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WU LEADS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION ON CITY HALL PLAZA



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City departments and external partners on Monday, April 22, for an Earth Day celebration at City Hall Plaza. The event highlighted strategies for making Boston the greenest city in the country, with resources available to help residents engage in climate action. The event ran from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., with the Mayor participating at 1:45 p.m. Other key speakers included Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, and Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Green New Deal Director. Mayor Michelle Wu (photo above) and Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, celebrate Earth Day on City Hall Plaza with residents. Below are scenes from the event.



COURTESY PHOTOS

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

The Friends of the MaryEllen Greenway hosted a Clean Up Day to celebrate Earth Day over the weekend. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Mary Ellen Greenway and the Eastie Gals.



Coletta holds hearing on proposed legislation of property tax classification

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta (District 1) chaired a Government Operations committee hearing last week 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 commercial property valuations due to slow eco-

See HEARING Page 8

Community discusses potential Mount Carmel development plan

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On Monday, a sizeable audience of residents gathered at the Embassy Suites Boston to discuss preliminary plans for development at 120-128 Gove Street, which includes the site of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

In September 2015, it was announced that Mount Carmel Church and its property had been sold to Frankfort Gove LLC. Fast-forward to March 2019, the abovementioned entity had a project encompassing four parcels at 115, 120, 128-134 Gove Street, and 21-43 Frankfort Street approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board.

According to documents on the BPDA's website, the project approved in March 2019 consisted of two buildings

containing 108 condominium units and 84 parking spaces.

As part of the project, the church was slated to be renovated and converted into a residential building with 14 condos — four of which are affordable — and 13 parking spaces were planned to be included on a landscaped lot where the rectory is located.

The other building in the project was approved to be placed in the area of the convent building and a vacant lot. It was slated to be five stories and contain 94 condos and 71 parking spaces.

It should also be noted that this approved project also called for the demolition of the rectory and convent buildings.

However, in June 2022, the property and approved

See DEVELOPMENT Page 3

Marathon Daffodil Dash at Suffolk Downs rescheduled

Special to the Times-Free Press

The third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meet us at the historic finish line for a fun run based on your age group. Registration is open but spots are limited. All runners registered for the original event date do not need to register again. All race participants will

receive a bib number and race t-shirt.

After the race, hang out in the Paddock with snacks, face painting, flower crowns, and a DJ! Check out our local vendors Crepe Shop Boston and Eloti Boston.

This event is hosted in partnership with City of Revere Parks and Recreation and the Marathon Daffodil Project.



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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Happy Earth Day

EARTH DAY SINCE 1970: WINNING SOME BATTLES, BUT LOSING THE WAR

For those of us who were around for the first Earth Day in 1970, the steady but sure demise of our environment over the past 54 years has been nothing less than depressing.

When the first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, Americans on all sides of the political spectrum were united in the effort to clean up the environment in the wake of the disastrous oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, in January of 1969 and the spectacle of the chemical-laden Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catching fire a few months later.

Congress passed a bill, signed by Richard Nixon, creating the Environmental Protection Agency in December, 1970, and soon thereafter enacted the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act, all of which have accomplished a great deal to make our environment a healthier place both for us and the plants and animals with whom we share this planet.

However, with 50 years of hindsight, it is apparent that we fell victim to the well-worn axiom that we didn't see the forest for the trees. All of the good that was accomplished by improving our air and water quality and saving some species from extinction has been far outweighed by the insidious onslaught of climate change that threatens to make the planet uninhabitable for almost every living thing, other than perhaps for cockroaches (which have been around for more than 300 million years).

Global warming, both of the air and the oceans, poses an existential threat to life as we know it, and is accelerating faster than even the worst-case scenarios that some climate scientists had predicted. Climate change epitomizes what scientists refer to as a positive feedback loop: The hotter we are today, the hotter we will be tomorrow.

Ocean temperatures have set heat records every day for the past year, and still are climbing. As a result, more than 50% of the world's coral reefs presently are "bleached" and dying.

But with the world's energy needs growing exponentially thanks to the industrialization of underdeveloped nations and the need in developed nations for ever-increasing sources of energy to run our AI computers, the chances of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels is all but zero for the foreseeable future.

Even more insidiously, we literally are drowning in a sea of plastic waste. For those of us who grew up in the '60s, it is sadly ironic that the catch-word for the future in the movie, *The Graduate*, was, "Plastics!" -- and now, 60 years later, we have learned that microplastics are accumulating in our tissues and in every organ in our bodies because they are in the food we eat and the water we drink.

Perhaps the coup de grace for the planet's demise is that environmental groups are now their own worst enemies. The push to build wind and solar farms has been met by pushback from groups who insist on mandatory environmental reviews -- established by those laws in the 1970s -- that can hold up the installation of transmission lines for these clean energy projects for more than a decade.

In short, we have won many battles in the effort to clean up our environment and to save endangered plants and animals since the first Earth Day. We can swim and fish in Boston Harbor and even in the Charles River (the subject of the 1960s rock anthem, *Dirty Water*). The seal (and great white shark) population, which was non-existent in this area in 1970, has returned to Cape Cod in the tens of thousands each summer.

Although our air and water are free of many of the substances, such as leaded gasoline, emissions from coal-fired power plants, and DDT, that were poisoning the earth in 1970, their removal was just low-hanging fruit, amounting to nothing more than Pyrrhic victories.

The inconvenient truth is that climate change, an unheard-of concept in 1970, has left all living beings (except for the cockroaches) in a far more precarious place than we were 54 years ago.

By Senator Ed Markey

There are a lot of reasons why I'm honored to serve the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and its natural beauty holds a special place in my heart. From the world-famous beaches of Cape Cod to the breathtaking Berkshires, Mother Nature is here in all her glory in our communities. When I'm working on Capitol Hill alongside the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation fighting for the people of the state, I always keep in mind the importance of protecting our natural environment and ensuring a livable future.

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 HARRIS, 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 multi-

ple trash bags filled with clothing items. Harris told officers they were 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.

GUEST OP-ED

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

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 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 in-

creasing 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 districts 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.

issue of climate change down the road. We need an intersectional, inter-generational movement mobilizing and organizing to address this global challenge. That's why, five years ago, I partnered with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to introduce the Green New Deal, a resolution that is transforming our national climate agenda by creating new union jobs, delivering long-overdue justice, and reducing emissions. It's a winning strategy: 89% of Americans support at least one of the policies put forward in the Green New Deal. We're already seeing these popular policies take effect in Massachusetts: in

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 merchandise.

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.

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

Special to the Times-Free Press



Brian Swett.

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 Mariama 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 currently 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 May-

or 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 Climate & 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.

Development // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

project were transferred to a new developer, RISE Together. In October of the same year, the BPDA Board approved a notice of project change (NPC), which altered the project.

The approved NPC, among other changes, converted the 94 units in the five-story building from condominiums to rental units.

Now, in 2024, Paul Passacantilli of Hanover Battery Strategies indicated in a Facebook post advertising the meeting that the current owner is selling the project and his group has placed the property under agreement.

Nick Dilibero, whom Passacantilli introduced at the meeting as the proponent, indicated that the potential development is focused on the 14-unit church proposal specifically, not the 94-unit building.

Essentially, although the projects previously approved by the BPDA Board encompassed both the 14-unit church conversion and renovation along with the other 94-unit building, the abovementioned purchase, which Dilibero indicated is not final, would create a separate project.

This potential separate project—the topic of Monday's meeting—would then have to undergo a whole new approval process.

In speaking about what would happen regarding the approved 94-unit building, Dilibero said, "I have no control of it. I have no idea what's going to happen there — if they're ever even going

to break ground, I have no idea what's going on with it."

Dilibero, an East Boston native who actually served as an Altar Boy at the church, spoke about what the church meant to him and the purpose of the meeting: gathering feedback from the community.

"The church has deep meaning for me as well, so our whole plan — what we're trying to present here is going to have some of my impact that I would like to see happen, but also whatever feelings that you have towards it, we're going to try and incorporate it all," said Dilibero.

As the meeting progressed, Eric Robinson of RODE Architects presented early ideas for developing the site.

Throughout his presentation, Robinson emphasized certain aspects the project team is contemplating in creating the development, such as traffic and circulation, heights, use, and more in the neighborhood.

"Not every project is perfect, we understand that, but what we want to make sure is people understand we're listening and we have a dialogue," said Robinson.

"We want the neighborhood to embrace the project; we don't want to have everybody hate the project that doesn't do anybody any good," he added.

In what Robinson described as "Very, very just initial thoughts" and "basic dumb block," there is an idea to use selective demolition and incorporate the front and side facade of the church into a

new building.

The new building would then consist of five stories — four residential and one parking — with 40 units and 30 parking spaces. Dilibero also mentioned the idea of incorporating either a prayer area or something to remember the church into the proposal as well.

Robinson compared the idea to a project under construction in the South End at the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

"Again, no architecture, these are just blue blocks, want to be honest with that, but what it starts to do is really create a backdrop and a framework," said Robinson.

After Robinson wrapped up his presentation, Passacantilli discussed the consideration for a fifth floor and alluded to the project's affordability aspects, including the total number of affordable units and the potential area median income (AMI) for those units.

The fifth floor is critical to note because the site sits in the proposed East Boston Residential (EBR)-4 zoning subdistrict developed through PLAN: East Boston, which allows a maximum of four stories.

"In your process, I just ask you to understand the idea of why — we just don't come up and say, let's just throw up a fifth floor; it's all being driven by factors like affordability," said Passacantilli.

Following Passacantilli's comment, the floor was opened to questions and comments from the audience, and several topics were discussed.

One attendee, who mentioned he was a member of the original project's impact advisory group (IAG), questioned how the church proposal has gone from 14 units to 40.

Passacantilli responded, "A standalone project on this site offering 14 units with four affordables absolutely does not work, and I would have to imagine that's why RISE has put it out for bid."

"I think our objective here tonight is to see — is there an opportunity for us to move forward with something else as a standalone project," he added.

The same attendee questioned whether the project could be split and sold the way it had been explained because it was not approved that way. Robinson responded, "My experience... but a change like that would require them — it would go back through the neighborhood process."

Multiple attendees also

had concerns about the height. One attendee wanted to ensure that the work by community members in creating the proposed zoning changes through PLAN: East Boston was not for nothing.

These attendees feared that allowing a height variance with the fifth story would set a precedent and encourage future developers to exceed height maximums in the neighborhood, something residents have been fighting against for years.

The question of whether units should be rented or sold was also raised, and Dilibero indicated that the idea is for the units to be sold.

Another concern a couple of attendees mentioned was the potential for the project to be sold again, in that there is no guarantee that something will be built after going through another community process.

In response to these

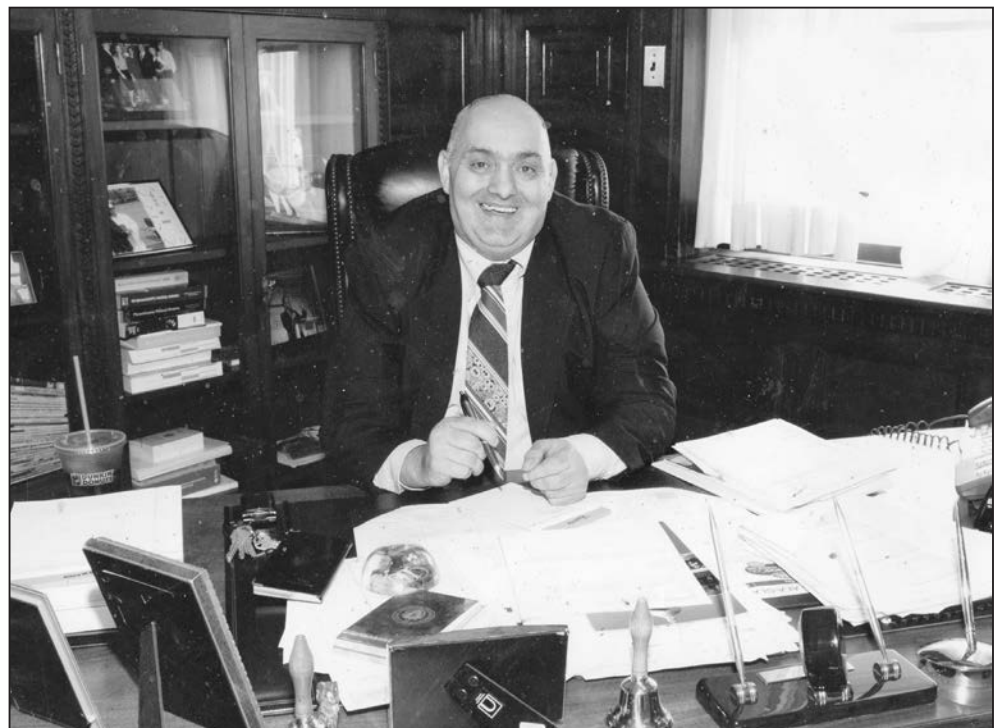
concerns, Dilibero, in part, said, "If this project was approved, I would be building it. That's what I can tell you as of today. I don't know if I'm going to be alive in three years... you know it's going to take three years to get through this process."

As the discussion progressed, multiple attendees shared their thoughts about the preliminary ideas, asked questions, and complimented the preservation aspect that is currently being pondered.

Ultimately, Monday's meeting is only the first step in what could be a long road ahead in the potential development of the church.

"We feel there's a project here. Hopefully, there's middle ground in the neighborhood; I think we can get there; there's a lot of questions that need to be answered," said Passacantilli.

Happy Birthday, Richie!



Richard Scannelli recently celebrated his 70th Birthday. From all of us at the East Boston Times, Happy Birthday, and here's to another year of health and happiness!

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. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

Boston East Gallery hosts 'Beyond Borders'

Boston East Gallery, located at 126 Border Street in Boston East Apartments, has taken down its permanent collection of art to host Beyond Border, an exhibit of painting and mixed media art by members of the East Boston Artists Group (EBAG).

Beyond Border opens Saturday, April 27 and closes Friday, June 14. The gallery is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There will be an opening reception to which the public is invited, in conjunction with EBAG's participation Boston Design Week, on Saturday, April 27 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the gallery at 126 Border Street. Special weekend hours will be held Saturday, April 27, and Sunday April 28 from noon – 6:00 p.m.

Boston East re-established their existing relationship with the East Boston Artists Group this past November when they served as one of the sponsors of the EBAG event, Harboring Creativity: Launching East Boston Artists from the ICA Watershed at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Boston's East Boston satellite



ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY PRESENTS
In the Woods
Paintings and Drawings by Joan Ryan and Julie C Baer
APRIL 5 - 28, 2024

facility. That event was organized by June Krinsky-Rudder, a co-founder of EBAG, and EBAG artist, Diane Modica. At that time, Boston East's management also expressed an interest in future collaborations – Beyond Border being the first.

Beyond Border was curated by June Krinsky-Rudder, Kristen Freitas, and Katie Kimbrell and consists of paintings and mixed media art by East Boston Artists Group members: B. Amore, Kristen Audette, Matt Baynes, Collette Brésilla, Jeff Briggs, Brian Burke, Maryellen Cahill, Elsa Campbell, Sandrine Colson, Kristen Freitas, Katie Kimbrell, June Krinsky-Rudder, Charlene

Liska, Diane Modica, Maureen O'Connor, David Riley, Joan Ryan, and X Bonnie Woods.

"Boston East has been a wonderful community partner," said June Krinsky-Rudder. "I reached out to Boston East in January, and they were quite enthusiastic about hosting the artists for our first in-person gathering since before the pandemic, and again in partnering to make this exhibit a reality. The gallery is a perfect showcase for both the art and the neighborhood. We hope to continue our collaborations with Boston East in the future."

East Boston Gallery Beyond Border, 126 Border Street (details)

LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

KAREVICIUS INDUCTED INTO THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Jessica Karevicius of East Boston, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Karevicius was initiated at University of Massachusetts.

Karevicius is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of ju-

niors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the commu-

nity of scholars in service to others."

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

GSCA AGENDA FOR APRIL 29 MEETING

Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) agenda for Monday, April 29, meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Please register for this virtual meeting on our website: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

Agenda (60 min)
Community Updates (30 min)

Updates from BPD (Sgt. Cintolo)

Updates from City Hall (Mela Villa Gomez)

[TENTATIVE] Eastie Farm - upcoming seedling sale and produce program

[TENTATIVE] MBTA presenting on Blue Line

impacts

Community discussion (30 min)

How do we build a sense of community?

We want to hear the community's ideas! We plan to discuss events we can host and other suggestions.

Potential name change of GSCA to be inclusive of all neighbors

We would like the Gove Street Citizens Association community to consider changing its name. More than 40% of GSCA residents were born outside the United States. While we acknowledge that "Citizens"

is rightly a source of pride for many, for others it may signal that they are not welcome at our meetings.

GSCA Community Meeting - April 2024
Monday, April 29 · 6:30 – 8:00pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/vkc-pojq-dxv>

Our next meeting after the April meeting will be on Monday, May 20, at 6:30 PM. The May meeting is on the third Monday in May because Memorial Day is on the fourth Monday in May.

Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk finish line to move to the Boston Common for 2024 event

The annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai will culminate at a new finish line this year – inside the heart of the city, at the Boston Common due to ongoing construction in Copley Square. Just a short walk further down Boylston Street, thousands of walkers will join together as they have for more than 35 years to celebrate their beloved Walk in America's oldest public park.

Scheduled for Sunday, October 6, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

"We are excited for walkers this year to cross the finish line in the Boston Common," said Suzanne Fountain, vice president of the Jimmy Fund. "The move to the Boston Common, affectionately known as the 'People's Park,' marks a symbolic common finish line—a world without cancer. By gathering in Boston Com-

mon, we are honoring Boston's roots as a city for the people, connected by a common cause. We are eager to get out on the course and see all our outstanding walkers and teams come together to defy cancer."

One Walk, Four Distances, For All Cancers

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon@course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K Walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K Walk (from Newton); Half Marathon Walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers can participate virtually, as well.

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients – Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes – are the heart of the event and displayed along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude

at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar and Join us for the 15th Annual Summer Camp Scholarship Auction Fundraiser on Thursday, June 20th, at 6:00 p.m. The outdoor tented event promises a fun eve-

ning with good friends, delicious food, and great prizes. Your generosity will help to ensure our kids enjoy a wonderful summer they'll never forget.

Sponsorship oppor-

tunities are available; please contact Anita Belmonte, Director of Development of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club on 150 Byron Street, East Boston, or call 617-784-1744 for more information.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club

15th Annual Scholarship Auction Fundraiser

A Celebration of Youth

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| EVENT SPONSOR | \$10,000 |
| 10 Complimentary Tickets - Banner Signage at the Event, Outdoor Advertising on Billboard, Newspaper Promotion in East Boston Times, Revere Journal, Winthrop Transcript and Post-Gazette, Acknowledgment on Facebook Page & Social Media, Invitations via Written and Email, Event Program | |
| PLATINUM SPONSOR | \$5,000 |
| 6 Complimentary Tickets - Banner Signage at the Event, Newspaper Acknowledgment in East Boston Times, Revere Journal, Winthrop Transcript, and Post-Gazette, Acknowledgment on Facebook Page & Social Media, Invitations via Written and Email, Event Program | |
| GOLD SPONSOR | \$2,500 |
| 4 Complimentary Tickets - Banner Signage at the Event, Newspaper Acknowledgment in East Boston Times, Revere Journal, Winthrop Transcript, and Post-Gazette, Acknowledgment on Facebook Page & Social Media, Invitations via Written and Email, Event Program | |
| SILVER SPONSOR | \$1,000 |
| 2 Complimentary Tickets - Acknowledgment on Facebook Page & Social Media, Event Program | |
| BRONZE SPONSOR | \$ 500 |
| 1 Complimentary Ticket - Acknowledgment on Social Media and in the Event Program | |
| 2 WEEK CAMPSHIP SPONSOR | \$ 250 |
| Acknowledgment in Event Program | |

Thank You for Supporting Our Kids!

"GREAT FUTURES START HERE"

15th Annual

Summer Camp Scholarship & Auction Fundraiser

"A Celebration of Youth"

SAVE the DATE

Thursday, June 20, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\$50 per ticket

Community Award Recipient
East Boston Foundation

Don Bosco Award Recipient
East Boston Youth Basketball League

Masters of Ceremony & Auctioneer
Representative Adrian Madaro
Honorable Carlo Basile



Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Same neighbors. New name.



We are changing our name.

Our commitment to community-based care is the same.

Learn more at ebnhc.org

PLEASE VISIT EASTIETIMES.COM

RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW!

DON'T WAIT! RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW AND GET YOUR AD IN THE EYES OF THOUSANDS. CALL 781-485-0588

EAST BOSTON JETS IN SOFTBALL ACTION AGAINST WINTHROP

The East Boston High School softball team competed against Winthrop High in a non-league game, falling to the Vikings, 17-8.



Starting pitcher Mikayla Forbes.



Jet Captains, Anaihaliz Rivera Mercado, Mikayla Forbes, and Grace Gans Linnane.



Captain Anaihaliz Rivera Mercado saw lots of action playing first base for the Jets.



Jenna Dasilva grabs a high infield pop-up for the third out.



Catching for the Jets, Yariana Camilodejesus.

Wu announces return of the Boston Playoff Hub on Canal Street

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu, in partnership with Downtown North Association, announced the return of the Boston Playoff Hub on Canal Street, creating a car-free zone for fans to gather before and during home playoff games at TD Garden. The return of this pedestrian zone builds on Mayor Wu's commitment to reimagining Boston's streets and transforming public space in a way that's enjoyable for residents, small business owners, and visitors.

"We're thrilled to give Boston fans an opportunity with both the Bruins and the Celtics in the playoffs this year to come together safely, cheer on their favorite teams, and support our local businesses," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to our partners for working with us to bring back the Playoff Hub, creating a joyful experience for our hockey and basketball fans. I encourage everyone to come out before and during the playoff games to build community and support our teams."

"This is a really great thing for us to be doing to ensure we are encouraging local fans to support small businesses while celebrating Boston's legacy as the city of champions at the teams' doorstep! Our fans show up for our iconic teams year after year, so I can't wait to take part in these festivities as we root for the Celtics and Bruins to take it all the way," said District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan.

The Playoff Hub will be free and open to the public, providing more space for residents and visitors to gather outdoors and

celebrate Boston's home teams. Canal Street will be closed from noon on game days, through one hour after the game ends. Parking regulations will be posted ahead of the first Bruins playoff game on Saturday, April 20. Vehicles in violation of posted regulations will be towed.

"We are looking forward to creating vibrancy and camaraderie on Canal Street," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Activating this space will give visitors and residents the opportunity to support local businesses while supporting Boston's sports teams."

"We are grateful to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for bringing back the Playoff Hub on Canal Street," said Glen Thornborough, President of TD Garden and COO of Boston Bruins. "With both teams in the playoffs, it's a great opportunity for fans to gather before games and bring the palpable energy from TD Garden out into the community."

"There's nowhere quite like TD Garden, especially on Celtics and Bruins gamedays," said Rich Gotham, President of the Boston Celtics. "We extend our appreciation to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for bringing back the Playoff Hub on Canal Street, which creates a space outdoors for fans to continue cheering on both teams and support local businesses throughout the playoffs."

"The Downtown North Association is excited to see the return of Canal Street as the Playoff Hub," said Jay Walsh, Executive Director of Downtown North Association. "We

look forward to welcoming Bruins and Celtics fans to the area and to create a festive atmosphere.

We are grateful to Mayor Wu and our members look forward to what will hopefully be lengthy playoff

runs for both teams."

The first Bruins playoff game will be on Saturday, April 20. The first Celtics

playoff game is Sunday, April 21.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

Your Independent Grocer, Where Old Friends Meet And New Ones Are Made
SALE DAYS THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH THROUGH WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST 2024

Grocery

Great grocery specials

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Celeste Pizza | 10/ \$10.00 |
| Folgers Canned Ground Coffee..... | \$3.99 |
| (ex: decaf) | |
| Prince Pasta..... | 4/ \$5.00 |
| (ex: lasagna-gluten free- jumbo shells) | |
| Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz..... | \$5.99 |
| Hunts Pasta Sauce 24 oz..... | 4/ \$5.00 |
| Kraft Macaroni & Cheese..... | 4/ \$5.00 |
| (single box only) | |
| Hunts Ketchup 20 oz | 4/ \$5.00 |
| Guldens Mustard..... | 4/ \$5.00 |
| Fillipo Berio Olive Oil 8.4 oz..... | \$4.99 |
| Post Honey Bunches of Oats Cereal..... | 2/ \$6.00 |
| Ore Ida French Fries..... | 2/ \$7.00 |
| Swanson's Pot Pies..... | 4/ \$5.00 |
| Daisy Sour Cream 14 oz..... | 2/ \$5.00 |
| Tropicana Orange Juice 52 oz | 2/ \$7.00 limit 4 |

Bakery

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5" Cookies & Cream Cake..... | \$6.99 |
| Assorted Table Talk Crumb Cakes..... | \$5.49 |
| Stone Fire Mini Naan Bread 4 pk..... | 2/ \$5.00 |

Produce

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Imported Sweet & Juicy Clementine's 3 lb bag..... | \$5.99 |
| Creamy Smooth Tropical Avocados..... | 2/ \$3.00 |
| Fresh & Juicy Lemons..... | 69¢ |
| Fresh & Tangy Limes | 69¢ |
| Fresh & Tasty Cluster on the Vine Tomatoes.... | \$1.69/lb |
| "New Crop" All Purpose Yellow Onions | \$1.99 |
| 2 lb bag | |

Deli

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Krakus Imported Polish Ham..... | \$6.99/lb |
| Swiss Lorraine Cheese | \$9.99/lb |
| Dietz & Watson Chicken Breast..... | \$7.99/lb |
| Dietz & Watson Classic Oven Roasted | |
| Turkey Breast..... | \$10.99/lb |
| Sahlens Buffalo Chicken Breast..... | \$7.99/lb |

Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| T-Bone or Porterhouse Steaks..... | \$9.99/lb |
| Grade A Chicken Drumsticks..... | 89¢/lb |
| Grade A Chicken Tenders..... | \$3.39/lb |
| Ball Park Meat Franks | 2/ \$7.00 |
| Perdue Chicken Nuggets | \$4.99 |

Weekend Specials

Friday, April 26th through Sunday, April 28th

"while supplies last"

BAKERY

| | |
|--|--------|
| Our Own M&M Cookies 10pk | \$2.49 |
| Our Own Cranberry Orange Muffins 4pk | \$3.99 |

DELI

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Resers Salads | \$1.99/lb |
| Cole Slaw - Macaroni - Potato | |

PRODUCE

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Nature's Finest Russet Potatoes 5lb bag | 2/ \$5.00 |
|--|-----------|

MEAT

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grade A Chicken Wings | \$2.99/lb limit 3pkgs |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|

GROCERY

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Chicken of the Sea Solid White Canned Tuna..... | 3/ \$5.00 |
| Brigham's Ice Cream..... | 2/ \$9.00 |

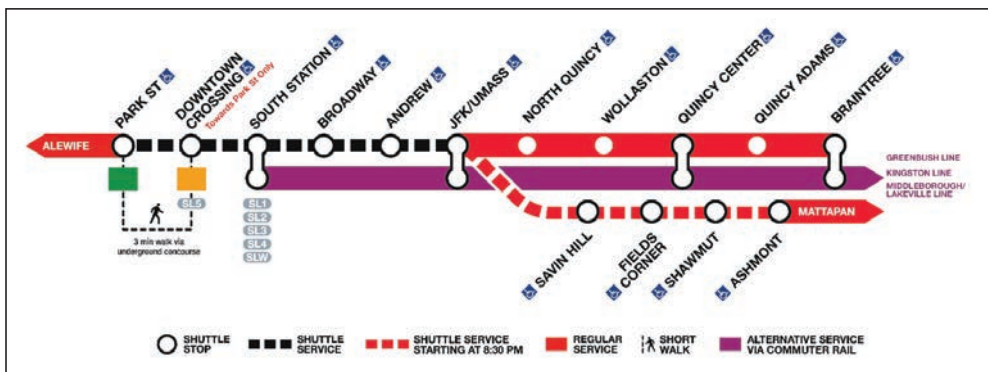
35 REVERE ST., WINTHROP • (617) 846-6880

WWW.WINTHROPKTPPLACE.COM

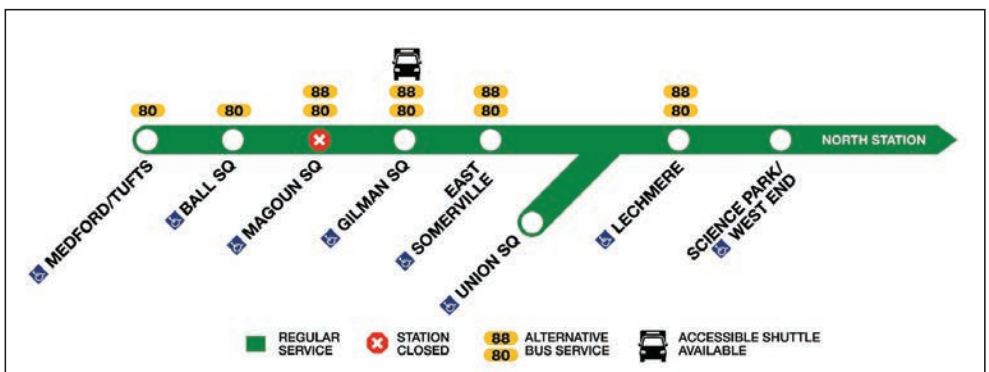
New Store Hours starting June 22: Mon-Sat 7:30 am-8pm;
Sun: 7:30am-7pm

Not responsible for typographical errors.
We have the right to limit quantities.

MBTA continues work to improve reliability across the system



The Red Line



The GREEN Line

Special to the Times-Free Press

The MBTA announced service changes in May on the Red, Green, Orange, Kingston, Greenbush, Middleborough/Lakeville, Fairmount, Newburyport/Rockport, and Haverhill lines. The MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the system.

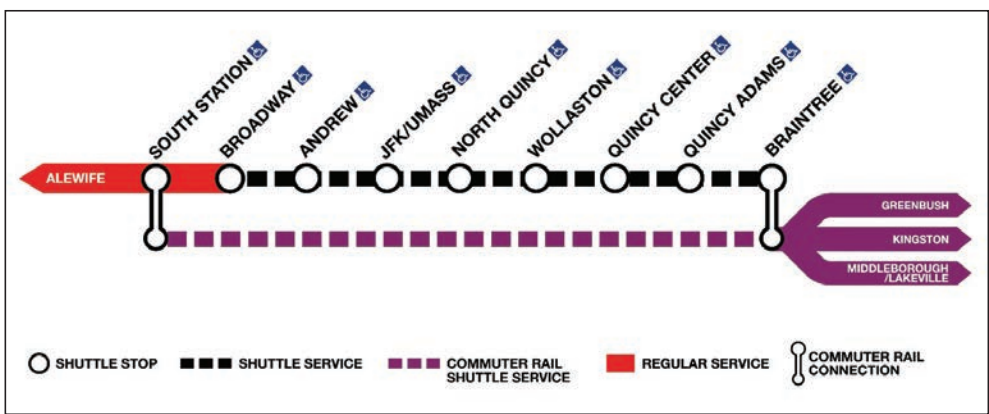
crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more. Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Braintree stations on the Braintree Branch during the weekends of May 11-12 and May 18-19.

Orange Line service will be suspended in the following areas during the following dates and times: Between Wellington and North Station: Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM and through the end of service on Friday, May 17, and continuing all day, every day through the weekend of May 18-19.

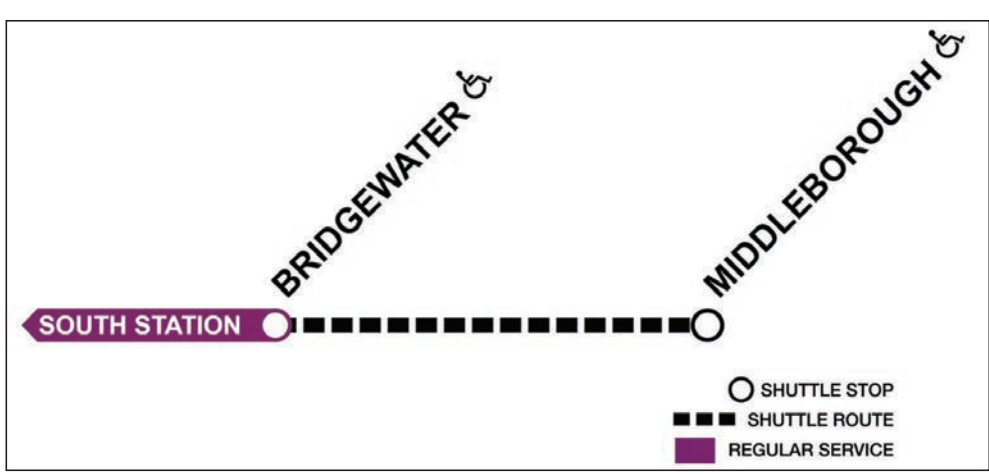
Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

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

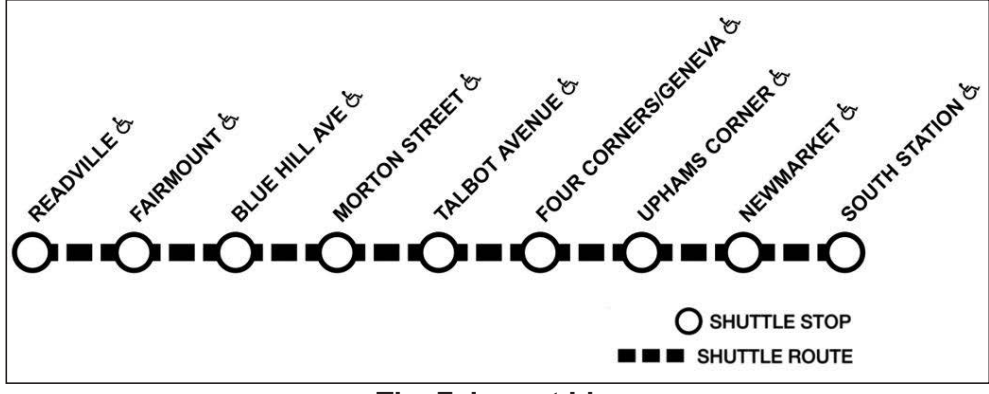
Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM and through the end of service on May 20-24. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Wellington and North Station. There will be free fares at Wellington and North Station with the fare gates open.



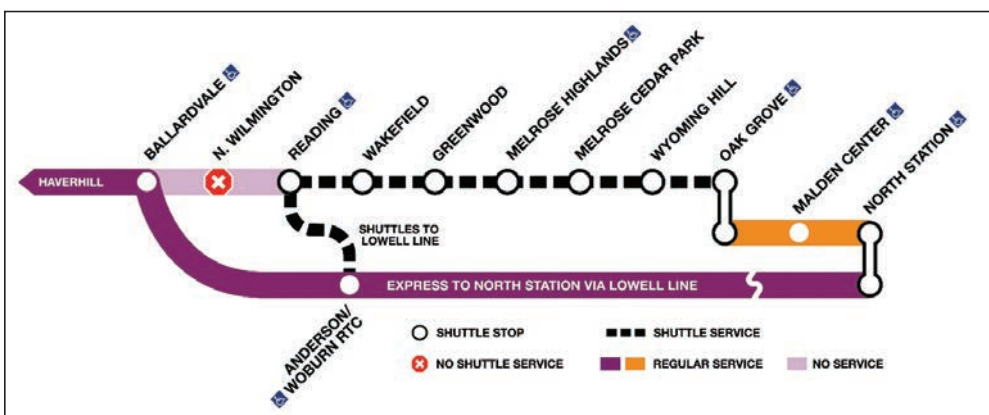
The Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush Line



The Middleborough/Lakeville Line



The Fairmount Line



The Haverhill Line

On the Red Line: As previously announced, Red Line train service will be suspended daily between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations from May 1-9. In addition to that, from May 1-9, 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.

Riders should note that regular Red Line train service will operate on the Ashmont Branch between JFK/UMass and Ashmont. This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the Track Improvement Program. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the Dorchester Avenue Bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more.

During the weekend shuttle bus service on May 18-19, Bus Route 137 will be fare-free. During the evening shuttle bus service on May 20-24, the Commuter Rail will be fare free between Oak Grove, Malden Center, and North Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Oak Grove.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between these stations. A page with dedicated information for riders is available at mbta.com/RedLine.

On the Green Line: Green Line service will bypass Magoun Square station on the Medford/Tufts Branch all day from start to end of service on May 4. Riders can instead utilize Route 80 and 88 bus service, which operates between the Magoun Square area and Lechmere. This service change is in place for crews to accomplish improvement work on an accessibility ramp at the station.

Between Wellington and Back Bay stations: All day and every day for 10 days from May 28-June 6. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Wellington and North Station. For service through the downtown area near Back Bay, riders are encouraged to utilize parallel Green Line service between North Station and Copley. These service changes are in place in support of MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project and the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. The Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project will replace the two deteriorated bridge superstructures and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting,

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.

On the Orange Line:

tiling, power washing, and more.

Commuter Rail lines run adjacent to the Red Line where the Track Improvement Program and the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project work is taking place.

suspended between Readville and South Station during the weekend of May 4-5.

On the Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines: Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between South Station and Braintree Station during the weekends of May 11-12 and May 18-19.

On the Middleborough/Lakeville Commuter Rail Line: Middleborough/Lakeville Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Middleborough/Lakeville and Bridgewater stations for nine days from April 27-May 5.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Readville and South Station. A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace trains between South Station and Braintree. Express shuttle buses will operate directly between South Station and Braintree. The diversion schedule will be available online soon at mbta.com/CommuterRail. Passengers desiring service to Quincy Center station are strongly encouraged to utilize the Red Line shuttle from South Station, JFK/UMass, or Braintree. Passengers should note that bicycles are not allowed on shuttle buses, and regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Braintree stations. Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on site at impacted stations to support riders. This service change is in place because these

Regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Bridgewater and South Station. This service change is in place in support of the South Coast Rail project. When complete, the South Coast Rail project will offer a reliable transit connection between southeastern Massachusetts and Boston. Riders will be able to take a one-seat trip—for the first time since the late 1950s.

This service change is in place in support of the East Cottage Street and Norfolk Avenue Bridge Replacement project. These bridges, between the Uphams Corner and Newmarket stations, carry the Fairmount Line through Roxbury and Dorchester. Both built in 1906, the bridges are being replaced with updated steel infrastructures to improve safety and reliability.

On the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line: Fairmount Commuter Rail Line service will be

On the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line: Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Swampscott during the weekend of May 18-19.

Express shuttle buses will operate directly between Swampscott and North Station. Shuttle buses will also make local stops between Swampscott, Lynn within the busway at the legacy station, Wonderland for

Express shuttle buses will operate directly between Swampscott and North Station. Shuttle buses will also make local stops between Swampscott, Lynn within the busway at the legacy station, Wonderland for

Boston Design Week: Experience East Boston

APRIL 27 & 28

12 NOON - 6 PM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS



- ~ Two gallery exhibits
- ~ A self-guided tour of 21 murals and pieces of public art
- ~ The El Dia del Niño event (with a mural painting activity) and more!



Go to WWW.EASTBOSTONARTISTSGROUP.COM FOR DETAILS

MBTA announces enhanced Spring 2024 ferry schedules

The MBTA announced upcoming improvements to the Lynn, Winthrop/Quincy, and weekend Hingham/Hull ferry services starting this spring, including the addition of weekend Lynn ferry trips, other enhanced options for ferry riders, and improvements to the customer experience. These upgrades aim to provide more convenient schedules for ferry passengers, increase seasonal ridership, and improve reliability during times of potential crowded waterways. Ferry schedules are available now at mbta.com/Ferry.

season beginning Saturday, May 25. The Lynn ferry operates between the Blossom Street Pier and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf (North) through October 31. Schedules are available at mbta.com/Ferry.

A one-way fare on the Lynn ferry is \$7 (or \$3.50 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 1 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

Winthrop/Quincy Ferry Information:

The Winthrop/Quincy ferry will operate 13 trips on weekdays this season between Winthrop, Quincy, Logan Airport, and the downtown Boston area at Aquarium / Central Wharf (South), increasing service to Quincy and Winthrop, providing direct trips from Quincy to Boston, and expanding service to the Seaport. Winthrop/Quincy ferry service operates April 29 through November 30. Schedules are available at mbta.com/Ferry.

A one-way fare on the Winthrop ferry is \$6.50 (or \$3.25 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 1 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

Hingham/Hull Information:

The Hingham/Hull ferry operates 38 weekday trips year-round and will operate 32 trips on Saturdays and 28 trips on Sundays this season between Hingham, Hull, Logan Airport, Georges Island, and Downtown Boston. Schedule adjustments have been made this season to provide better service to riders, including a modification to eliminate an afternoon gap in weekend Hull service and efficiency improvements to the Saturday-only late-night trip from Boston to Hull, among other upgrades. Weekend Hingham/Hull ferry service will resume beginning Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 25, and operate through Columbus/

Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend, Sunday, October 13. Schedules are available at mbta.com/Ferry.

A one-way fare on the Hingham/Hull ferry is \$9.75 (or \$4.85 for Reduced Fare riders). Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat passes or Commuter Rail Zone 6 (or higher) passes are also accepted. Different fares apply for trips to and from Georges Island. Please see bostonharborislands.org for more information. Tickets to and from Georges Island are available on the mTicket app, at the Hingham Ferry Terminal ticket counter, and on board. MBTA passes are not valid for trips to and from Georges Island.

For more information about MBTA ferry routes, visit mbta.com/Ferry or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

OBITUARIES

Maria Sodano

Her world revolved around her family

Maria Sodano, age 87, passed away suddenly in Massachusetts General Hospital on April 18, 2024. Maria grew up in a loving home first in Mirabella Eclano, Italy, and finally residing in Winthrop, MA. Maria took great pride in being a Homemaker, Wife and Mom. Born on Sept 4, 1936 in Italy, she eventually followed other family members to Boston, Massachusetts in 1963 in hope of pursuing the good ole fashion 'American Dream'.

Maria was one of four sisters; the crew included Maria, Assunta, Licia and Antonia. Her parents Michele Capodanno and Carmelinda Capodanno (Vitale) worked their entire lives to make sure their daughters never went needing anything. Maria's only son, Carmine, gave her strength and support during the rough times, and laughter and joy all of the other times.

Maria was married on November 22, 1967 to Luigi Sodano. Although taking a different path to America, Luigi also immigrated to Boston from Battipaglia, Italy in 1964. They had one son, Carmine. Both Maria and Luigi only focused on one thing -paving the road, laying the foundation, for a better family life. Luigi came to Boston with no formal education, but had high work ethics; Maria came here also seeking just one thing -an opportunity to work hard and to better their lives. Luigi initially worked construction and eventually became a restaurant owner; Maria began her journey by working in a sweatshop as a dressmaker until she ventured on her own making alterations, dresses and custom wedding gowns.

Maria loved making her own outfits, she loved to garden and she absolutely loved watching Judge Judy (who doesn't!). Maria enjoyed preparing huge meals for anyone that could be invited over for dinner. For exercise she would walk from her home in Winthrop to the supermarket in Revere just to buy a few small items -all along declining



any offers for a ride. Maria never turned down a jelly or lemon filled donut -Kanes, Union Square, Honey Dew, BettyAnn's, Medford Center were just a few old school donut shops which she frequented. She loved her double bubble percolator coffee maker, and she didn't mind dipping bread in her red wine, and a mid day espresso with an apple fritter from Back Door Donuts was never refused.

Although small in numbers, Maria's whole world revolved around her family, her husband Luigi and son Carmine. Maria is survived by her son Carmine, many nieces and nephew, along with aunts, uncles, several cousins, and close friends. While at times sacrificing her own needs, Maria only wanted one thing in life -for her family to be Happy & Healthy. She always put everyone else first, she never wanted a handout, she treasured her independence, she didn't like doctors or medication, at whatever capacity she could offer -she only wanted to take care of others.

Family and friends will honor Maria's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, on Thursday, April 25th from 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM and again on Friday morning at 8:30 AM before leaving in procession to St. Michael the Archangel/ St. John the Baptist Church in Winthrop for a 10:00 AM funeral mass. Services will conclude with Maria being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Sheffield Mausoleum, in Everett. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Maria's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

MBTA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

connections to the Blue Line subway, Chelsea Station for connections to the Silver Line 3 (SL3), and North Station. A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

The last outbound shuttle bus will also make a special late-night stop at Salem and Beverly Depot.

Passengers are encouraged to utilize the SL3, which might best suit their alternate travel needs. The SL3 travels through Chelsea and East Boston to Logan Airport, the Seaport District, and South Station, making connections to many area bus routes (including the 111, 112, 116, and 117) as well as the Blue and Red lines. The SL3 will be fare-free at Chelsea Station.

This service change is in place in support of MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project. The Maf-

fa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project will replace the two deteriorated bridge superstructures and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities.

On the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line: Haverhill Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Ballardvale and North Station during the weekend of May 18-19.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be available soon on mbta.com.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace train service between Anderson/Woburn, Reading, and North Station.

Regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Haverhill and Ballardvale.

North Wilmington Station will not have shuttle bus service with passengers encouraged to utilize Lowell Line service at

Wilmington Station instead.

Train service for passengers between Ballardvale and Haverhill will be re-routed along the Lowell Line after Ballardvale, making one additional stop at Anderson/Woburn and then running express to North Station. Riders desiring service to or from Reading and Oak Grove should disembark at Anderson/Woburn and board the shuttle bus service.

Bus Route 137 will be fare free.

This service change is in place in support of MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project. The Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project will replace the two deteriorated bridge superstructures and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities.

The MBTA previously announced service chang-

es in April.

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.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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April 24, 2024

~ 25th Anniversary ~

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So he put His arms
around you
And whispered
"Come to Me"
With tearful eyes we
watched you
And saw you pass away
Although we loved you
dearly

We could not make
you stay
A golden heart stopped
beating
Hard working hands at rest
God broke our hearts to
prove to us
He only takes the best
Love Always
Wife & Son

In Loving Memory
Of Our Mother
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"Rose"**

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I'm closer than I ever was...
I'm there inside your heart.
I'm with you when you greet each
day and while the sun shines
brightly, I'm there to share the
sunsets too...*

*I'm with you when the times are good, to share a laugh or
two, and if a tear should start to fall,
I'll still be there for you.*

*And when that day arrives that we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me...Forever in my heart...*

*Miss you always and forever
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Healey-Driscoll Administration names Brizius new Coastal Zone Management Director

Special to the Times-Free Press



Alison Brizius.

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 Resilient-Coasts 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 Administration 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 ben-

efit 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."

Hearing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 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 rais-

ing 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

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.

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| Familia Cafecito T | 387 Sumner Partners LLC | 389 Sumner St #20 | \$744,000 |
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After six months, new tracking tool identifies 50 lithium-ion battery fires

Special to the Times-Free Press

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 micromobility 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 stair-

ways.

• 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 continue charging.

• If you notice changes to the battery or the device, including damage, an unusual odor, a change in col-

or, 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

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MBTA works with Autism Transit Project with public announcements

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is pleased to announce its first-ever involvement in the Autism Transit Project, an initiative that empowers children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to create public service announcements for transit systems across the country. In recognition of Autism Acceptance Month during April, running through mid-May, the MBTA will play public announcements created by local children with ASD in stations across the system. The MBTA joins other transit systems in this meaningful project organized by the Autism Transit Project, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

“Our transportation system should be accessible to all of our residents and visitors. The Autism Transit Project is an extension of

that commitment and supports one of the MBTA’s key goals, which is to make sure every single traveler can navigate the system successfully,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “This is a great way to spread the word about Autism Awareness Month and to help educate other people in their same situation.”

“We are honored to participate in the Autism Transit Project and celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with our community,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “This initiative not only raises awareness about autism, but also provides a unique platform for children with ASD to showcase their talents and make a positive impact on our public transportation system and help us lift up our values and our commitment of fostering a public transit system where

everyone feels welcome, respected, and safe. Thank you to the children and families for being part of the T family with their participation today and recording these great public service announcements.”

“Children with autism sometimes fixate on feats of everyday mechanical engineering,” said Jonathan Trichter, founder of The Autism Transit Project. “This is especially true of trains and transit systems—something frontline MBTA workers see every day. In addition, children with autism may not come to language naturally. Instead, they grab onto phrases they hear in places they love and use them to communicate with the world around them. As a result, it is not unusual for the first full sentence a child with autism utters to be a transit service announcement. This is why this project is so special. And today, the MBTA is creating a space for these kids to participate in civic life and be heard.”

“From simply watching trains, to walking up and touching a train, to getting on and taking a ride on a train, to riding every line in the entire MBTA system, this program, while physically measurable in some ways, has an immeasurable impact on my son, Christopher. Thank you!” said Robin Long-Tarjan, whose son, Christopher (age 14), participated in the project



COMPLIMENTARY PHOTO BY THE MBTA CUSTOMER AND EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE DEPARTMENT
MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng welcomed Autism Transit Project Founder Jonathan Trichter, local children with autism spectrum disorder, and their families before an exclusive tour of the MBTA’s Operations Control Center.

this year.

The Autism Transit Project and the MBTA collaborated with families from greater Boston within the MBTA service area on announcement scripts and produced the recordings. Announcements by the children included tips on how to safely board and disembark trains, offering seats to others, and remembering to be kind while riding the T.

To further support the program and express gratitude to the participating children, the MBTA welcomed them for an exclusive tour of its Operations Control Center where they gained a behind-the-scenes look at the system and met bus and subway dispatchers. Additionally, the MBTA will feature the Autism Transit Project on its in-station digital screens and social media channels.

The MBTA’s participation in the Autism Transit Project follows another recent initiative supporting young transit enthusiasts with disabilities. On March 21, the MBTA hosted a field trip from Boston Public Schools’s Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing at its Emergency Training Center in South Boston. Staff from various departments led students through a hands-on experience with public transit in a controlled environment.

The Autism Transit Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission it is to spread acceptance and awareness that people with autism are worthy and valuable parts of their societies—different perhaps, but no less. The project relies on its ability to channel the connection many with autism spectrum disorder

(“ASD”) have to mass transit systems in a positive way. It started with an idea when its founder, Jonathan Trichter, launched a widely praised initiative that allows autistic children who love trains to record subway service announcements that are then broadcast publicly throughout their local transit systems in conjunction with Autism Acceptance Months. Last year, in 2023, over 100 children and five major transit agencies across the country participated. This year, seven transit agencies participated with even more kiddos!

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

EBAG proudly showcases East Boston Cultural Partners to celebrate Boston Design Week

As part of its participation in Boston Design Week, running from April 23 – May 5, East Boston Artists Group (EBAG) comprised of artists who live, work, and/or create art in East Boston, have organized the weekend of Saturday, April 27, and

Sunday, April 28, from noon to 6 p.m. for the East Boston community to experience the breadth of the vibrant art and culture that is unique to East Boston.

“This is the first time EBAG has participated in Design Week, now in its 11th year, so we started

small,” said June Krinsky-Rudder, one of the co-founders of EBAG, who coordinated the weekend. “What people will be able to experience over the weekend is just the tip of the iceberg of the incredible vibrancy that’s happening in the arts in East Boston.”

Slated for the weekend are two gallery exhibits, a self-guided tour of 21 murals and pieces of public art, and the El Dia del Niño event (with a mural painting activity):

Atlantic Works Gallery at 80 Border Street presents In The Woods: Paintings and Drawings by Joan Ryan and Julie C Baer. Visit www.atlanticworks.org.

Boston East Gallery at 126 Border Street presents Beyond Border, paintings and mixed media by East Boston artists B. Amore, Kristen Audette, Matt Baynes, Collette Brésilla, Jeff Briggs, Brian Burke, Maryellen Cahill,

Elsa Campbell, Sandrine Colson, Kristen Freitas, Katie Kimbrell, June Krinsky-Rudder, Charlene Liska, Diane Modica, Maureen O’Connor, David Riley, Joan Ryan, and X Bonnie Woods.

HarborArts shares a self-guided walking tour of 21 murals produced from 2020 – 2024.

There are no major inclines, making it an accessible experience for most people.

Veronica Robles Cultural Center presents El Dia del Niño, a special day to honor children in our community at Central Square Park between Meridian and Border St in East Boston on Sunday April 28, from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

East Boston artists Nick DiStefano and Jesus Morales will facilitate a mural painting activity at Veronica Robles Cultural Center, 282 Meridian Street, on Sunday, April 28, from noon – 6 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE WALK FOR HUNGER FUNDRAISER SET FOR MAY 5

The Walk for Hunger, Project Bread’s annual fundraising event and the Commonwealth’s largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for the celebration. The one-day event is set for Sunday, May 5 on the Boston Common, and will feature family-friendly activities along the 3-mile loop. In its 56th year, Project Bread invites you to help raise more than \$1.3 million to support the leading statewide food security organization’s approach to permanently solve hunger,

which includes working year-round across policy initiatives, programs, and hunger prevention measures to ensure food access for all children and families in Massachusetts.

Likeminded anti-hunger organizations can enroll in the nonprofit’s co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth, forming teams to raise money to support their own work, while also furthering Project Bread’s statewide effort. To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk or email walk@projectbread.org.



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