



AdmiralsHill.com — **\$949,000**

- 3,000SF TOWNHOME ON FOUR LIVING LEVELS
- 3 BEDS, 2.5 BATHS, NOT INCL. WALK-OUT LOWER LEVEL
- WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE
- DESIGNER FINISHES
- LARGE BALCONY
- TON OF STORAGE & NATURAL SUNLIGHT
- 2 DEEDED PARKING SPACES

JEFFREY BOWEN
781-201-9488

JEFF@JEFFREYBOWEN.COM

eRealtyAdvisors



FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

BOSTON FAMILY DAY RETURNS THIS WEEKEND



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu's Boston Family Days program expands on her successful BPS Sundays initiative, offering Boston Public Schools families free access to cultural institutions like the Museum of Science, Franklin Park Zoo, and more. Sunday, February 2, marks the third day of this program. Shown above, the Mayor shown with her family and other Boston families during the last Family Day trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum. Read more about it on Page 2.

Josh Kraft will run for mayor of Boston

Staff Report

Josh Kraft, president of the New England Patriots Foundation and former CEO and president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, will be a candidate for mayor of Boston in the 2025 election.

Kraft, who is the son of Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and the New England Revolution, filed papers with the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance Monday.

Josh Kraft will make an official announcement about his candidacy next week. Asked about his decision to run for mayor, Kraft said, "I love the City of Boston, most importantly all the great people I've met – hard working, committed, and caring. I'd be



Josh Kraft, president of the New England Patriots Foundation.

honored to have the opportunity and the privilege to work with

(KRAFT Pg. 3)

Coletta Zapata introduces legislation providing tax exemptions to landlords

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata proposed legislation allowing the City of Boston to opt-in to the "Good Landlord Tax Abatement." The Good Landlord Tax Abatement allows municipalities to offer property tax exemptions for affordable rentals occupied by individuals earning below a locally deter-

mined income threshold. The tax credit, sponsored by State Senator Lydia Edwards and State Representative Andres Vargas, was included in the Massachusetts 2023 tax package.

"Boston is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive cities for renters. The housing crisis continues to displace our neighbors, force families out of their communities, and leave countless res-

idents on the brink of homelessness. Adopting the "Good Landlord Tax Abatement" will allow the City of Boston to deliver more housing to renters at affordable rates by incentivizing landlords to provide truly affordable housing opportunities," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "I look forward to the discussion with

(LANDLORDS Pg. 2)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus, located at 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The agenda includes an update from Councilor Coletta and a presentation by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding the Tobin Bridge Planning Study. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com.

To better serve our neighborhoods and residents,
The Patriot-Bridge will now be publishing every Friday going forward.

EDITORIAL

GLP-1 WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS SHOULD BE MADE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL AMERICANS

The widespread acceptance of the so-called GLP-1 drugs, Zepbound by Eli Lilly and Wegovy by Novo Nordisk, for weight loss has created a game-changing dynamic for the overall health of the 72% of Americans who struggle with maintaining a healthy weight.

The U.S. presently ranks among the most obese nations in the world and the trend had been predicted to climb upwards. However, for the first time in decades, obesity rates among Americans declined in 2024, reversing decades of our unhealthy collective weight gain as a nation. (The average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than he did in 1960 and the average American female today weighs 26 pounds more than she did in 1960 -- and no, it's not because we are taller today than then.)

The principal reason for this welcome reversal has been the use of the GLP-1 drugs, which have been shown both to decrease a person's appetite (thereby preventing overeating) and to make sugary, salty, and high-fat foods less appealing.

These drugs initially were formulated to assist persons with diabetes to maintain control of their blood sugar levels. However, it soon became clear that the drugs had the "side-effect" of a reduction in patients' body-weight because the drugs reduced their cravings and overeating.

Yes, the GLP-1 drugs have side-effects -- patients who use them lose muscle mass -- but overall, the drugs have been nothing short of a miracle for persons who struggle with eating healthily. In addition, the drugs have shown promise both in combating a number of other addictive behaviors (including alcohol abuse and gambling) and having direct, positive effects on other health conditions such as cardiovascular disease (the drugs lower blood pressure, among other things).

Making these drugs affordable for all Americans (in addition to those who receive prescriptions for their diabetes treatment for whom insurance covers the cost) should be the proverbial no-brainer. Yes, the drugs are extremely expensive (about \$1500 per month without insurance), but those costs will come down as Eli Lilly ramps up production at its new drug-making facilities in the near-future. Further, the federal government can negotiate price reductions for those on Medicare.

But right now, these drugs, when used for weight control only, are available as a practical matter only to the very wealthy who can afford the high price tag. In addition to plain fairness, making these drugs affordable for everybody who needs them to reduce their weight by covering them under insurance will make our nation healthier, which not only is a laudable goal in itself, but also will reduce our health care costs (most of which are traceable to being overweight) in the years ahead.

In short, failing to make the GLP-1 drugs widely affordable and available to all Americans is the proverbial case of being penny-wise and pound-foolish (and yes, the pun is intended.)

WE'RE OVER THE HUMP

The winter season generally is measured in two ways. There's meteorological winter, the three months of December, January, and February. And then there is astronomical winter, which begins with the winter solstice on December 21 and ends with the spring solstice on March 21.

But however you want to think about "winter," the last week of January basically brings us over the proverbial hump for the 2025 winter season. December and January are in the rear view mirror with only the short month of February ahead. (If you prefer astronomical winter, we'll be very close to the mid-point between December 21-March 21 by the end of this week.)

Of course, as we all know, Ol' Man Winter doesn't always play by the rules -- or the calendar. The infamous Blizzard of '78 occurred in February, as did a number of other huge storms. The first week of March may bring out the colorful crocuses and snowdrops pushing through the ground in our garden, but just as often as not, they're peeking through a fresh few inches of snowfall.

But what is undeniable, however you prefer to measure the seasons, and regardless of what Ol' Man Winter has in store for us, the days are now getting noticeably longer. There will be 10 hours and five minutes of daylight on February 1, compared to just the nine hours and eight minutes that we had on December 21.

In addition, when we take our walks and go for our runs, the sun's warmth is becoming noticeably stronger every day. And even if we get some snow, it typically disappears much faster in February and March than in January thanks to the strength of the sun.

So yes, after our colder-than-normal January, as far as we are concerned, spring can't come soon enough!

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 are preferred.

Join Mayor Wu for family fun this Sunday

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This Sunday, February 2, is the third in a series of Boston Family Days, an expansion of Mayor Wu's successful BPS Sundays pilot program, which gave Boston Public Schools students and their families free access to several cultural institutions throughout Boston. Media outlets are welcome to get b-roll and interview families at the participating institutions: the Museum of Science, Franklin Park Zoo, Boston Children's Museum, New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Museum of African American History, the John F. Kennedy Presidential

Library and Museum, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Mayor Michelle Wu visited the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum with her family for the launch of Boston Family Days on Sunday, January 5.

Through Boston Family Days, students and families gain free admission to participating institutions on the first two Sundays of each month. The enrollment platform has launched, students and families can register here. For children currently enrolled in Boston Public Schools or Boston Pre-K, they are automatically enrolled in this program. BPS families will receive their Boston Family Days pass directly via email from BPS.

LANDLORDS (from pg. 1)

my Council colleagues to provide both immediate relief and long-term opportunities for Boston's residents and property owners."


To qualify for the exemption, the property must be rented at an affordable rate set by the City of Boston per United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, have a yearly lease, and be occupied year-round by households earning no more than 200% of the area median income.

Coletta Zapata's ordinance comes as Boston's housing crisis continues to worsen, with many residents being pushed out of their neighborhoods due to rising rent costs and rental availability, though expanded in recent years, remaining limited. As of January 2025, Boston's average rent is \$3,393 per month, more than double the national average. Ris-

ing maintenance costs for small landlords frequently drive up rents, further limiting affordable housing options for residents.

"I am so excited to see Boston leading the way. I am particularly proud of Councilor Coletta's leadership. If passed we will be helping small property owners that are already doing the right thing. I hope more cities and towns will use this special power to keep rents low and while helping landlords," said State Senator Lydia Edwards.

This docket was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Councilor Brian Worrell (District 4). A hearing will be scheduled in the upcoming months and posted on the Councilor's social media channels. This proposal was co-sponsored by Councilors Brian Worrell (District 4) and At-Large Councilor Henry Santana.



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

PHONE: 781.485.0588 © 2008 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP.

EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

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

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

MWRA introduces proposal to eliminate CSOs in the Charles River

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Last week, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the cities of Cambridge and Somerville introduced several alternative project concepts to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) from polluting the Charles River, a significant step toward delivering the swimmable river promised by the 1972 Clean Water Act.

MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville are required to carry out an extensive updated CSO planning effort to address the ongoing challenge of raw and partially treated sewage being dumped into the Charles River during heavy rain.

CSOs are a key source of contamination to the Charles and are becoming more frequent as our climate changes. In these outdated systems, stormwater and household/industrial wastewater are collected in the same pipes

to be conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant, but during heavy rainstorms, the combined system cannot handle the excess polluted water and releases it into the river.

One option MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville presented was a CSO storage tunnel, a well-established technique to eliminate combined sewage discharges that has been used in Portland (OR), Milwaukee, and South Boston. This innovative tunnel would be designed with climate change in mind, making CSOs a thing of the past in all but the most severe storms expected under future climate conditions.

Additional options presented include implementing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in combination with tunnel storage to reduce or eliminate CSOs in smaller storms. GSI provides numerous co-benefits, such as reducing flooding and urban heat impacts, improving air and water quality, and beautifying neighborhoods.

United States Attorney Foley announces appointment of First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley has announced that Katherine Ferguson has been appointed to serve as First Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Ferguson, a career prosecutor, has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for more than a decade.

"Ms. Ferguson's leadership, dedication, and prosecutorial excellence have earned her widespread respect within our office and beyond," said U.S. Attorney Foley. "Her deep understanding of federal law enforcement and her commitment to upholding the rule of law make her an invaluable asset. I am confident that she will bring the same integrity and vision to her new role as First Assistant U.S. Attorney as she has throughout her career."

Ms. Ferguson has served as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit for the U.S. Attorney's Office since 2017 and Lead Task Force Attorney for the District's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force since 2021. As Deputy Chief of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit, Ms. Ferguson was responsible for overseeing federal narcotics and money laundering investigations and prosecutions.

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney for 15 years, she has extensive experience working collaboratively with other federal, state and local partners to dismantle multi-jurisdictional and international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Ferguson served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. There, she handled over 600 cases in Boston Municipal Court from arraignment to disposition and oversaw the prosecution of child abuse and narcotics offenses in Superior Court. From 2006-2007, Ms. Ferguson served as a law clerk for the Honorable Sandra L. Lynch with the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Ferguson graduated from Princeton University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics with Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa. While at Princeton, Ms. Ferguson earned Certificates in Political Economy and French Language & Culture. She also received a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was an Executive Editor for the Harvard Law Review.

"This investment will pay dividends for future generations as climate change increases the imperative for access to public swimming areas, making good on the promises of the 1972 Clean Water Act and the Clean Charles Initiative of 2005," said Max Rome, CRWA's senior stormwater program manager.

"For the past decade, we've seen little to no improvements to CSO conditions in the Charles River, and overflows vary year to year based on the weather. So it's exciting to see real projects that could make meaningful improvements," said Julie Wood, CRWA's climate resilience director. "Now we need to get this done. With this

once-in-a-generation investment, we can stop the flow of untreated sewage into our environment while also greening and beautifying our neighborhoods."

"We are pleased to see these project ideas from MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville, which is a key step in the path to a Charles River clean enough to swim in," said Emily Norton, executive director of CRWA. "Imagine during our hotter summers, if greater Boston residents of any income level would have a safe, free place to jump in the water to cool off. We look forward to working with MWRA and the cities of Cambridge and Somerville to make that vision a reality."

While the MWRA has reduced sewage discharges by over 95% since 1988, tens of millions of gallons of sewage-laden stormwater are still entering the river every year, and that volume is growing thanks to climate change. In 2023, 72 million gallons polluted the Charles, equivalent to 109 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Charles River Watershed Association's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the Charles River and its watershed through science, advocacy, and the law. CRWA develops science-based strategies to increase resilience, protect public health, and promote environmental equity as we confront a changing climate.

Winter Walk is an organization raising awareness and funds towards an end to homelessness

This year, Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, Charlestown invites all interested to join the HOV team of walkers from last year. The HOV group of walkers found this experience to be such a rewarding and inspiring event that they knew this was a yearly walk that they didn't want to ever miss. Participants will walk through the streets of Boston during the cold winter season, starting and ending on the Boston Common. At the end, both housed and unhoused participants, will share a meal together and hear true stories from those who have experienced homelessness.

The housing crisis persists. Massachusetts has reached a devastating milestone: a 74% increase in family homelessness from 2023 to 2024. This is not just a statistic—it is childhoods interrupted, dreams deferred, and futures at risk.

All profits, 100%, from Winter Walk go directly to organizations



Some of the walkers gather before starting on their walk.

working to end homelessness and to care for and support our homeless community.

If interested, and we hope you are, please register online, on the Winter Walk website, under the Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, Charlestown. We will meet at the open field at the corner of Beacon and Charles street that day.

Those unable to walk, are still encouraged to donate to this worthy cause.

Date: Sunday, February 9

Place: Boston Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Street

Time: Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.-

Walk is 9-11 a.m.

Distance: 2 miles

If you have questions or would like ride, please call Donna LeCam (978-621-6829) or Peter LeCam (978-621-6829).

KRAFT (from pg. 1)

all of them in a bigger and more impactful role."

Kraft worked for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston for 30 years, making a tremendous impact on people's lives throughout his distinguished service. Kraft founded the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club and served as its executive director. He launched a major fundraising drive that led to the construction of a spectacular, state-of-the-art \$11 million clubhouse in Chelsea. The club became the city's largest youth organization, with its members following Kraft's lead and regularly participating in community service projects.

Kraft later became the president and CEO of the Boys and

Girls Clubs of Boston, and served 12 years in the position. Widely admired for his philanthropy and leadership of the organization, Kraft had the honor of having the Mattapan clubhouse named the

Josh Kraft Mattapan Teen Center.

Kraft, who resides in the North End, will likely be challenging Mayor Michelle Wu, who has yet to formally announce her intention to seek re-election.

BOSTON FORGING & WELDING, INC.
BLACKSMITHS AND WELDERS
SPECIALISTS IN FIRE ESCAPES
INSPECTION MAINTENANCE REPAIR



Contact us for a safety consultation.
info@bostonforgingandwelding.com
 617-567-2300

Serving Boston, Ma & the surrounding area for over 60 years.

A voyage to Boston

41° 43'7" N 49° 56'9" W

TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Now on display
at Park Plaza

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition has brought nearly 250 authentic artifacts from the wreck site of Titanic by RMS Titanic, Inc. to The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza in Boston, where they will remain on display until May 29, 2025. Presented by The Gold Group in Boston and viewed by more than 35 million people worldwide, TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition is one of the highest attended in history and is coming to Boston for the first time. E/M Group and RMS Titanic, Inc., have curated an incredible collection of authentic Titanic artifacts that will allow guests to experience the real stories of Titanic passengers and crew. These items have been honorably conserved and presented to the public to help educate and tell the story of Titanic. Visitors can also explore meticulously re-cre-

ated rooms, including the opulent Grand Staircase.

"Boston eagerly awaits our Exhibition, which continues to set record-breaking attendance figures," said Gautam Chandna, Director of Business Development at E/M Group. "The Exhibition's continued success, as demonstrated in city after city, speaks to its broad appeal and exceptional quality."

For decades, Titanic has had a hold on people immersing themselves in the real stories of heroism, love, fear, and impossible decisions in the face of the "unsinkable" ocean liner meeting its fate. It was a watershed moment in world history and has made an indelible mark on history.

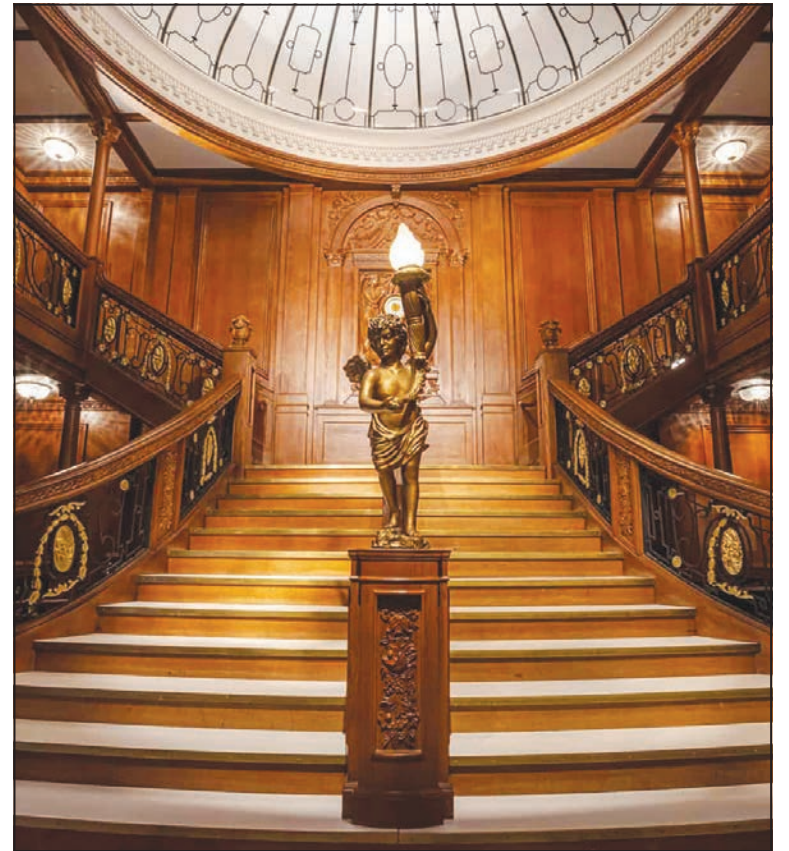
Upon entering TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition guests are drawn back in time to April 1912, when the Ship embarked on its first and final journey. Guests receive a replica boarding pass, assume the role of a passenger, and follow a journey through life on Titanic—from the Ship's construction to life

on board, to the infamous sinking. Also covered is the contemporary effort to recover artifacts and conserve the wreck site for scientific analysis, historical preservation, and to ensure future generations can admire, contemplate, and learn from Titanic.

Located in the Back Bay, The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza is a former armory and is a designated National Historic Landmark. For tickets and more information, please visit <http://www.castleboston.com/>.

Tickets to the exhibition are now on sale www.titanicboston.us, tickets start at \$39.50

Experiential Media Group, LLC (E/M Group), located in Atlanta, GA, is a world leader in



The foyer.

the development and display of exhibitions that educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages.

RMS Titanic, Inc.'s (RMST) mission is to preserve the legacy of Titanic's maiden voyage, subsequent sinking, and the memory of her passengers and crew through

comprehensive educational programs, innovative exhibitions, research and recovery initiatives, wreck site imaging and analysis, and ongoing Titanic collaborations. RMST was granted sal-

(TITANIC, PG. 9)



A young historian examines a Boarding Pass used on the Titanic.



Visitors can sit and examine a manifest of all the passengers onboard the ship when it sank in 1912.

TITANIC FACTS & TRIVIA

On Board Titanic

- The cost of an average first-class ticket on Titanic from Southampton to New York was \$450, although prices varied based on cabin size and amenities.
- A first-class suite cost \$2,500, or approximately \$73,000 in 2022.
- However, the most luxurious suites with a private promenade deck cost \$4,500 in 1912, or approximately \$131,400 in 2022.
- A third-class ticket on Titanic cost \$40, or approximately \$1,170 in 2022. Up to 10 people resided in each third-class room."
- First-class passengers had the luxury of paying for their leisure while on board: a ticket to the swimming pools cost 25¢, while a ticket for the squash court (as well as the services of

- a professional player) cost 50¢.
- Sixty cooks and assistants worked in Titanic's five kitchens. They ranged from soup and roast cooks to pastry and vegetable cooks. There was also a cook who prepared kosher meals for the Jewish passengers.
- There were only two bathtubs for the more than 700 third-class passengers aboard the Ship.
- The forward part of the Boat Deck was a promenade space for first-class passengers and the rear part was for second-class passengers. Passengers from these classes thus had the best chance of getting into a lifeboat simply because they could get to them quickly and easily.

Disaster Strikes

- Even if all 20 lifeboats had been filled, there would only have been enough room to save

- 1,178 people.
- At first, most of the passengers did not believe that Titanic was really sinking, hence the low number of 28 aboard the first lifeboat even though it could have carried 65.
- Titanic was one of the first ships in distress to send out an "SOS" signal. The radio officer used "SOS" after using the traditional code of "CQD" followed by the Ship's call letters.
- Dorothy Gibson, a 28-year-old silent screen actress, was an established movie star who, along with her mother, survived the sinking. Gibson would later star in Saved from the Titanic, a film released one month after the disaster. The costume that she wore in the film was the same dress, sweater, and coat that she wore on the night of the sinking.

Copyright © 2023 by E/M

Group for TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition Website: www.emgroup.com Email: marketing@emgroup.com

- Tennis player R. Norris Williams and his father, Charles, felt it was too cold to remain out on deck as the Ship went down so they went into the Gymnasium to ride the exercise bicycles.
- At the time of Titanic's destruction, the water temperature was 28°F (-2°C). Most of those struggling in the water in their life jackets would have succumbed to hypothermia, while others may have had heart attacks.

The Aftermath

- Initial headlines of the Titanic disaster claimed all passengers survived and the Ship was being towed to land.
- No skeletons remain at the

- wreck site. Any bodies that were carried to the seabed with the wreck were consumed by fish and crustaceans. With the currents, and the difference in weight of the ship, it is unlikely that the remains of those who perished at the surface sank to the wreck site.
- In the 1898 novel Futility, written 14 years before the sailing and sinking of Titanic, author Morgan Robertson penned a fictitious tale about a ship named Titan that collides with an iceberg. Some of the uncanny similarities between the book and the Titanic disaster include:
 - the month (April)
 - the length of the ships (Titanic was 882.9 feet; Titan was 800 feet), and
 - the number of passengers on board (Titanic had approximately 2,200; Titan had 2,000).

TITANIC (from Page 8)

vor-in-possession rights to the wreck of Titanic and is the only company permitted by law to recover artifacts from the wreck

site. RMST has recovered and conserved more than 5,500 artifacts since 1987 and is an affiliate of E/M Group.



Some surviving items and memorabilia from the Titanic on display at the exhibition.

NOW OPEN

FIRST TIME EVER IN BOSTON

TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

TitanicBoston.us

The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza

130 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA

The 'Quin House Impact Fund Announces New Director

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The 'Quin Impact Fund announced the appointment of Michelle Perez Vichot, an accomplished leader of nonprofit and social service organizations, as Director. The appointment comes on the heels of a monumental year of impact, with the organization having contributed over \$3.3MM to Boston area non-profits since its inception, including over \$900k in the past year.

Vichot brings more than 25 years of experience in social services and organizational leadership to The 'Quin House Impact Fund. Most recently, she served as Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Bil-

lerica and has also held leadership roles at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, where she advanced from Executive Director to Executive Vice President of Operations. Vichot also has served on the Board of the Children's Room, a nonprofit that offers grief support services for children and families.

"I look forward to bringing my experience to this new role at The 'Quin House," Vichot said. "I have a long career history of not only driving organizational growth, but also cultivating relationships with local businesses, government entities, and community stakeholders, which will be key as we continue to build upon the good work that the Impact Fund does in Greater Boston

through both fundraising and volunteer service. I am so proud to be a part of this team as we kick off 2025."

A licensed independent clinical social worker, Vichot holds a Master of Social Work from New York University and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership. She was named Executive Director of the Year by the New England Yankee Chapter last year and the Community Social Capitalist Award from Social Capital Inc., in 2012. She lives in Boston.

The 'Quin Impact Fund serves as a financial resource for local philanthropic organizations that make positive contributions to

the Greater Boston community. The 'Quin House, a private social club in Boston's Back Bay that is committed to affecting change in the local community, is a space for members to not only further their education on important issues but also provides avenues for them to make a difference for the better on those issues. The Impact Fund was launched in 2019, a year prior to the opening of The 'Quin House, and is now the foundation of the club's philanthropy and the vehicle through which members can have a collective positive impact.

The Impact Fund supports six pillars throughout the year in Arts and Culture, Innovation and Discovery, Equity and Opportunity, Health and Wellness, Youth and



Michelle Perez Vichot.

Education, and Earth 360°. The Fund is hosted by The Boston Foundation and, thanks to the generosity of The 'Quin House

See QUIN Page 7

MBTA announces planned service outage scheduled to June

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced its planned construction schedule for the first half of 2025. Thanks to the great success of the 2024 Track Improvement Program, the MBTA now has more track meeting the state of good repair standards than in previous years, ensuring compliance with all applicable safety and performance requirements. Building on this progress, the MBTA will continue proactive track maintenance to prevent slow zones recurring. In 2025, the focus will shift to upgrading other critical infrastructure, including signal systems, improving accessibility across the network, and more.

"As Governor Maura Healey put it during the State of the Commonwealth speech, 'People need transportation and public transit they can rely on,' and the infrastructure investments by the MBTA in 2024 and planned in 2025 set the foundation for consistently reliable service," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits Nutt. "Infrastructure work is being done strategically to minimize the disruption for MBTA customers and to optimize the time work zones are in place. I am proud of the MBTA workforce and leadership team for getting so much done during planned service outages."

"I'm incredibly proud of and thankful to our entire workforce and our industry partners that delivered unprecedented work in 2024 to improve and deliver more reliable trips across our system, ultimately giving back our riders' precious time in their days. We

couldn't have done that without the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature, which has continued to reinvest in public transportation. I also must thank the public for their patience and for continuing to ride the T as we perform vital work that allows us to keep the system running safely and reliably as we build for the future," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Philip Eng. "In 2025, the T is committed to proactive maintenance and repairs, including completing critical signal upgrades, which will allow us to deliver the level of service our riders expect and need. With a never-ending focus on the public we serve, we will continue to improve how we efficiently and effectively perform work to minimize disruptions and deliver meaningful results, building out a best-in-class system for the Commonwealth."

Key initiatives slated for 2025 include:

Signal Modernization

The MBTA will focus on the \$285 million project to modernize its signal system across the Red and Orange lines with the goal of reducing congestion and delays and providing operational flexibilities. The new upgraded signal system will allow for more frequent service, improved scheduling, and enhanced safety. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency, reducing wait times and improving scheduling reliability for all riders.

Annual Programmed Maintenance

As part of its long-term sustainability plan, the MBTA will carry out annual programmed maintenance

across its system, addressing routine needs and ensuring that all infrastructure remains in peak operating condition. This maintenance will include inspections, adjustments, and repairs to keep the system safe and running smoothly throughout the year.

Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS)

The MBTA will begin implementing an added layer of safety to the Green Line. The GLTPS system will use safety monitoring equipment to transmit data to the train as it moves along the tracks. Using onboard alerts and communications, the system will notify the operator when another vehicle is detected, when the vehicle is speeding, and can automatically stop the train at stop signals. This safety system can also improve travel times by reducing unplanned stops.

Bridge Work Along Commuter Rail Lines

In collaboration with MassDOT, the MBTA will focus on completing essential bridge work along various Commuter Rail lines.

The MBTA will also continue regular bridge, tunnel, and station inspections and routine maintenance throughout the year.

Accessibility Enhancements

The MBTA is dedicated to ensuring that its services are accessible to all riders, including those with disabilities. Planned improvements in the second half of 2025 will include upgrades to station entrances, platforms, and elevators, as well as enhancements to communication systems to provide real-time updates to riders with hearing or visual impairments. There will be a large focus on improving accessi-

bility on the Green Line. This will include the installation of elevators at Symphony Station to ensure that all passengers, including those with mobility challenges, can access the platform and board trains with ease. The MBTA is also looking forward to enhancing Ruggles Station along the Orange Line, which includes making a fully accessible Columbus Avenue entrance.

Anticipated 2025 Service Outage Plans:

Most of this work throughout the year will be targeted to weekends and evenings to minimize disruptions to weekday commuters, though there will be some longer outages planned to accommodate more complex projects. The MBTA is finalizing alternate service options, such as accessible shuttle buses, amplified service on other modes, and Commuter Rail options. Details will be shared as they are confirmed and ahead of the outages. Riders should also note that the tentative construction plan and dates are subject to change pending weather and other factors.

Notable planned service outages between January – June 2025 include:

- On the Red Line:
 - Ashmont to JFK/UMass
 - April 1 - April 9
 - For proactive rail maintenance.
- On the Orange Line:
 - North Station to Oak Grove
 - May 10 – May 18
 - To support MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project.
- North Station to Forest Hills
- June 21 – June 29, 2025
- For signal upgrade work.
- On the Blue Line:

- Bowdoin to Airport
- June 7 - June 15
- For infrastructure work.
 - On the Commuter Rail:
 - On the Haverhill and Newburyport/Rockport Line
 - Oak Grove to North Station / Swampscott to North Station
- February 1 – February 2
- February 15 – February 16
- March 8 – March 9
- March 22 – March 23
- April 5 – April 6
- April 24 – April 27
- To support MassDOT's Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project and MBTA signal work.

Additional weekend construction work can be anticipated on the Lowell, Franklin, Worcester, Needham, and Fitchburg Line. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

The MBTA will host public open houses online and in-person to provide an overview of major projects. These will also serve as way for the community to ask questions or share comments and feedback. Meeting dates and locations will be posted at mbta.com/events.

The MBTA will provide regular updates on work progress and potential service disruptions through various channels, including in-station signage, social media, T-Alerts, and online at mbta.com. Any changes to project or open house schedules will be communicated.

Riders can find updates on service changes via signage, announcements, and by subscribing to text and email alerts at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors, Fare Engagement Representatives, and staff will be on-site for assistance.

MEP raise awareness campaign for new boater education law

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

In an effort to boost boating safety and responsibility, the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) is informing the public about the Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, which was recently signed into law by Governor Maura Healey. This law, set to take effect on April 1, 2026, introduces a mandatory boater education program for all motorized vessel operators. The new program aligns Massachusetts' boating regulations with federal U.S. Coast Guard safety standards and aims to ensure that every boater is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely navigate the state's waterways. MEP is now working to raise awareness and provide resources to help boaters prepare for the changes ahead.

"Boating is an important part of life in Massachusetts, and this new law ensures that everyone on the water is properly prepared," said Interim MEP Colonel Chris

Mason. "Whether you're an experienced boater or just starting out, the knowledge gained from this course will help keep you, your passengers, and our waterways safe. Our goal is simple—make boating safer for everyone."

"I am so proud to see the Hanson-Milone Act finally become law. Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the world, but too often, a day of fun on the water ends in tragedy because someone operates a boat without proper safety training," said State Representative Kathy LaNatra (D-Kingston). "This legislation establishes a straightforward program to make sure anyone operating a boat in the Commonwealth has the necessary safety knowledge to keep themselves and others safe. I want to thank Governor Healey for her signature, as well as Speaker Mariano, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Straus and my Senate colleagues for their support of this legislation. Most impor-

tantly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Hanson and Milone families for their relentless dedication and advocacy for this life-saving legislation."

What Does This Mean for Boaters?

Starting April 1, 2026, anyone wishing to operate a motorized vessel in Massachusetts will be required to complete an approved boating safety education course.

The goal is to ensure that every boater has the skills and knowledge needed to operate their vessel safely, reducing accidents and ensuring a more enjoyable experience for all. The education program will cover important topics such as:

- **Navigation Rules:** Understand how to safely maneuver on the water and avoid collisions.
- **Emergency Procedures:** Learn what to do in case of an emergency to protect yourself and your passengers.
- **Environmental Protections:**

Gain awareness of practices that protect Massachusetts' treasured natural resources.

Who Needs to Enroll?

- If you were born after January 1, 1989, you must complete the course by April 1, 2026, with no penalties assessed until September 1, 2026.
- If you were born on or before January 1, 1989, you'll have until April 1, 2028, to complete the course.

The program will be available through a variety of convenient platforms, including online courses, in-person classes, and partnerships with local organizations.

Why This Is Great for Boaters

This new law not only enhances safety, but it also empowers boaters with the knowledge they need to navigate Massachusetts' vast and beautiful waterways with confidence.

With thousands of miles of coastline and numerous lakes and

rivers, Massachusetts is a haven for boating enthusiasts.

Simplified Access to Education

MEP will manage the implementation of the new law and ensure boaters have easy access to education. Proof of education will be required while boating on Massachusetts waters, so getting your certificate is simple and convenient.

To get started, boaters can visit the official Massachusetts Boater Education website at www.mass.gov/how-to/boat-safety-certificate-course

For additional information on the new law, including frequently asked questions and course details, please visit the Massachusetts Environmental Police website www.mass.gov/OLE or contact the Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau at (508) 564-4961.

Federal funds to help mitigate Blue Line flooding

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Massachusetts has secured more than \$9.9 million in federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. The funding, administered by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), will support the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in preventing flooding impacts, strengthening the administration's efforts to mitigate climate change effects, and build a more climate resilient transit system.

"Protecting our infrastructure and implementing new and innovative ways to mitigate and respond to the ever-changing effects of climate change is crucial to providing safe, and reliable public transportation," said Governor Maura Healey. "We know that Blue Line riders have had to endure frequent flooding for years, and these funds will help put a stop to those service disruptions. We're grateful to FEMA for recognizing the significance of this work and congratulate MEMA and the MBTA for their efforts to secure this funding."

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll said these infrastructure upgrades will improve flood resilience and help prevent water leaks and corrosion to protect this route for years to come.

The project will fund a series

of improvements to the Blue Line Tunnel portal, which connects the tunnel to the airport, to protect the transit line from flooding impacts.

Much of the MBTA's Blue Line is below sea level and at increasing risk of coastal and stormwater flooding. Portals like the Airport Tunnel Portal are large entry points for flood waters, which can then damage the Blue Line and connecting subway tunnel systems and disrupt service while repairs are made. The Blue Line Tunnel runs underneath the Boston Harbor from East Boston to downtown, carrying thousands of passengers each day and serving communities in the East Boston area.

Specifically, the project will include the installation of flood doors that will close off the two tunnel portal openings during a flood event. Work will include updates on the track, traction power, signal and pump rooms to accommodate the new flood doors. The project proposal accounts for increased flooding events related to climate change and is designed to provide protection against impacts as far out as 2070.

"The Healey-Driscoll administration has been proactive in taking steps to address the challenges of climate change, and this federal funding will position the Blue Line to withstand some of the worst weather that leads to flooding in the corridor area," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica

Tibbits-Nutt. "Our vision for the MBTA is to build infrastructure that supports reliable and resilient service, and this grant will help us protect assets, safeguard the fleet, and keep service running for customers."

The funding will not only help us protect the Blue Line Tunnel, a vital corridor connecting East Boston to downtown and Logan Airport, but it will also strengthen long-term efforts to create a safer, more sustainable transit network, said General Manager Phillip Eng.

"As the state agency charged with administering BRIC grants, MEMA recognizes the importance of utilizing these funds to help cities, towns and the state mitigate risks to community lifelines such as transportation," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. "The technical assistance and guidance that MEMA's Mitigation Unit provides for these grant applications has been instrumental in successfully moving these grant projects forward in a nationally-competitive selection process. The team managed more than \$300 million in hazard mitigation grant projects during 2024, which represents a single-year record for the agency."

As detailed in the state's hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan, ResilientMass, the MBTA has completed climate change vulnerability assessments and flood screening reports of its entire operations to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities to natural

disasters and take measures to increase resilience. This project advances implementation of one of MBTA's priority actions in the ResilientMass Plan, the Tunnel Flood Mitigation program.

The cost for construction of the Blue Line Tunnel project is estimated at \$13.4 million. The

BRIC grant will cover approximately 75% and the state will contribute \$3.3 million. The total project cost is \$20.7 million. The project has also received a \$1 million grant for design through EEA's ResilientMass Implementation Funding.

QUIN (from pg. 6)

member community's contributions along with an anonymous donor's matching funds, has awarded more than \$3.1MM in grants to over 150 Greater Boston organizations.

The Fund has also hosted numerous volunteer opportunities for The 'Quin House members and staff since 2021. Volunteer efforts in 2024 included participation in Boston's annual Winter Walk, clothing sorting and toiletry kit packing for Cradles to Crayons, preparation of apartments for the homeless at the Pine Street Inn, riding in the Pan-Mass Challenge for cancer research and treatment, multi-day efforts at The Greater Boston Food Bank, and most recently, the collection of more than 300 gifts for Department of Children and Families

children through the Wonderfund. Since inception, The 'Quin House Impact Fund has also sponsored over 100 programming events designed to showcase the important and meaningful solutions local non-profits are providing to challenging problems.

"After this very successful year of community engagement, inspirational programming, and financial investment in high-impact, non-profit organizations, through The 'Quin Impact Fund, we are excited for what is to come in 2025 and beyond under the continued leadership of co-chairs, Linda Whitlock and Kanna Kunchala, and new Director Michelle Perez Vichot!" said Sandy Edgerley, 'Quin co-founder.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

For art lovers, summer is just around the corner

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Looking for a cure for the winter blahs? If you like art, February could be your lucky month.

Most art galleries display works by a handful of notable artists, allowing viewers and browsers, if they're so inclined, to home in on a desirable painting. But at some galleries a curious art lover encounters an embarrassment of riches. The Signature Members Show by the New England Watercolor Society, now at the elegant Guild of Boston Artists gallery on Newbury Street, offers paintings by 75 noted artists, all of whom have had work repeatedly judged to be exceptional.

Distinguished though they may be, the artists clearly vary widely in their technique and choice of subject matter. Some celebrate color, painting tulips, tangerines, or turtles with a vibrancy and



Richard LaRoche, *Old Westford Road*.

panache that gladdens the heart. Others use a more muted palette but pay careful attention to form and composition, producing work – a courtyard, a pantry, or the weathered side of a house – with

a calm and deeply satisfying balance. A few pull off both feats at once: viewers will be arrested by a soft-toned amber and russet fall landscape framing a startling bright barn as red as a stoplight.

All these paintings are for sale at affordable prices. Kristin Stashenko, chair of this year's show, voiced the enthusiasm of her colleagues: "In viewing the paintings in this show I was struck by the interesting perspective and the vastly different points of view that artists chose to explore in their paintings. The first word that comes to mind is diversity – of media, technique, and painting surface. This show encompasses the finest watercolors in New England and offers a window into the creative process of art. It is a show you should not miss!"

This year's exhibition juror, who chose the paintings for the Society's prestigious awards, is



Ann Hart, *Crazy for Tulips*.



Alonzo Clarke, *Centaur*.



Carol Latanision, *In the Pantry, Olson House*.



James Varnum, *CORE Triptych*.

Jean-François Arnaud, born in Toulouse, in the south of France. For him, painting "is about capturing the atmosphere, the play of light, and the large shapes that evoke a scene." That aesthetic is evidently shared by most of the painters represented in this show. The exhibition runs until March 2, with a reception and awards presentation February 8. As part of the Society's commitment to education, award-winning mem-

ber artists will give free painting demonstrations on weekends.

The society, which traces its history to 1885 and numbers such figures as John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam, Andrew Wyeth, and Ruth Wynn among its past luminaries, today claims nearly 150 signature members and an overall membership of over 400.

New England Watercolor Society Signature Members Show, Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury Street, Boston, February 4 to March 2, 2025, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm, Sundays 12–4 pm. Closed Mondays. Reception and awards Saturday, February 8, 2–4 pm. Painting demonstrations Sundays 2–4 pm February 16 (Robert O'Brien), February 23 (Dylan McKnight), and March 2 (Carolyn Latanision).

www.newenglandwatercolor-society.org

ADVERTISE IN THE
PATRIOT-BRIDGE
CALL 781-485-0588

Wu announces City Hall as the newest historic landmark in Boston

Special to the Patriot-Bridges

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Landmarks Commission announced the official designation of Boston City Hall as a local Landmark. The designation recognizes Boston City Hall's architectural, cultural, and civic significance, ensuring the preservation of its unique character and historical identity for future generations.

"For more than five decades, Boston City Hall has served as a hub where residents come together to shape our city's future, and has become a symbol of our city's resilience, innovation, and commitment to our constituents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we officially designate Boston City Hall a Landmark, we honor its deep historical and cultural significance. This milestone serves as an affirmation of our commitment to preserving this space as a vital symbol of our democracy and a center for civic engagement. Our administration is proud to help the building evolve into a space that is accessible to the community while maintaining its historic character."

Completed in 1968 in the former Scollay Square neighborhood, which was demolished as part of urban renewal of the mid-twentieth century, Boston City Hall stands as an iconic example of Brutalist architecture. The building was designed by Kallmann McKinnell and Knowles in response to a Boston Redevelopment Authority architectural competition in 1961. The building was conceived as a symbol of democratic governance and accessibility, fostering transparency and civic engagement. Its bold design marked a departure from Boston's traditional architectural vernacular of brick and brownstone, redefining the city's architectural identity and the nature of public space.

"As Chair of Planning, Development, and Transportation, I am proud to celebrate the designation of Boston City Hall as a Boston Landmark," said City Councilor Sharon Durkan. "Since 1968, this building has stood as a bold architectural statement and a living symbol of transparency, innovation, and civic identity. This milestone honors not just its iconic design but the community it serves while challenging us to preserve its legacy and reimagine its role for future generations. I extend my gratitude to Commissioner Eamon Shelton, Commissioner Kristen McCosh, and the teams whose stewardship and advocacy have ensured this designation reflects both our history and our commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Boston City Hall is more than a

building—it's a catalyst for civic engagement and a home for those who serve our great city."

Boston City Hall's significance extends beyond its striking design, reflecting broader trends in 20th-century urban planning. It introduced principles of integrated civic and public space that have influenced urban design across the United States. As both a product of Boston's urban renewal era and a focal point for public gatherings and civic dialogue, the building has become a lasting cultural and civic symbol.

Boston Landmark designation follows the completion of a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in 2021, funded by the Getty Foundation. The CMP provides a roadmap for maintaining and managing the building while addressing functional updates needed to ensure its continued use. Landmark designation aligns with the CMP's recommendations to protect the building's architectural integrity while guiding future changes. The designation also includes commitments to enhancing accessibility measures within the building, ensuring that it remains inclusive and welcoming for all members of the public.

"This landmark designation affirms Boston City Hall's place as a cornerstone of our city's architectural and civic heritage," said Kathy Kottaridis, Director of the Office of Historic Preservation. "This decision ensures that the building will continue to inspire and serve future generations while adapting to meet the needs of a modern, vibrant Boston."

While Boston City Hall has faced criticism and calls for demolition in the past, it has also inspired a dedicated community of advocates who recognize its architectural and cultural value. Landmark designation ensures that any proposed changes to key features of the building will undergo review by the Boston Landmarks Commission to maintain its integrity.

"I am grateful that City Hall is being celebrated and protected for its architectural, cultural, and historical significance," remarked Eamon Shelton, Commissioner of Property Management. "Of course it is not a perfect building, so I am thankful that the Study Report, which serves as a roadmap for future decisions, both acknowledges the significant architectural features and memorializes the ongoing projects and necessary future changes. Only through growth and thoughtful adaptation can the 'People's Building' be fully accessible and inclusive for all,



Boston City Hall.

now and into the future."

"I appreciate that this landmark designation will not prevent necessary upgrades to improve access for people with disabilities. City Hall was constructed with architectural barriers that would not be present if it were built today, so accessibility upgrades will remain a key priority moving forward," said Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh.

An upcoming historic preservation conference will take place in Boston, providing a timely opportunity to celebrate the Landmark designation of Boston City Hall. Organized by the Historic Preservation Education Foundation and the Boston Architectural College, the Preserving the Recent Past 4 conference will take place from March 19-22, 2025, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities of preserving postwar architecture. The opening reception for the conference will be held at Boston City Hall.

Throughout Mayor Wu's first term in office, the City has designated 25 landmarks in Boston in addition to the Highland Park District, more than twice the number of historic designations that occurred in the decade prior. There are over 8,000 properties designated as individual Landmarks or located within Boston's local historic districts. Any 10 registered Boston voters can petition the Boston Landmarks Commission to designate a historic neighborhood, building, landscape, or object as a protected Boston Landmark or District. Local historic districts carry the ability to regulate change in historic neighborhoods, unlike National Register districts, which advocate for their protection. Residents can learn more about designating a landmark in Boston by emailing BLC@boston.gov. The Office of Historic Preservation, established in 2022,

continues to support the preservation of the city's historic assets as part of Boston's commitment to

carbon neutrality, sustainability, and inclusivity.

A WHOLE
GOTTA
LOVE +
STUFF

INDOOR
YARD
SALE

SAT FEB 8TH
10am-4pm

SUN FEB. 9TH
1-4pm

80 Broadway Revere

BYOB
BRING YOUR
OWN
BAG

**LULU
room**

**Baby
Room**

**Women +
Mens All
Sizes**

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS LARGE & SMALL

NOT YOUR AVERAGE YARD SALE!

Red Bull Heavy Metal comes to Boston Feb 22

World's top street snowboarders, will compete in a snowboard rail-jam competition at City Hall Plaza

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Red Bull Heavy Metal is taking the world's top street snowboarders from the mountains and bringing them to Boston, creating one of the most anticipated competitions on the snow 2025 calendar. Leading the talent pool is X Games Gold Medalist, Zeb Powell. The competition will be held on Saturday, Feb 22, 2025 at City Hall Plaza from 2:30-6pmET, doors opening at 2pmET and spectating is free to the public.

Red Bull Heavy Metal is expanding to Boston for the first time ever, serving as the second iteration of the event within the 2025 calendar. After a successful 2024, the Minnesota State Capitol Building will again be home to the event, slated for Feb 1, 2025.

Powell, who has been vocal about making the mountains more accessible to inner city communities through snowboarding, was inspired by previous Red Bull Heavy Metal and wanted to bring the sport to the city that he has grown to love and call home. Boston's City Hall Plaza recent renovation creates a "too good not to ride" atmosphere for these snowboarders.

"Sharing the joy of snowboarding with the heart of the Northeast brings so much energy to the sport," said Powell. "A lot of amazing snowboarders come from around Boston and not everyone knows that. This event exposes more peo-

ple to the sport who would otherwise never know about it."

Boston's City Hall Plaza is at the epicenter of Downtown Boston and has undergone a remarkable remodel to better serve the diverse residents and visitors of the city. Led by the City's Operations Cabinet, the goal of the renovation was to move toward a more accessible, sustainable and more connected public space that would be home to a wide range of events.

"As a city, we are all about creating exciting and energetic experiences for our residents," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. "Bringing together diverse communities in the heart of the city is truly something special. City Hall Plaza is the people's plaza and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive and serve our residents."

The official mountain and parks partner, Loon Mountain, will be providing 300 tons of snow (20 truck loads) to ensure the conditions are perfect in the city.

Originally launched in the early 2000s, Red Bull Heavy Metal is a legendary showcase of the grit, creativity, and raw energy that defines street snowboarding. After its triumphant revival in 2022 in Duluth, MN, the event has quickly asserted itself as America's pinnacle street snowboarding competition, drawing massive crowds and glowing praise from fans and riders alike.

Each stop— be it the dy-



Zeb Powell catches some air during the 2024 Red Bull Heavy Metal held in St. Paul, Minnesota last February.

amic terrain of Duluth (2022), the historic streets of Detroit (2023), or the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol Building (2024)—has delivered unforgettable moments, cementing its reputation as one of sport's most exhilarating events.

The unique competition hosts top male and female riders while encouraging creativity and inventiveness on unforgiving features, such as rails, stairs and benches, that may look more at home in a skate park. Last year saw Egan Wint and Luke Winkelmann take home top prizes while Minnesota native and the unofficial host of the event, Benny Milam was named runner-up. Milam is thrilled to welcome the world's best back to his home state and return to the top of the podium, where he stood after Red Bull Heavy Metal Duluth in 2022.

"Since the revival of Red Bull Heavy Metal, the state of

street snowboard contests are booming," said Milam. "It's really cool to watch the event grow year over year from a small park in Duluth, Minnesota to where it is now, traveling to new cities like Boston."

The event will feature three differentiated competition zones, each highlighting different aspects of street snowboarding. Riders will tackle custom-designed rails, gaps, and creative features that will challenge even the most experienced snowboarders. More information about the three zones will be shared closer to the event.

The full list of confirmed riders will be announced at redbull.com/heavymetalbos in the coming weeks.

Similar to past events, Red Bull Heavy Metal will once again open the competitor's field to the public with a Last Chance Qualifier being held at

Loon Mountain. More information, including date and registration details for the qualifier, will be released at redbull.com/heavymetalbos in the coming weeks.

"With growth comes change and that change means back to back Red Bull Heavy Metals in the same year," said Milam. "I'm really excited to watch this event turn into a mainstream event in the world of snowboarding."

The single day contest will take place on Saturday, February 22 at Boston's City Hall Plaza in Boston, MA. Gates open at 2pm and the event is free and open to all spectators. Red Bull will also release video content to recap and support the event for those who cannot be in attendance.

Visit Redbull.com/Heavy-MetalBOS for more information.

Focus on retail theft at South Bay Mall results in 73 stay-away orders in last quarter of 2024

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

As part of a multi-partner initiative targeting store-based crimes, Suffolk prosecutors over the last quarter of 2024 secured stay-away orders against 73 individuals charged with larceny and other offenses at stores in the South Bay Mall in Boston, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced today.

The stay-away orders were requested for 116 defendants charged with shoplifting, larceny and other offenses at numerous South Bay Mall stores and arraigned September through

December of last year. The orders stay in effect while cases are pending and some remain in effect as part of sentencing.

Hayden's office, the Boston Police department, and regional retailer groups and small business owners in 2024 launched the Safe Shopping Initiative, an effort to increase consumer safety and help store managers strategize responses to shoplifting and retail larcenies. The initiative formed amid increasing national and local frustrations around retail crime, along with concerns over the closure of several pharmacies serving minori-

ty communities in Boston.

Along with the stay-away orders, Hayden's office secured referrals into drug-treatment programs for nine defendants while their cases were pending and an additional 16 drug-treatment provisions as part of case dispositions.

"Our overarching goal with this initiative is to make shopping spaces safe for consumers and workers and to help prevent any more store closures, which we know have a dramatic impact on residents, particularly our older residents. But that doesn't mean seeking incarceration for every

offender. In many cases, the effective path is to address the underlying reason for the conduct, which is very often addiction disorders," Hayden said.

In a recent case, Hayden's office on Monday obtained a stay-away order against Kevin Whyte, 39, of Taunton, who was arraigned on 11 outstanding warrants at South Boston BMC for shoplifting offenses at South Bay. Whyte was ordered held on \$500 bail and will return to court February 7. Whyte also faces outstanding warrants in courts outside Suffolk County.

Of the 45 cases disposed

through December, 16 included drug-treatment provisions as part of sentencing, eight resulted in incarceration ranging from 10 days to one year, and 31 had the existing stay-away orders remain in effect.

Judges also ordered a total of \$3038.80 in restitution payments to Target, a South Bay anchor store.

There were several violent incidents at South Bay Mall in 2023, including one where a large

National Grid encourages customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help manage energy bills

In preparation for colder temperatures, National Grid encourages its Massachusetts customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help manage their energy bills and keep their homes comfortable.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly referred to as Fuel Assistance, provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills. Enrollment for LIHEAP is free and open through April 30, 2025.

LIHEAP is open to homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in rent. Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member 18 or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of the estimated state median income. The program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to, electricity, oil, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal.

“National Grid recognizes that energy bills can be a real challenge for many customers – especially in the colder winter months,” said Bill Malee, Chief Customer Officer at National Grid. “The LIHEAP program can provide much-needed assistance for customers struggling to keep up with their energy costs and helps cover energy usage dating back to November 1, 2024. We also encourage customers to visit us at one of our Customer Assistance Events, where attendees can meet with National Grid assistance program experts in person and explore options to manage their energy bills and ways to save money.”

To apply for LIHEAP:

- Apply online at <https://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP>

- Visit and apply at an agency in your area.

For more information concerning LIHEAP:

- Visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap>.

- Customers may also call the Cold Relief Heatline at (800) 632-8175.

LIHEAP is funded by an annual federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, and administered by a network of local agencies, in many areas the same agency that administers the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP or fuel assistance).

“Thousands of families across Massachusetts depend on LIHEAP assistance to keep their homes warm during the winter,” said U.S. Representative Lori Trahan of Massachusetts. “That’s why I’ve always encouraged anyone in need of help to check their eligibility, connect with their local community action agency or National Grid, and apply for home heating assistance as soon as possible.”

Along with LIHEAP, National Grid customers have access to several programs designed to help reduce energy use and lower energy costs, manage their energy bills and payments, and help them secure available energy assistance. Programs include but are not limited to:

- Discount Rates where qualifying income-eligible customers may receive a discounted rate on electric and gas service, as well as no-cost energy efficiency upgrades.

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to income eligible Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

- Home Energy Assistance Pro-

gram (HEAP) 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.

• Customers may enroll in programs such as the Budget Billing Plan, which spreads monthly payments out more evenly throughout the year to offset periods of high energy usage.

• Through a No-Cost Home Energy Assessment, National Grid sets customers up with an energy specialist who will walk through the home, create a customized energy report, and provide no-cost energy-saving products, such as advanced power strips, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and programmable thermostats for installation in a home. Interested Massachusetts customers can call 1-866-527-SAVE (7283). More information is available at: ngrid.com/assessment.

Customers are encouraged to visit ngrid.com/heretohelp to explore assistance options and learn more.

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future — transforming our networks with more reliable and resilient energy solutions to meet state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information, please visit our website, follow us on X (formerly Twitter), watch us on YouTube, like us on Facebook and find us on Instagram.

CHARLESTOWN RESIDENT TO HAVE EXHIBITION IN MEXICO



Joe Caruso, Charlestown artist and a founding member of the Artist Group of Charlestown, will have a solo show at Galeria Amarillo 78 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. The exhibit of monoprints, many recently made at La Ceiba Grafica in Vera Cruz, Mexico, where Joe completed an artist residency during December, will run through the end of February.

THEFT (from pg. 0)

group of young people brawled and attacked police officers outside of the mall’s cinema complex. Hayden said those incidents and South Bay’s high volume of shoplifting calls contributed to it becoming a target area for the safe shopping program.

“We and our initiative partners are concerned about all retail areas of the city but the troubling incidents at South Bay in the past made it an area of particular focus. Like so many efforts that yield positive results, communication

and partnership among all affected groups are the crucial components,” Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden’s office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts,

Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

Mass. leaders launch first EV catering truck in North America to serve Logan Airport

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Cargo Ventures, a developer and property manager of state-of-the-art logistics facilities in key transportation markets, hosted the launch of the first electric catering truck in North America specifically designed for the aviation industry.

The launch is the result of a collaboration between Mallaghan, a leading manufacturer of Ground Support Equipment (GSE) for the aviation industry and International Motors, LLC (International), a global leader in the commercial transportation industry. The electric vehicle (EV) will be operated by DO & CO, an international catering business and will support Delta Air Lines' Onboard Dining services, operating out of Cargo Venture's Logan Cargo Park on



Massport Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs Alaina Travaglini Coppola and Pat Capogreco.

McClellan Highway in East Boston.

The launch featured remarks from: Governor Maura Healey;



A photo of the new full electric catering truck, the first of its kind in North America.

Massport CEO Rich Davey; Ash Dhokte, VP Onboard Services, Delta Air Lines; Ronan Mallaghan, CEO, Mallaghan; and Debbie Shust, VP, Customer Insights and Experience, International. Additional guests included State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Representative Adrian Madaro, and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta-Zapata.

"We made a significant investment in our property specifically to support electrification of industrial vehicles," said Jake Citrin, CEO of Cargo Ventures. "We're thrilled to have partners, from Massport to DO&CO and of course Mallaghan and International, who are committed to increasing sustainability in airport and airline support services. We couldn't be prouder that this first-of-its-kind EV will be based on our property."

"We're proud to host the first EV catering truck in North America here in Massachusetts and continue our leadership in building a clean energy economy," said Governor Healey. "This will also deliver immediate benefits for our residents, including cleaner air across East Boston. We congratulate Delta and Cargo Ventures on this major accomplishment."

"Massport is excited to wel-

come the first EV catering truck at Boston Logan, marking another step forward in our commitment to environmental stewardship and aligning with our overarching Net Zero goals," said Massport CEO Rich Davey. "We are grateful for the partnerships that made this possible and look forward to seeing more of these innovative EVs in the future."

The collaboration between Mallaghan and International has been a years-long effort in which each partner contributed its deep expertise resulting in this vehicle, which will serve as a model for continued production.

Combining technical expertise with a deep understanding of customer requirements, Mallaghan designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of specialist products, including hi-lifts, aircraft maintenance, stairs, and deicers, tailored to the needs of our international partners. Headquartered in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, and with a manufacturing facility in Newnan, Georgia, Mallaghan employs a team of more than 400 people.

Ronan Mallaghan, CEO of Mallaghan, shared: "At Mallaghan, our goal is to continuously push the boundaries of innovation, providing our customers with

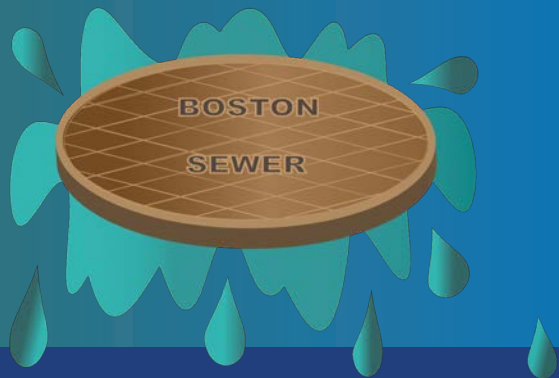
cutting-edge, sustainable solutions that reduce environmental impact. As the industry evolves, we remain dedicated to meeting the growing demand for eco-friendly equipment and look forward to continuing to work with our partners to deliver market-leading products."

Based in Lisle, Illinois, International Motors, LLC* creates solutions that deliver greater uptime and productivity to our customers throughout the full operation of our commercial vehicles. We build International® trucks and engines and IC Bus® school and commercial buses that are as tough and as smart as the people who drive them. We also develop Fleetrite® aftermarket parts. In everything we do, our vision is to accelerate the impact of sustainable mobility to create the cleaner, safer world we all deserve. As of 2021, we joined Scania, MAN and Volkswagen Truck & Bus in TRATON GROUP, a global champion of the truck and transport services industry. To learn more, visit www.International.com.

"At International, our customers are at the heart of everything we do," said Debbie Shust, VP, Customer Insights and Experience. "We are committed to delivering solutions that help our customers achieve their goals, both operationally and environmentally. This electric catering truck is a perfect example of that commitment. Our shared vision led us to collaborate with Mallaghan to develop and deploy a zero emissions solution that not only meets their operational needs but also continues to accelerate the impact of sustainability. We are proud to have been a part of this project and look forward to working on many more together."

Report SSOs

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow is an unintentional discharge of untreated sewage into the environment or onto property.



If you encounter a sewer overflow, call BWSC 24 Hour Emergency Service Line 617-989-7000.



www.bwsc.org

 Boston Water and Sewer Commission

 WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
Let's Protect Boston's Waterways

Shop LOCAL
Business directory

Our readers are always seeking local resources.

Call for a great rate on a long term COLOR campaign for your business.

Sioux Gerow

charlestownads@hotmail.com

781-485-0588 x106

Wu announces more than \$64 million in Affordable Housing funding awards

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced \$64.2 million in new, recommended funding from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT) to create and preserve income-restricted units of housing in eight Boston neighborhoods. This ambitious portfolio of projects consists of 12 projects with a total of 637 units of mixed-income housing that includes both rental and homeownership units for families, housing for older adults and housing for those experiencing homelessness. These proposed projects meet the Mayor's Office of Housing standards for zero-emissions buildings and represent transit-oriented, green development. This announcement was made today at the Harvard Ed Portal in Allston, with city leadership, local elected officials, affordable housing developers, and community organizations.

"Collaborating closely with communities across neighborhoods, we're urgently working to create and preserve more than 600 income-restricted housing units across the city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These housing awards will strengthen our communities, enhance affordability, and continue making progress for Boston as a home for everyone. I'm grateful to the Neighborhood Housing Trust and the Community Preservation Committee for their continued partnership as we continue our efforts to address affordability across Boston's neighborhoods."

These awards have been funded by federal programs such as HOME Investment Partnership and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), as well as local programs like Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) funds, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, and Linkage contributions from large commercial developments. These projects will advance City goals to affirmatively further fair housing, and will efficiently utilize City resources and land to increase the supply of housing available to residents across Boston neighborhoods.

"This funding represents another important step in making Boston a city where everyone can find a place to call home," said Chief of Housing Sheila A. Dillon. "By supporting these 12 developments, we are not just creating housing—we are strengthening neighborhoods, preventing displacement, and ensuring that residents have the stability they need to thrive. These funds build on the historic investments in housing made by the Wu



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJA

administration over the last three years, reflecting our continued commitment to addressing Boston's housing challenges head-on."

Proposals for these funding awards were evaluated by the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT), and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The funding award recommendations stem from a review process following a Request for Proposals issued by MOH in the fall of 2024. Each proposal was evaluated by teams of senior leadership, underwriters, and architects using criteria such as financial feasibility, team capacity, community support, design quality, and alignment with market needs. Of the 21 projects submitted, 12 were selected to receive funding. MOH will work with the remaining project teams to strengthen their proposals for future funding opportunities.

"The Community Preservation Committee acknowledges the crucial role that affordable housing plays in the lives of our residents and is steadfast in its dedication to building more inclusive and resilient communities," said Thadine Brown, Director of the Community Preservation Act Office. "Through the Community Preservation Fund, we are proud to support the creation of new affordable housing units in Boston. These proposed projects not only offer homeownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents but also help prevent the displacement of long-term residents, providing them with a sense of security, stability, and improved health outcomes."

"As Boston grows, ensuring access to affordable housing is vital to maintaining Boston's diverse neighborhoods," said Catherine

Hardaway, chair of the Neighborhood Housing Trust. "Affordable housing isn't just about providing homes, it's about fostering stable neighborhoods and driving economic development. The Neighborhood Housing Trust remains committed to partnering with developers, community organizations, and residents to champion innovative, sustainable housing solutions. I want to thank my colleagues who serve on the Neighborhood Housing Trust for their commitment to affordable housing in Boston. Together, we can create resilient neighborhoods where every Bostonian has the opportunity to thrive."

"The Neighborhood Housing Trust and Community Preservation Fund are valuable tools we have to continue to support affordable housing development in the City," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I am happy that the various large scale development projects which went through our development review process and paid into Linkage were able to support the NHT in making this round of funding possible."

"We are honored to be a recipient of this year's City of Boston's affordable housing funding awards, which strengthens our mission to deliver inclusive and accessible housing solutions in Allston Brighton. The Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation is proud to support Mayor Michelle Wu's vision of creating more equitable sustainable housing for all," said John Woods, Executive Director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation. "We deeply appreciate the support and dedication of our Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, the

Community Preservation Committee, the North Allston residents, Councilor Liz Breadon, and Harvard University for helping us create new sustainable inclusive housing in our city."

All the new construction projects funded in this round will be required to follow the Zero Emissions Building (ZEB) requirements outlined in the MOH Design Standards. New developments will use electricity and on-site solar panels as their sole fuel source.

Chinatown/South End

- 50 Herald Street, a project led by Beacon Communities Services LLC and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, will create 117 affordable rental units, including 22 Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) off-site units. All units will be affordable between 30-60% of AMI. The project will also include a sizable ground-floor retail space capable of locating an Asian market.

Fenway

- 112 Queensberry, developed by the Fenway Community Development Corporation, will transform this under-utilized urban infill site into a six-story building with 24 units of affordable transit-oriented rental housing. These units will serve individuals earning 30-60% of AMI.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill

- Envision Hotel, located at 81 South Huntington Avenue, will be acquired and rehabilitated by Victory Programs. The hotel, currently operating as an emergency shelter, will transition into 41 deeply affordable permanent supportive housing units for individuals experiencing homelessness

Mission Hill

- ODJ Development LLC will build 48 affordable homeownership units serving households earning 80-100% of AMI on City-owned land. The development will include open space and urban farming opportunities.

This announcement of a \$64 million City investment to create and preserve 637 units of affordable housing continues the Wu Administration's historic investment in affordable housing production. The Wu administration, in its first three years, has created more affordable housing than at any other three-year period dating back to 1998. In addition to increasing the supply of affordable housing, the Mayor has worked urgently to unlock market-rate development through a new \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund aimed at closing financing gaps for approved projects. Under her leadership, the City has launched zoning and programs aimed at fostering a wider variety of housing for all Bostonians, including accessory dwelling units, housing with public assets like libraries, office-to-residential conversions Downtown, and more mid-size multifamily housing in walkable and transit-oriented areas. Mayor Wu and her administration have also helped more families become homeowners than in any other three-year period since 1998 and adopted new policies and programs to reduce the cost of utility bills for homeowners. Mayor Wu continues to fight for residential tax relief legislation for Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their Fiscal Year 2025 third-quarter property tax bills. This refiled tax proposal expands on Mayor Wu's relief package that passed the City Council and House of Representatives last year.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BUCKLEY MAKES CURRY DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates Emma Buckley of Charlestown who was named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institu-

tion located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly

2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Celata, Kevin	High And Main Street LLC	417 Main St	\$240,000
Leblanc, Keith	Vansant, Charles	42 8th St #1405	\$625,000



253 Main St. • Charlestown • 617-241-5566
www.c21elite.com

Sales • Rentals • Free Market Analysis
Certified Buyer Agents

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ryan **SNOW REMOVAL**

Shoveled
Sanded Salted
Prompt Courteous Service
Call or Text Phil
617-230-3490



Licensed & insured
Complete electrical services
www.johnpmchughelectric.com
jmchugh447@gmail.com
617-320-7703

JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING

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

781-241-2454

reccapainting@hotmail.com

Ryan Masonry 

Chimneys • Fireplaces
Cellar Floors • Restoration
French Drains • Repointing

Free Estimates, Lic. & Ins.

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

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

**PLEASE PATRONIZE
OUR ADVERTISERS**


Charlestown Drop-Off Locations

- Newtowne Market 87 Medford St.
- Community Center 255 Medford St.
- 365 Convenience Store 275 Medford St.
- Annas Café 275 Medford St.
- Jenny's Pizza 320 Medford St.
- Waverly Café 229 Bunker Hill St.
- Bunker Hill Liquors 200 Bunker Hill St.
- Kipos 106 Bunker Hill St.
- Kennedy Center 55 Bunker Hill St.
- McCarthy's Liquors 9 Moulton St.
- Bunker Hill Cleaners Moulton St.
- Police Station 20 Vine St. Hayes Sq.
- Santander Bank 437 Rutherford Ave.
- Doyles 285 Main St.
- 7/11 Store 269 Main St.
- Zelma Lacey House 9 W School St.
- Gatehouse Apartment 75 W School St.
- Ace Hardware Bunker Hill Mall
- CVS Bunker Hill Mall
- Citizens Bank Bunker Hill Mall
- Whole Food Market Bunker Hill Mall
- MGH Health Care Center 73 High St.
- 7/11 Store Thompson Sq.
- Charlestown Liquors Thompson Sq.
- Warren Tavern 2 Pleasant St. & Main St.
- Constellation Wharf Condos 1 Constellation Wharf
- Harborview 250 First Ave.
- Basilica 106 13th St.
- Anchorage Apartment 103 13th Ave.
- Parris Landing 42 Eighth St.
- Tuttles Clevergreen Cleaners 197 Eighth St.
- Flagship Wharf 197 Eighth St.
- Style Café 197 Eighth St.
- Building 104 104 First Ave.
- MGH Institute 26 First Ave.
- 7/11 Store 1 First Ave.
- Sorelle Café 100 City Sq.



**EMERGENCY
ALL BLOOD
TYPES NEEDED.**

Give now.



Boston Athenaeum's 'Visionary Projects' exhibition to showcase legendary Boston architectural illustrator Frank M. Costantino's work

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Athenaeum has launched its newest exhibition, Frank M. Costantino: Visionary Projects, presenting the drawings of eminent Boston-based architectural illustrator Frank M. Costantino. Featuring graphite process sketches, watercolor illustrations, and finished colored pencil renderings of some of Boston's most iconic buildings, the exhibition reveals the evolution of human-centered design associated with Costantino's artistic approach across fifty years of architectural illustration.

On display at the Boston Athenaeum from February 3 – May 3, 2025, Visionary Projects will exhibit the creative process behind one of the world's most respected practitioners in the field of architectural illustration. Focused on

Boston and New England projects, the exhibition showcases key landmarks such as the Hynes Convention Center, Esplanade 2020 Vision, the Old State House renovation, Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, and Copley Place.

"Visionary Projects is the first solo exhibition to display Frank M. Costantino's masterful talents outside of the drafting studio. This exhibition reveals the process of architectural illustration, materializing a process that is often purposely hidden and celebrating the handmade quality of Costantino's work," said Lauren Graves, Assistant Curator at the Boston Athenaeum. "Frank is one of the last illustrators to do this work by hand, with most of the field now opting to digitally render designs. Visionary Projects displays his mastery of this art, cel-

brating Frank's unparalleled skill and highlighting the Athenaeum's dedication to Boston's artists and architects."

Based in the Boston area, Frank M. Costantino has collaborated with leading architectural, design, and development firms throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Costantino's meticulous detail and vibrant depictions, from preparatory sketches to finished renderings, reveal his collaborative process and vision of how a project promotes a more livable and sustainable Boston. Viewers will experience how Costantino's use of colors, shadows, and figures throughout his illustrative process situates his buildings within the context of the expanding city, reflecting their relationship to the future of Boston and its residents.

Visionary Projects was made

possible through a gift of over 200 drawings by Costantino to the Boston Athenaeum in January 2024. The exhibition builds on themes of architecture and urban space central to other recent exhibitions at the Athenaeum, such as Revisiting the Ruins: The Great Boston Fire of 1872 and Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott & Irene Shwachman Photograph a Changing City; and demonstrates the Athenaeum's investment in both historical and contemporary art and culture, as well as the institution's commitment to highlighting local artists and stories.

"We are honored to add Frank M. Costantino's work to the Athenaeum's collection of architectural materials. This exhibition is a testament to the ways in which his talents have shaped Boston's skyline," said Leah Rosovsky, Stanford Calderwood Director at the Boston Athenaeum. "As a library, museum, cultural institution, and historic landmark with a deep interest in Boston's architectural history, the Athenaeum is honored to showcase the work behind these projects and the talent and impact of Frank M. Costantino in particular."

Visionary Projects will be the crux of several exhibition-focused programs, including curator-led exhibition talks, lessons on per-

spective architectural drawing, tours for architectural college students, and author talks. On March 11, 2025, Costantino will join Athenaeum members and guests for a keynote lecture, "From Sketch to Skyline: Frank M. Costantino Reflects on Fifty Years of Architectural Illustration in Boston." The event is open to the public, with tickets free for members and \$20 for nonmembers. More information will be available at bostonathenaeum.org/events.

Founded in 1807, the Boston Athenaeum is a unique combination of library, museum and cultural center. One of the country's oldest and most distinguished independent libraries, the Athenaeum's circulating collection includes over half a million books, from works published in the 1800s to the latest bestsellers. Special collections include significant works of art and extensive research holdings of rare books, manuscripts, maps, prints, and photographs.

Members, visitors and the community enjoy a year-round calendar of cultural programs. The Athenaeum is a member-supported not-for-profit institution that everyone is invited to join. Learn more at bostonathenaeum.org.

Healey signs cat declaw ban into law

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On January 9, Governor Maura Healey signed An Act Prohibiting Inhumane Feline Declawing (S.2552) into law. The law bans cat declawing in Massachusetts, except in rare situations of medical necessity, such as a cancer in the nail bed or other conditions that jeopardize the cat's health. Cat declawing is an invasive surgical operation that is akin to amputating the last knuckle of a human finger. Declawing can cause lifelong medical issues for cats, including permanent disability, nerve damage, chronic back pain, and lameness.

"This law will protect countless cats in the Commonwealth from a painful and unnecessary surgical procedure that is typically performed for human convenience rather than the cat's well-being," said Animal Legal Defense Fund Senior Legislative Affairs Manager Stephanie Harris. "Massachusetts joins other states that have effective declaw bans, alongside the many local laws that have been passed in cities of all sizes. We hope to build on this momentum in 2025 as we continue to advocate for cat declaw bills nationwide, including in neighboring Rhode Island."

"As a leader in animal protection, Rhode Island should follow the precedent already set in our state and ban cruel and unnecessary cat declawing. Our humane state already prohibits landlords from requiring tenants' cats to be declawed, and passing this bill is the next logical step," said Rep.

William O'Brien (D-Dist. 54). "It's time for Rhode Island to join Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland in protecting cats from this unnecessary cruelty."

"Declawing is an abhorrent practice that most veterinarians view as inhumane, but it is also a procedure that is widely misunderstood and requested by owners," said Sen. Mark Montigny (D-Second Bristol and Plymouth). "By passing this law, veterinarians will no longer have to weigh the choice knowing that if they don't provide the procedure an owner is likely to just look for someone who will. This is another step in my commitment to protect animals in the Commonwealth."

"Cats' claws are integral to their natural behaviors, including stretching and playing," said Senate bill sponsor Sen. Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24). "Declawing is an amputation surgery with serious and often life-long consequences. Declawed cats often become fear biters and carpet wetters, putting them at greater risk for surrender or abandonment; many suffer from crippling arthritis in old age. Declawing has no place in our society. I appreciate my colleagues' support for the Declaw Bill in 2025."

The declaw bill passed on the last day of the two-year legislative session, capping off a successful session for animals in Massachusetts that included the passage of laws protecting wild animals used in circuses, dogs entrusted to day-care or boarding facilities, puppies and kittens too young to be

separated from their mothers, as well as human and animal victims trapped in violent situations using coercive control.

Declawing can cause many adverse behavioral effects in cats because it removes their ability to use their claws to scratch, stretch, and mark territory. Issues with litterbox use and inappropriate marking are common in declawed cats, and some declawed cats resort to biting — which can lead to infection in humans — to defend themselves because they no longer can with their claws. All of these behavioral issues can make it more likely for cats to be surrendered to shelters. There are many humane alternatives to control scratching behavior, including regular nail trims, scratching posts, and behavioral training.

In June 2024, the Animal Legal Defense Legislative Fund released poll results revealing 70 percent of veterinary professionals oppose cat declawing. The poll also found that half of the veterinarians interviewed reported that their practice does not perform any declawing procedures due to policy or no veterinarians willing to perform the procedure.

Besides Massachusetts, currently New York and Maryland have banned the procedure, as well as jurisdictions including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Madison, West Hollywood, Austin, Denver, Beverly Hills, Berkeley, and Washington, D.C. Virginia has also banned the procedure with limited exemptions.

• Revere • Everett • Winthrop • Lynn • East Boston • Chelsea • Charlestown

Independent Newspaper Group

781-485-0588
Fax: 781-485-1403
Ext 102
E-Mail Your Ad To:
classified@reverejournal.com

Classified

7 COMMUNITIES **More Than 100,000 Readers Each Week**

REAL ESTATE
Sales • Rentals
Land • Commercial
RECRUITMENT
Professional • Medical
General • Services

• Auto Sales • Yard Sales
• Miscellaneous

HELP WANTED - FULL TIME

FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN - Federal License req'd, 30 ton or better.
47' Commercial fishing - 100% permitted licensed & insured. Docked East Boston.
857-756-2988 or email: bluefish2882@yahoo.com

APT FOR RENT

Winthrop Fort Heath Ocean View: 1 Bedroom starting at \$2195, modernized. Minutes to Boston. Heat, hot water, amenities, pool, billiard/exercise rooms, sunroom, view & steps to ocean. Non smoking, No pets. Call Debera, 617-846-7300. 1/29/25

DEADLINES: For classified line ads, deadlines are Monday by 4 p.m. Call 781-485-0588

FRESH AND LOCAL

Snip, Snip...

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

As we enjoy more foods from other cultures, we adopt the techniques and utensils used to make or enjoy them. One of the latest trends is the adoption of scissors, which are used in Korean homes and restaurants.

Our Scissor Collection

We find scissors safer and more sensible for specific kitchen tasks. We keep four different types in the kitchen. The most used is a pair of inexpensive kitchen scissors that stay in our dish drainer. (We use them so often that we don't bother to put them away.) These cut open food packages, snip herbs or scallions, and complete other jobs that require a way to separate and clean the blades after use.

We have heavy-duty poultry shears for jobs like spatchcocking chicken or cutting the fins, head, and tail off whole fish. Again, these come apart for cleaning but can cut through bones, so be careful!

Our Korean scissors, with their longer blades and serrated edges,

are great for cooking. If you've enjoyed Korean barbecue, you may have seen them paired with tongs to turn and cut meat or whole kimchi into bite-size pieces. These scissors also make trimming excess fat off poultry and meat easier.

This set is also used for chopped salads and cutting leafy greens for sautéing or sandwiches.

Since we don't believe that cutting noodles is bad luck, we also use these to cut very long noodles to make them easier to eat.

We recently watched a video from a small taverna in Greece where the cook tossed a whole blanched octopus in a hot pan, cut it, and tossed it with scissors until he had perfectly grilled bite-size bits for service.

Finally, we have first responder trauma shears for the jobs where these shine. Designed to cut off clothes and bandages in emergencies, these can be sterilized or cleaned in your dishwasher.

We use these to cut through plastic containers and packaging. They are inexpensive and very good at cutting flatbreads or pizza.



We use four types of scissors in our kitchen. Top to bottom, they are Korean scissors, heavy-duty poultry shears, utility scissors, and first-responder trauma shears.

We keep an extra pair in our picnic kit.

Experiment with Scissors

You may find different uses for scissors than we have. If you don't have a set, we suggest you try

something like our utility scissors first. How a tool feels in your hand is a significant factor in how much you like it, so be sure the pair you buy is comfortable. Consider how they would work for a big job, like separating two pounds of chicken

wings into drumsticks and flats.

Your kitchen scissors should be extremely sharp and have easy-to-grip, non-slip handles. While you may not want blades as long as those in our Korean example, a longer blade can be helpful for some tasks.

Finally, ease of cleaning is vital to preventing cross-contamination and food-borne illnesses. We prefer sets with removable blades for cleaning or dishwasher-safe materials.

Some shears offer little extras like a screw cap or bottle opener built in. Some trauma shears have a carabiner built into the handle and can hang from an apron.

Think about how and what type of meals you cook and choose the best option for your kitchen. You probably don't need heavy-duty poultry shears if you don't work with whole chickens or fish. If grilling and Korean food are not your thing, skip that pair. But we recommend a basic pair of kitchen scissors, and every home should have trauma shears for food or for other emergencies.

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



Charlestown DENTAL CARE

We love to see you smile!

+1 617 242-0663



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

299 Bunker Hill Street #2
3BD/2BA



\$879,000

WWW.BOBSAUTOBODY.COM

Conveniently located On The Blue Line

• PICK-UP & DELIVERY


SAFE DEPENDABLE QUALITY REPAIRS

with a lifetime Guarantee

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Registered by the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Reg. #3053

1456 NORTH SHORE RD., REVERE • 781-289-1300



Bob Bolognese
Owner

BOB'S AUTO BODY
289-1300

ADVERTISE IN THE
PATRIOT-BRIDGE
CALL 781-485-0588