



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Eagerly awaited Folio bistro set to open June 25 at Athenaeum

By Dan Murphy

As the last phase of the extensive renovation and expansion of the Boston Athenaeum, its eagerly awaited street-level bistro, Folio, will open on Tuesday, June 25.

“Folio will serve as a welcoming extension of the Boston Athenaeum,” said Leah Rosovsky, the Athenaeum’s Stanford Calderwood Director, in a statement. “Our goal is for it to become a favorite spot for our members, a social hub for the Beacon Hill neighborhood, and a gathering place for everyone. There will be delicious food and great drinks served in a historic and beautiful environment.”

Located on the ground floor of the Athenaeum, with a street entrance at 14A Beacon St., Folio will span 1,180 square feet, with seating for 45. The restaurant is modeled after a European bistro, where Chef de Cuisine Peter Laspia will offer European-inspired fare.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The future home of Folio, the Boston Athenaeum’s new cafe coming to 14A Beacon St

The menu will be complemented by a wide selection of wines, as well as an array of craft cocktails, including the Athenaeum’s signature ‘Athena’s Ambrosia.’

Folio is a joint venture between the Athenaeum and The Catered Affair – a longstanding Rockland-based catering company that operates other restaurants in the Map Room at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library; ICA (Institute of Contemporary Art) in

the Seaport; and at the Harvard Art Museums.

In anticipation of Folio’s launch, Ken-Barrett-Sweet, vice president of catering at The Catered Affair, said in a statement: “With the launch of Folio, we are creating a unique dining experience and journey. Our vision is to establish a vibrant hub of community enrichment where every carefully curated dish catalyzes deeper connections

(BISTRO Pg. 4)

Coletta advocates priorities during FY25 budget hearings

Special to the Regional Review

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta is prioritizing budget allocations for a range of matters, emphasizing better city services like the repaving of streets and general public realm maintenance.

During the Capital Budget overview and the Public Works budget hearings, Coletta uplifted residents’ concerns about the poor quality condition of the District’s streets. Additionally, she questioned the administration on whether investments would increase for street repaving and if goals are set and met for miles per street and sidewalks being

repaved per year. The administration shared they are investing \$43 million dollars for sidewalk and ramp work and are increasing roadway resurfacing funding by 7% in this budget.

“District 1 is a highly walkable district. Unfortunately, our streets have taken quite a hit; we have a lot of utility work and the subpar quality of work is manifesting and residents are concerned. Our office receives calls daily about the condition of our streets and sidewalks. During this budget cycle, a top priority of mine is that we are investing more money into the

(HEARING Pg. 2)

City of Boston kicks off free summer fitness series

Special to the Times

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) are pleased to announce the 2024 Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The series offers free weekly classes both virtually and in 17 City of Boston parks through August 31, 2024.

The 2024 Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series is being launched with a kick-off event on The Boston Common on Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m., featuring free ZUMBA® from Z-Spot and Yoga plus fun giveaways.

The series offers a wide range of classes, including Yoga, Gentle Yoga, Chair Yoga, HIIT, ZUMBA®, Family ZUMBA®, Kick It By Eliza®, Afrobeats Dance, Walking Group, Strength Training and Conditioning, and Salsa Dance. The program is tailored to the interests of residents and participants, including age-friendly classes for families, older adults, and those new to fitness classes. For more information and a link to the full schedule, visit boston.gov/fitness.

“Cultivating vibrant communities through accessible, engaging programming is at the heart of our mission at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department,” noted

Commissioner Ryan Woods. “By activating public parks with initiatives like the Summer Fitness Series, we’re not only providing opportunities for physical activity but also fostering social connections and enhancing the overall well-being of Boston residents.”

“The Summer Fitness Series provides a free opportunity for residents to be active in our City’s parks while bringing our communities together to connect socially,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “Being active is one of the best ways to prevent

(FITNESS Pg. 4)



The winning team, Big Night Live, (left to right) Stephen Alimonti, Steven DeFilippo, Joe Alimonti, and Stephen Alimonti Jr.

NEW Health’s Second Annual Viva La Bocce Tournament

Special to the Regional Review

NEW Health hosted their second annual Viva La Bocce tournament at Langone Park in Boston’s North End neighborhood, May 4. Fourteen teams went head-to-

head for a good cause and for a chance to be crowned the best at the Italian sport.

NBC Boston’s Priscilla Casper was the emcee of Saturday’s event.

(BOCCE Pg. 2)

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EDITORIAL

20 YEARS OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN MASSACHUSETTS

It was 20 years ago this week (on May 17, 2004, to be exact), that the first marriage licenses were issued by cities and towns across Massachusetts for same-sex couples.

The marriage licenses were precipitated by the decision by the state's Supreme Judicial Court in November in the Goodridge case, which declared that same sex couples were entitled to the same legal protections and rights as heterosexual couples.

It's hard to imagine, with 20/20 hindsight, that marriage equality ever was an issue. There is not -- and never has been -- a justification for not allowing two adults to marry the person of their choosing in order to enjoy the legal status and privileges that marriage conveys.

But back in 2004, in the immediate aftermath of the Goodridge decision, there were many members of our state legislature, both Democrats and Republicans, who were talking of holding a Constitutional Convention in order to amend the state constitution to allow same-sex couples to have only so-called civil unions, not full marriage.

Massachusetts was an outlier in 2004 and fortunately the effort to call for a Constitutional Convention failed. Soon thereafter, other states allowed same-sex marriages and then in 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision in the Obergefell v Hodges cases that all states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

However, public opinion was way ahead of the courts. Modern Family, the hit TV comedy show that started in 2007, included a gay couple among its characters. Today, polls consistently show that more than 70 percent of Americans across all party lines support same-sex marriage.

To be sure, there still is much to be done to assure equal protection of all rights for our fellow Americans of the LGBTQIA+ community. But it is worth noting the events of 20 years ago to acknowledge the momentous changes that have taken place in the course of one generation.

PLASTIC, PLASTIC EVERYWHERE

In the classic 1967 movie, the Graduate, Dustin Hoffman's character, Benjamin Braddock, a recent college graduate, is taken aside by a family friend at his graduation party, who says to him, "Ben, I just have one word of advice for you. Are you listening? 'Plastics'. There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?"

"Yes sir," Benjamin replies meekly.

In 1967, plastics were nowhere near as ubiquitous as they are in 2024. But the advice given to Benjamin was prescient -- today, plastics, which are petroleum-based, are used for just about everything in our daily lives.

The problem is, plastics also are in everything, including our bodies. According to scientists, microplastics are flowing through every one of our organs and tissues, and the same is true for just about every animal on earth.

In addition, very little of the plastic that we generate is recyclable. We may think of ourselves as being virtuous when we dutifully recycle all of our plastic items every week, but a recent survey revealed that only about six percent of plastic items are recycled and that much of what is labeled as "recyclable" really is not recyclable at all. Those hard-plastic containers that hold our laundry detergent, for example, can be recycled only at a very few facilities across the country, which means that almost all of them end up in landfills, where they eventually disintegrate and make their way into the food chain and our water -- and into our bodies.

Almost 60 years after the Graduate, we are drowning -- literally -- in a sea of plastics, and with the demand for plastics ever-increasing, the problem is only going to get worse. It is estimated that by 2050, the demand for plastics will triple and the amount of plastic in the world's oceans actually will outweigh the fish.

Yes, as foretold in 1967, the future was indeed, "Plastics."

But that future -- today's present -- turned out to be a grim one.

OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

DRIVERS SHOULD PLAN AHEAD FOR TUNNEL CLOSURE

The upcoming closure of the Sumner Tunnel for a month starting August 5 calls for smart drivers to develop a plan to get from

here to there is a wise move.

Getting to work, visiting someone, taking a trip and making deliveries during the construction timeframe could pose a problem, so it's a good idea to look and be prepared.

In the meantime, MassDOT

is attempting to get the word out relating to the closure and has set up an internet that provides information and advice to help make things go as smoothly as possible.

As the old saying goes, "It takes two to tango"!

HEARING (from pg. 1)

repairing and maintenance of our streets and establishing accountability for bad actor contractors regarding utility work," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta. "I look forward to continuing to discuss budget investments with city departments and working with my council colleagues for a budget that addresses the 'nuts and bolts' issues and delivers vital services so our city functions effectively."

Throughout each departmental budget hearing, Councilor Coletta has also made various budget asks to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the District. Budget asks include:

- Climate Infrastructure to fortify our coastline and Green Infrastructure that allows the public to effectively and safely traverse our streets in place of flexible posts for Vision Zero;

- Contract software to facilitate the mattress pick-up processes, establish trash containerization to mitigate rodent infestations, and increase the number of streets that are on the list to get repaired in East Boston;

- Increase in Parking Enforcement Officers, conducting parking regulations audits, and tracking trash trucks and street sweepers to facilitate parking for

constituents;

- Translation of community resources from the Fire Prevention Division into primarily spoken languages in Boston; building another Firehouse, and possibly a Fire Boat in Charlestown to increase emergency response capacity;

- Expand Boston's Tree Canopy;

- Additional staff capacity in the Office of Housing Stability to meet growing housing needs and demands;

- Build another Boston International Newcomers High School in East Boston, increase salaries and resources for BPS Family Liaisons to support families with high needs and streamline connection to City resources and professional development;

- Increase Building Inspectors to proactively prevent building collapses, monitor non-compliant short-term rentals, and provide training for the Zoning Board Appeals for accountability to new zoning, i.e. PLAN: East Boston;

- Prioritizing cost saving efforts such as cuts to snow removal and working on the acquisition of units to secure affordability; and more.

The Boston City Council commenced its budget hearings on

April 22, 2024, and all hearings are led by Councilor Brian Worrel (D4), chair of the Committee on Ways and Means. This cycle is the third time the Boston City Council can reject, reduce, pass, or amend line items (i.e., accounts such as personnel, contracted services, equipment, etc.) in the City Budget. To prepare for the budget cycle, Coletta hosted a round of budget town halls across the district to gather feedback from residents about their priorities for the fiscal year operating and capital budget.

The Boston City Council will continue to have departmental budget hearings throughout May. There will be a hearing dedicated solely to Public Testimony on Tuesday, May 28 at 6pm in the Iannella Chamber of City Hall. To learn more about the budget process and how to get involved, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/fy2025-city-council-legislative-budget-review>.

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

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Wu's Coffee Hour Series comes to the North End June 11

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin'® in parks citywide from April 22 to June 26. Wu will be in the North End on Tuesday, June 11 at Langone Park, 529 Commercial Street.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours offer a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods. Through these conversations, and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Wu looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon parks, public areas, and City services.

"Every neighborhood and every resident has their own diverse set of concerns that deserve to not only be heard, but to be acknowledged and addressed," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited for all of the conversations and connection that will come from Neighborhood Coffee Hours."

Leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet will be at each Coffee Hour. Community members will have an opportunity to meet their

neighborhood liaisons, who will share updates on each neighborhood, including how many 311 cases have been resolved, streets repaired, as well as the City's investments in housing, local businesses, and the arts. The City is again releasing a Community Input Survey, which provides an opportunity for constituents to ask questions and inform what will be presented during Coffee Hours with the Mayor. Last year, this proved to be a success, allowing constituents to hear directly from the Mayor and City leaders as they addressed concerns and answered constituents' questions at each Coffee Hour event.

"Coffee Hours with the Mayor is an intentional effort to meet community members in the heart of their neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "I encourage residents, including our youth, seniors, civic organizations, business owners, and local leaders to attend this neighborhood-centered event. Boston 311 will be present to connect residents to essential city services."

Dunkin' will be on-site with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats. Dunkin' will have lawn games and gift card giveaways.

Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Individuals in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last. Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market.

"Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are vital for community engagement, allowing residents to share their thoughts directly. We're grateful for their participation," noted Ryan Woods, Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. "These events not only foster dialogue but also mark the kickoff for our exciting summer calendar of events. From outdoor concerts to movies to arts and crafts workshops for kids, our programming breathes life into our parks, fulfilling our core mission of creating vibrant spaces for all to enjoy."

All coffee hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. Visit boston.gov/coffee-hours for more information.

For more information and updates on possible rain locations, please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505 or @boston-parksdept on X, Facebook, or Instagram, or by visiting boston.gov/parks.

NEWS BRIEFS

WINDOW BOX EVENT JUNE 8

PYOWB – The Plant your own Window Box event is moving to the DeFilippo Playground this spring!

North End and Charlestown Residents can bring and fill their own window boxes with soil and plants or we can provide one window box for each person, with plants and soil. The event will be held on Saturday June 8, 2024, from 10am-3pm at the DeFilippo (the "Gassy") playground.

The event is free, but if you

are taking a window box that we are supplying, there is a limit of 1 window box per person, with no exceptions. Supplies are limited.

Gardening experts Al Skinner, Robyn Reed and Meg Drielak, who ran the event for the last two years at the Nazzaro Center, will be on hand to teach everyone how to plant the window boxes, and how to maintain them over the season. The event is sponsored by The Friends of DeFilippo Playground.

Contact information is Robyn Reed, who can be reached at robynr@foccp.org.

NEWNC upcoming election

By Phil Orlandella

This Saturday, May 18 the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) will conduct its annual election for six seats on the Council.

The Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street is the voting site, open from 10am to 2pm.

Community residents 18 or

older can vote for up to six candidates to serve a two-year-term on the Council.

NEWNC works with residents, elected officials to deal with community issues and concerns that directly impact the neighborhood.

Meetings are open to the public on the second Monday of each month, starting at 6:30pm at the Nazzaro Community Center.

BOCCE (from pg. 1)

In addition to the bocce games, there were raffles, giveaways, food and beverages, all to support NEW Health and its services. NEW Health would like to thank all of the sponsors: Artu Restaurant, C3 – The Community Care Cooperative, Commonwealth Purchasing Group, Gardner Resources Consulting, Mass. League of Community Health Centers, North End Athletic Association, and Stephen Lynch For Congress.

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to

people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since

1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at www.newhealthcenter.org, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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NEWS, NOTES AND WHATEVER By Phil Orlandella

OUTDOOR STREET DINING STILL NOT ON THE MENU

Still upset about not being able to provide outdoor street dining in the North End, restaurant owners staged another rally to gather support for their endeavor to have Mayor Michelle Wu reverse her decision to shut down the pilot program.

Owners reminded the public that the North End is the only community throughout the city that is not being allowed to have outdoor street dining.

A lawsuit has been filed by the owner's claiming discrimination and loss of revenue.

No court ruling has been made at this time and it appears the

mayor will not reverse her decision.

MUSIC FOR KIDS

Little Groove is Back! With live music for babies, toddlers and preschoolers on Monday, May 20 from 10:30am to 11:30am at the library.

Little Groove is voted the top pre-school music class in Boston. Currently just a drop in until the library reaches more capacity.

AUTHOR PRESENTATION

Author and former State Rep. Josh Cutler will speak on a group of ground breaking and rabble-raising Bostonian women in 1835 on Wednesday, June 12 at

6pm. His book is a paradoxically titled, "The Boston Gentleman's Mob."

NEW HEALTH BOCCE CHAMPS

Winners of the second annual NEW Health annual Viva LA Bocce Tournament held at Langone Field Bocce Courts were: Stephen Alimonti, Steven DeFilippo, Joe Alimonti and Stephen Alimonti, Jr.

CURRENT GREENWAY BREWERS OPEN

Many 2024 Summer-Fall programs are currently underway on The Greenway hosted by the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy.

A new drinkery partner, "Night

Shift Brewing" has begun service at Dewey Square.

Activities include concerts and festivals and will take place to create a lively space for enjoying local brews.

In addition, Trillium Garden on The Greenway is currently open for their eight seasons, operating at the corner of High Street and Atlantic Avenue across from Rowes Wharf.

HERITAGE PARK'S GIVING DAY

Friends of the Armenian Heritage Park will hold a Park's Giving Day on Thursday, May 23 to support the care of the park located between the North End and the Waterfront areas.

Giving will express gratitude for the park and all it offers by participating in this important endeavor that will help with the maintenance of the entire park.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The North End Library, 20 Parmenter Street will present a free sneak preview of a thrilling production of Orfeo's Italian Baroque opera, Orfeo ed Euridice on Saturday, May 18 from 11am to 12:15pm.

It is the thirteenth season, the North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) and the Boston Festival Orchestra will present the thrilling production, sponsored by the Friends of the North End Library.

Massachusetts House passes bill authorizing Chapter 90 funding

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill that includes \$200 million for the state's Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs, as well as \$175 million for specific programs. The bill also appropriates \$25 million for the rural roads program established in last year's Chapter 90 legislation, which provides funding to rural communities in addition to the standard Chapter 90 distribution.

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the Commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker

Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities. I want to thank Chairman Straus and my colleagues in the House, for prioritizing this vital legislation."

"Through this bill, the House provides cities and towns funding to maintain bridges and roads while advancing transportation accessibility and electric vehicle acquisition," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). "I look forward to seeing the City of Boston use these dollars to address our transportation network."

"The Legislature continues to be responsive to the transportation needs of our towns and cities," said Representative Bill Straus (D-Mat-

tapoisett), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "This legislation demonstrates a commitment to funding for local transportation projects with again, our new program especially for funding to rural towns. I am pleased to support this important piece of legislation which provides more tools for towns to tackle their project backlog in time for the new fiscal year starting in July."

This legislation authorizes \$150 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects. This includes \$25 million for each of the following:

- Municipal Pavement Program, which focuses on the improvement of municipally owned state num-

bered routes

- Municipal Small Bridge Program, which provides financial support to cities and towns for small bridge replacement, preservation, and rehabilitation projects

- Complete Streets Funding Program, which provides technical assistance and construction funding to municipalities for streets that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes such as walking, biking, transit, and vehicles

- Municipal Bus Enhancement Program, which provides grant funding to towns to build out infrastructure related to mass transit by bus, such as bus shelters, curb reconfiguration, bus lanes, and signal prioritization

- Mass Transit Access Grant Program, which provides grants to municipalities for design and construction for improvements to access commuter rail stations or other mass transit stations, such as parking lots, drop-off and pick-up zones, bike storage infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure

- Municipal/RTA EV Grant Program, which provides grants to Regional Transit Authorities and municipalities for the purchase of electric vehicles and related charging equipment

Having passed the House of Representatives 155-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for their consideration.

FITNESS *(from pg. 1)*

many chronic diseases as well as improve mental health. The series is available in most neighborhoods and online and is a continuation of the work being done to improve the health and well-being of all residents."

Series partners echoed the focus on community engagement and holistic health. "The Boston Park Fitness series showcases the vibrant neighborhoods and cultures of Bos-

ton, and what better way to experience that than through community fitness?" said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "The program has something for everyone, including in-person and virtual classes for people of all abilities. We're proud to partner with the City of Boston to support the physical and mental health of our community."

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks—including weather-related cancellations for outdoor fitness classes—call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

BISTRO *(from pg. 1)*

within our neighborhood. We believe that Folio will become a cherished gathering place, enhancing the fabric of our community."

Likewise, Alex Marconi, CEO of The Catered Affair, stated: "We are ecstatic to join the Beacon Hill community, where Folio Bistro

goes beyond mere dining. In partnership with Boston Athenaeum, we hope Folio becomes a visitor and community gathering hub while enjoying thoughtfully prepared food and beverage."

Folio's hours of operation will be Tuesday through Thursday

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and on Friday and Saturday; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on Folio and full menu details visit www.thecateredaffair.com/folio/ and follow along on Instagram.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

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CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE
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Docket No. SU22P2198EA
Estate of JAMES F. DARCY
Date Of Death: 08/30/2022
A Petition for ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT has been filed by Daniel G. McAuley

Jr. of Woburn, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a first and final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. 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 06/27/2024. 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 (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS,
Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 02, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.,
Register of Probate

5-17-24
RR

Wu announces Aidan McDonough as the new spark Boston Director

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced Aidan McDonough as the new SPARK Boston Director. SPARK Boston empowers 20 to 35-year-olds to play a greater role in planning for the City's future. Its office is within the Community Engagement Cabinet, focused on eliminating silos between Boston residents and City Hall. McDonough will be filling a vacancy to lead the SPARK Boston Council.

"SPARK Boston is a unique way for young leaders in our city to have their voices heard in Boston's future," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Aidan's experience in community organizing makes him a great fit for this passionate, innovative group and I look forward to work-



Aidan McDonough, the new SPARK Boston Director.

ing with him and the rest of SPARK Boston on issues most important to millennials and Gen Z."

Aidan McDonough graduated from the University of Pittsburgh

with his bachelor's degree in communications. He moved to Boston in 2010 to pursue his career in public service. When he moved to Boston, he knew right away that he wanted to make Boston his home. After being active in the Brighton community and for local and state campaigns, it became clear to him that he had a passion for civic involvement and helping others to find and build their own community in Boston. McDonough served on the SPARK Boston Council in 2018-2019. He was formerly the Executive Director of Brighton Main Streets.

"Aidan's passion for empowering young adults and enthusiasm to deepen his work in public service makes him a great addition to the Community Engagement Cab-

net," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "The SPARK Boston Council is an integral part of Boston's local government. I am excited to witness Aidan working closely with the SPARK Boston Council empowering them to continue to be change-makers in our city."

SPARK Boston is housed in the Mayor's Community Engagement Cabinet, and is responsible for advising Mayor Wu on issues affecting millennial and Gen Z populations and working with City departments and community stakeholders to create innovative solutions. The council meets monthly with City Hall leaders and creates free programming for their peers including voter resources, events highlighting the City's

ongoing initiatives, and professional and social networking opportunities across Boston's many neighborhoods.

"As an alumnus of SPARK Boston, I am looking forward to getting back into the program and giving council members the opportunity to expand their knowledge of Boston," said SPARK Boston Director Aidan McDonough. "I plan on taking the lessons learned from my time on the council and continue providing opportunities for council members to be engaged in what is happening in local government. I hope to help council members have access to cabinet chiefs and program directors so that their ideas of how Boston can continue to grow can be heard by decision makers within City Hall."

House passes bill to increase the Commonwealth's competitiveness for federal funds

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill that will enable the Commonwealth to leverage the interest earned by the Stabilization Fund, which currently stands at a historically high balance of \$8.2 billion, to bolster our ability to compete for federal funds and pay down debt obligations, such as pensions and other post-employment benefits. With the passage of this bill, Massachusetts will be able to more aggressively compete for federal funding made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

"Ensuring that the Commonwealth is able to aggressively compete for the federal funding being made available to states is critical, especially given the challenging revenue conditions that we are facing here in Massachusetts this fiscal year," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "The projects and investments that will be funded throughout the U.S. because of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act will transform this country and create a significant number of jobs in the process. It's vital that Massachusetts does everything that it can to share in that prosperity. I want to thank Chairman Michlewitz and Chairman Lewis for their work on this issue, as well as all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the importance of this legislation."

"This legislation leverages the Commonwealth's robust resources and the wise investments the legislature has made into the Rainy Day fund to make Massachusetts more

competitive," said Representative Adrian C. Madaro (D-East Boston). "This legislation will allow us to access more federal funding from numerous programs to benefit communities across Massachusetts, creating jobs, and paying down debt to put us in a stronger economic and financial position."

"Giving the Commonwealth a competitive edge when it comes to competing for Federal dollars is paramount. By building off the interest earned from the historic high balance of the Rainy Day Fund we will be better positioned to compete for Federal matching grant to improve our infrastructure and other critical needs," said House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston). "I want to thank Speaker Mariano and Chair Lewis for their hard work and determination on this issue and I look forward to seeing this bill over the finish line in the weeks ahead."

"This legislation expands our Commonwealth's competitive edge as we compete for federal funds and pay down our debt obligations. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act, all contain time-sensitive opportunities for our Commonwealth and our local communities, opportunities that require us to have matching resources available," said Representative Jack Patrick Lewis (D-Framingham), Chair of the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight. "The passage of this bill today ensures that we can properly compete for all available federal funds. I am grateful to Speaker Ron Mariano and Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz,

along with the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight, for their support of this legislation."

The legislation passed today establishes the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund to be administered by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F). The fund will consist of the interest earned on the Stabilization Fund in each fiscal year, any money appropriated to the fund, and interest earned on the fund. The Comptroller will transfer interest from the Stabilization Fund to the newly established

Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction fund each quarter, but as a safeguard, no transfer will occur if the balance has decreased over the preceding year, or if it no longer exceeds 10 percent of budgeted revenues.

A&F may expend the funds to pay down the Commonwealth's debt or pension obligations, OPEB, capital leases, general or special obligation contract liabilities, or transfer any amount back to the Stabilization Fund. A&F may expend up to \$750 million from the fund to provide matching funds for federal programs through

December 1, 2026:

- Up to \$50 million may be used for matching funds for federal programs in the form of grants, loans, and other financial assistance to cities, towns, tribes, and regional organizations.

- Up to \$12 million may be used to provide grants to support municipal, tribal, and regional organizations in planning efforts.

Having passed the House of Representatives 152-0, An Act to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts now returns to the Senate for further consideration.

CITY OF BOSTON MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Thermometers

Mercury Switches

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PLEASE BRING THESE PRODUCTS CONTAINING MERCURY TO:

ZERO WASTE DAY DROP OFF

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Noon)

**Central DPW Facility
400 Frontage Road, Boston**

Boston Residents Only - Proof of Residency Required.

Find a full list of acceptable items at:

Boston.gov/hazardous-waste

AD SPONSORED BY



OVER 250 TURN OUT FOR NEAA BASEBALL OPENING DAY

By Phil Orlandella

“It was a fantastic day with a terrific family fun atmosphere with over 250 people filling Langone Park for the North End baseball program opening day,” Baseball Coordinator John Romano boasted.

Five games were played, a family breakfast, a BBQ also took place throughout the beautiful sunny weather conditions.

John Fiumara tossed out the traditional first pitch and was honored for his many years of playing, coaching and continued support of the NEAA and several other community activities and endeavors.

Father Michael Dell Penna (born and raised in the North End) of Saint Leonard’s Parish blessed the program and the 175 players currently playing in the 2024 base-

ball program.

NEMPAC student Maggie Tompros did a great job performing the National Anthem accompanied by the USS Constitution Color Guard.

Besides the breakfast and BBQ, the event included facepainting, a temporary tattoo artist and a balloon maker.

Many volunteers, sponsors, family donations, supporters and friends helped make this event the highly successful opening day it was.

This year’s opening day saw the Majors and Minor Leagues take the field. The program also included T-ball, a clinic and a traveling team.

Romano noted that baseball is played at both Langone and Puopolo Parks five nights a week at 5:30 PM with the clinic and

T-ball played on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

He also praised Bill Murphy of Mac Murchadha Advisors the premier sponsor for the opening day event for the past two years.

Breakfast was sponsored by WaterMark Donut Company, Dunkin’ Donuts was available to everyone at the field. Romano thanked Bill Gailatis for his continued support of the NEAA.

Other sponsors were: St. Lucy Feast Society, Soma Yoga, The Post Gazette, Mangia, Mangia and Mike Giannasoli.

Raffle prizes were donated by Brine Sporting Goods, the Wells family, the Paniq Room, the Bonzagni family and the Burns family.

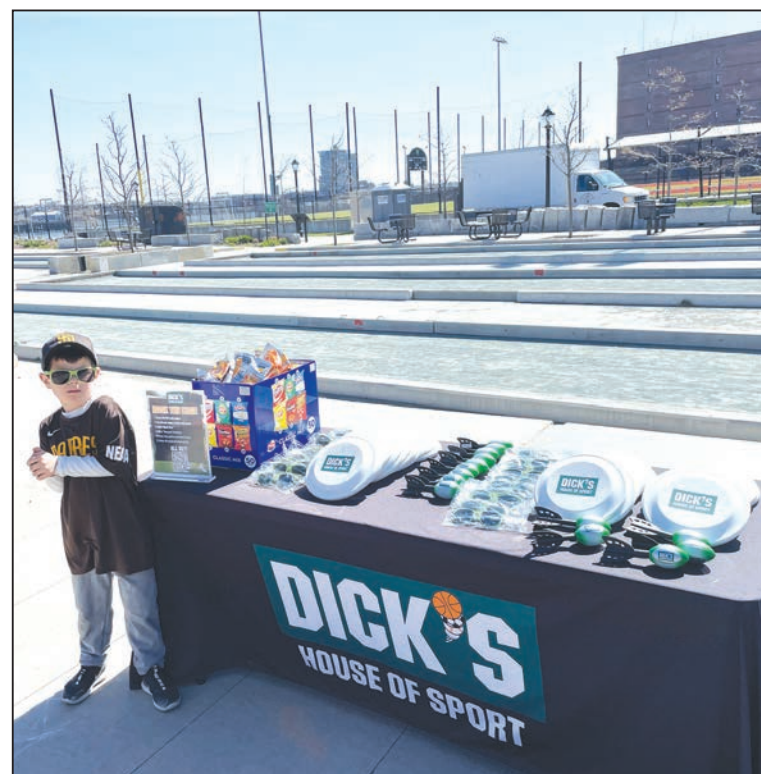
“The NEAA is looking forward to another awesome baseball season,” Romano said.



Honoree John Fiumara addressing the crowd.



Face Painter and Tatoon Artist.



Dicks Sporting Goods Table.



Dunkin Donuts Breakfast Spread.



NEAA Banner with Joe Sacco Plaque.

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN HOLD ANNUAL DUCKLING DAY PARADE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Friends Of The Public Garden held its annual Duckling Day Parade on Mother's Day. The event is a celebration of the classic children's book Make Way For Ducklings by Robert McClosky. It begins as a family friendly festival at The Gazebo in Boston Common

as. Music, dancing, activities, and more greeted fans of the Mallard Family as many arrived dressed as ducklings. A parade then matches from the Common to the Public Garden where in the book the Mallard family take up residence. A fun day for all!



The gentle giant Duckling mascot generated a lot of attention.



The Duckling Parade kicks off from Boston Common.



Laura Lott with her duckling Theodora.




Dancers from the City Ballet Of Boston, run by Tony Williams perform for a duckling audience.



WCVB Channel 5 award winning journalist Rhondella Richardson gets into the Duckling spirit as MC as she officiated the Duckling Parade activities.


NEMPAC
 North End Music & Performing Arts Center

Youth Musical Theatre Troupe
 presents
LIONEL BART'S
Oliver!
JR.


Tickets:


May 17 @ 6 PM
 May 18 @ 1 PM & 6 PM
 At Charlestown High School

Oliver! JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

3rd Year!
PYOWB
 (Plant your own Window Box)
JUNE 8
SATURDAY
 10am - 3pm
 DeFilippo Playground (The Gassy)
Window Box Event

North End Residents can fill their own window boxes with soil and plants or we can provide one window box for each person, with plants and soil. Garden experts will show you how to maintain them to last an entire season.



More Info: robynnr@foccp.org
Let's make the North End beautiful-with plants!
 1 box per person. No exceptions. Limited Supply.

Sponsored by:
Friends of DeFilippo Playground

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Healey-Driscoll administration extends state financial aid priority deadline to July 1

Special to the Regional Review

In alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration's call to support students in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) has moved the priority deadline for its largest state financial aid program, MASSGrant, from May 1 to July 1, 2024. This later deadline gives Massachusetts students more time to complete their FAFSA for the 2024-2025 academic year.

MASSGrant is a need-based financial aid program that helps to cover educational expenses at state public and private colleges and universities. During FAFSA Week of Action, the administration is encouraging students to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible.

"Massachusetts is home to the greatest higher education institutions in the world, but we need to make sure that students are able to access that education. That's why our administration has taken action to significantly expand financial aid," said Governor Maura Healey. "We are extending the MASSGrant deadline to ensure that students who qualify for this financial aid have enough time and support to apply and do not leave money on the table."

"Many students' post-high school plans rest on whether or not they receive the financial aid needed to make going to college a reality," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This year's updated deadline supports students who have reported challenges completing this year's new FAFSA, and the move is part of larger efforts to remove financial barriers to the life-changing opportunities that higher education offers."

The extended priority deadline for MASSGrant comes in response to challenges that students are facing as they work to complete the significantly updated FAFSA. Students who qualify for MASSGrant and apply by the July 1, 2024 pri-

ority deadline are guaranteed to receive financial assistance from this program. Students who cannot complete the FAFSA due to their immigration status can complete the MASFA to apply for state need-based financial aid.

"We're happy to allow more time for FAFSA completion this year to support our students, families, and those in our K-12 schools and educational community who work tirelessly to help with FAFSA completion," said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. "The Healey-Driscoll Administration, in partnership with the Legislature, is committed to helping students access higher education. We are hopeful that students will apply for financial aid and take advantage of the many expanded opportunities to attend college more affordably."

"Our message to students and families continues to remain the same: fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible," said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. "This year's extended deadline responds to feedback from students, campuses and other partners about this year's unique challenges with FAFSA completion. We want students to know there are significant financial aid dollars available for those who qualify, and that persevering through completing the FAFSA is worth it."

"This updated MASSGrant priority deadline is welcome news," said Elementary and Secondary Education Acting Commissioner Russell D. Johnston. "I hope students, especially first generation college students, will see the extended deadline and the Administration's significant expansion of financial aid and realize that public higher education is within reach."

Along with Massachusetts' longstanding MASSGrant program, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has brought historic increases in student financial aid. In August 2023, the administration launched MassReconnect, which makes community college tuition and fees free for students

ages 25 and older without prior degrees, regardless of income. Then in November 2023, the administration launched MASSGrant Plus Expansion that provides free tuition and fees to Pell Grant-eligible students at all Massachusetts public colleges and universities (not including room and board) along with a \$1,200 allowance for books and supplies. The expansion of MASSGrant Plus also cuts tuition and fees in half for middle-income families earning an adjusted gross income between \$73,000 and \$100,000 annually.

"Extending the MASSGrant deadline puts higher education within reach for more students and families in our Commonwealth at a moment when we should be doing everything in our power to make college accessible to every resident. I'm proud to live in a Commonwealth where education is a priority, and I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration for extending this deadline and giving families more time to complete their FAFSA," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland).

"As a former public school teacher, I understand firsthand the importance of ensuring equitable access to education," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration for extending the state's application deadline as it will be impactful for students most in need of financial support to make college a reality."

"I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration's action to ensure as many students as possible have the opportunity to complete a FAFSA and to keep the doors to higher education wide open to students regardless of their financial situation," said Senator Jo Comerford (D-Amherst), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

"The college application process has always been a challenging time for students and their families, this year made more difficult by the new FAFSA form rollout," said House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge). "I commend the Healey-Driscoll Administration for extending the MASSGrant priority deadline and, more generally, for partnering with the House to expand access to higher education significantly."

"We should be doing everything in our power to make applying to college and financial aid as accessible and simple as

possible, said State Senator Jason Lewis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. "I am proud that the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the State Legislature have been allocating significant funding and resources to make public higher education more accessible in Massachusetts. Extending the priority deadline for MASSGrant will allow more students to receive this financial support from the state to be able to attend college."

"I join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives as we welcome all tools available to aid students and their families to meet the challenges of financial concerns and, more importantly, the great opportunities of higher education," said State Representative Denise Garlick, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education.

How to complete the FAFSA for students and their families

- High school students are encouraged to inquire with their school counselor about applying for financial aid and applying to college. Additional resources are available for students looking for assistance completing the FAFSA, including the below contacts:

- MassEdCO serves students who are low-income and first-generation to college. Students can find local assistance with college access by entering their zip code on the MassEdCO website: Massachusetts Education & Career Opportunities, Inc. (MassEdCo).

- Watch the "FAFSA How to" videos.

- FAFSA Day Massachusetts: fafsaday@gmail.com

- The Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA): (800) 449-MEFA (6332), collegeplanning@mefa.org

- The Department of Higher Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA): (617) 391-6070, osfa@osfa.mass.edu

Students are encouraged to attend an upcoming free, virtual FAFSA Day MA event, where they can receive personalized help from a financial aid professional. DHE recommends these three steps to students and families:

1. Create an FSA ID. At least a week before attending a FAFSA completion event, create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID if you don't have one. This ID allows you to log in and complete a FAFSA. It takes a few days for your account to be activated, so please start this process a week in advance of trying to complete your FAFSA. For instructions on creating the FSA

ID, visit studentaid.gov. If applicable, have your Social Security number ready.

2. Sign up for a FAFSA completion event. Sign up for a virtual, free FAFSA Day MA event on April 30 or May 13 by following this link. You can look for similar events on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) website. Another option is to ask your school counselor if there are any upcoming FAFSA completion events in your community.

3. Gather your documents. Visit this link for a list of documents you should have with you when you complete the FAFSA. You do NOT need to submit these items to the federal government, but you may need the information on them.

"Extending the deadline of the MASSGrant financial aid program by the DHE is another example of how the Healey-Driscoll Administration is putting the Commonwealth's students first," said John D. Keenan, President of Salem State University and Chair of the State University Council of Presidents. "With FAFSA delays, this has been a challenging year for all students but particularly for those that attend state universities as so many of them are first generation to college. The MASSGrant extension will provide families with a clearer picture of how they can obtain their bachelor's degree, a dream within reach for many."

"I applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration for allowing Massachusetts college-bound students and families more time to complete the FAFSA and to qualify for the MASSGrant program," said UMass President Marty Meehan. "Our goal is to ensure that qualified students can leverage every bit of financial aid that is available to them, and this extension will help realize that. In a similar spirit, UMass campuses have also extended their deposit deadlines for entering students."

"Given the challenging rollout of FAFSA, any and all support and additional time we can provide to students and families in the Commonwealth is crucial," said Rob McCarron, president and CEO of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. "Attending and graduating from a college or university can bring life-changing opportunities, and state financial aid programs, such as MassGrant, provides much-needed support, making financial aid critical for all deserving students."

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.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through May 25 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Temporary foam abutment removal at Paul Revere Park
- Cofferdam dredging and drilled shaft installation
- Architectural trellis welding and painting
- Pier lighting installation
- Main bridge west sidewalk formwork and rebar 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:

- CELTICS: May 19, at TBA
- OTHER EVENTS: N/A

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

Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us

Wu announces launch of Wake Up the Night Grant

Special to the Regional Review

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Nightlife Economy today announced the launch of the City's Wake Up the Night Grant, which will award individuals and organizations up to \$10,000 to host nighttime activations. The application is now open and the deadline to apply is May 28.

The Wake Up the Night Grant Pilot Program will use up to \$250,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to revitalize Boston's nightlife economy and foster safe, inclusive social spaces. All activations will take place in July through December 2024 and be free and open to the public.

"Boston is a city of neighborhoods, and we are working to revitalize our nighttime economy and create opportunities for residents to enjoy safe, joyful spaces throughout the warmer months and into the fall," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This year we're trying to make it easier than ever to foster fun programming that showcases the beauty of our communities and support residents and businesses in their efforts to make this summer a safe, enjoyable one for all in Boston."



Mayor Michelle Wu.

All funded events will align with one of the following categories:

- Accessible Programming: Social events specifically curated for persons with diverse abilities (physical, cognitive, or emotional)
- Cultural Expression: Activations showcasing the many cultural interests and expressions of Bostonians.
- Intergenerational: Activations promoting multi-generational social interaction.
- Spirit-Free Programming: Activations mindfully omitting the consumption and presence of alcohol.
- Weekday Activations: Events

promoting social interaction Monday through Thursday, specifically in the Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

- Youth Programming: Activations aimed to serve persons 20 years old and younger.

"There is a pressing demand for more innovative, inclusive, and accessible nighttime activities," said Corean Reynolds, Director of Nightlife Economy for the City of Boston. "Through the Wake Up the Night Grant Pilot Program, we are excited to directly invest in people and organizations that are reimagining Boston's nightlife."

The Grant is open to individuals, nonprofit organizations, or businesses working in partnership with community partners. Applicants must be Boston residents or demonstrate that their project is led by partners who are Boston residents.

The Wake Up the Night Grant is an Office of Nightlife Economy initiative. The Office, launched in March 2023, works to create a more robust and equitable nightlife economy to enhance the overall quality of life for residents of Boston. For more information about the Office of Nightlife Economy, visit boston.gov/nightlife.

CITY PAWS

Breeds reality check

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

A recent social media post anthropomorphized several dogs, explaining what they were bred to do and how hard it is to live in a world without that work. It ends with a plea that people do a breed reality check before they buy or adopt a dog.

Responsible Selection

Read about the breed's history or the predominant breeds for a canine with a generous gene pool. We still turn to our ancient copy of "The Roger Caras Dog Book" when someone asks about a breed.

In addition to an expert narrative about each breed, Caras rates each from one to ten for three key factors: the amount of coat care and exercise required and the suitability for apartment life. Consider those aspects of living with the dog you think you want.

When you see one of your favored breeds in the wild, start a conversation with the guardian and ask about the best and worst aspects of living with their dog. What they find a problem, like the need for lots of exercise, may be perfect for you. Or, something they think is worth the time and

money, such as regular professional grooming or the cost of feeding a large canine, may not fit your budget. Dog professionals like dog walkers and groomers can be good sources of information, and a veterinarian can tell you about the health problems associated with the breed.

A rescue group is another excellent source of the information you need to make a sound decision. We would ask those guardians why the dogs they rehome were surrendered. In the case of the West Highland White Terrier rescues we've fostered and placed, there have been problems with children (who can bring out the dog's prey instinct), allergy issues, and not understanding that these are not necessarily lap dogs but were bred to be very independent and hunt vermin.

From the Dog's Point of View

In the post, the beagle explained that his work was to howl and bark to lead hunters to their prey, but today, when he does that, he is wrong and doesn't understand why. Caras warns, "A beagle loves a good howling session and may tend to do a solo when left alone."

The Jack Russel Terrier



While Westies may look cute and cuddly, they are actually very independent, intelligent, and strong-willed. For many, a Bichon Frise is a better choice.

explained that he is not a quiet living room dog. He was meant to hunt vermin (some larger than he is) and is tired of being scolded for the high energy his work requires. This breed suffered from media exposure when Moose, an incredibly well-trained canine actor, played Eddie on the sitcom Frasier. Wikipedia points out that Moose's original owners surrendered him because he was too hard to handle. "He could not be house trained; he chewed every-

thing; he dug and barked a lot; and he was constantly escaping and climbing trees."

The Labrador Retriever reminds us she was not meant to sit around the house and get fat. She wants to run, dive into the water, and bring back a duck or a floating toy. Caras rates the Lab as a ten out of ten with the need for exercise and finds it suitable for apartment life only if given a lot of exercise and occasional retrieving work.

The post ended with a dog's plea

to think carefully before choosing a dog: "I'm a dog from the 21st century, yes, but deep inside me, the one who fought, the one who hunted, the one who pulled sleds, the one who guided and protected a herd still lives within."

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

Newly renovated West End Museum to reopen May 23

By Dan Murphy

After being closed to the public for more than two years following a substantial flood, a newly renovated and reimagined West End Museum will formally reopen on Thursday, May 23.

“It’s totally different from the old museum,” said Simon Belfanti, executive director of the museum located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7. “Almost no walls are the same – it’s just a different space. It’s completely redesigned and a modern museum. It’s interactive, and it contains digital elements and [aspires] to be welcoming for people across generations and also to support schools and educational programs.”

On Jan. 15, 2022, a sprinkler check-valve ruptured on the fourth floor of West End Place, leading to flooding in nearly 30 units on the building’s bottom four floors, as well as in the adjacent West End Museum and its office space.

More than two dozen large images, which made up about half of the museum’s main permanent exhibit, ‘The Last Tenement,’ were damaged to some extent. But in all, only around 50 items were lost in the flood – about 40 of which the museum had duplicates of – while some other documents had already been scanned. Just two or three photos were completely destroyed due to the flood.

When the museum reopens, the

erstwhile ‘Last Tenement’ exhibit will be completely reimagined and vastly expanded as ‘Rise, Fall, Rebirth: Stories of the West End.’ This new permanent exhibit tells the West End’s story from when the neighborhood first comprised fields, farms, factories, and a few mansions around Bowdoin Square, though the immigrant era and the demolition that came with urban renewal, and up until the modern age (and beyond). The exhibit now covers the “full breath of the neighborhood,” said Belfanti, going from 1625 to 2035, even taking it a few years into the future.

This first phase of the rebuild project has cost around \$1 million while a second phase will cost approximately \$400,000. Besides individual donors, the Boston Planning & Development Agency, Boston Properties, HYM Investment Group, Delaware North, Mass Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, and Mass General Hospital have made financial contributions to the project. But the museum is still accepting donations to help push it over the finish line, said Belfanti.

The second phase will include the development of two new films – one focusing on abolitionists in the old West End (and now Beacon Hill) and another exploring the experience of displacement

from the West End. An interactive map will also be developed as part of the project’s second phase.

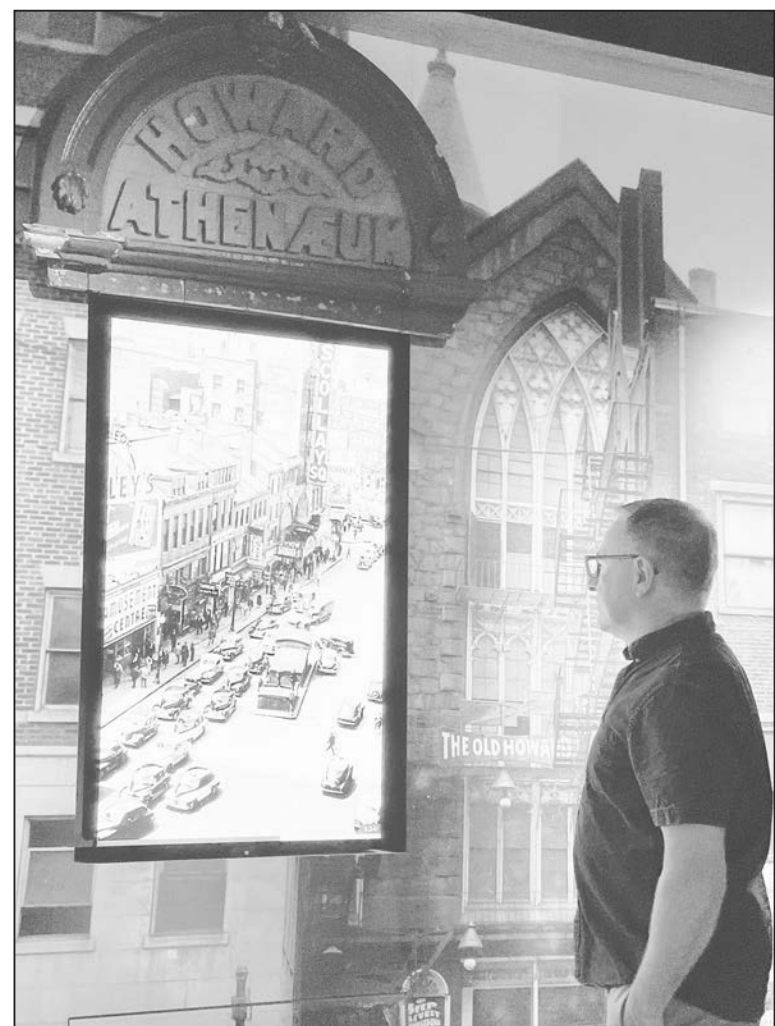
Trivium Interactive of the North End is developing the museum’s interactive elements, including touchscreen and video elements, along with the interactive map, among other features, for both project phases. New York-based Chan Ascher Architecture has offered its services pro bono for the project’s design.

Belfanti said “one benefit of digital media” is that the museum will now be able to constantly update and add content to existing exhibits.

“The museum is completely new and won’t be repetitive for people who’ve seen it before,” he said. “You also can come back and explore because it’s multi-layered...and not something we expect you’ll be able to take in in one visit.”

The first event in the new museum space will be its Boston Trivia Night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 30. Tickets cost \$10 each and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-trivia-night-tickets>.

The museum will also welcome the public for ‘West End Stories: Scanning Party’ on Monday, June 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. At this event, attendees can bring their items (i.e. ‘photos, letters, records, or objects that tell the story of the neighbor-



COURTESY OF THE WEST END MUSEUM

A guest views the Scollay Square module at the newly renovated West End Museum.

hood before urban renewal, just after, or up through the present day’) for a scanning project to help augment the museum’s already extensive archives collection. Or instead, attendees can have the items scanned and bring the originals back home with them, along with new digitized copies,

courtesy of the museum. R.S.V.P. for this free event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-stories-scanning-party-tickets>.

For more information on the West End Museum, and to contribute to the museum’s renovation costs, visit thewestendmuseum.org.

Planned closure of Sumner Tunnel this summer reduced to one month

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the schedule for the upcoming full closure of the Sumner Tunnel as its multi-restoration project continues. What was originally scheduled as a two-month 24/7 closure similar to last year has now been significantly reduced. The tunnel will be closed for work on Friday, July 5 and is expected to be reopened no later than Monday, August 5. There will be additional weekend closures both before and after this month-long closure.

The closure is the next phase of a project that began in April of 2022 and includes work on the tunnel ceiling, roadway, walls, lighting, and additional improvements which will increase safety and climate resiliency. The project is a \$160 million investment in the Commonwealth’s infrastructure.

Last summer’s work focused primarily on replacing and reha-

bilitating the ceiling of the tunnel as well as work on the walls, light fixtures, conduit, and wiring. The upcoming work will primarily be on the road deck and associated elements.

“This is a vitally important infrastructure project that will ensure the Sumner Tunnel remains safe and structurally sound for generations,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “We want to thank the people of Massachusetts and especially East Boston residents for their patience as we get closer to completing this very important work.”

Drivers are encouraged to use public transit and will have many discounted or free public transportation options during the full closure of the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project. This year’s full closure will mirror, in many ways, the successful offerings of 2023, providing travelers with a range of

services:

Free MBTA Blue Line rides: Riders can enjoy convenient travel.

Free and reduced cost MBTA water ferry options: Riders can take advantage of alternative water transportation at no or minimal cost.

Reduced MBTA Commuter Rail fares on the Newburyport-Rockport line: Save on your commute during the closure.

Fare-free service for customers boarding key Chelsea bus routes, including the Silver Line 3.

Discounted parking at select MBTA and Commuter Rail lots and garages: Park at reduced rate while the closure is in effect.

On the RIDE, trips that begin and end within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the MBTA modes that are free will also be free from July 5 to August 5.

Discounted tolls for Resident Discount Program participants: Benefit from lower tolls if you’re

enrolled in the program.

Additional options for travelers to and from Logan Airport: Stay informed about alternative transportation choices for airport travel.

“As MassDOT and the Highway Division tackles critical infrastructure projects like the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project, the importance of a multimodal transportation system is front and center,” said General Manager Phillip Eng. “I’m proud of the MBTA workforce for what we were able to do last year during the tunnel closure and we are ready to support our partners at MassDOT again. With enhanced ferry service and the Blue Line now operating at full speed, along with our other modes, we are pleased to welcome all that choose to use mass transportation. Thank you to our riders for continuing to utilize the MBTA as we encourage motorists to leave the driving to us again this year

during the tunnel closure and even after it reopens.”

The full schedule of remaining weekend closures can be found on our project website.

Weekend closures will take place from 11:00 p.m. on Friday until 5:00 a.m. on the following Monday. Weekend closures will not take place during holiday weekends.

“It is a credit to the work and engineering of our MassDOT colleagues and the contractor that we’re able to significantly cut the extended closure in half for this summer,” said State Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. “Our ultimate goal remains for the Sumner Tunnel to remain safe and in service for years to come.”

Additional information can be found on mass.gov/sumner-tunnel.

For MBTA service information, please visit: www.mbta.com.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL FIRST COMMUNION



Photo Reese Maple Photography

Congratulations to the second grade class of St. John School North End who were graced with their First Communion on Saturday, May 4, at Saint Leonard Church. It was a beautiful day overflowing with excitement and blessings.

Edwards, labor leaders respond to the State Auditor's Uber and Lyft misclassification report

Special to the Regional Review

The State Auditor released a report that shows for the first time a conservative estimate of the impact of Uber and Lyft on the Commonwealth's social programs sparking a strong response from Senator Edwards and labor leaders across Massachusetts.

The report entitled Assessing Transportation Network Companies' Financial Obligations to Massachusetts Programs available at Assessing TNCs' Financial Obligations to Massachusetts Programs Mass.gov, covers the last ten years of the companies' operation in Massachusetts. The information uncovered in this report shows just how much the global giants have deprived Massachusetts of contributions to programs that are paid by every other business that operates in the Commonwealth.

Highlights from the State Auditor's Report:

- In the past ten years TNCs have cheated the state social programs of over \$266.4 Million.
- Of that \$266 Million Uber and Lyft neglected to pay
 - \$105.1 Million in Workers Compensation
 - \$124.9 Million in Unemployment Insurance
 - And in the past 5 years \$36.2

Million in Paid Family & Medical Leave

- In 2023 the companies made \$1.4 Billion dollars and paid nothing into the state social programs

- A Drivers Demand Justice Coalition report cited the average Massachusetts TNC driver had a mean gross hourly pay of \$25.11 and driving expenses of \$12.29 per hour in 2023, resulting in an hourly net pay of \$12.82; almost \$3.00 less than the current Massachusetts minimum wage.

This report comes at a crucial moment in the fight for workers' rights, especially in the new and unregulated gig economy. Ultimately, it is the first and only report so far that breaks down the actual losses and impact of Uber/Lyft's misclassification of their workers in Massachusetts.

"The numbers are undeniable and paint a stark picture of the scale of financial manipulation by companies such as Uber and Lyft," said Senator Edwards.

"The conservative estimates in the auditor's report gives real insight into the ever-expanding gig economy and its reliance on taxpayers to subsidize its exploitative business model. These staggering numbers from

Transportation Network Companies are only a fraction of the

bag they're leaving everyone else to hold, not to mention the costs to MassHealth and other social safety nets that taxpayers and businesses who play by the rules pay into. The Auditor's report does not even include Delivery Network Companies, which make up an ever-increasing percentage of app based work, because our current laws fail to regulate companies like DoorDash and Instacart. This report exposes the fact that the only flexibility Uber and Lyft are actually pursuing is flexibility for themselves to avoid abiding by employment standards and skirting paying their fair share in public contributions." Chrissy Lynch, President, Massachusetts AFL CIO.

"These greedy corporations can easily afford to do right by their employees, but instead try to game the system at the expense of not only their workforce, but Massachusetts taxpayers as well," said Tom Mari, President of Teamsters Local 25 and Secretary-Treasurer of Joint Council 10. "This report shows that Uber and Lyft are getting away with highway robbery and it's time they followed the law and provided their workers full employment protections Senator Edwards is the lead senate sponsor of the comprehensive legislation, an Act Establishing Protecting and

Accountability for TNC and DNC Workers Consumers and Communities (S.627/H1158).

This legislation guarantees employee status and access to unemployment, workers compensation and paid family medical leave for the drivers. Benefits that the report calculates were not paid into by Uber and Lyft in 2023 that amount to over \$47M. Not only are the workers victims of the monster corporations' greed, but the entire Commonwealth suffers from their failure to contribute financially. In addition to requiring Uber, Lyft, Doordash and Instacart to treat their drivers as employees and contribute to the social programs, the S.627 would also protect consumers from price gouging and assure safety for drivers and passengers by requiring a panic button in the cars.

This legislation also provides a pathway to unionization which allows the drivers to have a collective voice.

Endorsements of this legislation have been received from the AFL-CIO Executive Board, Progressive Massachusetts, IUE-CWA Local 201, UFCW, Mass Drivers United, UAW, Massachusetts Building Trades, the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the Teamsters among several organizations.

"Gig companies have been ripping off drivers and the state of Massachusetts for years. S.627 is the only bill at the state house that allows drivers flexibility and independence, gives drivers the full rights of all other workers in Massachusetts, has a pathway to a union, and protects against gignification of more industries. There is only one bill that pays MA taxpayers back the millions of dollars a year they are paying in corporate welfare to Gig companies." Adam Kaszynski, President IUE-CWA Local 201.

Currently, the fight concerning misclassification involves a pending lawsuit from the Attorney General, three bills, and five ballot questions, six if you count the unionization question.

"This report is the missing puzzle piece," said Edwards. "I don't know how we can come to a settlement or legislative compromise without knowing how much money we have been shorted." She continued, "We stand at a critical juncture where we can either continue to allow companies to exploit their workers or we can ensure a fair, equitable work environment for all," Edwards urged.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR



“Veterans are a symbol of what makes our nation great, and we must never forget all they have done to ensure our freedom.”

State Representative
Aaron Michlewitz



Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.

**NEAA
NORTH END
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

***Wishing You a Safe
& Healthy Memorial Day***

North End Against Drugs

NEAD
“It’s All About Family”

The Land of the Free because of the brave... Thank You

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Quattro Grille, Rosticceria & Pizzeria	Bricco Boutique Italian Cuisine	Gelateria & Cannoli Factory
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**Have a Safe
& Healthy
Memorial Day**

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MEMORIAL DAY
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