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READY TO RUN



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTO

Susan Roache decorated the Duckling Sculpture to celebrate the Boston Marathon and to bring attention to Marathon Daffodils, a non-profit organization started by her friend Diane Valle, that commemorates the resilience shown after the 2013 Marathon Bombing.

Tom Brady makes significant gift to Esplanade Association

By Dan Murphy

Thanks to a significant 'leadership gift' last week from the family of former New England Patriots great Tom Brady, the Esplanade Association will be able to not only expand its youth programming (which it will rename in his honor) but also to enhance its planned Charlesbank Landing multi-use facility.

"I'm very grateful to the Esplanade Association, which does an incredible job to make this park a vibrant greenspace," said Brady,

who helped lead the Patriots to six Super Bowl victories during his time with the team, in a press release, "This park was so special to me. It was my backyard for years when I lived in the Back Bay. It's where I first pushed my kids on a swing. I'm proud to be supporting this important project. Let's get this done so the next generation can enjoy what my family was always able to do."

Brady's gift will allow the Esplanade Association to expand its existing youth programming, including Children in the Park

(ChiP), which, according to EA, "assembles partner organizations (Manomet, Mass Audubon, and more) to connect youth ages 5-17 from multiple summer camps across neighborhoods and towns with immersive outdoor educational, recreational, and social learning on the river; and Music and Movement, which enlists Boston Music Project teaching artists to help younger children and their caregivers "discover how motion creates sound, fostering healthy

(BRADY Pg. 12)

Pokorny recognized with Parks Champion Award and a formal city citation

By Dan Murphy

At the group's 54th annual meeting on Tuesday, April 9, at the UMass Club of Boston, the Friends of the Public Garden awarded its inaugural Parks Champion Award to Margaret Pokorny, who also received a formal city citation from Mayor Michelle Wu then in recognition of her 30-plus years of service to Boston's green spaces.

"Your seemingly endless capacity to advocate for the parks has inspired many others and made a significant and lasting impact on our community," said Mayor Wu in presenting Pokorny with the formal citation from the City of Boston.

A dedicated Friends board member of the since 1991 who has also chaired the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee for many years, Pokorny moved to Boston in 1980. Her first brush with the Friends came two years later, as she recalled, when Pokorny's future mentor and Friends board

member, Stella Trafford, caught her watering a tree on Marlborough Street, where they lived two doors away from each other. Trafford soon recruited Pokorny in the arduous task of restoring the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which was then devastated by Dutch Elm Disease and many years of neglect.

Pokorny has since devoted great time and effort to developing programs and raising funds for the restoration of the Mall. Her efforts have included securing a Mass ReLeaf Grant to plant dozens of trees; creating the Adopt-a-Bench program to support bench restoration and care; leading the 30-year drive to design and fund lighting of the Mall's statues; landscaping around several statues with the Garden Club of the Back Bay; writing the brochure 'Commonwealth Avenue Mall, A Walking Tour,' with her daughter, Kate; leading the Hereford block restoration, which was severely damaged from use as a dog park;

(POKORNY Pg. 3)



Margaret Pokorny, recipient of the Friends of the Public Garden's inaugural Parks Champion Award (center), is seen with Mayor Michelle Wu (at left) and Liz Vizza, president of the Friends group.

COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

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-

(BHCA Pg. 7)

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

WEST END 'LOVE YOUR BLOCK' SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 20

The West End 'Love Your Block' (Neighborhood Clean-up) takes place on

Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the Greatest Neighborhood Park.

This event is sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and the West End Civic Association (WECA) Greenspace Committee.

For more information, contact Duane Lucia at 617-416-0718.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM BENEFIT SET FOR APRIL 18

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 www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit.

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.

WW 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.

The ongoing program includes '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.

WEST END MUSEUM TO EXPLORE POLITICAL IMPACT OF BOSTON'S 20TH-CENTURY MAYORS

The West End Museum will 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 www.eventbrite.com/e/curley-to-kevin-the-new-boston-and-the-mayors-who-made-it-tickets.

APRIL PROGRAMS AT NICHOLS HOUSE

The Nichols House Museum will offer free family tours as part of the Highland Street Foundation's Spring Week on Friday, April 19.

Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.,

visit the Nichols House and learn about the three Nichols sisters. Artists, athletes, and activists, their adventures took them around Beacon Hill and Boston—and beyond. An artisan will demonstrate a craft the sisters enjoyed. Advanced registration is required.

The museum will offer a special tour focused on Rose Nichols' career as a designer on Friday, April 26.

A pioneering woman landscape architect who aimed for "harmonious discord" in her historically inspired designs, Rose designed over 70 gardens and authored three books on gardens, as well as numerous articles about landscapes and design.

Explore the home Rose curated to be a museum, learn about her design career, and experience her aesthetic sense. Tours offered at 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30 p.m.

Visit nicholshousemuseum.org for more information and to register for these events.

WEM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

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.

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/>.

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. 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.

WLP'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND NETWORKING LUNCHEON MAY 10

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

(ROUNDUP Pg. 3)

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MHS hosts Making History Gala with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin

On Thursday, June 6, the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) will host its Making History Gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. The event will feature renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin. The evening will commence with a cocktail reception at 5:30 pm, followed by a three-course dinner, engaging speaking program, and live paddle raise. The fundraising event promises an unforgettable evening for history enthusiasts to come together to support the MHS. Tickets, as well as individual and corporate sponsorships, are now available for purchase. For more information or to purchase



*Pulitzer Prize-winning author
Doris Kearns Goodwin.*

a ticket or sponsorship package,

please visit <https://www.masshist.org/gala>.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times #1 best-selling author. Throughout her five-decade career, Goodwin has received numerous awards and accolades for her insightful studies of U.S. presidents. Her bestselling books include "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream," and "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II," which won a Pulitzer Prize. "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" was awarded a Lincoln Prize and served as the basis for Steven

Spielberg's film "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis in an Academy Award-winning performance as Abraham Lincoln. At the Gala, in conversation with MHS President Catherine Allgor Goodwin will discuss her new memoir, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*.

The MHS, founded in 1791, is the nation's first historical society and an invaluable resource for American history, life, and culture. Its mission is to promote understanding of Massachusetts and the nation's history, and it is dedicated to making history accessible to all. The MHS uses its resources to educate, connect, and inspire the public through research, programs,

workshops, and exhibitions. All proceeds from the Making History Gala will support the MHS's mission.

Individual tickets for the 2024 Making History Gala start at \$500 per person. For individual sponsorships, the Making History Gala offers three levels, starting at \$2,500. Corporate sponsorship packages, which cater to a range of budgets and marketing objectives, start at \$6,500. To make a purchase or to learn more about the Making History Gala, please visit <https://www.masshist.org/gala>.

For further information or Gala-related questions, please contact Sarah Brugge at sbrugge@masshist.org.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

1922. A new form should be completed for each individual nomination submitted and should be returned to the Beacon Hill Civic 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.

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 & Events

Events Committee - April 30, 6pm, 74 Joy Street

Young Friends Social - April 24, 7-9pm, Harvard Gardens

Founders Reception - Thursday, May 2nd

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

Valiant Cruise (members only) - 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.

POKORNY (from pg. 1)

securing funding through community benefits grants and tree and bench sponsorships; and introducing the air spading technique to amend compacted soil.

"The stuff that Margaret did to make this stuff happen was legendary," said Liz Vizza, president of the Friends group, who added that since the Parks Champion Award is intended to honor those who have gone above and beyond in as a model for supporting the parks and the Friends group on an annual basis, Pokorny would be a tough act to follow.

Vizza presented Pokorny with the intricately carved glass 'Boston Bowl,' which came adorned with the Lagoon Bridge in the Public Garden on one side and an etching of the Swan Boats and a small Duckling statue on the other side.

Colin Zick, vice chair of the Friends board, said Pokorny's personal motto is 'Born to Prune' and added "You're everywhere, where there's a greenspace."

Besides her work with the Friends and the Commonwealth

Avenue Mall, Pokorny has also been "integral part" of many other parks and horticultural organizations, including Friends of Copley Square; Clarendon Street Playground Advisory Committee; Garden Club of the Back Bay; and Esplanade Association. She is also a founding member of the Charlesgate Alliance.

In receiving the accolades, Pokorny said, "It just shows what you can do if you're trying to keep busy and get through the day. I'm so honored by this, but I much prefer the backroom to the podium." She added that Trafford deserves just as much credit as she does for the transformation of the once-neglected Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Pokorny praised Mayor Wu and Boston Parks Commission Ryan Woods for their unwavering commitment to the city's park system. She also said the Friends many programs and wide-ranging advocacy work now function like a "well-oiled machine" under Vizza's "brilliant leadership."

ROUNDUP (from pg. 2)

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.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG AT WEB 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 infor-

mation, email Audrey Tedeman (artedeman@gmail.com) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

DUCKLING DAY RETURNS 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-friend-

ly 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/>.

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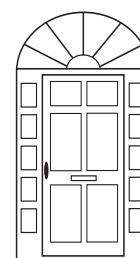
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EDITORIAL

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

The Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University has released its annual forecast for the 2024 hurricane season and it is nothing less than frightening, with a prediction that the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season will have activity well above average. Their summary is as follows:

“We estimate that 2024 will have 23 named storms (average is 14.4), 115 named storm days (average is 69.4), 11 hurricanes (average is 7.2), 45 hurricane days (average is 27.0), 5 major (Category 3-4-5) hurricanes (average is 3.2), and 13 major hurricane days (average is 7.4). The probability of U.S. and Caribbean major hurricane landfall is estimated to be well above its long- period average. We predict Atlantic basin Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) and Net Tropical Cyclone (NTC) activity in 2024 to be approximately 170 percent of their long- term averages.”

The reasons behind the forecast are two-fold: The first is that the El Nino weather pattern of the past few years has changed into a La Nina pattern, which means that the upper-atmospheric wind shear conditions of El Nino that prevent hurricanes from forming will dissipate, thereby creating conditions favorable to hurricane formation.

The second major factor is that ocean water temperatures are soaring beyond anything ever seen before. Warm water temperatures are the fuel for hurricanes, but the unprecedented high ocean temperatures we are experiencing all around the world -- every day literally is setting a new record -- will provide the rocket fuel that will feed tropical storms that will propel them to strengthen into major hurricane status.

While the change from an El Nino weather pattern to a La Nina pattern is a normal occurrence, the dramatic increase in ocean temperatures is attributable to climate change thanks to the ever-increasing amount of fossil-fuels that the world continues to spew into the atmosphere.

We haven't had a major hurricane in our little corner of the world in a while, so we are overdue -- and thanks to the effects of climate change exacerbating every meteorological event, we could be in for a long, hot -- and dangerous -- summer and autumn.

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Wu files FY25 budget with investments to make Boston a home for everyone

Special to the times

Mayor Michelle Wu today proposed her third annual operating budget, which builds on the administration's steady progress to make Boston a home for everyone—where the City's communities' needs are met and dreams can grow. The recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Operating Budget is \$4.6 billion and includes budgetary growth of \$344 million or eight percent over Fiscal Year 2024, and the Fiscal Years 2025-2029 Capital Plan totals \$4.7 billion and creates and protects critical City assets and makes numerous neighborhood infrastructure investments.

“Our focus is on working hard every single day to make Boston a home for everyone, in all senses of the word,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Home is where you are happy and healthy and safe. Home is when you're with the people you love. All of our work is about setting that basic infrastructure so that people's needs are met, creating access to programs that are necessary for health, wealth-building, joy, and safety and also about building the community to make it possible for all of our dreams to grow and become reality.”

“The budget we are presenting today is a responsible budget built on a strong and reliable financial foundation, bolstered by our triple-A bond rating,” said Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberg. “As the City of Boston continues to experience stable revenue growth, the City is able to make critical investments that support our ability to deliver services to residents, businesses, and visitors.”

To plan responsibly through shifting economic patterns and resulting impacts, this budget prioritizes sustainable investments that ensures Boston's continued stability—from supporting the City workforce through innovative collective bargaining agreements, to safeguarding needed resources in public education, and honoring long-term commitments to meet pension requirements and debt obligations to protect the long-term stability in City finances reflected in Boston's AAA bond rating. Drivers of budgetary growth in the proposed annual operating budget include:

The revenue-neutral transfer of planning, workforce, and development review functions from the Boston Planning and Development Agency to City departments following the Council's approval of

an Ordinance creating a new Planning Department for the first time in seven decades;

Equitable employee wage growth implemented through a responsible collective bargaining process that provided higher percentage wage increases to City workers earning less than \$60,000 per year;

The necessary resources to provide high-quality public education in the most inclusive possible environment for all students;

Maintaining the planned schedule to fully fund pension requirements and debt obligations that support the five-year capital plan and protect our AAA bond rating;

Targeted investments to support youth and schools, housing for all, health and well-being, and other core areas of government responsibility;

New investments made in this proposed budget have been based on informed analysis in support of long-term goals, a process of regularly reviewing operations, and ensuring the continued delivery of core City services by our workforce.

Increasing Affordability

For the first time in 70 years, Boston now has a City Planning Department with the same accountability and coordination as every other Department, and focused on shaping Boston's growth for affordability, resiliency, and equity. As part of the administration's efforts to ensure every Boston resident can continue to call the city home, this proposed budget builds on \$40 million in existing annual operating dollars dedicated to various housing programs such as affordable housing vouchers, rental assistance, and homeownership mortgage support, and homelessness prevention programming. Additionally, the budget adds \$2 million to seed a new Housing Acquisition Opportunity Fund and provides an additional \$1 million in funding for rental assistance and decarbonization efforts.

Public Health and Safety

Boston's efforts on intertwining public health and public safety to build community trust have expanded much-needed services to residents through coordinating resources and led to the City's lowest levels of violent crime on record. Building on the administration's work to connect residents of the former encampments near Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass

Boulevard with housing and treatment and create citywide mobile outreach teams, this budget adds \$1 million to support the City's approach to managing substance use and homelessness through low-threshold housing. To continue delivering the highest standards of community policing anywhere in the country, this budget funds the implementation of historic collective bargaining agreements with Boston's police unions, including funding to deploy technology to modernize the detail system and allow for civilian personnel to participate in those opportunities for the first time. After celebrating the graduation of the first EMS cadet class in two decades last month, this budget adds \$1.3 million in funding to support 12 new Emergency Medical Technicians, increasing the number of EMTs to over 400 strong to improve call response times for medical emergencies across the City. This budget also includes an investment in maternal and infant health to combat health disparities and expand home visiting services for all Black birthing families in Boston. And to improve safety on Boston streets, the budget includes over \$155 million in funding for roadway resurfacing and sidewalk reconstruction to promote mobility and safety.

Youth and Families

The proposed budget investments help bolster Boston as the best place in the country to raise a family. The administration has expanded universal pre-K seats, decreased chronic absenteeism by seven percent, grown the electric school bus fleet to nearly 90 electric buses, and launched multiple new early college and career pathways across Boston high schools. This budget includes an additional \$20 million to support high quality teaching and learning through school-based investments in inclusive education, including additional support for students with special needs and English learners, and \$1.3 billion from our Capital Budget for world-class Boston Public School facilities. It also proposes investments in children's lives outside of the classroom, by prioritizing community centers and other opportunities for extracurricular enrichment. In the last year, the City reopened the Curley Community Center and the Faneuil Branch Library and provided over 1,000 free youth swim lessons through the Swim Safe program. To ensure

Blackstone's to host an evening artists event to fundraise for Women's Lunch Place

COURTESY PHOTOS

Special to Times

Join Blackstone's of Beacon Hill for a Spring Artist Event at Blackstone's featuring local artists Janice Hayes-Cha and PJ Szufnarowski on Wednesday, April 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. This event benefits Women's Lunch Place, a charity empowering women in need. Refreshments will be served. Come celebrate spring, support a great cause, and discover new art! Blackstone's will be donating 10 percent of all sales from the entire day to Women's Lunch Place.

"At Blackstone's we enjoy every opportunity to recognize the local businesses and artists that we proudly support in our store," said Jennifer Hill, co-owner of Blackstone's with her husband Jim. "This spring we want to take the time to spotlight a cou-

ple of Boston-based female artists - whose work we currently offer at the store - by devoting a special evening specifically to these two women: Janice Hayes-Cha and PJ Szufnarowski."

The event will be hosted at Blackstone's of Beacon Hill at 40 Charles St., benefiting these two wonderful women and Women's Lunch Place. Women's Lunch Place (WLP) is a charity that Blackstone's has been involved with for over five years (Jim has volunteered weekly in the kitchen for the past five years preparing breakfast and lunch). WLP is a day-shelter located at 67 Newbury St. and serves women in need Monday through Saturday. The shelter serves freshly prepared breakfast and lunch to women who have experienced severe trauma, loss and abuse. It also provides hygienic, advocacy



Jim volunteering at Women's Lunch Place.



Jennifer Hill right and artist PJ Szufnarowski.

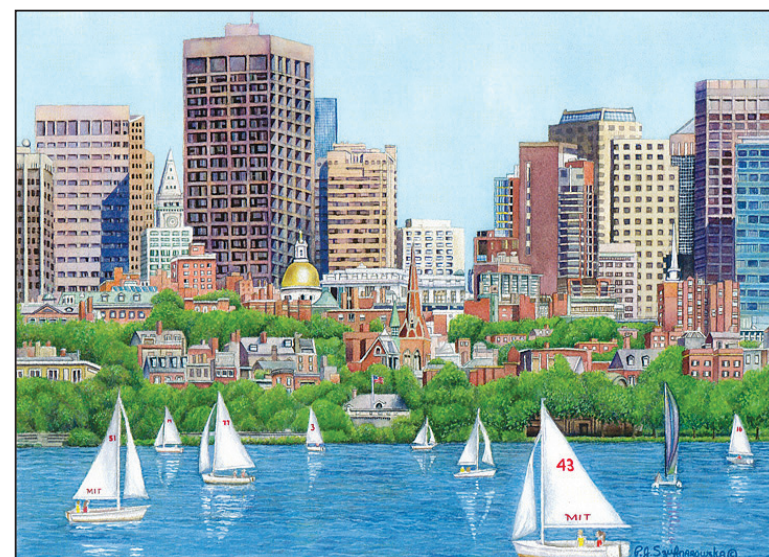
and medical services to its guests. To give a sense of the breadth of the service Women's Lunch Place provides to the women of Boston, in the last fiscal year alone, the shelter served 113,420 meals.

Janice lives in Boston with her husband and four children, making mixed-media collages from cards sent to her from both fans of her work and patients. While she began her career with watercolor, she was inspired to transition to mixed-media collage upon receiving hundreds of get-well cards during her two years of cancer treatment. Her artwork has been widely commissioned for hospitals in the Boston area.

P.J., also a Boston resident, works as an artist full-time with watercolor as her medium inspired by the timeless and natural beauty of New England. She also draws inspiration for her scenes from her winter haven in the Florida Keys, Key West in particular, where she has painted vibrant scenes, which beg you to experience them in person or recall a warm vacation memory of your own.



Janice Hayes-Cha and Jim Hill.



Art by PJ Szufnarowski.



The Courts at Hawthorne Place

Tennis memberships are available for the Courts at Hawthorne Place. Conveniently located in the West End. The courts offer two har-tru surfaces in a beautiful, park-like setting. For membership information, please email

management@hawthorneplace.com

or call 617-723-4937



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UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS EXPANDS TO MYRTLE STREET

Special to Times

On Saturday, April 13, Laura Cousineau, owner of Upstairs Downstairs at 69 Charles St., fulfilled a long-held dream by opening a second store on Beacon Hill located at 21 Myrtle St.

Laura has named her new venture 'Maison Cousineau' (translated as Little Cousins House). The store has been designed with the purpose of bringing the essence of the main store to a new location but with its own unique presentations, features, new ideas, and exclusive merchandise artistically curated with different themes that are fresh and exciting.

For the opening, Laura and her staff beautifully curated the cozy confines in a spectacular nautical theme to the delight of the many

customers who came to be a part of this grand opening. Laura chose the inaugural nautical theme as a way to "launch and set sail" on this new adventure.

The store will carry rugs, pillows, throw blankets, local art, painted furniture and a variety of home goods and unique 'giftables,' and much more.

As the store progresses and grows it will take on many functions. Eventually, one goal is to build a website, and to make the store an online extension and experience for those who have suggested Laura do so. Seasonally it has all sorts of pop-up potential. Initially though, as the store finds its footing, Maison Cousineau will be open every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Laura and her gang of merry-makers looks forward to



ALANA HUTCHINGS AND REGGIE ONORATI

Upstairs Downstairs owner Laura Cousineau welcomes guests to her new Beacon Hill store, Maison Cousineau.



LAURA COUSINEAU

Alana and Reggie on grand opening day in front of Maison Cousineau located at 21 Myrtle St.



LAURA COUSINEAU

Maison Cousineau's first customers of the day.



ALANA HUTCHINGS AND REGGIE ONORATI

Oars up - first customer of the day, first sale of the day, proudly displaying her purchase.

welcoming and greeting all with enthusiasm and gratitude.

"I could not be happier with the tremendous outpouring of enthusiasm and support from our wonderful and loyal base of customers and dear friends. And I cannot say enough about my wonderful and dedicated staff who tirelessly worked in tandem to pull it all together. Thank you one and all in this...the greatest neighborhood and community of all," said Laura Cousineau

For more information, contact Laura Cousineau at (617)367-1950 or via email at lauraupstairs-downstairs@gmail.com.



ALANA HUTCHINGS AND REGGIE ONORATI

A selection of the merchandise on sale at Maison Cousineau.

FRAMING FREEDOM

The **HARRIET HAYDEN**
Albums

Re-telling the story of Black anti-slavery activism in Boston through rare Civil War-era portrait photographs owned by Beacon Hill resident Harriet Hayden.

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BostonAthenaeum.org/Hayden



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BHV TRAVELS TO BLITHEWOLD, R.I.



On April 12, intrepid Beacon Hill Villagers (BHV) members ventured out in pouring rain and howling wind to Blithewold, R.I. to view the acres of wind blown daffodils, view the home and to partake of an English afternoon tea.



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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY SPRING FLING

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The Neighborhood Association of Back Bay, NABB, held its annual Spring Fling event at the New-

bury Hotel. It was an opportunity for members to get an up close look at the many committees in the association and what services they offer the community.



Jonathan Day and Martyn Roeder, co-chair of the Spring Fling.



Members of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay enjoying each others company during the organization's annual Spring Fling event held at the Newbury Hotel.



Members of the Green Committee Lucy Rivera, Nancy Gertner, and Jacqueline Royce.



Vikki Smith with Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone.



NABB committee chairs George Lewis, Tracy Hebeck, Jacqueline Yessian, and Serge Sabard.



Members of the NABB Homelessness Task Force Vicki Smith, Patricia Corrigan, Melissa Taylor and Kathy Young with a Citation from the Commonwealth Of Massachusetts for their work in Back Bay.



NABB Parking Committee members Jax Crerar and Willy Charleton who allocated 125 new residential parking spaces to Back Bay with NABB GraffitiBusters member Ally Foley.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Wu, David W	Burke, Robert E	128 Beacon St #E	\$5,300,000
Clair F Wyant 2012 T	Lemle, Jake	193 Beacon St #1	\$3,300,000
Aldridge, Roderick	Perkins, Alan J	346 Beacon St #4	\$2,820,000
Oh, Dennis	Xu, Manjing	180 Commonwealth Ave #24	\$970,000
Frelick, Salvatore M	Litt, Jonathan S	71 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,395,000
Strode, Scott A	Thirty 2 Fairfield St LL	32 Fairfield St #2	\$1,400,000
Alba Newbury	Frazer 103 Holdings Lp	103-105 Newbury St	\$11,650,000
Katherine Wyeth Rae RET	Alaimo, Alisha A	423 Beacon St #2	\$4,200,000
BEACON HILL			
Fratini, William F	Holahan, Richard J	21 Beacon St #6K	\$449,000
Burns, Natalie	Divney, Kevin M	88 Beacon St #4	\$740,500
Berdinka, Samantha	Flaherty Anne H Est	21 Hancock St #3	\$700,000
Bannister, Kenneth A	Lot Oz Rt	2 Hawthorne Pl #16D	\$867,000
Garriga, Daniel	Yoshida, Felipe A	2 Hawthorne Pl #70	\$492,500
Devinova LLC	Binnette, Vanda	79 Myrtle St #5	\$1,700,000
Yuying T	Naylor, Tara L	9 S Russell St #4	\$965,000
Burgueno, Manuel	Fdd RET	6 Whittier Pl #12J	\$495,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Inadomi, Molly	Murphy, Nathan J	211 W Canton St #1	\$3,175,000
Canal Friend LLC	60 Canal Owner LLC	60 Canal St	\$8,250,000
Han-Adebekun, Gang C	Putnam 234 Associates LL	234 Causeway St #905	\$800,000
Huynh, Kim T	Marc, Anouald	534-538 Commonwealth Ave #2C	\$570,000
Dupuis, Katherine J	Stinson Ft	195 Saint Botolph St #1	\$792,000
Feinman, Daniel	Tingdal, Fredrik	518 Shawmut Ave #1	\$1,300,000
Iriarte, Joe	Lewis N Rosenberg Lt	191 W Springfield St	\$2,650,000
Mcbride, Robert	Evan M Kushner Lt	1313 Washington St #413	\$900,000
Burgueno, Manuel	Fdd RET	6 Whittier Pl #12J	\$495,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Arch Owner LLC	Clpf-101 Arch Lp	101 Arch St	\$78,000,000
Garvey, Matthew A	Ryan, Maryruth	2 Battery Wharf #2401	\$985,000
Wuyue LLC	See, Linda	42-44 Beach St #9C	\$619,000
Hildreth, Mark	Howley, Michael	20 Rowes Wharf #506	\$2,550,000
Martin, Joseph	Harvey, Eileen V	210 South St #3-10	\$792,000
Mcgee, Kara	Tsipis, Yanni	170 Tremont St	\$35,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on the main corridor of Massachusetts General Hospital, from the Fruit Street entrance. From those windows, you can see the remains of an old wharf and pilings that were once a place to land patients and supplies when (before the landfill to build up the hospital grounds) this was the edge of the Charles River.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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Citywide community service event Love Your Block set for April 20

Love Your Block is a Citywide community service event comes to the West End on this Saturday, April 20. The Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) invite community members to lead in hosting a neighborhood cleanup or joining a cleanup as an individual volunteer. Love Your Block neighborhood beautification projects include cleaning up trash on sidewalks and streets, park revitalization, and flower planting. The Love Your Block application is open for volunteers to sign up to

become a host or join a neighborhood cleanup. City officials will connect individuals with a cleanup site in their neighborhood once all sites are finalized.

“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 oppor-

tunity near them.”

Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of three weekends. This weekend the local neighborhoods include:

Charlestown, East Boston, North End/West End/Wharf District, Chinatown/Downtown/Leather District, South End/Bay Village

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 and 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.”

“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.”

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through April 27 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Removal of temporary Paul Revere Park abutment

- Cofferdam installation

Work Hours

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

- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new bridge, please help

share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will

be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

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.

BUDGET (from pg. 4)

facilities across all neighborhoods are the state of the art centers residents deserve, the budget proposes \$54.5 million in pool repairs and renovations at BCYF and BPS facilities. The capital plan also includes the new constructions of the \$31 million Fields Corner Library and \$65 million Grove Hall Community Center, the first of its kind facility for this area of Dorchester. To maintain and extend the life of these important community assets, this budget includes investing in facility maintenance staff at the Property Management Department for various facility repairs at BCYF community centers and other buildings across Boston, funding for refinishing of gym floors, as well as upgrades and preventative maintenance to prevent future emergency closures and ensure our community centers can continue to serve as resources and places of gathering for residents of all ages. To ensure City investments are supporting multiple generations of Boston's families, the proposed budget adds \$500,000 in funding for community connection services for Boston's older adults. And for residents of all ages the budget proposal includes increased funding for block party grants, with continued improvements in the streamlined application making it easier for residents to build community in our neighborhoods.

Climate and Green Space

A key part of Boston's Green New Deal is ensuring that the City's work supports the climate, livability and justice of Boston's neighborhoods for residents. This proposed budget invests in preparing our City's coastline for the impacts of climate change by adding \$200,000 to support emergency preparedness for climate resilience and to update the climate action plan, while also allocating \$75 million in capital funding to leverage state and federal resources in planning and construction of a resilient coastline. The proposal also prioritizes green spaces, an important part of making Boston the greenest, most-family friendly city in the U.S. This includes investing \$735,000 in additional staff and equipment to manage and maintain Franklin Park, including a new park administrator that will oversee park operations and help restore Franklin Park to its place as a crown jewel within our parks system. It also continues to enhance parks citywide, including investing \$14 million in the Capital Plan into the renovation and reconstruction of Clifford Playground. To increase the livability of Boston's neighborhoods, the proposal invests in cooling streets, reducing stormwater flooding, and supporting the final implementation of Boston's wetlands ordinance by

adding \$200,000 for tree pruning to the \$3.1 million Urban Forestry budget to care for over 35,000 street trees. To complement this work, the City is incorporating green infrastructure features into our street construction projects to improve stormwater management and heat island impacts with \$1.6 million allocated for retrofits. This work will support enhancing climate resilience across Boston to prepare for climate change while supporting the lives of our residents.

Delivering Exceptional City Services

This proposed budget increases accessibility and improves City processes to continue providing exceptional constituent services across Boston's neighborhoods. The proposed budget will ensure City communications are accessible to all residents by investing in additional translation and interpretation services and multilingual City Hall constituent engagement. A \$3 million investment will help streamline City approvals and improve the licensing and permitting process by recruiting and hiring more workers and adding lab inspection and permit technicians for buildings. The proposed budget also modernizes traditional City services by funding a trash containerization pilot plan to promote cleanliness in Boston

neighborhoods and replaces the aging City Hall to Go truck, which brings crucial City services out into the neighborhoods where our families live. The proposed budget will make it easier for neighbors to stay connected through community by adding permit technicians for special events and block parties. Last year, the City filled more than 7,000 potholes, repainted 100,000 feet of crosswalks, and extended hours at 21 libraries. An \$850,000 investment will continue to improve basic City services, including roadway pavement markings, traffic and parking signage, graffiti removal, and self service equipment at branch libraries.

Promoting equity and economic opportunity

Advancing equity and ensuring all of Boston's communities are connected to economic opportunity is critical to making Boston the best city for families today and for generations to come. As Boston continues to grow, it is essential that more residents are connected to critical pathways through skills and job training and City services, so the budget proposes investing \$6.8 million into the Office of Workforce Development to fund a variety of programs such as Boston Saves, the Center for Working Families, Youth Options, and PowerCorps Boston. It also proposes increasing the Equity &

Inclusion Cabinet budget by \$1 million—building on the administration's commitment to transform City policies and programs so every resident can access City services and thrive, across every neighborhood. This investment will advance the City's reparations work, support healthy pregnancies, provide additional translation and interpretation services to residents accessing City services, support individuals who need gender affirming identity documents and launch an equity study to learn how we can continue to support Boston's Black men and boys. The future of Boston centers around connecting young people to every opportunity. The administration's Youth Jobs Guarantee will strengthen Boston's nation-leading youth jobs program with more employers and opportunities than ever for our City's young people, ensuring they are positioned to grow and lead in our communities now and for years to come.

The proposed FY25 annual operating budget and the FY25-29 five-year capital plan were formally filed with the City Council on Monday, April 8.

For more information about the proposed budget visit <http://budget.boston.gov/>.

SWAN BOAT SEASON HAS BEGUN

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Swan Boats of the Public Garden were officially launched for their 2024 season as the city also celebrated the coming of the Boston Marathon that Monday. Since 1877 this unique detail to the City Of Boston has captivated visitors both young and old. Shown are scenes from the opening day of the Swan Boats.



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BRADY (from pg. 1)

expression with instruments, with their bodies, and with and within the landscape of Esplanade playgrounds.” These programs, which will benefit from new equipment, added instructors, and increased offerings, will be renamed the ‘Tom Brady Family Youth Programs’ beginning this year.

Moreover, Brady’s gift will help support the Charlesbank Landing project, which will transform two acres in the vicinity of the former Lee Pool complex on the Esplanade into a two-story, year-round pavilion and visitors center. The indoor-outdoor facility is expected to open in early 2026.

“As a big fan of Tom Brady, it’s an honor to announce that his name will prompt so many more people to explore, play, and make memories on the Esplanade,” said Jen Mergel, EA’s James & Audrey Foster Executive Director, in a press release. “The Esplanade Association is deeply grateful to Tom Brady for his commitment to expand access to improved health and wellbeing on the Esplanade for our 4 million visitors annually, especially the youngest. Like our partners at [Department of Conservation and Recreation] with whom we care for this greenspace, we know this will inspire future park stewards for years.”



COURTESY OF MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS

A rendering of the proposed Charlesbank Landing on the Esplanade.

Likewise, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo said in a press release: “At DCR, we believe easy access to our greenspaces and natural resources is critical for creating healthy communities and should be available to all children and

families regardless of financial ability. This investment from Tom Brady into the Esplanade and its programming will help us continue to grow the next generation of athletes, community leaders, and stewards of our parks.”

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