



MARCH 30, 2023



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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D. MURPHY PHOTOS



As the weather improves, People (and pets) are getting out of their homes to enjoying the spring season on the Charles River Esplanade.

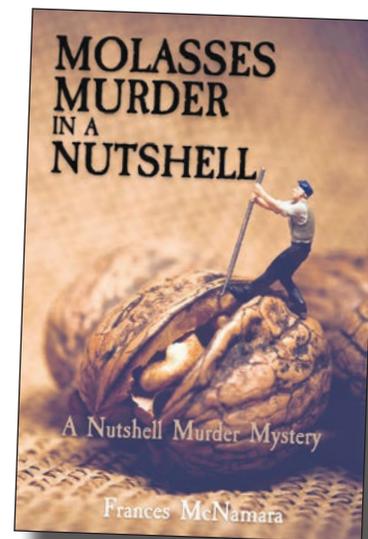
Local author, Frances McNamara, set to make April 4 appearance at Nichols House Museum

By Dan Murphy

A local novelist will be hand to discuss her latest novel – a murder mystery and work of historical fiction set in Boston around the time of the Great Molasses Flood that struck the North End in 1919 – during an author talk and book signing on Tuesday, April 4, in Rose Nichols’ parlor at the Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mount Vernon St.

Frances McNamara, who grew up in Boston and now divides her time between her residence at Hawthorne Place and Sandwich on Cape Cod, will be discussing “Molasses Murder in a Nutshell,” which was just published by Level Best Books in January of this year.

The novel revolves around a dead body of woman found among the wreckage left behind in the North End after a storage tank filled with 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst on Jan. 15, 1919. The resultant wave of molasses flooded neighborhood streets at



COURTESY OF FRANCES MCNAMARA
“Molasses Murder in a Nutshell” by Frances McNamara.

rates estimated at around 35 mph, killing 21 people and injuring another 150.

In McNamara’s novel, a young

(MOLASSES Pg. 5)

Wu announces Love Your Block spring cleanups starts April 22

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) announced the Love Your Block spring 2023 cleanups will take place on April 22nd and 29th. Love Your Block is a Citywide community service event that invites community organizations, local businesses, and neighborhood groups to host a spring cleanup in their neighborhood. Groups interested in hosting a cleanup can now sign up here. Additionally the City is seeking volunteers to participate in scheduled cleanups.

“Love Your Block has become a beloved tradition in our neighborhoods to come together and beautify corners across Boston,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Our Office of Civic Organizing is ready to help connect volunteers and provide cleanup tools, so I encourage any interested community groups to identify a spot that could benefit from some care and sign up!”

Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of two weekends. The dates are as follows:
Saturday, April 22: All-

(CLEAN UP Pg. 11)

Free guided Women’s History tour on March 31

By Dan Murphy

For the last day of Women’s History Month, the Esplanade Association will be offering a free guided tour highlighting some of the women who helped shape the history of the park on Friday, March 31.

“The Women and the Esplanade: Service & Tribute Guided History Tour” will be facilitated by two prominent women from the Esplanade Association

- Margo Newman, a Director Emeritus for the group, and Jeryl Oristaglio, the organization’s co-founder, respectively.

Said Newman: “We are thrilled to be sharing the many interesting, lesser-known stories that should be told about women’s representation in and impact on the park - Helen Storrow, Amy Beach, Fanny Appleton, The Hatch Sisters, Katharine Lane Weems, and more. It’s important that we share

the stories of the amazing women who have positively impacted one of Boston’s most iconic parks and to celebrate them.”

The tour takes place on March 31 from noon to 3 p.m., with participants meeting in front of Community Boating, Inc.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-tour-women-and-the-esplanade-service-tribute-tickets-590152631407> to reserve your spot at the free event.

Wu, B.A.A announce two One Boston Day remembrance events planned for April 15

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) on Monday announced two One Boston Day remembrance events on Boylston Street planned for April 15, to honor the victims, survivors, and first responders of the 2013 Boston Marathon. Additionally, more than a dozen One Boston Day volunteer events will be hosted by City departments and neighborhood organizations in recognition of our City's spirit of care for one another in response to the tragic events of April 15, 2013. Residents are encouraged to participate in one of these acts of service or take part in their own act of kindness. One Boston Day volunteer events are being held Citywide and a full list is on boston.gov/one-boston.

"Every year we come together on One Boston Day to remember

the courage, strength, and resilience shown by our City's people in 2013," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we mark ten years, we will gather together in community on April 15 to remember the lives that were lost, the many injured, and the spirit of humanity displayed that day. As we honor those forever impacted, people in all corners of our City will be giving back in a number of ways and I encourage everyone to get involved."

The City of Boston and the B.A.A. will honor the day with two remembrance events on Boylston Street on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The first will be an early morning private gathering and wreath laying at the memorial sites for the families who lost loved ones at the 2013 Boston Marathon. Honor guards, including the Boston Fire Department, Boston

Police Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, and Suffolk County Sheriff Department's Honor Guards, will be present at the memorial sites throughout the day. After the B.A.A. 5K race, the City will open Boylston Street between Dartmouth and Fairfield Streets for members of the public to visit the memorial sites.

At 2:30 p.m., the public is invited to join members of the One Fund Community, Governor Maura Healey and Mayor Wu, first responders, hospital leaders, B.A.A. leadership, and local running groups at the Boston Marathon Finish Line for a dedication of a new commemorative finish line, the ringing of bells, and the unveiling of a One Boston Day marker on Boylston Street.

WCVB will be the pool television camera for the morning gathering on Boylston Street. The B.A.A. will provide an on-street pool camera tv feed for the 2:30 p.m. remembrance, but media will be able to film this afternoon event in other designated areas. More detailed media guidelines will be sent closer to April 15.

"As One Boston Day approaches, we continue to honor the strength and resilience of our community," said Jack Fleming, B.A.A. President and Chief Executive Officer. "This year, our theme for the Boston Marathon is one-BOSTON, symbolizing the unity and spirit witnessed after April 15, 2013. This year, we will gather on Boylston Street as one with the City of Boston and runners from around the world in reflection and remembrance."

Mayor Wu made a call to action last month for City departments and local organizations to

register their One Boston Day acts of service events on boston.gov/one-boston. Many organizations including hospitals, neighborhood civic groups, and City of Boston departments are hosting service events in honor of One Boston Day, and are open to the public to volunteer. Service events range from a shoe drive held by Cradles to Crayons, Parkway Running Club, and West Roxbury Main Streets; to a Dorchester neighborhood cleanup hosted by Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association & John Hancock Investment Management. A full list is available on boston.gov/one-boston and will be updated as more volunteer opportunities are submitted.

"This time of year evokes a strong emotion for so many of us across the City and the people touched by the tragedy ten years ago. But the most prevailing one is that Boston is indeed strong, and that our communities show up for each other in times of need," said Jacob Robinson, West Roxbury Main Streets Executive Director. "Over the course of the pandemic, we've seen the same mentality and resilience throughout Boston's neighborhoods and Main Streets districts. It's that spirit which is so important to admire and keep aflame. We're honored to participate in the One Boston Day volunteer event with Mayor Wu, the City of Boston, Parkway Running Club, and the many other groups and individuals coming together on Saturday, April 15."

"Cradles to Crayons is committed to making life better for children by providing the essentials they need. We are grateful to partner with West Roxbury Main Streets and the Parkway Running

Club to collect new and gently used sneakers as part of the One Boston Day events," said Aubrey Henderson, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons Massachusetts. "What better way to celebrate our community's resilience, generosity and strength, than by giving back to help others."

"That day on April 15, 2013 uprooted our community in many ways but Boston united in strength. Since that day, our communities have continued to come together and give back in their own way to bring people a sense of purpose as reinforced with the Martin Richard Foundation," said Desmond Rohan, Board member of Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association. "The feeling of giving back in whatever way is a fulfilling feeling for anyone. It's also a great way to know your community and its citizens. Boston needs a little love after the winter months and our event of a community cleanup will make our neighborhood shine a little more as we head toward spring."

Groups interested in registering their events can continue to do so here. Mayor Wu is also encouraging Boston residents to take part in their own individual acts of kindness, including those on the 2023 One Boston Day Acts of Kindness Checklist. Examples from the checklist range from buying a cup of coffee for a stranger to donating blood. Like in years past, people are welcome to share their reflections and acts of service plans for One Boston Day on social media with the hashtag #OneBostonDay.

More on One Boston Day can be found at boston.gov/one-boston.

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Hearing on safety of light poles, bridges, public infrastructure April 4

In January this year, City Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty refiled a hearing order to discuss the safety of light poles, bridges, and other public infrastructure in the City of Boston. This hearing is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 2 pm at the Boston City Council Iannella Chamber. Residents are encouraged to participate and testify in person or via videoconference by reaching out to shane.pac@boston.gov. The hearing will be broadcasted live on Xfinity 8/RCN 82/ Fios 964 and streamed at: boston.gov/city-council-tv.

This hearing was originally filed in September last year, when a pedestrian crossing the Evelyn Moakley Bridge in the South Boston Waterfront was struck and

injured by a falling light pole. At the time, the Public Works Department swiftly inspected all city bridges in the area and removed 23 of the light poles that were deemed not completely satisfactory, with two additional poles having already been previously removed. It is critical that the city continues to ensure our city's public infrastructure is safe and structurally sound, and there are routine inspections and systems in place for maintenance and repair.

"Unfortunately, this incident shed light on our aging infrastructure, light poles, and bridges - especially against the harsh New England weather, sea air and salt water." Council President Flynn said. "Councilor Flaherty and I look forward to receiving an

update from our city and state partners on the inspection and audit of all light poles, bridges, and public infrastructure, and any relevant plans to make all necessary repairs in a timely manner. We must work with our bridge engineers and design consultants to prevent an incident like this from happening again."

Councilor At-Large Flaherty said, "We, as a city, have a responsibility to make sure that we regularly inspect roads, bridges, light poles and street signs as a matter of public safety. We live in New England and our area is subject to harsh weather conditions that tend to deteriorate building materials and fixtures quicker than other places."

Emily Sweeney discusses her book 'Gangland Boston' at West End Museum

Story & photos by Marianne Salza

Boston Globe reporter, Emily Sweeney, discussed her book, "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime," on March 23, at The HUB50 Community Room, Boston. The Dorchester resident shared fraudulent and violent stories of local mobsters that prevailed in Boston during the West End Museum event.

"The mafia made its debut in the late 19th century Boston," began Sweeney. "It was difficult being a police officer around the turn of the century. Back then, nobody carried ID's. Criminals constantly used aliases. Boston Police didn't start using fingerprints to identify people until 1906."

Until then, officers relied on mug shots, and measurements such as the length of the left foot, middle finger, or forearm to identify suspects.

"One of the first gangs that rose to prominence in the late 19th century was the Swindling Beggars Gang," Sweeney noted. "The leader of this gang was Frisco Slim, from California. He would fake being injured and beg for money on the street. He would recruit young kids to wear bloody bandages and limp. Then they'd go back to the West End and split the proceeds. When the police did bust this gang, they found that kids were working for them like child slaves."

One of the earliest instances that Sweeney could locate in a digitized newspaper was from the Boston Sunday Post in 1895. The article specified the structure of the mafia and estimated that there were about 200 mafia members in the Boston area at the time. Many newspaper articles that Sweeney read from the turn of the century described people in mortal terror.

"My book, 'Gangland Boston,' has a lot of information about the Gustin Gang," mentioned Sweeney. "They were one of the first, prominent Irish mobs. They rose to power during Prohibition."

The leader of the Gustin Gang was 5-foot-5-inch-tall Stevie Wallace, of South Boston. Wallace, who was a member of the 1920 US Olympic boxing team, hugely impacted Boston's organized crime; and was protected by pow-



Emily Sweeney discussing her book, "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime" during a March 23 West End Museum event.

erful government officials and law enforcement.

"In December 1931, these guys go to 317 Hanover Street – a Citizens Bank now – in the North End to have a sit down with leaders of the mafia. They did not leave alive. This was a major turning point in organized crime in the City of Boston," Sweeney emphasized. "The Italians established their power over the city."

In addition to smuggling and distributing alcohol during Prohibition, organized gambling was another illegal source of income for criminal groups.

"People gambled what little they had," said Sweeney. "Back then, you could place a bet with a bookie who was standing on a street corner, in shoe shine parlors, barber shops, and regular stores."

The most famous West Ender in the bookmaking business was Doc Saganasky, the son of Lithuanian immigrants. Growing up, Saganasky sold newspapers at the Massachusetts State House. He graduated from Tufts Dental School in 1918, and practiced dentistry in Scollay Square.

"Through betting and gambling, he built a fortune," said Sweeney, a descendant of a West

End resident displaced during Urban Renewal. "He became an owner of two Boston nightclubs, and operated a loan agency, which allowed him to finance other enterprises."

One illegal bookmaking establishment was Swartz's Key Shop, 364 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, where bets on horse and dog racing could be made. The popular shop was raided by the Internal Revenue Service in 1961.

"In addition to gambling, when people ran out of money, they turned to loan sharks, who were excessively violent against customers," Sweeney mentioned. "This was before credit cards. You could get a loan on the street."

Emily Sweeney is a board member of the New England First Amendment Coalition, and the New England Society of News Editors. Her book, "Dropkick Murphy: A Legendary Life," a biography about the professional wrestler and doctor during the Great Depression, will be available through Amazon on May 23, 2023. Visit www.Facebook.com/BostonOrganizedCrime to view images, videos, and newspaper articles about Boston's organized crime.



Emily Sweeney, author of "Gangland Boston: A Tour Through the Deadly Streets of Organized Crime."


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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER WEEK -- ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA

The news this week of yet another mass shooting, this time in a private school in a wealthy neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee, in which six persons (including three, nine year-old children) were killed, once again has highlighted the need for our federal government to ban assault-style weapons.

America stands alone in the world for this sort of self-inflicted carnage. In no other country can heavily-armed individuals wreak tragedy upon families and communities because of easy access to military-grade weaponry.

Australia, a country with a Wild West mentality similar to ours, banned assault-style weapons in 1996 after a mass shooting in a cafe in the city of Port Arthur in which 35 people were killed and another 13 were wounded. The tough new laws banned the sale and importation of all automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns; required individuals to present a legitimate reason (and wait 28 days) to buy a firearm; and called for a massive, mandatory gun-buyback. Australia's government confiscated and destroyed nearly 700,000 firearms, reducing the number of gun-owning households by half.

The result? Since 1996, there has been one mass shooting in Australia. New Zealand enacted similar laws in 2019 after a mass shooting in a mosque in Christchurch and since that time, there have been no mass shootings.

The U.S. banned the sale of assault-style weapons in 1994 as part of a wide-ranging anti-crime bill, but that provision of the legislation expired in 2004.

And that's where we stand today -- with mass shootings now a regular part of American life.

With politicians in both parties subservient to the small minority of vocal, one-issue voters, the chances of enactment of common-sense laws regulating the types of guns that can be sold in this country are just about zero, even though a majority of Americans support such laws.

Even more depressing is that laws in states such as Massachusetts that regulate gun ownership and possession soon may be struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

To paraphrase the last line of the Star Spangled Banner: America is the land of the free -- and the home of the dead.

THE IRAQ WAR -- NEVER AGAIN

Last week marked the 20th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq, a conflict that was broadcast into our living rooms on our TV sets in great detail thanks to the many reporters who were allowed to become "embedded" with U.S. troops as they made their way across the battlefields of Iraq.

Some commentators today refer to the War in Iraq as a mistake, but that implies a mere error in judgment. However, that assessment completely ignores the simple fact that the war was predicated on a deliberately-false narrative.

It now has become common knowledge that the war was based on nothing less than complete and total fabrications by the administration of President George W. Bush. When Secretary of State Colin Powell went before the United Nations to claim that Iraq was harboring terrorists from 9/11 and had weapons of mass destruction, those assertions — as Powell himself later admitted — were based on deliberately false intelligence.

Unfortunately, with few exceptions, the U.S. Congress fell hook, line, and sinker for this fabricated intelligence narrative — and we plunged into a war that had no purpose and accomplished nothing to improve the security of either the United States or the world in general.

In fact, the war had just the opposite effect: The ensuing destabilization of the Middle East allowed terrorist organizations such as ISIS to thrive and spread around the world.

This is by means to deny the incredible bravery of the American men and women who served in that war. As soldiers always do, they did their duty, bringing great honor to themselves and their country. Even as our lying politicians were doing their worst, our men and women in uniform were doing their best on the battlefield.

But the bottom line is that millions of innocent Iraqis were caught up in the chaos of war, with nearly a million dead and many more millions displaced. American casualties in the war totaled 4,203 dead and tens of thousands maimed and wounded. In addition, the well-documented psychological scars of that war will endure both for the soldiers themselves and their families for the rest of their lives.

The war in Iraq was an enormous tragedy for all who were touched by it, with its after-effects still reverberating today.

Hopefully, we'll never again be led into a war by duplicitous politicians whose true motives to this day are known only to themselves.

GUEST OP-ED

How to make hockey in Boston more accessible to kids of every background and from every neighborhood

By Adam Whitney

I have been playing ice hockey since I was little. I learned to play hockey at the Steriti Rink in Boston's North End, as part of the North End Youth Hockey Program, where I am now also a volunteer coach. I then played on several of the Charlestown youth town teams, as well as on different club teams. I now play hockey for Boston Latin School. I believe that it is very important that Boston work to make hockey even more accessible to kids of all backgrounds and from all of Boston's neighborhoods, in order to make the sport more inclusive and diverse.

The National Hockey League ("NHL") has been a strong leader in such efforts on a national level. In June 2021, the NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced a new \$5 million investment over 18 months to strengthen the NHL through diversity and inclusion efforts. Commissioner Bettman stated that he believed that the NHL was "a higher performing League when we have an inclusive culture that harnesses the power of diversity." He said that the NHL was "taking the next step to bring real, positive, systemic change to the game," including developing new youth and amateur hockey



Adam Whitney.

programs. The NHL also committed support for capacity-building initiatives with youth and amateur hockey organizations to bring new opportunities in street and ball hockey, to improve the cultural availability of the game, and increase opportunities to play the sport in neighborhoods lacking access to these games.

In February 2023, at the start of Black History Month along with the All-Star events in Florida, the NHL debuted a mobile museum that highlights minority and underrepresented contributors to the game. According to Jeff Scott, the NHL's vice president for community development and growth, who helped with the museum's creation, "[w]hat we're showing

here with this experience is the representation of access and opportunities." Scott, who is Black, stated that when he was growing up, hockey really didn't seem to be an option for him, and the goal of the mobile museum, which is set up inside a bus that the league plans to bring to all 32 NHL markets, is to help eliminate some of the same barriers to entry into the sport that existed when he was young.

The NHL isn't the only group that is seeking to make hockey more accessible to kids of all backgrounds. In Canada, for example, in June 2022, Hockey Diversity Alliance ("HDA") announced a new program designed to bring hockey to children from diverse communities underrepresented in the sport. Akim Aliu, Chair of the HDA, said that "kids of color are often unable to play hockey because of access. Through HDA's new Ball Hockey Skills program, HDA was "removing barriers by bringing hockey to kids in their own neighborhoods so kids from every kind of background and every circumstance feel welcome in the sport we love." Michael Thompson, Deputy Mayor of Toronto, stated that Toronto was proud to partner with HDA "to bring programming to under-

(OP-ED Pg. 6)

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MOLASSES (from pg. 1)

serviceman comes under suspicion for murdering the young woman, so Frances Glessner Lee, an actual wealthy, upper-class Chicago woman who would become known as the “mother of forensic science,” enlists the help of her friend, Dr. George Magrath, a real-life medical examiner, to help exonerate the accused man.

The fictionalized Glessner Lee meets the young serviceman at the home for returning soldiers on Beacon Hill that she has come from Chicago to manage. The soldier’s home is based on the Wendell House at Hancock and Mt. Vernon streets, where Glessner Lee actually worked in 1919, according to McNamara.

Since McNamara volunteered as a docent at the Nichols House Museum for around three years before the pandemic struck, she was compelled to not only set two of the book’s scenes inside the parlor of the Nichols House (where her April 4 appearance will also take place), but also to cast Rose Nichols as a character in her novel.

McNamara’s father was an FBI agent who went on to serve for 10 years as Boston Police commissioner. Her father had a particular affinity for the North End, having spent considerable time there when he was investigating the Brink’s Job of 1950, which accounts for her decision to set portions of the novel in that neighborhood.

“We always used to go visit there,” McNamara of the North End, “and it’s a fun place to write about.”

Other locales featured in the novel include the old Charles Street Jail, a one-time mortuary on Grove Street, and the Union Boat Club on



COURTESY OF FRANCES MCGNAMARA
Frances McNamara, author of the recently published historical mystery novel, “Molasses Murder in a Nutshell.”

the Charles River Esplanade.

Meanwhile, McNamara is also the author of the Emily Cabot Mysteries, which focus on a social activist in Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But “Molasses Murder in a Nutshell” is her first in a planned series of novels loosely based on the “Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death” - a collection of 19 intricately designed dollhouse-style dioramas created by Glessner Lee.

These dioramas, which are largely composites of actual court cases, have been used to train police detectives, since their creation circa the 1940s through to the present day.

In “Molasses Murder in a Nutshell,” Glessner Lee creates a miniature crime scene based on her real-life Dark Bathroom diorama to help solve the murder case.

McNamara’s next novel in the

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series is due out next January. It will be set in East Boston during the winter of 1919, she said, and take its inspiration from Glessner Lee’s actual Two-story Porch Nutshell diorama.

McNamara has also been contracted to write a third novel in the series, although the setting and time period for this entry has still yet to be determined. “I’m not there yet,” she said.

The April 4 program at the

Nichols House Museum take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will include a Q&A with the author hosted by Linda Marshall, the museum’s executive director, followed by a small reception. Guests will have the opportunity to get a signed copy of “Molasses Murder in a Nutshell” and also have briefly tour the museum’s other period rooms at this time.

McNamara’s latest book is also available for purchase in advance

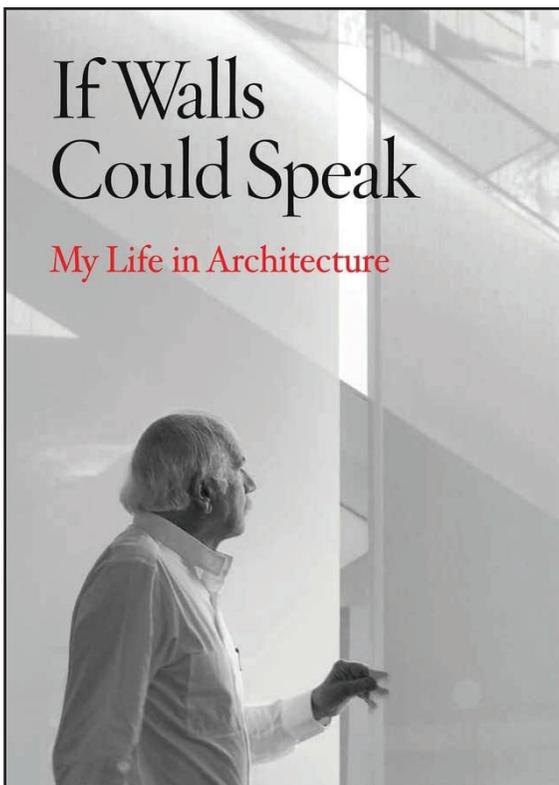
at the Nichols House during museum hours.

For the event, general admission is \$10 each, or \$7 each for museum members, but space is limited.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-talk-and-book-signing-molasses-murder-in-a-nutshell-tickets-567176067887> to register for the event.

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FENWAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S 61ST ANNUAL MEETING RETURNS AS IN-PERSON EVENT



D. MURPHY PHOTO

After going virtual last year, the Fenway Civic Association's 61st annual meeting returned as an in-person event on Wednesday, March 22, at 1325 Boylston St. Pictured, left to right, are Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association's board of directors; Sen. William Brownsberger; District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes-Anderson; Rep. Dan Ryan; Rep. Jay Livingstone; District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok; and Sen. Lydia Edwards (Not pictured: City Councilor at-large Ruthzee Louijeune.

OP-ED (from pg. 4)

served communities in the Greater Toronto Area," and that the "City of Toronto encourages such programs which aim to make hockey more inclusive and accessible for all."

In Harlem in New York City, a group called Ice Hockey in Harlem ("IHH") has stated that its mission is to improve the social and academic wellbeing of children from the Harlem community, and that it would seek to increase this community's involvement in ice hockey to help achieve that goal. IHH began in the winter of 1987 with forty kids, and has since grown tremendously in popularity. With a cursory knowledge of the basics, the youngsters donned mismatched, secondhand equipment and wobbled onto the ice of Lasker Rink, an outdoor facility at the northern end of Central Park. Under the tutelage of founder's Dave Wilk, Todd Levy and former New York Ranger Pat Hickey and other volunteers, the students were soon skating, shooting, and passing as though they had been playing the game for years.

In Boston, SCORE Boston Hockey launched its first season in 1995 and every year since then has served thousands of children in the greater Boston area. As part of the NHL's "Hockey is for Everyone" Initiative, SCORE is a non-profit organization for kids between the ages of 5 to 14, and its sessions take place at the Max Ulin Memorial Rink in Milton, Massachusetts. The program provides weekly ice time, full equipment, opportunities to play games against other towns / in tournaments and a dedicated coaching staff. SCORE Boston Hockey provides kids the opportunity to participate in the sport of ice hockey and inspiration to see their future differently. Many of the kids come from challenging environments and under resourced communities.

In November 2018, the Boston Bruins helped to unveil the brand new Willie O'Ree Community Street Hockey Rink at Smith Playground in Allston. O'Ree was joined by Bruins players Chara and Bergeron for the dedication. "I think it's great," said O'Ree, the NHL's first black player, who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2018. "I think anytime you can erect a facility

where you can bring boys and girls and get them together, different races and creeds, and get them out to enjoy the game... what more can you ask?" The Bruins and Boston Bruins Foundation also pledged \$250,000 to the City of Boston to refurbish street hockey rinks across the city and the Bruins partnered with the City to establish the "Willie O'Ree Street Hockey League" to ensure the newly improved rinks have programming.

While SCORE and other similar private initiatives in Boston like that of the Bruins, have had great success in making hockey more accessible to kids from diverse communities that are currently underrepresented in the sport, I would like to see the City of Boston do even more to increase participation in ice hockey by kids from all of Boston's diverse communities. For instance, Boston could work more with the NHL, the Bruins and local area college hockey teams to bring players of color into schools in underserved communities of Boston, to tell their stories about how they became college and professional hockey players, and to show kids from these communities that they can participate in hockey as well.

Also, the City of Boston could team up with companies to supply hockey equipment at no or low cost for young athletes and remove financial burdens for children and families in diverse neighborhoods. Boston could also work to make local ice rinks more accessible to those communities currently underrepresented in youth hockey, by increasing transportation options that are affordable and convenient, and by creating programs during the hockey season that would staff rinks throughout the City with coaches from diverse backgrounds to help teach kids the basics of ice hockey. In this way, Boston can promote a more diverse representation in hockey and inspire the next generation of hockey players from all backgrounds and from all of our neighborhoods to pursue their passion for the sport.

Adam Whitney is in 10th Grade at Boston Latin School, where he is on the varsity ice hockey team. He lives on Beacon Hill with his family.

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ROOTED IN HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

A large crowd gathered on the morning of Friday, March 24, to cut the ribbon on Rooted In, an adult-use cannabis shop at 331 Newbury St.

Elected officials on hand for the event included Rep. Jay Livingstone, who offered a state citation to the owners of the business In signed by himself and Speaker

Ronald Mariano, and Rep. Chris Worrell, along with past Boston Mayor, Kim Janey.

Segun Idowu, Mayor Michelle Wu's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, also offered comments and presided over the ribbon cutting.

Visit rootedinroxbury.com for more information on Rooted In.



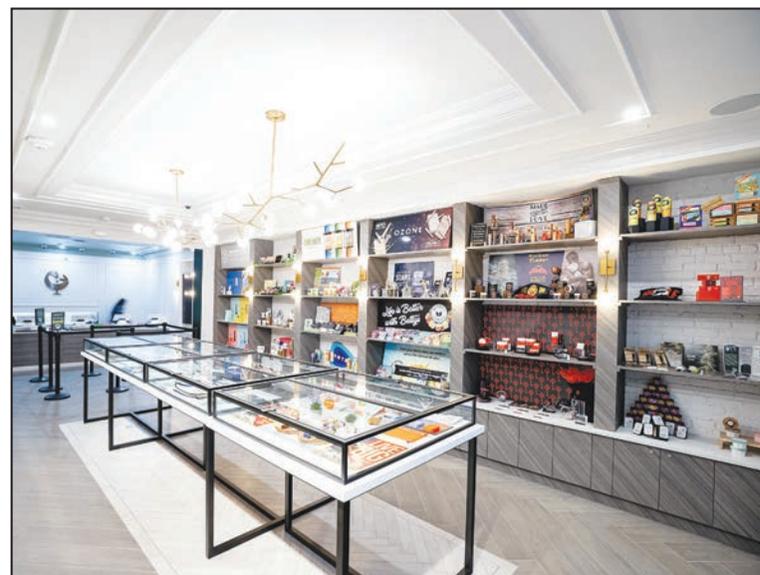
PATRICK ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Segun Idowu, Mayor Michelle Wu's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, gets ready to cut the ribbon on Rooted In.



PATRICK ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

A look inside Rooted In (above and below).



PATRICK ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Rep. Jay Livingstone offers a state citation to the owners of Rooted In signed by himself and Speaker Ronald Mariano.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

A large crowd gathered on the morning of Friday, March 24, to cut the ribbon on Rooted In

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Please Recycle

FRESH AND LOCAL

The changing local food scene

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Suppose you've followed your favorite farmers and food producers on social media for the past decade. In that case, you're aware of the improved availability of local food in the winter and early spring.

Once, this time of year was called the hunger gap. Crops held in the ground or storage ran out, and the spring and summer crops were not yet ready. Historically, it was a time of hunger and starvation. More recently, it was a time when we had less local food.

Availability has improved with consumers supporting outlets like public markets, winter farmers markets, winter CSAs, and local farm-to-consumer delivery services. Some supermarket chains identify the local products they sell. We also notice more small local food shops that offer products from regional producers. Farmers can raise crops in greenhouses, polytunnels, shipping containers,

and hydroponic facilities when they have outlets for the produce.

Added Value

In addition to raising animals and planting crops year-round, local farmers can diversify and find ways to add value to what they grow. One good example is Stillman Quality Meats (SQM). Kate Stillman says, "We, very proudly are one of only a small handful of farms across the US operating our own abattoir and whole-animal Butchery. This means we control the process from start to finish."

In addition to beef, pork, lamb, and poultry cuts, SQM also produces sausage, deli meat, bacon, terrines, smoked meat, and pates. Plus, they offer prepared food such as pot pies, stocks, soups, meatballs, and frozen meals.

Dairy farmers may add value with cheese and yogurt. Some produce farms turn bumper crops of tomatoes into sauce, peppers into hot sauce, apples into cider, or pickle other crops. Orchards with



Farmers can raise crops in greenhouses, polytunnels, and hydroponic facilities when they have outlets for the produce. (Photo by Zoe Schaeffer)

their own bees offer honey in addition to their fruit.

Higher Quality

Buy a quart of strawberries from a farmers' market and compare those to a big national brand and you confirm that local is of higher quality.

You might not realize that the other products at a well-managed and honest farmers' market (where the source of the items sold is controlled) are also of higher quality. What's more, that quality goes beyond taste. Local farms deliver food that is more nutritious and food that will last longer. We once went on vacation and returned to discover that a head of

local romaine lettuce we forgot in the crisper was still good. That will not happen with the browned bottom versions sold in supermarkets.

Farms that create value-added products take the same pride in the quality of those items as they do in their primary crops. Moreover, since the ingredients move from farm to kitchen, you can be sure they are at the peak of nutrition.

Know Your Food Producers

We mentioned following your favorite farms and food producers on social media. That's one way to stay in touch with what they're doing, learn about their philosophy, and discover what they offer at different times of the year. We also follow several farmers' mar-

kets and shops supporting local producers to learn about new vendors and offerings.

Even better is to get to know the people who raise, grow and produce your food in person. Conversations with the people behind your food can be an education. We rely on the staff at farmers' markets to answer our questions about what they sell, give us cooking tips, introduce us to new products and varieties, and help us choose the best of what they offer.

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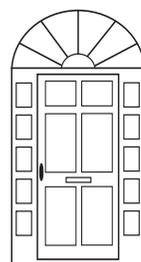
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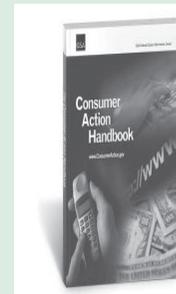
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The Lyric Stage Company of Boston presents Sister Act

Sister Act with Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Glenn Slater, Book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner, and Additional Materials by Douglas Carter Beane will be Directed by Leigh Barrett with Musical Direction by David F. Coleman and Choreography by Dan Sullivan will raise the roof and lift spirits this spring at Lyric Stage Boston made in part possible by our Corporate Sponsor for the production, Brookline Bank.

Sister Act, based on the beloved hit movie, will have audiences relishing in "heavenly" voices and jubilant performances. Featuring a choir of cheeky, loveable nuns led by the fabulous, unforgettable, (and sequin loving!) Deloris Van Cartier, toes will be tapping and spirits will be lifted at this celebration of friendship, the joy of music, and the importance of togetherness.

After witnessing a murder, free spirited, disco diva Deloris Van Cartier finds herself in protective custody at a convent. At odds with a rigid Mother Superior, and a strict lifestyle, Deloris finds divine intervention bringing the choir from dour to dazzling with her signature style. While Deloris is busy raising the roof, her cover is blown and her new-found sisterhood rallies around her with a lot of love (and maybe a few sequins) in a tribute to the power of friendship.

Performances begin Friday, April 9 and run through Sunday, May 14.

Press Performance is Sunday, April 9 at 3pm. Email heather_darrow@lyricstage.com for tickets.

Director Leigh Barrett says, "Expectations. We all have them. We have them for ourselves, for the people we meet and, of the moment. What you're going to experience at Sister Act is what happens when people see beyond those limited expectations and assumptions, and find love, hope and friendship in the most unexpected place."

"We're excited about the Bank's sponsorship of Sister Act," said Brookline Bank President Darryl Fess. "Lyric Stage is an important part of the culture here in Back

Bay and we're proud of our partnership with them."

"Lyric for All" Affordable Price Options

In an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston, Lyric Stage offers multiple options including \$30 Under 35, advanced Student Tickets, Senior Tickets, and partnerships with MassWIC and EBT Cardholders that allow audiences to visit as often as they like. More information at: <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all/>

Five Dollar Fridays

On Friday, April 7, Lyric Stage offers Five Dollar Friday which makes tickets affordable for all for \$5 each. There will be a limited number of \$5 tickets available for sale with code SISTER5.

Covid-19 Policies and FAQ

Please visit <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/subscriptions/covid-19-policy/>

which will be updated regularly with the most current information.

History of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, the 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.

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.

HILL HOUSE'S ANNUAL WINE DINNER

Hill House will be hosting its annual Wine Dinner on Thursday, March 30, at Beacon Hill Bistro at 25 Charles St.

Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets and sponsorships are available at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E22709&id=28>.

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., once every two weeks 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).

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL BENEFIT SET FOR APRIL 11 AT ST. BOTOLPH CLUB

The Gibson House Museum will host its annual benefit,

"À la Belle Époque," on Tuesday, April 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club at 199 Commonwealth Ave.

The evening includes drinks, a light supper, a raffle, and entertainment provided by a French music trio. Join the Gibson House Museum in honoring the French Library for culturally inspiring the community and for its dedication to preserving Boston's architectural history with a recent historically sensitive renovation of its 1867 brownstone headquarters. All proceeds will support the preservation and operation of the Gibson House Museum.

This year's benefit features some select raffle items, including private tours; tickets to the theater, symphony, and ballet; a French Library family membership; French-language classes; restaurant gift certificates; an "instant French wine cellar"; designer jewelry; and vintage treasures. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$150 and may be purchased at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit>,

or by sending a check with the names of your guests to the Gibson House Museum, 137 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116.

Visit <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit> for more information on the event.

UPCOMING CONCERTS AT THE VILNA SHUL

Join The Vilna Shul for "Falling Out of Time: A Conversation" - an exclusive opportunity to hear from composer Osvaldo Golijov and lead musicians Yoni Rechter and Nora Fischer, with a sneak peek of their upcoming performance - on Sunday, April 23, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 18 Phillips St. This concert is presented in partnership with the BSO and Celebrity Series of Boston.

Tickets are \$18 each and can be purchased at <https://vlnashul.org/events/event/falling-out-of-time-a-conversation>.

Also, The Vilna presents the fifth annual "Voices of Humanity" concert - an interfaith performance featuring extraordinary local choral groups with national recognition - on Sunday, May 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 18 Phillips St. This concert is co-sponsored by the Old North Church.

Tickets are \$25 each general admission, or \$18 each for students, and can be purchased at <https://vlnashul.org/events/event/voices-of-humanity2>.

Visit <https://vlnashul.org/events/upcoming> to learn about more upcoming programming at The Vilna.

PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER RETURNS MAY 7 TO BOSTON COMMON

After going virtual for the past three years due to the pandemic, Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger returns on Sunday, May 7, from 9-11 a.m., as a three-mile walk around Boston Common, with proceeds benefitting the fight against food insecurity in the Com-

monwealth.

The fundraising event, which dates back to 1969 and traditionally takes place on the first Sunday in May, has set a target of \$1 million this year.

Visit <http://support.projectbread.org> to register and for more information on the event.

DUCKLING DAY EVENT SET TO RETURN MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 14

The Friends of the Public Garden will again partner with the Boston Parks Department for the annual Duckling Day event on Sunday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Every year, hundreds of participating children, dressed as their favorite characters from Robert McCloskey's classic children's book, "Make Way for Ducklings," join the parade led by the Harvard Marching Band. The parade route begins on the Boston Common at the Parkman Bandstand and ends in the Public Garden near the Make Way for Ducklings sculpture.

Playtime on the Common will take place ahead of the parade and include Interactive Circus Games with Esh Circus Arts; Jenny the Juggler; Peter O'Malley, magician; Jump, climb, and play with Knucklebones; a chance to meet the giant Duck; a visit with the Harvard University Band; a "Make Way for Ducklings" reading station; and a goody bag for every kid filled with Duckling Day-themed items.

The registration fee is \$35 per family in advance (before May 12) and \$40 per family the day of the event. Each child who registers will receive a special goody bag. Register at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2022/12/01/ducklingday2023/>.

For more information on Duckling Day, visit <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/duckling-day/>.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The dormer in the last clue is on 58 Beacon Street, built in 1825. Encyclopedia Britannica defines a dormer as "...a vertical window that projects from a sloping roof and usually illuminates a bedroom. The term derives from the Latin dormitorium, 'sleeping room.'"

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Hearing regarding contraception and menstrual product vending machines set for April 4

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo offered an order for a hearing regarding contraception and menstrual product vending machines in the City of Boston on Tuesday, April 4, at 10am in the Iannella Chamber.

“As a city, we need to help break down barriers to provide birth control and empower individuals to make decisions without stress and worry. In addition to offering free menstrual products in the city’s public buildings, Boston’s pilot program will help us address healthcare deserts across our neighborhoods,” said Councilor Coletta. “I look forward to having conversations to see citywide and innovative efforts to ensure access to birth control.”

Councilors Coletta, Louijeune, and Arroyo understand the urgency to address and provide access to affordable contraception given the public discourse since the Supreme Court’s overruling of Roe v. Wade

and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. “Access to reproductive health-care services is now threatened for millions of Americans, and especially those who live in the states that are banning or severely restricting abortion care. We must move in the opposite direction” said Ruthzee Louijeune. “The City of Boston must become a beacon of hope across the Country, and throughout every neighborhood in Boston, that our government is working to affirm the right of all people, especially our Black and Brown communities, to have equal access to contraception and menstrual health care products.”

The Councilors seek to bring together community advocates and city stakeholders to discuss vending machines that provide contraception and menstrual products.

“Boston should be a leader nationally in the fight for access to menstrual health and reproductive health and contraception,” Councilor Arroyo said. “This proposal

will advance those goals and I look forward to its implementation.”

Highlights of the Order Include: “Whereas: The accessibility of affordable contraception has emerged at the forefront of public discourse since the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization U.S Supreme Court decision overruling both Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey; and

Whereas: Having the power to decide if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant, carry a child to term, and raise that child increases an individual’s opportunities to be healthy, complete their education, and pursue the future they want. But too many people lack access to safe, affordable birth control and emergency contraception; and

Whereas: According to Power to Decide, there are 361,810 women in Massachusetts living in contraceptive deserts with 70,750 women in Suffolk County categorized as “in need” of publicly-funded contraceptives and sup-

plies; and

Whereas: As some states seek to restrict reproductive freedoms, Boston University recently launched “Plan-B” vending machines. These machines offer students the “morning after” pill at a price that is significantly less than some over-the-counter options and with privacy not afforded by a trip to the pharmacy; and

Whereas: Menstrual products are necessary for half of our population and essential to all menstruating individuals’ personal and mental health. Period poverty, or not being able to afford menstrual products, is a common concern for low-income menstruating individuals in high-income countries; and

Whereas: According to a 2021 study published in the BMC Women’s Health Journal, many young menstruating individuals cannot afford products to meet their monthly needs, especially Black

and Brown individuals. This may impact their mental well-being due to the shame and stigma associated with a lack of income or accessibility to affordable products; and

Whereas: As Boston launches a pilot program of vending machines already equipped with menstrual products, and given the urgency to provide birth control and emergency contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies, the City should consider including all items in locations with the highest need;”

The Boston City Council will hold a hearing on Tuesday, April, 4th at 10am in the Iannella Chamber, Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall. This hearing will be held under the Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery, chaired by City Councilor Erin Murphy. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written or oral comments.

CLEAN UP (from pg. 1)

ston-Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown, Dorchester, Downtown, Fenway-Kenmore, Fields Corner, Leather District, Mattapan, Mid-Dorchester, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury, West Roxbury.

Saturday, April 29: Back Bay, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, North End, South End, South Boston, St. Botolph (Back Bay), West End, Wharf District.

Some neighborhoods have already had local organizations volunteer to host a cleanup. These partners are listed on boston.gov/love-your-block. Multiple cleanups in each neighborhood are encouraged, so local organizations can still sign up to host in any neighborhood. This year the Love Your Block cleanups fall on Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (4/29).

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 Community Engage-

ment Cabinet.

“Love Your Block is an exciting opportunity for residents to come together, take ownership of our neighborhoods, and exercise our civic power,” said Director of Civic Organizing Henry Santana. “We look forward to working with neighbors and community partners to keep Boston clean and green.”

“Love Your Block is an event that the Cabinet of Community Engagement’s Office of Civic Organizing leads each year. It’s our civil responsibility to keep our communities beautiful, so residents and their families can continue to take pride in their neighborhoods,” said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor.

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.

“Chinatown Main Street has participated with ‘Love Your

Block’ for many years,” said Debbie Ho, the Executive Director of Chinatown Main Street, one of the organizations that has already committed to hosting a Love Your Block cleanup. “We all want to be sure we have a clean Chinatown and it’s important that we involve volunteers within and outside of the Chinatown community to create a unified Boston!”

Those interested in hosting a neighborhood cleanup can sign up here to request support, volunteer t-shirts, and tools such as trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, and trash pickers. Requests will be accepted until Wednesday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Those interested in signing up as a volunteer can also do so here. OCO will connect you with a cleanup site in your neighborhood once all sites are finalized.

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.

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 e-mail news releases and photos to deb@thebostonsun.com.

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MBTA launches online speed restrictions dashboard

The MBTA launched a live, online Speed Restriction Dashboard that provides riders with up-to-date information on speed restrictions across the MBTA system. The dashboard reports on location, speed limit, when a restriction was put in place, and the reason for the restriction on the Red, Orange, Blue, Mattapan, and Green lines. The dashboard also provides the percentage of track under restriction, distance by individual line or systemwide, and total number of restrictions and can be viewed at mbta.com/speedrestrictions.

The dashboard is refreshed daily with data provided by the MBTA's enterprise asset management system and helps riders see where speed restrictions are located with maps they are accustomed to seeing. The speed restriction activity summary will help illustrate the ongoing work the MBTA is doing to clear restrictions within the system. Last month, the MBTA began to provide riders with speed restriction data by releasing a static dashboard that reported information from the previous month.

"Today's dashboard provides daily updates on our data based on activity from the previous day and was launched with the goal of providing transparent and timely information to our customers," said Interim General Manager Jeff Gonville. "The dashboard delivers information that is clear and will assist riders in better understanding why they are experiencing slower conditions while riding the T. As we continue to validate and address track deficiencies, we also expect that over time, this platform will demonstrate the progress we're making to remove speed restrictions. We know these restrictions impact riders' daily commutes and we will continue to be transparent about the ongoing, daily work to improve our transit system."

Users of the dashboard will be able to see when speed restrictions were put in place starting from January 2023 and review a summary of changes over time. This dashboard will provide riders with the latest information available at the start of each day providing a new level of transparency.



Boston Fire Department Engine 4/Ladder 24 station on Cambridge Street.

BFD ENGINE 4/LADDER 24 STATION TO GRACE THE SILVER SCREEN

Boston Fire Department Engine 4/Ladder 24 station on Cambridge Street served as a film set on Wednesday, March 22, for "The Instigators," an upcoming movie starring Matt Damon and Casey Affleck and produced by

Damon and Ben Affleck, Casey's older brother. Both Damon and the younger Affleck brother were spotted in the neighborhood and reportedly borrowed gear from the firehouse for the shoot.

Afterwards, the production

moved to Bova's Bakery in the North End.

The next day, filming moved to the area of Marlborough and Fairfield streets in the Back Bay.

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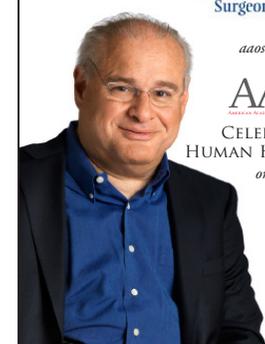
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But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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