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Wu marks creation of new city planning department with signing ceremony

By Times staff

Standing behind the Last Tenement at 42 Lomasney Way – the only historic building from the old West End to survive urban renewal in that neighborhood – Mayor Michelle Wu signed an ordinance on Tuesday, April 2, which will allow for the creation new planning department in the City of Boston for the first time in 70 years.

The ordinance restores planning as a core function of Boston city government, ensuring its inclusion in the city’s budget and allowing for the transfer of current staff from the Boston Planning & Development Agency to the new planning department.

“Today we mark a long-overdue new chapter in Boston’s growth—grounded in affordability, resiliency, and equity,” said Mayor Wu. “This ordinance is the biggest step Boston has taken in 70 years to finally begin untangling a system of development rooted in an outdated ideology that left scars in our communities. I look forward to the work ahead with all of our residents to engage with this new Planning Department and shape



Mayor Michelle Wu joined residents and community leaders in the West End on April 2 for a signing of a new ordinance creating a City Planning Department.

Boston’s future.” Similarly, Arthur Jemison, the city’s chief of planning, said, “Today marks an important step in our work to truly transform planning and development in Boston and ensure we are speaking to residents with one voice as the

City of Boston. Under Mayor Wu’s leadership, I’m looking forward to establishing a Planning Department that can tackle Boston’s greatest challenges and plan for a City that is more resilient, affordable, and equitable.”

Besides creating the new depart-

ment, as well as a pathway for the transfer of staff, the ordinance codifies the purpose of the department as “creating comprehensive



District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkun.

plans for Boston’s built environment, a predictable zoning code and development process, urban design standards, and planning for the best use of publicly owned land,” according to a press release from the city.

The ordinance also formalizes the financial transfer between the City and BPDA so that the move will be cost-neutral to the city’s taxpayers. The ordinance, which was filed by Mayor Wu in January, was formally approved by the City Council on Wednesday, March 27.

SPRING TURKEY TROT



A couple of wild turkeys took advantage of the nice weather on Tuesday and decided to go for a stroll on Walnut Street. It seems that the mild winter has attracted several wild animals to the Beacon Hill area recently.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Beacon Award Nominations Requested

The Beacon Hill Civic Association invites the community to nominate candidates for the 27th Annual Beacon Award. Instituted in 1997 by the BHCA as part of its Diamond Jubilee Year, the Beacon Award annually honors those individuals or groups deserving of particular recognition for significant and sustained contribution to the Beacon Hill community.

Nomination forms are available online at www.bhcivic.org or by calling BHCA at 617-227-1922. A new form should be completed for each individual nomination submitted and should be returned to the Beacon Hill Civic



City Councilor Sharon Durkan.

Association no later than Monday, April 22, 2024. Nominations will be reviewed and a winner will be selected by a committee composed of representatives from

the BHCA and the community at large.

The 2024 Beacon Award will be presented at the BHCA’s 102nd Annual Meeting, to be held May 20, 2024 at the Somerset Club.

Councilor Sharon Durkan at the BHCA First Friday Coffee Hour on April 5th

City Councilor Sharon Durkan will be our guest at our next BHCA Coffee Hour. Bring your questions and comments for her - we look forward to seeing many of our neighbors on April 5th, 8:30-9:30am at 74 Joy Street.

(BHCA Pg. 3)

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WECA MEETING SET FOR APRIL 11 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its next meeting in person on Thursday, April 11, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Amy Lowell Apartments at 65 Martha Road.

Guests for this meeting will be representatives from Beacon Hill Village. Masks are encouraged.

WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY TO OFFER ONGOING 'MINDFULNESS FOR OLDER ADULTS' PROGRAM

The West End Branch Library at 151 Cambridge St. will offer 'Mindfulness for Older Adults' on Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon on Fridays, beginning April 12.

The ongoing program includes 'Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation' on April 12; 'Stopping, Calming and Resting' on April 19; 'Mindfulness and Stress Reduction' on May 3; 'Creating Healthy Sleep Habits' on May 10; 'Mindfulness Tools for Chronic Pain' on May 17; 'Yoga Breathing for Relaxation' on May 24; and 'Loving Kindness and Gratitude' on June 7.

Bob Linscott, MTS, Certified Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Teacher and Behavioral Health Manager for the city's

Age Strong Commission, will lead the program, which will help participants learn to reduce stress and anxiety; enhance their attention and memory; improve their mood and sleep; and strengthens their cognition in aging.

To register for the program, contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org or call the West End Branch Library at 617-523-3957.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING SPONSORED BY WEST END MUSEUM

The West End Museum will offer 'Boston in Fiction: A Conversation with Frances McNamara and JB Harris,' a lively discussion about Boston in historical fiction with the two authors, on Wednesday, April 10, at 6 p.m.

At this time, McNamara and Harris will talk about their recent novels, 'Three-Decker Murder in a Nutshell' and 'The Immigrant's Wife,' respectively, and also answer questions about the process of writing historical Boston tales.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-in-fiction-a-conversation-with-frances-mcnamara-and-jb-harris-tickets> for tickets and more information.

The museum will offer a 'West End Architecture' walking tour on Wednesday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-architecture-tickets>.

[eventbrite.com/e/west-end-architecture-tickets](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-architecture-tickets).

The museum's next Trivia Month is set to take place on Monday, April 22, at the Dubliner Irish Pub at 2 Center Plaza. Admission is \$10 per person. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/856151160167?aff=oddtcreator> to purchase tickets and for more information.

The museum will also offer an online lecture, 'Curley to Kevin: The New Boston and the Mayors Who Made It' on Thursday, April 25, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

At this time, Sebastian Belfanti, the museum's executive director, will lead a discussion on the political impact of Boston's 20th-century mayors.

Over the course of the 20th century, Boston underwent a major change in political leadership, from the dynamic and populist, but corrupt, James Michael Curley, to New Boston's honest but elite-centric Hynes and Collins. They were followed by Kevin White, who tried to bridge these two leadership styles with a more populist good-government approach. The story of how these shifts changed the political landscape of Boston, reshaped the city, and created "The New Boston" are critical to understanding the city today.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/curley-to-kevin-the-new-boston-and-the-mayors-who-made-it-tickets>.

WEM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING AND SUMMERS SEASONS

The West End Museum is now seeking volunteers for the spring and summers seasons.

Volunteer opportunities include in-person openings on Wednesday-Sunday mornings and afternoons for greeter, event assistant, exhibit attendant, social media creator, and special projects assistant.

For more information, contact the WEM volunteer coordinator via email at maisie@thewestendmuseum.org.

UPCOMING CULINARY PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul presents 'The Jewish Holiday Table: A Culinary Adventure' on Tuesday, April 9,

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 18 Phillips St.

Naama Shefi, founder of Jewish Food Society, introduces 'The Jewish Holiday Table,' a collection of 135 vibrant recipes, each with accompanying stories collected by the Jewish Food Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Jewish culinary heritage from across the globe. Shefi will be joined by Uri Scheft of Bakey Bakery for a challah-making demonstration. The conversation will be moderated by Devra Furst, co-author of the cookbook and food columnist for the Boston Globe. Tickets cost \$25 each.

Visit <https://vilnashul.org/events/upcoming> for more information for more information on The Vilna's upcoming programming.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM BENEFIT SET FOR APRIL 18 AT ST. BOTOLPH CLUB

The Friends of the Gibson House Museum invite you to its annual museum benefit, "The Sporting Life," on Thursday, April 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club at 199 Commonwealth Ave.

This fun and festive party will offer a nod to the Gibsons and other 19th-early 20th century families who spent much of their leisure time enjoying outdoor activities. The event will honor Community Boating, the oldest public sailing organization in the country, for its mission of breaking down the physical, social, and financial hurdles that sailing frequently presents and providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities to experience the joys of being on the water.

All proceeds will support the preservation and operation of the Gibson House Museum. Tickets are \$150 and may be purchased via the link above, or by sending a check with the names of your guests to: the Gibson House Museum, 137 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116.

This year's Benefit features some fabulous raffle items, including tickets to the theater, restaurant gift certificates, a Community Boating membership, a pickleball set, and vintage treasures. You do not need to be present to win. More details, as well as a link to purchase raffle tickets, can be found at

<https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit>.

UPCOMING LECTURE EXPLORES 'WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE NORTH SHORE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY'

The Artists' Group of Charlestown presents an art gallery lecture called 'Women Artists of the North Shore in the Early 20th Century' on Friday, April 12, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at StoveFactory Gallery and Studios at 523 Medford St. in Charlestown. Doors open at 5 p.m., and complimentary refreshments will be served.

Join art historian Judith Curtis to discover untold stories of early 20th century women artists of the North Shore. Her lecture, based on her work as co-curator of the 2015 'Strokes of Genius: Women Artists of New England' exhibition at the Rockport Art Association & Museum, will delve into the lives and works of influential artists Jane Peterson, Marguerite Pearson, Emma Fordyce McRae, and others. Through her engaging slide presentation, Curtis will highlight how color, design, and subject matter helped establish these women as experts in their field despite facing immense challenges in the male-dominated art world of their time.

Admission is free; reserve your spot at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-gallery-lecture-tickets-856385882227?aff=oddtcreator>.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, APRIL 20, WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE WEST END LIBRARY

Celebrate Earth Day with the Friends of the West End Library on Saturday, April 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at 151 Cambridge St.

Attendees can pitch in to help plant for the year and enjoying the daffodils, tulips and other delights starting to bloom in the Library Garden. Guests can also take home a free starter houseplant.

WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY'S 'WRITING YOUR MEMOIR' SERIES KICKS OFF APRIL 29

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., will offer its 'Writing Your Memoir' over three consecutive Monday evenings beginning on April 29.

Everyone has a story to tell.

(ROUNDUP Pg. 3)

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ROUND UP (from pg. 2)

Step into the captivating field of memoir writing with this three-part workshop and acquire the skills and confidence to share your story with the world. Under the guidance of an expert writer, you will learn the art of crafting compelling and authentic personal narratives!

Session 1, which takes place on Monday, April 29, from 2 to 4 p.m., introduces memoir writing and developing a writing voice; Session 2 on Monday, May 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. focuses on sharing your written memoir and receiving positive feedback; and Session 3, which takes place Monday, May 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., concentrates on concluding your memoir and reaching your desired audience.

To register, contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org or by calling the West End Branch Library at 617-523-3957.

BEACON HILL BOOKS TO WELCOME TWO AUTHORS ON APRIL 18

Jeanne Blasberg, whose third novel 'Daughter of a Promise' is due out soon, will be joining Julie Carrick Dalton, author of the upcoming novel, 'The Last Beekeeper' and a new resident to the neighborhood, on Thursday, April 18, at 5 p.m. at Beacon Hill Books at 71 Charles St.

WLP'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND NETWORKING LUNCHEON SET FOR MAY 10 AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Women's Lunch Place Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon and M. Lee Pelton, President and

CEO of the Boston Foundation, will have a fireside chat at WLP's annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, eat LUNCH give on Friday, May 10, in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:15 p.m.

Hanlon Wigon and Pelton will address the pressing issues of the housing crisis in Boston, including the shortage of affordable units and the critical need for safe, gender-specific housing for women in the community. The event will be held in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

This luncheon will include a delicious meal, an opportunity to network with Boston's best and brightest leaders, and an inside look at the context behind Women's Lunch Place's life-changing work from two experts in their fields. There will also be a raffle with local prizes.

All proceeds from the fundraising luncheon will be donated to Women's Lunch Place.

Tickets cost \$200 each and are available online at womenslunchplace.org/elg, along with sponsorships, program advertisements, and opportunities to support the raffle.

DUCKLING DAY RETURNS MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 12

Join the Friends of the Public Garden on Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, for the return of Duckling Day – an annual celebration of the children's classic book 'Make Way for Ducklings' by Robert McCloskey.

Duckling Day is a family-friendly celebration held each year on Boston Common. Duckling Day

features activity booths, lawn games, magic, and live music all at Parkman Bandstand. The event ends with a parade retracing Mrs. Mallard's steps to the Ducklings sculpture in the Public Garden.

Registration for a family of any size is \$35 and includes a goody bag for every child and entertaining Duckling activities for the whole family; register online at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/ducklingday/>.

CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP SET TO RETURN APRIL 19-20

Join the Esplanade Association for the 25th annual Charles River Cleanup - one of the largest Earth Day cleanups in the nation - on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20.

Registration is now open for individual and corporate/large groups; sign up for one or both days online at <https://esplanade.org/cleanup/>.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

BHCA (from pg. 1)**Love Your Block**

Love Your Block returns on Saturday, April 6th, and we are looking forward to working together with neighbors to clean up our sidewalks and parks. Please let the office know if you are available to join in from 9am to 12pm. We'll be meeting in front of the CVS at 155 Charles Street. We will have tools, bags and gloves.

A Reminder about Public Trash Bins

Please remember all public trash bins are for small trash or recycling small items (newspapers or other recyclables), and that it is illegal (\$1,000 fine) to dispose of household trash in any public trash bin. Let's all work together to keep our streets and sidewalks clean and

free of trash and litter by using these trash bins appropriately.

Did You Know?

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to community building, civic engagement, and historic preservation on Beacon Hill. Your membership donations allow us to continue our efforts to preserve and protect our historic neighborhood. As a member, your voice adds strength to our numbers and credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill residents and businesses. Join, renew, or donate today at bhcivic.org to support the work we do for you!

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

First Friday Coffee Hour – Friday, April 5th, 8:30-9:30am

Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup – Saturday, April 6th, 9am; meet in front of CVS, 155 Charles Street

Board of Directors - Monday, April 8th, 7:00pm via Zoom

Architecture Committee - April 15th, 5:30pm via Zoom

Founders Reception - Thursday, May 2nd

Annual Meeting of Members - Monday, May 20th, Somerset Club

Valiant Cruise - Thursday, June 6th

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website www.bhcivic.org or call the office (617-227-1922) for more information on any of these meetings or events.

BHAC subcommittee hears preliminary plans for 9 Spruce Court

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission convened a virtual subcommittee meeting on Friday, March 29, to discuss preliminary plans for modifications to the exterior of the property at 9 Spruce Court.

Nick Landry, founding principal of Boston-based DRT (design/resource/team), and Tony King, DRT's director of operations, own the six-unit building,, which they intend to convert it into a single-family residence.

(While Spruce Street is a public way, Spruce Place and Spruce Court are both private, so much of the proposed work wouldn't be visible from a public way and therefore outside of the BHAC's purview.)

On the building's Spruce Court-fronting façade, an existing fire escape would be removed, said Landry, while the number of windows would be reduced from nine now to six. A new glass bay is also proposed for this façade but that, along with a new roofdeck, wouldn't be visible from a public way, he said.

Chair Mark Kiefer advised Landry that the commission would likely request a mockup for the rooftop railing to ensure that it can't be seen from a public way.

Additionally, the placement of five existing windows on the building's façade fronting Spruce Place would be reconfigured into a more symmetric pattern, said Landry, while the new windows would be about 20 percent larger than they are today. Two windows on the lowest level of this façade would also be removed, he said.

Commissioner Maurice Finegold expressed a preference for the current 'asymmetrical' configuration of the windows, while Chair Kiefer advised Landry that such seemingly 'out-of-place' features can often actually contribute to the neighborhood's unique and varied architectural character.

Landry responded that the applicant had assumed the commission would prefer a more symmetrical window arrangement but said he could explore keeping a more asymmetrical window arrangement. He also described the variety of windows in the building as a "mismatch" and added that none of them appear to have any historic value.

Since the new proposed bay would likely require a variance from the city for a FAR (Floor Area Ratio) increase, Chair Kiefer and BHAC staff (Nicholas Armata) advised Landry that the applicant would need to secure any necessary zoning relief from the city in advance of appearing before the commission.

Landry had previously come before the commission at its Jan. 18 monthly meeting, which was also held virtually, to present a plan to relocate an existing door on the corner of the Spruce Place façade to between Spruce Place and Spruce Place. The commission voted by a majority at this time to approve the application, with some provisos.

At the subcommittee meeting, Landry said the door project was around 80-percent finished. The door has been relocated, he said, while the old door on Spruce Place had yet to be infilled.

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EDITORIAL

WATCH THE ECLIPSE SAFELY

With our area in the path of the solar eclipse this coming Monday (and with clear skies forecast), we urge any of our readers who are intent on watching the event to be sure to wear proper eyewear and to ensure that their children do as well.

A person can cause permanent damage to their eyes -- and even go blind (a condition known as solar retinopathy) -- if they do not use proper eye protection, such as eclipse glasses or a special solar filter. Regular sunglasses don't offer any protection and viewing the eclipse through your I-phone camera offers no protection for you and will damage your phone. (Photography experts say just pointing your smartphone camera at the eclipse could cause catastrophic damage to the phone if you don't have proper equipment.)

Individuals also have to be certain that the eyewear they are using is certified. There are reports that knock-offs that are being sold on-line are not legitimate.

One eye doctor, who was quoted in the New York Times, offered this advice: Don't look at the eclipse at all, even with proper eyewear.

But for those who are intent on watching this event, please do so safely.

RUSSIA IS OUR REAL ENEMY

Sunday's special report on the CBS news show 60 Minutes revealed that Russia has been the culprit in the hundreds of cases of debilitating neurological injuries that have struck American intelligence and law enforcement operatives around the world in the past few years.

The phenomenon has been dubbed "Havana Syndrome" because the problems first became apparent among a cluster of employees at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba. However, as the 60 Minutes report showed, these attacks on U.S. personnel (and their families), all of whom have worked with the CIA, the FBI, the military, the State Department, and the White House -- almost all of whom were working on areas of national security related to Russia -- have been occurring all over the world and even in our own country.

The "weapon" being used by the Russians is thought to be directed energy or microwaves fired from hidden devices that inflict serious and permanent injury on those who are targeted.

The 60 Minutes report makes it clear that Vladimir Putin is a monster who is using any means necessary to undermine our national interests. Our political leaders, especially the Republicans in Congress, must recognize the threat he poses and do whatever it takes to thwart him.

BIRD FLU IS NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS

The second confirmed case of the bird flu infecting a human in this country (a Texas dairy farm worker who worked among infected cows) raises a red flag about the possibility of another pandemic ripping across the world.

The current bird flu outbreak not only has killed millions of wild and domesticated birds world-wide, but it also has killed many mammals across the globe, including the well-publicized devastation of an elephant seal population in Argentina.

Although the bird flu is not as fatal in cows as seals, it has sickened cows in states across the country, an indication that cows are infecting each other as they move around farms from state-to-state. The virus has been detected in the unpasteurized milk of these cows. More ominously, the detection of the virus in the dairy worker suggests that the bird flu can jump from one mammal species to others -- including ourselves.

The bird flu -- also known as H5N1 -- wreaked havoc in many parts of the world, especially in Asia, in 2006. The U.S. largely was spared the ill-effects of the outbreak thanks to efforts by our national health authorities who worked in these foreign countries to contain its spread.

However, this new variant of H5N1 is being brought to this country by wild bird populations, which obviously is something we cannot control. If cows have been infected, it stands to reason that other animals, including our house pets, could become infected and spread the virus.

COVID-19 killed more than one million Americans. But as bad as the pandemic had been at its height, it was only killing about one percent of those who were infected, with substantially higher death rates among the elderly and those with prior-existing health conditions, including obesity.

However, the bird flu in humans is far deadlier, with death rates having been estimated at 50% during the 2006 pandemic in some countries. Even if the chances of a bird flu pandemic among humans are slim, the high mortality rate should be enough to raise the alarm bells among our public health officials.

Wu announces applications for futureBOS now available

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity (YEO) launched futureBOS, the 2024 Summer Youth Employment Program, including all Successlink job opportunities, for Boston youth and young adults ages 14 - 24. Young people interested can find summer job opportunities through futureBOS, the newly redesigned webpage hub for all youth employment opportunities throughout the City. futureBos will guide young people to better navigate the application, onboarding, and hiring processes, ensuring that these employment opportunities are centralized. To complement SuccessLink, futureBOS site will serve as a hub for all youth employment opportunities throughout the City, making resources easier to locate for young people and their families. Jobs young people can find on futureBOS including with nonprofits, local government, businesses and the healthcare industry.

"The future of Boston rests on connecting our young people to opportunities today so they can grow and lead our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're taking our nation-leading youth summer jobs program to the next level with more employers, more opportunities, and a guarantee for every BPS student to access a paid summer job."

"As an organization, supporting the Youth of Boston through employment opportunities has always been our top priority. Through futureBOS, we plan to make employment even more accessible, helping Boston youth access available work opportunities & resources and kick-start their professional and personal development," said Allison Vernerey, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity. "Investing in youth jobs will always be a worthwhile endeavor. We are excited to continue our collaboration with employment partners, and the Mayor to bring even more opportunities to Boston's youth community."

Led by the Office of Youth Employment and Oppor-

tunity, futureBOS (which includes opportunities from the SuccessLink program) is designed to not only recruit and hire youth, but also ensure that the employment experience is engaging and meaningful, and advances young people's professional and personal development. According to research from Northeastern University, the program positively impacts a range of economic, academic, and criminal justice outcomes for youth. Recognizing the importance of this work, the City invested \$18.7 million in youth summer jobs last year to expand and improve the program. As a result, nearly 10,000 young people were successfully employed in summer 2023. Building on this milestone, Mayor Wu is increasing Boston's commitment to young people through the Mayor's Youth Job Guarantee (MYJG), a pledge that any eligible BPS student who wants a summer job can get one.

"I am so proud to join Mayor Wu as the City of Boston launches futureBOS," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "We know that our young people who work a summer job or internship build their professional skills, have fun, meet other young people and new mentors, and are paid for their work. Last summer, more than 9,000 young people found jobs and internships through the City of Boston's summer youth job program and I am excited that our young people will have access to this innovative new opportunity."

Recognizing the importance of coordination and alignment across Boston's youth employment providers YEO partners with over 200 City agencies, non-profits, higher education institutions, and lead entities -- Action for Boston Community Development, the Boston Private Industry Council, Artists For Humanity, and the John Hancock MLK Scholars -- to offer high-quality employment opportunities to youth. To ensure that disadvantaged youth have equitable access to jobs, the City is supporting organizations that prioritize proven at-risk youth populations in partnership with the State's Commonwealth Corporation YouthWorks. YEO will also partner with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) to provide immigrant youth with hands-on leadership and skills training, regardless of immigration status.

To increase private sector employment among young people, the City has created the futureBOS pledge, an invitation to companies and small businesses to commit to employing youth from Boston. Businesses interested in hosting internships for BPS youth will receive direct support from the Boston Private Industry Council, the City's Workforce Development Board after completing the pledge. Deepening these partnerships brings the City closer to creating a more holistic and inclusive workforce development ecosystem for Boston's youth.

(FUTUREBOS Pg. 8)

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Neighborhood cleanups are planned for this weekend in several neighborhoods

“Love your Block cleanups are a perfect way to enjoy the upcoming spring weather while helping your local community look vibrant and clean,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The City is proud to help supply the tools to host group cleanups and assist individuals in finding a Love Your Block volunteer opportunity near them.”

Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of three weekends.

Saturday, April 6: Allston/Brighton, Back Bay/Beacon Hill,

Fenway/Kenmore, Mission Hill, South Boston, West Roxbury.

The Love Your Block program was first created in 2015 with a three-year grant awarded to the City of Boston by Cities of Service. After the grant’s expiration in 2018, Love Your Block became a permanent City program under the Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing (within the Community Engagement Cabinet). This year, OCO will partner with Boston Public Library and Boston Centers for Youth & Families who will

serve as host sites for community members to pick up and drop off cleanup tools. All sites are listed on the Love Your Block sign up form. Tool collection is scheduled from 9:00 -10:00 a.m., with returns to the same location between 12 - 2 p.m.

“Having served as East Boston’s liaison, I’ve seen the transformative power of this initiative firsthand,” said Director of Civic Organizing Nathalia Benitez-Perez. “Love Your Block empowers residents to take charge of their

community’s well-being through collective action and beautification efforts. I’m thrilled to carry forward this tradition of fostering empowerment and unity.”

In past Love Your Block cleanups, neighborhood groups have picked up litter from streets and sidewalks, beautified local parks, cleaned up vacant lots, urban wilds, and more. For tips on how to plan and host a cleanup in your neighborhood, OCO has created a helpful guide.

“In 2022, fourteen volunteers from Prospect Hill and Mt. Hope neighborhoods of Roslindale turned out to clean up the pedestrian walkways of the Blakemore Street Bridge,” said Friends of Blakemore Bridge Co-Founder Meri Bond. “By the end of the day not only had they removed the leaves, litter, bottles and nips that had been accumulating along the

Bridge for years, they had enjoyed meeting one another and working together for a common purpose.”

The Office of Civic Organizing will provide volunteers with cleanup tools including trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, trash pickers, and a Love Your Block t-shirt. Hosts leading a cleanup can request tools until Friday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m.

“Love Your Block is an event that I look forward to the Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing leading every year,” said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. “This is an effort for our Cabinet alongside Boston residents, community leaders, and volunteers to beautify every Boston neighborhood together. I look forward to seeing everyone in April to keep our neighborhoods clean.”

Community Reinvestment Grant program announced

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced that community non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through his office’s Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

Last year, Hayden’s Community Reinvestment Program delivered the largest amount of funding to community partners in Suffolk County CRG history, with grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500.

“I am extremely proud of the amount of funding we distributed last year. In total, we were able

to award \$260,000 to 45 Suffolk County nonprofit organizations. I look forward to presenting the next round of funding to help these mission-driven organizations. Together, we can provide our youth with more opportunities, services and intervention necessary for them to succeed,” Hayden said.

The CRG program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 to 501(c)3 nonprofits that provide programming designed to prevent youth violence, substance use disorder, or substance use treatment

in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is April 25, and Hayden expects to announce grant recipients on May 20.

More information on the CRG program can be found at suffolk-districtattorney.com and submission forms are available at 2024 Community Reinvestment Grant.

Suffolk Downs to host annual Daffodil Dash set for April 13

Looking for a family friendly way to kick-off the Boston Marathon weekend? On Saturday, April 13, The HYM Investment Group LLC (HYM), will host the third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash from 10am-1pm at The Track at Suffolk Downs, in partnership with the Revere Parks and Recreation Department and the Marathon Daffodil Project.

The Marathon Daffodil Project began after the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 with the yellow daffodil used as a symbol of strength and hope. In commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombings, The Track at Suffolk Downs will be filled with the “Marathon Daffodils” that line the streets of Boston leading up to the Boston Marathon finish line.

The event will feature three 50-yard dash races for grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8.

Following the races, all participants and families are encouraged to hang out in The Paddock and

enjoy snacks from local vendors, face painting, flower crowns, and music with DJ Steve Fortes.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Marathon Daffodil Project and Revere Parks and Recreation again for our third year hosting the Daffodil Dash,” said Thomas N. O’Brien, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of The HYM Investment Group LLC. “At Suffolk Downs, our family-friendly neighborhood is designed for Greater Boston residents to come together and create lasting memories as part of this vibrant community.”

The event is free and open to the public, but registration for the Daffodil Dash is required to participate in the race events. The races will kick off at 10:30am. The Track at Suffolk Downs is located at 525 McClellan Highway Boston, MA 02128. Parking is free and available on-site. The Track is also accessible from the MBTA’s Suffolk Downs Blue Line station.

WU, BHA ADMINISTRATOR BOK CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING OF 34 EAST SPRINGFIELD ST. IN SOUTH END



MAYOR MICHELLE WU’S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok on March 27 to welcome home the new residents and celebrate the opening of 34 East Springfield St. - a 100-percent affordable veteran housing community in the South End.

The house-warming celebration marks the transformation of a formerly vacant, four-unit Boston Housing Authority Public Housing property into five deeply affordable, one-bedroom apartments for formerly homeless veterans.

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CITY PAWS

Dog dates

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

April is an excellent time to make plans for the warm season ahead. We suggest you pull out your calendar and add the note “Dog Day!” to a few of your upcoming days off. Consider these as commitments to give your pals adventures that will make them quiver with excitement from nose to tail.

For time off from work that includes travel, list what you must do to take your pal with you or arrange for care while you’re away.

Finally, if you have a sociable group of dog-walking friends, ask if anyone would like to share your adventure. Our anxious little Poppy is often happier outside if she has dogs she knows nearby.

Some adventures could be serendipitous. We all routinely plan

average days around our dog’s needs, routines, likes, and dislikes. We ask ourselves, “Where am I going today? Can the dog come with me?” Occasionally, on a beautiful day, ask yourself, “Do I have time today for a longer walk to a dog park or a day trip to a favorite spot?”

Local Adventures

If time off allows for a day trip, create a doggie bucket list of what you might do, weather permitting.

The state has a webpage covering places and times to enjoy state facilities with your dog. An internet search for “Dogs in DCR Parks” will find that information. Unfortunately, state beaches begin dog restrictions on April 1st. However, you’ll find other places along the shore open to families with dogs.

Another fantastic resource



This year, we’ll allow Poppy to enjoy the security of her little den on wheels and bring her on more adventures.

for places to take your dog is the Trustees of Reservations. Visit their website (<https://thetrustees.org/>) and search for “dogs allowed.” Our results included 77 properties where you could bring your dog. Each place’s “rules and regulations” tell you if dogs are allowed on or off leashes.

We plan to visit the Trustees deCordova Sculpture Park with friends this year. While the museum’s interior is closed for renovations, the grounds welcome visitors with dogs. You may have to make a timed reservation; you can do that on the park’s website.

Wagons and Strollers Expand Possibilities

If your dog is older, unable to

walk as far as you want, or has a medical issue that could curtail your plans, consider a pet stroller or wagon.

Wagons are suitable for larger dogs. Today, you can choose collapsible ones that are easy to store. You can also use these for shopping, picnics, concerts, or other times when you need to tote stuff.

There are dozens of pet strollers available for smaller dogs. As we planned our seasonal adventures, we realized that sometimes we left Poppy behind because part of the route would cause her anxiety and make her unhappy.

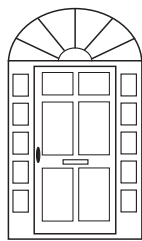
We discovered a great compromise with a stroller that, like a wagon, doubles as a shopping cart. Strollee is a company that sells

a transformer frame with available accessories that we can use for a dog and storage, for two dogs, or for shopping alone.

Over the years, we’ve come to appreciate the advantages of having a canine ambassador at the end of a leash. You meet many more people and become more engaged in the local community. Students and visitors to Boston often visit with Poppy. We’ve enjoyed interesting conversations with people we might never have met without our little ambassador.

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

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Wu proposes legislation to protect residential property owners

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that she will file a home rule petition that would protect residential property owners from a potentially dramatic increase in their property taxes due to declining commercial property values. The proposal would allow the City to lessen increases in residential property tax bills caused by declining commercial values by temporarily shifting more of the property tax levy onto owners of commercial and industrial properties. Under the present statutory system, a significant decline in commercial property assessments will result in residential property owners paying higher taxes through a higher tax rate in order to maintain funding for critical City services, rather than an overall revenue decline. The proposal is revenue-neutral and does not increase the total amount of revenue the City is able to collect through property taxes.

“As Boston invests in revitalizing our Downtown and commercial corridors in response to shifting market trends, we are working with all stakeholders to protect residents and homeowners against sudden and dramatic tax increases,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “For our seniors on fixed incomes, for families with children, for frontline workers and all our community members, we must have the tools to address rising housing costs and keep residents in their homes.”

“The City has been closely monitoring and planning for the impacts of declining commercial real estate values on the City’s tax base,” said Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberger. “By taking this proactive step, we are ensuring that we have the tools necessary to safeguard basic City services and create stability for all taxpayers.”

“The pandemic changed the way we work, and that has had a rather sudden and significant impact on commercial tax bases,” said Adam Chapdelaine, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. “In affected communities, one potential outcome is crushing property tax increases for homeowners, while commercial properties see a reduction. Already tightly constrained by the limits of Proposition 2½, affected cities and towns may want to pursue thoughtful, measured



Mayor Michelle Wu.

approaches like Mayor Wu’s proposal to avoid making the region’s housing cost crisis even worse.”

State law allows the City, in conjunction with the City Council, to create two separate property tax rates, and by doing so, shift a portion of the property tax levy to commercial property. The present maximum shift allowed is up to 175 percent of what the commercial share would have otherwise been.

The current proposal gives the City the option to modify these parameters in a thoughtful and controlled manner. For the first year of implementation, the City would have the ability to increase the classification shift to 200 percent, at the discretion of the Mayor and the City Council, if a significant drop in commercial assessments occurs. During the subsequent three years the allowable classification shift would gradually decrease and return to the currently allowed 175 percent in year five.

Initial implementation of the current proposal, if passed, could occur during any of the next three fiscal years, at the City’s election. This flexibility would allow the City the ability to initiate the alternative rate schedules only when absolutely needed.

“This is a measured proposal that will deliver relief as the City adapts to the unprecedented changes to its existing tax base,” said WinnCompanies CEO Gilbert Winn. “Ensuring that Boston is on stable, financial footing is vital for the thousands who live and work in the City, and rely on critical services like housing, education, public safety and health care. Preserv-

ing these vital services will allow Boston to continue its growth as a hub for culture, innovation, and education; a City that is welcoming to all.”

“As a resident of Boston and a member of the business community, I support the City of Boston’s tax classification proposal,” said Tom O’Brien, managing partner and CEO of HYM Investment Group. “I applaud the Mayor for using all the tools in her toolbox to alleviate the financial pressures of homeowners. It is my continued hope that this proposal might soon be paired with initiatives that will encourage new growth in our city.”

“Boston is experiencing a significant housing crisis, driven by both a lack of sufficient affordable housing to meet our need and rising costs to build and operate this housing,” said Emilio Dorcelly, CEO of Urban Edge. “Because continuing to increase the supply of affordable housing supported by city services is critical to the region’s overall economic success, it is imperative that Boston maintain steady revenue streams. The Wu administration’s proposal presents the opportunity to maintain a level of revenue needed to support such important work while not overburdening homeowners, affordable housing projects, and other residential buildings.”

The proposal would help stabilize housing costs for Boston residents over this period of five years. An increase in residential property taxes would impact all residential property: single family homes, multi family homes, apartment buildings, and residential condominium units. Left alone, the dramatic tax increase would lead to

higher costs for residents through higher tax bills for homeowners or a rent increase for renters should their landlords pass the increased costs onto them.

“The mission of Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) is to help low and moderate-income households to buy and maintain the dream of homeownership,” said Symone Crawford, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance. “Given the high home prices, interest rates, insurance premiums, and general housing costs, it is especially important that we act quickly to stabilize real estate taxes for our families. Homeownership provides a sense of permanence and pride, laying down a solid foundation upon which individuals and families can build their lives with certainty and confidence.”

The proposal is similar to one enacted in 2004, when Boston faced a comparable dynamic. According to a 2003 report from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the average single-family tax bill would have increased by over 35 percent while the tax for a commercial property could decrease by 15-20 percent. Boston successfully sought similar legislation that allowed municipalities

to temporarily increase the classification shift to 200 percent and step down over four years, before returning to the original maximum of 175 percent. At this level, the average residential tax bill still increased by 15 to 18 percent, with commercial taxes decreasing by five to eight percent. The legislation the City is pursuing today builds on this precedent.

“As a senior with a fixed income, a large increase in my property taxes would be devastating,” said Shirley Jones, president of the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association. “I am so grateful that the mayor is being proactive and taking action to protect residents like me across the city from these potential increases.”

“It’s difficult to keep residents in Boston because of the high cost of living,” said Tom Cunha, Chair of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council. “I don’t want my neighbors to have to move out because of an increase in their property taxes. This temporary measure is fair and allows us to evaluate over the next 60 months.”

The home rule petition will be filed with the City Council, where it must be approved before being signed by the Mayor and then sent to the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor for approval.

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Cartwright announces candidacy for Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Suffolk County

Suffolk County Attorney Allison S. Cartwright announced she is running for Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Suffolk County. Cartwright is looking to build on her thirty-plus years of legal representation and management in the Clerk position, which oversees critical functions within the court system including managing the court's single justice caseload concerning bail reviews, appeals from state registration boards and agencies, and appeals from lower courts. Additionally, the Clerk handles all matters concerning the admission of attorneys to the Massachusetts bar, and attorney discipline.

"Fundamentally this job is about navigating justice and access to our state's highest court," said Allison Cartwright. "Ensuring the working class and poor people have access to justice and be able to navigate the court system has been my life's work. I have represented everyone from children to adults, immigrants, citizens, people in recovery – essentially every-



Allison S. Cartwright.

one who has ever needed a second chance. Key to that second chance is a system that is fair, open, and equitable."

Cartwright currently serves in the Committee for Public Counsel Services's Public Defenders Division, where she oversees seventy-five public defenders, social workers, and investigators for Suffolk and Norfolk counties. She works daily to ensure that staff have the tools necessary to provide top notch defense, necessary services, and are able to protect fundamental constitutional and

human rights.

In recognition of her zealous advocacy, commitment to justice, and formidable career, Attorney Cartwright has been appointed to a number of advisory boards, including Boston's Police Reform Task Force, the Massachusetts Advisory Board on Probation, and the Governor's Restorative Justice Advisory Committee. Through her service on these boards, she has shaped criminal justice policies at the city and state level.

Cartwright today also announced that Maggie Van Scoy will spearhead her campaign as campaign manager. Van Scoy brings public service experience, having most recently served as Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison to Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, and Mission Hill, where she served as the administration's primary point of contact for area residents and helped facilitate the delivery of core city services across the those neighborhoods.

"I am thrilled to join the Cartwright campaign and have the opportunity to elect someone with such an impressive background in law and public service to this critical position in our judicial system," said Van Scoy. "To know Allison is to be in awe of her dedication to justice, fairness, and society's most vulnerable."

Rounding out the initial campaign team are Attorney Cartwright's two campaign committee co-chairs: Attorney Keren Goldenberg and Massachusetts State Senator for the Third Suffolk district Lydia Edwards.

"I am so excited that Allison Cartwright is running for Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County. As a courtroom lawyer, I know that the best clerks have litigation and management experience, and Allison has both," said Attorney Goldenberg. "As Allison's colleague and friend, I know that she is organized, respectful of others, and thoughtful. Lawyers, judges, litigants, court staff, and the public will benefit from having

her in this position."

"I can't think of anyone more qualified or prepared for this job. I have met plenty of lawyers in my life, and am one myself, but Cartwright's experience and resume is beyond impressive. Not only does she manage attorneys she is educating the next generation of lawyers at Harvard Law School," said Senator Edwards. "There is something about this position that calls not just for legal experience but for an impartial, apolitical record of dedication to helping people. That's what Allison has. She has advocated in the courts, provided access to the courts, and now it's time to let her to work for the courts."

Additionally, Attorney Cartwright is honored to have former Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Geraldine Hines and civil rights attorney Rashaan Hall serving as members of her growing campaign committee.

The primary election is September 3, 2024.

FUTUREBOS (from pg. 4)

"At Artists For Humanity, we couldn't be more proud to continue to be a part of summer youth employment in partnership with the City of Boston and the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity," said Anna Yu, Executive Director of Artist For Humanity. "For generations we have seen summer employment transform teen lives by inspiring creative avenues for post-secondary learning and career pathways. We are excited to play a part in fulfilling Mayor Wu's promise to give every teen a safe and productive place to work, learn and grow."

"Youth employment and work-based learning help students succeed both academically and developmentally. The summer months offer students an opportunity to learn what it takes to earn a pay-

check and to imagine themselves in various careers," said Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of the Boston Private Industry Council. "FutureBOS is making an extraordinary range of community-based opportunities available to Boston youth. Simultaneously, Boston's private sector and institutional employers are stepping up to provide career-oriented internships. These employers benefit by meeting the workforce of the future, while diversifying their workplaces in real time."

"We are pleased to once again partner with Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston for our Summer Youth Jobs program," said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. "ABCD SummerWorks and the City's mutual commitment to the

employment, development, and empowerment for young people throughout Boston is undeniable and longstanding. We hope to reach as many youth as possible this summer – continuing some on their path to long term employment, success, and starting others on their journey."

Beyond employment opportunities, YEO provides youth with career development, skills building, and financial education training. This year, three local banks – Citizens Bank, M&T Bank, and Metro Credit Union – have stepped up to provide special non-custodial, no-fee options that will make it easier for our youth to open safe, non-predatory bank accounts, facilitating access to their summer earnings and instilling good financial habits that will last a lifetime.

"At Metro, we are committed to giving people in our communities the knowledge and skills needed to feel confident with their money," said Charlene Bauer, Senior Vice President at Metro Credit Union. "We are excited to be one of several partners working with YEO in providing a solid foundation of financial wellbeing for these students as they journey into adulthood."

Youth are strongly encouraged to attend the Youth Job and Resource Fair at the Reggie Lewis Center on Saturday, March 23rd, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. to connect with over 100 summer employers, access career development resources, receive job application assistance, open bank accounts, and win prizes. Refreshments will be provided. Parents and guardians

are welcome to attend.

Job applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Youth are encouraged to get their applications in early. There is a step-by-step guide available online to help youth navigate the application process. Youth can also visit the office in person, Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1483 Tremont Street in Roxbury, or call 617-635-4202 for additional assistance. For more information, visit boston.gov/futureBOS.

There will also be several job resource fair opportunities:

futureBOS Chinatown Neighborhood Pop-Up Fair

Saturday, May 11, 11-2pm

Location: BCYF Quincy Community Center, 885 Washington Street, Chinatown

futureBOS Dorchester Neighborhood Pop-Up Fair

Thursday, May 16, 4-7pm

Location: BCYF Perkins Community Center, 155 Talbot Ave, Dorchester

futureBOS Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Pop-Up Fair

Saturday, May 18, 11-2pm

Location: BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center, 20 South Street, Jamaica Plain

futureBOS Allston Neighborhood Pop-Up Fair

Tuesday, Mar 21, 4-7 pm

Location: BCYF Jackson Mann Community Center, 500 Cambridge Street, Allston.

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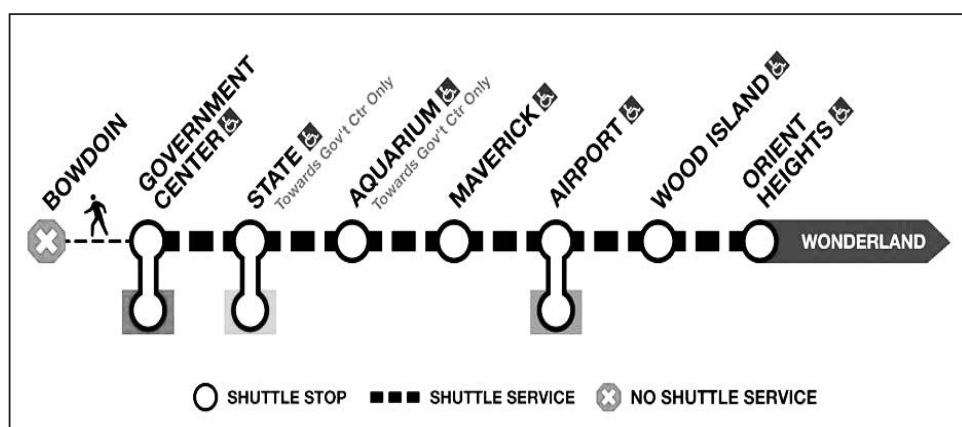
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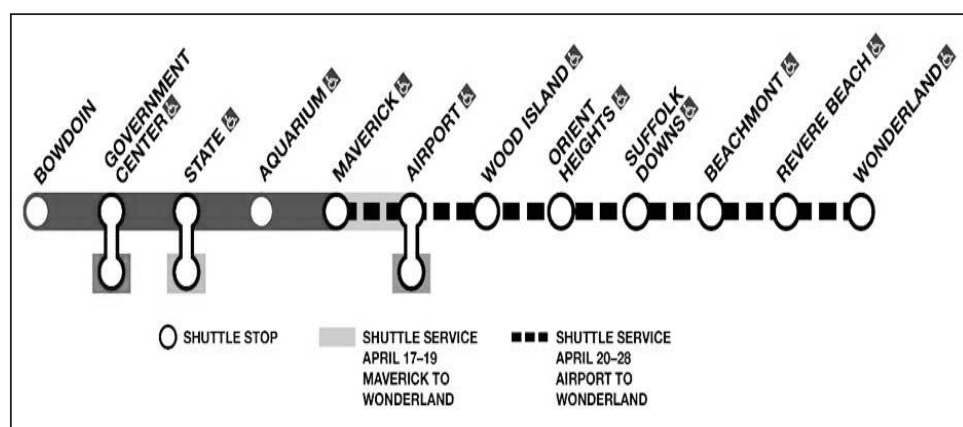
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Evening service will be suspended between Government Center and Orient Heights April 9-11



Shuttle Service will be replacing the Blue Line from Maverick to Wonderland the latter half of this month.

Shuttle Buses to replace Blue Line for critical track work latter half of April

Evening Blue Line service also suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights each day from April 9-11

Special to the Regional Review

Following up on the previous announcement on March 15, the MBTA is today reminding riders that Blue Line service will be suspended between Maverick and Wonderland for three days from April 17-19 and between Airport and Wonderland for nine days from April 20-28. Evening Blue Line service will also be suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights each day from April 9-11.

As previously announced, this service change is in place to allow crews to perform critical work to upgrade infrastructure as part of the Track Improvement Program, which will improve reliability and

provide a safer ride. Work crews will also maximize this service change by upgrading the overhead catenary wire system between Orient Heights and Wood Island stations.

As previously announced, Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights stations beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service each day from April 9-11. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Government Center and Orient Heights. Riders should note that shuttle buses will not stop at Bowdoin station. Riders can instead utilize shuttle buses at Government Center, which is about a quarter mile away (or about a four-min-

ute walk). State and Aquarium stations will only be serviced by inbound shuttles to Government Center. Accessible vans will also be available to riders.

As previously announced, Blue Line service will be suspended between Maverick and Wonderland for three days from April 17-19 and between Airport and Wonderland for nine days from April 20-28. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at all stations. Accessible vans will also be available to riders.

Information is available at mbta.com/alerts. Riders can also learn more at mbta.com/TrackProgram.

The important work accomplished during this Blue Line ser-

vice suspension means riders will experience a more reliable trip with fewer unplanned service disruptions related to older tracks, older infrastructure, signal issues, or power problems. Riders will also be provided with a safer ride as a result of this state of good repair work.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

More information is also available through in-station sig-

nage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/TrackProgram 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.

Mass. requires analysis of cumulative impacts for air quality permits near EJ populations

The Healey-Driscoll Administration moved to address air quality issues in or near environmental justice areas by announcing amendments to state air pollution regulations. The communities of Revere, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown and East Boston are considered in environmental justice areas. The changes require certain facilities seeking air emissions permits in or near communities with environmental justice populations to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, which evaluates existing local environmental and health conditions in a community. The regulations also require enhanced public outreach to, and meaningful involvement of, environmental justice populations in the permitting process. The new regulations are now in force and apply to permit applications filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on or after July 1, 2024.

"Our administration is committed to addressing longstanding environmental injustice," said Governor Maura Healey. "Massachusetts is proud to make history as the first state in the nation

to launch a statewide program to require a detailed, site-specific evaluation of cumulative impacts to consider public health and other factors. We hope to set the standard for others to follow as we seek to right past wrongs and build healthier, more inclusive communities."

"A cumulative impact analysis will offer a more complete picture of environmental and health conditions in affected communities and equip residents to be involved in the permitting process from the very beginning," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This is a significant development as our administration continues to prioritize participation, transparency, and protection of public health in permitting decisions."

"This approach takes a holistic look at what existing conditions might be worsened by a new or increasing source of air pollution," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "It provides opportunities for residents to meaningfully engage in the permitting process to help identify mitigation strategies and ensure that these facilities are a

benefit to – not a further burden on – environmental justice communities."

People are exposed to pollution through air, water, and land. Over time, these exposures can add up and interact with each other, and combined with existing health and socioeconomic conditions, can cause adverse health impacts.

Communities that are home to numerous sources of pollution – such as highways or waste facilities – often have higher rates of asthma and other serious health conditions. This is especially true in communities with environmental justice areas, where residents have higher instances of health issues related to socioeconomic conditions. Current air pollution regulations do not require new facilities to assess potential pollution in light of existing environmental and health conditions or existing pollutant sources in the area. By requiring new and expanding facilities that will emit air pollution to conduct a cumulative impacts analysis prior to applying for an air permit, residents will be empowered with practical information about potential impacts to

their health and community.

"The cumulative impact analysis gives our agency and the public a better basis to evaluate project proposals in real-world contexts," said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "MassDEP has developed innovative tools and compiled comprehensive datasets that can be used by permit applicants and interested residents to assess local impacts."

"These new regulations will empower communities with information about the impacts of air pollution on their health," said Undersecretary for Environmental Justice and Equity María Belén Power. "As new facilities seek to come into neighborhoods, environmental justice communities will have the data and transparency they deserve. This is an important step towards achieving justice for all people in Massachusetts."

Community Engagement

Early community engagement and advance notification are key requirements of the new rules.

The regulations apply to projects that would emit significant amounts of air pollutants in or

near environmental justice communities – for example, certain power plants, large boilers, and manufacturing facilities. At least 60 days before applying for a new or modified air permit, the permit applicant must provide a notification and fact sheet about the proposed project to nearby environmental justice populations, local officials, and MassDEP. The applicant also must provide public involvement opportunities and document and respond to comments and concerns raised by the public.

Comprehensive Analysis

The new rules require permit applicants to assess existing community conditions by evaluating 33 environmental, health, and socio-economic indicators. These indicators help characterize existing pollution sources, health vulnerabilities, and other stressors that could be worsened by increased air emissions from the proposed project. The updated rules require a more comprehensive analysis of the impacts of these projects to local communi-

Lyric Stage Boston presents 'The Drowsy Chaperone'

Lyric Stage Boston charms its way into spring by presenting the fun and fizzy musical comedy "The Drowsy Chaperone" with Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison and Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar.

Directed and Choreographed by Larry Sousa° with Music Direction from Matt Stern, the winter blues will melt away and audiences will be delighted by the jubilations of a good old-fashioned musical comedy that will bring smiles, laughs, and much needed joy.

A comfortable chair with an old record crackling away is the perfect cure for the "blues" for a charming but lonely "Man in Chair", our guide into the world

of the show-within-a-show, The Drowsy Chaperone. His favorite cast album from the Jazz Age comes to fizzy life complete with a self-admiring showgirl, her gin-soaked chaperone, a saucy Latin lover, a bumbling best man, a clueless soon-to-be groom, and a cornucopia of characters from a befuddled producer, to a dippy hostess and gangsters posing as pastry chefs. This bubbly love letter to musical theater sparkles with one show-stopper after another, mix-ups, mayhem, and a wedding (or two).

Director Larry Sousa° says, "The Drowsy Chaperone pulls off a particularly clever trick: While the show on stage is busy enter-

taining us with sparkling 1920's musical panache, the actual main event is simmering under the surface, waiting for just the right moment to land a punch to the gut.

It hits me every time. We hope you feel it too, and tell everyone you know: Come to The Drowsy Chaperone for the hilarious, toe-tapping, light-hearted musical love story – and stay for the sucker-punch. It might hurt a little... but it's so satisfying."

Performances begin Friday, April 5 and run through Sunday, May 12.

History of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Founded in 1974 and in res-

idence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, Lyric Stage Company is Boston's longest-serving resident theater company. Its mission is to produce and present live theater in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

Lyric Stage and Beacon Communities, LLC, the owners of 140 Clarendon Street, have agreed that the building will be Lyric Stage's "forever" home, ensuring that the theater will remain a vital and essential part of the cultural fabric of the city.

In partnership with Beacon Communities, LLC, Lyric Stage will continue its commitment to improving the lives of Bostonians alongside a partner who shares those same values. With the partnership of Pine Street Inn, 111 of the units in the building will become supportive housing for people exiting homelessness. The combined energy of Beacon's supportive services alongside one of the city's cultural gems makes 140 Clarendon a paragon of two institutions coming together to make the city a better place for its residents.

Party in the Park 20th anniversary luncheon to take place May 15

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy announces that the 20th Anniversary of Party in the Park, the city's beloved annual luncheon to raise awareness and funds for the Emerald Necklace parks, will

take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Franklin Park. All proceeds from the fundraiser support the 1,100-acre park system that serves as a backyard for residents and a destination for more than

one million park users each year. The Conservancy stewards the Emerald Necklace through advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education, access improvements, public programs and the promotion of park stewardship through youth education and volunteer programs.

Party in the Park will feature the presentation of the Liff Spirit Award to former Massachusetts House of Representative Byron Rushing and activist and community organizer Frieda Garcia. Over the decades, their extensive work organizing communities, speaking up for those in need, and advocating for racial justice make them exemplars of public and civic service. The award is named in honor of the late Boston Parks Commissioner Justine Mee Liff, who served from 1996 until her passing in 2002. Party in the Park benefits the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and continues Liff's legacy of bringing people together to support and champion these

vital urban green spaces.

Founded in 2003, Party in the Park attracts the area's most generous greenspace supporters and civic leaders for a stylish tented luncheon in the Emerald Necklace. Guests don their finest millinery at this "must-attend" fundraiser to herald the coming of spring to Boston. For the upcoming fundraiser, table sponsorships and tickets are now available.

"This will be the 20th Anniversary of Party in the Park, marking a milestone year. We're looking forward to welcoming public park supporters to help raise funds for the vital work the Emerald Necklace Conservancy does to maintain Boston's largest park system," shared Alex Ablon, Caroline Balz, Gabi Crimaldi and Georgia Lee, Co-Chairs of the 2024 Party in the Park.

"Party in the Park is our signature fundraising event which funds essential tree care and capital projects in 1,100 acres of parks," noted Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "It also supports our education programs, free public programming, resources for park users, advocacy efforts and special initiatives. We are extremely proud of the work the Conservancy has done for the past 25 years to steward and improve the Emerald Necklace, connecting all Bostonians and visitors alike over a dozen neighborhoods stretching from Dorchester to the Back Bay, and to be honouring Byron Rushing and Frieda Garcia with the Liff Spirit Award this year."

For more information and tickets, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park.

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Motor Vehicle Break-ins

On Saturday, March 30, at around 10:30 p.m., police received a radio call for multiple car breaks on Charles Street. The officer spoke with both victims on the scene who stated the rear passenger's side windows of their vehicles were shattered, and that multiple valuables had been stolen from inside the vehicles. The officer observed the damages to the motor vehicles. Area A-1 detectives were expected to further investigate these incidents.

Carrying a Dangerous Weapon

On Monday, April 1, around 5:45 p.m., police observed an individual walking on Joy Street with a pair of nunchucks wrapped around their neck. Since nunchucks, are classified as a dangerous weapon, the officer seized them from the individual, who was summonsed to Boston Municipal Court for Carrying a Dangerous Weapon.

Women artists of the North Shore - Lecture April 12

On Friday April 12, join art historian Judith Curtis to discover untold stories of early 20th century women artists of the North Shore. Judith's lecture, based on her work as co-curator of the 2015 "Strokes of Genius: Women Artists of New England" exhibition at the Rockport Art Association & Museum, will delve into the lives and works of influential artists Jane Peterson, Marguerite Pearson, Emma

Fordyce McRae, and others, highlighting how color, design, and subject matter helped establish these women as experts in their field despite facing immense challenges in the male-dominated art world of their time.

Explore the current exhibition in the StoveFactory Gallery prior to and after the lecture; "Clean Slate: A Juried Exhibition Inspired by the Change of Season." Tickets on

Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/856385882227?aff=oddtcreator>. Eventbrite tickets are free; suggested donation of \$10 to the AGC at the door. This lecture is made possible by the Charlestown Community Impact Fund. doors open at 5 pm, Complimentary refreshments. The StoveFactory Gallery is at 523 Medford St. in Charlestown, there is free parking at the lot at 511 Medford Street.

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

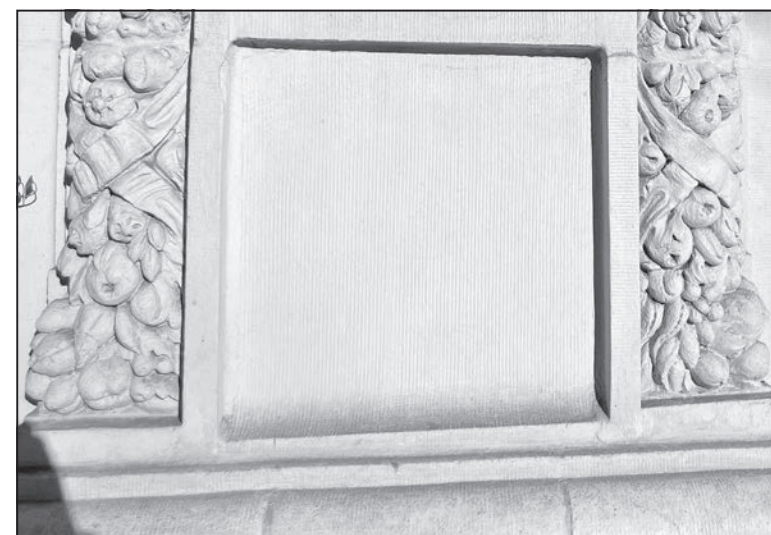
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The Ionic columns in the last clue are at the end of Rollins Place. George F. Weston, Jr., in his book "Boston Ways: High, By and Folk" describes this façade. "It is all illusion, mirage, of the mind only." "The charming house front is merely a wooden facing to a brick wall."

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER 1 | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| BACK BAY | | | |
| Kotler, Aviad | Ganjei, Albert | 324-332 Beacon St #75 | \$1,300,000 |
| Ibraghimov, Alexander | Radinsky, Robert | 357 Beacon St #3 | \$1,580,000 |
| Labowsky, Michael | Banks Judith R Est | 54 Commonwealth Ave #5 | \$3,100,000 |
| National Res Assets Corp | Iddrissu, Suleman | 180 Commonwealth Ave #B | \$759,859 |
| Siek, Steven | Sawlit, Lisa J | 326 Dartmouth St #4 | \$595,000 |
| Jacques Kass LLC | 157 Newbury St Unit 4 Rt | 157-159 Newbury St #4 | \$3,300,000 |
| BEACON HILL | | | |
| Ehret, Gregory A | Ladybug Boylston Prop LL | 70 Brimmer St #332 | \$300,000 |
| Sbcnpj Inc | Ehret, Gregory A | 70 Brimmer St #332 | \$525,000 |
| Udelman, Joshua | Sands, Kent R | 19 Chestnut St | \$2,975,000 |
| Sbcnpj Inc | Ehret, Gregory A | 108-114 Chestnut St | \$525,000 |
| Ehret, Gregory A | Ladybug Boylston Prop LL | 108-114 Chestnut St | \$300,000 |
| Simas Ft | Roden, Scott | 36 Hancock St #1B | \$830,000 |
| BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE | | | |
| Moin, Roya | Wigneswaran, John | 1 Charles St S #703 | \$996,000 |
| Pao, Terry | Weinberger Nt Of 2022 | 8 Garrison St #403 | \$482,500 |
| Hildt, Briana S | Moran, Richard A | 58 Gray St #3 | \$1,709,000 |
| Miller, Andrew | Ts Residences Hld LLC | 430 Stuart St #26A | \$4,900,000 |
| Dumont Giakomatos Ft | Osullivan, David H | 6 Yarmouth St #2 | \$999,000 |
| Patel, Narendrakumar | Qi, Dian W | 65 Burbank St #8 | \$399,900 |
| Kocatepe, Ozlem D | Satiroglu, Hakan | 416 Marlborough St #108 | \$850,000 |
| V Rastogi Inheritance T | Rocheleau, Brett M | 472 Massachusetts Ave #1 | \$1,660,000 |
| Miller, Andrew | Ts Residences Hld LLC | 430 Stuart St #26A | \$4,900,000 |
| Abbott, Evan | Ahern, Allyson K | 116 W Concord St #3 | \$899,999 |
| Mcdermott, Kerry | Smith, James L | 204 W Springfield St #3 | \$1,949,000 |
| Warren Hall Acqui LLC | Warren Hall T | 329 Washington St | \$10,500,000 |
| Mirabile, Michael A | Tocci-Polo, Marta B | 1180-1200 Washington St #422 | |
| \$949,000 | | | |
| WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN | | | |
| Jain Ft | Mcaf Winthrop LLC | 240 Devonshire St #4701 | \$4,600,000 |
| Driscoll Jr, John F | Perry, Richard T | 75 Fulton St #51 | \$1,185,000 |
| Spc 2023 T | Kussman Ft | 45 Province St #1503 | \$1,250,000 |



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Councilor Flynn calls for hearing on Boston's PILOT Program

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn filed a hearing order last week calling for a review of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program in the City of Boston. The PILOT program was established to encourage large, tax-exempt, nonprofit institutions in Boston to make annual, voluntary cash contributions or community benefits due to basic city services provided by the city such as police, fire, and snow removal.

Boston is fortunate to be rich with higher education, medical,

and cultural institutions that play a critical role in both our city and regional economy, and the residents of Boston benefit greatly from employment, research and innovation, and the services that they provide. At the same time, the city is heavily reliant on property taxes for revenue, and our large nonprofit institutions - which also receive essential services from the city - have a strong concentration of property that represents approximately half of Boston's real estate. Past analysis has indi-

cated that Boston would have been able to generate approximately a quarter of the city's tax levy had the property of our large nonprofit institutions been taxable.


The City of Boston's PILOT program seeks 25% of what these institutions would be expected to pay to the city had their property not been tax exempt, to reflect the portion of the budget to essential services - half in a cash payment to the city, and half in the form of community benefits like scholarships, parks and open spac-

es, workforce development and job-training programs. Last year, through the annual PILOT program, our large nonprofits reportedly contributed \$35.7 million in cash, with \$62.1 million accepted by the city in PILOT community benefits. In FY22, our large nonprofits contributed \$35.5 million in cash contributions, with \$56.9 million in community benefits also credited by the city.

"We are very fortunate to have many world-class higher education, medical, and cultural institu-

tions that call Boston home. Our city's PILOT Program asks our large institutions to also contribute towards the funding of public safety and city services, as well as to provide community benefits for our neighborhoods and residents," said Councilor Flynn. "I'm calling this hearing to review the PILOT program and discuss ways where we can work with our nonprofit institutions to strengthen this program."

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through April 13 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Removal of temporary vehicle bridge and pile supports
- Demolition of old bridge structure

Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

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

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move

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

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

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the

following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- BRUINS: April 6, at 3:30 p.m. and April 9, at 7 p.m.
- CELTICS: April 5, at 7:30 p.m., April 7, at 6 p.m., April 11, at 7:30 p.m., and April 12, at 7:30 p.m.
- OTHER EVENTS: April 4, at 7 p.m., April 8, at 8 p.m., April 10, at 8 p.m., and April 13, at 7 p.m.

How can I find more information?

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

AIR QUALITY (from pg. 7)

ties, including consideration of:

- Existing air pollution and health conditions.
- Vulnerabilities in affected communities; and
- Socioeconomic and demographic indicators.

MassDEP has developed guidance and tools in support of the new regulations that can be used by permit applicants and environmental justice populations. These include guidance on how to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, including public outreach, assessment of existing community conditions, and analysis of cumulative impacts; a Mapping and Data Application for use in the assessment of existing community conditions; and a Massachusetts Air Toxics Risk Screening Tool (MATRiST) that can be used in the cumulative impact analysis to estimate cumulative air toxics risks from proposed projects.

MassDEP plans to review this program within two years of the effective date of the regulations, including by soliciting input and feedback from the public regard-

ing potential updates.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made environmental justice central to its climate and environmental agenda. Under Governor Healey, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs created the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, led by Undersecretary María Belén Power and secured \$7 million for environmental justice staffing and initiatives across agencies, including MassDEP. The Office of Environmental Justice and Equity also recently announced the state's first Environmental Justice Strategy, which includes MassDEP's department-specific strategy to meaningfully engage with environmental justice communities.

"The new Massachusetts air permit regulations take a bold step to protect overburdened and underserved communities in a new way, requiring consideration of cumulative impacts from environment, public health and socioeconomic conditions as part of the permitting process," said EPA

New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "The combination of considering cumulative impacts and enhanced community engagement to address community priorities early in the process is foundational to environmental justice. We hope that this will serve as a model for other states across the country and bring new air quality and public health improvements to Massachusetts residents."

"Safeguards for overburdened communities that already experience too much pollution and health damage are sorely needed and are critical to make sure we don't deepen environmental injustices," said Cindy Luppi, National Field Director, Clean Water Action. "We're grateful that the Healey-Driscoll Administration wants to address this on-going pattern of injustice in some of the Commonwealth's low-income and BIPOC communities. Meaningful regulations offer the promise of a healthier and more just tomorrow and we hope that many more states follow Massachusetts' lead."