to win.

Visit [newhealthcenter.org/viva-la-bocce/](http://newhealthcenter.org/viva-la-bocce/) for more information.

## Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

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[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
 1.800.ACS.2345



*Cleobella Purse (Donated by Injeanium), \$100 Gift Card to Davio's, and a Bottle of Prosecco*

#1 Mother's Day Package.



#2 Autographed Kyle Dugger Photograph.



*\$100 Boston Public Market Gift Card and Merch*

#3 Boston Public Market Package.



*8 Class Pack to Redemption, 10 Class Pack to Row Republic, and 5 Class Pack to SOMA Yoga*

#4 Health and Fitness Package.



*\$100 Gift Card to Forcella's, \$100 Gift Card to Big Night Live, and a Bottle of Chianti*

#5 North End Night Out Package.



*\$100 Gift Card to Joe's Waterfront Family 4-Pack to Paul Revere House*

#6 North End Day Trip Package.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to

[deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)



**CUTILLO** (from pg. 1)

Plantings will be added to the large flower pots.

Final site furnishings will be installed.

Repairs to rubber surfacing in the exercise equipment area. (this work may occur this Sunday)

Project Website:  
<https://www.boston.gov/>

departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-cuttillo-park

The project website contains presentations and notes from the community meetings that were held during the design portion of this project.

Other Items:  
Please use 311 to document

non-emergency issues relating to park use, and 911 for emergency situations relating to public safety. Construction questions and concerns can be directed to Lauren Bryant, Project Manager for Boston Parks and Recreation (Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov).



*Custom benches are being constructed.*



*Plaza and table installation in progress.*

**OP-ED** (from pg. 2)

in Zara but did not take anything and her jacket had set the alarm off. Williams told officers none of the items in the car were from Zara and she was planning to bring the clothes to a baby shower later in the day.

Officers recovered all of the stolen items described except for a white T-shirt. Officers also recovered approximately 200 additional items from the vehicle from brands such as Nike, Target, and Old Navy with price tags still attached without any receipts. These items were mostly contained in white trash bags or loosely strewn about the vehicle. A pair of wire cutters were recovered from Williams' jacket pocket.

Williams has open cases in West Roxbury BMC and Lowell District Court, including larceny and assault and battery.

RICHARD PAYNE, 48, of Everett was charged with larceny over \$1200 by single scheme and common and notorious thief as a result of an ongoing investigation into multiple larcenies from Sunglass Hut between December and April, in which 16 pairs of Versace sunglasses were stolen with a total estimated retail value of \$5530.

Judge James Coffey ordered Payne held on \$2,500 bail and to stay away from Sunglass Hut. Payne is due back in Central BMC on May 7.

At about 1:20 p.m. on April 8, Boston police observed Payne enter Sunglass Hut in Faneuil Hall Marketplace. As the detective walked into the store, he announced "Boston police" which caused Payne to remove the sunglasses from his pants and place them back on the display case. Payne was wearing the same distinctive pom-pom knit hat, black framed glasses, black ski-mask, and black shoes from the previous incidents.

On December 16, 2023, Payne took two pairs of Versace sunglasses and returned on December 18, 2023, and took two more pairs, with a retail value of \$1,444. Payne was seen wearing the same shoes, backpack, glasses, and ski-mask on both days.

On January 14, Payne was seen walking into the store with a multi-colored knit hat, a black ski-mask, black shoes and black glasses holding a notebook. Payne took three pairs of Versace sunglasses and returned on January 16, and took four more pairs, totaling \$2,482 worth of stolen merchan-

dise.

On March 30, Payne was seen wearing a multi-colored knit hat with a pom-pom on top, and a black ski-mask, black glasses and clothing and took three pairs of sunglasses, worth \$975.

Police recovered two pairs of sunglasses, worth over \$600 from the April 8 incident.

Police also recovered a multi-colored knit cap with a pom-pom, a black ski-mask, a dark colored backpack, a notebook, a gray and black jacket, and black glasses from Payne, all items he was seen wearing during the previous reported incidents.

Payne has a 29-page board of probation record dating back to 1992 with numerous larceny and shoplifting convictions.

Hayden's office is working with regional retailer groups and small business owners to discuss safety concerns and to help store managers strategize responses to shoplifting and retail larcenies. The meetings have come amid increasing national and local frustrations around retail crime, along with concerns over the closure of stores serving minority communities in Boston.

"We want shoppers to feel safe going into stores and we want retailers and their employees to feel safe in their work environments. Many consumers still enjoy an in-store shopping experience and we want to help retailers continue to provide it to them," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

*Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.*



# Council members hear from rat control consultant

Staff Report

In a scene in a Three Stooges film, a patient in a mental health hospital, pointing to a button-hole on his shirt, tells the Stooges, "I've seen rats come out of that hole!" and everyone in the audience laughed.

Well, the rats are coming out of the holes in the ground in the Boston parks where children play and out of the cracks in the Boston sewer masonry walls, but it is not funny. And their population is growing fast.

That's the message that a sub-committee of the Boston City Council heard from research scientist and rodentologist Dr. Bobby Corrigan at a meeting in the Council Chambers on April 9. Corrigan has been hired by the city as a consultant on the rat problems in the city.

The problem is only going to get worse in the coming years, said Corrigan, as the global population of rats is increasing. In cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, the rat population is expanding even faster, thanks to the many food sources for rats to feast on, such as open trash containers and plastic bags filled with food on the streets, as well as large burrowing holes for rats to breed.

District 9 Councilor Liz Brendon, a sponsor of the hearing, told her colleagues that this is the fifth hearing on rats that she has attended in as many years, but now there is talk of hiring a rat czar and establishing a separate department to deal with what many councilors are calling a quality-of-life issue.

In a previous meeting, Ward 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan stressed the urgency of addressing the problem.

"Residents should reach out to my office if they see an uptick of rat activity on the streets, as this is a major priority for my office," Durkan said at that time. "My team has been working closely with the hardworking staff at the

Inspectional Services Department to make sure rat burrows and sewers are baited, and I'm glad we have such dedicated partners at ISD for our rat mitigation efforts."

During the April 9 hearing, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn asked how many inspectors from ISD are working on rodent control. He was told by the city's Chief of Operations, Dion Irish, that there are 14 full-time inspectors who work basically Monday through Thursday. Flynn noted that many problems occur during the weekend when there are no ISD inspectors working, though Irish pointed out that there are other inspectors from other departments who are on-call and who can address a rat problem.

However, the overall tone at the hearing was upbeat in view of the city's hiring of Corrigan as a consultant to design a rat control program for the city.

In addition, in March councilors established the Boston Rat Action Plan (BRAP) to identify possible steps to address the problem.

Corrigan told the committee that a simple solution is "no food, no rats." He also showed some of the rat-proof barrels that are in use. Corrigan, who is completing his report for city officials and expects it to be ready in a few weeks, thanked the city workers who helped him to go into the field to find the places where rats live and breed, such as alleys with food and the sewers, where rats peer from cracks in the brick walls.

He also offered some "band-aid approaches" for the time being, such as making sure that construction projects are done with thought about the consequences to adjacent areas so that the rats do not migrate to a quieter place, creating a new problem in a new area.

And there was a final, sobering piece of advice that Corrigan offered: Just one rat-infested property can affect up to 10 other adjacent properties that never have had a problem with rats and mice.

## Seeing rats? Tips for controlling them

The New York State Department of Health has issued the following tips on controlling rats:

### Controlling the Rat - A Community Effort

Rats like to live where people live. They quickly adjust to the neighborhood. Rats can thrive on just an ounce of food and water daily, so when they enter a neighborhood and gain access to meat, fish, vegetables and grains, they will stay. Rats prefer to feed in and around homes, restaurants and businesses. But they will settle for scraps from trash bags and cans, private yards and what they find at the community refuse disposal and transfer station. Rats get the shelter they need from tall weeds and grass, fences and walls, rubbish piles and abandoned appliances.

If rats are living in your neighborhood, there are steps you should take, even if they aren't in your home. Rats move freely in and out of buildings in the neighborhood, so any steps that your neighbors take to control rats will encourage them to move into a nearby building (maybe yours!). A community effort works best, where everyone in the neighborhood takes steps at the same time to prevent rats from entering the buildings and to remove their food and shelter.

### Checking for Rats

The sooner you know rats have entered your home, the easier it will be to get rid of them. Here's how to check.

#### Listen.

After dark, turn on the lights in a dark room or basement and listen for any scurrying sounds.

Listen for gnawing sounds when it is quiet.

#### Look.

Move stored materials and furniture to uncover any hiding places.

Look at packaged goods, doors, windows, baseboards, and electrical cords for chewed spots, tooth marks, woodchips or shavings.

Check for freshly dug earth near holes around foundations, walls, and embankments. Look under sidewalks, floors and platforms.

Check for rub marks - dark smears along hallways, or near pipes, beams, edges of stairs or around gnawed holes.

Check near walls, food supplies and pathways for droppings. Fresh droppings are dark



Rat traps are one way to combat the rodent. Shown above is the dead rat in the trap.

and soft; old droppings are hard, or gray and brittle. Fresh droppings are a sure sign of a current infestation.

#### Watch.

Dusty areas often show signs of pawprints or tailmarks. Sprinkle flour around the area and check for tracks for a few days.

Place a small quantity of food where rats can get at it, and check daily for signs of feeding.

### How Rats Get In

Once you know how rats come into a building, you can check your home for places they could use and take steps to prevent them from moving in. Rats (and mice) can enter buildings through cracks or holes in walls or foundations, even holes as small as a dime;

by digging under house foundations if they are shallow enough;

through open windows, doors, sidewalk grates, or vents (check in the basement or walls for vent openings);

by squeezing through openings in the foundation or wall for pipes or wires; through floor drains, quarter inch gaps under doors, letter drops and fan openings; and from inside large packages of food or merchandise.

### Keeping Rats Out

It is much easier to keep rats out than to get rid of them once they have moved in. But, taking these steps help control rats once they have come in. It's a three-step approach.

Don't feed rats. Limit their food source by placing trash in covered metal or heavy duty plastic trash containers. The heavy duty plastic cans on wheels are resistant to rats' chewing, and so are metal cans. Fix plumb-

ing leaks to cut off their water source. Keep the house and yard neat and clean. Remove uneaten pet foods. Don't fill up your bird feeder. Clean up food spills. Store food in rat-resistant containers. Avoid storing food in basements.

Remove rats' shelter. Indoors, replace wooden basement floors with poured concrete. Place storage racks at a height of 18 inches above the floor. Move appliances, sinks and cabinets so they are flush against the wall or out far enough that you can clean behind them. Outdoors, restrict their shelter by rat-proofing all buildings in the area and removing outside shelters like appliances, junk piles, old fences and walls. Keep the property, including alleys and yards, clean and trash-free. Pile wood and other stored items at least 18 inches above the ground and away from the walls. Clean out the area behind wooden steps, especially those leading into the house.

Keep them out. Put in self-closing doors that open outward, and use latches or spring locks to keep doors closed. Check to see that doors and windows close tightly, and use metal screens on all windows that are kept open. Protect basement windows with a 1/2 inch wire mesh (called hardware cloth). Cover the edges of doors, windows and screens, which can be gnawed, with sheet metal or hardware cloth. Make a collar around pipe and wire openings into the house with pieces of sheet metal or tin cans. Rats cannot easily gnaw through metal. Fasten floor drains tightly to keep sewer rats from coming in.

(RATS Pg. 9)



One of the signs of rats is their burrows as seen in this photo taken in the Boston Common..



## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Asian noodles

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Do you find yourself eating more noodle dishes both at home and away? We know we've expanded our noodle consumption over the past few years. As we explored more Asian cuisines and shopped more often in Chinatown, the selection of noodles in our pantry has grown.

Penny has studied Vietnamese and Thai cooking and learned that many of our favorite restaurant dishes are relatively easy to prepare at home once we purchase the appropriate noodles.

### Asian Noodle Varieties

Our copy of "The Deluxe Food Lover's Companion" contains a separate entry for Asian noodles. It explains, "Though some Asian-style noodles are wheat-based, many others are made from ingredients such as rice flour, potato flour, buckwheat flour, cornstarch, and bean, yam, or soybean starch. Among the more popular are China's cellophane noodles (made from mung-bean starch), egg noo-

dles (usually wheat-based), rice noodles, and Japan's Harusame (made with soybean, rice or potato flour), ramen (wheat-based egg noodles), and soba (which contain buckwheat flour)."

The noodle aisles offer a wealth of options for those with dietary restrictions. One of our favorite ramen noodles contains millet and brown rice. We have an excellent option for a quick meal in a stock of fully cooked Udon noodles that we use in cold dishes, heated in the microwave, or tossed straight from the package into stir-fries.

If you grew up with flash-fried ramen noodles, try the newer air-dried versions. These noodles have only three ingredients: flour, water, and salt. The traditional versions are fried in canola, cottonseed, or palm oil and may contain 18% saturated fat. We enjoy the air-dried, bouncy texture and quick cooking and appreciate that they have zero saturated fat.

### Preparing Asian Noodles

Ramen noodle soups transitioned from China to Japan

around the turn of the 20th Century. Wikipedia notes that in 1958, Momofuku Ando of Nissin Foods invented instant noodles. For many of us, his "Cup of Noodles" was our introduction to preparing Asian noodles. Even that, we were doing wrong. It was not until 2023 that Nissin announced they had changed their packaging, and it was now safe to microwave the product.

With so many different Asian noodles, both fresh and dried, it took some study and expert advice for us to master preparing them. We turned to a few food vloggers we trusted to show us the way. We suggest you go to YouTube and search for Marion's Kitchen's "Preparing Asian Noodles," Pailin's Kitchen's "Never Cook Mushy, Broken Rice Noodles Again!," or Woks of Life's "How to Cook Lo Mein Noodles." All three videos are full of tips and demonstrations from experts who are also good teachers. You might also like America's Test Kitchen's "Asian Noodles 101: Ramen, Soba, Udon, Lo Mein, Rice Stick"



Here's our version of a quick supper created with stock from our freezer, leftovers, and a pile of delicious noodles for slurping.

for a basic overview.

Read the package instructions and see if they make sense, but remember that learning how these noodles are prepared in their countries of origin may be more helpful. Some are best soaked, others boiled, some need a cold rinse after cooking, and others should be tossed with oil while they wait for the next step.

The good news is that Asian noodles are inexpensive and add something good to your meal,

whether overcooked or undercooked. Start with a favorite noodle in a dish you know, and master the preparation that makes that noodle perfect for you. Then, choose another noodle and another until you have a range of noodle options to create quick and healthy meals.

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

## RATS (from pg. 8)

### Getting Rid of Rats

The two best ways to remove rats are traps or poison. The use of either requires caution!

Traps. Choose wooden base snap traps, and enlarge the traps by fastening a 2-inch square of cardboard to each trigger. Set out several traps at a time - at least 10 if you think there are many rats. Place the traps behind boxes and against walls, so that the rats must pass over the trigger. Be sure the traps are out of the reach of children and pets! Fasten food attractive to rats, such as peanut butter, raisin bread, bacon or gumdrops, tightly on the trigger of each trap. Don't let the trap run out of bait. An advantage to traps is that they are less of a hazard to children and pets than poison.

Poison. Warfarin, chlorophacinone, and Pival are all rat poisons. They work by making the rats' blood unable to clot, so the rats die of internal bleeding. Rat poisons must be fed daily for six to 10 days. Read the poison label before you begin, and be careful to follow all steps. Watch out for children and pets! Make sure the

baits are clearly marked, and put them in low traffic, secure areas that might attract rats, such as under or behind boards, boxes, pipes or cans, and out of the rain and snow. Remove the baits when all signs of rats are gone. Follow what the label says about how to dispose of the leftover poison. If, after a month or two, there are still signs of rats, skip a month and start again. Stopping for a month and then starting helps keep the rats from building up resistance to the poison.

### Keeping Rats Under Control

If you do have rats, it's a community problem and the entire neighborhood should work together.

Once the rat infestation is under control, the goal is to prevent them from coming back. Help yourself and your neighbors by keeping trash picked up and placed in covered, rat-resistant containers. Promptly remove or repair any shelter areas, such as fences and old appliances. Periodically check for new entry holes into neighborhood buildings, and seal them up quickly.

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# NFPA announces guidelines about safe electrical vehicle charging at home

As electric vehicles (EV) enter our roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines, and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about

safety.

“It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely.”

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed infor-

mation about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home. Resources for safety educators and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips when charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

- Before charging an electric

vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

- Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

- Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

- Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

- Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

- Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.

- Keep charging items out of

reach of children and animals when not in use.

- Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at [nfpa.org/evsafe-tinfo](https://nfpa.org/evsafe-tinfo).

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at [nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety](https://nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety) and [nfpa.org/ebikes](https://nfpa.org/ebikes).

## After six months, new tracking tool identifies 50 lithium-ion battery fires

Special to the Regional Review

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services' new tool for tracking lithium-ion battery fires has helped to identify 50 such incidents in the past six months, more than double the annual average detected by a national fire data reporting system, said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

The Department of Fire Services launched its Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Investigative Checklist on Oct. 13, 2023. It immediately went into use by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and local fire departments were urged to adopt it as well. Developed by the DFS Fire Safety Division, the checklist can be used by fire investigators to gather basic information about fires in which lithium-ion batteries played a part. That information is then entered into a database to identify patterns and trends.

“We knew anecdotally that lithium-ion batteries were involved in more fires than the existing data suggested,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “In just the past six months, investigators using this simple checklist have revealed many more incidents than we've seen in prior years.”

Prior to the checklist, the state's fire service relied on battery fire data reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), a state-level tool that mirrors and feeds into the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). NFIRS tracks battery fires but does not specifically gather data on the types of batteries involved. Some fields do not require the detailed information that Massachusetts officials were seeking, and some fires may be coded according to the type of

device involved rather than the type of battery. Moreover, MFIRS reports sometimes take weeks or months to be completed and uploaded.

“Investigators using the Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Checklist are getting us better data faster,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “The tool is helpful, but the people using it are the key to its success.”

From 2019 to 2023, an average of 19.4 lithium-ion battery fires per year were reported to MFIRS – less than half the number identified by investigators using the checklist over the past six months. The increase since last fall could be due to the growing number of consumer devices powered by these batteries, increased attention by local fire investigators, or other factors, State Fire Marshal Davine said. For example, fires that started with another item but impinged upon a battery-powered device, causing it to go into thermal runaway, might not be categorized as a battery fire in MFIRS or NFIRS.

Lithium-ion battery fires were reported in 38 cities and towns. Nine of the fires involved micro-mobility devices such as battery-powered scooters, e-bikes, and hoverboards, making them the most commonly involved in fires, according to the data. Eight fires involved laptops and another eight involved cell phones, tablets, or similar devices. Power tools were involved in six fires. The device's charging status could be determined in 41 of the 50 fires: surprisingly, 56% of these devices were not charging at the time of the incident.

Lithium-ion batteries power everything from small devices like e-cigarettes and smartphones to scooters, e-bikes, and electric vehicles. If they are overcharged,

overheated, or abused, they can fail rapidly and without warning. A lithium-ion battery that goes into thermal runaway will erupt in an explosion of toxic gases and flames that will ignite nearby furnishings. Water and traditional fire extinguishers are significantly less effective against lithium-ion battery fires.

State Fire Marshal Davine offered the following safety tips for preventing lithium-ion battery fires:

- Be sure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home.

- Use only the original equipment manufacturer's batteries and

charging equipment. Aftermarket or generic batteries and chargers may be cheaper but are more likely to pose a burn, fire, or explosion hazard.

- Store scooters and e-bikes outdoors if possible. If you must store them indoors, keep them and their batteries clear of doors, windows, and stairways.

- Charge the battery directly from a wall outlet, not an extension cord or power strip. Place it on a hard and stable surface, not a bed, couch, or pillow.

- Charge only one battery or device at a time and unplug it when it's fully charged. Don't allow a charged battery to contin-

ue charging.

- If you notice changes to the battery or the device, including damage, an unusual odor, a change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge, stop using it right away.

- If and when it's time to dispose of the battery, don't put it in the trash. Lithium-ion batteries should be recycled, and you can find a location to take them at <https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/>.

Residents can learn more about lithium-ion battery safety at the Department of Fire Services' Lithium-Ion Battery Safety web page.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through May 11 is as follows:

### Scheduled Work

- Removal of temporary Paul Revere Park abutment
- Cofferdam installation
- Work Hours
- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone.

Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

period:

- OTHER EVENTS: May 10, at 7 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: [mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement](https://mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)  
Project email: [NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us)

**TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL 781-485-0588**



# Healey-Driscoll Administration names Brizius new Coastal Zone Management Director

Special to the Regional Review

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper today announced Alison Brizius's appointment to Assistant Secretary and Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). CZM leads the state's policy and planning on coastal and ocean issues. The Office's mission is to balance the impact of human activities with the protection of coastal and marine resources through planning, public involvement, education, research, and sound resource management.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently launched the ResilientCoasts initiative, a holistic and proactive strategy to guide state and local coastal resiliency policy and action. Brizius will oversee this initiative as well as implement the state's coastal programs under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, ensuring environmental justice and equity is embedded into this work. She starts May 6.

"Our coastal communities are on the front lines of climate change, experiencing more frequent and significant storms, increased flooding and erosion, and rising sea levels. It's important now more than ever to have a strong, bold, and innovative person leading CZM," said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "The Healey-Driscoll Admin-



Alison Brizius.

istration is taking a whole-of-government approach to protecting the state's coastlines and adapting for the future. Alison Brizius is the perfect person to help us meet this moment. Her background and expertise demonstrate her ability to tackle challenging issues and prove she is the right person for the job."

"I am honored to join the Healey-Driscoll Administration as they elevate the state's focus on climate change. Our coastlines are a huge part of Massachusetts' identity - it's our culture, economy, and livelihood. Protecting our coastal environments and communities is a task I'm eager to take on," added

Brizius. "I'm excited to be joining such a talented team at CZM and am eager to work with them to enhance resilience, environmental justice and sustainability that will benefit Massachusetts for generations to come."

Alison Brizius joins CZM from the City of Boston, where she previously served as Commissioner of Environment. In that role, she was responsible for leading the Department in addressing climate change impacts, such as achieving net zero emissions while protecting air, water, climate, and land resources, enhancing environmental justice, and improving Boston residents' quality of life. Previously, Brizius was the city's Director of Climate and Environmental Planning. Prior to that, she served as the Executive Director of the Center for Robust Decision-making on Climate and Energy Policy (RDCEP) at the University of Chicago, a multi-institutional interdisciplinary center founded to improve society's ability to respond to climate change and energy supply challenges. She received her Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago.

Area officials offer the following statements of support:

**Boston Mayor  
Michelle Wu**

"As Massachusetts confronts the urgent challenges of climate

change along our coastlines, Alison Brizius' appointment as Assistant Secretary and Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management marks a pivotal moment for the state. As the Environment Department Commissioner for the City of Boston, Alison's steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship put us on track to be a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city. We will miss Alison in City Hall, but know that her leadership in this role will benefit our city and the entire Commonwealth."

**Betsy Nicholson, North Regional  
Director, NOAA Office for  
Coastal Management**

"I am thrilled to help welcome Alison to her new post as Assistant Secretary and CZM Director. She brings wholesale climate resilience experience with the City of Boston and a strong collaborative spirit that will be essential to partnering with NOAA and many others to bring innovative climate solutions to communities, infrastructure, and our coastal ecosystems. I look forward to serving alongside Alison and her talented and seasoned team at CZM."

**Amy Longworth,  
Executive Director, Boston Green  
Ribbon Commission**

"Protecting Boston's 47 miles

of coastline from the impacts of climate change is urgent; with the water at our door, we need a leader with courage who can think quickly, practically, holistically and innovatively. I think of no one better suited than Alison to lead this charge. She has a tremendous track record of getting complex things done, while deftly steering between the various points of view that hold things back. Her commitment to action-oriented resilience will ensure we build a safer and more equitable Boston, as well as other coastal communities. I look forward to continuing to work with Alison in her new role."

**Kathy Abbott,  
President and CEO, Boston Harbor Now**

"With her extensive background in climate adaptation and resilience, coupled with her proven leadership in making real progress on coastal resilience in Boston, Alison is exceptionally qualified to join Secretary Tepper's team and lead the Healey-Driscoll administration's ResilientCoasts plan to drive comprehensive solutions for our coastal communities. Boston Harbor Now looks forward to working with Dr. Brizius and her team at CZM to ensure our region's waterfront remains resilient, sustainable, and accessible for future generations."

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
Docket No.  
SU24P0538EA  
Estate of:  
Elizabeth Whitson  
Thomson  
Date of Death:  
01/11/2024  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by James L. Thomson of Williamsburg, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: James L. Thomson of Williamsburg, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised

administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/21/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating

to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 16, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
Register of Probate

05/02/24  
RR

### LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT  
TO G.L. c. 190B,  
Section 5-304  
Docket No.  
SU24P0848GD  
Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate  
and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston MA, 02114  
In the matter of: Jennifer Chang  
of: Tewksbury, MA  
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and

all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Jennifer Chang is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 5/21/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written

affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 23, 2024  
Stephanie Everett, Register of Probate

5/2/24  
RR

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114

(617) 788-8300  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
Docket No.  
SU24P0803EA  
Estate of:  
Myrna Hedda  
Barlow  
Date of Death:  
03/06/2024  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nicholas Barlow of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: Nicholas Barlow of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the

return day of 05/29/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 17, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
Register of Probate

05/02/24

RR



# Shuttle buses will now replace Red Line from Park Street to JFK/UMass on May 2-10

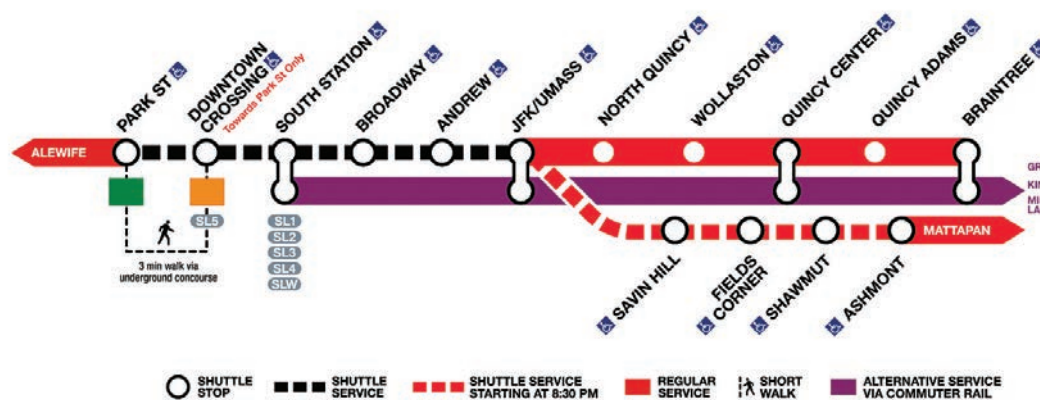
The MBTA is today announcing an update to the upcoming Red Line service change that begins next week. Previously scheduled to begin on May 1, the Red Line will now be suspended daily between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations from May 2-10. In addition to that, from May 2-9, evening Red Line trains will not operate between Park Street and Ashmont stations from approximately 8:30 PM through the end of service every day. Shuttle buses will instead operate to accommodate riders. This update is to accommodate the two-day extension of Track Improvement Program work currently taking place on the Blue Line.

The MBTA is also announcing an update to the planned weekend Red Line service change on May 11-12. Red Line service will be replaced with free and accessible shuttle buses between JFK/UMass and North Quincy (instead of the previously announced locations of Broadway to Braintree) during the weekend of May 11-12 to accomplish work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the Track Improvement Program.

As previously announced, the Red Line service change beginning next week is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more. Riders can learn more at [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://mbta.com/TrackProgram).

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between stations. There will be free fares at Park Street and JFK/UMass stations with the fare gates open. The Commuter Rail will be fare free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree. A page with dedicated information for riders is available at [mbta.com/RedLine](https://mbta.com/RedLine) with additional information available at [mbta.com/alerts](https://mbta.com/alerts).

The important work accomplished during this Red Line service suspension means riders will experience a more reliable trip with fewer unplanned service disruptions related to older tracks,



older infrastructure, signal issues, or power problems. Riders will also be provided with a safer ride as a result of this state of good repair work.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more

reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to

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

For more information, please visit [mbta.com/TrackProgram](https://mbta.com/TrackProgram).

## Coletta, legislators take 'Pledge to Waste Less'

Special to the Regional Review

With nearly 40% of food going unsold and uneaten and tens of millions of people facing food insecurity in the United States (including over 500,000 in Massachusetts alone), food recovery organization, Spoonfuls, debuted its "Pledge to Waste Less" this month.

The pledge aims to engage individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups across the Commonwealth in commitments to curb their wasted food footprints, with participants including U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Hunger Caucus, Jim McGovern, State Representative Hannah Kane (along with all seven of her co-chairs on the bipartisan, bicameral Massachusetts Food System Caucus), and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

In a speech on the House floor last week, McGovern, whose decades-long political career has centered on opportunities to end hunger and build a stronger food system, said he's focused on policy solutions, including building support for food recovery. "I've always said that, in America, we have a mismatch: Acres of fresh fruits and vegetables and some of the most talented farmers in the world, yet nearly 40 million Americans go hungry. We have enough food to feed everyone, yet so much goes to waste."

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree of Maine concurred. A member of the House Agriculture

Committee and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Interior and Environmental Subcommittee, Pingree cited the environmental impacts of wasted food as an impetus for her participation in the Pledge to Waste Less.

Said Pingree, "The staggering amount of food waste in America is not only costly for families, businesses, and farmers but also has a huge environmental impact. As I work in Congress to support food recovery, like fixing our outdated and confusing food date labeling system, I pledge to do my part at home to curb my food waste by using leftovers, making and sticking to grocery lists, and rethinking food date labels. For the sake of our planet, I urge others to consider taking the pledge, too."

Spoonfuls' pledge is part of a larger effort by the organization to call attention to the problem of wasted food and its impact on people, planet, and the economy. By debuting the pledge during Earth Month, the organization, which picks up still-good, unsold food from retailers, like grocery stores, and distributes it to food programs across the state, hopes to leverage broad interest in climate-focused initiatives to spotlight the role reducing wasted food can have.

The pledge is available online and paired with real-time recommendations for concrete action steps participants can take to curb their wasted food footprints. It has applications for households and businesses, which are each responsible for roughly 50 percent

of landfilled food in the U.S.

Said Spoonfuls' Senior Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Joni Kusminsky, specifically engaging policymakers in the pledge is a nod to the importance of public policy as a critical driver in making long term, systemic change in the food system. "We need individual action to curb waste and feed people," said Kusminsky. "But sound public policy can help to underscore the importance of those actions, drive future action, and make it possible for more people and businesses to take steps to reduce wasted food."

Kusminsky points to Massachusetts' Organics Waste Ban and pending state and federal legislation aimed at expanding food literacy and standardizing date labels as opportunities to bolster individual action.

"With wasted food consuming over 6% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and 24% of landfill inputs, preventing wasted food is a way to honor the resources it took to produce that food in the first place, mitigate the climate emergency, and ensure more people have the food they need for their health," said Kusminsky.

To learn more and participate in the Pledge to Waste Less, visit: [spoonfuls.org/earth-month](https://spoonfuls.org/earth-month).

Through food recovery and food distribution, education, and advocacy, Spoonfuls works to address the health, environmental, and economic impact that wasted food has on people and the planet. Learn more at [spoonfuls.org](https://spoonfuls.org).

LUNCH AND DINNER

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Sun: Closed

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