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Dear neighbors,

March was an eventful month, and after a two-year hiatus, it was wonderful to attend Evacuation Day events throughout the City of Boston and celebrate the St. Patrick's Day Parade in-person with neighbors, veterans, military and Gold Star families.

As we brace for another potential wave of COVID-19 cases with a new Omicron sub-variant, the CDC has recommended a second mRNA booster for people over the age of 50 and anyone over the age of 12 with certain immunocompromised conditions who received the initial booster at least 4 months ago. Please note young people ages 12-17 can only get a Pfizer booster. I continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to get boosted. Vaccines remain the most effective way to combat COVID-19 and prevent serious complications, hospitalizations and death.

With the budget process beginning soon, please feel free to tune into our City Council Hearings and provide any public or written testimony on what you

would like to advocate for and see improved for your neighborhood and community.

Thank you and take care,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

- [51 Melcher Street Virtual Public Meeting](#)
 - Tuesday, April 19th, 6:00-8:00pm
 - [330 C Street Virtual Public Meeting](#)
 - Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00-7:30pm
 - [363 E Street Virtual Public Meeting](#)
 - Tuesday, April 26th, 6:00-7:30pm
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COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Update

[The FDA has approved the use of a second COVID-19 booster dose for people at higher risk of infection.](#) All people over the age of 50, and all immunocompromised people over the age of 12 are now eligible to receive a second booster dose, provided that it has been at least 4 months since their last dose of booster.

Children ages 5 to 17 are now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 boosters are now available for people ages 12 and above. Young people between 12 and 17 years of age are eligible for the Pfizer booster only.

Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Public Schools are providing FREE vaccine clinics to anyone ages 5+. You can check upcoming vaccine clinics on their calendar here: <http://bostonpublicschools.org/vaccines>

People who are 18 and older can get any vaccine. Eligible people age 18 and older can get any booster (Pfizer, Moderna and J&J). If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a booster or which booster to get, the State website provides more information here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on boosters can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions>

[Here is a list of locations which provides COVID-19 vaccines in the City of Boston.](#) Please note not all locations will carry vaccines for children ages 5 to 11. You should contact the vaccine sites for more information.

For updates on the vaccines, list of vaccine sites, and daily walk-in clinics, please check: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston#>

COVID-19 Testing

Regardless of whether you are experiencing symptoms, the City encourages

everyone to consider getting tested for COVID-19. Here are a list of free COVID-19 testing sites:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-testing-sites#testing-sites>

At-home test kits

Residents can sign up to receive free COVID-19 at-home test kits. 4 kits are included per household and ships in 7 to 12 days. Sign up here:

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

COVID-19 Resources for Businesses

The Office of Economic Development host weekly calls for small business owners and provides information and resources on reopening guidance and support services. Their weekly calls are on Tuesdays at 3pm and you can pre-register here to join:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B12DiEy2QZKoe3LjC71yQQ

For more information, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/news/covid-19-resources-businesses>

Community Preservation Funds for FY2023

Please note Community Preservation funding for the financial year 2023 is now open. To apply for this funding round, visit Community Preservation Act's [How to Apply Page](#) and complete a [Rolling Eligibility Form](#).

There will be Community Engagement Meetings and Workshops starting in May 2022, which includes going through the CPA process, the law, how to preserve your neighborhood, application requirements, and the decision-making process. [Please visit the CPA's website for updates and events.](#)

2022 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program

The 2022 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program is open for application now, on a rolling basis. Friday, April 1st marked the beginning of the pilot program's third season, which will last until December. If you have any questions, please contact OutdoorDining@boston.gov. Restaurants that participated in 2021 must re-apply. For more information and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/licensing-board/2021-outdoor-dining>

2022 Greenway Food Truck Program

Since April 1st, [food trucks are now back on the Greenway](#). Thank you to the Greenway for this program to support our small businesses. As the weather warms up, I encourage residents, families, and children to visit the Greenway and support our food trucks. There will be a Greenway Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 7th, from 11:00 to 3:00pm.

Rental Relief Fund

The Rental Relief Fund is still available for eligible residents who have difficulty paying their rent, utilities, and moving costs. The fund can provide up to \$17,000 in assistance for eligible households for up to 18 months. To learn

more, please go to: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/housing/office-housing-stability/rental-relief-fund>

Small Business Relief Fund

The City is offering another round of Small Business Relief Fund with \$5 million to help additional local, small businesses as Boston continues its recovery. For more information on how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/economic-development/small-business-relief-fund#application>.

Metrolist

Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston, and a top concern for many of our working families, low income neighbors, communities of color, and immigrants. The City of Boston provides a resource called Metrolist that helps you find housing based on your income and provides the most recent affordable housing listings. Please take a look and consider filling out an application for an opportunity to access affordable home ownership. For more information, please go to:

<https://www.boston.gov/metrolist>

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Resolution recognizing Irish-American Heritage Month

I was proud to pass a resolution with Councilor Liz Breadon to recognize the month of March as Irish-American Heritage Month in the City of Boston.

Resolution in support of the commissioning of the USS Massachusetts

On March 16, Navy Cmdr. Billie J Farrell was officially recognized as the 77th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution, our nation's oldest ship. On that same day, Boston City Council resolved to support the commission of a new vessel; the USS Massachusetts, a state-of-the-art Virginia-Class attack submarine. The vessel will be ready for service next year, and the Secretary of the Navy is still considering which port to launch from. Boston City Council has resolved to campaign for the vessel to be commissioned in Boston's own Flynn Cruiseport.

Resolution in support of Sheraton Hotel Workers

Together with Councilor Julia Mejia and Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, I was proud to pass a resolution to call on hotel owners to reconsider any change of use to protect good hotel jobs for the residents of Boston. It is critical that we protect the livelihoods of hard-working hotel staff, many of whom are immigrants and people of color. These workers have already struggled throughout the pandemic and should not have to lose their jobs from a change of use.

In the Community



I was honored to welcome the Consul General of Ireland in Boston, Laoise Moore, and the Irish Minister of Education, Norma Foley TD, to the Boston City Council chamber recently. We are grateful for their City Hall visit.



Thank you to the SBCA and National Park Service for sponsoring the Evacuation Day Celebration at Dorchester Heights. It was great to join neighbors from South Boston, colleagues in government, students from Excel High School, South Boston Catholic Academy, St. Peter Academy and our veterans and military families!



Thank you to the South Boston Citizens' Association and the Condon Community Center for sponsoring a fun afternoon of flag football. Let's continue working together to support the youth of our community. Boston works best when we work together!



It was wonderful to see so many youth from South Boston participating in the annual South Boston Citizens' Association Ice-O-Rama! Thank you to the SBCA for the tremendous support and services you provide to the youth of our neighborhood.



I was honored to join colleagues in government and women veterans for the Women Veterans' Roundtable at the William E. Carter American Legion Post 16 in Mattapan. We must recognize the challenges and sacrifices women veterans face and ensure they receive the care and services when they return home.



I was honored to join my colleagues in government and the Ukrainian community of Greater Boston for last month's march and rally in support of Ukraine. We will always stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian sisters and brothers.



Recently, I joined the City's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Segun Idowu, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and Chinatown Main Street for a listening tour of small businesses in Chinatown. It is critical that we continue to support small businesses in our community that were significantly impacted during the pandemic. Let's help bring them back!

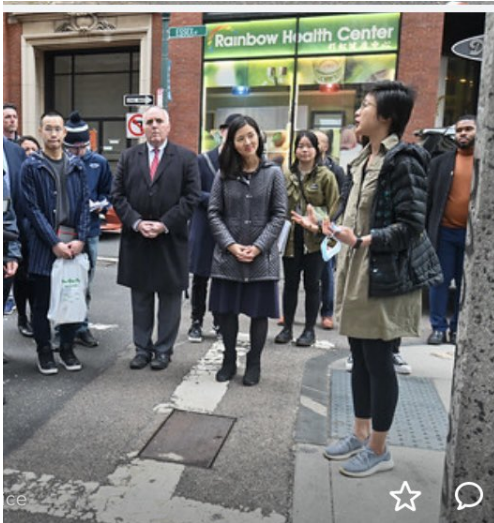


It was great to join Boston Harbor Now, Boston Parks and Recreation Department and students from Boston University for a cleanup of Moakley Park recently. Thank you for supporting this beautiful park that is welcoming to all!



I had a great visit and conversation with Chinatown and South End youth and staff from an exceptional program: Boston Asian Youth Essential Service (YES). This organization inspires Asian youth to discover and actualize their greatest potential.

The South Boston Elected Officials and I had an excellent site visit at the Curley Community Center last month. Thank you to the construction team, Boston Fire Department, BCYF and city officials who continue to make significant progress on this major renovation project. We look forward to a state of the art recreation facility!



Last week, we had a wonderful experience at a walking tour of public art in Chinatown with Mayor Wu, local artists and organizations and Chinatown residents. Public Art has a special ability to bring us together as a community in ways nothing else can.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit several of our dedicated and professional Boston Parks and Recreation Department crew at Boston Common. Our City of Boston

employees help keep our city moving forward. You make Boston a better city!



It was great to see and talk to Melo, an outstanding and dedicated Boston Public Works Department employee. We are fortunate to have thousands of City of Boston employees like Melo who help keep our city moving forward. Boston works best when we work together!

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.

