

# Billerica Housing

16 River Street • Billerica • MA • 01821 • Tel (978) 667-2175 • Fax (978) 667-1156



## BULLETIN BOARD

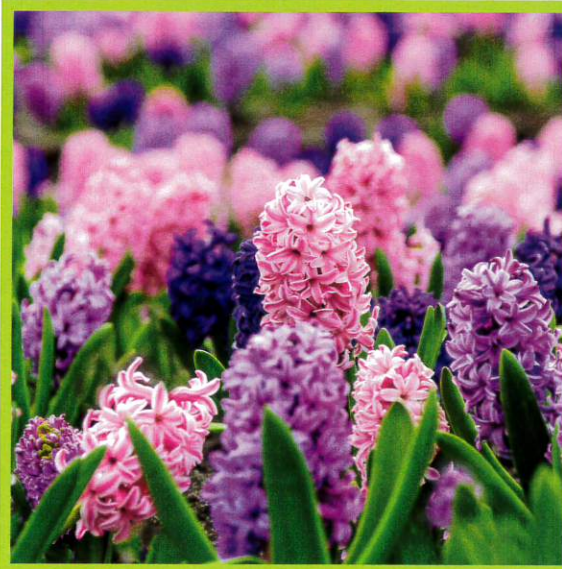
### Celebrate World Penguin Day on April 25

Penguins have waddled their way into the hearts of many, and for good reason. Not only do they play a critical role in maintaining the balance of their ecosystem by eating fish, krill and squid, but these beloved birds have also slid into many places in pop culture. From animated films to fictional characters in comic books, penguins are a fan favorite for all generations.



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## APRIL 2025



## NOTES & NEWS

### Laugh It Up

People have been laughing and pranking each other on April 1 for years ... decades ... centuries? While the jokes and jests can be very concrete, the history of April Fools' Day is a little harder to pin down. Some historians trace the practice of pranking back to Roman times, while others land its origins in the Middle Ages. Regardless of the holiday's history, if pranking is on your list of April 1 to-dos, please ensure that your joke is safe and fun for everyone!

### Blown Away by Spring

Spring and strong winds often go hand in hand. This is due to shifting atmospheric pressure and temperature changes. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the maximum natural wind gust ever recorded clocked in at 253 mph on April 10, 1996, in Barrow Island, Australia.

### 'Bee' Is One

How many words can you come up with using the letters in "jelly beans"?

## HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR STAFF

**Bob Correnti**, Executive Director  
**Berlande Edouard**, Tenant Selection Coord.

**Debbie Souza**, Administrative Asst.

**Erica Miller**, Finance Director

**Tia Simolaris**

**John Simolaris**, Maintenance

**Mark Simolaris**, Maintenance

**David Manchester**, Maintenance

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**BHA Office/Maintenance Emergency:**

978-667-1661 & 978-667-2175

**Ashley Monfet**, Resident Service

**Coordinator:** 978-852-7737

**AgeSpan/Supportive Care**

**On-Call:** 978-273-0362

*On-call is available 24/7 to residents of 13 River, 16 River & 33 Talbot for non-life-threatening emergencies (not maintenance issues).*

**BHA Office Hours:** Monday Through Thursday, 7:00 AM–3:00 PM

Fridays, 7:00 AM–12:30 PM

**RSC Hours:** Monday Through Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

33 Talbot Ave, Tuesdays 12:00PM-4:00PM

13 River St, 12:00PM-4:00PM

**Commissioner's Meeting:** Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 4:00 PM

16 River Street, Common Room.

### Quarterly Tenant Meeting Schedule

**April 15, 2025**

10:30 am, Talbot, Common Room

1:00 pm, 16 River, Common Room

3:15 pm, 13 River, Common Room

## TRIVIA WHIZ



### Under My Umbrella

It's the fourth month of the year and you know what that means: many people are gearing up with galoshes to get ready for ... April showers! You may never have considered this accessory's early times, but umbrellas have a fascinating history that dates back long before Gene Kelly was "Singin' in the Rain." Here's a sprinkling of fun facts about umbrellas to appreciate:

*A long time ago.* The umbrella's origins date back more than 4,000 years and were used in ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece and China. The earliest models were made of bamboo sticks then covered with animal skins.

*Back to its roots.* The word "umbrella" comes from the Latin word, "umbra," meaning shade or shadow. That makes sense since the earliest umbrellas weren't waterproof, and while we can't know for sure if they were made in the shade, we know they were indeed made for it.

*Make it rain.* The Chinese are credited for making umbrellas waterproof when they waxed and lacquered paper parasols. No longer protection simply from the sun, these prototypes were meant to get wet.

*Functional and foldable.* Collapsible umbrellas came on the scene around 1885. In 1928, Hans Haupt developed a foldable pocket umbrella, offering a new kind of convenience.

*Outdoor use only.* Opening an umbrella inside is considered bad luck in many cultures. Even if you don't buy into the superstition, it's still good advice so someone doesn't get hurt.

The next time you're seeking solace from the soaking rain or the blistering sun, drop some of these umbrella anecdotes on anyone around you!



### Simple Storage Tricks

Some say that the key to a happy, organized home is "a place for everything, and everything in its place." But many people struggle with finding enough places for everything to go. The good news is, even the smallest spaces have plenty of storage options. Try these tips:

*Look up.* Whether a bookcase or floating shelves on the wall, shelving is the best way to take advantage of vertical space. Don't be afraid to go all the way up to

the ceiling—higher shelves are perfect for holding seasonal items in pretty boxes or baskets.

*Do double duty.* Choose furniture that can provide storage space. For example, a vintage trunk makes a unique and sturdy coffee table, and a couple of short filing cabinets can be transformed into a desk or buffet simply by draping a tablecloth over them.

*Get hooked.* Removable plastic hooks can be attached almost anywhere. Stick them inside a kitchen cabinet door to hang saucepan lids, and use them in closets or behind doors to hold accessories such as bags and hats.

*Hang out.* Tension rods designed for curtains can almost double the storage space in your closet, allowing you to hang lightweight clothes, scarves and belts. A tension rod under the sink provides a handy spot to hang spray bottles.

### Ballpark Highlights

They have been called shrines, cathedrals, temples and monuments. Some Major League Baseball stadiums are as iconic as the sport itself, and each one has its unique features. Here are some that make game days even more memorable.

*Wrigley Field.* The Chicago Cubs' century-old home is full of nostalgic features, and one of the most famous is the ivy that covers the brick walls of the outfield. It was planted in 1937 and grows so thick, baseballs get lost in it.

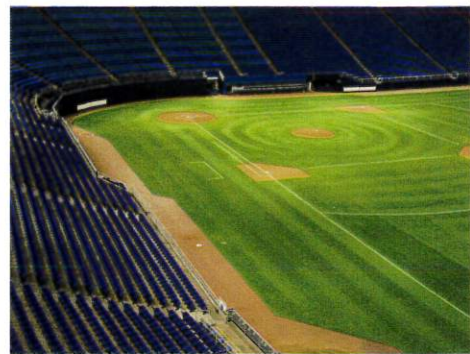
*Fenway Park.* Standing 37 feet high and stretching across the left field of the nation's oldest active MLB stadium is the fabled Green Monster, a fence that got its name when it was painted in 1947. Boston Red Sox fans can now watch the game from seats atop it.

*Oracle Park.* The Giants' ballpark sports views of the San Francisco Bay. The water is so close that fans can boat and kayak in a cove just off right

field in hopes of catching home runs, or "splash hits."

*Chase Field.* The Arizona Diamondbacks make their home in the desert city of Phoenix, so it's fitting their stadium has a seating section with a swimming pool!

*T-Mobile Park.* Because of the city's rainy weather, Seattle Mariners fans are used to umbrellas, and its ballpark is outfitted with one, too. Since debuting in 1999, the retractable roof has scored big for its open-air design.





## WIT & WISDOM



### The Golden Years of Gaming

These days, video games come with more bells and whistles than you can count. But not terribly long ago, the era that's now dubbed "the golden age of arcade games," from the late 1970s to the early 1980s, was in its prime. During this time, coin-operated arcade games began popping up everywhere from supermarkets to gas stations as businesses sought additional income. This period produced some fan favorites that will be memorialized as the greatest of all time. Let's look back at some of these oldies but goodies that started the arcade craze:

**Computer Space.** The first-ever arcade video game of its kind came on the scene in 1971. This game featured pixelated rockets soaring through starry space and captured more than flying saucers: it captivated audiences of all ages.

**Pong.** The popular table tennis game was actually created as a training exercise in 1972. The co-founders of Atari liked it so much, they decided to manufacture the game.

**Pac-Man.** Pac-Man was released in the U.S. in October 1980, and more than four decades later, is still considered one of the most popular video games in history.

In the mid- to late 1980s, traditional arcades started losing their luster in favor of home gaming systems that took hold of households. Today, classic arcade games are treasured collectibles, cherished by gaming gurus as nostalgic relics of the past.

### White Pizza Frittata

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 12 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and water pressed out
- 12 large eggs
- 1/4 cup skim milk
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup minced fresh basil
- 1/2 cup shredded, part-skim mozzarella cheese

#### Directions:

Heat oven to 325° F.

In oven-safe skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and cook 2 minutes or until fragrant. Add spinach and stir.

In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, pepper, oregano, ricotta, Parmesan and basil.

Add egg mixture to skillet, reduce heat to low and cook 1 minute, stirring gently. Move to oven and bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until eggs are almost completely set.

Carefully remove from oven and add mozzarella. Return to oven and bake until mozzarella is melted, about 5 minutes.

Find more recipes at [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org).



"The sparrows jumped before they knew how to fly, and they learned to fly only because they had jumped."

—**Lauren Oliver**

"To do anything truly worth doing, I must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in with gusto and scramble through as well as I can."

—**Og Mandino**

"Something comes along and you have to jump on and do it. You can't stop until it's done."

—**Neil Young**

"To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions."

—**Benjamin Franklin**

"Jump into the middle of things, get your hands dirty, fall flat on your face, and then reach for the stars."

—**Ben Stein**

"You can't jump from little things to big things. It just takes time and patience."

—**Nadia Comaneci**

"Have a dream, chase it down, jump over every single hurdle, and run through fire and ice to get there."

—**Whitney Wolfe Herd**

"I think fearless is having fears but jumping anyway."

—**Taylor Swift**

"Living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down."



—**Ray Bradbury**

"I'm never sure one is exactly ready. You jump in, with both feet, into a very big fish pond."

—**Julie Andrews**



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<i>April</i>			<b>Bingo</b> 16 River St 1pm			
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12
				<b>Pizza Party</b> 13 River St 1pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<b>Pizza Party</b> 33 Talbot 1pm		<b>Bingo</b> 13 River St 1pm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		<b>Bingo</b> 33 Talbot 1pm	<b>Pizza Party</b> 16 River St 1pm			
27	28	29	30			

The following events are hosted each week by the incredible hospitable residents of 13 River St. in the community room. They invite and welcome residents from 16 River St. and the Talbot to come join in the fun!

Tues: **Bingo** 11:30am-1:30pm

Wed: **Crafting** Bring your own craft to work on together 1-3pm

Fri: **Buffalo Bingo** 12:30-3pm

**Traveling Librarian** April 14th 1pm

**Sign ups for pizza and bingo are on your local bulletin board.**

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The **Mobile Market** (formerly Brown Bag) is distributed the fourth Tuesday of each month from the community room of each building. Pre-registration is required.

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### April Birthdays

- Alverna Smith 4/14
- Diane Farmer 4/18
- Nancy Capobianco 4/15
- Champaklal Rana 4/1
- Nancy Coldwell 4/3
- Charles Healey 4/4
- Edward Guerra 4/8

Audrey Saunders 4/16

Diane McLain 4/14

Alan Makiej 4/2