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Paul Revere Rides Again

IN THIS ISSUE

The annual Patriots Day Re-enactment of the famous ride of Paul Revere returned to the streets of Boston after a two year absence due to the Pandemic.

Story and more photos by Sal Giarratani, Page 4.

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IN BOSTON
MAY 10 - 15**

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Orthodox Easter
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How the US Has Remained a World Leader For So Long

By Lee H. Hamilton

An interesting thing happened after Russia invaded Ukraine. Though US standing in the world had taken a knock after the much-needed but chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, there was no question where the world's democracies would turn for leadership in the Ukraine crisis. As much of Europe and Asia has found a new resolve on behalf of democratic values, in the time since the war began the US has been front and center in rallying them to the cause.

This is a role we've played—with ups and downs—for many decades. It became fashionable not very long ago to argue that the US's preeminent role in world affairs has disappeared, but it's harder to make that case at the moment. There are other world powers, of course, China and Russia notable among them. And it's also true that after long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the American public's taste for big-power projections of force has diminished. Yet as the democracies of the world look forward, the US's leadership role remains indispensable.

With all of our problems—and we have no shortage of them—there are several reasons we've retained that position. The first is that, in the end, we know what we stand for: personal liberty, justice, economic opportunity, a sense of morality in world affairs.

I will never forget a moment some years back, after a meeting at the White House when George H.W. Bush was president. He and I had become friends—across the partisan aisle—when we'd both served in the US House, and as we walked out, he turned to me and asked, "Lee, did I do the right thing?" That impressed me: The President of the United States turning to a friend and asking whether he'd gotten it right. That's what we usually strive for as a country: to do the right thing.

There are other factors, of course, that underlie our ability to maintain our position in the world. One, clearly, is our military strength, its technological innovation, and the professionalism of our armed forces. Another is a solid economy which, despite its inequalities and occasional struggles, has over the long term brought general prosperity to Americans and made us a destination for ambitious people around the world.

We've also benefited from a remarkable degree of political stability. We have our hard-fought differences, and there's no question that we face a time of testing ahead as some politicians seek to upset the institutions and rules by which we've lived for so long, but even so, the country's not coming apart at the seams. In a dangerous world, that's a vital asset not to be squandered.

So is the attitude we bring to the task of world leadership—a sense of civility that leads many nations (though not all) to trust us to act decently, work closely with allies and other like-minded countries, and cooperate with international organizations. We take risks now and then and face flak for it, but in general, there's an expectation that we'll behave decently.

In part, this is because we bring good people to the task of leadership. We maintain a reputation for fielding a strong civil service, treating elections seriously, and for the most part electing solid politicians. We constantly refresh the country's talent through immigration, and our institutions of education—kindergarten through graduate school—produce a steady stream of motivated, talented people who want to do the right thing. There is no question that over the years, American education made American preeminence possible.

None of this is to say that our future on the global stage is assured. Our tendency in recent years to elect politicians who embrace the extremes has been troublesome. Our battles over the curriculum in schools threaten to undermine the basic work of education. Our immigration battles have made this a less welcoming country to talent from other countries. And, of course, we face ambitious rivals for power overseas, China especially.

Still, we have a legacy of strong institutions and national strengths that have seen us through trying times before. If we don't undermine them from within, they can do so in trying times ahead, as well.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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City Points

News, Photos & Commentary by Sal Giarratani



Judy Evers standing with Gabriella Colleta who is also running for the District 1 Boston City Council seat on May 3 in the special election.

PAUL REVERE RIDES AGAIN

On this past Patriots Day holiday, a large crowd of Charlestown folks gathered at City Square Park awaiting Paul Revere riding over the temporary bridge from Boston's North End on his way to warn the countryside that the British were coming.

His first stop was Charlestown on his way to Lexington and Concord. Folks in Charlestown haven't witnessed Revere riding through Charlestown since 2019 due to COVID and the pandemic but he has finally returned to the cheers of one and all.

Once off his mount, he delivered a message of freedom to all who could hear and even talked with all the children there to greet him.

After drinking a cup of coffee, he was off to the north and the last anyone saw of him, he was heading that way on Chelsea Street and into history.



The crowd gathered awaiting the arrival of Paul Revere on horseback

After posing for a photo, Revere re-mounts his steed and it's off to warn of the British landing in Boston



Paul Lane (Ben Franklin look alike) and Tom Coots, aka The Deacons, standing (l to r) together in anticipation for news of the British Redcoats



Shown above is Tania Del Rio a candidate for the District One sea on the Boston City Council. This special election takes place on Tuesday, May 7, 2022

**HAPPY EASTER TO THE
ORTHODOX COMMUNITY**

Cathedral Church of St. Paul Hits the Pavement for Project Bread's 54th Annual Walk for Hunger

BOSTON, Mass. – On May 1, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will be among thousands of virtual participants to lace up for Project Bread's 54th annual Walk for Hunger. For the third year, the Boston-based nonprofit will participate in the event through The Commonwealth Program which gives 60 percent of all funds raised by teams from likeminded organizations and agencies back to support their own hunger relief programs, with the remaining 40 percent applied to the statewide anti-hunger effort. To date, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul has raised over \$1,600 through the Commonwealth Program.

Historically, the Walk for Hunger, the nation's oldest continual pledge walk, takes place the first Sunday of May on the Boston Common. The 2022 fundraiser will be the third event to be done virtually and is expected to raise more than \$1 million to support Project Bread's work to increase food access for people of all ages in Massachusetts.

"Currently, 1 in 5 Massachusetts households with children is struggling without enough to eat and that number jumps dramatically for Black, brown, and immigrant households," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread CEO. "Participating in the Walk for Hunger is one way in which residents can take action to fund school and community meal sites and Massachusetts' only statewide hotline that connects residents with a range of food resources, including SNAP assistance. We can drive community change together."

Money raised through the Walk is funding Project Bread's work to ensure kids have reliable access to food, directly helping individuals and families, and advocating at the state and federal levels for expedited and efficient relief for those in need. Walk funds are also supporting community organizations, like the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, that are helping residents to access food now and grants to ensure communities have the resources necessary to sustain and grow local anti-hunger programs. In 2021, 28 nonprofits participated in The Commonwealth Program and raised more than \$165,000 to support their own work.

The MANNA community at the Cathedral of St. Paul is a ministry of and with people experiencing homelessness in downtown Boston. The group gathers weekly to pray and worship together and provide services through the organization's Monday Lunch Program, Black Seed Writers Group, and meditation group. MANNA serves 50 to 75 adults, ranging in age from 22 to 70, from all faiths, no faiths, cultures, backgrounds and gender identities, daily three days a week. Through the Walk for Hunger, MANNA aims to raise \$1,000 to purchase food to supplement donations for breakfasts and lunches and pay skilled pastoral care givers to meet the social, emotional and health needs of the homeless community. During the virtual event, a team of up to 25 walkers will complete a 2-mile loop beginning at St. Paul's Cathedral, down Beacon Street, before heading across Arthur Fiedler Bridge to the Hatch Shell and back. An ice cream social hosted by congregation members will follow.

"At the height of the pandemic when all the local food programs shut their doors, we understood we could not do that, rather, we had to figure out how to feed people safely, overnight," says Rev. Jennifer McCracken, Head Pastor of the MANNA Community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. "We made substantial changes to our food program, increased from one meal a week, to five, and delivered it safely. We learned a lot during that time and some things we've retained, and some we've let go of. The Walk for Hunger is one of the most important events of the year for our community. Project Bread feeds people every day in massive numbers. What's more important than that?"

This year's event will include virtual programming with McAleer, elected officials, as well as walkers and volunteers posting and sharing their experiences along their neighborhood routes and why they are walking to help end hunger. Families with kids, individuals and teams of corporate employees are encouraged to find creative ways to connect virtually and fundraise together.

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 or call (617) 723-5000. There is no registration fee or fundraising minimum to participate. Participants who raise \$500 or more are recognized as Heart & Sole walkers, and receive access to personalized fundraising support, exclusive event gear, and invitations to events.

People experiencing food insecurity should call into Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org/get-help.

Project Bread is the leading statewide anti-hunger organization in Massachusetts. Beginning in 1969 with the first Walk for Hunger, the nonprofit focuses on driving systemic change to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread works collaboratively across sectors to create innovative solutions to end hunger and improve lives across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always) is a ministry of and with the homeless community in downtown Boston. Through MANNA, we seek not only to welcome folks across differences of class, wealth, culture, race and mental ability, but also to empower all people to claim their place as essential members of our community. We all have gifts to give and to receive. We need each other. And this is why we gather each week to serve, to pray, and to create together. Our Cathedral is a house of a prayer for all. We are the Episcopal Cathedral in the Diocese of Massachusetts, located in the heart of Boston. We welcome everyone to join our vibrant community. We are home to a diverse array of parishioners and community members including our regular Sunday congregation; the Episcopal Chinese Congregation; our emerging church community, The Crossing; our community of those who are homeless and in transition; and a Muslim community who gathers for Jum'ah Friday Prayers.

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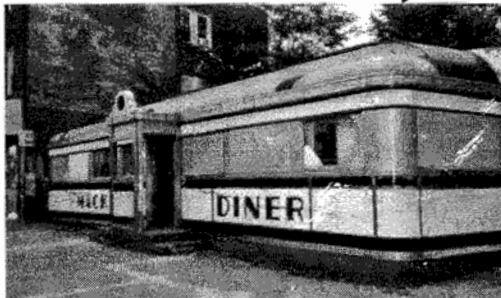
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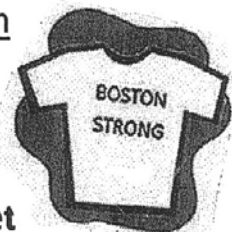
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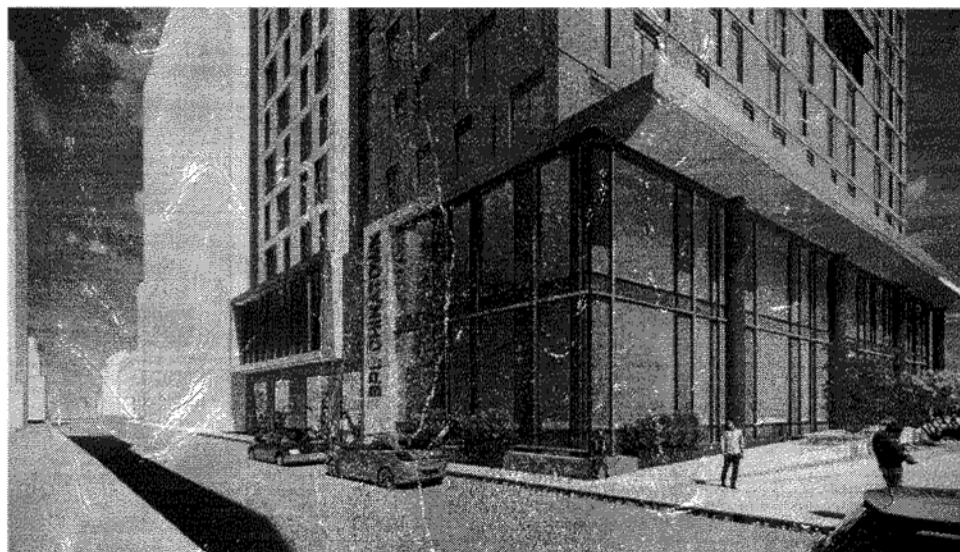
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Asian Community Development Corporation to develop Chinatown

100 residential unit parcel Will be site of new library too



BOSTON - Thursday, April 14, 2022 - The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board today voted to tentatively designate Asian Community Development Corporation (Asian CDC), to develop the BPDA-owned Parcel R-1 in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood.

The proposal plans to create a mixed-use development with over 100 units of income-restricted, affordable housing and a permanent Chinatown branch of the Boston Public Library (BPL).

The property is located where Hudson Street, Tyler Street, and Holland Street intersect in Chinatown.

Parcel R-1 is one of the last large municipally owned sites in Chinatown available for community based uses, and the selected use is based on several years of BPDA and community-led visioning workshops and planning studies.

Like all BPDA-owned parcels in the City of Boston, the selected developer was required to respond to the BPDA's Diversity and Inclusion evaluation criterion, and outline commitments to include Minority and Women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) in all aspects of their development.

The Diversity and Inclusion criterion was weighted at 25 percent of the total evaluation of the proposal.

The project's Diversity and Inclusion Plan is comprehensive and includes meaningful participation by Minority and Women-owned businesses.

In total, 30 percent of the construction costs and 33 percent of the soft costs on the project will be managed by M/WBEs, many of whom are members of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community with deep connections to Chinatown.

Since including this criterion, 16 Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been released with the DEI requirements, and ten have been designated.

"We are committed to facilitating a future for this parcel that supports the surrounding community by creating affordable housing and a new, permanent BPL branch in Chinatown" said BPDA Director Brian Golden. "We look forward to working with the development team to bring life to the community's vision."

The thorough community process for Parcel R-1 launched in late 2020 to discuss issuing a Request for Proposals to develop the site. The RFP for this parcel, released in August 2021, reflected that community process, calling for affordable housing for all parts of the community, a permanent Chinatown branch library, as well as to preserve the historic nature and cultural heritage of this district.

"We are very excited for our team's tentative designation as the developer of Parcel R-1 in Chinatown," said Asian CDC Executive Director Angie Liou.

"For over three decades, Asian Community Development Corporation has been dedicated to the creation of affordable housing as a way to stabilize immigrant families in this community, and we look forward to working with the City and neighborhood residents to build more affordable homes and a permanent Chinatown library on the R-1 site."

"We are excited that the awarding of this development project to ACDC takes us one step closer to ensuring a permanent home for the Chinatown branch of the Boston Public Library," said BPL president David Leonard.

"Boston's Chinatown community deserves a modern branch library to serve its needs for learning, community, public space, and cultural celebration. We look forward to partnering with ACDC and the entire Chinatown community to bring this vision to fruition."

The RFP required that any development be in accordance with principles expressed in the 1990 Chinatown Community Plan, 2010 Chinatown Master Plan, and the current PLAN: Downtown initiative. These principles include upgrading the quality of life in Chinatown to ensure its long-term viability as a historic residential neighborhood and a unique cultural, business, and service center.

The Asian CDC is proposing to construct a twelve-story, mixed-use building featuring 110 affordable rental and home ownership units with a broad range of affordable income levels and bedroom sizes, and a core and shell space intended as the permanent location of the Chinatown Branch Library.

The approval of the tentative designation by the BPDA will allow the Article 80 public review process for the proposal to move forward.

In 2018, the BPDA facilitated the opening of the temporary BPL Chinatown location at the BPDA-owned China Trade Center, located at 2 Boylston Street. The event marked the return of library services to the neighborhood for the first time in more than 50 years.

As the City of Boston's urban planning and economic development agency, the BPDA works in partnership with the community to plan Boston's future while respecting its past.

The agency's passionate and knowledgeable staff guides physical, social, and economic change in Boston's neighborhoods and its downtown to shape a more prosperous, resilient, and vibrant city for all.

The BPDA also prepares residents for new opportunities through employment training, human services and job creation. Learn more at bostonplans.org, and follow us on Twitter [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans).

Affordable Housing Also Approved in East Boston and Allston

BOSTON - Thursday, April 14, 2022 - The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board of Directors this month also approved four new development projects and two updates to previously approved projects.

The Board also voted to tentatively designate two diverse development teams to redevelop two BPDA-owned parcels: Parcel R-1 in Chinatown, and 20-22 Drydock Avenue in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park.

New Hub For Life Sciences Planned for Southie site

The site at 20-22 Drydock Avenue in South Boston's Waterfront area would be redeveloped into a hub for life sciences that supports job training that will diversify Boston's life sciences sector.

Like all BPDA-owned parcels in the City of Boston, the selected developers were required to meet the BPDA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion evaluation criterion, and outline commitments to including Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBEs) in all aspects of their development.

Development Projects

355 Bennington St., East Boston

This new development at 355 Bennington Street will connect Mary Ellen Welch Greenway, Silver Line, to Day Square in East Boston creating 170 residential units, including 24 income-restricted units.

Work: New permanent jobs, construction jobs, 6,985 square feet of retail space.

Connect: New transitway for future Silver Line Day Square connection, new pedestrian/bike connection to the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway, 204 bike parking spaces.

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An underutilized lot on the eastern edge of East Boston's Day Square will be redeveloped to provide 170 new residential units, including 24 income-restricted units, while unlocking key pedestrian and transit connections in East Boston.

The project site at 355 Bennington is critical to the community vision laid out in PLAN: East Boston, an active planning initiative led by the BPDA, to connect the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway and the Silver Line to Day Square.

Also in line with PLAN: East Boston, the developer has agreed to construct streetscape improvements along Bennington and Bremen Streets to support the revitalization of Day Square and to establish the new pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the neighborhood.

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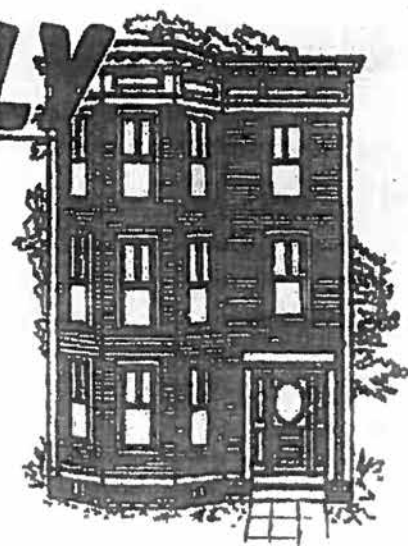
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202 West First St., South Boston

The office and life science project at 202 West First Street will bring public realm improvements to South Boston

Live: \$30,000 contribution to renovate Buckley Playground and maintain West 2nd Street Park and Community Gardens.

Work: Up to 100 new permanent jobs; 100 construction jobs.

Connect: \$250,000 to design and implement sidewalk, traffic and pedestrian safety improvements along B and West Third Streets.

Sustain: LEED Silver

A former industrial site in South Boston will be revitalized by a new mixed-use office and life sciences research facility. The project will bring public realm improvements and contribute \$250,000 to design and implement sidewalk, traffic and pedestrian safety improvements along B and West 3rd Streets, and \$30,000 towards the renovation of nearby Buckley Playground and for the maintenance of the West 2nd Street Park and Community Gardens.

420 Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown

This project will build a new life sciences development

Work: 99,500 SF life sciences building

Connect: Creation of Half Pint Way, \$200,000 towards PLAN: Charlestown improvements, creation of an off-site laundromat for Charlestown residents.

Sustain: LEED Gold

Located in Charlestown, 420 Rutherford Avenue will demolish an existing storage facility to build a new four-story life sciences building. The ground floor will include storage, tenant amenities such as conference rooms, fitness rooms, restrooms, and showers, along with a bike storage room.

This project will provide new landscape design improvements to the site including new greenery and seating, and roof deck for tenants.

420 Rutherford Avenue is located in the geographic bounds of the ongoing PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood planning initiative, and the proposed use, scale, density, and design are contextually appropriate, and consistent with emerging PLAN: Charlestown guidelines.

The project has committed to expanding the road network west of Rutherford Avenue, which is a key goal of PLAN: Charlestown. The project is also addressing future coastal flood events and sea level rise through elevation of ground floor spaces and flood proofing measures. In response to community feedback, the project will contribute up to \$250,000 for the establishment of a laundromat in the area. The project will also provide a BlueBikes station on site, and build a new private way to help expand the transportation network in Charlestown. In addition, the project will contribute \$25,000 towards increasing open space in Charlestown, and \$200,000 towards public improvements as determined by PLAN: Charlestown staff.

14 Gardner St., Allston

Live: 38 residential homeownership units including 8 income-restricted units

Work: 45 construction jobs

Connect: Within ¼ mile of an MBTA stop, 40 bike spaces, \$10,450 BlueBikes contribution

Sustain: LEED Gold

This new residential development at 14 Gardner Street will bring 38 homeownership units of housing to Allston, including eight income-restricted homeownership units. The project originally proposed rental units, but in response to community feedback updated the proposal to create homeownership units. The project will also provide \$25,000 towards street improvements as well as \$10,450 to the City's BlueBikes program

The BPDA Board approved two updates to previously approved projects:

500 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester

The BPDA Board voted to approve an increase in income-restricted Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) units from five units, to 17 units, bringing the building's total affordability up to 43 percent.

30 Thorn Street, Hyde Park:

The BPDA Board voted to approve a reduction in units from 45 to 40 units, and an increase in the number of three-bedroom units.

Italian American Alliance pays homage to its founder Dr. Francis Mazzaglia

The Italian American Alliance (IAA) opposes discrimination against all people and proudly promotes Italian Heritage which includes the great admiral Christopher Columbus.

The IAA welcomes people of all races, ethnic groups and religious communities into their great and growing Alliance family which now includes over 7,000 members.

Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come. The IAA has a new website www.theitalianamericanalliance.com and also www.theiaa.net



An Open Letter to Our Beloved Founder And Leader: Dr. Francis Mazzaglia

Dearest Friend, Tireless Leader,

There is never a time when we aren't thinking about you, your many great achievements, your solemn dedication to the betterment of mankind, and your governance of various community organizations.

Know that your example lives on within the multitude of lives you have touched. You always asked for so little while you so freely gave so much of yourself for the sole purpose of enriching other people's lives.

Thank you for always reaching beyond the call of duty.

You have left a legacy that will always live on.

On April 21st, we, the members of the Italian American Alliance, will remember, honor, and celebrate your gifts of kindness, leadership, and the inspirational attitude of courage that you so masterfully cultivated in our hearts and minds.

We are surrounded by the many inspirational blossoms you have left behind. While we are not able to experience your physical presence, please rest assured that the eternal bond you made with us is well set in the comfort of our hearts!

May the gentle breeze of heaven remind you how much we appreciate you and miss your leadership as Chairman of both the Massachusetts Italian Heritage Month Committee, and the Italian American Alliance of Massachusetts.

With fondness and appreciation,
The members of the IAA

Ed. Note: It was my great honor to get to know the Doctor and to play a part in helping him to communicate the goals and aspirations of the Italian American Alliance. Not only was he a college professor in his day but was a major factor in the growth of the Archdiocese of Boston involving himself in so many important fundraising accomplishments. The two of us worked well together and I too remember this great American who like just about every Italian American

Janes Amorello announces State Senate Campaign

HOLDEN/WORCESTER -- At 24 years old, James Amorello is looking to make history in his quest to serve the freshly reconstituted Worcester and Hampshire state Senate district as the third-youngest state Senator ever elected to the Massachusetts Legislature.

Amorello, raised in both Worcester and Holden, grew up playing basketball golf throughout the district with family and friends and credits his upbringing with helping him understand that hard work leads to success.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to serve everybody in our re-mapped Worcester and Hampshire Senate District," Amorello said. "People are ready for change in Massachusetts."

"They are excited to meet a young Republican with commonsense ideas that can easily be applied to this state Senate district."

Amorello's family has deep roots in the area.

His uncles, Joe and Jim, currently run the construction company A.F. Amorello & Sons, a business founded in 1914 and handed down through three generations. His uncle Dan built Dan Amorello Services, a paving contractor, from the ground up, while his father Robert is a prominent Worcester County trial lawyer.

Amorello said his experiences growing up in both Holden and Worcester give him a unique and informed understanding of the district and the people who live in it.

He is a graduate of Worcester's St. Peter-Marian High School and has attended several colleges, including St. John's University in New York, Anna Maria College in Paxton (where he played basketball for a year), and later Worcester State University, before leaving school to continue pursuing his other interests in sales and investing.

Amorello now manages his own investments in the stock market, still plays basketball recreationally, and serves on the Holden Board of Registrars.

He's also an active member of the Holden Republican Town Committee. He's studied the economy extensively and added that he "understands what causes it to react as it does in real-time and on a historic basis."

"I know the importance of implementing responsible public policies that work for, not against, the people," Amorello said, adding that he also sees the importance of funding public safety so that it serves the needs for all populations in the district.

"We must teach financial literacy in our public schools and encourage future generations to practice fiscal responsibility. We need to protect small businesses that provide goods to us and bring value daily. We must make things less expensive for people."

Boston City Paper
April 23, 2022

BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT

Survey now online for City's Open Space Plan

How well is Boston's park system working for you?

What improvements do we need to make over the next seven years?

To make sure the City of Boston's park system reflects the needs of all residents, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has released an online survey questionnaire as part of its update to Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The survey is available in eleven languages at boston.gov/open-space.

The survey link will be available until the end of May, 2022.

Mayor Michelle Wu understands the importance of residents' feedback when evaluating open space, the built environment, and balanced development.

The public's responses to this five-minute survey will help the City of Boston improve the way parks are programmed, permitted, maintained, and designed. Park users and open space advocates are encouraged to share the survey with friends and neighbors to help gather input from residents throughout the city.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan considers all public open space regardless of ownership, including natural areas, urban wilds, community gardens, cemeteries, greenways, trails, parkways, and harbor islands, as well as the traditional parks, playgrounds, and squares.

It examines service delivery, park access, distribution of facilities, and demographics to understand whether the open space system is serving people equitably.

Survey input will help us understand where we need to invest our resources in the years to come.

Additional information about the Open Space and Recreation Plan update can be found at boston.gov/open-space.

Comments or questions can be directed to:

openspaceplan22@boston.gov.

GARCÍA HOSTS A KICK-OFF FUNDRAISER FOR STATE REP.

"People like her are the ones we need to support not only with our mouths, but also with our actions, in order to show that our community stands up for itself."

-Manuel Teshe, Chelsea youth activist

CHELSEA — Chelsea City Councilor, community leader, and current candidate for State Representative Judith García hosted a 100-seat dinner party in the heart of Chelsea at Tu Casa Restaurante y Bar in Chelsea, Massachusetts on Friday, April 15.

The program was entirely bilingual to accommodate both English and Spanish speakers.

Community activists Irma Mazzoni and Jose Dubon delivered the welcome toast, and local singers Dania "La Catrachita" Hernández and Wilbert "El Buki Mayor" Sánchez each performed several songs for the dancing guests.

Introducing García to the stage was youth activist Manuel Teshe. Teshe spoke of his experience attending Chelsea Public Schools, which he cites as the reason he received a full scholarship to Bucknell University.

He acknowledged García's contribution to Chelsea's public schools, her work "on the frontlines of the battle with COVID-19," and her "willingness to fight for our community" as he invited García to speak.

García related her lifelong commitment to her community, recalling that "the minute I left Chelsea High School to attend college – I knew I wanted to come back to Chelsea to take a stand against the inequalities that are rooted in our community."

"So after college, I returned to Chelsea to help hundreds of families secure free or affordable health insurance."

And in 2015, seeing the lack of representation at the city council, I stepped up and decided to run for office. There is no better way to make changes than being part of the change. As one of the youngest candidates in the history of Chelsea, I went out there and did the work, earned the votes, and together we ran and we won!"

Her city council race would not be her first history-making campaign. García is currently the first woman and the first Latina to run for this newly created state representative seat for Chelsea and Everett.

She highlighted some of her accomplishments as a city councilor, including a \$5 million dollar investment in Chelsea's downtown, \$14k grants for small businesses to refurbish their storefronts, rental assistance regardless of immigration status, and a \$1.5 million COVID-19 small business emergency relief fund.

"For generations, Chelsea and Everett have been denied a chair at the table where decisions get made. Now we get a chair. And to make the most of it – to capitalize on this history-making moment – we need to make sure the person sitting in it has the experience and expertise, the track record and the relationships, the connections and the trust to make sure the voices of this community come with her. And yes – I said 'her.' Because I am the one, and together we will make history."

The Democratic primary for 11th Suffolk will be on September 6, 2022, and the general election will be on November 8, 2022.

Learn more at electjudithgarcia.com.

SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS WEBINAR ON ANTICIPATED EFFECTS OF PROPOSED TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE (TOPA) LEGISLATION

BOSTON - On April 14, 2022, the Small Property Owners Association (SPOA) hosted a webinar moderated by Amir Shahsavari and Chris Lehman about proposed tenant right of first refusal bills (S. 890, H.1426, and H.4208) in Massachusetts.

These bills mirror the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) passed in Washington, D.C.

Our panelists were Jeff Turk, local counsel to the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the National Apartment Association; Steve Bremis and Attorney Steven Broadley, representing the Somerville Property Owners Coalition (SPOC); and Sen. Richard Tisei and Jim Eisenberg of Preti Strategies.

The webinar covered a wide range of topics related to the proposal, including potential legal problems with the bills, likely practical challenges with their implementation, and the political calculus surrounding their passage.

The Small Property Owners Association is located in South Boston at 840 Summer St., Boston, MA 02127. You can visit their website at www.spoa.com. Tel 617-354-5533 or email to askspoa@gmail.com

WalletHUB Report

2022's Best Small Cities To Start a Business

With National Small Business Week approaching and many employers struggling to hire new workers, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's Best Small Cities to Start a Business, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

To determine the most business-friendly small markets in the U.S., WalletHub compared more than 1,300 cities with fewer than 100,000 residents across 18 key metrics. The data set ranges from small business growth rates and accessibility of financing to investor access and labor costs.

Key Stats

Bozeman, Montana, has the highest **number of startups per 100,000 residents**, 332.13, which is 8.2 times higher than in Danville, Illinois, the city with the lowest at 40.42.

Bethesda, Maryland, has the highest **share of the population with at least a bachelor's degree**, 86.70 percent, which is 26.3 times higher than in Coachella, California, the city with the lowest at 3.30 percent.

Kentwood, Michigan, has the most **affordable office spaces**, at an annual rate of \$9.06 per square foot, which is 6.8 times lower than in Mountain View, California, the city with the least affordable at an annual rate of \$61.85 per square foot.

Isla Vista, California, has the lowest **labor costs (median annual income)**, \$21,018, which is 11.4 times lower than in Los Altos, California, the city with the highest at \$240,094.

Fort Hood, Texas, has the longest **work week**, 47.30 hours on average, which is two times longer than in Isla Vista, California, the city with the shortest at an average of 23.70 hours.

To view the full report and your city's rank, please visit:
<https://wallethub.com/edu/best-small-cities-to-start-a-business/20180>

More from WalletHub

- Best Large Cities to Start a Business
- Best Business Credit Cards
- Best Bank Accounts for Small Businesses
- Most Small-Business-Friendly Credit Card Companies

Expert Commentary

In the context of the ongoing pandemic, what are the pros and cons of starting a business in a small city?

"There can be some advantages to starting a business in a small city: less competition for talent, lower rents, and generally lower costs of living and overhead. There can also be downsides: restricted talent pool; inadequate or inferior infrastructure; limited transportation options. I do not believe the pandemic has changed these considerations."

Robert Sprague

Professor, University of Wyoming

"When the pandemic led to widespread quarantines in 2020, many local news outlets highlighted the impact on small businesses. I believe this increased awareness of the vulnerability of local businesses which led to more people trying to support them. As a result, the timing is positive for starting a business in a smaller town. Further, as we see the spread of a more reliable technical infrastructure, starting a business in a smaller city becomes more viable. However, if your business relies on only a local market, you need to make sure that the local economy is strong enough to hold up your business during downtimes. If you rely on a specific geographic area as a market, a negative event in that area can impact the viability of your business."

Lori K. Long, Ph.D.

Burton D. Morgan Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies; Professor, Baldwin Wallace University

Would some types of small businesses – i.e., a retail store, restaurant, or tech startup – do better than others in a smaller city?

"Services do well but they may be a 'crowding effect' where many compete for a limited market. Early-stage tech start-ups can do extremely well in small cities, especially because of their improved ability to attract particular types of human capital. They can also use these towns to test their ideas and sharpen their focus."

Shaker A. Zahra

Robert E. Buuck Chair of Entrepreneurship; Professor, University of Minnesota

"This all depends on local demand. Retail stores and restaurants, absent an e-commerce arm, are very dependent on their local markets for both customers and labor. The more highly specialized the business, the more likely these constraints could meaningfully impact their business. Tech start-ups are less tethered to their local markets and, if they leverage remote workforces, they might find smaller cities to offer benefits in terms of office costs, certain labor costs, and quality of life for local employees."

Richard Ryffel

Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

What tips do you have for an entrepreneur starting a business in a small city?

"RESEARCH! Find out as much as possible about the city profile, using the state economic data. Connect with the local Chamber of Commerce, the local Small Business Development Center, any business network, or meet-up groups. Walk around the neighborhoods, visit local restaurants and service businesses to see who is being served. Check with real estate brokers to find out where people are (re)locating."

Pauline Assenza

Professor, Western Connecticut State University

"Many of the cautions I would offer to small-city entrepreneurs are the same I would offer to others. Do your research to ensure the local demand for your product or service is adequate and that your company is sufficiently differentiated from both current and potential future competitors (especially rapidly expanding national chains, in the case of retail businesses). Take your worst-case scenario for opening, break-even, and success, and add a cushion of both time and money to allow you to respond to unexpected issues that may arise."

Richard Ryffel

Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

Top 20 Small Cities to Start a Business

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Washington, UT | 11. Morrisville, NC |
| 2. St. George, UT | 12. Cheyenne, WY |
| 3. Bozeman, MT | 13. Missoula, MT |
| 4. Cedar City, UT | 14. Lehi, UT |
| 5. Fort Myers, FL | 15. Altamonte Springs, FL |
| 6. South Bradenton, FL | 16. Redmond, OR |
| 7. Williston, ND | 17. Bend, OR |
| 8. Logan, UT | 18. Greenville, SC |
| 9. Eagle Mountain, UT | 19. Sarasota, FL |
| 10. Winter Park, FL | 20. Pleasant Grove, UT |

Baker-Polito Administration Files \$3.5B Economic Development Legislation

LYNN - Today, (April 21) Governor Charlie Baker filed legislation to make \$3.5 billion in investments to support Massachusetts's path forward as the Commonwealth transitions into a post-pandemic world, including projects to strengthen state infrastructure, create jobs and invest in all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

The legislation, An Act Investing in Future Opportunities for Resiliency, Workforce, and Revitalized Downtowns (FORWARD) includes \$2.3 billion in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and over \$1.256 billion in capital bond authorizations.

The FORWARD bill includes \$1.2 billion in ARPA funds for climate resiliency and preservation efforts. This includes a \$750 million investment in the Commonwealth's clean energy industry, building on Governor Baker's October 2021 proposal.

The FORWARD legislation proposes nearly \$970 million for investments to support revitalizing the Commonwealth's downtowns and communities, including \$318 million in ARPA funding and \$650 million in bond authorization. This includes \$550 million for the MassWorks program, including \$400 million in reauthorization and \$147 million in ARPA funds to support 94 local projects. Nearly 250 municipalities will receive downtown recovery grants totaling \$108 million.

The Baker-Polito Administration commissioned a Future of Work report last year that found that downtowns will look fundamentally different coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many people have changed how and where they work. This funding will help municipalities adapt to this new reality.

This legislation would allow the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to sell the Hynes Convention Center, with proceeds from the sale going to affordable housing development and the Back Bay area. Occupancy levels at the Hynes fluctuated around 60% before the pandemic, and numbers have still not recovered.



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STATE HOUSE NEWS

Baker-Polito Administration Joins Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence to Highlight Public Safety Proposals in Salem

SALEM – (April 20) Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy, Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, legislators, survivors and members of their families, advocates and law enforcement officials to participate in the fourth roundtable discussion highlighting the importance of the Baker-Polito Administration's refiled public safety proposal, which would provide comprehensive new protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, assault and battery, the harmful distribution of explicit images and other crimes.

Since refiling *An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public and An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials* in December, the administration has hosted regional roundtables in Plymouth, Springfield, Worcester and Salem as part of its continued efforts to work with survivors and their families and urge the passage of critical legal reforms.

Held during Victim Rights Month, today's roundtable featured survivors and their family members whose cases and safety would have been aided by the administration's dangerousness reforms.

April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"We continue to hear from survivors, their families and advocates that there is more we can and should be doing to protect the brave men, women and children who have been traumatized

by violent offenders and predators," said **Governor Charlie Baker**.

"This legislation will support survivors by enacting simple, commonsense measures that hold offenders accountable and – most importantly – keep survivors safe."

"Survivors and their families have already endured so much, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that their rights are upheld before, while and after their cases are adjudicated," said **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**.

"We are deeply grateful to all of today's participants and their courage in sharing their harrowing experiences in the hopes of passing this critically important legislative package."

"We remain grateful to the dozens of survivors, loved ones, prosecutors, service providers, and advocates who have participated in these roundtables," said **Public Secretary and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy**.

Their lived experiences expose shortcomings in the Commonwealth's existing law, which needs urgent, common sense attention. The impact of our proposals will bring hope to those in despair and light into a survivor's moment of darkness."

"Since 2018, I have urged the Legislature to address the gaping hole in the law (MGL Chapter 276, Section 58A) which does not permit an assistant district attorney to request a dangerousness hearing for a person charged with raping or sexually assaulting a child," said **Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett**.

"One of the primary obligations of government is to protect the safety of the public, particularly the vulnerable, from dangerous people. It is hard to think of anyone more dangerous than an adult who sexually assaults a child and anyone more vulnerable than a child."

An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public:

First filed in 2018, the Administration's proposal would expand the list of offenses that can provide

grounds for a dangerousness hearing and close certain loopholes at the start and end of the criminal process that currently limit or prevent effective action to address legitimate safety concerns.

It would strengthen the ability of judges to enforce the conditions of pre-trial release by empowering police to detain people who they observe violating court-ordered release conditions; current law does not allow this, and instead requires a court to first issue a warrant.

Under this proposal, judges will be empowered to revoke a person's release when the offender has violated a court-ordered condition, such as an order to stay away from a victim, or from a public playground.

Current law requires an additional finding of dangerousness before release may be revoked.

The legislation also expands the list of offenses which can provide grounds for a dangerousness hearing including crimes of sexual abuse and crimes of threatened or potential violence.

It also follows the long-standing federal model in including a defendant's history of serious criminal convictions as grounds that may warrant a dangerousness hearing.

Current law requires courts to focus only on the crime charged and ignore a defendant's criminal history when determining whether the defendant may be the subject of this sort of hearing.

An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials:

First filed in 2017, this legislation seeks to close a loophole under current law by creating penalties for adults who distribute a sexually explicit image for purposes of revenge or embarrassment.

While current law addresses non-consensual recording of an unsuspecting person, it does not address instances where someone distributes an image without consent regardless of whether the initial image may have been taken with consent. This legislation closes the gap in state law by creating a new felony offense and empowering judges in criminal proceedings to ensure an explicit image in question is permanently destroyed.

Advocacy Groups Urge Passage of Baker-Polito Administration's Tax Cut Plan

Tax Day Event Highlights Relief Proposed for Working Families, Renters, Seniors

BOSTON – Today, (April 19) at an event marking Tax Day at the State House, several organizations urged passage of the Baker-Polito Administration's comprehensive tax relief plan.

The Administration's proposal would provide \$700 million in tax relief for low-income residents, working families, renters and seniors and would make Massachusetts more competitive.

With costs for families rising across the board and the Commonwealth continuing to exceed tax revenue projections, the group urged that it is time to give taxpayers a break and pass the Administration's proposal.

Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan were joined at the event by Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation President Eileen McAnneny, Massachusetts Society of CPAs President and CEO Amy Pitter, Retailers Association of Massachusetts President Jon Hurst, Associated Industries of Massachusetts

President John Regan, and Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Carolyn Ryan. AARP of Massachusetts also

expressed support for components of the tax relief legislation today.

"With residents and families continuing to face rising costs, Massachusetts should take action and pass tax cuts that will reduce costs and give taxpayers a break," said **Governor Charlie Baker**.

"Revenues continue to exceed expectations, so it's time to give some of this surplus revenue back to taxpayers. We look forward to working with our partners in the Legislature to put more money into the pockets of our hard-working families and residents."

"Inflation and rising prices are impacting everyone in Massachusetts, but especially low-income residents and working families," said **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**.

"That's why this tax plan is so important: it targets tax relief to the populations and communities who have been hardest-hit by both the pandemic and the ongoing pressures of inflation and rising prices."

"The Commonwealth is in a historically strong fiscal position and has ample resources to continue investing in critical areas of need – like childcare, education, housing, and more – while also implementing these tax relief measures," said **Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan**.

"The proposed tax plan will benefit hundreds of thousands of hardworking taxpayers and improve our competitiveness as a state to help ensure the continued strength of our economy in the long-term."

The Commonwealth continues to face a strong fiscal picture and ended last fiscal year with a \$5 billion surplus.

Tax revenues in the first months of calendar year 2022 continue to exceed projections. Revenues beat projections by \$856 million in January, \$293 million in February and \$427 million in March.

"MTF's mission is about fiscal stability for the Commonwealth and positioning Massachusetts for long-term economic growth and opportunity for all," said **Eileen McAnneny, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation**.

"The Baker Administration's tax package achieves both and that is why it has MTF's full support. Not only is it affordable, but it provides relief to our resident while signaling that Massachusetts is choosing to compete for the people and talent that are so critical to our future economic vitality."

"On behalf of 11,000 CPAs and accounting professionals across Massachusetts, I want to commend Governor Baker and the Administration for filing this comprehensive and timely tax relief package," said **MassCPAs President and CEO Amy Pitter**.

"We're specifically grateful for the inclusion of a provision to update the conformity date for individual income tax purposes from 2005 to 2022. Massachusetts conforms to the 2005 IRC, but most states conform to 2021 IRC, which makes us more outdated than any other state by a landslide. There is no economic or tax policy reason for Massachusetts not to update its conformity date. This low cost and necessary update will provide consistency and simplicity for Massachusetts taxpayers and streamline tax administration at the Department of Revenue (DOR), and we look forward to working with the Governor, his team and the legislature on this critical change, which we're thankful was also included in House Ways and Means budget proposal."

"Small businesses and working families are being severely hit with the regressive effect of inflation, yet tax revenues have never been better," said **Jon Hurst of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts**.

"The Governor's tax reforms recognize that taxpayers and consumers of all stages of life need fair treatment from government, and as a complete package, it will make it more affordable and competitive to stay in Massachusetts."

"State revenue collections have far exceeded expectations for the second year in row," said **John Regan President & CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts**.

"The Commonwealth should return a portion of that windfall to assist taxpayers burdened by inflation and to stimulate the economy. Governor Baker's plan spreads the relief throughout the economy and is an equitable tax proposal."

"These targeted tax proposals will help create a more competitive tax environment in ways that matter for residents and small businesses," said **James E. Rooney, President & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**.

CAMPAIGN FOR STATE AUDITOR

Connor Ives for Dempsey

NEWBURYPORT, MA: State Auditor Candidate Chris Dempsey announced an endorsement by former State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, who previously represented the 1st Essex Senate District now represented by Senator Diana DiZoglio.

The district includes the communities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimac, Methuen, Newburyport, North Andover, and Salisbury. Prior to serving in the State Senate for three terms, O'Connor Ives served on the Newburyport City Council for five years.

"I am enthusiastically supporting Chris Dempsey for State Auditor because he is articulating detailed and clear plans as the next Auditor, such as tracking the spending of the unprecedented ARPA federal funding Massachusetts is receiving. I have not made an endorsement of a candidate for public office since retiring from the State Senate at the beginning of 2019, but I feel strongly that in this race there is a clear choice and Chris Dempsey will work in the public's interest," said O'Connor Ives.

While serving in the State Senate, O'Connor Ives Chaired the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, working closely with the Office of State Auditor.

The endorsement comes ahead of a Dempsey for Auditor event at the Newburyport Brewing Company at 3PM on Sunday, May 15th, hosted by O'Connor Ives, former Newburyport Councilor Charlie Tontar, 1st Essex State Committee Members Kathy Pasquina and Marianne Rutter, and former State Committee Member Hailey Klein.

"I am honored to have Katy's support. As a State Senator, she took a particular interest in the work of the State Auditor while serving in the State Senate, consistently filing legislation and budget amendments on behalf of Auditor Bump. Former Senator O'Connor Ives understands the responsibilities and potential of the Auditor's Office. She worked hard to help her constituents across the 1st Essex District during her tenure in office and I'm thrilled that she's with me in this race," said Dempsey.

A STEVE DUFFY MOVIE REVIEW

The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent

Nicolas Cage stars as Nick Cage in the action-comedy *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*. Creatively unfulfilled and facing financial ruin, the fictionalized version of Cage must accept a \$1 million offer to attend the birthday of a dangerous superfan (Pedro Pascal).

Things take a wildly unexpected turn when Cage is recruited by a CIA operative (Tiffany Haddish) and forced to live up to his own legend, channeling his most iconic and beloved on-screen characters in order to save himself and his loved ones.

With a career built for this very moment, the seminal award-winning actor must take on the role of a lifetime: Nick Cage.

You do not have to have any knowledge of Cage's films to enjoy this film, but it does help. Cage fully embraces himself in this film and has a lot of fun in making fun of himself while doing it.

STATE HOUSE NEWS

"The nationwide race for talent and employers is at an all-time high, and Massachusetts needs to be proactive in its efforts to retain our world class workforce, employers, and economy."

"AARP strongly urges action now. Measures such as tax credits and other financial assistance, or both, to Massachusetts 844,000 family caregivers; doubling the maximum Senior Circuit Breaker Credit; and increasing the rental deduction cap help lower and middle-income residents and their families achieve increased health and financial security and facilitate their ability to age in their own home and community," said **Mike Festa, State Director of AARP Massachusetts.**

The plan includes several tax relief measures:

- CONTINUED

Double the maximum Senior Circuit Breaker Credit to lower the overall tax burden for more than 100,000 lower-income homeowners aged 65+

Increase the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$5,000, allowing approximately 881,000 Massachusetts renters to keep approximately \$77 million more annually

Double the dependent care credit to \$480 for one qualifying individual and \$960 for two or more, and double the household dependent care credit to \$360 for one qualifying individual and \$720 for two or more to benefit more than 700,000 families

Increase the Massachusetts adjusted gross income (AGI) thresholds for "no tax status" to \$12,400 for single filers, \$24,800 for joint filers, and \$18,650 for head of households, which will eliminate the income tax for more than 234,000 low-income filers

Double the estate tax threshold and eliminate the current "cliff effect" that taxes the full amount below the threshold

Change the short-term capital gains tax rate to the personal income tax rate of 5% to align the Commonwealth with most other states

The plan would have an outsized impact on the communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, the rental deduction increase would provide \$34 million in annual tax relief to renters in the 20 "equity communities" that the Department of Public Health identified as having been hardest-hit by the pandemic (based on factors like social determinants of health and the disproportionate racial impact of the pandemic).

The "no tax status" change to eliminate the income tax for more low-income people would result in nearly \$12 million in annual savings in those same communities.

About Chris Dempsey:

Chris Dempsey is a candidate for Massachusetts State Auditor. Chris, who in mid-2021 stepped down as Director of the Transportation for Massachusetts advocacy coalition, will be able to tap into an extensive well of experience and knowledge developed from his years of work in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Chris has gotten results inside of state government. As a member of the Democratic Party's statewide coordinated campaign, Chris helped elect Deval Patrick and Tim Murray as Governor and Lieutenant Governor in 2006. Within the Patrick/Murray Administration, Chris served as Assistant Secretary of Transportation. In that role, he co-founded the MBTA's open-data program, which was dubbed a "smart, 21st-century alternative" by the Boston Globe editorial board and was named Innovation of the Year by WTS-Massachusetts in 2010. The MBTA became the first transit agency on the East Coast to share its real-time bus and subway data with third-party developers, who created the initial smartphone apps that hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts transit riders use today.

After earning his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School Chris worked as a consultant at Bain & Co. While at Bain, he co-founded No Boston Olympics in a living room in 2013. That grassroots effort took on powerful Olympic boosters, raising tough questions about a proposal that would have cost taxpayers billions of dollars. No Boston Olympics was outspent \$1,500 to \$1, with proponents spending \$15 million to less than \$10,000 spent by the all-volunteer No Boston Olympics. As State Auditor, Chris will apply the same dedication to facts and the public interest that drove No Boston Olympics.

Chris has also taken his determination to improve and modernize state government into the business world. He was Vice President at Masabi, a transportation technology startup that provides mobile ticketing for the MBTA and transit systems in New York and Los Angeles. Masabi's roots are in the MBTA's open data program launched by Chris - a reminder that private-sector job growth can result from public-sector innovation.

Raised in Brookline by public school educators, Chris is a graduate of Brookline High School, Pomona College (B.A., 2005) and Harvard Business School (M.B.A., 2012).

Chris lives with his fiancée, Anna, in his hometown of Brookline, where he is an elected Town Meeting Member and previously served as Chair of the Brookline Transportation Board.

Boston City Paper
April 23, 2022

Cage's estranged wife and daughter are played by Sharon Horgan and Lily Mo Sheen. Unfortunately, they aren't given much to do in the film. I also wish Tiffany Haddish was given more to do too.

The heart of the film is portrayed in the friendship between Nick and Javi (Pedro Pascal). Pascal is both charming and funny in this role.

The action doesn't disappoint but starts to fizzle towards the end of the film. Cage throws himself into the slapstick and is willing to look silly.

The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent is one of the funniest movies I have seen in a long time. It is filled with lots of comedy and charm that will remain with the audiences long after you leave the theatre.

Release Date: Apr 22, 2022

Rating: R Violence | Drug Use | Some Sexual References | Language Throughout

Runtime: 1h 46m

WalletHub Report

Safest States during Covid-19

With around 66% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and new cases on a general downward trend since the start of the year, WalletHub today released updated rankings for the Safest States During COVID-19.

In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics.

Our data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

Below, you can see highlights from the report, along with a WalletHub Q&A.

Massachusetts' Safety During Coronavirus (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

- 1st – Vaccination Rate
- 20th – Positive Testing Rate
- 9th – Death Rate

Note: Rankings are based on data available as of 12:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

To view the full report and your state's rank, please visit:
<https://wallethub.com/edu/safest-states-during-covid/86567>

WalletHub Q&A

Is the decision to get rid of the public transportation mask mandate good or bad for the economy?

"The decision to get rid of the public transportation mask mandate is good for the economy, according to most business and hospitality groups," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "The airline and the hospitality industries have been hurting for over two years, and the easing of Covid protocols can only help them recover. Money spent on resources and enforcement of the mask mandate can now be put to good use elsewhere. At this late of a pandemic stage, it makes sense from a health, safety and economic viewpoint."

What does a lull between COVID variants mean for the economy?

"Right now, the world is in between COVID variants with Omicron largely behind us. We've seen the lifting of many COVID restrictions in recent weeks, like mask mandates and proof of vaccination for many private businesses. This is early proof that more and more sectors will return to pre-pandemic levels of activity," says Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub Analyst. "Even international travel might be making a comeback, which would be a huge boost for the economy."

What impact do unvaccinated people have on the economy?

"Our economic recovery will not reach its full potential until the vast majority of people who are medically able to get vaccinated do so. The more people who decline to get vaccinated, the more risk there is to public health, especially as the new omicron COVID-19 variant spreads. The safety level of the country impacts the economy because it is tied to the lifting of restrictions and it determines how confident people are to go out and spend money," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "While we have made a lot of progress with vaccination, recent polls have found that most people who are still unvaccinated do not plan to ever get the vaccine. Investing in campaigns to convince more people to get vaccinated may lead to bigger economic returns down the line."

Is District of Columbia, the place with the lowest death rate, one of the places that is vaccinating most?

"In addition to reporting no deaths in the past week, the District of Columbia ranks highest when it comes to the share of the population age 12 and over who have received at least one dose of the vaccine," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "Increasing the number of people vaccinated is essential for getting control of the pandemic."

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In addition to the thrilling dance routines, representing Irish, flamenco and tap dancing, *Riverdance 25* also has a super band of traditional musicians ready to rock the Wang Theatre with brilliance and energy.

Boston Irish Tourism Association has two free pairs of tickets to give away for opening night on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

To enter to win, visit (www.irishboston.org/contest_riverdance22.php) and complete and submit the contest form. Then check back on Thursday, May 5th to see if you are one of the lucky winners.

Or, purchase your tickets online here (www.bochcenter.org) to guarantee your seats to one of the world's most successful touring shows in our lifetime.

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May 10-15, 2022

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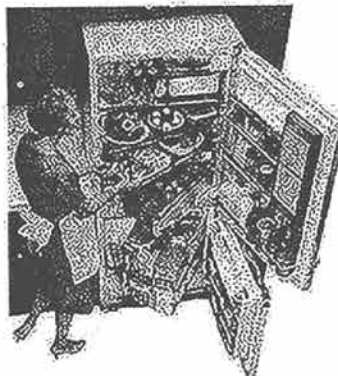
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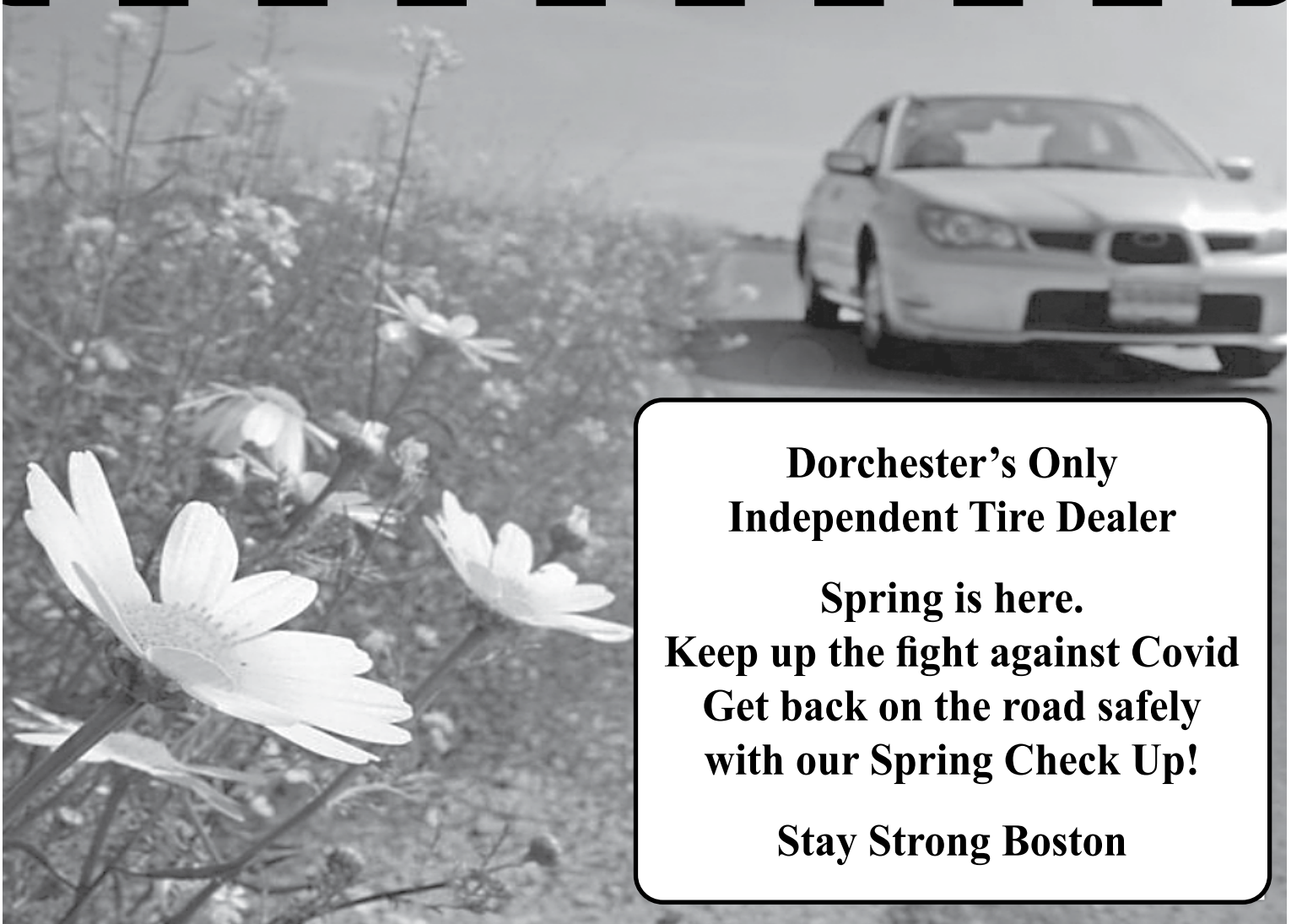
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