## CHECK OUT SCENES FROM THE SOUTH END ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ON PAGES 8 + 9

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

# OL SUN HE Serving Back Bay - South End - Fenway - Kenmore

# SAIL ON Charlie Zechel prepares to bid farewell to **Community Boating**

By Dan Murphy

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

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

Community Boating's origins date back to the mid-1930s,



Jr., remembered as a wealthy Brahmin sailing enthusiast, began teaching disadvantaged kids from around the West End to build and operate makeshift sailboats. Lee's philanthropic efforts, however, evidently weren't embraced by all of the

city's elite at the time.

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



Shown above, Community Boating Inc's boathouse headquarters on the Charles River Esplanade.

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

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

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

Community Boating made a major stride in its goal of achiev-

(CHARLIE ZECHEL, Pg. 4)

# Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament begins April 21

### Special to the Sun

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

'We're thrilled to bring back the Mayor's Cup Street Hock-

ey Tournament, giving Boston's young athletes a chance to stay active and take part in friendly rivalry during April school vacation," said Interim Parks and Recreation Commissioner Liza Meyer. "With support from the Boston Bruins Foundation, we're proud to continue this great tradition at Moakley Park and look forward to an exciting tourna-

### ment."

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

Teams will compete in five

divisions: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); Pee Wee (ages 11 to 12); Girls U8; and Girls U10. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

Visit boston.gov/parks-sports to register. For more information, contact Damien Margardo damien.margardo@boston. at

gov, Jennifer Misiaszek at jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov, or call (617) 961-3083.

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

# EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ARE AMERICANS LOSING THEIR APPETITE FOR JUNK FOOD?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Letter to the Editor

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY BOARD

The following letter was submitted to the Massport Board members.

Dear Massport Board Members,

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

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

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

And how can Massport do this?

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

The other half of the answer comes from Philadelphia, where American Airlines is offering 'land flights' between Allentown PA and Atlantic City, and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). Travelers can book their travel out of the smaller local airports using the normal American Airlines reservation system online. On the day of travel, they head to their local airport, where they check their bags normally, and clear TSA security as usual. Then, instead of boarding an aircraft for the 50 mile trip to PHL, they board a high quality bus on the secure side of TSA at those outlying airports and are dropped right at their gate in PHL.

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

(Letter, Pg. 3)



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

### **LETTER** (from Page 2)

and onboard restrooms, just like an airplane.

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

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

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

It's also not hard to imagine how much less stressful traveling out of Logan would be if you could just take an Uber to the Framingham or Braintree Logan Remote Terminal, -or if you could drive your own car to the well-lit, secure and affordable parking garage attached directly to the heated and air conditioned 'New Woburn or Danvers Logan Remote' and check your bags and clear security, right there. You then would not need to drag your luggage in and out of your ride, and through the terminal, like a beast of burden.

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

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

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

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

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

We urge Massport's Board to seize this opportunity to embrace true environmental and transportation leadership and ignore the scare tactics and industry-funded ad campaigns. Ride App drivers will not lose business; they will simply change destinations and save time by avoiding trips into the congested core of the city. The time saved will allow these drivers to take more fares.

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

Sincerely,

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

# MassDOT Aeronautics reports successful drone medical delivery demonstrations

#### Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass-DOT) Aeronautics

Division has announced the successful completion of flights by three companies, which conducted drone medical delivery demonstrations transporting packages of up to 10 pounds. The tests were designed to explore and assess the future use of drones, Uncrewed

Aircraft Systems, (UAS) for small package delivery, especially for home-based healthcare and emergency medical response

in the future.

The Medical Delivery Demonstrations occurred between August and October of 2024. Participants' drones carried simulated payloads for at least one mile, one way, demonstrating the future potential to transport

(Aeronautics, Pg. 7)

### NEW ENGLAND FREE JACKS, MASSPORT, DELTA CELEBRATE TEAM'S NEW CHAMPIONSHIP BANNERS AT BOSTON LOGAN

#### Special to the Sun

On Thursday March 13, Boston Logan unveiled two new championship banners in Jet-Blue's Terminal C. The New England Free Jacks, Greater Boston's professional rugby team, joined Massport and Delta (the team's airline sponsor) to hang their championship banners in the Celebration of Champions exhibit above the security checkpoint. After securing back-to-back Major League Rugby titles in 2023 and 2024, the Free Jacks take their place alongside other championship-winning teams in the region. This exhibit highlights New England's rich sports culture, showcasing the achievements of its professional teams.

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





Free Jacks with Trophies: In the back row are General Manager Tom Kindley, Founder Alex Magleby, Founder Errik Anderson, co-owner Joel Bobbett, Delta representative Candice Stover, Dave Ishihara (Massport). In the front are players Kyle Ciquera and Ben LeSage.

### CHARLIE ZECHEL (from Page 1)

ing all-inclusivity in 2007, when the organization partnered with DCR to launch the Universal Access Program, which allows individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities to enjoy sailing on the Charles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A large portion of the dock had deteriorated and fallen into

the water back in 2003, said Zechel, who then enlisted the help of the then-State Rep. Marty Walz to remedy the situation.

Besides teaching him how to successfully advocate and lobby at the state government level, Zechel credits Walz for earmarking monies in a 2008 environmental bond bill to upgrade Community Boating's facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zechel and Dr. Gary du Moulin received training from a University of New Hampshire researcher, who provided them with the necessary guidance to



Charlie Zechel of Community Boating, Inc., is seen accepting the Martin A. Luray Award ('The Marty') at the 2025 U.S. Sailing Leadership Forum this February in Coronado, Calif.

develop and implement Community Boating's STEM program, which today includes the Junior Program's environmental science class and cyanobacteria research.

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

Zechel was honored at the 2025 U.S. Sailing Leadership Forum this February in Coronado, Calif., with the top award - the Martin A. Luray Award ('The Marty') - for his work in developing CBI's Universal Access Program, its youth STEM program, and leadership development courses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

As for the future of Community Boating, Zechel is confident he's leaving the organization in capable hands.

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

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

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

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

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

Community Boating is now part of a large community of like-minded organizations as Zechel sees it.

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

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

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

"Come on in," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### By Sun staff

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

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

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

The community meeting, will be led by Fenway CDC and JDMD, is intended to provide neighbors with an opportunity to learn more about the proposal in advance of an expected Boston Planning & Development Agency vote that could come as soon as soon as mid-April. The meeting is also expected to offer an opportunity for Q&A from neighbors.

Register at https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/ calendar/2025/03/26/27-29-hancock-street-public-meeting.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

### FENWAY TAP MEETING RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 24 AT FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

The city's Planning Department has rescheduled its public meeting to discuss the Fenway Transportation Action Plan (TAP) on Monday, March 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St., #123.

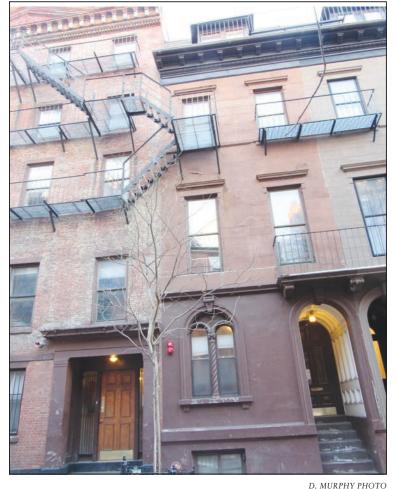
This meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, as a hybrid event, also meeting in person at the Fenway Community Center.

Visit http://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/fenway-transportation-action-plan for more information on the Fenway TAP.

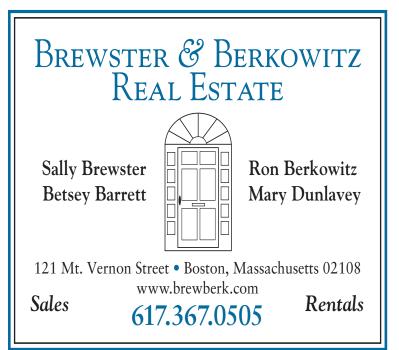
### SOUTH END LIBRARY AUTHOR SERIES RESUMES MARCH 26 WITH ABBOTT KAHLER

The South End Library Author Series resumes with Abbott Kahler, discussing her book, 'Eden Undone: A True Story of Sex, Murder, and Utopia at the Dawn of World War II,' on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Union Church, Connection Room (access from Newton Street) 485 Columbus Ave., as

(NEWS BRIEFS, PG. 6)



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





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# Sen. Nick Collins appointed to Massachusetts-Ireland Trade Commission

#### Special to the Sun

Senator Nick Collins has been appointed to the Massachusetts-Ireland Trade Commission, a body dedicated to evaluating the economic interests of, and reviewing ways to strengthen the relationship between, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Republic of Ireland. The Commission will focus on bilateral trade and investments, policy issues, business and academic exchanges, mutual economic support, infrastructure investments, and the creation of economic and educational opportunities.

Senator Collins expressed his pride in accepting the appointment, stating, "I am deeply honored to serve on the Massachusetts-Ireland Trade Commission. The shared history between the city of Boston and the Republic of Ireland runs deep, and this appointment is an opportunity to build on that legacy by fostering stronger economic and cultural ties. I look forward to working with my colleagues to create meaningful opportunities for our Commonwealth and the Republic."

The Massachusetts-Ireland Trade Commission was established to strengthen the longstanding relationship between the Commonwealth and Ireland, two regions with deep historical, cultural, and economic connections. The Commission will study key areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, and policy collaboration, while also exploring ways to enhance educational and business exchanges.

"Senator Collins represents a community with deep roots and a proud heritage in Ireland," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "The culture and economic fabric of South Boston and the entire state have been intertwined with Ireland for generations, and the Senator's thoughtful approach and passion for his community make him an outstanding choice to represent the Senate on this Commission. I'm grateful for Senator Collins' service and look forward to his work in deepening the economic ties between the Commonwealth and our Irish friends."

Representative John Lawn, chair of the Irish American caucus in the legislature, had this to say, "I am pleased to congratulate Senator Collins on his appointment to the Irish American State Legislator's Caucus." Lawn added, "his personal connection to the Irish American heritage of his district uniquely positions him to advocate for the shared interests of both regions. This appointment is a testament to his dedication to strengthening the ties between our state and Ireland while promoting shared opportunities for growth and collaboration."

Senator Collins brings a wealth of legislative experience and a commitment to fostering international partnerships to his new role. His appointment underscores the importance of the Massachusetts-Ireland relationship and the potential for continued collaboration in areas of mutual benefit. well as virtually. Refreshments and book signings will follow at 7:30 p.m., with Parkside Booksellers offering books for sale.

The in-person event is free for all to attend, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For virtual link, email info@ friendsofsouthendlibrary.org. FOSEL subscribers will also receive the Zoom link in the Mailchimp newsletter just before the event.

### FENWAY CIVIC'S ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MARCH 27 AT FENWAY PARK'S THE 521 OVERLOOK

The Fenway Civic Association will hold its 63rd annual meeting on Thursday, March 27, at 6-8 p.m. at The 521 Overlook at Fenway Park, 14 Lansdowne St.

At this time, guest speaker, Liza Meyer, who is currently serving as Interim Parks Commissioner and Chief Landscape Architect for the City of Boston and has been selected to succeed Liz Vizza as the third leader and new president of the Friends of the Public Garden, will discuss 'Understanding Shadow Impacts on the Parklands.'

The program will discuss efforts underway by the Boston Parks Department, the Boston Planning Department, and a stakeholder advisory committee to define the sunlight needs of the city's parks and inform guidelines for sunlight access that support the health of trees and plants and the comfort and enjoyment of people who use the parks.

Refreshments will be served.

Visit fenwaycivic.org for more information.

### BOSTON WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SET FOR APRIL 5 AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

On Saturday, April 5, beginning at 9 a.m. sharp, the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee will host the 2025 Boston Ward

# NEWS IN BRIEF

5 Democratic Caucus to elect delegates and alternates for the 2025 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the MassMutual Center I Springfield.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Teams of 10 participants ages 16 and up will compete to pull one of Boston's iconic duck boats across the finish line in the fastest time. In order to participate, each team is required

#### Continued from Page 5

to make a \$1,000 donation, \$100 per person, which will go directly toward funding Boston Parks and Recreation's free youth sports programs. These programs include leagues, tournaments, and fitness initiatives that foster healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for young people to stay active. In 2024, these free programs served over 20,000 young people in Boston.

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

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

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

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

### FENWAY CDC'S SECOND TOWN HALL AND ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 29 AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Fenway CDC (Community Development Corporation) will hold its 52nd Annual Meeting, together with its second of three planned Town Hall meetings to help guide the organization's Strategic Plan for the next four years, on Tuesday, April 29, from 5:45-8 p.m. at Simmons University, 300 The Fenway.

Dinner and daycare will be provided for guests at no charge. Contact sfarrell@fenwaycdc.org, or call 781-277-0148 with any questions.



## City Paws

# License Your Dog

### By Penny & Ed Cherubino

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

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

#### Symptoms

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

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

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

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

• Housetraining – Increased house-soiling or failing to go when outside.

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

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

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

As with human dementia, your veterinarian will note the symptoms you report and diagnose by exclusion. A careful physical examination and bloodwork can rule out other causes



PHOTO BY MADALYN COX You can do a lot to prevent dementia in your older dog.

for the changes you're seeing. The good news is that several FDA-approved medications can slow the disease today.

#### Actions and Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **AERONAUTICS** (from Page 3) small packages.

"This medical delivery demonstration underscores the value of drones for many operational needs," said

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

"This demonstration project reflects our commitment to exploring the use of drones to meet critical needs, such as the timely, cost-effective delivery of supplies and devices for health care and emergency management, across the Commonwealth," said MassDOT Aeronautics Acting Administrator Denise Garcia.

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

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

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## PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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

Mayor's Office Photos by Mike Mejia

Bostonians and state residents from near and farther

gathered and descended on the South End this past Sunday for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade hosted by the City of Boston each year.

The weather was fair and spirits high for the annual radition since 1901.











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The Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@thebostonsun.com.

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



















# NeighborHealth earns national recognition from HRSA for quality excellence

Special to the Sun

NeighborHealth, Massachusetts' largest community-based primary care health system, has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) with four distinguished quality badges for 2024. These awards, distributed in late 2024, highlight Neighbor-Health's commitment to delivering exceptional patient care and advancing health outcomes in our community.

The quality badges awarded to NeighborHealth include three different Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) badges in addition to Patient-Centered Medical Home

(PCMH) recognition.

National Quality Leader -Cancer Screening (Gold)

This coveted gold badge places NeighborHealth among an elite 1% of health centers nationwide recognized for excellence in cancer screening – underscoring the tireless efforts of NeighborHealth's clinical teams in early detection and preventive care. NeighborHealth's ability to foster close partnerships between providers, clinical and operations leaders allows them to seamlessly maintain quality teams to support preventative cancer screening.

#### Health Center Quality Leader (Silver)

NeighborHealth received sil-

ver status as a leader in overall quality performance, demonstrating its dedication to providing high-standard, equitable healthcare services. This badge is only awarded to the top performing health centers nationwide. NeighborHealth has demonstrated commitment to holistic health care, with compassion, curiosity and empathy to receive this accolade.

### Advancing Health Information Technology for Quality

This recognition reflects NeighborHealth's commitment to leveraging innovative health information technology to enhance patient outcomes and streamline care delivery. NeighborHealth was awarded this badge for meeting all criteria to optimize Health Information Technology services that advance telehealth, patient engagement, interoperability, and collection of social risk factors to increase access to care and advance quality of care. NeighborHealth has implemented multiple care delivery options, including telehealth through the coordination and partnership between information technology, clinical, quality and operations.

#### Patient-Centered Medical Home

An honor, recognizing NeighborHealth's implementation of the Patient-Centered Medical Home model, emphasizing patient-focused, comprehensive and coordinated care.

## MCGH and Mass. Gaming Comm. assist hundreds of state patrons on Problem Gambling Screening Day

#### Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health (MCGH) and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) launched "PGAM Coffee and Conversations," an initiative designed to raise awareness about problem gambling through informal discussions in casinos. This initiative is aligned with National Problem Gambling Screening Day on March 11th and the National Council on Problem Gambling's Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM).

According to the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) study summarized in 2024, gambling in the Commonwealth has increased as well as the intensity of monthly gamblers. Recently, GameSense staff conducted screenings at Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield, and Plainridge Park Casino, engaging in over 850 conversations. This proactive approach offers immediate information, resources, and support for those struggling with potential gambling issues.

During the screening process, twenty-four individuals were identified as demonstrating signs of gambling disorder.

"Initial screenings are essential in serving the approximately 80,000 individuals in the Commonwealth struggling with gambling issues," said Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Gaming, MGC. "By offering screenings near the gaming floor and online through Live Chat, we can provide assistance earlier in the process, which is known to lead to better outcomes overall."

These efforts are part of a broader, ongoing mission to adapt services and support to meet the Commonwealth's evolving gambling environment. As new technologies and platforms for gambling emerge, the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission are working to ensure that services remain relevant and accessible.

"Meeting players where they are is essential. Our GameSense team is trained to recognize that there is a spectrum of gaming behavior. By identifying the signs of problem gambling early, we can empower players to make healthier decisions," said Marlene Warner, CEO of MACGH. The organizations involved are committed to offering the necessary support to players, connecting them to essential tools as needed.

GameSense is an innovative, player-focused harm mitigation program that encourages players to adopt behaviors that can help limit the risk of developing gambling disorder. This includes setting limits on time and money spent gambling, promoting open conversations with family and friends about gambling habits, and encouraging individuals concerned about their gambling habits to seek help. This program, mandated by Massachusetts regulation, requires GameSense staff to be present at all retail casinos in the state.

MACGH is a leading public health organization with several active partnerships in its portfolio, regularly coordinating across healthcare, academia, and government entities. Services include real-time gambling resources, program assessment and training, and marketing and advertising services. MACGH operates the GameSense program in Massachusetts. For more information, visit macgh.org.

# SPRING'S INVITATION: EXPRESSIONS OF THE NATURAL WORLD

The Artists' Group of Charlestown Spring 2025 Exhibition

# March 28 - April 13, 2025



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

> StoveFactory Gallery



523 Medford Street, Charlestown ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com

# Gov. Healey, Mass Cultural Council open applications for Massachusetts' first Poet Laureate

### Special to the Sun

Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Mass Cultural Council and Mass Humanities today announced that Massachusetts is now accepting applications to fill the role of Poet Laureate of Massachusetts.

In February, the Governor – surrounded by poets and cultural leaders – signed an executive order establishing the position of Poet Laureate of Massachusetts. This new, honorary position is intended to promote poetry and creative expression across the state, serve as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's ambassador of the arts, and inspire the next generation of writers.

"I was proud to sign an Executive Order establishing our first-ever state Poet Laureate," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're excited to be opening the application so that local poets from across the state can apply for this historic position. This is an opportunity to spread the gift of poetry, celebrate the talent in our state, stoke the fires of imagination, and tell our stories."

"Massachusetts has always been a hub for generations of writers who have shaped both our state's identity and our nation's story, and this position is an opportunity to continue this leadership," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We hope that poets from across Massachusetts will apply, and we're grateful for the work of the Nominating Committee led by Michael Bobbitt to review applications."

The Poet Laureate will be charged with encouraging the appreciation of poetry and creative expression across Massachusetts, participating in public readings and other statewide literary and cultural events, composing poetry for ceremonial occasions, and advising the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on an outreach program for schools focused on the celebration and advancement of poetry.

The Executive Order establishes an advisory Poet Laureate Nominating Committee, chaired by Mass Cultural Council Executive Director Michael J. Bobbitt, to review applications for the role and submit recommendations to the Governor. The selected candidate will be eligible for an honorarium provided by the Mass Cultural Council.

"Mass Cultural Council, the Commonwealth's state arts agency, believes in the Power of Culture and recognizes poetry as a strong and vital art form that inspires connection, fosters empathy, and gives voice to diverse experiences," said Bobbitt. "Poetry has the unique ability to capture the essence of human emotion, challenge perspectives, and build bridges between communities. We are thrilled to partner with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and our friends at Mass Humanities to ensure this initiative is a success. This new voice will help to enrich our cultural landscape, remind us of our rich legacy of profound writers, and strengthen the creative spirit of the Commonwealth."



Apply to be the first Massachusetts Poet Laureate here

As chair of the Nominating Committee, Bobbitt has named Brian Boyles, Executive Director of Mass Humanities, to serve as the Nominating Committee co-chair. Mass Cultural Council and Mass Humanities worked in partnership to develop the guidelines and application for the position.

Creative individuals are encouraged to apply if they are a literary artist who composes poetry of any genre, form, or category; are 18 years of age or older; and are a full-time resident of Massachusetts. As a part of the application process, applicants are asked to respond to narrative questions related to the position and submit work samples.

"Poets construct possibilities and trace the truths that lie just beyond our line of sight," said Boyles. "The board and staff of Mass Humanities are grateful to partner with Governor Healey and Mass Cultural Council to uplift the many great poets of the Commonwealth as we seek to fill this invaluable new role. We believe that the first poet laureate is an important step as we deepen our appreciation and support for poetry."

The Poet Laureate application deadline is April 10, 2025. The Nominating Committee will review applications and refer two candidates to the Governor for her decision. The Poet Lau-

reate is expected to be named by Governor Healey in late May/ early June.

Interested candidates are invited to read the program guidelines and contact Mass Cultural Council with questions.



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

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

#### Special to the Sun

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

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

Generously funded by Fotene

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

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

"In Greek, the word meraki means to pour your soul into something, and I can think of no better way to describe Fotene's longstanding support of artists and the ICA," said Jill Medvedow, Ellen Matilda Poss Director of the ICA. "The generosity of this award is echoed in the open spirit and artistic expansiveness of Sarah's work. We are thrilled to recognize Sarah as the inaugural recipient of the Meraki Artist Award and to celebrate her important contributions to art and culture."

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

Sarah Sze gleans objects and images from worlds both physical and digital, assembling them into complex multimedia works that shift scale between microscopic observation and macroscopic perspective on the infinite. A peerless bricoleur, Sze moves with a light touch across proliferating media. Her dynamic, generative body of work spans sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, video, and installation while always addressing the



Sarah Sze, inaugural recipient of the Meraki Artist Award

precarious nature of materiality and grappling with matters of entropy and temporality.

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

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

#### Special to the Sun

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

"Massachusetts is proud to

.....

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

"We were deeply inspired by the strength and optimism of the families at Children's Hospital, who remind us all what's at stake in this moment," said First Lady Joanna Lydgate. "Our children are so fortunate to live in a state with the best health care in the country and to be cared for by amazing doctors and nurses at hospitals like Boston Children's. That care is at risk right now, and we will do everything in our power to protect it."

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

"Nearly half of all children in Massachusetts rely on Mass-Health – our state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program – for their health care coverage. It's critically important that their access to care continues so we can give kids the healthiest possible start in life," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh. "Cuts to funding for things like medical research and grants for graduate medical education at children's hospitals are really creating a no-win situation, not only impacting research teams but harming our Massachusetts economy (which is a net contributor to the federal budget), undermining the US's world leadership in medical research, and depriving patients and families of life-saving innovations."

Boston Children's Hospital is dedicated to improving and advancing the health and well-being of children around the world through its life-changing work in clinical care, biomedical research, medical education and community engagement. Boston Children's is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the world by Newsweek and among best

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(Healey, Pg. 13)

find us online at thebostonsun.com

# Dr. Elsie Taveras appointed to the role of Chair of the Boston Board of Health

#### Special to the Sun

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

"I'm very excited to see Dr. Taveras take on the duties of chairperson of the Board of Health, and I'm confident she'll continue her work to make Boston a safe and healthy home for everyone," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm also proud to appoint Stan McLaren to the Board of Health. I believe his experiences working with Boston's most vulnerable residents give him great perspective for this role."

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

Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH is the inaugural Chief Community Health and Equity Officer and Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Community Health at Mass General Brigham. In this role, she



COURTESY MASSGENERAL.ORG Dr. Elsie Taveras.

leads system-wide strategies to improve the health of patients and communities served by Mass General Brigham.

A pediatrician at Mass General for Children, Dr. Taveras also holds the Conrad Taff Endowed Professorship at Harvard Medical School and is a professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Taveras is a leading expert in community health, implementation science, childhood obesity, maternal-child health, and health disparities. Her research and community health leadership have influenced the development of national programs to improve health outcomes and eliminate inequities for at-risk populations.

"I am deeply honored by Mayor Wu's decision to appoint me chairperson of the Board of Health," said Dr. Taveras. "I look forward to continuing my work with the Board of Health

and BPHC as we strive to make Boston a place where everyone can live long, healthy, and fulfilling lives."

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

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

The Board of Health serves an important role in helping the Boston Public Health Commission achieve its health goals for the city. Throughout the Commission's history, BPHC's leadership and staff have relied on the leadership of the Board to provide valuable oversight, guidance, and policy development functions. The Board's support is particularly important as BPHC leads works to eliminate health inequities in Boston, strengthen mental and behavioral health interventions and resources available to residents, and respond to emerging challenges.



Attention to Detail PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The harp in the last clue is on the John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial, created by sculptor Daniel Chester French. The memorial is part of Boston's Irish Heritage train, a three-mile, self-guided walking tour highlighting the city's Irish American heritage.

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

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

### **HEALEY** (from Page 12)

in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. It is home to the world's largest pediatric research enterprise. It is the primary pediatric teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School. Boston ing recipient of pediatric research

Give now.

Children's treats more children with rare diseases and complex conditions than any other hospital.

Boston Children's is the lead-

**EMERGENCY** 

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

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

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



#### WHERE TO FIND THE SUN Wu and Boston Unity Soccer Jersey Street Liquors Ritz Cartlon 10 Avery St.

Sami Cleaners Antua Nua Bar Boston Public Library Citizens Bank Teriyaki House A Little Stevie's Pizza Pad Thai Crazy Dough Tasty Burger Cask and Flagon Back Bay Bicycles Sheraton Hotel Hilton Boston **Copley Square Hotel** The Green House B Good Bangkok City Restaurant Tomodachi Sushi City Hair Thai Body Snappy Sushi Laurens Nails Fairfield Reality Newbury Guest House Starbucks Ben and Jerrys Hem Pest **Bush Cleaners** Back Bay Ace Hardware Delucas Market Boloco Town Nail Salon Pavement Coffee Berry Line Back Bay Hair Design Bauer Wines and Spirits Newbury Comics **Trident Book Sellers** Converse Capital One Coffee Starbucks Bank of America Citizens Bank CVS Clarendon wine

#### **BEACON HILL**

Boston City Hall State St/Cambridge St.

#### KENMORE SOUARE

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Peterborough Senior Center 42 Peterborough St.				
Hotel Commonwealth			-	
7Eleven			Beaco	n St.
Bank of America			Beaco	n St.
East Boston Savings Bank				
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Barnes and Noble		660	Beaco	n St.

### FENWAY

Uppercrust	683 Tremont St.
Fenway Community Cer	nter 1282 Boylston St.
Boston Laundry	115 Jersey St.
Hidyan Café	80 Kilmarnock St.
Blick Art Supply	333 Massachussetts Ave.
Canestaros	16 Peterborough St.
El Pelon Taqueria	92 Peterborough St.

834 Beacon St. 700 Boylston St. 1110 Boylston St. 1114 Boylston St. 1116 Boylston St. 8 Park Plaza 145 Dartmouth St. 62 Brookline Ave. 362 Comm. Ave. 39 Dalton St. 40 Dalton St. 47 Hunnington Ave. 150 Hunnington Ave. 955 Washington St. 167 Mass. Ave. 201 Mass. Ave. 333 Mass. Ave. 108 Newbury St. 164 Newbury St. 219 Newbury St. 261 Newbury St. 165 Newbury St. CVS 174 Newbury St. 301 Newbury St. 219 Newbury St. 221 Newbury St. 239 Newbury St. 569 Boylston st' 336 Newbury St. 286 Newbury St. 303 Newbury St. 291 Newbury St.

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College Pizza Guitar Center The Verb Hotel Red Mango Supreme Pizza Fenway Studios Fenway Health Fenway Community Center Development Corporation Wahlburger Starmarket Blaze Pizza Neighborhood Coffee **Bennets Sandwich** Thortons Fenway Grill Tapestry Tasty Burger Elliot Hotel B good Starbucks Guitar Center Supreme Pizza Choice wine annd spirits

Symphony Liquors Boston House of Pizza Boston Shawarma Hunnington YMCA Marino Center Neu Rubys Nail salon starbucks College Convinence Safonia Market Cappy's Fern Exotic Flowers Wholefoods mid town hotel Cappys Convinence

#### SOUTH END

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Mikes city di	iner		Washington S
Post office			Washington S
Jaho caffe&	tea	1651	Washington S
7/11 store			51 Berkeley S
Perk caffe			69 Berkeley S
Club café		209	Columbus Av
Charles sand	lwish	429	Columbus Av
Giorgiana's		429	Columbus Av
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### **SYMPHONY**

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affe				69 Berkeley St.
café			209	Columbus Ave.
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ine Em	porium		474	Columbus Ave.
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# Partners announce White **Stadium Advisory Group**

#### Special to the Sun

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

• Andre Barbour, Commissioner, Black Men & Boys Commission

• J.C. Burton, Commissioner, Boston Employment Commis-

• Edsel Cadet, Pastor, Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church

• Katrina Conrad, Board Member, Mass. Minority Contractors Association

• Eric Esteves, Executive Director, Boston Main Streets Foundation

• Jen Faigel, Executive Director, Commonwealth Kitchen

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

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

• Roxanna Sarmiento, Head of Marketing & Communications, ALX

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

• Rickie Thompson, President, Franklin Park Coalition

• Robert Wint, President, Boston Caribbean American Association

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

The White Stadium renovation will be a transformational investment in BPS Athletics and Franklin Park, serving as a hub for youth sports, community programming, and professional soccer with dramatically expanded public access. The upgraded complex will feature state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities, including modern locker rooms, a sports medicine suite, a strength and conditioning center, a professional grass field, an eight-lane track, and community event spaces. Previously limited to weekday hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. public access will now expand to 15 hours a day, seven days a week, for more than 345 days a year. White Stadium will also become home to Boston's new professional women's soccer team, hosting up to 20 NWSL game days annually. This commitment to reach 50% WMBE contracting was one of the community goals and benefits the City announced when signing the lease agreement.

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

Key objectives of the Supplier Diversity Advisory Group include:

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

• Support businesses in navigating procurement processes and securing contracts.

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

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

"We are not just setting goals-we are building real pathways for local minorityand women-owned businesses to thrive at every stage of this project," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportuni-

(WHITE STADIUM, PG. 15)

### WHITE STADIUM (from Page 14)

ty and Inclusion for the City of Boston. "By leveraging the Supplier Diversity Advisory Group's expertise, we will ensure that local businesses-both emerging and established—have access to meaningful opportunities to grow, contribute, and be part of the long-term success of White Stadium."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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 following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 4/8/2025 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Jorge L Inoa-Deleon unit #1023; Harold Jordan unit #3037; Jacory Gray unit #3124; William A Vieira unit #3219; Timothy McDaid unit #4157;

Justin Agyemang unit #4207; Edward Suarez unit #4208; Adam Negron unit #4313; Tori May unit #5017; Kensley Fonrose unit #5027. 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 3/20/25, 3/27/25

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Prime details. Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends

BS

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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

3/20/25, 3/27/25 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

# **Real Estate Transfers**

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			<u> </u>
Dimc World Headquaters LL	Ivy St Investments LLC	160 Commonwealth Ave #U3	\$2,700,000
Dlmc World Headquaters LL	Ivy St Investments LLC	160 Commonwealth Ave #U3A	\$2,700,000
Haley, Christopher K	193 Marlborough St Nt	193 Marlborough St #1	\$2,150,000
Cummins, Evan	St George, Britt E	73 Marlborough St #6	\$3,250,000
Garaventi, Lois	Ganj Hld LLC	416 Commonwealth Ave #201	\$1,450,000
Sax, Melissa J	Hatiboglu, Yaman I	353 Marlborough St #3	\$1,460,000
433 Marlborough St 1 Rt	Patricia H Wynn 2016 T	433 Marlborough St #1	\$3,650,000
BEACON HILL			
Price, Nikolas	Beacon St Ventures LLC	21 Beacon St #2F	\$575,000
Bedingfield, Marvin B	De Velde, Frans V	2 Hawthorne Pl #14M	\$730,000
Munson, Deborah	6 Whttier PI LLC	6 Whittier PI #12K	\$430,000 \$430,000
Plluska, Aldi	Harter, Rita S	8 Whittier PI #6F	\$490,000
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BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH EI	ND/KENMORE		
Littman, Kevin	Poulios, Philip S	566 Columbus Ave #102	\$1,700,000
36 Concord Sq Unit A Rt	Steven J Pica 2016 RET	36 Concord Sq #A	\$2,205,000
Chen, Min	Maronski, Lisa M	139 E Berkeley St #301	\$779,000
Killian, James M	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #14B	\$2,024,000
Nussbaum, Mark S	Quinn South End LLC	370-380 Harrison Ave #PH2C	\$2,049,000
Stowe, Barbara G	Shonkoff Ft	477 Harrison Ave #5A	\$2,975,000
Deng, Jin W	<b>Rb Equities LLC</b>	7 Parker St #3	\$790,000
Mcmanus, Allie	Tretyak-Odinets, Valeria	104 Pembroke St #3	\$1,840,000
Maximov, Viacheslav	Beraja, Martin A	505 Shawmut Ave #4	\$839,818
Hootie Stuart RET	Hatfield, Jeffrey	430 Stuart St #30C	\$7,700,000
Husid, Jamie	Killian, James M	15 Taylor St	\$2,275,000
Aitken, Christopher S	Li, Xi	600 Tremont St #2	\$2,150,000
Stanton, Allison C	Rich, Edward	198 W Springfield St #4	\$1,700,550
Sarna, Takshila	Finn, Allen	1948-1950 Washington St #3D	\$850,000
White, Deborah	Leadership Alliance Intl	1948-1950 Washington St #4C	\$975,000
Afzali, Ismat	Negroski, Alex	3531 Washington St #316	\$940,000
Cheng, Karen	Diozzi, Matthew T	9 Appleton St #302	\$975,000
Larchevesque, Nicholas	Tire Investments LLC	69 Church St #2	\$1,250,000
Ambigapathi, Vanathi	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #809	\$760,000
Desantis, Connor	Freliech, Michael A	15 Lawrence St #2	\$1,335,000
Hootie Stuart RET	Hatfield, Jeffrey	430 Stuart St #30C	\$7,700,000
Quinn, Anthony G	Wambach, Robert	430 Stuart St #26B	\$2,700,000
Raffles Thirty Four D LLC	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #34D	\$9,900,000
Jill Werner 2001 Lt	Tatelman, Mark	505 Tremont St #810	\$2,900,000
Sandoval, Shane	121 Warren LLC	121 Warren Ave	\$4,350,000

### WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Souza, Marcio Mirabella, Steven 5906 Winthrop LLC Mattuchio, Paul King, Mary Whitney, Chang-Hong Rietkerk, Bart W Sternberg FT Wang, Ruoyu Hooper St Holdings LLC Keating, Gerard K

Chang, Jessica

Coleman Ft Shea John T Est Mcaf Winthrop LLC Mcaf Winthrop LLC Fincham Christopher J Es Lawrence, Edward P Powers, Ryan Cynthia Lee Rawson T Maple Leaf Properties LL 20 Rowes Wharf Unit 702 Angela M Moore T

Mason, Sophia

3 Avery St #302 357 Commercial St #518 240 Devonshire St #5906 240 Devonshire St #4809 85 E India Row #16C 85 E India Row #15E 210 South St #11-4 151 Tremont St #18G 580 Washington St #1103 20 Rowes Wharf #702	\$585,000 \$735,000 \$4,955,000 \$3,080,000 \$918,000 \$815,000 \$1,100,000 \$644,500 \$1,757,500 \$1,800,000
45 Province St #1906	\$1,685,000

\$194,088

72 Warren Ave #101

## NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING 259 MARLBOROUGH STREET RESIDENCE 7, BACK BAY 3 BEDROOMS | 3 FULL 1 HALF BATHROOMS | 3,255 SQUARE FEET LISTED AT: \$5,490,000







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