



The City of

**Medford**

Massachusetts

02155

February 8, 2024

### Message from the Mayor



Hello Medford,

Happy February! We were busy in January, starting with the 2024 Inauguration and ending with a few exciting announcements about upcoming work. In addition to celebrating the Inauguration, we also celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the new McGlynn Playground groundbreaking, and more.

Here are just a few of our January highlights:

- We are partnering with Garbage to Garden to launch a free municipal curbside composting program this July! Residents can join the waitlist now at [MedfordComposts.com](https://www.MedfordComposts.com) and help us reach our climate goals.
- Our Facilities Management Department, with the Department and Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability secured over \$117,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to make the lighting system in City Hall more energy efficient, saving the City over \$22,000 per year.
- Join me in welcoming three new senior level hires: Veronica Shaw, Veterans' Services Director, Sal Di Stefano, Economic Development Director, and Scott Vandewalle, Building Commissioner! We are excited to have them join the City of Medford and looking forward to our future.

If you have any questions, comments, or want to learn of ways you can get involved, please email me at [mayor@medford-ma.gov](mailto:mayor@medford-ma.gov).

Thanks for reading!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce E. Kohl".

**2024 Medford Inauguration**



Though I've now done this a few times, the feeling of gratitude, appreciation and responsibility never fades. Serving the people of this City is the honor of my life and I'm so thankful that I'm able to share that feeling with my fellow elected colleagues, department heads and staff.

Congratulations to new office holders, Councilors Anna Callahan, Emily Lazzaro and Matt Leming, along with School Committee members Nicole Branley, Aaron Olapade and Erika Reinfeld. And of course congratulations to all those re-elected!

Thank you to everyone involved who made the night so memorable, especially our emcee Terry Carter, the Medford Community Chorale and Youth/Young Adult Chorus along with its leader Betsy Pesce, the Roberts Girls on the Run team, Rabbi Jessica Dell'Era for giving the invocation, our Poet Laureate Vijaya Sundaram, vocalist Stacie Clayton, Medford Family Network Director Marie Cassidy who gave our community message and Rev. Dr. David M. KilPatrick for giving the closing prayer.

Also thank you to Christine Barber - State Representative for saying kind words introducing me and my daughter.

If you missed the event, it's available to stream on [Medford Community Media here](#).

## McGlynn Playground Groundbreaking



After some rough weather, we were finally able to break ground (or snow) on the new universally accessible playground at the McGlynn!

This inclusive play space was funded by the Community Preservation Act, ARPA, CDBG and a state earmark secured by our state delegation of Christine Barber - State Representative, Sean Garballey, State Representative Paul Donato and Senator Pat Jehlen.

This project is scheduled to be complete by the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year! Thank you to the Assistant Superintendent Peter Cushing and Play advocate Chenine Peloquin for co-chairing the McGlynn Playground Committee, and to everyone who lent their time and expertise advocating for a more accessible, inclusive space for our children and families including but not limited to the two school committee members, Melanie McLaughlin and Jenny

Graham, who served on the board.

You can read more about the project here: <https://www.medfordma.org/.../medford-public-schools-will...>

## Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Honored to attend the West Medford Community Center's Martin Luther King Jr Day program at Saint Raphael's Parish. I was able to hear from the community about their lived experiences, the impact Dr. King has had and the challenges that remain. It was also great to hear from Darryl Owens, Special Officer (Ret) of the Boston Police Department about his work.

The afternoon capped off with the Drum Major Awards presentation. Congratulations to our Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Frances Nwajei for the Community Advocacy award, former Councilor Rick Caraviello for the Dedicated Public Service Award, Joseph M. Jones and Dorothy Elizabeth Tucker for the Cultural Legacy Award and Jubilee Christian Church Pastor Teresa J. Carter for the Special Ministry in Dance Award!

## Celebrating CPA and Preserve Medford Projects



This month we celebrated over 90 projects completed through the CPA/Preserve Medford thanks to the work of so many volunteers, board members and city staff.

10 million dollars over the last five years has been put to such good use on affordable housing, historic preservation and to enhance our parks and open spaces.

Thank you to all who have played a part!

## Recent News

**Medford Secures Over \$117K in Grant Funding to Improve its Lighting Energy Efficiency at City Hall**

**Medford and Garbage to Garden Teaming Up to Bring Free Curbside Composting to Residents this Summer**



The Department of Facilities Management, working with the Department and Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability has secured over \$117,000 in federal grant funding to make the lighting system in City Hall more energy efficient, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced.

The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy will be used to replace old and outdated lighting fixtures throughout City Hall. This project is estimated to save the City over \$22,000 per year in maintenance and energy costs. These savings will offset the cost of the project in under six years.

Read more [here](#).

### Three Senior Level Hires Join Lungo-Koehn Administration

Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn has announced the onboarding of three senior level hires. Veronica Shaw, the new Veterans' Services Director, started on January 2. Sal Di Stefano took over as Economic Development Director on January 15, and Scott Vandewalle will be the new Building Commissioner beginning on February 5.

All three bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their new roles. Di Stefano has 19 years of municipal experience and served as the Economic Development Director for the City of Gloucester. Shaw is an Army veteran, small business-owner and previously worked in the Veterans Service Office in Wilmington. Vandewalle has served as Building Commissioner for the Town of Salisbury since 2014.

Read more [here](#).

### Presidents' Day: No Trash/Recycling Delay

City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Please note that there will be NO DELAY to trash/recycling pickup and it will be collected on your usual trash day.

The City is partnering with Garbage to Garden to launch a free municipal curbside composting program, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Kohn announced. This collaboration aims to reduce waste, promote composting, and contribute to the city's commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable future.

Beginning July 1, 2024, this program will be free for eligible Medford residents that opt in to participate. Enrollment for this first year of the program is limited to 6,000 households. Residents can join the waitlist now at [MedfordComposts.com](https://MedfordComposts.com). Residents who want to secure a spot in the free program and don't want to wait to start composting can begin curbside service immediately with Garbage to Garden at the City's preferred vendor rate of \$8.99/month.

Learn more [here](#).

### Apply Now to the CDBG Public Services Program!

Public Notice: CDBG Public Services Program

The City of Medford's Office of Planning, Development, & Sustainability invites proposals for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public services programs for the 2025 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2024 to June 30 2025). Funding will be for programs that provide new or expanded public services to low- and moderate-income Medford residents, including underserved and at-risk populations.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 8, 2024 by 12:00pm.

Learn more [here](#).

### Medford Residents Have Recycled 601 Pounds of Unwanted Clothing in January

Through its partnership with Helpsy, a textile recycling company, the city has been able to help residents recycle 601 pounds of unwanted clothing in January.

As the largest clothing collector in the Northeast, Helpsy partners with

## Cold Weather Safety Tips

### COLD WEATHER INFO & SAFETY TIPS



[medfordma.org/cold](https://medfordma.org/cold)

New England winters are unpredictable, so expect the unexpected and check out our winter safety tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe this winter.

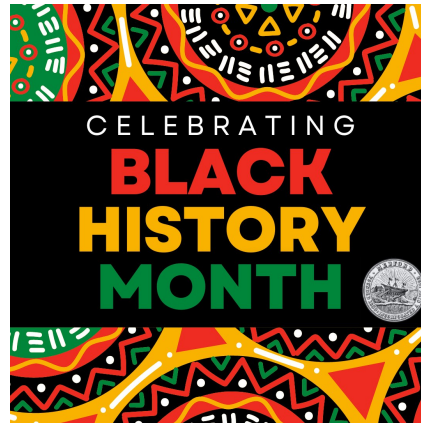
Stay inside as much as possible, dress in layers, and check in on friends and neighbors who may need extra assistance. For more tips, visit [medfordma.org/cold](https://medfordma.org/cold).

municipalities and organizations across 11 states to collect unwanted clothing and other textiles in order to keep clothes out of landfills. In 2021, the company diverted nearly 30 million pounds of textiles from landfills through a combination of clothing drives, home pickups, thrift store partners and clothing receptacles.

As part of its environmental mission, Helpsy now requires a three bag minimum for pickups. The company is optimizing routes in order to use resources as wisely as possible and reduce environmental impact.

Learn more about the Helpsy program [here](#).

## Celebrate Black History Month in Medford



As we celebrate this Black History Month in Medford, we are dedicated to honoring the history and culture of Black Americans in our community and beyond, especially keeping in mind the 2024 theme of African Americans and the Arts.

There are some great events happening in the City this month, including:

- Celebrating Black History Month, at City Hall on February 19 at 10am
- Black Health Series: Cardiovascular Health, at the West Medford Community Center on February 21 from 5-7pm
- Black History Month Vendor Fair, at the West Medford Community Center on February 24 at 12pm

To see more details, visit [medfordma.org/events](https://medfordma.org/events).

## Read-a-Thon!

Stopped by Brooks Elementary School for their annual Read-a-Thon and got the chance to read some of my favorite books to our third graders.

It's always a highlight of the day to get to talk with the kiddos about their favorite books, what I do as Mayor and how important it is to serve your community.

Thank you so much to the teachers and Brooks PTO for inviting me!



## January Promotions & Celebrations



We officially welcomed a diverse group of three new officers to the Medford Police Department and three new Student Police Officers to the Academy.

Congratulations to Officers Robert Keith, Jason Bottari and Paul Nguyen who will be out protecting our community. And good luck to Michael Powell, James Hawkins and Jack Manning as you begin your training at the Academy!

I got to celebrate an incredible birthday milestone with longtime resident and avid fisherman Joseph LiCausi who hit the century mark!

Joseph emigrated from Sicily in 1955 and has called Medford home ever since. Congratulations Joseph on your 100th birthday and keep eating that haddock, you're looking great!



We promoted two deserving firefighters from the Medford Fire Department.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Robert Noyes and Captain Sean Spencer!

What a wonderful night earlier this month celebrating the grand opening of Medford's Art Center on Mystic Ave! Thank you to all who made it possible.

As the Executive Director Regina said, "It is a 10,000 square foot space of possibilities."





## Tufts Community Grants



Calling all local nonprofits! Beginning February 1 through March 1, Tufts University is accepting Tufts Community Grant (TCG) applications! Awarded grants will be in the amount of \$3,000 each this year. Nonprofit organizations must be based in or serving one of Tufts' host communities of Medford, Somerville, Boston, or Grafton and have had at least one Tufts community member involved as a volunteer in the last year.

To learn more about eligibility requirements and to apply, visit <https://communityrelations.tufts.edu/.../tufts-community...>

## Social Work Hours at the Library

If you or someone you know is struggling, there may be resources that can help! Alysia LaGambina, our Social Worker, holds office hours every Wednesday at the Medford Public Library in the Spinazzola Family Counseling & Study Room in the Adult section, from 10 am to 2 pm.



## Sign Up for Alerts



### Sign up for City Alerts!

Stay up-to-date with all the latest news, events and info from the City!

Sign up to receive alerts through our reverse 911 system. You can receive notifications by phone, text or email, or all three!

Visit [medfordma.org/alerts](http://medfordma.org/alerts) for more info!



Sign up [here](#) to receive Go Green Medford's periodic newsletter with updates on programs, events, and other news from the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability!

## CHARLOTTE & WILLIAM BLOOMBERG MEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check out the **Medford Public Library's Newsletter!** The letter contains information on events, library hours, and more! The newsletter is available to view online and to sign up for here: [medfordlibrary.org/newsletter/](http://medfordlibrary.org/newsletter/)

## Upcoming Events + Meetings

All events and meetings are listed on the City's [online events calendar](#). Meetings and event details are added frequently, so please check the calendar for updates.

### EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

- **February 10:** Lunar New Year Celebration of Asian Culture
- **February 19:** President's Day (City Hall closed)
- **February 19:** Celebrating Black History Month
- **February 21:** Black Health Series: Cardiovascular Health
- **February 24:** Black History Month Vendor Fair

### MEETINGS

#### **February 8**

- **6:00pm:** Historic District Commission Meeting

#### **February 12**

- **7:00pm:** Historical Commission Meeting

#### **February 13**

- **5:00pm:** Traffic Commission Meeting

## Job Opportunities

The City of Medford currently has several open job opportunities, and we encourage residents of all backgrounds to apply! Open positions, job descriptions, and materials are available at [medfordma.org/jobs](http://medfordma.org/jobs). The webpage is updated regularly, but current opportunities include:

### **Full-Time Positions:**

- City Solicitor
- Assistant City Solicitor
- Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
- Part-time Senior Clerk (Elections Commission)
- Program Manager (Recreation)
- Elections Manager
- Part-time Parking Clerk
- Senior Clerk (Clerk's Office)
- Youth Library Shelves
- Adult Library Shelves
- Supervisor of Water and Sewer
- Tree Climber

### **Other/Ongoing Positions:**



- Traffic Supervisors

To apply, visit [medfordma.org/for-residents/jobs](https://medfordma.org/for-residents/jobs), or contact the City's Office of Human Resources at 781-393-2406.

*Medford city services are available to all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, language ability, economic situation, or immigration status.*

