



The City of

**Medford**

Massachusetts

02155

March 8, 2024

### Message from the Mayor



Hello Medford,

Spring is right around the corner! We had a busy month preparing for all the exciting projects and plans we have for the season. February included wonderful events celebrating Black History Month and Lunar New Year, and some exciting community updates like the next Citywide cleanup and updated GIS maps allowing the public to see the transportation projects our team has been working on. Keep reading to learn more and get a preview of work to come!

Here are a few of our February highlights:

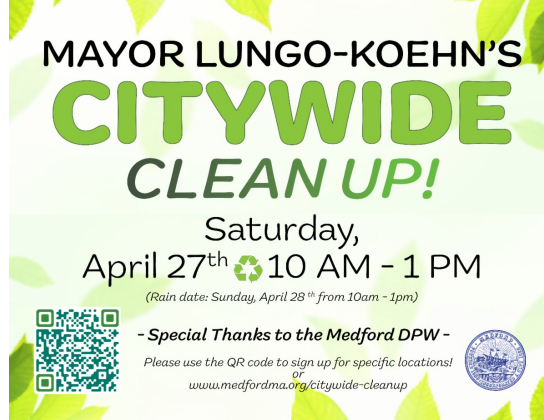
- Our Citywide Cleanup is on April 27 at 10am this year! We are currently looking for volunteers and ambassadors to help clean up our neighborhoods and green spaces. If you're interested in joining us, [sign up here!](#)
- The City has secured a \$300,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) [EmPower Massachusetts program](#) to expand public outreach regarding more energy efficient solutions for homes. The grant will specifically help underrepresented and underserved communities interested in exploring alternative energy sources for their homes and vehicles.
- Finally, our Black Health Series has begun and will host events from February through June, covering both physical and mental health topics directly affecting the Black community. The events aim to raise awareness about how racial health disparities have harmed generations of Black Americans, so we hope you can join!

If you have 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!

**Citywide Spring Cleanup!**





Our Citywide Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 27 from 10am to 1pm!

We're looking for volunteers and ambassadors to help make our neighborhoods and green spaces clean and enjoyable for all. Ambassadors get to choose which areas of Medford get cleaned, so sign up today and suggest a location!

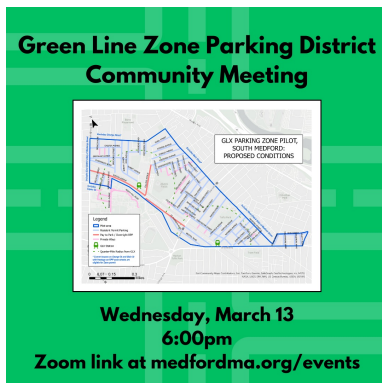
Learn more about becoming a volunteer or ambassador and sign up here:  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/de612a3df0304f8d9c7c724be80b1574>

## Upcoming Event Highlights



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Join us for the second installment of the Black Health Series on March 27, from 6-8pm at the West Medford Community Center and on Zoom! This event will focus on Alzheimer's in the Black community, with the series as a whole aiming to raise awareness about how racial health disparities have harmed generations of Black Americans.

Register for the Zoom here:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/845123456789>



Join the City for a community meeting about the pilot Green Line Zone parking program on Wednesday, March 13 at 6pm on Zoom! The meeting will include a presentation on the proposed program and a Q&A segment.

To learn more about the GLZ parking program, visit:  
<https://www.medfordma.org/about/news/details/~board/city-news/post/medford-launching-green-line-district-parking-pilot-program>

Find the Zoom link for the meeting at  
[medfordma.org/events](https://www.medfordma.org/events).

## Theory Wellness Ribbon Cutting





We officially cut the ribbon on Theory Wellness, Medford's first recreational cannabis dispensary, and the new headquarters and arts space for Arts Collaborative Medford!

As part of the City's agreement with Theory, a new state of the art space was built at the same facility on Mystic Avenue to serve as office space for the Collaborative and a showcase for artists.

It's wonderful to see local artists highlighted in such an inviting and unique atmosphere. Congratulations!

## Celebrating Black History Month...



What a great month full of fun and educational events for Black History Month around the City!

I stopped by the Bistro 489 for the Black History Month Fundraiser hosted by the MHS Black Student Union.

The Club has been on a mission to increase exposure and education of Black culture and this event showcased so many meaningful elements from the community, including painting and bracelet and bead making.

I also had such a special time at our Celebrating Black History Month event at City Hall! So much great food and meaningful conversations. It was especially moving hearing from Seneca Scott and learning more about his experiences.

Huge thank you to the Haitian Taskforce Singers, our Poet Laureate Vijaya Sundaram, and Lisa Crossman from the West Medford Community Center for lending their time and talents to the ceremony.

And thank you to our Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Frances Nwajei and the team at our Office of Prevention and Outreach for hosting the event!

## ...And Lunar New Year!







The City has secured a \$300,000 grant to expand public outreach and strengthen support specifically for underrepresented and underserved communities interested in decarbonizing their homes and vehicles through energy efficiency; solar; and electrification of heating, water heating, appliances, and electric vehicles, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced. The grant is from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) [EmPower Massachusetts program](#).

EmPower Massachusetts invests in community-focused programs that provide access to the benefits of clean energy or reduce energy burden for previously underserved or vulnerable populations in the Commonwealth. Medford's program, Electrify Medford, will seek to educate residents on available resources and help them make these changes in their own homes.

Learn more [here](#).

### **Medford Launches Black Health Series Throughout 2024 Focusing on Social Detriments to Health**

The City will host its Black Health Series events from February 2024 through June 2024, covering both physical and mental health topics directly affecting the Black community.

In collaboration with healthcare professionals, community leaders, and subject matter experts, the Black Health Series aims to raise awareness throughout the community about how racial health disparities have harmed generations of Black Americans.

The series will cover a wide range of topics through the five events, including maternal health, cardiovascular health, Alzheimer's, asthma in children, men's health, mental wellbeing, and more.

Learn more [here](#).

### **Medford Offering Discounted Rain Barrels for 2024 Season**

The City of Medford is again offering

The City has released GIS maps of bicycle and transit transportation enhancement projects across the community, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced. Projects noted on the maps include bus and bike lanes, Bluebike stations, traffic calming measures, crosswalk improvements, and more. The maps were created and designed by the City's GIS Coordinator Steve Morse.

Under the Mayor's direction, the Traffic and Transportation division of the Engineering Department has been investing in upgrades to Medford's roadway infrastructure to improve safety and usability and expand mobility options beyond driving. The maps are available to be viewed at [medfordma.org/transportation](http://medfordma.org/transportation).

Read more [here](#).

### **City Launching Review of Medford Fire Sick-Time Usage and Resulting Overtime Costs**

The City is conducting a review of firefighter sick leave usage after the majority of scheduled firefighters called out sick for a portion of their 24-hour shift in the first long weekend of February. On Saturday Feb. 3rd alone, twenty-one (21) fire fighters out of twenty-three (23) called out sick. Over the five-day period, this triggered costs to the City of over \$92,000—over \$58,000 of which was overtime.

Read more [here](#).

### **Medford to Open Extensive Search for Next Fire Chief**

Chief John Freedman is retiring after nearly 30 years of service with the fire department, the last two years as Chief, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced. The City has begun its search for a new Chief to lead the Medford Fire Department and to serve the community.

The city will be looking for candidates that will bring unique perspectives and wide-ranging experiences to this position.



residents access to discounted rain barrels through vendor partner, The Great American Rain Barrel (TGARB) for 2024, Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced. The barrels are being offered at \$84 for unpainted and \$89 for painted/colors. Orders must be submitted by April 28 at midnight and picked up at the distribution event on Wednesday, May 8 from 5pm-7pm at Medford High School.

“Our community continues to feel the effects of climate change as we have seen significant rain fall this past year,” said Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn. “By continuing this cost-friendly eco conscious solution for our residents, we can better help mitigate flooding events in our streets, provide a sustainable water source for our plant life, and reduce our demand on public water systems.”

Read more [here](#).

Read more [here](#).

## Medford Residents Have Recycled 892 Pounds of Unwanted Clothing in February

Through its partnership with Helpsy, a textile recycling company, the city has been able to help residents recycle 892 pounds of unwanted clothing in February.

As the largest clothing collector in the Northeast, Helpsy partners with 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](#).

## More February Fun



Had a chance to stop at the Senior Center and wish a very happy 104th birthday to Connie Spinale!

Connie called Medford home for over 50 years and spent so much time traveling, learning, and of course playing BINGO!

Congratulations Connie and another milestone birthday!

The Medford Family Network Valentines Day ice cream social was a huge success!

Thanks for inviting me to scoop for the littles!





# Curbside Composting in Medford



Starting this July, the City has partnered with Garbage to Garden to bring free composting services to Medford residents and the waitlist is open!

Join the waitlist for these services now and find more information at [medfordcomposts.com](http://medfordcomposts.com). If you want to start composting now, you can sign up for Garbage to Garden services at a special rate of \$8.99/month and you will automatically be enrolled in the free service starting this July 1.

## Call for Members: Arts Council

The Medford Arts Council is calling for new members to join the board this spring! Established in 1980, the Medford Arts Council serves to bring high-quality cultural programming to the community. On an annual cycle the council offer grants to community members, artists, writers, performers, instructors, students, cultural organizations, and others seeking to engage the Medford public. It also helps sponsor new public arts and humanities initiatives in Medford.

To apply, visit [www.medfordma.org/boards-commissions](http://www.medfordma.org/boards-commissions) and fill out the general boards and commissions interest form.

## 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/](https://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

- **March 9:** Egg Dash 2024
- **March 13:** Green Line Zone Parking Community Meeting
- **March 27:** Black Health Series: Alzheimer's in the Black Community

### MEETINGS

#### March 7

- **6:00pm:** MVTHS Program Advisory Committee Meeting
- **6:30pm:** Charter Study Committee Meeting

#### March 11

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

#### March 12

- **5:00pm:** Traffic Commission Meeting
- **7:00pm:** City Council 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](https://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
- Elections Manager
- Youth Library Shelves
- Adult Library Shelves
- Supervisor of Water and Sewer
- Tree Climber (Urban Forester)
- Registered Sanitarian

### **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.*

