



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

BEACON HILL VILLAGE HOLDS NEW YEAR'S PARTY



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Beacon Hill Village (BHV), a non-profit organization that engages members of 50-years-of-age and above throughout Boston, celebrated a New Year Party on January 17 at the University of Massachusetts Club. Shown is Bill Clendaniel, BHV Vice President, describing the organization as a vibrant community. See page 6 for more photos.

Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg returns with third novel

By Dan Murphy

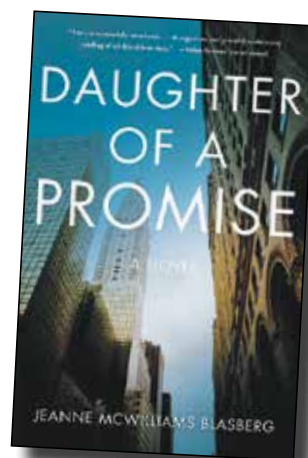
Although Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg describes her third novel, 'Daughter of a Promise,' set to be published on April 2, as "an Old Testament love story," readers need not be overly familiar with the Bible (or with Blasberg's previous work) to comprehend and appreciate her modern retelling of the story of David and Bathsheba.

'Daughter of a Promise' (She Writes Press), which has received a starred Kirkus Review, follows Betsabé Ruiz, straight out of college, as she starts her first job as a financial analyst on Wall

Street. Ruiz has a goal of working there for only two years to save money to pursue her true dream of becoming a theatre actor. But she soon finds herself consumed by the long hours that the job demands, leaving her little time for socializing, much less for taking acting lessons. Ruiz also finds herself attracted to her boss, leading to an illicit liaison between them.

In the Biblical text, which Blasberg, a former longtime Beacon Hill resident, drew from for her latest novel, King David spotted Bathsheba from atop

(BLASBERG Pg. 5)



COURTESY OF JEANNE MCWILLIAMS BLASBERG
'Daughter of a Promise,' Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg's soon-to-be published third novel.

Enrico Caruso - His Songs: Concert to be presented by Nichols House Museum

By Suzanne Besser

The works of Enrico Caruso, considered by many to be the greatest Italian opera tenor of the early 20th century, will be sung by English tenor Mark Milhofer on what would have been Caruso's 151st birthday on Sunday, Feb. 25.

Enrico Caruso (1873 -1921) sang to great acclaim at the major opera houses of Europe and the Americas, appearing in a wide variety of roles that ranged from the lyric to the dramatic. Recognized as one of the first major singing talents to be commercially recorded, Caruso made 247 recordings from 1902 to 1920, which led to his reputation as an internationally popular entertainment star. Some of these recordings also feature Louise Homer, a popular performer at the Met and a Nichols family relation who even performed in the parlor at 55 Mount Vernon St.

Born in Naples, Caruso toured widely both with the Metropolitan Opera touring company and on his own, giving hundreds of performances in Europe and the U.S. He had a repertoire of more than 500 songs, ranging from classical compositions to traditional Italian melodies and popular tunes of the day.

Mark Milhofer has spent a quarter of a century singing in professional opera productions around the world. He studied choral singing at Magdalen College, Oxford, and specialized at the Guildhall School of Music in London, before winning one of the few places at the Italian Opera Studio in Milan.

He began his career in Italy, working with Giorgio Stre-



COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM
Mark Milhofer, the English tenor who will be performing the works of Enrico Caruso on Sunday, Feb. 25, at a private Beacon Hill home for a concert sponsored by the Nichols House Museum.

hler who chose him to open his brand-new theater in Milan. For many years he played in a duo with pianist Sebastiano Brusco and has often collaborated with playwright and music historian Sandro Cappelletto. He has also performed on stage with well-known actors. The concert will be Milhofer's first performance in New England, following his Carnegie Hall debut on Feb. 21.

Milhofer will be accompanied by pianist Marco Scolastra, at 3 p.m. at the Harvard Musical Association. The concert, which is sponsored by the Nichols House Museum, will be followed by a reception featuring a 1907 Caruso cocktail as well as an opportunity to dine with Milhofer and Scolastra in a private Beacon Hill home. This special event will raise funds for the Nichols House Museum's conservation and programs. Please visit www.nicholshousemuseum.org for more information and to purchase tickets, or call 617-227-6993.

EDITORIAL

ENVIRONMENTALISTS: PUTIN'S 'USEFUL IDIOTS'

Vladimir Lenin used the term “useful idiots” to refer to journalists, labor leaders, and politicians in the West who extolled the virtues of Lenin’s new Communist regime in Russia as a “worker’s paradise.” They were in the vanguard of the world-wide Communist movement who tried to import Lenin’s brand of Communism into their own countries.

The reason Lenin referred to them as “useful idiots” is because they were oblivious to what actually was going on in Russia during Lenin’s (and later, Stalin’s) transformation of that nation into a Communist regime: mass starvation, authoritarianism, political executions, and use of the Siberian gulag.

In short, the “useful idiots” for Lenin and Stalin were those in the West whose fervent belief in the ideology of Communism blinded them to the reality of what actually was happening in Russia in the 1920s and 1930s.

A century later, democracy and freedom are being challenged by another Vladimir, Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine and genocidal campaign of executions, rape, bombings of civilians, and deportation of children poses a substantial threat to Western Europe and ultimately, the United States.

Western European nations stopped purchasing natural gas from Russia -- which had a pipeline directly into Western Europe -- shortly after the invasion began in order not to finance Putin’s war machine. These countries were able to do so thanks to a combination of sacrifice (lowering their thermostats and reducing industrial energy use), switching to dirtier forms of energy (coal and oil) for their power plants, and the ramping-up of the importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States, with the promise that even more LNG will be forthcoming from the U.S. in the future.

However, President Biden, bowing to pressure from environmental groups, last week issued a directive that imposes new environmental rules on future LNG terminals that essentially has brought to a halt the construction of new LNG export facilities in the U.S. The move has alarmed our Western European allies, who have been able to withstand their embargo on Russian natural gas because of the promise of additional LNG from America.

There is no question that climate change, fueled by the burning of fossil fuels, represents a huge risk to the future of our planet. However, the threat posed by Putin and other dictatorial regimes, such as China and Iran, pose an immediate threat to our way of life today. An article in yesterday’s New York Times highlighted the fear of Western European leaders that they will be next in line if Putin succeeds in Ukraine.

In addition, the irony of Biden’s new environmental rules for future LNG plants in the U.S. is that Europe will continue to use oil and coal, which are far worse for the environment than natural gas. In addition, if the U.S. is unable to supply natural gas to Western Europe, those countries simply will turn elsewhere.

In short, the action by Biden at the behest of environmentalists accomplishes nothing (and even is a negative) in our battle against climate change in both the short and long terms. However, what it does accomplish is this: It encourages sociopathic dictators like Putin, who want to see the Western nations divided, to continue their campaign against democracies across the globe. The “inconvenient truth” for environmentalists is that the fight against Putin and his ilk requires that America must be united with our allies, no less than we were in World War II, when the free world similarly fought against the Axis of Evil at that time. The environmentalists whose rigid ideology regarding climate change blinds them to the reality of the immediate, existential threat posed by today’s Axis of Evil are the “useful idiots” of the dictators of the 21st century.

MBTA completes expedited critical track work on Green Line, removing 16 speed restrictions

Special to The Sun

The MBTA announced on Monday its successful and on-time completion of critical track work on the Green Line, which removed 16 safety-related speed restrictions – one more than planned.

Moreover, a 17th speed restriction on the Green Line between Haymarket and Government Center stations was significantly shortened by over 500 feet. Crews accomplished this critical work due to unencumbered access to track areas while Green Line train service was suspended on the B branch from Babcock Street to Kenmore, on the E branch between Heath Street and Copley, and in the downtown area between Kenmore and North Station for 10 days from Jan. 3-12 and for 13 days from Jan. 16-28, according to the MBTA.

During scheduled weekend and evening service diversions over the last several weeks between North Station and Union Square as well as Medford/Tufts, crews from GLXC, the design-build contractor, have also completed critical track work that has alleviated all current tight gauge conditions along both Green Line



COURTESY MBTA

Crews accomplished track work and other upgrades along the Green Line.

Extension branches.

“I’m proud of the work our crews were able to accomplish during this most recent Green Line shutdown – the Green Line tunnel in the downtown area received tremendous maintenance and attention that will have a generational impact on current and future riders, and we were able to tackle this critical work thanks to the unencumbered access to the track area,” MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng said in a press release. “Importantly, our team was able to lift even more speed restrictions than were planned and significantly shorten another.

This continues to be indicative of the new way the MBTA is doing business.”

Regarding the recently completed Green Line improvements, Rep. Jay Livingstone said, “I am pleased that the MBTA has fixed so many of its long-standing issues. While it has been disruptive to lose green line service in the area for almost a month, I am pleased that the result of the work is that it is completed between Kenmore Square and North Station. I look forward to the rest of the MBTA line work finishing this year so that we will have the safe, reliable system that we deserve.”

Councilor Flynn files ordinance to create the Office of Pest Control in the City of Boston

In a key effort to tackle the persisting issue of rats in the City of Boston, Councilor Flynn will be filing an ordinance to create the Office of Pest Control to lead rodent mitigation operations. This follows a number of hearings last year in which Councilor Flynn and his colleagues discussed the City’s multi-pronged approach towards tackling pest control with officials at the Inspectional Services Department, Public Works and Code Enforcement. Councilor Flynn will be formally filing this ordinance at the January 31st Council Meeting.

Last year, Councilor Flynn had the opportunity to speak with Kathleen Corradi, New York City’s first new Rat Czar, to get her insights and to learn about her operations. He has also spoken with Mayor Wu about the creation of a pest control office.

Pest control has become a major quality of life issue for residents for many years, and was exacerbated by the pandemic when food sources moved away from restaurants to residential areas. There has been an uptick of rodent sightings across all neighborhoods in Boston and the issue of pest control has become a top constituent complaint.

“I am filing this ordinance to create the Office of Pest Control as this is a serious public health issue and the top quality of life complaint I get when I talk to my constituents,” said Councilor Flynn. “We need a centralized point person in the City that has overall authority and responsibility on all matters relating to rats and rodent mitigation. The creation of the Office of Pest Control would provide the attention and oversight that our neighbors and taxpayers deserve.”

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn’s office at 617-635-3203 and Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

Alarming new survey reveals how high MBTA fares are harming riders

Special to The Sun

On the heels of Governor Healey pledging to fund a permanent low-income fare for the MBTA in her FY25 budget, a groundbreaking survey of riders finds that they forgo meals, medicines, and other necessities as a direct result of the high cost of fares. The MBTA Board kicked off a formal process to adopt a low-income fare at their meeting on last week and riders and workers were there to make their voices heard on how a low-income fare would be life changing. Here's what riders are saying:

"Transportation costs, rent, groceries, medical costs, and other costs are all rising rapidly and that puts a lot of pressure on us," said Jie Zhen Li, MBTA rider and Chinese Progressive Association member. "There are often service disruptions or delays for the Orange Line, which would make us get to work late and impact our wages, further causing us stress. Low-income workers should receive a low-income fare that is affordable and allows us to enjoy high-quality public transit services."

The rider survey underscores how unaffordable fares are having a harmful effect on where Massachusetts residents can live and work, and on the quality of their day-to-day lives. A survey of over 300 MBTA riders across the state from November 22 to December 8, 2023 found the following:

- More than 50 percent of respondents found the cost of fares too high to afford.
- 68 percent of respondents said they would use the MBTA more if the fare was half the current cost.

Governor Healey's bold commitment to funding a low-income fare program would transform the lives of tens of more than 60,000 Massachusetts residents who count on the MBTA. For more than three years, MBTA riders and workers have united to demand a low-income fare and with the MBTA Board meeting, transit justice and affordability are within reach. As

the report shows:

- A low-income fare would benefit up to 63,000 riders by the end of a five-year implementation period.
- Riders would save about 50% on fares.

- For a daily rider on the bus and subway, this would save \$720 a year, while a Zone 5 Commuter Rail rider would save almost \$2,000 a year.

Survey participants said they use the MBTA to get to a range of destinations and MBTA riders continue to make daily sacrifices and face financial hardships due to the regular cost of riding the MBTA. Survey responses included:

- Not paying rent to afford bus costs
- Skipping meals or cutting back on groceries
- Not paying phone bills and basic necessities
- Not filling prescriptions
- Skipping medical appointments
- Walking or biking instead of taking the bus or train

"It's clear that transportation is one of the biggest needs for those in our community seeking to take advantage of employment opportunities or accessing services," said Mike Vartabedian, co-Chair of the Public Transit Public Good coalition and Assistant Directing Business Representative of the International Association of Machinists District 15. "This report shows that people are skipping meals, medicines, and appointments, just because they cannot afford the MBTA fare. These stories underscore the urgent need for a low-income fare program that takes into account the heavy financial burden borne by riders. We are so gratified to see the Healey administration and the MBTA taking real action to make the low-income fare a reality."

Public Transit Public Good is a partnership of transit workers and riders throughout Massachusetts fighting for the future of public transit. Community Labor United convenes PTPG. Visit PublicTransitPublicGood.org to learn more.

SECOND BACK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON FEB. 1

The Esplanade Association will hold its second Back Street Neighborhood Project Meeting to discuss ongoing safety projects at Esplanade entrances on Back Street. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

During this gathering, EA representatives will review progress made to-date, hear neighborhood feedback, and discuss proposed plans for additional safety improvements. Your presence and insights will greatly contribute to the success of the meeting, and the project.

Register for the meeting via zoom at <https://bit.ly/BackSt-Meeting>.

To learn more about the project, visit esplanade.org/crosswalks; and to learn about other pathway safety initiatives, visit esplanade.org/pathways.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD FEBRUARY EVENTS

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its SoWa First Friday on Feb. 2 from 5 to 9 p.m., as well as its SoWa Sundays on Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit <http://sowaartists.com> for more information.

RESCHEDULED: FREE SKATING WITH FRIENDS RETURNS FEB. 11 TO THE COMMON'S FROG POND

After the original date of Jan. 28 was postponed due to rain, Skating with Friends, sponsored by the Friends of the Public Garden, will return on Sunday, Feb. 11, to the Frog Pond in the Boston Common.

This free event includes free skate rentals and hot cocoa. Skating sessions begin at 10 a.m.; noon; and 2, 4, and 6 p.m., with space limited to 225 skaters per 90-minute session. Friends and neighbors are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes prior to each session to secure their free tickets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SECOND VIRTUAL MEETING ON PLANS FOR SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY SET FOR MONDAY, FEB. 12

The second community meeting to discuss plans for the South End Branch Library will take place virtually on

Monday, Feb. 12, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The meeting will be jointly hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu; City Chief of Operations, Don Irish; President of the BPL, David Leonard; and Public Facilities Department Director, Kerrie Griffin. Project architects from Utile Inc will also be present.

This virtual Zoom meeting can be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/bplsouthend>.

BOSTON WARD 5 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO MAKE PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT

The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee is scheduled to make its U.S. Presidential candidate endorsement during a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hilton Boston Park Plaza hotel at 50 Park Plaza.

CHILDREN'S WINTER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE COMMON

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will present the annual Children's Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit boston.gov/winterfest for more information about this family-friendly school vacation week event.

The free festival is open to all and offers music, giveaways, winter activities, treats, and crafts.

Featured attractions include large inflatable installations such as the All-Star Challenge, and a Fun House Maze. Kids and their caregivers can also enjoy rides in the park on the Trackless Train, a ski lift photo booth, the alpine slide, snow throw, and much more.

The event is hosted in partnership with title sponsor Highland Street Foundation and our contributing sponsors H.P. Hood LLC, ReVision Energy, and Xfinity. ReVision Energy, a 100-percent employee-owned solar company, will provide stored solar power for the event. Enjoy delicious hot chocolate courtesy of Rosa Mexicano and fresh local milk at the New England Dairy's Mobile Dairy Bar.

The Boston Common Parade Ground is located at the corner of Beacon and Charles streets. Call 617-635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMOCRATS CAUCUS TO ELECT DELEGATES

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will be holding a caucus on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 1:30 p.m. at Union Church (485 Columbus Ave.) to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Party Convention. The convention will take place on Saturday, June 1, in Worcester. All registered Democrats in the ward (spanning parts of the neighborhoods of Back Bay, the Fenway, and the South End) are welcome to attend and to run for delegate. The event will be hybrid, with a Zoom link available upon request. For questions, email ward4dems@gmail.com.

CALL TO ARTISTS!

CLEAN SLATE

A juried exhibition inspired by the change of season.

StoveFactory Gallery - Charlestown
March 22- April 14, 2024. Enter by March 7.

Use QR code or visit:

www.artistsgroupofcharlestown.com



\$4M in grants awarded to combat human trafficking and other gender-based offenses

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced awards through two grant programs that will enhance enforcement and victim services for survivors of human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, and stalking. The awards were announced today during a meeting of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.

Suffolk County received two grants. One grant was for \$98,242 for training and \$146,915 for Prosecution Award.

Grants totaling \$472,428.50 were awarded to six District Attorney’s Offices through the FY24 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program. Now in its second year,

this state grant program was designed to support prosecutors’ efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance their capacity to identify, assist, and provide referral services to those most impacted.

In addition, \$3,311,842.74 in federal funding was awarded to 43 state, local, and nonprofit agencies through the FFY23 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program. Agencies selected through a competitive application process to receive awards in 2022 were invited to apply for continued funding. The recipients are eligible for up to two additional years of funding, which is provided through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) manages and

administers both grant programs in Massachusetts. OGR program coordinators will work with grant recipients to provide reporting and programmatic assistance throughout the grant period.

“In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we reaffirm our deep commitment to ensuring that every person can live with dignity, respect and free from fear and abuse,” said Governor Maura Healey. “This grant funding will support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking by investing in programs that promote healing and justice. These grants allow professionals from diverse sectors to provide survivors with access to culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services.”

“These grants represent our

ongoing commitment to ending exploitation, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking,” said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, chair of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. “The grant recipients have a proven record of delivering quality services to prevent, reduce, and address these crimes and to provide victims with the services they need and deserve as they move toward healing.”

“Everyone deserves to feel safe. These grant programs support the vital efforts of community service providers to help survivors as they recover and rebuild their lives. This funding also supports law enforcement and their ability to send a clear message to the perpetrators that they will be held accountable for

these heinous crimes,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy.

“The VAWA program is a long-standing initiative allowing us to build partnerships with service providers and law enforcement to support effective approaches to reducing sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program is a new, innovative program assisting in investigations, prosecutions, outreach, and delivery of services,” said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton. “We are committed to working with program partners to strengthen responses to these crimes from courts, law enforcement, and prosecutors while enhancing the services available to survivors.”

Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission announce the ‘Family Overdose Support Fund’

Special to The Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced the cre-

ation of the “Family Overdose Support Fund,” a new fund that will provide financial support to Boston families who have lost a loved one to opioid overdose.

The fund is the first use of the City’s payments from multistate settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors, and was established after an extensive community engagement process that invited residents to inform how the money should be spent.

“The grief and trauma of losing a loved one to overdose has a lasting impact on our communities,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This fund will help support our families and our communities by easing the financial burdens that undermine a healthy grieving process. I want to thank everyone who participated in our public engagement process and our many state and city colleagues who worked for years to secure these funds and bring a measure of justice to families in Boston and across the country.”

The Family Overdose Support Fund will launch later this year with \$250,000 to distribute to Boston families who have experienced the loss of a family member due to opioid overdose. Families can use the funds to cover funeral expenses, therapy, legal services, childcare, and other financial burdens.

This will be one of several investments from Boston’s share of the State’s opioid settlements. Boston will incrementally receive at least \$22 million through 2038.

This announcement marks a new chapter in years of litigation, including a suit brought by the City of Boston against drug makers and opioid distributors for fueling the opioid epidemic. From July 2021 through December 2022, then-Attorney General Maura Healey announced four settlements that will provide almost a billion dollars to Massachusetts over 18 years. A portion of those funds gets distributed across the Commonwealth to cities and towns for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

respondents wanted to prioritize the needs of grieving families by providing direct financial support. Respondents also expressed strong interest in housing support and low threshold housing for people with substance use disorder, community-based equity initiatives to address substance use, overdose prevention and prevention centers, and youth prevention. The full report is now released and can be found here.

BPHC is hiring an opioid settlement project director to implement and oversee the Family Overdose Support Fund and other settlement investments. Additional investments will include low threshold housing and community grants, and ongoing community engagement will continue to inform the funding process over the settlement period.

For more information on the city’s opioid remediation settlement funds, visit boston.gov/opioid-settlements.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country’s oldest health department. We envision a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities. Learn more about our work at boston.gov/bphc.

“The opioid epidemic has taken the lives of many loved ones throughout Boston’s communities. Children have lost parents. Parents have lost sons and daughters. Families have suffered an enormous emotional toll and are also shouldering a significant financial burden,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The Family Overdose Support Fund will alleviate some of that burden by providing direct financial assistance to support childcare, funeral expenses, and other services to those who have been impacted by this ongoing tragedy.”

Extend your Business's reach with Online Advertising!

Clients and Customers
are just a click away!

**\$300⁰⁰ per month
per site**



THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

REVEREJOURNAL.COM • WINTHROPTRANSCRIPT.COM
LYNNJOURNAL.COM • EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM
EASTIETIMES.COM • CHELSEARECORD.COM
CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM • BEACONHILLTIMES.COM
NORTHEASTREGIONALREVIEW.COM • THEBOSTONSUN.COM
JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM • MISSIONHILLGAZETTE.COM

**Combo Rates available!
Buy any 3 sites, get 4th FREE**

Call 781-485-0588 to get started!

AD SIZE

in pixels

**W: 160px
H: 600px**

**please send
in "png"
format**

FRESH AND LOCAL

Broth to warm and heal

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The 2023 uproar over some pasta companies discontinuing tiny star-shaped “pastina” was actually about the disappearance of a brothy, healing comfort food—pastina in broth. The Boston Globe called it “Italian penicillin.”

Penny recalls the first time she had it. She was dealing with a head cold while visiting a college friend. As soon as she arrived, the family’s matriarch hustled around in the kitchen and quickly presented her with a steaming bowl of rich chicken broth studied with tiny pasta stars. It was warm and soothing and made her feel better.

Pastina in broth has long been on our menus whenever we feel off or need a quick, soothing meal. Depending on our mood, we may add a little or a lot of grated parmesan to the bowl. Fortunately, some companies still make it, and pastina is not the only tiny pasta. Next to a jar of Prince pastina, we have alternatives like acini di pepe, orzo, and toasty fregola sarda.

Why Chicken Soup Works

Today, the medical community knows why foods like chicken soup help with respiratory illnesses. In an article for the science website The Conversation, Colby Teeman, Ph.D., assistant professor of dietetics and nutrition at the University of Dayton, discussed several factors.

Chicken is a complete protein to combat infection, and vegetables provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Adding pasta or rice provides the carbohydrates you need to recover. The water and electrolytes help with rehydration.

Chicken soup is also rich in umami, which can increase your appetite when you may not feel like eating. He adds. “Umami may also improve nutrient digestion which can reduce gastrointestinal symptoms.” Finally, sipping and inhaling warm broth vapor can do a good job of loosening mucus.

Teeman included a precaution that not all chicken soups are the same. He highly recommended homemade or at least one that is



A steaming bowl of Vietnamese Beef Pho is the perfect take-out meal to bring to a sick friend. (Photo: Getty Images)

not ultra-processed and lacking in those essential nutritional factors that you would get from a minimally processed version.

Those who don’t eat meat can gain many of the same benefits from a rich mushroom broth filled with hearty vegetables and noodles.

World Broth Tour

We searched for dietary remedies from other cultures and found many broth-based ones. If you’re not up to making soup, you can find many options at local restaurants. Our first choice would be Vietnamese Pho. If you order this to go, you’ll receive a container of broth with the noo-

dles, toppings, and seasonings in separate containers. You can create your bowl of soup precisely the way you want. If you’d like a hit of sriracha to clear your head, add it. If you’re looking for simple soup, build it your way.

If you’re from Thailand, you might crave the hot and sour ingredients that balance out a spicy Tom Yum soup. Koreans agree! Their Dak Gomtang soup can be served unseasoned or with a big dollop of a spicy paste or kimchi.

Ramen or Miso soup are Japanese options, and you could enjoy a Chinese wonton or egg drop soup. Greek Avgolemono adds lemon and eggs to their

comforting chicken soup.

The Irish and British have always depended on “Beef Tea,” a rich beef stock, to heal what ails them. These were once prepared in UK hospital kitchens and prescribed for digestive problems, fever, or weakness.

Consider brothy soups or plain broth when the doctor says to drink plenty of fluids. The more you add to it, the more nutrition you’ll have for that important job of healing or just feeling better.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

BLASBERG (from pg. 1)

his roof and summoned her. Their subsequent liaison resulted in pregnancy, even though Bathsheba was then married to Uriah, a soldier in David’s army. David sent Uriah to the frontlines, where he was abandoned by his comrades in the midst of battle, before David married the widowed Bathsheba. David and Bathsheba’s firstborn child subsequently died as punishment from God for David’s adultery and for his murder by proxy of Uriah. After David repented for his sins, Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon.

The Old Testament text has often been a subject of debate among Rabbis, said Blasberg, as to whether their relationship was a “consensual liaison,” given the “extreme power dynamic” between the two lovers. Yet Bathsheba’s “agency” is also evident from the story, added Blasberg.

“The topic of consent and love affairs is kind of a gray area,”



Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg, whose third novel, ‘Daughter of a Promise,’ is due out April 2.

said Blasberg, especially with the emergence of the Me Too movement and other news stories she read while writing the novel.

Blasberg’s modern retelling of the story shifts to

Ruiz’s first-person perspective and is written as a letter to her unborn son.

“Part of the inspiration is to give voice to the female perspective in the story,” said Blasberg. “In the ancient text, the entire story is told from David’s point of view and not with regard to Bathsheba, even though the most tragic thing happened to her.”

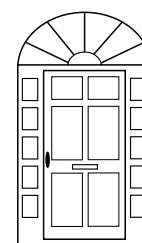
Meanwhile, Blasberg’s second novel ‘The Nine’ (SWP 2019), was honored with the 2019 Foreword Indies Gold Award in Thriller & Suspense and the Gold Medal and Juror’s Choice in the 2019 National Indie Excellence Awards, among other accolades. Her literary debut, ‘Eden’ (SWP 2017), won the Benjamin Franklin Silver Award for Best New Voice in Fiction and was a finalist for the Sarton Women’s Book Award for Historical Fiction.

Blasberg calls ‘Daughter of a Promise’ a “standalone, coming-of-age novel,” since readers who haven’t read her earlier works

won’t find themselves at any disadvantage when it comes to following the plot of her latest work. But characters and settings from her two earlier novels resurface in her latest work, too, she said, as Blasberg continues to expand her literary universe.

Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg

will be on hand on May 14 for an author event at Porter Square Books in Seaport, and she also encourages readers to shop locally and preorder their copy of ‘Daughter of a Promise’ from Beacon Hill Books at 71 Charles St. ahead of its April 2 release.

BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE

Sally Brewster
Betsey Barrett

Ron Berkowitz
Mary Dunlavey

121 Mt. Vernon Street • Boston, Massachusetts 02108

www.brewberk.com

Sales

617.367.0505

Rentals

BEACON HILL VILLAGE HOLDS NEW YEAR’S PARTY

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Beacon Hill Village (BHV), a non-profit organization that engages members of 50-years-of-age and above throughout Boston, celebrated a New Year Party on January 17 at the University of Massachusetts Club. Attendees, like Vice President Bill Clendaniel, were delighted to socialize in person, not only through virtual programming.

“We need new members, and younger members. Please send your friends our way. We’re going to have a rejuvenated program. We have to find the right way to attract people to join us so we can remain vibrant and grow,” said Clendaniel. “We are grateful for all who have given donations.”



Rep. Jay Livingstone, who helped BHV acquire a state grant, and Melissa Interest, BHV Executive Director.



Harry Fisher and his wife of 43 years, Joan Doucette, BHV members for 20 years.



Joan Doucette and Diana Crane.



Sue Widell, Glenda Tall, and Barbara Lindeman.



Richard Higginson, Katherine Kimball, and Nancy Higginson.



Sally Makacynas, Dorene and Alan Nemeth, Fernando Requena, and Margaret Preston.



Beacon Hill Village staff: Stephanie Storey, Sabrina Carter, Barbara Callahan, Jen Spring, Jane Bergman, and Melissa Interest.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should e-mail news releases and photos to deb@thebostonsun.com.

Wu appoints Tania Del Rio as Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department

Special to The Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu appointed Tania Del Rio as Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) starting February 26, 2024. ISD administers and enforces building, housing, health, sanitation and safety regulations mandated by city and state governments. Inspectional Services is made up of five regulatory divisions charged with serving the public by protecting the health, safety, and environmental stability of Boston's business and residential communities. Del Rio currently serves as the Director of the Coordinated Response Team for the City of Boston, leading the cross-departmental effort to address the intersecting crises of homelessness and substance use disorder. Del Rio will be the first woman to be ISD's Commissioner.

"I am so grateful to Tania for her effective and compassionate leadership coordinating our efforts to address the urgent needs of the crises of homelessness and substance use disorder," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "With her ability to strategically lead multiple teams and deliver continuous improvement for our residents and City workers, I am excited to see her lead the agencies that deliver essential services impacting so many residents, businesses, and workers. I am grateful for Sean Lydon's service leading the department to ensure our residential buildings and businesses are healthy and safe places for our communities."

As the head of the Coordinated Response Team, she brought together over a dozen City departments and partner



Tania Del Rio.

agencies to transform how the City cares for unsheltered constituents impacted by substance use disorder, homelessness, and untreated mental illness, with a focus on the 'Mass and Cass' / Newmarket neighborhood. In 2023, she coordinated the work that helped over 100 unsheltered people transition from a large encampment into safe and supportive settings.

Mayor Wu also announced that Brian Foran and Michaela Nee of the Coordinated Response Team will be named Acting Co-Directors. Both have extensive experience managing the City's work on unsheltered homelessness and working with City Departments and external partners. Foran and Nee helped lead the recent phase change that ended the permanent encampment on Atkinson Street under Del Rio's leadership.

"The responsibility of the Inspectional Services Department is to deliver core, essential City services to our residents, guaranteeing that the places they eat, shop, and stay are healthy and safe," said Tania Del Rio, incoming Commissioner of the

Inspectional Services Department. "I am so thrilled for this opportunity, and grateful for the honor of having worked with the many selfless teams serving our residents in need of substance use, mental health, and housing support. Together, they have helped countless residents embark on a path to stability and recovery. I have great confidence that Michaela and Brian can continue to move this work forward and I'm excited to get to work at ISD."

Del Rio will be responsible for carrying out several of the Mayor's priorities including expanding the Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) program, executing the conversion of commercial buildings to residential buildings, streamlining and fast tracking permitting for small businesses and homeowners, and improving quality of life for residents by enhancing basic City services.

She has a B.A. from New York University and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. Del Rio is a BPS mother, a Latina immigrant, and a proven leader.

As the former Executive Director of Boston's Office of Women's Advancement and YWCA Cambridge, she has a track record of providing transformative leadership by fostering innovation, promoting strong organizational culture, responsible financial stewardship, and sharp strategic planning. Her work includes launching Boston's Childcare Entrepreneur Fund, which continues to provide crucial support to the city's childcare workers.

Del Rio is a proud resident of East Boston and an involved community leader. She enjoys

spending time with her family, especially her two children, and staying active by surfing, swimming, and running.

Sean Lydon will remain with the City as Senior Advisor For Construction. In this role, he will assist in managing high priority projects under construction, including White Stadium, the stabilization of the buildings a part of the Long Island recovery campus, coastal resilience, and emergency projects. He will also provide guidance on permitting, particularly assisting with navigating the permit process for high priority projects under construction. This includes pre-construction, construction, and construction close out phases, with guidance on permitting strategy and execution to ensure timely delivery and cost effectiveness.

"I am so grateful to both Tania and Sean for their leadership in taking on these new roles to carry out Mayor Wu's vision for a Boston with exceptional basic city services that residents can rely on," said Chief of Operations Dion Irish. "With Tania's experience effectively coordinating a cross-departmental team, I am confident in her ability to lead ISD, enhancing the core services our residents' need and deserve. And I am so thankful to Sean for continuing to serve our residents in this new role, ensuring we deliver on major projects efficiently and thoroughly across

our city."

The mission of the Inspectional Services Department is to serve the public by protecting the health and safety of Boston's businesses and residential communities. The Department consistently aims to fairly administer public health, safety, land use and environmental regulations throughout the City of Boston. The Department will continue to utilize resources to promote the quality of life in Boston through education, enforcement and providing emergency services.

**Boston
Antiques
& Lampshades**

Custom Paper & fabric
shades
Affordable Silk shades
Fine Antiques & Jewelry

119 Charles St.
617-367-9000
BostonAntiques
@yahoo.com

Looking to purchase
one item to entire estates.

CALL TO ARTISTS

Clean Slate

A Juried Exhibition inspired by the Change of Season.
Curated by Sioux Gerow.

Exhibition Dates: March 22 - April 14, 2024

Submission Deadline: March 7, 2024

To Submit and View Submission Guidelines:
ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com

StoveFactory
Gallery

ACC
Artists Group
of Charlestown

RSM

Residence INN
Boston Partner on Tudor Wharf

cenotech

DI PIERRO
Group of Sculptors

Gibson

Sotheby's
International Realty

tcb
The Contemporary
Boston

DELUCA'S CELLARS

Join Us Each Week
for **FREE**
TASTINGS
IN OUR CELLAR



BEER CLUB
CANS CRACKED
5PM FRIDAYS



WEEKLY WINES
PLUS TEQUILA AND MORE
WEEKENDS



239 NEWBURY ST, BACK BAY
617-262-5990

D.A.'s office creates animal-cruelty task force

Special to The Sun

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office has taken a major step in addressing the escalating issue of animal cruelty.

Last week, Suffolk County DA announced the creation of the county's first Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Hayden, a dog owner, said the task force will improve the quality of information and methods used among the participating agencies in investigations of crimes against animals.

"Anyone who has ever loved or owned a pet knows the joy and happiness they bring to our lives," Hayden said. "All these pets ask in return is to be sheltered, fed and cared for when they're sick or hurt. Sadly, too many animals and pets end up getting hurt through malicious intent or conscious neglect."

"This task force will improve our ability to investigate, charge and prosecute these cases and, hopefully, reduce them."

The task force will centralize the various agencies involved in animal abuse cases into a group of designated individuals with animal law knowledge. This streamlined approach will improve information flow, create a more proficient understanding of animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions, and identify



Area police, officials gather for the Suffolk County DA announcement of the creation of the county's first Animal Cruelty Task Force.

necessary legislative improvements to the state's animal protection laws.

The task force will be chaired by Assistant District Attorney Amelia Singh, chief of the DA's office in Chelsea District Court, and will include members of the Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere police departments, the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and the animal control

departments in Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) handled 684 investigations involving animal abuse in 2023.

Last year, 17 individuals were charged in Suffolk County with at least one animal cruelty related offense. Sixteen of the defendants were adults and one was a juvenile.

The owner of a dog training and boarding facility in South Boston was charged last May following an investigation by the Animal Rescue League after three

dogs lost significant amounts of weight and/or were injured during their stay at the facility.

A Revere man was charged with assaulting his roommate and killing his dog in August. First responders entering the man's apartment found a dog covered in blood, suffering from at least five stab wounds.

According to the Domestic Violence Awareness Project, up to 70% of domestic violence victims have pets and of those with pets, 48% to 71% report that their pets have been abused or killed.

A Boston man was charged

after a neighbor noticed a strong odor emanating from his Chelsea apartment. A well-being check led to the discovery of a feces-covered apartment and a decomposing dog.

In November, a Boston woman was charged after multiple witnesses reported seeing her punch, kick, and strike her dog with a glass bottle in the Boston Common area.

Animal cruelty cases are increasing in Suffolk County and statewide. According to the Massachusetts Trial Court, animal cruelty cases have increased more than 70% from 2019-2022.

ABCD offers free tax preparation for Boston and Mystic Valley residents who earned up to \$64,000

ABCD urges all residents of Boston and the Mystic Valley who earned \$64,000 or less in 2023 to schedule a FREE in-person tax prep appointment right away at one of our neighborhood sites by calling 617-348-6329 or visiting bostonabcd.org/tax.

ABCD is a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, a public-private collaboration with the City of Boston and a number of other non-profit organizations, which seeks to ensure the full participation of all Boston residents in the City's economic vitality and future. Additionally, as a member of the Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) network, ABCD offers free tax preparation services in the Mystic Valley. Both the Boston and Mystic Valley coalitions fall under the federal VITA program.

ABCD's IRS-certified tax preparers will be at our 11 neighborhood sites and two satellite locations to prepare and electronically

submit returns through in-person appointments and document drop off. In addition, we are offering evening tax prep services at Brookside Community Health Center in Jamaica Plain. VITA volunteers provide credit advising and financial education to clients in the form of the Financial Check-Up (FCU) – a light-touch credit advising session in which a trained Financial Guide assists taxpayers in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of an individual's credit report and FICO score, a personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. Our tax volunteers are multilingual – fluent in eight languages including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean Creole and Haitian Creole. ABCD meets people where they are.

"ABCD is proud to be a long-standing partner of the MASSCAP VITA network and the Boston Tax Help Coalition,"

said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. "Free tax preparation services bring millions of dollars back into our communities and help empower underserved residents in Boston and the Mystic Valley by providing IRS certified tax preparers at easy to access sites in the neighborhoods ensuring that clients receive every tax credit for which they are eligible. The Massachusetts Child and Family Tax Credit, Rental Deduction and Senior Circuit Breaker increases in 2023 are good news for residents burdened by the high cost of living. In Massachusetts, according to Prosperity Now, an estimated 24.3% of eligible households do not claim EITC. This credit can be claimed retroactively for the past three years. Eligible taxpayers, including some seniors, can qualify for a sizable sum."

Last year, ABCD helped 3,103 residents complete their state and federal tax returns, generating \$5,395,219 in federal and state refunds combined. A total of

488 clients filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which generated over \$1M in refunds. We filed 384 Child Tax Credits on behalf of our clients, generating \$498,691 in refunds. For over 30 years, ABCD has provided more than 150,000 people across the city with free tax preparation services. A list of required documents to complete tax returns can be found here.

Those who may qualify for free tax preparation services include:

- People who earned \$64,000 or less in 2023
- People with disabilities
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

ABCD'S IRS-certified tax preparers will make sure that residents receive every tax relief measure to which they are entitled and that help reduce poverty rates among underserved households including:

- EITC – Earned Income Tax Credit – one of America's most effective anti-poverty initiatives – EITC is a tax deduction that

rewards work. This year, a Married Filing Jointly family with three or more children earning up to \$63,398 and filing jointly will receive total federal and state EITC deductions of \$10,402 off their 2023 income tax. The IRS estimates that one out of five eligible taxpayers will not claim EITC and will lose out on this important credit.

• CTC – CHILD TAX CREDIT – has increased to \$310 per qualifying child in 2023.

• SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER – a state tax deduction providing seniors age 65 and older who pay unsubsidized rent or property taxes. The maximum credit amount for tax year 2023 has increased from \$1,200 to \$2,590. If the credit owed exceeds the amount of the total tax payable for the year, the additional amount of the credit will be refunded without interest.

• RENTAL DEDUCTION – which has increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000

Celebrate Presidents' Day week at the JFK Library with family-friendly activities

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum offers several family-oriented activities and programs throughout Presidents' Day week, including its signature Presidents' Day Festival on February 19, featuring presidential storytelling, activities and performances, and a Celebrate! family performing arts program. The Celebrate! performance of Stories of Hope and Joy with Len Cabral features folktales, myths, and personal accounts brought to life with humor, wisdom, and compassion by internationally renowned storyteller Len Cabral. Audiences of all ages will be inspired by stories of the power of hopeful actions in honor of Black History Month.

\$2 Off Museum Admission with Special Buzzword In celebration of Presidents' Day week, the JFK Library will reveal a special buzzword on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Visitors who provide the buzzword during admission during the week of February 17-25, 2024 will receive \$2 off adult admission prices and youth ages 17 and under will be free.

Additional student, military, senior and EBT discounts are available.

Presidents' Day Festival Monday, February 19, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The 13th Annual Presidents' Day Festival's main activities will kick off at 11:00 a.m. Actors portraying Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt, and First Lady Abigail Adams will share stories and engage visitors in conversation.

Festival-goers can enjoy Museum tours and activities that bring history to life for all ages. This year, the Festival will feature special election-themed activities – visitors of all ages can make their own Kennedy hats, design campaign buttons, and test their presidential triv-

ia knowledge – to complement election day 2024. The Festival will close with a special free concert by the Harvard Din & Tonics, who will perform Kennedy campaign songs and popular music from the 1960s and today.

Visit www.jfklibrary.org/PresidentsDay for a detailed schedule of the Presidents' Day Festival offerings. Registration is recommended.

Special Festival activities are free with paid adult admission.

The Harvard Din & Tonics closing concert is free for all. The Festival is especially appropriate for ages 7 and up.

Celebrate with Len Cabral – Stories of Hope and Joy Thursday, February 22, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Internationally renowned storyteller Len Cabral shares stories of the power of hopeful actions and shared joy in honor of Black History Month. Folktales, myths, and personal accounts come to life with humor, wisdom, and compassion that will inspire listeners of all ages.

The Celebrate series, appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up, highlights America's rich cultural diversity through the arts. This program reflects President and Mrs. Kennedy's concern for and support of the arts and culture as important components of a democratic society. In order to optimize your comfort and enjoyment, reservations are recommended for all visitors to this free program. Make reservations by visiting www.jfklibrary.org/celebrate or calling 617-514-1644 and leaving a message. Children are seated on the floor with their caretakers and space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited seats are available for people with disabilities, seniors, and others unable to sit on the floor. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES.

CALL

781-485-0588

The Year of the Wood Dragon

Your Year -Your Cost-



JOIN THE
INDEPENDENT
2024 AD
CAMPAIGN
Jan. – Dec.
2024

ONE FULL
YEAR of
advertis-
ing for only
\$2,024
per paper

Option 1
52 WEEKS
Business Card Size
3.37" by 2" high

Option 2
26 WEEKS
2col x 3 in.
3.37" by 3" high
COLOR
2 ADS/MONTH

Option 3
1 AD/MONTH
2col x 5 in.
3.37" by 5" high
COLOR
— broadsheet size —
3.99" by 5" high
— tab size —

THE REVERE JOURNAL | THE EVERETT INDEPENDENT
THE WINTHROP TRANSCRIPT | THE EAST BOSTON
TIMES | THE LYNN JOURNAL | THE CHELSEA RECORD
THE BOSTON SUN | THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT BRIDGE
BEACON HILL TIMES | NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW
JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE | MISSION HILL GAZETTE

Choose from any 4 Options for an insightful
year of news, sports, and social gatherings
from your Hometown Newspapers

2 Payments of \$1,011.50

1st due Jan. 31, 2023 2nd due June 31, 2023
We accept all major Credit Cards

With options to change Publications on each run

Option 4
5 per
CALENDAR YEAR
3col x 10 in.
5.14" by 10" high
COLOR
— broadsheet size —

5 per
CALENDAR YEAR
3col x 5 in.
6.0832" by 5" high
COLOR
— tab size —

Call your Ad Rep at (781) 485-0588

Or Reach them on Email! Tap on Your rep below to start sending an email!

Maureen DiBella | Sioux Gerow | Deb DiGregorio

Wu announces agreement to develop networked geothermal heating at Franklin Field Apartments

Special to The Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and National Grid to announce that Franklin Field Apartments has been selected for National Grid's Networked Geothermal Demonstration Program. The project will be the first networked geothermal pilot project in the City of Boston and the second in National Grid's Massachusetts program. Switching energy sources from gas to electric is an important step to create green, healthy communities for residents. This is important in accelerating the Mayor's goal for BHA to be fossil fuel free by 2030. At the project's conclusion, the seven buildings in the pilot will be fossil-free.

Networked geothermal is a highly efficient renewable heating technology and source of energy that uses the ground temperature to provide heating and cooling to buildings through an underground piping network. The underground temperature serves as a heat source during winter and transfers indoor heat to the ground for cooling during the summer.

"Being the greenest city in America means that we will be best able to take care of not only the places we live, but the people we love," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We want to be a city where the benefits we are bringing when it comes to energy efficiency and green energy are not just around being able to check off boxes and hit goals, but that we are able to empower and support the people in our community who make it possible for Boston to do everything that we do. Every Boston family deserves a home that is

affordable, safe and healthy."

"As Boston tackles the challenge of climate change, it is vital that our public housing communities come first," said Kenzie Bok, Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. "Our partnership with National Grid is an exciting opportunity to showcase geothermal technology as a fossil-fuel-free alternative for multifamily housing, while also improving resident quality of life by providing 129 BHA families with efficient, state-of-the-art heating and cooling."

"We are excited to partner with the Boston Housing Authority and the City of Boston to meet our collective climate change, clean energy and equity goals by pursuing this networked geothermal project at Franklin Field, bringing efficient and clean heating and cooling to its residents" said Lisa Wieland, President of National Grid New England. "We are taking the initial learnings from our first project in Lowell and applying them here, which has been extremely valuable. Key to transitioning away from fossil fuels is to develop and expand reliable alternatives. Networked geothermal has significant potential to be a solution, especially for larger buildings and campuses, and this partnership will allow us to demonstrate that and bring the benefits of the clean energy future to the Franklin Field community, today."

The geothermal pilot will replace an aging gas boiler loop currently serving 129 units at seven federal public housing buildings at the BHA's Franklin Field community in Dorchester. The Boston Housing Authority will invest federal Capital Fund

Program resources to support electrification of the heating and domestic hot water equipment within the buildings. National Grid will develop the geothermal network leading to the building's exterior, and both parties will collaborate on complementary energy efficiency investments funded by the state's energy efficiency programs.

In addition to replacing the boiler loop for heat, the ground source heat pumps and geothermal network will give residents in-unit cooling, a feature that is only accessible at present through inefficient window air conditioners purchased by residents. The project will begin design in early 2024, with construction activity to take place in 2025. BHA will lead resident engagement concerning the project in 2024 with National Grid's support.

As part of the pilot, National Grid will connect Buildings 7-13, located on Ames Way, Ames Street, and Stratton Street in Dorchester, with a horizontal distribution loop and a thermal bore field. Geothermal bore holes will allow the system to extract and deposit heat from the ground. National Grid will also install a pumphouse on BHA property to operate the geothermal network serving the designated Franklin Field buildings. BHA will be responsible for all work within the envelope of the connected buildings necessary to convert these buildings from gas heating to networked geothermal heating and cooling, including retrofits, electrical upgrades, and appliance and heating equipment replacement. Construction will cause minimal disruption for residents, and require no more than a few days of temporary relocation.

Mayor Wu also announced that the City of Boston has received \$1 million in federal funding to retrofit 80 gas stoves to electric, including induction stoves. This grant was received through the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G), which funds state, local, territorial, and tribal-level government activities that will have measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by

environmental harms. The City has partnered with the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) to identify units to retrofit, replace gas appliances with electric, and train residents on induction stove usage. The City is also partnering with Boston University (BU) to study the indoor air quality impact of the retrofitting project to estimate implications of future similar projects.

The funds, which will be used to retrofit 40 stoves each at the CSNDC's Talbot Bernard Homes and the BHA's Franklin Field Apartments, aim to bring health, environmental, and green workforce benefits to Dorchester residents. After conducting building and unit assessments, each stove replacement will come complete with the proper electric infrastructure to best support it, which may potentially include adding 240 V outlets; adding 50 amp breakers to electric panels; and upgrading electric panels. This component of the project will upgrade the electrical capacities of buildings, leading to opportunities to electrify other appliances, such as clothes dryers and heating systems.

"For many residents, new home appliances that make life better and healthier can be the starting point to decarbonization. This project will result in invaluable findings on air quality benefits, as well as a template for how we can scale up delivery of electrical upgrades and fossil fuel-free equipment for residents who live in affordable and public housing," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Director of Boston's Green New Deal. "I am especially excited that this grant represents such a well-coordinated partnership on Boston's Green New Deal among city agencies, academia, and a neighborhood non-profit—and of course the Federal government."

Building on the Mayor's Green New Deal to improve public health and quality of life for communities, the City plans to implement indoor air quality monitors and utilize resident surveys to estimate health and financial implications associated with reduced pediatric asthma exacerbations in a future rollout of

stove replacements. Studies show that the elimination of gas stoves reduce incidence of childhood asthma and may yield health and healthcare cost improvements.

In the City's continued efforts in investing in climate, socioeconomic, and health injustices across the neighborhood of Dorchester, the project plans to collaborate and engage with the community as it implements the pilot. To educate and train residents, the City will be utilizing completed unit installations, such as stoves that were replaced in community rooms or vacant rooms, to conduct a series of community wide cooking demonstrations that promote healthy eating and explain the harmful impacts of gas stoves. Through the demonstrations, the City seeks to help residents understand both changes to cooking and cleaning that electric stoves may introduce, as well as the science behind induction cooking.

Geothermal heat pumps have a coefficient of performance (COP) of 4, meaning that they are four times more efficient than standard electric resistance heating. Due to their efficiency, a recent report by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that widespread deployment of geothermal heat pumps in the United States could result in up to \$1 trillion in cumulative savings, reducing the wholesale price of electricity by up to 12%.

In January 2023, Mayor Michelle Wu called on the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to pursue complete decarbonization of its portfolio and retire its gas heating assets. At Franklin Field, the BHA has redirected more than \$2 million of previously proposed fossil fuel heating investments to support space heating electrification and will add additional resources to electrify domestic hot water systems. Outside of the Geothermal Pilot, the City of Boston has separately invested \$32 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds in Boston Housing Authority projects to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality at public housing, including at Franklin Field, Alice Taylor, Roslyn and Rockland apartments.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

JOHN J. RECCA
PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

**YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**
\$40/wk

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Ho, Bobby	105 Back Bay-Unit 4 LLC	105 Beacon St #4	\$665,000
Robert J Malloy 2002 T	Hines-Picotte, Margaret	180 Beacon St #5C	\$817,500
300 Boylston Street RET	Borisenko, Valery	300 Boylston St #601	\$3,999,999
Min, Kyung-Jin	Strahler, Kristi	50 Commonwealth Ave #202	\$1,025,000
Somerset 409 LLC	Anand Real Estate LLC	416 Commonwealth Ave #409	\$770,000
BEACON HILL			
Northeastern University	1a Joy Rt	1-A Joy St #PH	\$5,000,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Li, Paul	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #514	\$1,900,000
Amanda N Davis T	Manheimer, Forrest	81 E Brookline St #3	\$610,000
Karol, Julia	Kwt Milford Street RET	17 Milford St #2	\$1,625,000
375 Shawmut Ave LLC	Cato Lois M Est	375 Shawmut Ave	\$1,250,000
Boyle, Patrick M	Dorothy M Keeney Qprt I	449 Shawmut Ave #1	\$2,555,000
Failla LLC	210 West Sprfld St LLC	210 W Springfield St #2	\$3,125,000
Conversano, Thomas N	Ou, Jonathan	14 Worcester Sq #4	\$910,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Levon Gasparian RET	233-235 Lewis Wharf T	28-32 Atlantic Ave #233	\$1,250,000
Parmesan LLC	Riedville T	28-32 Atlantic Ave #234	\$415,000
Levon Gasparian RET	233-235 Lewis Wharf T	28-32 Atlantic Ave #235	\$1,250,000

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime
Storage - Boston South
End located at 100
Southampton St., Boston,
MA 02118 intends to hold
an auction to sell the
goods stored by the follow-
ing tenants at the storage
facility. The sale will occur
as an online auction via
www.storage-treasures.
com on 2/13/2024 at
12:00PM. Unless stated
otherwise the description

of the contents are
household goods and
furnishings. Juan Soto unit
#1010; Cristina Dossantos
unit #3027; Stacey Nee
unit #3101; Martin L
King unit #3115; Joshua
Hernandez unit #3128;
Arezu Riahi unit #3172;
Regina Hinson unit #4049;
Matthew Workman unit
#4083; Isaura Price unit
#4206; Luis Miguel Cruz
Aquino unit #4268; Carol
Rodriguez unit #5003;
Ollie Mathis unit #5019.

All property is being stored
at the above self-storage
facility. This sale may be
withdrawn at any time
without notice. Certain
terms and conditions
apply. See manager for
details.

1/25/24, 2/1/24
BS

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime

Storage - Boston Traveler
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.
storage-treasures.com on
2/13/2024 at 12:00PM.
Unless stated otherwise
the description of the con-
tents are household goods
and furnishings. Lance
van Alstyne unit #251;

Sean Beuque unit #318;
Kay Sullivan unit #412;
Rosalynd Scott unit #635;
Jodi Bage unit #725;
Zehua Ren unit #835. All
property is being stored
at the above self-storage
facility. This sale may be
withdrawn at any time
without notice. Certain
terms and conditions
apply. See manager for
details.

1/25/24, 2/1/24
BS

Do you need to place a Legal Notice?

*Don't Forget to check with the Courts to see
if you qualify for a FEE WAIVER*



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER**

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The windows in the last clue are on the Citizens Bank at 560 Commonwealth Avenue. Today's answer is a photo of the same address circa 1950 when a multistory building was on the site. The city is now reviewing plans for a 29-story hotel to replace the existing structure.

You'll find the next clue in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



LISTING SPOTLIGHT!

401 BEACON STREET, RESIDENCE 2

3 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHROOMS | 2,877 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$4,950,000



192 MARLBOROUGH STREET, RESIDENCE 2

4 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHROOMS | 3,328 SQUARE FEET

LISTED AT \$6,499,000



CAMPION & COMPANY
EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

TRACY CAMPION
617-236-0711
TCAMPION@CAMPIONRE.COM