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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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Pokorny recognized with inaugural Parks Champion Award

By Dan Murphy

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

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

A dedicated Friends board member of the since 1991 who

has also chaired the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee for many years, Pokorny moved to Boston in 1980. Her first brush with the Friends came two years later, as she recalled, when Pokorny's future mentor and Friends board member, Stella Trafford, caught her watering a tree on Marlborough Street, where they lived two doors away from each other. Trafford soon recruited Pokorny in the arduous task of restoring the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which was then devastated by Dutch Elm Disease and many years of neglect.

Pokorny has since devoted great time and effort to developing programs and raising

(POKORNY, Pg. 2)

ANNUAL BLESSING OF ATHLETES SERVICE AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH



D MURPHY PHOTO
Shown to the right, Rachel Barton, Old South Church's Assistant Minister and Nancy S. Taylor Fellow, is seen at the pulpit during the annual 'Blessing of the Athletes' held at Old South Church on Sunday, April 14, the eve of the 128th Boston Marathon.

See more photos on Page 5.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Duckling Sculpture in the Public Garden near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets were adorned to celebrate the Boston Marathon, a tell-tale sign of the beginning of the Spring season in Boston.

Shown below, visitors to the Public Garden enjoy the urban oasis as Swan Boats cruise the perimeter as they've done since 1877.

SPRING IN BOSTON



EDITORIAL

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BOSTON SUN

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NEWS IN BRIEF

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM BENEFIT SET FOR APRIL 18 AT ST. BOTOLPH CLUB

The Friends of the Gibson House Museum invite you to its annual museum benefit, “The Sporting Life,” on Thursday, April 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club at 199 Commonwealth Ave.

This fun and festive party will offer a nod to the Gibsons and other 19th-early 20th century

families who spent much of their leisure time enjoying outdoor activities. The event will honor Community Boating, the oldest public sailing organization in the country, for its mission of breaking down the physical, social, and financial hurdles that sailing frequently presents and providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities to experience the joys of being on the water.

All proceeds will support the preservation and operation of the

Gibson House Museum. Tickets are \$150 and may be purchased via the link above, or by sending a check with the names of your guests to: the Gibson House Museum, 137 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116.

This year's Benefit features some fabulous raffle items, including tickets to the theater, restaurant gift certificates, a Community Boating membership, a pickleball set, and vintage

(NEWS IN BRIEF Pg. 8)

POKORNY (from pg. 1)

funds for the restoration of the Mall. Her efforts have included securing a Mass ReLeaf Grant to plant dozens of trees; creating the Adopt-a-Bench program to support bench restoration and care; leading the 30-year drive to design and fund lighting of the Mall's statues; landscaping around several statues with the Garden Club of the Back Bay; writing the brochure ‘Commonwealth Avenue Mall, A Walking Tour,’ with her daughter, Kate; leading the Hereford block restoration, which was severely damaged from use as a dog park; securing funding through community benefits grants and tree and bench sponsorships; and introducing the air spading technique to amend compacted soil.

“The stuff that Margaret did to make this stuff happen was legendary,” said Liz Vizza, president of the Friends group, who added that since the Parks

Champion Award is intended to honor those who have gone above and beyond in as a model for supporting the parks and the Friends group on an annual basis, Pokorny would be a tough act to follow.

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

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

Besides her work with the Friends and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Pokorny has also been “integral part” of many other parks and horticultural organizations, including Friends of Copley Square; Clarendon

Street Playground Advisory Committee; Garden Club of the Back Bay; and Esplanade Association. She is also a founding member of the Charlesgate Alliance.

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

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



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

COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Tom Brady makes significant gift towards Esplanade Association's youth programming and planned Charlesbank Landing

By Dan Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moreover, Brady's gift will help support the Charlesbank Landing project, which will transform two acres in the vicinity of the former Lee Pool complex on the Esplanade into a two-story, year-

round pavilion and visitors center. The indoor-outdoor facility is expected to open in early 2026.

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

Likewise, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo said in a press release: "At DCR, we believe easy access to our greenspaces and natural resources is critical for creating healthy communities and should be available to all children and families regardless of financial ability. This investment from Tom Brady into the Esplanade and its programming will help us continue to grow the next generation of athletes, community leaders, and stewards of our parks."



COURTESY OF MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS.

A rendering of the proposed Charlesbank Landing on the Esplanade.

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

Special to the Sun

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

"Our focus is on working hard every single day to make Boston a home for everyone, in all senses of the word," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Home is where you are happy and healthy and

safe. Home is when you're with the people you love. All of our work is about setting that basic infrastructure so that people's needs are met, creating access to programs that are necessary for health, wealth-building, joy, and safety and also about building the community to make it possible for all of our dreams to grow and become reality."

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

To plan responsibly through shifting economic patterns and resulting impacts, this budget

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

The revenue-neutral transfer of planning, workforce, and development review functions from the Boston Planning and Development Agency to City departments following the Council's approval of an Ordinance creating a new Planning Department for the first time in seven decades;

Equitable employee wage

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

The necessary resources to provide high-quality public education in the most inclusive possible environment for all students; Maintaining the planned schedule to fully fund pension requirements and debt obligations that support the five-year

capital plan and protect our AAA bond rating;

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

New investments made in this proposed budget have been based on informed analysis in support of long-term goals, a process of regularly reviewing operations,

(FY25 BUDGET Pg. 4)

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FY25 BUDGET (from pg. 3)

and ensuring the continued delivery of core City services by our workforce.

Increasing Affordability

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

Public Health and Safety

Boston's efforts on intertwining public health and public safety to build community trust have expanded much-needed services to residents through coordinating resources and led to the City's lowest levels of violent crime on record. Building on the administration's work to connect residents of the former encampments near Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard with housing and treatment and create citywide mobile outreach teams, this budget adds \$1 million to support the City's approach to managing substance use and homelessness through low-threshold housing. To continue delivering the highest standards of community

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

Youth and Families

The proposed budget investments help bolster Boston as the best place in the country to raise a family. The administration has expanded universal pre-K seats, decreased chronic absenteeism by seven percent, grown the electric school bus fleet to nearly 90 electric buses, and launched multiple new early college and career pathways across Boston high schools. This budget includes an additional \$20 million to support high quality teaching and learning through school-based investments in inclusive education, including additional support for students with special needs and English learners, and \$1.3 billion from our Capital Budget for world-class Boston Public

School facilities. It also proposes investments in childrens' lives outside of the classroom, by prioritizing community centers and other opportunities for extracurricular enrichment. In the last year, the City reopened the Curley Community Center and the Faneuil Branch Library and provided over 1,000 free youth swim lessons through the Swim Safe program. To ensure facilities across all neighborhoods are the state of the art centers residents deserve, the budget proposes \$54.5 million in pool repairs and renovations at BCYF and BPS facilities. The capital plan also includes the new constructions of the \$31 million Fields Corner Library and \$65 million Grove Hall Community Center, the first of its kind facility for this area of Dorchester. To maintain and extend the life of these important community assets, this budget includes investing in facility maintenance staff at the Property Management Department for various facility repairs at BCYF community centers and other buildings across Boston, funding for refinishing of gym floors, as well as upgrades and preventative maintenance to prevent future emergency closures and ensure our community centers can continue to serve as resources and places of gathering for residents of all ages. To ensure City investments are supporting multiple generations of Boston's families, the proposed budget adds \$500,000 in funding for community connection services for Boston's older adults. And for residents of all ages the budget proposal includes increased funding for block party grants, with continued improvements in the streamlined application making it easier for residents to build community in our neighborhoods.

Climate and Green Space

A key part of Boston's Green New Deal is ensuring that the City's work supports the climate, livability and justice of Boston's neighborhoods for residents. This proposed budget invests in preparing our City's coastline for the impacts of climate change by adding \$200,000 to support emergency preparedness for climate resilience and to update the climate action plan, while also allocating \$75 million in capital funding to leverage state and federal resources in planning and construction of a resilient coastline. The proposal also prioritizes

green spaces, an important part of making Boston the greenest, most-family friendly city in the U.S. This includes investing \$735,000 in additional staff and equipment to manage and maintain Franklin Park, including a new park administrator that will oversee park operations and help restore Franklin Park to its place as a crown jewel within our parks system. It also continues to enhance parks citywide, including investing \$14 million in the Capital Plan into the renovation and reconstruction of Clifford Playground. To increase the livability of Boston's neighborhoods, the proposal invests in cooling streets, reducing stormwater flooding, and supporting the final implementation of Boston's wetlands ordinance by adding \$200,000 for tree pruning to the \$3.1 million Urban Forestry budget to care for over 35,000 street trees. To complement this work, the City is incorporating green infrastructure features into our street construction projects to improve stormwater management and heat island impacts with \$1.6 million allocated for retrofits. This work will support enhancing climate resilience across Boston to prepare for climate change while supporting the lives of our residents.

Delivering Exceptional City Services

This proposed budget increases accessibility and improves City processes to continue providing exceptional constituent services across Boston's neighborhoods. The proposed budget will ensure City communications are accessible to all residents by investing in additional translation and interpretation services and multilingual City Hall constituent engagement. A \$3 million investment will help streamline City approvals and improve the licensing and permitting process by recruiting and hiring more workers and adding lab inspection and permit technicians for buildings. The proposed budget also modernizes traditional City services by funding a trash containerization pilot plan to promote cleanliness in Boston neighborhoods and replaces the aging City Hall to Go truck, which brings crucial City services out into the neighborhoods where our families live. The proposed budget will make it easier for neighbors to stay connected through community by adding permit technicians for

special events and block parties. Last year, the City filled more than 7,000 potholes, repainted 100,000 feet of crosswalks, and extended hours at 21 libraries. An \$850,000 investment will continue to improve basic City services, including roadway pavement markings, traffic and parking signage, graffiti removal, and self service equipment at branch libraries.

Promoting equity and economic opportunity

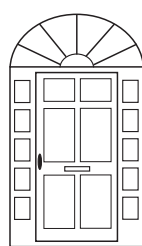
Advancing equity and ensuring all of Boston's communities are connected to economic opportunity is critical to making Boston the best city for families today and for generations to come. As Boston continues to grow, it is essential that more residents are connected to critical pathways through skills and job training and City services, so the budget proposes investing \$6.8 million into the Office of Workforce Development to fund a variety of programs such as Boston Saves, the Center for Working Families, Youth Options, and PowerCorps Boston. It also proposes increasing the Equity & Inclusion Cabinet budget by \$1 million—building on the administration's commitment to transform City policies and programs so every resident can access City services and thrive, across every neighborhood. This investment will advance the City's reparations work, support healthy pregnancies, provide additional translation and interpretation services to residents accessing City services, support individuals who need gender affirming identity documents and launch an equity study to learn how we can continue to support Boston's Black men and boys. The future of Boston centers around connecting young people to every opportunity. The administration's Youth Jobs Guarantee will strengthen Boston's nation-leading youth jobs program with more employers and opportunities than ever for our City's young people, ensuring they are positioned to grow and lead in our communities now and for years to come.

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

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

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OLD SOUTH CHURCH HOLDS ANNUAL 'BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES' SERVICES

D. Murphy Photos

On Sunday, April 14 – one day ahead of the 128th Boston Marathon - Old South Church in

Boston in Copley Square, continued its Marathon Sunday tradition with three worship services, featuring the 'Blessing of the Athletes'.

Shown left, Suzanne Bacon and Diane Gaucher, two of the founders of the Marathon Scarves Project – an effort that knit thousands of scarves for runners in 2014, one year after the Marathon Bombings – were honored during this year's Marathon Sunday services. (Another founder of effort, Marilyn Jackson-Adams, wasn't in attendance.)



The choirs sings.



Runners receive the 'Blessing of the Athletes.'



David Methven performing 'Highland Cathedral' on bagpipes.

Wu, B.A.A. announce recipients of the Fastest Bostonian awards at the 128th Boston Marathon

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) announced the recipients of the second annual awards for the Fastest Bostonians, given to the Boston man, woman, and non-binary runner with the quickest finish times at the 128th Boston Marathon. The awards will be given to Dr. Miles Batty from West Roxbury, an orthopedic surgery resident who finished the race in 2 hours and 25 minutes; Arianna Maida from Jamaica Plain, a Physician Assistant at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who finished the race in 2 hours 48 minutes and 50 seconds; and Nonie Anderson from Brighton, a Boston College Law School student who finished the race in 3 hours 44 minutes and 18 seconds. Mayor Wu and the B.A.A. will celebrate these three runners at a reception in the coming days.

“As Boston welcomes elite runners and visitors from around the globe for the world’s greatest race, we are also proud to celebrate our hometown talent,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Thanks to the B.A.A.’s partnership, we’re excited to continue the tradition of honoring our Fastest Bostonians. Congratulations to Miles, Arianna, and Nonie, who exemplify the best of Boston and contribute to our city everyday. Their determination and commitment to excellence is inspiring to all.”

“It’s been another fantastic day in Boston, with the city’s local runners setting the pace and doing us all proud,” said Jack Fleming, President and CEO of the B.A.A. “Boston is known as the City of Champions and today is no exception. Congratulations to our top finishers and every participant who we welcomed

home on Boylston Street.”

The Boston Marathon is the world’s oldest annual marathon. This is the second year that Boston residents with the quickest time crossing the Finish Line will receive a commemorative glass bowl engraved with the phrase “Fastest Bostonian.”

Last year’s inaugural Fastest Bostonian Award went to three Boston runners. Vinny Castonuovo from the South End won for the fastest Boston man, finishing the race in 2:25:56. Shannon Lamarre, a Charlestown resident, was the fastest Boston woman with a time of 2:54:34. The City and the B.A.A. also recognized Danielle Bishop, an Allston resident who was the first Bostonian to participate in the race registered as non-binary.

The reception to honor Boston’s fastest runners will be announced soon.



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SWAN BOATS OPEN UP AS SPRING BLOSSOMS IN THE CITY



Visitors to the Public Garden enjoy the urban oasis as Swan Boats cruise the perimeter as they've done since 1877.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

The Swan Boats of the Public Garden were officially launched for their 2024 season as the city

also celebrated the coming of the Boston Marathon that Monday. Since 1877 this unique detail to the City Of Boston has captivated visitors both young and old.



Tourists enjoy the Duckling Sculpture decorated to celebrate the Boston Marathon.



An out of town family visiting gets a helping hand from a Bostonian in getting a picture of their visit to the Public Garden and the Duckling Sculpture.

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



Placards note the 8 cities and towns the Boston Marathon runs through in the form of the familiar "Entering" road signs that adorn Massachusetts roadways.

SWAN BOATS OPEN UP AS SPRING BLOSSOMS IN THE CITY



Tourists enjoy the Duckling Sculpture decorated to celebrate the Boston Marathon.



A visitor to the Public Garden enjoys the tranquility by the Japanese Lantern at the shore of the lagoon.



Visitors to the Public Garden cross the iconic bridge that runs over the lagoon.



Tulips bloom as the landscaping of the Public Garden brings beauty to the unique public space.



A Swan Boat floats by the iconic bridge that goes across the lagoon.

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FRESH & LOCAL

Irresistible Desserts

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In a recent column for the Guardian, Yotam Ottolenghi wrote about dessert preferences. Like most of us, he and his team had strong opinions. "Our favourite desserts expose the sensations that matter the most to us. So I probed my Test Kitchen team for their pudding preferences, and all hell broke loose. Most of the team were committed to one style of pudding (though some demanded two choices), but four genres in particular were prized above all others: creamy, boozy, fresh and fruity."

Let's start with his four categories that some people find irresistible, while one taste is enough for others. Let's begin with creamy. We were having lunch at Alcove Boston with friends. Neither of the guys were big dessert people. However, we knew the pastry chef was a wizard.

We all agreed to share the Eton Mess, recommended by owner Tom Schlesinger-Guidelli. The two wives enjoyed a taste. Then, they watched in stunned silence as the guys greedily spooned up and raved about each mouthful. These two found a match for their dessert preferences in this mélange of meringue, whipped

cream, and fruit. They are on team-creamy. By the way, so is Ottolenghi; his favorite is Zabaglione.

Boozy desserts include classics like Baba au Rhum, Bananas Foster, Poached Pears in Red wine, Crêpes Suzette, or Tiramisu made with liquor. Fresh and Fruity often overlap, but the Ottolenghi team suggested fruit salads, sorbets, citrusy pavlova, or lemon meringue pie.

Chocolate was not a category for the Test Kitchen crew. It would be for us. We also consider preferences for pies, cakes, and desserts that are not too sweet or super sweet.

We're both happy members of Team Pie. Last year, for Ed's birthday, we enjoyed a fabulous blueberry pie from Flour Bakery. Penny has special memories around pies. Growing up, a neighbor knew how much she loved lemon meringue pie and would deliver it each year for her birthday. She also had a dear uncle who noted her love for his raisin pie at family gatherings and made one for her when she was grieving a loss.

Penny is not a baker, but occasionally she will make a crostata.

(FRESH & LOCAL Pg. 11)



We enjoyed this fabulous blueberry pie from Flour Bakery for Ed's birthday last year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 2

treasures. You do not need to be present to win. More details, as well as a link to purchase raffle tickets, can be found at

<https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/museum-benefit>.

SOWA ARTISTS GUILD TO HOLD APRIL EVENTS

SoWa Artists Guild will hold its SoWa Sundays on April 21, and 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All events will be held at 450 Harrison Ave.

Visit sowaartists.com, facebook.com/SoWaArtistsGuild, or instagram.com/sowaartistsguild/ for more info.

SPRING CLEAN-UP OF PETERS PARK SET FOR APRIL 20

Come out and join the Friends of Peters Park for an early spring clean-up on Saturday, April 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Peters Park.

Water, coffee, tools, and camaraderie will be provided by the Friends of Peters Park. Join in by raking up leaves and helping prepare the beds for flower planting in May.

MUDDY RIVER CLEANUP SET FOR APRIL 20

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy will be holding its 16th annual Muddy River Cleanup on Saturday, April 20.

The Cleanup is a part of the Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup, which takes place throughout the Charles River Watershed, and it builds

on a national effort as part of American Rivers' National River Cleanup.

Visit emeraldnecklace.org/volunteer/muddy-river-cleanup-2024/ to register and for more information on the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's 16th annual Muddy River Cleanup.

CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP SET TO RETURN APRIL 19-20

Join the Esplanade Association for the 25th annual Charles River Cleanup - one of the largest Earth Day cleanups in the nation - on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20.

Registration is now open for individual and corporate/large groups; sign up for one or both days online at <https://esplanade.org/cleanup/>.

INFO MEETING ON CHARLESGATE FARMERS MARKET SET FOR APRIL 24

In anticipation of the Charlesgate Farmers Market opening on Sunday, June 23, an informational community meeting about the market will take place on Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 400 Commonwealth Ave.

The market will be held under the Bowker Overpass on Commonwealth Avenue, between Charlesgate East and West, to raise awareness about the Muddy River, and to bring together the Back Bay, Fenway, and Kenmore

neighborhoods for a lively weekly event.

The Charlesgate Farmers Market will host over a dozen local vendors, including Dick's Market Garden, Inc., Top Shelf Cookies, and Captain Marden's Seafoods. Visitors can also enjoy local music and art from talented artists in the community. The market will be open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, through mid-October.

For more information about The Muddy Water Initiative and the Charlesgate Farmers Market, visit www.muddywaterinitiative.org/charlesgatefarmersmarket.

NABB'S GREEN COMMITTEE PRESENTS: "THE FLOOD NEXT TIME"

On Monday, April 29th at 6pm, Emily Norton, Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association will discuss on Zoom with a Q & A about preventing extreme weather flooding in the Back Bay and eliminating stormwater pollution in the Charles River.

For more information and to register for the event contact: Green@nabbonline.org.

WORLD BOOK DAY POP-UP EVENT PLANNED FOR APRIL 23

In celebration of World Book Day, come out and grab free

(NEWS IN BRIEF Pg. 9)



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Michelle Wu, Mayor



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Mayor Michelle Wu announces city-wide coffee hours

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin'® in parks citywide from April 22 to June 26. Wu will be in the South End on May 6, at Peter's Park; she will be in the Bay Village, Fenway and Back Bay areas throughout June.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours offer a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods. Through these conversations, and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Wu looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon parks, public areas, and City services.

"Every neighborhood and every resident has their own diverse set of concerns that deserve to not only be heard,

but to be acknowledged and addressed," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited for all of the conversations and connection that will come from Neighborhood Coffee Hours."

Leadership and staff from the Community Engagement Cabinet will be at each Coffee Hour. Community members will have an opportunity to meet their neighborhood liaisons, who will share updates on each neighborhood, including how many 311 cases have been resolved, streets repaired, as well as the City's investments in housing, local businesses, and the arts. The City is again releasing a Community Input Survey, which provides an opportunity for constituents to ask questions and inform what will be presented during Coffee Hours with the Mayor. Last year, this proved to be a success, allowing constituents to hear directly from the Mayor and City leaders as they addressed concerns and

answered constituents' questions at each Coffee Hour event.

"Coffee Hours with the Mayor is an intentional effort to meet community members in the heart of their neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "I encourage residents, including our youth, seniors, civic organizations, business owners, and local leaders to attend this neighborhood-centered event. Boston 311 will be present to connect residents to essential city services."

Dunkin' will be on-site with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats. Dunkin' will have lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Individuals in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last.

Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market.

"Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are vital for community engagement, allowing residents to share their thoughts directly. We're grateful for their participation," noted Ryan Woods, Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. "These events not only foster dialogue but also mark the kickoff for our exciting summer calendar of events. From outdoor concerts to movies to arts and crafts workshops for kids, our programming breathes life into our parks, fulfilling our core mission of creating vibrant spaces for all to enjoy."

All coffee hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., weather permitting. Visit boston.gov/coffee-hours for more information. The full schedule of Mayor Wu's 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hours is as follows:

- Monday, May 6
Peter's Park
230 Shawmut Avenue
South End

- Friday, June 7
Elliot Norton Park
295 Tremont Street
Bay Village/Chinatown

- Friday, June 14
Back Bay Fens (Near Kelleher Rose Garden)
73 Park Drive
Fenway/Kenmore

- Tuesday, June 18
Commonwealth Avenue Mall (Arlington Street entrance)
15 Commonwealth Avenue
Back Bay/Beacon Hill

For more information and updates on possible rain locations, please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505 or @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, or Instagram, or by visiting boston.gov/parks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued from Page 8

books as the South End Branch Library staff hosts another pop-up event in the South End Library Park on Tuesday, April 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. at 685 Tremont St.

Find out the winner from the Book Madness Tournament at this time.

For more information, email southend@bpl.org.

AUTHOR TALK WITH DOUGLAS BAUER SET FOR APRIL 24

An author talk with Douglas Bauer will take place on Wednesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at BCYF Blackstone, located at 50 West Brookline St., on the third floor.

During this talk by the award-winning Boston author of fiction and non-fiction and professor of writing at Bennington College, Bauer will discuss his recent book, 'The Beckoning World,' a novel set in the early 20th century featuring a coal miner whose baseball talent unexpectedly changes his life in wonderful and complicated ways.

Sponsored by the Friends of the South End L and BCYF, the event will be held in person and virtually. To join virtually, email info@friendsofsouthendlibrary.org and you will receive the Zoom info. FOSEL subscribers

will receive the Zoom link in the Mailchimp newsletter just before the event.

FENWAY CDC ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 25 AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Fenway CDC's 51st annual meeting will take place on Thursday, April 25, from 5:45 to 8 p.m. at the Linda K Paresky Conference Center at Simmons University 300 The Fenway.

At this time, Fenway CDC will recognize its accomplishments, as well as bestow its annual Community Service awards. Steven Farrell, the group's new executive director, will also discuss his vision for the future.

R.S.V.P. to eventbrite.com/e/fenway-cdc-51st-annual-meeting-tickets-847110800207.

NABB GREEN COMMITTEE TO HOST VIRTUAL DISCUSSION ON FLOODING ON APRIL 29

The Green Committee of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay presents a virtual program called 'The Flood Next Time' on Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m.

At this time, Emily Norton,

executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association, will lead the discussion, which includes a Q&A about preventing extreme weather flooding in the Back Bay and eliminating stormwater pollution in the Charles River.

For more information and to register for this event, contact Green@nabbonline.org.

WLP'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND NETWORKING LUNCHEON SET FOR MAY 10

Women's Lunch Place Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon and M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, will have a fireside chat at WLP's annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, eat LUNCH give on Friday, May 10, in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:15 p.m.

Hanlon Wigon and Pelton will address the pressing issues of the housing crisis in Boston, including the shortage of affordable units and the critical need for safe, gender-specific housing for women in the community. The event will be held in the Oriental

Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

This luncheon will include a delicious meal, an opportunity to network with Boston's best and brightest leaders, and an inside look at the context behind Women's Lunch Place's life-changing work from two experts in their fields. There will also be a raffle with local prizes.

All proceeds from the fundraising luncheon will be donated to Women's Lunch Place.

Tickets cost \$200 each and are available online at womenslunchplace.org/elig, along with sponsorships, program advertisements, and opportunities to support the raffle.

DUCKLING DAY RETURNS MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 12

Join the Friends of the Public Garden on Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, for the return of Duckling Day – an annual celebration of the children's classic book 'Make Way for Ducklings' by Robert McCloskey.

Duckling Day is a family-friendly celebration held each year on Boston Common. Duckling Day features activity booths, lawn games, magic, and live music all at Parkman Bandstand. The event ends with a parade

retracing Mrs. Mallard's steps to the Ducklings sculpture in the Public Garden.

Registration for a family of any size is \$35 and includes a goody bag for every child and entertaining Duckling activities for the whole family; register online at <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/events/ducklingday/>.

SAVE THE DATE: GARDEN CLUB OF THE BACK BAY'S TWILIGHT GARDEN PARTY SET FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 4, AT THE NEWBURY HOTEL

The Garden Club of the Back Bay will present its annual Twilight Garden Party on Tuesday, June 4, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Newbury Hotel at 1 Newbury St.

The Twilight Garden Party is the Garden Club's largest source of funds that go directly towards tree care and community outreach while this year's event also celebrates the Garden Club's 60th anniversary.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/twilight-garden-party-tickets-851099289887?aff=oddtcreator>.

Massachusetts Historical Society hosts making history gala with Pulitzer prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin

Special to the Sun

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

sponsorships, are now available for purchase. For more information or to purchase a ticket or sponsorship package, please visit <https://www.masshist.org/gala>.

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



Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" was awarded a Lincoln Prize and served as the basis for Steven Spielberg's film "Lincoln," starring Dan-

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

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

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

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

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

CITY PAWS

Canine Coat Care

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In the Northeast, we're about to enter a change in weather. With more time spent outside, excursions to the sandy shore, and strolling through spring mud, our dogs need more grooming. And, if your dog is shedding a winter coat, you'll want some control over where all that hair lands.

To Shave or Not To Shave

One of the questions that comes up every year as the temperatures rise is whether or not you should shave a dog with a

heavy coat. The ASPCA says, "Hold Those Clippers." They go on to explain, "... your pets' fur coats are actually providing them with heat relief. Acting like insulation, a dog's coat keeps him from getting too cold in the winter, but also keeps him from overheating in the summer."

"Robbing your dog or cat of this natural cooling system can lead to discomfort, overheating and other serious dangers like sunburn or skin cancer."

Benefits of Grooming

Grooming is about an animal's comfort and health. Routine brushing keeps your dog from excess shedding and matting and could prevent painful skin sores. It may also help reduce human allergy symptoms by removing dander and much of the pollen that travels inside with your dog.

Like many double-coated terriers, our Westie Poppy tends to weave her downy undercoat into snarls. However, if we regularly attend to the areas that snarl the most, we don't have to resort to mat breakers or cutting out the snarls with scissors.

Start grooming your dog early in your relationship and do it often until the animal becomes comfortable and you both begin

to relax into a routine. The dog will come to understand that this doesn't hurt all the time and that, many times, it is simple stuff that happens regularly.

Grooming sessions can also bring you and your dog closer and help you bond. If you can make them gentle and pleasant, they can relax both of you. Regular grooming can also reveal lumps, bumps, or other skin abnormalities.

Grooming Tips

We find it easier to groom Poppy when she is a bit tired from a walk or play session and has recently relieved herself. We also try to deliver her to her groomer the same way.

Add a damp cloth doggie rubdown as you enter your home during allergy season. That could help reduce much of the pollen that rides inside with your dog and can make both canine and human allergies worse.

Controlling a dog up on something can be easier than on the floor. This could be a counter, table, or ottoman. We use an inexpensive, non-slip bath mat to give Poppy secure footing and protect the surface.

Create a kit of grooming

tools that you use all the time. Our kit has a rotating comfort pin comb to help detangle Poppy's coat. We use a slicker brush to remove loose hair. When we run into a snarl, we use a matting breaker to slowly and gently cut through the tangle. Curved bandage scissors help us safely do a sanitary trim around her anus or to cut off a tangle. Finally, our kit has a headlamp flashlight. It's excellent when you want hands-free light on a specific spot on the pup. (It's also good for picking up poops

at night.)

You can find more videos and tips on grooming your dog's coat online. Breed rescue groups often have information on grooming problems for the breed they know best. You can also consult your professional groomer and veterinarian about the home grooming necessary for your companion.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



PHOTO BY ANDRII ZORII

Outside is the best place to brush a thick, heavy coat like this Husky's.

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Clair F Wyant 2012 T	Lemle, Jake	193 Beacon St #1	\$3,300,000
Aldridge, Roderick	Perkins, Alan J	346 Beacon St #4	\$2,820,000
Oh, Dennis	Xu, Manjing	180 Commonwealth Ave #24	\$970,000
Frelick, Salvatore M	Litt, Jonathan S	71 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,395,000
Strode, Scott A	Thirty 2 Fairfield St LL	32 Fairfield St #2	\$1,400,000
Alba Newbury	Frazer 103 Holdings Lp	103-105 Newbury St	\$11,650,000
Inadomi, Molly	Murphy, Nathan J	211 W Canton St #1	\$3,175,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Fratini, William F	Holahan, Richard J	21 Beacon St #6K	\$449,000
Burns, Natalie	Divney, Kevin M	88 Beacon St #4	\$740,500
Katherine Wyeth Rae RET	Alaimo, Alisha A	423 Beacon St #2	\$4,200,000
Canal Friend LLC	60 Canal Owner LLC	60 Canal St	\$8,250,000
Han-Adebekun, Gang C	Putnam 234 Associates LL	234 Causeway St #905	\$800,000
Huynh, Kim T	Marc, Anouald	534-538 Commonwealth Ave #2C	\$570,000
Berdinka, Samantha	Flaherty Anne H Est	21 Hancock St #3	\$700,000
Bannister, Kenneth A	Lot Oz Rt	2 Hawthorne Pl #16D	\$867,000
Garriga, Daniel	Yoshida, Felipe A	2 Hawthorne Pl #70	\$492,500
Devinova LLC	Binnette, Vanda	79 Myrtle St #5	\$1,700,000
Yuying T	Naylor, Tara L	9 S Russell St #4	\$965,000
Dupuis, Katherine J	Stinson Ft	195 Saint Botolph St #1	\$792,000
Feinman, Daniel	Tingdal, Fredrik	518 Shawmut Ave #1	\$1,300,000
Iriarte, Joe	Lewis N Rosenberg Lt	191 W Springfield St	\$2,650,000
Mcbride, Robert	Evan M Kushner Lt	1313 Washington St #413	\$900,000
Burgueno, Manuel	Fdd RET	6 Whittier Pl #12J	\$495,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Arch Owner LLC	Clpf-101 Arch Lp	101 Arch St	\$78,000,000
Garvey, Matthew A	Ryan, Maryruth	2 Battery Wharf #2401	\$985,000
Wuyue LLC	See, Linda	42-44 Beach St #9C	\$619,000
Hildreth, Mark	Howley, Michael	20 Rows Wharf #506	\$2,550,000
Martin, Joseph	Harvey, Eileen V	210 South St #3-10	\$792,000
Mcgee, Kara	Tsipis, Yanni	170 Tremont St	\$35,000

FRESH & LOCAL (from pg. 8)

Our favorite is a rhubarb lime version that we wrote about one spring. Now, we enjoy that each spring when a friend with a garden drops off a bag of rhubarb as a reward for a tip we shared in that article. That tip is to use an excellent frozen pie crust like Trader Joe's instead of making the pastry yourself. We also use frozen all-butter puff pastry for homemade treats.

Our final topic on desserts concerns sharing. Do you share

desserts? Do you speak up if you don't want to share your treat? We are dessert sharers. If we didn't share, we would never have dessert! Neither of us is used to eating a large portion of sugary food. We love it when a place offers a multi-dessert selection with a taste of this and a taste of that.

Our final way of sharing is to call on friends to save us from temptation when we buy a whole pie, cake, or multi-item

dessert package. Walking home from the farmers market, Penny might pass off part of a package of cider donuts to friends she meets along the way. We share with neighbors and the staff in our building. That lets us diversify our dessert purchases without expanding our waistslines.

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

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The column in the last clue is on 543 Commonwealth Avenue built in 1911 as an apartment house for 31 families. With all the commercial signage in Kenmore Square, you may not notice the lovely architectural details on buildings like this.

The next clue is in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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