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REAL ESTATE TODAY —PAGES 9, 10 AND 11

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT BRENDAN BEHAN



"The Old School Gang" at the Brendan Behan are enjoying the good drink and excellent company together during the St. Patrick's Day celebration at Jamaica Plain's beloved Irish bar, the Brendan Behan. See Pages 4 and 5 for more photos.



Shown above, Bridget Nolan and Lexie Burgess put on some stylish shades to be constantly in the green.



Shown left, Mairead, Mina, and Nino are proud Ethiopians supporting their Irish friends.

JPNC's Housing and Dev. Comm. discusses White Stadium project

STAFF REPORT

The Housing and Development Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council held its regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday evening.

On hand for the session were chair Danielle Sommer-Kieta and fellow members

Bernie Doherty, Willie Mitchell, Carolyn Royce, Pam Bender, Sue Cibulski, Jaya Aiyer, Aiden Foley, and community residents Doug Rand and Carla-Lisa Caliga,

Most of the discussion centered on the city's proposal to renovate the long-neglected White Stadium. The present plan calls for the city to partner with the new women's professional soccer team franchise in Boston to split

the costs of the renovation.

However, many residents of the community are opposed to the project, expressing concerns about traffic and congestion, and that divergence of opinion was evident in the discussion.

Royce, who is a member of the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association, initially spoke on the issue, which was not specifically on the committee's agenda. She noted that the Boston Unity Soccer Partners group has done a lot of community outreach in recent months, but it was only in February that the city presented the plans for the overall redo of the stadium.

She also noted that the Franklin Park Coalition and the

Continued on page 8

JP FARMERS MARKET



Brandon Pynn with Valicenti Pasta Farm offers fresh pasta and gravies at the weekly Jamaica Plain Farmers Market. See Pages 16 and 17 for more photos.

BLUE FROG BAKERY CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Blue Frog Bakery celebrated its 20th year of serving Jamaica Plain its tasty, unique baked goods. Chef Brad Brown wanted to thank the community by offering free slices of opera cake as local dignitaries came out to help celebrate this milestone.



Boston City Councilor Benjamin Weber with Griselda Polanco and Melissa Beltran.



Michael Penn enjoys some complimentary opera cake with his usual coffee.



Visitors help celebrate Blue Frog Bakery's 20th Anniversary.



Blue Frog Bakery employee Will Thompson (left) with his dad Nick.



Blue Frog Bakery owner Chef Brad Brown with Boston City Councilors Benjamin Weber and Julia Mejia.



Office Of Neighborhood Services Caroline Peters with Office Of Neighborhood Services spends some time with Riley Brown, daughter of chef Brad Brown.



Duncan and Erik Goulding.



Blue Frog Bakery owner Chef Brad Brown thanks everyone for their patronage and support. "Every morning I wake up, I only know how to do one thing, I go to work. I am here."



JP Centre South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brownserving some opera cake to Emerson Gray while parents Alex and Lauren look on.



Chocolate almond croissant bread pudding muffins await to go home with tempted customers.



Andy Brilliant, Carol Palmer, Brian Fizer, and Michael Reskin.

Franklin Park Coalition survey shows mixed feelings toward White Stadium renovation

BY ADAM SWIFT

The Franklin Park Coalition unveiled the results of a recent survey on the use of the park and attitudes toward the proposed renovation of White Stadium at an online meeting earlier this week.

The results show that the majority of the more than 700 respondents would either support or consider supporting the stadium plans if some issues were addressed, while 20 percent of respondents said they are outright opposed to the project.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners have a public-private partnership with the city of Boston and Boston Public Schools to renovate White Stadium to bring a professional women's soccer team to Boston in 2026.

Under the agreement with the city, Boston Unity will redevelop the west grandstands and create a public area called the Grove just outside the entrance of the stadium. The city would be responsible for the redevelopment of the east grandstands as well as the field itself.

Boston Unity would have full use of the stadium for about 20 game days from May through November, while the updated stadium would be open for use by

the city, school sports and other activities, and possible community events the rest of the year.

Mayor Michelle Wu has been a vocal supporter of the project, noting that the redevelopment would lead to greater and better use of the facility by the Boston Public Schools and Franklin Park users.

However, the the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and 15 citizens filed suit against the city of Boston, Wu, Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and others to stop what it characterizes as the proposed privatization of White Stadium and 1.5 acres of surrounding public parkland in Franklin Park.

Franklin Park Coalition member Jacob Bor presented the findings of that group's public survey on Tuesday night. The survey was conducted from Feb. 20 through March 8, with 712 respondents from the surrounding neighborhoods to the park. Of those respondents, the most were from Jamaica Plain, with a total of 373, or just over half of those who answered the survey.

"The objective of the survey was to gauge and represent accurately the interests and concerns of Franklin Park users, and con-

cerns of Franklin Park users regarding the White Stadium proposal in order to meet with the city to ensure that these concerns are addressed," said Bor.

Asked how they use the park, 90 percent of those who responded said they use it for quiet walks or bike rides, followed by 57 percent who use it for festivals and other cultural events, 34 percent who use it for picnics or other gatherings, 34 percent who use White Stadium itself for private activities such as running, 32 percent who use the park and stadium for sports, and 17 percent who said they use the stadium for BPS sports events and activities.

Bor said that 94 percent of the respondents are regular park users, visiting Franklin Park at least seasonally, while 63 percent use the park at least once per week.

The survey included several questions about the White Stadium renovation proposal.

While 96 percent of respondents said they had previously heard of the stadium proposal and 70 percent had seen the plans for at least one of the components, only 36 percent had attended at least one of the four

public forums on the project, and only 4 percent had attended all of them.

"This is a really important point to highlight, the city has had this public engagement process with these meetings, but this survey (shows) that there really are a lot of people who haven't been at these meetings," said Bor, adding that two-thirds

of respondents did not attend a single meeting.

Asked about their attitude toward the White Stadium proposal, 31 percent stated they were all for it, 24 percent were cautiously supported, 25 percent had some concerns, and 20 percent said they were against it no

Continued on page 14

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BRENDAN BEHAN HOLDS ST. PATRICK'S DAY GATHERING

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

St. Patrick's Day was well celebrated at Jamaica Plain's beloved Irish bar, the Brendan Behan. Regular patrons and new visitors enjoyed good drink and excellent company together.



Kaylyn, Griffin, and Liam.



Tim Smith and Matt Spores.



Saige, Saachi, and Morgaine play some darts before getting into their inevitable Guinness groove.



Katelyn, Lauren, Emily, and Julia are JP residents enjoying the day.



Mairead, Mina, and Nino are ready to work hard to keep the good times going at the Behan.



Phil Summer shows off his Irish pride while his friend Jay stands by in support.



KP from JP is enjoying his Guinness.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BANDIT

Bandit is a handsome 8 year old who is house trained, crate trained, and knows tricks like sit and paw. This easy going guy will make an easy transition into a new home, where he will be ready to shower you with love!

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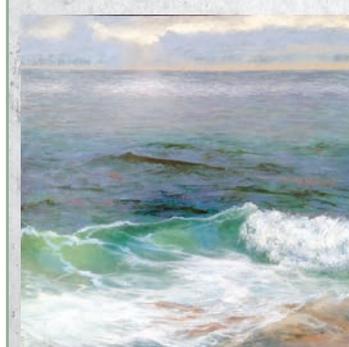
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Emily and Rachel went to grad school together then seemingly moving on their superset ways. Years later they unexpectedly reconnected after moving to JP unbeknownst to each other.

BRENDAN BEHAN HOLDS ST. PATRICK'S DAY GATHERING

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Dave Drobnis and Cori O'Neill, JP's newest residents.



Katelyn Bouley is enjoying herself.



Matt Faisel, Jonathan, and Sarah are from UK and are happy to celebrate with their Irish friends.



Erik, Tuan, James Miller, John Paul and Steph Delaney get some air outside but keep the good times going.



Brendan Behan staff Jess and Michelle have finished working the day shift and are ready to unwind.



Tom, Ryan, Greg, and Abby.

ST. JOHN'S HOLY WEEK & EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, 3/24 @ 10:30 am (Palm Sunday)
 Thursday, 3/28 @ 7:30 pm (Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing)
 Friday, 3/29 @ 7:30 pm (Good Friday)
 Saturday, 3/30 @ 7:30 pm (Holy Saturday)
 Sunday, 3/31 @ 10:30 am (Easter Sunday)
 Friday, 4/5 @ 6:00 pm (Faith Formation Friday with Easter Egg Hunt)

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CSF receives match support for new donations made towards the Building Minds Scholarship Fund

The Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF) is thrilled to announce a special initiative in support of their signature program, the Building Minds Scholarship Fund. Bill, CSF Trustee, and Jane Mosakowski will generously match one-to-one all new and increased contributions to the fund, up to \$500,000.

The Building Minds Scholarship Fund grants scholarships to over 3,500 low-income students each year who wish to attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Bill and Jane's match gift was announced ahead of CSF's upcoming 34th Annual Building Minds Scholarship Fund Gala, taking place at Boston Marriott Copley Place on April 11th, 2024. Thanks to their generosity,

every new sponsorship, ticket purchase, and donation made will now have double the impact.

Bill Mosakowski, CSF Trustee, said:

"Jane and I are honored to support the Catholic Schools Foundation's Building Minds Scholarship Fund.

Every child deserves the opportunity to build a brighter future. By matching new and increased contributions to the Building Minds Scholarship Fund, we hope to inspire others to join us in making a lasting impact on the lives of in-need students and their families in the Archdiocese of Boston."

The 34th Annual Building Minds Scholarship Fund Gala is the single largest fundraiser held by CSF, raising over \$4M

annually for low-income students to attend Catholic Schools across Boston and the surrounding communities.

Drawing together approximately 800-1,000 members of the Greater Boston business community and beyond, the event will be chaired by Renee, CSF Trustee, and Mike Minogue, President & CEO of Minogue Consulting, LLC, and Retired Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Abiomed.

Some of the most recognized and influential names in the Commonwealth will be in attendance to honor Rick Henken, President & CEO of the Schochet Companies and former president of the CSF Board of Trustees.

Gala attendees will also have the opportunity to meet over 100

CSF scholars who will be present at the event to share more about their great experiences with the organization and to display school projects they have been working on throughout the year.

Mike Reardon, CSF's Executive Director, commented:

"At the Catholic Schools Foundation, our top priority is the education of our scholars. We're proud to say that 100% of CSF Scholars graduate high school, and an impressive 98% matriculate to college.

The Building Minds Scholarship Fund transforms the lives of these in-need students by providing them with a quality Catholic education that will open the door to a wealth of opportunities.

Your support, along with the generous match from Bill and

Jane Mosakowski, will help us to continue making a difference in their lives and build brighter futures for CSF scholars. It all starts with you."

The Catholic Schools Foundation would like to thank Bill and Jane Mosakowski for their remarkable commitment to the Building Minds Scholarship Fund. For more information on CSF's 34th Annual Building Minds Scholarship Fund Gala and how you can double your donation, visit www.csfboston.org/34annualgala.

Any questions can be directed to Vanessa at vmcgeehan@csfboston.org or (617) 398-5459.



Lyric Stage Boston presents a refreshing musical '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 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



JP CHILDREN'S SOCCER
For kids 3.5-6.5. Online Registration is NOW OPEN

Volunteers needed to assure our ability to hold a Spring 2024! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

Regular season registration ends on April 12, 2024

The Spring season runs from Wednesday, April 24th through Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

The spring season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 min practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturdays at 9, 10 or 11am or Sunday at 10am.

Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

Para niños 3.5-6.5. El registro en línea ya está abierto en <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 12 de abril de 2024

La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 24 de Abril hasta domingo el 23 de Junio de 2024.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los miércoles a las 4 p.m., los sábados a las 9, 10 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Necesitamos líderes voluntarios para apoyar a cada equipo, ¡no se necesita experiencia! Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más detalles o contáctenos directamente en: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.



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How and why to get rid of the obstacle of fear

"Prayer that removes fear," a talk by practitioner of Christian Science healing and international speaker, Michelle Nanouche will be at the Boston Public Library, 30 South Street, Jamaica Plain, on April 26 at 6 p.m. The talk will focus on universal healing precepts found in the Holy Bible, especially in Christ Jesus' life and teachings, showing how they are available for anyone to understand and experience through the lens of Christian Science. The talk is free, open to the community, and sponsored by Third Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston (Jamaica Plain neighborhood).

"Briefly put," says Ms. Nanouche, "prayer that reveals God's nature as divine Love, reduces fear, opening the way for healing in our lives. We'll explore this kind of prayer."

Sharing examples of healing from her own life and professional practice of Christian Science, Ms. Nanouche will explain why

Christian Science is both Christian and scientific, meaning that people can prove its effectiveness for themselves, as fully described in the book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, written by the founder of the Christian Science movement, Mary Baker Eddy.

Ms. Nanouche will also touch on the life of Mary Baker Eddy, who came to understand, confirm, and teach what she felt was original Christian healing. Eddy herself said she was especially inspired by Jesus' demand, "He that believes on me, the works that I do will he do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go unto my Father" (found in the Gospel of John 14:12 in the Bible).

For over 150 years, people around the world have worked to follow Christ Jesus in this practice of Christianity and continue to do so today, with healings of physical ills and personal difficulties.

Michelle Nanouche has been a Christian Science practitioner for many years, helping people on a daily basis through this scientific approach to prayer. She travels from her home base in Paris, France, to speak to audiences around the world as a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

JPNC

Continued from page 1

Parkside Neighborhood groups have been meeting with the city's project managers concerning issues of traffic, noise, and lighting.

Royce suggested that the JPNA should become involved with the project. "The JP Neighborhood Council has been silent thus far, but we should be talking about it, especially this Housing and Development Committee," said Royce.

"This is a really important topic and the JP Neighborhood Council at the least should be presenting some informational forums," added Bender.

"I think that's certainly something we could pick up," said Sommer-Kieta.

Mitchell, who bemoaned the sad state of disrepair into which White Stadium, which served generations of Boston's high school athletes for decades, has fallen in recent years, suggested that the JPNC's Parks and Open Space Committee might be a more appropriate committee to handle the issues surrounding the renovation.

"For as long as I've lived here,

it's been a ruin," concurred Royce.

"When I went to school at Boston English and was on the track team, every high school in the city of Boston used it for football games and other athletic events," said Doherty, who noted that the school population in the city is about half of what it was in the 1960s. "It was filled from one end to the other."

However, those on hand were not unanimous in their support of the project.

"I would love to have a professional women's soccer team in Boston," said Carla-Lisa Caliga, who noted that she is the parent of two Boston Public School students who are soccer players and that she has older children who also played soccer, "but why did it take them more than 40 years to renovate White Stadium until this proposal came around? The traffic will be horrendous and the impacts will be negative. I don't understand why they couldn't have come up with the money to fix this before now. It's inequity in action."

"What about using the Boston University or the Harvard fields?" she further added, while noting that she is one of the 15 plaintiffs who recently filed a lawsuit (together with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy) in

Suffolk Superior Court to enjoin the professional team from using White Stadium, which they contend amounts to a privatization of public land.

However, Rand said, "I'm also a Boston Public School parent and my son runs cross-country. His coach is greatly in favor of the renovation because he needs better facilities for his kids and they are deserving of it."

Sommer-Kieta concluded the discussion by saying that she will raise with the full JPNC the prospect of having the JPNC become more involved with the White Stadium project.

Doherty brought up another matter that was not on the agenda, that of the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning ordinances that are being proposed to allow homeowners to add dwelling units within the footprint of their home, in an existing garage, or in a free-standing structure on their property.

"This is a way we can address the shortage of affordable housing, but we also lose open space and exacerbate parking issues," said Doherty, who urged his colleagues to take a closer look at the issue in order to inform the community of the pending changes to the zoning ordinances.

Louijeune is 2024 People's Champion of Democracy

Common Cause Massachusetts board and staff announce the selection of Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune as this year's People's Champion of Democracy.

The People's Champion of Democracy award is given to a standout leader working to strengthen and defend democracy throughout their professional, political and personal lives. Common Cause Massachusetts regularly celebrates the influential leadership of exceptional individuals who champion the values of protecting the power of everyday people against special interests and defending democracy at the national, statewide, and/or local level. This year, Common Cause Massachusetts is proud to announce that Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune is named their 2024 People's Champion of Democracy.

"It's an honor to accept the People's Champion of Democracy award from Common Cause Massachusetts which has been a reliable partner in the work at all levels," says Boston City



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. "I've had the ability to contribute meaningfully as an attorney, as an advocate, and now as City Council President to ensure that our democracy is working for everyone. At a time when democratic institutions are under attack, I am more committed to the work than ever."

"The Common Cause Massachusetts state advisory board unanimously selected Council President Louijeune as our People's Champion of Democracy for many deserving reasons including, but not limited to,

her leadership as an attorney defending voting rights and defending against gerrymandering before the United States Supreme Court, advocating for a more inclusive local democracy, and leading Boston through a tumultuous redistricting process last year," says Patrick Roath, Chair of Common Cause Massachusetts State Advisory Board.

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune will be awarded the People's Champion of Democracy Award on Monday March 18th @ 6pm at Common Cause Massachusetts' fundraiser, "Long Live Democracy" which will be held at the Long Live Roxbury brewery located at 152 Hampden St in Boston. The event is open to the public and tickets to the event can be purchased here.

Past recipients of Common Cause Massachusetts awards include the Boston Globe Spotlight Team, Governor Michael Dukakis, Senator Ed Markey, Attorney General Maura Healey, and most recently Margaret Sullivan of Columbia University.



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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Real estate market remains hot for the spring selling season

STAFF REPORT

Although spring officially began this past Tuesday, the spring real estate market already has been underway in Jamaica Plain.

“The spring market is traditionally the busiest time of year, with more properties coming on in the spring. The mild winter has started the spring market earlier than usual,” said Janet Deegan of CervoneDeegan@coldwellbanker Realty.

Deegan said that the shortage of housing inventory versus the high demand are pushing many properties above asking price. She also noted that all neighborhoods in Jamaica Plain are strong and “it is surprising to see something on the market for more than two weeks.”

“This is still a seller’s market,” said Jay Balaban of Gibson/Sotheby’s International Realty, who noted that the low inventory of homes has been around for at least a dozen years, but has been more acute in the past three or four years.

And as might be expected pursuant to the laws of supply and demand, when properties are listed, single-family homes that are in high demand are being snapped up by buyers within 15 days (or less) of being listed. Condominiums are moving even faster, with buyers making offers within five to 10 days. In addition, many of these properties eventually are selling above



the asking price in keeping with national trends in which 20% of homes are selling above their initially-listed price.

The good news for JP homeowners is that all sections of the community are participating in the strong sellers' market.

“All neighborhoods are desirable in Jamaica Plain,” said Faye Simon of Faye Simon Real Estate. Simon noted that Jamaica Plain is a desirable area because of its shops and restaurants, its proximity to several public rapid transit stops on the Orange and Green Lines and several bus routes, and the green spaces of Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, and the Arnold Arboretum, which give JP the feel of a suburban community.

Janis Lippman of Ellen and Janis@DDG/compass offered advice for would-be home-sellers.

“This is a wonderful time to sell,” said Lippman, “and if you are selling, price your home fairly and hire a real estate agent to analyze data to attract the larg-

est number of buyers. Homes are selling over asking price because of multiple offers and low inventory.

“And before showing your house,” Lippman added, “make sure that it shows well and has curb appeal. The more deferred maintenance that needs to be done, the more the potential buyer could be a contractor.”

Multi-family homes also are consistently popular since many are converted into condominiums, according to John Maxfield of Maxfield Associates. Maxfield

further noted that commercial real estate in Jamaica Plain is doing well, with many storefronts being occupied by restaurants and small boutique shops.

As for the office market, Maxfield said Jamaica Plain is fairly insulated from the general downturn in that area of the real estate market, which was brought on by COVID, because JP does not have much office space.

With regard to the issue of affordability, Maxfield pointed out that persistently higher interest rates, presently in the six percent range, are keeping many first-time buyers out of the market because the higher rates, combined with higher prices, make owning a home un-

affordable.

Simon urged buyers for whom affordability is an issue to explore the many city and state programs that are geared toward the first-time homebuyer.

The general consensus of recommendations for would-be home-buyers is to be prepared to shop around and see many houses, be prepared to think out of the box and to move quickly, and be aware that there could be multiple offers for sellers to consider if you find your perfect home.

However, the universal, underlying theme is that all neighborhoods in Jamaica Plain are desirable places to live, raise a family, and own a home.



Faye Simon Real Estate
Rentals & Sales

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WILLIAM RAVEIS



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REAL ESTATE TODAY

How to green your home or apartment for maximum savings

(StatePoint) Whether you own or rent the place you call home, ensuring that it's energy efficient can help you save money, increase your comfort and contribute to improved indoor air quality. It's also better for the planet.

To help you make choices that will trim your monthly expenses and reduce your carbon footprint, Freddie Mac is offering the following tips:

Home-Searching Tips

When house hunting, your realtor can help you learn about the current energy usage of the homes you're interested in purchasing. If you're explicitly looking for green housing, it's helpful to work with a professional with specific expertise or credentials in this area.

Whether you're in the market to buy or rent, basic energy- and water-saving features to check for when visiting properties include good insulation, properly sealed doors and windows, smart thermostats, low-flow or dual-flush toilets, high-efficiency or tankless hot water heaters, and front-loading washing



(c) monkeybusinessimages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

machines. The ENERGY STAR and WaterSense labels are good indicators that the property, and the appliances within it, are designed with efficiency in mind. You should also consider which direction the building faces and whether it's shaded. The amount of direct sunlight your potential home receives can have a large impact on your HVAC needs.

Making Updates

There are many steps you can take to improve your home's ener-

gy and water efficiency. If you're unsure where to start, consider referencing the Department of Energy's data-driven tools and calculators. You could also hire a professional to perform an energy audit. This will pinpoint where you're losing energy and what renovations will save you money. Some quick DIY updates to make right now include caulking window casings, weatherstripping doors, replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs, and installing low-flow faucets

and showerheads. Additional money-saving updates include installing a smart, programmable thermostat, replacing older appliances and installing a tankless hot water heater.

Renting? Reach out to your landlord to determine what updates they're willing to make. You may not be allowed to make permanent changes, or interested in making investments in someone else's property, but energy-saving habits, such as washing clothes in cold water and adjusting the thermostat when leaving town, can help.

The Return

You may be asking yourself whether all this effort is worth it. The answer? Up-to-date, energy- and water-efficient technologies can save you 20% to 30% on your bills. And because today's savvy buyers are looking for a home that will be kind to both their wallet and the environment, efficiency improvements can also boost resale value. In fact, Freddie Mac research found that homes with high energy-efficiency ratings sold for 2.7% more on average than unrated

homes.

Fortunately, there are programs available, such as Energy Efficient Mortgages, to help finance these improvements upfront. With the understanding that reducing home utility costs places families in a better financial situation and helps preserve home affordability over time, Freddie Mac offers GreenCHOICE Mortgages that can be applied to a new home purchase or a no cash-out refinance and can be used to cover basic energy efficiency improvements up to \$6,500 without the need for an energy report. With a GreenCHOICE Mortgage you can borrow up to 15% of the home's "as complete" appraised value to pay for basic energy and water efficiency improvements. Speak with your lender about the financing options available to you and which may best suit your needs.

There are no doubt long-term savings and gains to be reaped from greening your home. And thanks to new programs, paying for these updates is easier for more American families.

Building a Custom Home? Read These Tips First

(StatePoint) Many people dream of building a custom home in a beautiful location.

However, the journey of building a home from scratch is not always smooth.

"As a builder in sunny Southwest Florida, we work with all kinds of clients. Whether they are drawn to the timeless appeal of Naples, the coastal charm of Bonita Springs, the urban energy of Tampa, or the peaceful embrace of Sanibel, our job is to help them create their dream home and tell their unique story," says Glen Harris III, regional partner of Alair Florida, an industry leader.

To help you navigate the intricate world of custom home-building, Alair Florida is shedding light on some common challenges prospective homeowners face and offering solutions based on their expertise.

Creating a custom home is an exciting journey with both triumphs and trials. Here are some common concerns:

1. Balancing Vision and Budget:

Challenge: Juggling expansive design ideas with realistic budget constraints.



(c) iStock via Getty Images Plus

Solution: Overall project costs can be unpredictable with a standard cost-plus contract, particularly if you have an expansive vision. That's why it's important to work with a builder who encourages a pre-construction phase, whereby specifications and line-item costs are fixed. This process allows you to make

design adjustments on paper before construction begins, and in turn, your builder will present you with a fixed cost-plus contract. As the project moves forward, be sure to request regular updates and clear project

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Custom Home

Continued from page 8

timelines.

2. Navigating Regulatory Terrain: Challenge: Dealing with the complex world of permits and regulations often causes delays.

Solution: Work with a builder who possesses local knowledge. Doing so can streamline the process as they will understand and adhere to specific requirements.

3. Timing the Sourcing of Materials: Challenge: Excitement of hand-selecting materials tempered by potential supply chain disruptions.

Solution: If your builder is experienced in material sourcing and high-quality craftsmanship, this will help them navigate such challenges to avoid delays while ensuring your new home is built to the highest standards.

4. Adapting to Evolving Design: Challenge: The temptation of design changes impacting the project timeline.

Solution: Striking a balance between innovation and sticking to the timeline is crucial for success. Your builder should act as your trusted advisor, connecting you with savvy designers, architects and other experts who understand the local market and

the range of other factors that can affect your timeline.

5. Unforeseen Costs and Delays: Challenge: Unexpected challenges despite meticulous planning.

Solution: Establishing a contingency fund and maintaining open communication with your builder is prudent. To that end, your builder should take a client-driven approach and actively

involve you in the decision-making process.

Steven Cowan, Alair Old Naples partner, says, "Your builder should be committed to cultivating a collaborative partnership with homeowners. Every decision, whether it's a change order or intricate detail, should be a result of thoughtful and shared deliberation."

For more information about

building in Southwest Florida, visit www.alairflorida.com.

With careful attention and industry expertise, guided by a trusted custom home builder, you can transform your vision into reality, backed by the assurance of transparency, fixed-price contracts, quality craftsmanship, professional design services, and a client-driven approach,

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT
GROWING UP WITH AN
UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years

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REAL ESTATE

April service changes: MBTA continues work to improve reliability across the system

The MBTA today announced service changes in April on the Silver, Orange, Blue, Red, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, Haverhill, and Newburyport/

Rockport lines. The MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the system.

Riders can find more informa-

tion on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be

available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA

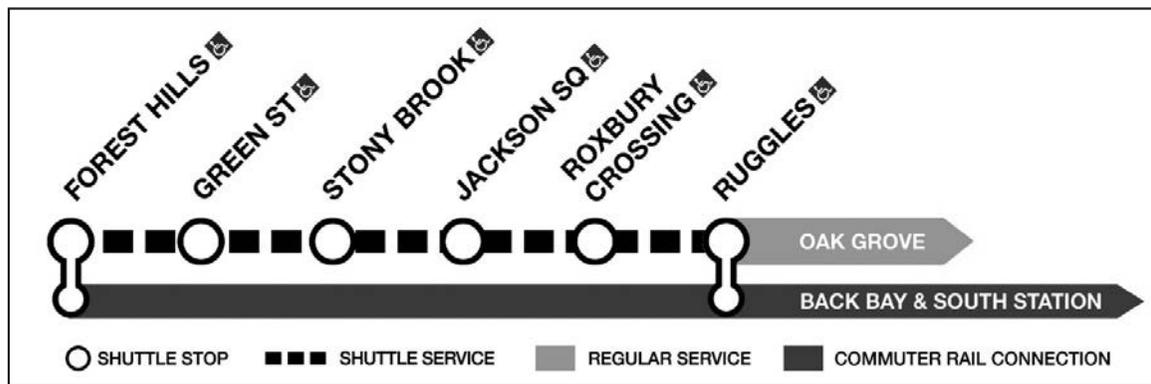
on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

ON THE ORANGE LINE

- Orange Line service will be suspended between Forest Hills and Ruggles stations during the weekends of March 30-31, April 6-7, April 20-21, and April 27-28.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Forest Hills and Ruggles.
- The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills,

Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular Commuter Rail fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

- This service change is in place for crews to perform critical signal and switch improvement work.



ON THE NEWBURYPORT/ROCKPORT COMMUTER RAIL LINE

- Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Swampscott during the weekend of April 6-7 and for nine

days from April 20-28. Shuttle buses will make stops between Swampscott, Lynn (within the busway at the legacy station), and North Station.

Chelsea passengers are asked to utilize the Silver Line 3 for service to the downtown area. A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on

mbta.com soon. Passengers should note that this service change overlaps with a planned shuttle bus diversion on the Blue Line. More information is available above and at mbta.com.

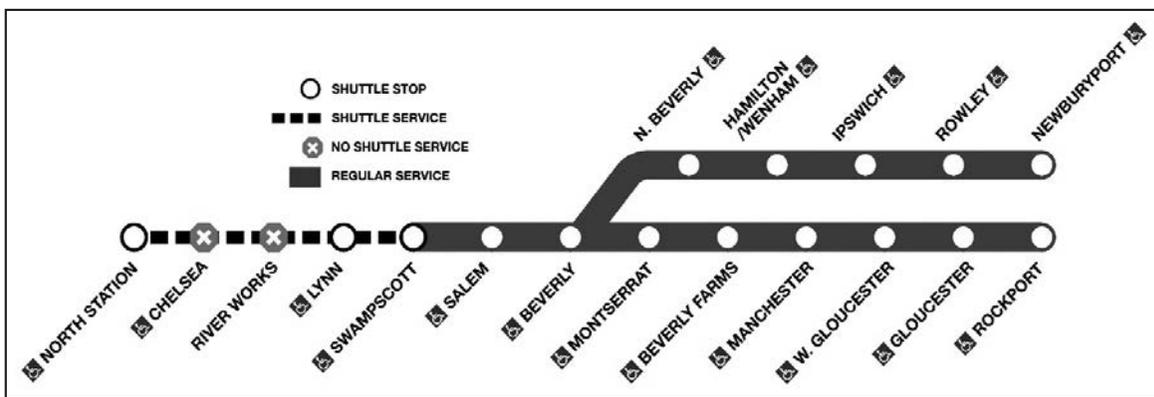
This service change allows for crews to perform Positive Train Control (PTC) / Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. PTC/ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

The MBTA previously announced service changes in

March. More information is available here.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.



ON THE HAVERHILL COMMUTER RAIL LINE

- Haverhill Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Ballardvale and North Station during the weekend of April 6-7 and for nine days from April 20-28.

Haverhill and Ballardvale.

- The shuttle service between Reading and Oak Grove will stop in Wakefield, Greenwood, Melrose Highlands, Melrose Cedar Park, Wyoming Hill, and Oak Grove.
- North Wilmington Station will not have shuttle bus service with passengers encouraged to utilize Lowell Line service at Wilmington Station instead.
- Train service for passengers between Ballardvale and Haverhill will be re-routed along the Lowell Line after Ballardvale, making one additional stop at Anderson/Woburn and then running express to North Station.

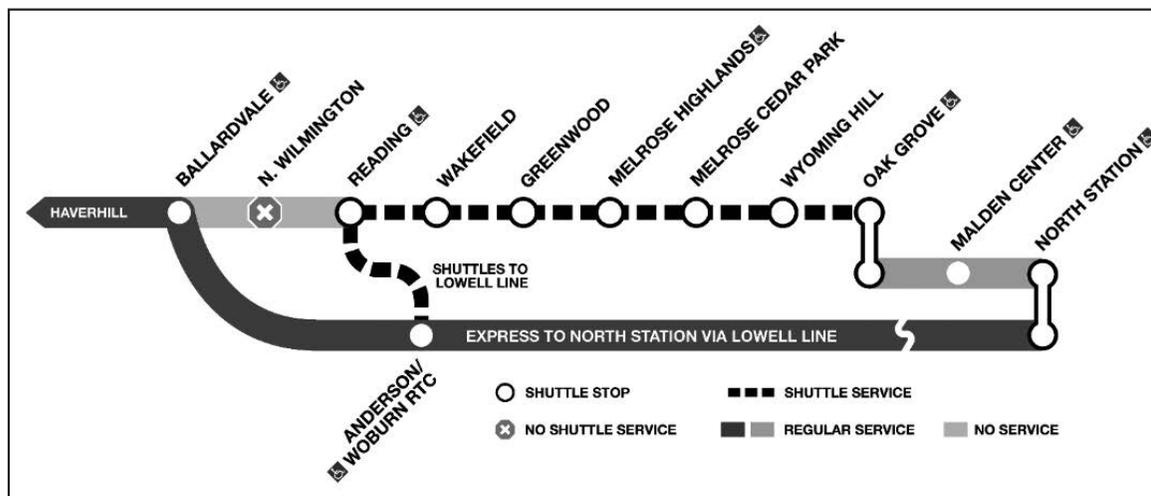
Riders desiring service to or from Reading and Oak Grove

should disembark at Anderson/Woburn and board the shuttle bus service.

- Bus Route 137 will be fare free.

This service change allows crews to perform Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to

trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.



- A dedicated diversion schedule will be available soon on mbta.com.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace train service between Reading and Oak Grove where passengers can connect to Orange Line subway.
- A free and accessible shuttle bus will also provide service between Reading and Anderson/Woburn for connections to the Lowell Line and Haverhill Line.
- Regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between

ON THE RED LINE

Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Ashmont stations on the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North Quincy stations on the Braintree Branch during the weekend of March 30-31 as previously announced as well as the weekend of April 6-7.

- Free and accessible shuttle

buses will make all stops between Broadway and Ashmont / North Quincy.

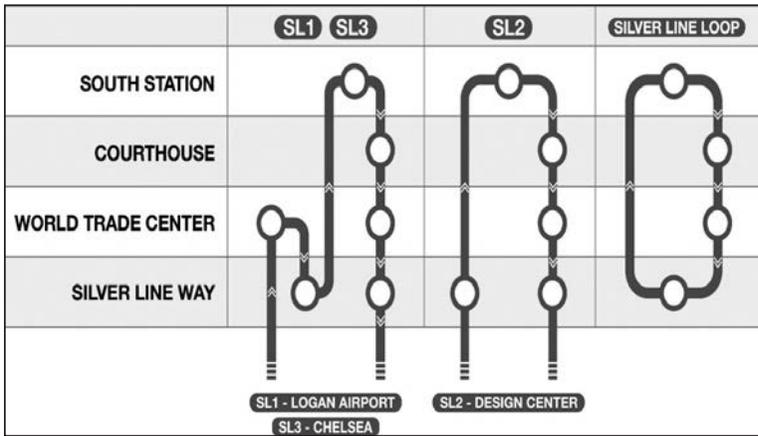
- There will be free fares at Broadway and North Quincy stations with the fare gates open. Riders boarding Mattapan Line trolleys at Ashmont also do not have to pay a fare.
- This service change is in

place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabili-

tated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable

Red Line service. The MBTA will also perform upgrade work to the Red Line signal system.

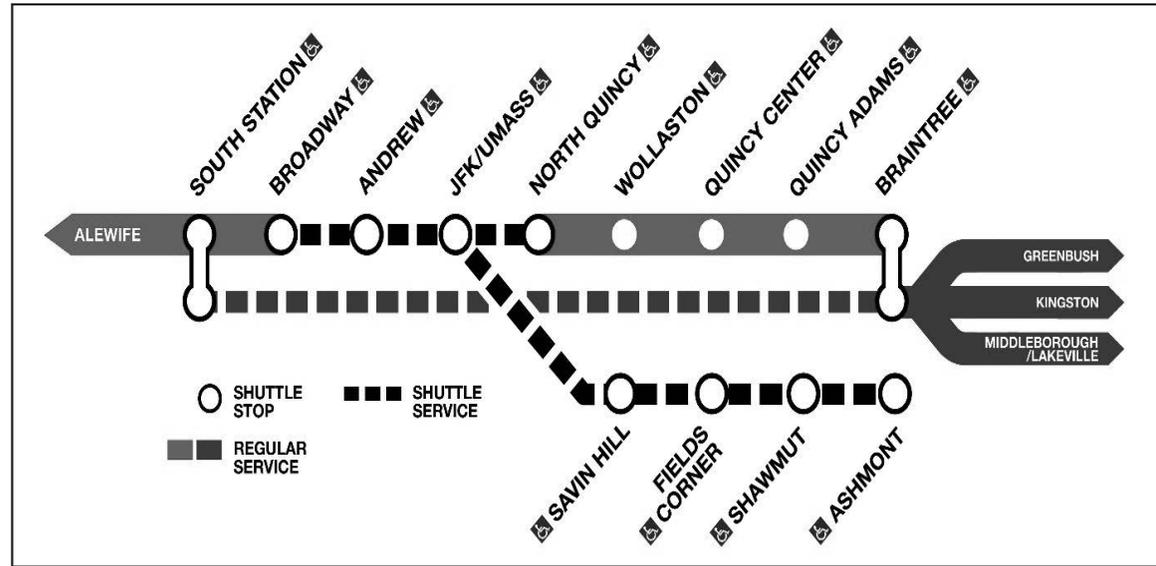
ON THE SILVER LINE



- Silver Line Routes 1, 2, and 3 will operate at the street level beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on April 6.
- Riders can make connections at the following street-level stop locations:
 - Connections for South Station can be made on Summer Street @ Atlantic Avenue (at the Federal Reserve Building)
 - Connections for Courthouse Station can be made at Congress Street @ Thompson Place.
 - Connections for World Trade Center Station can be made on Congress Street @ World Trade

Center Station.

- Connections for Silver Line Way Station (outbound) can be made at 601 Congress Street.
- Connections for Silver Line Way Station (inbound) can be made at Congress Street @ The Renaissance Hotel (between D Street and Harborview Lane).
- This service change will allow for the removal of the overhead wire system from the west side of D Street to the end of Silver Line Way. Silver Line buses operate on battery power in this area, making the overhead wires no longer necessary.



ON THE KINGSTON, MIDDLEBOROUGH, AND GREENBUSH COMMUTER RAIL LINES

- Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail line service will be suspended between South Station and Braintree Station during the following days and times:
 - As previously announced, beginning at approximately 7:30 PM through the end of service on Friday, March 29, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 30-31.
 - Beginning at approximately 7:30 PM through the end of service on Friday, April 5, and

continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of April 6-7.

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace trains between South Station and Braintree. Express shuttle buses will operate directly between South Station and Braintree. The diversion schedule will be available online soon at mbta.com/CommuterRail.
- Passengers should note that bicycles are not allowed on shuttle buses, and regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected

between Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Braintree stations.

- Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on site at impacted stations to support riders.
- This service change is in place because these Commuter Rail lines run adjacent to the Red Line where Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project work is taking place.

ON THE BLUE LINE

Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights stations beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service each day from April 9-11.

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Government Center and Orient Heights.

Riders should note that shuttle buses will not stop at Bowdoin station. Riders can instead utilize shuttle buses at Government Center, which is about a quarter mile away (or about a four-minute walk).

- This service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program.

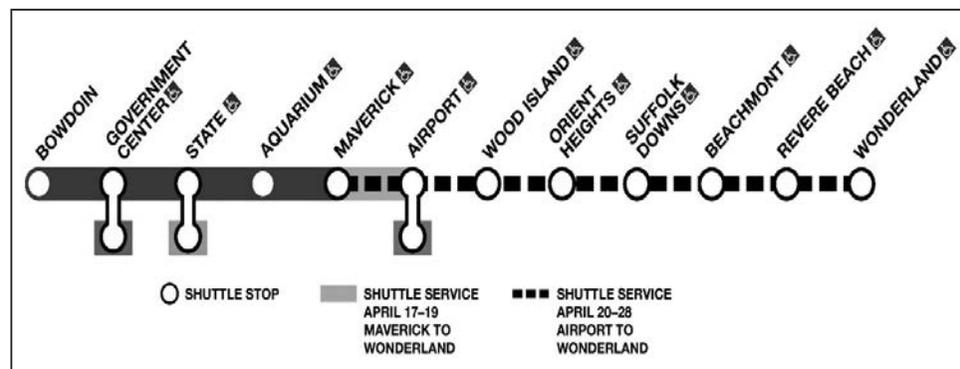
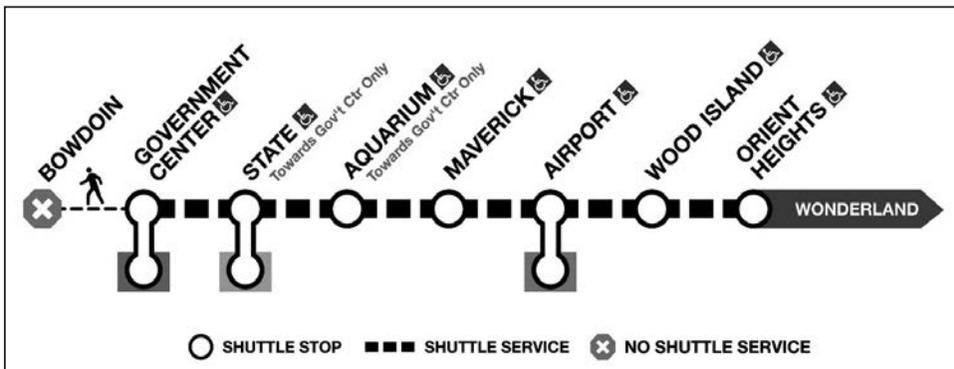
Crews will perform track and tie replacement work with the goal of removing speed restrictions near Aquarium Station. Crews will also maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing, and more.

- As previously announced,

Blue Line service will be suspended between Maverick and Wonderland for three days from April 17-19 and between Airport and Wonderland for nine days from April 20-28.

- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at all stations.
- This service change is in

place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. Crews will perform track and tie replacement work with the goal of removing speed restrictions on the Blue Line; infrastructure upgrades; station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing; and more



White Stadium

Continued from page 3

matter what.

“There are different ways to look at these data, but it is clear that there is somewhat more support than there is opposition, but really, the biggest category here is the combination of these categories in the middle,” said Bor. “These are people who might support it, but have some concerns or have some reservations before they can say that I am all for it.”

The results showed that attitudes toward the project were fairly consistent between the different neighborhoods surveyed.

However, those who said they use Franklin Park on a daily basis were less likely to say they were “all for” the project. People who do not use the park for “quiet walks and bike rides” were less likely to oppose the project.

The survey also included several open-ended questions, asking respondents the benefits they think the stadium renovation will bring, improvements they would like to see surrounding the stadium, concerns about the impact of the project on community use and the park overall, and what they would like to see included in the proposal to avoid or mitigate negative impacts.

One of the key themes many hit upon on the benefits of the renovation questions was that

they would bring upgraded amenities and infrastructure to the park, as well as empower women’s and student sports and increase inclusivity at the park.

Suggestions for improvements that were popular included tending and protecting woods and wild spaces and providing well-maintained and lighted pathways, as well as public access to amenities.

A number of respondents said they would also like to see improved pedestrian and bicycle safety in and around the park, as well as a traffic and parking plan for the stadium and park as a whole.

Some of the key themes among the concerns were centered on traffic and parking, public and

community use of the park, and environmental and green space preservation.

“One person said we need quiet, wildlife, and natural environments to be preserved, not encroached upon,” said Bor. “Franklin Park is an incredible treasure.”

Other concerns that were raised included noise and light pollution and disruptions, equity and inclusivity issues, and the impact on existing park activities, as well as concerns about the overall design.

When asked how they would like to see included in the project to avoid negative impacts, key themes that were hit upon included reducing the size of the project; minimizing light, noise,

and litter; protecting existing events and activities from being displaced; investing in park areas around the stadium; and integrating the park into the Franklin Park Action Plan.

There were also a number of responses to several of the questions noting that there were concerns about the transparency and community engagement process about the project from the city.

“While opinion on the park proposal is divided, respondents were virtually unanimous in their love for Franklin Park and their feeling that this proposal must uplift the park and respect current uses,” said Bor.

JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE PAPER LOCATIONS

JP Licks
659 Centre St.

CVS
704 Centre St.

331 Centre St.
Rizzo's Piza
347 Centre St.

Health Center
640 Centre St.

JP Apts.
3200 Washington St.

Jamaicaway Books
676 Centre St.

Ace Hardware
656 Centre St.

Martial Academy
363 Centre St.

Smoke Shop
566 Centre St.

Papis Market
3145 Washington St.

JP Realty
7 Harris St.

True Value
698 Centre St.

Tropical Market
371 Centre St.

The Purple Cactus
674 Centre St.

YMCA
3134 Washington St.

Apartment Building
45 Burnett St.

City Feed & Supply
672 Centre St.

Laundromat
270 Centre St.

Polkadog Bakery
44 South St.

10 Store
3122 Washington St.

The Cooperative Bank
3531 Washington St.

Rockland Trust Bank
515 Centre St.

Camillo Liquor
280 Centre St.

Fiore's Bakery
55 South St.

Chauncy Liquor Mart
3100 Washington St.

JP Seafood
730 Centre St.

CVS
467 Centre St.

Check Cash
282 Centre St.

Italian Pizza
172 South St.

Praviana
3093 Washington St.

Unlimited Realty
673 Centre St.

MSPCA
350 S. Huntington St.

Jamaica Laundry
410 Centre St.

Metro Mark Apt.
3615 Washington St.

Egleston Pizza
308 Washington St.

Happy Market
128 South St.

Stop & Shop
301 Centre St.

Zestos Pizza
460 Centre St.

Metro Mark Apt.
3611 Washington St.

Landromax
Washington & Columbus

Blanchard's
741 Centre St.

Bank of America
Centre St.

Evergreen Café
154 Green St.

Rossmore Laundromat
7 Rossmore Rd

Walgreens
Columbus

Dunkin'
755 Centre St.

Latino Restaurant
304 Centre St.

The Forbes Building
545 Centre St.

BMC Market
3390 Washington St.

Academy Market
1580 Columbus

Bank of America
677 Centre St.

Freddy Market
302 Centre St.

Gentle Dental
612 Centre St.

Ruggiero's Market
3345 Washington St.

Goddard House
201 Huntington St.

Eastern Bank
Centre St.

Melo's Market

Southern JP

Brookside Community
3297 Washington St.

Mt. Pleasant Home
301 Huntington St.

MassDOT's second National Work Zone Awareness Week announced

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the launch of its second National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard design contest, exclusively for Massachusetts college students. The contest aims to raise awareness of work zone safety and encour-

age drivers to exercise caution when passing through active construction and maintenance projects.

"We're calling for all great ideas for our second annual National Work Zone Awareness Week billboard contest," said Transportation Secretary and

CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Creative

designs and advertisement are a powerful way to reach residents and remind them how to keep our construction crews safe."

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annu-

al event that brings attention to work zone safety and education around preventing crashes and fatalities in these areas. The theme

for NWZAW 2024 is "Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever." The main takeaway is while

work zones may be temporary, the choices made by drivers in these areas can have far-reaching effects. Whether it's excessive speed, distracted driving, or ignoring traffic laws, poor behaviors exhibited behind the

Continued on page 15

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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& Paula Callaghan**

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Joe has 20 years of proven experience helping buyers and sellers. Let his experience work for you.



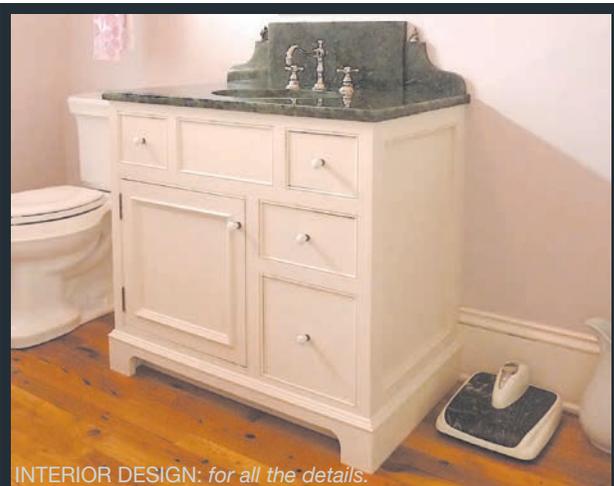
Joe Fallon

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JAMAICA PLAIN FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES EVERY SATURDAY

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Jamaica Plain Farmers Market continues through the winter into Spring and beyond every Saturday from Noon to 3pm at the Bank Of America parking lot on Centre Street. A variety of vendors offer winter produce, meats, fish, and other foodstuffs.

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Troy Christopher with Bluefin offers fantastically fresh seafood.



Andreas Duarte, purprietor of Cafes Duarte, offers Columbian single origin coffee.



Kirsten Stillman readies some cabbages for sale.



At the Stilman Quality Meats table, inheritor of the family business Trace Stillman watches his mother Kate sell the best farm fresh bacon Craig has ever encountered.

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-Brenda Lormil-Raymond
Nurse Practitioner

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JAMAICA PLAIN FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES EVERY SATURDAY

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



The Jamaica Plain Farmers Market is held in the Bank Of America parking lot at 677 Centre Street.



Jeremy and Becca check out the potatoes for sale from Stillman Farm.



Nick Cloutman of Cloutman Farms, has mushrooms, mushroom coffee, and honey.



Radiant carrots at the Stilman Farm table.



Strawberries at the Stilman Farm table.

Catholic Parishes of *Jamaica Plain & Roxbury*
 www.catholicjproxbury.com | www.eucharisticrevival.org
 Fr. Carlos Flor, Pastor Fr. Andrea Povero, Vicar

Easter Triduum | 2024 | Triduo Pascual

St. Mary of the Angels
 Santa Maria de los Angeles
 377 Walnut Ave.
 Roxbury, MA 02119

Our Lady of Lourdes
 Nuestra Señora de Lourdes
 14 Montebello Rd.
 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Santo Tomás de Aquino
 97 South St.
 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Holy Thursday, March 28
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Mass at each parish, 7:00 PM followed by
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Churches open until midnight

Jueves Santo, 28 de marzo
Misa Vespertina de la Cena del Señor
 Misa en cada parroquia, 7:00 PM seguida de
 Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento
 Templos abiertos hasta medianoche

Good Friday of the Lord's
Passion, March 29

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 St. Thomas Aquinas 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Neighborhood Walk starting at
 St. Mary of the Angels 11:00 AM (Bilingual)

Viernes Santo en la Pasión del
Señor, 29 de marzo

Sacramento de la Reconciliación
 Santo Tomás de Aquino 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Caminata por el Vecindario desde
 Santa María de los Angeles 11:00 AM (Bilingüe)

Celebration of the Passion
 St. Thomas Aquinas 3:00 PM (English)

Living Stations of the Cross, starting at
 St. Thomas Aquinas towards Our Lady of
 Lourdes 4:00 PM

Celebration of the Passion
 Our Lady of Lourdes 6:30 PM (Spanish)
 St. Mary of the Angels 7:00 PM (Bilingual)

Celebración de la Pasión
 Santo Tomás de Aquino 3:00 PM (Inglés)

Vía Crucis viviente desde
 Santo Tomás de Aquino hasta Nuestra Señora
 de Lourdes 4:00 PM

Celebración de la Pasión
 Nuestra Señora de Lourdes 6:30 PM (Español)
 Santa María de los Angeles 7:00 PM (Bilingüe)

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil, March 30
 The greatest and most noble of all solemnities
 at each parish 7:30 PM
 St. Mary of the Angels - Bilingual
 St. Thomas Aquinas - English
 Our Lady of Lourdes - Spanish

Sábado Santo
Vigilia Pascual, 30 de marzo
 La más grande y noble de todas las solemnidades
 en cada parroquia 7:30 PM
 Santa María de los Angeles - Bilingüe
 Santo Tomás de Aquino - Inglés
 Nuestra Señora de Lourdes - Español

Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord
March 31
 St. Mary of the Angels 9:00 AM (English)
 St. Thomas Aquinas 10:00 AM (English)
 Our Lady of Lourdes 10:00 AM (English)

Domingo de Pascua de la
Resurrección del Señor
31 de marzo
 Santa María de los Angeles 11:15 AM (Español)
 Santo Tomás de Aquino 12:30 PM (Español)
 Nuestra Señora de Lourdes 12:30 PM (Español)



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EDITORIAL

March is the cruelest month

Spring officially arrived this week, with March 19 marking the vernal equinox. According to meteorologists, “meteorological spring” began even sooner on March 1.

The poet Emily Dickinson extolled the arrival of March (“Dear March—Come in— How glad I am—”). But we always have viewed March as the ultimate tease. Emily Dickinson lived in Amherst, far from the coast, where ocean breezes off the still-frigid Atlantic -- water temps are their coldest in March -- can lower the dreaded wind-chill factor by 10 degrees even on sunny days.

For those of us who have been lifelong residents of Eastern Mass., March is the month on the calendar that we long for with great anticipation after the harsh winter season. But it always disappoints, like an object of desire who fails to live up to our expectations.

Admittedly, these past few winters have not been too tough to take, both in terms of the lack of cold and snow, which environmental scientists tell us is the beginning of a long-term trend of warmer winters because of climate change. Those milder winters have given us all the more reason to hope that March would be even more temperate compared to the past, but our hopes have been dashed by Mother Nature.

To be sure, we had some warm weather last week and the crocuses and snowdrops have been pushing through the ground for a while now, especially in the areas of our gardens in full sun. But the cold weather that is forecast for the coming week, with below-freezing temperatures every night and early-morning, is anything but a harbinger of the coming spring season.

One of the earliest memories of our childhood was learning the aphorism, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” Despite the onset of climate-change, that saying remains as true today as it was then.

It’s a sad, sad, sad, sad world

It is fair to say that for everyone reading this editorial, the world is in a greater state of chaos than at any time in our lives.

Although the decades in the aftermath of World War II brought us the Cold War and two “hot wars” in Korea and Vietnam, plus the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the world overall was a more orderly place, divided between the Western democracies and the Eastern European Communist autocracies. Everyone knew where they stood and played by the rules. Both sides possessed huge nuclear arsenals that could destroy the other 10 times over, but that equilibrium brought us relative peace thanks to the concept of mutually assured destruction, appropriately known by the acronym MAD.

Even during the height of the Cold War, we could laugh at movies such as “The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming,” and the Beatles could make a parody of Chuck Berry’s “Back in the U.S.A.” and the Beach Boys’ “California Girls” with their song, “Back in the U.S.S.R.”

But since the demise of the Cold War’s hierarchy, turmoil has erupted in many places that had been relatively-peaceful. The civil wars that engulfed Somalia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s presaged the terrible situations we have today.

Those relatively-contained civil conflicts have evolved into the ongoing cross-border wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Syria, and sub-Saharan Africa, where civilians are being bombed, murdered, raped, and displaced by the millions. No one is making jokes about the evils of Vladimir Putin and Hamas or the dire situation in Gaza.

In our own hemisphere, Haiti has collapsed into complete and total chaos, ruled by warring criminal gangs, and the Central American nations of El Salvador and Honduras are not far behind. In Mexico, the drug cartels effectively control large swathes of the country.

Venezuela has descended into desperate poverty despite having oil reserves that made it one of the wealthiest nations in South America just 10 years ago when its GDP was five times what it is today.

Even Chinese citizens are fleeing their country, where there is a huge crisis in the real estate market, because of economic stagnation that has brought record-high unemployment and a lack of opportunity to a nation that had known exponential growth for three decades.

It is estimated that 280 million people worldwide today are migrants, of whom 110 million are refugees, asylum-seekers, and others who are internally displaced people and in need of international protection. Both of those numbers are all-time records and are growing parabolically year-after-year.

The New York Times columnist and best-selling author Thomas Friedman has divided the post-post-Cold War world into two camps -- the nations of order vs. disorder. America remains a beacon, not only among the disorderly nations, but also compared to the industrialized world. We emerged from the pandemic as the strongest economy on earth, with an historically-low unemployment rate and a taming of post-COVID inflation that by far have outpaced our peers in Western Europe and elsewhere.

But despite our success, the news headlines each day inform us that the world today is a sad, sad place, instilling in all of us a sense that our relative strength and stability is fragile and cannot be taken for granted.

LETTERS

More pools open this summer

To the Editor.

Thanks to interagency collaboration between BPS, BCYF, the Public Facilities Department, and the Property Management Department, investments of City funding, and improved facilities assessment, the City is on track to have more pools open this year than in previous summers, including the BCYF Clougherty, Draper, Marshall, and Mattahunt. The BCYF Clougherty outdoor pool is in the midst of a two year renovation and is expected to open this summer with temporary restrooms and changing areas. More information will be available as we get closer to summer. The BCYF

Charlestown Community Center has an indoor pool which is open.

The City also has more opportunities for lifeguards through a residency waiver which allows us to hire more lifeguards and the lifeguard academy and hiring days that BCYF has been hosting in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources. Additionally, through the SwimSafe program the City is providing more free swim lessons for children in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Boston (9 pools), Boys and Girls Club (4 pools), Dorchester House (1 pool), and USA Swimming.

Sandy Holden

NEWS BRIEFS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The City of Boston is developing a five-year Consolidated Plan for an estimated \$143 million in funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and we want to hear your thoughts on the needs and priorities of the City. The funds may be invested in housing, homeless assistance and community development programs that serve low- to moderate-income residents over a 5-year period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029 through these HUD programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

To ensure robust citizen participation, we are offering multiple ways to provide input on the Plan and hope that you will help us get the word out by sharing this email with your contacts and community members. Please encourage them to visit the Consolidated Plan website, complete the Multilingual Survey for Residents, or the Survey for Organizations or submit comments by calling 617-635-0363 or by sending an email to mohcomments@boston.gov.

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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FBI Boston recovers and returns 22 historic artifacts to Japan

The FBI Boston Division has recovered 22 historic artifacts that were looted following the Battle of Okinawa and has orchestrated their return to the Government of Japan, Okinawa Prefecture. These artifacts had been missing for almost 80 years. A formal repatriation ceremony will be held in Japan at a later date.

The 22 artifacts, some of which date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, represent a significant piece of Okinawan history and include six portraits, (three of which were one piece and appear to have been divided into three pieces), a hand drawn map of Okinawa dating back to the 19th century, and various pieces of pottery and ceramics.

In 2001, the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, as a result of its participation in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Pro-

gram, registered some of these artifacts with the FBI's National Stolen Art File (NSAF), a database of art and cultural property that have been reported stolen to the FBI by law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

"It's incredibly gratifying when the FBI is able to recover precious cultural property that has been missing for almost 80 years," said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. "This case highlights the important role the public plays in recognizing and reporting possible stolen art. We'd like to thank the family from Massachusetts who did the right thing in reaching out to us and relinquishing these treasures so we could return them to the people of Okinawa."

Last year, a family (who wishes to remain anonymous) was going through their late father's personal effects and came

across what appeared to be very valuable Asian art. Their father was a World War II veteran, but never served in the Pacific Theater. In an effort to identify the provenance of the artifacts, they checked the National Stolen Art File and determined that at least four of the items were missing 18th century portraits that had been listed in the database. Included with the artifacts was an unsigned, typewritten letter stating these items were collected in Okinawa during the last days of World War II.

The FBI conducted a logical investigation and was able to authenticate the artworks.

"It's an exciting moment when you watch the scrolls unfurl in front of you and you just witness history, and you witness something that hasn't been seen by many people in a very long time," said Geoffrey Kelly, an FBI Boston Special Agent, and

Art Crime Team member. "These artifacts are culturally significant, they're important pieces of Japan's identity. These were especially important because they were portraits of Okinawan kings dating back to the 18th, 19th centuries. This case really illustrates part of the work we do on the Art Crime Team. It's not always about prosecutions and putting someone in jail. A lot of what we do is making sure stolen property gets back to its rightful owners even if it's many generations down the road."

The National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institute assisted the FBI in ensuring that the artifacts were properly packaged for transport back to Japan.

"The FBI reached out, asked us for some help making sure they knew how to care for the works and that they had a safe place to store them while they

worked out the repatriation details," said Danielle Bennett, head of collections management at the National Museum of Asian Art at the Smithsonian Institute. "It's an honor to be able to help the works go back to their home."

The FBI also thanks the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) 38 G Monuments Men and Women, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and the U.S. Air Force for their assistance in securing and transporting the artifacts to Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.

On Friday, March 15, 2024, Denny Tamaki, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, announced the return of the artifacts to the people of Okinawa, Japan, in a news conference stating "it is very meaningful that the FBI, along with others in the U.S. Government, have cooperated to realize this return."

Lyric State

Continued from page 6

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.

Work Zone

Continued from page 11

wheel can lead to severe injuries, fatalities, and long-lasting trauma for individuals and families.

MassDOT is taking an active role in promoting work zone safety to protect the men and women working out on the roadway and would like to invite all Massachusetts college students to create a billboard design that promotes the theme and encourages drivers to be cautious when driving through work zones. Massachusetts college students interested in participating should create a billboard design that includes the theme and promotes work zone safety. Review the MassDOT Digital Billboard Design Specifications before preparing your submission.

The contest is open to all students who are currently enrolled in Massachusetts colleges. The winning designs will be selected based on creativity, impact, and relevance to the NWZAW theme. The contest ends on April 19, and the winning designs will be announced on May 1 during the 2024 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference. The top 3 designs will be displayed on a

series of digital billboards along the highways in Massachusetts throughout the 2024 construction season. The winning designs will be awarded a scholarship generously provided by the Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Pavement Association (MAAPA). As staunch advocates for roadway safety, MAAPA recognizes the crucial importance

of promoting work zone safety and is dedicated to increasing awareness about driving responsibly near work zones.

1st place: \$500 and 3-month billboard display (June, August, November)

2nd place: \$300 and 2-month billboard display (July, October)

3rd place: \$200 and 1-month billboard display (September).

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