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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022 FREE CHARLESTON PATRIOT-BRIDGE

COURAGEOUS SAILING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GALA



Courageous Sailing celebrated 35 years of service to the Charlestown community with a Gala held at the Artists For Humanity space in Fort Point. Above, The live auction captivated the attendees of the Gala. Below left, Courageous Sailing Executive Director Dave Dilorenzo Board Member Gregg Nourjian, and Bryan Peugh. Below right, Stephanie Katsompenakis, Abby Goldenfarb, and Alison Johnson. See Pages 5, 6, and 7 for more photos.





The Independent Newspaper Group office will be **closed** on **Monday, Jan. 2** in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.. Deadlines for next week's issue will be **Friday, Dec. 27** at **noon**



Wu announces First Night public safety preparations

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City leadership to share the City's preparations for First Night, Boston's annual New Year's Eve celebration. The City is a partner of the New Year's Eve event, which is formally run by Boston Celebrations, Inc, and managed by Conventures, Inc. All parties are taking steps to ensure public safety as Boston rings in the New Year. This is the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that First Night is returning to its regular, full programming.

"We all deserve to enjoy these celebrations and want to preserve the sense of First Night truly being welcoming to everyone from every generation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The majority of this year's activities and performances will take place outside so please be sure to check the weather, layer up and dress accordingly. I hope everyone has a wonderful new year and can't wait to see you all at the parade and all of the festivities this weekend."

First Night will feature more than 15 hours of free programming across two days in Copley Square and the Back Bay. The event has returned indoor programming to its agenda from last year, when it was held entirely outdoors. Indoor programming is available at area churches, the Boston Public

(FIRST NIGHT Pg. 3)

Coletta names Ramirez Outreach and Communications Manager

Special to the Regional Review

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta has announced that Gabriela M. Ramirez (she/ her/hers) will serve as Outreach and Communications Manager. Ramirez is a lifelong resident of East Boston and the proud daughter of Salvadoran immigrants. She is finishing her final year at Boston University, studying Political Science, Public Policy Analysis, and History. Gabriela was raised to advocate for her communities, particularly those often ignored. Her mother is National Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Alliance organizer, Ana Alonzo.

"I am thrilled to add Gabriela Ramirez to my team as Outreach and Communications Manager " said Councilor Coletta. "From a young age, Gabriela has been a fierce advocate for the District



Gabriela M. Ramirez.

One community, and especially the immigrant community. Her previous experience as Community Outreach Coordinator for the

the year ahead is that we might

see politicians work together to

accomplish worthy goals that

will benefit our country. I hope

Ukraine can overcome Russia

but other countries need to step

up to the plate. America cannot

fight everyone's war physically or

financially. We must get control

of our border. Our nation is being

overtaken by millions of undoc-

umented immigrants. Who are

these people? Do they all really

have noble intentions in America?

We must bring back our jobs from

Throughout this year may you

a continuation of what we talk

about and pray for during the

Christmas season. May it be ongo-

ing every day and may we share it

with all along the way, Peace on

earth and good will to all people.

May you first experience it in your

life so you can extend it to others.

er of Newburgh Press, Liberty

Torch and various other publish-

ing imprints; a national columnist

American Issues and Common

Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week

In over 500 newspapers, websites

and blogs across the United States.

Glenn Mollette is the publish-

China in 2023.

EDITORIAL

ENJOY A HAPPY -- AND SAFE --NEW YEAR'S EVE

The end of one year and the start of another provides all of us with an opportunity for reflection. We are a year older -- but have we become any wiser?

Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells," which was published in 1850, offers timeless advice about the lessons we hopefully have learned from the past that we can use to guide our future. We quote some of the lines from that poem here:

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.... Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind. Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life ... Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times; Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes, But ring the fuller minstrel in.... Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good. Ring out old shapes of foul disease ... Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

As always, we urge all of our readers to ensure that they celebrate the New Year safely and take care that their friends and loved ones do so as well. No one ever died by having a friend take their keys away if they have had too much to drink.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy 2023.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessar-

ily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.



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GUEST OP-ED

2023 – Love yourself so you can love others

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

You can lose about one pound a week if you try. If you don't try you won't lose any.

If you need to save some money then you need to pay yourself first. If you have a paycheck coming in then set a goal for \$500 a month if possible. Whatever the amount is will grow if you are faithful each week and month of setting money aside. You can always find a place to spend money. Even if you don't need it, you have it just in case you might.

What do you want to accomplish in 2023? If you do not have a goal of some kind, you will accomplish nothing. Maybe your goal is to just enjoy each day. Enjoy your food. Enjoy your family and friends. Make the best of each ay. These are good goals.

Be good to yourself in 2023. Love others as you love yourself. If you don't love yourself, it's almost impossible to love others. Recently we have heard of people committing suicide. They had given up on themselves but wanted to hurt or kill others before they killed themselves. It's tragic when an individual's so hates themselves

SUMNER TUNNEL

WEEKEND

Friday, January 6.

OPEN THIS HOLIDAY

The Massachusetts Department

of Transportation (MassDOT) is

announcing the Sumner Tunnel

will be open during the week-

end of Friday, December 30, to

accommodate the expected high

volume of holiday vehicular traf-

fic. Scheduled weekend closures

as part of Phase 1 of the Sumner

Tunnel Restoration Project will

resume during the weekend of

Phase 1 of the Sumner Tunnel

that they wanted to hurt others. If they loved themselves more then they wouldn't have had so much venom and hate for others.

One of the tools of the devil is to bring your life down to where you hate all the things you've done. He brings it up to you often so you can feel horrible about your life's mistakes. People often have trouble forgiving themselves so they begin to binge drink, take drugs and hurt themselves to try to deal with their life's pain. God has forgiveness and hope for all. People don't always forgive but God forgives As God forgives you then you must work on forgiving yourself, loving yourself and forgiving and loving others. You see, that's a great formula. God forgives us, loves us and we are to forgive and love ourselves and then offer this same forgiveness and love to others.

In 2023 you might do something different. Maybe you want to embark on an adventure, change careers or just do better with all you have been handed. Often, all we need to do is focus on what we already have to do ad do it a little better.

My prayer for our nation in

NEWS BRIEFS

Restoration Project work requires scheduled weekend closures of the Sumner Tunnel for 36 weekends between June 2022 and May 2023, (excluding holiday weekends.)

To sign up for project updates, email alerts, and the latest information on the Sumner Tunnel project so that you can stay up to date as the project unfolds: Sign up for project updates.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are also encouraged to:

 \cdot Dial 511 and select a route to

hear real-time conditions.

• Visit www.mass511.com, a website which provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

• Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

• Download MassDOT's GoTime mobile app and view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL 781-485-0588

PAGE 2

FIRST NIGHT (from pg. 1)

Library, and Copley Place Mall. The main stage in Copley Square will have a new location for 2023, now situated in front of Boston Public Library, with Dartmouth Street closed to traffic.

The Boston Police Department will be present at First Night to support this family-friendly event. Additionally, Boston Police are reminding attendees not to consume alcohol or marijuana in public spaces or prohibited private spaces, not to fly drones at any First Night activities, to dress accordingly for the weather, and to report any suspicious activity.

"We will not only have a large presence around official First Night celebrations but across the City in all of our neighborhoods as well," said Commissioner Michael Cox, Boston Police Department. "We will utilize all specialized units needed to ensure public safety and we ask for the public's assistance in making this a Happy New Year for all."

A parade from Copley to the Boston Common will lead up to the Family Fireworks over the Common starting at 7:00 p.m. Midnight Fireworks over Boston Harbor will once again be produced by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park. More information can be found at boston. gov/first-night.

The public is reminded that it is illegal for private citizens to use, possess, or sell fireworks, and that illegal fireworks pose significant dangers to the safety of residents and their property.

"Boston Fire is ready to work with our city and state agencies to have a successful First Night Celebration," said Commissioner Paul F. Burke, Boston Fire Department. "BFD will have our Tactical Response Unit, Hazmat Techs, Inspectors as well as fully staffed engine companies on and around the event areas to support the public's safety in any way we can."

Boston EMS will also be deploying additional personnel at dispatch operations and in ambulances on New Year's Eve.

"Celebrating responsibly is not just about looking out for yourself, but also those you are with, ensuring everyone gets home safe," said Boston EMS Chief Jim Hooley. "If anyone requires emergency medical services, please call us. Boston EMS personnel are posted throughout the City. We are incredibly grateful for our EMTs and Paramedics, as well as all members of public safety, healthcare and other industries, working through holidays.'

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recommends wearing masks when attending events indoors to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Especially during the holiday season, BPHC recommends people get their COVID-19 vaccine and booster, test before and after attending gatherings, and to stay home if they're sick.

"We are proud to keep this Boston tradition shining bright, and entirely free for guests of all ages," said Dusty Rhodes, president of Conventures, and organizer of First Night. "We are very appreciative of the support of our corporate sponsors, and from the City of Boston, without whom this event would not be possible. We can't wait to welcome Boston's visitors and residents alike on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day."

First Night festivities will impact traffic and parking in the Back Bay as well as along Boston's waterfront. People coming into the City to celebrate are strongly encouraged not to drive. Details on parking and traffic restrictions can be found at https://tinyurl. com/Bos-hol-traffic-advisory.

The MBTA will be free on all modes of travel after 8:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Updated holiday schedules can be found online at https://tinyurl.com/MBTA-holiday-schedule.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through January 7

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

Holiday

• In observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day, no work will be conducted on Monday December 26 and Monday January 2, 2023. Follow MassDOT on the MassDOT Blog and on social media for any other local & regional holiday travel advisories. Happy holidays!

Scheduled Work

• Installation of marine wooden fender

• Installation of bridge deck formwork at North Abutment

• Installation of electrical conduits on bridge structure

• Installation of steel members and bolting

• Weld repair wrap up Work Hours

RAMIREZ (from pg. 1)

Boston Waterfront Initiative with The Trustees, Constituent Services Intern for Senator Ed Markey, and Youth Organizer for the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) make her a beyond ideal candidate for this position."

Gabriela is passionate about youth empowerment, immigration, and environmental and climate justice. She first got involved in her community at a very young age, following along with her mother at various community meetings and protests. She then became a Youth Organizer

• Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Travel Tips

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local

for NOAH's youth group,

N-Yo. Most recently, she served

as the Community Outreach

Coordinator for The Trustees

is committed to serving District

1, and I'm excited to join her.

Growing up in East Boston has

fueled my passion for organizing,

being involved in my community,

and fostering relationships with

those around me. I am honored

to serve in this role alongside

Councilor Coletta and her team

to bring forward her vision and

amplify our community's voices.

"Councilor Gabriela Coletta

Boston Waterfront Initiative.

police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

• BRUINS: Dec. 31, at 1:00 p.m.

• CELTICS: Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m., and Jan. 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: Mass. gov/north-washington-street-bridge-re placement Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot. state.ma.us

I look forward to meeting new neighbors and seeing many familiar faces in District 1."

Ramirez will be joining Judy Evers (Charlestown Liaison), Elaine Donovan (Charlestown Liaison), Jack Imbergamo (North End Liaison), Sebastian Parra (East Boston Liaison), and Ellie Sanchez (Chief of Staff) to round out Coletta's team.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at elizabeth.sanchez@boston.gov.



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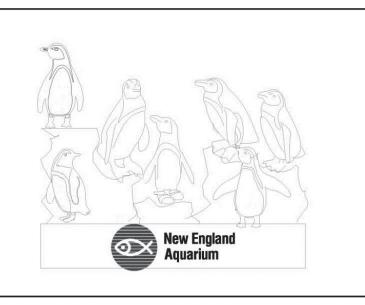
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Penguin ice sculptures on display at New England Aquarium

An ice sculpture of several Aquarium penguins, designed and carved by Don Chapelle of Brilliant Ice Sculpture of Lawrence, will take over New England Aquarium's Central Wharf, beginning Dec. 28, weather permitting, and in time for this year's Boston Waterfront Ice Sculpture Stroll on New Year's Eve. The sculpture will be formed out of 36 blocks of ice, each weighing 300 pounds, for a total of 10,800 pounds.

For 16 years, Chapelle has been creating massive ice sculptures for the Aquarium including a North Atlantic right whale, sharks, penguins, fur seals, sea lion pups, and octopuses. This year, he is preparing a 10-foot-wide, 8-foottall, 4-foot-deep sculpture of the Aquarium's beloved African penguins, each standing about 35 to 40 inches tall, including Beach Donkey, a 24-year-old elderly African penguin who captivated the public this year.

More than half of the Aquarium's penguin residents have exceeded their life expectancy of 15 years in the wild, requiring specialized geriatric care by Aquarium staff to ensure the animals are healthy and happy.



Don Chapelle began this year's ice sculpture in his studio in an old Lawrence mill building off North Canal Street. Using powerful and highly accurate ice sculpting tools, he makes intricate designs and then fuses the pieces together

on site at the Aquarium. In his studio, Chappelle stores the sculpture pieces in a freezer that gets down to 12 to 15 degrees before shipping them out in several of his delivery vehicles.

"It's always an honor to work with such an esteemed institution such as the New England Aquarium," Chapelle said. "We have partnered for 16 years, and it's been a pleasure designing and sculpting all sorts of mammals, fish, and fauna."

The public is invited to come celebrate New Year's Eve on Boston's waterfront. The Aquarium is one of 32 locations participating in the free Waterfront Ice Sculpture stroll on Dec. 31 from 1 p.m. to dusk. Visitors can view the interactive map and learn more about participating companies and organizations at bostonharbornow.org.



Charlestown Neighborhood Council Public Meeting Schedule Winter/Spring 2023

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council holds general meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, in-person at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford St., Charlestown, MA 02129. Committee meetings are held on an as needed basis and are scheduled by the chair to address community issues within the committee's scope. Meetings are open to the public.

Charlestown residents are encouraged to attend any general or committee meeting and share their questions and concerns about matters affecting Charlestown at meetings or by reaching out to us at cnc02129@gmail.com.

Winter / Spring General Meeting Dates:

Calendar on CNC02129.org

January 3, 2023	April 4, 2023
February 7, 2023	May 2, 2023
March 7, 2023	June 6, 2023

Summer Break: July & August 2023

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DECEMBER 29, 2022

COURAGEOUS SAILING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GALA

Courageous Sailing celebrated 35 years of service to the Charlestown community with a Gala held at the Artists For Humanity space in Fort Point. The Gala brought many people together to look back on the confidence and skills Courageous Sailing brought to inner-city children who would otherwise not have access to the world of sailing.



Radio and television host Billy

Costa preformed auctioneer

duties.

John Strachan and Wes Atamian.



Joan McGrath and Caroline Coulter.



Mallory and Chris Avery.



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan with Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta and her fiance Sebastian Zapata.



Little Lilyan Garrison films her father John Gross while he speaks of how Courageous Sailing had helped him develop confidence.



Artists For Humanity was the setting for Courageous Sailing's Gala celebrating 35 years of the organization's service to the community.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta moderated a panel of students and alumn in Courageous Sailing on how the program has affected them. Also pictured are, Tina Odim-O'Neil, Dan Bryan, John Gross, and Chloe and Daphne Atanasopoulos.



Boston Public Schools Region 1 Superintendent Dr Tommy Welch with his wife Karla, Principal Michelle Davis from the Warren-Prescott School and several teachers, and Courageous Sailing Swim Sail Science Coordinator Nick Kent.

PAGE 5

COURAGEOUS SAILING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GALA



Courageous Sailing Board Chair Dave Alexander with Administrator Larry Stevens.



Courageous Sailing Board Member Gregg Nourjian and Jenevieve Maerker.



Rich Wilson with Courageous Sailing Board Member Gregg Nourjian.



Anela Marjanovic, Jesse Hamilton Benjamin Geffken, Lawrence Stevens, and Jill Arnow.



Bridget Ridlon and Joey Gaeta with the East Boston YMCA, Kristen Barry, City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta, and Chris Mancini from Save The Harbor Save the Bay.



Courageous Sailing Executive Director Dave Dilorenzo, Board Member and Event Co-Chair Ladd Thorne Sr, and Education Director Jen Bodde.

mghihp.edu

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

2023/2024 Early Registration

Saturday, January 7th 2023 9:30am to 11:30am at the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club 60 High Street. Ages are 3 to 10 years old, anyone who turns 11 before 2/1/2024 is too old. You do not have to live in Charlestown to play! Come and watch a game while you register your child. Thank You - Charlestown Gym Hockey Board



From the students, faculty, and staff at MGH Institute of Health Professions

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Rebecca Hancen and Morgan McDonnell.

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COURAGEOUS SAILING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GALA

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

PAGE 7



Abidinoor Mohammed, Komal Candhi, and Doana Marcellus.



Renee Bushey and Dan Keenan.



High school friends Catherine Cutlery, Patty Fitzsimons, and Joan McGrath.



American Cup sailor Gary Jobson, a longtime promoter of sailing tells of his time sailing on the boat "Courageous" back in the 1970s with Ted Turner.



Handbook. It's in print and online at ConsumerAction.gov. Order your free copy online at ConsumerAction.gov or write to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009.



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6



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Townie Santa celebrates its 40th anniversary

By Sal Giarratani

Forty years ago, a new town tradition was born thanks to a handful of supporters who felt that since the true meaning of Christmas is giving back to others who might be in need of some joyful reminder that they are not forgotten and that Charlestown always sticks together and helps each other.

Many folks made Townie Santa what it has begun today. One of those community people was Gloriia Conway who along with her husband Jim published the weekly Charlestown Patriot back before the internet when newspapers were still king. There were many others too like Cookie Giordano, Arthue Crotty and so many more. I was there in the basement of the Mary Colbert Apartments in the old Harvard School packing lots of items into a large Moses basket. After we left with the baskets, we headed up Bunker Hill Street to the Scalli home where Bob and his family were preparing the meals for each basket. Still remember going inside and the place looked like a restaurant kitchen. This was afterall a team effort and the team was Charlestown.

The very first Town Santa deliv-



Paul Sullivan, Jamie Chambers and Kim Sullivan.

eries began early on the morning of December 24. A hardy bunch of volunteers showed up and I recollect 80 or so baskets were handed out that very first morning when Townie Santa was conceived.

I was one of the young guys back then and I looked around at all those who came to help. Folksfrom all ages were there to pitch in. I can still remember the look on people's faces when I showed up at their doors. You could see how much they appreciated the help we were giving them. I especially enjoyed my deliveries when it involved the elderly who were so happy being remembered for Christmas. Hopefully, ity brought back memories of their younger days and this holiday. I know it brought back memories for me.

Town Santa did disappear for a number of years but it came back and on this past Sunday, December 19, I found myself up at the Knights on Medford Street.



Jim Tucker (left) and Bob Harty on the way out of the Knights carrying out bagged items and dinners for home deliveries.

Inside the hall were so many volunteers from newer generations of Townies who continue to build on what older generations started. So many more volunteers and sadly still so many folks in need of this-Townie Santa gift to them.

A big shout out goes to Kim Mahoney from both the Bunker Hill Associates and the Warren Tavern for making the return of Townie Santa possible. She is a force to be reckoned with. If she believes in something, that something just seems to happen. She puts her heart, soul and strength into whatever she does. Also to be thanked is Paul Sullivan . Others include Tommy Cuhna, he was one of the younger guys back in the 1980s like me and he was there this past Sunday celebrating the 40th anniversary too. If I forgot to mention anyone, you know who you are and know that what we have all been doing this long now is still very much a good thing.

Wu celebrates 2022 graduating class of Immigrants Lead Boston

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu celebrates the 20 immigrant leaders graduating from Immigrants Lead Boston, a program by the City of Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. This year's graduates represent eight Boston neighborhoods, come from 17 countries, and speak 14 languages. The graduation was at Boston City Hall on Friday, December 16.

"As the daughter of immigrants, this program has a special place in my heart," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These leaders are adding their voices to our communities and I'm thrilled for their leadership. Congratulations and thank you!"

Immigrants Lead Boston is an annual program for Boston immigrants who wish to become community leaders, advocates, and organizers. Selected residents go through a 12-week course and meet key City of Boston officials and learn how to effectively navigate local government. Graduates join a growing alumni network of immigrant leaders. "Boston has been the only home I've known since I first arrived in the USA," said one of this year's graduates, Karina Flores Ramirez. "In my neighborhood of East Boston, I envision a community that helps each other and works together to tackle the current obstacles we are facing. I envision a community full of resources for all ages and in all languages, and one where we are assured that we are not alone."

This year's class met with City officials from eight cabinets along with City Council members and local nonprofits that do advocacy work here in Boston. Participants also proactively reached out to City leaders, participated in community meetings for the first time, and testified at a City Council hearing about how to support newly-arrived migrants in Boston.

"We started this program because immigrants are integral to our communities, but they often don't know what resources are available to them because they didn't grow up here," said Monique Tú Nguyen, Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant



The 2022 graduating class of Immigrants Lead Boston.

Advancement. "This program helps close that gap so immigrant leaders have a seat at the table to build a better Boston for all."

During this year's graduation ceremony, participants shared their reflections from the program and asked the Mayor questions. This year's ceremony also marked International Migrants Day and celebrated how Mayor Raymond Flynn pioneered the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement 35 years ago in 1987 as the Immigrant Rights Unit.

"During a tough stance on immigration at the federal level, Mayor Flynn created the Immigrants Rights Unit to provide a more compassionate and humane approach towards those in search of a better life," said City Councilor Ed Flynn. "I'd like to congratulate the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement for continuing this important work and ensuring our immigrant neighbors can fully and equitably participate in all aspects of life."

Baker signs executive order to establish Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team

Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order to establish the Massachusetts Cyber Incident Response Team (MA-CIRT). Led by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS), MA-CIRT is established with the mission of enhancing the Commonwealth's ability to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from significant cybersecurity threats. The Governor signed the executive order as Massachusetts and other jurisdictions confront an overall increase in cybersecurity threats to websites and networks.

"State governments and other organizations across the country are increasingly being targeted by bad actors aiming to disrupt operations and compromise information systems," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This executive order will further strengthen the Commonwealth's policies, procedures, and resources required to prevent potential threats and appropriately respond to attacks on government infrastructure and services. As state governments expand their digital footprints, moving more services online and allowing for a more connected workforce, it's critical that we make the necessary investments to protect this critical technology infrastructure from acts of terrorism and criminal, organized crime, and gang activity."

"Cybersecurity attacks threaten Commonwealth technology networks and the continuity of essential government services we provide to the constituents we serve," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "With the establishment of MA-CIRT, the Baker-Polito Administration continues to invest and prioritize the delivery of effective and reliable government services to the people of the Commonwealth."

"With my background in public safety, I know the importance that leadership buy-in plays in swift, organized, and effective response to an external threat," said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curt Wood. "The Baker-Polito Administration is once again leading from the front on government cybersecurity and I thank Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and my fellow leaders in cybersecurity and public safety for their partnership on the issuance of this critical executive order that will serve the Commonwealth for years to come."

Under the direction of the EOTSS Secretary, the formation of MA-CIRT convenes cybersecurity and public safety experts from across state government as required members, including leadership representatives from:

• The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security • The Commonwealth Security

Operations Center • The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

• The Commonwealth Fusion Center

• The Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit

• The Massachusetts National Guard

• The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

The Executive Order reinforces Massachusetts as a leader in cybersecurity enhancement efforts through a variety of strategies. To prevent against attacks and increase the Commonwealth's cybersecurity resiliency, the Order underscores the need for preparing for and marshalling a coordinated response, mitigation, and recovery effort from significant cybersecurity threats or incidents. Additionally, the Order:

• Requires MA-CIRT to review cybersecurity threat information and vulnerabilities to make informed recommendations and establish appropriate policies to manage the risk of cyber incidents for executive department agencies and all other state agencies served by EOTSS.

• Requires MA-CIRT to develop and maintain an up-to-date

Cyber Incident Response Plan, which will guide the actions of the Commonwealth's key public safety and information security and technology teams, state agency resources, and security professionals in responding to and minimizing the impact of significant cybersecurity threats to Commonwealth systems. The Plan is required to be submitted annually to the Governor for review and approval.

• Empowers the EOTSS Secretary to serve as MA-CIRT lead, with the approval of the Governor, to direct MA-CIRT in response to a significant cyber incident.

• Requires the routine exchange of information related to cybersecurity threats and reported incidents between the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the Commonwealth Security Operations Center.

• Requires EOTSS and MA-CIRT to consult with the Massachusetts Cyber Center and assist the Center with efforts to foster cybersecurity resiliency through communications, collaboration, and outreach to state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and industry partners.

• Requires executive department agencies to comply with protocols and procedures established by MA-CIRT and all related policies, standards, and Administrative Directives issued by EOTSS.

• Requires Commonwealth executive department agencies and other state agencies served by EOTSS to identify and report significant cybersecurity incidents and coordinate efforts to mitigate and prevent further damage from cyber incidents.

• Requires all executive department personnel to annually complete the EOTSS approved security awareness training program administered by the Human Resources Division.

• And strongly encourag-

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es other governmental entities throughout the Commonwealth not served by EOTSS to report cybersecurity threats or incidents to the Commonwealth Security **Operations** Center.

In 2021, Congress recognized the increased cyber threat posed to state and local governments by establishing a \$1 billion State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The four-year grant program requires 80% of funds go toward assisting municipalities in enhancing their cybersecurity posture. This new federal program compliments the various support for municipal cybersecurity efforts offered by the Baker-Polito Administration, including: Municipal Cybersecurity the Awareness Grant Program, Free Cybersecurity Health Check

Program, and the Community Compact IT Grant Program, which was established by Governor Baker's Executive Order 554 in 2015.

EOTSS was established in 2017 as the Commonwealth's lead technology and cybersecurity agency via Article 87 government restructuring legislation filed by Governor Baker and approved by the Legislature. Its mission is to lead initiatives to modernize the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure assets, continually strengthen government cybersecurity operations and standards via the consolidation of infrastructure and cybersecurity operations for the Commonwealth into a centrally managed state agency and leverage innovative technology solutions to offer user-friendly digital services to its constituents.

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Wu announces strategy for inclusive growth and development

Mayor Michelle Wu announced a set of proposals to make substantial changes to Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) and the commercial Linkage Policy that will enable Boston to support its growing population and ensure the city is a place where families of all income levels can afford to live. These changes will increase Boston's supply of affordable housing while maintaining the City's position as an attractive market for real estate development. Mayor Wu's strategy for inclusive growth will lower barriers to development and create a more predictable development timeline. Together, the package of actions will enable development that allows the city to grow equitably and inclusively.

"We are using every tool that the City has to urgently address Boston's housing crisis," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By directing public and private resources from development toward our shared vision of a Boston for everyone, we are taking necessary steps to ensure Boston remains a place that current residents, families and future generations can call home. I'm grateful to this team and our partners for their work to continue prioritizing affordability for residents in our city's continued growth."

Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP)

Under an Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), developers of market-rate residential developments are required to support the creation of affordable housing in exchange for zoning relief, Under the current IDP, developments with ten or more units in need of zoning relief support the creation of income-restricted housing through on-site units, off-site units, or through payment to an IDP Fund managed by the Mayor's Office of Housing. The IDP requirements were last updated in December 2015. In January 2021, the Massachusetts State Legislature approved a Home Rule Petition that allows Boston to codify inclusionary development into the zoning code. The Mayor's proposed changes are aimed at directing a larger share of resources from development toward the Administration's vision of a Boston for everyone.

The Mayor's proposed changes to IDP include: Lowering the threshold from 10 to seven units, and, for rental projects, increasing the proportion of the project that is income-restricted from 13% to 20% of the project, while also deepening affordability requirements. In an innovative approach, 17% of the project will be income restricted at an average of 60% of Area Median Income, and an additional 3% of the project will be offered at market rents and reserved for people with housing vouchers. Federal Housing Vouchers usually pay a landlord Fair Market Rents at 100% of Area Median Income. As a result of the updated policy, voucher holders will have more options, as voucher holders generally have incomes less than 30% of Area Median Income, Additionally, with Boston's Small Area Fair Market Rents, landlords who rent to eligible households may be able to get higher Fair Market Rents depending on their zip code. Between the voucher units and traditional IDP units, the resulting affordability will be 55.5% of Area Median Income.

For homeownership projects, on-site IDP requirements will be increased from 13% to 20% in IDP Zone A & B (the top third and middle third of citywide neighborhood median values), while holding affordable requirements at an average of 90% of Area Median Income. The Mayor is using new authority to incorporate the IDP into zoning, therefore assuring that all developments with seven or more units help to meet Boston's affordable housing needs. The effective date for the new rules will be determined based on the BPDA Board, Zoning Commission, and City Council approval processes, but it will not affect any projects currently under review.

"Expanding the supply of affordable housing in the city is critical to both long term economic success and advancing equity goals; the Samuels & Associates team supports the Mayor's efforts to identify multiple strategies to address this challenge," said Abe Menzin, Principal and Executive Vice President of Samuels and Associates. "The process for considering changes to the city's Inclusionary Development Policy continues to be thorough and based on analysis of the many complex factors that determine affordability and economic feasibility. Though it is an increasingly difficult time to build and finance housing projects, we are committed to working with the city on creative solutions to advancing housing affordability goals."

"Boston's housing crisis has many dimensions and requires many solutions but at the end of the day we desperately need more revenue to help renters and wouldbe homebuyers access safe, stable housing," said Joseph Kriesberg, President of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations. "So we are very pleased that Mayor Wu is taking these critical steps forward to provide more funding and more affordable homes for our city's residents. These efforts, combined with her prior commitment to invest ARPA funds in housing and her proposal to the Legislature to create a transfer tax on high-value properties, will help thousands of families across our city. MACDC and its members will continue to partner with the Mayor and our City Council to take further steps to address this crisis while we also collectively advocate with our state legislature and new Governor to make the additional investments we so clearly need."

Linkage Policy

The changes to the Linkage Policy include lowering the threshold and exemption from 100,000 square feet to 50,000 square feet, increasing the total linkage fee over two years to \$30.78 per square foot for lab space, and to \$23.09 for other commercial uses, up from \$15.39. Sixteen percent of the fees will support job training and job preparedness programs, while the remaining 84 percent will support the creation and preservation of affordable housing. The increase in the fees will be phased in over two years. Projects with both lab and office space will be considered on a pro-rata basis. Linkage funds are used to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing, as well as to support the job training and job readiness needs of Boston's residents.

"Mayor Wu's proposed increase to the linkage fee is an important step in the effort to address Boston families' housing needs," said Symone Crawford, Executive Director, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance. "Linkage has been and will continue to be a vital resource for building new affordable homes in Boston. MAHA and our allies have been advocating for an increase in linkage for years and this proposal shows that Mayor Wu is listening."

These IDP and Linkage recommendations are based on research completed by RKG Associates (IDP) and by Karl Seidman Consulting Services/ConsultEcon, who were hired to examine each policy and the financial impacts on development, as well as feedback from the IDP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Next, the Administration will conduct a public engagement process to hear input from residents.

"The City needs to increase

and diversify its housing stock in order to serve the residents that are living here now and to meet the demands of our growing population. The changes that the Mayor is recommending allow the supply of housing to increase while generating critical resources for the production of affordable housing," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "The funds generated through these policies will allow the City to acquire, preserve, and develop housing that will provide stable, affordable housing for generations."

"The Mayor recognizes that in order for our economy to thrive, every Bostonian needs the opportunity to participate," said Amy Nishman, president of the Job Training Alliance. "The non-profit job training community will use these resources to prepare and upskill our residents to meet employer demand."

In addition to proposing changes to create more affordable housing, Mayor Wu is also implementing changes to incentivize new development through a predictable, efficient, and values-based approach. These changes build on the executive order signed by Mayor Wu in October to speed the development of predominantly affordable housing in the City.

"Boston's workforce is the backbone of our region's economy. As that workforce grows, we need to increase both our market and workforce housing supply and deed-restricted affordable housing," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "The Mayor's agenda will ensure that development occurs through a transparent and swift development review process so that we can support our city's most urgent needs."

The City will launch a process to review proposed changes to Article 80 in order to make it more timely and predictable for projects that meet the City's goals of resilience to climate change, affordability for residents, and equitable growth across neighborhoods. Under the new regulatory approach, the BPDA will develop a "scorecard" for projects. Projects that meet these goals may be eligible for streamlined review, focused community engagement, and simplified mitigation and community benefits. Projects which innovate in these three areas could possibly receive consideration for tax relief and infrastructure support. The reforms will also create new, predictable regulatory milestones for Article 80 review. These changes will be studied and canvassed with the community in the first quarter of 2023 with implementation targeted for the new fiscal year. Aspects of the changes, such as the scorecard, will be offered for public comment and discussion.

"The program the Mayor announced today is carefully crafted to advance the housing and sustainability agenda she cam-paigned on," said Matt Kiefer of Goulston & Storrs. "The details of implementation will really matter, but combining higher IDP and linkage with meaningful permitting efficiencies and possible public support for development is potentially path-breaking. In essence, the Mayor is saying to the development community, 'we'll be expecting more public benefit from you, and we'll also be making it easier for you to deliver it."

As part of this agenda for shared growth through development, the BPDA is also examining other changes to the Article 80 process that will make development review more timely, predictable, and transparent. The changes also include operational and procedural changes to the Boston Civic and Design Commission (BCDC) to streamline the design review process.

Next Steps

With these recommendations, the Boston Planning & Development Agency and the Mayor's Office of Housing are kicking off a process that will include public hearings and a public comment period on each policy, before submitting recommended zoning amendment language to the BPDA Board, for an initial vote on each policy. For the Linkage Policy, the Zoning Commission will then take up the proposed zoning amendment. For the IDP, the BPDA vote would be followed by a City Council review and vote, followed by a vote of the Zoning Commission. BPDA is hosting a website for both the IDP and the Linkage Policy that includes draft and/or final studies, housing and housing market data, background information on each policy, announcements about upcoming public hearings (the first public meeting for Linkage is Jan. 11; the first public meeting for IDP is Jan. 21), and an opportunity to provide comments.

BPDA will seek input from the community and other stakeholders on proposed changes to the development review process. The BPDA plans to share a draft scorecard in February 2023, host information sessions in March 2023; and implement the scorecard, as well as other new policies, by July 2023.

(GROWTH Pg. 11)

GROWTH (from pg. 10)

This announcement builds on Mayor Wu's initiatives to address housing affordability in Boston issues which includes filing a Home Rule Petition relative to real estate transfer fees and senior property tax relief, signing an Executive Order designed to speed up affordable housing production, signing an Executive Order relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing, convening a Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee to inform future legislative proposals, hiring the City's first Chief of Planning, announcing an action plan to best utilize the City-owned land described in the Public Land for Public Good: Citywide Land Audit, and launching Welcome Home Boston, a historic investment in affordable homeownership in Boston.

About the Inclusionary Development Policy

Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) was created by Executive Order in 2000. The current policy requires that market-rate residential developments with ten or more units in need of zoning relief support the creation of income-restricted housing through on-site units, off-site units, or through payment to an IDP Fund managed by the Mayor's Office of Housing. The IDP requirements were last updated in December 2015. In January 2021, the Massachusetts State Legislature approved a Home Rule Petition that allows Boston to codify inclusionary development into the zoning code. Through 2021, almost 3,600 on-site and off-site income-restricted units have been created through the IDP and the fund has supported the construction or preservation of nearly 2,500 additional income-restricted units.

About the Commercial Linkage Policy

The Linkage Policy began in 1983, with the approval of Article 26 of the Boston Zoning Code, which sought to balance largescale commercial development with needed residential construction. In 1986, the City of Boston launched the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT) to manage housing linkage funds and expanded Article 26 to include job training as an element of the linkage policy, now managed through the Neighborhood Jobs Trust (NJT). The Neighborhood Housing Trust has collected \$227 million in funds since its inception. These funds have supported the creation of over 7,000 new income-restricted units and preserved almost 6,000 existing income-restricted units. The Neighborhood Jobs Trust has received over \$55 million in Linkage funds to support Boston's education and workforce development efforts, with almost \$3.5 million disbursed in 2021 alone. The 2021 Home Rule Petition also gave the City of Boston the power to more readily make changes to the Linkage policy without seeking further state approval. The City increased linkage fees with this new flexibility in March 2021.

BPDA delivers more than \$11 million in mitigation funding to local organizations

The Boston Planning & Development Agency announced earlier this month the delivery of approximately \$11 million in funding to the West End Museum, Museum of African American History, Boston Preservation Alliance, Old West Church, Boston Transportation the Department, and the Boston Public Works Department. This funding is provided by Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) as a result of their clinical building project currently being built on Fruit Street in the West End. The clinical building project will include new beds and clinical facilities for the hospital.

"Mitigation funding is critical to strengthening our community through important local organizations," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison in a press release. "I am glad that MGH could be a part of that work with such a sizable commitment, and I look forward to seeing how this funding will benefit these important institutions."

"Collaborating with the organizations endeavoring to preserve and celebrate the West End's rich and important history is an integral part of our Cambridge Street Project," said Massachusetts General Hospital President David F. M. Brown, MD, in a press release. "We are thrilled to support so many important programs and institutions, while also reaffirming our commitment to strengthening our area communities."

MGH's commitment to supporting the West End Museum includes ongoing monetary contributions of \$250,000 per year for 10 years for operating support, the inclusion of historic displays in the Clinical Building, the provision of an MGH-affiliated individual to serve on their Board, and an endowment of \$1 million. These commitments total approximately \$3,650,000.

"This funding provided to the Museum via the BPDA is an essential part of rebuilding our space after a catastrophic flood in January, and will help to ensure that we reopen in 2023 fully in line with the vision laid out by our team," said Executive Director of the West End Museum Sebastian A. Belfanti in a press release.

The Old West Church, which serves the West End with a variety of social programs and stewards the main remaining historic community building of the Old West End, received funding for historic rehabilitation and/or programmatic support. MGH will also make an annual payment to the church for five years in support of food justice and community-building in the West End. These commitments total approximately \$2,500,000.

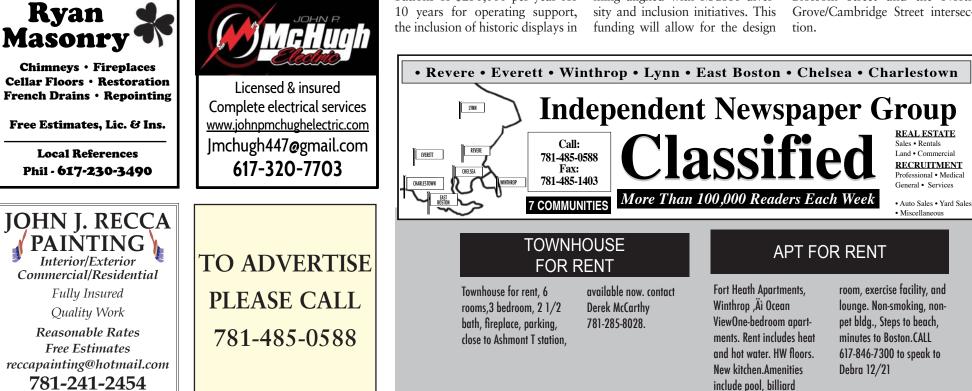
"Old West Church is grateful to be a part of MGH's community mitigation agreement. The funding has helped secure a future for Old West's building, a national historical landmark, and our important food justice work," said Rev. Dr. Sara Garrard in a press release. "We at OWC are grateful for the work of MGH as a community partner dedicated to equity and justice, the future sustainability and livability of Boston's West End neighborhood, and beyond."

MGH will also partner with the Museum of African American History, which provides programming aligned with MGH's diversity and inclusion initiatives. This funding will allow for the design and renovation of the Museum's exhibit hall, a Museum presence in the clinical building with exhibit space curated for Museum content, and a corporate sponsorship over ten years. These commitments total approximately \$3,050,000.

"The Museum of African American History is honored to begin a new partnership Massachusetts General with Hospital," said Chair of the Board of Directors of the Museum of African American History, Sylvia Stevens-Edouard, in a press release. "The generous funding that we have been awarded will allow for both increased capacity and the expansion of our mission to tell the story of 18th and 19th century African American history, and how it impacts today's exploration of race and the struggle for human rights."

The hospital remains committed to providing a financial contribution supporting the Legacy Fund, established through the advocacy of the Boston Preservation Alliance as a mechanism for development to enable local historic preservation projects. MGH will also continue to involve the Boston Preservation Alliance in its efforts to preserve the façade of the Winchell School. The funding commitments for the Preservation Alliance total approximately \$1,100,000.

In addition to these important local organizations, the Boston Transportation Department and Public Works will receive more than \$4 million to study design changes and improvements that can be made to Cambridge Street, Blossom Street and the North Grove/Cambridge Street intersection.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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What we learn from dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The change from one year to another is a time of reflection on the past and hope for the future. We've been thinking about the lessons we learned from the special dogs we've known and the people they've brought into our lives.

Show Your Love

We should all emulate the greetings a dog gives to someone they love. Think about how disappointing it is to come home when your dog isn't there. No matter what the reaction of others in the home is, you can count on your dog to greet you with glee and make you feel welcome. Perhaps we should greet the family with a hearty "welcome home."

Use All Your Senses

Dogs are great role models for us when it comes to using all our senses. Their world is made richer by the sights, sounds, aromas, tastes, and textures around them. They pay attention to all incoming data.

On the other hand, we often ignore the richness on offer while distracted by our busy minds or addiction to our devices. In the year ahead, watch the dogs in your life and learn to pay attention to what they're investigating in the sensory world. See if you can notice and enjoy some of what they do.

Trust Your Instincts

We learned this lesson from our first dog, Sassy. She was a great judge of people. Her official title around our office was Vice President for security and morale. Security went beyond barking when the mailman arrived.

Sassy had three approaches to most people. Some of the best people we ever knew were greeted with exuberance and treated to cuddles and kisses. Most people, she welcomed politely.

However, she raised her hackles and growled at visitors in a few instances. In one case, it was a client who eventually proved to be an unethical person. Another example was a person at a hiring interview. In the end, other staff members voted with Sassy against this hire.

Self Care

Naps are a way of life for dogs. When they're tired, they find a cozy spot and doze. When we're tired, we try to push through and accomplish more. Perhaps we should build some naptime into our days as a better way to be productive.

Exercise is essential to dogs,



Poppy likes to cuddle up with a friend after a good play session and nap.

and so is stretching. How many times a day do you see your companion doing a downward dog? When they get up from a resting position, they stretch. We are encouraged to stretch by trainers and physical therapists. Learn from your dog and take moments each day to give your body a relaxing stretch.

One way or another, dogs ask for what they need. Poppy jumps up with one of us when she wants a good massage and cuddles. She knows we can't resist giving her the touches she craves. Your dog may lead you to the door when they need to go out. Now think, how often do you let those around you know what you need right at that moment?

Be Thankful for Dogs

We'll end with wise words from one of our all-time favorite dog people, author and animal activist Roger Caras who wrote, "Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith, and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made."

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