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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025



FREE

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



FLYING HIGH AT CITY HALL

STREET SNOWBOARDING TAKES OVER

CITY OF BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Snowboarders in Zones 1 and 2 jump the gap as the record-breaking crowd gazes on during the Red Bull Heavy Metal street snowboarding competition held this Saturday at City Hall Plaza. See more photos on Page 4.

## Charlestown's first historic district to be discussed

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

In January of 2025, the members of the Monument Square Study Committee were sworn in at the City Clerk's Office. Soon, the members will meet to discuss establishing the Monument Square Landmark District as the city's 11th historic district and Charlestown's first. The Committee will recommend district boundaries, regulatory standards and areas of purview.

The proposed designation of the Monument Square Landmark

District was initiated in 2022 after a petition was submitted by 10 registered voters to the Boston Landmarks Commission, asking that the Commission designate the proposed district under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended. The purpose of this designation is to recognize and protect a physical feature or improvement that, in whole or part, has historical, cultural, social, architectural, or aesthetic significance.

(HISTORIC Pg. 2)

## DiDomenico files over 80 bills to begin new legislative session

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico filed over 80 bills this January marking the beginning of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session. Senator DiDomenico is focused on passing legislation and securing funding on a wide range of issues from supporting working families in need, to providing the best education for our youngest generation, to making our government work better for people regardless of their background or spoken language.

"I am excited about the bills I have filed and the coalitions we are working with this legislative session that will improve the well-being of children and people in need across the Commonwealth," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "I look forward to building on the momen-

tum and success of the last session to advance priorities important to my constituents such as preserving affordable housing, increasing cash assistance to families in deep poverty, ensuring everyone has access to nutritious food, protecting our environment, spurring our economy forward, and standing up for workers' rights."

Below is just a handful of priority bills that Senator DiDomenico will be spearheading this session:

- Lifting kids out of deep poverty: This legislation would increase cash assistance to families below 50% of the poverty line.

- Preventing wage theft: This legislation would ensure there is strong accountability for contractors and subcontractors who

(BILLS Pg. 7)

## Coletta Zapata honors BGCB's Robert Lewis Jr.

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) proudly honored Robert Lewis Jr., President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, during the Boston City Council's Black History Month celebration. This year's event recognized Black Legacy Leaders and Black Future Leaders, highlighting individuals

whose contributions, resilience, and impact continue to shape communities across the city.

"It is an incredible honor to celebrate a true leader, a visionary, and a champion for racial equity—Robert Lewis Jr. His impact on the City of Boston is immeasurable, and his dedication to uplifting city kids and fostering change has left an indelible mark on our city's history," said Councilor Coletta

Zapata.

Robert Lewis Jr.'s journey is one of resilience, service, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Growing up in East Boston, he witnessed firsthand the painful realities of racial division during the era of busing in the 1970s. At just 13 years old, he lived through the turmoil that reshaped Boston's neighborhoods—firebombings, school violence, and a fractured community. Rather than allowing that trauma to define him, he transformed his experiences

(LEWIS Pg. 5)

### CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus. The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, March 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street. The agenda includes an update from Councilor Coletta. Please bring your questions and concerns, or email them to [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com).

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check [Charlestownbridge.com](http://Charlestownbridge.com)

# EDITORIAL

## OUR OPINION

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### STATE, MUNICIPALITIES MUST ADJUST ASAP TO THE NEW REALITY

For those of us who have been around for a while, the warning signs are flashing red for the prospects of a budget crisis for our state and our cities and towns thanks to the promised changes in policies by the new administration in Washington.

It is (in the immortal words of Yogi Berra) *deja vu* all over again

We are not making a political judgment or statement of any kind. We simply are explaining what we see as the new reality for which our elected officials must be prepared.

We were around for the fiscal crises of the late 1970s under Gov. Michael Dukakis; the late 80s/early 1990s under Dukakis and Gov. William Weld; the early 2000s under Gov. Mitt Romney, and the period of the Great Recession under Gov. Deval Patrick in 2010.

Two of those governors were Republicans and two were Democrats, but they all shared one thing in common: Our state's finances were at the mercy of national politics and the national economy, both of which were beyond their control.

The consequences of those fiscal crises were profound and long-lasting. Cities and towns laid off scores of local employees, including teachers, police, and firefighters. Fire stations were closed and athletics and extracurricular activities were cut from school budgets.

At the state level, there were hiring freezes and layoffs. Many state employees, including those in the judiciary, agreed to pay cuts in the 1990s and again in the early 2000s amounting to two-weeks of their salary so that the jobs of their co-workers could be preserved. We would note that such drastic action had not been seen since the Great Depression among the state and local government workforce.

Part of the problem in the 1980s was that cities and towns had become dependent on the revenue-sharing program by the federal government (which was the pet project of Wilbur Mills, the powerful U.S. House Ways and Means Chairman) in the 1970s. Every city and town in the country received a nice check directly from the feds with no strings attached. However, under President Ronald Reagan, revenue-sharing eventually disappeared (to pay for Reagan's tax cuts and defense spending) and cities and towns were left with gaping holes in their budgets that led to the layoffs of the 1980s. A similar scenario is playing out today with promised reductions in funds to the states from the federal government.

In addition, cities and towns in the early 1980s were greatly affected by the passage of Prop. 2 and 1/2, which reduced their revenue-raising capacity.

All of those fiscal crises also shared something else in common: Our officials did not realize until it was way too late that revenue was declining, month-by-month-by-month. The longer they waited to do the obvious, the more pain it caused.

Simple arithmetic informs us that those four financial crises from the late 1970s through 2010 occurred basically in 10-year cycles. We have been fortunate that we have avoided a similar fiscal calamity for

almost 15 years. But it would appear that "the times they are a' changin'" and we soon will be in for a rocky road ahead.

Finally, we would note that the breadth of state government has grown hugely in the past few years. Former Gov. Charlie Baker's proposed budget for FY 2022 was about \$45 billion (the legislature eventually passed a budget of about \$48 billion), but this year's proposed budget by Gov. Maura Healey is about \$62 billion, which is more than 25% greater than the final budget of four years ago (and almost 40% more than what Baker initially had proposed).

While it is true that the state has about \$8 billion in its Stabilization Fund (a/k/a the Rainy Day Fund), state coffers have been reduced by more than \$1 billion in the past year and are facing further depletion because of the immigration crisis.

As we write about the goings-on in the local communities we cover, we are amazed at the growth of the bureaucracies at the state and local levels. There are new departments and new jobs that could not have been imagined back when we started our career in journalism 50 years ago. But we think the time is now for our elected officials to face reality and make the difficult decisions to ensure that government's core functions, public safety and public education, are maintained, and eliminate things that are non-essential.

Maintenance for the MBTA is essential. Constructing new, seldomly-used bicycle lanes is not. (We ourselves are dedicated cyclists who train for triathlons, but as much as we'd like to see bike lanes everywhere, we have to concede that they rate at the bottom of the list of government priorities.)

In short, if our elected officials do not take steps now to pare back public spending, then, as history has shown time and time again, when the opportunity for making responsible choices has passed, the eventual day of reckoning will be far worse than we could have imagined.

### IT WAS GREAT TO SEE CAPTAIN MIKE ERUZIONE AT THE BIG GAME

We just wanted to mention that it was great to see Winthrop's own Mike Eruzione serving as the honorary captain of Team USA for the big game with Canada (whose honorary captain was Wayne Gretzky) at the TD Garden last week for one of the biggest international hockey games in several years.

It was 45 years ago this past week (on Feb. 22, 1980) that Mike scored his epic, game-winning goal vs. the Russians at the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid and two days later led the U.S. to the gold medal victory vs. Finland -- the Miracle on Ice that Sports Illustrated labeled as THE #1 sports event of the 20th century.

Capt. Mike's presence on occasions such as these not only brings back those stirring memories ("Do you believe in miracles!!!" in the immortal words of Al Michaels), but also reminds us of a time when sports uniquely had the ability to bring us together and to transcend whatever forces might divide us as a nation.

### ON TRAFFIC CAMERAS

To the Editor,

I am sorry I missed last week's edition where I understand you expressed the view that speed-detecting cameras are ill advised. If we want to address the traffic problem I can't imagine why we would turn our back on this tool. Let me relate a recent experience.

I had the pleasure of driving around New Zealand and Australia for a month last year. When you pick up your rental car you are clearly warned that cameras are in wide use and you will be ticketed; everywhere! City and country.

As I left Melbourne heading west (think leaving Boston on the Mass Pike) I was struck by a strange observation. Everyone was going the speed limit. No one was passing on the wrong side, no tailgating or excessive lane changing. There was an unfamil-

iar civility about the entire driving experience.

Compare that to home where for 25 years I have been walking my dogs on Commonwealth Ave. It has become a drag strip. High speeds, constantly seeing red lights ignored. And don't get me started on the new scourge: that of the wrong way, unlit, sidewalk driving food delivery motorbikes.

By the way, I've never seen a traffic stop of a passenger vehicle on Comm Ave by the BPD.

So to those charged with making our world safer, let's use cameras to address the speeding and red light infractions. Let's use traffic calming devices seen elsewhere such as city street style speed bumps.

Oh and by the way, Australia, with a road system profile similar to ours, has 40% of the per capita driving deaths we have.

Michael Gallup


### HISTORIC (from pg. 1)

The proposed Monument Square Landmark District encompasses approximately 6.44 acres of land, with 47 contributing structures that front directly onto Monument Square. The proposed district is situated at the summit of Breed's Hill, historically known as the location of the American Revolutionary War battle of Bunker Hill. The proposed district outlines the grounds of the current National Historic Landmark, Bunker Hill Monument.

Monument Square was designed in 1825 to commemorate the June 17, 1775, Battle of Bunker Hill. Development began in 1839 when 50 building lots were sold on preserved battlefield property to construct a planned neighborhood to border the dedicated memorial obelisk and park.

Situated on the summit of Breed's Hill in Charlestown, Monument Square occupies the site of the main American redoubt during the battle, making its location that of national significance to military history. Further, strict deed restrictions and dictated elements of construction and design resulted in an urban landscape unique to Charlestown. The social and political processes that led to the conceptualization and establishment of Monument Square in 1839 provide insight into the ideologies of the early 19th century regarding the memorialization and commemoration of the Revolutionary War.

Among the 12 new landmarks was APOLLOS FIELD HOUSE in Charlestown that was designated in April 2024.



## CHARLESTOWN

### PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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**BILLS** (from pg. 1)

steal wages from hard-working employees, and it would expand the Attorney General's enforcement powers to include bringing a lawsuit against those employers.

- Expanding tax credits for families: This legislation would expand earned income tax credit eligibility, increase the children and family tax credit per qualifying dependent, and allow for periodic payments of the tax credits.

- Addressing PTSD: This legislation will make it easier for police, firefighters, and other public safety personnel to get the healthcare they need and deserve when suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- Healthy Youth Act: This legislation would require that when sex and relationship education is taught in school, it must be medically accurate, cover healthy consenting relationships, and be inclusive of all identities.

- The SUPER Act: This legislation would remove barriers to the social work field, incentivize social workers to remain in the field and bolster our workforce.

- Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative: This legislation would expand access to preschool, beginning with high-needs communities, to guarantee high quality education to all our children, regardless of their zip code.

- Providing identification for individuals reentering society: This legislation would ensure that individuals reentering society from prison or jail receive a state identification card upon release.

- Promote high-quality comprehensive literacy instruction: This legislation would ensure that Massachusetts schools teach high-quality comprehensive literacy instruction to our students to improve reading and writing outcomes for our children.

- Establish a Massachusetts children's cabinet: This legislation would create a Children's Cabinet under the Governor's office that would ensure services for children and youth are planned, managed, and delivered in a coordinated and integrated way.

- Eliminate education inflation cap: This legislation removes the annual inflation cap on education funding so that schools can get the resources they need to account for rising costs each year.

- Language access and inclusion: This legislation would ensure that public-facing state agencies and departments provide equal access to services, programs and activities serving limited English proficient and deaf or hard of hearing residents.

- Expand access to pediatric palliative care: This legislation would increase the age of eligibility for pediatric palliative care services to 22 years of age so more young people most in need of care will be able to access life-changing services.

- Reduce waste and recycling costs: This legislation would require that manufacturers of packaging materials create systems for recycling those materials after being used which will reduce fossil fuel emissions and waste.

- Encourage retirement planning: This legislation would create a statewide retirement planning program to ensure that workers all over the state can access a retirement savings account even if their employer doesn't offer one.

- Compensation for work-related scarring: This legislation would eliminate the restrictive requirement that compensation can only be given to employees who endure work-related scarring that is exclusively on their face, hands, or neck, and allow those employees to access more comprehensive compensation as a result.

- Access to Counsel: This legislation would ensure that tenants and homeowner occupied landlords have full legal counsel in eviction proceedings.

- ENOUGH Act: This legislation will create an innovative strategy to fight poverty by investing resources in high need neighborhoods and collaborating with community residents to help drive decisions that will ensure investments increase economic mobility.

Poverty Commission

- As Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Poverty Commission, Senator DiDomenico has hosted community hearings across the state to gather insight from people living in and working to address poverty. The goal of the commission is to study the ways our state can best address inequality, reduce poverty, and promote opportunity in the Commonwealth over the next 10 years.

- Now the hearings have been completed, and the commission of over 30 elected officials, policy experts, and advocates have gathered recommendations. Senator DiDomenico will use these recommendations to file an anti-poverty omnibus bill. This legislation will address the root causes of poverty, increase pathways to economic opportunity for everyone, and ensure residents have equal and easy access to all of the essential services that our state provides to people in need.

**Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship now accepting applications**

*"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The U.S. Marines don't have that problem."*

~ Ronald Reagan

Applications are now available to Charlestown students applying for the annual Lt. Michael P. Quinn 2025 Scholarship. All applications are due by April 15. The following requirements must be adhered to apply for the \$20,000 scholarship:

- 1) Applicant must be resident of Charlestown for the past four years

- 2) Applicant must be a graduate of the Class of 2025.

Other stipulations include that the scholarship can be used only for the first year of college. Applications can be picked up at the Guidance Departments of Charlestown High School, Boys' and Girls Club, Charlestown Library, Malden Catholic High School, and Boston Latin And Boston Latin Academy, and can be downloaded at [www.quinnscholarship.org](http://www.quinnscholarship.org). The application deadline is April 15, 2025.

If there are questions regarding the scholarship, please call Ronan Fitzpatrick at 617-242-5493 or email [maryfitzpatrick10@comcast.net](mailto:maryfitzpatrick10@comcast.net)

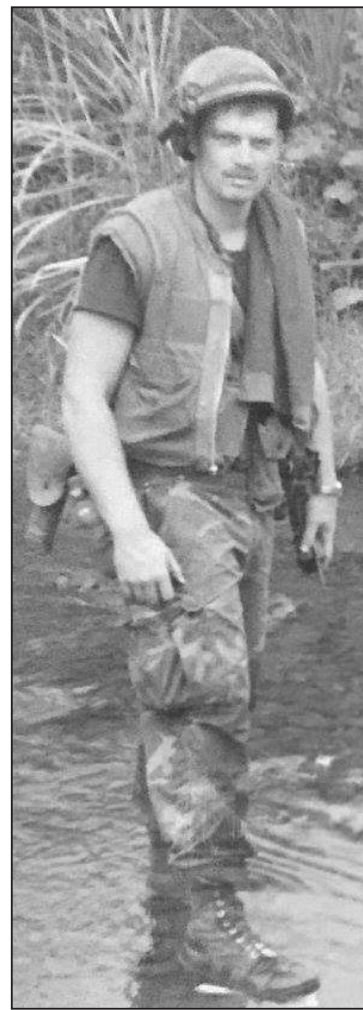
The annual Quinn Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held on April 5, 2025, at the Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford St., Charlestown, MA commencing at 6:15 P.M.

Last year's 2024 Quinn Scholar, Julia Pistorino, will be also honored. Julia is currently attending Connecticut College, and is scheduled to graduate with the class of 2028. The featured speaker for the dinner is Brigadier General Matthew Tracy, Commanding General, Educational Command and President, Marine Corps University, U.S.M.C..

This year's program book will be dedicated to Leo J Breen and John J Pierce, departed buddies of the Quinn Organization.

**The ultimate sacrifice**

August 29, 1969: As "H Com-



Lt. Michael P. Quinn.

pany" platoon leaders huddled in the darkness of the Quang Nam Province in South Vietnam, U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Michael Quinn was tasked with leading his infantry unit on a reconnaissance mission to seek a water supply and identify enemy troop movement. Stealthily executing their directive, Quinn and his troops happened upon a large invading enemy force heading in the direction of "H Company." Realizing that the only way to alert his fellow marines of the dire situation was to draw fire on his position, Quinn dispatched members of his unit back to "H Company" and engaged the enemy. While that fateful decision resulted in Lt. Michael Quinn making the "ultimate sacrifice," it also prevented the loss of many lives.

Fellow Marine John Krga

recalls: "I had the honor and privilege of serving under Lt. Mike and remember that fateful day all too well as a group of us volunteered to retrieve him, hoping he was still alive. I am not surprised to see that Mike's memory lives on through the people he touched just as he lives on in me."

Lt. Michael P. Quinn was recognized for his bravery and awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart and is honored on Panel 18W, Row 8 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

**A life remembered**

Noted for his academic and athletic achievement, Michael Quinn accomplished so much in his 23 years. He was a product of his Walford Way, working-class upbringing where looking out for your neighbor, respecting elders, hard work and "having your friend's back" were ingrained in him at an early age.

Michael graduated from Boston Latin High School and the College of the Holy Cross where he captained the football and hockey teams and achieved Hall of Fame status at both institutions establishing a reputation as a ferocious competitor.

After graduating from college, Michael attended Officer Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia and finished first in his class. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968, assigned to "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division and deployed to Vietnam.

To continue Mike's legacy, the Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship was established in 1969 by his friends (most notably Eddie Johnson, Stephen Driscoll and Ronan FitzPatrick) and family and more than \$250,000 has been awarded to "Townie" high school graduates looking to pursue a college education. While the anguish of Michael's loss is palpable so many years after his passing, the inspiration of his legacy - recounted annually by Quinn Scholarship committee members and esteemed guest speakers - is truly special.

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# Metal Meets Snow

## Red Bull Heavy Metal nails Boston Debut

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston witnessed an electrifying debut of Red Bull Heavy Metal, as the iconic street snowboarding competition took over City Hall Plaza and Faneuil Hall for the first time. The event crowned Benny Milam and Jess Perlmutter as overall champions for the man and woman categories respectively, each earning a coveted CNCPTS x Burton 'Rabbit Hole' Collection board as well as a cash prize.

Over 20,000 spectators, the largest snowboard crowd in Boston history, experienced firsthand the high-energy action of the fifth edition of Red Bull Heavy Metal, the first in the sports-obsessed city.

"This is crazy how many people showed up," said Milam. "There is a parking lot out there full of people trying to get a view. This is maybe the most insane turnout of a street snowboarding event like ever. I think its time for round two next year."

Snowboard icon, Zeb Powell secured first place in Zone 1, bringing a never-before felt energy to the iconic steps that lead to Congress Street.

"That was by far the biggest snowboard crowd I've ever seen at any event," Powell said. "The vibes that Boston brought were insane. I honestly don't have words. Simply the largest most electric crowd I've ever experienced."

2025 Boston Winners

- Overall Winners: Benny Milam & Jess Perlmutter
- Zone 1 Winners: Zeb Powell & Jess Perlmutter
- Zone 2 Winners: Benny Milam & Jess Perlmutter
- Zone 3 Winners: Benny Milam & Jayva Jordan



HEAVY METAL CIRILLI PHOTO




CITY OF BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON



KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT PHOTO

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The City of Boston's Home Center offers this and other programs that can help [low-/moderate-income homeowner-occupants](#) (with household incomes 80% or less of HUD median income). An [approved, licensed and insured contractor](#) will perform all work.

If you own a home in East Boston, Charlestown, the North End or the West End, contact [Neighborhood of Affordable Housing \(NOAH\)](#) to schedule a free, no obligation, in-home assessment! Income eligibility and other restrictions may apply.

143 Border Street, East Boston • 617-418-8265 or 617-529-3294 • [adandrea@noahcdc.org](mailto:adandrea@noahcdc.org)

Funding Is Provided by The City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing, the Boston Home Center Division



KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT PHOTO

# Wu shares Boston's preparations for climate emergencies

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu, Emergency Preparedness Chief Adrian Jordan, Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Chief of Operations Dion Irish, and public safety officials shared Boston's preparations for extreme weather events, including efforts to lower risks with long-term climate resilience plans and ongoing efforts to update the City's emergency response. As a coastal city, Boston faces the increasing climate risk of extreme heat, rising coastal flooding, and intense stormwater. The city's cross-departmental approach has shifted the emphasis from planning to implementation, focusing on empowering residents, supporting communities at greatest risk of flooding and other emergency events, and lowering the risk city-wide through resilience efforts.

"Climate risks require an all of government approach, and here in Boston we've been working on short and long term initiatives to better respond in emergency situations and protect our residents in the generations to come," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Emergency weather events in other parts of the country have highlighted the need for us to share our progress and remind residents to take precautions now such as signing up for AlertBoston and familiarizing themselves with our coastal flood map. I'm grateful to our City departments and external partners for all of their work behind the

scenes to keep our communities safe."

"Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. At the City of Boston, we are committed to providing the plans, resources, and communication necessary to keep our community safe," said Chief of Emergency Preparedness Adrian Jordan. "However, the more our residents are informed, engaged, and prepared, the stronger our response will be in the face of any emergency. I encourage all residents to sign up for AlertBoston, consider joining our CERT program, and most importantly, create an emergency plan for themselves and their families."

"As climate risks intensify, our approach must be both proactive to our current risks and adaptive to our changing climate. Boston is not only strengthening its emergency response capabilities but also making longer term infrastructure investments to protect our neighborhoods from rising seas, extreme storms, and dangerous heat," said Brian Swett, Chief Climate Officer. "I'm grateful for Mayor Wu's leadership, the dedication of our city teams, and the engagement of residents and business owners in making Boston a national leader in climate resilience and emergency preparedness."

The City has been working to develop and implement climate resilience projects to address coastal flooding, stormwater management, and extreme heat. Today,

Mayor Wu announced the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) brought on a Floodplain Administrator who is working to improve floodplain management practices. These efforts can increase access to lower cost flood insurance through FEMA's Community Rating System Program, which hiring a Floodplain Administrator is a key first step towards qualifying for. Landlords and housing property managers will also see on this year's rental registration forms the opportunity to identify if their buildings include basement units. Residents of these units are at a higher risk in the event of flooding, and the City is prioritizing knowing where they are to proactively provide support.

"Boston is taking actionable steps to prepare our City's built environment for future climate emergencies, following through on previous planning work. Hiring the new Floodplain Administrator is an example of how we're enacting Boston's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan," shared Dion Irish, Chief of Operations. "We're focused on making both our public safety facilities more resilient and on ensuring the buildings where our communities gather together can weather storms and continue to serve residents during and after major climate events."

Mayor Wu joined city officials for the press briefing at the District

(CLIMATE Pg. 7)

LEWIS (from Page 1)

into a lifelong mission: to create a Boston where every young person—regardless of race or background—has the opportunity to thrive.

His leadership at The BASE redefined the way we think about youth, using sports as a pathway to higher education and meaningful careers. Now, as the President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, he is transforming the lives of countless children by ensuring they have access to education, healthcare, and workforce readiness—all essential elements of a brighter future.

Through his work at The Boston Foundation, City Year, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and numerous national initiatives, Robert has been a driving force for equity and justice. His leadership has not only changed systems but changed lives. He continues to challenge us all, asking the hard questions: Are we any better today than we were 50 years ago? And he reminds us that the fight for justice is far from over.

"Robert, your courage, your conviction, and your tireless advo-



Gabriela Coletta Zapata (right) with Robert Lewis Jr.

cacy inspire us all," Councilor Coletta Zapata continued. "Boston is a better city because of you, and we are forever grateful for your leadership. Today, we honor you—not just for what you have done, but for the future you continue to fight for. Thank you for never giving up on Boston and for always believing in the power of young people to change the world."

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**Patricia DeOliviera**  
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617-524-2626

**Maureen DiBella**  
mdibella@winthroptranscript.com  
781485-0588 x 103

# Accessory Dwelling Units officially allowed statewide under Affordable Homes Act

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are now permitted by-right statewide in Massachusetts thanks to the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Affordable Homes Act, signed into law by Governor Maura Healey in August 2024. Sometimes called tiny homes or in-law suites, ADUs are small, independent living spaces located on the same lot as a principal dwelling in a residential zoning district. Garages, attics, and basements can be converted into ADUs. Or an ADU can be a newly constructed detached cottage or addition onto the primary home with a separate entrance.

"We said from the beginning that we were going to make housing more affordable by creating homes for every kind of household and at every stage of life," said Governor Maura Healey. "By allowing homeowners the freedom to create an Accessory Dwelling Unit, we can provide more housing options for seniors, creating opportunities for young adults with special needs looking for more independence and developing smaller, more affordable, housing options for our state."

"This is a real solution that creates additional housing throughout our communities in small ways that can have a big impact for an individual or a family," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "The Affordable Homes Act is continuing to open up new housing at every level across the state and allowing Accessory Dwelling Units is an example of the problem-solving focus of our administration."

The undersupply of housing in Massachusetts has dramatically increased housing costs in recent years. ADUs are part of the solution to build more homes and drive down costs for tenants and homebuyers.

As of Sunday, February 2nd, ADUs less than 900 square feet can be built by-right in single-family zoning districts statewide, and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities estimates that 8,000 to 10,000 ADUs can be constructed over the next five years thanks to this simplification of the ADU permitting process.

"ADUs can provide supplemental rental income to homeowners, add value to single-family homes, and deliver new options for renters in a tight market," said Ed Augustus, Secretary of

Housing and Livable Communities. "Previously, if a homeowner wanted to build an ADU for an aging parent, they would have had to apply for special permits and variances, which in many cases can be outright denied due to restrictive zoning bylaws. Now, ADUs are allowed by-right statewide, making it easier for residents to build in their own backyards, or onto their existing homes."

ADUs can have a profound effect for homeowners and their families. They can allow older adults to age in place and remain close to their grandkids and children. ADUs can also offer independent living for young adults with special needs.

Following a public comment period, EOHLC has now issued final regulations intended to help cities and towns adjust their local ordinances and allow for ADUs by-right. You can visit [Mass.gov/ADU](http://Mass.gov/ADU) to learn more specific details about the ADUs by-right policy.

Municipalities who need assistance drafting, conducting community planning, and enacting local ADU rules may apply for funding through the Community One Stop for Growth.

Residents interested in devel-

oping an ADU should contact their city or town services who will be able to give them an understanding of the local rules and how they can apply for a permit. Additionally, residents seeking to build an ADU for people with disabilities or people over 60 may be eligible for no-interest financing through the state's Home Modification Loan Program.

### Statements of Support

Jen Benson, Massachusetts State Director, AARP:

"Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are not only a vital tool in creating additional affordable housing, but they are also one of the best ways for older family members to age in place. ADUs can help create multi-generational housing opportunities while giving those generations the comfort of their own living spaces."

Maura Sullivan, CEO, The Arc of Massachusetts:

"The Arc of Massachusetts is grateful to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for releasing regulations that provide additional details on the Accessory Dwelling Unit provision of the Affordable Homes Act. ADU's have been a long-time policy priority of The Arc because we recognize the critical need to create more housing for people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. These individuals and their families face many challenges related to housing, including safety, gaining independence, and maintaining tenancy. ADU's provide an option for some people with disabilities to live and thrive in their community, where they often have family and natural supports. We look forward to working with individuals and families to interpret and understand these regulations."

Rachel Heller, CEO, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association:

"Today, Massachusetts takes another significant step forward on the path to a vibrant future. When we allow for a range of housing types in our neighborhoods, people have opportunities to live in homes they can afford

in the communities they choose. Accessory Dwelling Units can make housing more affordable for homeowners that build them and for renters looking for housing at different price points. As communities allow for Accessory Dwelling Units, multifamily housing, and smaller homes on smaller lots, we are fostering an environment where people, our neighborhoods, and our economy can thrive."

Jesse Kanson-Benanav, Executive Director, Abundant Housing Massachusetts:

"We were proud to partner with the Healey-Driscoll administration, Secretary Augustus and EOHLC, and advocates in ensuring the Affordable Homes Act included a strong ADU provision that will unlock more housing production across the commonwealth. Advocates have spoken of the need for standardization and fewer barriers to building ADUs and we have finally answered the call. ADUs are a gentle tool in the Massachusetts toolbox to address our severe housing storage. This provision allows homeowners to generate additional income or house loved ones with disabilities, aging family members, or young adults who might not otherwise be able to afford to live in the community where they were raised. Legalizing Accessory Dwelling Units by-right in every city and town is an investment in the future of the commonwealth and its residents."

Marc Draisen, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC):

"As new zoning allowing Accessory Dwelling Units goes into effect this week, cities and towns across Massachusetts now have a new tool for adding infill, small-scale homes to meet a variety of multi-generational needs in this tight housing market. MAPC stands ready to assist communities in implementing thoughtful local regulations. We are eager to share our model zoning resource, created in partnership with EOHLC, that will streamline adoption in neighborhoods across our region."

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# BLO's 80th Anniversary production of 'Rodgers & Hammerstein's 'Carousel''

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

A traveling group of outsider artists arrives at an abandoned amusement park. They carry their own props, don their own costumes and work to evoke – the best they know how – life in a quaint New England village. A broken-down rollercoaster serves as their set, enhanced by whatever scraps they find. A rusty lever is lifted and the park's lights come on. So begins Boston Lyric Opera's 80th anniversary production of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's 'Carousel,'" directed by visionary artist and BLO Artistic Associate Anne Bogart, conducted by BLO Music Director David Angus, and running April 4-13, at the Emerson Colonial Theatre. Tickets are available now at BLO.org.

The cast comprises acclaimed opera artists including (below, l.-r.): Brandie Sutton (BLO debut) as Julie Jordan; Edward Nelson (BLO's "desert in") as Billy Bigelow; Jamie Barton (BLO debut) as Nettie Fowler; Anya Matanović ("The Rake's Progress") as Carrie Pipperidge; Omar Najmi ("The Anonymous Lover") as Enoch Snow; Markel Reed ("Champion") as Jigger Craigin; and Bos-

ton Foundation President M. Lee Pelton (BLO debut) makes a cameo as The Starkeeper/Dr. Selton.

## THE STORY

Carousel follows the story of Billy, a charming but troubled man in a close-knit seaside town, and Julie, a woman with many friends and family, who falls for him despite the risks. Their romance costs them both their jobs, and their eventual marriage struggles as Billy grows frustrated by his lack of work. When Julie reveals she's pregnant, Billy vows to provide for the family and agrees to a robbery with the scheming Jigger. When the plan fails, Billy dies. A distraught Julie seeks support from her community and works to protect her daughter. In the afterlife, Billy is offered a chance to help his now-grown daughter Louise, who struggles on Earth with his legacy. Returning as a troubled spirit, Billy tries to guide her. Although his presence is unseen, Louise feels his love. At her graduation, even Julie senses him. With his family's future brightened, Billy finds eternal peace.

## Anne Bogart's Take

Anne Bogart says when she was offered the chance to direct this CAROUSEL, her immediate response was an enthusiastic yes. "Carousel is a time capsule from 1945," she says, "carrying with it a sense of magic that transcends generations and packs a surprising emotional punch. The allure of second chances and the strength of community are powerful elements that emerge from the narrative."

Through a contemporary lens, Bogart says the show's depictions of domestic violence, cycles of poverty and crime, suicide, and toxic masculinity still resonate strongly. "The treatment of these issues in Carousel may seem outdated by modern standards, but its artistic merits – and willingness to tackle complex human actions – make it a thought-provoking work within the classical music theater canon. Carousel offers a profound exploration of love, loss and redemption." Bogart says the idea of a traveling troupe presenting the show nods to the journey taken by Billy, to migrants who often find itinerant work in fishing communities, and to the show's long history.

"Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel is steeped in the grand traditions of opera, woven through with soaring melodies, sweeping orchestrations and deeply human drama," says BLO Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO Bradley Vernatter. "Carousel is closely tied to the lineage of American opera. It thrives on rich emotional depth, complex characters and a timeless, transcendent score. Decades later, its poignancy and musical grandeur still resonate, proving that its heart beats not just with Broadway rhythm, but also with the pulse of something even greater—it's an enduring, lyrical epic."

In addition to Bogart and Angus, the creative team for Carousel includes: choreographer Shura Baryshnikov, whose new

choreography aims to honor the movement by iconic dance maker Agnes de Mille; set designer Sara Brown, costume designer Haydee Zelideth, lighting designer Brian H. Scott, and wig and makeup designer Earon Chew Nealey.

David Angus conducts a 40-piece Boston Lyric Opera Orchestra in a performance that featured full operatic voices and unamplified singing. BLO Head of Music and Chorus Director Brett Hodgdon leads a 38-member Boston Lyric Opera chorus.

The Carousel cast also includes Sarah Heltzel, Theophile Victoria, Tyler Dobies, Devon Russo, Fred C. VanNess Jr., Alexander Davis, Sabrina Lobner, Angela Yam, Abigail Curran and John Robert Sasso.

## CLIMATE (from pg. 5)

A-7 police station in East Boston, which the Mayor opened in 2023. The new building design incorporates resiliency features, including stormwater chambers under the parking lot and stormwater planters that capture stormwater that falls on site, and a cool, white roof to help with extreme heat mitigation.

"As a representative of one of Boston's most vulnerable coastal communities, I know firsthand that climate change isn't a distant threat—it's a present reality," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "Our neighborhoods are already seeing the effects of rising seas, extreme storms, and dangerous heat. I commend the administration for moving from planning to action, ensuring that residents, businesses, and infrastructure are better prepared for climate emergencies. From floodplain management to emergency response, these efforts will help protect our most at-risk communities and create a more resilient city."

Other recent efforts to better respond to potential coastal flooding events include the Boston Fire Department's new high water rescue vehicles, hosting the nation's first Deployables Day training exercise last fall, and upgrading the City's flood forecasting and tracking system. The City has

also been working to lower the risk of flooding events in the long-term by implementing the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District (CFROD), a national-leading standard to embed coastal resilience into our Zoning code; redesigning parks and green spaces for resiliency such as McConnell Park in Dorchester and Ryan Playground in Charlestown; and allocating the highest amount of Capital funding in Boston's history to coastal resilience projects. A new stormwater grant and credit program launched by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and new green infrastructure standards are now in place to update the City's aging water and sewer system and its capacity during heavy rain.

Similarly for extreme heat events, the City launched the Urban Forestry Division to bring shade to the hottest neighborhood streets. For instance, 1,912 new street trees were planted in 2024. Additionally, the City of Boston launched the Boston Tree Alliance while planting over 160 trees on private properties, and has installed the nation's largest implementation of green roofs on bus shelters. New misting towers and tents are put in place at key sites, including nine Boston Public Library locations and three community centers, during heat

emergencies to keep residents cool where they are.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration is fortunate to have a strong group of emergency management partners at the local and state level addressing the increasing complexity and frequency of crisis events caused by climate change," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Director Dawn Brantley. "Through collaboration, training, and planning, Boston is increasing community-level resilience and reducing long-term vulnerability, especially within disadvantaged communities that are often disproportionately impacted by disasters."

In the wake of large-scale evacuations and severe weather emergencies around the country, residents are encouraged to educate themselves on their evacuation routes. The Office of Emergency Management is launching an update to the existing evacuation route signs around the City to better reflect current traffic flow and at-risk areas. This will also include a shift to more online education materials in addition to the physical signage.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Boston, a free service available in the City's 11 most-spoken languages.

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# DIDOMENICO HOSTS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The top elected officials in Massachusetts will join host State Senator Sal DiDomenico at the head table for the Annual DiDomenico Foundation St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Roast on Friday, March 7 beginning at 6:30pm at the Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus in Charlestown. This has become one of the most anticipated events of the year.

In addition to Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, over 75 federal, state, and elected officials have confirmed they will join State Senator Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) at the head table at the annual political kick-off of the St. Patrick's Day roast including: Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Massachusetts State Senate President Karen Spilka, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons, Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Mid-

dlesex County Clerk of Courts Michael Sullivan, Governor's Councilor Terry Kennedy and more!

In addition to a traditional Irish dinner, the night will include live Irish music, bagpipers, Irish step dancers and Boston's best comedians to enhance the political humor. There will also be complimentary valet parking at the event.

This year's Golden Shamrock Award recipient is Tom MacDonald, the director of the Harvest on Vine Food Pantry in Charlestown. He will be honored for his steadfast and tireless work to fight food insecurity throughout our neighborhoods. Tom is a kind and caring individual who always gives back to his community and he is someone everyone knows they can count on. Tom never looks for the spotlight and always leads with heart and it is fitting that he will be recognized for his great work to lift everyone up.

This event is one of the most popular St. Patrick's Day traditions in the Greater Boston area and Senator Nick Collins (D-South Boston), the host of the Annual South Boston St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, will also be at the

event. For tickets (\$40.00 per person) and event information, please call (617) 387-3327. Proceeds will go

to The DiDomenico Foundation, which funds educational scholarships for graduating high school students, as well as a large toy

drive during the holiday season for domestic violence and homeless shelters throughout the Greater Boston.



Shown are scenes from last years event. Above, Sen. Sal DiDomenico laughs as he is being roasted. Below, Gov. Maura Healey talks about the great work the foundations does.



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# Park Street School students celebrate science

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Thursday and Friday, Feb. 20 and 21, Park Street School (PSS) Elementary School students (Kindergarten-Grade 6) presented engaging Science topics to parents, faculty and staff, peers and other PSS students during our two-day, dynamic 2025 Science Fair exhibition.

On Thursday morning, Feb. 20, from 8:30-9:30 a.m., Park Street School (PSS) students in Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 shared their Science Fair group projects with parents and classmates.

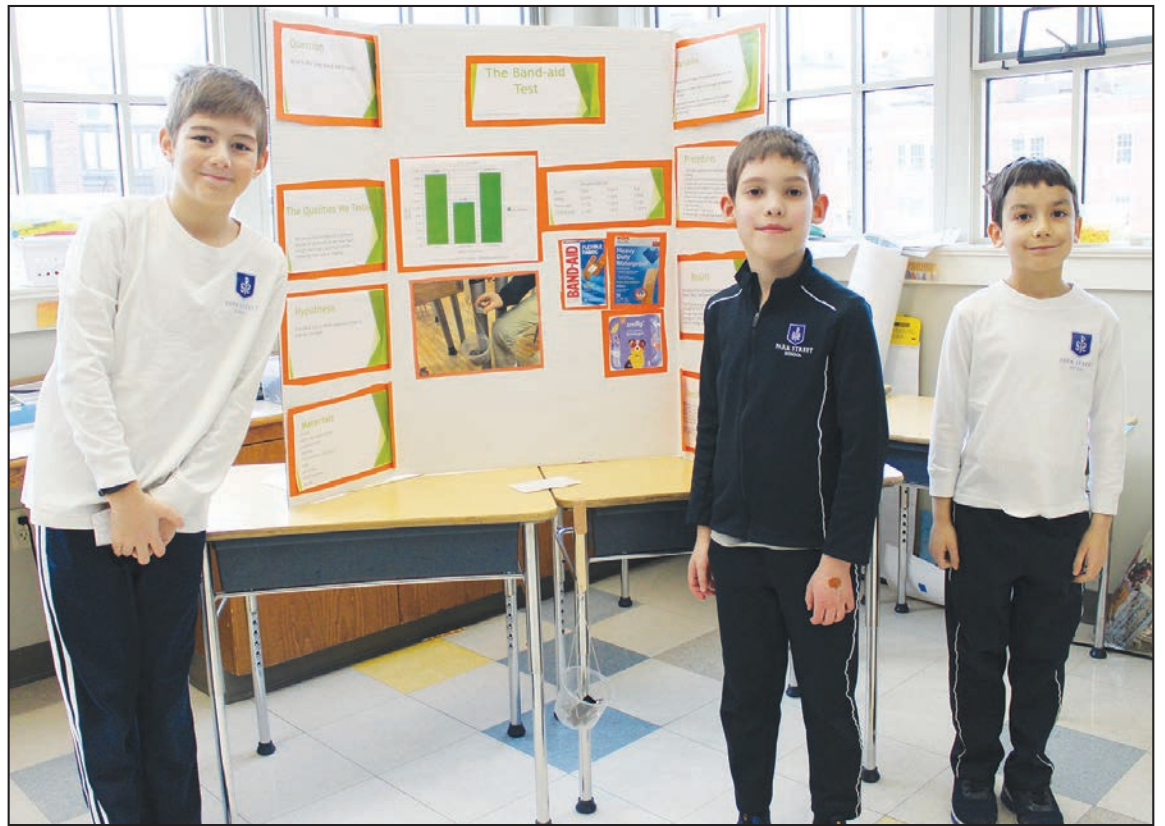
The school's budding second-grade entomologists displayed handcrafted 3-D larger-than-life models of unusual insects, sharing interesting facts and discoveries with parents and classmates. PSS Parents took Expeditions through Kindergarten classrooms where walls and ceilings were transformed into Rainforests. Kindergarten field experts answered questions and shared their knowledge about particular animals that share the Rainforest habitat. First-grade astronauts were ready to launch into outer space, sharing their galactic knowledge and discoveries about particular planets, NASA, and the solar system. Meanwhile, in a collaborative Art, Science, and Homeroom effort, third-graders took their parents under the sea to share their expertise on sea turtles, showcasing five different sea turtle species. Finally, Grade 4 students presented work on product testing done in teams, researching and testing consumer household items such as lip balms, hand warmers, plastic wrap, and band-aids (to name a few).

On Friday morning, Feb. 21, Grades 5-6 students displayed individual science experiments and research papers, engaging parents and visitors with riveting answers and sharing their discoveries to questions. The topics investigated by Grade 5 and 6 students included this sampling of questions: "Will different types of flour affect the density of a muffin?" with the hypothesis that the greater amount of protein in the flour would make a denser muffin; "What melts ice the quickest?" with the hypothesis that sea salt would melt ice the fastest because it would lower the freezing point of water more than other substances; "Does the amount of fat impact the amount cheese stretches?" with the hypothesis that the more fat in the cheese, the more it would stretch; "Does being on a cell phone call affect a

person's reaction time while driving?" with a hypothesis that a participant in a cell phone conversation would have slower than normal reaction time; "Will ski waxes that are not paraffin-based work as effectively as paraffin ski wax?" with the hypothesis that ski wax made with beeswax is as effective as paraffin wax at reducing friction between ski and snow; and finally, "Does age affect a person's ability to recognize AI-generated photos?" with the hypothesis that the older a person is, the more their ability to recognize AI-generated photos decreases.

### Announcement and Presentation of Grade 5 and 6 Winners:

On Friday afternoon, Feb. 21 at 1:30 p.m., the names of the winners in Grades 5 and 6 were announced. These middle school students' projects were assessed by judges external to the school, before Friday. The judges' scores were tallied to produce five awards, First Place through Fifth Place. The winners presented their five projects on stage to parents and visitors. Interspersed between each of the winning presentations were innovative live advertising "commercials," written, designed, and produced by fourth-grade students based on their product testing. The awards were presented to the following students: First Place: Grade 5B Lydia Schillace; Second Place: Grade 6A Samuel Douthit; Third Place: Grade 6A Gopal Mamdya; Fourth Place: Grade 6A Sophia Geiman; and Fifth Place: Grade 5A Christopher Exilhomme. Congratulations to ALL of the PSS scientists!



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Shown (above and below) are Park Street School students were engaged during the 2025 Science Fair exhibition.



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# Age Strong Commission to host property tax application assistance clinics

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Wu and the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission is hosting a series of in-person Property Tax Application Assistance Clinics to help Boston's older residents find out which various cost savings they may be eligible for now through the end of March. Clinics will be held across the city and support Boston residents age 60 and above for eligibility on property tax exemptions/deferral, fuel assistance, SNAP, water/sewer discount, and Medicare Savings Program. Mayor Wu, Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea and advocates visited yesterday's clinic at Boston Public Library in Roxbury and connected with older residents.

"Thank you to our teams for always working to get City Hall out of City Hall and into our neighborhoods so everyone can access programs and resources," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These

clinics hosted across the city by Age Strong will support our older residents in identifying and signing up for every possible resource to save money and stay healthy throughout the year. I encourage all eligible older adults to get connected by signing up for a clinic now through the end of March."

Monday, March 3  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: BPL South Boston, 646 E Broadway, S. Boston

Tuesday, March 4  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: BPL Honan, 300 N Harvard St., Allston

Thursday, March 6  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Location: BPL Mattapan, 1350 Blue Hill Ave, Mattapan

Friday, March 7  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: BPL East Boston,

365 Bremen St., East Boston

Tuesday, March 11  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., BPL Lower Mills,  
Location: 27 Richmond St., Dorchester

Thursday, March 20  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford St., Charlestown

Wednesday, March 26  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Boston Elks Lodge, 1 Morrell St., W. Roxbury

Thursday, March 27  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: BPL Grove Hall, 41 Geneva Ave, Dorchester

Friday, March 28  
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston

For more information regarding the clinics and eligibility, please visit [boston.gov/prop-tax-clinics](http://boston.gov/prop-tax-clinics). To register for an in-person clinic appointment, residents are encouraged to contact the Age Strong Commission directly by calling 617-635-4366.

"Our Age Strong Advocates are trained to help our older adults make sure they get the benefits and discounts they're eligible for," said Emily K. Shea, Age Strong Commissioner. "In addition, we have many partner departments and organizations at these events so that it is a one-stop shop for our older residents."

Older residents may be eligible

for the following existing resources:

- Boston's Residential Exemption: This exemption can reduce property tax bill by up to \$3,984. The deadline to apply for this reduction is April 1.

- The Senior Exemption "41C": This exemption offers qualifying older residents up to \$2,000 in tax relief. Applications are due April 1.

- The City of Boston's Senior Property Tax Deferral Program: Program that allows qualifying older adults to defer all or part of your property tax bill, a 1% loan paid back when the property is sold or transferred. Applications are due April 1.

- Age Strong Commission's Property Tax Work-off Program: Older adults are provided an opportunity to "work off" up to \$2,000 from your property tax bill by volunteering with City departments. Apply by July 11.

- Boston Water and Sewer Elderly and Disability Discounts: Through this program, BWSC gives eligible residents a 30% discount on their water, sewer, and stormwater charges.

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP): This existing program helps eligible people with their winter heating bills.

- SNAP program: Key program that helps people expand their food budget.

- Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit: A tax credit program that gives eligible older adults a refundable credit of up to \$2730 on their personal state income tax return.

- Boston Home Center: Residents may be eligible through the

Home Center for support with home repair costs.

- Community Choice Electricity: Residents may also be eligible for utility discounts or payment plans.

The Property Tax Application Assistance Clinics are hosted in partnership with various City departments including Assessing, Boston Home Center, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, Community Engagement, the Worker Empowerment Cabinet/Boston Tax Help Coalition, and Environment. Additionally, various organizations partnered with the City to host these clinics including Action for I Community Development (ABCD), MassSave, Eversource and National Grid.

These clinics to support older adults with property tax assistance builds on Mayor Wu's work to make Boston a home for everyone and address the rising cost of living facing Boston residents. Mayor Wu continues to fight for residential tax relief legislation for Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their Fiscal Year 2025 third-quarter property tax bills. This refiled tax proposal, which recently passed the Boston City Council last week, expands on Mayor Wu's relief package that passed the City Council and House of Representatives last year. Additionally, Mayor Wu and her administration have helped more families become homeowners than in any other three-year period since 1998 and adopted new policies and programs to reduce the cost of utility bills for homeowners.

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## Mayors across U.S. file amicus brief in opposition to drastic cuts to federal research funding

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu co-lead a coalition of Mayors from across the United States in writing and filing an amicus brief in federal district court in Boston to stop the Trump Administration's drastic and illegal cuts to federal research funding and immediate job losses in cities nationwide. Over 40 mayors, cities, and counties from across the country joined the brief. These cities are home to universities and hospitals that employ hundreds of thousands of Americans in cutting edge medical and scientific research, and the federally-funded research in these communities has made the United States the global leader in scientific discovery. The brief seeks a temporary restraining order against the Trump Administration, along-

side the research universities, medical schools, hospitals, and 22 states that are plaintiffs in the three cases filed last week in federal district court.

"For decades, Congress has made a clear choice to use federally-funded research to invest in cities, build a broadly-distributed infrastructure for scientific discovery, create jobs, and drive economic growth in communities across the United States," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We join with cities across the country — in red states, purple states, and blue states — to stop this illegal action that will cause layoffs, lab closures, and undermine scientific progress in American cities. I thank Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell for her leadership on

behalf of the research institutions of Boston."

This amicus brief is in response to the abrupt February 7, 2025 announcement by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of an immediate reduction in funding for scientific and medical research institutions across the country. Under the NIH's new policy, which temporarily went into effect on Monday, February 10, payments for indirect costs reimbursed to research universities would be capped at 15%, down from 30-70%. The brief makes clear that NIH funding cuts would devastate research institutions in cities across the county, cause job losses, create severe economic dis-

# From Slices to Survival

## Justin Pioppi's incredible adventure

Story by Marianne Salza

From preparing pizza at his family-owned and operated Italian restaurant in Beachmont, to being stranded on an island in the South Pacific Ocean, Justin Pioppi demonstrates the strength that is cultivated from being raised in a close-knit neighborhood where family is paramount, and generations of loyal friends offer perspective.

Thirty-year-old Pioppi, of Winthrop, is a contestant on the CBS original series, "Survivor," premiering Wednesday, February 26, at 8pm. The reality show features 18 castaways divided into three tribes of six individuals who are stripped of modern, everyday comforts and forced to adapt on the islands of Fiji.

"I saw this as a turning point in my life because it had always been family-focused. This is a crazy adventure I could do for myself; but also at the same time, care about the people who care about me and made this opportunity possible," said Pioppi. "Family

comes first. My mom had a few battles with cancer, so I've always tried to step in and help. I wanted to try to win this for my mom, so she could finally retire."

Friends and family were happily surprised when Pioppi announced his participation on "Survivor."

"They were excited because this is totally different," exclaimed Pioppi. "The restaurant business is competitive and challenging. There are a lot of things that go into planning for the day and making sure everything runs smoothly, but we still have the luxuries of our clothes and technology."

Pioppi attributes his perseverance to his parents' influence. His childhood was spent at Luigi's Pizzeria, in Revere, watching his father cook at the pizza bench, and his mother work the front counter, where she often sat him as a baby.

"I've always been hard-working and I've never given up in my life. That was something that I learned very young. My parents ingrained that in me, and I've seen them build a business from the ground

up," shared Pioppi, who manages the restaurant. "It's become a home for so many in the community. My aunts are there. My friends from high school do deliveries. People who have watched me grow up are still working in our kitchen."

Pioppi feels that his friendliness, communication and conflict resolution skills that he has developed at Luigi's has made him an ideal contestant for "Survivor."

"You wear a lot of different hats. It's a fast-paced environment. You have to think on the fly," Pioppi described. "But if you are nice to people and you're personable, you can have a better idea of how to gauge the situation and come to a conclusion together."

Pioppi believes that being a mediator is an advantage that he has over the other castaways as they maneuver through the high-tension environment to compete for a one-million-dollar prize. He encourages everyone to get along and try new approaches.

"I always have a positive attitude. That's something I also



ROBERT VOETS/CBS PHOTO

Justin Pioppi.

learned from Luigi's," Pioppi pointed out. "As bad as things can be, it could always be worse. Keep going and try to find a solution."

Pioppi served as an intern at the Massachusetts State House, and later as a legislative aide for Speaker Robert DeLeo. He studied at Suffolk University before transferring to Yale University, where he pursued political science.

"We traveled all over the Commonwealth. We went down to the Cape for tourism issues, to Fall River for the manufacturing

industry, and up to Lowell for the textile mills," remembered Pioppi, about experiences that further shaped his life. "It was amazing to see the things that impact every single person and their way of life. It was eye-opening for me."

Pioppi has enjoyed the excitement of "Survivor" fans who frequent Luigi's. He will be celebrating his greatest adventure with loved ones during a private premiere party at a friend's restaurant.



PHOTO BY ROBERT VOETS/CBS

Justin Pioppi, of Winthrop, participating in a Survivor challenge.



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## Singer Nydia Caro captivates MFA Boston audience with Valentine's Day performance

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Valentine's Day, internationally acclaimed Puerto Rican singer Nydia Caro took the stage for an enchanting Valentine's Day concert enveloped with soulful melodies at the Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA). The event, hosted by Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) in partnership with the MFA, captivated an audience eager to experience the passion, love, and community the Valentine's Day holiday brings.

Nydia Caro, renowned for her melodic voice and rich repertoire, delivered a mesmerizing performance that delved deeply into the themes of passion and romance. Her songs, steeped in Spanish melodies, were a resounding testament to the strength of music as both a universal language and a vehicle for cultural expression. Set against the stunning backdrop of the MFA, Caro's performance provided an unforgettable experience for couples, friends, and music lovers alike.

In the charming atmosphere, guests enjoyed a delightful selection of wine, sparkling drinks, and appetizers, turning the auditorium into a warm and inviting space perfect for celebration and making connections. The event underscored the significant role of IBA in fostering community pride and cultural awareness through

Latino arts, as attendees embraced the opportunity to immerse themselves in a unique blend of love and music.

"Nydia Caro's performance was truly magical, engaging us all in the beauty of her soulful melodies and the spirit of togetherness," said JuanCarlos González, IBA's Arts Program Director. "This enchanting night at the MFA reminded us of the incredible power music has to unite hearts, celebrate culture, and inspire change. We are grateful to our friends at the MFA for hosting such a beautiful event, and thrilled to have shared this unforgettable experience with Greater Boston and our community as we look forward to many more moments of connection and joy."

"The MFA was thrilled welcoming Nydia Caro for what was a beautiful evening of music," said Kristen Hoskins, MFA's Director of Public Programs. "Her remarkable talent and powerful presence were delightful and captivating for audiences. The auditorium was buzzing with energy throughout the evening. We are incredibly grateful to our partners at IBA for collaborating and bringing Nydia to the MFA."

The concert was yet another milestone in IBA's mission to leverage cultural programming as a means of building stronger, more empowered communities. Since its founding in 1968, IBA has

committed to increasing access to affordable housing and supporting community development efforts through the arts, financial empowerment, early education, and youth development.

IBA's Arts Program plays a vital role in enhancing Boston's cultural landscape by providing a platform for Latino artists and celebrating the diversity of Latino arts through music, visual arts, and dance. By doing so, the program promotes cultural connections and celebrates heritage, echoing IBA's belief in the power of the arts as a tool for social change.

Established in 1968, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) is a nonprofit, community development corporation that started in Boston's South End to address displacement of low-income families due to urban development. Today, IBA is a national model of community development that offers affordable housing and supportive programming to increase social and economic mobility, including early education, youth development, financial empowerment, resident services, and arts programs. IBA's programs serve more than 5,000 individuals from Greater Boston's diverse and vibrant communities every year. More information is available at [www.ibaboston.org](http://www.ibaboston.org) or Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.



PHOTO COURTESY JUANCARLOS GONZÁLEZ

Internationally acclaimed Puerto Rican singer Nydia Caro.

### CUTS (from pg. 10)

ruption, and undermine a critical pillar of strength and civic pride in cities across the United States. The cuts would also undermine critical medical and scientific research that residents are counting on, including cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, and jeopardize the cities' and country's position of global leadership on scientific advancement.

"The Gainesville community depends on this highly efficient, dependable investment of our tax dollars back into our city's innovation economy," said Harvey L. Ward, Mayor, City of Gainesville,

Florida. "I'm glad to join other mayors in highlighting the vital role NIH funding plays in the lives of everyday hardworking American families."

"The breadth and diversity of this coalition highlights the devastating and widespread impact of these NIH funding changes, from Alzheimer's research to cancer clinical trials," said Jill Habig, Founder and CEO of Public Rights Project. "We're proud to partner with mayors, cities, and counties in opposing this threat to critical federal funding and the health and

vitality of our communities."

On Monday, February 10th, twenty two states and associations of medical schools, hospitals, and universities, filed three related cases, and secured a temporary restraining order preventing the Trump Administration from slashing the reimbursement rates. That initial order will be revisited this week in a hearing scheduled for Friday, February 21.

The Public Rights Project served as amici counsel. The full list of mayors, cities and counties who joined the brief is below.

Local Governments and Mayors:

- City of Boston, Massachusetts
- City of Cleveland, Ohio
- Harvey L. Ward, Mayor, City of Gainesville, Florida
- Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee
- Erin Mendenhall, Mayor, City of Salt Lake City, Utah
- City of Alameda, California
- City of Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

- City of Baltimore, Maryland
- Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Mayor, City of Burlington, Vermont
- Township of Canton, Michigan
- Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- City of Chicago, Illinois
- Sandra Welch, Mayor, City of Coconut Creek, Florida
- City of Columbus, Ohio
- City of Easthampton, Massachusetts
- Daniel Biss, Mayor, City of Evanston, Illinois
- City of Fairfax, Virginia
- Harris County, Texas
- Ravinder S. Bhalla, Mayor, City of Hoboken, New Jersey
- Quinton Lucas, Mayor, Kansas City, Missouri
- Indya Kincannon, Mayor, City of Knoxville, Tennessee
- City of Madison, Wisconsin
- Jeff Silvestrini, Mayor, City of Millcreek, Utah
- Anissa Welch, Mayor, City of Milton, Wisconsin
- Montgomery County, Maryland
- City of New Haven, Con-

- necticut
- Dontae Payne, Mayor, City of Olympia, Washington
- Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor, City of Plainfield, New Jersey
- Sue Noack, Mayor, City of Pleasant Hill, California
- City of Pittsburgh and Ed Gainey, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- City of Providence, Rhode Island
- John Clark, Mayor, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
- City of Rochester, New York
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- City and County of San Francisco, California
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- Constantine H. Kutteh, Mayor, City of Statesville, North Carolina
- Lisa Brown, Mayor, City of Spokane, Washington
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# SCENES FROM THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON'S TRIBUTE TO BLACK LEADERSHIP

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

In celebration of Black History Month, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston on February 19 at the Yawkey Club of Roxbury, hosted an evening honoring the outstanding contributions of Black leaders who have significantly shaped the youth and local communities of Boston. This leadership event offered a unique opportunity to recognize these exceptional leaders, connect across generations, and inspire a continued legacy of impactful service.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston holds a prominent position as the leading and most impactful youth organization in Greater Boston. It serves to catalyze far-reaching opportunities and create more equitable futures for 6 to 18-year-olds across eight clubs and YouthConnect in Boston and Chelsea. Since 1893, BGCB has focused on making the city thrive and has played an essential role

for young people eager to explore their passions, find their purpose, and prepare for a life of success and impact. In partnership with the public sector, private enterprise, related non-profits, donors, and volunteers, BGCB is aligned behind investing in the region's urban talent pipeline and making a generational impact that expands beyond the walls of its buildings and deep into the communities it serves. Helping urban youth navigate a fast-paced global climate steeped in change, the organization is recognized for fueling the future of the city and the Commonwealth through its innovative "readiness" programs centered on three outcome areas: Academic Success, Wellness and Workforce Readiness. It is an affiliate of the Atlanta-based Boys & Girls Clubs of America, with over 5,000 Clubs nationwide serving over 3.6 million young people.



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# Celebrate Women's History Month on Freedom Trail Revolutionary Women Tours

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Freedom Trail Foundation announces the return of the beloved tour experience, Revolutionary Women Tours throughout Women's History Month in March! Discover the indomitable women who took part in the American Revolution, and the generations of women that followed, inaugurating their own struggles for freedom and equality.

The Freedom Trail Revolutionary Women Tours invites people of all ages to walk the Freedom Trail and explore four centuries of revolutionary women who changed history. These 90-minute tours feature tales of the early religious rebellions of Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer, abolitionist movements of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, landmark achievements of Black pioneers Phillis Wheatley and Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, prolific writings of Abigail Adams and Louisa May

Alcott, dynamic speeches of Margaret Sanger and

Susan B. Anthony, and more. Walk the paths these influential women treaded, while visiting the places where their voices were heard, works published, and were laid to rest.

The tours feature official Freedom Trail historic sites from the site of the Great Elm on Boston Common, where women paid the ultimate price for refusing to conform to puritanical values, to the Granary Burying Ground, where those who fought fiercely for independence are remembered alongside their revolutionary male counterparts, and the Old Corner Bookstore and Old South Meeting House, where women made change through the power of literature and the spoken word. Revolutionary Women Tours culminate at Faneuil Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, which was prominent in both the abolitionist and women's suf-

frage movements.

Revolutionary Women Tours depart from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on Saturdays and Sundays in March at 10:45 a.m. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation's walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation's Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center or online at [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org). All walking tours and specialty tours, including the Revolutionary Women Tours, are available as private tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for families, company outings, corporate activities and team building, tourist groups, and more. For additional information please visit [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org) or call (617) 357-8300.

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- Waverly Café ..... 229 Bunker Hill St.
- Bunker Hill Liquors ..... 200 Bunker Hill St.
- Kennedy Center ..... 55 Bunker Hill St.
- McCarthy's Liquors ..... 9 Moulton St.
- Bunker Hill Cleaners ..... Moulton St.
- Police Station ..... 20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.
- Santander Bank ..... 437 Rutherford Ave.
- 7/11 Store ..... 269 Main St.
- Zelma Lacey House ..... 9 W School St.
- Gatehouse Apartment ..... 75 W School St.
- Ace Hardware ..... Bunker Hill Mall
- CVS ..... Bunker Hill Mall
- Citizens Bank ..... Bunker Hill Mall
- Whole Food Market ..... Bunker Hill Mall
- MGH Health Care Center ..... 73 High St.
- 7/11 Store ..... Thompson Sq.
- Charlestown Liquors ..... Thompson Sq.
- Starbucks ..... Thompson Sq.
- Cambridge Savings ..... Thompson Sq.
- Warren Tavern ..... 2 Pleasant St. & Main St.
- Constellation Wharf Condos 1 Constellation Wharf
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- Basilica ..... 106 13th St.
- Anchorage Apartment ..... 103 13th Ave.
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# Boston Forging & Welding owner at home on the job

By Dan Murphy

Chip Giovanni, the third-generation owner of Boston Forging & Welding, has early childhood memories of accompanying his father to work, and even then, he said he felt right at home there.

"It never felt like work or a chore," said Chip, who as the eldest of three siblings always diverged from his younger brother and younger sister in that unlike them, he always wanted to join the family business.

His paternal grandfather, Joseph Giovanni, started Boston Forging & Welding, around 70 years ago, setting up its operations on the Fish Pier in South Boston. For more 40 years, the business served exclusively the fishing fleet. But the company relocated to East Boston in 1998, amid new regulations on the fishing industry, which meant less work for them.

Chip's father, Ronald Giovanni, went to Valley Forge Military Academy before graduating from Northeastern University around 1970. He then went to work full time at Boston Forging & Welding before assuming the reins of the company when his father retired circa 1980.

Throughout high school and college, Chip worked for the business during summer and school vacations. He started working there full-time in 1989 upon earning a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

Subsequently, Chip completed

his AutoCAD training at Wentworth Institute of Technology. He has also earned a construction supervisor license, and is a licensed fire escape installer/inspector per the City of Boston.

When his father died in 2000, Chip assumed the company's reins. Sales have since tripled, making it a profitable business again after previously being in the red for a number of years.

"Everyone, family members, tell me their proud of me, and that my father would be proud of me," said Chip.

Boston Forging and Welding Corp. today has the experience and credentials to respond to a wide range of commercial, marine or residential concerns, from fabrication to repair to fire escape inspections, and the company is fully insured/bonded.

Past customers have included U.S. Coast Guard-approved jobs, Mass Turnpike-approved jobs, City of Boston-approved jobs, and Boston Redevelopment Authority jobs, and for Logan International Airport, and the company has also done work for the World Trade Center, Prudential Center, Au Bon Pain, and various property management companies.

The vast majority of the company's residential work is in Boston and Cambridge, with the Back Bay and South End accounting for the bulk of that, Chip said.

And of the approximately 20 welding companies now operating in the City of Boston, Boston



COURTESY PHOTO

Chip Giovanni, the third-generation owner of Boston Forging & Welding.

Forging & Welding has distinguished itself with a stellar track record over the years, including not having a single customer complaint against them.

Chip points to this as perhaps the truest testament to Boston Forging & Welding's unwavering reputation for quality work.

Boston Forging & Welding is located at 336 Border St. in East Boston. For more information, call Chip Giovanni at 617-567-2300 or email him at chippagio@comcast.net, or visit the company's website at bostonforgingandwelding.com.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

### Is an egg the right choice?

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With the current shortage of eggs and their high prices, we're saving ours for dishes that star eggs. For years, plentiful, low-cost eggs have served as binding agents, thickeners, glue for frying batter, and other supporting roles.

Newsweek recently reported three reasons for the current egg shortage. First, "A highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza (H5N1) is at the root of the supply crisis. The virus led to the culling of 13.2 million commercial egg-laying hens in December alone, with total bird losses nearing 145 million since the outbreak began in 2022." Second is a lingering shortage of refrigerated trucks and drivers. Finally, they pointed out that multiple states passed legislation "...that requires minimum space for egg-laying hens, reducing overall production capacity."

#### Egg Substitutes

Let's take one use of eggs that's driving up prices in restaurants that serve batter-fried food. The traditional batter station consists of flour, eggs, and crumbs. Sometimes, that extra-thick, crunchy crust is created by dipping the item in flour, eggs, and crumbs, then again in eggs and crumbs. Here, the egg is the glue used to make the batter stick.

A slurry of chickpea flour

mixed with water can be used as a substitute for each egg needed. Try this at home the next time you pan-fry, air-fry, or deep-fry. For each required egg, mix three tablespoons of chickpea flour with three tablespoons of water, then adjust with more of either to get the thickness you like.

Sometimes, an egg substitute, like the one above, can add extra flavor and nutrition to the end product. Most legumes, beans, seeds, nuts, and fruit used as egg substitutes in vegan recipes are good for us.

#### Shopping List Additions

Thanks to the growing community of vegan and flexitarian eaters, finding and using great substitutes for eggs for many supporting functions is much easier.

You'll find recipes that use bananas, avocado, and applesauce to add flavor and moisture to baked goods—a check of the Boston Public Library for vegan cookbooks generated pages of selections. Moreover, you can follow hundreds of vegan cooking articles, websites, blogs, and vlogs online.

You may already have some popular egg substitutes on hand. If not, here are a few to consider adding to your pantry. You can also buy a premade egg replacer. The one we have on hand is from



Thanks to the growing community of vegan and flexitarian eaters, finding and using great substitutes for eggs is easier.

Bob's Red Mill, and it consists of potato starch, tapioca flour, baking soda, and psyllium husk fiber.

Have you heard of the magic of aquafaba? The word translates to "water" and "beans." Aquafaba is the liquid you get when you cook chickpeas and other beans. It is also available in canned versions. Drain the chickpeas for another use and whip the liquid into a meringue or whipped cream substitute. Or, use it in place of

eggs in baked goods. America's Test Kitchen has a comprehensive article on how to use it on its website.

Popular seeds, nuts, beans, and fruit used as substitutes are chia seeds, flax seeds, tofu, bananas, applesauce, avocado, gelatin, xanthan gum, and white beans.

As always, with dietary changes, this is not an all-or-nothing situation unless you've decided to adopt a vegan lifestyle. We love

frittatas, poached eggs, egg curries, and egg salads. We will, however, determine if an egg is essential for other uses and save the eggs we buy for the dishes where they shine.

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

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