

# EDITORIAL

## IT'S HALLOWEEN SEASON -- ENJOY IT SAFELY!

With the Halloween season reaching its peak of festivities this weekend through Halloween Night next Thursday, we urge all of our readers to celebrate the season in a safe and responsible manner.

Halloween has become big business in recent decades (Americans will spend \$11.6 billion celebrating the holiday this year, up from \$3.3 billion in 2005) not only for children, but for adults as well. The holiday has come a long way since we carried those little cardboard UNICEF donation boxes for starving children while trick-or-treating in our neighborhood, which we then would turn in the next day to the sisters at our parochial school. Halloween today has become as much a party season for adults as for kids.

There are two things that are absolute musts for every adult who will be partaking in the festivities. First and foremost, no one should be driving under the influence. Arrests for drunk driving typically spike during the Halloween season. If you plan on drinking, either go with a designated driver or use an Uber or Lyft. Moreover, those who are hosting Halloween parties should make sure that their guests are okay to drive -- friends don't let friends drive drunk.

Second, as for Halloween Night itself, every person operating an automobile should take care to drive with extreme caution and care and to be on the look-out for little trick-or-treaters. Every motorist should be sure to drive slowly, well below the speed limit.

We also would add that parents of teenagers have a big responsibility to ensure that their children -- and yes, teens are children -- are home early and are not drinking. Parents should set an early curfew for their children (after all, Halloween is a school night this year) to make sure their teens stay out of trouble.

All of us need to do our part to make sure that neither ourselves nor our loved ones are added to the grim statistics of the Halloween season.

## A RECORD-HIGH TEMP THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT

We've been aware that the temperatures have been unseasonably warm for this time of year, but we were surprised to hear that Boston set a record-high temperature on Monday when the thermometer hit 83 degrees, breaking a mark that had stood for 104 years.

In addition to enjoying the great weather, which was incredibly perfect for this past weekend's Head of the Charles Rowing Regatta, the good news about the unseasonable warmth is that we have not had to turn on our furnaces, which not only helps keep down our heating bills, but also reduces our use of fossil fuels to heat our homes.

But the advantages of the record-setting warm weather belie the simple reality that our planet is undergoing climate change at an ever-increasing rate. Every month since June 2023 has been hotter than the one preceding it, resulting in a global average temperature from July 2023 to June 2024 that has been 1.64 C (about 3 F) above what it was before the start of the Industrial Revolution, when humankind started burning the fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Climate experts for years have told us that 1.50 C above the pre-Industrial Revolution temperature is the threshold for catastrophic and irreversible damage to our environment -- and now we are at 1.64.

We have written many times that there is no place on our planet that is safe from the effects of climate change. Hurricane Helene wrought devastation in western sections of No. Carolina, wiping entire communities off the map with epic flooding, even though those places are hundreds of miles from the coastline and were far away from where Helene made landfall in Florida.

So yes, the great weather in October has been wonderful. But none of us should be lulled into thinking that this is a good thing.

## Coletta Zapata holds hearing to discuss utility work notification

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Last week, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata held a hearing discussing utility street work coordination, notification, and compliance post-completion of any excavation project impacting public streets and sidewalks. During the hearing, Councilors heard from the administration and utility company representatives, who shared their coordination process for street work. Co-sponsors of the hearing include Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5) of Hyde Park.

"This hearing came with a sense of urgency to work collaboratively to get solutions for the adverse impacts utility work has on our resident's quality of life. Residents have reached out to share their difficulties navigating streets during school pick-ups and drop-offs and missing life-saving medical treatment appointments. The process for street work requires strong collaboration between the city and utility companies; these investments are vital to maintain our city as a world-class city and allow residents to move around their neighborhoods," said Councilor Coletta Zapata.

The conversation provided oversight into the existing mechanisms and how the Council can continue to invest in resources to modernize the permitting system and ensure that residents are informed about what is happening in their neighborhoods. The Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) shared that they have received budget investments in previous years that allowed them to hire GIS intel-skilled personnel and have collaborated with the Streets Cabinet to understand their geospatial needs. DoIT plans to release an RFI to help develop new technology tools and provide more transparent mechanisms for the community and city departments.

Additionally, DoIT is working to update the City of Boston Utility Coordination Software (COBUCS) system for efficient and effective use for city departments and residents. Councilor Coletta Zapata stressed the importance of community engagement and timely notification of upcoming Public Works projects in the neighborhood to minimize disruptions and

allow residents to plan.

The Utility Companies present went through their permitting and planning process. Boston Water and Sewer shared that all their projects are listed on their website, along with Project Manager information to contact. Their community outreach work includes sending mailers to abutters of projects and occasional staff presentations at neighborhood association meetings. Eversource and National Grid shared that they coordinate with BTM to review all of the maintenance holes and assess the work conducted so they don't have to come back to fix something in two years. They conduct internal training on signage posting and traffic management. Next steps following the hearing include implementing new community outreach tools for utility companies and updating the GIS technology tools for DoIT and utility companies.

"Our top priority is to ensure that the quality of life for our residents is minimally impacted during any infrastructure projects in the community. After Wednesday's hearing, I am optimistic about building strong partnerships with companies like Eversource

and National Grid. Together, we will enhance communication and ensure our residents are well-informed about upcoming projects," said Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5).

Members of the administration invited to participate included:

- Deputy Chief for Infrastructure and Design
- Deputy Chief Engineer, Boston Water and Sewer Commission
- Chief Data Officer

Representatives from Utility Companies expected included:

- Boston Water and Sewer Commission
- Eversource
- National Grid

Additionally, Councilors heard public testimony from residents and business owners who asked for transparency around the percentage of street closures allowed and shared frustrations with the lack of information shared on project dates and timelines. This docket was referred to the Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology chaired by Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5) of Hyde Park. A recording of the hearing can be found at [youtu.be/rYvSbchphtY](https://youtu.be/rYvSbchphtY)

*The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission.*

*The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group.*

*Text or attachments emailed to [editor@reverejournal.com](mailto:editor@reverejournal.com) are preferred.*



**CHARLESTOWN**  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

PHONE: 781.485.0588 © 2008 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP.

EMAIL: [editor@charlestownbridge.com](mailto:editor@charlestownbridge.com) • WEB SITE: [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)

NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - [EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM](mailto:EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM)  
MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - [DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM](mailto:DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

# Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services celebrate new EMTs

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) celebrated the graduation of 27 EMT-Recruits and three recent promotions in a ceremony at Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall. The EMT-Recruits were hired as state-certified EMTs and successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an additional intense training program to ensure residents receive the highest quality emergency care. The 27 new graduates now join Boston EMS to respond to medical emergencies in Boston, enhancing 9-1-1 staffing for ambulances and dispatch operations.

"Congratulations to the EMTs

graduating today. You are joining a department that sets the standard for excellence in care and compassion," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "EMS is the critical link between our first responder agencies and our healthcare providers, answering the call all hours of the day and night in every neighborhood of our City. I am so grateful for your dedication and commitment to serving our communities."

"Becoming an EMT or paramedic is an honorable calling. It takes courage, passion and heart to do this job. On every shift, you will have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of someone who needs your help," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "The call volume for medical emergencies in our city is at an all-time high with our members respond-

ing to more than 400 calls every day. Your work is vital. After completing this Academy, you are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle whatever comes your way."

The Boston EMS Recruit Academy is a full-time paid training program and includes classroom and field training for a variety of life-threatening emergency situations, including active shooter incidents, hazardous materials exposure, transportation accidents, recovery services, human trafficking, and mass casualty incidents. During training, these graduates responded to more than 3,700 9-1-1 incidents caring for patients suffering from a range of emergencies including cardiac arrest, behavioral health, illnesses and injuries, and serious trauma

including shootings and stabbings.

"Congratulations to the EMTs and the newly promoted members of EMS," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "This is not an easy career. Thank you for your commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality care to people in some of the toughest situations imaginable. We are proud to have you join this department, and we thank you for your service."

This class includes eight members who are the first Cadet cohort to complete the EMT Recruit Academy in two decades. This graduating class is also the first to complete the academy at the department's new state-of-the-art training and education facility in West Roxbury. The new 20,000 square foot space includes simulation rooms for training, a gym, multiple large classrooms, as well as two new ambulance bays. Four of the new graduates also participated in the most recent City Academy training program, managed by the Office of Workforce Development, that prepares Boston residents for various jobs including as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with Boston EMS.

During today's ceremony,

Boston EMS also recognized the promotion of Paramedic Jaelyn Greenwood to Deputy Superintendent and the promotions of EMT Cliff Biggins and EMT Lindsay Robinson to Lieutenants. Deputy Greenwood, Lieutenant Biggins, and Lieutenant Robinson have more than 58 years of combined experience at Boston EMS that will strengthen the department's leadership ranks.

"I am so proud of our newly promoted Lieutenants and Deputy Superintendent for everything they have already accomplished at Boston EMS. And I am grateful their expertise and knowledge will now provide continued leadership to members across our department," said Chief Hooley.

Boston EMS is one of the busiest municipal EMS providers in New England, responding to more than 138,000 emergency medical incidents per year. To meet the growing demand in Boston, Boston EMS is actively recruiting to expand the department, add front-line ambulances, and better meet the rising demand for service. As a bureau of BPHC, Boston EMS is committed to serving Boston's residents through clinical excellence, emergency planning and preparedness, and community outreach.

## Free flu and Covid-19 vaccines available throughout Boston

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is encouraging all Boston residents ages 6 months and older to get vaccinated for Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 ahead of the peak of respiratory virus season. Vaccines are especially recommended for residents who are ages 65 and older, at high risk for severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.

To increase access to vaccinations, the Boston Public Health Commission in partnership with the City of Boston and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) are hosting several free flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics across the city. Appointments are not necessary, and residents are encouraged to bring their health insurance cards if they have one. However, insurance and identification are not required.

The dates and locations are:

- Thursday, October 24, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at City Hall Room 115
- Tuesday, October 29, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center
- Saturday, November 2, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the BCYF Mattahunt Community Center
- Monday, November 4, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the BCYF Paris Street Community Center
- Thursday, November 7, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the BCYF Curley Community Center

More dates and locations will be added, and residents can visit [boston.gov/respiratory-protection](http://boston.gov/respiratory-protection)

for the latest information and additional resources.

"Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and the flu," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "During the fall and winter months, we strongly recommend all Boston residents receive updated vaccines and stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory viral illness."

"We are happy to continue our partnership with BPHC on these clinics to ensure that Boston residents have access to these vaccines in their own neighborhoods," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth and Families.

The Boston Public Health Commission is also launching a new multilingual campaign that features community members providing tips about how to stay healthy. The Stay Healthy Boston campaign will be in MBTA subways and buses this fall and winter and include information about the small, daily choices that residents can make to keep their bodies healthy and prevent illness.

The Commission continues to monitor COVID-19 and flu levels in wastewater. Wastewater monitoring helps with early detection and provides an early warning of severe infections that can lead to hospitalization and death in high-risk populations. Current data show COVID-19 levels are low or moderate in all Boston neigh-

borhoods except Allston-Brighton, where COVID-19 wastewater levels are currently considered high. In the past week, BPHC found the flu virus in wastewater from Mattapan and Roxbury, indicating that the flu virus is already in Boston and people should get vaccinated before it spreads more widely.

Because there are now effective vaccines and better treatment options for viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu, COVID-19, and RSV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its recommendations.

Everyone ages six months and older is encouraged to get the updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines. This includes those who received previous vaccinations or had COVID-19 because protection and natural immunity wanes over time. Pregnant parents, babies, and older adults should consult their health care professional about RSV vaccinations.

Symptoms like fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue are commonly associated with viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu and COVID-19. Adults aged 65 and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant people, and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for severe infections. Anyone who is recovering from a respiratory illness or is high-risk should take additional precautions.

### Public Notice of Hazardous Waste Transporter Renewal License Application Pursuant to Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulation 310 CMR 30.000

10/24/2024

Public Notice is hereby given of the application by:

**All and Inclusive Environmental, Inc.**

**DBA/AAI Environmental**

**201 Main Street, Suite 2B, Charlestown, MA 02129**

For a renewal license to transport Hazardous Waste in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) shall review written comments and then determine whether to grant or deny authorization for this activity pursuant to Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulation 310 CMR 30.000. When the Department either grants or denies the license, and you are aggrieved by this action, you may request an adjudicatory hearing. A request for hearing must be made unwritten and postmarked within twenty one days of the decision. Persons seeking information about the status of the license review or any other information should contact MassDEP's Business compliance Division at 617-292-5576

This application is available for review at the following two locations:

1. Board of Health:  
Environmental Health Office, BPHC  
101 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boston, MA. 02118
2. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)  
Business Compliance Division  
One Winter Street, 7th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
(Attention: HW Transporter Licensing)



# NEWS BRIEFS

## CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS ANNUAL HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

The Charlestown Historical Society invites the public to its annual historic cemetery tour at Phipps Burial Ground, taking place on Saturday, October 26 at 2:00 PM. The tour will be led by Dr. Tim Riordan, Vice President of the Charlestown Historical Society, who will share his extensive knowledge of Charlestown's rich history through the lives and stories of those buried at this significant site.

Located at the Phipps Burial Ground, the event offers a unique opportunity to explore the historical figures of Charlestown, learning about their contributions to the community and their connections to Charlestown's broader history. Dr. Riordan, a respected historian and archaeologist, will guide attendees through the headstones, discussing notable individuals and the historic events that shaped the town.

"This tour provides a meaningful way to connect with the past and understand the people who lived in Charlestown centuries ago," says Dr. Riordan. "Through the stories of those who came before us, we gain a deeper appreciation for the history and legacy of our town."

The event is free and open to the

public, though donations to support the Charlestown Historical Society's preservation efforts are appreciated. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking is available at the burial ground.

For more information, please visit the Charlestown Historical Society's website at [www.charlestownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.charlestownhistoricalsociety.org) or contact the society at [info@charlestownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@charlestownhistoricalsociety.org).

## JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 177TH DRAGONS F.I.R.E. FUNDRAISER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Join the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on Thursday, November 21 as they celebrate 177 years in the Boston community with their annual Dragons F.I.R.E. Fundraiser and their quest to raise \$177,000 to support more than 725 students grades K0 to grade 5! Enjoy a 10-course Chinese banquet dinner and open bar (beer and wine included), and a live JQES student-led lion dragon dance performance! In addition to buying individual tickets to the event, we also have lots of other ways to show your support, including program book advertisements and several sponsorship opportunities.

Thursday, November 21 |

5:30PM-9:00PM | Empire Garden Restaurant, Chinatown  
[SupportJQES.org](http://SupportJQES.org)

## BOSTON-AREA LANDLORD ARRAIGNED ON PANDEMIC RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

A landlord with properties in East Boston, Chelsea and Revere was arraigned on charges related to fraudulent applications for pandemic-era housing relief in Suffolk Superior Court on October 17, 2024.

Steven Stoico is charged with 3 counts of Larceny Over \$1,200, 4 counts of Attempt to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200, and 1 count of Solicitation to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200 for allegedly filing seven false applications for rental assistance during the pandemic. Three of the seven fraudulent applications were granted allegedly resulting in payments of \$95,400 to Stoico. The remaining four applications that sought \$136,200 in rental assistance were denied.

"I want to thank Attorney General Campbell's team and the OIG investigative team for pursuing this case," Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro said. "Given the high cost of housing, misuse of rental assistance, as alleged in this case, is egregious. Therefore, it is imperative that people who abuse

these government resources are held accountable."

The Office of the Inspector General investigated the case and the Attorney General's Office is prosecuting the case.

The charges are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS ON BOSTON'S HISTORIC FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail® Foundation invites revelers to celebrate this holiday season on the annual Historic Holiday Strolls. The festive atmosphere of the city, set against the unique backdrop of Boston's historic sites and centuries of history, makes these merry 60-minute tours a perfect way to celebrate the holidays. Walk the Freedom Trail and discover how Boston's holiday traditions evolved on the Strolls offered select Fridays and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. from November 22 through December 28.

Led by 19th-century Dickensian costumed guides departing from the Visitor Information Center on Boston Common, the Strolls are complete with a tour of holiday lights and Christmas trees along the Freedom Trail while learning about 19th-century holiday tradi-

tions. Following the Stroll, guests receive discounts off museum store purchases at Freedom Trail sites, including the Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Paul Revere House, and Old North Church's Heritage and Gift Shops (valid with any Historic Holiday Stroll receipt from November through December).

"The Foundation's official Holiday Strolls are a great way to create excitement for and usher in the season each year," said Suzanne Segura Taylor, Freedom Trail Foundation Executive Director. "Strolls' participants will be given a glimpse into the unique holiday traditions practiced throughout history, while experiencing Boston's historic sites and iconic Freedom Trail."

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children for public tours. The Strolls may also be scheduled as private group tours pending availability. The Freedom Trail Foundation continues to offer daily public Official Freedom Trail Tours® throughout November and December and during the winter months. All Freedom Trail tours are available as private family or group tours by reservation. For more information and to purchase tickets for the Historic Holiday Strolls and Freedom Trail Tours, please visit [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org) and for group tour reservations, please call 617-357-8300 press "0."



## VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

OCT 29

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

### CHAIN FORGE

Register: [bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting2](http://bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting2)

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 150 4639



### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT & RFP VISIONING

The Public is hereby notified that on 11/12/2024, the BRA intends to apply for a Brownfields Cleanup Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program. The grant would provide funding for the cleanup of the Chain Forge located at 105 First Avenue in Boston, MA.

A copy of the draft application for the grant, including the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives, will be available on 10/22/2024 for public review and comment on the project website: [bit.ly/ChainForge](http://bit.ly/ChainForge). All comments must be received by 11/1/2024 11:59PM.

A virtual public meeting to discuss the draft application and the RFP visioning process is scheduled for 10/29/2024 6:00PM. To participate, register in advance at: [bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting2](http://bit.ly/ChainForgeMeeting2). For assistance for non-English speaking or hearing-impaired residents, inquire by 10/22/2024. Please direct all comments and inquiries to Yoon Cha at [Yoon.Cha@boston.gov](mailto:Yoon.Cha@boston.gov) or 617 918 6234.

Close of Public Comment Period: 11/1/2024

Website: [bit.ly/ChainForge](http://bit.ly/ChainForge)

Mail to: Yoon Cha  
Planning Department  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
Phone: 617.918.6234  
Email: [yoona.cha@boston.gov](mailto:yoona.cha@boston.gov)

## CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Weekly Standings for the week of 10/19/2024

	W	L	T
Massport's Finest	4	0	3
Duce 2	4	0	3
Halligan Club	1	2	4
McCarthy Bros.	0	3	4
YMCA	0	3	4
A-1 Convenience	0	3	4

Players of the week for 10/19/2024

- A-1 Convenience - Joseph Foresi, Brody Burke
- Duce 2 - London Kuhn, Brendan O'Brien
- Halligan Club - Liam Stearns, Armie Roeder
- Massport's Finest - Ayden Brennan, Liam Moreno
- McCarthy Bros. - William Tan, Parker Pruitt
- YMCA - Allen Chamber, Oliver Schramm

### ATTENTION

Gym Hockey will be moving to the Boy's & Girl's Club starting this Saturday October 26th until the end of the season.

Introducing



Get a great 30-year fixed-rate **MORTGAGE NOW**, and if rates drop, **JUST TRIM™ IT LATER** with **NO FEE!**



[msic.website/TRIM-it](https://msic.website/TRIM-it) | [TRIM@msic.org](mailto:TRIM@msic.org)

Participating credit unions are NMLS Approved Lenders and Equal Housing Lenders



# Coletta Zapata calls for creation of Municipal Climate Bank

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata introduced a hearing order regarding the establishment of a Municipal Climate Bank in Boston. It is estimated that it will cost the City of Boston up to three billion dollars to fortify its forty-seven mile coastline against sea-level rise and storm surge. Various pots of funding are necessary to design and implement nature-based and gray infrastructure engineering solutions across the entirety of the coastline. Coletta Zapata's hearing order will discuss the establishment of a financial institution with the City of Boston to assist in mobilizing resources and funding projects addressing climate change.

"The Climate Crisis is our next big challenge. Boston needs the resources and capital to move swiftly to protect its coastal communities and fortify the coastline to protect our residents and businesses that stand to be displaced. We must close funding gaps to move forward on solution implementations before it's too late. A municipal Climate Bank will give us the capital and resources to stimulate our local economies, create green and blue jobs, and spur economic development while addressing the urgent need for climate action," said Coletta Zapata.

The hearing will focus on five key points: funding sources, project selection criteria, governance structure, policy integration, and public engagement. This will allow Councilors to explore various funding mechanisms such as public funding, grants, and private

partnerships; discuss criteria for selecting projects that the Climate Bank will finance, emphasizing equity and community involvement; consider the governance and operational framework for the Climate Bank; understand how it might work alongside city departments to align funding with broader climate action plans and sustainability goals, and; evaluate strategies for involving residents and stakeholders in the development and implementation of the climate bank.

In the US, other municipalities have successfully implemented municipal banks to help foster sustainable development and combat climate change effectively. Climate banks assist with capital, such as grants, loans, or investment opportunities, for projects that enhance climate resilience, reduce

greenhouse gas emissions, or promote renewable energy. Additionally, climate banks help create green jobs and stimulate economic development while financing green projects. Climate banks prioritize equitable access to funding while ensuring that marginalized communities benefit from climate initiatives and have a voice in decision-making processes.

Creating a municipal climate bank can assist Boston with advancing climate goals and building resilient communities by engaging stakeholders, funding necessary infrastructure solutions, and improving urban resilience. The climate bank can support financing various initiatives, such as sustainable transportation projects, green infrastructure, and community resilience programs.

Recently, Coletta Zapata held

a hearing regarding implementing coastal resilience strategies for Boston's Waterfront. During the hearing, Councilors learned about the scope of work for the newly established Office of Climate Resilience and efforts to find funding sources to fortify all forty-seven miles of Boston's coastline. The hearing highlighted that the administration is actively reviewing how to finance infrastructure projects, given that right now, city officials rely heavily on federal agencies or private developers.

A hearing will be scheduled in the upcoming months and posted on the Councilor's social media channels. For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at [gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov](mailto:gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov).



**TORIT**  
**MONTESSORI**  
**SCHOOL**  
INFANTS - 8TH GRADE

## OPEN HOUSE DATES

Thursday 10/24 4:30-5:30PM

Tuesday 11/12 8:30-9:30AM

Thursday 11/14 4:30-5:30PM

Saturday 11/16 9:00-10:00AM

Wednesday 12/11 8:30-9:30 AM



SCAN to learn more and to register for an Open House

300 Cambridge St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(857) 350-4840

[www.toritschool.org](http://www.toritschool.org)



**The Chestnut Hill School**

**Open House | October 27**

Grow Today,  
Transform Tomorrow

Age 3 through Grade 6 | [tchs.org](http://tchs.org)



## BRIDGE (from pg. 1)

for equality and serving as a role model for future athletes and activists," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "It's fitting that a man known for his vision and determination to create bridges to our future will now always be commemorated on the gateway into Downtown Boston. I'm grateful to Mrs. Jeannine Russell who worked with us to find the right way to memorialize his legacy, and all who helped create this tribute to a beloved Boston figure."

"This bridge, like Bill, stands strong and enduring. It connects people with purpose, just as he connected the struggles of the past with the hopes of the future. It symbolizes progress—moving us forward while reminding us of the foundations that hold us up. I am so pleased & grateful for all

involved who made this day happen," said Jeannine Russell.

"Bill Russell was a giant. On the court, he was an unmatched defender, facilitator and leader. The intensity and passion he brought to the game made him a natural leader off the court as well, making powerful contributions to the Civil Rights movement and inspiring millions, even today," said Governor Maura Healey. "It is so meaningful to stand with the Russell Family to rename this bridge in his honor, and I'm grateful to Mayor Wu for making this happen. I hope that everyone who travels across this bridge will take a moment to think about the man that made such a positive impact in Massachusetts and beyond."

"Bill Russell built his legacy in Boston on his civil rights leader-



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata joins Sen. Sal DiDomenico (left) and Rep. Dan Ryan (right) for a photo adjacent to the plaque commemorating the William Felton "Bill" Russell Bridge.

ship and with his prowess on the basketball court. His leadership paved the way for athletes today to not only thrive on the basketball court but also as advocates off the court. This dedication will cement that legacy in Boston forever," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

Russell was an instrumental part of the Celtics' dynasty in the late 1950's and 60's, and was a part of 11 NBA Championship teams as both a player and a coach. He was twice inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Russell was a trailblazer for Black athletes and a fierce supporter for civil rights, later earning the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. Off the court, he was devoted to MENTOR, an organization that works to foster quality mentors for youth, for which he was a founding board member.

"Bill Russell was a legend both on and off the court," said Celtics co-owner and president of the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation Steve Pagliuca. "Through his groundbreaking activism for racial justice, he paved the way for future athletes to use their platform to demand equal rights and take a stand on issues outside of the arena. Russell's legacy transcends basketball and we are honored today to celebrate the renaming of the North Washington St. Bridge to the 'William Felton Bill Russell Bridge'."

"This groundbreaking bridge naming for Bill is fitting in that he was the ultimate champion, leader, and teammate linking diverse groups together," said David Shapiro, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston and former CEO of MENTOR. "He was a champion and advocate for the power of mentoring relationships for young

people having helped found MENTOR, the nation's leader for the youth mentoring movement. He was brilliant, funny, and never stopped fighting for human rights for all and demanded we confront the past to better the present and future. Grounded in his own experience, he saw the universality of the quest for equity for any group or individual and used his voice to elevate voices, action, and accountability."

Bridge construction, led by MassDOT in partnership with the City's Streets Cabinet, is expected to be completed in early 2025. The bridge is partially open to drivers and pedestrians as the construction finishes. A plaque with Bill Russell's name will be installed in summer of 2025.

"As this bridge plays a vital role in connecting communities and literally bringing people together, it is fitting that it is named after Bill Russell, a man who did those very things throughout his life," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Our hope is that the thousands of people who cross this bridge on a daily basis are reminded of the indelible legacy that he left behind, not only in the city of Boston but across the country."

"Bill Russell made a significant impact on and off the court. I am thrilled that the City of Boston and MassDOT found a unique way to forever honor his legacy. I am confident that the public will be pleased with the new bridge," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver.

"I am proud to witness the renaming of the North Washington Street Bridge to the William Felton Bill Russell Bridge," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "Bill Russell's legacy

extends far beyond basketball—he was a champion for equality, justice, and uplifting the most vulnerable members of society. Renaming this bridge in his honor is not only a tribute to one of Boston's greatest sports icons, but also a lasting symbol of his commitment to making our nation more just and inclusive. Charlestown will now forever be connected to his incredible legacy, serving as a reminder of the greatness we can all aspire to achieve on and off the court. I want to thank Mayor Wu for bestowing this honor on one of Boston's greatest champions."

"Bill Russell is a great man and icon. He represents overcoming and coming together," said Senator Lydia Edwards. "His legacy is cemented as a symbol of sportsmanship and hope."

"Bill Russell epitomized what it meant to be a leader and a champion both on and off the court. What Russell meant to his teammates and the City of Boston while he was here, and the contributions he continued to make throughout his life were immense," said Rep. Danny Ryan. "I want to thank Mayor Wu for such a thoughtful tribute and Governor Healey for prioritizing this project's completion. When finished this bridge will inspire awe the way its namesake did for generations."

"Bill Russell's legend went beyond the basketball court. His legacy as a social justice activist and bridge builder transcends sports. There is no better individual to represent connectivity between two of my neighborhoods in Boston," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "Thank you to his family for sharing him and his likeness with us for so many years, and to everyone who work tirelessly to build bridges everyday."

Joyous Early Learning for Children Ages 2 - 5

## Spruce Street Nursery School

5 Avery Place Boston, MA 02111  
(617) 482-5252 [www.sprucestreet.org](http://www.sprucestreet.org)



Please Join Us at Our

### ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tour the school with current parents, meet classroom teachers, school administrators and play in our playground. Children are welcome!

The application deadline is January 15, 2025 - financial assistance is available



for more information  
or to register to attend,  
scan below (drop-ins welcome too!)





**BLUEBIKES** (from pg. 1)

Mayor Michelle has launched the Boston Bikes Pass initiative “to ensure that there is a discounted membership option for residents of Boston.”

Gag told the gathering that the city is accepting comments about potential sites in Charlestown, “and we’re going to consider all the comments, calls, and emails that we get on the survey and we will use those to help narrow down our list of sites and prioritize which sites we want to install.”

Foltz said the long-term goal in the transportation plan is to ensure that every household in Boston is within a 10-minute walk of Bike Share.

Peter Jaffe, a Charlestown resident and a regular rider on Bluebikes, said he would like to see a new station installed near the intersection of Chelsea Street and Constitution Road.

Jaffe said he uses Bluebikes to get to his place of employment in Cambridge, to the grocery store, and on leisure rides.

“We’re a big bike family,” said Jaffe. “Both children bike to school every day. My oldest son would bike to school and soccer practice and then bike home.”

The meeting was exceptionally well orchestrated, with large color photos of neighborhoods available for people to view and then suggest as potential sites for the new Bluebike stations.

“We pulled some of these sites from PLAN: Charlestown,” said Luisa Gag, a graduate of Boston Latin School and the University of Rochester. “Even though I have my own bike, I primarily use Bluebikes.”



Luisa Gag (right), Bike Share planner, writes down the suggestions of Charlestown resident David Patel (left), and his son, Akhil Patel, for potential sites of Bluebikes stations in Charlestown during the meeting Tuesday night.



Kim Foltz (left), director of Boston Bikes, welcomes Charlestown resident Peter Jaffe to the Open House for the expansion of Bluebikes stations in the neighborhood.

# City soliciting feedback from residents on locations for new Bluebikes stations

By Dan Murphy

In adding Bluebikes stations across every neighborhood, the city is now focusing on specific neighborhoods, including Charlestown and East Boston, and will be soliciting feedback from residents on their preferred locations for these new stations in their neighborhoods.

The city will hold a virtual open house to discuss this current phase of the project on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., with interpretation provided in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish. (Besides Charlestown and East Boston, this phase of the Bluebikes project also includes South Boston and the South Boston Waterfront.) Register at [bit.ly/expansion-november](http://bit.ly/expansion-november).

The city previously presented the same content on this phase of the project during two in-person open houses held on Thursday, Oct. 17, at BCYF Paris Street in East Boston, and on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at BCYF Charlestown, respectively. Another in-house open house is also scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Tynan School, 650 East

4th St. in South Boston. Residents can also provide the city with their feedback via an online survey available at [boston.gov/bike-share-survey](http://boston.gov/bike-share-survey), or via email at [bikeshare@boston.gov](mailto:bikeshare@boston.gov). To learn more about the project and sign up for the email list, visit [boston.gov/bike-share-expansion](http://boston.gov/bike-share-expansion).

**AUCTION**  
*Fundraiser*



**November 22, 2024**  
7PM  
Knights of Columbus  
Charlestown, MA

**LIVE & SILENT AUCTION**  
includes sports memorabilia from past & present NHLers, NE Patriots players, sports tickets & more.

**RAFFLES -50/50**  
CASH BAR  
Tickets \$25

**Music by**  
**Dennis Taylor**  
**and DJ Macca**

**FOR TICKETS:** Melissa Doherty 617-308-7266 Patty Ann Woods - 617-201-4784  
Pamela McGrath 617-833-9124 Annie Vesey 617-448-6734 Kathleen Lacey 617-224-2642  
*All proceeds benefit Frankie's Friends at Charlestown Youth Hockey*



**GRACE BLOODWELL**  
Broker  
20+ Years Experience,  
Local Resident  
Seller, Buyer & Landlord  
Representation  
**617-512-4939**  
[grace.bloodwell@nemoves.com](mailto:grace.bloodwell@nemoves.com)  
Coldwell Banker | 91 Main Street  
Charlestown MA

**Soley Street**  
**1BD/1BA with Patio**



**\$699,000**

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL 781-485-0588**



# Atlantic Works Gallery announces two mixed-media exhibitions for November

Atlantic Works Gallery announced that its November exhibition will consist of side-by-side solo shows by two member artists, one who uses mixed media to investigate the natural world and the other who uses it to comment on American society. Together, their complementary artwork delivers a visual collision that is intended to ask visitors to reflect on and question their beliefs.

Both shows will open on Saturday, November 2, with an opening reception on Sunday, November 3 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be a second reception on Thursday, November 14 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. when the artists will talk about their work. The exhibition closes at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30.

John Greiner-Ferris is an artist who borrows from, and combines, multiple disciplines to create artwork. For November 2024, he uses mixed media to fluidly address the perils inflicted on individuals by modern society. The intentionally lo-tech nature of his artwork is in response to what he believes is too much of an emphasis in the art world on commercialism and salability at the expense of originality and truth, and challenges viewers to question their notion of art.

“My artwork has always been about, and will continue to be about, the individual’s struggle to maintain individuality and dignity in the face societal pressures—both real and imagined,” he said.

The materials and resulting artwork of Takis, a former construction worker, reflect his deep

love of nature, the outdoors, and art. He uses everything from found organic and inorganic materials to construction material to investigate the natural world to make what he calls “collage/paintings” whose textural, sculptural surfaces invite the viewer’s eye to linger in their complexity. “I want people to really get into the surface of my paintings,” he said.

For *Pollination*, Takis, who had been finding bee and wasp nests for years, contemplates and compares the role of bees and artists in their respective societies. “The artist’s job is to feed the soul, through art, music, and literature,” he said. Takis will be exhibiting nine pieces, and cites influences as disparate as the writings of Hermann Hesse, the paintings of Cezanne and El Greco, and the music of Brian Eno and Nick Cave.

Greiner-Ferris will be showing a series of six 4’ x 3’ pieces he began in January 2024 and continued working on right up to October 2024. “They are my response to some of the events and issues that currently are prevalent in the United States, such as economic disparity, divisiveness, school and mass shootings, and our species’ ability to destroy itself,” he said. “The goal of this exhibition is to use text and images to have a conversation with the viewer. Just as an actor breaks the fourth wall on a stage and talks directly to the audience, I use text and a visual language to break the picture plane to speak directly to the viewer.” Because the outcome of the November presidential election will still be



The title of John's is: *You vs. The Bear* (detail); mixed media, 2024

unknown at the opening, Greiner-Ferris offers hope and encouragement with the final piece.

Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128, now in its twenty-first year, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For private viewing, contact [contact@atlanticworks.org](mailto:contact@atlanticworks.org). For more information, visit <https://atlanticworks.org/>.

## Enrollment Now Open for Massachusetts HEAP

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season will open on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct. 1, homeowners and renters can apply online or through

local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from Nov. 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

“No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter,” said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. “With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valu-

able information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months.”

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

For more information find your local HEAP agency.



The title of Dom's image is: *It's The Bees' Knees* (detail) 2024; acrylic, oil, varnish, lichen, spray foam, imagery, hives, branchin, silicone caulking on canvas

# Harvest on Vine

## Emergency Food Pantry

Next Distribution

Monday, Oct. 28, 3p.m. - Set-up

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2p.m. - Distribution

To volunteer or for more information  
please call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL 781-485-0588



# Wu and business stakeholders announce agreement on residential tax relief proposal to protect Boston residents from spike in property taxes

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that Jim Rooney, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce; Marty Walz, Interim President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau; Tamara Small, CEO of NAIOP; and Doug Howgate, President of Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation have reached consensus on a path forward for the City's residential tax relief proposal. The Mayor has announced that she will file a new home rule petition to stabilize property taxes and protect homeowners and renters from a dramatic spike.

The new home rule petition incorporates revised maximum tax shift levels with previous provisions approved by the City Council and amended by the House of Representatives:

A three-year step-down period, compared to five years as originally filed.

Maximum shift levels not to exceed 181.5% in FY25, 180% in FY26, and 178% in FY27.

Authorizing language for the City to appropriate up to \$15 million for each of the three years (up to \$45 million total) that the shift is in effect to offset potential impacts on small businesses due to the shift.

Raising the personal property tax exemption threshold for small businesses from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

The proposal allows for a modest modification to the current tax system with clear guardrails to prevent too great of a burden from being placed on commercial taxpayers. This proposal is revenue-neutral and time-limited, stepping down over three years back to the current classification system.

In order to take effect, the home

rule petition must be approved by the Boston City Council and both chambers of the State Legislature, and signed by the Governor. Preliminary parcel-level valuations will be available for residents to view in late October 2024. Tax rates must be finalized and approved by the Administration and City Council in November 2024 for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to certify in December 2024, with bills for the third quarter of the fiscal year mailed out to taxpayers by January 2025.

"For Boston to be a home for everyone, our residents and businesses depend on each other to thrive. As we continue working together on the challenges facing our communities and economy, I'm grateful for the strong leadership and partnership from across our neighborhoods and business community to plan for our shared future and economic growth. Thank you to Jim, Marty, Doug, and Tamara for your dedicated advocacy and partnership in reaching agreement to protect residents and provide stability. Thank you to Senate President Spilka for convening us through your leadership; and to Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and Representatives, Council President Louijeune, Chair Coletta Zapata, and Boston City Councilors for advancing this proposal and continued support to get it done," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

"The Mayor's residential tax relief proposal is a common sense, proactive step to ensure the City can create stability for all property taxpayers," said Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberger. "Our compromise legislation is a critical next step to get this done,

and I am grateful to all the stakeholders for their partnership to protect Boston's homeowners and renters."

"The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce remains committed to creating a region where all people and all businesses can thrive. I am proud that we worked with Mayor Wu to reach a resolution that mitigates short-term property tax increases for residents while avoiding significant new burdens on commercial properties. Our united business community voice, which was led by the Chamber, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, NAIOP Massachusetts, and the Municipal Research Bureau was integral at every step of this process, and this will serve the City well as it tackles the fiscal challenges ahead," said James E. Rooney, President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

"The compromise reflected in this agreement enables the city to move forward with its fiscal year 2025 process and for us all to now refocus our collective efforts on implementing a long-term strategy for a thriving post-pandemic downtown," said Doug Howgate, President of Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. "I want to thank Jim, Tamara and Marty for their leadership in this work, the Mayor and her team for the ongoing dialogue, and House and Senate leadership for their commitment to reaching a compromise."

"This compromise acknowledges the crisis facing the commercial real estate sector, and as we look ahead we must work together to encourage economic growth and development in the City of Boston to ensure a strong future for all who live and work here," said Tamara Small, CEO of NAIOP

Massachusetts, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association.

"The Boston Municipal Research Bureau believes this is a wise compromise, albeit a short term one that calls upon all of us to focus on additional measures to protect both residential and commercial property owners such as restraining spending increases and incentivizing economic development," said Marty Walz, Interim President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

"Facing this large tax increase has been very stressful for a lot of homeowners, especially seniors with limited fixed incomes," said Lillie Bryan, Dorchester homeowner and member of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. "We are hopeful that this compromise will be passed quickly and that more can be done in the future to expand tax relief for seniors and other homeowners with limited incomes."

"As a senior with a fixed income, a large increase in my property taxes would be devastating," said Shirley Jones, president of the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association. "I am grateful to Mayor Wu for advocating for residents like me and hope the Boston City Council and the State Legislature pass this compromise quickly to provide residents across Boston with enough time to budget accordingly."

"A sudden and dramatic tax increase would catch many residents off guard and will be a significant hardship for many, so I'm happy to see Mayor Wu reach this compromise with business groups," said Larry Costello, President of West Roxbury Neighborhood Council. "I urge Boston City

Councilors and state lawmakers to pass this common sense legislation swiftly to protect residents from dramatic increases to our property taxes."

"The entire Boston region greets positively Mayor Wu's agreement with the business community regarding property tax adjustments over the next several years," said Marc Draisen, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. "This agreement will limit burdensome tax increases to residents due to the run-up in residential property values; it will also ensure that small businesses and commercial property owners see significant, but reasonably limited, reduction in property taxes. We urge the full Legislature to pass the legislation immediately, and we urge Governor Healey to sign it."

"This deal achieves two essential goals: it safeguards the City of Boston's municipal workers and basic city services, while protecting residents from a sudden and sharp property tax increase," said Darlene Lombos, President of Greater Boston Labor Council. "We encourage the City Council and the State Legislature to pass this home rule petition as quickly as possible."

"This agreement is a major relief for Boston's hospitality workers. Whether they pay rent or they pay a mortgage, now is not the time for a massive increase in housing costs. Congratulations to Mayor Wu and the business community for working day in and day out to make this important agreement happen," said Carlos Aramayo, President UNITE HERE Local 26.

## Wu appoints O'Keefe Director of Neighborhood Housing Division

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Mayor's Office of Housing has announced the appointment of Christine O'Keefe as the new Director of the Neighborhood Housing Division. With over three decades of service in affordable housing development in the City of Boston, Ms. O'Keefe brings extensive experience and a deep commitment to creating and preserving affordable housing for the community. The director of the Neighborhood Housing Division ensures that public funding is strategically invested in strong affordable housing developments



Christine O'Keefe.

that benefit both local neighborhoods and the citizens of Boston.

The director is responsible for overseeing staff as they finance affordable housing projects and collaborate with developers to ensure projects move forward and successfully reach completion. By fostering the creation of quality, affordable housing, the division plays a vital role in strengthening Boston's neighborhoods and addressing the city's housing needs.

Ms. O'Keefe has been a key figure in the Mayor's Office of Housing for many years, most recently serving as the Associate Director of the Neighborhood Housing Division, where she

managed a \$160 million annual budget and oversaw a team of senior development officers. In this role, she directed key initiatives such as the annual funding Request for Proposals (RFP) for affordable housing projects, ensuring critical resources were allocated efficiently and effectively to create sustainable housing opportunities.

"Christine O'Keefe has been an integral part of our team for many years, and her deep expertise in affordable housing will be invaluable in her new role," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "Her significant tenure with

the Mayor's Office of Housing speaks to her dedication to the people of Boston. I have full confidence that under her leadership, we will continue to make strides in addressing Boston's housing challenges."

In her role as Associate Director, Ms. O'Keefe has played a critical part in supporting the Welcome Home, Boston program, an initiative that provides City-owned land for homeownership development. Ms. O'Keefe has been a driving force in ensuring that this program not only creates affordable homeowner-

(O'KEEFE Pg. 10)



## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Two pots of Bolognese!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This is the time of year when we think about the perfect dishes to have on hand for the holiday season. Demands on the cook's time, entertaining large groups, potluck meals, and the need to accommodate different dietary limitations call for flexible menus. This year, we recommend that you make two pots of bolognese! One will be more traditional; the other will be vegetarian or vegan.

### What Is Bolognese?

Traditional Italian ragù alla bolognese is a slow-cooked meat-based sauce. Nearly all versions include a finely chopped soffritto of carrots, onions, and celery slowly cooked in olive oil or butter. It is not a tomato sauce but a meat sauce. Some versions don't add tomato, and most add just a little.

It can be a cholesterol nightmare, a fat-heavy dish. We might order this bolognese in a traditional Italian restaurant as a treat, but we would not make it at home.

However, we recommend Kenji Lopez-Alt's book *The Food Lab* if you want to make the ultimate bolognese sauce. It contains not only step-by-step instructions but also a discussion of why each step is essential and what it will do for your finished dish.

### Healthier Bolognese

Today's culinary and nutritionally aware food writers have developed lighter, healthier versions of this classic. We first tried Jamie Oliver's bolognese with mushrooms and lentils and never looked back. As we eat less and less meat, we find it harder and harder to digest.

Oliver introduced this recipe as a budget-friendly option. We've shared it with friends who are mushroom lovers, on a budget, or on a cholesterol-control diet. They all loved it!

### Vegetarian or Vegan?

Recently, a reader of his column in *The Guardian* asked Yotam Ottolenghi, "What's the best thing to use in a meat-free bolognese?" He replied, "If you're after something that tastes as close to bolognese as you can get without using meat, mushrooms are your friend here, especially when they're supported by other big-hitting ingredients such as miso or Marmite, soy sauce and red wine."

He emphasized the importance of cooking down the soffritto and simmering the sauce long and slow, tasting and adjusting as you go. Furthermore, in typical Ottolenghi style, he had great ideas for additions and substitutions.



*Our healthier bolognese has the amount of meat cut by adding mushrooms and lentils.*

### Cook Two Pots at Once

If you plan to make both versions of bolognese, you can do it in one cooking session. Chop the vegetables for both simultaneously and put some in each pot to sauté. We like to finely chop our mushrooms to look like bits of ground meat and cook them the way Julia Child taught us to make mushroom duxelles.

Add your meat to the omnivore pan and the mushrooms and len-

tils to the vegetarian version. From there, make the additions your recipe calls for and any options you want to make it your own. Finally, as Kenji says, "Reduce, reduce, reduce!"

The great news is that you can freeze portions of either bolognese and use it over the next few months. You can serve the sauce on any pasta, but the usual choice is a flat version like tagliatelli or pappardelle. Ed loves to eat it

with slices of good artisan bread. Mix it with rice to stuff peppers or eggplant, or serve it on rolls as an upscale sloppy joe! You could turn it into an exciting version of a shepherd's pie. (We stole this idea from one of our favorite Irish pubs, The Bebop.)

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*

## O'KEEFE (from pg. 10)

ship opportunities but also opens doors for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) developers, as well as those who have not previously worked with the City. She has worked closely with these developers, offering mentorship and guidance to help them navigate the complexities of City processes, secure financing, and successfully execute projects. Through her leadership and support, Ms. O'Keefe has empowered emerging developers to grow their businesses and create lasting impact in Boston's housing landscape, fostering greater diversity and inclusion within the industry.

During her tenure, Ms. O'Keefe played an instrumental role in the long-term monitoring of the Mayor's Executive Order Certificate Program, which streamlines the development process for affordable housing. She has also established strong working relationships with public and

private finance agencies, developers, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful completion of numerous affordable housing projects.

Ms. O'Keefe has fostered strong partnerships with key external organizations such as the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT), and the Community Development Committee (CDC). Her collaborative approach has been instrumental in streamlining the development of affordable housing across Boston. By working closely with these agencies, Ms. O'Keefe has helped align city initiatives with state and community resources, ensuring that projects are well-supported and efficiently executed. These relationships have been vital in leveraging additional funding, securing approvals, and facilitating the development process, all of

which contribute to the successful creation and preservation of affordable housing that meets the needs of Boston's residents.

Ms. O'Keefe has a long history of advancing affordable housing initiatives, managing a portfolio of more than 520 affordable housing units, and overseeing projects with a cost basis exceeding \$179 million. Her prior experience includes managing the Acquisition Opportunity Program, which helps identify buildings for affordable housing development, and mentoring a new generation of development officers in housing finance and policy.

In her new role, Ms. O'Keefe will continue to lead efforts to preserve and expand affordable housing across the city, working closely with developers, community partners, and residents to address the city's housing needs.

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to

obits@reverejournal.com

or call 781-485-0588



# MBTA successfully completes critical track work on Orange Line

The MBTA today announced the successful completion of critical track work on the Orange Line while service was suspended between Forest Hills and Back Bay from October 8 to October 20 with the service suspension extended between Forest Hills and North Station during the holiday weekend of October 12 through October 14. As a result of unencumbered access to track areas, crews accomplished important work to lift 20 speed restrictions, bringing the track infrastructure into a state of good repair in this area, resulting in a safer, more reliable trip for riders. As the result of the year-long Track Improvement Program, only 1% of the entire MBTA transit system remains speed restricted.

“General Manager Phillip Eng, his leadership team, and the MBTA workforce are delivering results for customers, eliminating 20 slow zones during the Orange Line surge and continuing to complete foundational capital projects system-wide,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. “Under the General Manager’s leadership and with the support of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the MBTA is restoring reliable service and creating an equitable system.”

“We are committed to giving the public what they expect and deserve: safe, reliable, and improved service. This Orange Line diversion allowed us to perform long-deferred infrastructure work, eliminating all the speed restrictions to provide a smoother ride with shorter travel time, giving people precious time back in their lives,” said MBTA CEO and General Manager Phillip Eng. “As we rebuild the T, I hope to restore

public trust and confidence, making the MBTA the preferred choice of travel. Soon, the Orange Line will be completely free of slow zones. With only 1% of our system remaining with restrictions, we are on our way to fulfilling our promise to the public we serve, eliminating all the speed restrictions systemwide under this Track Improvement Program.

This service change was in place to support critical track and tie replacement work as part of the Track Improvement Program. Workers also maximized the outage by performing signal upgrades, security enhancements, station amenity upgrades, and more.

With unencumbered access to Orange Line stations, crews accomplished the following work:

- Replaced approximately 27,594 feet of rail
- Resurfaced and tamped approximately 1,900 feet of track
- Replaced more than 336 ties
- Inserted 19 full concrete direct fixation panels, 38 half concrete direct fixation panels, and 53 quarter concrete direct fixation panels
- Added over 250 core X shoulder posts

A variety of other work also took place along the Orange Line to further enhance the rider experience:

- Replaced six switch machines at track crossover locations
- Replaced and repaired approximately 80 feet of handrails at the Forest Hills upper lobby and repaired the stairway at the end of the platform leading to the right of way.
- Repaired stairs at Jackson Square Station.
- Crews also repairs other areas throughout the station and at For-

est Hills that cause trip hazards.

- Inspected and cleared drains at stations and platforms throughout the diversion area.
- Performed preventative maintenance and cleared drains in public restrooms.
- In-station painting of customer facing assets like poles, doors, benches, walls, restrooms, and sign frames.
- Replaced and installed LED light fixtures in various stations.
- Power and signal modernization work.
- Tested and upgraded security cameras.
- Built out and completed new unistrut framing at the Ruggles southbound platform.
- Installed rub rail on the southbound side of Jackson Square, Roxbury Crossing, and Stony Brook as well as on the northbound and southbound sides of Forest Hills.
- Replaced third rail signs between Forest Hills and Massachusetts Avenue.
- Replaced doors at the South Cove pump room and on the Stony Brook platform.
- Inspections of tunnel areas throughout the suspension area as well as emergency egresses.
- Cleared roof drains in various locations at Forest Hills.
- Workers assisted Capital Delivery at Jackson Square, coring holes on the platform to assess the integrity of the bricks and mortar bed in preparation for a future Capital project.
- Removed scrap rail from the tunnel area.

Riders are also encouraged to connect with MBTA staff at upcoming Track Improvement Program pop-up events. Events through the end of the year are

below:

Thursday, October 31  
Station Pop-Up  
Broadway Station  
8 AM – 10 AM

Tuesday, December 3  
Station Pop-Up  
Medford/Tufts  
4 PM – 6 PM

For more information, visit [mbta.com/TrackProgram](http://mbta.com/TrackProgram) or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @ MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America’s first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, commuter rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing

on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility.

Current priorities include accelerating critical infrastructure repairs, expanding accessibility, and reducing emissions. The MBTA is committed to providing dependable, frequent, and accessible service that riders can rely on, while supporting the region’s economic vitality. Through initiatives like the unprecedented Track Improvement Program and the Bus Network Redesign and Rail Vision, the MBTA aims to connect communities and improve riders’ daily experiences and trips. For questions or assistance, customers are encouraged to contact the MBTA Customer Center at 617-222-3200. Members of the press are encouraged to contact [mediarelations@mbta.com](mailto:mediarelations@mbta.com). For the latest updates on MBTA services, projects, and initiatives, visit [MBTA.com](http://MBTA.com) or follow @MBTA on social media.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Licensed & insured  
Complete electrical services  
[www.johnpmchughelectric.com](http://www.johnpmchughelectric.com)  
[jmchugh447@gmail.com](mailto:jmchugh447@gmail.com)  
**617-320-7703**

**Ryan Masonry** 

**Chimneys • Fireplaces  
Cellar Floors • Restoration  
French Drains • Repointing**

**Free Estimates, Lic. & Ins.**

---

**Local References  
Phil - 617-230-3490**

**CASTLEMAINE CONSTRUCTION**  
*home improvement*



Fine carpentry  
Interior & exterior  
Remodeling

**MORGAN FOLEY**  
**781-267-1777**  
*-local references-*

**JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING**

**Commercial/Residential  
Interior/Exterior  
Fully Insured  
Quality Work  
Reasonable Rates  
Free Estimates**

**781-241-2454**

*reccapainting@hotmail.com*

**Geek For Hire**  
*Computer consultant available for home or business.*

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- PC support & networking of all types with focus on secure Internet access (wired & wireless),
- broadband router & firewall technology,
- virus detection/prevention,
- spam control & data security/recovery.



**617-241-9664  
617-515-2933**

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Carpenito Ft	Barry, Christopher	42 8th St #5214	\$645,000
Tkaczuk Jr, Richard A	Davy, William K	42 8th St #5514	\$960,000
Driscoll Jr, Kevin F	Byrne, Brendan	92 Green St #3	\$879,900



**253 Main St. • Charlestown • 617-241-5566**  
[www.c21elite.com](http://www.c21elite.com)

**Sales • Rentals • Free Market Analysis  
Certified Buyer Agents**

Visit [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)

PLEASE RECYCLE



# A SAMPLING OF OUR NAVY YARD SALES IN 2024!



197 8th St #902

Sold At: \$1,460,000



53 Constellation

Sold At: \$1,155,000



197 8th St #PH219

Sold At: \$1,850,000



45 Constellation

Sold At: \$1,799,000



6 Constellation

Sold At: \$1,700,000



25 Constellation

Sold At: \$1,585,000



197 8th St #704

Sold At: \$1,075,000



197 8th St #PH210

Sold At: \$1,625,000

We've had another record year in the Navy Yard. Thank you to our clients for putting your trust in us!

With inventory anticipated to be low in 2025 again, we are excited about another strong market. Thinking of buying, selling or renting? Contact us to get started.



Karen Colombosian & Myles Couyoumjian  
(617) 519-6453 | (978) 604-7055  
Karen.Colombosian@CBRealty.com

—the—  
DAVID  
GREEN  
GROUP  
AT COLDWELL BANKER  
REALTY

COLDWELL BANKER | GLOBAL LUXURY  
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY