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T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S

Sail On: Charlie Zechel prepares to bid farewell to Community Boating

By Dan Murphy

When Charlie Zechel steps down from his role as executive director of Community Boating, Inc., in July, it will mark the end of an era for the nation's oldest public sailing nonprofit, which he has served for more than a quarter of a century.

Zechel, a New Hampshire native who calls Rhode Island home, had worked in several sailing programs, including some in Newport, R.I., before joining Community Boating, Inc. (CBI) as its adult program director in December of 1997. Less than five years later, he was named the executive director of the largely volunteer-driven organization based on

the Charles River Esplanade.

Community Boating's origins date back to the mid-1930s, when a Boston man, Joe Lee, Jr., remembered as a wealthy Brahmin sailing enthusiast, began teaching disadvantaged kids from around the West End to build and operate makeshift sailboats. Lee's philanthropic efforts, however, evidently weren't embraced by all of the city's elite at the time.

In 1946, several of Lee's former protégés had returned home to Boston after serving in World War II, and inspired by his example, they incorporated Community Boating to teach sailing to underprivileged youth on the Charles River.

The fledgling organization set

up shop in a boathouse on the Esplanade built in 1941 by the Metropolitan District Commission (the forerunner of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation).

Today, 'SAILING HERE FOR ALL' is emblazoned on a wooden sign that hangs near the boathouse's front door, and it's an adage that perfectly captures the welcoming environment Community Boating has created over the years.

Community Boating made a major stride in its goal of achieving all-inclusivity in 2007, when the organization partnered with DCR to launch the Universal



COURTESY OF KEMILY VISUALS

Charlie Zechel, the long-serving executive director of Community Boating, Inc., who will step down from that role in July.

See ZECHEL Page 4

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Come Join the BHCA for Love Your Block 2025!

The Beacon Hill Civic Association will be participating in the 2025 Love Your Block event

organized by the City of Boston on Saturday, April 12th, from 9am to 12 noon.

Come meet us in front of CVS to pick up gloves and trash

bags or to borrow a trash picker. We'll be working all over the neighborhood, and in the Phil-

See BHCA Page 3

City to hold March 26 virtual meeting on proposed Hancock Street project

By Times staff

The city's Planning Department will hold a virtual community meeting to discuss the proposed redevelopment of 27-29 Hancock St. into 15 affordable homeownership condo units on Wednesday, March 26, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Per its agreement with the developer, JDMD, the nonprofit Fenway CDC (Community Development Center) will redevelop the two adjacent properties into 15-17 affordable units at 80-100 percent AMI (Area Median Income) for new homeowners. None of the units will be SROs (Single Room Occupancy units). JDMD has also committed up to \$300,000 to address any potential funding

gaps.

JDMD, which developed The Archer Residences - a luxury condo building on Temple Street - purchased 27-29 Hancock St. in 2018, with plans to gift the building to another developer for the creation of off-site affordable housing units to satisfy its IDP (Inclusionary Development Policy) with the city for the Archer project.

The community meeting, will be led by Fenway CDC and JDMD, is intended to provide neighbors with an opportunity to learn more about the proposal in advance of an expected Boston Planning & Development Agency

See PROJECT Page 3



MARIANNE SALZA PHOTO

Beacon Hill residents Elisabeth and Ramsay Fretz enjoying Love Your Block 2023.

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EDITORIAL

WE HAVE LOST THE BATTLE TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE; WE NEED TO SAVE OURSELVES

We recently saw a chart that was incredibly depressing: Even though the amount of greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) by the United States has decreased by about 15% since 2000, the rest of the world has increased its GGE by 50%.

Right now, the U.S. contributes only an estimated 13% of the total greenhouse gases world-wide into the atmosphere. (By contrast, in 1950 we accounted for 40%.) So even if the U.S. were to become carbon-neutral tomorrow, it would barely make a dent in the ever-increasing world output of GGE. In 1950, total greenhouse emissions in the world (excluding the U.S.) were 3.6 billion tons. But today, the world (excluding the U.S.) spews about 31 billion tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

In other words, we in the U.S. can reduce our individual and collective carbon footprints, but it won't make one bit of difference to stave off the looming effects of climate change.

So as a practical matter, what does this mean? In general, we should continue to do everything we can to make our air, water, and environment cleaner because these measures will reduce pollution and improve our health.

But we need to be very strategic about how we spend our resources on these projects because, as we noted, no matter what we do, they are not going to do anything to stop the inevitability of climate change.

Rather, we need to devote most of our attention and resources to minimizing the effects of the climate change catastrophe that we are facing by spending money on resilience measures. For example: Instead of creating bicycle lanes that very few people ever will use, we should use those tax dollars to harden our critical infrastructure to protect against the effects of bigger and more frequent storms, floods, drought, wildfires, and sea-level rise.

California has spent billions of dollars on climate-change initiatives -- but its biggest city proved wholly incapable of fighting a fire, with tragic consequences.

Climate change is here and it's only going to get worse. We need to stop fighting what already is a lost cause and instead spend our scarce resources on preparations for the climate catastrophe that already is here -- and getting worse.

ARE AMERICANS LOSING THEIR APPETITE FOR JUNK FOOD?

PepsiCo, the international food conglomerate, reported last month that the company's North American snacks business, which makes Doritos, Cheetos, and Lay's potato chips, saw a 3% dip (pun intended) in sales volume in the quarter ended Dec. 28.

Smuckers, which owns the Hostess brand that makes the iconic Twinkies, also reported a decline in the volume of its products sold in 2024.

We don't think it is a coincidence that Americans have been consuming less junk food ever since the FDA approved the use of the GLP-1 drugs made by pharmaceutical giants Eli Lilly (Zepbound) and Novo Nordisk (Wegovy).

These drugs (under their other brand names, Mounjaro and Ozempic) initially were approved to treat diabetes. But it soon became clear that in addition to treating that disease, there was another big benefit: Patients were losing significant amounts of weight.

It has only been a couple of years since these drugs were approved for weight loss, but it would appear that our nation's non-stop, upward trend of ever-increasing obesity finally has been reversed. According to recently-released statistics, the obesity rate in the United States decreased for the first time in over a decade, from 46% in 2022 to 45.6% in 2023.

Users of these drugs report a suppression of their appetite and a decrease in their cravings for junk foods of all kinds, not just Doritos and Twinkies. (We also would note that users of GLP-1 drugs report a decrease in many other forms of addictive behavior, including gambling, drugs, and alcohol abuse.)

We hasten to point out that a direct link between the GLP-1 drugs and the national reduction in weight has not been shown, but the trends, in our view, are unmistakable. To paraphrase Bob Dylan, we don't need a double-blind study to tell us which way the obesity trend will be heading with the widespread adoption of the GLP-1 drugs.

As we wrote in this space a few weeks ago, we believe that GLP-1 drugs, which are incredibly expensive, should be covered by health insurance so that they can become affordable for all Americans, not just the wealthy.

Obesity is the leading cause of a multitude of diseases in this country and not making the GLP-1 drugs affordable for all Americans is penny-wise and pound-foolish (pun intended).

GUEST OP-ED

An open letter to the Massachusetts Port Authority Board

Dear Editor,

The following letter was submitted to the Massport Board members.

Dear Massport Board Members,

AIR, Inc., Mother's Out Front, GreenRoots, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, and other member organizations of the Logan Community Clean Air Coalition wish to endorse Massport's proposal to institute rational ground access fees and improve transit options to Logan.

Logan is one of a growing number of airports, like Seattle, Los Angeles, Newark, and others, that are drowning under excessive roadway and curb congestion caused by unregulated private vehicle access. Not only does this congestion degrade the airport's performance, it also burdens the residents of adjacent communities with excess air pollution. The fact is: private passenger car vehicular access to Logan has severe costs and the fees Massport charges for access to Logan's curbs should reflect those costs.

But how would increasing ground access fees help? Realistic fees for access to the terminal curbs will help if at the same time Massport couples them with giving travelers a far better way to get to Logan.

And how can Massport do this?

The first half of the answer comes from Switzerland, where post offices, bus and train stations have offered airport baggage handling for decades. Swiss travelers' luggage is scanned at bus and train stations and gets checked-through to their flights and final destinations. The technology that makes this possible means that we can add baggage checking services anywhere.

The other half of the answer comes from Philadelphia, where American Airlines is offering 'land flights' between Allentown PA and Atlantic City, and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). Travelers can book their travel out of the smaller local airports using the normal American Airlines reservation system online. On the day of travel, they head to their

local airport, where they check their bags normally, and clear TSA security as usual. Then, instead of boarding an aircraft for the 50 mile trip to PHL, they board a high quality bus on the secure side of TSA at those outlying airports and are dropped right at their gate in PHL.

These aren't the kind of buses that take you to the local mall. They are luxury coaches set up with seating and amenities that meet modern aircraft comfort standards -a cross between an aircraft cabin and a bus. They're outfitted with first class width, leather airline style seating, WiFi, overhead storage bins, onboard entertainment, power outlets, and onboard restrooms, just like an airplane.

If the Swiss can check luggage at bus stations, and TSA can allow ground access links between facilities, Massport can reimagine its Logan Express system as a series of state of the art, full service, world-class remote airport terminals which provide land flights between them and Logan. Land flight service could even be expanded to replace air travel routes for trips under 150- 200 miles, saving airlines considerable expense and dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Of course Massport would need to be trusted to do this properly. But new Massport CEO Rich Davey has a legitimate transit background and he's been publicly talking about this sort of idea. There's no doubt that this system would work, nor is there any question that it would be wildly popular. So we need to get behind this.

It's not hard to imagine how much smoother getting through Logan would be if Boston's cramped and crowded airport were streamlined by moving a bunch of baggage handling, curb congestion, and security screening activity off-site.

It's also not hard to imagine how much less stressful traveling out of Logan would be if you could just take an Uber to the Framing-

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THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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OP-ED (from Page 2)

ham or Braintree Logan Remote Terminal, -or if you could drive your own car to the well-lit, secure and affordable parking garage attached directly to the heated and air conditioned 'New Woburn or Danvers Logan Remote' and check your bags and clear security, right there. You then would not need to drag your luggage in and out of your ride, and through the terminal, like a beast of burden.

The more you think about it, the better this idea sounds, and the less an outrageous price hike for a service you no longer want to use actually matters. Now imagine that these airplane buses could fly right through the barbary of Boston's regional standstill traffic on high speed bus-only dedicated bus lanes, cutting your trip time in half.

Increasing existing ground access fees is part of a policy that can drive up use of true HOV/ Transit options. But it could also cause an uptick in private pick-up and drop-off activity. So if Massport wants to use pricing increases to drive down congestion, they'll need to prepare an effective curb activity monitoring program and prepare for implementation of an airport roadway or curb access fee.

Massport has a choice of how

to implement these changes. We urge the Port Authority to move forward with this fee proposal, but to do it by first offering the traveling public significant relief from the stress and frustration of getting to Logan by investing in immediate improvements to the pricing, comfort and convenience of its existing transit options.

If we still need to argue over these proposed fee hikes, the conversation needs to recognize that the cost of leaving things the way they are is too high. Forbes reported that traffic congestion cost Boston over \$4 billion in economic losses in 2019 and local airport adjacent communities pay a far steeper price in chronic disease driven by air pollution.

Economically, increasing ground transport efficiency will improve, not damage economic productivity. Metropolitan London's gross domestic product rose by 52% in the 20 years since the city instituted its congestion charge. London's congestion charge has actually been well accepted, and has measurably reduced traffic and pollution. If Massport and the state's eight regional transit authorities' can colocate their bus services with Logan Remote Terminals, the economic and mobility benefits would



Image: Provided by Landline

A view of the inside of the buses used for 'land flights.'

COURTESY OF LANDLINE

be significant.

We urge Massport's Board to seize this opportunity to embrace true environmental and transportation leadership and ignore the scare tactics and industry-funded ad campaigns. Ride App drivers will not lose business; they will

simply change destinations and save time by avoiding trips into the congested core of the city. The time saved will allow these drivers to take more fares.

The future can be scary, but the future can also be bright. We need to give Massport a chance to give

us a better option.

Sincerely,
AIR, Inc., Mother's Out Front, GreenRoots, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, and members of the Logan Community Clean Air Coalition

PROJECT (from Page 1)

vote that could come as soon as soon as mid-April. The meeting is also expected to offer an opportunity for Q&A from neighbors.

Register at <https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/hancock-street-public-meeting>.



D. MURPHY PHOTO

Two adjacent properties at 27-29 Hancock St., which are poised to be redeveloped into 15 affordable homeownership units.

BHCA (from Page 1)

lips Street Play Area and the Myrtle Street Playground. We'll have goodies for the most bags filled!

Call the office at 617-227-1922 if you'd like to participate!

Upcoming Meetings

Zoning & Licensing Committee - Wednesday, April 2nd, 6:00pm via Zoom

Save the Date!

The Beacon Hill Civic Association Annual Meeting for Members will take place on Thursday, May 22nd, at the Hampshire House,

with a breakfast beginning at 8am. Invitations to members to follow.

Join the BHCA!

We invite you to join our growing membership of friends - young and old - who are contributing to make life better on the Hill. Your membership allows us to continue our efforts to preserve our unique and historic neighborhood, and your voice adds strength to our mission as advocates for Beacon Hill residents. Join or renew your membership today at bhccivic.org or by calling us at 617-227-1922!

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ZECHEL (from pg. 1)

Access Program, which allows individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities to enjoy sailing on the Charles.

Around 2004, Zechel attended a sailing conference in San Diego, Calif., which included a presentation on accessible sailing.

While listening to participants, some of whom were competitive sailors, speaking firsthand on the topic of accessible sailing, Zechel said he was emotionally overwhelmed – a feeling that was only amplified when he met and spoke with them afterwards.

“And that was a light bulb. Eureka coming, your light bulb coming on,” Zechel recalled during a recent virtual call. “Community Boating is the best facility [around for an accessible sailing program]. You could not have designed it better in terms of being the right type of environment for people who have disabilities and need special assistance to go sailing.”

For around two years, Zechel worked together with the late Dianne J. ‘Gigi’ Ranno of DCR, who herself was confined to a wheelchair, to develop the program.

“The DCR found support financially that first year to help us modify boats and buy the safety launch and all the infrastructure,” said Zechel, who added that Ranno sometimes acted as the test pilot for the modified boats in progress.

Today, the Universal Access Program serves around 250 individuals, with many of them participating on a weekly basis.

“The Universal Access Program has been very meaningful for me to see it grow,” said Zechel. “But it’s been very meaningful for the staff because they really get as much out of it, in many ways, as the participants.”

The program also includes a contingent of blind sailors, some of whom have gone onto great success.

“One of our current board members is a three-time world champion in blind racing, and that’s pretty extraordinary in in any kind of book,” Zechel noted.

Zechel also successfully advocated the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than \$5 million to finance a complete replacement of the organization’s pier and dock facilities.

A large portion of the dock had deteriorated and fallen into the water back in 2003, said Zechel, who then enlisted the help of the then-State Rep. Marty Walz to remedy the situation.

Besides teaching him how to successfully advocate and lobby at the state government level, Zechel

credits Walz for earmarking monies in a 2008 environmental bond bill to upgrade Community Boating’s facilities.

David Solomon of the Solomon Fund also “launched preliminary conceptual design work with the DCR,” added Zechel. “His support got the process off the launch pad.”

Around 2010, then-Gov. Deval Patrick toured the Community Boating facilities, saw its compromised conditions for himself, and made the financial commitment to finish the project.

“David Mugar and the Esplanade Association each supported the project with grants to the DCR,” added Zechel.

Community Boating also expanded its scope about a decade ago with the launch of its youth STEM (i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program, which now includes classes on microscopy and an exploration of the Charles River ecosystem.

This program was launched in response to recurring incidents when Department of Public Health responded to a potential cyanobacteria bloom somewhere on the river. Depending on the findings, it could shut down Community Boating’s sailing programs on the Charles for anywhere from a couple of days to several weeks.

Rather than just sitting idly by during these down times, Zechel instead enlisted the help of Dr. Gary du Moulin, a now-retired microbiologist and then a Community Boating board member, to take a deep dive into the microbiology of the Charles.

“He held my hand when I said I wanted us to be able to do regular testing of the water in locations so that over time, we can develop useful data, and that will be the building block for understanding what’s going on in the river,” said Zechel.

Dr. Gary du Moulin also helped Community Boating obtain microscopes, among other equipment, for the program, added Zechel.

Zechel and Dr. Gary du Moulin received training from a University of New Hampshire researcher, who provided them with the necessary guidance to develop and implement Community Boating’s STEM program, which today includes the Junior Program’s environmental science class and cyanobacteria research.

Also under Zechel’s leadership, Community Boating launched its leadership development program for the instructors-in-training, allowing junior members to learn how to launch boats, shadow classes, plan events, and teach novice sailors.

Zechel was honored at the 2025



COURTESY OF COMMUNITY BOATING, INC.

Community Boating Inc’s boathouse headquarters on the Charles River Esplanade.

U.S. Sailing Leadership Forum this February in Coronado, Calif., with the top award - the Martin A. Luray Award (‘The Marty’) - for his work in developing CBI’s Universal Access Program, its youth STEM program, and leadership development courses.

Community Boating itself was also recognized at the forum with the Creative Innovations in Programming Award for its microscopy class on the Charles.

Nick Miller, chair of Community Boating’s board of directors, thinks in another 10 years, the organization will reflect on Zechel’s lengthy tenure “as the time that CBI grew from adolescence to vibrant adulthood.”

In an email, Miller wrote: “[Zechel] nurtured collaboration with our indispensable partners, the Commonwealth DCR and the Esplanade Association. He developed new relationships with Boston-area schools, businesses, non-profits, and communities, always considering accessibility and affordability.

“He built a strong, talented, and enthusiastic leadership team. He guided Community Boating to evolve from a small, informal community sailing organization that served a few hundred people a year to a well-staffed, smoothly run community sailing organization that serves over 6,000 adults and children a year – an industry leader in terms of community outreach, programming, and operations.

“While CBI will evolve with the times, our new leadership will be building on that tremendous foundation,” wrote Miller.

Miller also lauded Zechel for his natural ability “to communicate a strong sense of ‘the joy of sailing’ - the sheer fun of it - even to folks who have never sailed.”

As for the future of Community Boating, Zechel is confident he’s

leaving the organization in capable hands.

“My personal feelings are that we’re the organization’s in a really good place, and that this is a great transition time for me,” he said. “We have a very talented staff. We have a wonderful, dedicated volunteer board of directors, and we have a lot of people, a lot of smart people, thinking about the future.”

Community Boating has also become a model for programs of its kind worldwide as Zechel proudly noted.

“It is literally a role model around the world for community sailing programs,” he said. “Every year that I’ve been executive director, I’ve always had someone reach out to me. Sometimes they’re from the United States, but they’re also from Europe, from Asia, from South America. And a lot of people come in, and they want to come and just see this because they’ve heard about Boston’s Community Boating, and they’re thinking about, how could they do this at home? And so that’s obviously flattering in a lot of ways.”

Zechel pointed out how many similar organizations have followed in the footsteps of Community Boating.

“Now, almost every city that’s got a harbor or a meaningful river has got a community sailing program,” he said. “Some of them are called ‘Community Boating.’ We didn’t trademark the name, and quite a lot of them use ‘Sailing for All’ as their kind of mission idea. I know when I started there were some organizations, but today there are many organizations, and in some way, almost every one of them has a little bit of DNA that comes back to Boston’s Community Boating, and that is a point of pride for us.”

Community Boating is now

part of a large community of like-minded organizations as Zechel sees it.

“It fits into our mission of we create our community locally, on the dock in Boston, but we are really very much a member of a bigger community that is, like, right across the country,” he said. “And that’s, that’s a neat feeling, that’s a really nice thing to reflect on.”

Looking ahead, Zechel believes Community Boating must continue its commitment to creating a welcoming environment for everyone interested in sailing on the Charles.

“We also have to take care of the DCRs mission,” he added. “We have to be a place that everyone that walks down the Esplanade sees our front door and wants to go in and see what this is all about.

“Come on in,” he said.

On a personal note, Zechel is now waiting for the next chapter of his life after Community Boating to commence.

“I have delegated responsibilities for devising appropriate retirement activities to various grandchildren,” said Zechel, adding that he might also seek out some volunteer opportunities with organizations closer to home.

And besides sailing and working on his boat, as well as keeping up with the ongoing maintenance of his older home, Zechel said he’s also been strongly advised he needs to get a puppy. He plans on indulging in some other new hobbies as well - namely playing the piano and painting.

“I would love to dabble in puppies, painting, and piano,” said Zechel.

A national search is now underway to fill Zechel’s position at Community Boating.

Behind the Counter

With Susanne Beck

“Letting them know you are here if you need me.”

A visit with Mark Duffield at Upstairs Downstairs

Introducing a new column entitled “Behind the Counter,” featuring a salesperson, residents or visitors one would likely meet when shopping or just browsing around the Hill.

Visitors to Upstairs Downstairs Home at 69 Charles Street are to be forgiven for doing a double take as they step into the store. The salesperson greets them, they swear they have seen him before, somewhere else. Chances are good that they are right, and that the person in question is a longtime Beacon Hill resident Mark Duffield who literally has worked both sides of the legendary street for years.

For more than a decade, until 2019, Duffield co-owned kitchenware and gift store Blackstones at 40 Charles Street with Jennifer Hill. Today, he helps out Upstairs owner Laura Cousineau sell antiques, art, and other home goods.

“I started working with Laura during the pandemic when every-



Mark Duffield

one was terrified of getting sick,” Duffield recalls. No one wanted to come to work and risk unnecessary exposure. Except him. “I had already come close to dying twice,” he says almost casually, while undergoing treatment for heart conditions at Mass General Hospital. “I wasn’t scared of COVID.”

Duffield has been behind the counter, so to speak, ever since.

After a recent conversation with him, in fact, it seems there is almost nothing that really scares him. His life has been a never-ending adventure, shaped by serendipity, a few good mentors, and an open, easy-going and generous nature that enables him to connect with anyone, and to walk away with a story to tell about it all.

“My parents were both adventurous in a way,” he says. “My mom went to the American Embassy in Paris right out of college and then got transferred to Morocco to open up the office in Casablanca. My father traveled the world in his job at Coca-Cola.” His ancestors seem to have set the tone years before. “I’m told we were the first family to cross the Des Moines River and make a permanent settlement in what was then called the Wisconsin Territory,” he chuckles.

Duffield’s first foray seems to have been in part due to a bad hangover. He and some college

buddies were offered a place to stay on Nantucket over Labor Day weekend. “This was 1971, I think. We loaded up a Volkswagen with a case of beer (“don’t ever do that!” he advises this reporter, midstream). And off we went. It was a three-day lost weekend of drinking and partying and everything.” As they went to board the ferry at the end of their stay, to head home, Duffield hesitated. “I was the last one up the ramp and for some inexplicable reason, I came back down and decided I was gonna find my way on Nantucket island.” He laughs at the memory.

For almost a year, Duffield found work at a small restaurant in Nantucket, manning the fryolator and making just enough to get by. Luck soon intervened in the form of local fisherman Charlie Sayles who swung by the eatery one day and let it be known he was looking for someone to help him scallop. “I always say in life when we meet some people for the first time, something changes. You

don’t know how or why, it just does. I call them change agents. And Charlie really was my first change agent. He made a hard worker out of me.”

Sayles also provided Duffield with a living wage, a place to stay that he could return to, and a family to become part of (“I became his son’s godfather years later,” he says with pride.) “That was the time when I could blow any money I made.” So, when he wasn’t on the boat, Duffield says: “I went all over the world, living with the Masai Tribe in Kenya, crossing the Sahara Desert and boating down the Amazon for thousands of miles. I went out and saw the world while I could afford it. I wanted to see things and expose myself to all these other cultures and ideas.” He emphasizes that in the late 1970’s, his lifestyle was not uncommon for young adults. “We were drifters, all of us, looking for work, looking for this, looking for

See COUNTER Page 7

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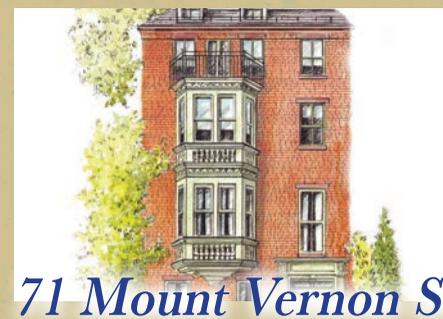
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Wu and BUSP announce White Stadium Advisory Group

Special to the Times

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP) announced the formation of the White Stadium Supplier Diversity Advisory Group. This coalition of community leaders and small business organizations will support the City and BUSP's commitment to awarding 50% of all contracting dollars across all three phases of the White Stadium renovation—design, construction, and operations—to local, minority-owned, and women-owned business enterprises (MWBES). The Advisory Group Members are as follows:

Andre Barbour, Commissioner, Black Men & Boys Commission

J.C. Burton, Commissioner, Boston Employment Commission

Edsel Cadet, Pastor, Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church

Katrina Conrad, Board Member, Mass. Minority Contractors Association

Eric Esteves, Executive Director, Boston Main Streets Foundation

Jen Faigel, Executive Director, Commonwealth Kitchen

Ron Marlow, VP for Workforce Development & Alternative Education, ABCD, Inc.

Nicole Obi, President & CEO, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA)

Roxanna Sarmiento, Head of Marketing & Communications, ALX

Norman Stenbridge, Co-Chair, Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Rickie Thompson, President, Franklin Park Coalition

Robert Wint, President, Boston Caribbean American Association

"Boston is built on our local business owners and the renovation of White Stadium is an exciting opportunity for local economic development in the community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Together with the Boston Unity Soccer Partners, we are working to ensure our local minority- and women-owned businesses are connected to this opportunity early and often during all stages of this project."

The White Stadium renovation will be a transformational investment in BPS Athletics and Franklin Park, serving as a hub for youth sports, community programming, and professional soccer with dramatically expanded public access. The upgraded complex will feature state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities, including modern locker rooms, a sports medicine suite, a strength and conditioning center, a professional grass field, an eight-lane track, and community event spaces. Previously limited to weekday hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. public access will now expand to 15 hours a day, seven days a week, for more than 345 days a year. White Stadium will also become home to Boston's new professional women's soccer team, hosting up to 20 NWSL game days annually.

This commitment to reach 50% WMBE contracting was one of the community goals and benefits the City announced when signing the lease agreement.

The new Stadium will be completed through a dual-construction model, bringing together two design and construction teams to deliver a modern, sustainable, and accessible facility. This model reinforces the need for early coordination, ensuring businesses of all sizes and backgrounds can actively participate in the renovation process.

Key objectives of the Supplier Diversity Advisory Group include:

Increase access to contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses by streamlining information and outreach.

Support businesses in navigating procurement processes and securing contracts.

Strengthen partnerships with local organizations to ensure long-term economic benefits for local communities.

Provide ongoing oversight and accountability to track progress toward business participation goals.

"We are not just setting goals—we are building real pathways for local minority- and women-owned businesses to thrive at every stage of this project," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion for the City of Boston. "By leveraging the Supplier Diversity Advisory Group's exper-

tise, we will ensure that local businesses—both emerging and established—have access to meaningful opportunities to grow, contribute, and be part of the long-term success of White Stadium."

The City, BUSP, and the Advisory Group will host a series of Contracting Opportunity Fairs this spring and summer. The first will take place Tuesday, March 18 at the National Center of Afro-American Artists at 6:00 p.m.. The events will introduce local contractors to the project timeline and procurement processes and provide networking opportunities with the construction teams. Businesses interested in attending can use this form to register.

Additionally, the City of Boston will launch a Supplier Diversity Dashboard on its White Stadium project webpage, providing updates on MWBE participation and progress.

"The inclusive construction approach at White Stadium in Franklin Park represents Boston's commitment to building infrastructure that truly serves all communities," said JocCole "JC" Burton, Founder of the SRGE Construction Accelerator. "By prioritizing diverse business participation and neighborhood engagement throughout the renovation process, this project sets a powerful standard for how urban development can create both physical and economic opportunity for historically underrepresented

stakeholders."

The partnership with Boston Unity Soccer Partners to deliver a renovated White Stadium with expanded public access hours will also bring a range of other community benefits, such as:

Annual Community Benefits Fund: A \$500,000 annual contribution, increasing by 3% annually, to support local organizations and initiatives.

Franklin Park Preservation Fund: A \$1-per-ticket contribution from every National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) game to fund Franklin Park Action Plan projects.

Tree Bank Establishment: The planting of more than 500 trees within Franklin Park.

Jobs: Estimated creation of 500 new construction jobs and 300 new permanent jobs.

BPS partnerships: Scholarships, internships, and mentorship with the NWSL team to expand career pathways for Boston youth.

"From the start, our commitment has been to build more than just a stadium—we're investing in the community," said Jennifer Epstein, Controlling Manager of Boston Unity Soccer Partners. "The Supplier Diversity Advisory Group will help ensure that Boston's local businesses are at the center of this transformation, creating real economic opportunities that last well beyond game days."

MassDOT Aeronautics reports successful drone medical delivery demonstrations

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division has announced the successful completion of flights by three companies, which conducted drone medical delivery demonstrations transporting packages of up to 10 pounds. The tests were designed to explore and assess the future use of drones, Uncrewed Aircraft Systems, (UAS) for small package delivery, especially for home-based healthcare and emergency medical response in the future.

The Medical Delivery Demonstrations occurred between August and October of 2024. Participants' drones carried simulated payloads

for at least one mile, one way, demonstrating the future potential to transport small packages.

"This medical delivery demonstration underscores the value of drones for many operational needs," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Drones have already proven useful in operations, including MBTA track corridor inspections, MassDOT Highway bridge inspections, overhead project evaluations, and other needs. We continue to assess the use of drones for other purposes in the future."

"This demonstration project reflects our commitment to exploring the use of drones to

meet critical needs, such as the timely, cost-effective delivery of supplies and devices for health care and emergency management, across the Commonwealth," said MassDOT Aeronautics Acting Administrator Denise Garcia.

MassDOT Aeronautics already uses drones to improve transportation safety, including for infrastructure inspection and incident response, supporting MassDOT, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

MassDOT Aeronautics is dedicated to making air transportation safer, cleaner, more efficient, and more economically advantageous

for the people, communities, and businesses of Massachusetts. MassDOT Aeronautics employs the highest standards in safety, engineering, and financial management to regulate and promote air transportation in the Commonwealth. The Agency oversees 35 of the State's 38 public-use airports, supports economic development and job growth, reduces aviation's environmental impact, and explores the introduction of advanced aviation systems. The Agency's Drone Operations Program aims to facilitate the adoption and use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UA/drones) in the Commonwealth in a manner that is safe, efficient, and cost effective.

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Wu appoints Dr. Elsie Taveras to the role of Chair of the Boston Board of Health

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu has appointed Dr. Elsie Taveras as the new chairperson of the Boston Board of Health and appointed Stan McLaren to fill the Board's open seat. Dr. Taveras steps into her new role after serving on the Board of Health since April 2023.

"I'm very excited to see Dr. Taveras take on the duties of chairperson of the Board of Health, and I'm confident she'll continue her work to make Boston a safe and healthy home for everyone," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm also proud to appoint Stan McLaren to the Board of Health.

I believe his experiences working with Boston's most vulnerable residents give him great perspective for this role."

"I have sincerely appreciated Dr. Taveras and Stan McLaren's leadership and am thrilled to have them step into new leadership roles on the Board of Health," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "Both have deep community ties and share a commitment to addressing health disparities in Boston. Their expertise in health equity will greatly benefit BPHC and the residents of Boston."

Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH is the inaugural Chief Commu-

nity Health and Equity Officer and Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health at Mass General Brigham. In this role, she leads system-wide strategies to improve the health of patients and communities served by Mass General Brigham.

A pediatrician at Mass General for Children, Dr. Taveras also holds the Conrad Taff Endowed Professorship at Harvard Medical School and is a professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Taveras is a leading expert in community health, implementation science, childhood obesity, maternal-child

health, and health disparities. Her research and community health leadership have influenced the development of national programs to improve health outcomes and eliminate inequities for at-risk populations.

"I am deeply honored by Mayor Wu's decision to appoint me chairperson of the Board of Health," said Dr. Taveras. "I look forward to continuing my work with the Board of Health and BPHC as we strive to make Boston a place where everyone can live long, healthy, and fulfilling lives."

Mr. McLaren currently serves as the CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Previ-

ously, he served as the President of Carney Hospital and before that, he served as the CEO of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Boston Public Health Commission, helping to establish the Father Friendly Initiative, a program that supports fathers in becoming more involved with their families and communities.

"I look forward to joining Boston's Board of Health and contributing to the Board's important role in creating a Boston where all residents have equitable access to care," said Stan McLaren. "I welcome this opportunity to serve my community."

COUNTER (from pg. 5)

that and everything else."

What he had not anticipated though, was a life-threatening situation that shifted his perspective and his choice of career. Today, Duffield can still recount in detail a subsequent boating trip in the Florida Keys, crewing for a wealthy Nantucket resident. An unexpected downturn in the weather conditions erupted into what Duffield now calls today "a perfect storm" with harrowing conditions that prompted a rescue effort by the Coast Guard. With the helicopter being tossed around in gale force winds, the boat owner made it clear that he was staying with his ship, regardless. Duffield opted to stay with him while others left, if for no other reason than loyalty. "He was staying so I did too" he says matter-of-factly.

By the time they came to shore, Duffield headed north to New England, getting off the water and landing on Hancock Street on Bea-

con Hill. "I'd explored the world so then, I needed to explore myself and see what I was capable of doing, if anything." He describes his early Hill digs as "a rat-infested hovel." "I still walk by it!" he chirps. With no relevant skills and no money to speak of, he became certified as a bartender and started volunteering at local radio station WGBH ("I wasn't even a listener at the time!")

Enter Margaret Faulkner, then-head of institutional development for GBH. She had heard about Duffield and the many inconceivable tales he had shared with her colleagues. She was intrigued. "I want to talk to you," she commanded him one morning. "She saw something in me," Duffield remembers, "my way with people, my ability to tell stories. She thought I would be a natural" at fundraising and business development. Duffield says it was Faulkner ("my second change agent")

that caused his life's trajectory to turn again. "She basically pulled me out of a gutter and gave me a job," he says gratefully.

With a stable income, a regular work schedule, and a permanent home perch on Beacon Hill, Duffield's adventures quickly became more of the mind than the body. Fifteen years at the public station was followed by a new path into retail ownership at Blackstone's. As if that wasn't enough, he also found the time to pen several books including "Tales of the Tenth Ornament" a Christmas story based on Beacon Hill that was adapted into a play and became a successful fundraising vehicle for childhood cancer at Mass General Hospital. True to form, he also could not say no when a friend told him about a start-up radio and podcast called Talkin' Birds that was looking for an Executive Producer. "Did I know anything about birds?" he

asks rhetorically. "Of course not!" he chuckles. He is still listed on the staff list today as Executive Producer Emeritus.

When pressed to identify a common thread that might run through all his many adventures, including his current outpost at Upstairs Downstairs, Duffield

doesn't hesitate. "It's all about people. Listening closely. Learning from them. Telling stories. Giving them space. And letting them know you are there if they need you." Visitors to 69 Charles will find just that and more.

Susanne Beck is a Beacon Hill resident.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MAYOR'S CUP STREET HOCKEY TOURNAMENT BEGINS APRIL 21

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will once again host the Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April Boston Public Schools vacation week.

"We're thrilled to bring back the Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament, giving Boston's young athletes a chance to stay active and take part in friendly rivalry during April school vacation," said Interim Parks

and Recreation Commissioner Liza Meyer. "With support from the Boston Bruins Foundation, we're proud to continue this great tradition at Moakley Park and look forward to an exciting tournament."

The Tournament will take place Monday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 22. All games will be played at John "Jackie" O'Brien Street Hockey Court within Moakley Park on Columbia Road in South Boston. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette.

Teams will compete in five divisions: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); Pee Wee (ages 11 to 12); Girls U8; and Girls U10.

Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

Visit boston.gov/parks-sports to register. For more information, contact Damien Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov, Jennifer Misiaszek at jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov, or call (617) 961-3083.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit boston.gov/parks, join our email list, and follow our social channels @boston-parksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

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Scenes From Boston's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mayor's Office Photos by Mike Meija
Bostonians and state residents from near and farther gathered and descended on the South End this past Sunday

for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade hosted by the City of Boston each year. The weather was fair and spirits high for the annual tradition since 1901.



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Scenes From Boston's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Healey visits Boston Children's Hospital, highlights harm caused by cuts to NIH funding, Medicaid

Special to the Regional Review

On March 17, Governor Maura Healey and First Lady Joanna Lydgate visited Boston Children's Hospital, a world leader in pediatric health care, to highlight how the Trump Administration's cuts to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and Congressional Republicans' proposal to cut Medicaid funding would negatively impact the care that Boston Children's provides to sick children and the innovative research they conduct to save lives. The Governor and First Lady toured the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU), where they met with clinicians, patients and families.

"Massachusetts is proud to be home to the best health care system in the country, and that's because of our incredible hospitals like Boston Children's that deliver lifesaving care and innovative research every day. Joanna and I

greatly appreciated the opportunity to see this work in action today and to talk directly to clinicians and families about the importance of NIH and Medicaid funding," said Governor Maura Healey. "Right now, the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans are trying to gut NIH and Medicaid funding, which would take away health care from babies, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities and halt clinical trials at Boston Children's and institutions across the state. These actions will have real harm on the health and wellbeing of our children and will prevent doctors and researchers from doing their jobs."

"We were deeply inspired by the strength and optimism of the families at Children's Hospital, who remind us all what's at stake in this moment," said First Lady Joanna Lydgate. "Our children are so fortunate to live in a state with the best health care in the country and to be cared for by amazing

doctors and nurses at hospitals like Boston Children's. That care is at risk right now, and we will do everything in our power to protect it."

"At Boston Children's, our mission is clear – to improve and transform the lives of children through compassionate care, groundbreaking research, and unwavering commitment to every child, no matter their circumstance, because we believe that care is a right, not a privilege," said Dr. Kevin Churchwell, Chief Executive Officer of Boston Children's Hospital. "That conviction drives our work every day."

"Nearly half of all children in Massachusetts rely on Mass-Health – our state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program – for their health care coverage. It's critically important that their access to care continues so we can give kids the healthiest possible start in life," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh. "Cuts to funding for things

like medical research and grants for graduate medical education at children's hospitals are really creating a no-win situation, not only impacting research teams but harming our Massachusetts economy (which is a net contributor to the federal budget), undermining the US's world leadership in medical research, and depriving patients and families of life-saving innovations."

Boston Children's Hospital is dedicated to improving and advancing the health and well-being of children around the world through its life-changing work in clinical care, biomedical research, medical education and community engagement. Boston Children's is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the world by Newsweek and among best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. It is home to the world's largest pediatric research enterprise. It is the primary pediatric teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School. Boston Children's treats

more children with rare diseases and complex conditions than any other hospital.

Boston Children's is the leading recipient of pediatric research funding from the National Institutes of Health, with more NIH awards than any other children's hospital. They receive more than \$200 million in NIH funding per year, including \$230 million in 2024. The Trump Administration's cuts would cut that funding in half.

Congress recently passed a budget resolution that would require severe cuts to Medicaid, which approximately two million Massachusetts residents and nearly half of the children in the state rely on for health care. Approximately 46 percent of Boston Children's patients are covered by Mass-Health, including 60 percent of patients with the most complex medical needs.

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA APRIL NEWS AND NOTES

Boston Lyric Opera's (BLO), April details on mainstage productions, community programs and events at BLO's Opera and Community Studios in Fort Point. Contact below for photos, interviews, press tickets and more.

Onstage: APR. 4-13

BLO Presents "CAROUSEL"

Nearly a century after its final pre-Broadway tryout at Boston's Colonial Theatre, CAROUSEL has become one of the most-beloved American theatrical classics of all time. In this 80th anniversary production, creative visionary and BLO Artistic Associate Anne Bogart stages a stunning and evocative

take on this Rodgers & Hammerstein gem. Music Director David Angus conducts an exceptional cast featuring Brandie Sutton as Julie Jordan, Edward Nelson as Billy Bigelow, Jamie Barton as Nettie Fowler, and Anya Matanovič as Carrie Pipperidge. April 4-13, 2025 at Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston Street in Boston. Tickets and information here.

Events: Apr. 8 – Free: "Opera Innovators" with Jamie Barton
BLO and Boston Conservatory at Berklee (BoCo) welcome Grammy-nominated mezzo-so-

prano (and CAROUSEL cast member) Jamie Barton for a master class with BoCo students and BLO Emerging Artists, part of the "Opera Innovators Series" on Tue., Apr. 8 @ 7 pm. The series engages field leaders in classes, discussions and more. Barton is among the most popular opera singers in the business. Boston Conservatory's Seully Hall, 8 Fenway in Boston. Admission FREE; details here.

Apr. 16 – Free: Opera Night at The BPL "Nature's Voice"

Nature has inspired generations of composers to write songs celebrating its wonder, lamenting its decline, and imitating its creatures great and small. To honor Earth Day and as part of BLO's "Rising Waters/Rising Voices" climate awareness initiative, BLO presents a concert and conversation exploring how composers and performers translate experiences of nature into song. Features BLO Head of Music and Chorus Director Brett Hodgdon as moderator, soprano Maggie Finnegan, bass-baritone Zizhao Wang, and pianist Brendon Shapiro. Apr. 16 @ 6-7:30pm. Boston Public Library Central Branch - Rabb Hall, Cop-

ley Square, Boston. Admission is FREE; details here.

Apr. 17 – Free: Film Screening of "Inundation District"

Co-presented with Midway Artist Studios and MASARY Studios, BLO hosts a free screening of David Abel's film "Inundation District," which takes a stark look at the impact of climate change and construction on Boston's Seaport neighborhood. After the film attendees can stay for a talkback about the film's themes. Apr. 17 @ 7:30pm; doors open at 7pm. BLO Opera + Community Studios, 15 Channel Center St., Boston. This is a free event.

Apr. 27 – "Arias Aloft: Rising Waters, Rising Voices"

A collaboration between Circus 617, BLO and Opera On Tap Boston, aligned with BLO's new initiative to bring climate awareness to the forefront, "Arias Aloft: Rising Waters, Rising Voices" features music and movement inspired by humanity's connection to Earth's waterways. This all-ages show features vocal acrobatics and physical virtuosity from some of Boston's leading singers and aerialist performers. Apr. 27 @ 3-5pm. BLO

Opera + Community Studios, 15 Channel Center St., Boston. Tickets and info here.

Coming Up: May 3 – Free "Noah's Flood"

"Noah's Flood" is based on a 15th-century play recounting a biblical story of one family's resilience in the face of an earth-shattering storm. Composer Benjamin Britten wrote the opera after experiencing a devastating flood in his coastal hometown; nearly 70 years later, climate change and resilience demands a greater spotlight. Hundreds of Boston-area youth sing alongside BLO artists for this timely, tour-de-force event. Conducted by BLO Music Director David Angus, in collaboration with Boston Children's Chorus, Boston String Academy, Back Bay Ringers, VOICES Boston, Boston Recorder Orchestra, Community Music Center of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Preparatory School and others. Tickets are FREE for this May 3 @ 2p performance at Symphony Hall, but reservations are required. Details here.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

BRIMMER STREET GARAGE PARKING SPOT REPORTEDLY SELLS FOR \$750,000

A parking spot in at the Brimmer Street Garage, just off Storrow Drive, recently sold for \$750,000, the Boston Herald first reported.

The garage offers “convenient services such as refueling, car washing, and other concierge options,” according to Cabot & Company’s real estate listing.

WEST END MUSEUM TO SPONSOR UPCOMING LECTURE

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7, will offer ‘Conversations With... Alexander Ludwig, Ph.D.,’ on Thursday, March 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

At this time, Beacon Hill Village and The West End Museum will welcome Berklee College of Music Professor Alexander Ludwig, Ph.D., to present on the history of film music. Ludwig teaches topics in music history, ranging from Mahler and Schoenberg in fin-de-siècle Vienna to the Beatles in countercultural America. His main focus is the history of film music, which is also the topic of his book, ‘Hearing Death at the Movies: Film Music and the Long History of the Dies Irae.’

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conversations-with-alexander-ludwig> for more information and tickets.

PRESCOTT HOUSE UPCOMING EVENT AND TOURS

The William Hickling Prescott House at 55 Beacon St. is hosting a public event, ‘Bundle Up! 100 Years of Outerwear,’ on Friday March 21, from 6 to 7 p.m.

This hour will be filled with costume collection highlights that would be used to keep warm from the 1820s through the 1920s from the costume collection at the Prescott House.

Tickets range from \$8-\$18, and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bundle-up-tickets-1253355172059>

Also, the Prescott House will be offering First Friday Tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Friday of the month starting in March. Tickets can be purchased on site, and no reservations are needed.

Visit <https://nscdama.org/properties/william-hickling-prescott-house/> for more information.

BOSTON WARD 5

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SET FOR APRIL 5 AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

On Saturday, April 5, beginning at 9 a.m. sharp, the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee will host the 2025 Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus to elect delegates and alternates for the 2025 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the MassMutual Center I Springfield.

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus will take place at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., in Copley Square. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and you must register in person to participate in the Caucus by no later than 9 a.m.

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus is open to the public. However, only those persons who reside in Boston Ward 5 and have previously registered to vote as Democrats, or are 16 years of age by Saturday March 29, and have pre-registered to vote as Democrats, will be eligible to participate and vote and be elected as delegates, or alternates, during the Caucus.

Boston Ward 5 includes Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, Fenway and parts of Chinatown and the South End. You can check your voter registration status (and whether you live in Ward 5) on the Secretary of State’s website at: www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.

ATHENAEUM, WELCOMES AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST MICHAEL VISONTAY ON APRIL 7

The Boston Athenaeum, located at 10½ Beacon St., will host Australian journalist Michael Visontay, who will discuss his new book ‘Noble Fragments’ on Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m.

‘Noble Fragments’ tells the story of Gabriel Wells, a New York bookseller who committed a crime against history when he broke up the world’s greatest book, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off in individual pages. A century later, Michael Visontay stumbled upon a mysterious legal document that linked Wells to his own family.

Part detective story and part memoir, ‘Noble Fragments’ is an expedition into the arcane world of book collectors and their eccentric passions, and a journey of discovery about how Wells’s gamble set off a chain of events that changed a family’s destiny.

This is a ticketed event. Athe-

naeum members and their guests can attend at no cost. Visitor tickets are \$20 and include first-floor admission.

For more information, <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en/author-talk-or-michael-visontay-noble-fragments-5a2KUm449bt/overview>.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

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

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

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

DUCK BOAT PULL TO BENEFIT YOUTH SPORTS SET FOR APRIL 12 AT COMMON

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s first annual Duck Boat Pull is set to take place on Saturday, April 12, at Boston Common.

This one-of-a-kind fundraiser, hosted in partnership with Boston Duck Tours, will challenge teams of 10 to race against the clock as they pull a 21,000-pound duck boat across a designated course on Boston Common—all in support of Boston’s free youth sports and fitness programs.

Teams of 10 participants ages 16 and up will compete to pull one of Boston’s iconic duck boats across the finish line in the fastest time. In order to participate, each team is required to make a \$1,000 donation, \$100 per person, which will go directly toward funding Boston Parks and Recreation’s free youth sports programs. These programs include leagues, tournaments, and fitness initiatives that foster healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for young people to stay active. In 2024, these free programs served over 20,000 young people in Boston.

Award-winning WCVB Channel 5 sports reporter and producer Alexis Beckett will emcee the event.

To register your team, select a Team Captain and visit boston.gov/duck-boat-pull. The registration deadline is March 26, and teams are encouraged to sign up

early to guarantee their spot.

Businesses and organizations can also get involved by sponsoring the event. Sponsors who sign up by March 21 will have their logos prominently displayed in event materials and signage. For more information or sponsorship inquiries, contact Tiffany Clark at Tiffany.Clark@boston.gov or (617) 233-2305.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join its email list, and follow its social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, Instagram, and now Bluesky.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ATHENAEUM

The Boston Athenaeum, located at 10½ Beacon St., will offer an Author Talk with Susan Dackerman on Thursday, March 20, at 6 p.m.

At this time, art historian Dackerman will discuss her new book, ‘Dürer’s Knots,’ on the art of Albrecht Dürer. In this beautifully illustrated book, Dackerman provides new readings of three of the artist’s most enigmatic print projects—Sea Monster, Knots, and Landscape with Cannon—situating them within historical contexts that reflect productive collaborations between Christendom and Islam, from the artistic and commercial to the ideological and political. Susan Dackerman casts Dürer’s art in an entirely new light, focusing on prints that portray cooperation between the Muslim and Christian worlds rather than conflict and war, enabling us to better understand early modern Europe through its visual culture.

Tickets are free for members and their guests, and \$20 for visitors. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/author-talk-or-susan-dackerman-durers-knots/overview> to register and for more information on the event.

The Athenaeum will offer an Author Talk with Juliet Carey and Abigail Green on Wednesday, March 26, at 6 p.m.

At this time, Carey, senior curator at the Waddesdon Manor in the UK, and Oxford historian Abigail Green will lead a conversation exploring the world of Jewish country houses, their architecture and collections, and the lives of the extraordinary men and women who created, transformed and shaped them. Jewish Country Houses emerges from a four-year research project funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council that aims to establish

Jewish country houses as a focus for research, a site of European memory, and a significant aspect of European Jewish heritage and material culture.

Tickets are free for members and their guests, and \$20 for visitors. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/author-talk-or-juliet-carey-and-abigail-green-jewish-country-houses/overview> to register and for more information on the event.

The Athenaeum will offer Salon Series: ‘The Art and Life of Francesca Alexander,’ with Jacqueline Marie Musacchio, on Monday, March 31, at 6 p.m.

At this time, Wellesley College Professor of Art, Musacchio, will discuss the intersections of women and art from the Renaissance to the early twentieth century. This talk is based on her recently published book, ‘The Art and Life of Francesca Alexander,’ which relies in part on manuscripts by Francesca in the collection of the Athenaeum.

Francesca Alexander and her parents moved from Boston to Florence in 1853 and became part of a thriving international community. She was a largely self-taught artist, and both her art and writing focused on Italians and Italian life.

Tickets are free for members and their guests, and \$20 for visitors. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/salon-series-or-the-art-and-life-of-francesca-alexander/overview> to register and for more information on the event.

The Athenaeum will offer an Author Talk with Charan Ranganath on Tuesday, April 1, at 6 p.m.

At this time, pioneering neuroscientist and psychologist Ranganath will join the Athenaeum to discuss his new book, ‘Why We Remember,’ which radically reframes the way we think about the everyday act of remembering. Combining accessible language with cutting-edge research, the book reveals the surprising ways our brains record the past and how we use that information to understand who we are in the present, and to imagine and plan for the future. Including fascinating studies and examples from pop culture, and drawing on Ranganath’s life as a scientist, father, and child of immigrants.

Tickets are free for members and their guests, and \$20 for visitors. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/author-talk-or-charan-ranganath-why-we-remember-5a2KUm3ryE1/overview> to register and for more information on the event.

NEW ENGLAND FREE JACKS, MASSPORT, DELTA CELEBRATE TEAM'S NEW CHAMPIONSHIP BANNERS

On Thursday March 13, Boston Logan unveiled two new championship banners in JetBlue's Terminal C. The New England Free Jacks, Greater Boston's professional rugby team, joined Massport and Delta (the team's airline sponsor) to hang their championship banners in the Celebration of Champions exhibit above the security checkpoint.

After securing back-to-back

Major League Rugby titles in 2023 and 2024, the Free Jacks take their place alongside other championship-winning teams in the region. This exhibit highlights New England's rich sports culture, showcasing the achievements of its professional teams.

The team has their first home game this Saturday at Veterans Memorial Stadium starting at 2 pm.



Boston Logan unveiled two new championship banners in JetBlue's Terminal C. The New England Free Jacks, joined Massport and Delta.



Shown are the Free Jacks with trophies. Back row: General Manager Tom Kindley, Founder Alex Magleby, Founder Errik Anderson, co-owner Joel Bobbett, Delta representative Candice Stover, and Dave Ishihara (Massport). Front: Players Kyle Ciquera and Ben LeSage.

SPRING'S INVITATION:
EXPRESSIONS OF THE NATURAL WORLD
The Artists' Group of Charlestown Spring 2025 Exhibition
March 28 - April 13, 2025

Detail of "Pond Reflections" © Maureen Mellowes

RECEPTION: Friday, March 28, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
GALLERY HOURS: March 29 - April 13, Saturdays & Sundays, 12:00 - 5:00 pm

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ICA/Boston announces Sarah Sze as inaugural recipient of the Meraki Artist Award

New \$100,000 award recognizes the achievements of women visual artists

Special to the Times

The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) is pleased to announce Sarah Sze (b. 1969, Boston, MA) as the inaugural recipient of its new Meraki Artist Award. Widely recognized for expanding the boundaries between painting, sculpture, video, and installation, Sze's work blends the intimate with the monumental, precision with chaos, and the physical with the digital. Her intimate paintings and large-scale installations and public works challenge perceptions of space, time, and scale, making her one of the most compelling artists of our time.

"It's a huge honor to be the first recipient of the Meraki Artist Award and I'm inspired by the dedication to love, care, and art that the award stands for," said Sze.

Generously funded by Fotene Demoulas, the \$100,000 award celebrates the artistic achievements of women artists and their impact on the field of contemporary visual art. Sze will accept the Meraki Artist Award at the museum's annual Women's Luncheon on May 5, 2025.

"I am honored to collaborate with the ICA to spotlight the passion and presence that women visual artists bring to their practice through the Meraki Artist Award," said Demoulas. "I want to offer heartfelt congratulations to Sarah, whose innovative work inspires us to see the world in new ways."

"In Greek, the word meraki means to pour your soul into something, and I can think of no better way to describe Fotene's



Sarah Sze, inaugural recipient of the Meraki Artist Award

longstanding support of artists and the ICA," said Jill Medvedow, Ellen Matilda Poss Director of the ICA. "The generosity of this award is echoed in the open spirit and artistic expansiveness of Sarah's work. We are thrilled to recognize

Sarah as the inaugural recipient of the Meraki Artist Award and to celebrate her important contributions to art and culture."

An exhibition of works promised to the ICA by Fotene and Tom Coté will go on view at the

museum in January 2026. Reflecting their longtime support of artists at every stage of their career through exhibitions, publications, and museum acquisitions, the exhibition features work by 20 artists including Charlene von Heyl, Deana Lawson, Deborah Roberts, Diedrick Brackens, Laura Owens, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Mickalene Thomas, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Olga de Amaral, and Sarah Sze. The artworks reflect multiple generations, styles, media, and thematic concerns, exemplifying a sustained interest in formal and material complexity and a steadfast belief in the singular perspectives that artists contribute to the world.

Sarah Sze gleans objects and images from worlds both physical and digital, assembling them into

complex multimedia works that shift scale between microscopic observation and macroscopic perspective on the infinite. A peerless bricoleur, Sze moves with a light touch across proliferating media. Her dynamic, generative body of work spans sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, video, and installation while always addressing the precarious nature of materiality and grappling with matters of entropy and temporality.

Born in Boston, Sze earned a BA from Yale University in 1991 and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York, in 1997. While still in graduate school, she challenged the very nature of sculpture, at MoMA PS1 in New York, by burrowing into the walls of the building, creating sculptural portals

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OBITUARIES

John Alden Pope

April 28, 1945 - February 23, 2025



John Alden Pope, 79, died unexpectedly on February 23, 2025 less than one block from his Beacon Hill home while walking his beloved West Highland Terrier, "Sir William Wallace."

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Nancy Mabrey Pope; his children: John Jr., Chynna, and Remington; grandchildren: Karina, Sarina, Antonio Jr., Christina Da Rosa and was predeceased by his daughter, Sarah Da Rosa.

John loved his dog walks, especially for his morning coffee at Cobblestones. His smile and engaging conversation charmed tourists and neighbors. He was genuinely interested in connecting with people.

John was born in Boston, raised in Hingham and Colorado Springs. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Caroline, and his brothers, Walter, Bill, and Tom.

John was an exemplary athlete



as a standout ice hockey player at Palmer High School, New Hampton School, and Boston University, as well as playing competitive tennis and golf. John served in the Army Special Forces (Green Berets) as a radio operator for the airborne division. He fought in the Vietnam War and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Parachute Badge.

The pride and greatest accomplishment of John's life was celebrating and supporting his children. The loss of his father when John was only 14 inspired him to treasure every moment with his own family. He coached his boys at Charlestown Youth Hockey, served on the board of The Skating Club of Boston, and traveled all over the country to Villanova University's lacrosse games cheering on his beloved Wildcats.

John was known for his memorable speeches and intense loyalty. A Celebration of John's Life will be held at Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St, Boston, MA 02108 on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 2 p.m. Memorial donations may be made in his honor to The Head Strong Project to support veterans battling PTSD

<https://theheadstrongproject.org> or Charlestown Youth Hockey Association at <https://www.cyha.com/about/donate-now/13671>

NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through March 29 for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- West sidewalk concrete placements
- West bridge deck waterproofing
- Marine fender pile concrete fill
- Lovejoy walkway precast plank installation
- FRP fascia screening 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 direc-

tions, if walking in a large group.

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

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

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

period:

- Other events: March 20 at 4 p.m., March 20 at 7:30 p.m., March 21 at 7:30 p.m., March 26 at 12 p.m., March 26 at 6:45 p.m., March 27 at 11 a.m., March 27 at 6:15 p.m., March 28 at 11:15 a.m., March 28 at 6 p.m., March 29 at 1:30 p.m., and March 29 at 6 p.m.

How can I find more information?

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

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: [Mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement](https://www.mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement)

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

Beacon Hill Times Pick-Up Locations

Antonio's	288 Cambridge St.
Simmon's Liquors	210 Cambridge St.
Jobi Liquors.....	170 Cambridge St.
7-Eleven.....	122 Cambridge St.
West End Library.....	151 Cambridge St.
Charles St. Liquors	143 Charles St.
U.S. Post Office.....	136 Charles St.
Gary Drug	53 Charles St.
Bank of America.....	39 Charles St.
Charles St. Supply.....	54 Charles St.
Cobblestones	30 Charles St.
DeLuca's.....	11 Charles St.
Nuts Factory.....	Charles St.
Beacon Hill Wine	Charles St.
UPS	Charles St.
Remax 119	Charles St.
Cheers.....	84 Beacon St.
Emerson Place	10 Blossom St.
Beacon Hill Market.....	61 Anderson
Beacon Capitol Market	30 Myrtle St.
City Convenience.....	23 Beacon St.
Capital Coffee House	122 Bowdoin St.
Richdal Food.....	Beacon & Bowdoin St.
River House.....	145 Pinckney St.
West End Place	150 Stanford St.

Apartment Building locations:

8 Whittier Place	1 Emerson Place
6 Whittier Place	0 Emerson Place
150 Stanford St.	45 Temple St.
1 Longfellow	10 Bowdoin St.
4 Longfellow	122 Bowdoin St.
5 Longfellow	144 Bowdoin St.
2 Hawthorne Place	130 Bowdoin St.
3 Hawthorne Place	45 Myrtle St.
9 Hawthorne Place	19 Myrtle St.
Emerson Place	65 Martha Rd.
4 Emerson Place	

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Cummins, Evan	St George, Britt E	73 Marlborough St #6	\$3,250,000
Garaventi, Lois	Ganj Hld LLC	416 Commonwealth Ave #201	\$1,450,000
Sax, Melissa J	Hatiboglu, Yaman I	353 Marlborough St #3	\$1,460,000
433 Marlborough St 1 Rt	Patricia H Wynn 2016 T	433 Marlborough St #1	\$3,650,000

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BEACON HILL			
Price, Nikolas	Beacon St Ventures LLC	21 Beacon St #2F	\$575,000
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Munson, Deborah	6 Whittier Pl LLC	6 Whittier Pl #12K	\$430,000
Plluska, Aldi	Harter, Rita S	8 Whittier Pl #6F	\$490,000

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BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Littman, Kevin	Poulios, Philip S	566 Columbus Ave #102	\$1,700,000
36 Concord Sq Unit A Rt	Steven J Pica 2016 RET	36 Concord Sq #A	\$2,205,000
Chen, Min	Maronski, Lisa M	139 E Berkeley St #301	\$779,000
Killian, James M	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #14B	\$2,024,000
Nussbaum, Mark S	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #PH2C	\$2,049,000
Stowe, Barbara G	Shonkoff Ft	477 Harrison Ave #5A	\$2,975,000
Deng, Jin W	Rb Equities LLC	7 Parker St #3	\$790,000
Mcmanus, Allie	Tretyak-Odinets, Valeria	104 Pembroke St #3	\$1,840,000
Maximov, Viacheslav	Beraja, Martin A	505 Shawmut Ave #4	\$839,818
Hootie Stuart RET	Hatfield, Jeffrey	430 Stuart St #30C	\$7,700,000
Husid, Jamie	Killian, James M	15 Taylor St	\$2,275,000
Aitken, Christopher S	Li, Xi	600 Tremont St #2	\$2,150,000
Stanton, Allison C	Rich, Edward	198 W Springfield St #4	\$1,700,550
Sarna, Takshila	Finn, Allen	1948-1950 Washington St #3D	\$850,000
White, Deborah	Leadership Alliance Intl	1948-1950 Washington St #4C	\$975,000
Afzali, Ismat	Negroski, Alex	3531 Washington St #316	\$940,000
Cheng, Karen	Diozzi, Matthew T	9 Appleton St #302	\$975,000
Larchevesque, Nicholas	Tjre Investments LLC	69 Church St #2	\$1,250,000
Ambigapathi, Vanathi	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #809	\$760,000
Desantis, Connor	Freliech, Michael A	15 Lawrence St #2	\$1,335,000
Hootie Stuart RET	Hatfield, Jeffrey	430 Stuart St #30C	\$7,700,000
Quinn, Anthony G	Wambach, Robert	430 Stuart St #26B	\$2,700,000
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Jill Werner 2001 Lt	Tatelman, Mark	505 Tremont St #810	\$2,900,000
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Mattuchio, Paul	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #4809	\$3,080,000
King, Mary	Fincham Christopher J Es	85 E India Row #16C	\$918,000
Whitney, Chang-Hong	Lawrence, Edward P	85 E India Row #15E	\$815,000
Rietkerk, Bart W	Powers, Ryan	210 South St #11-4	\$1,100,000
Sternberg FT	Cynthia Lee Rawson T	151 Tremont St #18G	\$644,500
Wang, Ruoyu	Maple Leaf Properties LL	580 Washington St #1103	\$1,757,500
Hooper St Holdings LLC	20 Rows Wharf Unit 702	20 Rows Wharf #702	\$1,800,000
Keating, Gerard K	Angela M Moore T	45 Province St #1906	\$1,685,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The woman in the last clue is part of sculptor, Robert Shaw's Irish Famine Memorial in front of 24 School Street. The memorial is part of Boston's Irish Heritage train, a three-mile, self-guided walking tour highlighting the city's Irish American heritage.

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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CITY PAWS

Doggie dementia

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

If you've been fortunate enough to have a life filled with wonderful companion animals, you have experienced the sadness of aging and perhaps developed your own assistive and coping mechanisms. As we provide better care for our furry friends, they live longer and experience some of the same problems of age that we humans face.

We experienced the loss of cognitive function or Canine Cognitive Dysfunction (CCD) with our second Westie, Maggie Mae. In her case, the change happened suddenly with an episode of Vestibular Syndrome. She did recover from the dizzy, sick symptoms, but she never regained her previ-

ous level of cognitive abilities.

Symptoms

The Whole Dog Journal reported that Veterinarians use the acronym DISHAAL to describe typical symptoms of CCD. The letters stand for:

Disorientation – Examples include getting lost in familiar places or becoming trapped in corners.

- Interactions—Changes in how or whether the dog interacts with its people. These include becoming clingy, irritable, fearful, or aggressive with strangers.

- Sleep – Changes in sleep patterns or vocalizing at night.

- Housetraining – Increased house-soiling or failing to go when



You can do a lot to prevent dementia in your older dog. (Photo by Madalyn Cox)

outside.

- Activity level – Decrease in exploration or play with toys or family members.

- Anxiety – Increased anxiety when separated from guardians, more reactive or fearful, and pace and wander more.

- Learning/memory – Decreased ability to perform tasks and learn new ones.

As with human dementia, your veterinarian will note the symptoms you report and diagnose by exclusion. A careful physical examination and bloodwork can rule out other causes for the changes you're seeing. The good news is that several FDA-approved medications can slow the disease today.

Actions and Resources

We can take steps to promote healthier aging. By increasing exercise, you protect your dog from CCD, and by doing it together, you protect yourself. It's a win-win situation. Always consult both your doctors before starting any significant change in exercise routines.

Certified Veterinary Behaviorist Dr. Lore Haug has said, "A lot of old dogs get what I call the 'shrinking world' syndrome." "Their owners get in a rut with them; they start walking the dog less... and they don't train the dog or teach him tricks. The dog doesn't get as much stimulation and enrichment — maybe they stop taking the dog to the dog park — and there's a

significant decline in mental and physical challenges."

Loss of sensory input increases the danger of dementia in humans. That's why seniors must have their hearing tested and use hearing aids as recommended. Scientists are working on hearing aids for dogs, and corrective eye surgery for dogs is now standard. However, as guardians, we can ensure we are aware of and provide the necessary care to prevent ear and eye infections from causing deafness and blindness.

Routines are essential to dogs suffering from CCD. Knowing what is going to happen and when can lessen anxiety. If house training is an issue, you can try more frequent walks or see if the dog can learn to use pads inside. Puppy proof your home to prevent stress when mistakes happen.

Finally, Eileen Anderson's book *Remember Me? Loving and Caring for a Dog with Canine Cognitive Dysfunction* addresses the problem of dog dementia and offers sound advice to those who notice changes in an older dog's behavior.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



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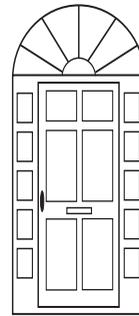
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