Mayor Wu unveils city’s proposed, nearly $4 billion operating budget for Fiscal ‘23

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Michelle Wu unveiled her administration’s first proposed operating budget for the city – a recommended $3.99 billion for Fiscal ‘23 – last Wednesday, April 13.

This represents new growth of $216 million or 5.7 percent over Fiscal ‘22, according to the city, while the Fiscal ‘23-‘27 Capital Plan, which Mayor Wu describes as a “moving target,” totals $3.6 billion of neighborhood infrastructure investments.

Mayor Wu told a small group of reporters from neighborhood newspapers on hand for a Media Roundtable on Thursday, April 14, in the Eagle Room at City Hall that the goal is to connect this money with the nearly $350 in one-time federal funds received through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, which still remain unallocated, to help Boston reach its goal of becoming a Green New Deal City.

“This is an unheard of amount of money for the city to have available, and there are many needs, but we’re going to try to focus on a significant scale in a few key areas,” said Mayor Wu. “We have a chance to truly accelerate and go big.”

An unprecedented commitment of $380 million is being made to housing affordability via the city’s operating budget while around $206 million of the $350 million in unallocated AARP funds will be focused on creating affordable housing and assistance for first-generation homebuyers, as well as updating public housing units. (The AARP $10,000 fundraising challenge is set to begin on May 1.

The Sun spoke with Cheryl Dickinson, president of the Friends of Crite Park, to learn more about fundraising for the park.

“The committee decided to describe the $10,000 Challenge as a part of our overall goal of raising $350,000 which is needed to finish the park,” Dickinson wrote in an email. Right now, the park has received about $650,000 in total between donations, grants, and awards, and the final cost of the park is $1,000,000.

Though the fundraising challenge does not officially begin until May 1, $1,250 has already been donated towards the $10,000, Dickinson said.

Fundraising efforts underway for Crite Park

By Lauren Bennett

The Friends of Crite Park is getting closer to its goal of creating a brand new park at the intersection of Columbus Ave., West Canton St., and Appleton St. in the South End.

Last week, the City Council approved a $250,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant for the creation of the park, and a $1,000,000 fundraising challenge is set to begin on May 1.

The committee decided to describe the $10,000 Challenge as a part of our overall goal of raising $350,000 which is needed to finish the park,” Dickinson wrote in an email. Right now, the park has received about $650,000 in total between donations, grants, and awards, and the final cost of the park is $1,000,000.

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Mark Winogrodn, an urban

Upcoming concert will harken back to an earlier time at Otis House

By Dan Murphy

A solo fortepiano concert taking place in the parlor of Otis House on Saturday, April 30, will harken back to the spirit of the early 19th century when music often filled the room during the frequent social gatherings hosted there by Harrison Gray Otis and his wife, Sally Foster Otis.

“The Otises were largely into entraining, so filling the house again with music is the right thing to do,” said Michael Maler, Historic New England’s Metro-Boston regional site administrator. “I know the Otises would be happy with this.”

Maler said the upcoming concert at Otis House builds on his personal legacy of helping to stage music performances in historic places. Most often, these events have taken place in the Lyman Estate’s ballroom in Waltham, which has a capacity of around 80 guests, said Maler, due to the need to accommodate larger crowds.

“I’ve always wanted to do something really special in the Otis House, and when Daniel [Adam Malz] contacted me about coming to play in Boston, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to use that space,” said Maler.

Forte pianist Daniel Adam Malz, who is based in Vienna and studied Historical Performance at the Royal Academy of Music in
We were around for the first Earth Day in 1970.

We clearly recall the incident a year earlier that spurred Congress and President Richard Nixon to create the Environmental Protection Agency when the Cuyahoga River, which feeds into Lake Erie in Cleveland, literally caught fire after a spark from an industrial plant on the shoreline ignited the chemicals and other pollutants that laced the river.

The Boston area was not much better. The mid-1960s song, Dirty Water, which is played at Fenway after a Red Sox victory, was about the famously-polluted Charles River. In addition, until the Deer Island treatment plant was built in the early 1990s, Boston Harbor was considered the most-polluted harbor in the U.S.

The Clean Water Act and the modern Clean Air Act, both of which enjoyed wide bipartisan support in Congress, came into existence in the aftermath of the creation of the EPA as the result of the environmental movement and enjoyed widespread support throughout the country.

However, terms such as global warming and climate change were not in the lexicon at that time. We thought that if we could clean-up our waterways and air by reducing the levels of pollutants, everything would be fine.

And to a large extent, the goals of cleaner air -- lead was removed from gasoline, there are far fewer coal-burning plants -- and cleaner water -- we now can swim in the Charles and Boston Harbor -- have been attained.

But fast-forwarding 50 years, we now can see that we did not anticipate the global scale that air and water pollution would achieve thanks to industrial development in Third World countries and real estate development in our country.

Nor did we know then that the buildup of greenhouse gases would lead to a warmer and more dangerous planet. Indeed, we recall reading in U.S. News and World Report a cover story in the mid-1980s that predicted that the effect of air pollution would be a colder planet. According to the article, the climate in Florida would resemble that of New England within 100 years or so because, it was theorized, smog would block out the sun’s rays.

But, as is evident today in the news headlines every day, just the opposite is occurring.

The Antarctic, the coldest location on the planet, recently experienced an episode of warm weather unlike any ever observed, with temperatures over the eastern Antarctic ice sheet soaring 50 to 90 degrees above normal. The warmth has smashed records and shocked scientists.

At the globe’s other pole, the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the planet and atmospheric scientists are trying to better understand the processes contributing to such swiftly-rising temperatures.

In Australia, the Great Barrier Reef continues to experience unprecedented coral bleaching because of rising seawater temperatures. In Florida, the manatees are dying.

Pollution would be a colder planet. According to the article, the climate in Florida in the year 2060 would be identical to the climate in the year 1890. And adding to the problem, the report said that by the year 2100, the climate in Florida in the year 2060 would be identical to the climate in the year 1890.

But, as we now know thanks to the release of White House tapes, the Schedule I listing of marijuana in 1970 had no basis in fact or science. The Nixon administration placed marijuana into the Schedule I category solely to use it as a means for prosecuting Black and minority communities and handing out lengthy sentences even for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Thanks to the real-time experience of fully-legalized marijuana for the past 10 years when Colorado became the first state to do so in 2012, we now know that marijuana is as benign a substance as exists and has many significant medical uses.

In addition, marijuana legalization has not led to an increase in use among young people as some had feared.

The U.S. House recently passed a bill that would legalize marijuana nationwide. We hope that the Senate can take up the legislation soon and make this common-sense measure a reality.

4/20, 2022: TIME TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

As our long-time readers know, we have been advocating for the full legalization of marijuana for more than 25 years.

Despite the large number of states where marijuana is sold legally (38, including medical use-only states), the federal government still labels marijuana as a Schedule I drug, the same category as heroin and other truly dangerous substances.

But as we now know thanks to the release of White House tapes, the Schedule I listing of marijuana in 1970 had no basis in fact or science. The Nixon administration placed marijuana into the Schedule I category solely to use it as a means for prosecuting Black and minority communities and handing out lengthy sentences even for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Living life lighter

Carrying baggage is exhausting. When traveling we often pack more than we need. When making a trip it’s always easier to travel light.

Life is a trip. The longer we live the more we seem to pack and try to carry. Our mind has so many shelves, drawers and spaces for luggage of all shapes and sizes. We have this giant closet inside our brains that we fill up throughout life.

Your mental closet is filled with memories that are good and not so good. You may have spaces filled with grief, sadness, hurts, rejection, loss, failure, disappointments, defeats and more. You also hopefully have stored up some happy times, victories, successes, celebrations, achievements, love, relationships and peace. Hopefully your mind is filled with more positive happy events.

I heard the story about a young man who loved his cat. The cat died and his mother gave him permission to bury his cat in the backyard. The mother became appalled when she discovered her son was digging up the cat every few days to see how the cat was doing. Too often we live our lives this way. We dig up old stuff that needs to remain buried forever.

Too often the mind carries what cannot be physically buried, good or bad. We are frequently impacted by what we keep stored. One cold morning, a little boy put his backside up against an old coal stove. The hot stove burned his bottom and he knew never to do that again. What we have stored up in our minds can often serve us well. Wisdom is gained the hard way. The school of hard knocks is educational and expensive. We pay dearly throughout life to learn the hard way. Thus, what we have stored up can be very valuable to us as we face additional life challenges and opportunities.

Your past decisions, work, interests, achievements, failures and mistakes all play a part in where you are today. This could be very good. Or, it could be very bad. If you learned from your mistakes and moved forward then you may be further ahead than you ever imagined. If you didn’t learn from your mistakes and continue to make them then frustration and sadness is haunting you.

Today is a new day. You can’t change the past. You do not know the future. Live your life now. Dispose of as much baggage as you can. Do away with old resentments and regrets. Forgive people. Forgive yourself. Don’t live in the cemetery but live with hope of seeing your loved one in a better place.

Paul, the author of Philippians said it this way, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

District 4 sees 4-percent spike in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

District 4 had seen a 4-percent spike in Part One crime from 2021.

Heading into this Easter, District 4 reported 631 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district, which includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury and the Fenway, between Jan. 1 and April 10 of 2022 as opposed to 606 incidents during the same timeframe last year. But this year still marks a nearly 18-percent drop from the five-year average of 714 incidents.

(Part One Crime includes violent crimes [homicide, rape and attempted rape, robbery and attempted robbery, and aggravated assault], as well as property crimes [burglary and attempted burglary, larceny and attempted larceny, and vehicle theft and attempted vehicle theft].

One homicide was reported in the district this year, compared to none in 2021, while the number of rapes and attempted rapes dropped from six last year to five in 2022. (The five-year average for the district was one homicide and eight rapes or attempted rapes.)

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a 10-percent upick as the number climbed to 22 from 20 last year. (The five-year average in this category for the district was 35 incidents.)

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were up more than 71 percent, with 12 incidents this year as opposed to seven in 2021. (The five-year average for this category was 15 incidents.)

Incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault were up around 12 percent as the number climbed to 46 from 41 last year. (The five-year average for this category was 50 incidents.)

Commercial burglaries

(Rev. Pg.)

EARTH DAY REPORT, 2022: THE PLANET IS DOOMED

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Carrying baggage is exhausting. When traveling we often pack more than we need. When making a trip it’s always easier to travel light.

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Women’s Lunch Place holds eat LUNCH give fundraiser at Boston Park Plaza

Staff Report
On April 14, Women’s Lunch Place held our first completely in-person fundraiser since the start of the pandemic at the Boston Park Plaza. Our community joined together for eat LUNCH and raised over $300,000 for vulnerable women experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty. We are overwhelmed by our supporters’ passion for our work and grateful to be in an even stronger position to assist our guests.

“The Stroll to the event—thank you for helping us elevate the voices of women at WLP,” said Paula White, Chief Development Officer. “Your commitment inspires us to continue fighting for the safety, stability, and dignity of the women we serve.”

We are also thrilled to mark our calendars to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Women’s Lunch Place at our annual Spaghetti Dinner gala on Friday, October 21, 2022. On this special night, we will be taking a look at the history of Women’s Lunch Place and tracking our transformation from a humble lunchtime refuge into a holistic shelter and advocacy center that provides wraparound services to 1,800 women annually, all while staying true to our motto: Dignity is Everything.

If you could not attend eat LUNCH and are looking for a quick way to support the mission of Women’s Lunch Place, visit mothersdaycards.org to honor a woman in your life with a card that can provide five healthy lunches for a woman in need. We recommend ordering now to ensure timely delivery!

News in Brief

Duckling Day Celebration Returns on Mother’s Day, May 8
For the first time, the Friends of the Public Garden will celebrate Duckling Day on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8. Please join us for Duckling Day! For the first time in two years, the Harvard University Band; Make Way for Ducklings; Meet the giant Duck; visit with the Harvard University Band; Make Way for Ducklings reading station; and a goody bag for every kid – full of Duckling Day-themed items.

The registration fee is $35 per family and $40 per family the day of the event. For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

Roll Up Your Sleeves at the Muddy River Cleanup
Registration for the 2022 Muddy River Cleanup is now live! Each year since 2009, the Conservancy’s largest annual volunteer event has brought hundreds together to pick up litter, remove invasive plants and assist with park maintenance throughout all 1,100 acres of the Emerald Necklace.

This year’s cleanup takes place Saturday, April 23 in each park of the Necklace, from Franklin Park to Charlesgate Park. The Muddy River Cleanup is part of the larger Charles River Cleanup, which was recognized nationally from 2016-2019 by American Rivers for the Most Volunteering Per Capita and Most Volunteers Mobilized. Register at https://www.emerald-necklace.org/event/mrc2022/

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD APPLICATIONS OPEN
Musicians! Apply to be a part of the BPL’s Concerts in the Courtyard 2022 season and get a chance to play live in our picturesque courtyard at the Central Library.

(News Briefs Pg. 5)

News Briefs

CRIME (from pg. 2)

On the other hand, other larcenies were down nearly 3 percent as the number fell to 375 from 386 last year. (The five-year average for this category was 303 incidents.)

Auto thefts were up more than 3 percent, with 42 incidents in 2022 as opposed to 31 last year. (The five-year average for this category was 22 incidents.)

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle were up around 31 percent, with 92 this year as opposed to 70 in 2021. (The five-year average for this category was 117 incidents.)

Roxyburg Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, May 2
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
Zoom Link: bit.ly/May2022RSMPOC
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 401 2040

Event Description:
The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The committee meets monthly to discuss development and planning in Nubian Square. All meetings are held on Zoom and open to the public.

For more information, on how to Join, Engage, and Take Action, please visit the website.

Upcoming meetings/Póximas reuniones: Dat pwochen rankont yo se:
• May/Mei/Me 2
• June/June/Jan 6
• July/juli/júly 11

For interpretation services, contact the planner listed below one week before each meeting.

Si w bezwen sevès entêpretasyon, kontakte moun kap planifye a pi ba a, yon semèn anvan chak mail to: Jamarhl Crawford
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617-308-4633
email: jamarhl.crawford@boston.gov
OTIS HOUSE CONCERT (from pg. 1)

London and at Vienna’s University for Music and Performing Arts, performing on historic Viennese fortepianos.

Maltz describes the fortepiano as “a period instrument, a special instrument to combine the historic music with the historic place,” and it will be his instrument of choice for his up-coming Otis House performance, which will include W.A. Mozart’s Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 570; Rondo in A Minor, K. 511; and Sonata in F Major, K. 533/494, as well as Joseph Haydn’s Sonata in A Major, Hob. XVI:30, and Sonata in F Major, K. 533/494.

For Mozart and Haydn, who composed all of these pieces on fortepiano, it was “the instrument that they knew and were inspired by,” said Maltz, as well as “the sound they heard in their ears.”

Added Maltz, “Everything from technique to the way one plays the instrument, to the sound it produces and the quality of the sound, the fortepiano was built to do different things than modern pianos.”

Performing in the parlor of the Otis House also recalls a time before concert halls, said Maltz, when most often “solo piano music was heard in the salons of the upper class, like at the Otis House.”

Otis House is one of about 30 dates on Maltz’s ongoing cross-country tour, which started in February in San Diego and made its last stop in Philadelphia on Wednesday, April 13.

“Part of the tour was partnering with historic houses and historic house museums to present historic music in historic spaces,” said Maltz, “and New England is prime for the picking.”

Of connecting with Otis House, Maltz said, “It was a great thing that our interests aligned so naturally.”

Additionally, Maltz has never performed in Boston be-fore, which, he said, makes his upcoming performance at Otis House even more exciting for him.

(Maltz will also be performing on Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the Lyman Estate’s ballroom in Waltham; visit https://my.historicnewengland.org/13871/htm-fortepiano to purchase tickets and for more information.)

For Malar, this upcoming performance is exciting for several reasons, including the time period it will evoke, espe-cially since young woman in particular during this period learned to play the piano as part of their educational training, and because the concert takes place in the parlor of Otis House, which he describes as “a great example of the Federal-period style of architecture with its rich textiles and wallpaper, and its Greek and Roman motifs.”

Moreover, Maltz’s upcoming performance is also on point for Historic New England as an organization, according to Malar.

“Historic New England is a great supporter and believer in the power of the arts, and the ability to activate its spaces for music,” said Malar.

Forte pianist Daniel Adam Maltz will perform in concert on Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at Otis House, 141 Cambridge St. Admission is $50 for the general public and $45 for Historic New England members. Seating will be limited to 20 guests. Visit https://my.historicnewengland.org/13912/hgo-fortepiano to purchase tickets, or call the Otis House at 617-994-5959 for more information.

BUDGET (from pg. 1)

funds that the city is receiving must be accounted for by 2024 and spent by 2026.)

This comes in response to what was heard during listening sessions held in neighborhoods across the city, said Mayor Wu, as well from respondents who participated in the city’s online survey.

Also, about $34 million is earmarked for economic opportunity and inclusion: to grow BIPOC-owned businesses, to further invest in Main Street business districts, to expand tuition-free community college and workforce training programs, and to create a commercial rental rebate program to support small business recovery and build wealth in Boston neighborhoods.

Another around $31.5 million is earmarked for climate-focused investments, including expanding the Green Youth Jobs program, creating walking and biking infrastructure, growing and preserving the city’s urban tree canopy, strengthening local food systems, and supporting electrification of the city’s vehicle and school bus fleet.

Climate-resiliency measures will be also incorporated into many city projects, said Mayor Wu, such as the $10 million allocated for Ryan Playground in Charlestown, which will incorporate design elements to combat sea-level rise.

Despite proposing an approximately 1 percent cut to the Boston Police Department’s budget from just under $400 million in Fiscal ’22 to about $396 million in Fiscal ’23, Mayor Wu said there would be more officers on the street in the coming year, with two recruit classes of about 130 each, as well as the cadet program, together expected to exceed officer who are retiring or otherwise are expected to be lost to attrition.

According to a statement from the city, “Mayor Wu is committed to ensuring the City workforce reflects Boston’s neighborhoods and the residents we serve, including our public safety agencies. Our administration is working to break down barriers to expand opportunities for women and people of color to join our Police Department and every department in city government. The budget proposed by Mayor Wu includes an expansion of the cadet program to 90 cadets from 60 in order to promote diversity within the force. It also includes two police recruit classes that will help maintain appropriate staffing levels and diversify the City’s police force as well as $300,000 for a public safety staffing study to ensure public safety resources are allocated appropriately throughout the City’s neighborhoods.”

Meanwhile, Boston received AAA bond ratings from both rating agencies for the eighth year in a row last month.

“Boston is in such sound fiscal shape, and we weathered the pandemic very well,” said Mayor Wu, as opposed to some other cities that are using the federal funds they receive to “fill holes” in their budget, or to hire back their furloughed employees.

With the passage of Ballot Question 1 in last Nov. 2’s election, the city’s operating budget now goes to the City Council, where it must garner support from two-thirds of the councillors before it can go into effect July 1.
OPENING WEEKEND FOR THE SWAN BOATS IN THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Mayor Michelle Wu, joined by her husband Connor and children Blaise and Cass, officially opened the Boston Garden Swan Boats for the Season on April 16.

Mayor Michelle Wu stops to chat with kids in the Boston Public Garden as the swan boats open for the season.

Swan boats out for their first ride of the season in the Boston Public Garden lagoon.

Library in Copley Square. All genres are encouraged. The deadline is April 4. Learn more and apply at bit.ly/BPLCITC2022.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR 2022 SPRING OPEN STUDIOS

Please join the artists of the Fenway Studios at 30 Ipswich Street, Boston, MA 02215 for a springtime weekend celebration on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 11AM – 5PM. Learn more at fenwayartstudios.org.

FENWAY CARES FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Fenway Cares distributes free food boxes every other Wednesday at the following locations:
• West Fenway: Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. (pickups at Jersey St. entrance).
• East Fenway: Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Rd. (in case of inclement weather pickup is under the breezeway next to Whole Foods and across from Caffe Nero).

Upcoming distribution dates:
• Wednesday, May 11, 25, 3:30PM - 4:30PM
• Wednesday, June 8, 22, 3:30PM - 4:30PM

CITY’S OPEN SPACE PLAN SURVEY NOW ONLINE

How well is Boston’s park system working for you? What improvements do we need to make over the next seven years? To make sure the City of Boston’s park system reflects the needs of all residents, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has released an online survey questionnaire as part of its update to Boston’s Open Space and Recreation Plan. The survey is available in eleven languages at boston.gov/open-space. The survey link will be available until the end of May, 2022.

Mayor Michelle Wu understands the importance of residents’ feedback when evaluating open space, the built environment, and balanced development. The public’s responses to this five-minute survey will help the City of Boston improve the way parks are programmed, permitted, maintained, and designed. Park users and open space advocates are encouraged to share the survey with friends and neighbors to help gather input from residents throughout the city.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan considers all public open space regardless of ownership, including natural areas, urban wilds, community gardens, cemeteries, greenways, trails, parkways, and harbor islands, as well as the traditional parks, playgrounds, and squares. It examines service delivery, park access, distribution of facilities, and demographics to understand whether the open space system is serving people equitably.

Survey input will help us understand where we need to invest our resources in the years to come. Additional information about the Open Space and Recreation Plan update can be found at boston.gov/open-space. Comments or questions can be directed to: open-spaceplan22@boston.gov.
SOUTH END LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FUNDRAISER AT JJ FOLEY’S

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

South End Baseball was back to holding events again after a 3 years hiatus due to the Covid Pandemic. They held a fundraiser at JJ Foley’s to celebrate a new year of little league baseball with opening day set for Saturday May 7th at 11am at Peters Park. A parade will kick off the Summer fun with complimentary hot dogs, ice cream, and cotton candy for the kids as well as some surprise visitors from a certain Major League Baseball team that calls Fenway Park home.

Co-organizer of the fundraiser Norine Schultis (co-organizer of the fundraiser) with her husband Peter, who is President Of South End Baseball and Peter Levitt, a long time supporter, board member, and legendary former coach.

The Previte Family was in attendance as players Jeff and Aidan, Will, President of baseball tutoring Perfect Game Learning Liliana, and fundraising board member Nolan.

Shown to the left, Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Micklewitz, co-organizer of the fundraiser Norine and longtime resident of the South End David Rowley.

Katie Wetzel and Mike Glew.

Jenelle Previte and Jose Cordero, Commissioner of the 13 year old division.

Coach Scott Oskwarek (right) with Caitlin Whitney.

Working the door and guest list was League Commissioner of South End Baseball Mike Kubisch with Beisy Navarro, avid supporter.

ADVERTISE IN THE SUN.
CALL 781-485-0588
SOUTH END LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FUNDRAISER AT JJ FOLEY’S

Jack Cusano, former coach Nick Clark, and board member Nolan Previte.

Mother of a little league player Isabelle Demtyttenaere, wife of a coach Katy Wetzel, and board member Jackie Jaeger.

Team sponsor Joseph Kennard and board member Brian Back.

Little League alum Jason Burrell with Jasmine Copper and Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michlewitz.

Caroline and Alex Stangle.

League Commissioner of South End Baseball Mike Kubisch thanked everyone for their support and was thankful that little league baseball was back in the South End.

Tours of one of Boston’s most beautiful art treasures will re-open to the public this May 4. Sixteen Tiffany opalescent stained-glass windows — the largest Tiffany window collection of its kind in any one church — grace the sanctuary at Arlington Street Church (ASC), corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets in Boston.

Self-guided tours with a smartphone (which guests must provide) are offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11am to 3pm. Sunday tours are from 1:30pm to 3pm. Tours cost $5 per person, and children under 12 are admitted free.

Completed in 1861, the church’s first Tiffany window was installed in 1899 and the last one 30 years later in 1929. The entire collection was recently fully restored by the country’s preeminent restorer of Tiffany glass. New lighting was installed to enhance the vibrant colors and faceted layers of the glass and to showcase the collection to passersby and neighbors after dark.

According to Gaby Whitehouse, Tiffany Center volunteer and member of the congregation since 1967, funds raised from the tours will be used to maintain the Tiffany collection as well as for maintenance on the building housing the windows.

Joyce Kamau, church administrator, said Arlington Street Church is the first public building in the Back Bay, as well as a very important building in the history of Boston.

“We look forward to welcoming visitors again and hope to have a pleasant and safe resurrection of our wonderful tour program,” adds Kamau.

For more information about “The Art of Tiffany Stained Glass” tours, visit www.asc Tiffany.org. To volunteer as a tour guide, contact Joyce Kamau at jkamau@ascboston.org or call 617-536-7050.

Maximum Income

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Starting May 4, tours will be offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11am to 3pm. Sunday tours are from 1:30pm to 3pm. Tours cost $5 per person, and children under 12 are admitted free.

Completed in 1861, the church’s first Tiffany window was installed in 1899 and the last one 30 years later in 1929. The entire collection was recently fully restored by the country’s preeminent restorer of Tiffany glass. New lighting was installed to enhance the vibrant colors and faceted layers of the glass and to showcase the collection to passersby and neighbors after dark.

According to Gaby Whitehouse, Tiffany Center volunteer and member of the congregation since 1967, funds raised from the tours will be used to maintain the Tiffany collection as well as for maintenance on the building housing the windows.

Joyce Kamau, church administrator, said Arlington Street Church is the first public building in the Back Bay, as well as a very important building in the history of Boston.

“We look forward to welcoming visitors again and hope to have a pleasant and safe resurrection of our wonderful tour program,” adds Kamau.

For more information about “The Art of Tiffany Stained Glass” tours, visit www.asc Tiffany.org. To volunteer as a tour guide, contact Joyce Kamau at jkamau@ascboston.org or call 617-536-7050.
Crite Park (from pg. 1)

planner and husband to the late Gay Forbes, has agreed to match $10,000 in funds for the park.

“She really believed in the neighborhood and what it could become, and she originally bought her condo there because she believed in what the South End could become,” Winogrond told the Sun, speaking about Forbes. He said after hearing from the community about the Crite Park project, “I said I wanted to support it in her name to honor the neighborhood effort.”

Forbes began her career as a housing attorney in Boston, and then became the deputy director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, now the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Through her neighborhood planning work, “she had a real sense of what was evolving in the neighborhoods and she was a Bostonian so deeply in her blood,” he said. “She was very much a supporter of historic preservation and of historic renovation, and it’s one of the other reasons I’m so supportive of Crite Park.”

Dickinson said that the goal is to have the park completed by 2023, and work includes demolishing the existing site, which has lacked upkeep and become place for trash to gather, and expanding it by about triple its current size. The park will feature different seating options, pergolas, and artwork by South End artist Allan Crite.

Dickinson also said that around the third week of May, which marks the halfway point of the Challenge campaign, the Friends of Crite Park will send out a fundraising letter to “interested friends and neighbors,” as well as distribute it to businesses and residents located within two blocks of the park site.

Signs will also be posed in the park site by May 1 about the campaign, as well as on the Crite Park Facebook page. These signs will be updated to reflect money raised as it comes in.

“I hope that many see what the committee sees and that they throw their support behind it however they can, with money or with labor or just by telling their friends about it,” Winogrond said. “It’s going to take a lot of people to get it across the finish line.”

More information about Crite Park can be found on the new website at critepark.org.

Hiscock Park Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg hunt at Hiscock Park in the South End on April 17 was a huge hit, with more than 50 people attending to search for eggs throughout the park. The event also featured games and refreshments, and a separate area for smaller children to hunt for eggs.

BBAC hears advisory review for addition and roof terrace at 37 Newbury Street

The Back Bay Architectural Commission heard an advisory review on April 13 for an addition and a terrace on the existing building at 37 Newbury St., which is currently home to LensCrafters on the ground floor.

The architect who presented said that the existing building was built around 1980, and is “not a typical configuration or iteration” for a Newbury St. building. She said the building was “pur-pose-built” for Knoll, an office furniture store, which occupied the basement, first, second, and third floors for its showroom. The three floors on top were “single or multi-tenant.”

She said that today, the top three floors are home to single floor tenants, while LensCrafters occupies the first and second floors and parts of the basement.

She explained that the retail tenant feels it is difficult to people to know about the retail space when walking up Newbury St. towards the Public Garden. She also said that the architects were tasked with looking at the retail entrance, because currently, the only way to get into LensCrafters is to enter through the vestibule for the building. They also want a more easily discernible address on the building and an “option to do some sort of roof terrace.”

The ground floor of the building has a distinct curved shape, which she said the team “wanted to respect,” as it is “very characteristic” of the building’s original architects.

“Our proposal at this point in time is to actually take this volume and add another story to it,” she said.

The proposal also includes a door right into the first floor retail space from the sidewalk, but the vestibule entrance will remain as well. A larger sign by the door to the vestibule would read “37 Newbury.”

She then spoke about the proposed roof terrace and the head height of the elevator. She said that they are “lucky with the current parapet,” which is “almost tall enough to meet code.” A rail that would add about two to two and a half inches would be installed on the inside of the existing parapet to meet code.

“It’s not too often we get to comment on a building that’s relatively new,” said Commissioner Robert Weintraub, who said he likes the proposed signage, but added that the “second story addition might be problematic with the Commission, especially with the roof terrace.”

He said that the direct door into the LensCrafters space was a great idea.

Commissioner Genia Demetriades agreed that the signage was good, but agreed that the second level would be problematic and would block the view of the adjacent historic building.

Commissioner Zsuzsanna Gaspar said she likes the addition, but wondered “whether pulling back the glass on the ground floor” to create an overhang on the door might be useful.

“I can’t endorse a two-story solution,” Commissioner John Christiansen said, but did also think the new entry door was good.

He suggested even taking the curve of the building away to put a glass bay on two or three floors.

Tom High from backbayhouses.org said that this solution would create “more visibility of the neighboring buildings,” and would “probably serve quite well the 1980 building as well.”

The architect said that the architectural team will take all of this feedback into consideration and come back with another plan at a future hearing.
The Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to provide expanded relief to unemployment claimants with overpayment obligations. The announcement follows a decision by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to approve in part the Commonwealth’s request to provide certain Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claimants with relief from overpayments that resulted from a mid-program change in Federal rules. Massachusetts had requested that USDOL provide relief for all claimants with overpayments related to a new employment substan- tiation requirement created midway through the program. However, USDOL only granted relief for certain weeks of overpaid benefits.

While USDOL did not grant Massachusetts’ request for complete relief, the Administration today is announcing several options to provide substantially expanded relief for claimants with non-fraudulent overpayments, including a simplified “one-click” option for people to easily request and receive a State-issued waiver. Together, the USDOL waiver and the additional state actions announced today will allow for the resolution of up to $1.6 billion in overpayments, or up to 71% of outstanding overpayments. Of these totals, $1.3 billion represents overpayments in emergency Federal programs paid for entirely with Federal dollars. DUA will contact claimants in the coming days with information about this relief.

Relief Provided by USDOL

($349 Million)

Background: The Federal government launched the PUA program in March 2020 to support workers not covered by the traditional UI system who lost work due to the pandemic. Massachusetts was one of the first states to implement the PUA program. In early 2021, after tens of thousands of claimants had been qualified and were receiving benefits, the federal rules changed to require that claimants provide document- ed substantiation of prior employment or be ruled retroactively ineligible for benefits. After completing the technical changes needed to implement the employment

Upcoming filming will cause parking restrictions and street closures in Union Park area

By Lauren Bennett

The Union Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) reported that there will be several upcoming parking restrictions and street closures in the neighborhood due to the filming of a television show.

Upcoming parking restrictions include:
- Union Park Street (btwn Washington St & Shawmut Ave) 10 Resident Spaces – SOUTH SIDE Mon, April 25, 5pm – Tues April 26, 10pm
- Pelham Street (btwn Washington St & Shawmut Ave) 5 Meters (CE401-405) – WEST SIDE Mon, April 25, 8pm – Tues April 26, 10pm

Wed, April 27, 8pm – Thurs, April 28, 10pm
Sat, April 30, 8am-10pm
- Shawmut Avenue (btwn Pelham St & Union Park St) 10 Resident Spaces – SOUTH SIDE Mon, April 25, 8pm – Tues April 26, 10pm
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Baker-Polito Administration announces unemployment overpayment relief plans

Olmsted’s 200th Birthday celebration planned for 26th

By Lauren Bennett

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Olmsted’s 200th Birthday celebration planned for 26th

By Lauren Bennett

Olmsted Now, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted) and Friends of Fairsted are partnering with Olmsted 2022 and Friends of Jamaica Pond to expand their annual tradition marking Frederick Law Olmsted’s birthday on April 26, with the Jamaica Pond community.

America’s great place-maker Frederick Law Olmsted—who created the field of landscape architecture and the Emerald Necklace park system—turns 200 in 2022. Join us at Jamaica Pond, the geographic heart of the Emerald Necklace, to kick-off Olmsted’s bicentennial and honor his legacy values of shared use, shared health and shared power in parks and public space. Enjoy treats, tours and local legend Gerry Wright, founder of Olmsted 2022, portraying the man himself! Olmsted 2022 will recognize and spotlight award-waees for their leadership in parks access and advocacy. Proclamations about this day in history will precede a sunset toast to an upcoming season of Olmsted Now bicentennial events, April through October. The growing list of activities will be accessible with each fresh-baked sweet provided by Jamaica Plain’s Monumental Market until supplies run out. This event is free and open to the public.

The event will take place at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse, 507 Jamaicaway in Jamaica Plain, on Tuesday, April 26 from 6:30-7:30pm. The rain date is April 27. This event is free and open to the public, however RSVP is recommended at www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/olmsted-bicentennial/.

Additionally, Olmsted 2022 annually recognizes local leaders for their parks access and advocacy work and will publicly recognize recent award-waees:
- Patrice Kish, Chief of Design and Engineering, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Kent Jackson, Director of Education, Emerald Necklace Conservancy

For the bicentennial year, Olmsted 2022 spotlights prior award-waees whose empowerment work exemplifies the themes of the Olmsted Now Bicentennial:
- Carol Miranda, Director, Community Connections Coalition/Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida Coral, Stalings, Program Director, South Street Youth Center

Biographies are available at www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/olmsted-bicentennial/
Face coverings no longer required for travelers aboard MBTA, at airport

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), MBTA and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) are announcing updates to masking requirements following a U.S. District Court judge’s decision on Monday voiding the national mask mandate covering airplanes and other public transportation.

Beginning this week, the mask mandate on MBTA vehicles and MBTA properties will be lifted for all MBTA customers. Masks will still be required by users of The RIDE paratransit services. In line with updated guidance from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), travelers using the Commonwealth’s Massport facilities are no longer required to wear face coverings. This includes airports, Conley Terminal, and the Logan Express service.

Most of the state’s 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) are also rescinding the face-covering mandate but members of the public should check with a specific RTA to confirm the requirement.

“The Commonwealth has followed federal guidance in terms of face coverings and to be consistent with that, we are lifting the face covering mandate at the Commonwealth’s transportation hubs and on most public transportation vehicles,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. “While these face covering requirements are being lifted, we remind travelers that masks are welcome if people choose to wear them.”

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak added, “Customers are no longer required to wear a mask on MBTA vehicles, or at stations or facilities if they choose not to; however, if people feel more comfortable wearing a facemask, then by all means continue to do so. The MBTA remains committed to safety and will continue adhering to all CDC and Massachusetts’ public health guidance. The T is continuing to clean vehicles and stations regularly and upgrade air filtration systems.”

“In line with the TSA’s guidance, mask wearing will now be optional within our airport facilities and on Logan Express buses,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “There may still be certain requirements onboard international flights, so we would encourage those passengers to check with their airline and destination.”

The MBTA continues its robust cleaning programs for passenger vehicles and stations, and the T regularly upgrades vehicles’ air filtration systems. Please find more information here on the MBTA’s Ride Safer program: https://www.mbta.com/covid19/ride-safer/utm_campaign=content&utm_content=Ride_Safer&utm_medium=whats-happenign&utm_source=homepage&utm_term=null

Per the Department of Public Health, masks remain required in several settings including healthcare facilities and congregate care facilities. For a full list of requirements, please visit: mass.gov/maskupma.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice
Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 5/5/2022 at 12:00 PM. The sale is subject to withdrawal at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 5/5/2022 at 12:00 PM. The sale is subject to withdrawal at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Trawler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 5/5/2022 at 12:00 PM. The sale is subject to withdrawal at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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UNEMPLOYMENT (from pg. 89)

The waiver therefore covers only overpayments made for the period running from the week ending January 2, 2021 through the week ending March 20, 2021. USDOL indicated that it believes that the Commonwealth provided sufficient opportunity for claimants to meet the requirement once the notice was issued and that it would not approve a blanket waiver for overpayments after the week ending March 20, 2021.

The practical effect of USDOL’s decision is that most claimants with employment substantiation overpayments will receive partial relief because some weeks of overpayments will be waived. However, very few claimants will receive complete relief, as Massachusetts had requested. The blanket waiver approved by USDOL covers approximately $349 million and provides partial relief to 53,487 claimants with outstanding overpayments. This translates to about 41% of total dollars associated with outstanding PUA employment substantiation overpayments. Approximately 84% of claimants with outstanding PUA employment substantiation overpayments will receive at least some relief from the Federal blanket waiver.

In March 2020, Massachusetts paused overpayment collection activities for both Federal and State unemployment programs. This means that the vast majority of PUA employment substantiation overpayment dollars have not been repaid and there are currently no financial consequences for claimants who have been overpaid. In response to the new blanket waiver, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will return any previously-repaid funds to claimants. DUA will communicate directly with claimants about this process, and no action is required by the claimant.

Further Relief from Massachusetts

Because Massachusetts advocated for complete relief for these claimants, it has also prepared new solutions to provide additional relief, with the goal of making it as easy as possible for claimants to be relieved of non-fraudulent overpayment obligations, in both the PUA and UI programs:

Simplified “One-Click” State-Issued Waivers ($782 Million): DUA will soon file emergency regulations to expand criteria for State-issued overpayment waivers for both PUA and UI overpayments to address those claims not resolved by the partial Federal blanket waiver. This will broaden the universe of people who qualify for a State-issued waiver, to provide relief for remaining PUA employment substantiation overpayments and overpayments in other categories across both State and Federal programs. DUA is also working on operational changes to the waiver process that will make it significantly easier and faster to grant relief. DUA will pre-qualify eligible claimants for an overpayment waiver and provide an easy “one-click” option to be granted a waiver. DUA will contact eligible claimants directly about this opportunity via email and letters. A telephone option will also be available for claimants. Claimants should look out for a communication from DUA beginning next week regarding this new relief.

The Administration will be filing for funding soon to offset the impact of State-issued UI waivers on the UI Trust Fund. Resolving Identity Verification Claims ($475 Million): Overpayments with ID verification issues exist in both Federal and State UI programs. A significant portion of these overpayments are uncollectable, as they are likely connected to a nationwide fraud scheme involving stolen identities. Claimants nominally connected to these overpayments likely did not actually receive benefits because their identities were stolen and used by criminal actors to obtain benefits illegally. To resolve, DUA will set aside overpayments involving fraudulent claims for eventual write off as provided by statute. The Administration will file for funding soon to offset the impacts of this approach on the UI Trust Fund, to ensure employers are not adversely impacted by this approach.
Real Estate Transfers

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468 Park Drive, Residence Two
3 Bedrooms | 3 Full 1 Half Bathrooms | 1,759 Square Feet
Listed At $1,975,000
*Open House*
Sunday, April 24th
12:00PM - 1:00PM

776 Boylston Street, Residence W9D
3 Bedrooms | 2 Full 1 Half Bathrooms | 2,424 Square Feet
*New Price*
Listed At $4,499,000

Campion & Company
Exclusive Listings
172 Newbury Street • Boston, Massachusetts

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