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# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## NEW Health Charlestown P



NEW Health staff and local leaders celebrate pharmacy opening with ribbon cutting ceremony

## NEW Health Charlestown celebrates new pharmacy

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The team and services at NEW Health's Charlestown site are growing with the opening of a pharmacy that was a crucial need for the neighborhood, as well as an expanded second floor, additional services and new hires.

The new pharmacy at NEW Health Charlestown at 15 Tufts Street officially opened in January with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on March 25. The pharmacy is located on the first floor in the former Crossroads space. The expansion also includes a new conference room, exam rooms, triage rooms, and the introduction of additional services, all situated on the second floor. Local leaders and politicians were all in attendance including Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Representative

Daniel Ryan and President of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Michael Curry.

The Charlestown pharmacy hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Pharmacy services are available for everyone in the community, in addition to NEW Health patients.

"These expansions represent a commitment from our health center to the community in providing equitable health care and pharmacy services to all patients in need," said Vincenzo Scibelli, NEW Health CEO.

This expansion in care comes with new hires and promotions to accommodate it. Dr. Hugo Calavia Luna, Nurse Practitioner Olga McLellan and Jessica Planamento, and Pharmacist Betty McGladrian have come onboard.

Dr. Calavia Luna will allow NEW Health to welcome more

primary care patients, a critical need for the community. Originally from Spain, Dr. Hugo Calavia Luna is trilingual and bicultural, which he says has allowed him to "develop strong cross-cultural awareness." Dr. Calavia Luna is fluent in English, Spanish and Swedish as well as conversational in Polish. He previously worked at a federally qualified health center in Connecticut and will now mainly work out of the NEW Health Charlestown location. The new Nurse Practitioners on the team are also vital to accommodating more patients.

In addition, longtime NEW Health Charlestown provider Dr. Anne Murray-Chiriboga has been appointed Chief Medical Officer for both the North End and Charlestown sites. Dr. John Foster recently retired from NEW Health

(NEW HEALTH Pg. 5)

## Coletta to hold hearing on technological infrastructure improvements for departments

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilors Gabriela Coletta, Ed Flynn, and Liz Breadon will hold a hearing regarding technological infrastructure improvements across city departments on Tuesday, April 2 at 2pm in the Iannella Chamber, Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall.

"Our current technology in various city departments is outdated. We seek to upgrade these programs to be more efficient and responsive to the day-to-day needs of our constituents," said Coletta. "I'm optimistic that we will continue the conversation and explore more investments to ensure our city's technological infrastructure can serve our constituents."

In the previous legislative session, Councilor Coletta held a hearing to discuss the digitization of parking regulations to work collaboratively to bring a new modernized parking enforcement system that helps with the quality of life and boosts efficiency in



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

constituent services. During the hearing, city administrators from the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) shared a plan to embed technological infrastructure that would allow the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) to respond more efficiently to the day-to-day needs of constituents. The Councilors seek to further last year's conversation and discuss

(HEARING Pg. 9)

### CNC MEETING DATES

**CNC Meeting, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 7 p.m.** The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 7-9 P.M. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. Agenda: an update from Councilor Coletta, a presentation by Marguerite Wynter, Director of Partnerships & Engagement Now + There, and Marissa Zampino, Community Organizer Mystic River Watershed. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com). Check [CNC02129.org](http://CNC02129.org) for calendar and updates.

**CNC's 250th Commemoration of the Revolutionary War Committee, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 7 p.m.** The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's 250th Commemoration of the Revolutionary War Committee will hold an in-person public meeting at the BPD Community Room, 20 Vine Steet, on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 PM. The sole agenda item is preparations for the 250th Commemoration of the Revolutionary War. Please bring your questions to the meeting or email Sean Boyle at [samboyle324@gmail.com](mailto:samboyle324@gmail.com).

# John F. Kennedy Family Service Center receives \$2 million from the Yield Giving Open Call

MacKenzie Scott's Yield Giving announced John F. Kennedy Family Service Center as one of the Yield Giving Open Call's awardees working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States. The Kennedy Center received \$2 Million.

The John F. Kennedy Family Service Center is a multi-service organization dedicated to increasing the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children, families, and seniors in need. For nearly 60 years, the "Kennedy Center" has provided early education programs, community and family support, and Home Care for elders. The Center's longstanding mission has been to provide individuals and families in Charlestown with opportunities and tools they need to lead productive and fulfilling lives. The Kennedy Center continually adapts specific services to meet the current needs. During the COVID pandemic, this mission took the

form of distributing food, PPE and other supplies throughout the neighborhood, organizing testing and vaccination sites and creating "school at home" kits for families with young children in lockdown.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources.

"We are immensely proud to have received this gift! Support from Yield Giving ensures that we can sustain critical services while expanding opportunities to meet the changing needs of our community," said Thara Fuller, Executive Director. "We are grateful for the recognition of our work, and the support from our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers who remain deeply committed to making a difference in the daily lives of individuals and families in need.

With this award, we will continue to feed the hungry, nurture children, and care for elders."

The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In the Fall of 2023, organizations top-rated by their peers advanced to a second round of review by an external Evaluation Panel recruited for experience relevant to this cause and underwent a final round of due diligence. In light of the incredible work of these organizations, as judged by their peers and external panelists, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount.

"We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations," said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. "In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain unseen."

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at [www.leverforchange.org](http://www.leverforchange.org).

The John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Inc. is a multi-service non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children, families, and seniors in need. For nearly sixty years, the Kennedy Center has established a reputation for the delivery of high-quality social service programs for residents of Charlestown, MA.

### Yield Giving

Established by MacKenzie Scott to share a financial fortune created through the effort of countless people, Yield Giving is named after a belief in adding value by giving up control. To date, Yield's network of staff and advisors has yielded over \$16,500,000,000 to 1,900+ non-profit teams to use as they see fit for the benefit of others. To learn more, visit [www.yieldgiving.com](http://www.yieldgiving.com).

[www.yieldgiving.com](http://www.yieldgiving.com).

Lever for Change connects donors with bold solutions to the world's biggest problems—including issues like racial inequity, gender inequality, lack of access to economic opportunity, and climate change. Using an inclusive, equitable model and due diligence process, Lever for Change creates customized challenges and other tailored funding opportunities. Top-ranked teams and challenge finalists become members of the Bold Solutions Network—a growing global network that helps secure additional funding, amplify members' impact, and accelerate social change. Founded in 2019 as a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Lever for Change has influenced over \$1.7 billion in grants to date and provided support to more than 145 organizations. To learn more, visit [www.leverforchange.org](http://www.leverforchange.org).

## Lyric Stage Boston presents 'The Drowsy Chaperone'

Lyric Stage Boston charms its way into spring by presenting the fun and fizzy musical comedy "The Drowsy Chaperone" with Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison and Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar.

Directed and Choreographed by Larry Sousa° with Music Direction from Matt Stern, the winter blues will melt away and audiences will be delighted by the jubilation of a good old-fashioned musical comedy that will bring smiles, laughs,

and much needed joy.

A comfortable chair with an old record crackling away is the perfect cure for the "blues" for a charming but lonely "Man in Chair", our guide into the world of the show-within-a-show, The Drowsy Chaperone. His favorite cast album from the Jazz Age comes to fizzy life complete with a self-admiring showgirl, her gin-soaked chaperone, a saucy Latin lover, a bumbling best man, a clueless soon-to-be groom, and a cornucopia of characters from a befuddled producer, to a dippy hostess and gangsters posing as pastry chefs. This bubbly love letter to musical theater sparkles with one show-stopper after another, mix-ups, mayhem, and a wedding (or two).

Director Larry Sousa° says, "The Drowsy Chaperone pulls off a particularly clever trick: While the show on stage is busy entertaining us with sparkling 1920's musical panache, the actual main event is simmering under the surface, waiting for just the right moment to land a punch to the gut.

It hits me every time. We hope you feel it too, and tell everyone you know: Come to The Drowsy Chaperone for the hilarious, toe-tapping, light-hearted musical love story – and stay for the sucker-punch. It might hurt a little... but it's so satisfying."

Performances begin Friday, April 5 and run through Sunday,

May 12.

Press Performance is Sunday, April 7 at 3pm.

Email [heather\\_darrow@lyricstage.com](mailto:heather_darrow@lyricstage.com) for tickets.

Featuring Joy Clark\*, Yasmeen Duncan, Kristian Espiritu\*, Danny Feldman, Maureen Keiller\*, Mark Linehan\*, Cristhian Mancinas-Garcia, Paul Melendy\*, Katie Pickett, Nick Potts, Ilyse Robbins, Kathy St. George\*, Carolyn Saxon\*, Damon Singletary\*, Jared Troilo\*, and Todd Yard.

Swings: Lizzy Cenicola, Miki Grubic

Scenic Design by Cameron McEachern\*\*, Costume Design by Seth Bodie, Lighting Design by John Malinowski, and Sound Design by Alex Berg.

### Five Dollar Fridays

On Friday, April 5, Lyric Stage offers Five Dollar Friday which makes tickets affordable for all for \$5 each. There will be a limited number of \$5 tickets available for sale with code DROWSY5. Five Dollar Fridays are possible through the generous support of Jan and Stuart Rose.

### "Lyric for All" Affordable Price Options

In an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston, Lyric Stage offers multiple options including \$30 Under 35, advanced Student Tickets, Senior Tickets, and partnerships with MassWIC and EBT Cardholders that allow audiences to visit as often as they like. More

information at: <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all>.

History of the Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Founded in 1974 and in residence at 140 Clarendon Street since 1991, Lyric Stage Company is Boston's longest-serving resident theater company. Its mission is to produce and present live theater in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston.

Lyric Stage and Beacon Communities, LLC, the owners of 140 Clarendon Street, have agreed that the building will be Lyric Stage's "forever" home, ensuring that the theater will remain a vital and essential part of the cultural fabric of the city.

In partnership with Beacon Communities, LLC, Lyric Stage will continue its commitment to improving the lives of Bostonians alongside a partner who shares those same values. With the partnership of Pine Street Inn, 111 of the units in the building will become supportive housing for people exiting homelessness. The combined energy of Beacon's supportive services alongside one of the city's cultural gems makes 140 Clarendon a paragon of two institutions coming together to make the city a better place for its residents.

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## DIDOMENICO CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH FIRST LADY DR. JILL BIDEN

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator Sal DiDomenico joined First Lady Dr. Jill Biden for a Biden-Harris administration announcement of a \$100 million investment in women's health research. This "Sprint for Women's Health" program is the first deliverable from the White House's new initiative on women's health research. This program will be led by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), located in Cambridge.

"I want to thank the Biden-Harris administration and our state's federal delegation for bringing this fantastic program to our state that will accelerate research on heart and brain conditions, as well as chronic diseases, which disproportionately impact women," said Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "Women's health is far too often brushed aside, not taken seriously, and in many cases, not prioritized by the medical field. This initiative is essential to improving how we care for women in this country, and I couldn't be prouder that researchers in my district and throughout our state will be leading the way."

This event also featured U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Maria Shriver. With this funding, ARPA-H will bring together researchers, clinicians, tech



Senator DiDomenico with First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

experts, and others to spur innovative ideas and private sector collaboration in order to improve women's health. Organizations

and individuals interested in learning more about this initiative can visit the website: [arpa-h.gov/engage-and-transition/sprint](https://arpa-h.gov/engage-and-transition/sprint).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### UPCOMING LECTURE EXPLORES 'WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE NORTH SHORE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY'

The Artists' Group of Charlestown presents an art gallery lecture called 'Women Artists of the North Shore in the Early 20th Century' on Friday, April 12, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at StoveFactory Gallery and Studios at 523 Medford St. in Charlestown. Doors open at 5 p.m., and complimentary refreshments will be served.

Join art historian Judith Curtis to discover untold stories of early 20th century women artists of the North Shore. Her lecture, based on her work as co-curator of the 2015 'Strokes of Genius: Women Artists of New England' exhibition at the Rockport Art Association & Museum, will delve into the lives and works of influential artists Jane Peterson, Marguerite Pearson, Emma Fordyce McRae, and others. Through her engaging slide presentation, Curtis will highlight how color, design, and subject matter helped establish these women as experts in their field despite facing immense challenges in the male-dominated art world of their time.

Admission is free; reserve your spot at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-gallery-lecture-tick>

ets-856385882227?aff=oddtctcreator.

### PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER SET FOR MAY 5

The Walk for Hunger, Project Bread's annual fundraising event and the Commonwealth's largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for the celebration. The one-day event is set for Sunday, May 5 on the Boston Common, and will feature family-friendly activities along the 3-mile loop. In its 56th year, Project Bread invites you to help raise more than \$1.3 million to support the leading statewide food security organization's approach to permanently solve hunger, which includes working year-round across policy initiatives, programs, and hunger prevention measures to ensure food access for all children and families in Massachusetts.

Likeminded anti-hunger organizations can enroll in the nonprofit's co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth, forming teams to raise money to support their own work, while also furthering Project Bread's statewide effort. To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit [projectbread.org/walk](https://projectbread.org/walk) or email [walk@projectbread.org](mailto:walk@projectbread.org).

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# EDITORIAL

## CAN AI SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

The coming revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds great promise for the future benefit of mankind. (Yeah, we know, there are pitfalls, but for purposes of this editorial, we're writing about a potential positive.)

As we were listening the other day to an interview with the amazing Jensen Huang, the President and CEO of Nvidia, the chip company that is pioneering the AI revolution, in which he was saying that AI could shorten the cumbersome Phase I-IV trial periods for new drugs by years (not to mention that AI can be used to develop new drugs), it occurred to us that in the same way, AI could be used to shorten environmental review periods for the construction of new wind and solar power facilities and their transmission lines.

Right now, the biggest obstacles to clean energy becoming more prevalent across the U.S. are the environmentalists themselves. Clean energy advocates and companies are finding it's one thing to build-out a wind and solar farm, but quite another to obtain the permits for transmission lines to carry the new energy to population centers because of cumbersome and time-consuming regulations and the opposition of environmental groups by lawsuits.

For example, our region could have had cheap and clean hydropower from Canada almost 10 years ago, but environmental groups in Maine filed lawsuit after lawsuit to stop the transmission lines from going through their state. Each and every suit has been dismissed, but here we are, almost a decade later, and we still do not have hydropower from Canada -- and there is some question as to whether it ever will be accomplished.

Similarly, it took 17 years (that's not a misprint) for regulatory approval for the construction of the largest wind project in the country in the New Mexico desert so that this clean energy can get to population centers in Arizona.

So it got us to thinking: Perhaps AI, which can accomplish billions of calculations in seconds, can help speed up the regulatory process so we can get these projects on-line ASAP.

Because here's the problem: Environmentalists are now their own -- and the environment's -- worst enemy. With the energy industry on-board with developing energy from renewable sources -- even the big oil companies are looking at green and blue hydrogen production -- the problem is that nothing can be built quickly because of the lengthy environmental review processes and laws (that allow lawsuits by the dozens) which can delay clean-energy projects for years and years.

But with each day's news informing us of impending environmental catastrophe, it is obvious that we do not have time to waste. It also is becoming increasingly clear that we human beings are incapable of saving either ourselves or the natural world.

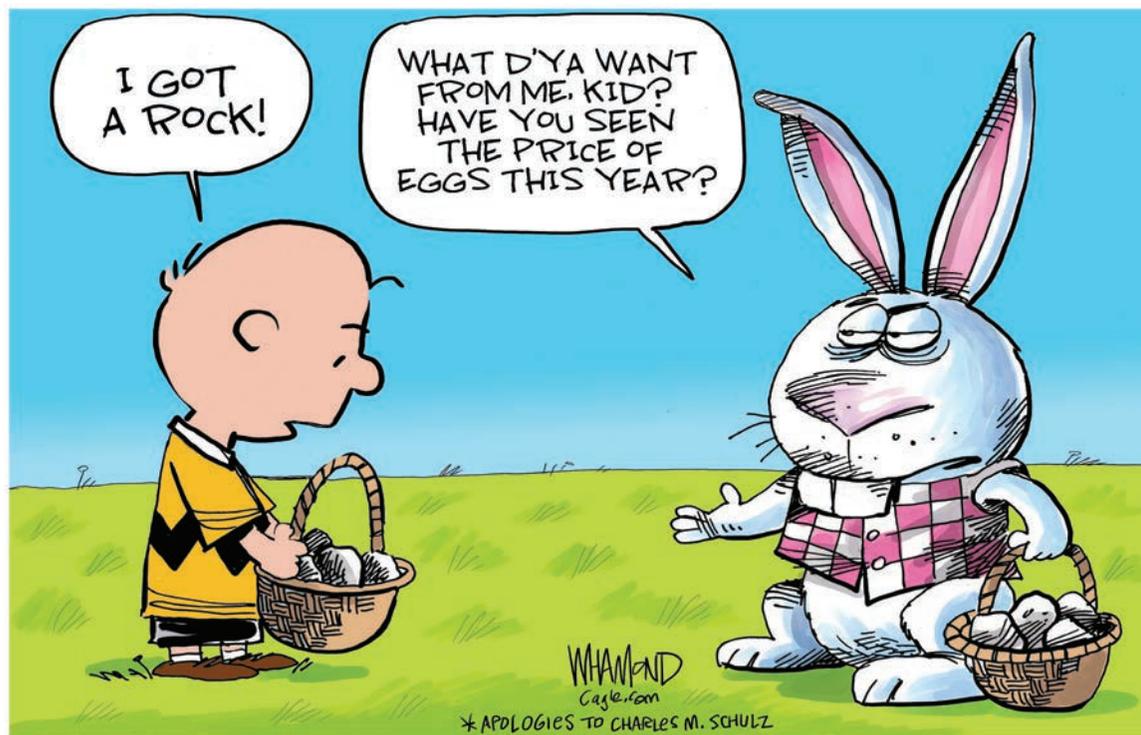
But perhaps the AI machines can do it for us -- and if so, they will give literal meaning to the metaphorical term, "Deus ex machina."

## ANOTHER HAPLESS SEASON FOR THE SOX

With the Red Sox set to open their 2024 season this week, it seems all but assured that the Sox are destined for a third-straight last-place finish in the American League East.

For those of us who cherish our copy of the "Impossible Dream" record album, which chronicled the 1967 Red Sox, who improbably won the American League pennant ("The Red Sox win! It's pandemonium on the field!"), this has been the sorriest stretch by a Sox squad since the early and mid-1960s, when the Red Sox similarly were cellar-dwellers year-in and year-out.

It's obvious that the Red Sox ownership, which brought us four World Series titles from 2004-2018, basically has checked out and is taking the Fenway Faithful for granted. Sad to say, it looks like 2024 will be another long, hot -- and losing -- summer for Boston baseball fans.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### SUPPORTS CONSTITUTION INN

To the Editor,

*The following was sent to the BPDA and Councilor Coletta,*

We are writing in strong support of the Constitution Inn project (150 Third St, Charlestown) and are deeply dismayed by the recent lawsuit brought against it. We have lived in Charlestown for 10 years and live only a half mile from the Constitution Inn. We have also both worked in the city, specifically in Charlestown, in the health care fields since the early 1990s. We know that housing is a major social determinant of health and well being. It is our opinion that affordable housing is the single most important issue confronting Boston. It is crucial to keeping our city livable. Many people, the young especially, are no longer able to afford to live in Boston. This saps our communities of vitality and creativity. We are deeply worried that reactionary forces and coalitions are trying to undermine affordable housing proposals. We also feel that even though those forces and coalitions are vocal, that they do not represent the majority of the populace.

We are proud Bostonians and want to keep Boston that "city upon a hill", an honorable example to others. Boston can be a leader in affordable housing, just as it has been a leader in countless other endeavors. We believe it is our moral obligation to our fellow citizens that we ensure that they

are properly and safely housed.

Respectfully,

Michael and Linda Garrity

### CHARLESTOWN, AND ALL OF BOSTON REQUIRES PLANNING BEFORE DEVELOPMENT

To the Editor,

Did you know that 425 Medford Street was approved despite community concerns are left unanswered and not addressed? This land is the former Dewey Beach, part of the historic, Frederick Law Olmsted Doherty Park.

FEMA FLOOD ZONE: This land is originally mudflats, filled land in a FEMA Flood Plain area, one of the most vulnerable flood sites.

INUNDATION DISTRICT: Charlestown is one of the most vulnerable locations for sea/river level rises. The Mystic River, Sullivan Square which is the Mill Pond, Rutherford Avenue which is one the Mill Creek, The Charles River, and the Boston Harbor are all rated flood zones, yet the BPDA continue to approve buildings upon these filled lands.

When they flood, which they will, according to [www.inundationdistrict.com](http://www.inundationdistrict.com), who will pay to bail them out? How will Charlestown residents get around?

STORMWATER RUN OFF RISK:

Currently untreated feces are released into the Mystic River when there are heavy rains. Charlestown suffers stormwater runoff risk and pollution. Currently Charlestown cannot handle

(LETTERS Pg. 9)



# CHARLESTOWN

## PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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**NEW HEALTH** (from pg. 1)

after 35 years with his most recent position as Chief Medical Officer. During this time, he helped guide the health center through the affiliation process with Mass General Brigham and the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Murray-Chiriboga has played a pivotal role in patient care at the Charlestown site, following a holistic care model.

“Bringing on new staff helps us increase our services and better serve our patients and community members,” said Scibelli.

For more information on NEW Health and its services in both Charlestown and the North End, visit [www.newhealthcenter.org](http://www.newhealthcenter.org).

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston’s North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2023 Health Center Quality Leader (HCQL), the only Massachusetts health center to receive a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health cen-



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown (left to right) are Denise Clancey, Nancy Sullivan, Marilyn Stempler, NEW Health CEO Vincenzo “Vin” Scibelli, Ellen Janos, Michael Curry, Andretti Stanziani, Dr. Anne Murray-Chiriboga

ters nationwide.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at [www.newhealthcenter.org](http://www.newhealthcenter.org), on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

ology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at [www.newhealthcenter.org](http://www.newhealthcenter.org), on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

# Celebrate Easter

At St. John's Church

**Maundy Thursday - March 28**

6p.m. Agapé Meal and Eucharist

**Good Friday - March 29**

7p.m. Liturgy for Good Friday

**Holy Saturday - March 30**

12p.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy

7p.m. Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY - March 31**

10a.m. Easter Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt!

St. John's Church - 27 Devens St.  
[www.stjohns02129.org](http://www.stjohns02129.org)



## CONSTITUTION CO-OP

### Senior Housing Available

Constitution Co-op where member residents have a voice in the management of the property, has large studio and one bedroom apartments. Located in beautiful City Square, this active senior co-op is on an MBTA bus route, and is within walking distance to shopping, banks and medical professionals.

**Features such as...**  
 Scenic views of Charlestown  
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# ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

The Annual St Patrick's Day Luncheon was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall Friday March 15th. Hosted by Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta and Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan with Age Strong Commission and BCYF, the Luncheon helped kick off the festive weekend. Did was provided by the David M. Whelan Scholarship Foundation and entertainment was provided by Warren Tavern

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Jack Ridlon, David Whelan's great-nephew, helps serve up some lunch to the guests.



Golden Age Center Director Meaghan Murray with Sheila Kavanagh.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia.



City Of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with a bouquet of flowers to help celebrate St Patrick's Day.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy.



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



USS Constitution Commander Billie Farrell.



BPD Officer Rob DiRienzo with Ann Griffin and Barbara Swales.



Sean Boyle, owner of Baby Boyle Bouquets, with Golden Age Center Director Meaghan Murray. Baby Boyle Bouquets provided the green carnations given to each of the guests for the Lunch.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks with Amy Yandle and Ruthellen Chardavoyne.



Judy Evers, Ellen Ward, and a friend.



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan with his neighbor and constituent Sharon Brady.



Pat Noonan and Helena Reilly.

## Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey Scholarship Fund

Wow, 2024 is our 10th year providing scholarships!

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[www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com](http://www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com)

Questions: [ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com)

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Kelly Gillen Forbes with USS Constitution Commander Billie Farrell.

# ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan, USS Constitution Commander Billie Farrell, Kim Mahoney, Elaine Donovan, and Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



Tricia Tkachuk and Mary Beth Kelly.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta (center) with BPD Sgt Gino Provenzano and Officers William Chen, Rob DiRienzo, and Frank Wong.



Katie Thornton, Helen Carpenter, Chikie and John Goggin, and Joan Wagner.



Elaine Donovan, Meaghan Murray, Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta, researcher for Rep Ryan rMeghan Bragg, and City Of Boston Sports Tours and Entertainment Director Colette Folan.



Olivette Kenner, Diane Mahoney, Catherine Davidson, Helen Cullity, and Peggy Pieper.



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# ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL NEWS

St. John School's Family and School Association hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 24, at Christopher Columbus Park. The Easter bunny hid many eggs that our happy students excitedly found...despite the chilly weather!



Fun was had by all at St. John School's Skate Night at the Steriti Rink on Friday, March 22nd. A heartfelt thank you to The Family & School Association for spear-heading this traditional event.

## Holy Week in the Charlestown Catholic Community

### AT ST FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

#### Good Friday

3p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Francis

7p.m. Liturgy at St. Francis

### EASTER SUNDAY

8a.m. Mass at St. Mary's

9:30a.m. Mass at St. Francis

11a.m. Mass at St. Mary's

### AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Holy Thursday 9a.m. Prayer - St. Catherine's Chapel

7p.m. Mass - St. Mary's

Good Friday 9a.m. Prayer - St. Catherine's Chapel

Holy Saturday 9a.m. Prayer - St. Catherine's Chapel

7p.m. Easter Vigil - St. Mary's

## Look Up. Look Ahead.

Offices: 46 Winthrop St. 617-242-4664  
charlestowncatholic.org

LETTERS (from pg. 4)

more capacity on its ancient sewer system.

NO TRAFFIC PLAN: This location is contiguous with Sullivan Square, one of the most dangerous and congested traffic hubs in Boston. Everett intends to build a 30,000 seat soccer stadium a 1/4 mile from this site.

NO TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Sullivan Square Orange Line is at capacity, is unreliable and will be further burdened with more development in Assembly Square and the soccer stadium.

MASSIVE HEAT ISLAND: This development, along with the other Charlestown massive developments are massive heat islands, which contribute to rising temperatures, There is no plan to green the roofs, absorb the heat, reduce the impact.

The last five summers are the hottest in history.

EXEMPT FROM BOSTON'S TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE: Mayor Wu's tree ordinance to increase the tree canopy in Boston takes effect March 28, which means this project and all the other projects in Charlestown approved are exempt.

Boston's Tree Protection Ordinance was written in 2021 and shelved. That allowed massive developments citywide to be exempt, including 425 Medford Street.

Citywide, this tree ordinance exempts millions of square feet on critical openspace to plant trees, enhance our environment, reduce heat island effect, and protect from flood damage through the planting of trees, the natural solution.

288 Mature, almost century old trees at the Bunker Hill Housing Development will be destroyed.

BLOCKING HISTORIC VIEWS: The Frederick Law Olmsted, Father of Landscape Architecture" Doherty Park is a national gem that the BPDA ignores, and approved the blocking of the most important design element: the

VISTA, which allows urban residents to get a reprieve the harshness of urban living, to enrich public health, mental health and spiritual wellbeing. BLOCKED.

VACANCIES INCREASING: Boston has luxury towers that are one third vacant.

Boston has 18% vacancy rate in commercial real estate. Many forecast that with work from home, the increased traffic, unreliable transit, this number is on the rise.

The Bio Tech bubble has burst. The existing bio labs have high vacancies, with many in the pipeline with no prospective tenants.

BOSTON POPULATION IS SHRINKING: Boston's 653,000 population according to The Boston Federal Reserve Bank, and other reliable demographic experts report and forecast that Boston's population is shrinking.

Boston relies on the BPDA for the population forecast: The BPDA claim the City of Boston will grow to 775,000 in 2030.

Greater Boston Real Estate Boad reports 25% of 20-30 year olds will leave Boston due to traffic, transit, lack of school options, the harshness and expenses of living in Boston. The BPDA's response: "Build more."

The differential of 775,000 to less than 650,000 residents is enormous, expensive discrepancies that have huge impacts. Each unit is an average 2.3 additional residents, for a 25% increased size of the population of 163,300 new residents. They left and others never arrived.

WHY is Boston allowing the BPDA to approve projects with these conditions?

...One may consider that they will be exempt: from pending ordinances; will be approved before flooding but in known flooding which taxpayers have paid for numerous studies stating so: in a climate crisis with a decreasing population?

Developers are served while the

public needs, wants, desires and well-being are ignored.

Mayor Wu wrote "Fixing Boston's Broken Development Process -Abolish the BPDA" This report has been abandoned, not implemented, with no explanation and no valid community engagement.

Please email Mayor@Boston.gov: "Stop approving development without planning first; without valid community engagement. Implement YOUR plan to "Abolish the BPDA."

Diane Valle

MAKE WAY FOR THE CRANES

To the Editor,

Coming to Charlestown, lots of cranes, lots of buildings / towers, lots of people, lots of traffic, lots of pollution, more heat islands and lots of noise and congestion.

Charlestown never had, nor will ever have any planning according to Plan Charlestown, which has been approved by the Boston Planning and Development Board.

Brace yourself for less open and green space, less tree canopies, and less places to spend time in this community of one square mile. The Boston Planning and Development Agency has grand plans for our community, adding another 20,000 residents as well as over 46 multi storied – buildings, ranging in height from 4 to 20 stories.

If the BPDA paid attention, Charlestown is in a severe flood zone. Charlestown is surrounded by water. Charlestown only has two ways in and out. Charlestown has one of the lowest tree canopies in Boston. Boston has one of the worst traffic congestions in the nation, we in Charlestown experience that daily.

If the BPDA paid more attention to the climate change research, the increasing temperatures, the flood potentials, the health care crisis, we would be in a better place.

- Santiago Garces, Chief of Information Officer, DoIT
- Kerry Jordan, Chief of Staff, DoIT

This docket was referred to the Committee on City Services & Innovation Technology chaired by Councilor Enrique Pepén (District 5) of Roslindale. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written or oral comments. More information on the hearing can be found at: www.boston.gov/public-notices/16099336

If the BPDA paid attention to the benefits of open, green and water space, we would be in a better place.

If the BPDA embraced critical and forward thinking instead of, "backward and magical thinking", our community would have a better chance of surviving now and in the future.

Quality of life is inconsequential in this community as the BPDA rolls out one huge building plan after another. Our health will be compromised.

Since our health care system is in a "crisis mode," it is getting harder to procure medical attention. We have all heard, "the doctor will see you in a few months." Getting a doctor's appointment in a timely

fashion is history. No doubt as with no access to a healthy environment, the health care system will only worsen.

We, the tax papers pay your salaries, we are not listened to. The developers propose huge complexes in this community, and they are listened to and embraced.

The BPDA needs leadership by our Mayor and the BPDA needs to be dismissed as it is and restructured for all of Boston.

Instead of making way for cranes, making way for environmental justice for all of Charlestown as well as all of Boston is paramount.

Ann Kelleher

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HEARING (from pg. 1)

updating technological infrastructure for all city departments.

"It is critical that our city departments have the necessary technological infrastructure in place for our residents to request city services, report quality of life issues, and access city updates," said Councilor Flynn. "I want to thank Councilors Coletta and Breadon for their partnership on this issue, and I look forward to this discussion on how we can further improve the existing technology utilized by our city departments."

"Investments in modern technological infrastructure are crucial to providing quality services to our residents across the city," said Councilor Liz Breadon. "From property assessment and code enforcement to housing inspection and facilities maintenance, strategic system improvements should be pursued across the enterprise of local government. I look forward to discussing the current status and future progress of enhancing our citywide technological resources." Members of the administration expected include:

# LEGAL NOTICE

## LEGAL NOTICE

### ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on April 17, 2024, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 778 and a petition for approval of the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 152, 66 Cambridge Street, Charlestown, Boston, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Said map amendment would amend Map 2E, Charlestown Neighborhood District, by adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development Area overlay to approximately +/- 175,966 square feet (4.04 acres) of land bounded generally by Interstate 93 (I-93) Exit 20 Northbound Off-ramp to the west, a surface parking lot to the east, Cambridge Street to the north, and Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) property, known as D Street to the south. Said development plan would allow for the construction of two buildings referred to as Building A and Building B collectively

containing approximately up to 812,000 square feet of Gross Floor Area ("GFA"), including up to approximately 10,000 square feet of space that is designed for commercial uses including but not limited to retail/restaurant/other commercial uses and of the balance of the buildings designed for office and research laboratory space and other uses, together with open spaces that will collectively comprise approximately 41,000 square feet as further detailed in the Development Plan. As currently designed, Building A will have a building height of approximately 222 feet and Building B will have a building height of approximately 252 feet, subject to further design review and the terms of the Development Plan, with up to 812,000 square feet of GFA in the aggregate. The Project also includes a subsurface parking structure containing up to the lesser of 487 vehicle parking spaces or 0.6 spaces/1,000 sf of approved Gross Floor Area (with no spaces allocated to the Project's up to 10,000 square feet of retail/restaurant/other commercial space on the ground floor) and will also provide 325 long-term secure bike parking spaces and 41 visitor publicly accessible bike parking spaces.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to [https://bit.ly/BZC\\_Apr172024](https://bit.ly/BZC_Apr172024). Copies of the petition, the Development Plan, and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to [zoningcommission@boston.gov](mailto:zoningcommission@boston.gov). Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: [zoningcommission@boston.gov](mailto:zoningcommission@boston.gov) or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024. Please request interpreting services no later than April 12, 2024. For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton Executive Secretary

3/28/24 CT

## LEGAL NOTICE

### ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on April 17, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., in connection

with Map Amendment Application No. 777 and a petition for approval of the Master Plan for Planned Development Area No. 153, 425 Medford Street, Charlestown, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Said map amendment would amend Map 2B/2C, Harborpark District: Charlestown Waterfront, by adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development Area overlay to approximately 24.6-acre site consisting of: (i) 425 Medford Street; (ii) portions of 465 Medford Street; and (iii) portions of 529 Main Street. The Master PDA Area is generally bounded to the north by the Mystic River, to the east by active industrial-port property owned by Massport, to the south by Medford Street, and to the west by additional land owned by the Applicant. Said Master Plan would allow for the construction of six new buildings consisting of approximately 1.79 million gross square feet of residential, office/research lab, retail, restaurant, hotel, and community uses, and up to 1,026 new accessory parking spaces located in below-ground structured parking. The proposed Project will also feature signifi-

cant public realm improvements including a minimum of 350,000 square feet of open space and a new street network. This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to [https://bit.ly/BZC\\_Apr172024](https://bit.ly/BZC_Apr172024). Copies of the petition, the Master Plan, and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to [zoningcommission@boston.gov](mailto:zoningcommission@boston.gov). Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: [zoningcommission@boston.gov](mailto:zoningcommission@boston.gov) or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024. Please request interpreting services no later than April 12, 2024. For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton Executive Secretary

3/28/24 CT

## LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND

## FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0364EA Estate of: Robert Otis Ormsbee Date of Death: 02/12/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mark O. Ormsbee of Byram, NJ requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Mark O. Ormsbee of Byram, NJ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/23/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 12, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

03/28/24 CT

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# Community Reinvestment Grant program announced

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced that community non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through his office's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

Last year, Hayden's Community Reinvestment Program delivered the largest amount of funding to community partners in Suffolk County CRG history, with grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500.

"I am extremely proud of the

amount of funding we distributed last year. In total, we were able to award \$260,000 to 45 Suffolk County nonprofit organizations. I look forward to presenting the next round of funding to help these mission-driven organizations. Together, we can provide our youth with more opportunities, services and intervention necessary for them to succeed," Hayden said.

The CRG program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 to

501(c)3 nonprofits that provide programming designed to prevent youth violence, substance use disorder, or substance use treatment in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is April 25, and Hayden expects to announce grant recipients on May 20.

More information on the CRG program can be found at [suffolkdistrictattorney.com](http://suffolkdistrictattorney.com) and submission forms are available at 2024 Community Reinvestment Grant.

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# Wu announces \$21 million for behavioral health services, programming

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and Boston Public Schools (BPS) today announced \$21 million in transformative funding for mental and behavioral health programs and services to support the City's youth and families. The investments are part of the City's response to the urgent need for more mental health supports for young people and to develop a larger and more diverse behavioral health workforce. These investments over five years will serve more than 50,000 students, directly impact 21 BPS schools, support more than 600 people in pursuing behavioral health careers in Boston, grow and diversify BPS's mental health staff, and provide more than 1,000 people with behavioral health training to better serve youth and families in Boston.

"The past several years have been difficult for all of us, and that's especially true for our young people," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "That's why it is so important for us to make life saving investments now, to support Boston families and make sure our youth get the high-quality care they need."

According to BPHC's newly released Health of Boston Mental Health Report, there has been a significant increase of sadness, hopelessness and anxiety among Boston's youth, especially youth of color. Currently, more than 40% of BPS students report feeling persistent sadness and hopelessness, while in 2015, 27% of youth reported feeling this way. An increasing number of our high school students are reporting suicidal thoughts. These data are even more severe for students that are marginalized or identify as female or LGBTQ+. Unfortunately, less than half of BPS high school students report that they received help when they experienced mental health challenges.

"Our young people are in crisis, and it is clear that we need to develop more mental health services, especially those that address the unique needs of Black, Latinx, Asian, LGBTQ+ and other underserved communities," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "We created BPHC's Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness to find meaningful and strategic ways to reduce behavioral health inequities. This partnership between Mayor Wu, BPS, and the Center demonstrates our commitment to providing culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate services to young



Mayor Michelle Wu.

people and their families in Boston."

"I am hopeful and eager to uplift our youth and families by addressing the urgent mental and behavioral health challenges they face," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "These investments and partnerships with educational and youth-focused institutions are vital steps toward strengthening our systems of care, and in doing so, nurturing the emotional well-being and educational development of our students."

The \$21 million is from federal funding and grants, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Education, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This funding will add behavioral health specialists to BPS schools, provide behavioral health training to youth-facing workers and community organizations, and invest in career training in communities of color to develop a more diverse workforce to serve youth in Boston. This will increase the number of diverse, highly qualified mental health staff that work in BPS while also developing the skills of the current mental health staff, creating a better pipeline to retain providers and fill vacancies. In addition, a pilot program between BPHC and BPS will examine policies in BPS to examine trauma, disciplinary issues, racism, stress, and other factors to create safer and more positive environments for students.

"Through this collaboration between Mayor Wu, BPHC, BPS, and our communities, we are investing in a future where every child has access to the care and support they need to flourish," said Dr. Kevin M. Simon, Chief Behavioral Health Officer of the Boston Public Health Commission. "This commitment is a tes-

tament to the power of collective action in supporting the well-being of our children and families."

"Consistent with UMass Boston's anti-racist, health-promoting ethos, our grant will prepare cohorts of culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse Fellows to become human service and mental health providers," said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "We share the Mayor and Commission and BPS's goals to advance racial justice, health equity, and more accessible behavioral health services so we can address the growing need for mental health resources among minoritized and marginalized youth."

"As one of the largest providers of pediatric behavioral health services in Boston, we have seen the need for behavioral health services grow exponentially, especially in underserved communities," said Joseph Mitchell, MD, President of Franciscan Children's. "We are thrilled to receive this grant so we can continue to meet the rising needs of children and youth in Boston through our school-based and other mental health programs, train the next generation of behavioral health professionals, and create a more diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve."

In addition to these programs and services that serve youth, a BPHC program will support families with Black and Latinx children under four years old in need of early childhood mental health and care.

The full breakdown of investments is detailed below:

## Boston Public Health Commission

- \$2.5M (ARPA) - Grant to UMass Boston for "Transforming Boston Access to Mental Health" focuses on preparing diverse, youth-facing practitioners to serve Boston communities. Fellows will receive education, training, and fieldwork and commit to practicing in Boston. Across three years, 185 students will be trained to serve 1,750 clients, with over 850 being youth. To date, 39 students are enrolled and 34 youth and 44 non-youth have been served.

- \$2.5M (ARPA) - Grant to Franciscan Children's to expand the "Children's Wellness Initiative," which provides mental health clinicians and psychiatry services in BPS schools. The grant will enable Franciscan to expand to an additional 10 BPS sites for a total of 22 BPS sites over three years. The grant will also grow recruitment efforts and provide at least 180 people advanced training

in behavioral health. To date, nine clinicians have been placed across nine schools, serving 200 BPS students.

- The additional schools are: Blackstone Elementary School; Jeremiah E. Burke High School; Joseph Lee K-8 School; Rafael Hernandez School; Dr. William W. Henderson K-12 Inclusion School; Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School; and another four schools are to be announced.

- \$2.3M (ARPA) - BPHC and BPS will pilot a "Trauma-informed School System Transformation" at 10 BPS schools, reaching up to 3,500 students and 750 staff. Starting in April 2024, Flourish Agenda will use trauma-informed methodologies to examine and improve BPS policies and systems of care.

- The 10 BPS schools are: BCLA-McCormack 7-12 Pilot School; Ellis Elementary School; Excel High School; Joseph Lee K-8 School; Madison Park Technical Vocational High School; Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School; Richard J. Murphy K-8; TechBoston Academy; Dr. William W. Henderson K-12 Inclusion School; Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School

- \$1.3M (ARPA) - Funds will go towards BIPOC youth-focused, public awareness campaigns and other resources, including BPHC's Cope Code Club and creative arts projects with The Family Van.

- \$1M (ARPA) - BPHC just released a RFP for vendors to provide behavioral health training for community-based organizations that serve youth of color in Boston.

- \$1M (ARPA) - BPHC's Boston Area Health Education Center helps train youth in careers in health education, particularly from BIPOC populations underrepresented in health. This funding will go towards after school and summer programs focused on behavioral health careers and will train 400 students over three years. To date, 25 students are enrolled in an

afterschool program.

- \$700K (ARPA) - BPHC's "Capacity Building and Training Initiative" will provide trauma and equity training for City employees who serve youth and families. Training will reach about 600 staff over three years.

- \$4M (SAMHSA) - BPHC's "Boston Children's Mental Health Initiative" will work with Children's Services of Roxbury to support Black and Latinx children under four years old who are connected to the state child welfare system or BPHC family support services and in need of early social and emotional development. Over the next four years, this includes training at least 37 family partners, nurses, social workers and case workers; providing services for 275 children; screening 1,800 families for social and emotional wellness; providing more behavioral health services; and increasing awareness of early childhood mental health.

## Boston Public Schools

- \$5.8M (Dept. of Education) - BPS, in partnership with UMass Boston, Boston University, Brown University, and community partners will launch "Project PROVIDE," which prepares 200 school psychology, school counseling, and social work students to serve Boston youth over five years, serving more than 46,000 students. The goal is to increase the number of diverse, highly qualified mental health staff that work in BPS while also improving technical and supervisory skills of the current mental health workforce that works in BPS or with BPS students. This grant will enable BPS to more effectively convert trainees into employees in order to fill vacancies and support the retention of mental health providers.

For more information about behavioral health resources or other needs, call the BPS Helpline at 617-635-8873 or visit BPHC's website.

## OBITUARIES

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# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Palm Sunday was celebrated by the Charlestown Catholic community with a Blessing of the Palms at the Charlestown Training Field.



Rev. John Sheridan blesses the palm leaves with holy water.



Klara Plumb holds her palm leaves.



Matilda Plumb holds her palm leaves.



Rev. John Sheridan leads the parishioners back to the church for the continued service.



Shown (right) Edith and Merideth return to St. Mary - St. Catherine of Siena church for the continued service.



Sister Kathleen Carven, Mary McCarthy, Emerson Waisnor, and Joe Lamontagne provided guitar and vocals for the ceremony.

## ATTENTION BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION CUSTOMERS

You may have noticed some changes in your most recent bill from Boston Water and Sewer Commission. As of April 1, 2024 BWSC customers will now see three separate line-item charges on their bill, for water, sewer, and stormwater. Now, paying for stormwater separately will lower the sewer rate while showing the charges attributed to stormwater activities for the property. This is a more equitable way to fund improvements for the stormwater system because everyone pays for the service they use. Here are key highlights of the bill:

- Stormwater charge will be \$8.98 per month for each Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) attributed to the property.
- All property owners with more than 400 square feet of impervious area will be billed.
- 60% of residential households will see a reduction in their overall bill.
- The 30% discount extended to seniors and disabled residents will automatically apply to the new stormwater fee.
- Credits and grants are available for customers who implement green infrastructure measures on their property.



### Small Residential Properties

1-6 unit Residential - 1 ERU



### Non-Small Residential Properties

7+ unit Residential  
Charged by # of ERU



Commercial and Industrial  
Charged by # of ERU



Institutional  
Charged by # of ERU

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